

Sheffield and District Family History Society

*The Flowing Stream*



Autumn 2003

Volume 24  
Number 3

## FUTURE PROGRAMME – 2003

Meetings at 7.30 pm at Baptist Church, Cemetery Road (entrance Napier Street), Sheffield unless otherwise stated.

Mon. 15 Sept. *Group Therapy*

The meeting will divide into small informal groups to discuss your progress and problems encountered and overcome. So, bring along your family history paperwork and share your successes and failures, your stories and your problems.

Mon. 20 Oct. Howard Smith - Subject to be announced

Mon. 17 Nov. *Christmas Social Evening*

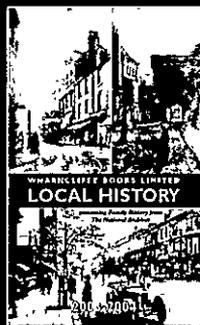
Call now for your free catalogue

**01226 734 555**

or write to us at:

**Wharncliffe Books Ltd**  
**Freepost SF5 47 Church Street**  
**Barnsley South Yorkshire**  
**S70 2BR**  
[www.wharncliffebooks.co.uk](http://www.wharncliffebooks.co.uk)

Wharncliffe Books have been publishing local books throughout Yorkshire and beyond for 25 years. We are always on the look out for new authors so, if you have an idea for a factual local history book please send it to Natalie Clarke at the above address.



**WHARNCLIFFE BOOKS, BRINGING TO LIFE THE HISTORY IN YOUR AREA**

# THE FLOWING STREAM

Journal of Sheffield and District Family History Society

Volume 24. No. 3 Autumn 2003

ISSN 0140-6310

<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
Editorial	73
New Members	73
General News and Notes	75
Society News and Information	76
Computer and Internet News	79
Conferences and Fairs	80
Through the Letterbox	80
Society Meeting - WW1 Army Service Records at the PRO	81
Other People's Problems	83
New Members' Interests	84
Strays	86
Burngreave Cemetery Monumental Inscriptions	87
The Northern General Hospital Archive Project	88
Stuck? Try Another Route	89
More Strays	91
An Answer by Accident	92
Another Stray	92
Emma Whitham	93
New Friends from Old Family Neighbours	95
The Experiences of a Sheffield Man in WW1 1914-1918	96
A Reflection on Sheffield's Eleven-Plus Examinations	98
Badger the Builder	100
Staff Employed in Sheffield Schools in 1922	101
So who would live in a house like this?....	102
Book List	106
Unwanted Certificates	107
Book Reviews	108

Copyright Material in the Journal is Copyright to the Society and its contributors and must not be reproduced without the written consent of the Editor. No responsibility is accepted by the Editor or the Society for views expressed in the letters and articles.

© The Sheffield and District Family History Society 2003 .

Copy days for the Society's Journals are 28 Feb., 31 May., 31 Aug., 30 Nov.

## THE SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

The Society is open to anyone interested in the study of Genealogy and Family History. Monthly meetings are held at Cemetery Road Baptist Church, Cemetery Road, Sheffield (Napier Street entrance) on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7.30 p.m. The Society's library is held at Sheffield Archives, 52, Shoreham Street, Sheffield S1 4SP and is available during their normal opening hours. The Society caters for the Metropolitan District of Sheffield. The annual subscription is £8 (and £10 for joint membership-only one journal); £8 overseas surface mail and £10 overseas airmail.

The OFFICERS at present are;

**President** Professor David Hey.  
**Chairman** Mr Barry Green, 101, Westwick Crescent, Sheffield S8 7DN  
*E-mail: [barry@101Westwick.freemove.co.uk](mailto:barry@101Westwick.freemove.co.uk)*  
**Secretary** Mrs D. Maskell, 5, Old Houses, Picadilly Road, Chesterfield S41 0EH  
*E-mail: [secretary@sheffieldfhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@sheffieldfhs.org.uk)*  
**Treasurer** Mr Michael Buxton, 3 Tupton Mews, Tupton Crescent Road, Sheffield S10 5EA  
*E-mail: [mbuxton@sfd10.freemove.co.uk](mailto:mbuxton@sfd10.freemove.co.uk)*  
**Editor** Mrs Denise Marsden, "Lee Moor End, Storrs, Stannington, Sheffield S6 6GY  
*E-mail: [2denise@supanet.com](mailto:2denise@supanet.com)*

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Librarian and Exchange Journals Rep** Mrs Anne McQueen, 12 Birchitt Road, Sheffield S17 4QP

*E-mail: [birchitt12a@btopenworld.com](mailto:birchitt12a@btopenworld.com)*

**Membership Secretary** Mrs Judith Pitchforth, 10, Hallam Grange Road, Sheffield S10 4BJ

*E-mail: [judith@harbottle.demon.co.uk](mailto:judith@harbottle.demon.co.uk)*

**Web Co-ordinator** Mrs D. Maskell, 5, Old Houses, Picadilly Road, Chesterfield S41 0EH.

*E-mail: [diane@maskell.d.freemove.co.uk](mailto:diane@maskell.d.freemove.co.uk)*

**Bookstall Officer** Dr Anne Giller & Mrs Anne McQueen

**Postal Book Sales** Dr Anne Giller, 17, Firshill Road, Sheffield S4 7BB

*E-mail: [giller@giller.force9.co.uk](mailto:giller@giller.force9.co.uk)*

**Programme Secretary** Mrs S. Carr, 13, Peveril Road, Greystones, Sheffield S11 7AP

*E-mail: [scarr40286@aol.com](mailto:scarr40286@aol.com)*

**Project & Burial Index Co-ordinators**

Mrs J. Connell, 170 Abbey Lane, Sheffield S8 0BQ

*F-mail: [Janet.Connell@virgin.net](mailto:Janet.Connell@virgin.net)*

Mrs P. Swindin, 18 Ashbury Lane, S8 8LF

*E-mail: [patswindin@swindins.f9.co.uk](mailto:patswindin@swindins.f9.co.uk)*

**Other Committee Members**

Mrs Catherine Beresford, 21 Rothbury Court, Sothall, Sheffield S20 2QH

*E-mail: [cath\\_beresford@hotmail.com](mailto:cath_beresford@hotmail.com)*

Mrs R.E. Bullas, 18, Normandale Avenue, Loxley, Sheffield S6 6SA

*E-mail: [mrbullas@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:mrbullas@tiscali.co.uk)*

Mr Alan Coleshill, 8 Rex Avenue, Millhouses, Sheffield S7 2GS

Ms A. Diver, 4, Highcliffe Court, Greystones Drive, Sheffield S11 7JR

Miss S. Graves, 118a, Hartley Brook Road, Sheffield S5 0JE

Mrs G. Moffatt, 39, Strathay Road, Ecclesall, Sheffield S11 7GU

*E-mail: [gill.moffatt@virgin.net](mailto:gill.moffatt@virgin.net)*

**Non-Committee Strays Coordinator**

Mr R.M. Bunting, "Firgrove", Horseshoe Lane, Ash Vale, Nr. Aldershot, Hants. GU12 5LL

**Non-Committee Correspondance Secretary**

Mr Derek Tingle, 72, Highcliffe Drive, Sheffield S11 7LU

**Non-Committee Assistant Librarian**

Mr Brian Flounders, 24 Birley Spa Lane, Sheffield S12 4ED

- The Society is a member of the Federation of Family History Societies.
- Contributions and letters for publication should be sent to the Editor. All other correspondence on Society matters should be sent to the Secretary.
- Contributors are reminded that articles and material submitted for publication should not be subject to Copyright.
- Material for publication is accepted on the understanding that, if it is used, it will be recorded and stored on computer in whatever program is deemed appropriate.

### Please note:

Advertisements are included in good faith as a service to members. The Society accepts no responsibility for any contracts made between advertisers and members.

## EDITORIAL

Writing this editorial on what may prove to be one of the hottest days on record it is hard to imagine that winter and the start of a new year will actually arrive. But it will, and with that in mind we have decided to send out our membership renewal form with both the Autumn and the Winter editions of *The Flowing Stream* in the hope that members will remember to renew their membership at the start of the year and not several months into it. I have to anticipate how big the membership will be when I order the first journal of the year from the printers. Sometimes my guess is wrong and then we either have far too many copies of the journal or I have to obtain photocopies when an edition runs out.

It would also help our Treasurer if more people would pay by direct debit. A form to allow you to do this is also included with the renewal form.

This edition is a bumper one with articles covering many different aspects of our hobby thanks to all those members who have sent in articles. Please keep them coming to ensure the next edition is equally large and varied.

## NEW MEMBERS

The Society welcomes the following new members

- 2669 Mrs J M Manship, 35 Goosehills Road, Burbage, Hinckley, Leics. LE10 2RY
- 2671 Mr & Mrs M Graves, 238 Tullibardine Road, Sheffield S11 7GQ
- 2672 Mr D Spear, 77 Farm Road, Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset BS22 8BE
- 2673 Mrs S Stones, 26 Buckingham Road, Redcar, N. Yorks. TS10 1EU
- 2674 Mrs D M Jones, Langsett, Lyndene Drive, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria LA11 6QP
- 2675 Mrs S Casson, 22 Helliwell Lane, Deepcar, Sheffield S36 2QH
- 2676 Mrs W M Chapman, 60 Blossoms Lane, Woodford, Cheshire SK7 1RE
- 2677 Mr S O'Leary, 4 Barrington Drive, Glebe, Washington, Tyne & Wear NE38 7RD
- 2679 Mrs J Saxton, 61 Hereward Road, Sheffield S5 7UB
- 2680 Mr R B Donkin, 61 Bingham Park Road, Sheffield S11 7BE
- 2682 Mrs M Anderson, 31 Northmoor Road, Oxford OX2 6UR
- 2683 Miss E Shaw, 34 Robin Hoods Walk, Boston, Lincs. PE21 9EP
- 2684 Mrs J Ganley, 19 Hazelshaw Gardens, High Green, Sheffield S35 4NG
- 2685 Mr F R Hastings, Guileen, Felinwynt, Aberporth, Cardigan, Dyfed SA43 1RW
- 2686 Ms K Stabb, 34 Kingswood Rise, Four Marks, Alton, Hants. GU34 5BD
  
- 2726 Mr & Mrs R Abbott, 11 Bow Street, Mansfield Woodhouse, Notts, NG19 9PJ
- 2727 Mrs P Wilkinson, 59 Portsmouth Road, Woolston, Southampton SO19 9BE
- 2728 Mrs K M Atherton, 12 Coppice Close, Woodley, Stockport SK6 1JH
- 2729 Mrs R Dandridge, 12 St Wilfreds Cottages, Ansley Lane, Old Arley, nr Nuneaton, Warks. CV7 8FT
  
- 2730 Mrs E D Flaherty, 8 Birley School Mews, 41 Normanton Springs Rd, Sheffield S13 7BA

- 2731 Mrs J Hall, 57 Goathland Drive, Woodhouse, Sheffield S13 7TB  
 2732 Mrs J Jackson, 6 Shannon Close Grove, Wantage, Oxon. OX12 7PT  
 2733 Mr D P Lovegrove, 162 Crimicar Lane, Sheffield S10 4EJ  
 2734 Mr D Slack, 388 Firth Park Road, Sheffield S5 6HH  
 2735 Mrs M Stevenson, 15 Tadcaster Road, Copmanthorpe, York YO23 3UL  
 2736 Mrs J Stewart, 12 Millbank Close, High Green, Sheffield S35 4NS  
 2737 Mr J A Sorby, Broadlands Farm, Clayton, Doncaster DN5 7BZ  
 2738 Mr Howard Waterhouse, 106 Cromwell Street, Sheffield S6 3RP  
 2739 Mrs Jacqueline Prigmore, 15 Wharncliffe, Gilroyd, Barnsley S75 3QA  
 2740 Mr & Mrs Rowland, 165 Dobbin Hill, Sheffield S11 7JF  
 2741 Mrs Hilary Totten, 5 Barrymore Crescent, Comberbach, Northwich, Cheshire  
 CW9 6PA  
 2743 Ms Patricia Bowes, 8 Wetherby Drive, Mexborough S64 0BN  
 2744 Mr Keith Martin, 2 Grange Farm Close, Brinsworth, Rotherham S60 5RX  
 2745 Mr H. Alan Lenthall, 60 Flockton Crescent, Sheffield S13 9QS  
 2746 Mrs P A Newton, 10 Elm Grove, York YO31 9HD  
 2747 Mr P. Nicholas Machen, 2 Thurstan Road, Beverley, E. Yorks. HU17 8LP  
 2748 Mr Brian M Bates, 49 Rufford Close, Boythorpe, Chesterfield, Derbyshire  
 S40 2PB  
 2751 Mr Alan Staniforth, 70 Linkfield Road, Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 7QH  
 2752 Mr Philip W Biggins, 53 Leverton Gardens, Lansdowne Estate, Sheffield S11 8FB  
 2753 Mrs E M Horsfield, 15 Harborough Way, Sheffield S2 1RG  
 2754 Miss G C Swain, 63 Timber Street, South Wigston, Leics. LE18 4QG  
 2755 Mr Martin Buckley, 33 Stoncham Lane, Southampton SO16 2NU  
 2756 Mr & Mrs Ian Ibbotson, 96 Ridgehill Avenue, Intake, Sheffield S12 2GP  
 2757 Revd Alfred Keay, 2 The Coppice, Market Drayton, Shropshire TF9 3UA  
 2758 Mrs S Tunnicliffe, Charnels Cottage, Inholms Road, Flintham, Newark NG23 5LF  
 2759 Mrs Bill Cobb, 13 Church View Crescent, Penistone, Sheffield S36 6AS  
 2760 Mrs S B F Perkins, 21 Westbrook Drive, Chesterfield, Derbys, S40 3PQ  
 2761 Mr Brian A Smith, 14 St Andrew's Close, Stapleford, Cambridge CB2 5DX  
 2762 Mrs V A Herring, 36 Chestnut Road, Swallownest, Sheffield S26 4SN  
 2763 Mr Alan & Mrs Mary Smith, 27 Ralston Grove, Sheffield S20 4TW  
 2764 Mr John Garfitt, 4 Salisbury Terrace, Gurney Slade, Radstock BA3 4TU  
 2765 Mr G E Garner, 2 Thiseldine Close, North Newbold, York YO43 4TU  
 2766 Mr John M Marshjones, West-Way, Strand Hill, Dawlish, Devon EX7 9JE  
 2767 Mr Stuart Crump, 64 Homestead Road, Shiregreen, Sheffield S5 0NB  
 2768 Mrs Mandy Cummins, 34 Liverton Crescent, Billingham, Teesside TS22 5BS  
 2769 Miss Jill Southern, 79 Gervase Road, Sheffield S8 7PR  
 2770 Mr Richard Epworth, 18 Seymour Mews, Sawbridgeworth, Herts. CM21 0BD

#### Overseas members

- 2670 Mrs M Dowson, Unit3/93, Harrison Street, Palm Beach 6168, Western Australia  
 2678 Ms K O'Neill, 30/40 Victoria Street, Potts Point, Sydney 2011, N.S.W. Australia  
 2681 Ms Teresa Tansell, 16 Heron Place, South Yunderup 6208, Western Australia  
 2725 Ms J Friesen, 2666 Topp Avenue, Victoria BC, V8R 5WH, Canada  
 2742 Mrs S S Winstanley, Allee de la Minerva 3/11, Brussels. B - 1150, Belgium.  
 2749 Mr Eric Nicholls, 73a Reid Avenue, Hectorville, South Australia 5073  
 2750 Mr Guy Wilson, PO Box 338, Carmelian Bay, CA 96140, U.S.A.

### Change of address

2274 Mrs J. Pogson, La Corbiere, 28 Casterbridge Road, Ferndown, Dorset BH22 8LN

### Obituary

Mr C.E. Buddle, Cheshire

Mrs Margaret M. Hindmarsh, Whitley Bay

Professor R. G. Newton, Sheffield

Peter Wilkinson – a former Committee member of the Society

## GENERAL NEWS AND NOTES

### The Great Sheffield Flood 1864

As midnight approached on 11th March 1864 Dale Dyke Reservoir some eight miles west of Sheffield was already brimming. The weight of water, whipped up by the wind, broke through the Dam and millions of gallons of water rushed down the Loxley Valley. About 250 people were drowned, 95 of them of them being from Malin Bridge. Property was washed away and there was wide spread devastation.

To commemorate the 140th anniversary of the Flood in March next year a series of events is being planned. On 11th March a special guided walk is to take place starting from the source of the Flood. On Saturday and Sunday the 13th and 14th March there is to be a commemorative exhibition in Bradfield Village Hall to be opened by the Lord Major of Sheffield.

A permanent memorial to those who lost their lives is planned and it is hoped that details of this will be launched at the Exhibition.

Also on the Sunday a special service is to take place at St Polycarp's Church, Malin Bridge, in the presence of the Bishop of Sheffield, guests and local community representatives..

If you are descended from one of the many unfortunate people who lost their lives in the Flood then the group organising the whole event would like to hear from you. Already some descendants have been traced and the intention is to invite them as special guests to the Exhibition and to the service on the Sunday.

If you are a descended from someone who lost their life in the Flood and/or you have some Flood related material you would be prepared to lend to the Exhibition then please contact:

Pam Bailey; The Great Sheffield Flood 140th Anniversary Community Project, Glenwood, 8 Rippon Road, Sheffield S6 4ND. You can also contact Pam by telephone at 07989 066568 or email her at [pam.bailey@virgin.net](mailto:pam.bailey@virgin.net).

Full details and times of events will be published early in 2004.

The Project is a collaboration between Bradfield Parish Council, St Polycarp's Church, Malin Bridge and the community.

### **A Cut above the Rest: A celebration of the Sheffield Blade**

At the Millennium Galleries from Saturday 23 August to Sunday 26 October

A unique exhibition highlighting the rich diversity of blades, from cutlery to cutting tools, made in Sheffield from the 17th century to the present day. The blades in the show are all part of the Hawley Collection, one of the finest collections of tools and implements in existence.

### **Genealogy Award for Young People**

Sponsored by S & N Genealogy Supplies this award is open to those aged between 10 and 18 years. For full details visit the federation website at

[www.ffhs.org.uk/general/young\\_people.htm](http://www.ffhs.org.uk/general/young_people.htm) or write enclosing a C4 self addressed envelope with 47p stamp for free helpful booklet to The Administrator, Federation of Family History Societies, PO Box 2425, Coventry CV5 6YX

### **Sheffield Archives Open Days – Behind the Scenes**

Sat 13th September      2.30 pm – 4.30 pm  
Wed 17th September    6.30 pm – 8.30 pm  
Mon 22nd September    6.30 pm – 8.30 pm

### **Memoriam Card**

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
ELIZABETH MAY  
THE BELOVED WIFE OF JOHN WELCH  
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE JANUARY 22<sup>ND</sup> 1889  
AGED 42 YEARS

AND WAS INTERRED AT WARDESEND CEMETERY, JAN 25<sup>TH</sup>

The card is available to anyone interested from:

*Patricia Bennett, 110 Armstead Road, Beighton S20 1ET*

## **SOCIETY NEWS AND INFORMATION**

### **Apology to members**

The Society would like to apologise to all those members who had to retrieve their last edition of *The Flowing Stream* from the post office at a cost of £1.20. We will reimburse (by way of 6 x 2nd class stamps) anyone who had to pay to get their journal from the post office.

To claim please contact our Secretary, Mrs Diane Maskell, 5, Old Houses, Picadilly Road, Chesterfield S41 0EH *E-mail: [secretary@sheffieldffhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@sheffieldffhs.org.uk)*

### **1861 Census Surname Index on Microfiche**

The Society is pleased to announce that an amended and revised version of the 1861 Census Surname Index is now available on microfiche. Each fiche costs £3.00 (UK), £3.50 (Airmail) from the Publications Officer. The fiche are divided by surname as follows:

Fiche 1: A; Fiche 2: B; Fiche 3: C; Fiche 4: D-E; Fiche 5: F-G; Fiche 6: H;  
Fiche 7: I-L; Fiche 8: M; Fiche 9: N-Q; Fiche 10: R; Fiche 11: S; Fiche 12: T;  
Fiche 13: U-Z.

*Information from Anne Giller*

### **A Tribute to Professor Roy Newton**

Although Roy was very well known in academic circles, to our members he was a quiet man who, until comparatively recently, attended our meetings. Longstanding members will remember him as a member of the Society committee for a number of years, playing an active part in Society affairs. He helped to produce the microfiche of Bradfield Poor Law Documents and did a great deal of research into the Bagshaw family.

### **New additions to the Society Library**

- Emigrants and Expats – A guide to sources on UK emigration and residents overseas. PRO publication.
- Parish Register of Sheffield Vol.8 Marriages 1736-1754 Yorkshire Archaeological Society publication.
- Latest edition of Family and Local History Handbook.
- Basic Facts about Family History Research in Yorkshire. Federation of Family History Societies publication.
- A History of Gleadless School
- A History of Totley All Saints Church of England School – Joan Stratford
- Sheffield Ancestors
- She Lived Unknown – A celebration of women in the General Cemetery
- High Green in the 1920's – Stanley Ellam
- Cherry Tree Hill and the Newbould Legacy – Joan Fleet  
Into the Valley of Death – A military tour of the General Cemetery.

### **Search Service - "Soldiers Who Died In The Great War 1914-18"**

The "Soldiers Who Died In The Great War 1914-18" search service has been withdrawn. The CD Rom containing this information has been placed in Sheffield Archives where both members and the general public alike will be able to use it.

## HURRAH AND OH DEAR!

The Burngreave Cemetery MI's (5 files and 2 indexes) have now been microfiched and the fiche deposited with Archives. There are 20 fiche for the consecrated section and 13 fiche for the general section. Each section has its own index and you are strongly advised to read the introduction to the index so that you can make full use of the monumental inscriptions.

Very unfortunately, someone has '**borrowed**' the Wadsley Church MI's file from our shelves. For this reason the Burngreave files will not be put back on the open shelves but will be deposited in the Archives strong room.

Because we do not want any other files to be '**borrowed**' the Society will, from now on, have our files microfiched and subsequently the typed files will be lodged in the strong room. Of course, members will be able to access these files via a request slip from the desk in the search room, or use the relevant microfiche.

It is with deep regret these steps have been forced upon us, but I am sure everyone will appreciate the colossal amount of work which goes into the collating of Monumental Inscriptions and for any more to be '**lost**' would be devastating.

*Anne McQueen: Society Librarian*

## TIME TRAVEL ALONG THE DON

There's a lot of knocking down going on in Sheffield at the moment, with more to come. One impetus to this demolition has been the rediscovery, in recent years, of the City's waterfront. This has proved particularly attractive to residential property developers and the redevelopment of sites along the river banks has allowed, and is affording, a brief but exciting opportunity to investigate what lies below the newly created rubble. As you will know, the Don and its tributaries played a long and vital role in Sheffield's manufacturing past, when water power drove the wheels of industry.

ARCUS, the University of Sheffield's archaeological research consultancy is working on a number of sites around the city, including Wisewood Forge and the town corn mill. Keen to share their discoveries with an audience wider than the odd academic or nosey passerby, they invited the Time Team to come and check them out.

UK members will be familiar with the Channel 4 programme *Time Team*, in which a group of archaeologists gather to uncover some of the secrets of a particular historical site in the space of just three days. Visiting the Sheffield digs, the producers were sufficiently enthused to suggest that not only would they film the work in progress, but they would break with their traditional three-day mould and edit the material as a special one-off programme, focusing

particularly on Sheffield's post-medieval industrial archaeology. Filming will not end until September and no dates have been fixed for screening, but as the winter draws nigh watch out for trailers and get your order in for the *Radio Times*!

**Stop Press** - The programme has now been scheduled to be shown on Channel 4 in Spring 2004.

## COMPUTER AND INTERNET NEWS

**[www.a2a.pro.gov.uk](http://www.a2a.pro.gov.uk)**

### A2A – ACCESS TO ARCHIVES

Yorkshire Signpost is a truly comprehensive project made possible by a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £147,000. An electronic guide has been created to archives in the Yorkshire Region which is available to the public. It is contributing information to the national Access to Archives (A2A) network hosted by the Public Record Office in London. Places which hold archives available for public research include local authority record offices, local studies libraries, museums both large and small, galleries, libraries in universities and other educational establishments and so on. Information on archives held in all these is now accessible from the A2A database. Further links give you details on how to arrange to view a particular document, or perhaps request a photocopy. From just this one website you can see that you might need to visit several places to find out about a particular topic – for example, to research the textile industry in Bradford there are five different places which could have archives to interest you – West Yorkshire Archive Service's Bradford Office, Bradford Local Studies Library, Bradford Textile Archive, the Colour Museum and Bradford Industrial Museum – and of course there might be useful additional sources elsewhere too!

Search the A2A database at [www.a2a.pro.gov.uk](http://www.a2a.pro.gov.uk)

**[www.ourselfverourplace.org.uk](http://www.ourselfverourplace.org.uk)**

This web-site features stories, sound clips and images about the lives of people living in north Sheffield. The stories were collected from people living in Parson Cross, Southey, Foxhill and Shirecliffe in 2002 and were first shown in the 'Home Truths' exhibition at the City Museum in Weston Park. You can also e-mail your own Sheffield memories to the site.

## CONFERENCES AND FAIRS

### Isle of Axholme FHS Day School Saturday 27 Sept 2003

Entitled "Travellers' Tales" the event takes place at South Axholme Comprehensive School, Burnham Road, Epworth, Doncaster  
Further details from Mr E Neill, "Colywell", 43 Commonsides, Westwoodside, Doncaster DN9 2AR

### West Surrey FHS Open Day Saturday 1 Nov. 2003

This will be held at Woking Leisure Centre, Kingfield Road, Woking from 10 am to 4.30 pm. Many organisations will be represented.

## THROUGH THE LETTERBOX

*From Mrs M Clarke, 53 Glenalmond Road, Sheffield S 11 7GX*

### **An Indenture including the names Peace and Morton**

"As my interest is in the Peace surname of Sheffield, I was interested to find a framed original Indenture for sale in a Sheffield memorabilia shop. The names on the Indenture were Peace and Morton and after satisfying myself that it was an original, I bought it. I felt that if it was not relevant to my family history, it could be of interest to some other family historian searching the Peace or Morton names. The Indenture was between a **Tom Morton** and **Ann Morton**, (his mother) of Sheffield and a **Charles Peace** (File and Rasp cutter) of Sheffield dated 23 May, 1854. This Indenture agreed that Tom Morton be an apprentice to the said Charles Peace. The Morton and Peace families have a long history with the tool, sawmaking and cutlery industries in Sheffield, indeed some became wealthy industrialists, owning large factories and sending their products worldwide. However, I am sad to say that this Charles Peace does not seem to be an ancestor of mine. The Indenture would have been an excellent addition to my records! I therefore offer it for sale at the price I paid for it, to anyone who has an interest in the Peace or Morton families, of Sheffield, Yorkshire. Being an original document, it would make an excellent addition to a family history collection.

The Indenture is on thick greyish-blue paper, showing all 3 parties signing their own names, with affixed small round red seals and is in excellent condition, set in a large wood and glass frame, measuring 22' x 18.1/2" approximately or 57cm x 48cm."

Anyone interested should contact Mrs M Clarke, 53 Glenalmond Road, Sheffield S 11 7GX or email: [meclarke25@msn.com](mailto:meclarke25@msn.com)

*From Stan Cook, 20 Cautley Close, Quainton, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP22 4BN*

"In the Spring 2002 Journal mention is made of the **Records of the Fire Insurance Companies**. Some years ago an index of some of these records was made and published on microfiche. The index was prepared by students of Birkbeck College, University of London. Two hundred free copies of the microfiche were sent to Universities and local Record offices."

**Ed's note:** Mr Cook also sent a flyer which announces that the Heritage Lottery Fund have awarded a grant of £40,000 to the London Archive Users Forum for the indexing of 30 volumes of the Sun Insurance policy registers in the Manuscript section of the Guildhall Library.

## SOCIETY MEETINGS

*Meeting on Monday 19th May*

### **WW 1 Army Service Records at the PRO**

by David Borrill

David gave an interesting and informative talk outlining which records are available. Just about everyone will have had someone who served in the forces. To start with approx 733,000 service man and women entered WW1 with over 8,000,000 eventually serving during the whole period of the war.

David outlined two problems with the WW1 records, the first of these being that two thirds of the records were destroyed at Arnside Street during WW2. And the second being the duplication of records.

Records Available: -

#### **Officers Records**

WO 338

WO 339

WO 374

Officer's records are more complete than those of non-commissioned service man and women. The records are not typical and can consist of detailed sheets numbering from one up to as many as fifty.

#### **Non-Commissioned Service Records**

##### *Burnt Records WO 363*

Those records which were saved from the blitz in WW2 were microfiched by the PRO with the help of a Heritage Lottery funded grant and have been made available over the last few years. Many of these records have been scorched and damaged and some of the pages are incomplete. The papers can give details of

where the person joined the armed forces, which regiment or battalion he or she joined, where they served, perhaps injury details as well as medical details etc.

#### *Un-burnt Records WO364*

Mostly records from the pension office, some of this information will overlap that of the burnt records.

#### *War Diaries WO95*

Written by junior intelligence officers and recording comprehensive details of each battalion (these records were sometimes hand written sometimes typed) the information in the diaries for a certain day can be as little as a one line entry up to as many as maybe five or more pages of great detail.

The war diaries also contain plans and maps making it possible to pinpoint the movements of our ancestors. Using David's words *maps can put people in a place in a context at a certain period of time*. War diaries are full of surprises in the form of many drawings and diagrams, one such diagram being the detailed diagram of a lice cleaning machine for removing lice from the clothing of service men.

#### *Trench Maps*

These are housed on the second floor of the PRO and show the whereabouts of both the allies and enemy trenches during the war.

#### *Medals*

The Gallantry Medal

The Victoria Cross

The Distinguished Service Order

The Military Cross

The Distinguished Conduct Medal

The Military Medal

References to all of the above except the Military Medal are references in the London Gazette. (There are no citations for Military Medals)

#### *Court Marshal*

Records exist for various levels of court marshal; military justice during this time was quite brutal and punishments very severe.

#### *Prisoners of War*

There is not a huge amount of information relating to Prisoners of war at the PRO, although there are a large number of repatriation reports giving details of how soldiers were captured by the Germans.

### *Campaign Medals*

Nicknamed *Pip, Squeak and Wilfred.*

The 1914 Star and the 1914/15 Star being the Pip.

The British War Medal being the Squeak.

With the Allied Victory Medal being the Wilfred.

Details of other campaign medals are available: The Territorial Services Medal, The Mercantile Marine War Medal and the Silver War Badge which was worn by those returning to civvy street to prove that they had been serving in the armed forces.

Medal records are very important and a very good place to start your research. It is advisable to check the medal index cards and Medal Rolls as a first port of call. You may be able to find an ancestor's army number from the medal index cards or medal Rolls. The medal index cards tell where details can be located for each individual in the Medal Roll itself. The Medal Roll itself gives details of what happened to the medals, whether they were presented, or perhaps sent to next of kin.

David's talk was very detailed and informative as he outlined for us the main types of records held at the PRO. More details of the above can be found in the PRO reference guide "*Army Service Records Of the First World War*"

*Reported by Diane Maskell*

## OTHER PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS

*Mrs J M Sharratt, 20 Park Avenue, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 5QW* writes: "I am in search of any detail concerning the young life of my maternal grandfather: **Ernest Marshall** b. 21 June 1883 at Tinsley, Rotherham. His father was **James Marshall**, a police sergeant posted to Heath 1874, Wombwell 1877, Malton and on to Rotherham by 1883. Ernest's mother, **Priscilla A. Cawthra** was from Otley. His older siblings were **Horace, Herbert and Dora (Tie)**.

Both Horace and Ernest enjoyed amateur dramatics. Horace became a schoolteacher in Bradford. Ernest went to Windermere and became a printer.

Sadly, Ernest was killed, like so many others, at The Somme. If anyone is looking through school records, I would bless them if they would also look up my Ernest for me. I would like to find out whether he played Rugby in school as he did later or appeared in any of their dramatic productions."

*Mr Peter A Grumbridge, 19 Hermitage Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex SS0 7NG* writes: "Can anyone supply any information on **Shelbrook**? My mother's father was a domestic coachman. The births of his children are registered, it seems,

across the country, besides London. According to her birth certificate my mother **Olive Harriet Hibbs** was born on 21 Sept. 1884 in the district of Hemsworth. The place of her birth, also the residence of the informant, her father, is given as Shelbrook. Any information as to what is, or was, Shelbrook or suggestions as to where the information may be found would be very welcome."

### **Offer of help in Essex Record Office.**

Mr Grumbridge is willing to look up members' queries in Essex Record Office.

## **NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

The following members have interests printed in this edition

Mrs J.M. Sharratt, 20 Park Avenue, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 5QW

Mr & Mrs Graves, 238 Tullibardine Road, Sheffield S11 7GQ

J. Prigmore, 15 Wharncliffe, Gilroyd, Barnsley, S75 3QA

Mr Keith Martin, 2 Grange Farm Close, Brinsworth, Rotherham S60 5RX

*E-mail: KEITH@MARTIN913.FREESERVE.CO.UK*

Mr Nick Machen, 2 Thurstan Road, Beverley, E. Yorks. HU17 8LP

Mr Brian Bates, 49 Rufford Close, Boythorpe, Chesterfield, S40 2PB

2749 Mr Eric Nicholls, 73A Reid Avenue, Hectorville, 5073, South Australia, Australia

*E-mail: tarah@adam.com.au*

2751 Mr Alan Staniforth, 70 Linkfield Road, Isleworth, Middx. TW7 6QH

*E-mail: dickyd01@aol.com*

• Mr P.W Biggins, 53 Leverton Gardens, Lansdowne Estate, Sheffield S11 8FB

2757 Revd. Alfred D. Keay, 2 The Coppice, Market Drayton, Shropshire TF9 3 UA

*E-mail: alfkeay@whsmithnet.co.uk*

2759 Mr Bill Cobb, 13 Church View Crescent, Penistone S36 6AS

2760 Mrs S. Perkins, 21 Westbrook Drive, Brookside, Chesterfield S40 3PQ

*E-mail: susie.perkins@ccsmedia.com*

2762 Mrs Valerie Herring, 36 Chestnut Road, Swallownest, Sheffield S26 4SN

*E-mail: alan.h25@ukonline.co.uk*

2764 Mr John Garfitt, 4 Salisbury Terrace, Gurney Slade, Radstock BA3 4TU

*E-mail: john.garfitt@lincnet.net*

2766 Mr J.M. Marsh Jones, West-Way, Strand Hill, Dawlish, Devon EX7 9JE

*E-mail: MIKE-MARSH@UKONLINE.CO.UK*

2767 Mr Stuart Crump, 64 Homestead Road, Sheffield S5 0NB

*E-mail: STEWPOT2@BLUEYONDER.CO.UK*

2770 Mr Richard Epworth, 18 Seymour Mews, Sawbridgeworth, Herts. CM21 0BD

*E-mail: RICHARD@EPWORTH.FAMILY.NAME*

2774 Mrs Lilian Gill, 14 Car Vale Drive, Sheffield S13 8ER

*E-mail: lil@gill.3079.fsnet.co.uk*

2775 Mr Mark Terry, 72 Button Hill, Sheffield S11 9HH

*E-mail: Mark.terry@blueyonder.co.uk*

- 2777 Mr Jeff Gouldthorpe, 10A Sunny Hill, Milford, Belper, Derbyshire DE56 0QR  
*E-mail: jeffgouldthorpe@yahoo.co.uk*
- 2783 Mrs Helen Richardson, 6 Mornington Close, Shrewsbury SY3 8XN

The numbers below correspond to the membership numbers and addresses above

No.	Surname	Place	County	Period
2749	Adams	Brightside	YKS	1840-1875
2749	Adams	Shardlow	DBY	1800-1840
2739	Ashmore	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1850
2739	Barratt	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1900
2752	Biggins	All Yorkshire	YKS	1700+
2752	Biggins	Sheffield	YKS	1700+
2774	Bil(l)borough & var.	Anywhere S. of Ripon	YKS	Any
2744	Binney	Heeley? Sheffield	YKS	pre 1880
2739	Birds	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1800
2774	Birdsall	Tadcaster	YKS	Any
2749	Broadbent	Sheffield	YKS	1800-1880
2759	Cartledge	Sheffield	YKS	1820-1905
2651	Cawthra	Otley	WRY	c 1846
2783	Chapman	Wadsley Bottom, Sheffield	YKS	pre 1855
2671	Clark	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1890
2759	Cobb	Retford	NTT	1800-1875
2759	Cobb	Sheffield	YKS	1861-1920
2748	Coward	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1841
2767	Crapper	England	YKS	pre 1900
2783	Crapper	Loxley, Sheffield	YKS	pre 1855
2767	Crump	England	YKS	pre 1900
2762	Dearden	Wortley	YKS	pre 1837
2739	Dungworth	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1850
2749	Dunstan	Worksop	NTT	1800-1855
2770	Epworth		YKS	pre 20C
2748	Eyre	Rawmarsh	YKS	1881+
2774	Fountain	Saxton, Castleford	YKS	Any
2760	Francis	Chesterfield	DBY	M-L 19C
2760	Francis	Selston	NTT	19C
2760	Francis	Sheffield	YKS	20C
2774	Frobisher	Featherstone, Castleford	YKS	Any
2764	Garfitt	Ecclesall Bierlow	YKS	1850-1905
2764	Garfitt	Winchester	HAM	1900+
2759	Gaynor	Ireland	IRL	1850-1925
2759	Gaynor	Sheffield	YKS	1850-1925
2775	Glossop	Laughton en le Morthen	WRY	pre 1840
2775	Glossop	Sheffield	WRY	1840+
2774	Golt	Selby, Castleford	YKS	Any
2777	Goldthorpe	Sheffield	WRY	18-19 C
2777	Gouldthorpe	Sheffield	WRY	18-19 C
2671	Graves	Welton-le-Wold	LIN	pre 1885
2749	Hague	Tickhill	YKS	1750-1852
2739	Hanson	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1900
2762	Hogg	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1860
2744	Horsfield	Manchester	LAN	pre 1860
2744	Horsfield	Sheffield	YKS	1880-1900
2766	Hoyle	Heeley	YKS	1816+
2774	Jeffery	Featherstone, Castleford	YKS	Any

2766	Jones (Henry Denson) Heeley	YKS	1846+
2766	Jones (Henry Denson) Wrexham	CHS	1813-1846
2766	Jones (John) Llanammon-yn-Lal	FLN	1713+
2757	Joyce Bourne area	LIN	1700-1900
2757	Joyce Oakham/Empingham	RUT	1700-1900
2651	Knowles Dewsbury	WRY	c 1800
2775	Lea Sheffield	WRY	1880+
2775	Limb Chesterfield	DBY	1830-1900
2747	Lowe Stockport	LAN	pre 1900
2747	Machen Eccleshall	YKS	pre 1850
2747	Machen Sheffield	YKS	pre 1850
2766	Marsh Chester	CHS	pre 1755
2651	Marshall Brighouse	WRY	c 1905
2651	Marshall Rotherham	WRY	1883
2651	Marshall Tinsley	WRY	1883
2744	Martin Sheffield, Hallam?	YKS	pre 1880
2739	Middleton Sheffield	YKS	pre 1860
2747	Morsby Sheffield	YKS	pre 1900
2747	Pattison Stockport	LAN	pre 1900
2760	Poyntz Sheffield	YKS	19C & 20C
2739	Prigmore All	All	All
2739	Rhodes Sheffield	YKS	pre 1750
2747	Ridal Sheffield	YKS	pre 1896
2739	Roberts Sheffield	YKS	pre 1850
2764	Rodgers Ecclesall Bierlow	YKS	1850-1905
2744	Sanders Warrington	LAN	pre 1880
2774	Sillwood Anywhere	SSX	Any
2774	Sillwood Pontefract	YKS	Any
2739	Simonite Sheffield	YKS	pre 1820
2739	Staniforth Sheffield	YKS	pre 1780
2751	Staniforth Sheffield	YKS	1800+
2751	Stebbing's Stanton,	SFK	1835
2757	Stokes Sheffield	YKS	1800-2000
2744	Taylor Sheffield, Hallam?	YKS	pre 1880
2744	Taylor Wakefield	YKS	pre 1880
2775	Terry Nottingham	NTT	pre 1840
2775	Terry Sheffield	WRY	1840+
2774	Wainwright Knottingley, Castleford	YKS	Any
2749	Watkinson Sheffield	YKS	1780-1820
2774	Westerman Tadcaster	YKS	Any
2759	White Sheffield	YKS	1848-1906
2774	Wood Bilton in Ainsty, Tadcaster	YKS	Any
2748	Yeardley Sheffield	YKS	pre 1800
2774	Zillwood Anywhere	SSX	Any
2774	Zillwood Pontefract	YKS	Any

## STRAYS

### Burials at Ordsall, near Retford

Elizabeth Mary Staniland. Ordsall. 20 Dec 1864. Aged 24 years

John Thomas Staniland. Brightside, Sheffield. 20 Dec 1864. Aged 1 year

## BURNGREAVE CEMETERY MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

Burngreave Cemetery was created in 1860, on 27 acres of land acquired by the Brightside Burial Board. It was one of the first public cemeteries in Sheffield, opened to meet the needs of the rapidly expanding population of the township of Brightside Bierlow, following the closure of some of the town's overcrowded central churchyards. The cemetery lies on a hillside on a site once occupied by Burngreave Wood. The main entrance was formed at the lower end, with stone lodges built either side to house the cemetery superintendent and the sexton. The ground was divided into two sections with around two-thirds consecrated for the use of Anglicans, while the remainder formed a general area for non-conformist burials. Beyond the gates two stone chapels were erected, the Anglican on the left and the non-conformist on the right. The chapels were linked by a central tower and spire above a carriage archway. This complex of buildings was designed by the locally based firm of William Flockton & Son and is Grade 2 listed.

In 1900, the City Council took over the administration of the site, which was extended by the addition of a further 9 acres at the upper end, behind Scott Road. A second entrance was opened on this top side, accompanied by a further stone built lodge house.

Burngreave Cemetery was the last resting place of thousands of Sheffielders. Among the inscriptions recorded are some that commemorate those who died less usual deaths, such as victims of the Sheffield Flood (1864) and the Sheffield Blitz (1940). There is also a memorial wall to the fallen of the two world wars, while some gravestones provided by the War Graves Commission are scattered among the civilian burials. The cemetery remains open for burials but use declined sharply in the later decades of the twentieth century, as cremation became widespread.

By the early 1980s few internments were taking place, the chapels had closed and the lodges were vacant. The cemetery was becoming overgrown and a target for vandals. The City Council decided to make use of labour available through the Manpower Services Commission Community Programme to tidy up the graveyard. Part of the plan involved the removal of tombstones from some areas.

It was at this point that Society member, John Cooper determined that action should be taken to record the gravestone epitaphs before they were lost forever. This was no mean task, but fortunately he was not deterred.

It took several years for John and a small band of volunteers to type up the inscriptions. As it was only towards the completion of the project that the home

PC arrived on the scene, the task was carried out using manual typewriters and carbon paper. When this major work was finished, a copy was placed on the Society shelves at Archives. The original files are now somewhat battered, so with John's blessing, the Committee have taken the decision to have microfiche copies made to replace the paper copies. These have been deposited at Archives and their production also enables us to make this material available for purchase for the first time.

The inscriptions are typed using a standard shorthand for some frequently repeated words and phrases. The entries are organised by plot reference and there is a separate surname index. The cemetery burials records may be consulted at Sheffield Archives, who also hold a cemetery plan from which it is possible to locate plot areas. You are advised to check this first if you are planning to visit the cemetery to look for a gravestone. As the material is expensive it has been divided for sale to reflect the two cemetery sections.

General Section (non-conformist burials) Price including post & packing £6.80 (UK) £7.50 (Airmail)

Consecrated Section (Church of England burials) Price including post & packing £10.30 (UK) £11.00 (Airmail)

Special price for both sections including post & packing £ 15.70 (UK) and £16.70 (Airmail)

## The Northern General Hospital Archive Project



Many people visiting the hospital today have little knowledge of its humble beginnings. The Northern General Hospital, Sheffield began life over 120 years ago and has a fascinating history having started life as the Fir Vale Workhouse in the days prior to free medical care for all.

*Photograph courtesy of Local Studies Library*

Over the years many changes have taken place. Even as late as 1967 when the two hospitals that had originated from the Workhouse, the Fir Vale Infirmary and the City General Hospital, were renamed the Northern General Hospital many of the older generation were still afraid of entering its doors. Looking back to the days of the workhouse and all that it entailed it is easy to understand why these fears remained so strongly and so long in people's memories.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> March, the Sheffield Star carried an article about the change of name and ended with these words –

*'The change of name will finally kill the workhouse stigma of Fir Vale that has haunted so many old folk on the brink of needing permanent hospital care.'*

The stigma may have gone now but there are still people alive today who have personal memories, photos and memorabilia of the Workhouse, Fir Vale Infirmary & City General Hospital or who have heard from parents and relatives of how things were.

The Archive project aims to –

- Collect and preserve memories, photos and items of memorabilia so they are not lost to future generations.
- Display items of interest in display cases at various safe locations around the hospital.
- From time to time hold exhibitions to stimulate interest and knowledge in the hospital's history:

Do you have memories, memorabilia or photos of the hospital or the people who worked there?

Are you willing to share them with us?

Items of interest can be left at the Clock Tower Reception Mon – Fri 10am - 4pm.

Addressed to -Northern General Hospital Archive, c/o Clock Tower Reception, Northern General Hospital, Herries Rd, Sheffield S5 7AU.

Memories/photographs etc. can be sent c/o Lyn Howsam, 8 Far View Rd, Sheffield S5 7TB  
Email: [ngh.archives@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:ngh.archives@blueyonder.co.uk)

## STUCK? TRY ANOTHER ROUTE

Everyone out there with a little experience will tell you that Family History can be fraught with frustration at times. I've had my moments, believe me!

One of my Sheffield families has given me much hard, determined work, and, until recently, no success for my efforts.

At the outset, I decided to study the eight families of the grandparents of my wife and myself as a main task and only add ancillary families of special interest. My maternal grandfather was Ernest Lofthouse (1885-1918) - killed in action in the Great War. With that surname I assumed the study would be easy - not so. I've had a tough time from the Lofthouses.

In 1992, I very quickly got back to Ernest's own grandad; my 3 x great grandad, but my visit to Sheffield Archives revealed the family used the variant Loftus as well as the conventional Lofthouse. That looked like trouble!

My 3 x great grandad was John Loftus/house, who first married at Sheffield Parish Church in 1803 to Mary Grant, who died shortly afterwards in childbirth. John went on to marry Sarah Ledger from Rotherham, again at Sheffield Parish Church, in 1804; Sarah became my 3 x great grandma.

At that point, however, I came to a dead halt with John, not being able to discover, try as I might, who his parents were or even when John died. I did,

however, note that a William Lofthouse married for a second time, also at Sheffield P.C., to widow Elizabeth Sylvester in 1779. It was possible, therefore, that William was the father of John, but I could never prove it. Indeed, I found out nothing further about William at all.

I also found an Edward Loftus, businessman, (circa 1734-1786) who lived and died in Sheffield, and a Frances Loftus (circa 1713 - whenever!), also in Sheffield.

William's second wife, Elizabeth, could have been a Methodist, especially if she was related by marriage in some way to merchant Field Sylvester; and Mary Walton's book on Sheffield states that a Loftus founded the Norfolk Street Methodist Chapel Sunday School. So maybe the lack of Non-Conformist records was the reason for my lack of progress.

For 11 years, that's as far as I got with my attempts to find the origins of John Loftus/house and, frankly, I started my family history write-up resigned to making no further progress. A small break revealed he died in Sheffield in May 1824, aged 44. Yet whilst he would have been born circa 1779-80, I still couldn't connect him to William, or Elizabeth. And John may have had a brother Thomas.

Right at the end of my Lofthouse write-up, I had an enforced 'rest' whilst waiting for last minute information on one of them. I looked again at what I knew of John and William. There was a William who married a Mary Crummock in 1773, and for all that was the right sort of date, I could find no connection to Sheffield William - and, in any case, the 1773 marriage was in far away Otley.

In my studies I have noted that witnesses at weddings were not only likely to be friends of the couple, but sometimes relatives. So who were James and Hannah Black, the witnesses to John's first marriage in 1803?

I sent for the appropriate pages of the IGI for James Black, only to discover that James Black married Hannah Crummack in 1786 in Otley, of all places! Could this be the break I sought at long last?

When William married for the second time in 1779, he signed the register. The William who married at Otley in 1773 also signed the register - and the signatures broadly match in key points. The match isn't absolutely perfect - but then no two signatures of mine ever match perfectly, either. Now if I was a betting man .....

Whilst it is tempting to assume at this moment in time that I have finally solved my 'John' problem, I still have work to do. I have now sent for the IGI lists for Mary and Hannah Crummock or Crummack to see what that reveals. And from the transcripts available from the Otley P.C. registers, I have a possible father for William (another William, who had a sister Frances - wrong date for my Sheffield Frances, but the coincidental forename is encouraging), as well as a grandfather and even a possible great-grandfather.

Things are looking up at last, and I can't wait to investigate further. And this all came about from enquiring into witnesses at a wedding. So if you are stuck and short of ideas on how to proceed, take heart from my experiences and take a closer look at witnesses to any wedding of a mystery ancestor. It just might work for you.

Amongst all the 'slog', the likes of which I've outlined above, family history can also have its lighter moments, don't forget.

My Lofthouses are also connected slightly to the Bottom and Slack families. These two families were themselves united on 7th September 1807 at Sheffield P.C., when Ann Bottom married William Slack - known in our family as 'The Slack-Bottom Marriage'!

My 4 x great grandfather and grandmother were Frances and Ann Eagle, who also lived in Sheffield. Ann was also the second wife of Francis - whose first wife seems to have been Tabitha Hawk; so who said Eagles don't interbreed with Hawks, then?

My 4 x great grandad, Millichamp, who lived in Birmingham before his family also migrated to Sheffield, died in 1841, said to be aged 80. His Birmingham death certificate states that he died of suffocation - determined by inquest. Following that up, I discovered he actually died in a 'privy'! Of 'suffocation'? There must have been a very powerful smell!!

My wife also had the most obnoxious aunt imaginable - a former operatic singer with an ego the size of Yorkshire itself. As you will gather, I didn't like her much; a snob of the first magnitude. Well, I've acquired a few pictures of her during my research, and one 1930's era photograph pictures her in the most hideous hat and dress I've ever had the misfortune to catch sight of. Guess which picture is destined for the write-up!!!

Family history might have its frustrations, but it also has a lighter side. All you fellow researchers out there, have fun and I wish you every success in your endeavours.

*Alan J. Bibby, Hillview Cottage, Tynron, Thornhill, Dumfriess DG3 4DU*

### More Strays

*61 Pultney Street, Bath*

Eyre Thomas	Head	U 65	M	Land Proprietor	YKS	Sheffield
Eyre Juliana	Sister	U 60	F	Annuitant	YKS	Sheffield
Craggs George	Serv	U 55	M	Butler		London
Frayner Catherine	Serv	U 35	F	Cook	IRL	Not stated
Gane Elizabeth	Serv	U 23	F	Housemaid	WIL	Tisbury

HO 107/1940 Folio 372

*Submitted by John Perkins*

## AN ANSWER BY ACCIDENT

I have been pursuing my Gill ancestors in Sheffield for some time with, of course, varying degrees of success. One of the tricky ones has been Mary Ann, born to Ellen Elliott in May 1844 at Ecclesfield. Later she took on her father's name of Ridge. This information came thanks to another member of the society. Mary Ann married Richard Nuttall at Wicker 1866 and had a daughter Agnes in 1869. One assumes that Richard died as she then had three more children fathered by Joseph Gill, Joseph Harry in 1873, Matthew William (my grandfather), in 1875 and Benjamin 1877-8.

So far I have been unable to find either Richard's death or her marriage to Joseph. I did however come across a possible death of Mary Ann Gill in the GRO index in 1891 and sent for the certificate. The age was right but I wasn't happy as there was no mention of Joseph and the informant was a Harriet Dodd, her sister. No Harriet was listed in the family I had. The death took place at 6 Warburton Square, Sheffield South.

How to check this? Who was living there in the 1891 census seemed the obvious approach but I couldn't find Warburton Square in the street index at the FRC. Now our local LDS Family History Centre has the 1891 Yorkshire Census on CD and I was struggling through it looking for the Gills and Darwents and found two Thomas Gills, in the right sort of area. They were not on my list but could have been related. When I got home I looked on my 1881 Census disc, and found the one born at Aston but not seemingly the one in Brightside. His listed offspring had included a daughter Charlotte. Unusual name, try that. Yes, one of the two shown fitted but when I brought her up her parents were different. But wait, what was this---- address 6 Warburton Square! Looked down the list of siblings. It included Mary Ann and Harriet. The age of Mary Ann matched that on the certificate, and presumably Harriet had married a Dodd. Entirely by accident or good fortune I had answered the question. This was not my Mary Ann Gill. Back to the GRO index.

So, is the death of interest to anyone else, of Mary Ann Gill, died 3rd May 1891 a dressmaker aged 46 years? Informant Harriet Dodd of 12 Warburton Square. Parents Charles and Hannah, age 60 and 57 in 1881. Mary Ann was born South Empsall and Harriet at Sheffield.

*S.E. Haseltine, Goodwins, Snow Hill, Crawley Down, West Sussex, RH10 3EF*

### Another Stray

#### **Burial at St. Swithin's Church East Retford**

8 April 1843. Sarah Walker. Widow. Angel Inn Sheffield. Aged 72 years

## EMMA WHITHAM (b. 1836 Ecclesfield)

On the 23rd April 1861 the "Underwriter" set sail from Liverpool, destination New York. Six hundred and twenty-four of its passengers were Mormon converts. They were pioneers escaping persecution and heading for a promised land. Amongst them was Emma Whitham (b. 27.4.1836 Ecclesfield), - my great grandmother's niece - and what a courageous woman Emma turned out to be.....

When I made contact with a distant American relative via the internet, I was delighted. Even more so when it became apparent that they were willing to send me excerpts from the journals that Emma and her family kept of their voyage and their life in America, which have been preserved through the generations since.

These journals tell the fascinating story of the Memmott family, headed by William (b.30.7.1814 Aston) and Ann (nee Wilson b.11.8.1814 Sheffield) who resided in Mulberry St. Sheffield; the story of their commitment to a new faith, despite the denial of rights and privileges it brought them here in England; the story of a dream - to be part of the new Mormon (Latter Day Saints) settlements in America; the story of their efforts, over some fourteen years, to fund the whole family's emigration by placing every spare penny into a black box which was nailed to the floor under the bed !

Emma was related to the Memmott family by marriage - married to Tom, the eldest son (b.27.2.1838 Sheffield). They commenced "keeping company" in January 1855 and were married 12.4.1857 at Sheffield Parish Church living at Gleadless Common Side. Two children were born there, William Franklin (b.9.6.1878 and Sarah Sophia (.25.11.1860).

The journey to America took almost five months ; the crossing had taken four weeks and a day and had been a rough one - "many seasick...waves so high they would sweep over the ship..." - but worse was yet to come. For the next sixteen weeks they trekked with wagons, oxen and cattle, across the plains, mountains and rivers of Oregon finally registering at their destination, Salt Lake City, on 12.9.1861.

Emma made this journey without husband Tom; apparently the black box under the bed did not contain enough money for the transportation of all the members of the family - six children, two spouses and two grandchildren - as planned. It was therefore decided that they would borrow more money and one of them would stay behind, pay off the debt, then make the journey at a later date. Maybe because he held a job at the Sheffield Post Office, or perhaps because he was the eldest son, it was Tom who stayed behind. So in making her

journey Emma was not only leaving her own family but leaving behind her husband too.

Emma traveled with a toddler and a baby. At the time of the voyage, her son William was aged two and Sarah just 4 months and Emma was pregnant! Whether or not Emma (or the husband she left behind) would have known this before she embarked on the journey, it is difficult to say. I suspect not. She was eight weeks pregnant and would have still been nursing baby Sarah. Poor thing. She probably spent her 25th birthday (four days into the voyage) suffering from sea sickness *and* morning sickness!!

Anyway all's well that ends well, and it seems that it did for our courageous Emma. She gave birth to a boy in December 1861, eleven weeks after arriving in their promised land. Her husband made his own successful journey from Sheffield and was registered as arriving on 30.9.1862. So after seventeen months of separation they were reunited, and father met his nine-month-old son for the first time.

Finally settled, (though they were raided by Indians who fortunately only stole their cattle) Emma and Tom spent the rest of their days (they both lived to a ripe old age) in the company of the Latter Day Saints in Utah and lived happily ever after!!



*Thomas and Emma Memmott*



*William and Anne Memmott*

The family trees of the above family are as follows:

#### MEMMOTT

Thomas Memmott m. Sarah Willden

Children: John, William b.1813 Aston

William Memmott m. Ann Wilson b.1814 Sheff.( M 1835)

Children --- Thomas b.1838 Sheff.

Thomas Memmott m. Emma Whitham b.1836 Ecclesfield

(m 1857 Sheff.)

Children - William Franklin b.1858 Sheff. Sarah Sophia b.1860 Sheff. Thomas

Whitham b. 1861 Utah. Plus seven more children born in Utah.

## WHITHAM

James Whitham b.1788 Ecclesfield m Elizabeth Andrews

b.1788 Ecclesfield (m 1809 Ecclesfield)

children - George b.1810 (Emma's Father), Selina b.1811, James b.1813, Thomas b.1814, John b.1816, Sarah b.1818, Mary b.1820 William James b.1822, Phillip Henry b.1824, Frederick b.1827, Elizabeth b.1828 (My Great Grandmother), Charles b.1830. All were born in Ecclesfield.

George m. Sarah Sophia Mellor b.1811 ( m 1830 Bradfield

Children Fanny b.1831, John b.1832, Edwin b.1834, Emma, Sarah b.1838, Ann b.1840, Elizabeth b.1842, Henry b.1845. All were born in Ecclesfield

N.B. Many of these dates have not been checked by me they came from America

*Mrs Gaye Frost, 24 Leyfield Road, SheffieldS17 3EE*

## NEW FRIENDS FROM OLD FAMILY NEIGHBOURS

When I became Chairman I had no idea that a stranger from America, who asked for information regarding his family, would contact me. When I checked, to my surprise, his Grandfather lived at 28 Watery St Sheffield which was only 9 doors away from my Grandfather who lived at number 10 with his maternal grandparents.

After a number of e-mails it transpired that Guy and his wife Norma (my new friends) were planning a trip to Sheffield this year. Of course, being a proud son of Sheffield I could not resist the opportunity to meet with them and show them around the places where his family had lived all those years before.

On Easter Sunday we had the pleasure of meeting our two new friends and giving them a tour of the areas of interest to them. When we found a street of terraced houses they found it very interesting especially as they had never seen anything like them before and when I explained about the old back to back houses I'm not sure that they believed me. The only disappointment was that of all the addresses we went to, not one of them was left. All had been cleared away in the course of progress.

By now it was lunch time so back to the City centre and a visit to the Winter Gardens and the Millennium Gallery. After lunch we had a walk around the city centre, which I saw with new eyes. Having lived here all my life I had become complacent about our wonderful City. Not wanting to take up all their time we returned them to their Hotel and arranged to meet them the next day, Easter Monday, when we took them to Chatsworth and had a visit around the House.

The visit to Chatsworth House was a highlight of their visit as they had never been in a Stately Home and were awe struck by the sheer splendour.

Finding a country pub for lunch we heard about their life and were invited to visit them in Lake Tahoe U.S.A. After lunch we went for a tour of the North Derbyshire countryside taking in Ashford in the Water, Monsal Dale, Monsal Head and the Winnats Pass into Castleton and on to Hathersage to the Church to let them see the supposed grave of Little John of Robin Hood fame. When we were back at their Hotel it was time to say goodbye as they had only two days in Sheffield, The invitation to their home was now an instruction that we visit or they will be back to fetch us!

It was good to be able to give pleasure to two people who had been all over the world in their travels and yet this was their first visit to the U.K. It was such a pity that they had to leave as they had so many tales to tell of their journeys. I know that we have made new friends and I have received an e-mail to say that they have sent of an application to join SFHS so let's hope that the next time they are over we are able to bring them to a Society meeting.

I don't remember who it was said, "Strangers are only friends you haven't met yet". How true this is. Who would have thought that becoming Chairman of a Family History Society would bring about a meeting of this kind; all because my e-mail address went in our magazine? It goes to show that we don't know what is in store for us when we make a decision to serve.

*Barry Green, 101 Westwick Crescent, Sheffield S8 7DN*

## **THE EXPERIENCES OF A SHEFFIELD MAN IN WW1 1914 – 1918**

As told by my father Charles Maysmor Nowill 1893-1958

My next trip abroad was to France in khaki. I heard about the formation of a Sheffield Battalion of the York and Lancaster Regiment, so my brother and I went down to enlist. He was accepted straight away but I was refused on eyesight, however I changed my clothes in the afternoon and was lucky enough to find another doctor who passed me A1, and I accordingly took the King's shilling, literally, and I believe my Mother still has it as a souvenir.

There was great enthusiasm at the start of the last war and all kinds of battalions were formed, each town of any size had its 'Pals' Battalion and the Sheffield Battalion was one of those, then there were Sportsmen's and even Bantam battalions. Our crowd was a very mixed one, but composed entirely of the clerical classes and the professions, including University Students. 'A' Company was the cream of the show especially No. 1 Platoon in which we were, there were University lecturers and students, a barrister, a dentist, business men and public school boys.

We first paraded at Sheffield Drill Hall under the command of Colonel Hughes V.D. an old Volunteer and Territorial Officer. Our training was just carried out in one of the Sheffield Parks and the famous Bramall Lane Cricket and Football Ground. Our drill sergeants were old regular soldiers most of whose drill dated back to the Boer War, so that those of us who had served in a school O.T.C. knew more about it than they did. It was some time before we were issued with uniforms or equipment of any description, our first uniforms were Kitchener blues with forage caps. In the meantime Redmires racecourse was being prepared as a camp for us and we eventually moved into huts through a sea of mud. We had a good time at Redmires as it was only a few miles outside Sheffield with a good motor bus service so could easily get home or into town, and when I dislocated my elbow and was excused all duty I was allowed to stay at home, the only thing that spoiled that episode was that I had fallen through the seat of my pants and as there were no spares I had to wear civilian brown trousers till the Regimental tailor had patched my blues.

After a fairly long spell at Redmires we were moved to Cannock Chase, the nearest town being Stafford, and after some months there we moved with the rest of the Brigade to Ripon. By this time we were all getting pretty browned off with over a year's training, and Bottomley's paper "John Bull" once flashed out 'Where is the glorious 84th Brigade the Pride of the North'. Whilst at Ripon I had the opportunity of going back to Hadfields as a war worker, and rather reluctantly accepted to return, leaving so many good friends behind. The Battalion eventually went to Egypt to guard the Canal about Christmas 1915, and as they were on the High Seas on the 31st December 1915 failed to qualify for the 1914/15 star. They were eventually sent to France and virtually wiped out at Serre on the Somme on 1st July 1916. Accounts published at the time state that they advanced against murderous machine gun fire with the greatest possible heroism, it is also now recognised that the battles of the Somme were the greatest military blunder of all time. The holocaust was all the more sad as 25% of the battalion's effectives should have been potential officers.

I was called back to the colours early in 1918 and proceeded to the Depot at Pontefract, so had a taste of real barrack life, most of the soldiers there were regulars or had at least seen fighting, they were a tough crowd. One day, men who could ride a bicycle, were asked to volunteer. Usually when a soldier is asked to volunteer for some service, it's generally bad, but this time I was lucky and was transferred to the Northern Cyclist Battalion stationed at Alnwick, which is a beautiful old town dominated by the Castle, the seat of the Earls of Northumberland. Our job was patrolling the coast, nothing exciting happened but we used to go off for two or three days at a time making our H.Q. one or other of the neighbouring villages and many of them are very lovely, it's a beautiful coastline and I hope to revisit it. Whilst at Pontefract I had been re-graded B1 on account of eyesight again and the N.C.B. were all of the same grade and we were

now part of the Northumberland Fusiliers "The Fighting Fifth". Our Colonel was a regular, said not to have done too well in France. He was a real martinet and frightfully smart himself, all drill was done to the Drums, so in spite of not being an A1 crowd we were a very smart one. The N.C.B. were then, I think, disbanded and we were transferred to the Durhams. In spite of my poor eyesight I was a first class shot which I think gave me an extra sixpence a day pay, so with proficiency pay I think I received something like 2s 3d a day instead of 1/- the private soldiers received in those days. I was by this time sounding influential friends about getting nominated for a Commission, when we got our orders to proceed overseas. I, with I think, about the whole of the Battalion overstayed our embarkation leave for a couple of nights, but it was overlooked.

We sailed from Folkestone to Boulogne where we were marched to a very large transit camp behind Pipers (Ypres), and after about a couple of days which allowed for a bathe at Le Touquet we went up to the line in cattle trucks. It seemed a pretty quiet sector at first - beyond the Hindenburg Line. I had never seen such trenches in my life, it must have been hell taking them. Then one day our Company was ordered out at daybreak to take some small position, but as far as I know it wasn't as small as supposed, and I don't think anyone got anywhere near it, as we were just sniped off as we advanced in open formation.

The first bullet I got hit the buckle of a belt I was wearing round my trousers, which happily diverted it so that it lodged in my thigh, so I escaped a stomach wound which are always exceptionally painful and usually fatal, anyhow I decided it was time to go home and started crawling, when a second bullet got me in both feet, the left one badly the right only grazed. I don't think I realised how badly I was hit, as when I asked at the Field Dressing Station if I'd got a 'blighty', I was told not to worry on that score! After many months in hospital, I was eventually discharged on Christmas Eve 1918.

*Contributed by Lavinia Phillips*

## **A REFLECTION ON SHEFFIELD'S ELEVEN-PLUS EXAMINATIONS**

Further to the article in issue 4 Volume 24 of 'Flowing Stream' by Roy Bullen. Dr William Picken Alexander, a Scot and an expert in intelligence testing was Director of Education for Sheffield from 1938 to 1945. At his instigation two aptitude tests were introduced to the Eleven-plus examination. The tests were devised by Moray House, the Education Testing Unit of the University of Edinburgh. The actual test papers were printed under strict security by the Sheffield Corporation Printing and Stationery Department, from stereotype plates supplied by Edinburgh University. What is not generally known is the fact that when all the scores for English and Arithmetic and for the two Aptitude

Tests were completed and listed, the administration reviewed the relationship between education performance and the intelligence quotients revealed by the Aptitude Tests.

Not surprisingly there was a high degree of correlation. However, when a pupil gained high scores in Arithmetic and English and scored significantly lower marks in the Aptitude Tests, such instances were reviewed to determine whether there had been cheating or a leakage of test papers prior to the examination. On a number of occasions enquiries revealed malpractice had taken place. However, when pupils gained high IQ ratings but poor Arithmetic and English scores, these cases were carefully and sympathetically reviewed. It was often found that inadequate performance in Arithmetic and English had arisen through prolonged absences from school due to illness, too frequent moves between schools or, truancy. In such cases the reviews were often favourable and such pupils were offered places in Grammar or Intermediate Schools.

During the period 1926 to 1945, Sheffield Education Department was led by two very strong Directors of Education, both of whom succeeded to the Secretaryship of the then all powerful Association of Education Committees. They became the scourge of the then Board of Education - a strong voice of local government education which the governments of the day had to reckon with. Percival Sharpe (later Sir Percival) was appointed Chief Education Officer in 1926 and not only directed the City's educational provision, but also promoted the establishment of the Sheffield Corporation Printing and Stationery Department of which he also became Controller. Later, as Secretary of the AEC he conducted a very successful non-cooperation policy against the Board of Education which resulted in Local Education Authorities being recognised as partners in education rather than following the dictates of the central government's Board of Education. In 1945, Dr William Picken Alexander succeeded Sharpe as Secretary of the AEC and thereafter, for almost thirty years, he continued to dominate educational administration until the AEC was finally swept away by the local government reorganisation of 1974. He was knighted in 1961 and raised to the peerage in 1974 as Lord Alexander of Porttérhill. Sharpe and Alexander, two local government officials of a calibre which we seldom see these days.

*Dr Roy Millington, 'Quernstones' 68 Stumperlowe Road, Sheffield S10*

## BADGER THE BUILDER

Some three years ago, I visited Renishaw Hall, ancestral home of the Sitwell family when an artist friend of my daughter put on an exhibition in the art gallery in the stable block there. I noted from a sign over the entrance that the stable block was designed and built by a Sheffield architect, Joseph Badger in 1794 and commented to my daughter that Badger was my mother's maiden name but that there was no record of an architect in the family.

In the last year a fortuitous insight into my family history proved me wrong. A farmer named Badger living in Hathersage in the early 1700's had four sons, John, Thomas, Joseph and Jonathon. All four married and raised families in Sheffield. The youngest of Thomas's four grandsons was my mother's paternal grandfather. While the move to Sheffield saw subsequent generations of the family going into the cutlery trade, the farmer's third son, Joseph, became an architect whose works ranged across municipal, church and domestic building.

He was employed by Sir Sitwell Sitwell in 1793 to design the Dining Room at Renishaw Hall and later to build on to the other end of the house the Great Drawing Room (1808) the Billiard Room and the Ballroom (1808), besides various other buildings in and around the park, notably the fine classical stables.

My burgeoning family history project would now have to include a section on the work of Joseph, the architect. I wrote to Sir Resesby Sitwell for permission to photograph items at Renishaw Hall and was surprised to get an invitation from him to visit at a time when he could be there to show me round. At 76 he is a cheerful, exuberant man whose enthusiasm was evident at every turn. As we passed through a room in the stable block given over to theatrical and popular entertainment exhibits he was proud to explain that Mick Jagger's grandmother lived in the village. He also recalls what a delightful young lady, Marilyn Monroe was, on the occasion of her visit, and how she was almost bowled over by one of their over friendly dogs.

He has written an excellent account of the history of his family and the hall for the guide book and under his ownership, Renishaw has maintained its glorious gardens and hosts a series of exhibitions and cultural events through the year including *The Antiques Roadshow* to which it gives the setting of a very English stately home,

*Ken Swallow, 32 Milton Drive, Ravenshead, Notts. NG15 9BE*

## STAFF EMPLOYED IN SHEFFIELD SCHOOLS IN 1922

The following information is from a small book published by the City of Sheffield Education Committee in 1922.

### Gleadless Council School – Mixed

Head Teacher	Frederick J.C. Hinchcliffe
Certified Assistant	William Vaughan
Certified Assistant	Sam Staton
Certified Assistant	Patricia L. Rodger
Uncertified Assistant	Millicent Drewry
Uncertified Assistant	Marrian S. Hoyland
Uncertified Assistant	Eliza Nutt

### Gleadless Council School – Infants

Head Teacher	Helen Baynes-Smith
Certified Assistant	Mrs Millicant Drury
Uncertified Assistant	Mrs Annie Biggin

### Fulwood C.E. School – Mixed & Infants

Head Teacher	Emily Bryan
Certified Assistant	Winifred Morton
Supplementary Teacher	Gertrude M. Marrison

### Greystones Council School – Mixed

Head Teacher	Frederic J. Kibble
Certified Assistant	Frank T. Davis
Certified Assistant	Mary E. Wood
Certified Assistant	Eliza M. Fisbet
Certified Assistant	Elizabeth Green
Uncertified Assistant	Mrs Dora H. Ironside

### Greystones Council School – Infants

Head Teacher	Susannie W. Anthonies
Certified Assistant	Lilian Hobson
Certified Assistant	Maud A. Nicholls
Pupil Teacher	Minnie Cholarton ?

The book is similar to the kind of aid-memoire carried by members of Education Committees, Education officers, HMI (School Inspectors) who visited lots of schools. The book gives details of the salaries of staff, the date and college pf training and the date of their appointment. Of its nearly 400 pages about 320

pages list schools and staff, education department staff, school doctors and nurses.

*Stan Cook, 20 Cautley Close, Quainton, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP22 4BN*

## **SO WHO WOULD LIVE IN A HOUSE LIKE THIS ? .....**

If you have ever ordered anything from the Society's postal sales service, the chances are that you have written out the address: *17, Firshill Road*. For the time being this is my home, but I have only lived here since 1985 . . .

No.17 was erected during a boom time for house building in Sheffield. As Sheffield's population grew at ever increasing pace during the nineteenth century, fields and farmland were subsumed in a frenzy of building. Much of the expansion and in-filling occurred in the south and east of the town, but the hilly northern township of Brightside Bierlow, segregated from the centre by the river and the railway, was not immune. In the fifty years following 1851, the population of this part of Sheffield alone grew from around 12,000 to just over 73,000. At the beginning of this period, rows of houses could already be seen creeping up the hillside of Pye Bank above Bridgehouses in the southern part of the township. Sheffield builders rarely seem to have been deterred by the precipitous local terrain. In 1850 the population of this area of Brightside Bierlow was considered sufficient to form a separate parish and Christ Church, Pitsmoor was consecrated in August that year, built to seat 618 adults and 224 children.

Above the church on the shoulder of land below Shirecliffe moor and beyond were a scattering of substantial houses with landscaped gardens, some boasting features such as lakes, fountains and glasshouses, popular with the Victorians. In the late eighteenth century, opposite the toll house on the turnpike road to Barnsley, William Pass had built himself one such residence; an attractive construction of ashlar stone blocks that became known as Abbeyfield House. Pass had been able to augment his income by exploiting the coal to be found on parts of his farmland.

By the 1880s, his former home had been the residence of Bernard Wake (c.1823-1891) for over thirty years. Wake was a local solicitor who belonged to a family of lawyers prominent in Victorian Sheffield society. Wake's father (d.1842) had founded a legal practice earlier in the century and his brother, William, was the County Court Registrar for many years. Several members of the Wake family occupied big houses in North Sheffield in the nineteenth century.<sup>0</sup> They were generous benefactors to a number of causes and Bernard himself provided substantial support to the priory and parish church at Ecclesfield. As the century wore on, he may have viewed with some alarm the buildings encroaching over the hillside from all directions. Whether he was

simply bowing to the inevitable, or whether he had an eye to financial gain, as the 1880s approached, Bernard decided to lease some of the land surrounding his gardens to be laid out for housing. Thus two new roads, Abbeyfield Road and Firshill Road were conceived; the latter taking its name from Firshill House, another local mansion on the opposite side of the turnpike road.

The new Firshill Road was marked out in plots and building began from the Barnsley Road end. On both sides, the houses were substantial terraced dwellings with small gardens at the front and back. These properties were aimed at those with middle class aspirations. The occupations of the 40 heads of household enumerated in the road in 1891 comprise 10 engaged in trade, 10 engaged in manufacturing and industry, 3 teachers, 4 commercial travellers, 6 clerks and 4 of independent means. Three-quarters of the way along the 'odd side', the terrace plan was abandoned; the remaining space being filled by two pairs of semi-detached and two detached villas. This seems to have thrown out the numbering, which had begun at 57 and now ended at 15.<sup>1</sup> In respect of the two end plots, Wake contracted with a builder named Richard Jukes to erect two detached houses to be demised to the builder along with the lease of the land. It is quite probable that Jukes was also responsible for building other houses in the road under a similar arrangement.

Jukes (c.1812-1883) was one of those Victorian ancestors with itchy feet, who pose problems for family researchers. He hailed originally from Sedgley in Staffordshire but, after his marriage to Judith, the couple left for pastures new, spending some time in West Bromwich before moving to Yorkshire; first to Wath-upon-Dearne, then to Liversedge, arriving ultimately in North Sheffield with their six children in the late 1850s. The family lived in Nottingham Street on the lower flanks of the hill above Bridgehouses and Richard pursued his trade as a nail cutter, based at Twelve O'Clock Wheel, a collection of workshops at the site of a former fulling mill beside the River Don on the way to Attercliffe.<sup>2</sup>

Richard set his son, Richard jnr. to work alongside him in the nail trade, but the opportunities afforded by the building work going on all around had obviously set him thinking. By 1871 he had established a small construction business. At one time the family lived at an address in Lyons Road (North Sheffield), conveniently situated opposite a brick works<sup>3</sup>, but by the time that the contract for 17 Firshill Road was under negotiation, they had moved to the other side of the town centre and were living in Cemetery Road, just up the hill from the Baptist Chapel where the Society holds its monthly meetings.

When Jukes set about the construction of the two villas at the end of Firshill Road, he had already turned 70 and this project was to be his last. It seems likely that Richard jnr., his only son, had pre-deceased him, but he had 15 men and a lad in his employ to undertake the work.

The basic design of the house is one repeated, in variations of scale, across thousands built in Sheffield in the late nineteenth century, comprising four

levels: two floors, with an attic above and a cellar below. Whatever their status, your late Victorian or Edwardian Sheffield ancestors will have been familiar with this kind of house plan and many of the houses they once occupied provide homes for Sheffielders today. Such dwellings often retain some reminders of their earlier occupants and No.17 is no exception.

As was the common local practice, the cellars incorporate a space for coal and contain a stone table where perishables were stored in pre-refrigeration days. There is also a gas light fitting, indicating how the house was originally lit. Carrying coal (smokeless fuel these days) up the cellar stairs is quite a struggle, undertaken now by choice and only on the colder days of winter, but this was a daily task for the original occupants, who used this fuel for cooking as well as heating.

All trace of the old kitchen range went long before my tenure, but in the remainder of the house, with the exception of the 'modernised' sitting room grate, there are the original cast iron fireplaces that offer a useful secondary heating option in the depths of winter. The attics, and likely servants' quarters, relied solely on the warmth given out by the two central chimneys.

Throughout, the rooms are lofty by modern standards and another notable difference is that, almost without exception, the internal doors open *against* the room; a modesty convention of the late Victorians, intended to give the occupants a few seconds to gather themselves before exposure to the full gaze of the entering servant. That servants were employed at No.17 is indicated by the wooden base of a bell board in the kitchen. A former scullery, no doubt used for the weekly wash, adjoins the back of the house and a few steps across the yard stands a brick built WC. This contains the original flush toilet, a step-up in lavatory design from earth closets and long drop tipplers, but it seems unlikely that the house had a bathroom in its earlier years. Behind the modern wallpaper lurk occasional vestiges of original decorations, suggesting a dark colour scheme brightened by yellow and gold. A number of decorative embellishments survive, but the *pièce de résistance* has to be the dining room door whose upper panels contain reliefs of two Roman goddesses, Diana (huntress) and Ceres (cultivator) above lower panels of trailing fruiting vines!

So, who did live in a house like this? It is unclear whether Jukes had built the property with the intention of selling it or letting it. He died<sup>4</sup> before the indenture was signed and it fell to his executors, his daughters Judith Susannah Flint<sup>56</sup> and Abigail Elisheba Jukes, to complete the transaction with Bernard Wake. The conditions of the lease are redolent of the concerns of the times and prohibit the use of the land and premises for any steam engine, steel melting furnace, iron furnace or similar activity or for use as a public house or beerhouse. Wake granted the land on a lease of 800 years at a cost of £5. 19s. 6d per year to be paid in two half yearly instalments. It was signed and sealed on 17th December 1884.

With the paperwork out of the way, the house was let immediately and George Postlethwaite and family moved in. With such a surname George (b.1843) must have had Lancastrian roots and the 1881 Census confirms that he was born in Rochdale. He was a locomotive engine fitter and had spent time in Huntingdonshire and Northamptonshire before arriving in Sheffield. On this occasion he did not have far to move as he was already living in Firhill Road at No. 43. One can imagine him wandering up the road to watch the new houses being built and chatting up the foreman to get a look inside, before taking the decision to make a formal approach. George was married with three daughters. In 1881 he was also housing a 39 year old lodger, Mary Veridon, a draper's shop assistant from London and a servant, Emily Kindle, aged 18 who came from the nearby village of Thorpe Hesley. The Postlethwaites' stay at No.17 was shortlived, coming to an end in 1886 when the Jukes sisters sold the house.

The new owner was a Mrs Betsy Pinder who paid the Jukes' estate a total of £1,350 for the house along with other unidentified property. Pinder was a widow with a London address, so it is unclear why she was seeking property investment in Sheffield, but she may well have come from the area originally. Housing was a useful source of regular income in a period when tenants had few rights. Property was relatively cheap to buy and there was a high demand for rented accommodation right across the social spectrum. In the absence of retirement and widows' pensions and with few employment opportunities for married women, becoming a landlord was one way of achieving an independent income for anyone with a modest amount of disposable capital.

Pinder let her new acquisition to John Moorhouse, who had been living previously in Andover Street, just down the hill. Moorhouse was an engineer who held a managerial position. He rented No.17 for some four years, but by 1891 the house was vacant again. The next tenants were the Outram family, recruited like the Postlethwaites from along the same road. They had been living at No.51. This pattern of localised movement is typical of the period and demonstrates why it is always worth searching the vicinity if your forbears fail to materialise at an anticipated address in the census records. Many tenants moved frequently, especially among the lower social orders. Moves were often dictated by fluctuations of income, although changes in family size could play a part and some houses were so dilapidated or bug infested that they did not keep their tenants for long. Few people had many possessions by today's standards, so it was relatively easy to manage a local move with just a hand cart. No.17 was never empty for long . . .

#### Notes:

1. These included Cannon Hall at Fir Vale, Osgathorpe House in Pitsmoor, Crowder House and Ecclesfield Hall and Priory.

2. A few years later this house was renumbered 129, Abbeyfield Road, although just like numbers 1-15 Firshill Road, numbers 1-127 Abbeyfield Road were never built.

3. This site developed originally as a water driven walk mill for fulling cloth and was known as Nether Walk Mill. By the nineteenth century it was being used for other activities and acquired its new name from the nearby public house at the junction of Saville Street and Attercliffe Road.

4. Some years ago I found a couple of bricks bearing their stamp on an old allotment in the area.

5. Richard Jukes died on 12th June 1883. His will, made 8th September 1880, was proved at Wakefield on 30th July 1883. He named all three of his daughters as executrix but Mary Ann, who was deaf, renounced probate in favour of her sisters.

6. As a young woman Judith worked as a governess before marrying John George FLINT (originally from Mansfield). At the time of these transactions the couple lived up Intake Road where they ran an elementary school.

*The story of the Outram's and the later history of the house will appear in the next edition.*

*Anne Giller, 17, Firshill Road, Sheffield S4 7BB*

## BOOK LIST

*The People of Worrall in 1901 (and 1902)* by Ray Battye

This booklet is based upon the 1901 population census of the village of Worrall and, where possible, compares the population then, to the population in Worrall now. It deals with the population total in 1901, the ages of the residents, their surnames and Christian names, occupations, marital status and others details. The analysis is preceded by a brief outline of the history of the village.

The booklet is also available from

Sheffield Scene on Surrey Street, Don Alexander on Eccleshall Road and various shops in the Worrall area or by telephoning the author on 0114 2864418.

## UNWANTED CERTIFICATES

### Births

**B 115** 27 Jan 1879 at Alexander Road, Dronfield Arthur son of Thomas Hewitt, Spindle Grinder, and Henrietta Hewitt, formerly Slack.  
Registration District, Chesterfield. Sub-district Dronfield

**B 116** 12 Jan 1879 at Alma, Dronfield, Emily daughter of Sidney Booth Edge Tool Maker and Martha Booth, formerly Ward  
Registration District, Chesterfield. Sub-district Dronfield

**B 117** 12 Dec 1907 Constance Hewitt

**B 118** 27 Oct 1886 at Wards Yard, Dronfield. William son of William Hewitt Coal Miner and Hannah Hewitt formerly Fisher

**B 119** 19 Mar 1883 at Horner House, Bradfield, Ernest son of Hirza Marshall a factory hand of Green Moor, Unshelf, Penistone  
Registration District Wortley. Sub District, Bradfield

**B 120** 14 Aug 1883 at Cranbe Ernest son of Thomas Marshall, a Platelayer and Elizabeth Marshall, formerly Woodsworth  
Registration District Malton. Sub district Bulmer, Yorks.

### Marriages

**M 66** 17 April 1907 between William Hewitt aged 26 yrs Batchelor, a Coal Miner of Snape Hill Lane, Dronfield, Father, William Hewitt, Coal Miner, and Eliza Booth aged 29 yrs. Spinster, of Snape Hill Dronfield, Father, Sydney Booth, Forger  
At the Baptist Chapel, High Street, Dronfield, Chesterfield

**M 67** 16 July 1903 between Arthur Hewitt aged 24 yrs. Batchelor, Grocers Assistant of Snape Hill Cottage Dronfield, Father, Thomas Hewitt, Spindle Grinder and Emily Booth 24 yrs. Spinster, of 13 Church View, Snape Hill, Dronfield, Father, Sidney Booth, Spindle Flyer Maker,  
At Dronfield Baptist Church, Chesterfield district, Derbyshire

### Deaths

**D 89** 16 April 1929 at The Bungalow, Stubley Hollow, Dronfield Woodhouse. William Hewitt, male, 48 years a Coal Hower. Informant John Hewitt, Brother, 75 Woodseats Road, Sheffield

**D 90** 21 Dec 1933 at The Bungalow, Stubble Hollow, Dronfield Woodhouse. Sidney Booth, male, Edgetool Maker (retired). Informant, C.Hewitt, granddaughter of 182 Farebrother Street, Grimsby

**D 91** 8 Jan 1955 at 87 Stubble Lane, Dronfield Emily Hewitt, female, aged 75 yrs. Widow of Arthur Hewitt an Insurance Agent. Informant C. Hewitt, daughter of 87 Stubble Lane, Dronfield, Sheffield.

**D 92** 8 Mar 1933 at The Royal Infirmary, Sheffield Eliza Hewitt, aged 55 years of The Bungalow, Stubble Hollow, Dronfield Woodhouse, Widow of William Hewitt Coal Miner (Hewer). Informant, A. Hewitt Brother-in-Law of 182 Farebrother Street, Grimsby

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Some new items available from the postal publications service and the Society bookstall**

*Rotherham and District War Memorials* by Frank S. Westwood and Andrew Featherstone

(2003: no publisher or ISBN details) Price £29.50 (UK) £39.50 (Airmail)

This is a monumental work in size and subject, that reflects a long term piece of research tracking down and recording war memorial inscriptions in the town of Rotherham and its surrounding villages. The work covers monuments commemorating the dead from both world wars of the twentieth century and the size of the end result serves as a reminder of the extent of local lives lost in these two major conflicts. Sources include plaques in work places, schools, non-conformist chapels and other locations as well as the more familiar village cenotaph or church memorial. The eclectic nature of the sites included reflects the fact that many soldiers were volunteers and conscripts from ordinary working backgrounds, as well as regular service men and women. The book is considerably more than a roll call of the dead. The material is arranged alphabetically by location and small black and white photographs of the majority of memorials are included. Additional notes accompany many of the entries, covering details such as the cost and structure of a memorial, descriptions of unveiling ceremonies, a pen portrait of a local VC, etc. The ephemeral nature of many such memorials is demonstrated by the inclusion of references to some whose existence can be proved, but whose current whereabouts cannot be discovered; a reminder of the importance of collecting and recording such

historical material before it disappears. Indeed, the work is intended to link to the Imperial War Museum's National Inventory of War Memorials. One can only respect the effort that has gone into this work and my sole criticism is that a more fulsome introduction would not have gone amiss. However, as the book is 440 pages long, perhaps the authors felt enough was enough. It is a weighty price, but a sizeable tome of reference, that ensures that "their names liveth", if not "for evermore", then at least for an extra bit of posterity, beyond the bulldozers and developers.

***Bradfield Monumental Inscriptions* on 3.5 computer disk**

Price £3.00 (UK) £3.50 (Airmail)

A saint has recently recorded the extant monumental inscriptions in the stunningly located churchyard of the medieval church of St Nicholas, Bradfield. The Society has kindly been allowed to make this material available for sale. The inscriptions include those to be found within the church as well as those on the readable gravestones in the churchyard.

Tempus Publishing Limited have recently added two new titles to their *Images of England* series: *Crosspool*, Judith Hansom (Tempus: 2003), ISBN 0 7524 2821 7. Price £12.99 (UK), £14.99 (Airmail) and *Handsworth: the second selection*, Sandra Gillott (Tempus: 2002), ISBN 07524 2629 X. Price £11.99 (UK), £13.99 (Airmail).

Readers familiar with Tempus' books will know what to expect from these two new Sheffield area titles, and they will not be disappointed. As usual, each volume comprises an extensive collection of photographs selected to offer not only a record of local landmarks, but to create a pictorial history of commercial, domestic and social life from the late Victorian to the post-war period. The books represent some dedicated research on the part of the authors to trace and identify local material from private as well as public sources and the result is a portrait of a past, not so remote as to be unfamiliar, but sufficiently 'black & white' to stir feelings of nostalgia. Be warned, one member spotted herself on an old school photo in the *Ecclesall* collection!

*Crosspool* lies on the western edge of the City's green belt. It straddles the A57, once a turnpike route, that leads to open countryside and the Snake Pass across the Pennines to Manchester. Until the twentieth century this was a sparsely populated farming district and the book, with photographs arranged under headings such as 'farms', 'shops', 'schools', 'sport & leisure', etc. demonstrates how a community identity emerged as the area became more developed. Given its relatively recent establishment, it is surprising to note how many of Crosspool's older buildings have disappeared. The area is currently a speculators' target. As recently as 2000, the Kings Head, an inn that had served travellers since at least 1830, was demolished to make way for a block of flats.

Unlike Crosspool, the East Sheffield suburb of *Handsworth* is an ancient village settlement with a medieval parish church dedicated to St Mary. In this second volume, the author has grouped the photographs to create a tour along the major routes through the settlement. The material expands and complements the contents of the first volume. Examples of some surviving ancient buildings are included alongside edifices of the twentieth century conveying a sense of the changes the area has witnessed over the centuries.

*Information and reviews provided by our bookstall officer  
Dr Anne Giller, 17, Firshill Road, Sheffield S4 7BB*

### **STEPHENSON BLAKE *The Last of the Old English Typefounders***

An account of five generations of two Sheffield families who propelled an early 19th century provincial typefoundry, Stephenson and Blake and Company Limited, into a national institution in its heyday, is documented in a new book just published by The British Library.

Stephenson Blake, *The Last of the Old English Typefounders* by Dr. Roy Millington has captured the spirit and adventure of this dynamic British firm from its humble origins in Sheffield to its near domination of the trade throughout Britain and the Commonwealth.

The firm was originally set up as a partnership in 1818, as Blake, Garnett and Company, by Henry Garnett, a silversmith, John Stephenson, a tool-maker and James Blake, a file manufacturer (who held almost all the shareholding). In 1831, Garnett left the partnership. However, Blake and Stephenson continued in business, little realising that they were establishing a family business that would subsequently span five generations. From their early success grew an obsession - to lead, dominate, and finally absorb the remaining British typefounders. Stephenson Blake and Company became the most significant typefounder and printers' equipment supplier in Britain and the Commonwealth. The son of the founder, Henry Stephenson and grandson, Henry Kenyon Stephenson both played leading roles in the development of the City of Sheffield and the University of Sheffield. They both served in the offices of Lord Mayor and Master Cutler and were knighted for their services to the community.

Finally, the coming of the computer-generated digital image in the 1970s not only brought to an end the art of typefounding, it also brought the demise of letterpress printing which, in principle, had remained unchanged since the times of Gutenberg and William Caxton

Stephenson Blake, *The Last of the Old English Typefounders* is jointly published by Oak Knoll Press, Delaware, US and The British Library. ISBN 0-7123-4795-X, price £35.00 available through bookshops or on-line at [www.bl.uk](http://www.bl.uk)

*Information from Dr Roy Millington, 'Quernstones' 68 Stumperlowe Road,  
Sheffield S10 3QP*

Sheffield and District Family History Society  
**SEARCH SERVICE.**

The Society provides a Search Service for the following:

- **1861 Sheffield, Rotherham and Bradfield Census surname index**
- **Sheffield Churchyards Transcripts**

This search covers burials in most of the churchyards in Sheffield, and also includes All Saints' Rotherham (1830 - 1854) and St Mary, Greasbrough (1813 - 1858), in total over 250,000 records.

- **Sheffield Cemeteries Transcripts**

This search covers burials in Attercliffe Municipal Cemetery Nov 1859-Nov 1960, Darnall Cemetery (Aug 1859-July 1901), Revel Lane Cemetery, Woodhouse (1875-1949) and Tinsley Park Cemetery (June 1882-July 1973)

**Cost of service**

Sheffield and District FHS members .- the fee is £1 per surname *per type of search* (for non - Society members the fee is £3 per surname)

If you require a search of variant spelled forms of a surname please enclose an additional £1 fee per variant, Please state which variants you want searched. We are not able to think of them for you.

If you require a search for a common surname eg *Green* you are advised to provide the forename(s) if possible. This is to limit the cost to you -there are 25 pages of entries with the surname Green in the Census index!

You will receive a print-out of the surname you requested up to a maximum of 5 sheets. If the search should produce more than that then you will be notified with the first part of the return.

**How to order**

Send your order to the address below. If you are a Society member, remember to quote your membership number or you will be charged at the higher rate. Payment may be by cheque/postal order/bankers draft in £ sterling only, payable to Sheffield & District Family History Society.

**Please enclose a large stamped self addressed envelope, at least size DL (110 mm by 220 mm).**

*For more than one surname search please enclose an extra 20p stamp per name to cover postage.*

**Send your order with your SAE and payment to:**

1861 Census & Burials Search Service

Mrs J. Connell, 170 Abbey Lane, Sheffield S8 0BQ

