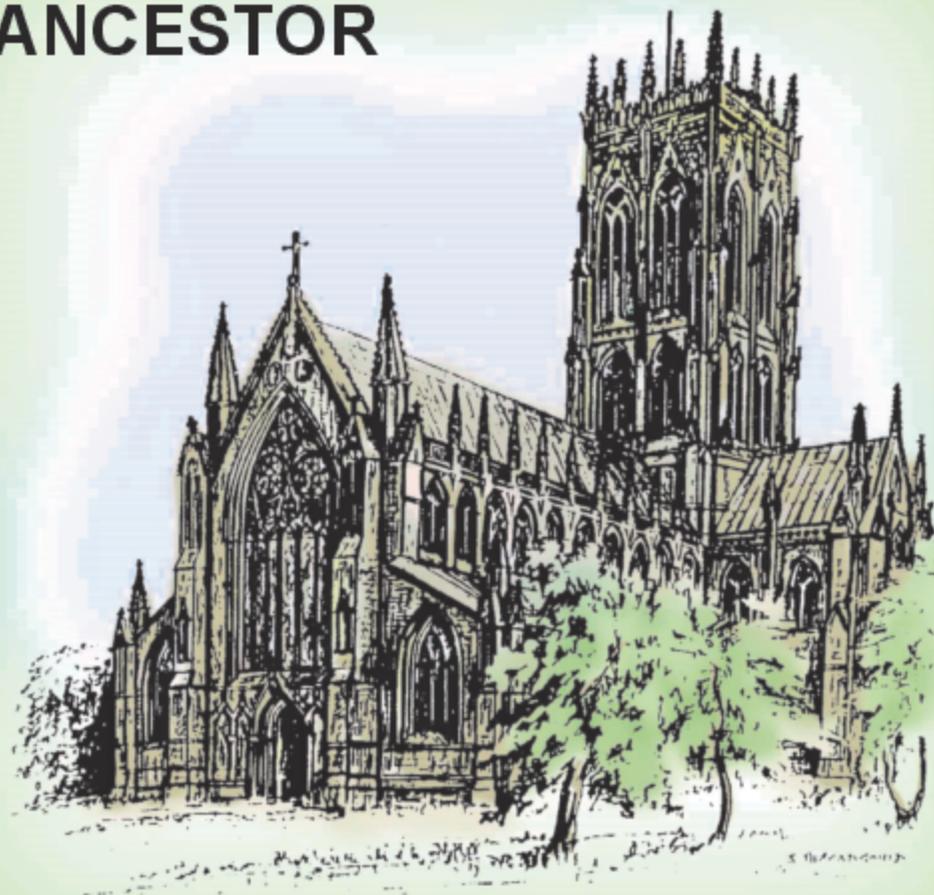


# THE DONCASTER ANCESTOR

ISSN 0144-459X



Doncaster Minster

S Threadgould

**The Journal of the  
Doncaster and District  
Family History Society  
1980 - 2019**

VOLUME 29 No 1 SPRING 2019

# DONCASTER AND DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

[www.doncasterfhs.co.uk](http://www.doncasterfhs.co.uk)

Registered Charity No 516226 Formed January 1980

**Patron:** The Bishop of Doncaster, The Right Reverend Peter Burrows  
**Vice Patron:** Archdeacon of Doncaster (Retired); The Ven. R A Fitzharris  
**President:** Derek A Palgrave MA FRHistS FSG

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Mr John Vessey, Mrs Stella Vessey.

*All general enquiries to the Secretary*

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*Doncaster Ancestor – Spring 2019*

# THE DONCASTER ANCESTOR

Journal of the Doncaster and District Family History Society

Free to Members

Volume 29 No 1

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Assistant Editor: Keith Crouter

Editorial Team: Karen Walker, Richard Cuell



## From the Chair



A Happy New Year to all! Although I know by the time you receive this Issue of Ancestor the new year will be well established. I hope you all had a good Christmas and 2019 is progressing well.

As ever we would welcome new volunteers for the Palgrave Research Centre so if you can manage a regular commitment during the week then please contact **June Staniforth**. If not then please come into the Centre and take advantage of the services of our two volunteers who are on duty every session – they will be more than happy to help you with your research and offer ideas for tackling those 'brick walls' and thinking 'outside the box'.

I was on duty at the Centre on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January and while looking at one of the reference books (we weren't very busy) I came across a photocopy someone had left in it. It was about a very old text of 1379 and was about the surnames in an area of West Yorkshire from which my family originates. This included my maiden name and there were only seven people of that name recorded!

So you never know what you might find in our Research Centre and sometimes serendipity will trump research. So please join us and see where it might lead.

**Roni Chapman**

**[chair@doncasterfhs.co.uk](mailto:chair@doncasterfhs.co.uk)**

**Deadline for the next edition is 8th April 2019 at the latest.**

Please send in any articles, preferably as a Word Document.

The journal is published at the end of February, May, August and November.

**Vol 29 No 2 Edition will be published at the end of April 2019.**



## From the Editor

Hello, and welcome to the spring edition of the Doncaster Ancestor. Let's hope that spring is in the air when this actually goes out to members and we can look forward to the warmer weather.

A Christmas party was held at the Palgrave Research Centre on the 29th November for the Computer Club and on the 13th December for all of the volunteers who help to keep the Society functioning.

As Roni has previously mentioned we continue to need volunteers; so please don't forget to look at page 29 for the Society vacancies. It is your Society and to continue functioning, we need your help. Due to personal circumstances we are in urgent need of a new secretary. Just a few hours now and then, is all that it takes to make life a bit easier for all the other volunteers.

Please don't forget to send in any articles that you think might be of interest to our members. Articles have been sparse on the ground this time, but luckily I had a few in reserve. Unless someone takes pity on me and writes some articles, then the summer Ancestor is also going to be rather sparse. I will put the begging bowl away now.

I must apologise about the split articles regarding the GRO on pages 12 & 31 but this only came in at the last minute and I thought it was important information.

**Jenny Ellis**

**[doncasterancestor@doncasterfhs.co.uk](mailto:doncasterancestor@doncasterfhs.co.uk)**

### **Disclaimer**

The Editor reserves the right to edit and defer items sent for inclusion in this journal. It is the contributor's responsibility to ensure that items submitted do not breach copyright laws. Opinions expressed in this publication are those of their author and not necessarily those of the Society.

# Palgrave Research Centre

The Palgrave Research Centre is situated at  
King Edward Road, Balby, Doncaster, DN4 0NA  
(sharing accommodation with Doncaster Archives)

All D&DFHS Publications and a vast collection of resources are  
available to view and copy, using our printers only.

Please note that unauthorised use of USB sticks, or photography of our  
resources is not allowed.

Ten computers and four microfiche readers can be booked for use and  
printer facilities are available

## Free Access to Ancestry.co.uk and Findmypast.co.uk with printer facilities

Entrance: £1 for members £3 for non-members

Monday	10.00 - 4.00*
Tuesday	10.00 - 4.00*
Wednesday	10.00 - 4.00*
Thursday	Closed
Friday	10.00 - 4.00*
Saturday	10.00 - 2.00

**Second Saturday of each month only**

\*The closing time for the Centre may be changed to 3.00pm on weekdays  
where no advanced bookings have been made.

**To Avoid Disappointment, Please Ring  
And Book Your Session**

**Research Centre Bookings:  
01302 311930**

**The next closure dates for the Palgrave Research Centre are:**

**Thursday 18th April - Tuesday 23rd April 2019  
Saturday 4th May - Tuesday 7th May 2019  
Saturday 25th May - Tuesday 28th May 2019**

**Access to the PRC is by way of 4 steps. It may be possible to arrange  
wheelchair access by prior appointment**

# Palgrave Research Centre

## New Acquisitions to our Library & Research Centre

The only magazines retained will be 'Who do you think you are'

### New Books for Shelf A

The History Makers, Hunter Archaeological Society.

### New Books for Shelf B

The Dresser Family

DMBC Emergency Plan, Peacetime Disasters

Carlton Memorial Inscriptions: St Mary's Parish Church, St Mary's Catholic Church

**AF/A48** National Memorial Arboretum Guidebook Edition 5

**UK/A87** Gypsies of Britain

**C/CHI03** Tracing your Channel Islands Ancestors

**D/242** North Doncaster Villages An Illustrated History

**DA/28** Ancestor Magazines 2018

**Thank you to everyone who has donated**

## Courses for 2019

We are looking at running some more courses this year, so if there is anything that you think would be useful to help you with your research, then please do let us know. **If people contact me**, then I will pass your details on to Karen who runs the courses. It has been disappointing when courses were arranged previously and people either dropped out at the last minute or didn't turn up on the day. Karen puts a lot of work into her courses.

Previous topics have included:

**Why isn't your Ancestor in the Parish Records?**

**Using Wills for your Research**

**The Victorian Underclass: Was Your Ancestor A Criminal?**

**Crime & Punishment – Transportation**

# Programme of Talks for 2019

**27<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**Winwaedfield, Whitby and Dracula by Eric Houlder**

Come along and hear Eric's talk with a difference.

**24<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

**The Secret Life of Charles Dickens by Pat Osbourne.**

Hear all about one of Britain's finest Victorian authors. His unusual family life and secretive history.

**29<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

**Reflections on a Great War by Paul Grimley.**

**26<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

**The History of Mining by Pat McLoughlin.**

**31st July**

**Story Tellers from the Workhouse.** Come & listen to more of the tales of the workhouse with the story tellers in costume acting the parts.

**August 2019 No Meeting**

**25th September 2019**

**The History of Liquorice by Tom Watkins.** Hear his story of the Wilkinson family the biggest growers of liquorice in the country. He was one of the last apprentice liquorice boilers to the firm.

**30th October 2019**

**A Funny Kind of Coffee Shop by Jane Price.** Jane will tell the story of a unique kind of coffee shop, how it started and what is it all about? Come along and find out more.

**Meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month  
at the Doncaster Deaf Trust  
Leger Way, Doncaster (opposite the Racecourse)  
7.00pm for 7.30pm**

**Please Note** - There will occasionally be a change to the pre-advertised speaker due to circumstances beyond our control. If you are coming to hear a specific talk, please check our website before you travel or contact:

**June Staniforth 07901 523 529**

Entrance is free to members and £3.00 to non members

## Recent Publications by D&DFHS

Society publications can be purchased by post (see inside back cover or our website for full details) or through GenFair at [www.genfair.com](http://www.genfair.com)

Please allow 21 days for delivery.

Goods can be returned within 14 days of receipt of order only if unopened, or found to be faulty, or if you have been sent a different item from that requested.

### Rawcliffe St James Parish Records and more

Baptisms 1691 to 1925  
Burials 1753 to 1962  
Marriages 1613 to 1940  
Monumental Inscriptions  
War Memorials  
Parish  
Poor Law Accounts & Payments 1740 & 1836  
Ownership Records 1800  
Militia Register 1759  
Universal Directory 1791  
Baines' Directory 1822  
White's Directory 1838  
Kelly's Directory 1857 & 1927

**CD 1128 Price £9.00 + p&p or from monthly meeting / PRC**

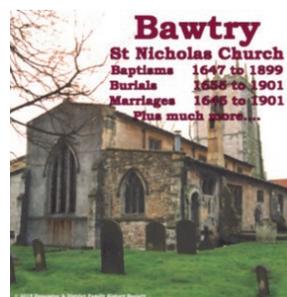
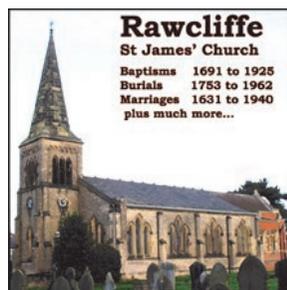
### Bawtry St Nicholas Parish Church now available as CD or download

Baptisms 1647 – 1899.  
Burials 1635 – 1901  
Marriages 1645 – 1901  
Monumental Inscriptions  
War Memorial  
Bawtry Methodist baptisms 1841 to 1907  
Pigot's National Directory 1834  
White's Directory 1837

**CD 1129. Price £9.00 + p&p or from monthly meeting / PRC**

### Please note: Monumental Inscriptions on all our CD's & downloads

The monumental inscriptions were taken from churches and churchyards within the Archdeaconry of Doncaster. They were originally transcribed and typed



between 1980 and 1990 and have not been edited or added to since. As may be expected, many of the inscriptions are no longer readable due to the passage of time, weathering, subsidence and vandalism. For safety reasons some of the headstones may have been taken down.

## **From the Postbag / via e-mail / Facebook**

Dave. What wonderful service. Thank you so much for sending this booklet to me so promptly. I am delighted to have it and to know your Fair was a success. It was so nice for us to meet old friends. My husband and I were both born in Doncaster, went to the High School and Grammar School, married in the Mansion House in 1961 then had 2 daughters both born in Doncaster before left the area in 1970 to live and work in London. Back to Yorkshire with a "foreign son" to live for the last 45 years in Scarborough where we enjoy our retirement. Thankfully we are still able to visit old friends in Doncaster as often as we can and enjoy meeting fellow members at York and other family history fairs. Best wishes to you and your fellow committee members and all your volunteers without whom we could not enjoy your excellent Ancestor magazines and all the publications. A big thank you to everyone involved

### **Pam Walgate, Member 133**

Pam was given the wrong book at the Fair, which we rectified.

Dear Editor, or may I call you Jenny?

I enjoyed the latest edition of The Doncaster Ancestor, congratulations.

On reading the article about the Doncaster Gazette, "Read all about it", it reminded me that a visit to the Local Studies section of Doncaster Library to peruse past local papers could possibly sort out an outstanding family history matter, but as I live near Inverness I wondered whether a local member could visit on my behalf and do a little research?

### **Bob Shannon, Member 4307**

I suggested that Bob contact the Local Studies Library to see if they could help him, but then he looked at the British Newspaper Archives again and found further information. His article can be found on page 21.

### **Jenny Ellis, Editor**

Good evening Doncaster FHS. I own **Old Yorkshire Maps**, a new Yorkshire-based start-up venture specialising in producing high-quality maps of old Yorkshire. I believe that the merchandise we offer would be of interest to your members. Currently we have fifteen towns and cities digitised, with more to come. Downloadable versions are also available and prices start from £6.

**Ian Gawthorpe**

**[www.oldyorkshiremaps.co.uk](http://www.oldyorkshiremaps.co.uk)**

I checked out the website and noticed that it wasn't secure. After I contacted them, they have now added a SSL Certificate and payment is by Paypal and they assure me it is now secure.

**Editor**

Dear Editor,

I try to attend as many monthly meetings as possible and over the years have noticed that one, Philip (Phil) **Pleace** did not appear to be there very often. He was the same age as my late father Wally (Walter) **Parker**, so assumed he was no longer with us, or settled into old age. My dad was born in 1919, so Phil would be about 99 years old. Attending a meeting in June, I spoke to Eleanora, who like me, went on lots of the London Family History trips that Phil used to organise. She told me that Phil had passed away in March.

Now I don't know if you have written an obituary (this letter arrived just as the Autumn Ancestor went out). Phil was a character, wasn't he? Always helpful but full of organising ability and enjoyment of life in general.

Two weeks ago, sifting through boxes of memories etc., I came across my father's RAF career bits and bobs and although I knew Dad and Phil joined the RAF together when 15/16 years of age in 1935, I came across an article Phil had written for the ex-members of the 33rd entry RAF Halton from their old boys' network news sheet. These news sheets were yearly from about 1981 up "until about 2003, and then of course, the members, as the news sheets regularly reported, went to their "FINAL POSTINGS"! Such a nice way of saying that they had passed away!

In 2002, Phil sent the following "article" to help fill the news sheet.

Philip "Tivvy" **Pleace**, who many may know is an old hand at Adult Education classes. He has studied Computers at Doncaster College and last year went on to GCE French and successfully passed the GCE exam. This year he is unravelling the mystery of taking the City and Guilds Computer Applications course. He tells us that as a student at Doncaster College, he is issued with a password and computers entirely free of charge. He has his own e-mail address and can access the internet and print his e-mails and his college work. "TIVVY" has accessed the 33<sup>rd</sup> Entry web site and corresponded with us en-

tirely by e-mail. We believe "TIVVY" would advocate an advice column to all members who would like to know a little more about computers and how to use them, What about it lads? In no time at all you could have sheets by e-mail.

Phil would have been about eighty-three years old then. I know he also used to help out with "snippets" for your magazine as well.

My father knew Phil from the three years they were at RAF Halton. They lost touch over the years, until they both joined the 33<sup>rd</sup> Reunion Club and Dad found that Phil lived in Doncaster, where my parents finally settled after their RAF years, I think in the early 1970s. The rest is history as they say.

It is an unfortunate fact that many of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Entry have remained untraced. One such, until the mid – eighties was Charles **Barber**. That is, until a group of aviation enthusiasts dug deep into the Rye marshes to exhume the remains of Spitfire X4784, and its Pilot Officer Charles Bertram **Barber**. Both had laid there since they had plummeted from the sky in 1942. Pilot Officer **Barber** was buried with full military honours at Finningley on 15<sup>th</sup> October 1986. The 33<sup>rd</sup> Entry was represented and its wreath in the form of an apprentice wheel bore the inscription, "One of Trenchard's Brats in honoured and respected memory from his fellow ex – brats of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Entry RAF Halton, 1936 -1938".

From the list of one thousand five hundred and ten candidates who sat the entrance exam for entry to be an Aircraft Apprentice, seven hundred made it through the three years of training. Amongst the documents I have, it details many from the Yorkshire area. I list just five where Doncaster is mentioned. Examination for the entry of Aircraft Apprentices- held 5<sup>th</sup> November 1935. 1510 candidates – 1029 successful:

Arthur Robert **Tatton** – Doncaster Junior Technical,

Harry **Tasker** – DJT,

Ronald Norris **Simpson** –DJT,

Charles **Hutchinson** – Doncaster Grammar,

Douglas **Barton** –DJT.

"**TIVVY**" was Phils RAF nickname, simply because he came from Tiverton in Devon, maybe many of the DDFHS members who knew Phil, knew this fact already!

As an addition, 33<sup>rd</sup> Entry RAF Halton, were known as Lord Trenchards BRATS (standing for Brotherhood, Resolve, Assurance and Tenacity), as I believe all who joined the apprentice scheme were known. The 33<sup>rd</sup> were also the last entry to wear the RAF uniform of pantaloons and puttees and a dog collar tunic. They were the last entry to witness a drumming out of the services and a public flogging on the barrack square. (This seems rather cruel by

today's standards, and my father still remembered it vividly for the rest of his years). 33<sup>rd</sup> entry was the only group not to have a passing out parade, due to snow covering the parade square at the time. The Apprenticeship scheme commenced at Halton in 1922 and ended in 1993 having trained over forty thousand boys to become "men".

At least two of the "boys", TIVVY & WALLY, had a long and happy life, in and out of the RAF, and my dad left some very interesting memorabilia!

**June Scott, Member 1646**

## **Tips for your Research**

### **GRO Indexes - Important Information**

#### **BIRTHS**

**1847 Q3** - the whole of volume 12 is missing except for the first page (about 3000 entries missing)

**1860 Q2** - entries from volume 4B have been duplicated as volume 6C in Q4 (about 3000 entries duplicated)

**1860 Q4** - all of the entries from volume 6C are missing (about 4000 entries missing)

**1881 Q3** - the whole of volume 3B is missing (over 5000 entries missing)

**1881 Q3** - the whole of volume 4A has been duplicated as volume 3B (over 7000 entries duplicated)

**1902 Q4** - most of the entries from volume 11A are missing (around 11000 entries missing)

#### **DEATHS**

**1863 Q1** - most of the entries from volume 2C are missing (about 2000 entries missing)

**1863 Q1** - entries from volume 1C have been duplicated as volume 2C (about 4500 entries duplicated)

## **Understanding how the GRO indexes were compiled:**

Until November 2016 there was only one set of GRO indexes for England & Wales, the quarterly indexes that were compiled soon after the end of each quarter. Many family historians, myself included, had the privilege of handling the original handwritten index volumes at the Family Record Centre, or at one of the previous locations where they could be inspected by members of the public, such as Somerset House or St Catherine's House. Some of the handwritten volumes were replaced with typeset printed copies when they deteriorated; later indexes were typewritten.

The information recorded in the indexes varied over time - for example, the age at death wasn't shown in the Death indexes until after 1865, and the mother's maiden name wasn't recorded in the birth indexes until the third quarter of 1911. Middle names were often abbreviated to initials. It's fair to say that the paucity of information in the early indexes often made it particularly difficult to identify the correct entries, leading to frustration and disappointment for researchers.

It's these original indexes which are online at FreeBMD, Ancestry and other sites. Findmypast's indexes are based on those originals but with some additions.

In November 2016 the GRO launched new indexes of historic births and deaths which were newly compiled from the registers they hold. Because they were compiled 'from scratch' it meant that errors and omissions in the original quarterly indexes were unlikely to be repeated, but inevitably new errors and omissions were introduced instead.

But the biggest benefit is the inclusion of information that was omitted when the original indexes were compiled - every forename is transcribed in full, and in the birth the mother's maiden name is shown from 1837 onwards (provided she was married to the father of the child). In the death indexes the age at death is shown from 1837 onwards - another significant improvement.

## **General Register Office Increase in Prices for Certificates**

The price of a birth, marriage or death certificate for England & Wales will increase on 16 February 2019 from £9.25 to £11.00. At the same time, the charge for the PDF version will rise from £6.00 to £7.00.

**Source: Federation of Family History Societies**

This information has been on our website since the beginning of January, so it is a good idea to keep checking it.

**[www.doncasterfhs.co.uk](http://www.doncasterfhs.co.uk)**

**Don't forget photocopies of some documents can be obtained from the Palgrave Research Centre. Digitised copies are 25p and microfiche copies are 50p.**

## Help Wanted

I was wondering if you may be able to help. My great-great grandmother was born in Hatfield in 1851, with her birth registered at Thorne, Yorkshire. Her birth certificate says that she was born Engine House, Low Grounds, Hatfield. Her father is noted on the certificate as being a coal miner.

I was wondering if you know anymore about this place? What was it? Is it still around? Are there any photos of it?

Many thanks for any help.

Kind regards,

**Estelle**

## Can You Help?

Up for a challenge? We need some volunteers able to give two or three hours to work in Doncaster Archives.

Members with a clinical background could help us to check the Health Authority Death Registers from 1855-1933 that have been transcribed and have patient diagnoses included.

Some of the diagnoses are no longer used, which is where the clinical knowledge is necessary.

The more volunteers we have the quicker we are able to get the information out. (There are 40,000)

**Please contact Lynn on 01302 784350 or [lynnsnowden70@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lynnsnowden70@yahoo.co.uk)**

**Lynn Snowden, Project Coordinator**

# Burghwallis, the Village Where I Live

Following a recent very interesting visit to our church, St Helen's, I began to think of village life in earlier times. Over the years I have collected information from church magazines, newspapers, the internet and of course other villagers.

Burghwallis dates back to Roman times. Our beautiful village church is dedicated to St Helen, the mother of Constantine the Great, the first Christian Roman Emperor. It is believed that Christian Roman soldiers were stationed in Burghwallis and that Helen may have broken her journey on her way from York to Rome.

The well-known television Professor, Michael **Wood**, believes that the real location of the Battle of Brunanburh took place on the south side of the A1 on the original site of Robin Hood's Well in Burghwallis parish. (I'm not arguing this point – there are said to be over 30 sites attributed to this battle and I suggest you use the internet or the Professor's books to make up your own minds). Robin Hood's Well monument erected by Sir John **Vanbrough** in about 1711 was moved a few yards south when the A1 was widened in the 1960s.

The Battle of Brunanburh is said to have been fought to seal England as a wholly Anglo-Saxon country. Athelstan, grandson of Alfred the Great, led the Anglo-Saxons to defeat the combined army of Vikings, wild Scots and Northumbrians in AD937.

Burgh in general means town or township in Old Norse or Old German. The parish is referred to in the Domesday Book simply as Burgh, becoming Burghwallis in the early 13<sup>th</sup> Century when Dionysia, one of seven surviving daughters of the local Lord, married into the **Wallis** family. The **Wallis** family line persisted through the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, by which time the name of the village was so far removed from that of the local aristocracy, which the succeeding **Anne** Family did not think to change the name. The name literally means "village of the **Wallis** family".

Forward to more modern times – the 19<sup>th</sup> Century:-

The Rev. Francis W **Peel** began his ministry in St Helen's Church in 1856. Thanks to his diaries we are told that since there was no school in the village he persuaded the Squire to let him adopt the old carpenter's shop for this purpose. In 1857 the school opened with twenty one pupils; the first school mistress was Miss E **Baker** from Burghwallis Farm. Sunday school meetings and dances were also held there. The Rector visited four mornings a week to

teach religious knowledge in addition to Sunday school.

He visited every house in the parish on a monthly basis leaving tracts and books as well as organising a library of children's books. The sick were visited weekly and daily when very ill.

On Christmas Day 1856, Christmas dinner was provided for the poor in the rectory kitchen and the children sang outside the house. The children were each given a penny and an orange.

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October 1858 saw the beginning of a day school feast with prizes in the summer and a Sunday school feast in the winter with tea, cakes, jam tarts etc. and buns and sweets on leaving. At the October 1858 feast twenty three children attended and 16lbs of current bread was apparently eaten.

Christmas 1860, Mummers (travelling players) came dressed up and there was singing and country dancing during the Christmas period.

On 27<sup>th</sup> May 1865, Rev. **Peel** tells us that we now have a letter box!! (That's all we have today plus of course the pub!) and that he picked one hundred and forty four apricots off the school tree. I wonder if the school children pinched any?

A diary entry for 1868 is very interesting but that is another story!

In 1871 during the winter there was a soup kitchen for the needy, once a week in the Rectory. When a baby was born, the mother was supplied with gruel and a bottle of port wine when convalescing. Many a dinner went out to the sick and pudding, (between two saucers) to the old people if they were very lucky

I really must go to the Archives where his diaries are kept – who knows what I might find there about life in the 1800s. The Rev **Peel** died in 1895.

In the early 1900s transport to Doncaster was a little difficult. A rather slow horse drawn carrier's cart passed though the village. The carrier was very obliging. You could travel to Doncaster in his covered cart or he would do your shopping for you, even waiting until the end of the market to collect "six pennyworth of pig's trotters or cow heels". It was later in the afternoon when you saw the weary horse and you could collect your shopping and hopefully your winnings if he had backed a horse for you. "Miss the carrier's cart on a Tuesday morning and it was a perishing' cold wait in winter until Saturday morning!"

**Jean Rounthwaite Member 3664**

# Daybreak



Daybreak was built in 1934 and was the last vessel built in the UK to carry cargo under sail alone. She was built for Thomas Hanley and Sons, a firm of flour millers based in Doncaster. Daybreak and her sister ship Danum, which was launched two years earlier in 1932, replaced two wooden Humber keels owned by Hanley's. Daybreak is 61' 6" long by 15' 6" beam, the maximum size that could be accommodated in the locks to Sheffield. She would carry a cargo of up to 110 tons on 7' draft. This would have been reduced to 100 tons after the engine was installed. She was built by Richard Dunstons Ltd at their yard in Thorne. She was constructed of riveted steel, although some welding was being introduced by this date and some non-structural elements, such as rubbing bands, were welded. This marked the beginning of a transition to fully welded vessels during the 1940s. A detailed description of the construction process can be found in 'A Life on the Humber – Keeling to Shipbuilding' by Harry Fletcher.

Daybreak was built to carry grain imported by ship to the docks in Hull to the Hanley's Mill in Doncaster. From 1937 she and her sister ship Danum would be towed on the tidal Humber by Hanley's Pride, Hanley's first motor vessel. Daybreak traded under sail until 1939 when, along with many other Humber keels at that time, she was fitted with a Lister JP2 diesel engine. Fortunately it was decided to take the engine room from the hold space, which meant that her traditional cabin was preserved. The predictability offered by having an engine, rather than being dependent on wind, meant keels no longer required living accommodation aboard. Unlike the families on narrowboats, keel men had homes ashore and many other keels at this time had the cabin removed, or moved to the foc's\* in order to install the engine whilst preserving the full carrying capacity.

When the engine was installed in Daybreak all the sailing gear was removed. Daybreak continued to carry grain from Hull to Hanley's Mill, which was later taken over by Ranks. The mill at Doncaster closed in 1969, the mill at Mexborough closed a few months later and the mill at Rotherham ceased to receive grain supplies by water in 1977, shortly after Daybreak had been sold out of trade.

Thanks to the Doncaster Local Studies Centre reference L.942-74 Don, and to Doncaster Civic Trust for the photograph.

**Keith Crouter, Member 1623**

**\*fo'c'sle is the contracted form of forecastle - which is a short raised deck at the fore end of the ship.**

# Hickleton Hall

I have been aware of Hickleton Hall for as long as I can remember. Along with the other stately homes dotted around Doncaster it was part of our childhood. My Auntie's Dad lived at Bolton on Dearne, or was it Goldthorpe? It was always referred to as Goldthorpe but I am not sure where the boundary is. They had the house next to the railway bridge and someone grew mushrooms in the air raid shelter between the house and the railway. Anyway, it depended which way the bus went as to whether we went past Hickleton Hall or not. Dad was always keen to point it out but I was not aware then of the reason for his interest.

It was a bit mysterious as it wasn't a place we visited but when I was older, about thirteen and in the Guides, we were asked to go and help out there. Apparently, there were some, "concentration camp," victims who had been brought as refugees to stay there. The place was in need of a thorough spring clean and we spent quite a time that summer scrubbing stone corridors and brushing down brickwork. I have an impression of an arched tunnel where we had to scrub the floor. We were warned to be mindful of the sensibilities of the people staying there. They had absolutely nothing in the world except for the things in their room so they were very protective of them. Personally, we found them willing to talk but we didn't attempt to go into the rooms. I came across a leaflet about the Hall in Dad's things which was from the "Forgotten Allies Trust" and was founded by Sue Ryder.

Later I found out that my Dad was stationed at Hickleton Hall in 1940 during the war. He and his twin brother were drivers in the Royal Army Service Corps and used to ferry the officers around. Being twins they would swop jobs sometimes and it confused the officers no end when they had apparently forgotten where they had been on a previous trip. There is also an autograph book signed by a group of soldiers who were stationed together and I intend to try and trace them when I find time!

I think that at one stage Dad was on embarkation leave and was in Largs, fully expecting to have to go to the Front, when his brother was involved in a motorcycle accident and had concussion. As was the custom, a bit like Private Ryan, they could "claim" a relative so Dad was summoned to the bedside and didn't go abroad. If he had, history might have been different. He could have been with Uncle Walter\* in Northern France and I wouldn't be sitting here talking to you.

When I was trying to find out about Dad's Regiment, or some of them, being stationed there I could only find the odd sentence such as, "In the second World War the house was the headquarters of 1 Corps after the Dunkirk evacuation in May 1940." Perhaps Dad and Uncle Bob were attached to them to drive the officers about.

Hickleton Hall has a very varied history. In the sixteenth century, there was a house called Hickleton Palace near the site which had been built for Judge

Francis Rodes.

The current Hall was commissioned in the 1740s by Godfrey Wentworth of Woolley who had bought the estate in about 1730. It was built by the famous architect, James Paine.

Servants' quarters were added in about 1777 with two low wings on either side of the main hall. There are five large reception rooms on the ground floor, a chapel and a huge staircase hall and sixteen bedrooms. On the lower ground floor are twenty-nine bedrooms, a laundry, game larder and workshop. There are even more bedrooms on the first and second floors.

On Wentworth's death his grandson, Godfrey Wentworth Armytage, inherited and changed his name to Godfrey Wentworth Wentworth. He became High Sheriff of Yorkshire from 1796 to 1797 but when his business failed he had to sell the Hall.

In 1828 Sir Francis Lindley Wood, 2nd Baronet of Hemsworth and Garrowby bought the property and on his death in 1846 it passed to his son, Charles, 3<sup>rd</sup> Baronet from 1800 to 1885. He was MP for Grimsby, Wareham, Halifax and Ripon, probably not at the same time! He became Chancellor of the Exchequer from 1846 to 1852 and was created Viscount Halifax in 1866. He died at the Hall in 1885 and it passed to his son and then his grandson, Edward Wood.

There is an interesting article written by Edward Wood, Earl of Halifax and published in 1957 about his life growing up at Hickleton Hall at the turn of the century when it was a family home. The Borthwick Institute holds the Wood papers and his account can be found under, "Life at Hickleton Hall" on the Internet. There are some responses to the article from people whose relatives had worked at the Hall and all report that Lord Halifax was well respected and popular in the area and reputed to be a good employer.

Lord Halifax opened the reading room of the hall for Belgian refugees from the war and the hall and grounds were used for soldiers convalescing from their injuries. It then continued for some time as a care home.

The Halifax family, however, preferred to live in their other property in Garrowby so in 1947 they sold the furniture and leased the Hall to St Hilda's Church of England School run by the Order of the Holy Paraclete Convent. There are some reminiscences from girls who had been pupils there in the responses to the article about life at the Hall.

There was an article in a Yorkshire Property paper on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014 by Storm Rannard describing a planning application to convert the hall into various apartments. It had been prepared in 2012 but only recently been approved.

From 1961 to 2012 the Hall and parkland were run by Sue Ryder Care as a Sue Ryder Home. It was put up for sale in 2014 for around £2million. During this time there was an archaeological dig in the grounds which was written up by Maiya Pina-Dacier on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2013 and called, "Prisoners of War in

Yorkshire". It is a very interesting read.

I have sent for my Dad's military record and am waiting to see if it sheds any light on his time at Hickleton Hall.

\*Uncle Walter was my Grandma's brother and I am writing about him in another article. He was Uncle to Reggie the Fireman who appeared in the Doncaster Ancestor.

**Janet McCulloch, Member 4063**

## **So You Think You Are British, Do You?**

Our guest speaker in October was John Taylor. John soon got us thinking about who we really are.

We all know the British icons, Buckingham Palace, The Tower of London, The Houses of Parliament to name but a few. Actually there are a few that are not strictly British. Our British Coat of Arms is also the Canadian Coat of Arms and even St George wasn't British he was born in Turkey.

What about the Rich & Famous, Vivian Lee, Cliff Richard, Spike Milligan all born in India. Then there are the footballers and managers, another League of Nations.

For those who pride themselves on being British through and through, well, probably not. Some of the first people to populate Britain were the Beaker People who migrated from Eastern Europe, settling into tribal villages with their own dialect. By the Norman Conquest we had a multitude of British Accents. Cook up a soup of the Angles, the Jutes, the Saxons, Romans, the Danes and Vikings. Our monarchs were Norman French, the official Court Language until 1362. It is still used in official documents written in the House of Lords today. Stir in a mix of people of the slave trade, Germans who stayed after the world wars, The Windrush Generation and various refugees.

Our place names indicate our mixed history, London, Chester, Doncaster, 'Thorpe', 'Toft', 'Thwaite'. Many towns still follow the old Roman linear roads. The Romans brought census, feet & inches, flushing toilets and introduced salt.

Our celebrated British food has a tale to tell too. Fish & chips, Belgium is the home of the French fry, battered fish is Portugese and mince pies are from Hungary.

John gave so much information in such a limited time and I am sure he could have gone on had time allowed. Thank you for a very informative and interesting talk.

**Lynn Snowden, Member 3909**

# Visit to the West Yorkshire History Centre

West Yorkshire History Centre is home to the Wakefield office of West Yorkshire Archive Service (WYAS) and is also home to one of the largest collections of records in the country covering the old West Riding of Yorkshire, the current county of West Yorkshire and the Wakefield district.

We started with an informative talk by David Morris, who is the Archivist based there. Apparently Wakefield is the third largest Archives in the country and of course he said that they were the best! David then proceeded to give us a brief outline of the records that they hold, which includes records for the West Riding Pauper Lunatic Asylums, for which they have won awards.

We then went on a tour to see how some of the material is stored and this was very impressive. If you want to view material, then this has to be ordered in advance, and you can certainly see why you need to do this, when you see the size of the place.

I had requested to look at some records prior to my visit and they were ready for me to view after we had finished the tour. It was the original records of my Gran, who had died in Storthes Hall Mental Hospital. I had previously obtained photocopies of these documents but it came as a surprise to me that I had only obtained her medical records and not all of the paperwork that I now found in front of me. I couldn't read all of the handwriting, but it was enough for me to work out what was being said. With hindsight, perhaps I would have been better not knowing this extra information. All I will say is that it made me view a member of my family in a different light.

I also noticed that I didn't have all the documents that I had photocopies for but it was soon arranged for me to view these. These were from Stanley Royd Hospital and contained the first photo that I ever saw of my Gran. She was smiling and I was filled with such emotion, even though I didn't know anything about her until a few years ago.

We all know that we need to view original documentation, but be aware that you might not always want to see what you find in front of you.

**Jenny Ellis, Editor**

# The Wizard of the St Leger Course

My grandfather James Shannon, was employed by Doncaster Corporation Parks Department in 1927 and by 1933 had been promoted to the post of Head Gardener at Hexthorpe Flatts, a large park adjoining the River Don. Whilst there he was instrumental in introducing a botanical garden, an open-air theatre and lighting, all of which were seen as being quite novel at the time. The Dell, a sunken garden within the park, was also probably enhanced during his time. In appreciation of his efforts at Hexthorpe Flatts it was suggested that a tree be planted as a tribute to him, but a local councillor apparently said no because *"the Dell itself is a monument to Mr Shannon"*. Fine words but a tree and a plaque would have been better!

James got the top job of Superintendent in the Parks Department in 1936 together with a princely salary of five pounds and five shillings a week. Now he was responsible for all parks plus the maintenance of Doncaster Racecourse. His obituary in the local newspaper noted that *"He lavished as much care on the Town Moor turf as on any of his favourite blooms in Doncaster Parks"*. He was particularly credited with getting the racecourse back into shape following its use by the Government during World War Two. The Doncaster Chronical, reporting on a full-dress rehearsal held in July 1946 for the St Leger meeting later in the year stated: *"despite the fact that it is less than four months since the course was being used as a prisoner of war camp and a barracks, there were few signs of Army occupation. The innovation of putting the course in the hands of Mr T Shannon, the Parks Supt, brought excellent results for the going was praised by jockeys and trainers, while the paddocks and parade ring had all the bright green and freshness of days gone by"*. Very flattering but a shame they got his initial wrong!



The St Leger classic later in the year was, apparently, a great success and James was presented to Princess Mary and Lord Lascelles, Earl of Harewood and invited to dine with them. The Doncaster Gazette on 19<sup>th</sup> September 1946 stated that *"Doncaster Parks Superintendent, Mr J Shannon, was summoned to the Royal Box on Friday afternoon where he received the congratulations of the Princess Royal on the wonderful display of new flower beds and rock gardens in the paddock"*. My Uncle Noel remembers his dad James planting a tree in the centre of the paddock and it having a plaque. Having checked the minutes of the Doncaster Parks and Racecourse Committee this would likely have been in the autumn 1947 and was a tribute to *"Officers of the Council having a close connection with the organisation of the racecourse"*.

This tree planting accolade may well have been in acknowledgement of his



work in laying out a National Hunt race course within the flat racing course. Jump racing commenced in 1947 at Doncaster and the Race and Airport Committee decided that the new hunt races should be named after nearby point to point venues and people who had made a significant contribution to racing locally. As a tribute to their Parks Superintendent they recommended that the second race on first day of the February 1947 meeting be named The Shannon Handicap Steeple Chase.

This Meeting was, however, rescheduled for early March, but regrettably had to be abandoned due to adverse weather conditions, so the first running of the race took place in 1948. James had kept a race-card from the Doncaster Races March Meeting 1948 which confirmed that The Shannon Handicap Steeple Chase was the fourth race on the card for the first day of racing. Incidentally the winner was Moon Tiger at 100 to 8.

4th RACE		Three Miles and 40 Yards	
THE SHANNON HANDICAP STEEPLE CHASE of 100 lbs. (to be run in seven heats of 12 to 14 runners each, the winner of each heat to advance to the final, which will consist of 12 runners, the winner of which will receive the title of Champion Steeple Chaser.) (To be run on the 10th March 1948.)			
1	SHANNON HANDICAP	12	7 black and gold horses
2	SHANNON HANDICAP	12	2 white and black, blue and red, and 1 to be Steeple-Chase Steeple Chase
3	SHANNON HANDICAP	11	10 grey, white, black, yellow, white, black and red, and 1 to be Steeple-Chase Steeple Chase
4	GALLOP	11	10 yellow, green, blue, and red, and 1 to be Steeple-Chase Steeple Chase
5	SHANNON HANDICAP	11	7 black, dark blue, white, and red, and 1 to be Steeple-Chase Steeple Chase
6	SHANNON HANDICAP	11	8 white, and 3 to be Steeple-Chase Steeple Chase
7	SHANNON HANDICAP	10	10 white, blue, black, and red, and 1 to be Steeple-Chase Steeple Chase
8	SHANNON HANDICAP	10	8 pink, light blue, white, and black, and 1 to be Steeple-Chase Steeple Chase
9	MOON TIGER	10	8 white, and 2 to be Steeple-Chase Steeple Chase
10	SHANNON HANDICAP	10	5 black, blue, white, and red, and 1 to be Steeple-Chase Steeple Chase
11	SHANNON HANDICAP	10	1 mixed, white, white, and red, and 1 to be Steeple-Chase Steeple Chase
12	SHANNON HANDICAP	10	8 blue, and 2 to be Steeple-Chase Steeple Chase
13	SHANNON HANDICAP	10	8 black, white, and red, and 1 to be Steeple-Chase Steeple Chase

On his death in 1955 “family legend” had it that Councillors attending the funeral were so scandalised on finding the woman James had presented as being Mrs Shannon for many years was not his wife that they discontinued the race named in his honour. A trawl through the British Newspaper Archive reveals that this story is just that! The race was run every year from 1948 through to at least 1964 and I suspect the name may have been discontinued simply because the owners of the race course were seeking sponsorship money for various races.

His vision and gardening expertise in developing, improving and maintaining public parks throughout Doncaster was clearly much appreciated but “to the Doncaster racegoer he was the Wizard of the St Leger course”. The three year period up to his retirement in 1948 was perhaps the most challenging and rewarding time of his career as he helped transform the Doncaster Racecourse into becoming a first-class venue for both flat and jump racing. Naming a race after him was, perhaps, the very least the Doncaster Corporation could do to honour him.

1. Town Moor was the original name of Doncaster racecourse.
2. James lived with Sarah A Kirk, known as “Cis”, for at least 20 years was known locally as Mrs Shannon.
3. Taken from his obituary in the local newspaper.

**Bob Shannon, Member 4307**

# Uncovering the Past

In the Autumn edition of "Ancestor" we published an article "Uncovering the Past" about the work that Roy Dresser and his friend, Robert Barker, are doing in uncovering gravestones in the churchyard of St James Parish Church, Rawcliffe.

One of our members, Robin Sutherland (Member No 1071) read it with interest. He is also a supporter of the Moray Burial Ground Research Group (MBGRG), which was founded in 2003 with the task of surveying every burial ground in Moray, and includes part of the historic county of Banff, some one hundred and forty burial sites. Over the years MBGRG came across many buried gravestones and has developed a method of uncovering them safely so that they are not damaged, and techniques for reading even the most weathered of inscriptions. They had prepared a manual of their methods and equipment, for themselves and others.

Robin recognised that that manual could be of use to Roy and Robert and sent a copy to me which was passed to Roy and he has been very pleased to receive it and has found it very useful.

I want to thank Robin for this help and MBGRG for their expertise. It is encouraging to know that members are able to support and help each other, not only in finding ancestors in parish records and in census information but also in associated areas of research. These will all help others in their searches in the future.

**Lynn Snowden, Project Co-ordinator**

## World War One Medal Returned to Happy Family

This is the headline that was published in the Doncaster Free Press on 22nd November 2018.

It all began when Doncaster Family History member Anne **Vause-Brown** and Harold **Edwards**, both volunteers with the Scunthorpe Hospital League of Friends Committee, found a curious spectacles case at the back of a filing cabinet which they were emptying, when moving to a new store room in the hospital. It contained two medal ribbons, one with the medal attached. Previous members were asked if they knew anything about the medal, but nobody did. Harold has now passed away and Anne has retired. Anne asked for the

help of Tim Davies of Scunthorpe Central Library Services and Jenny Ellis, Editor of Doncaster and District Family History Society Ancestor magazine to try and return this medal to the family. Anne is a long standing member of this Society and says she is grateful for all the help that she has received from them over the years.

The medal was inscribed "9329 Pte J.C. **Fotheringham**, Linc. R", and shows the winged figure of Victory on the obverse, embossed on the reverse with the words "The Great War for Civilisation". The medal with ribbon is the *Victory Medal 1914-19*, a bronze medal awarded to all those who were posted to a theatre of war



in WWI. All those who received the Victory Medal would have automatically also received the *British (or Allied) War Medal 1914-1920* (a silver medal awarded to all those who left their home shores for military service.)

Joseph Charles **Fotheringham** was born in East Retford Registration District in 1894, to John William and Ada Fotheringham and was baptised on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June that year at the parish church in Gringley on the Hill.

According to his medical index card<sup>1</sup>, Pte **Fotheringham** served in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Garrison Battalion, Notts & Derby Regiment (but apparently with the "Poachers" his main regiment). The medal card indicates that he was part of the British Expeditionary Force. At the outbreak of war the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lincolns were in Bermuda and had to be recalled, joining the BEF in France in November 1914 as part of 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade / 8<sup>th</sup> Division<sup>2</sup>. This Division served entirely on the Western Front, including at the battles of Neuve Chappelle, The Somme, Passchendaele (3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of Ypres, St Quentin and Arras<sup>3</sup>

Tim Davies of Scunthorpe Library Services supplied all the war information and this was added to the Imperial War Museum's digital archive "Lives of the First World War".

Joseph **Fotheringham** survived the war and married Dorothy **Swann** in Doncaster District in 1920; and in the following years, had three sons and two daughters. They spent some years in the Blaxton / Finningley area and Joseph died in Doncaster in 1962.

Family history research is usually about trying to find ancestors for people, so trying to find living descendants is a different type of challenge, but this was very important, as we needed to return the medal to a living relative.

This took some time, working down through each of the different families and without certificates, it is difficult to prove. Eventually I thought that I had found a granddaughter, so contacted various people via Ancestry, without success. I then emailed a previous Fotheringham contact and he kindly put a message on social media for me. Although a **Fotheringham**, he wasn't a direct line relative but he managed to get Joseph's granddaughter to contact me.

Zoe **Foster** from Scunthorpe is the daughter of Henry Royce **Fotheringham** and initially didn't know much about her grandfather. This has changed over the past few months and she has since supplied me with a photo of Joseph Charles Fotheringham taken in 1914.



Unfortunately, Anne **Vause-Brown** wasn't well enough to present the medal to Zoe, so requested that I hand it over to her at the Palgrave Research Centre, home of Doncaster Family History Society. This happened on 12th November 2018, one hundred years after the end of the First World War. Zoe was very grateful for all the work that had been completed to ensure the medal was returned to the family. She had a few old family photos and I was able to tell her that they were of her great grandfather and grandmother.

### **Jenny Ellis, Editor**

1. National Archives, Armed Forces Service Records WO372/7

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/D3538352> [accessed September 2018]

2. Major-Gen. C. R. Simpson, "The History of the Lincolnshire Regiment, 1914-1918"; Medici Society Ltd, 1931

3. The Long, Long Trail: Order of Battle of Divisions

<http://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/army/order-of-battle-of-divisions/8th-division/> [accessed September 2018]

## Maid in China

As members of this society and readers of this journal we celebrate our ancestry by researching documents and keeping records, photographs and memorabilia of our relatives. However, in China it is the tradition to burn incense and pretend money at the tombs of ancestors on special occasions, such as, New Year and 'Tomb Cleaning Day'. Also, during the spring festival relatives tend to picnic by the graves of their ancestors to celebrate their heritage. In some of the fast growing cities, the ancestors' tombs may now be located the middle of a busy pavement; no matter, small fires will still spring up beside them. The city of Baoding has an old military museum, rather neglected as it was the headquarters of the Guomindang force who opposed Chairman Mao. Even so their graves are kept tidy and there is a plaque with the inscription: "Those who fought for their country will be remembered and incense will be burnt in their names for a thousand years."

I saw this for myself on my adventures in China, visiting my son and his young family who live there. They came to stay with us for a month, bringing their baby daughter Faye, to visit her English ancestors. I then returned with them for a couple of weeks in China and nothing could have prepared me for that journey!

It began with a two hour taxi ride to Manchester Airport, followed by a two hour flight to Helsinki where I encountered Sven Joran **Erickson** and the woman who used to run the knicker factory in Coronation Street, (her name escapes me, and they were not 'together'), at the Bureau de Change before the final long haul to Beijing. Whilst 'Sven', the Official Coach of the Chinese National Football Team, was comfortably ensconced in 'Business Class', we were cramped up in 'Economy' with my grandbaby who managed the fantastic feat of crying continually for ten hours without ceasing: someone should really have notified the Guinness Book of Records. However, this experience paled into insignificance when we finally arrived in Beijing and managed to meet up with the 'pre-arranged' taxi driver and embarked on a four hour drive to Baoding which should have taken one.

Initially I was surprised to find that there was not enough room in the car boot for all our bags and that one large suitcase was placed in the front seat, meaning that all four of us passengers were sardined into the back. Secondly, I was startled to find that there was no 'baby seat' for Faye who travelled on her mother's knee as she had on the flight, maintaining the same pitch of pitiful wailing as before. Thirdly, I was shocked to find that even though all cars are fitted with seat belts, (indeed Baoding is a city famed for its manufacture of many European cars that will not start without the seat belts fastened), our driver preferred to unfasten his, once the car was in motion. Seat belts are clearly for the faint hearted and that is something I learned not to be when traveling in China. Nevertheless, the taxi stopped/ broke down no less than four times during our ride 'home'. The first time the car stopped was when the Satellite Navigation 'broke' and our driver then phoned his dad for directions.

He proceeded to continue the journey with one hand on his mobile phone and one on the wheel. Sometimes he actually had no hands on the wheel, as he gesticulated frantically to his father or rather more worryingly, clutched his prayer beads. The second time we stopped, our driver pulled off the Chinese equivalent of a motorway and with a cheerful shrug of his shoulders, took out a spanner and proceeded to batter the car engine with it. Thirdly we stopped for a 'comfort break' which was my first initiation into Chinese public toilets. I have no words. Finally, we stopped to re fuel and pump up the tyres. At last we entered the city, where there were many buildings in disrepair, whether in the process of being knocked down or built up, was hard to discern. Ultimately, to my enormous relief, we stopped at the Hebei University Community compound where my son lives.

Feeling beyond exhausted and all senses completely numbed, I really needed a lie down on a comfortable bed and duly, I was shown into a lovely guest bedroom. It had a balcony and pleasant view of the city, a desk, Apple Mac computer, a chair and a rail for my clothes, a bed and no mattress. Wait a minute? No mattress? Apparently the Chinese do not favour the large soft mattresses that are popular in this country; indeed I was informed that my son's seventy year old mother in law had slept on that very bed with no complaint: what was the problem? My son James sat down in the bed next to me, he patted the hard board and smiled ruefully, 'this isn't going to work, is it Mum?' and once again, I found myself lost for words.

My hosts took me to a hotel, 'China does Travel Lodge' for a few hours whilst they went out and bought a mattress. There it was that I finally showered, and comatose, in star fish position, I lay on quite a comfortable bed. Chinese television blared out in the background. There was a subtitled historical documentary about the war with Japan; a Jackie Chan film set in Hong Kong, (I now know the true meaning of torture) and an animated tale that appeared to be about a wolf, two sheep and a hunter, but I'm not sure, although at that point I thought I understood every word. Jet lag is a terrible thing. Finally I slept.

By law I was not able to spend the night in the hotel without informing the police of my change of address. Just before midnight, there was a knock on my door, and Shuting, my daughter in law, stood beaming in the corridor, 'I have come to pick you up, Mum' she said, 'On the electric bike'. There began another, albeit short, yet eventful journey. As we whizzed through the night time traffic without helmet or harness, I clung to Shuting's back and shut my eyes tight, listening with mild panic to the constant blaring of horns, hoots and hollers of other travellers on the busy streets. At last we were 'home'.

'Born to be daft!' I eventually became accustomed to travelling on the electric bike by the end of a holiday in which I experienced China via various forms of transport. There was the ultra-modern 'Uber Train'. This high speed, super locomotive shot like a silver scud missile through the countryside in luxurious comfort. Here, the 'trolley dollies' were the most delicate damsels; exotic blooms they were flawlessly beautiful in their bright burgundy uniforms, exquisitely groomed and glamorous, smiling and serene. Even the cleaners

were smartly dressed in co coordinating overalls and courteous in their demeanour. There was television in both English and Mandarin and the repetition of a decidedly disturbing message: 'Welcome to the High Speed Train! Remember, if you do not reach your destination, you cannot get off.' Going from the sublime to the ancient 'sleeper train', on one journey I also travelled on the antithesis of the 'super train', an antique piece of rolling stock which actually broke down just outside Beijing and was not fixed for an hour! Then there was the infamous underground train, which believe me, had there been any other way of reaching our destination, even a cattle prod could not have persuaded me on board. Inside, we were packed like pickled lychee. Hot and humid, it was so crowded that there was not a hand hold free. I just had to cling onto my son for my sanity! Laughing at our discomfort, he said he was very proud of me after that experience!

At every station we were checked for weapons and ID by guards monitoring all travellers. The bags go on a conveyor belt, then the passengers walk through a scanner, are frisked and body scanned; then people are herded into a waiting room and through the ticket barrier. At the right time, you go onto to the right platform, into the right carriage and sit in the right seat, remembering that 'if you do not reach your destination you cannot get off', otherwise they shoot you! The Chinese lack of regard for personal space and capacity for continual queuing, standing and waiting were all new to me. In the United Kingdom, someone would have thrown a punch: in China, the atmosphere was peaceful, patient, and perpetual delays to be expected.

During my stay, I visited fairy tale Lily pond gardens and mountain palaces, such as Hua Qing Palace, reminiscent of the Jade one in the Kung Fu Panda films. I stood on Tiananmen Square, walked in the cool, quiet atmosphere of ancient monuments and museums and visited the Terracotta Army in Xian. There were Buddhist temples within gardens graced by fountains playing to music. Cherry blossom trees adorned the scenery, casting their pale pink petals softly like snowflakes in summer. At Hua Qing Palace, a coach load of Chinese Army recruits alighted for a day of sight-seeing. The Captain lined them up and then clearly indicated that they could split up and enjoy their day out. However, so tightly were they disciplined that they were unable to simply relax and could be seen in small groups of three or four, standing straight and tall, and still, subconsciously, in step with each other. James told me that during their first year of university, Chinese students are drilled by the Army every morning before classes commence and must maintain a certain level of fitness during their studies otherwise they are not granted their degrees. Hmm! I wonder how that would work in this country.

Our tour guide, Mr Hong, spoke with the rapid quick fire motion of a machine gun, and my son James, who tried very hard to keep pace and translate for me, eventually grew exhausted and resorted to murmuring wearily, 'Now we are looking at an old tree', 'Now we are looking at more old Chinese stuff'. Mr Hong held a large blue flag with which to keep us together and a whistle to keep us under control. There were one or two families with rather naughty

little boys in our party and the whistle was blown furiously and frequently in their direction. If the boys were well behaved they were allowed to hold the flag to assemble the group. On one occasion we were informed that under no circumstances must we enter a small garden where there was a miniature version of Da Ming Palace, a place famous for its location on the 'Silk Route' to Samarkand, now part of Turkmenistan. The Palace was modelled of wood and therefore rather fragile, however we were able to view it from a platform. When the naughtiest little boy in the party, a chubby chap, resembling Po of Kung Fu Panda fame, actually did set foot in the garden, Mr Hong almost swallowed the whistle! He warbled in furious frenzy and leapt off the platform to march the miscreant out again. Back at the hotel in Xian, James and I watched more Jackie Chan films, I had no idea that he had made so many, and they were really, really bad.

My holiday came to an end as I picnicked on The Great Wall. I ate my 'Lays crisps', 'chicken that tastes like fish', (or was it fish that tastes like chicken?), and dried peach slices, (purchased from 'Yes Buy' supermarket). I munched my 'European Cheese' sandwiches made from pale processed cheese slices with a picture of Tower Bridge London, on the packet, and I knew that I my holiday was now the stuff of legend for:

"If you have never been to The Great Wall you shall not be considered a hero." Mao Zedong

My ancestors would have been proud of me!

**Ruth Scott – Chambers, Member 4292**

## Computer Group

The computer group meets most Thursdays at 10.00am and covers a wide variety of topics which the members have discussed and agreed will help them in their research.

The first talk of the New Year was by Clive who discussed and showed ways to organise data, after all what is the point in collecting lots of information about your ancestors and then you can't find it. I'm sure we have all done that at sometime. A discussion followed with people discussing the different ways that they found the most useful for storing their data. The consensus was that you need backups for whatever you have collected. Different software packages were also discussed.

George gave us his usual snippets, with lots of interesting information.

Feel free to join us and have a chat over a cuppa and biscuits.

**Jenny Ellis, Editor**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I was hoping you would be able to let your members know about our event in April.

We are organising our second Liddiard Gathering, in 2016 when we held our last one, over 200 attended and we are hoping for the same this time. Anyone with Liddiard ancestors of any spelling will be most welcome.

## **Do you have any Liddiard, Lidiard or Lydiard (or any other spelling) amongst your ancestors?**

We would like you to join us for our second family gathering to celebrate the family. There are lots of activities planned for the weekend, including displays of trees, photographs, talks on the Liddiard family and many other activities. A bus trip to other Liddiard locations is planned on the Sunday.

For all enquiries and to receive the full programme for the weekend and cost contact :

**Liddiard Family History Society at [info@liddiard-family-history-society.org](mailto:info@liddiard-family-history-society.org)**

Regards **Karen Rogers**

**President of the Liddiard family History Society**

Hi Jenny

Hope you are well. I just wanted to let you know that I have a new story, which is out now. It is called **The Asylum** and is a short prequel to **Hiding the Past** (book #1), therefore a great place for new readers to start!

The story is currently 99p on Amazon, but you can offer your society a FREE digital copy if they visit my website:

**[www.nathandylangoodwin.com](http://www.nathandylangoodwin.com)**

For those people that don't know, Nathan writes Genealogical Crime Mysteries and has asked me to review several of his books, which I have written up in the Ancestor. I have enjoyed reading them but with the link above, you can make up your own minds.

I haven't had chance to read it yet, as I only received the message when I was preparing this Ancestor for the printers. Please let me know what you think.

**Jenny Ellis, Editor**

# GRO Indexes Part Two

## Things to bear in mind when using the new indexes:

The various fuzzy-matching search options don't work very well - don't expect to be able to find mistranscribed entries.

- The GRO search only returns a maximum of 250 results, but you won't be warned if there are more results that aren't shown.
- The age at death of children under one year old may be shown incorrectly - there is nothing to indicate when the age is in days, weeks, or months rather than years.
- Births identified as illegitimate are treated differently - nothing is shown in the mother's maiden name field.
- In the early years of civil registration (prior to 1850) it isn't always obvious from a birth register entry whether the parents of the child were married, so in some cases illegitimate births will appear in the index as if they were legitimate, and in others legitimate births will appear in the index as if they were illegitimate.
- Occasionally the name of the registration district will differ between the new indexes and the old; usually it's simply a different way of saying the same thing, but where boundaries have changed it may be a different district altogether.
- Don't make the mistake of looking at an entry in the original indexes and trying to predict how it might have been mistranscribed - it won't be the same handwriting as in the register.

But despite the flaws in the new indexes they've proved amazingly useful, allowing researchers to reduce or eliminate the possibility of ordering the wrong certificate, and sometimes providing so much information that it isn't necessary to order the certificate at all!

**Source: Lost Cousins. Please also see page 12**

# Gift Aid Reminder

As we are now getting round to subscription renewal time, can I ask that if you have previously allowed us to claim Gift Aid on your subscriptions and you are no longer a UK tax payer you inform Alec Graves, our membership secretary. Similarly, if you are unsure whether you have allowed us to claim on your behalf, please contact Alec to find out.

[ddfhsmemberships@doncasterfhs.co.uk](mailto:ddfhsmemberships@doncasterfhs.co.uk)

Thanking you for your cooperation.

**Christine Lockyer, Treasurer**

## Your Help Needed Now - Society Vacancies

The following vacancies are now available:

**Postal Sales Organiser** – Lynn Snowdon has now taken over from Dave.

**Annual Fair Lead Organiser** – Alec Graves has now taken on this role but we still need volunteers to help him with this, as this is the biggest annual event for our Society.

**Advertising ‘Manager’** – we need someone to publicise the activities of our Society, from monthly meetings, courses, our fair and any other events. This can be done without regularly attending committee meetings and mostly from home.

**Vice Chairman** – this role will be vacant by the time this edition is published

**Treasurer** - this role will become vacant in February 2020, which might seem a long way off, but the Society cannot function without a treasurer.

**Secretary** - this role will become available at the end of February 2019, so it is important that we fill this role as soon as possible.

If you are able to help with any of the above or would just like to discuss what is involved in more detail then please contact any committee member. Thank you.

## Members' Interests

Detailed are new or revised "Members' Interests". At the end of each line is the membership number of the person researching that name. The names and contact details for each member are available from: Members' Interest Enquiries (see inside back page).

Please note that Chapman codes have been used for counties. Full details of the Chapman Codes can be found on our website, If you do not have access to the internet, please contact a committee member to obtain a written copy.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Member</b>
Slater	WRY	Doncaster	1890-1920	4357
Slater	WRY	South Elmsall	1840-1900	4357
Ramsden	WRY	Rotherham	1750-1900	4357
Hinchcliffe	WRY	Sheffield	1750-1900	4357
Robson	WRY	Doncaster	1880 onwards	4358
Robson	WRY	Leeds	1880 onwards	4358
Robson	NRV	York	1880 onwards	4358
Wilcox	WRY	Doncaster	1800 onwards	4358
Willcock	WRY	Doncaster	1800 onwards	4358
Crowcroft	WRY	Doncaster	1850 onwards	4358
Blackshaw	WRY	Doncaster	1850 onwards	4358

## Findmypast

Findmypast, has launched their partnership with leading British DNA testing firm, Living DNA, to create a new biogeographical ancestry experience to help family historians explore their worldwide and British and Irish roots.

This allows users to map their biogeographical heritage and make brand new discoveries about their family history, with access to Findmypast's collection of over 9 billion historical records and newspaper articles, supporting the genetic expertise of Living DNA. This is priced at £79.

## New Members

Listed below are the names, and membership numbers of members who have recently joined the Society. We extend a warm welcome to them and wish them good luck in their personal research.

Member	Title	First Name	Surname
4355	Mr & Mrs	J	Hepworth
4356	Miss	M	Wigglesworth
4357	Mr	D	Brown
4358	Mr	M	Charles
4359	Mrs	M	Baker
4360	Mrs	J	England
4361	Mrs	J	Robinson
4362	Mr	R	Gaffney
4363	Mr	J T	Harrington
4364	Mr & Mrs	D	Skillcorn
4365	Mr	S	Poulter

## Unwanted Certificates

The Society will be pleased to receive your unwanted certificates. These can be sent to the Unwanted Certificate Co-ordinator, see inside back page for contact details, brought to the Palgrave Research Centre or taken to a monthly meeting. A list of donated unwanted certificates is available on the Society's website [www.doncasterfhs.co.uk](http://www.doncasterfhs.co.uk)

Donated certificates can be purchased for a fee of £1 plus postage. Please contact the Unwanted Certificate Co-ordinator for further information.

# Dates For Your Diary

**April 2019**

**Family Tree Live**

Alexandra Palace

London N22 7AY

**26 - 27th April 2019**

**May 2019**

**Chesterfield Family History, Local History Heritage & Crafts**

The Proact Football Stadium

Chesterfield

S41 8NZ

**18th May 2019**

**June 2019**

**The Family History Show**

York Racecourse

York, YO23 1EX

**22nd June 10 - 4.30**

**October 2019**

**Doncaster & District Family History Fair with Crafts**

**12th October 10 - 4.00**

**Remember to check with the organisers before you travel**

## D&DFHS Subscription Rates 01 Apr 2018 - 31 Mar 2019

Please make all cheques/postal orders etc. payable to: <b>Doncaster &amp; District Family History Society</b> Send to Membership Secretary - see back page or <b>www.genfair.com</b>	Individuals	£10.00
	Family in same house	£12.00
	Institutions UK	£12.00
	<b>Overseas</b>	
	Electronic journal	£12.00
	Paper journal	£15.00
	Journal by airmail	£20.00

**New Members who join January - March can receive up to 3 months membership free**

## D&DFHS Research Service

Research is defined as a “look-up” service (see form for full details) and is limited to items held in the D&DFHS Palgrave Research Centre.  
(including the D&DFHS publications and CDs)

**All applications must be made on the prescribed form - download a form from the website [www.doncasterfhs.co.uk](http://www.doncasterfhs.co.uk) or contact:**

### D&DFHS Research

49 Barnby Dun Rd  
Wheatley Hills  
Doncaster  
DN2 4QW

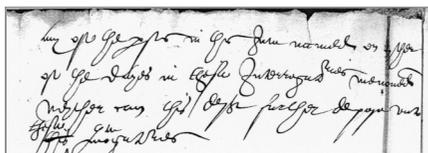
### Cost for members

UK applications £5, Overseas applications £7  
(one event, one record)  
Price includes postage and provision of a print (up to 3 sheets A4 size)

**Separate charges apply to non-members**  
(see website for details)

## Transcription Service

**That Will you have ordered or downloaded  
Can you read it? We can!**



The Old Documents Reading Group are offering a Transcription Service of wills, inventories, deeds, indentures and other old documents, including ones that you have part-transcribed but just cannot make out that last bit.

Competitive charges. Send a photocopy of your documents (NOT the original) for an estimate of the cost to:

**Philip Langford, 45 The Avenue, Bessacarr, Doncaster, DN4 5JZ**  
**Tel: 01302 539194 or email [readolddocs@aol.com](mailto:readolddocs@aol.com)**

## CONTACT DETAILS

### **Membership Secretary & Vice Chairman**

Alec Graves 49 Barnby Dun Rd, Wheatley Hills,  
Doncaster, South Yorks DN2 4QW  
01302 327725  
ddfhsmemberships@doncasterfhs.co.uk

### **Vice Chairman**

Dave Valentine Badger's Bench, Top St,  
North Wheatley, Retford, Notts, DN22 9DE  
01427 880934

### **Bookstall Organiser**

Alec Graves 01302 327725 sales@doncasterfhs.co.uk

### **Exchange Journals**

Mrs Carol Rollin 21 Welbeck Rd, Bennetthorpe,  
Doncaster, South Yorks, DN4 5EY  
01302 342239

### **Members' Interests Enquiries**

George Hiley c/o 49 Barnby Dun Rd, Wheatley Hills,  
Doncaster, South Yorks, DN2 4QW  
membersinterests@doncasterfhs.co.uk

### **Publicity Officer**

Position Vacant events@doncasterfhs.co.uk

### **Society Library & Assistant Editor**

Keith Crouter 21 Sandall Park Drive, Wheatley Hills,  
Doncaster, South Yorks, DN2 5RP  
01302 342301

### **Unwanted Certificates Co-ordinator**

George Hiley c/o 49 Barnby Dun Rd, Wheatley Hills,  
Doncaster, South Yorks, DN2 4QW  
unwantedcertificates@doncasterfhs.co.uk

### **Web Site Co-ordinator**

George Hiley webadmin@doncasterfhs.co.uk

Please do not telephone Committee Members and Volunteers after 9.00pm

