

Nottinghamshire Family History Society



Wysall Church 2018

PROGRAMME 2020

Date	Speaker	Title
15 January	David Dunford	The Reluctant Builder – a house history that became a family history
19 February	Peter Hammond	Belvoir Angels: A grave story.
18 March	Brian Lund	Postcards and Family History
15 April	Steve Zaleski	Carl Huslett and Ellen Maria Beaver: two family history mysteries solved

Journal

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The deadline for the next issue is 1st March 2020

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The observations and opinions expressed in the various articles and notices in this Journal are those of their authors and not necessarily those of the Society.

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Nottingham Family History Society Annual General Meeting 2020

Notice is hereby given that the 2020 AGM of the NFHS will be held at the Nottinghamshire Archives, Castle Meadow Road, Nottingham on Wednesday 20 May 2020 commencing 7.00pm.

The business of the meeting is to receive reports from the Honorary President and Honorary Secretary; to receive a report, including a financial statement, from the Honorary Treasurer; and to elect an Honorary President, an Honorary Secretary, an Honorary Treasurer and 6 Council Members for 2020-21.

The business meeting will be followed by Peter Hewlett:
'Researching Surnames'.
Refreshments will be available.

From the President

Well another year has been and gone! Where does the time go? Certainly from a personal family history point of view things have moved slowly, but that's how it goes. Sometimes new discoveries are made in quick succession and at other times there seems little to go on. Mind you, I did discover another historical newspaper website (www.ukpressonline.co.uk) that features not only some mainly 20th century newspapers but also one of the main Methodist weekly publications entitled The Watchman which has now been digitised between when it commenced publication in 1835 through to 1884. I paid for a one month subscription on special offer, and was delighted with the search results, unearthing a good number of new facts concerning Nottingham Methodists in this period, including more concerning my own paternal great-great-great-grandfather. So those of you with Methodist ancestors might like to check this website out!

Of course all of us from time to time have to deal with the passing of loved ones (to then 'join our ancestors' to coin a popular phrase). But through this, heirlooms can get passed down, and as I write this I now sit in a Victorian desk chair passed down to me from my late father that used in turn to belong to my grandfather and my great grandfather. Originally it was my great-grandfather's office chair for twenty years when he worked for a firm of leather merchants in Leeds i.e. between 1891 and 1911, while his father in turn was a coachman to the head of the same firm for forty years! And now this chair sits in my office. If only heirlooms could speak? Apart from my known family members who else may have sat in it? What were they wearing? What stories has this chair heard in its long life? Any gossip and scandal? I feel very privileged to now possess and use this chair myself, and when I have gone it will get passed down to my son.

However the same is not true of the family of leather merchants whom my great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather worked for. Some years ago I tracked down the aged grandson of the proprietor, who was delighted to hear from me, and we exchanged some useful correspondence and occasionally we also spoke on the phone. But he remarked to me that his own family weren't the slightest bit interested in family history and he feared that his heirlooms, including some medals the firm were awarded at various trade exhibitions in the Victorian and Edwardian period, might be disposed of. Well only a year two after my friend died guess what I spotted on ebay? Yes, the very same medals. So I bought the lot, and so not only do I now sit in the chair that once belonged in the firm's office, but by a weird quirk of fate this has now been reunited with the same firm's medals. It may not mean much to anyone else but to me they represent a piece of history that should not be parted with and must be kept together.

I am sure that some of you reading this also have treasured heirlooms. It goes without saying that it is vital to also pass down and record their stories, so that others in the future understand and appreciate their significance. And let's hope they don't end up in a skip or sold on ebay...

Peter Hammond

From the Editor

I enjoy true crime and forensic mysteries and recently I have been watching a series on TV called Murder, Mystery and my Family which has looked at old criminal cases in a slightly different light. The family of a convicted murderer from the past who has suffered the death penalty revisit the case. Two eminent QC's and various expert witnesses look back at all the evidence available whilst the family members revisit the crime scenes and attempt to find new evidence that may make the case unsound. It has combined both the forensic and family history interests for me and the most recent episode was about a Nottingham case when a nurse was hanged after killing a patient with an overdose of morphine. Whilst in most of the episodes it has been difficult to find any new evidence to point to a different killer, there have been a couple when it does look as though the police may not have 'got their man'. It has given a different insight into the differences in how people lived and behaved even in the last century, and how many people ever think about how these events affect the families of the murderers as opposed to their victims.

With the new year now here I am sure many of you have already forgotten any resolutions you had made, but I did see one idea recently that I thought was achievable. Each month try and do one task connected to your family history. This could be try a different set of records, look at a specific member of the family, scan some photos or label some, back-up your records or even (dare I say it) write an article for the journal?

I have promised myself to try and finish some projects that have been on the go for a while before starting anything new. I also want to write up a small talk or article for our members meeting in August so in theory I have given myself enough time to complete at least this one task. Ask me again in September!

And again a reminder that we do have a few significant anniversaries in 2020. The May Day Bank Holiday has been altered to coincide with the 70th anniversary of VE Day, and of course it is the 400th Anniversary of the Mayflower voyage. Surely someone has some stories to tell us about these events or anything else.

Tracy Dodds

Membership Renewal

If this journal contains a 'Membership Renewal 2020' form, your membership of the Society is due for renewal by 1st February 2020. The following payment methods are available:-

1. The form may be completed and posted with the appropriate membership fee, or
2. You can pay online, through the Society's Web Shop:- www.nottsfhs.org, or
3. Payment may be made by Bank Transfer, direct to the Society's bank account:- Nottinghamshire Family History Society, Sort Code: 20-55-68 Account Number: 00694959. For the reference please quote your surname and membership number.
4. The account details in method 3. may also be used to set up a 'Standing Order' through your bank. Please arrange the payment date as 1st February, and for the reference quote your surname and membership number. Please advise the Membership Secretary (either by email or by post), if you choose this method to ensure we are able to correctly attribute your membership renewal.
5. Payment may also be made by 'PayPal' transfer to 'membership@nottsfhs.org'.

E-Journal members will receive a renewal invitation by e-mail in early January 2020.

NB: Postal renewals should be sent to:- 20 South Street, Long Eaton, Nottingham, NG10 1ER.

Peter Banham, Membership Secretary
membership@nottsfhs.org

And now for the weather...

1851 June 21 Excerpt from the Nottingham Date Book

Nottingham and neighbourhood was visited by a violet storm of hail, snow, thunder, lightning, and wind, about midday. It being Saturday, a strong current of water from Parliament street and Sheep lane (now Market Street) rushed across the Market Place carrying with it a large quantity of crockery and other articles standing there for sale. Many cellars were filled, and much damage was done in many parts of the town by the violence of the storm.

Nottinghamshire Emigrants to the New World in the 19th Century

Jo Peet – January 2019 Talk

This talk was based on sources and documents available at Nottinghamshire Archives. Other sources are available at National Archives, Liverpool Maritime Museum, Internet, Local Studies Library (newspapers), etc as well as in Museums and Archives in destination countries such as Australia.

There were many reasons that drove people to leave Nottinghamshire for a country far away in the nineteenth century:- Poverty, unemployment and overcrowding; Political unrest such as the Luddite rebellions; to escape religious or political persecution or the threat of war; the optimism of a better life with promises of land, money and opportunities.

To leave behind your family and friends and head for a land so far away, only knowing what lay ahead by word of mouth was a very brave undertaking. Not many would have even seen the sea before let alone been on a ship.

Letters from Swan River, Australia, 1831 and 1833, from William Knott (Notts Archives DD/948/1/1-3)

William and Sarah Knott came from Arnold and their first child was born around 1800 making them approximately 50 years old when they set out to Australia. In the parish registers William's occupation was given as 'whitesmith', often known as tinsmith, so someone who made small utensils from soft metals. They left behind them several children and grandchildren but took their son Edwin with them. They departed from Portsmouth on 11 January 1830, taking 13 weeks to reach the Cape. Their destination was the Swan River Colony, Western Australia, which had only been established in 1829 by Lieutenant-Governor, Captain James Stirling. Looking briefly into the setting up of the colony, there were many problems from the beginning with the indigenous people who were not allowed to visit their sacred grounds and many of the ships bringing the emigrants were damaged in storms on the way. First reports of the new colony did not reach England until late January 1830, after William's departure, giving details of the poor conditions and that the land was not suitable for agriculture and so the settlers were nearly starving. However, the news did reach the ships when they arrived at the Cape. There were various Government publications about the colony all stating that they would not pay anybody's passage and describing the grants of land to be allotted, depending on the assets brought with the emigrants, including women, children above a certain age and indentured servants.

Letter from William Knott at Swan River, Australia March 31st 1831

Dear Sir

I will not trouble you with a long epistle of our voyage; we bid adieu to Old England on the 11th Jany 1830 at Portsmouth arrived at the Cape on Easter Monday 12th of April after a long but pleasant passage of 13 Weeks. Here we had the first accounts of this place wich were dreadful..... My dear wife like Lots of old wanted to look back but I was determind with my Makers leave to see the new settlement and have found all things better than expectation. We left the Cape on the 12th of May and made the Coast of New Holland in 5 weeks but being to the South of Swan River we tacked about to the north but a gale sprung up and we were beating about [for] 3 Weeks but we landed safly on the 9th July and may I acknowledge With Thankfulness the goodness of the Lord in our preservation. . I reside at Guildford about twenty miles from Fremantle by land and eight from Perth the seat of government but more by water as the Swan River winds very much, this is a Pleasant place and likely to be the chief market in these parts, as many are going to settle on the other side of the mountains, we are but six miles from the mountains, there the land is good with fine Clay and black Mould, I have tried the English seeds and they did well [despite] the lateness of the Season, they do the best in the wet Season as the summer is hot and dry, ___ do well here and are fat all the year round, I have one grant of fine meadow land the River Elenor running at the bottom, one grant in the centre of the Town, but my chief grant of 1320 Acres I have taken up at York a new Town over the mountain there the land is good, but my chief study is the Minerels; many I have seen looking around on a wild country and too Idle to put a spade in the ground for the support of nature have left the Colony in despair and have given it a bad name, I have dived into the bowels of the Earth and have found an hidden treasure, such as will be a lasting benefit to my native Country, this is a fine steel equal if not superior to the

finest demascus, after various processes I have steeled an Instrument that cut without Grinding better than the finest polished scissors, I shewed these to his Excellency the Governor and the Colonial Secretary, his Excellency gave me an extra grant of Land as an encouragement to persevere and will forward a recommendation to England for a Patent, I have made a water Engine on an Improved plan which will be very useful in this Colony. Here is a fine opening for the Nottingham Goods such as silk and Cotton stockings, lace veils are much wanted and worn by all that can purchase them, not as an article of dress but of utility as the fly is the worst Enemy we have, Nets for safes and Bed Furniture would meet with ready sale and good prices. You and your Family would do well here as industrious people are rather scarce.

Letter from Wm Knott, Swan River.....

Dear Children,

Guildford Aug 28 1833

You must excuse my long silence as I have had a long Illness of about 18 months, my complaint was the decency & scurvy but thank God I am Restored to health & strength again.

Your Dear Mother was taken ill first which was on Christmas Day and died on the 5th March. Shortly before she died she sung Lo! He comes. She says to me "Wm Thou thinks I am fretting about my Children in England but I am not. I only wish to live to keep Thee company for thou will be lost". Her complaint was the Decency and the Doctor could not stop it.

I am surprised you [have] not write ofner. I have received but two letters from you in all, if you cannot come you may send word how you are going on and all the news you can. Tell Billy Foulds I cannot send him a live Parrot as the expense of carraege would make it dear but I can send you skins of all Kind of Birds & Beasts. If you think them worth carriage you might stuff them.

Edwin is grown a strong man, he likes here very well and the climate suits him. He is very expert in Hunting & shooting & sends his love to you.

Be sure and write to sister Mary and Wm & Saml and give our love to [them]. And tell them I [live] here better and better every year for we are getting more and more like England only less Privations. We can almost live out of our land. I did not tell you that we milk the Goats and it is very rich Milk indeed. I wish your Children had plenty of it. Write as soon as possible. Remember I want company now. I wish some of my Grandchildren [were] here – what company they would be for me and how delighted they would be with the beauties of nature, we have the prettiest flowers you ever saw, some of them everlasting and evergreen. Come & see me.

Dear Children Your Affectionate Father, Wm Knott

Despite William suffering with dysentery and losing his wife to the same he remained optimistic. His letters give good descriptions of crops and animals especially those for shooting, including the emu. He also mentions that he has no taxes or rent to pay! William's son, Edwin, remained in Australia and had a family of his own there.

Letters from Canada, 1838 and 1839, from Henry Rastall (Notts Archives DD/H/151/202-203)

Henry was born in Newark in 1792 into a wealthy family. From about 1815 to 1837 he was practising in Lombard Street, Newark, as an attorney. It is not clear why someone at the age of 45, in what is usually a prosperous profession, would need to emigrate with the assistance of others, although some loss of money is hinted at in one of the letters. From other documents from the same solicitors' collection (Hodgkinson and Beevor, later Tallents) it appears that the land Henry inherited from his father, Rev William Rastall of Newark, who died in 1821, a plantation in North Collingham of 30 acres was in a very poor state by 1836 when it was sold off for £630 with his brother Rev Robert Rastall stated as the vendor in the conveyance. No evidence of bankruptcy or embezzlement has been found but he may have squandered his money in some way. Henry never married and, particularly in the first letter, he moans about his lot and hopes his benefactors will allow him to return to England if matters don't improve. He is particularly unhappy about the weather: it's too hot in summer and so cold in the winter which lasts for 6 months.

The letters include the price of wages, food, land, animals, weather etc. He was also caught up in the Civil War of Canada that began in 1837 and at one point was asked if he wanted to join in which he declined. During his journey he stayed in a hotel and gives an account of dinner there which is remarkably similar to one given by Charles Dickens in "Martin Chuzzlewit" during the protagonist's trip to America.

His first letter is very pessimistic and his sense of loneliness comes through quite strongly. His mood has changed slightly by a second letter a year and a half later

Henry Rastall died and was buried on 19 March 1841 in the Potters' Field Cemetery in Toronto, the name of the cemetery being the American expression for the place of paupers' graves or a common grave for unknown or indigent people. (See 'Ignored but not forgotten: Canada's English immigrants' by Lucille H Campey.)

Letter to Edward Buck, Farndon, from Henry Rastall in Canada

Toronto 2 Feby 1838

My dear Sir

Altho I am some thousands of miles from Farndon, say almost four, I have not forgot my friends. As to my Journey I hope my Brother Bob has given you an account of [it]. It was a very rough one; and somewhat curious after all. I stood it pretty well, the sea voyage was nothing to the Journey by land, although I got seven very bad falls by the very strong rolling of the ship, to say the least of it, I escaped with only very bruised bones particularly my hips which I feel now very sore. The travelling by the stage coaches thro' the United States over the worst roads you can conceive, your Broughton back lanes are nothing to it, is very bad indeed, up and down, sometimes your head sent up against the top, it broke my hat to pieces, my head being thick I suppose did not get bruised. The frost was severe but not much snow which made it worse - the coaches carry nine inside almost fit to smother you, the Yankees chawing Tobacco and spitting every minute, if they were in your Drawing room, they would do it on your Carpet, nasty devils, it is the custom of their Country. I was quite tired travelling and actually knocked up and stopt ten days to get over it, luckily met with some good company, the Landlord, a very good fellow and quite like an Englishman, it is the custom in the United States as also in Canada, for a great many of the inhabitants to all dine together, at an Hotel, a Bell rings, and you all scramble for a place and devour all as soon as you can, and then get up from table and go where you please, no sitting to drink, that is quite out of the way in the room, but those who want anything go to the Bar and take it as they do at a common Pot house in England. The People eat terribly fast, you would be quite astonished, and they are in general such thin looking people, you cannot think, but I must say the weather would make any one feel thin enough. I suppose you have read some account of the Civil War and the great confusion in this Country. I was just unlucky in seeing and hearing all about it before I landed here. I was quite in the midst of it and travelled in the coach with Volunteers, Guns and encouragers of it, thro the United States but I was treated all right and civilly thro' all, they were going to Navy Island, a place belonging Upper Canada. They wanted me to go with them to see the fun as they called it but I, of course, declined the honor. I would not have come had I been sure of what is going on you may depend upon. I landed over a Ferry just like Farndon, into Upper Canada, where all were under arms and in self defences however so far the Rebels are all dispersed, a great many are in Jail here, about 200 and will stand a chance of being hanged as Traitors. There is nothing going on but soldiering but I think there is now almost an end to the Civil War... I am very sorry I cannot give you a good account of my prospects here, you know I came out with great letters of recommendations to the Head Powers, but nothing has turned up in my favor, it is only what I expected, unfortunately Sir Francis Head, the Governor, is going away to England having resigned his Governorship so here I am – what to do cannot tell – expense of living in this country is dearer than in England very much, there will be some very nice farms to be had – belonging to the Traitors, who will all have their properties seized by Government and sold, and may be very low indeed, you may buy land part in cultivation and other part all wood from five shillings an acre to ten pounds, but as I have no cash I cannot do it. If I had been about 20 and well, I could do and perhaps make a fortune but I cannot labor in my present state. I have no doubt an active man and with a Family may do very well, a great many have and there is room for thousands more. Wages for Mechanics and indeed all laborers is very high as much as 7/6 a day is made. Toronto is a large place about 10 thousand inhabitants a very long Town, 4 miles, but not compact, a stragling place but the Principal place in this Province, the Government is carried on here and indeed is quite the London in England in that respect. It is now quite the Winter Season, which lasts six months, the ground covered with snow and a very sharp frost and it will continue till May. I feel the cold very much but all say I shall feel much more after the first winter. I am sure I need not without something turns out in my favor. I am sure I shall get back to England if possible, travelling was very expensive when I came and a great deal more than was calculated. I am only sorry I consented to come, but it was intended for my good and I am thankful to those who wished me and enabled me to do so. I trust they will enable me to return to England if things do not turn out in my favor, I should be very thankful for 50£ a year in England and I could do there somehow with it but here it could not. I should be froze to death upon it, it would take that to keep me warm. I am in lodgings, but very middling indeed and

I get over my time as well as I can – as to Bird of any sort there is not one to be seen, except a few wild ducks on the Lake Ontario. The Summer I hear is tremendous hot that would do me I fear. I hope you have been free from Gout and that you and Nephew William have had a merry Xmas and that you have had good coursing and killed more than usual. I have often thought how you were going on and I need not say wished myself with you. I have passed many a happy day with you and, God knows, may a few more. I trust the dogs are all right and all the rest of the Pets, you must remember me to Mr Cliff, hope he is well, also to Captn Barth and Mrs, he would be very useful here in his Profession. There is no want of Lawyers here or any other poor devils, the Country is very poor, lots of Irish and many like me, all looking out for something.. Meat is dear, mutton 7½d lb. Beef/5d. Fowls tolerably cheap, bread dear, there is a very good market and well supplied. Venison very plentiful – a great many Deer in Market every day, some very __ and about three pence a lb. Wearing apparel of all sorts very dear, about a third more than in England. I shall be very glad to hear from you as soon as you like, the sooner the better. I am tolerably well in health but not much better in my fingers or legs and am quite sensible of the Cold, it contracts my wrists a bit, my direction is Toronto, Upper Canada. My best wishes to you and Wm, wishing you every Health and Enjoyment and remain yours most truly, H Rastall, Love to the Dogs.

1890s, letters from the Smith/Allsebrook Family

David Smith is well established in Meeker, Colorado, with his wife Mary, nee Allsebrook, from a wealthy family in Wollaton, and has a lumber company in 1891 with a partner Sheridan. By 1898 the company is now 3 parts his and is called David Smith & Co, Rio Blanco Saw and Planing Mills. He also owns a flour mill. He and his wife Mary often write to her family. Many of the letters concern financial matters, particularly the money problems of other members of the family, and the Allsebrook Family Trust, created by Mary's father, was overseen by (W H) Harry Harlow of Harlow and Shelton, Estate Agents, Nottingham, who was also a family friend, hence the survival of the letters, of which there are many, amongst their archive collection. The trust provided many loans to David for his businesses, not only for the timber company but also for a general store for "drugs and dry goods, including a sideline of boots, shoes, readymade clothing etc and is the only one of that kind in a very large tract of country". In 1895 he says "Business, as you know, has been poor for the last 2 years or more out here, and we have been handicapped by the intense hatred of the cattlemen who have closed the way in politics also". "The beauty to me of the thing [of buying the store] is that the money would be made out of our enemies the cattlemen!" By 1898 David and Mary are hoping to buy a ranch as they thought the town was not a good place to raise children. Other branches of the family also emigrated to other parts of the world.

Wilton Allsebrook, Mary's half-brother, came to stay with the Smiths in Colorado for a year, working part of the time but generally enjoying himself as can be seen by his letter of 12 Dec 1897. He would have been aged about 20 at this time. He obviously caught the travel bug as he himself had emigrated to British Columbia by 1910.

Letter from David Smith in Colorado (Notts Archives DD/HA/1/9/3/78)

Meeker, Colo., 20th Jan 1898

W P Allsebrook Esq, Wollaton

Dear Sir

Wilton has spoken to me about some money that you might invest here and as we are branching out in our business here, I would be most happy to have the use of \$1000 myself. I virtually own this little concern having sold one fourth interest to Mr Riley on 2 years time. We have added Oregon lumber, implements, doors etc within the last four months, and as the best people here want long credit, it is difficult to increase ones business without a little fresh capital. I thank you for extending the time on the £300. Mary will be glad to sign note with me if you decide to let the money come to me, which I may say is quite customary in this country or I presume George would sign if you wished it.

Wilton seems to enjoy himself in this out of the way part of the work and has familiarised himself with nearly everybody and their modes of life.

We are all fairly well at present, the children have had colds but are nearly recovered again.

With love to you all in which Mary joins.

Very sincerely

David Smith

Letter from Wilton Allsebrook, 12 Dec 1897, to his relatives in Wollaton (Notts Archives DD/HA/1/9/3/77)
Meeker, Rio Blanco Co, Colo. Dec 12th /97

If you want to say something nice & please the fond Mamma, on being shown her baby out here – always say:- “Ain’t he a cute little bugger?” Not a swear here.

Dear People,

Just a line from the Wild, Wild West to wish you all a very happy Xmas & prosperous New Year. I’m afraid my letter is too late for the former, but may be in time for the latter. If you could see Meeker just now, you would think it was Xmas weather indeed. We have about 14” snow & it still is snowing.

Last Friday week 4 of us went out lion hunting – Johnny Goff & his partner “Shorty” Judy, Billy Kelly & myself. The two former are the best lion-hunters in the County & have fine hounds. We took 11. They are large brutes, cross between fine blood-hounds & fox-hounds. When we started out there was 8” snow & the thermometer stood at 26° below zero. We rode 20 miles in the hills – from 8.30-5.0 - & didn’t see a single trail. We were most unlucky. We were all dressed in warmest clothes, with big rubber overshoes & leggings, seal skin caps with ear flaps etc. All armed with rifles, pistols & hunting knives. I was to have had first shot that day.

The clerks in the Hughs & Co store at Hayden are all sick. The clerks from Craig have had to go over to take their places. Hence they are shorthanded at Craig. Moulton has asked David to go over for a month to manage the Craig bank & according to present arrangements he will go out on Tuesday morning’s stage (a drive of 51 miles) in this cool weather. I will have to be a Dad to the “heathen” (as Mary calls them) until the 1st week or so in January. It does seem a shame to me that these bright children are doomed to be educated in these wretched American schools, & the Meeker one above all. D[avid] will be away for Xmas & New Year. Cutter-riding is all the rage now & we get glorious rides (esp. at nights). The skating rink is in full swing & is fine. I am exactly the colour of a still. Hilary was sick a week or two ago – croup or some lung trouble (so the Dr says, tho’ I don’t think it). He nearly died one night anyhow. Well, cheer up clooties, see you in 4 months or so perhaps. Yrs ever. Love to Granny, Uncle W, Howard, Pip & all. Xmas greetings to all friends. Wilton.

This is a grand country.

Journey to Australia Extracts from diary of Philip Dobson Need, 30 Oct to 5 Dec 1896 (Notts Archives DD/2058/1)

Philip Dobson Need was a strict Catholic and makes various comments on people of other persuasions. At the time he was aged 28 and he sailed on the ship the ‘Orizaba’ which left England on 30 Oct and eventually landed in Albany, Western Australia, on 5 Dec 1896. He was on his way to join his brother, Ted, and had left his new wife and young baby behind.

It’s possible that Philip was checking to see if he would like a new life with his family in Australia to where his brother had emigrated but he had returned home by 1899 and was living in Priory Place near Lenton Priory by 1901 with his wife and two children. He had at least four more children but he and his wife cannot be found in the 1911 census and four of their children are listed in the inmates’ list of Nazareth House, a Catholic children’s home in Lenton. Surprisingly Philip enlisted in the army in 1914 at the age of 46 and served until 1918 being invalided out after two operations for ill health. The children from the home were mentioned on his pension papers but were not eligible for any assistance. Philip died in 1929 aged 61 and his wife died in 1936 aged 65.

1 NOV Celebrated Mass. “It is a grand day, we are now in the Bay of Biscay. Have not yet been sick, many of them are, including the young lady from Beeston. Just had my first Sunday dinner – soup – Leg of Mutton, Potatoes in their jackets (bad) and Plum Duff (Good). There is a Local Preacher, a Seventh day Adventist, he bids fair to be a nuisance, I intend to throw him overboard as soon as it is dark.” “Saw a lot of Porpoises at teatime, they look very funny, jumping right out of the water, and put me more in mind of pigs than anything else. We have all our meals on deck, it is very cold, but will soon be warmer.”

2 NOV “Had a good night; we have just passed Cape Finistere Lighthouse, and can see the coast of Spain. We are nearly through the Bay of Biscay and I have not yet been sick. Can see the Coast of Portugal. Just seen a Whale.... The food is coarse but plentiful. Some of the passengers are like pigs at the table, we have a lot from the country parts of Ireland, and they are something cruel. I managed to get on the married peoples’

side and sit at the same table as Miss Atkins from Beeston who though a gooddy gooddy Nonconformist is a sensible good willed sort, she is about 34, and is going out to an Aunt. ... The Coffee we get is poison, and the tea is worse.”

5 NOV “It is very rough today, the tables at dinner time were almost deserted. I felt bad but forced myself to eat a bit, and feel nice now we ride very nicely; some of the ships we pass roll dreadfully but they are smaller.”

13 NOV “We arrived at Port Said soon after dark last night. It is a queer place, with queer people in it. I did not intend going ashore, but the coal dust was so bad (we got a 1000 tons in) I went ashore to get out of it.

25 NOV Reached Colombo yesterday. Many went ashore and six people were left behind even though they were only yards from the ship as it left, “but when the ship has the Mails she waits for nothing”. “We shall see no land for 11 or 12 days, then it will be the shores of Australia.”

30 NOV “Have been aboard a month or 31 days. It is six days since we left Ceylon, we have not seen land, or even a sail all this time. A young fellow was helping the sailors to turn a pump used in case of fire, to see if it was in order; one of the handles came off and crushed his thumb, the [doctor] had to take it off at the first joint. Thank God it was not me.”

1 DEC “The weather is quite cool. They have started preaching in the week. I don’t think all ships can be so pestered, it just depends how many ranters there happen to be among the passengers.”

4 DEC “Half past ten, have just sighted land, and that land Australia. I wonder what fortune awaits me there, good I trust. In eight days I shall see Our Ted. I wonder if I shall know him at sight. I think so. We shall be in Albany early in the morning. Today is the roughest day out, everyone appears to be drunk, the plates dance about the tables at meal times, the waves look as though they would swallow us up.”

Conclusion

We’ve seen mixed results for the emigrants from Nottinghamshire, with illness and death, loneliness and bad weather hampering their pleasure but some did make a great success of their move, enjoying more food, wealth, work and fulfilment of life, with the majority only wishing the friends and family they left behind would join them to complete their happiness.

Without these letters and diaries, the full stories could not be told. Databases and online indexes are very useful tools but the correspondence adds meat to the bones.

Jo said she had only used a few of the many fascinating documents created by such emigrants which can be found within the collections at Nottinghamshire Archives. There are many more stories of a similar nature to be found and enjoyed.

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The Clergyman, the Widow and the Milkman

Mo Cooper – March 2019 Talk

Mo did a dissertation many years ago and her research for this is the basis of this talk. Her starting question was:- Who were the slum landlords of Edwardian Nottingham? George Orwell suggested it was the poor widow, other contemporary writers suggested it was ‘the portly gentleman, with the big gold chain’. Research proved it was a little bit of both. Analysing rate schedules, trade directories, census information etc – all of the information family historians already use – provided a lot of information to answer the question. Mo analysed 740 properties in three very distinct working class areas of Nottingham looking around 1910. Her main source was the 1910 Land surveys also known as the Lloyd George Domesday Book survey. This was a national re-evaluation of every property in the land, done initially with the idea of increasing taxes to pay for the new old age pension but the taxes were never actually carried through.

Once the areas were selected Mo then looked in more detail at the owners of the properties, were they men or women, were they rich or poor, did they live in the area, did they live out of town possibly in London. Who were the people investing in some really bad property and who owned the worst and who owned the slightly better quality.

Mo had come to Nottingham in 2000 so did not really know much about the areas she investigated beforehand. She selected Narrow Marsh, a well known area of poor housing; St Anns and the Meadows both of which had slightly better class working class housing. Narrow Marsh was situated between the steep cliffs and the river Leen and was renowned for drunkenness, poverty and criminality. By the start of the twentieth century residents were labourers and casual workers. This is the area where the poorest housing was based. St Anns was mainly developed from the 1880’s, contained small houses intended for the lower paid working classes. They were built as small terraces leading off main streets usually with back yards. They were considered better than those of the Narrow Marsh but the quality of the building was quite poor. The sample area chosen by Mo was demolished in the 1970’s. The Meadows had hundreds of new houses built from the 1870s until 1900, the area attracted new industry such as lace making and bleaching and the railway had lines here and also built railway cottages to the south of the area. The land was subject to flooding from the Trent and again the sample area selected was all demolished in the 1970’s.

In 1911 nearly 80% of the population lived in urban areas by this point, an increase of 300% since 1851. Nearly 90% of people lived in rented accommodation, not just the poor, even the wealthy would lease rather than purchase. Most of the rented housing was in the private sector and the rent from this contributed about 10% of domestic income up to the beginning of the First World War, so it was a good investment. The income from urban rents exceeded the profits from such things as the railways and foreign securities. The poorer housing lost its value by about 20% during this time.

In the 19th and early 20th centuries Nottingham Corporation had provided some sporadic response to housing conditions for the poor but they were mainly controlling things by the use of bye-laws. Many of the Councillors were Estate Agents and Solicitors and property owners so there was a huge scope for conflict of interest.

The majority of housing Mo looked at was residential, with a little bit of a mixture mainly in the Narrow Marsh area. The 1910 surveys provided the values of properties and what rental could be received. The average rent was between £8-£10 per annum – local wages would have been between 40s-50s per week for lacemakers ie skilled men. That would go down to 18-26s per week for labourers. Skilled female machinists in the lace industry were only earning 11-17s a week.

From the 740 properties Mo identified 123 separate owners. Single men owned 56% of all property, women owned 19%, and the remainder was owned by companies. They tended to own the majority of the commercial stock. Female owners didn’t invest in commercial property.

For the slightly better properties, men owned 68% in St Anns and 71% in the Meadows. In the Narrow Marsh men owned 83% of that stock. Men generally owned the cheaper properties bringing in the lower rents.

Private owners owned 562 of the dwellings and Mo then attempted to look at the social class of these owners. She used Wrigley’s classifications. Class One – the Upper and Middle class, mainly professional occupations such as Doctors and Clergymen. Class Two – a very wide area of people, including shopkeepers but it also included Estate agents and Land agents. Some of these people could be quite wealthy. Class Three

– skilled working people. Other owners were identified as living off their own means. Once class had been identified for owners then Mo could start to see if they were the ‘poor widows’ or the ‘portly gentlemen’.

The majority of property owned by the professionals in Class One was in the Narrow Marsh. Class Three didn’t own any property there which was surprising as it was the cheapest area. Class Two owned property throughout the whole geographic area investigated. Commercial owners held more property in the poorer areas, often places adjoining workshops, with the railway companies owning property at the lowest levels.

Looking deeper Mo then looked at the specific people. There were three owners in Class One. Reverend Gregory was based in Hereford and owned 18 houses in Narrow Marsh. Reverend Brady was a local Catholic priest and he owned one large house and two adjoining properties which he rented out. It became quite common for people such as this to buy one or two properties to give them some income when they retired. Dr Walter Hunter owned 3 houses and a house and workshop in the Meadows. He was a Councillor and the Medical Officer for West Bridgford.

Class Two was the largest group and owned 35% of all the property. Alfred Parker was Councillor and he developed 35 houses in 1880. The wealthier people of Class Two often lived in the more desirable areas of Nottingham such as the Park or West Bridgford. Others within this class included Publicans, shopkeepers, builders and Wholesalers.

Class Three owners included people such as tailors, dressmakers, joiners and dairymen. Individually they possibly owned on average three properties each. This is the group that could be expected to be living in the poorer areas but none of them did. They may have lived in less desirable areas than the Class Two people but they didn’t live in the Narrow Marsh itself.

Investigating further into these families Mo also looked at where the owners had lived. Of the sample sites selected everything has been demolished. All the owners’ houses still exist. Another area that Mo investigated were women owners. Married women only gained the right to own property after 1870 so that might explain the lack of female owners in the Narrow Marsh as opposed to areas developed in the 1880’s such as St Anns. Financial guides for women then started to appear, covering banking, investments etc but no mention of owning property. At the beginning of the twentieth century the cost of living started to rise and as a middle class woman you were reliant upon your investments or the charity of your male relatives. Mo identified 28 women owners, most owning middle value properties. The majority tended to own only one or two properties, supporting the idea of women investing savings to give them an income. It was noted that there were no poor widows living in the slum areas.

Mo was initially quite simplistic in her thinking of the houses – people bought a house then rented it out. The truth was far more complicated. Tenants rented out property or took in lodgers and boarders. People could take on tenancies of more than one house and sub-let all the rooms particularly the case in Lodging houses. At the end of the nineteenth century one sixth of the Leens-side residents were classed as lodgers. Lots of people were travelling through doing casual work. In 1910 there were thirty registered Lodging Houses in Nottingham, the majority in Red Lion Square in Narrow Marsh. The Council did try and keep an eye on the conditions of these buildings. Looking at the schedules for these places Mo found that a lot of the managers were women who rented properties in the adjoining courts. These are not covered by Mo’s research because they were managers not owners but they were renting out to lots of people. Another area where women rented out space was when they became informal landlords in their own homes and took in lodgers to provide an income.

A number of the commercial owners were from out of Town. The main company owners were the railways, Great Central and Great Northern who owned 52 properties in the Narrow Marsh about half of which were residential. Mellors writes that 1200 tenements were demolished to build the railways but only 300 houses were built to replace them.

It should be remembered that the number of properties owned and percentages have only been calculated using the sample areas. Many of these people could have owned more around Nottingham.

Mo was seeking the landlords of Edwardian Nottingham. She did confirm that the majority were single men, not Companies, and a slum landlord could be a clergyman, could be a widow or indeed even a milkman

Mo Cooper is available for heritage walks and talks.

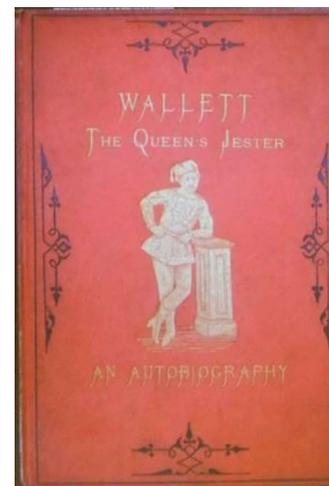
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W F Walleth – The Queen’s Jester Ann Featherstone – April 2019 Talk

William Frederick Walleth wrote his own autobiography and there is quite a lot of information about him on the internet etc so Ann said that she wasn’t going to give us a life story but instead to talk about him in the context of his own time. William was a Circus Clown and a Circus promoter. He thought very highly of himself and was a self-promoter. His autobiography sold very well at the time and he was often in the newspapers. He was a very newsworthy person often insulting people, getting into fights and going to court so the press loved him as he provided good stories for them.

He was born in Hull in 1808, the son of a Scottish sailor and apparently the eldest of 20 children. Walleth was a bright child educated at the local National School and early on showed a pre-disposition in drama. He claimed to have made his first appearance at the Theatre Royal, Hull in 1830. He didn’t have speaking parts but as well as appearing in crowd scenes etc he was a stage hand, probably helping to create the scenery as well as move it around. He then joined a travelling group and first appeared in ‘motley’ ie as a clown, at Gainsborough but didn’t give a date for this. Fairs at this time didn’t have rides they had a row of shows. People would stand in front of the shows to entice the paying public in, often doing a little performance or song and dance. It was performances such as this where Walleth first appears as a clown. He moved around a lot in the early period with various travelling shows and their portable theatres.

A portable theatre was a wooden structure taken to the people and erected at each town. They had wooden sides and a canvas roof. They would provide a variety of melodramas interspersed with shorter pieces known as the interlude. Walleth had a part in the main drama then would provide the entertainment in the interlude. He was billed as the ‘German Non descript’ whilst working for Wilds travelling theatre. This was the term for a specific type of contortionist that imitated monkeys, and they wore monkey suits. This was a role he stayed with during his early career. Also known as posturers they would strike and hold a pose. Walleth also did comic songs and by doing all of this he was showing his versatility thus making him a very useful member of a company.



Walleth’s first appearance in a circus was at Sheffield and he was posturing between the various acts as well as clowning. He said that on his first entrance he was somewhat confused by being surrounded by the audience, as up until then he had been used to a theatre environment with the audience in front of him. Early circuses were often a mixture of skill based entertainments performed in a ring, mostly equestrians but also tumblers and acrobats and by the middle of the nineteenth century there were aerial acts, but the main features of Victorian circuses were fools and horses. There could be six or more clowns in these establishments and they had different roles. They would encourage the audience to applaud or admire the equestrians, they would perform similar moves badly to show how expert the equestrian was and they would fill in the gaps when acts changed over. The clowns would have specialities and they were often the most multi skilled performers in the circus. Walleth was involved in all aspects of the circus business in his early years – scene painting, standing in for other performers

and working back stage. It was a very demanding seven day a week job. Even between shows they would be working such as caring for the animals or driving the wagons to the next location. This may have been why Walleth periodically left the circus and went back to the traveling theatres, or he could just have been going where the money was. This was a very hand to mouth existence.

In 1840 Walleth was invited by circus owner Thomas Cook to join his circus back in Hull as a clown and also to make all his property and scenes. This was a huge break for him as Cook was a big name in the circus world. Walleth eventually left under a cloud through his own bad behaviour and then went to Manchester and joined the Van Amburgh circus. Isaac Van Amburgh was known as the Lion King and was a major player in the American business. His speciality performance was with lions and other big cats. Whilst he was with Van Amburgh Walleth had his encounter with Queen Victoria. The Queen was at Windsor and expressed a wish to

see some lion cubs that had recently been born to one of the circus lionesses. Van Amburgh declined the invitation and Walleth was sent instead. He met the Queen and Prince Albert in the Drawing Room at Windsor and was introduced to all the company. Hereafter he called himself 'The Queen's Jester'.

Victorian circuses were not performed in tents but in semi-permanent wooden buildings. They were round a small and could be slotted into any spare piece of land in a well populated area. In Nottingham that was often Trinity Square. These affairs were erected by the circus proprietor for the duration of his stay, and when the circus moved on the materials were sold back to the builder who had erected it. Plans would be drawn up and shown to the builder and Nottinghamshire Archives has some of these for Cooks circus on Trinity Square. These structures were prone to fires and collapses due to their construction and it was not unusual for performers and animals to lose their lives.

Walleth joined Ryans circus in Nottingham. He was in charge of producing a spectacle in the ring and chose to do St George and the Dragon. He stated that the Princess was a large, stout, coarse woman fuller of gin than grief. He had directed her to sit on a throne constructed of packing boxes etc. She was supposed to crown St George but in the actual performance she forgot her part. 'St George', who had a short temper, remonstrated with her to which she responded by pushing him over. He got up and gave her a push which knocked her off the throne and she took everyone on the platform with her and the landed in a heap on the sawdust. This brought the performance to a sudden conclusion and ended the piece and my engagement, wrote Walleth. After many more engagements Walleth amassed enough money to buy his own circus and he began his managerial career in Yarmouth. It didn't go well. He lost both his temper and his audience and he stormed off vowing never to return. Walleth's temper often became physical and he had lots of punch-ups some of which ended up in court. Generally he was very touchy and had such a sense of superiority that he was easily offended. He took low audience numbers personally. He told an audience in Preston that as the monies taken would not cover his fee he would not be appearing that night.

As a circus performed Walleth worked for some of the leading circuses in the country and America. He went over twice spending about seven years there in total. He was very popular there. His parents were brought over and he toured the country from north to south. When he returned to England he was able to pay of all his debts and it was at this time that he decided to settle in Beeston, Nottinghamshire. He invested in an aerated water company in Nottingham, bought property in Beeston and eventually built a house near the station where he retired. There is very little information about his private life. He had an ongoing connection to Nottingham throughout. His first wife, Mary Orme, was from Nottingham. They eloped and married in Stamford in April 1839. This event is not mentioned in his autobiography, neither is his second wife Sarah Farmer also of Nottingham, by whom he had three children. It seems his work was his life. He was still performing, although infrequently, until just before he died. He collapsed in Manchester and died in March 1892 at his home in Beeston. He was buried in the General Cemetery.



Funeral of Mr W F Walleth Nottingham Evening Post 17 March 1892

At noon today, at the General Cemetery, Nottingham, the funeral took place of the late Mr W F Walleth, the Queen's Jester, and almost a lifelong member of the theatrical profession and of the circus ring. The weather being bright and spring-like, there was a fairly large attendance, though scarcely so great as had been anticipated, having regard to the wide popularity which had ben enjoyed by the veteran entertainer. The coffin containing the remains was conveyed in an open hearse from the late residence of the deceased, the Cottage, Beeston, and was partially concealed from view by the numerous wreaths which were upon and around it. The blinds of many of the houses in Beeston were drawn, and numbers of people assembled on the footpath, where they stood bare-headed as the funeral cortege proceeded on its way to Nottingham. Similar

signs of respect were shown all along the line of the route. At the cemetery gates members of the Royal Ancient Order of Buffaloes and the Ancient Order of Corks, wearing their regalia, met the hearse, and fell in at the rear of the procession which was formed to the mortuary chapel.

The principal mourners, who occupied two coaches, were Mr Russell Wallett, son of the deceased, Mr W H Farmer, Mr Fred Ford and MR H P Day, solicitor. In the second carriage were the Rev R D Harries, Vicar of Beeston, Mr W Watson and Dr Sprott. The brethren of the Order of Buffaloes who attended were Grand Primos R English, W Jones, E Fletcher, George Marshall; Primos Goodall, Carter, T E Humphreys, Farrell, Fletcher, Holborne, Lowe and Pearson; Brothers Mack, Gee, J Livingstone and Trelfa. Brother T Thorley specially represented the Wallett Lodge of the Order of Corks, which was founded by the deceased. The late Mr Wallett was also a member of the Masonic Order, and several of the fraternity were present, not as officially representing the craft. There were present in the Chapel and at the grave side – Messrs Dominick Daly, Isaac Mosley, S F Bestow, F Warsop, W E Hopkins, Walter Luntley,, J B Mulholland, Geo H Pochin, G Cann, W Hulse, S Cuckson, H Z Archer, J K Coxon, W Turton, C Holland, W Tyler, C E Borebank, C J Whitehall, E Brennan, S Kirk, J Smith, E Hickling, P Lowe, A Bates, J Wood, W Lunn, T Marriott, D Cartwright, W Walker, R Wheatley, J Anderson, E Wildgust and A Fletcher. The office for the burial of the dead was conducted by the Rev R D Harries both in the chapel and at the grave side. Those who sent wreaths were Mr J B Mulholland, Mr Carl Brenner and artistes, Mr C R Pullen, Princess Theatre, Bradford, Mr J Phillips and friends, the Alhambra Palace, Hull; the Beeston Liberal Club, the Loyal Wallett Lodge, Mr Watson and family, Mr and Mrs W Walkin, Mr and Mrs Harrison, Mr Fred French (Leeds), ‘to our dear father, from Florence and Jim’, and Mr and Mrs Brooks. Mr E Sweet, of Low Pavement, Nottingham, carried out the funeral arrangements.

Alfreton Road – Then and Now

Phil Hand



Help Wanted

Please keep your entries as short and concise as possible. Entries that are too long or confused will be edited or omitted. Do try to explore the usual sources such as GRO Indexes, Censuses and IGI etc. before using this page. Will members responding to these requests please send me a copy of their reply so that they may be published in the journal. Please print or type clearly with all surnames in CAPITALS and send to:-
The Editor, 39 Brooklands Drive, Gedling Nottingham NG4 3GU.

WILKINSON Michael Tinsley Email: mtinsley@hotmail.co.uk

I am hoping to find out more about my Great Aunt Niomi Kirzah WILKINSON. She was one of 8 children born to John and Dinah WILKINSON at Spring Farm, East Bridgford in 1862. In the 1881 census she is housemaid to Mr & Mrs Henry Barker, Bakewell, Derbys. In December 1883 she gives birth to an illegitimate boy called Writh who dies in the January of 1884. I have no further record until the 1901 census which finds her living alone on Sherwood Street, Nottingham where she is manageress of the Temperance Hotel on that street. In 1911, she is still manageress at the Temperance but now living alone on Albert Street. I have a number of classical books sent to my Aunt on birthdays and at Christmas between 1892 and 1898 by an A.W.S. SHELTON of Nottingham. My Mother said he was a close friend of Kirzah's and that he was an Antiquarian by either hobby or trade. Kirzah died in 1937 and was buried at Lowdham. On her tombstone, below her name, is inscribed a poignant "At Peace at Last". She was a beautiful but troubled lady I gather. I wish too that I had a photo of her.

Memoirs of my Family Margaret Parkes

The Parkes Family

John PARKES, my grandfather, was born at Brough in Lincolnshire. He became a waggoner at Eagle Hall and married Harriett PYKETT at the parish church in Beckingham where they lived, when they were both 21 years old. Harriett told me that at the age of 11 she was hired at Newark market place to a farmer who lived at Upton near Southwell. He would send her out at night in the dark, down a long lane to the village shop to buy his tobacco, and she was so terrified by this that eventually she ran away.

In their early days they lived at Kneeton, near Newark, where my grandfather worked as a waggoner for James NEAL whose family still farms there. The horses and the land were his whole life, as they had been his fathers life before him at Eagle Hall.

They had nine children and lived in a square 4 bedroomed house next to the Chapel in Chapel Lane, Kneeton. Most of the children were baptised and later confirmed at Kneeton church where the family worshipped. Ethel died from pneumonia after childbirth. George became a farm labourer and afterwards landlord of the Chequers Inn at Elston near Newark. Emily stayed helping at home until her marriage, with the exception of a time when she chauffeured for a local doctor. Wilfred, the next son, was a farm worker and he it was who became my father. Mabel was in domestic service until she married. Arthur became a butler until the Second World War in which he rose to be a sergeant. John Oliver was a farm labourer until illness left him permanently handicapped. Albert eventually became Head Gardener at Boot's experimental gardens at Beeston. Finally Frank, like Arthur, became a butler, finishing his career with many years of service to the famous financier Paul Getty.

John Parkes, unlike some of his brothers – one of whom became a police sergeant and another who progressed from a small sweet shop at Bingham to run the flourishing firm of Parkes Confectionery in Leicester – was retiring and unambitious. He occupied the Home farm at Radcliffe on Trent for many years. In 1917 he won a silver cup for ploughing at Flintham ploughing match, the Best in all England, the same day as his son. He died in April 1949 and is buried in the cemetery there. A lilac tree that my grandmother planted was outside the back door 40 years ago, and perhaps it still is today.

Wilfred Parkes, second son of John Parkes and Harriett (nee Pykett) was born at Chapel Lane, Kneeton, on July 11th, 1900. He was baptised and confirmed at Kneeton Parish Church and attended the Church school. He remembered with enthusiasm an Art teacher there who taught him to draw and paint studies of leaves. He also remembered learning passages from Shakespeare and even in old age could quote from King John.

Wilfred was 16 when his brother Frank was born. He remembered it vividly as it was such a windy day that he was blown several times off his bicycle as he pedalled off to fetch a nurse to his mother.

He had left school to work with horses on the land, like his father before him, and was employed by James Neale whose family still farms in the area today. At the age of 17 Wilfred won a silver cup presented by MR W H BRADWELL (of Messrs Whittingham, Bradwell & Mack, Solicitors of Nottingham) as the champion ploughman of the single furrow at Flintham and District ploughing contests.

He was also a good dancer in his younger days. During the building of the new bridge at Gunthorpe, he worked on the site as a labourer, but his love and knowledge of horses was always his first interest.

He met his wife Mabel (introduced by his sister Mabel) at the Plumtree Feast in 1925 and they were married on July 9th 1927, a hot summer Saturday, in the church of St Michael & All Angels, Underwood. The bride wore a dress and hat, both in beige trimmed with blue, and carried a bouquet of sweet peas of many different colours. The bridegroom wore a navy blue suit. The bridesmaids dresses complimented that of the bride, being in blue trimmed with beige, with hats to match.

The following Toast was proposed at the Breakfast:-

Here's Health to the Bride

Here's Health to the Groom,

Here's Health to all who are in the room

May all the single be married some day!

Here's Health to the Bride who is married today.

Mabel told Margaret that her own Mother stayed away from the ceremony because she could not face the emotional stress of the occasion, but the reception was held at the bride's home and in the surrounding garden, where a neighbour contributed music with the aid of an old fashioned wind-up gramophone. Neighbours and friends continued to call for several days afterwards as the reception had been for immediate family and friends only. There was no honeymoon, but the newly-wed couple left the next day so that Wilfred could be back with his horses on the Monday.

For a short time they lived in a tied house at Bestwood Park attached to the farm where Wilfred worked for a Mr Huckerby of Redhill near Arnold. The pay and conditions were so poor that he left the next year to become a colliery ostler at Barber Walkers Underwood pit. He did not like to leave the land and neither did his family, but the wages were an improvement that justified the move. He still loved the land and continued to help out with local farmers in what spare time he had. He was an expert ploughman, hedger, ditcher and thatcher and was skilled in plaiting corn-dollies for decorating both hay-stacks and horses. He taught young Margaret how to plait three or four corn-stalks. His pit ponies were often exhibited in local shows. Their underground stables were kept white-washed and were in spotless condition.

Though a retiring nature, he was noted for his great kindness and thought for others, and as befitted the Christian gentleman that he was, he went to glory on the Feast of the Transfiguration 1960.

The Clarke Family

Mabel Parkes, my mother, was born to Mary and Adam Clarke on July 20th 1902 at Palmerston Street, Underwood, their elder child, but from the age of two lived in Cordy Lane in a house surrounded by a large garden bounded by a stream near the crossing of the railway that connected the Brinsley and Underwood pits.

From the age of three she attended the church school at Underwood, being taught in the same room as her mother had been before her, and that I, her daughter Margaret, would also occupy after her. (It is, in fact, still used as an infant classroom to this day). Then for three years she attended the new school at Bagthorpe which was opened in 1912. When she then left school at 13 she entered the domestic service of a Mrs Haynes, a draper of Eastwood in the shop that is now Shaws.

She later moved to become housemaid to the Rev and Mrs Warrend at Westhorpe Hall [near Southwell] who had a daughter Margaret, after whom I was in due course named. Mabel's schoolfriend Lois Price (afterwards Mrs Bacon) was parlour maid at the same time. When the 1914-18 war ended, there was great jubilation which was well remembered as Brackenhurst Hall had been used as a convalescent home for

wounded soldiers – and neither of the young maids were allowed out for fear of the troops making merry. During this period she worshipped at Southwell Minster, which she always held in great affection. From there she went as second housemaid to Tollerton Hall in the employ of Mrs Burnside, where she continued until her marriage in 1927, earning £32 per annum. In later years she had a vivid memory for the scenes and people of the surrounding area, memories which she communicated to me. The names of both of us will still be found in the visitors book at Tollerton church, where Mabel worshipped. Mabel's first visit to Underwood church was when she was baptised there at the age of two weeks and two days on the Coronation Day of Edward VII. Her last was on June 28th 1985, the occasion of her funeral, just short of one month before her 83rd birthday. In 1982 Mabel Parkes was presented with a Diocesan Certificate to celebrate her membership of the Mothers Union for over 50 years. Her example as a Christian and a worshipper throughout her life was commemorated on January 11th 1987 by the dedication of new Hymn boards and a brass plaque on the north-west wall of Underwood church: 'In memory of Mabel Parkes 1902-1985 Life-long member of this Church'. Her church work, however, never interfered with her devotion as a wife and mother. Her personality was warm and welcoming as that of a perfect hostess. She always took an active part in village life and was a founder member of the Village Women's Institute. In the Second World War she became the village postwoman, organised a National Savings Group and a Comforts Fund for men in the services.

The Wilson Family

On my maternal side the earliest name recorded is that of Thomas Wilson who married Hannah Farnsworth at Selston parish church 29 May 1786. Apart from the record in the parish register nothing further is known. James Wilson, their son, described as a labourer married Mary Newton. Both were from Westwood where Mary's father, William White, was a cordwainer ie a high class shoemaker. Their son was also named James after his father. James Wilson junior in due time married Sarah Ulyatt with whom he lived in Palmerston Street, Underwood, and by whom he had four children, Thomas, Walter, Mary and Lucy. James, probably a miner, died in his early forties from scarlet fever. Walter Wilson did not marry but was said to enjoy a merry life at Underwood schoolhouse where he lived with his mother for two years while they were caretakers to the school. He died in 1918 at the age of 32 from tuberculosis at the Manor House in Lower Bagthorpe, partly as a result of inhaling so much dust from sweeping the school floors. His sister Lucy married Albert Taylor. His other sister, Mary Wilson, first met her future husband, Adam Clarke, when she worked at Willey Wood Farm, a position which she left because she did not appreciate his intentions and she wanted to get away. At the age of about 21 she was in domestic service with a lady by the name of Mrs Darley, who lived in Main Road, Kimberley, a large house opposite to where the war memorial is now sited. As a lady's maid she often went with her employer to stay at Wollaton Hall, the residence of Lord and Lady Middleton (personal friends of Mrs Darley). A Book of Common Prayer was given to her by the three young nephews of the lady in question, "with love from Ralph, Dickie and Charlie" and it has survived to this day. In spite of it all she did consent to become Mrs Adam Clarke, and as such she had three children, Mabel who subsequently married Wilfrid Parkes, Thomas (who died in infancy at 13 months) and Harold. She was as noted for her beauty as for her kindly Christian character, but she had delicate health all her life and died from a heart attack at the age of 57 in 1936.

The Wilson graves are in the north section of Underwood churchyard, some without commemoration stones. Adam and Mary Clarke are buried south of the west end of the church, where there is a carefully preserved grey granite memorial.

In loving memory of Mary CLARKE
 who departed this life April 29th 1936
 aged 57 years
 Also Adam CLARKE died June 17th 1951
 aged 74 years

Thomas Henry Clarke, their son who died in infancy, is buried in an unmarked grave on the north side. Mabel and Wilfred Parkes were both cremated and their ashes were scattered in the memorial garden at Mansfield crematorium.

Sarah Wilson (nee Ulyatt); having been widowed at the age of 42 in 1900, consented to marry two years later Jeremiah Eggleshaw, a 58 year old bachelor. He was Peoples warden at the Underwood church, and was a well-known character, noted for his vanity and his parsimony. The family story is that Sarah lent him £40 to buy a cow and she reckoned that this was the only way she could get her money back! They lived at the Manor House, Lower Bagthorpe, where Gerard Oakes and his family were frequent visitors, since Gerard was the Vicars Warden at the same church. So the two families got to know one another well. Such friendship continues to this day. In 1896 she won Lever Bros 1st prize for washing. Great Grandma Wilson would have been 39. The Certificate survives. The prize was one dozen EPNS teaspoons and sugar tongs.

SUNLIGHT Certificate of Merit

Awarded to Sarah WILSON as First Prize in the Washing Competition

At the Westwood Industrial Exhibition 16 and 17 November 1896

Port Sunlight Date 17 Nov 1896

Jeremiah was content to have a smallholding rather than a farm, for he had a reputation for not being fond of hard work. He liked to go to auction sales of furniture and effects, but was never known to buy anything to give away. My Mother, Mabel, told me that the only thing he ever gave her was a small glass egg cup, part of a job lot which cost him probably a bare halfpenny. (I still have it!). Earl Cowper, the local landowner, always held his rent days at the Manor House, and this made Jerry feel very important. On these days not only the front parlour but the 'far' parlour was opened up.

Jeremiah and Sarah Eggleshaw are buried together in Underwood churchyard immediately south of the lych gate and facing the boundary of Church Lane.

Loving memory of Sarah Ann beloved wife of Jeremiah EGGLESHAW

Died December 3rd 1924 aged 67 years

Peace Perfect Peace

(The headstone isn't marked but Jeremiah was also buried with her Sept 1925 aged 81 years.)

He was fond of wearing one of the curate's shallow-crowned, large brimmed hats, and considered himself very important in church. His family always sat at the front on the second row just behind the Oakes family on the south side of the central aisle. He loved to preside at social events like congregational teas, wearing the hat together with a butchers apron as he prepared to carve the ham at a trestle table in the Underwood schoolroom.

Mrs Ethel Coates, who died on June 21st 1985 at the age of 101, had been a friend of the family since her schooldays and had always been an ardent church worker at Underwood church. She had vivid memories of the old days. She recalls how, while great grandma Sarah was busying herself with refreshments, old Jeremiah would be showing how important he was. To his face he was respected, but behind his back there was many a sly joke told at his expense. It was even the mild Mabel's opinion that he was 'a bit of a rogue'. The Oakeses would often call at his house when he would greet Mrs Oakes with a familiar 'Eh-up m'lass!' their daughter Margaret, known as Peggy, always called at the Eggleshaw's house when she rode over from Felley Priory to visit the other branch of the family at Riddings House.

The Oakes family left Felley Priory in 1960 for their home at Skipness, a remote spot by the sea on the Kintyre peninsula of Argyle. There for Easter 1969 I was invited to stay and in the night a disastrous fire broke out that virtually destroyed the house and its treasures. It was only by the bravery of Audouin Oakes that my life was saved, but at the cost of his own. Both of us were dragged out unconscious by the firemen, and I recovered to dictate these memoirs. But Audouin was dead, struck down by a heart attack at the moment of his greatest effort and his finest achievement.

Mary Gregory, great grandma Sarah's half sister, and her husband Samuel, produced an interesting family. Their father was only a chimney sweep who had a pony and trap to take people to and from the station, but he also built Stoney View, a house opposite Stoney Lane, Selston. Mr Alan Noon, Headmaster of Newdigate School, Watnall. In the 1950's, tells how his wife, Marjorie Gadsby, knew the Gregory family well when they were growing up and how he often held up the example of this family on what can be achieved by hard work and effort.

Of his children, Luther spoke seven languages and travelled on the continent for Simon May & Co of Nottingham. Florence became a schoolteacher, married one Thomas Swain, and latterly lived in a double-fronted house opposite the recreation ground on Alfreton Road in Underwood. Agnes became an expert

dressmaker and married a long distance engine driver called Arthur Grainger. She was an active suffragette, and her daughter Doris later became Head of Domestic Science at the Brighton College of Further Education. Hubert was a geologist who became curator of the Leicester museum, where he encouraged Sir David Attenborough in his boyhood days. Laura was an exception: she stayed at home to look after the others.

Personal notes dictated April 1987 by Margaret Parkes

Baptised aged 6 weeks, Underwood St Michael & All Angels church

From 3-15 years attended Underwood Church Sunday School

Age 4 – Underwood C of E school

Age 9 – Bagthorpe Higher Standard School. Obtained scholarship to Mansfield Grammar Technical College

Confirmed age 13 at Selston parish church.

Age 15-32 teacher in Sunday School

Over ten years assistant church organist (private piano lessons given 1948-53)

Member of Guides, Rangers, Girls Friendly Society, registered for youth work during the war.

Position at 18 – Junior secretary in personnel of Mr C A M Oakes of Felley Priory (Managing Director James Oakes & Co (Riddings) Ltd.

1949-57 Secretary of local Women's Institute

1959 qualified to teach secretarial subjects, and taught (in spare time) at Clarendon College of Further Education in the Department of Languages and Commerce.

Mr Oakes (in 1949) Chairman of Southwell Diocesan Board of Finance was responsible for my introduction to the Diocese (14 Mar 1949-22 Nov 1972). For the last nine years Assistant Secretary of Southwell Diocese. Early retirement due to ill health – multiple sclerosis diagnosed February 1965.

In 1960 qualified as one of 50 finalists in the Secretary of Great Britain competition

1962-63 – acted as courier for Interchurch Travel (spare time)

1965 trained and achieved status as a member of the Institute of Qualified Private Secretaries.

In 1966 helped Mrs Joan Barber of Thoresby Hall to establish the Christian Unity bookshop in Oxford Street, Nottingham.

From mid 1970's indexed archives for Nottingham City Library. Researched development of the three ancient churches in Nottingham at and for Nottingham University (Local History Department).

Some private teaching at home.

The above papers were typed up by a Mrs Win Bradley and were found after she had died. Win worked for Southwell Diocesan Board for many years and it is thought that she was a personal friend of Margaret Parkes.

Charge of Manslaughter

Extract from The Daily News, Monday March 16, 1846 by Phil Hand

MIDLAND CIRCUIT, NOTTINGHAM – Friday.

(Before Chief Justice Tindal.)

Charge of manslaughter. – *Joseph ROLLINSON*, aged 34, engineer, and *William LONGDON*, aged 18, engineer, both in the employ of Messrs. Wakefield, North and Morley, were charged upon the coroner's inquisition, held at Nuttall, on the 25th of August last, with feloniously killing and slaying Thomas SOAR.

Mr. WILDMAN was retained for the prosecution, Mr. WILLMORE appeared for the prisoner ROLLINSON, and Mr. MACANLEY for LONGDON.

Mr. WILDMAN stated the case, and called Joseph BARTON, overlooker of the Cinderhill Colliery, in the parish of Nuttall, who said – The deceased, Thomas SOAR, was employed in the pit on Friday, the 22nd of August. There is a cage used for the purpose of lifting coals from the pit, which is worked by means of a steam-engine. Joseph ROLLINSON had the care of the engine that day, and was assisted by William LONGDON as stoker. There is a bell in the engine-house, the handle of which is at the bottom of the pit. It was ROLLINSON'S duty to remain in the engine-house and watch the bell, and it was also his duty to set the engine to work, in obedience to the signals. ROLLINSON had been employed as engineer about a year or

more, and LONGDON had been his assistant for nearly the whole of that time. It is the duty of an engineer to let an engine stand when no signal is given. When the bell rings once, it is a signal to go on if the engine be still, and if it be in motion, it is a signal to stop. This is a regular rule at the Babbington Colliery, as well as at Cinderhill. At the time the accident happened, I was gone to breakfast, and as I was returning, I heard that a man had got killed. The banksman were about the mouth of the pit, and the two prisoners were in the engine-room.

By Mr. WILMORE - I was, at the time of the accident, overlooker of the banksman, the men on the outside of the pit. LONGDON was put under ROLLINSON to learn the business of engineer. The engine will sometimes run a little, even without being touched. The prisoners have always borne a good character.

Moses BARTON - I am overlooker of the machinery at Cinderhill Colliery, and was so at the time of SOAR'S death. I have repeatedly told both prisoners never to go on without the signals. It is well known that when a man is coming up, or is standing on the cage, he should shout "hold on." He should not touch the cage until he has given this signal. [Other witnesses proved that the deceased omitted doing this.] LONGDON has frequently been allowed to do very important duties, because he is steady and intelligent. On this occasion, having charge of the engine at the moment of the accident, I think he made a mistake by being over-anxious. At the time the accident occurred, the cages were being drawn up, minute by minute, alternately. There are two shafts to the pit, and the depth of each is 220yards. The cages were brought up emptied, and let down again, alternately, in the short space of one minute. I am not aware that ROLLINSON was the cause of the death of a man in a similar way a fortnight before, although one was killed.

Amos WARDLE said - I was working at the bottom of the pit at the time of the accident. It was the duty of the deceased to run the empty skips off the cage, and replace them by others filled with coal. The deceased was standing on the cage, pulling some skips upon it, when it was "yanked up," and he was thrown into a tank of water, and was drowned. The engine ought not to have moved until the bell rang; and it was not rung by the deceased, or any one else in the pit. He did not shout "Hold on," before getting upon the cage.

Other witnesses proved that LONGDON had the management of the engine at the moment of the accident, and ROLLINSON was set aside, being exempted from the charge by his lordship, and after a very able defence by Mr. MACAULEY, the other prisoner was acquitted by the jury.

The Chief-Justice, in dismissing the prisoners, expressed a hope that the present case would be sufficient to make engineers connected with coal pits and other dangerous occupations extremely careful.

Advertisements from Wrights 1858 Directory of Nottingham

**WALKER'S
COMMERCIAL HOTEL,
3, LISTER GATE,
Near the Post Office,
NOTTINGHAM.**

**HERMIT SQUARE COAL WHARF,
SNEINTON, near NOTTINGHAM.**

G. SHELTON,

Respectfully thanks his friends and the public for past favours, and begs to apprise them that he has disposed of his business to Mr. WILLIAM ELLIOTT, in whose behalf he solicits a continuance of their custom.

WILLIAM ELLIOTT,

In succeeding to the above wharf, takes the opportunity of stating that all descriptions of Coal will be supplied as heretofore, on the shortest notice and at MODERATE PRICES.

Gard and Soft Coal Cobbles & Slack,

For Household purposes, for Smithing, and for Engines.

Hermit Square Wharf, Sneinton,
May 5th, 1858.

NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

CREDIT AND DISCOUNT COMPANY,

For making Cash Advances from £20 and upwards,
On approved Personal or other Security, repayable by Fortnightly Instalments, extending over one, two, or three years.

Tradesmen and others requiring large amounts may be accommodated with any sum up to £1000, repayable either by Monthly or Quarterly Instalments.
Forms of application sent by post on receipt of six stamps.
Approved Trade Bills Discounted.

Offices: Wheeler Gate, Nottingham.

HENRY HUDSTON, Manager.

ESTABLISHED 1840.
J. BRIGGS,
HOSIER, GLOVER & LACEMAN,
18, LONG ROW WEST,
(OPPOSITE BROOMLEY HOUSE.)
NOTTINGHAM.

**BRITISH & FOREIGN LACES,
SEWED MUSLIN GOODS,
FANCY HOSIERY OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.**

Gentlemen's Ready Made Shirts,
Fronts, Collars, Stocks, Scarfs, Stiffeners, Handkerchiefs, Neckkerchiefs;
India Rubber, Silk & Cotton Braces; Purse, Watch Guards, &c.

BIRMINGHAM FIRE OFFICE,
UNION STREET, BIRMINGHAM.
ESTABLISHED 1805.

Insurances against Fire

**ARE EFFECTED BY THIS OLD ESTABLISHED OFFICE
ON ADVANTAGEOUS TERMS.**

Proposals, and every information relating to Insurances, may be obtained at the
HEAD OFFICE, as above, or of the undermentioned
AGENTS of the Company:—

Mr. J. F. SUTTON, Writing Office, Nottingham;

OR,

Mr. ROBERT PARKER, Stoney Street, Nottingham.

(By order) WILLIAM SUCKLING, Secretary.

The Allcocks of Hucknall

Clifford Hughes

Allcock is not as rare as most of the Notts names I have written about in these articles. It is a widespread name too, but its main area of concentration is Nottinghamshire, and, certainly in the 19th century, particularly Hucknall. Although its first recording in Notts parish registers is in East Markham in 1578, there is a baptism in Hucknall in 1659, which is early enough! But to me the main interest in the name in Hucknall is the way it illustrates the change of this place from a simple industrial village to a fully developed small town, with a varied economy and different occupational structure.

So in 1841 the Allcocks were almost all supported by the home-based cotton stocking making industry, and the town had probably changed little in character from its 18th century make-up. The only slightly unusual occupations were those of 70 year old William, a cottager, 50 year old William, the town constable living at Broom Hill (perhaps the last town constable before the police force was instituted), John the publican, and Hannah, of independent means. It would be interesting to know more of the constable, but he does not appear in any later census, and did not leave any descendants as far as I know. The Allcock women did not have work that was recorded in the census, although, and this is itself a fascinating detail, these families had very many daughters, who were probably helping in the home.

By 1881 life for the Hucknall Allcocks would have changed. There was a wider variety of industrial employment, now likely to be in factories and mines rather than at home. An unusual job, which recurs in censuses to 1911, was that of shetland wool shawl and fall maker. By 1911 several Allcocks were working as shawl hands. This intrigued me but googling revealed 2 shawl making firms in 19th century Hucknall, owned by the BUCK and HARDY families. Of course shawls were popular garments then.

But the Hucknall Allcocks seem to have been enterprising people, and many had learned crafts or set up businesses of their own, as the service sector developed in the town. John in 1871 was a joiner employing 2 men and 2 boys. Some years later his widow Mary can be found living on her own means at Sunny Bank, no doubt benefiting from money left by John, and son John in 1891 was a craft cabinet maker. John by 1901 was a cabinet maker on his own account, living in Allcock's Yard. Even those Allcocks who worked in coal mining seem to have been a cut above the average, operating as contractors or onsets.

Allcock's Yard is an indicator of another direction taken by bearers of this surname. 17 year old William was a bricklayer in 1881, presumably working for his builder father, but by 1911 he had become a carter, builder and contractor, living at No1 Allcock's Yard, possibly built by his father. Samuel Allcock was in the same line of business. Walter was a decorator and house painter. I expect that these enterprising people saw the opportunities offered by a building boom as the town expanded.

The daughters of these families were no longer 'unemployed' as they appeared to have been in 1841, and most of them managed this without having to go into service as was normal for women in the later 19th century. In keeping with the aspirational nature of the employment of their fathers and brothers, they often entered trades like dressmaker and shop assistant in 1881, and milliner and tailoress in 1911. New openings were provided for the daughters of the more 'respectable' families as compulsory elementary education was brought in, in 1870. In 1891 Alice, the 19yr old daughter of widow Mary mentioned above, was a pupil teacher. Other Hucknall-born girls were to be found teaching in Skegby, where their families had moved to take advantage of collieries opening there.

The increase in the variety of work available for women as well as men is aptly illustrated by looking at Hucknall High Street. Here, 2 shops were owned and operated by Allcocks, respectively Henry and Isabella's toy and fancy goods shop, and John and Ruth's fishmonger's. After 1870 disposable income rose for all sections of society. The changes in society which arose from increased spending power and education are reflected in these developments experienced by this small Nottinghamshire town, and this in turn is reflected in what was happening to the many Allcock households living there.

George Henry Dann, chemist and druggist, and aerated water manufacturer (1831 – 1876) Peter Hammond

The October 2019 NFHS Journal included an article on the chemist and druggist Matthew Humphreys of Drury Hill and later nearby Middle Marsh. At the time of the 1851 census one of his apprentices living within the same household was a certain George Henry Dann, then 19. As he proves to be an interesting character in his own right he merits a separate article.

Born in 1831, George Henry Dann was one of at least nine children of George and Sarah Dann, who kept the ‘Red Lion’ public house in Nottingham’s Narrow Marsh (aptly called ‘Red Lion Street’ for a while and now ‘Cliff Road’). Their public house, demolished during the 1930s, stood directly below the cliff below the Shire Hall and County Gaol – now the National Justice Museum. The Dann family had kept the ‘Red Lion’ for several generations and thus he was brought up with a family who certainly had plenty of experience within the pub trade.

It must have been around 1845, when George was 14, that he was apprenticed to Matthew Humphreys, who as stated in the above-mentioned article, published a splendid detailed advertisement within Glover’s Nottingham Directory of 1844 promoting his camomile pills.

On completing his apprenticeship with Matthew Humphreys, which must have been in around 1853, George established his own chemist and druggist business in Union Road (off St Ann’s Well Road), certainly being listed as such in Directories from 1858 onwards, though he was living just around the corner in Northumberland Street. He is listed here as a chemist and druggist in the 1861 census, then aged 29, with his widowed mother Sarah Dann living in the same household, along with younger brothers Francis William (a lace designer), [James] Walter (a printer’s apprentice), John Henry [otherwise Henry John], and his youngest sister Mary Ellen. On 25 November 1862 he was married to Ann, the second daughter of Matthew Jackson, a farmer of Harby in Leicestershire, at her native church. They are not known to have had any children. Thereafter George continued to trade as a chemist and druggist at 71 Union Road.

In February 1867 George Henry Dann started publishing a series of splendid adverts within the local

PURE AERATED WATERS,	
manufactured by G. H. DANN, Operative Chemist, Union-road, Nottingham. Highly recommended by the faculty.	
See Testimonials from	
R. C. BOURNE, Esq., L.M. & L.S.A.	
C. HUTHWAITE, Esq., Lic. Fac. Phy., Surgeon, and L.M. & L.S.A.	
W. WOOD, Esq., M.D., C.S.E. & L.S.A.	
HIGHLY-CHARGED	
SODA WATER. POTASS WATER. LITHIA WATER. LITHIA & POTASS WATER. BRIGHTON SELTZER WATER. ILKESTON ALKALINE WATER, direct from the Springs (aerated), and all other Medicated Waters. Sparkling Citrated LEMONADE. Fermented and Aerated GINGER BEER. Superior WINTER SHERBET.	TONIC CHALYBEATE WATER. TONIC QUININE WATER. BISMUTH WATER for INDIGESTION.
Supplied Carriage Free. Liberal Discount to Large Consumers. 13380	

newspapers (see example shown here), still describing himself as an ‘operative chemist,’ but also advertising aerated waters including sparkling citrated lemonade, fermented and aerated ginger beer, and superior winter sherbet. These adverts continued to run until October of the same year. Morris’s Directory of 1869 then confirms that he was a ‘chemist and druggist’ along with a ‘soda water manufacturer’ of both 71 Union Road and 30 Northumberland Street, while Wright’s Directory of 1871 states that he was an ‘aerated water manufacturer & druggist.’ He also then kept the branch post office.

However in the 1871 census, taken in April of that year, he described himself solely as an ‘aerated water manufacturer,’ then of 89 St Ann’s Well Road. Both George and his wife Anne were then aged 38. With them was a 19-year-old domestic servant named Alice Gibson, who being a native of Harby in Leicestershire must therefore have already been known to Anne or her family.

Unfortunately George’s wife Anne died on 1st November that same year at the same address, her cause of death stated as ‘exhaustion after enteric and rheumatic fever’ (this is now known to be caused by the bacterium Salmonella). George registered his wife’s death four days later, at which time he described himself as an innkeeper. He also purchased a family plot in Nottingham’s Church (rock) Cemetery where her funeral took place at 2.15 p.m. during the afternoon of 5th November.

The fact that George described himself as an innkeeper when his wife died suggests he had then relinquished his aerated water business. This must have been around the time when he became landlord of the White Swan Hotel in Beastmarket Hill within Nottingham's Market Square, thus taking over from the previous landlord William Hickling, while William Collyer took over as an aerated water manufacturer at 57 Union Road.

As Beast Market Hill was within the parish of St Nicholas this is where George's second marriage took place on 4th January 1874, when he married a spinster Sarah Foster, some fifteen years younger and the daughter of a farmer, then deceased, of Steeple Claydon in Buckinghamshire. One wonders how they met. Had she stayed at the White Swan? The official witnesses were George's brother Henry John Dann and his sister Mary Ellen Dann.

During 1876 George must have become ill. This prompted him to write his will on 12th October, in which he named his friends Thomas Dickenson, a wine and spirit merchant of Nottingham, and John Hart of Leicester, a licenced victualler, along with his wife Sarah as trustees and executors. One of the witnesses was Edward Green, ostler, presumably of the White Swan. George died less than a month later on 9th November. He was only 45. His death certificate reveals the cause of death as 'cirrhosis of the liver' and 'dropsy.' This shows that George died as a result of excessive alcohol consumption (probably to be expected when running a drinking establishment!) along with what is more commonly known today as 'oedema,' i.e. excessive swelling due to fluid retention, often of the ankles.

The funeral of George Dann took place on 13th November at 2 p.m., being buried with his late wife Anne, again in the Church Cemetery. In the meantime Sarah Dann continued to run the Hotel and soon re-married, the ceremony taking place at Lenton church on 13th December 1877. Her second husband was a plumber named James Albert Weldon. Thus when Sarah proved her former husband's will on 1st February 1878 she was correctly described as 'then wife of James Albert Weldon.' James and Sarah Weldon then continued to run the Swan Hotel, as confirmed by the 1881 census.

Unfortunately tragedy struck again two years later for Sarah died on 27th October 1883. She was only 33. She was buried with her first husband in the Church Cemetery, the funeral taking place on the last day of that month.

So the family seem to have been plagued by misfortune. Despite this, George with his public house background was obviously very successful when he launched his aerated water business, but he was to relinquish this, along with his other occupation as a chemist and druggist, when he took over the Swan Hotel. Today bottles are dug up marked with Dann's name, including this one shown here from my own collection, a six-sided 'cucumber' style bottle, that is marked 'G. H. DANN /GINGER NECTAR / SHERBERT /AND /AERATED WATERS / NOTTINGHAM.' The above research thus tells us that this bottle was most probably made between 1867 and 1871.



Linby Baptism

1849 Feb 19 Ellen dau of William & Sarah MARSHALL or TOTTLE of Lynby, runaway labourer, mothers name RICHARDS. Married under a fictitious name at St.Marys Nottingham.

Linby Burials

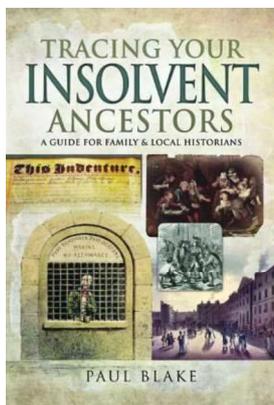
1864 May 17 Thomas CARTER, 74. CARTER was a London boy, a curious character.

1872 Dec 26 John HEATH, 77, Newstead. An honest man.

1876 May 18 Sarah HEATH, 36. Found dead on the floor but had long suffered from heart disease. Acted as housekeeper for old Mr ALLCOCK (Fiskerton)

Book Reviews

To obtain any of these books please use the contact details given with the relevant item. Not all are available from our Bookstall, but, please ask the Bookshop manager as he may be able to obtain them. It may be possible to order items quoting an ISBN number from your nearest good bookshop. NO enquiries should be directed to the Editor. Prices are correct as at time of printing but do not include postage costs. Copies may have been donated to our library.



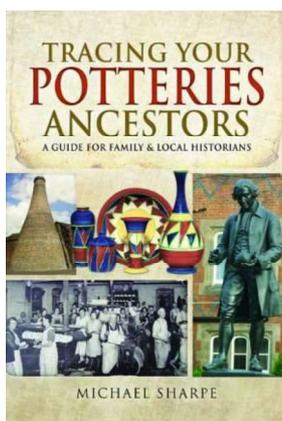
Tracing Your Insolvent Ancestors

By Paul Blake. Published by Pen & Sword

ISBN 9781526738653

This is a very detailed book about debtors and insolvents. The differences between these two are laid out and the legal processes involved for each are explained with multiple examples of cases to illustrate them. It is not an easy subject but this volume has brought together a huge amount of information as to resource materials that are available and what we should be looking for. It is essential reading if you want to understand what your ancestors went through but it is also a very good record of the social history of insolvency and bankruptcy.

Price £14.99 Softback



Tracing Your Potteries Ancestors

By Michael Sharpe. Published by Pen & Sword

ISBN 9781526701275

Despite the name there were many other industries represented in the area known as the Potteries such as mining, canals and the railway. Michael has provided a 'one-stop shop' of resources for family and local historians. Chapters cover a variety of subjects such as everyday life, local government, migration and local housing, military, church records, and also looks at the actual pottery industry providing a lot of background information as well as sources available. Each chapter has been given its own bibliography and at the end there is a large Directory of Archives and Resources and a useful timeline of Potteries history. This is a valuable guide and is a must for anyone with ancestry from this area.

Price £14.99 Softback

Directory Dipping

WYSALL

Extract from White's 1864 Directory of Nottinghamshire

A parish and a small village on the Wolds, and in 1861 had 72 houses and 274 inhabitants. The Wesleyans and Baptists have each a Chapel here, the former built in 1825, the latter rebuilt in 1858. The school is held in the church belfry.

Extract from Morris 1869 Directory of Nottinghamshire

A parish and village in Loughborough union, Leicestershire, 7 miles north-east from Loughborough, and 9 south-east from Nottingham. The poor have charitable bequests producing about £4 10s per annum, which is distributed at Christmas.



Deaths published during October 1849 in the Nottingham Guardian
Extracted by Phil Hand

Surname	Forename	Date Died	Age	Died at	Notes
The following appeared in the date 4th October 1849 issue					
ALCOCK	Sarah	1849 Sep 27	49	Farnsfield	Wife of Mr Robert ALCOCK
ALDRIDGE	Harrietta	1849 Oct 01	54	Nottingham	Died of asiatic cholera, after twelve hours illness. Wife of Mr Joseph ALDRIDGE, Master of the National School, High Cross Street, Nottingham
BAKER	William	1849 Sep 30	16	Hospital, Nottingham	Framework-knitter of Bulwell
BARBER	Hannah	1849 Sep 27	27	Lamb Close House, in this County	Wife of Thos BARBER Esq
CALVERLY	Hannah	1849	45	Sheffield	Wife of Mr John CALVERLEY, Gardener, Worksop
ELLIS	Ann	1849 Sep 29	57	Chesterfield	Wife of Mr William ELLIS, Joiner
FROGGATT	Edward	1849		New York, America	Youngest son of the late John FROGGATT Esq, of Worksop
GEE	Elizabeth	1849 Oct 01	23	Chesterfield	Wife of Mr Jonathan GEE
GROCOCK	Ann	1849 Oct 02	53	Basford	Relict of Mr WM GROCOCK
HEALD	Sarah	1849 Oct 01	44	Bilborough	Wife of Mr John HEALD
HOLMES	Elizabeth	1849 Oct 01	83	Arnold	Relict of Mr W HOLMES
LACY	John	1849 Sep 26	10	Mill-Gate, Newark	Son of William LACEY, labourer. His death was caused by being accidentally crushed by a railway waggon
MAUL	Fanny	1849 Sep 22	31	Epperstone	Wife of Mr Henry MAUL
MYATT	George	1849 Sep 27	32	Arnold	
NEALE	Mr	1849	72	Alverton	
OLDERSHAW	John	1849 Sep 29	29	Larne, County of Antrim, Ireland	Officer of Excise. Eldest son of the late Mr OLDERSHAW, of Strelley in this County
PARR	James	1849 Sep 30	91	Burton Joyce	
TRECOTHICK	James	1849	50	27 Upper Southwick Street, Hyde Park, London	Esq
WAPLINGTON	Caroline	1849 Oct 01	19	Hospital, Nottingham	Of South Street, Nottingham
WEBSTER	Peter	1849 Sep 29	30	Chesterfield	(Junior) A pipe maker

Surname	Forename	Date Died	Age	Died at	Notes
WOOD	John	1849 Sep 28	19	Sneinton	Son of the late Mr John WOOD, of Parliament Street, Nottingham
WOOD	Ann	1849 Sep 29	81	Manor Gardens, Worksop	Died after a short illness. Relict of Mr Thomas WOOD, of Bawtry
The following appeared in the 11th October 1849 issue					
BAILEY	Mrs	1849 Oct 08		Gamston	Died at an advanced age. Relict of Mr John BAILEY, Farmer
BEEDHAM	Mr J	1849 Oct 04	54	King Street, Newark	
BOOTH	Jonah	1849 Oct 05	78	Askham, near Retford	Wheelwright
BUCKLEY	Robert	1849 Oct 08	26	Nottingham Union Poorhouse	Died of consumption, Tailor
CARNELL	Wm	1849 Oct 03	45	Orston	
CHADBOURNE	Eliza	1849 Oct 03	23	Sutton in Ashfield	Wife of Mr Richard CHADBOURNE
CULLEY	Mary Ann	1849 Oct 10	7	Basford	Daughter of Mr Henry CULLEY
DOBBS	Thos	1849 Oct 08	19	Bond-Street, Nottingham	Died of consumption, Cordwainer
GELL	Wm	1849 Oct 07	68	Blucher Public House, Chandlers Lane, Nottingham	GELL
GELL	Thomas	1849 Oct 09	60	Poplar, Nottingham	Died of apoplexy
HOLMES	William	1849 Oct 04	15	General Hospital, Nottingham	Of Kidd Street, Nottingham
KNIGHT	Sarah	1849 Oct 01	84	Bulwell	Widow. Died after a long illness
LUNN	George	1849 Oct 05	43	Portland Street, Newark	
MAUL	William	1849 Oct 10		Orston	Labourer
PALETHORPE	Arthur	1849 Oct 03	80	Tonges Yard, Newark	
PARKER	Mary	1849 Oct 06	64	Bulwell	Wife of Mr Wm PARKER, Boot and shoemaker
PILLATTE	Andrew	1849 Jne 27	34	St Lewis, United states	Died of cholera, late of Nottingham
SIMPSON	Mary	1849 Oct 07	79	St Marks Lane, Newark	Mrs
SLACK	Edward	1849 Oct 05	40	Arnold	Died after a long affliction. Leaves a widow and ten children
WALLIS	Susan	1849 Oct 07	Infant	Chesterfield	Infant daughter of Mr George WALLIS
WAND	Edward	1849 Oct 07	27	Balderton Gate, Newark	Butcher
WHARBURTON	Joseph	1849 Oct 05	59	Haughton Street, Nottingham	Tailor

Surname	Forename	Date Died	Age	Died at	Notes
WRIGHT	Elizabeth	1849 Oct 10		Greyhound Street, Nottingham	Miss
The following appeared in the 18th October 1849 issue					
BARKER	John	1849 Oct 13	77	Eakring	Died suddenly. Gentleman
BARNES	Sarah	1849 Oct 11		Thurgarton	Wife of Mr Jonathan BARNES, Labourer
BAYNES	John	1849 Oct 14	42	Nottingham	Formerly Book-keeper to Messrs SUTTON and Co., Wharfingers, London Road, Nottingham
BROWN	Maria	1849 Oct	43	Kegworth	Died very suddenly
BURROWS	George	1849 Oct 17	37	General Hospital, Nottingham	Bleacher, of New Lenton
COOLEY	John Shipman	1849 Oct 13	29	Sneinton	Eldest son of William COOLEY, Gentleman, of Sneinton
COOPER	Elizabeth	1849 Oct 13	42	Tapton, near Chesterfield	Died after a long illness. Wife of Mr John COOPER, Station Master
DEACON	Sarah	1849 Oct 11	51	Kings Mill	Wife of Mr Wm DEACON
FARNADS	Stella	1849 Oct 15	45	New Bridge Street, Nottingham	Mrs
GARNER	Mary	1849 Oct 14	40	Nottingham	Mrs. Of Sneinton
HALLAM	Maria	1849 Oct 13	67	Kegworth	Wife of Mr Charles HALLAM
HANDFORD	Gervas	1849 Oct 14	56	Basford	Landlord of the Red Lion, Two Mile House
HARDIN	Susan	1849 Oct 11	3	Rempstone	Second daughter of Mr John HARDIN
LIMB	Esther Ann	1849 Oct 12	80	St Marys Gate, Chesterfield	Wife of Mr Wm LIMB
SLACK	Susannah	1849 Oct 16	57	Red Lion Street, Nottingham	Mrs
SPENCER	Ann	1849 Oct 08	65	Thurgarton	Widow
SUTTON	Ann Agnes	1849 Oct 13	10	Spring House, Kegworth	Died of scarlet fever. Daughter of Mr J B SUTTON
SWIFT	Elizabeth	1849 Oct 13	82	Brampton, near Chesterfield	Relict of Mr George SMITH
The following appeared in the 25th October 1849 issue					
ALMOND	Mary	1849 Oct 15	60	Plumtre Street, Nottingham	Wife of Mr Thomas HARDWICK ALMOND
BOOTH	Mary	1849 Oct 21	61	Temple Place, Red Lion Street, Nottingham	Died after a short illness. Wife of Mr Abraham BOOT
BREWSTER	Jenny	1849 Oct 22	76	Ratcliff on Trent	Wife of Mr Edward BREWSTER
CAMM	Thomas	1849 Oct 24	74	Chesterfield	

Surname	Forename	Date Died	Age	Died at	Notes
COTTAM	John	1849 Oct 18	45	Mill-Gate, Newark	Died of cholera
CUCKSON	John	1849 Oct 19	80	Worksop	Late of Lound
DAWES	Matthew	1849 Oct 18	46	Derby Road, Nottingham	Dyer
DAY	Samuel	1849 Oct 17	72	Worksop	For about fifty years in the employ of Messrs SHAW and Son, whitesmiths and ironmongers, of that town
DIXON	Charlotte	1849 Oct 22	4	North Gate, Newark	Daughter of Mr John DIXON, deceased. Died of cholera
FLOWER	George	1849 Oct 19	67	Calverton	
FRANCKLIN	Frances Barbara	1849 Oct 19		Gonalston Hall, Nottinghamshire	Wife of John FRANCKLING Esq
GREENFIELD	Joseph	1849 Oct 20	77	Gedling	Gent
HALL	Frederick	1849 Oct 21	4	Mill-Gate, Newark	Son of Mr Wm HALL. Died of cholera
HARSTON	Emma Anne	1849 Oct 22		Lombard Street, Newark	Daughter of Mr James HARSTON
HOYES	Lucy	1849 Oct 16	40	Cawkwells Yard, Newark	
HOYTE	Ann	1849 Oct 16	68	Granby Lodge	Widow
JALLANDS	Ann	1849 Oct 18	72	Guildhall Street, Newark	Widow of Mr John JALLANDS
JAMES	Wm	1849 Oct	37	New Basford	A Commercial Traveller. Had latterly had an attack of cholera at Newcastle upon Tyne and had not fully recovered when he ruptured a blood vessel which terminated his life
LOCKWOOD	Mary Ann	1849 Oct 17	11	Worksop	Daughter of Mr Abraham LOCKWOOD
MARSHALL	Ann	1849 Oct 17	39	Top Lodge, Whatton	Wife of Mr Edward MARSHALL
McKECKNIE	Dugald	1849 Oct 18	51	Old Workhouse, Newark	
MORLEY	Hannah	1849 Oct 14	45	Grey Friars Gate, Nottingham	
NICHOLSON	Catherine	1849 Oct 19	27	Easthorpe, Southwell	Daughter of the late Jeremiah NICHOLSON, Stone mason
RANDALL	John	1849 Oct 22	26	Albion Street, Newark	Died of cholera
RUSHATON	Jane	1849 Oct 21	30	Mill-Gate, Newark	Wife of Andrew Rushton. Died of cholera
SHEPARD	Joseph	1849 Oct 23	57	Temple Place, Red Lion Street, Nottingham	Died after a lingering illness

Surname	Forename	Date Died	Age	Died at	Notes
SHEPHERD	Wm	1849 Oct 19	25	Worksop	He was one of the best players in the Worksop Cricket Club, and was followed to the grave by most of the members of the same
SHERLOCK	Louisa Catharine	1849 Oct 24	27	London	Eldest surviving daughter of the late Colonel SHERLOCK K H of Southwell
SMAWLEY	Hannah	1849 Oct 19	57	Carlton	Wife of Mr George SMAWLEY, Framework-knitter
SURGAY	Sarah	1849 Oct 18		Arnold	Died suddenly at an advanced age. Wife of Mr R SURGAY. She was found dead in bed
WARD	Robert	1849 Oct 20	27	Mill-Gate, Newark	Joiner. Died of cholera
WILKINS	Sarah	1849 Oct 22	47	Chesterfield	Died after a long illness. Wife of Mr Wm WILKINS, Netweaver
WINDLE	Emma	1849 Oct 24	18	Chesterfield	Daughter of the late Mr G WINDLE, Netweaver

Charge against a Solicitor in Nottingham Nottingham Evening Post January 29, 1889

At the Nottingham Guildhall, this morning, before MR J W Leavers and Mr S H Sands, Frederick Deakin, formerly of Nottingham, but now of 15, Park-row, Leeds, solicitor, was charged with having embezzled, on the 16th December, 1887, 11th of January, 1888, and on the 2nd of February, 1888, from his employers, Messrs Joseph and Arthur Bright, solicitors, Nottingham, the sums of £3 3s 4d, £4 19s and £10 9s.

Mr E H Fraser, who appeared to prosecute, said he only proposed at present to call sufficient evidence to justify a remand.

Detective sergeant Miller deposed to arresting the prisoner at 15, Park-row, Leeds. The warrant was read to the prisoner, who made no reply.

Mr Arthur Bright, solicitor, stated that the prisoner had been in his employment as salaried clerk. The receipt produced for £3 3s 4d was in prisoner's handwriting, the signature being in witnesses name. The sum in question had not been paid over to witness, nor had the prisoner accounted for it.

This was the whole of the evidence produced, and the prisoner asked that if remanded he should be allowed bail.

Mr Fraser objected to bail. The prisoner had been at large for many months, during which time the efforts of the prosecution to arrest him had been futile. When the case first came into his (Mr Fraser's) hands, prisoner pledged his word that he would not leave the town, but there had been a breach of faith on his part.

The magistrates remanded the prisoner, and refused bail.

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Monthly meetings are held at the Nottinghamshire Archives, Nottingham on the third Wednesday of every month. The archives will be open from 5pm for members on meeting nights. Speakers will commence at 7pm.

Research Room

Located within the National Justice Museum, Shire Hall, High Pavement, Nottingham.

Access is free to members.

Opening Times: Please check the website (www.nottsfnhs.org) in case of changes

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First Saturday of the month 10am – 12.00pm

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Various books, maps, computer discs etc relating to genealogy and local history are available from the Society bookshop via the website at www.nottsfnhs.org or at the monthly meetings. The bookshop also attends Family History Fairs around the country, details of which may be found in the journal.

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All relevant information should be provided and surnames given in CAPITALS.

Please ensure you send your requests to the correct person or delays will occur.

Parish Register Searches Nottinghamshire (Baptisms/Burials full transcription; Marriages Index only)

Postal queries only: Specific individual from one type of register £4

Contact Mr Stuart Mason, 26 Acorn Bank, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7SH

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Kings Meadow Campus, Lenton Lane, Nottingham NG7 2NR

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

President & Programme Secretary

Peter Hammond

17 Lady Bay Road, West Bridgford,
Nottingham NG2 5BJ
Email: nottsfhspresident@nottsfnhs.org

Hon. Treasurer & Membership Secretary

Peter Banham

20 South Street, Long Eaton, Nottingham NG10 1ER
Email: nottsfnhstreasurer@nottsfnhs.org
Email: membership@nottsfnhs.org

Hon. Secretary

Mary Ellis

24 Rowan Court, Larkfields, Nuthall, Nottingham NG16 1FR
Email: nottsfnhssecretary@nottsfnhs.org

COUNCIL

Council Member

Peter Duke

8 Grove Avenue, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 4ED

Council Member

Stuart Mason

26 Acorn Bank, West Bridgford,
Nottingham NG2 7SH

Journal Editor

Tracy Dodds

39 Brooklands Drive, Gedling, Notts NG4 3GU
Email: nottsfnhsjournaleditor@nottsfnhs.org

Council Member

Peter Townsend

72 Haywood Road, Mapperley, Notts NG3 6AE

Council Member

Trish Evans

7 Wheatley Grove, Chilwell, Notts NG9 5AG

Bookshop Manager

Gary Stephenson

Email: shopmanager@nottsfnhs.org

E-Journal Administrator

Peter Banham

20 South Street, Long Eaton, Nottingham NG10 1ER

Librarian & Exchange Journals

Margaret Watt

40 Wadsworth Road, Stapleford, Nottingham NG9 8BD

N.F.H.S. Web Site

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Printed by Arcane Direct Marketing, George House, Bannerley Rd, Garretts Green Industrial Estate
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