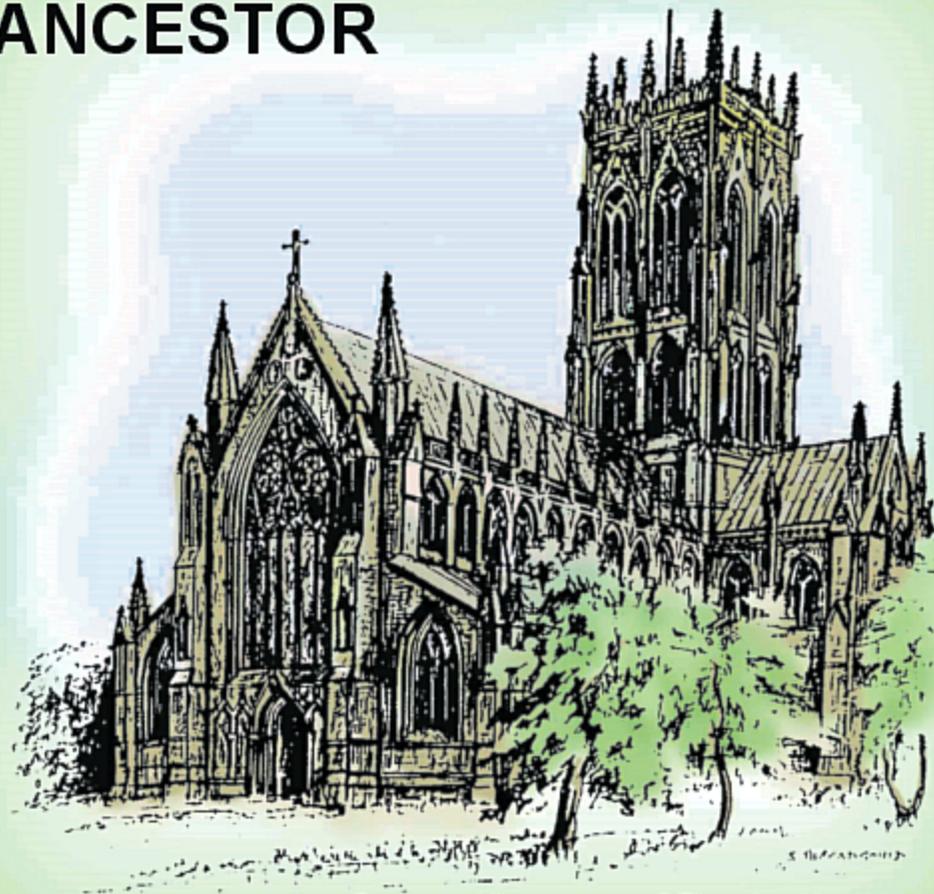


THE DONCASTER ANCESTOR

ISSN 0144-459X



Doncaster Minster

S Threadgould

**The Journal of the
Doncaster and District
Family History Society
1980 - 2018**

VOLUME 28 No 4 WINTER 2018

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.doncasterfhs.co.uk

Registered Charity No 516226 Formed January 1980

Patron: The Bishop of Doncaster, The Right Reverend Peter Burrows
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President: Derek A Palgrave MA FRHistS FSG

Officers and Executive Committee

Chair

Mrs Roni Chapman 165 Bawtry Road, Doncaster ,DN4 7AJ
01302 370628 chair@doncasterfhs.co.uk

Vice Chair

Mr Dave Valentine see full contact details inside back cover
and Mr Alec Graves vchair@doncasterfhs.co.uk

Secretary

Mrs Marion Baxter 38 Tudor Rd, Intake, Doncaster, DN2 6EN
07828207323 honsecretary@doncasterfhs.co.uk

Treasurer

Mrs Chris Lockyer 39 Springwell Gardens, Balby, Doncaster, DN4 9AH
01302 854943 treasurer@doncasterfhs.co.uk

Editor

Mrs Jenny Ellis c/o 49 Barnby Dun Rd, Wheatley Hills,
Doncaster, DN2 4QW
doncasterancestor@doncasterfhs.co.uk

Projects

Mrs Lynn Snowden 18 Newbury Way, Cusworth, Doncaster, DN5 8PY
01302 784350 works@doncasterfhs.co.uk

Programme Secretary

Mrs June Staniforth 07901523529

Committee Members

Mrs Carol Ackroyd, Mr John Humberston, Mr George Hiley

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Canon Tim Macquiban, Dr Brian Barber, The Ven. B L Holdridge,
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All general enquiries to the Secretary

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Doncaster Ancestor – Winter 2018

THE DONCASTER ANCESTOR

Journal of the Doncaster and District Family History Society

Free to Members

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Editor: Jenny Ellis

Assistant Editor: Keith Crouter

Editorial Team: Karen Walker, Richard Cuell



From the Chair



Once more I am writing this Chair's welcome to our winter edition of the Ancestor on a lovely sunny day in October.

The DDFHS Family & Local History Fair with Craft Stalls takes place this coming Saturday, 13th October. The stalls are all filled again this year and there have been some organisations on a waiting list for some time. Yet again we are indebted to Dave Valentine for his hard work over the year. We are also very grateful to the numerous volunteers assisting both in preparing the room at the Deaf Trust and staffing various stalls and the talks, but we know that Dave has made it all happen!

June Staniforth organised another excellent visit in September – this time to the West Yorkshire History Centre at Wakefield. I gather it was greatly enjoyed by all who made the journey. Unhappily I was unable to attend at the last minute but I had been on a visit earlier with the Yorkshire Group of Family History Societies, so I know what an excellent service they provide.

Work on the new Doncaster Cultural and Learning Centre has begun on site and it should be completed by the Summer of 2020. At that point plans for related organisations to move to the 'old' Museum in Chequer Road will be formulated so there is some time before we need to give thought to the upheaval of relocation.

Finally, we have Alec Graves to thank for his work on the membership. The Society's membership has declined slightly but Alec has managed to slow the downturn which is affecting most similar organisations.

Best wishes to all for a very Happy Christmas and a good New Year.

Roni Chapman

chair@doncasterfhs.co.uk

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

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

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

Vol 29 No 1 Edition will be published at the end of February 2019.



From the Editor

Hello and welcome to the winter edition of Doncaster Ancestor. Just for the record this line was typed on 6th August, when I was setting up this issue of the Ancestor. That now seems such a long time ago.

We have a variety of articles for you to read in this Ancestor, and I would like to say a big thank you to those people that have contributed this time. Please keep the articles coming, as it makes my job so much easier and also more interesting. I think that you will find the story about Uncle Walter very interesting and emotive.

Roni has mentioned about the Society's trip to the West Yorkshire History Centre and I will write an article in the next Ancestor, as it was quite a poignant visit for me.

You can read Dave's article about our Fair, on pages twenty eight and twenty nine, which includes a few photographs. You will also see that no one has come forward to help with the Fair next year, so please have a think about this. Dave has compiled a list of what is involved, so it is possible to break it down, so that it can be achieved by a small team of people.

The Society still has a number of vacancies that need filling, so please consider whether you are able to spare a couple of hours, to help with this, which doesn't have to be on a regular basis. The Society can only function with all the volunteers that give their time, so please help.

Jenny Ellis, doncasterancestor@doncasterfhs.co.uk

**We would like to wish all our members a very
Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year**

Disclaimer

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

Palgrave Research Centre

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

All D&DFHS Publications and a vast collection of resources are
available to view and copy, using our printers only.
Please note that unauthorised use of USB sticks, or photography of our
resources is not allowed.
Ten computers and four microfiche readers can be booked for use and
printer facilities are available

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

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

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

Second Saturday of each month only

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

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

**Research Centre Bookings:
01302 311930**

The next closure dates for the Palgrave Research Centre are:

Closed	Saturday 15th December 2018
Reopens	Wednesday 2nd January 2019

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

Palgrave Research Centre

New Acquisitions to our Library & Research Centre

- AF/A46 Pocket Guide to Family History: Using Army Records.
AF/A47 Pocket Guide to Family History: Using Navy Records.
- C/O17 How to trace your Family History on the Internet. Dr.Nick Barratt.
C/ESS06 Harwich Gateway to the Continent. L.Weaver.
C/KEN06 The Wicked Trade – Genealogical Crime Mystery – N.D.Goodwin.
C/LIN58 Around the Wolds & North Yorks. Wolds Publication.
- D/231 Doncaster & the Doncaster Area, Ordnance Map.
D/232 The Obedient Servant: Doncaster Borough Police 1836-1968.
John Brown.
- D/233 Welcome to St Mary Parish Church, Tickhill.
D/234 Hatfield Millennium Window. N & T.Steed.
D/235 Parish Church of St Wilfrid, Hickleton – Guide
D/236 Story of the Church of St Andrew the Apostle, Bolton on Dearne.
Rev D C Sparks.
- D/237 Holy Trinity Church Cowick, Celebrating 150 years (1854 – 2004)
D/238 A Walk Around St Mary's Church, Kirk Bramwith.
D/239 All Saints' Church Woodlands.
D/240 Moorends and its Church
D/241 This is Doncaster: Official Guide 1980/1982 – Doncaster DMBC.
- H/A90 Tracing the History of Your House.
H/A93 Collins Tracing Your Family Tree. A. Adolph.
H/A94 Tracing Your Family Tree, J. Cole & M. Armstrong
H/G10 General Sources of B M & D before 1837, D J. Steel
H/G11 Adoption Contact Register – G.R.O
H/G12 Access to Birth Records – G.R.O.
H/G13 Information for Adopted People & their Relatives.
H/I07 Discovering Old Handwriting.
- Doncaster People of ten generations ago, D. Hey.
Old West Riding Volume 2 No.1 Spring 1982
Old West Riding Volume 3 No.1 Spring 1983
Old West Riding Volume 3 No 2 Winter 1983
Old West Riding Volume 4 No 1 Spring 1984
Old West Riding Volume 4 No 2 Winter 1984
Old West Riding Volume 8 No 1 Summer 1988
West Yorkshire Archive Services – Guide for family Historians.

This is just a selection of new books, thank you to everyone who has donated.
Anything without a code can be found on shelf B in the PRC.

Programme of Talks for 2019

30th January 2019

Winwaedfield, Whitby and Dracula by Eric Houlder

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

27th Feb 2019 includes AGM

Fraud & Bigamy in Mid Victorian Britain by Richard Axe.

The case of the Italian Imposter, Count Borromeo. Though this is just one of a number of names he would use, he spent most of his life defrauding individuals and businesses, and marrying or propositioning women. He was also well educated, multi lingual, a well-travelled showman and British.

27th March 2019

Two Queens and a Countess by David Templeman.

This is not the life story of three ladies but an in depth talk on the interaction between the third, the most colourful and charismatic women in Elizabethan history. Elizabeth I, Mary, Queen of Scots and Bess of Hardwick. A unique insight into a predominantly man's world, entered into and conquered by these three powerful women.

24th April 2019

The Secret Life of Charles Dickens by Pat Osbourne.

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

29th May 2019

Reflections on a Great War by Paul Grimley

26th June 2019

The History of Mining by Pat McLoughlin.

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

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

June Staniforth 07901 523 529

Entrance is free to members and £3.00 to non members

Recent Publications by D&DFHS

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

Please allow 21 days for delivery.

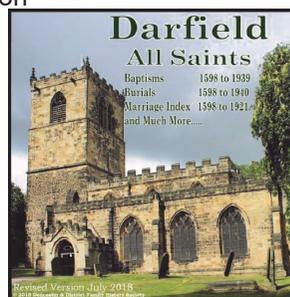
Goods can be returned within 14 days of receipt of order only if unopened, or found to be faulty, or if you have been sent a different item from that requested.

Darfield All Saints (revised July 2018)

One of our largest CDs in terms of pages of information

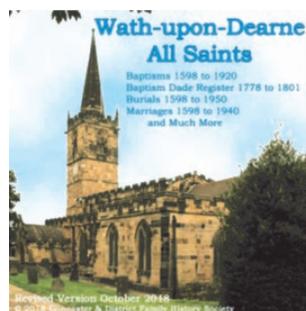
Baptisms	1598 to 1939
Burials	1598 to 1940
Marriages	1598 to 1921
Historical notes from the Parish, Cemetery Map, Memorial Inscriptions, and more	

CD 1100 Still only £12.00 + p & p



Wath upon Dearne All Saints (updated)

Baptisms	1598 to 1920
Baptisms Dade Register	1778 to 1801
Burials	1598 to 1950
Marriages	1598 to 1940
Monumental Inscriptions War Memorials Wath upon Dearne short history Bain's Directory 1822 White's Directory 1838 Kelly's Directory 1857 Kelly's Directory 1893 Kelly's Directory 1927	



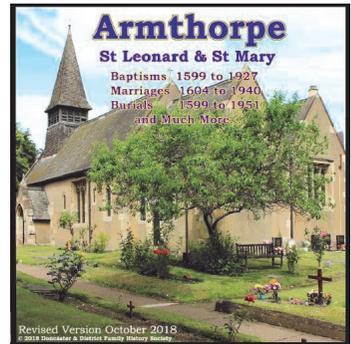
CD 1087 Price £12.00 + p & p

Armthorpe St Leonard & St Mary (updated)

Armthorpe Records Information
Armthorpe Historical notes
Archdeaconry map

Baptisms	1599 to 1927
Dade Register (Baptisms)	1777 to 1806 with gaps
Marriages	1604 to 1940
Burials	1599 to 1951
Cemetery Map	
Monumental Inscriptions	
War Memorials	
Directories extracts	
Schools Admission Registers	1907 to 1920 and 1923 to 1939

CD 1108 **Price £9.00 + p & p**



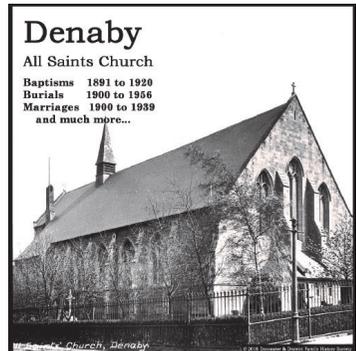
Denaby All Saints (New)

Baptisms 1891 to 1920
Marriage 1900 to 1939
Burials 1900 to 1956
War Memorials
Denaby History

Denaby Epworth Hall Wesleyan Methodist

Baptisms 1882 to 1920
Kelly's Directory 1927
Denaby Directory 1899

CD 1127 **Price £9.00 + p & p**



Coming next a new Rawcliffe CD and an update to the Swinton Parish CD.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our transcriber volunteers, and to all our readers.

Lynn Snowden, Project coordinator.

From the Postbag / via e-mail / Facebook

Hello, I wonder if you can help me. I am currently the owner of a mantle clock which has a plaque saying, "Presented to **Mr G. Poulter** by the foreman and his fellow workers of the LNER works Doncaster, on his retirement 24th October 1932".

I would love to pass this on to a member of Mr Poulter's family, if they were interested and wondered if your historical records might have a record of his family / descendants. Thank you.

Jan Ellis

janette.ellis@hotmail.uk

We have checked our records and cannot find Mr G Poulter. Let's hope someone can help us return this clock to his family.



Tips for your Research

I'm delighted to let you now about a new partnership between **MyHeritage**, and British Retailer **WHSmith**. For the first time, MyHeritage DNA tests are now available to purchase in retail stores in Europe.

Under the new partnership WHSmith distributes a unique product-named *MyHeritage Family History Discovery Kit*, which bundles MyHeritage's popular at-home DNA test with 3 months of access to MyHeritage's Complete plan, which includes all family tree features and historical records on MyHeritage, seamlessly integrated with the DNA test results.

This allows consumers to receive detailed ethnicity reports and connect with their relatives around the world through the power of DNA testing, and utilize MyHeritage's 9-billion-strong collection of historical records and family tree tools to embark on a journey to uncover their family history.

The distribution of the kits via local retail stores caters to the surging demand for at-home DNA testing throughout Europe.

Currently priced at £89 per kit.

What do members think about this latest addition to DNA testing? Please let me know, if you decide to try it.

Editor

General Register Office PDF Extended Pilot

The General Register Office for England and Wales (GRO), has been piloting a service providing PDF copies of historical birth and death records. The pilot, originally extended to July 2018, has now been extended further to continue to assess longer term demand and there is no planned end date at this time. Further communications will be provided in due course.

Applications for each PDF cost **£6**, must be made online, and include a GRO index reference. England and Wales records which are available as PDFs in this extended pilot include:

Births: 1837 –1917

Deaths: 1837 –1957

Please see the GRO website for further details:

www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/login.asp

You need to log in and have a password for this website but it is free to use.



Founded in 1987

A Mutual Self Help Group
Join Now & Trace your German Speaking Ancestors

For Introduction leaflet & application form send a DL size (4" x 9") SAE to:

ANGLO-GERMAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
15, Cromer Road, Sothend-on-Sea, Essex, SS1 2DU

or

WWW.AGFHS.ORG

Findmypast

England & Wales, Electoral Registers 1920 - 1932

A further 54 million newly indexed records spanning the years 1921 - 1925 are now available to search. This collection now contains over 107 million records and will enable you to discover where your ancestors lived during the 1920s and early 1930s, bridging the vital gap left by the destruction of the 1931 census.

Findmypast is available to browse for free at the PRC.

Help Wanted

My 4 x great grandfather John **Mawson** (**Morson**, **Mosson** etc.) was baptised at Cantley in 1793 and after service in the army, in the Peninsular War, worked as a coachman in the Manchester area from about 1830 until his death there in 1877. The mother of his children was a Hannah whose maiden name on a child's 1839 birth certificate is given as **Lacomeby** but on later children's birth certificates as **Myers**; a puzzle. I have been unable to trace a marriage but their first child, another John, appears in the Thorne baptism register in 1823.

John (1793)'s father was also John, baptised at Cantley in 1759, whose wife was another Hannah. This Hannah lived until 1845 and it has occurred to me that it might have been she who registered the 1839 birth as grandmother though she would have had to go from Cantley to Salford to do so. I have been unable to find John (1759)'s marriage to Hannah and would very much like her to be Hannah Lacomeby!

I should be grateful for any help in finding these two missing marriages of John Mawsons to Hannahs.

Finally the **Mawson** family, farmers and weavers who seem to have owned their own land rather than renting and so are unlikely to have been itinerant, appear in Cantley records during the 1700's and a **Moulson** / **Mouldson** family fade out at a similar time though there is an overlap. A possible conclusion is that they are one and the same family. They are unlikely to have been literate so the clergy would have written down in the records what they heard; but I have been unable to link the **Moulson** / **Mawson** change to any change in the clergy. Has any other member studied the **Mawson** and **Moulson** families at Cantley and what do members think of the hypothesis that they are in fact one family?

Stephen Mawson, Member 4228
stephenjc.mawson@btopenworld.com

A Tale from the Churchyard

In the autumn of last year a little group of men folk sallied forth into the churchyard at St Mary's Sprotbrough to clear ivy from the back wall. Ivy put up a stout resistance but we evicted her eventually! Whilst resting on our laurels we fell to reading tomb stones and one in particular caught our eye. It was in memory of a Mr Thomas **Wood** and also in memory of his son, William Avery **Wood**, his wife and five children who were lost in London - or so we thought it said. A closer examination revealed that the wording was not lost in London but lost in "the London", was this a ship? A quick google revealed that it was.

The steam ship London sank in 1866 on a voyage to New Zealand. Little did we know that a quiet afternoon in the church yard would lead us all into an intriguing tale of dodgy ship owners, odd vicars, changes in international law and a ship wreck that shocked the nation!

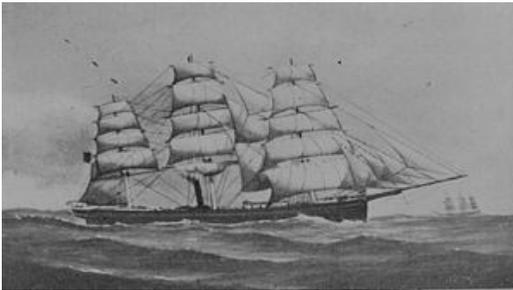
So who was Mr Thomas **Wood** of Sprotbrough? The internet is invaluable nowadays and a little searching on few well know family history website soon revealed the answer. Thomas **Wood** started off as publican at the Boat where he lived in 1841, however he soon progressed and by 1851 he was a farmer with 160 acres, six labourers & three male servants. He had five children John, Thomas, Mary, Oldfield and William Avery. By 1861 all his children had left home apart from Oldfield the second youngest who seems to have stayed to help with the farm. By now Thomas **Wood** the elder was much respected and had become the Land Agent to the big house. So much so that if you look to the west of the north door you can see a plaque lauding his virtues.

So what happened to his children and why did they move away from what appears to be a comfortable life in Sprotbrough? Let us introduce the Rev Scott **Surtees**, Rector of Sprotbrough 1858-1888. The Rev **Surtees** had a reputation as an evangelical, not an evangelical Christian but an evangelical supporter of emigration. In 1836 two hundred and fifty people emigrated from his parish in Norfolk in one year! He is reported as preaching from the pulpit on how a poor man in England could soon become a rich land owner in Australia or New Zealand. Today emigrating to New Zealand seems a complicated process, beset with red tape, credit scores and assessment of skills. In 1866 you just went along to your local shop (as advertised in the Doncaster Courier) had word with the agent of the shipping company and bought a ticket! The cheapest ticket at this time was about the equivalent of eight months' wages for a labourer or if you were feeling lucky you could just become a stowaway! However New Zealand was also promoting itself and some emigrants could obtain

free passage and grants of land on arrival if they were of the right type!

We do not know when William Avery **Wood** first emigrated, but we do know that he married probably in England and had three children. Sometime after his arrival in New Zealand his first wife died and he remarried a **Mrs Clayson** also a widow who had two children by her previous marriage. William settled in Arrowhenua in New Zealand where he became successful and well known. At some time in 1865 the family returned to England for a visit, whether they came to Sprotbrough to visit William's parents or not, we do not know, but by the end of 1865 they were ready for their return to New Zealand. It is now that the tale begins to take a tragic twist.

The **Woods** signed up to travel on The "Victory" from London. However having boarded the ship they were then ordered off by the Commissioners as their cabin was considered unsuitable. Taking up the matter with the ship's owners they were offered an alternative voyage on the "London" bound for Australia. A new state of the art ship with a steam engine and sails which



Steamship London

promised to cut the sailing time to Australia to sixty days. No doubt thrilled with this "upgrade" they joined the ship at the East India Docks. The London sailed on the 28th December 1865; it then called at Gravesend before turning into the Channel on the 30th December. They immediately met bad weather and had to haul to for a whole day; they then tried to proceed to Plymouth but had to haul to again near the Isle of Wight, as the winds were so severe. Eventually they arrived off Plymouth on the 4th of January where the rough seas swamped the boat of the pilot who had come to meet them and he and his assistant were drowned!

At Plymouth fifty more passengers joined the ship, but some also wanted to leave as they thought the ship had performed so badly in the poor weather! Two portholes had been stove in by the sea, which themselves were only two feet above the water level. At Plymouth the ship was inspected by the authorities, who thought it "was fine".

The ship set off for Australia on the 6th of January, and on the 7th they once again ran into bad weather. By the 9th they were well into the Bay of Biscay when the weather worsened and at 7am a lifeboat was washed away, at 9am

the bowsprit was smashed then the top of the mainmast and foremast were snapped off. The ship was rolling badly and water was constantly washing over the deck and running down into the cabins below. Early on the morning of the 10th the captain decided to start the engines and turn back for Plymouth. The weather continued to worsen and two more lifeboats were washed away. Conditions on the ship were appalling with two feet of water washing around the cabins, women screaming and children crying.

How the **Wood** family endured it is hard to imagine. At 10.30pm a huge wave stove in the glass engine room cover, Water cascaded onto the boilers, putting the engines out of action. This also took the main pumps out of action and the water could now only be pumped out of the ship using two auxiliary pumps or hand pumps. Attempts were made to repair the hatch and put up a storm sail but the elements destroyed all the good work. By 5am the London could only wallow in the storm and the final blow came when the sea stove in four of the seven stern portholes. The passengers continued to man the pumps but all knew it was hopeless. Many huddled in the main cabin to hear prayers from the Rev Daniel **Draper**. This had the effect of calming them with his words: "the captain tells us that there is no hope, but the Great Captain above tells us that we may all safely get to heaven". At 10am the crew tried to launch one of the ship's boats, this was immediately swamped. At 1pm they tried again and a small cutter managed to get away from the ship. However many passengers refused to get into it and most now seem to have become settled to their fate. Some gentlemen had pistols and shot themselves rather than face drowning. A Mrs **Draper** gave her blanket to those going in the boat. When asked if she wouldn't be cold without it she stoically replied that "it would only be for a few minutes longer." What happened to William, his wife and five children in these last few minutes we do not know, but we can only imagine the horror and helplessness. However the passengers do seem to have taken great comfort in their faith. At 2pm the bows reared into the air and ship vanished rapidly from sight.



The London sinking

Nobody knows how many people perished on the London but estimates put the figure at around two hundred and forty three. Accurate records were not kept and there were known to be stowaways. Nineteen people survived, the

cutter being eventually picked up by another ship after twenty hours afloat in icy conditions. Only three of the nineteen were passengers.

So why did the London sink? The ship was poorly designed, the crew were badly trained and the Captain inexperienced in a ship of that type. However the main reason was that the ship was overloaded. At this time the ship's owners decided on how much cargo was safe to put in a ship and being rich and influential gentlemen, they were very much against others telling them what to do with their own property. Even the provision of life boats was seen by some as an "unnecessary clutter on the decks which could be dangerous". This situation had not improved much by the time of the Titanic!

The MP Samuel **Plimsoll** campaigned long and hard for a change in the law following the sinking of the London and other ships and eventually succeeded in 1876 with the introduction of the Plimsoll line; which soon became the international standard for the safe loading of ships.

So there we have it, a link between a forgotten Sprotbrough grave stone and events that changed the world!

Roger Offord, Member 4190

Read all about it

People interested in family history are usually also interested in local history. Although there are many books relating the history of local areas, there is nothing like getting a flavour of the past by reading one of the local papers.

The actual copies of Doncaster's local paper (the Doncaster Gazette) are not available; they are safely stored in the Archives. Furthermore, as the Gazette is not available on "Find my past", the papers cannot be searched from a seat in front of a computer, but copies are available on film in the Local Studies section of the central library in town.

The local press reports in the early nineteenth century are full of unusual news: some items are dramatic in the telling; some are rather comical, whilst others are just plain interesting.

In the early 1800s there were several reports in the Doncaster Gazette of wagers that had taken place:

- In 1800, a joiner carried a plank, twenty feet in length, on which was spread a load weighing twelve and a half stone, for three miles, with only one rest, and all for a prize of one guinea.
- The following year a man won a wager of £5,000 by walking ninety miles in under twenty hours.

- A twenty year old blind man, in 1806, took on the challenge of running the eighteen miles between Halifax and Leeds in under three hours. He won, with seven minutes to spare; his reward was five guineas.

- Another wager, taken on by a Misson man, was to eat sixty-five raw eggs in eight minutes. He won the wager and earned himself three shillings.

There are stories of highway men, carriage breakdowns, and prisoners passing through Doncaster on their way to the transportation vessels, the occasional duel and much more.

In one duelling encounter, duel by pistols, both duellists missed. Still not satisfied, they tried again. The shots missed their intended targets once again, but one shot did manage to kill a cow in a nearby pasture.

The paper also reports the occasional misdemeanour on the Sabbath. On Monday 23 February 1807, twenty boys appeared in front of the magistrates and were both fined and admonished for playing on the Lord's Day.

It is nearly impossible to read a copy of the Gazette without stumbling on an interesting story. One of the more gripping tales is that told of a robbery in Doncaster.

Currently empty, the shop at the corner of Scot Lane and High Street in Doncaster has always been a jeweller's. Every day passers-by, heads bent over their phones, deep in thought or simply enjoying a stroll through town, barely give the premises a glance. And yet, in 1822, this shop was the scene of an ambitious and well-planned robbery as is told in the Doncaster Gazette.

In York prison at that time resided two ne'er-do wells, Robert Gill and James Ramsden. Not being overjoyed at being His Majesty's guests, the two plotted their escape from imprisonment. They successfully managed to knot together sufficient sheets to allow them to get over the wall (fifty feet in height) that surrounded the prison and flee the area.

The couple arrived in Doncaster and took up lodging at the Horse & Groom in Scot Lane and from there planned the robbery of Mr Bright's jewellers across the road from the inn. As far as they were concerned, the timing of the robbery was important; they planned to carry it out so that the blame for the theft could be placed on the chimney sweeps due at the shop.

They dug under the rear door, leaving the door itself in place, squirmed under it and from there entered the premises and removed over £1,200 worth of jewellery, a total of around five hundred different items, mainly watches, spoons and rings. Leaving town, they disappeared. There was no evidence to link them to the crime or even to put them under suspicion.

There was a lot of public support for Mr Bright and a collection was started to help him re-establish his business; the Earl Fitzwilliam donated £300 to the fund. It seemed as if the Robert Gill and James Ramsden would live to enjoy their ill-gotten gains.

The demon drink was to be their undoing. The couple had split up and each had gone his own way, Robert Gill making his way to Manchester. It was there, whilst deep in his cups, that he chose to complain about a missing watch to the landlord of the inn in which he was staying. The landlord, not taking kindly to the drunken complaints, decided to see whether the watch had simply been mislaid and searched Robert's room. He did discover the watch, a very expensive one, well beyond the means of a man like his lodger, together with other pieces of jewellery and a loaded pistol. The authorities were informed, and in due course Mr Bright identified the items as the ones stolen from his shop.

The search went on now for Robert's accomplice; he was soon apprehended and found to have one hundred guineas in his possession.

Following a trial in March 1823, the couple were hanged in front a large crowd in York. This brought the story to a close. If they had carried out the robbery a few years later, their fate would have been transportation and not death.

If you have enjoyed these few snippets, then why not look into the early versions of the Doncaster Gazette and "read all about it."

Richard Cuell, Member 2751

Pilkington's Glass Factory

St Oswald's Church at Kirk Sandall, is currently looking for photo's and memorabilia to commemorate the one hundred year anniversary of Pilkington's, in 2019. Although the building work started in 1919, it didn't actually open until 1922.

Did a relative work there, or did you work there? If you have any information, I am sure that they will be pleased to hear about it. If you have a story about it then I will also be pleased, as I can put it in the next Doncaster Ancestor. If anyone has anything that they think will be useful for a display, then please contact me and I will pass on the information.

www.stoswaldskirksandall.co.uk

Jenny Ellis, doncasterancestor@doncasterfhs.co.uk

Marriage Entry

Entry from Armthorpe marriages:

“22 Nov 1779 James Slack, servant, and Sarah Wild.

NB Not coming in time, were married the next day at Finningley”

The Finningley marriage register confirms this.

Trevor Betterton, member 1209

A Blast from the Past

Many years ago ,when I guess I was about twelve years old, I was witness to a very curious heated discussion between my parents. I have no recollection of the content of the "argument ", but the culmination I do remember. It was, my mother turning to me and saying very pointedly that " at least all my relations lived in houses, his (pointing to my father), came from a shed in the woods."

I don't think I gave this conversation even one minute's thought at the time, passing it off as one of those weird conversations parents had, that no one but them understood or had any interest in. As far as I can remember, I laced up my roller skates and disappeared out of the house as fast as I could. I didn't think about the conversation again until some fifty years later, when I suddenly wanted to turn the clocks back.

In front of me on the 1851 census was my three times great grandfather and grandmother, John **Parkin** born 1780 and his wife Elizabeth born 1782, with their daughter and two grand children.

According to the census they were living in a Shepherd's Tent, in Brodsworth Woods, where John then aged seventy one, was working as a wood reeve.

Both the 1841 census and the 1861 census showed John and Elizabeth living in Brodsworth but the census reporters had not been diligent enough to tell us exactly where they were living. It could have been that they lived for thirty years or more in the woods, but I will never know because I did not listen.

It just goes to show how much our parents knew about their ancestors through pure word of mouth and what we might already know if we can just sift through the cobwebs of our memory.

Denise Lane, Member 4098

Coral Sutcliffe, (1906 - 1966) Part Two

In a previous issue of the Doncaster Ancestor, I told the story of my great aunt Coral **Sutcliffe** who had emigrated to Australia in 1923. Later, newly married to a cricket friend of her brother Donald, called Victor **Metianen**, the couple had then moved to Russia in 1933. Having followed their story as best I could to Victor's execution about 1938, and Coral's imprisonment and ultimate death in 1966, I thought my story was over or at least had 'gone cold.'

However, as I had given public access to my family tree on Ancestry.com, occasionally I would get an inquiry of interest in some family member. So quite out of the blue I had an Ancestry message from a Mr Michael Connor in Australia, regarding the nature of my interest in Aunt Coral, and especially her deceased husband's the **Metainen** family in Sydney. Naturally, my interest in Mr Collins' research was to prove just as curious as his was in mine!



Coral, Victor & Kaola

He was able to confirm that a gentleman named Itzhac **Gust**, who had originally travelled with Coral and Victor from Australia, had met Coral again in Moscow in August 1960 and that Victor "died during the war". After her release, Coral had remarried and had another child. He also confirmed she died in an Odessa sanatorium on 25th August 1966, after that surprising visit of hers to see us in UK during 1965.

Michael Connor had been looking into the **Metainen** family, particularly Coral's two sisters in law, Lena and Frances, and at the time was in the middle of his research for an Australian magazine. He would get back to me when he had completed his draft article. When I received it, based on the now public, but formerly secret US Venona Files, I was astounded. These US files related to Russia's efforts to expose US research into atomic bomb production and other activities.

In 1943 the U.S. Army Signal Intelligence Service, launched a very secret program, later code named VENONA. The object was to examine, and exploit, encrypted Soviet diplomatic communications from 1939 onwards. The communications dealt with diplomatic and espionage matters, Soviet atomic bomb espionage, with both the Soviet Espionage Agency (KGB) and the Soviet Naval and Army Intelligence Staff (GRU) messages in New York, San Francisco, Washington. In addition, messages from Europe, South America, and Australia.

The program ceased in 1980 and in 1995 translated VENONA materials was released into the public domain, giving an insight into the alarming and unappreciated breadth and depth of Soviet espionage activities

within the United States.

What followed was a story about the Coral's sisters-in law going through the normal teenage years at Parramatta High School in Sydney before emigrating to Russia at some time after Coral and Victor. When Coral was imprisoned, and one sister in law Lena was looking after Coral's daughter Kaola, the other, Francis, was now in the process of following a totally and almost unbelievable path.



Frances & Lena

The Soviets were fighting the battle of Stalingrad whilst naval military intelligence was planning to place the "Australian woman" (later identified as Frances **Metanien**) in the US and yes, despite being their military ally. Urgent messages were exchanged between their Washington agents and Moscow to prepare for her arrival, official papers, instructions on travel across country, buying train tickets, and even how she would have to be dressed to fit in. Her cover story needed full details from Seattle, where she had supposedly lived, of the name of the principal of Ballard High School, the place where her father had worked from 1910 to 1929 (the beginning of the depression), photos of the houses and streets, and all part of a plan. As time passed and the cables were sent backwards and forwards without action being taken, Moscow expressed displeasure with agents in US, regarding the delay.

The Australian woman's departure from the Soviet Union was initially planned for May 1943. Now code named "Sally", she would meet her contact "John" in New York, having travelled from the San Francisco port to Hotel Bellevue and then use her Seattle cover story when filling out her reservation details. Arriving with currency converted to \$900 US, when booking her onward train ticket she would use the hotel address and then, in New York, she, and not the man who was meeting her, would book a hotel room.

Frustration with the plans continued. Sally was now to be leaving Moscow on 10 June:-

"Report urgently whether, using your people, it is in your capacity to organise by the end of July."

A frightened response was an assurance that matters would be handled by the GRU's own people and details of the New York contact had been arranged. Things began moving and Sally arrived in San Francisco on the "Sevastopol" from Vladivostok on August 13th. Washington reported that she was "feeling all right".

When "Sally" met "John", she was wearing a green headscarf and her shoes, European size 36, were new. Carefully positioned, "on the left side of the bosom", was a white brooch. The place was Eighth Avenue, New York, in late

August 1943. The first words they exchanged were passwords, crafted for them in Moscow. She was an illegal, a spy, about to begin living in New York as an American citizen. He was her contact with the Soviet Naval GRU, or military intelligence, based in Washington.

All this decoded information from the now public Verona Project Files lead investigators to “the Australian woman” and “Sally” in deed being an Australian-born Soviet woman. Her real name, suggested, was Francia Yakil’nilna **Mitynen**, yes, Coral’s sister in law. *“Exact spelling not verified”*.

FBI information claimed she had been known as Edna Margaret **Patterson** and had remained in America until she disappeared in 1956. In the cables there is no indication of what her operational objectives had been. Until the highly secret Venona transcripts were made public, few outside the intelligence world have known that the Soviets operated an intelligence operation. At that point the story generally comes to a stop.

The Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) file in her name, now available in the Australian archives, and surely created to find and provide background on the spy, appears to have resulted in an unsuccessful search. Her name, again as Francia Yakil’nilna **Mitynen** appears on the file cover but there is nothing about her in the few contents pages. Lack of progress in the Australian search may simply be down to spelling of her family name. She vanishes from the decoded Venona documents, apart from the FBI suggestion of the name **Patterson** she used in America, and that she had ‘disappeared’ in 1956.

So yes, it is highly likely that “the Australian woman” was Frances **Metianen**, my great aunt Coral’s sister in law, born at 85 Morehead Street in the Sydney, suburb of Redfern, on January 31, 1914 to James and Julie (as they were known in Australia) **Metianen**, the émigré Russian family who arrived in Australia before the revolution and returned to the Soviet Union in the 1930s and straight into Stalin’s mincing machine.

I am grateful to Michael Connor, his research, much of which has been quoted here and his report: “The Spy from Parramatta High” published October 2016 in the Australian Magazine ‘Quadrant.’

<https://quadrant.org.au/magazine/2016/10/spy-parramatta-high/>

A family story, spy story and an incredible story.

John Helliwell, Member 3365

Uncle Walter

On Tuesday 12th March 2013, I received an email from my brother who said that, some time ago he was contacted by a chap who had been digging into the history of the 2nd Battalion Yorks & Lincs and had discovered that Walter Anderson was one of those killed in battle. They had found a grave with what they thought were the remains of fifty eight missing men. He wanted his address so that the Ministry of Defence could contact him for a DNA sample. He thought that if the Ministry of Defence wanted to contact him, they wouldn't have that much difficulty in finding his address.

He said that the man had kept sending him snippets of information, most of which he knew already. I replied that I was already onto it and that things were moving on that front anyway. It had all begun for us quite some time before when I had seen an article in the Doncaster Free Press. I was interested in what my grandmother's numerous brothers and sisters had done so the article made me take notice.

On September 9th 2010 the article said that the remains of fifteen World War 1 soldiers had been found in Northern France. There were four photographs; the second was of my great uncle, Walter **Anderson**. It was quite a surprise, especially to see a photo, as I had heard Mum talk about him as he was the middle child among several girls and I think they all liked to mother him. Was it all those sisters who drove Walter join the army?

When he was twenty, he first joined up for a year in 1902 with the 27th Regiment Imperial Yeomanry, No 38291, and served in South Africa in the Boer War for most of that year. He was working as a machine worker when he enlisted in the York and Lancaster Regiment on 1st October 1904 and was discharged to the reserves in 1907. There were six soldiers from Doncaster who died and the article goes on to say that, "All but one of them were reservists who had been recalled at the outbreak of the war."

Early in 2013 there was a phone call from a young man asking if I was related to a Walter **Anderson**. I said he was my great uncle and the young man explained that he was from the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre – Beaucamps Ligny (JCCC). He told me that the bodies of some soldiers had been found in Northern France and they were hoping to identify them from the DNA of the closest relatives they could trace. I said that I had seen something about it in the local paper, and would be quite happy to supply some DNA but my mother was still alive and she was a closer relative, being Walter's niece. I was sure she would be willing to provide some DNA so he said that would be even better. I told him I would ask her and would be in touch.

In late March an envelope arrived for Mum which contained a DNA testing kit from Cellmark Forensic Services. She followed the instructions and I posted the sample for her on 2nd April. We were warned that the whole process of comparing the DNA of the soldiers with the samples supplied could take up to a year so we embarked on trying to find out more about Uncle Walter.

The **Anderson** family lived at 7 Camden Street and Walter was born in June 1882. There were eventually ten children, probably not all at home at once. Walter was next after Harriet Annie who was mother to "Fireman Reggie". Mabel came after Walter and eventually married Charles William **Marshall**. Mabel was mother to Bernard, who joined the Fire Service and became a Station Officer. She was also grandmother to Robert. Coincidentally Robert and I were in the same class at Primary School and he has supplied some of the information included here. My Grandma, Ethel, came next after Mabel.

Walter had a daughter, Irene, with his girlfriend Martha Jane **Walker** in 1905 and they married on 10th August 1910 at St Peter's Church, Bentley. In the 1911 census Walter and Martha Jane are recorded as living at 91 Bentley Road and the rest of the **Walker** family are further along the road at number 81. Irene was at her grandparents' house on the night of the census but we can only speculate as to why.

We heard more from the JCCC that they had the potential names of the soldiers found but the research was still on-going. They also told us that there would be a meeting for the relatives of the soldiers on March 20th, 2014 at Endcliffe Hall in Sheffield, to which we were all invited. They would then publish the names of those identified and there would be a meal and a presentation of how and where the bodies were found. Later, in October, there was to be a burial ceremony in Northern France and the families of those identified would be invited. We doubted whether my mother would be fit to travel if it turned out that Walter was one of them but we would wait and see.

I contacted Robert **Marshall** and told him about the search for the identities of the soldiers and he sent some information that he had found about Walter and his family. As Robert was a relative too we suggested that the three of us should go together to the meeting in March.

It occurred to us that if Irene, Walter's daughter, had children of her own, they should be the ones to be involved in the meeting and the burial if we could find them. The JCCC had no record of Irene and so they left it to us to do the research.

One of the things I tried to locate Irene, was to drop letters into all the houses along that stretch of Bentley Road, in case there were any elderly residents who had heard of the Walkers, but there was no response. I was not brave enough to go into the local pub though.

I was not sure whether she was still on the records as Irene **Walker** or whether she had taken the name of her stepfather, Tom **Roberts**, whom Martha Jane had married in 1917. They too had gone to live in Camden Street. I wonder if it was an **Anderson** family owned house.

Also, I contacted the local Free Press to see whether anyone in the area knew of an Irene **Walker**. An article appeared in the February 6th 20014 edition but with no results.

Just before the meeting in March Mum received a letter from the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency to say that Walter was not one of the soldiers identified through DNA as being one of the fifteen found at Beaucamp Ligny. She was asked not to say anything until they could make the official announcement at the meeting.

Following up the Roberts family in Camden Street I found that Martha Jane had three further children, Ruby in March 1920, Raymond in 1921 and Gwyneth in 1925.

I used, "Ancestry" and "Find my Past" to research the name, Irene **Walker**, and found that she had married someone called Oswald **Hird** in 1937. I could not find any children recorded but followed up the half brothers and sisters. I found that Ruby **Roberts** married George H Bugg in 1939 and they had a son, Kevin. It was fortunate that it was such a distinguished surname or I would have struggled to trace the family further. I found some possibilities for Kevin's children and found, among others, a Christopher **Bugg** through the Royal Mail's Living relatives service. I wrote three letters outlining why I wanted to trace Irene **Walker's** descendants if there were any.

I had a very helpful reply from Christopher who said his father, Kevin, lived nearby and he gave me his contact address. We arranged to meet at my mother's house and Kevin came with his wife. They told us that they knew Irene as their Auntie Rene and she had died, without having any children, in 1993 and was buried in Arksey Cemetery. They were unaware of her father's death in action and her family history.

On March 20th, 2014 Mum, Robert **Marshall** and I went off to find Endcliffe Hall in Sheffield for the meeting about the soldiers who had been found. The people organising the meeting were so very kind. "A very nice young man" had phoned Mum to ask how she was travelling and she said we would be taking her. I was able to tell our contact person and one of the organisers what we had learned about Walter's daughter.

We were given a very tasty lunch and then went into another room to find out what had happened in October 1914. It is well documented in several books what conditions were like for the soldiers in Northern France quite early in the war and it was quite horrific. The role of the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency was explained and they told us what had brought us to this point. There were copious notes with detailed family trees for each family. There was also a map and a detailed description of what had happened to the soldiers. Robert had a note that Walter had been severely wounded and had been left with his gun and tobacco. Hopefully he would be tended by the first aid detail, depending on the conditions. After the talk the names of those who had been identified were read out. It was a moving experience although there were no surprises as everyone had already had their letters. It was pointed out that our relatives might yet be found and identified. It was a very interesting day and well worth it.

After we returned home, Mum was contacted by the people who were organis-

ing a project at Brodsworth Hall about the area in wartime and she was invited to contribute to the collection of recordings they were making about life in the war. Subsequently we attended the exhibition and had a tour of Brodsworth Hall. Both projects were an unexpected finale to Mum's long and busy life; remembering her Uncle Walter a hundred years before and then her own memories of life in the Second World War. Mum died the following March, a few days before she was due to receive her Maundy Money from the Queen. She was exactly ninety-one and a half years old.

I would like to thank Irene's relations and Robert Marshall for the information they supplied and all the people who work to identify the soldiers who are still being found abroad.

Janet McCulloch, Member 4063

Doncaster Yards

For some time, I have wanted to write about the old Yards of Doncaster. Not only do they hold a fascination for me, some of my ancestors lived there and this was my way to get an idea of how they lived and their social background. I have previously written that I would like to go back in time, but I think this has changed my mind. I have concentrated mostly on Milner's Yard as the McGlone's lived in the Factory Lane / Milner's Yard area of Doncaster for over fifty years and brought up their families there.

For information French Gate (west side) consisted of the following Yards: Crane's, Milner's, Common Lane, Priest's, Mail Coach, Thackeray's, Boothman's and Oxley's

On the east side: Volunteer, Aldred's, Reed's, Burgin's, King's, Clark's, Church Lane, Lindley's, Halifax's, Payne's, and Deys Court. Milner's Yard was between French Gate and Factory Lane.

In 1842 Edwin Chadwick drew up a report on the sanitary condition of the labouring population in Great Britain, which was the first full account of poor living conditions and their effects on people's health. It suggested ideas for improving conditions, as many houses were built back to back to save space and money, with a consequent lack of light and, air. This caused frequent epidemics of cholera, typhoid and typhus and all of these diseases were killers.

The lower classes lived in filth and degradation. The population of Doncaster in 1849 was about eleven thousand people, with nearly four thousand people living in over nine hundred slums, in Yards, which had privies and middens draining into cesspools. Human waste was often accumulated in back yards and had to be carried through the living areas. Apparently there were only one hundred and seventeen water stand pipes and forty two pumps for this group of nearly four thousand people.

Half of all deaths were in children under five years old and half of these were infants of less than a year. Gastro-enteritis was by far the biggest killer amongst the infants, but whooping cough, diphtheria and scarlet fever were prevalent as children grew older. Although Parliament passed a string of acts which slowly transformed the system, it was over twenty years before the mortality rates began to fall.

In 1847, it was recorded that in Priests Yard there were twelve houses to two privies, a pigsty in front of a house in Milner's Yard, in which another house was nearly surrounded by six pigsties and the inhabitants of the house were both afflicted with diarrhoea and dysentery. My granddad kept pigs and I remember the smell of the pigswill he collected in his van, it was disgusting. I was lucky as I could walk away from it. As already described, the excrement matter and other refuse from cesspools and tanks, when emptied, had to be carried through the houses. In Milner's Yard at this time, there were thirty houses, which housed one hundred and thirty three people, with two public privies and fourteen private ones between them. Apparently, Councillor Robert Milner improved the street by the removal of a number of small tenements opposite French Gate and erected substantial and compact dwellings but I am unsure of the year.

From a large scale map of 1852, it was worked out that Milner's Yard was two thousand seven hundred and forty seven square yards (just over half an acre); the Malt Kilns occupied eight hundred and twenty square yards (0.17 of an acre) and the houses one thousand nine hundred and twenty seven square yards (0.4 of an acre). The Enumerators Returns for 1871 tells us that there were now forty six houses with two hundred and thirty two people living in Milner's Yard and therefore each house occupied forty one square yards and each occupant only eight square yard. It also showed that the majority of the heads of household were labourers and unskilled workers.

The 1851 census shows that Edward McGlone's father was a coal porter, and they were living in Factory Lane. I am told that there was a coal wharf near Greyfriars, so perhaps that is where he worked. I don't think my ancestry would qualify me for "Who Do You Think You Are?" though. By 1861 the family have moved to Milner's Yard and John and Harriet now have seven children between seventeen and one year old. John is working as an agricultural labourer.

In 1862 when Edward and Sarah married, he was living in Milner's Yard and she was living in Crane's Yard with her father and three siblings. Crane's Yard had thirty nine tenements, and housed one hundred and seven people with four privies.

When four days of racing began in Doncaster on the 11th September 1866, it was thought that over fifty thousand strangers came into the town on St Leger day. During this brief period, Doncaster was considered to be in an

unusually healthy state as the Board of Health, aware of the probability of an outbreak of cholera, had made efforts to remove nuisances. The Mayor had also ordered notices to be put up advising people not to drink impure water. On the 15th September a forty nine year old man was suddenly taken ill and died within a few hours. He lived in Spring Gardens, which was classed as a clean and well drained street. That evening in Milner's Yard, which was still described as a closely built and dirty place, a forty four year old woman was also taken ill and died within twenty four hours. Close to her house and still nearer to a public well, was a drain from three water closets in a very unsatisfactory state. As the disease spread, the residents were forced to seek shelter over a mile from their homes. During that outbreak of cholera, there were twenty four deaths in one week.

By 1871 Edward and Sarah were living at 32 Milner's Yard and ten years later 42 Milner's Yard. I have no idea why they moved to different houses in the same Yard, unless it was a bigger property as their family grew. I guess they wouldn't have many belongings to move, so it wouldn't take long. When Edward died in 1883 at the age of thirty nine, they were living in Allerton Street, which is still standing today. His death certificate states that he died from apoplexy, which today we would class as a cerebral vascular accident or stroke.

The medical officer's report for 1883 revealed that conditions in the French Gate area were still poor and the death rates in the North Ward continued to be higher than that the rest of the borough due to infectious diseases, especially among young children. It was noted that the most marked difference in the old parts of the North Ward was the crowded state of the houses in the many lanes and yards around French Gate and St. Sepulchre Gate and that they had been built with little regard to the need of ventilation at the front and rear. Also other buildings nearby, prevented the free circulation of air and sunshine which was essential to health. Ash-pits were near to doors and windows, and in some instances the sewage drained along open channels, and due to the lack of paving this lead to stagnant pools. This was just a hundred and thirty years ago.

I thought that it would be good to end this story on a more cheerful note. For the Queen's Jubilee in 1897 when some of the McGlone family were still living in Milner's Yard, there was an article in the Doncaster Gazette which stated: "The front of the Mansion House was ablaze with gay jets and coloured lights and the only serious rival to the mansion house in the way of decorations and illuminations was the famous Milner's Yard, which was festooned from end to end and where at night the casual and permanent residents held high revelry.

Whilst speaking of French-Gate we must not omit to give a passing word to the dingy courts which go to make up the environs and which on Tuesday were quite a bright and festive appearance. All the materials had been supplied and the work of beautifications had been carried out by the residents, to whom bearing in mind the fact that their sundry exchequers cannot be over

bulky a vast amount of the credit is due to Milner's, Priest's and Crane's Yards looked decidedly flourishing, while in addition to decorating the dwellers collected subscriptions, provided themselves with a good tea and jubilated in hearty fashion."

Milner's Yard, seen here in a time of celebration, was the scene of a deadly cholera outbreak in 1866.



At present I don't have a date for this picture, which was kindly supplied to me by Sheffield Newspapers but would think it must be the time of the Queen's Jubilee in 1897.

References:

Historical Notices of Doncaster 2nd series by Charles Wm. Hatfield 1868.
Humane & Heroic The life and love of a 19th century country doctor by John Tooth.
Health & Housing in Old Doncaster by Geoffrey Morris.

I would like to thank the other members, who gave me articles and suggested reading materials.

Jenny Ellis, Editor

Thomas Hanley Flour Merchants

In 1874, Messrs Robinson and Hanley commenced business as millers, renting the Fisher Gate Flour mill of Thomas Walker Fox. The firm was a great success and in 1877 the partners were able to purchase the mill. All went well until 21st August 1881, when disaster struck. On that day a fire swept through the mill and despite great efforts made, the premises were completely destroyed, together with a large stock of grain. The fire was the largest in the town since the Parish Church burnt down twenty eight years earlier.

The damage to the stock was estimated at £10,000, but they were underinsured and received only half. They were both determined to make good again. They transferred the business to a mill in Retford, and from there supplied their customers while a new mill was being built. The old mill operated on the stone system, but the more up to date one was known as a roller mill.

In 1883 Mr Robinson visited America to gain further knowledge from the larger mills operating there. He came back with the impression that they were al-

ready abreast of that country's methods. One idea he did return with was lighting the mill with electricity. This method was highly successful when applied to the new Fisher Gate mill, better lighting than gas, and the risk of fire diminished.

In 1893, Mr Robinson retired, selling his shares to Mr Hanley, who transferred his business to a limited company but retained a predominant interest in it. The business was now known as Thomas Hanley and Sons Ltd. In 1923, further fire damaged was caused to the mill. The following year after an association with Joseph Rank Co., the mill was rebuilt and production resumed in 1925. The firm continued into the 1960s when most of the building was knocked down and the tower finally demolished in 1989.

The Doncaster Star reported on 11th December 1997 "that the damage caused by the 1923 fire was up to £90,000. The mill employed up to seventy men and only the ground floor of the building, housing the boiler engines and the bases of the elevators were



saved. The offices and the huge concrete wheat silos, escaped the fire. Employees who attended the fire rescued the horses from their stables and moved the motor vehicles to safety. It was thought that the fire was caused by an electrical fault, and had been smouldering several hours before the alarm was raised. Only two watchmen were on duty on the premises."

Past Times for November 1999, commented on the costly lesson for the owners of the two fires, stating that flour dust is highly combustible. The mill was five storeys high and had its own wharf with cranes and elevators. The use of chilled iron rollers instead of stones to grind grain had been first used in England in 1880.

Following the installation of electricity in 1883, cases or covers were installed and said to be dust proof. A sprinkler system had been fitted and the building thought to be fireproof.

Wheat passed along conveyor belts to be automatically cleaned and graded and to have grains crushed through a series of rollers. Revolving fans and fine gauze sieves removed bran or foreign substances from the pure flour which was despatched via a chute into sack and bag filling department.

Different types of flour were produced and the business supplied corn, grains, bran and prepared animal feeding stuffs.

Keith Crouter, Member 1623

In the next Ancestor, will be an article about the boats that carried the cargo to the mill.

Doncaster Family & Local History Fair with Crafts 2018

Finally the day arrived – the planning had been ongoing since August 2017, in fact some time before last year's fair. Friday afternoon and early evening saw a willing band check the hall layout, and prepare for 8am the following morning, when stall holders would be arriving to set up their tables. Between 8 - 9.30 am on Saturday there were a few minor panics but fortunately they were easily overcome, and just after 9.30 our first customer arrived having travelled from Essex.

The Fair itself had a wide range of exhibitors. Including sixteen different Family History societies and research groups were represented and they put on a great show. Their local, and in some cases national knowledge, was eagerly



lapped up by an enquiring public and our own members all of whom had braved the winds to reach us. They in turn were supported by eleven local heritage and 'Friends' groups who had a wealth of information and pictorial displays to share. Then there were a further six commercial exhibitors with genealogical supplies who did a steady trade in anything from old maps, charts,



new and old books as well as acid free storage materials. Add to all that a further twelve craft stalls, with everything from personalised cards and unique jewellery, to fancy decorative towel gifts; there was something for everyone.

In addition to the eighty - four tables of exhibitor wares, our two speakers kept





their audience's attention throughout their presentations. Gary Brannan from the Borthwick Institute, part of York University and custodian of a huge range of precious documents, gave the morning talk. With his usual enthusiasm and

knowledge of all things written many hundreds of years ago, he covered a whole range of potential sources of information for family historians. All of these had the potential of adding 'flesh to the bones' of existing or new research. He also took a look at some more modern documents and why they should be preserved. Then on a lighter note the afternoon speaker, Martyn Johnson, brought tears of laughter to some members of his audience with his tales of life as a true beat 'Bobby' in Sheffield.

We also had a first for our Fair, with the Sand House bringing along their own musician, who gave three performances during the day of songs written specifically for Doncaster.

We, as a society, had a selection of tables, including raffle, our shop with its ever growing range of CDs and

booklets, aimed at researchers of families in the Doncaster area. Our 'Help Desk' was staffed from 10am - 4pm and those volunteers had little time for a snack, let alone a walk around the stalls, as they were kept busy throughout with enquiries and some interesting 'brick walls' to demolish.

All that remains to say is **thank you** to all the volunteers who helped to stage this event which is a major fund raiser for our Society, to the stallholders for their support and those of you who came along on the day. We have already set a date for 2019 and taken the first table bookings – but we still have not filled the **vacancy of the Fair Organiser**. It will be very sad if no one can write a similar report to this in 2019 because there was no Fair.

Dave Valentine, Vice Chair



Cambridgeshire Archives Temporary Closure

Cambridgeshire Archives and Huntingdonshire Archives will close to the public on 1 December 2018 it has been announced.

As Cambridgeshire Archives will be moving to a new location in Ely in 2019 this is to ensure that all the documents are prepared for moving. They anticipate re-opening the Archives again in the Summer of 2019.

For more information please see:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-&-culture/archives/latest-news-from-the-cambridgeshire-archives-service/cambridgeshire-archives-moving-to-ely/>

Your help needed now! Society Vacancies

The following vacancies are still available as no one has come forward.

Postal Sales Organiser – the role involves posting out any orders received for CDs or our other Society publications and maintaining records of sales and stocks. This is not an onerous task! This role can be handed over anytime, but the sooner the better. This is not a committee position but email is essential.

Annual Fair Lead Organiser – There will be no Fair in 2019 unless we find another Lead Organiser.

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

Vice Chairman – this role will become vacant at the next Annual General Meeting (AGM), February 2019.

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

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

D&DFHS 37th Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Wednesday 27th February 2019

The 2019 Annual General Meeting of Doncaster & District Family History Society will take place in the main hall of Doncaster College for the Deaf, Leger Way, Doncaster on **Wednesday 27th February 2019 at 7.30 pm.**

The main business of the meeting will be to receive the Annual Reports, to approve the 2018 Accounts and to elect the Honorary Officers for 2019.

In accordance with the Society's Constitution, **nominations for the posts on the Committee should be sent to the Secretary a minimum of 14 days prior to the AGM.**

Members wishing to raise questions at the AGM should submit them to the Secretary, in writing, not less than 28 days before the meeting, so that they can be placed on the agenda. See front cover or email:

honsecretary@doncasterfhs.co.uk

Members' Interests

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

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

Name	Code	Place	Dates	Member
Burton	WRY	Doncaster	1700 onwards	4338
Burton	WRY	Hickleton	1800 onwards	4338
Burton	WRY	High Melton	1860-1869	4338
Watkins	WRY	Conisbrough	1770-1779	4338
Castle	WRY	Doncaster	1913 onwards	4338

New Members

Listed below are the names, addresses and membership numbers of members who have recently joined the Society.

We extend a warm welcome to them and wish them good luck in their personal research.

Member No	Title	First Name	Surname
4345	Mr	P	Holdsworth
4346	Mr & Mrs	H	Stewart
4347	Mr	R	Elvidge
4348	Mr	M	Postlethwaite
4349	Mr & Mrs	J	Finegold
4350	Mr	D	Knox
4351	Mr & Mrs	K	Wynn
4352	Mrs	V	Currie
4353	Mr & Mrs	J	Le Brun
4354	Mrs	V	Orchard

Unwanted Certificates

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

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

Dates For Your Diary

November 2018

Cambridgeshire Family & Local History Fair

Girton Glebe Primary School, CB3 0PN

24th November 10 - 4

April 2019

Family Tree Live

Alexandra Palace

London N22 7AY

26 - 27th April 2019

May 2019

Chesterfield Family History, Local History Heritage & Crafts

The Proact Football Stadium

Chesterfield

S41 8NZ

18th May 2019

June 2019

The Family History Show

York Racecourse

York, YO23 1EX

22nd June 10 - 4.30

Remember to check with the organisers before you travel

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

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

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

D&DFHS Research Service

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

All applications must be made on the prescribed form - download a form from the website www.doncasterfhs.co.uk or contact:

D&DFHS Research

49 Barnby Dun Rd
Wheatley Hills
Doncaster
DN2 4QW

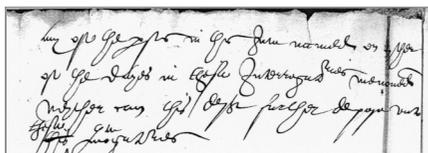
Cost for members

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

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

Transcription Service

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



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

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

Philip Langford, 45 The Avenue, Bessacarr, Doncaster, DN4 5JZ
Tel: 01302 539194 or email readolddocs@aol.com

CONTACT DETAILS

Membership Secretary & Vice Chairman

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

DDFHS Publications by Post & Vice Chairman

Dave Valentine Badger's Bench, Top St,
North Wheatley, Retford, Notts, DN22 9DE
01427 880934 postalsales@doncasterfhs.co.uk

Bookstall Organiser

Alec Graves 01302 327725 sales@doncasterfhs.co.uk

Exchange Journals

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

Members' Interests Enquiries

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

Publicity Officer

Position Vacant events@doncasterfhs.co.uk

Society Library & Assistant Editor

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

Unwanted Certificates Co-ordinator

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

Web Site Co-ordinator

George Hiley webadmin@doncasterfhs.co.uk

Please do not telephone Committee Members and Volunteers after 9.00pm

