

Sheffield and District Family History Society

*The Flowing Stream*



Spring 1980

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THE FLOWING STREAM

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THE SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY.

The Society is open to anyone who is interested in the study of Genealogy and Local History. Regular meetings are held at the Y.M.C.A., Broomhall Road, Sheffield, during the winter months, and excursions are arranged for the summer. The Society caters for those parts of South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire which are within convenient travelling distance of Sheffield.

The annual subscription is £2.00.

The Officers at present are:

- Chairman: Dr. David Hey, Dept. of Continuing Education, The University of Sheffield, S10 2GJ.
- Secretary: Mrs. Margaret Furey, 58, Stumperlowe Crescent Road, Sheffield S10 3PR.
- Treasurer: Mr. G. J. Robinson, 17, Winchester Ave, Sheffield S10 4EA.
- Editor: Mrs. Denise Marsden, "Burnside", Low Bradfield, Sheffield S6 6LB.
- Committee Members: Mr. R. Bullen, 18, Furniss Ave, Dore, Sheffield 17.  
Mrs. April Dakin, 98, Lilly Hall Road, Maltby, near Rotherham.  
Mr. F. C. Tyack, 18, Oakbrook Court, Graffham Rd, Sheffield S10 3HR.  
Mr. P. Stevenson, 43, Old Park Ave, Beauchief, Sheffield S8 7DQ.  
Mr. A. Chatwin, 76, Doncaster Road, East Dene, Rotherham.

The Society is affiliated to 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.

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## EDITORIAL

Family History is not a mere collection of dates, names and places. We should clothe these bare bones with life by learning about the background of our ancestors and putting them into context of both local and national history. This sounds very laudable. But how does one set about doing it? For me, a new book has provided the answer. Don Steel's "Discovering Your Family History", details of which are in the book list, describes clearly and in great detail not only how to find names and dates but also how to put a person or a family into its historical context. I found the book very readable and full of useful tips and ideas new to me. Although the book is a BBC publication, no reference is made to the television series, "Family History". I did not see the broadcasts but at no point in reading the book was this fact detrimental to my enjoyment, interest or understanding.

Our Society's latest and most important project to date should help all members with Sheffield connections. It is, of course, the indexing of the 1851 Census for Sheffield. Since this Census is, for most of us the only means of pursuing our researches back beyond 1837 and the start of civil registration, an index is of untold value in the saving of time and effort. Any member with an hour or two to spare, either at home or in the South Yorkshire Archives is asked to volunteer for this important project. Details of how the work is being tackled are given later.

With this Journal, you will receive a copy of our Directory of Members' Interests. It is hoped that this will provide a link between members researching the same name and thus increase our knowledge and enjoyment. It is intended to produce supplements to the index as necessary in order to allow newmembers to make their interests known. You are reminded that a S.A.E. would be much appreciated when contacting someone in these days of escalating postal charges.

Finally I should like to thank all members who have sent me copy in great quantities for this journal. Please keep on doing so. New members are particularly encouraged to send in contributions of any length. Copy day for the next issue is 31st August, 1980.

## MEMBERSHIP LIST.

The Society welcomes the following new members.

Mrs.A.Clarke, Hawthorns, Dennington, Swinbridge, Devon.  
Mr.P.A.Cocker, 219 Ringinglow Rd, Sheffield S11.  
Mrs. Coe, 125, Moorgate Rd, Rotherham.  
Mr.D.W.Cullen, 31, The Reedway, Spinney Hill, Northampton, NN3 1BT.  
Miss C.M.Fisher, 10, Belmont St, Kelvinbridge, Glasgow G12.  
Mr.Trevor Foster, 320, Sharrowvale Road, S11 8ZL.  
Mrs.C.Francis, 177, Urmston Lane, Stretford, Manchester M32 9DE.  
Mrs.G.A.Gates, 9, Fernhill Ave, Shipley BD18 4SN.  
Mr.T.M.Hall, 87 Marston Gardens, Luton, Beds, LU2 7DY.  
Mr.P.G.Harbord, Christian Alliance Centre, Secker St, London SE1 8UF.  
Mr.G.Hopkinson, 39, Oldcroft Rd, Walton-on-the-Hill, Stafford.  
Mrs.M.Jones, Strafford House, Bridechurch Lane, Tickhill, Doncaster.  
Mr.B.H.Knight, 281, Dorchester Rd, Weymouth, Dorset DT3 5JB.  
Mr.E.S.Maltby, 5, Plas Isaf, Rhosymedre, Wrexham, Clwyd, N.Wales.  
Mrs.M.Phelps, 53, Whirlowdale Rd, Sheffield S7 2NE.  
Miss Frances Ramsbottom, Flat 4, Park View, Moseley Hall Hospital,  
Moseley, Birmingham B13 8JL.  
Mrs.E.Randall, 45, Harwood Road, Harrogate.

Mr.G.Smith, 68, Larch Hill Road, Sheffield S9 4AJ;  
Mrs.W.E.Tarves, 5, Lade Green, Dalgety Bay, Dunfirmline, Fife KY11 5SQ.  
Mr.R.Trippitt, Kenilworth, 4, Newfield Ave, Mobrends, Doncaster DN8 4RX  
Mrs.G.W.Wheatcroft, North Lodge, Hob Lane, Barston, Solihull, West  
Midlands B92 0JT.

#### Overseas Members.

Miss Lois Black, 196, Glengary Ave, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5M 1E2.  
Mrs M.G.Jewett, 4501, Mead Ave, Sacramento, California, USA 95822.

#### Change of Address:

Mrs.P.A.Heath, (formerly Miss P.A.Vernon), 4, Norton Park Road, S8 8GQ.  
Mr.Roger Stevenson, 43, Old Park Ave, Beauchief, Sheffield S8 7DQ.

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#### NEWS AND NOTES

#### Retirement of Mr.K.R.Topp, The Librarian.

It is with great regret that we announce the retirement, due to ill health, of Mr.K.R.Topp, our Librarian. He has organised our publications and records ever since the Society started and will be much missed. It is hoped, however, that we shall continue to see him at meetings. We give our thanks to him for all the work he had done for the Society.

Our new Librarian is Mrs.April Dakin of 98, Lilly Hall Rd, Maltby, Rotherham. We wish her every success.

#### Calendars of Grants of Probate and Letters of Administration.

It was noted in the last issue of "The Flowing Stream", that these calendars, covering the years 1900 to 1929, had been transferred to South Yorkshire County Record Office. The earlier part of the series, from 1858 to 1900, has now been acquired from another part of the country.

#### 1841 Census of Dore.

The Census of Dore for 1841 has been transcribed by Roy Bullen. He will supply information about a person or a household to members sending an S.A.E. to 18, Furniss Ave, Sheffield S17 3QL.

#### Records Deposited

Mr.Mappin has deposited, with the Local Studies Library, the following;

Baptismal Register for Leacroft Chapel (off Campo Lane)  
1785-1848 & 1872-1876. Also the Minute Books.

#### Society of Genealogists' Records.

The Society of Genealogists is anxious to expand its records which are of value to all family historians. Is there a member who would be willing to write slips of all pedigrees or accounts of families containing more than 3 generations in the male line from:

- 1) all back numbers of the journal
- 2) future issues as they come out.

for filing  
in a consolidated index of all published pedigrees at the Society of Genealogists. Is there a member who would write slips of new members' interests as they are known for an index of Everyone's Interests at the Society of Genealogists. (They will provide the necessary instructions!)

### Did you have an ancestor at Waterloo?

Mr. Derek Saunders, 131, Haling Park Road, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 6NN, has spent many years studying the battle and can offer enquirers a thorough check on all the soldiers involved. He has a complete list of over 40,000 of all ranks, with regimental details. Please send an S.A.E. He would also welcome any information about men who fought at Waterloo, including details of medals, documents, press cuttings, pictures etc.

### Anglican & Non-Conformist Registers.

A booklet listing the Anglican and Non-Conformist Registers held in the Derbyshire Record Office has just been produced and is available at the County Record Office in Matlock, price 40p.

### Donations.

The Society wishes to thank all those who sent extra cash with their subscriptions. Thanks also to Mrs. B. Tamlyn for her stamp donation.

### 1851 Census Index for Borough of Derby

This index can be seen in the Local Studies Department of Derby Central Library.

### "The Flowing Stream"

The cost of this and future editions will be 50p each for extra copies and copies for non-members. Back numbers are still available of Volume 1, Number 2; Volume 1, Number 4; Volume 2, Number 1; Volume 2, Number 2; at the old price of 30p, while stocks last.

### Parish Maps.

These maps described in Volume 1, Number 3, and available from the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies, Northgate, Canterbury, Kent are now £1.50 each, including postage and packing.

### Recording Your Interests.

The Society has deposited a book with South Yorkshire Archives, in which those doing research there, can record the names in which they are interested and, hopefully, find others who are researching the same name. Society members are also reminded that there is already a similar book in the Central Library Archive Department in Surrey Street where research interests can be recorded. You may make a valuable contact by the use of these books.

### Future Meeting - Members with West Country Links.

An informal meeting of members with West Country links or interests will be held on Monday 7th July 1980 at 7.30 p.m. at 18 Furniss Ave, Dore. (The No. 18 Trolley Brook bus from High Street passes the door). All are welcome for a chat about the people of Cornwall, Devon and Somerset.

### Directory of Members' Interests.

The Society wishes to thank Mr. Richard Newsam for his excellent work in compiling the Directory of Members' Interests, which is enclosed with this Journal.

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LETTER TO ALL FAMILY HISTORIANS

Dear Editor,

I am working on a general book on Family History and would now like to study a fair sized sample of family histories for all parts of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. I wonder if any your readers would be willing to let me borrow either:

- (a) written up family histories where the genealogy has been set generation by generation in its full local and social context.
- (b) fairly complete and well-annotated family trees which illustrate migration, occupations, ages of marriage and death, second marriages etc.

I am also very interested in specific examples of the following points:

- (1) Eldest son having the family farm and younger sons going into trade
- (2) Elder sons going into trade and younger son inheriting the family farm
- (3) Hereditary occupations; an individual changing his occupation
- (4) Reasons for migration
- (5) Patterns of emigration within English, Scottish and Irish extended families
- (6) Social mobility up or down, whether slow or rapid.

I would also be most grateful if readers could let me know if they are collecting data on all bearers of a certain surname.

Yours

D.J. Steel.

"Crossways",  
Jarvis Lane,  
East Brent,  
Highbridge,  
Somerset.

SOCIETY MEETINGS

Meeting on Thursday 22nd November 1979

One of the Society members, Mr. Alex Chatwin, gave us an excellent talk, illustrated with slides, describing research he has done into the Whitgreave family of Staffordshire. The Whitgreaves were a Roman Catholic family but were the most important family for several centuries in the area in which Mr. Chatwin was born and bred. They took a leading part in the parish of Bushbury near Wolverhampton and were very influential despite their religion in an age of intolerance. Several members of the family kept diaries (now in the Record Office) which give many details of everyday events.

The family is known from the 13th century but the lecture told their story from the Reformation onwards. At this point in time, the family divided, part became Anglican and part stayed Roman Catholic.

The Catholic branch built Moseley Old Hall as its family seat. The house had a priest hole and was the scene of the most exciting part of the Whitgreave Story.

On 3rd September 1651, Charles 11 was heavily defeated at the Battle of Worcester, but managed to escape with some of his officers. What followed is taken from two accounts; one by Thomas Whitgreave, the then owner of Moseley Old Hall, the other by Father Huddleston the priest who lived in the house and taught Thomas's nephews. Charles was hidden by Thomas in the priest hole, the servants being told that he was a cavalry officer in hiding. Parliamentary forces searched the stable but not the house and Charles was able to escape later disguised as a servant of a Jane Lane who had a pass to go to Bristol.

Thomas married late in life, at the age of 51 and had one son, Thomas. The family has a connection with Sheffield, in that Thomas's grandson Francis married a woman who lived at Wadsley Hall.

In the early 19th century, the Whitgreave family moved to Moseley Court. Moseley Old Hall is now a National Trust Property.

In addition to a fascinating lecture, Mr. Chatwin was able to introduce the meeting to several sources of genealogical information that were new to members. Details are given later.

#### 3rd Annual General Meeting on Thursday 24th January 1980.

This was held at the Y.M.C.A. and was followed by a talk by David Hey. The Secretary announced that the membership now stood at 140. Thanks were given to all those who helped in various ways, and aid was requested for the growing number of letters asking for information. Mr. Tyack gave an account of his search for alternative accommodation for our meetings. Most possibilities seemed to have disadvantages, but he has earmarked one in case attendance figures increased and a move was thought necessary.

Although the Treasurer reported that the Society's bank balance was in a healthy position, it was decided to increase the subscription from £2 to £3 (£4 for families) as from 1st January 1981. This was to cover increased costs in accommodation, postage and the journal, and also to help build up the library with new books. It was also agreed that the journal be increased in price to 50p.

Roger Stevenson informed the meeting that the rail fare to London for parties of 10+ was £8.70, but only 7 people had expressed any interest in a trip to London to visit St. Catherine's House and the Public Record Offices. He asked if any more could contact him soon.

David Hey's very interesting talk was on Shopkeepers in the Sheffield area during the 16th and 17th centuries. Using a number of sources, including Probate Inventories and Stewards' Accounts, he listed some of the great variety of goods which were being sold at this time. An ironmonger and an apothecary, for instance, both stocked food and spices, as well as ironmongery and medicines. Many foods were imported: prunes, raisins, treacle, wines, tobacco, ginger, nutmegs, quinces and spices. David also went into the different kinds of pedlars: chapmans, badgers, swailers, hawkers, hucksters (all titles taken from Parish Registers).

Mr. Tyack thanked David Hey for his fascinating insight into daily life 300 years ago.

#### Social Meeting with the Caledonian Society on Saturday 9th February 1980.

Over 40 members of the Society met those of the Caledonian Society Arts Group for an excellent social evening. The Caledonians provided a splendid entertainment of slides of Scotland, songs, stories and information on Scottish dress and customs. An excellent and very substantial buffet supper with a Scottish flavour was eaten after the "Address to the Haggis" by Robert Burns, spoken and translated by Caledonian Society members. Mr. F. Tyack provided a display of genealogical material and Mr. R. Bullen gave an introduction to our Society and its aims and achievements.

Meeting on Thursday 21st February 1980.

This was an open meeting at which several topics were discussed. Mrs. C. Short gave a description and progress report on the 1851 Census project. Members were reminded of the clearance work due to begin on the General Cemetery. It was agreed that a letter be sent from the Society expressing our concern that ALL information be recorded on gravestones before any are moved as it was felt that only a minimum amount would be noted by uninterested parties. It was pointed out that South Yorkshire Archives now has the Mormon Microfiche for South Yorkshire. Early notice was given of a one day conference for all Yorkshire Family History Societies to be held in Hull on 6th September.

Future Meetings.

Please see "Members with West Country Links", in News and Notes.

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OTHER PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS

Mrs. Barbara Tamlyn, 321, Bear Road, Brighton, Sussex BN2 4DD, would like help in tracing the descendants of George WORDSWORTH, (1811-1888) plumber and glazier of Leeds and Eikley, and his wife Martha (nee POLLARD). Their two eldest sons were Thomas, born in Leeds in 1830 and Ambrose, born in Yorkshire in 1832. Ambrose married Sarah CASTLE in Leeds in 1852. Their son John was born there in 1853.

Some time between 1853 and 1855, both Thomas and Ambrose emigrated together with their families to Australia, probably to Melbourne. While there, Ambrose and Sarah had five more children. The last, Victoria, was born in the place of that name in November 1867. Two of the children, George Frederick and Martha Elizabeth, died young.

By 1876, Ambrose and Sarah Wordsworth were back in Leeds, Yorkshire with their children Mira (1855-1928), Ambrose Frederick (1865-1911) and Victoria (1867-1948). Thomas, the brother of Ambrose also returned to England with some of his family, at the request of his father George Wordsworth. George needed more help with the business of plumbers and glaziers that all his family had trained in. John, the elder son of Ambrose and Sarah stayed behind in Australia and had no further contact with the rest of the family.

Thomas, the son of George and Martha Wordsworth married and had two daughters: Kate was born around 1851, married -CLIFFE and died, probably in Peterborough, England. Mary Ann was born about 1854, married -KEECH and died in Australia on 19th November 1919. She had two daughters: Laura. Kate was born on 30th September 1877, married -FOX, and was alive in San Francisco, U.S.A. in 1945. Gladys Mary, married -MORRIS.

A few years ago, a family in Australia wrote to Mr. C. Grocock of Leeds (a relation of Mrs. Tamlyn) asking about the Wordsworth family history. Mr. Grocock has since died and the address of the Australians is lost. Mrs. Tamlyn would be most grateful to hear from anyone knowing the Australian branch of the Wordsworth line.

Mr. Frank Scott, West Wind, Wray, Lancaster LA2 8QJ, is seeking information about the descendants of Isaac OLIPHANT who was a cordwainer in Spig Hill, Sheffield in 1853. His daughter Louisa Oliphant married John SCOTT at Sheffield on 27th March 1853. They went to live firstly near Retford and, subsequently at Chesterfield. The Scott family resided in the Bunby Moor area of North Nottinghamshire.

Mr. Glyn Matthews, 24, Ling's Coughton Lane, Alcester, Warwicks, B49 5QE, would like to contact anyone researching the CRITCHLOW family. Isabella Hall Critchlow was born in Attercliffe in 1838 and married at St. Philp's in 1856. Her parents George Critchlow and Harriet (nee ROEBUCK) were married in Rotherham in 1833. George's parents, George and Mary Critchlow kept a beerhouse on Canalside Common, Attercliffe in the 1840's. In 1851, Mary was running the "Fisherman's Rest" alone. (She said she came from Owlerton). George died in 1845 aged 77 of "Decay of Nature". Mr. Matthews would particularly like to find the younger George Critchlow (aged about 40), Harriet (same age), Isabella (aged 12) and Emma (aged 10) in the 1851 Census.

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#### HELP OFFERED

Mr. Geoffrey Hopkinson, 39, Oldcroft Road, Walton-on-the-Hill, Stafford works close to Staffordshire County Archives and is willing to help anyone needing information from Staffordshire sources.

Mrs. S.M. Mitchell, Coley Mill Cottgae, Norwood Green, Halifax HX3 8RD has plenty of information on the Drabble family if anyone is interested in it.

Mrs. S.M. Mitchell, (see above) has been so impressed by the help she has received from the Sheffield and District Family History Society, that she would like to show her appreciation by offering any of our members help in the Halifax, Wakefield or Leeds areas.

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#### ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Members Interests booklets from the Lincolnshire Family History Society and the Cambridgeshire Family History Society.

"Discovering your Family History" by Don Steel.

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#### SOURCES FOR CATHOLIC HISTORY

J. KIRK, Biographies of the English Catholics in the Eighteenth Century  
FOLEY, Records of the English Province of the Society of Jesus.

Catholic Record Society Collections.

Laity's Directory 1756-1839.

The Catholic Magazine (From mid 19th century)

The Catholic Directory (From 1838)

Recusant History (From 1951)

J. GILLLOW, A Literary & Biographical History or Bibliographical  
Dictionary of the English Catholics.

Available at: The Catholic Library, Francis St, London SW1.

#### General Sources:

W. MATTHEWS, British Diaries 1442-1942.

Return of the Owners of Land 1873 (Published 1875) (Government  
Publication).

### REANEY of GREENHILL

Within the parish of Norton was the hamlet of Greenhill. Lying on the perimeter of the extensive Ecclesall Woods, close to the Liberty of Beauchief, it came in early times within the jurisdiction of the abbey: being the gift of Sir Thomas Chaworth about the year 1300.

Coming out from the West Sych, now Westwick, the main street had its tofts and crofts on both sides, Hemper Lane with its hempyard making connection with the Broadway, or Bradway as we now call it. Here, on the rising ground ran the path from the riverside Abbey, passing by the cross which marked the monastic boundary of its lands. This ancient footway crossed Hemper Lane at this point to run through the Greenhill townfields, coming into the village by way of Fox Lane. The north field lay to the rear of the present Manor House whilst a footpath crossed the Green to pass through to the Leys. The meadows lay beyond on the rising ground joining up to the tofts and crofts of Little Norton.

From the meadows, now Meadowhead, the land dropped abruptly away under Cobnor Bank to Norton Woodseats, where the long narrow line of Perigo Wood lay under the escarpment, shielding Smithy Wood and the riverside smithies on the Sheaf.

Bocking Lane, so called from the family of this name was anciently a gated road leading from the Abbey, possibly to the hamlet of Holmhurst, this being in the monks' own possession. Chaunset (John's Set or dwelling in the wood) lay there whilst the thirteen fields comprising the Stubbings covered the ground between the present line of Bocking Lane and Hemper Lane.

On the site of the shopping centre, began the long narrow strips of the Turn Greaves or Groves, some fifteen in number, stretching down to join the Liberty of Beauchief, they terminated at the Cross on the Broadway, thus completing the circle round Greenhill. Throughout the material consulted, the name of Reaney occurred repeatedly.

The Newton Shawe map of 1808 with its index confirms the site of the habitation of my blacksmith ancestors in Greenhill. The house and smithy with its outbuildings were situated on the right hand of the main street as one approached Norton village. Here it was that my mother well remembered visiting her grandfather Isaac Reaney, seeing the forge and the pond, for they were wheelwrights also. Isaac was a husbandman as was his family before him, for a lease in the Bagshaw Collection runs as follows:

February 25th 1756.

Bagshaw of Woodend Beauchief. "To John Reaney of Grennil, Blacksmith and John Jones of Bradway, cutler, both of Norton Parish

A cottage in Grennil with a blacksmiths shopp and a scythe smiths shopp with the closes called the Houghs, the Staniforth Long and the new Close for 21 years at the yearly rental of £10, 10, 0"

These field names tally with their holding as stated in the Newton Shawe map index put out some fifty two years later. Forming part of the village arable lands along Hemper Lane, they comprised eight Hough fields and thirteen of the Staniforth Longs consolidated into two blocks. This area is now built over by the "Reney" (misspelt) estate and is fittingly so called.

Abutting onto the large block of the Low Edge fields, which crossed what is now the Chesterfield Road, the field system reached Bate Moor so named from my remote kinsmen of that name and now covered by the complex of the Bate Green Estate. Crossing Diche Lane lay Jordonthorpe and Norton village.

My recent research into Jordonthorpe holds the possible key to the settlement of the family of Reaney in Greenhill. Here, were settled from early times, a branch of the family of Bate, owning land and property, a deed of 1585 confirms this.

George Reaney and Emmota Bate were married, their first two children being born at Jordonthorpe, James was baptized at Norton in 1655 and George two years later. The remaining children were born at regular intervals, Robert, Joshua, Anna, Francis, Sarah, John and Elizabeth. They were all baptized at Norton, their father in each case stated to be "husbandman" of Greenhill. The burial of Emmota Reaney took place at Norton on February 25th 1702; her husband died earlier in 1699.

One or two of their children died young but in the main the remainder populated Greenhill to such an extent that it is impossible to trace through them. The repeated christian names in each successive generation, whether it be of Norton, Hemsworth, Little Norton, Woodseats, Heeley or Greenhill tangle up in the mind, yet give positive proof that this is indeed one family. Emmota was a name used by the Sheffield branch of the Bate family. Her first child was called possibly after his grandfather, James Bate of Jordonthorpe.

The Norton Church registers begin in 1559, the above James being the first member of his line to be christened there. It was to be followed by dozens more entries ranging from 68 under Elizabeth, Ann and Maria closely followed by 76 under John. The names Easter, Dolly, Emot, Goodwitha, Malliana, Melia and Nanny, all lend colour to the Blacksmith's family, for this was their trade and as such it remained throughout their generations, allied to farming. There was, as in every group a number of bastards. Dying in or being born in the workhouse was frequent.

A study of the old directories of north east Derbyshire and the outlying parts of Sheffield gives evidence of the trade of blacksmith in the family. There were relatives at the Millhouses smithy whilst Charlie Reaney, my mother's uncle kept the Ecclesall Forge; this being situated at the junction of Millhouses Lane and Ecclesall Road South, opposite the Ecclesall Manor House, the house with the wheel gates. Charlie was a well known figure and much respected. The smithy adjoined the house and what must have been farm buildings in that my mother well remembered going there at hay time.

The road was then much narrower and on the spot where the bus shelter and toilets now stand was the entrance to the drift coal workings, namely the Hill Top mine: this running under the present Knowle Lane and the Weetwood Library where it extended downward to the churchyard wall, where was the engine house. The crucial moment of the harvest home was at the turning into the gate of the yard with the haywain. Great care had to be taken for the load was known to have shot down the mine entrance if not properly negotiated.

The smithy was ultimately pulled down and the present villas behind the Dore bus station erected. The Reaney family was offered in exchange Hough cottage on Hough Lane, by the Lord of the Manor, Earl Fitzwilliam, holding in tenancy certain fields on the Ringinglow Road.

The troughs from Ecclesall Smithy found a resting place in the churchyard of Firs Farm on the above mentioned road.

Sunday evenings in summer time would see my grandmother and myself at service in the church and after visiting the Reaney graves we would walk up the steep incline known as High Lane, not as now, Ringinglow Road. Here, opposite Rose Cottage, then part of High Storrs Farm, all now gone, we would take the field path which skirted Marsh House farm and continued through the fields to terminate on Broad Oak Green, this being the line of the present Hooper Avenue and Hough Lane. This area of commonland of some 12 acres was so called after the fine oak trees which grew there, one or two of which still stand in the former playground of the old Ecclesall High School. Thus the term Broad Elms Lane is entirely out of context with the history of Ecclesall and is one more blunder in re-naming.

Hough Cottage still stands, almost unaltered, but gone is Aunt Hannah in her white sunbonnet, who let a little girl through the small gate into the fruit patch to eat her fill. Gone also is the duck pond and the stream that fed it; piped away by Shaw House and so away underground between Harley and Hooper Road. No white gate now spans the field path nor cattle lie in the nearby How pastures but, indestructable, lying in my bedroom on my shelf is one relic of this past age, a horseshoe forged at Charlie Reaney's Smithy.

Material Consulted:

Pegges "Beauchief"; Beauchief Muniments; Ecclesall Enclosure Award; Fairbank Surveys; Norton Parish Registers; T. Walter Hall's Charters; Derbyshire Directories; Bagshaw Collection; Transactions of the Derbyshire Archaeological Society; Newton Shawe Map and Index 1808.

M. Roger.

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A BRIEF GUIDE TO THE RECORDS VII: HEARTH TAX RETURNS

During the reign of Charles II, a new tax was levied on all householders except the very poor. This was a tax on hearths or fire-places, and the greater the number of hearths in a house, the more the householder had to pay. It was collected twice a year between Michaelmas 1662 and Lady Day 1689, but the records only survive from Michaelmas 1662 to Lady Day 1666; and from Michaelmas 1669 to Lady Day 1674. Moreover, these records are far from complete. They are kept in the Exchequer division of the Public Record Office under the reference number E179. The P.R.O. has a typescript index. Recently, the Archives Division of Sheffield Central Library has acquired a microfilm of the hearth tax returns relating to Strafforth and Tickhill wapentake, i.e. most of South Yorkshire. Wakefield Metropolitan District Library has a manuscript volume of the returns for the West Riding of Yorkshire for Lady Day, 1672. Transcripts of the 1670 returns for Derbyshire (excluding the southern hundreds of Appletree and Repton and Gresley) may be consulted at the Derbyshire Record Office at Matlock. The returns for some counties e.g. Dorset and Shropshire have been published.

The returns are arranged by wapentake or hundred, and then by township. The name of each head of household is given, together with the number of hearths. Generally speaking, the number of hearths corresponds to a person's wealth, though in towns some people with a high number of hearths may have been inkeepers. Sometimes the exempted poor are also listed, either as 'poor' or 'ced', meaning that they had a certificate of exemption. In many lists, however, the poor are not

recorded, and elsewhere it is often unclear whether such lists are complete. The assessments for 1662-4, for 1670, and for 1672 seem to be the most reliable. They are invaluable for locating family surnames in the third quarter of the 17th century and will often provide a clue as to which parish registers to search for that elusive ancestor.

The returns for Ladyday, 1672 (and a few others about that time) are of particular interest to Sheffield people. The Cutlers Company had challenged the attempts to collect taxes on their smithies as well as on their domestic hearths, so the smithy hearths were recorded separately. Nearly 600 smithies were recorded in South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire, 38% of them in Sheffield itself. Some belonged to blacksmiths and nailmakers, but the bulk belonged to the various craftsmen who were members of the Cutlers Company. In the central town of Sheffield there was a smithy to every 2.2 households. The names will be reproduced as space allows in the next few issues of "The Flowing Stream".

Hearth Tax Returns for Sheffield, Ladyday, 1672.

(S= smithy

|                     |                                |                         |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Edw. Sanderson      | 3                              | Chr. Burley             | 2 + 3s             |
| Tho. Newbald        | 2                              | Joseph Downes           | 6 + s              |
| Roger Trickett      | 2                              | Jos. Shemeld            | 5                  |
| Robt. Rogers        | 1 poor                         | John Fox                | 1                  |
| Wid. Lee            | 4                              | Mr. Watterhouse         | 5                  |
| Tho. Grubb          | 1 poor                         | Robt. Bullas            | 2                  |
| Godfrey Walter      | 1                              | Sam Roberts             | 3                  |
| Mallam Crookes      | 1 poor                         | Jno Dolton & Rob        |                    |
| John Hawley Tents.  | 3                              | Downes                  | 5                  |
| Willm Burgon        | 1 + 2s                         | Rob. Howley             | 4 + 3 not finished |
| John Staineford     | 4 + 2s                         | Jos. Taylor             | 2                  |
| Willm Speight       | 2                              | Malin Sowerby           | 15 + s             |
| Wid. Hobson         | 2                              | Rob. Downes             | 2                  |
| Lyonell Shaclock    | 2                              | Willm. Swiney           | 3                  |
| Jos. Shemeld        | 5                              | Sam. Hancock            | 3 + s              |
| Edw. Barlow         | 4 + s                          | Tho. Marriott           | 6                  |
| Mr. Prine           | 5                              | Mr. Crooke              | 4                  |
| John Shower         | 4                              | Lyonell Revill per part |                    |
| Willm. Stones       | 4 + s                          | of Mr. Crookes house    | 5                  |
| George Metcalfe     | 2                              | John Parker             | 1                  |
| Sam. Sanderson      | 5                              | George Pearson          | 3 + s              |
| Wid. Wright         | 5 + s (empty)                  | Rich. Roberts           | 6                  |
| Jos. Clayton        | 1 + 2s                         | Rich Woodlowe           | 8                  |
| Tho. Wright         | 3                              | Castle Shmeld           | 4 + 2s             |
| Wm. Freeman         | 1                              | Wid. Taylor             | 2                  |
| Jarvas Fleeminge    | 5                              | Willm Turner            | 1 + s              |
| John Broughton      | 3                              | John Whitley            | 5 + s              |
| Nicho. Stainforth & |                                | Rob Nicholls            | 3                  |
| Wm. Rich            | 4 + s                          | Wid. Kirkhome           | 2                  |
| Wid. Ellis          | 4                              | Nath. Clegg             | 1                  |
| Mr. Simpson         | 7                              | Edmond Grubb            | 2                  |
| Hen. Hancock        | 2                              | Edw Rawson              | 2                  |
| Geo. Thompson       | 11                             | John Downes             | 5 + s              |
| Step Brigh          | 2                              | Nich Oates              | 4 + s              |
| Wm. Fox             | 3                              | George Scargill         | 3                  |
| Tho. Mason          | 5                              | Wid. Crooke             | 3                  |
| Rich. Bower         | 3                              | Tho. Scargill           | 3                  |
| Geo. Hutchinson     | 4                              | Mr. Chappell            | 3                  |
| Tho. Cooke          | 2                              | Doctor Morton           | 7                  |
| James Godwin &      |                                | Robert Pinder           | 5                  |
| Tho. Stones         | 2 (1 demolished<br>other poor) |                         |                    |

(to be continued)

## MUM, IT'S T'SENSELESS MAN

Before readers unfortunate enough not to have been born in Yorkshire reach for their "Dictionary of Foreign Words and Phrases", let me explain the title. It is as most folk brought up between Attercliffe and Askern will tell you, dialect for, "Mother, here comes the Census Enumerator". (But can you imagine any lad qualified by birthplace to play cricket for the White Rose county saying that?).

This article is offered as a Do It Yourself training manual for any of our members daft enough to consider becoming a Senseless Man (or Woman) next year. The 1981 Census will soon be upon us, and if you want to be an enumerator in that fascinating patch of country some of us still call, without apologies, the West Riding, you have got to start making preparations right away. Make no mistake about it - the job is not a piece of cake anywhere, but I guess it is just a little bit tougher in Dinnington (Yorks.W.R.) than in Dinnington (Som.) and in Kiveton (Y.W.R.) than in Kniveton (Derbys).

And what are my qualifications for offering advice, help and warning? Well, I was a Senseless Man in 1961. Senseless enough that is to be lured by £20 odd plus expenses to take on a mining village somewhere between the Dearne and the Notts. border (I can't be more exact or it would do something to the Official Secrets Act or our relations with Ruritania). I wish I had received some tips before taking on the job, and one of my New Year resolutions was to give you the benefit of my never-to-be-forgotten experience. That is if our Editor lets this past her blue pencil (I am banking on her origins in a similar South Yorkshire village swaying Denise into allowing publications of a non-academic article in the "Flowing Stream" for once in a while).

So what sort of characters does the Census boss-man want as his enumerators? Well, first off, as my title implies, he wants folk who can understand the local lingo without needing a crash course from our good friend, Dr. John Widdowson. And it helps if you have background experience in the steel, coal or cutlery trades. Or a season ticket at Millmoor.

Besides that I found a passing knowledge of Anglo-Hungarian and slight familiarity with Tyke-Polish would have helped with some of the immigrant mine workers. With these men it often helps to get an interpreter from the local Miners Welfare. There were two houses where I wished I knew Welsh. In one, he lived on his own and in the other, his wife spoke English but was deaf (and remember how good N.H.S. hearing aids were 20 years ago?)

Next, you need a thick skin - literally and metaphorically. Very thick in the latter sense because you are going to be blamed for the mistakes of every successive Government since Lloyd George's. Your own pedigree will be frequently spelled out in terms not usually heard in Harrington Gardens or for that matter in the Y.M.C.A. on F.H. Society nights. You are not supposed to answer back, or to indicate what their heraldic shields might look like, if any.

If you do, there could be moments when you need the literal thick skin. And in this connection, don't think it is such a high status job that you need wear your best suit. A pal of mine did, for his very first outing in Parkgate, and at the third house a dog got part of his not-so-thick skin plus a piece of his best trousers.

Whilst on the subject of dress let me advise you to remove any Sheffield Wednesday scarves or political partyslogan-badges before venturing into what could be hostile territory. On the other hand, at 90% of the houses it is some advantage to wear one of those ties with the Yorkshire Rose such as we got at The Lane in Brian Close's benefit year.

Spy out your beat before you even start your first "giving out and explaining the forms" exercise. You need to know all the jennels, courts, backyards, caretakers cottages, inside works yards, caravans and public conveniences. Especially the latter - you will be on safari for a long time and will be offered many cups of tea in that wonderfully hospitable coalfield. There is an opportunity to see the lie of the land on maps which cover every wall of the Census boss-man's sitting room. He moves everything out for six weeks, carpets and all, and fills the place with maps, forms, leaflets and general bureaucracy. The operation, contrary to what most outsiders think, is run from one's own home and in one's own time - at the lower levels anyway.

During the briefing session you are told what and what not to do as far as the Registrar General is concerned. Which is O.K. as far as it goes of course. You will recall every tenth house had to complete a specially long questionnaire which a lot of citizens (and quite a few enumerators) did not easily understand. And you had to stick rigidly to issuing this to every tenth house. No withholding it from the aged and grumpy old couple at "Mon Repos" and handing it to the co-operative young clerk next door? It has been known for teachers of statistics to young local government officers to meet with derisive remarks when talking about the accuracy of sample surveys...

A word about equipment. Apart from your half hundredweight of forms (it seems like that before you lighten your load by dishing them out) you need a supply of the cheapest ball points. Never take your own pen. Half those you lend out don't seem to come back. A clipboard and briefcase are perfectly acceptable in Fulwood but considered too posh east of Woodhouse Mill, where paper carriers from "Fosters of Thrybergh" are more appropriate. Umbrellas get in the way but take a plastic mac as it can rain very hard even in June. For pounding the beat strong shoes well broken-in are the thing. And if you haven't got strong knuckles carry a weight to knock on doors with; it's amazing how many houses don't have door bells - or they won't work.

Fitness is quite essential. Get in some pre-Census jogging. A car (or even a push bike) is useless, and perhaps roller skates would best suit if you are given a hilly district to cover. The job really entails walking your beat five or six times because somebody is always out when you go to collect the hopefully completed forms. You are told "he" has taken it with him, "ter t'dogs" or "can we 'ave a new paper, t'budgies etten t'other 'un". So plenty of long walks before the event and a supply of corn plasters when it arrives.

Cough drops and Mars bars make useful emergency rations to augment your packed lunch. This can be taken in a bus or on a park bench if, like me, there is no cafe on your patch. All the walking about gives Senseless people big appetites. I once took a boy with me to be gate-opener and closer, to speed up production, but he got so hungry he consumed most of my packing-up as well as his own, so I didn't take him again. You will not normally be given an Enumeration District in your home area. A kinsman of mine "did" his own Peak District village in 1851 and 1861 but that, as they say, was the day before yesterday.

A word about the information on the completed form. Don't question it. If the head of the house writes that flashy young thing who is the only other person in the place is his cousin, housekeeper or babysitter, so be it. And when the occasional cheeky blonde says the tiny box for "Sex.M.F." is really too small for a full description of this part of her life, have a suitable Senseless persons reply ready.

It is, I can assure you, quite an exercise in diplomacy, stamina, linguistics and taming of domestic pets (remember Parkgate?)

And what, seriously, does it do for family historians? Well, it must certainly fill one with admiration for the performances of our colleagues who did the same sort of job over 100 years ago. One wonders how they did their work so well, considering they didn't have ball points, that many of the "customers" were illiterate and perhaps unsure of their correct names, ages or birthplaces. They were dealing with families crowded into slums, with distractions from numerous children, and with a nation not as accustomed to a Census or bureaucratic questioning as we are today.

Certainly enumerators made mistakes, their handwriting was often scrappy, they missed some folk and were misled by others. But considering the difficulties, we 20th century enumerators must respect our predecessors and appreciate what they recorded. I am grateful for the extra information we are often given in the old Census returns. Remember all those Sheffield enumerators who ignored the five year rule in 1841 and gave exact ages of the population. I have noticed recently that others did the same in Swinton, Lore and Longstone. Possibly the five year rule was too complicated -- one can almost hear them saying "To heck with this lark!" In other instances it is not only the parish of a person's birth which is recorded, but the hamlet in the township within the parish (which is a great help in extensive country districts). One also finds examples of very precise recording of the relationship of all persons under the roof to the head of that household. Some people were so distantly related they could, with good conscience, simply have been put down as "visitors", thereby making problems for later family historians like you and I.

The Yorkshire Senseless Men were certainly a determined lot, seeking out gipsies in tents on our moorlands, bargees asleep on their canal boats, workers at the mine and infants only just born. Personally I warm to them and condone their occasional errors and omissions. So will you when you have had a bash at it next year. And in about 2082 A.D. some family historian doing a bit of computer analysis on the old 1981 Census to while away the time on the long space journey to Mars will perhaps be criticising your work. Or admiring your determination?

Good luck to all the Senseless Men, and may they never run out of corn-plasters!

Roy Bullen.

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#### A VICTORIAN SOLDIER

David Ovens was born on October 22nd 1859 at a farm in the small hamlet of Fushie near Borthwick, a few miles south of Edinburgh. He was the first born child of Robert and Jane who were later to rear a large family of five daughters and three sons in all.

On leaving school at the age of 12, where he had, apparently learned to read and write very well, he learned the trade of shoemith in the village, and at the age of 19, he enlisted in the 3rd Hussars as a farrier. He was very fond of horses and was later commended by the regimental veterinary surgeon for his expertise and devotion to sick horses. His ambition and conscientious work led to his being promoted to sergeant in 1882.

In 1865, he was stationed in York where he met and married Annie Fisher, daughter of Isaac and Mary who lived in the "Crofts" area of Sheffield near Scotland Street. Isaac had come to Sheffield as a child with his parents who emigrated from Ireland during the potato famine of 1845 and were settled in the very old houses in that area, along with

many more Irish immigrants. His wife, Mary, was a native of York and when their family increased to a point where the tiny house was too small. Mary sent her eldest daughter, Annie to live with an aunt in York. At the time of her meeting with David Ovens, she was working as a chambermaid in a York hotel.

From then on, David served in various parts of Ireland and indeed their children, Jean, Robina, Irene and David junr. were each born in different soldiers' barracks in Ireland.

Their soldier father continued to take exams to qualify for promotion and in 1886, he was Farrier Quarter Master Sergeant and by the time his youngest child was born in 1895, he was Farrier-Major Ovens.

In September 1898 he was posted to Lucknow in India, so he and his family set sail hoping to settle to a new life for at least a year, for his 21 years in the army would be completed in November 1899. (According to his army pay book he was earning deferred pay, due to be paid at the end of his army service, at the rate of 2d. per day. At the end of 21 years this amounted to £18.10.0!)

Sadly, only six months after their arrival in India, Annie contracted a fever and died in April 1899. David was distraught but he had to carry on and complete his army service. The children were cared for by native servants. On June 15th 1899 he wrote home to his parents:

Dear Father and Mother,

Just a few lines to let you know that we are alright - me and the children. I had a nasty accident last Wednesday. I was out about 5 o/c in the morning and that is the time the Dohbies (washermen) go to the river to wash clothes. They have cuddies (Scottish for horses) with big bundles of clothes on their backs. My horse shied and his feet slipped and we were both rolling in the road, me below him, but I managed to get clear of the stirrups before he got up. I got a good shaking but I'm alright now except for my right kidney. It is like a knife going into me when I try to get out of bed... I am keeping my bearer busy rubbing liniment into it. (!) I don't want to go into hospital if possible as I have a lot to do before I come home.

If you see a quiet job going spare you might keep an eye on it. I was thinking of the "Cruelty to Animals" People; my position in the army well qualifies me for that....."

But the damage to his kidney was worse than he realised. He died six weeks later on August 4th - he was not yet 40 years old.

On 5th November all his household and personal effects were sold by auction for a total of £165. There were many items reflecting a comfortable and cultured home, but, no doubt, the problem of transporting the things back to Scotland was too great.

The children were sent back to this country and spent a brief period in an army orphanage at Aldershot until their future was sorted out. David's sisters and brothers were all unmarried, so his children were sent to Sheffield to be fostered by their mother's relatives, each one in a different household with aunts they had never seen before. Young David lived with his grandmother, Mary Fisher, but died at the age of 5 from pneumonia. Irene, the third daughter, was my mother, and David Ovens, the grandfather I never knew.

B. Barker.

## THE ORIGINS OF THE BLANKSBYS

Blanksby is one of our distinctive local surnames, found in parts of north Derbyshire and adjoining areas, but rarely come across further afield. My next-door neighbour is a Blanksby and when he asked me where I thought the name came from I said it sounded like a place-name, with a typical Danish ending. When we couldn't find such a name, I suggested that it might be a deserted medieval village, but on checking the lists I couldn't find anything that sounded like it.

Much later, on reading part of Kenneth Cameron's three-volume study of Derbyshire place-names, I came across the clue I needed. Dealing with a minor place-name, Blingsby Gate, in Hardwick Hall park, Cameron refers to the Domesday Book entry, Blanghesti, and notes that the surname, Blanksby, is still a common one in the area. Blanksby was indeed a deserted village of Danish origin, and curiously the surname has preserved the original form better than the present place-name.

Blingsby Gate wasn't in the list of D.M.V.'s, but a year or two ago Clive Hart of the North Derbyshire Archaeological Committee made a careful survey of the site, which is marked by the typical mounds and depressions of abandoned villages, just inside the park wall, on a sloping site near the M1 motorway. The fields to this day are known as The Blingsbys. In the churchyard at Ault Huchnall, not far away, Blanksby names are recorded on tombstones. Blanksbys still live in nearby farms, and though a few have since wandered beyond Chesterfield, most Blanksbys still live within a few miles of the small settlement from which they have derived their name.

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## THE RESTING PLACE of THOMAS WENTWORTH, EARL of STRAFFORD?

At the end of January, a small newspaper paragraph announced that the Manor House of Hooton Roberts, near Rotherham, was up for sale. This reminded me of a story which concerned my grandmother's brothers.

In 1895, the Rector of Hooton Roberts was the Rev. Reginald Gatty, the son of the Vicar of Ecclesfield. My grandmother's family were brought up in Ecclesfield and her eldest brother Thomas Wilkinson was groom, gardener and friend of Mr. Reginald Gatty. He lived in Hooton Roberts with his wife Ann and their four children; by this time his son Joseph was coachman.

Apparently, the chancel of the church was damp and Mr. Gatty contracted with a firm of masons to remove the communion steps and dig out an air channel. The masons were Ann's brothers, Arthur and David Brearley.

A mere 8 inches or so down below the flagstones and lying parallel to the communion table, they found the remains of coffins and three bodies. Later examination confirmed these as of an old woman, a young person probably a girl and a man in the prime of his life! Arthur Brearley also noticed, and showed the Rector, that the man's skull was separate and that a vertebra was cut "clean in two".

It was known that Lady Strafford had been buried in the church, although by her own wish, secretly and at night, and that her 16 year old daughter, Margaret had probably been buried there but no one knew the position of their graves. Lady Strafford had lived out her days in the Manor house, the Dower House, after Lord Strafford had been executed for high treason in May 1641. It had been believed that his body was buried in the church at Wentworth Woodhouse where there was an elaborate monument but investigations had shown that there had been no burial there.

Mr. Gatty, grandmother's brother and brother-in-law, all believed that they had found Strafford's body and the story was handed down in family legend, (although when I was a child, it reached me as concerning the head of King Charles! Legends do get distorted), Evidence of the discovery is documented in old Sheffield newspapers but whether it was Strafford's body, is of course, anyone's guess.

Mona Harrison.

My thanks are due to Mr. Shortland who kindly found me all the cuttings so that I could confirm the dates.

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#### CHILD EMIGRATION TO CANADA, 1870-1912

The Sheffield and District F.H.S. has, from early days had enquiries from Canada and the U.S.A. It is not to be expected that the following has any relevance to these, but perhaps it will have interest.

Before the last war, I think it was a fact that the population of Canada was about the same as that of Greater London, and since it took a sea journey of 5 days to get from Liverpool to Quebec, few of us had time to go. One thought of Niagara and the Rockies, Eskimos, wolves, furs and the great rock at Quebec.

On the other hand, a lot of us did have relatives living there, or knew of Scottish settlers who went out after the '45 and the depopulation of the Highlands, and we could not fail to know of the Canadian Contingent with the British Army in France in the '14 - '18.

So who were these Anglo-Saxon or Scottish Canadians? Some, at any rate were descendants of <sup>children of</sup> good character who had been hand-picked from appalling conditions at home, by humanitarian organisations, maintained in homes until they were of good health, given rudimentary education and training in housework and the care of children, or in manual skills and management of farm animals. Also, from the time of Federation, the Canadian Government would accept selected families, meet them at Quebec and send them on to a district where their skills would be useful. They took 500 persons in 1869.

Pioneers in the work with children were Miss Annie Macpherson and her sisters, Mrs. Rachel Merry and Mrs. Louisa Birt, originally from Campsie by Milton, Stirlingshire. Miss Macpherson in particular was experienced in social work at Bethnal Green, and had the highest hopes of a Canadian future for her children, but, she wrote,

"We feel it is not enough as Christian workers to cleanse, clothe and pass them away into strangers' hands."

So, in May 1870, she herself took a young lady volunteer, Miss Ellen Agnes Bilbrough and 100 London Boys to a destination that was only certain as far as Montreal, and that only on the assumption of their passing a strict immigration inspection at Quebec. At Montreal they were met by the late Mr. T.J. Claxton and lodged for the night at the St. George's Home. Situations were found for 23 of the boys and 60 more were offered at Hamilton, Ontario, but it was the intention to settle the children with families over as wide an area as possible on this first occasion as a basis for the future. At Ottawa, 20 were received at the Protestant Orphanage and kept until homes were secured. Others were taken to Toronto.

At Belleville, Ontario, the Mayor and Council rented a house and offered it free of charge permanently, if it was desired to use it as a "Distributing Home". Miss Macpherson went on to other towns speaking of her plans and hopes, leaving Miss Bilbrough in charge of this home at Belleville, called the Marchmont Home, where she remained as honorary superintendant until her death in 1900.

In this same year, 1870, Mrs. Merry took out another detachment of 70 boys. The managers of the Toronto Girls' Home were confident of finding homes for girls of 6 to 14 years old. Mrs. Birt and Miss Macpherson went with a third party, and the Scottish teacher Mrs. Thom remained in Canada throughout the winter, maintaining the Marchmont Home as a permanent home if needed for the children who had been placed out. (The original house was twice burnt down and rebuilt by Canadians at their own expense.)

In 1871, a friend in Scotland gave £2000 to build an Emigration Home in Glasgow, and other well established Children's Homes sent out their first emigration parties through Annie Macpherson. The Canadian farmers put in application for the boys weeks before and there were never enough.

By autumn 1871, there were 100 children settled well west of Toronto and another Distributing Home opened in Galt, west Ontario, with a farm of 100 acres for the boys' preliminary training. It was among Scottish Settlers. In 1872, a Sheffield lady living near Knowlerton, Quebec Province made a point of meeting Miss Macpherson and returned to England with her to see how the children were received and trained. She raised funds from subscriptions in Sheffield, Leeds and Nottingham and an equal amount in Quebec Province to establish a Distributing Home at Knowlerton and managed it herself until retirement, when it was taken over by Mrs. Birt.

In general, children from London went to Galt until 1883, when it was exchanged for a home at Stratford, Ontario; from Scotland they went to Belleville until 1888 then to a new home at Brockville, Ontario, and Belleville was used for Manchester parties and Knowlerton for the ones from Liverpool.

Liverpool has not been mentioned hitherto, but dating back to the Irish potato famine of 1848-9 and the subsequent influx of starving people into England, when 80,000 out of a total of around 300,000 people remained where they landed, in Liverpool, the situation had been terrible. It was said that 20,000 lived in cellars without heat or light or waste disposal facilities and with water available at stand-pipes for only a few hours a day. There was a succession of typhus, small-pox and cholera epidemics. There was an orphanage in Myrtle Street and a Bluecoat School; in 1867 a Seamen's Childrens Orphanage opened and in 1868, after Miss Macpherson had been approached by a number of Liverpool gentlemen, the work in Myrtle Street was extended to a Sheltering (and emigration) Home under Mrs. Birt's direction.

The first party of Liverpool children was welcomed to Halifax, Nova Scotia on 24th August 1873 by Lieutenant General J. Wimburn Laurie. There were 76 children and 100 applications for them. Six parties altogether went in the next 3 years and General Laurie was responsible for placing 550 children before he was compelled by illness to desist. So the party that left Liverpool in April 1877, with Mrs. Birt, went to Knowlerton instead of Halifax. In the following year, a wonderful offer of help came from a Canadian lady, Miss Meiklejohn, who was then Superintendent of the Knowlerton Home from 1878 to 1904.

In 1892, a Distributing Home at Winnipeg was envisaged. A 3 acre site in the city was offered, with an annual grant towards the upkeep from both the Provincial Government and the city of Winnipeg, and the

Dominion Government offered 5 dollars a head towards railway fares. The grant for settlers in Manitoba at this time, was 160 acres free and 160 acres at a reduced rate. But Winnipeg, though long established, was still small and isolated and the Committee in Liverpool did not approve of extension westward at that time.

So the children or young adults who went to Canada through the homes administered by the Macpherson sisters went no further west than Ontario. To take the numbers who went through the Knowlton Distributing Home in the 40 years 1872-1912, out of a total of 4858, there were:

- 1004 complete adoptions under 9 years.
- 1358 aged 9 to 12 placed for board, school and clothing until 14 or 16.
- 2178 aged 12-18 placed on wages and part schooling.
- 318 aged 18 and over.

Out of these, are 142 recorded deaths, and 69 emigrants were returned to England as unsuitable, leaving a number of 4647 possible ancestors of today's Canadian citizens. To these may be added the numbers that went through the homes at Stratford, Brockville and Belleville.

The attitude of the Canadian Government throughout this period was a decisive factor. The Department of the Interior Annual Report for 1911, printed in the Canadian Blue Book part II, shows the peak of demand at over 19000 in 1905-6 (over 3000 sent) and it then levelled out until 1912 at demand varying from the 15000's to 18000's, and the largest number sent in any one year was 2669.

The Government appointed commissions in 1874 and 1878 to enquire into the well-being and conduct of the young people and in 1895 it appointed an Inspector under the Department of the Interior charged with a general supervision of all British immigrant children and Distributing Homes. In 1905 the Chief Inspector wrote:

"Started many years ago in a small way, and promoted unostentatiously, in the face of doubt, discouragement and adverse criticism, child emigration to Canada has unfolded into an important factor in the Anglo-Saxon immigration into our Dominion..... Juvenile immigration assists in filling an important branch of our labour market, and numbers of farmers regard the influx of the so-called "English Home Child" a veritable boom".

### Epilogue

Mrs. Merry died in 1892. Her husband and sons all did their share of the practical work of settling the boys. Miss Macpherson died in 1904, having made about 120 voyages across the Atlantic with parties of children. Mrs. Birt continued in the work at Liverpool until 1910 and her daughter Miss Louisa carried on and in 1913 published an account, "The Children's Home Finder" (Jas. Nis et). Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal wrote a Foreword and Lord Guthrie an Introduction. There is a sad little note printed before the body of the text to the effect that the Knowlton Distributing Home was burnt down during production of the book.

The present writer does not know when the organised emigration of children to Canada ceased, but an aunt who was involved in it was back in Sheffield in the early months of the war as welfare supervisor of the first workers in Samuel Usborn's in the Wicker.

In 1913, in addition to the Macpherson homes, there were in Canada:

- 4 branches of Dr. Barnardo's.
- At Toronto: a branch of Mrs Fegan's Boys' Home, Southwark.
- At Fairview, near Halifax, Nova Scotia, a distributing home run in connection with the Children's Sheltering Home, Birmingham (founder Mrs. Middlemore)
- At Hespeler, Ontario, the Emigration Branch of the Wesleyan Society.
- At Sherbrooke, Quebec Province & Niagara-on-the-Lake branches of the Church of England Waifs and Strays Society.
- At Winnipeg, Manitoba, a branch of the Childrens Aid Society of London
- At Ottawa, Ontario, a home run by the Roman Catholic Emigration Societies
- Finally, the writer's lasting impression of the Canadian reponse to any word of thanks is "You're welcome".

C.M. Dawson.

(With acknowledgements to "The Children's Home Finder")

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#### THE ST. CATHERINE'S HOUSE CODE.

Sometimes the Registration District name does not convey much to the searcher as found in the volumes of the St. Catherine's House Indexes of Births, Marriages and Deaths. Occasionally, the old 'hundred' names for the area are used and these can no longer be found on a modern map. A knowledge of the code will help you to locate the county in which the Registration District lies. It is, however, only a guide for often the same reference is used for more than one county, especially in Wales; usually they can be found to be adjacent counties.

From 1837 to 1851 Roman numerals were used. From 1852 we have Arabic numerals followed by a letter. In 1946 the code was changed again to Arabic numerals with large letter, but most genealogists are little interested in post 1946 events.

#### Numbering of Districts in the Index Books at the General Register Office at St. Catherine's House, London.

##### Roman Numerals 1837 - 1851

|   |  |
|---|--|
| I London & Middlesex                              | XIX Cheshire, Derbys. & Flints   |
| II London & Middlesex                             | XX Lancashire  |
| III London & Middlesex                            | XXI Lancashire & Yorkshire   |
| IV London & Surrey                                | XXII Yorkshire   |
| V Kent  | XXIII Yorkshire  |
| VI Beds., Berks., Bucks. & Herts.                 | XXIV Durham & Yorkshire  |
| VII Hants. & Sussex                               | XXV Cumberland, Lancashire, North-<br>umberland & Westmorland                                  |
| VIII Dorset, Hants. & Wilts.                      | XXVI Brecknocks, Carmarthens, Glams<br>Herefords. Mons. Pembro. Radnors.<br>& Salop.           |
| IX Cornwall & Devon                               |  |
| X Devon & Somerset                                |  |
| XI Glos. Soms. & Warwick's.                       |  |
| XII Essex & Suffolk                               | XXVII Anglesey, Caernarvons, Cardigans,<br>Denbighs, Flints., Merioneth,<br>& Montgomeryshire. |
| XIII Norfolk & Suffolk                            |  |
| XIV Cambs. Hunts & Lincs.                         |  |
| XV Leics. Northants. Notts. &<br>Rutlands.        |  |
| XVI Oxon. Staffs. & Warwick's.                    |  |
| XVII Staffordshire                                |  |
| XVIII Glos. Salop. Staffs. Warwick's.<br>& Worcs. |  |

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1a London & Middlesex                         | 7a Leics., Lincs., & Rutlands   |
| 1b London & Middlesex                         | 7b Derbyshire & Notts   |
| 1c London & Middlesex                         | 8a Cheshire   |
| 1d London, Kent & Surrey                      | 8b Lancashire   |
| 2a Kent & Surrey                              | 8c Lancashire   |
| 2b Hants. & Sussex.                           | 8d Lancashire   |
| 2c Berks. & Hants.                            | 8e Lancashire   |
| 3a Berks., Bucks., Herts., Middx.<br>& Oxon   | 9a Yorkshire  |
| 3b Beds., Cambs., Hunts., Notts. &<br>Suffolk | 9b Yorkshire  |
| 4a Essex & Suffolk                            | 9c Yorkshire  |
| 4b Norfolk                                    | 9d Yorkshire  |
| 5a Dorset & Wiltshire                         | 10a Durham  |
| 5b Devonshire                                 | 10b Cumberland, Northumberland<br>& Westmoreland                                    |
| 5c Cornwall & Soms.                           | 11a Glamorgan, Monmouth &<br>Pembrokeshire  |
| 6a Glos., Herefords. & Salop                  | 11b Anglesey, Brecknocks, Denbighs.,<br>Flints., Montgomeryshire. &<br>Radnorshire. |
| 6b Staffs. Warwicks. & Worcs.                 |   |
| 6c Warwicks. & Worcestershire                 |   |
| 6d Warwickshire                               |   |

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INDEXING THE 1851 CENSUS RETURNS FOR SOUTH YORKSHIRE

It was suggested in November 1979 by some members of the Sheffield and District Family History Society that it would be of great benefit if the Society undertook a project to index the Census returns. The scheme drawn up by Bristol and Avon Family History Society was studied and some experimental work carried out, and then a few members met to draw up an outline scheme.

It was decided to begin by indexing the 1851 returns for Sheffield, although it was hoped to extend eventually the area indexed. It was further decided not to extract all the information on the Census returns but to index the name, forename, state, age and birth place only, together with a reference that would lead the searcher at once to the relevant entry on the enumerator's return. At this stage, the proposed project was put before members of the Society at a meeting on 22nd November and interested volunteers were invited to meet together at South Yorkshire County Record Office on 14th December. It was greatly encouraging that 14 members attended that meeting which worked out details of the project.

The method of working is summarised here but detailed rules have been drawn up and a copy of these can be sent to anyone interested on application to South Yorkshire County Record Office, Ellin Street, Sheffield S1 4PL.

The essentials of the method are that the required information from each frame of microfilm is transcribed on to a pre-printed sheet with columns for surname, forename(s), state, age, where born. Each transcribed sheet is given the volume number of the enumerator's returns and a folio number:

2336/345F

|           |           |   |    |            |        |
|-----------|-----------|---|----|------------|--------|
| WAGSTAFFE | CHARLOTTE | U | 41 | RINGINGLOW | YORKS  |
| HARRISON  | CATHERINE | W | 72 | EYAM       | DERBYS |

and so on.

The reference (with the addition of F or B to indicate the front or back of the folio) is sufficient to find the entries in the Public Record Office or any other Record Office or Library. This work is done in the Record Office by members of the Society. At the moment of writing 6 to 8 members are working on the transcribing regularly and it is hoped that an almost continuous rota will be built up.

The next stage of the work is to transfer the names from the transcribed sheets on to pre-printed index cards and this work can be done either at the Record Office or at home. In practice the volunteers for this part of the work are those who can spare time only in the evenings and at weekends. They collect from the Record Office, a pack of photocopied sheets and a pack of index cards and transfer the information from the former to the latter at home, returning the finished work. The Record Office staff then file the cards in exact alphabetical order and deal with any queries, cases of doubt or duplication.

It was decided that problems would arise with very common names because fresh cards would be made out continually for these names by individual workers. A member of the Society therefore drew up a list of the 26 most common names on the Sheffield Burgess Rolls and cards are not filled in for any of these names by volunteers working at home. These names are indexed by the Record Office staff. The names are:

Barker, Booth, Brown, Green, Hall, Harrison, Hill, Ibbotson, Jackson, Johnson, Lee, Parker, Parkin, Roberts, Rodgers, Shaw, Smith, Staniforth, Taylor, Thompson, Turner, Walker, Ward, White, Wilson & Wood.

The project is now well underway and there are some 20 members of the Society working on it. The method of working has the great advantage that people can work either during the day at the Record Office or at home in the evening and at weekends. At the beginning of March, about 3500 index cards had been completed (in 2 months) and a typical one is shown below. It is hoped to begin a similar project on the 1851 returns for Rotherham within the next few months.

C.M.Short

| MORTON  |     | MARY               | SHEFFIELD CENSUS 1851 |            |
|---------|-----|--------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Surname |     | Forename(s)        |                       |            |
| STATE   | AGE | WHERE BORN         | VOL. NO.              | FOLIO. NO. |
| M       | 46  | Rotherham          | 2336                  | 97F        |
| -       | 7   | Sheffield          | 2336                  | 97F        |
| M       | 33  | Sheffield          | 2336                  | 56F        |
| -       | 11  | Ecclesfield, Yorks | 2336                  | 109B       |
| M       | 42  | Wakefield, Yorks   | 2336                  | 120F       |
| M       | 38  | Dungworth, Yorks   | 2336                  | 120F       |
|         |     |                    |                       |            |
|         |     |                    |                       |            |
|         |     |                    |                       |            |
|         |     |                    |                       |            |
|         |     |                    |                       |            |

RECOLLECTIONS OF SHEFFIELD PARK 60 YEARS AGO written in 1894 by JOHN HILL,  
HILL, contributed by DAVID HARDY, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND.

(continued)

There were no Policemen and only two constables for the whole town. We were guarded at night by old men called watchmen. They came on duty at 8 p.m. and from 10p.m. until 6a.m. they called out at intervals, the hour and half hour and the state of the weather. What should we think in these time to hear a sharp shrill voice calling out in the dead of the night:- "A fine moonlight night," or "A cold mornin', snowing very hard". Robbers could tell by their voices, where the watchmen were, and so timed their burglaries and escapes.

The guardians of the night wore in all weathers a great blue top coat, a strap around the waist and suspended from it a dark lanthorn, a large wooden rattle and a small staff. On special occasions a number of inhabitants were sworn in as special constables. These had to patrol the streets on the day and sometimes at night.

There was only a short main sewer in the Park and that was from the bottom of Broad St. to the river Sheaf; so that when there was heavy rain the houses at the bottom of Broad St. were flooded and the inhabitants sustained much damage. The Guardians of the Poor used to apprentice out boys and girls upon those persons who were rated at such a rate and these persons had to have the apprentices whether they wanted them or not, consequently many children thus put out were badly treated and life to many of them was not worth living.

It was no uncommon thing to see children wearing a leather dick (1) which was made of cowhide and it reached from the neck to the feet. As it could not be washed it looked very dirty and untidy. Old women and servant girls used to wear over their skirts (2), instead of a dress, a garment made of checked materail, it was generally blue and was called a bed-gown (3). It had short sleeves and fastened up the front of the breasts and opened from the waist.

At funerals two men used to carry a long black staff each, at the top of the staff was placed some iron work, very light, which made the crape or silk stand out. These pall bearers walked in front of the coffin, or if the parties had hearse and coaches, which were not a very common thing in those days. The coffin was borne by men who had cushions on their shoulders. Most of the men wore long black cloth cloaks, and the women wore hoods and scarves made of black silk and looked like the sisters of Mercy.

Before the funeral procession left the house, all kinds of drink were handed round. After the funeral returned they had tea or drinks and tobacco. The party would stay drinking and smoking until a late hour. These events are as vivid in my mind as if they had only been yesterday. After the funeral party had returned from the church and the friends had partaken of refreshments, one of them would have a piece of black ribbon put round his neck, the ends would be fastened through the hand holes of a tea tray & on this tray would be piled up a number of packets, wrapped up in white note-paper and sealed at each end with black sealing wax. The packets would be about 4" by 3" by 1½". These were directed to the friends and acquaintances of the deceased and contained a biscuit, a small piece of printed paper on which was written the dates of birth and death of the deceased and 2 or 3 verses of a hymn. If the deceased was in good circumstances then two biscuits would be put in the packet, if only poor, one. It calls to my mind what delight I used to feel when the biscuits would be distributed amongst us children. I did not care how many people died so that the biscuits did but come.

Times have changed for the better since 60 years ago.

The Streets were all pitched with boulders, the lanes had no pitchings. The footpaths were narrow, so that not more than two persons could walk on them, the curbstone would not be more than 4 inches wide. It was a rare thing to see a Scavenger come to clean the streets.

I used to attend a dame's school next the Plough Inn in Broad St; the houses faced Broad St. so they had no front doors, we had to go down the lane to the back and up some steps. The dame who kept the school was called Miss Harrison. I remember on one occasion a boy was put into the cellar for a punishment; he found a fruit pie so he lifted the crust off and ate most of the inside. I should not be more than 6 years old at this time.

They were filling up the piece of ground called the Hay Market. The present Corn Market is built on the ground named. On this Hay Market were held the fairs and it was used as a wholesale vegetable market. In pea time might be seen 60 carts carrying peas etc.

Old Mr. Hall, grocer had the shop which is now used as a cafe. The new part where Ward & Shearstone have their shop was not built at this time. I will try to give you some idea of what the Park was like in regard to the shops that are now in it, if the reader will begin with me at the bottom of Dixon Lane and Shude hill.

The wholesale fish market was the first gas works in the town. At the front in Broad St. where the pot shop is, were some pallisadings and at some 20 feet down was a yard in which was stored branch coal. Then came the river Sheaf: before those shops were built that are occupied by Mr. Smith, smallware dealer, it was a vacant piece of ground. I used to play on it and go down to the river side.

The Pheasant Inn was a plain inn, not a dram shop. The eating house was the front room of Mr. Hague, joiner; Miss Pring's shop had 2 small windows and was used by Sergeant Hobb as a small spice (4) shop.

Mr. Shaw's shop was used by a sadler of the name of Major; the corner shop on Sheaf St. was a grocer's shop and the shops at the back were one storey buildings used as corn warehouses. All the other places in Sheaf St. were dwelling houses. At the bottom of Commercial St. was a wooden bridge so narrow that two persons could not pass each other in comfort. Where the telephone offices stand was a grinding wheel, and there was one also opposite where the pumping engines are now. All that part of Station Rd. was the river as far as Dyers bridge.

We will now retrace our steps back to the end of Sheaf St. The New Market was there but it had no dram shop. It was kept by a person of the name of Crossland: at one time he was a class leader and a Superintendent at the Park chapel.

The butcher's shop was a pork shop and was kept by a person of the name of Hiller; Mr. Waddilove's shop was a stationer's shop. The Plough Inn and the next shop used by Mr. Unwin were dwelling houses, then came Mr. Staniforth's grocer's shop. Mr. Unwin has made a doorway of part of this shop.

Let us now turn up South St. From the bottom to the end of Granville St. were dwelling houses and corn chambers over stables at the back. The stables were used by Mr. W. Bradley for his coach horses. The shop now used by Mr. Tuckwood was a malthouse.

Where the Norfolk Brewery now stands in South St. was a water pit. At the end of Granville St. stood a brick building; the bottom was used as a stable and a blacksmith's shop. Over these buildings was a

long room in which the Park Sunday school was kept. I remember going with Mr. John Hall of Norbury and his father to this Sunday school on a Whitmonday morning. Mr. Hall senior gave the children their buns.

From this building to those stone houses which go from South St. to Granville St. there were a few houses before you come to Norwich St. Then there were no more houses until you came to the Ropery. Here the houses were 3 storeys high. To get to them you had to go down a very steep incline; a large room was over the houses and this room was on a level with South St. A person used the room to spin band and rope. I remember there being a rope walk at the Ropery.

These houses were pulled down when the Sale Memorial Church was built. There were no more houses from Norwich St. to the Norfolk Park except a few at Claywood. There was a quarry at Claywood. There were no houses betwixt South St. and Norwich St. except Collier's Row and the Ropery, and no houses about Talbot St. except the one now occupied by Mr. George Crowther, and another close by Talbot St. and Talbot Gardens. The Terrace and Stafford (St.) from Long Henry St. were not made, or several other streets near those named. Most of them were brick yards.

We will now take Broad St. at the point we left off where Mr. Gunstone's warehouse is in Broad St. It was the front room of a dwelling house. The shop which the late John Hydes had was a dwelling house, you had to go down from the street some 3 or 4 steps.

The space from this point to Mr. Charlesworth's shop was waste land. On it was a very small old house. My father used to say this house was the gate house to the Earl of Shrewsbury's Sheffield Park. This park was very extensive, it went as far as Handsworth. About 300 years ago it was divided into 20 farms. To get to the old house before named you had to go from the footpath down 3 or 4 steps and then walk a few yards and then up 3 or 4 steps to reach the house.

The shop which Mr. Wainwright, draper had was a dwelling house in which Mr. Wolstenholm, whitemetall manufacturer lived. There were very few shops in Duke St. There were some very old houses. The Midland Railway Co. pulled them down to make their new line.

Concluded:

John Hill.

For our younger, and also our far distant members, a few terms explained.

- (1) Dick = leather apron, or detached front.
- (2) Skirt = underskirt = petticoat. 'Underskirt' still used locally.
- (3) Bed-gown = jacket bodice for informal day wear - skirt could be folded back. Often blue & white check. Read pages 47 & 48 of "Occupational Costume in England," by Phyllis Cunnington & Catherine Lucas.
- (4) Spice = sweets.

During the Cholera epidemic in 1832 about 65 people died in this area of the Park.

Margaret Furey

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## BOOK LIST

### "Discovering Your Family History" by Don Steel.

This is the publication written in association with the BBC series on Family History. It is published by the BBC at a cost of £5.75 hardback and £3.50 paperback. The first part of the book uses the family of the programme presenter, Gordon Honeycombe, as an example. The second part is a practical reference guide to sources. This book differs from many similar titles in that it deals with Family History as opposed to genealogy, in depth. The emphasis in the work on the Honeycombe family is not so much on genealogical procedures as on placing the family in its full local and social context.

### "Changing Landscapes in South Yorkshire", by Derek Holland.

This book is published by D.Holland at £3 and is available from him by post (35p extra for postage and packing) at 4, Laburnam Rd, Doncaster DN4 8PZ, or from the Reference Library Counter, Central Library, Waterdale, Doncaster. The publication is offset-litho printed with an astralux cover and plastic spine-binding. It explores the major influences which have shaped the landscapes in which we live and lays special emphasis on the years since 1670. There are detailed discussions of 18th and 19th century town and country landscapes.

### "Reading 16th and 17th Century Documents", by Margaret Turner.

This book is available from the kiosk in the Central Library, Surrey Street, Sheffield. This guide to the reading of old documents is based on the courses run in the Archive Department in previous years. There is an introductory section on the interpretation of the old handwriting and then examples of a variety of documents each with a complete transcription.

### "Basic Books on Sheffield History". Revised by Sylvia M.Pylons.

This is available for 50p from the Central Library kiosk (see above)  
A Print of Sheffield in 1745

This is available from the Central Library kiosk (see above) for £1.

### "Essays in the Economic and Social History of South Yorkshire".

This is edited by Sydney Pollard and Colin Holmes and published by South Yorkshire County Council and is available from the Central Library kiosk (see above) at £2.50.

### "Beginning Your Family History" by George Pelling.

This publication is available from the Federation of Family History Societies price 75p including postage and packing. It is a guide book for absolute beginners.

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