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Sheffield and District Family History Society

*The Flowing Stream* ~



Autumn 1986

Volume 7  
Number 1

THE FLOWING STREAM

Journal of the Sheffield and District Family History Society

Vol.7 No.1 Autumn 1986

ISSN 0140-6310

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## 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 Endcliffe Methodist Church Hall off Ecclesall Road, Sheffield (near Hunter's Bar) during the winter months and excursions are arranged for the summer. Fortnightly informal meetings are held at the Order of Foresters on Trippet Lane, Sheffield. The Society caters for those parts of South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire which are within convenient travelling distance of Sheffield.

The annual subscription is £4 and £5 for joint membership (only 1 Journal).

### The Officers at present are:

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <u>Chairman:</u>          | Dr. David Hey, Dept. Continuing Education, The University of Sheffield, Sheffield S10 2GJ.   |
| <u>Secretary:</u>         | Mrs. Margaret Furey, 58 Stumperlowe Crescent Road, Sheffield S10 3PR.  |
| <u>Treasurer:</u>         | Mrs. E. M. Allen, 25 Boston Castle Grove, Moorgate, Rotherham S60 2BA.   |
| <u>Editor:</u>            | Mrs. Denise Marsden, "Burnside", Low Bradfield, Sheffield S6 6LB.  |
| <u>Committee Members:</u> | Mr. R. Bullen, 18 Furniss Ave, Sheffield 17.<br>Mrs. M. W. Robson, (Librarian), Rock House, 126 Bawtry Rd, Bramley, Rotherham.<br>Mr. N. Nicholson, (IGI), 32 Westwick Crescent, Beauchief, Sheffield S8 7DH.<br>Mr. P. Wilkinson, 13 Beech Hill Road, Sheffield S10 2SA.<br>Mrs. Marjorie Dunn, (Programme Secretary), 359 Baslow Road, Sheffield S17 3BH.<br>Miss Sue Graves, 57a Fircroft Ave, S5 0SB.<br>Mr. R. Stevenson, 43 Old Park Ave, Beauchief, Sheffield S8.<br>Mr. J. P. Perkins, (Strays Co-ordinator), 24 Withens Ave, Sheffield S6 1WE.<br>Mrs. S. E. Hammond, (Assistant Librarian), 2 Cross Cottages, Low Bradfield, Sheffield S6 6LB. |

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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Copy days for the Society's Journals are: 28 February  
31 May  
31 August  
30 November

## EDITORIAL

Our Society is almost 10 years old. In celebration we are having a Birthday Dinner for members, family and friends next March. You will find an application form for tickets inside your Journal. I know it seems a long way off: although many people have not even had their summer holiday yet, we have to book early to obtain a good venue. The Royal Victoria Hotel would have been known to many of our ancestors (it celebrates its 125th anniversary next year) so we felt it was an appropriate location for our celebrations. Please reply early to ensure a booking. Although the full programme has not been finalised we hope to arrange a memorable occasion.

As a Society we seem to do less than many others in the publishing field. Several members are working at the moment on indexes or transcriptions for eventual publication. If any other members would like to do some work in this field, I would be pleased to hear from them. All that is needed is time to do the indexing etc. Typing can be arranged.

More and more material is being made available to members at our informal meetings at "The Foresters". Help is at hand for new members and basic research material for all.

Please keep sending in your contributions, articles, snippets of information or extracts. Many thanks to all who have helped to produce this edition.

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## MEMBERSHIP LIST

The Society welcomes the following new members:

Mr.J.D.Adams, 14 Butterbache Road,Huntington, Chester CH3 6BZ.  
Mrs.E.B.Axe, 112 High Storrs Road, Sheffield S11 7LF.  
Mrs.A.J.Bainbridge, 37 Moseley Wood Ave, Leeds LS16 7 HL.  
Mrs.S.E.Barker, 3 Nairn Drive, Dronfield Woodhouse, S18 5ZP.  
Mrs.M.Barritt, 9 Shelford Cres, Burton Joyce, Nottingham NG14 5GH.  
M.Baxter, 5 Broadway, Barnsley S70 6QQ.  
Mrs.A.Carey, 2 Lindsay Drive, Sheffield S5 7WH.  
Mr.Colin Cutts, 9 Ackerman St, Eaton Socon, Huntingdon PE19 3HR.  
Mr.P.D.Dickin, 30 Wostenholm Road, Sheffield S7 1LJ.  
Mrs M.Hunston, 7 Lindsay Crescent, Sheffield S5 7WL.  
Mrs.K.Kane, 26 Fulton Road, Walkley, Sheffield S6 3JN.  
Mr.M.Kesterton, 97 Rustlings Road, Sheffield S11 7AB.  
Mrs.M.D.Magill, 4 Ludgate Close, Rossington, Doncaster DN11 OOP.  
Mrs.D.Maidment, 11 Crakehall Road, Ecclesfield, Sheffield S30 3WQ.  
Mr.P.N.Nelson, Headmaster's House, Folkwood School, Ringinglow Road  
Sheffield S11 7TB.

Anne Nettleship, 172a Stannington View Road, Sheffield S10 1SS.  
Miss M.D.Nixon & Mr.D.A.Green, 1Eagle View, Aston, Sheffield S31 OGL.  
Miss Pat Oldham, 2 Castlerigg Way, Dronfield Woodhouse, S18 5PP.  
Mrs.J.Rus, 25 Rutland Park, Sheffield S10 2PB.  
Mrs.K.J.Sims, 43 Dennis Road, Gravesend, Kent, DA11 7NN.  
Mrs.J.A.Sulley, 3 Harcourt Green, Wantage, Oxon, OX12 7DJ.  
Mr.& Mrs Weston, 39 St.Quentin Drive, Sheffield S17 4PN.  
Mrs.V.Williams, 76 Dinorber Close, Fleet, Hants GU13 9SJ.  
Mrs.J.P.Witney, 209 School Road, Crookes, S10 1GN.  
Mr A.Woodhead, 35 Bramley Grange Cres, Bramley, Rotherham S66 OUX.  
Mr.C.Woolhouse, 37 Devize Close, Grangewood, Chesterfield S40 2UL.

#### Overseas

Mrs.R.C.Black, 300 Lafayette Street, Denver CO 80218, U.S.A.  
Mr.R.C.Memmott, 244 Colonial Blvd. West Haven, CT 06516, U.S.A.  
Miss L.Millington, 156 St.James Road, New Lambton, Newcastle, NSW,  
2305, Australia  
Mrs.I.Wagner, 1432 Crawford Ave, Swift Current, Sask, Canada.  
Mrs.A.Windle, Box 27 P.O., Bega 2550, N.S.W., Australia.

#### Change of Address

Miss J.Cooper, Fox Wood, 35 High Storrs Drive, Sheffield S11 7LL.  
Mrs.V.F.Fearn, 54 Musters Road, Ruddington, Notts, NG11 6HW.  
The Rev. P.G.Harbord, St.Edmund's House, Anchorage Lane, Doncaster,  
DN5 8DT.

#### Obituary

Members will be sorry to hear of the recent death of the husband of our Treasurer, Eileen Allen. The Society extends its deepest sympathy to Eileen and hopes that her genealogical interests and the companionship of our members will help her to cope with the future.

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#### NEWS AND NOTES

##### 1851 Census Index

Until the 1851 census index is available on microfiche, members have been given limited access to the index. Richard Wardale will be at Ellin Street each Tuesday morning and can be contacted there on Sheffield 29191 extension 34. He will be able to look up names in the index but NOT check them out on the microfilms. Members will be given the reference numbers to enable them to find the entries at the Surrey St. Library. Richard can also be contacted by post at his home at Flat 18, Meadow Court, Anvil Close, Stannington, Sheffield S6 5JN.

### Thanks to Graham Henney

Graham Henney's offer to obtain certificates from St.Catherine's House for members had saved them £95 by early March. Many thanks to him from our Society. If you wish to take advantage of his generous offer you should send him the full name, date and precise location of the "event" (not just "Sheffield") together with a cheque for £5 for each certificate ordered made payable to Graham Henney and a large stamped addressed envelope.

Note: Mr.Henney is not able to undertake any research other than the acquisition of the Year, Quarter, District, Volume Number and serial numbers and then the submitting of an "on the spot" application. Members can obtain their own complete reference by consulting the Mormon Library indexes at Grenoside.

### 1851 Census Index for Rotherham

The 1851 census index for Rotherham which was formerly in South Yorkshire Record Office is now available in Rotherham library. It covers four reels. As well as the town itself the index covers the old rural district area and was completed recently.

### NewGibson & McLaughlin Guides

A new McLaughlin Guide is now published, "Annals of the Poor", at the same price as the others, 75p (+25p p&p in U.K., 75p airmail overseas).

There is also a new (2nd) edition of "Marriage, Census and Other Indexes" , still at the price of £1.00 (+ 20p p&p in U.K. 75p airmail overseas). This has four extra pages, many more indexes listed, and others with important updates, changes of addresses, new rates etc. rendering the old edition quite obsolete.

Most of the ten Gibson Guides have already been reprinted this year, all with minor updating amendments (phone numbers) etc. The reprint of "Unpublished Personal Name Indexes in Record Offices and Libraries" includes a page of "Addenda" (still £1). The new location of the Cheshire Record Office is shown in the reprint of "Record Offices" amongst other amendments. It has been necessary to increase the price of this Guide to £1.50, and to distinguish this from old-priced stock the cover colour has been changed. The price of "Census Returns on Microfilm" is also now £1.50. All other Guides remain at former prices.

A further McLaughlin Guide, "Parish Registers", is in advanced preparation.

### New Indexes at Retford

At the Denman Library in Retford there is a Briggs index to Non-conformists from about 1800 on and the Retford Times is being indexed from 1870. Information from Eileen Beech.

10th ANNIVERSARY DINNER

1987 is our 10th Anniversary as a Society. To celebrate we are arranging a Birthday Dinner at the Royal Victoria Hotel, Sheffield on 28th March 1987. Although this date seems a long time away, members will appreciate that we have to book well in advance because banquetting facilities in the city are in great demand for wedding receptions.

The celebration will take the form of a Sherry Reception followed by a dinner with a guest speaker but the full programme has not yet been finalised. Spouses, other relatives and friends are very welcome to join us.

Enclosed with this Journal is a booking form. Please return it as soon as possible to ensure a place. The total cost of the dinner will be £10. We are asking for a non-returnable deposit of £3. The balance is to be paid by 31st January 1987. Please send an S.A.E. if you would like a receipt.

Family History Conference at Blackpool

The Federation of Family History Societies' weekend conference in Spring 1987 will be hosted by the Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society. The event will be held on April 10/11/12th at the Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool. The hotel is situated on the rugged and picturesque north promenade of the world famous resort. Accommodation will be in twin bedded rooms with private facilities; the same accommodation will be available for single occupancy at a small surcharge.

The hotel offers excellent facilities for families and the resort will be just awakening from its winter slumber. For the first time it will be really feasible for the whole family to enjoy a Federation Conference together.

There will be a full programme of lectures, visits and entertainment planned which is hoped will make the weekend both informative and enjoyable. Further details of the conference and booking forms will be available in September 1986 from:  
Conference Co-ordinator, 7 Margaret Street, Shaw, Oldham, Lancs OL2 8RP. Return postage would be appreciated.

### Urgently Needed

Our duplicator is in urgent need of a home! Mrs. Matthews, who has housed and operated it ever since its acquisition is moving house and can no longer accommodate it. The machine is about an 18" cube, and is fairly easy to use. Will any member who can help us out please contact Mrs. D. Marsden, "Burnside", Low Bradfield, Sheffield S6 6LB, Tel: Sheffield 81241 as soon as possible for details. The machine is only needed for small items enclosed with journals. (Our magazines are printed professionally).

### Where there's a Will

Many people do not realise the value of the information found in a Will, or they assume that only rich people made Wills. Often when there is no baptism, or a multiple choice of christenings of the same name in one register a Will may provide the valuable information required. Many unbaptised people are mentioned in their parent's Will or are included in those of uncles, maiden aunts etc. It is expensive and time consuming to go to the Borthwick Institute in York in order to search their indexes especially if you do not know a place or date of death.

The Calendar of Wills made after 1858 can be seen at the Sheffield City Library. Prior notice must be given. Before 1858 Yorkshire Wills are to be found at the Borthwick Institute but the Mormon Church has filmed their indexes and they can now be consulted at Grenoside Genealogical Library. Mr. Cottage, the Librarian there is willing to buy in and hold in stock permanently a copy of the indexes to the Doncaster Deanery Probates. The information contained in these indexes is similar to that in the post 1858 Calendars. Doncaster Deanery covers South Yorkshire and includes Penistone, Ecclesfield, Barnsley, Sheffield and Rotherham. The indexes cost £1.65 per reel and can be used for 3 months. A microfilm reader must be booked to view the reels. Note: Check that the reel you require is available before booking.

### Grenoside Genealogical Library Opening Hours

|   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| Tuesday                                     | 7pm-9.15pm              |
| Thursday                                    | 10am-3pm and 7pm-9.15pm |
| Friday                                      | 7pm-9.15pm.             |
| 1st & 3rd Saturdays in each month 9am-Noon. |                         |
| <u>Telephone No. 453231</u>                 |                         |

### One Day Conference at Doncaster

Arranged by Doncaster Society this will be held on Saturday 8th November 1986. The theme is "The Parish Chest". There will be lectures on "Pauper Records in the Parish Chest" by Mrs. Elizabeth Simpson, Vice President FFHS; "Surnames and Social Structure: Evidence from Parish Registers" by Dr. Malcolm Smith, Durham University;

"Tithes and Tithe Documents" by Dr. Colin Rogers, Manchester Polytechnic; "Tales of the Unexpected: Some more unusual items in the Parish Chest" by Miss Eileen Simpson, former archivist at Chester. The cost is £3.50 per head plus £3 if lunch is required. Further details from Mrs. M. Pepper, 9 Highbury Crescent, Doncaster DN4 6AL or from our Secretary Mrs. M. Furey, on receipt of S.A.E.

Valuations of Derry

The Derry Youth and Community Workshop have produced 2 publications of interest to family researchers namely: The First and Second Valuations of Derry City - 1832 and 1858. This book lists all heads of households in alphabetical order for these periods; and The O'Doherty Information Pack. In addition to information on the Doherty clan they have provided a series of maps showing the counties of Ireland, the baronies of Ulster, the parishes of Counties Derry and Donegal, the towns and castles of the Inishowen Peninsula, Donegal and the streets of Derry City together with a description of the records used in a family tree search in Ireland.

Both publications can be obtained from the Research Centre, Derry Youth and Community Workshop, 15 Magazine Street, Derry BT48 6HH, N. Ireland. The cost including postage is £2.50 for the Valuation Book and £3.50 for the Doherty Pack.

At present they are extracting and computerising the 1831 Census and Griffiths Valuation for County Derry and J. & J. Cooke passenger lists for Derry Port 1850-1867. Looking to the future they hope to be able to offer fee paying searches of their database to the public.

Derbyshire Record Office.

Matlock Record Office is now fully operational but members are advised to book at least one week in advance to ensure a seat. Tel: 0629 3411. Ext. 7347.

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GETTING AWAY FROM IT ALL

In a deed dated 1714, housed at the West Yorkshire Record Office we read of:

"John Bates, late of Sheffield, now of Newport  
in the Isle of Wight, painter"

David Hey.

## FEDERATION NEWS AND INFORMATION

### Old Ordnance Survey Maps

These are being produced by Alan Godfrey, Mapseller & Publisher, 57-58 Spoor Street, Dunston, Gateshead, NE11 9BD, price 90p each plus postage. A current list of publications can be obtained from him on receipt of S.A.E. The original plans date from 1892-1914 and were 25" to the mile. They are being reproduced at approximately 15" to the mile together with some historical text on the reverse side. A discount may be allowed depending on the quantity of maps ordered.

### Cheshire County Record Office

This Office has moved to Duke Street, Chester CH1 1RL. Tel: 0244 602574. Facilities for researchers have improved but car parking is not easy and there are no facilities for purchasing or consuming refreshments on the premises. It is necessary to book about 2 weeks in advance to be sure of a place.

### Royal Flying Corps/Royal Naval Air Service/Royal Air Force:

Register of all those who served during the First World War.

David J. Barnes, 21 Bury New Road, Ramsbottom, via Bury, Lancs BLO 0BT is trying to gather together the names of all those who served in the Aerial Services during the First World War, whether as Aircrew or Groundcrew. The aim of his research is to try to collate the scattered information which is available and to compile an alphabetical biographical register for all those who served, providing a central source of information for Aviation Enthusiasts, Family History Researchers, Medal Collectors etc. Any help or information will be most gratefully received and, hopefully, those who need help can also be assisted with their search. Mr. Barnes does have an information sheet relating to his project which he would presumably be willing to supply to enquirers for cost of photocopying.

### Attwood Papers

There has been a theft of family papers relating to the name ATTWOOD. If you can give a clue as to their present whereabouts will you please write to Mr. D. Phillips, The Rhos House, Old Radnor, via Presteigne, Powys, Wales.

### Irish Genealogical Research Society

Correspondence should now be sent to Mr. Charles Spearman, 5 Meredith Road, Barnes, London SW13.

### Police History Society

This provides a focal point and a network for those interested in the history of policing and of crime. The Society publishes a quarterly newsletter. Membership is open to any person at a present subscription of £5 pa. Details from the Secretary : Superintendent L.A.Waters M.A.Cambridgeshire Police Headquarters, Hinchingsbrooke Park, Huntingdon, Cambs.

### Parish Registers of Wales

Parish Registers of Wales lists all those registers now deposited in either the National Library of Wales or one of the County Record Offices. It lists the ancient parishes of the principality giving dates covered by their surviving registers, indicating where those registers are kept etc. The price is £6.95 or £8.45 by surface mail to the U.K. and the rest of the world, £10.95 by air mail to countries outside Europe; remittances in currencies other than sterling subject to an extra handling charge of £4. It is obtainable from The Librarian, The National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 3BU.

### Unidentified Bodies Wanted!

Dr.Colin Rogers (Mr.Family Tree Detective) would like to hear from you if you have any stories about unidentified bodies, either at burial, registration of death or at an inquest, statistics from any part of the country, or unusual tales re. unidentified bodies covering the 16th century to the 1980s. If the body was subsequently identified he would still be interested in the details. Contributions direct to Colin at Ebenezer Chapel, Old Road, Tintwistle via Hyde, Stockport, Cheshire.

### Caring for Books and Documents

"Caring for Books and Documents" by A.D.Baynes-Cope is a British Museum Publication available from them at 6 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3RN. Cost approx £3.00 incl. p&p.

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### A LIMERICK

Our Vicorian forbears, I fear  
Were respectable, staid and severe,  
But in matters procreational  
They must have been sensational,  
They must - or we wouldn't be here!

Anon

THROUGH THE LETTERBOX

Wayside,  
Roman Road,  
Twyford,  
Winchester,  
Hants. SO21 1QW.

Dear Editor,

For several years I have been compiling an index of people born in the U.K. who died somewhere else in the world - either at sea or as a soldier, sailor, explorer, missionary, merchant, adventurer, emigrant etc. My researches have revealed many others who died in the U.K. but who spent part of their lives overseas. This particularly applies to soldiers; these too have been added to my index.

My information is culled from many sources but there are others, particularly M.I.s which I do not know about. My purpose in writing to you is to ask if you will publicise my Index: I will willingly answer members queries on receipt of an S.A.E. A small contribution such as two 2nd class postage stamps will be appreciated, and to ask for contributions to the Index. I particularly want copies of M.I.s relating to people who died abroad, newspaper cuttings from local newspapers of present day Britons who died abroad. Many of these do not reach the Obituary Columns of The Times and Telegraph, and correspondents in the north of England particularly who will scan the Obituary columns of the northern editions of The Times and Telegraph for deaths overseas.

There is a great need for someone to start an Index of Marriages Overseas too, so if anyone is interested I can supply sources. I do receive queries and contributions from members of other Societies but I would like to see many more people involved as questioners and especially contributors!

Yours etc.

Dennis H.Pearce.

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EXTRACT FROM SHEFFIELD REGISTERS

15 March 1858.

"Joseph Oldale of Sheffield apprehended on a charge of felonously inserting in the Registers of the Parish Church a marriage between Peter Wigfall and Sarah Housley on 28th August 1740. Case dismissed by the magistrates after several hearings."

## SOCIETY MEETINGS

### Meeting on Thursday 20th March 1986

"Glimpses into the History of Dronfield", by Mrs.K.Battye. From an introduction on the uncertain origin of the O E Dronfield (land infested by drones), we were shown the gradual growth of the town through the rise and fall of its industries, charcoal making, coal mining, the making of cloth, the lead trade and finally the iron and steel industries which brought the industrial revolution to the town.

As this is "Domesday Year", it was interesting to note that in 1086 Dronfield was the home of a mere three villein farmers and one border, who between them had two ploughs - about 20 people in all. No church or mill was mentioned and the value of the place had dropped from 40 shillings to 20 shillings since Edward the Confessor's time.

Other early documentary references showing Dronfield's development are the muster roll of 1539 in which Dronfield is recorded as having 81 men to bear arms suggesting a population of about 500, poor rate assessment of 1667, hearth tax of 1674 and the best source, which came in 1676, the parish register.

People are always of interest to us and in recalling Dronfield's industrial past, Mrs.Battye spoke of those who prospered most including the mercer, John Eyre, who died in 1619 leaving a personal estate of £339-12-6, and lead merchants such as Henry Fanshawe, died 1721, Andrew Morewood who, earlier, purchased the lead from Sheffield Castle during the Commonwealth period and the Rotherhams who eventually became lords of the manor.

Of less note but equally interesting was the story of a young soldier, Captain Harness and his wife who lived in their "happy cottage" in the High Street from 1792 to 1808. Captain Harness's letters home to his wife from the Napoleonic Wars and his wife's replies are to be found in the book called "Trusty and Well Beloved" by Caroline M.Duncan Jones. They give a charming picture of their social life in Dronfield.

Finally Mrs.Battye told us about the firms which brought renown and increasing population to Dronfield - that of Samuel Lucas which by 1828 was making spindles and flyers for the expanding far flung cotton spinning trade and, together with Ward, Camm and Siddall, leased grinding shops to men engaged in edge tool making. Boom conditions arrived with the coming of the railway and the opening in 1873 of Wilson Cammell's steel rail making plant, but by 1883 and the departure of this firm and its work force to Workington in Cumbria, Dronfield became a ghost town. Recovery with the support of the coal industry and edge tool works was slow. In recent years the character of Dronfield has changed and in its social composition perhaps bears more resemblance to the late 18th century than the hectic and troubled years of the 19th century.

Meeting on Thursday 17th April 1986.

"Family Life in Georgian England" by Miss Rachel Young.

The period under discussion stretched from 1714 to 1830. Within such a large time spread there were many changes both in the law e.g. Hardwicke's Marriage Act, and in attitudes to the question of what made a good marriage.

Before 1714 it was usual in the upper classes for the male head of the family to arrange marriages for all the family dependent upon him, both siblings and children. The arranged marriage was a financial transaction with a dowry given and a jointure to provide for the woman if she was widowed. As the century went on there were fewer arranged marriages because of criticism where financial arrangements were paramount. The attacks on the system resulted in fewer and less obvious arranged marriages. They were replaced by marriages of limited choice. Parents had to approve. The man chose the girl and then asked her father for permission to court her.

In the middle classes the typical marriage was a prudent one. They tended to be fairly late with the man in his late twenties or early thirties. A man waited until he was financially independent and established in his career. Craftsmen waited until after their apprenticeships were completed then saved for several years before marrying. Love as a reason for marriage was distrusted but the Romantic movement challenged this idea.

In the working classes there were no arranged marriages. Often they were a matter of compulsion. If an unmarried girl became pregnant by an unmarried man, the Overseers of the Poor stepped in because the poor rate would have to support the girl if she became poor even if the father supported the child. Pressure was put on the man to marry the girl although the couple still had to consent. The age of consent to marriage was 12 for a girl and 14 for a boy.

The number of illegitimate children increased as the period went on. It was taken for granted that a man would have affairs before marriage. If children resulted the man had to support them and the woman. Often illegitimate children were brought up with legitimate ones. If a gentlewoman had child when unmarried it was concealed because it might harm her chances of marriage. If a married woman had a child outside the marriage it was assumed at law to be the husband's unless the real father claimed it or the husband repudiated it.

When a poor person had an illegitimate child, the law ground into action. The poor girl was taken before the magistrates and had to swear to the fatherhood of the child. The man was then put into prison until he agreed to support the child. If a woman refused to swear she was put into Bridewell for up to a year, the child often going with her. One gets the impression that there were more illegitimate children at the top and bottom of society

than in the middle classes where they were concealed.

The end of marriage was usually the death of a partner. About 1714 the duration of a marriage was about 7 years. When one parent died the other parent remarried leading to complicated families. Divorce was rare, being both expensive and unpleasant. It involved a trial in the House of Lords and an Act of Parliament. Annulments were also rare. Separation however, was common. It is not known how many there were because all were privately arranged. Separation was easy for the wealthy but among working people it usually took the form of desertion of the woman by the man. In these cases the Overseers of the Poor tried to find the man so they would not have to support the woman. Wife-selling was poor man's divorce. It was always done in a formal situation before witnesses. It was always illegal but was accepted amongst country people.

Hardwicke's Marriage Act of 1753 was very complicated. Its aim was to stop irregular marriages and elopements. One problem was the handfast marriage. The man said, "I am marrying X". The woman said, "I am marrying Y", and it was considered a valid marriage, especially if it was said before witnesses. Although such a marriage was considered valid the situation of the children was doubtful. Often if a child is born soon after a church marriage it may be an indication of the regularising of a handfast marriage. The Act also made elopement more difficult. The runaway couple had to go further.

By the end of the period a large part of the population were children. At the beginning of Georgian times the population was static if not declining but by 1830 there was a population explosion with large spreading families. More notice was being taken of children and laws being made about them.

In aristocratic circles both boys and girls from the age of 10 were brought up in another household so they could learn to be independent and make new friends. In the early part of the century they were looked upon as incomplete adults and dressed after the age of 6 years as miniature adults, but by the end of the century there was a change of attitude. Rousseauites thought children were nearer to nature and should be brought up simply. Many people were influenced by this to a certain degree. The idea gained popularity that children should be brought up in the country and many second homes were set up out of town for the wives, and children of wealthy men. The view that children should wear simple clothes in order to move freely also spread.

Craftsmen's children also often went to another household to live. Often children of only 10 or 11 were apprenticed until they were 21 years old. Apprentices couldn't marry until their apprenticeship was finished but they often married their master's daughter.

Amongst the poorest classes children had to earn as soon as possible. Norwich cottage children were often working and earning their food by the age of 4. There were orphanages and foundling hospitals for homeless children in towns. Poor children from the workhouses were put out to work for their keep but it was not a real apprenticeship. A real apprentice learned a trade and was paid a little more each year.

The Diary of Thomas Turner, available in paperback is a useful source of information on this period. It shows the life of a village shopkeeper.

Denise Marsden.

#### Meeting on Thursday 15th May 1986.

Miss Teresa Januszonok from the City Library talked briefly about to conserve our family documents, photographs and heirlooms. She was available after her talk to answer individual questions. Coffee was served and members were able to consult the library material and a display of ways of storing our material. Miss Januszonok has promised to provide a detailed account of how to preserve material later in the year but sent the following brief notes as a help for members.

#### Storage of Items

(List of suppliers given at end)

1. Papers and parchments should be wrapped in good quality papers. Good quality tissue can be used instead of the papers.
2. Sound papers and parchments can be placed into polyester sleeves. Ideally these sleeves should not be used for permanent storage due to the risk of condensation and static. However, polyester is excellent for general everyday handling.
3. Papers and parchments where possible should be stored flat. Items as mentioned should be wrapped, then placed into suitable folders and /or boxed. Rolled items should never be too tightly rolled. Rolled items can be damaged in the following ways: paper and parchment can crack, crease and tear; pigments and inks can flake. Ideally these should be wrapped and boxed.
4. Photographs should be stored flat and where possible in four flap enclosures. (Envelopes can damage emulsions). Then suitably boxed or placed into folders.
5. Glass negatives/lantern slides should be protected by four flap enclosures, then boxed. All photographic materials should be housed in silver-safe papers, boards.  
N.B. If polyester sleeves are used for photographs then they should be window-framed before placing into polyester sleeves. The static from the polyester can lift the emulsions.

## 6. Storage Conditions

Ideally items should be stored in a cool environment. Temperature should not fluctuate. Items should be stored away from direct heat, light and central heating and water pipes. Items should always be correctly protected.

## LIST OF SUPPLIERS

1. Conservation Resources (UK) Ltd.,  
Unit 1, Littleworth Industrial Estate,  
Wheatley,  
Oxon,  
Oxfordshire OX9 1T2. Tel: 08077 2244.

Company will supply catalogue.

Supply: Polyester Sleeves (75 micron thickness) various sizes

Wrapping papers: (non-buffered alpha cellulose)

L2 Tissue for wrapping.

Lig-free I Archival File folders for storage.

Archival flat document cases grey/white, suitable for  
storing papers & parchment only.

Photographic silver safe papers & boxes, weight of paper  
40gsm, 80gsm, suitable for enclosures &  
interleaving.

Photographic mounting board 2-ply.

2. Atlantis Paper Co.,  
Gulliver's Wharf,  
105 Wapping Lane,  
London E1 9RW. Tel: 01 481 3784.

On request company will supply catalogue.

Supply: silver safe photostore papers

polyester

wrapping papers

L2 tissue

Boxes

3. Falkener Fine Papers Ltd.,  
117 Long Acre,  
Covent Garden,  
London WC2E 9PA. Tel: 01 240 2339.

Will supply very small quantities.

Supply: papers

tissue.

## Storage materials which should not be used:

1. Polythene
2. Card board boxes
3. Wooden Boxes
4. Brown wrapping paper
5. Discarded tissue - tissues which usually are wrapped  
round new shoes etc.

OTHER PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS

Mrs.Hilary Theyers, "Penvounder", Ham Square, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham GL52 6NF is seeking information on the following. She would be very grateful to hear from anyone with any information and any other descendants. All letters answered.

BISHOP Harriet born 1790-1800 Sheffield area. See SCOTT.  
BOTTOM Birth of John, who married Maria KIRBY/KIRKBY Handsworth 1827.

HILL Henry Abel, son of John, born 1830-31 Sheffield? Married Rebecca SCOTT 1862 St.Philip's, Sheffield.

HUTCHINSON Mary, dau of Thomas, born 1820-21 Sheffield? see TAYLOR.

KIRBY/KIRKBY Maria, born 1800-1810, Handsworth? See BOTTOM.  
MASON Marriage of William to Elizabeth ? pre 1816, Sheffield. Dau Sarah married to William CROOK(E)S.

SCOTT George who married Harriet BISHOP 1817 St.Peter's Sheffield.

STANIFORTH William born 1817-18 a mason. Son of ?George, Lab. or? Joseph, Monumental mason of Ecclesall Bierlow or? Esther of Norton. Help! Married Hannah SWINDEN 1839 St.Peter's, Sheffield.

SWINDEN Marriage of Joseph to Mary ? pre 1822. Dau Hannah bapt Ecclesall Bierlow 1822 married William STANIFORTH.

TASKER Elizabeth born c1850, poss London area, married Fred BUTTON 1873 Sheffield.

TAYLOR William , son of George born 1819-20 Sheffield? Married Mary HUTCHINSON 1845 St.Peter's Sheffield.

Miss L.Millington, 156 St.James Road, New Lambton, Newcastle, N.S.W. 2305 Australia, is seeking information about the parents of Charles SYKES who was born in Sheffield 1826-1828. He served in India as a soldier and went to Australia in 1854-56. His father's name was Charles and he worked as a jeweller. Also the parents of Mark MILLINGTON born 1775, a wheelwright. He was living in Whittington, Shropshire at the time of his trial and was transported for life in 1803. Also Charles FRANCIS born 1831 in London. He went to Australia in 1851-2 where he worked as an accountant. Louisa, Minnie and Blanche were his sisters.

SYKES

MILLINGTON

FRANCIS

Richard Memmott, 244 Colonial Blvd, West Haven CT 06516 U.S.A. is seeking information on the following members of the MEMMOTT family.

MEMMOTT Dudley Rockett MEMMOTT born c1799, married Mary  
RUSSELL in 1820. Died 1871, place of burial sought.

RUSSELL

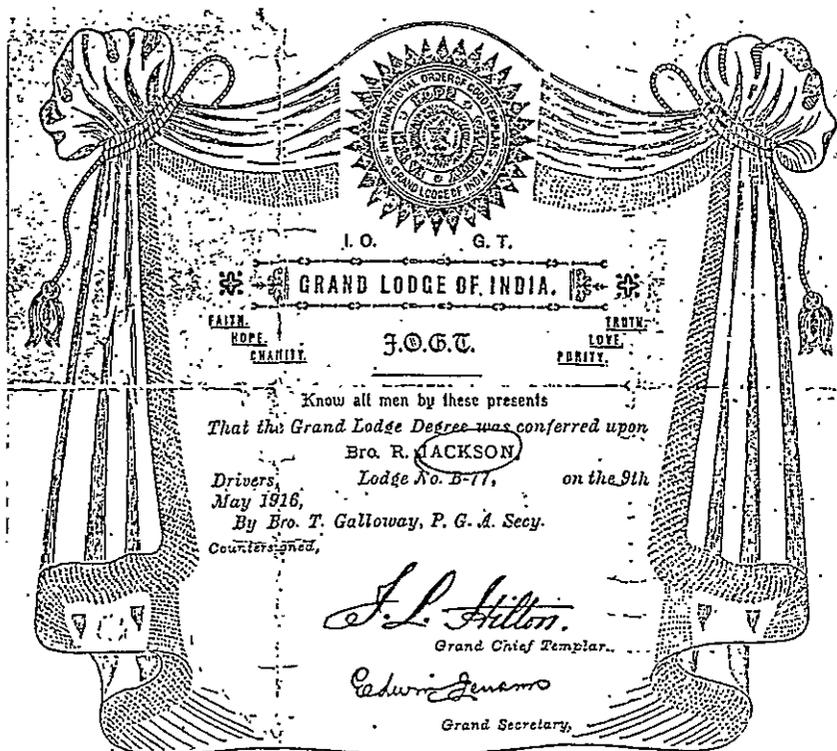
Also Mary RUSSELL, wife of Dudley R. Memmott and their children. Also William and Elizabeth (Rockett) MEMMOTT, Dudley's parents.  
Mr. Memmott would like to correspond with members of the Memmott family in Sheffield.

BRAMALL  
BRAMMALL  
BRAMWELL  
BERRY  
ARTHINGTON

Mrs. Muriel Barritt, 9 Shelford Crescent, Burton Joyce, Nottingham NG14 5GH is seeking the baptism of Ann c1806-8 daughter of John BRAMALL/BRAMMALL/BRAMWELL (variant spellings) book-keeper of 17 Harvest Lane, Sheffield in 1837. Ann married first ? Berry c1823-27, was widowed, remarried aged 31 in June 1838 to Joseph ARTHINGTON widower aged 25, brass founder of Huddersfield. Ann's surname appears in this marriage as BRAMWELL yet on a birth certificate of a daughter it appears as Ann ARTHINGTON, late BERRY, formerly BRAMALL.  
Mrs. Barritt's dilemma is "Which spelling is correct?"

JACKSON

Mrs. M. Newton, 64 Bestwood Road, Hucknall, near Nottingham NG15 7PQ is researching the life of Robert JACKSON. She believes he was an officer's batman but has no further details. She does however, have a certificate from the Grand Lodge of India on Bro. R. Jackson, see below. Mrs. Newton has already consulted the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the Ministry of Defence, the Royal Artillery Institution and the India Office Library and Records without success.



HELP NEEDED AND OFFERED

MIDDLETON Mrs.R.Clark, 19 Arden St, New Mills, Stockport,  
Cheshire SK12 4NS needs help researching the name  
MIDDLETON in Sheffield. She has a photocopy of a pedigree  
Chapel-en- from the Jackson Collection but would like it checked  
le Frith against the registers. She also needs help with  
monumental inscriptions. She is willing to cover costs  
such as travel, lunches and time and is willing to look  
at entries in the Chinley registers (an independent  
non-conformist chapel built in 1711). She has a lot  
of local knowledge about the Chapel-en-le-Frith area.

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ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Recent Journals from Family History Societies.  
A Century of Sheffield 1835-1935 Folio 1 & Folio 6, given by Susan  
Hammond.  
Sheffield Cathedral Marriages Out of Area Index 1720-1837.  
Cutlery Bibliography, Sheffield City Libraries.  
Greaves (family) - entries from Ecclesfield Parish Registers.  
Abstract of Title 1781 - John Lund, given by John Perkins.  
Extract Arksey Parish Registers, from Ted Shortland.  
Will of George Cooper 1724 " " "  
Will of Thomas Cooper 1786 " " "  
Papers concerning Sir Francis Chantry " "  
Yorkshire Families Directory, compiled by John Perkins.  
People of an Ancient Parish Issue 1 & Issue 2, Brian Elliott.  
Guide to Archive Collections, Y.A.S.  
Shropshire Directory of Members' Interests Vol. 1 1980-85.  
Directory of Family Names 1985, Queensland F.H.S.  
Woad in the Fens, Norman T.Wills BA.

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USEFUL ARTICLES IN OTHER SOCIETIES' JOURNALS

ODDMENTS FROM THE ARCHIVES - 32 BY PETER CHRISTIE

Suffolk Roots Vol.11 No.4 Oct 1985. Describes a 19th century  
publication "The Police Gazette or Hue and Cry" which has details  
about criminals from all over the country.

THE POOR LAWS BY ANN GEORGE

Suffolk Roots Vol.11 No.4 Oct 1985. A description of the Poor  
Law over the centuries, how it worked and the effects it had.

NOTES ON IRISH GENEALOGICAL SOURCES BY T.G.CHARTRES.

Berkshire F.H.Magazine Vol.10 Part 5 Autumn 1985.

TRACING FAMILIES OF WELSH ORIGIN BY ALAN A.POWELL.

Berkshire F.H.Magazine Vol.10 Part 5 Autumn 1985.

A REFERENCE LIST FOR USE IN TRACING SCOTTISH ANCESTRY BY ANNETTE ABEL

Berkshire F.H.Magazine Vol.10 Part 5 Autumn 1985.

USING THE PHONE BOOK BY BILL CORNFOOT

Northumberland & Durham F.H.S.Journal Vol.10 No.4 Winter 1985.

OUR ANCESTORS, CONCEPTIONS, MISCONCEPTIONS & A PARADOX BY BRIAN PEARS

Northumberland & Durham F.H.S.Journal Vol.11 No.1 Spring 1986.

DEAD RECKONING - THE ANNALS OF THE DECEASED.

Bedfordshire F.H.S.Journal Vol.5 No.5 Spring 1986. An account of Bedfordshire's one day conference, including articles on "Mortality and Morbidity Studies" by Richard Wall, "Disposal of the Dead" by Julian W.S.Litten, "Churchyard Practice and Parish Records" by Andrew Underwood, "Cemetery Records and Monumental Inscriptions" by John Rayment and "Wills, Probate and Death Duty Records" by Jane Cox plus an extensive bibliography.

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EXTRACTS FROM THE BIRLEY VALE  
MAGAZINE 1875-1876

Birley Vale September 1876

The Athletic Sports of the Intake Cricket Club took place on the 22nd ult: at Intake.

Winners: 120 Yards, F.Hunt, J.Cardwell, J.Worth.

Under 14 years: R.Adams, H.Adams, H.Skelton.

One Mile: W.Sanders, R.Potts, F.Newbold.

440 yards: W.Simmonite, A.Darwent, W.Marsh.

Putting the shot: J.Wigful.

Members 120 yards: J.Cardwell, J.Borebanks, W.Marsh.

High Jump: J.Hunter

Veteran Race; men over 40 years, J.Kirkham, W.Hobson.

Members 300 yards: J.Borebank(s), W.Marsh.

Starter: Mr.H.Havenhand.

Judge: Mr.Gainsford. Ass.Judges: Messrs. Cardwell & Buxton.

Clerks to the Course: Messrs Creswick, Wigfull, Dodson, Staniforth & Hunter.

Secretary: Mr.J.W.Cardwell.

Contributed by W.B.Clayton.

## BEGINNERS, PLEASE! PART VIII - WILLS

A person has the right to expect that, after his or her death, his property will be disposed of in the way he would have wished in life: The instrument by which this achieved is, of course, the Will. In a Will the testator/testatrix not only states the way in which the property is to be distributed but also, normally, appoints an executor, the person who is to be charged with carrying out the provisions of the Will, in the way the testator would have wished.

Before an executor can legally perform this duty it is necessary to obtain the recognition of the court that has jurisdiction in such matters. The court must first satisfy itself not only that the executor is who he says he is, but that the Will is authentic and the last version of the testator. This commonly means waiting a while to see if the Will is contested. A copy of the Will is then made by the court and a "grant of probate" made, that is, a statement of the authority of the executor to proceed - the Will is "proved". It is the court's copy of the Will - not the original which, if not in the family's archives or with its solicitor, was probably lost long since - that we are seeking.

The reason for this interest in Wills soon becomes obvious. Apart from the unlikely case of unearthing a long-lost family fortune, a Will is commonly a primary source of genealogical information - "my dearly beloved wife Ann", "to my eldest son John", "until my youngest son George may come of age", and so on. It can also be an important indicator of social and economic status, and sometimes of personality too. In the latter context, however, we need to bear in mind that the phraseology follows time-worn precedent and is usually the choice of the lawyer, his clerk, the parish priest or clerk, or the only available literate person, since many Wills were made on death beds.

Before discussing where Wills are to be found it will be useful to clear up a few more basics. In some circumstances there is a difference between a Will and a testament; the former disposes real property, i.e. land, whereas the latter disposes personal property. If a person of some substance dies without having made a Will, he is said to die "intestate". In this case it is necessary for some appropriate person - surviving spouse, son or daughter - to make application to the appropriate court for the right to administer the estate. Providing the application is uncontested the court will make a "grant of letters of administration" or "Admon" in common abbreviation, and the person becomes the administrator, not executor.

Now, the key to finding a Will is to know in which court it was proved. After the Probate Act of 1857 (from 11 Jan 1858 in fact) this is easy. The administration of probate in England and Wales (none of this article applies to Scotland) was secularised and all

Wills had to be proved in civil courts - the Probate Division (now the Family Division) of the High Court. The country is divided into civil probate districts, each with a District Probate Registry - there is one in Sheffield at Belgrave House, Bank Street, where the County Court also resides. There is also a Principal Probate Registry in London, at Somerset House on the Strand, and copies of all Wills since 1858 are stored and can be consulted there. All these Wills have been centrally indexed in annual volumes. Letters of Administration (Admons) are indexed in the same volumes - before 1870 at the end of the volume; since 1870 they are mixed in with the Wills.

The indexing is alphabetical within each volume (year), but it should be noted that the year is that of the granting of probate, which is not necessarily that of death. Usually probate follows in a matter of months after death, but the delay may amount to years in some complex cases. These index volumes are on open shelves and free to public search at Somerset House between 10.30 am and 4.00pm. on weekdays. Having found a Will that you wish to see, you may apply at the desk for it for an inspection fee of 25p, and if you require a photocopy, this may also be done for 25p per page. However, it should be said straight away that the indexes themselves are a mine of information, including an abstract. You will find the name of the deceased, his occupation and address at the time of drawing the Will. There will be the place and exact date of death, the court and date of grant of probate. There is an approximate value of the estate, the name of the executor(s), occupation or relationship to the deceased, and an address. The legatees are also mentioned. So that seeing the Will is usually not essential, although curiosity about the finer details will often overcome thrift. This means that you do not have to start in London. All District Probate Registries have copies of the central index although, as in Sheffield, many do not begin their run until 1928. However, due to the far-sightedness of Mrs. Cynthia Short, the South Yorkshire County Record Office managed to acquire the complete run from 1858 to 1927. These are now in the custody of Sheffield City Library and, provided that you can gain access to them, you can do all your post-1857 searching in Sheffield!

For more information about Wills from 1858 I cannot do better than to refer you to a slim guide by Mrs. Eve McLaughlin, "Somerset House Wills from 1858", published by the Federation of Family History Societies.

Before 1858 the situation is much more complicated. Probate jurisdiction was in the hands of the ecclesiastical courts and there were about 300 of these! In order to make sense of these it is necessary to know that ecclesiastical authority is organised into five levels. In order of decreasing authority they are:

|    | <u>Jurisdiction</u> | <u>Official</u>                  |
|----|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. | Province            | Archbishop                       |
| 2. | Diocese             | Bishop                           |
| 3. | Archdeaconry        | Archdeacon                       |
| 4. | Rural Deanery       | Rural Dean                       |
| 5. | Parish              | Parish Minister, Vicar or Rector |

A jurisdiction is the district over which a court claims the right to grant probate (and certain other matters, such as issuing marriage licenses).

In general a Will was proved in the lowest court that had jurisdiction. In certain parishes, known as Peculiars, the Parish minister had the right to grant probate. If the deceased owned property only within that Peculiar, the Minister could rule. In many Peculiars persons other than the Minister, for example, the Lord of the Manor, might hold jurisdiction.

In the majority of cases the lowest court was the Archdeaconry Court, and if all estates were held within the area of one Archdeaconry it was that court which was used. However, if the deceased held property in more than one Archdeaconry in the diocese the Will had to be proved in the higher Episcopal or Diocesan Consistory Court. If estate was held in more than one diocese the Provincial or Prerogative Court had to be used. Now England and Wales are divided into two Ecclesiastical Provinces: the Northern Province under the jurisdiction of the Archbishop of York, and the Southern Province under the jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the latter taking precedence. Thus; if the deceased held estate in more than one diocese within the Northern Province, the Will had to be proved in the Prerogative Court of York (PCY), and if he held property in more than one diocese in the Southern Province the Will had to be proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC). If he held estates in parts of both Provinces, the Will had to be proved in the higher court, i.e. the PCC. The latter Court had also to be used in the case of deaths overseas and for the Wills of soldiers and sailors, so that not only the Wills of the rich are to be found here.

A further complication lies in the fact that an executor could choose to prove a Will in a higher court than necessary. This would of course, be a much more expensive business, what with the cost of travel, solicitors' fees and so on. Nevertheless, such a move would result in a substantial degree of privacy in family affairs and many "better-off" families did just that. All this amounts to the fact that, especially when one has no prior knowledge of the extent of an ancestor's estate, which is most of the time, there are quite a few courts in which a Will might have been proved, and all of them have to be eliminated.

So, where to start? Begin with the parish in which your ancestor died or is known to have lived. You need to know which courts had jurisdiction in this parish. There are several books which will help you with this. The acknowledged authorities are:

Anthony J.Camp "Wills and their Whereabouts"  
J.S.W.Gibson "Wills and Where to Find Them".

But you may find that a more readily available alternative starting point is Jeremy Gibson's more recent guide for the Federation of Family History Societies, "A Simplified Guide to Probate Jurisdictions : Where to Look for Wills."

In addition you will find that a visually clearer picture of your problem, especially in areas of complex jurisdiction; is the relevant coloured county genealogical maps prepared by the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies, and published as "The Phillimore Atlas and Index of Parish Registers." The gazeteers - primarily Lewis Topographic Dictionaries and the shorter "Genealogical Gzeteer of England" by Frank Smith, always state the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of each parish.

Once you have discovered the correct jurisdiction, Gibson's guide will also direct you to the repository where the Will should be held, usually the County Record Office or a major library. Remember to search all the superior courts in which the Will may have been proved, depending on whether property was held in more than one place or on whimsy. The order in which you search these is more likely to depend on opportunity rather than some strategic optimal plan.

#### Index, Calendars and Act Books.

We now know where a sought-for Will might be found, but we have still not discussed how we will find it. Ideally a repository will have indexed all Wills in its care - first alphabetically by surname, then by Christian name and finally chronologically. If this were always the case then it would only take a few minutes search in a book or fiche to find any Will and its call number. Unfortunately such a job is usually a massive one - the PRO alone has 80 tons of Wills! - and many collections are only partly indexed or not at all. Fortunately, because of their great general interest and importance, the most important collections, PCC and PCY, have been fairly extensively indexed.

#### PCC Wills and Admons.

There are indexes for Wills and Admons from 1559 to 1700 and these have been published, mainly by the British Record Society in its Index Library Series. Rather than waste a lot of space, I refer you to Cox and Padfield, "Tracing your Ancestors in the Public Record Office", HMSO pp11-16, a copy of which should never be far from hand and which has all the information you will need to get started. After 1700 you essentially have to consult the

unpublished index volumes at Chancery Lane. One exception is the period 1750-1800, which A.J.Camp is indexing for the Society of Genealogists. So far 3 volumes have been published, A-G, but the rest may be consulted at the Society for a fee. It is also worth noting that the last 5 years of the PCC, 1853-7, are indexed as the first volumes of the Principal Probate Registry, mentioned above.

#### PCY Wills and Admons.

Indexes for the years 1567-1644 and 1660-1714 have been published by the Yorkshire Archaeological Society in their Record Series (Vols. 7-20) with a consolidated index in the Extra Series Vol.2 and Vols. 40,43 and 46.) For later Wills and Admons you will have to search the manuscript volumes in the search room at the Borthwick Institute. During the Commonwealth, 1653-1660, Wills could only be probated in the PCC and you must search there for this period. Note that photocopies of Wills may be ordered by post, providing that you know its call number from one of the indexes. First you will be sent an invoice and, on payment, you will be sent the copy.

As far as other Courts are concerned you are best enquiring at the relevant repository. Some finding aids have been published, like the PCC and PCY, and details of these will be found in Gibson. It is perhaps, worth adding that where a true index does not exist, a calendar sometimes takes its place. A calendar commonly indexes by the first letter of the surname only. That is, looking for a name beginning with "B" you will have to look through all the "B's" - which is still much better than looking through all the Wills! Where there is neither index nor calendar then the Act Book may be resorted to, if it still exists. This was the register containing the minutes of a Court. Thus all Acts of Probate are minuted chronologically and, although a search is tedious, could save you the much more massive task of searching innumerable packets of tightly folded, ribbon-tied and dusty Wills - even if you are allowed to do so.

#### Death Duty Registers, (IR26 & 27)

At the PRO, these can be a useful finding aid. Since the Legacy Act of 1796, various Acts have imposed a stamp duty on legacies. Although not all the estates were large enough to attract duty (less than £20 of legacies and residues), a large number were, and these were entered in the register as the Stamp Duty was paid. The entries include, apart from the name of the deceased, the date and place of probate, all-important in locating a Will. The registers themselves, which are chronological, are in IR 26, but IR 27 contains an index to the registers, which makes them not only accessible, but a very rapid way of locating many Wills anywhere in the country.

## Inventories

Usually, when dealing with an application for probate, and especially in the case of an application for a grant of Letters of Administration, a Court of Probate would call upon certain people to deliver a signed inventory, or listing, of the "movable" or personal property of the deceased - "goods, chattels, rights, credits". The persons concerned were usually friends of the family and neighbours in good standing, and they were required to value each item. These listings started with personal apparel and cash-in-hand, and then travelled round the house room by room, then to the outhouses and stock in the fields. Such documents, where they still exist, as many do, give a vivid picture of the way of life of your ancestor, his social and economic standing and, in some cases, clear internal evidence of his occupation, if this was not known before. Much social, economic and agricultural history has been reconstructed from these documents, and there are a number of published collections, such as John S. Moore's "The Goods and Chattles of our Forefathers" (Phillimore, 1976) and Frank Steer's "Farm and Cottage Inventories of Mid-Essex 1634-1749". (Essex Record Office, 1950). Another useful publication with local applications is Rosemary Milward's "A Glossary of Household, Farming and Trade Terms from Probate Inventories", (Derbyshire Record Society Occasional Publication No.1)

Fortunately most modern Record Office Indexes indicate whether an inventory exists for a given Will and you should always have it copied with the Will.

This survey has necessarily been very superficial, but it should be enough to get you started and the publications mentioned will fill a lot of the inevitable gaps. You must bear in mind always that it was generally, though not invariably, the better-off who made Wills, and that, before, the Married Woman's Property Act of 1882, few women made Wills or were in a position to do so. Jeremy Gibson estimates that the average family made a Will every 150 years! Nevertheless you may be the lucky one. Good hunting!

Peter Wilkinson.

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### 1871 CENSUS YOULGREAVE, DERBYSHIRE

8 Coldwellend. (Reel N738, Vol.3628, Folio 51B)

Wednesday Garratt age 9 born Youlgreave

Thursday Garratt age 9 born Youlgreave

both girls.

(Must have been very exciting as it got near to Wednesday midnight!)

Contributed by Ted Shortland.

1841 CENSUS. PORTMAHON - NETHERHTORPE

Belfield House. Ladies Boarding School.

| Name                | Age | (Ages down to nearest five years) |                |
|---------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|----------------|
|                     |     | Occupation                        | Born in County |
| Mary WIGHTMAN       | 65  | -                                 | -              |
| Marianne FAWCETT    | 35  | Proprietor of school              | Yes            |
| Martha FAWCETT      | 30  | " "                               | "              |
| Bridget WEVER       | 30  | Governess                         | "              |
| Mary MASTERMAN      | 35  | "                                 | "              |
| Sarah GARBUTT       | 15  | Pupil                             | "              |
| Elizabeth WRIGHT    | 15  | "                                 | "              |
| Ann "               | 14  | "                                 | "              |
| Margaret MASON      | 15  | "                                 | "              |
| Eliza MAUGHAM       | 15  | "                                 | "              |
| Ann "               | 15  | "                                 | "              |
| Margaret"           | 10  | "                                 | "              |
| Anne Swift          | 10  | "                                 | "              |
| Janet NEWLAND       | 15  | "                                 | No             |
| Rebecca FAVEL       | 15  | "                                 | Yes            |
| Ann STEVENSON       | 15  | "                                 | No             |
| Elizabeth CAM       | 14  | "                                 | Yes            |
| Anabel CROWE        | 15  | "                                 | "              |
| Elizabeth MASTERMAN | 13  | "                                 | "              |
| Sarah TRAVIS        | 13  | "                                 | No             |
| Mary PARK           | 12  | "                                 | "              |
| Ann STACEY          | 14  | "                                 | "              |
| Emily BARKER        | 15  | "                                 | Yes            |
| Ann FOWLER          | 13  | "                                 | "              |
| Ann PLOWMAN         | 15  | "                                 | "              |
| Elizabeth "         | 13  | "                                 | "              |
| Rebecca TAYLOR      | 17  | "                                 | No             |
| Isabella CUNDALL    | 14  | "                                 | Yes            |
| Susannah DENTON     | 12  | "                                 | "              |
| Harriet BOOME       | 10  | "                                 | "              |
| Ann LINLEY          | 20  | Servant                           | "              |
| Mary RADFORD        | 18  | "                                 | "              |
| Sarah FORD          | 20  | "                                 | "              |

Margaret Furey

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DIARY OF A VOYAGE TO QUEENSLAND (cont)

Friday June 5th.

Lat. 29°26S. Long 29°26W. Distance 107 miles.

Nearly becalmed. W.D.E. experimented for the first time at bread making with leaven; which, taking all things into consideration, was satisfactory, if not first rate stuff.

Saturday June 6th.

Lat. 31°26S. Long 27°19W. Distance 165 miles.

Preparing for stormy weather. Royal yards taken down. The ship rolls very much causing pots, pans and all loose articles to fly about.

Tuesday June 9th.

Bar. 30. Distance 166 miles. Lat. 33°48S. Long 15°49W.

Sea very rough. Corporal unwell. About 7.30pm Mr. Saunders (Midshipman) fell from the main sail yard-arm. Fortunately he was on the windward side and was jerked across the ship to the lee side and alighted, feet foremost, on a pig pen, the roof of which, being made of thin wood, gave with his weight and considerably broke the force of his fall. He has sustained severe internal injuries but, fortunately he has not fractured or dislocated any bones, which, considering the distance he fell (nearly 40ft) is extraordinary.

Thursday June 11th.

Distance 133 miles. Lat. 32°55S. Long 11°16W.

A steerage passenger named Greenwood, whilst engaged in hanging out some clothes to dry on the portside of the forecabin near the anchor chains, was swept overboard. Several buoys were thrown out to him, the ship "put about" and orders given to lower the life boat, which after about 8 minutes delay was safely done. Then, under the direction of Mr. Grey, proceeded in search for the missing man; in a short time returning, bringing with it the life buoys and several coats and caps which had been thrown overboard to mark the place near which the unfortunate man would probably be found. He has left a wife and child nearly destitute. A subscription was at once set on foot, Messrs. Bourne & Sargeant acting as canvassers, and in a short time collected £36.16.0. The Captain very liberally headed the subscription with £5 and offered the widow a passage home in the "Young Australia" when it returned. It was reported that Greenwood had all his money in his pocket when he was drowned (which was about £14); but when his effects were examined in the first cabin, the belt containing his purse was found.

to be continued.

Mrs. D. Ellis.

### IGI SEARCHES

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