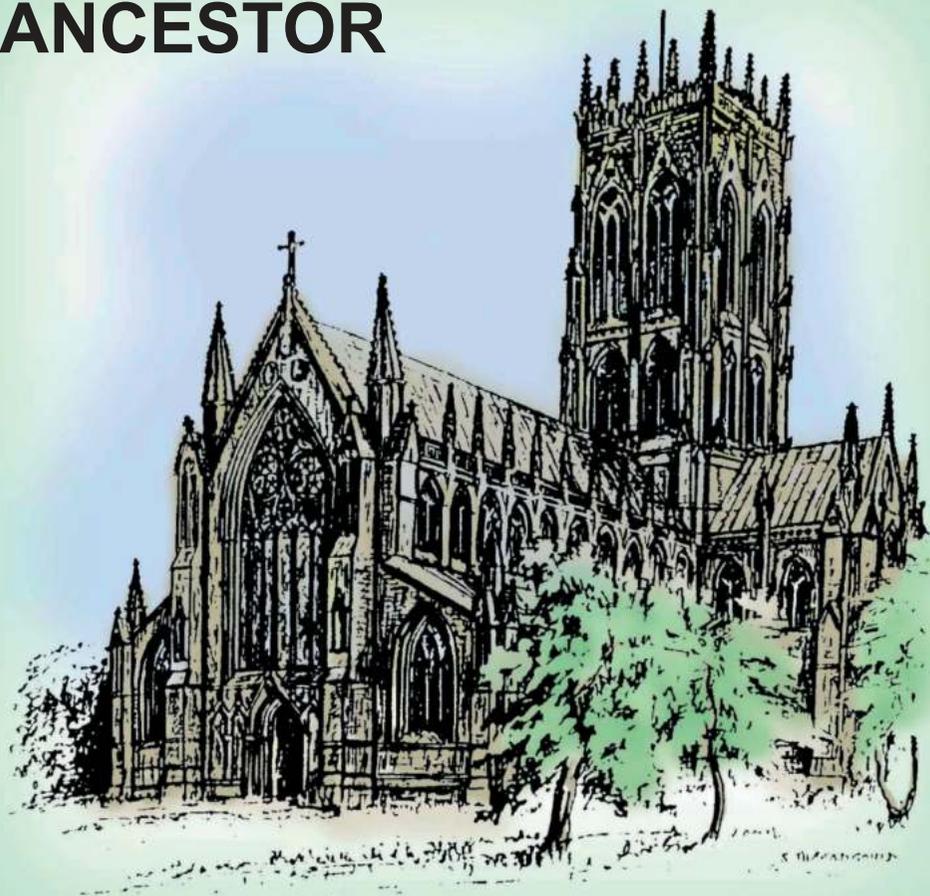


THE DONCASTER ANCESTOR

ISSN 0144-459X print

ISSN 2633-8440 online



Doncaster Minster

S Threadgould

The Journal of the Doncaster and District
Family History Society 1980 - 2020
40th Anniversary Edition

Volume 30 No 4 Winter 2020

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.doncasterfhs.co.uk

Registered Charity No 516226 Formed January 1980

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THE DONCASTER ANCESTOR

Journal of the Doncaster and District Family History Society

Free to Members

Volume 30 No 4

ISSN 0144-459X

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Editorial Team: Karen Walker, Richard Cuell

From the Chairman



On behalf of the Society I have sent condolences to John Chapman and his family on the death of Roni, Vice Chair and immediate past Chair of the Society. I will miss having access to Roni's vast experience and knowledge of working with voluntary organisations and public services.

Announcements

- The Doncaster Deaf Trust has informed the Society of its decision "to permanently cease hiring of its facilities with immediate effect". Consequently and due to the continuing uncertainties of the pandemic, it has been decided not to hold a Fair in 2021.
- Following the success of the Society's first online members' meeting in September 2020, 50 members registered, we are planning to hold online monthly members' meetings through to the Spring of next year.
- To give greater exposure to the Society Members' Interests they are now also available on the Family History Federation's website all in accordance with GDPR rules.
- The postponed 2020 AGM and next year's AGM will be held online on 28 April 2021. I thank the Executive Committee members for agreeing to remain in post for another year.
- Work is progressing on adding the remainder of the Doncaster Ancestor back issues, 1980 to 2004, to the members area of the Society's website.
- With the help of members of the Yorkshire Group of Family History Societies' Webmasters Group, a searchable Index of the Society's 1½ million transactions is to be made available on the Society's website.

This festive season will be unlike any other, so on behalf of the Society I offer best wishes for your health and happiness. I also hope you are able to create wonderful memories of your contacts with family and friends even if they can't be in person.

George W Hiley
chairman@doncasterfhs.co.uk
20 November 2020

Deadline for the next edition is 8th Jan 2021 at the latest.

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

The journal is published in February, May, August and November.

Vol 31 No 1 Edition will be published in Feb 2021.

From the Editor

Hello and welcome to the Winter Ancestor.

Well we can certainly say that it will be a 40th Anniversary year that will go down in history for the Society and the World! I hope that you are recording your memories of the Coronavirus Pandemic for future generations.

Thank you to everyone who has sent in articles this time and please keep sending them. If I don't receive any articles for the next edition, then I am not sure that I will be able to produce a journal in the spring. I know it is easy to think that someone else will do it, but it doesn't work like that and I will be happy to receive anything, however small.

Is there anything that you would like to see in the Ancestor that you think could help you with your search? Sites such as Findmypast, Ancestry and Family Search are adding to their websites all the time, but it is difficult to pick out material that is more generalised. This is your Journal and I am only the catalyst, so please give this some thought.

The Society continues to hold its Computer Group on Thursday mornings, and this is via Zoom. Numbers have dropped for various reasons, including not having a camera on the computer. Why not give it a try, it is just a self help group discussing computer issues relating to family history and various other topics as they arise. You just might enjoy it. Contact me for further details.

Jenny Ellis

doncasterancestor@doncasterfhs.co.uk



**We wish all our members,
A Merry Christmas &
A Happy & Healthy 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.

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.

Goole St John the Evangelist

Archdeaconry map

Goole history notes

Baptisms 1848 to 1917

Burials 1849 to 1923

Pigott's 1828 & 1829

White's 1837 & 1838

Kelly's 1893 & 1927



Goldthorpe Baptisms, Marriages and Burials are in the process of being transcribed, along with **Mexborough** Marriages from 1850 to 1940 and Mexborough old & new cemetery, keep watching our website or our advertisements on Genfair for new and updated publications.

Thank you again to all those who have supported the Society by purchasing our publications. We hope they have been useful and have helped with your research. We have had some very positive feedback from customers and appreciate your comments.

All our sales are available from www.genfair.co.uk, or postal sales, on the D&DFHS Website: www.doncasterfhs.co.uk

Please note: CD's are no longer available.

Stay safe.

Lynn Snowden, Project Co-ordinator

From the postbag / via e-mail

I have an unwanted birth certificate with links to your area, though the child was born in London in 1838.

Child: **William Stanley Routh**

Father: **William Routh**, servant

Mother: **Mary Ann Routh, formerly Stanley**. She is also the informant and gives her residence as Doncaster, Yorkshire.

I am descended from Yorkshire Rouths but do not have an immediate connection with this family.

Would it be possible to mention this in your journal and say that I am willing to give this certificate to anyone researching this branch of the family.

Thank you, Mrs Stella Pedersen

If anyone is interested in this certificate, can they please contact me.

Jenny Ellis

doncasterancestor@doncasterfhs.co.uk

Hi Jenny

In the autumn edition there was an article by Lynn Snowden on 'school records', for a while now I have been making use of information found on Sheffield Indexers web page in respect of some of my ancestors.

They hold not only information in respect of school admissions but also baptisms, marriages and burials. Unfortunately it is by no means complete but nevertheless some useful information can be found there, and it is free. As the saying goes many thanks to the compilers for the information that I have obtained from it.

The web page was also highlighted in the September issue of "Who Do You Think You Are"

Best regards

Trevor Stenton, Member 3126

Help Wanted

Dear Sir or Madam,

I have been a member of the Doncaster Family History Group for many years and always look forward to the journals. I am therefore wondering if any members could help me with two of my problems.

The first one is in the Robin Hood's Well area.

I have a photograph of the farm opposite the well which was demolished for the construction of the A1 road.

Does anyone know anything about the history of it?

On the postcard and photograph I have, it is called Holly Bush House.

I know that at one time it was a farm as my late husband's ancestors farmed there. The well was just in front of it, before being moved across the road. Both Holly Bush and Robin Hood's Well farm had been coaching houses. The Robin Hood's Well farm was the home of my late mother-in-law, before she got married.



My second problem is about a large painting I have in my possession. I was told that it was of the old Blacksmith's forge at Hampole. There is no signature on it - unless it is hidden underneath the framework. I would be very pleased if anyone had any other information about what the forge looked like so that I would know I am on the right path.



We have visited the little hamlet but of course everything is so different now. We have visited Hampole as one of my husband's ancestors lived there with his wife and family in the School House, so we already had an interest in the area.

If anyone could offer any help or information with either of those queries I would be most grateful.

Kind regards

Vera Smith, Member 2408

NB. The painting is by G H Stanforth & the picture of the farm was 1903

Book Review by Jenny Ellis

Sex & Sexuality in Victorian Britain

Violet Fenn

I didn't know what to expect when I opened this book, but it shows how attitudes to male and female sexual behaviour have changed over the years. These attitudes were often determined by those in a position of authority or power.

The age of consent was set at twelve in 1275, and stayed unchanged until it was raised to thirteen by the Offences to Persons Act in 1875, which was something I hadn't thought about previously. This was changed only ten years later by the Criminal Law Amendment Act in 1885, which changed the age of consent to sixteen.

This book covers courtship and the effects that fashion played and suggests that men's fashion was easier. It explores our ancestors' surprising, ingenious, and often bizarre solutions to the challenges associated with maintaining a healthy sex life.

Girls were supposed to "save themselves for marriage" but just hoped they didn't get caught out.

Life was so different in Victorian times and this book gives an insight into the diverse attitudes, fashion and behaviour associated with this period

Published by Pen & Sword

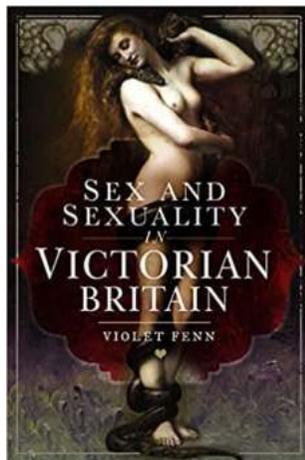
www.pen-and-sword.co.uk

ISBN 1526756684

If anyone would like to review a book that they have read, then please feel free to send the review to me.

Jenny Ellis

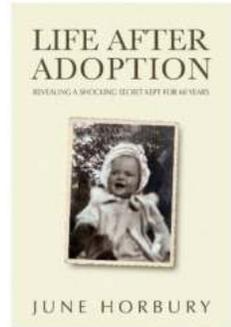
doncasterancestor@doncasterfhs.co.uk



When my adoptive father died, I was looking through his things and came across a shabby, old box which contained his legal documents, and there it was, my adoption certificate.

I always knew I was adopted but as soon as I saw my birth mother's name on this old piece of paper, something stirred inside me and I knew at that moment, I had to try and find her.

My husband told me to 'leave well alone' and in some respects he was right, as when I did find her I discovered a dreadful secret. I was devastated. But it didn't end there, as following her death some years later, another secret was revealed which shocked my family. Had my husband been right when he said, 'Leave well alone'?



Publisher: Brown Dog Books

ISBN: 9781839521829

£8.99

I have written a book called '**LIFE AFTER ADOPTION**' which is now available.

I was born in Doncaster over eight decades ago and a lot of the book is based on my life in South Yorkshire, but particularly Doncaster.

Best wishes
June Horbury

I will review this book in the next Ancestor. **Editor**

Doncaster Grammar School & the Railway Society

In Keith Crouter's article which was in the autumn Ancestor, I'm afraid there was a mistake with the e-mail address of Chris Barron, former Secretary of the Railway Society. The correct address is **cw.barron@sky.com** and my apologies for this error.

Editor

James De la Pryme v Thomas Oughtibridge

1752-53

Whilst trawling through The National Archive catalogue in search of ancestors I came across a “bill and answer” document dated 1752 which referred to my Great x5 Grandfather Thomas **Oughtibridge**. The complainant was a James **De la Pryme**, first cousin of Thomas once removed, so I ordered the document in the hope that it would cover a juicy family disagreement. Regrettably on receipt of the document I found that some parts were impossible to read while the remainder I struggled to make head nor tail of and so set it aside for later. My wife, Liz, thought (correctly) that a professional transcription of the document would make a suitable present for my upcoming birthday and approached The Old Documents Reading Group. They not only speedily transcribed the three part document (the bill of complaint submitted to the Court of Chancery by James **De la Pryme**, an initial decision by the Court of Chancery and an answer to the complaint from Thomas **Oughtibridge**) but generously gave them to me as a birthday present on the proviso that I submitted an article to The Doncaster Ancestor; so here we are.

The Adversaries

Thomas **Oughtibridge** was born in 1699 at Hatfield, near Doncaster. His parents were William **Oughtibridge** of Hatfield, Gentleman (1675–1728) and Sarah **De la Pryme** (1677–1708), the daughter of Mathias **De la Pryme** (1645-1694) and Sarah **Smaque** who have an entry in Burke’s Family Records which deals with the junior houses of British Nobility. The family of William **Oughtibridge** wasn’t too shabby either and has been traced back by some people to Sir Thomas **Ughtred** (1292–1365). Both families have a coat of arms which



can be seen linked together in St Lawrence’s Church, Hatfield on the impressive standing monument to William and Sarah, which was sculpted by their son Thomas. There is a further monument in the church sculpted by him (to a Thomas Johnson) and it is worth noting that Thomas was also an artist, engraver and possibly a cartographer.

James **De la Pryme** was born in 1730 at Hatfield. His parents were Abraham **De la Pryme** (1700–1740) and Emilia **Grenelagh** (1703–1769). Abraham and Thomas **Oughtibridge** were first cousins and, for the avoidance of doubt, nephews of the eminent diarist Abraham **De la Pryme** (1671–1704)). James

was an only child and just ten years old when his father died. When he was sixteen he was apprenticed for seven years to a James **Broadbent**, Master Merchant of Sheffield and in 1752 he submits a Bill of Complaint to the court of exchequer which, by the middle of the sixteenth century, had evolved to settle all civil cases of common law and equity. According to James, Thomas **Oughtibridge** was renegeing on a land deal made with his father Abraham **De la Pryme** way back in 1730. Having considered the complaint the court requested Thomas to answer the complaint, which he did and “*was duly sworn to his answer at the house of John **Hayes** known by the Sign of the Black Swan in Doncaster*” on 2nd June 1753.

The Making of the Deal

James would not have known the build-up to the agreement between his father and Thomas **Oughtibridge** or how it came about, although his mother would have been aware of some of the detail. Thomas explains that at the time of his father’s death in 1728 he was in a very bad place; he had no job, was in with a bad crowd and drinking so heavily that “*in the space of two years became so weak & declined so much in health that he was scarce expected to live six months*”. He contends that Abraham **De la Pryme** knowing of the value of his estate and his bad state of health spotted an opportunity to take advantage of him. On the 8th November 1730 Abraham invited him to spend the evening at his house, plied him with drink and suggested that it would make a great deal of sense for Thomas to sell his estate, which was difficult for him to manage, and in return receive an annuity of say £50 a year for the rest of his life. Indeed, Abraham was prepared to enter into such a deal and his wife joined their company extolling the benefits of such an arrangement. Thomas by now was clearly drunk or in his words “*pretty well heated with Liquor*” and was prevailed upon to agree to this arrangement but put nothing in writing.

Abraham moved quickly and the next day called on Thomas, who not surprisingly was still in his bed, and dragged him off to Doncaster to visit an attorney to seal the deal which was duly signed by both parties on the same day, although Thomas states that he didn’t read the document relying on the assurances that it was “*a Good and Proper for the payment of an Annuity of £50 a Year to him for Life*”. Next day Abraham called on Thomas and took all the estate documentation. It was only when he received the first quarterly payment of £5 that Thomas checked the details of the arrangement and found that what he had signed up for on the ninth of November 1730 was for a payment of £20 by quarterly payment for eight years, then £29 in the ninth year and only subsequently £50 a year for the rest of his life. Not surprisingly he was not a happy boy and complained to Abraham that it “*was a great fraud & imposition upon him*” and that he should be paid his £50 a year. Not surprisingly Abraham didn’t accede to the request!

The Land in Question

Moving on twenty two years to the bill of complaint, James begins by setting

out the details of the land left by William **Oughtibridge** and his wife **Sarah De la Pryme** and which he believed had been inherited by Thomas **Oughtibridge** on the death of his father in 1728; a new building in the west end of Hatfield Woodhouse and eight parcels of land in and around Hatfield. In total I calculate the estate comprised about thirty acres of arable and pasture.

In his response Thomas explains that the estate of his father William **Oughtibridge** was divided between himself and his two siblings, William and Sarah. His share comprised ten parcels of land extending to about eleven acres, which tends to back up the claim made by Thomas that his father's estate was shared between the three children, something that clearly James was not aware of. Indeed, it is surprising that James did not simply start his complaint by referring to the land transferred by Thomas **Oughtibridge** to his father because he would surely have had the documentation to hand. I did speculate that James might have been implying that Thomas had held some land back in 1730 and this should now be transferred to him, but this does not seem to be the case.

The Annuity

James's states in the complaint that Thomas Oughtibridge was regularly paid the annuity of £50 per year, first by Abraham **De la Pryme** and following his death by James who concludes Thomas *"has thereby received the full value of the said estate or thereabouts and as the said Thomas **Oughtibridge** is in a very good state of health and like to live many years the same will be a very dear purchase"*. James then goes on to argue that because of this Thomas should give him *"a perfect good and effectual title to the said premises"*.

Thomas in his answer says that he *"never received so much as one quarters annuity at one time but generally ten shillings twenty shillings or thirty shillings or some such small sum at a time but as the defendant's family was then small he did not much complain of it"*. His attitude changed when he married Susannah **Smith** (1698–1756) and started a family; now he regretted the imprudent decision he had made back in 1730. He pressed Abraham **De la Pryme** for the payment of £50 a year but his pleas fell on deaf ears.

Following the death of Abraham in 1740 Thomas contends that the situation got even worse and that Mrs **De la Pryme**, who was acting on behalf of her infant son, would *"frequently dismiss the defendant without paying him any money and when this defendant complained thereof (as he several times did) she would frequently set him at defiance & bid him leave the house saying if he was not content & thankful she would pay him nothing"*.

The Title to the Land

At this time *"copyhold tenure was a form of customary tenure of land common in England. The land was held according to the custom of the manor, and the mode of landholding took its name from the fact that the title deed received by the tenant was a copy of the relevant entry in the manorial court roll"*. Hence

the tenant who held land in this way was the “copyholder”. To sell the land Thomas would have surrendered his estate to the lord of the manor on the condition that the lord regrants it to Abraham De la Pryme.

I get the impression from the manuscripts that whilst the land had been transferred from Thomas to Abraham in a proper manner it was subject to an entail which restricted the inheritance of the land to a predetermined person or persons. This could well have been established by local custom and something which could only be removed by specific action by the party selling the land. James requested Thomas to do what was necessary to allow James to inherit the land and offered payment for any expenses incurred, but Thomas had refused to do so

Thomas argues that Abraham De la Pryme knew all about both the local customs of the manor and copyhold tenure and had secured all the title to the land he wanted; never had he expressed any dissatisfaction. Only now in the autumn of 1752 was his son James expressing concern and Thomas is adamant that he will do nothing further because *“he is convinced & believes the said Abraham de la Pryme from the beginning intended to impose on & defraud this Defendant”*

The Outcome?

I have no idea, unfortunately, what the outcome was of this bruising encounter because I have yet to find any further documentation. I understand, however, that it was not unusual for some complaints to be abandoned while others were settled out of court. The fact that Thomas Oughtibridge died just a few months after answering the complaint may have complicated matters or possibly sorted things out.

The only clue I have regarding the outcome is a couple of land sales involving Thomas's son, Peter Oughtibridge (1745-1807), my four times great grandfather. The National Archive holds a record dated 1st May 1798 of Sir Henry Etherington purchasing from John Whittaker and Peter and Martha Oughtibridge *“Mill Field (3 roods and 1 rood), Haddon (1 rood) in fields of Hatfield”* while a record dated 4th November 1804, held by Doncaster Archive, has Sir Henry Etherington purchasing 2 roods of arable land in North Ings of Hatfield from Peter Oughtibridge of Hatfield Woodhouse. All three parcels of land match descriptions of land transferred by Thomas Oughtibridge to Abraham De la Pryme in 1730 so perhaps the estate of Thomas Oughtibridge did revert to his heirs.

Finally, my thanks once again to the Old Document Reading Group, particularly Philip Langford who arranged everything.

Bob Shannon, Member 4307

Glimpses from the Past

Family Research is so easy today!! You sit at your computer, press a few keys – and – lo and behold! You are back to Adam and Eve - well, almost!! Or so the adverts would have us believe! It certainly was not so when the Doncaster society started. Then, interest in the subject was really just in its infancy, there were few societies and few books, etc. to help.

When I joined, the Society was only small. It was only two or three years old, and our founder and Chairman, Derek Palgrave, had just retired and gone back to his native Suffolk. I was soon co-opted onto the committee, so could see things from an 'inside view'.

We belonged the 'Federation of Family History Societies', and as such, we agreed to two objectives – to index the 1851 census for our area, and to record and publish the gravestones in all the churchyards, before they were removed, flattened, or simply overgrown. This mammoth task was largely done by individual members spending many hours knee-deep in weeds and brambles, trying to decipher the well-worn wording. The cemeteries were easier, being newer, and mostly well-kept, though much larger, and I remember groups of members, armed with flasks and sandwiches, spending Saturdays "among the dead!". It took many years, before the job, including the massive Rose Hill Cemetery was finally completed.

Indexing the 1851 census was no easy job, either! Admitted, it was drier and less 'back-breaking', but imagine doing it without a computer!!! I think it involved shuffling hundreds of small pieces of paper around! The 1851 census was the first to show the birthplace of the person registered, so was a vital research tool, available normally on microfilm and accessible only to those with a microfilm reader. We published these booklets as and when we could, but we were then quite 'hard up', and I remember long Committee discussions about whether we could afford to print another, which was ready after months of work!

As the Society grew, we changed our venue. For a time we hired a room in Hallgate United Reform Church. It was a lovely large room, with good facilities. Unfortunately, Wednesday evening was also practise night for the Boys' Brigade Band in the room below!! We didn't stay there long!

As the Society grew, Gill Briscoe, our chairman for a number of years, was anxious to expand, so, one very wet, stormy Annual General Meeting, with only about eight members present, it was decided after a long discussion to change the name from Doncaster Family History Society to Doncaster and District Family History Society. The reason for this soon became obvious when Gill proposed opening branch meetings in Snaith and Pontefract!!

I was 'persuaded' to chair the Snaith meeting, while Gill concentrated on Pontefract. Snaith was smaller, but it ran successfully for several years,

latterly under a local leader, but eventually closed. Pontefract, in a much larger town, eventually declared independence and became a self-standing Society, which still exists.

Gill and our Secretary, Joan Grundy, were our delegates at the annual Federation Conference, lasting several days, and hosted each year by a different Society. Imagine our horror one year, when they came back telling that they had agreed to host it the following year! Some of us had deep misgivings, but it was then too late!! However, the residential Conference, held at High Melton Teacher Training College was a huge success, with various excellent speakers, and good accommodation, and, despite our initial fears, was also a financial success, and provided a much needed boost to our accounts!!

It was under Gill's chairmanship that we held our first 'Day School' at the Percy Jackson School in Woodlands. It was not the large event that it became later, but it was well attended, with a number of non-members present, as well as those from nearby societies. We had good speakers, a bookstall, and a 'Help Desk' which was kept busy with many and varied enquiries.

The other long-serving Chairman of the Society was Gwen Jennings, whom many of you will remember. It will seem hard for those who knew her to learn that she was, at the beginning, very nervous, and rather reluctant to take on the job, but the Society greatly grew and prospered through Gwen's ideas and under her leadership, as she brought in many new innovations.

One thing we must be thankful to Gwen for is our association with the School for the Deaf. It has enabled the Society to grow, and to expand its ideas. As well as being much more space for the monthly meetings, with plenty of room for the bookstall, library table, help desk, etc, a smaller building also made a venue for small meetings, courses, etc. Gwen "bullied" me into running a Beginners' Course, and also one teaching members how to read old handwriting, from 17th century wills, 18th century inventories, to court records of the 1800's. (Members continued this group themselves long after the course finished)!!

The Deaf School also transformed our 'Open Days'. We could accommodate more people and invite other societies (both Family and Local History Groups), some bringing bookstalls with their own publications. We also acquired a large banner to fasten to the outside railings facing a busy road on a bus route. I'm sure this attracted numbers of non-members.

During Gwen's "reign" we also had several F.H. trips to London, arranged by Phil, a lively 80-year old member. I went on one of these, staying in the Student Accommodation of the London School of Economics. I was particularly thrilled when we visited the National Archives. It was fascinating to look through the actual ship's passenger lists, searching for my German great-grandparents, even though I didn't find them!! Others had more luck, both at

the National and other archives they were able to visit.

Gwen's lasting memorial, however, has been the Research Room. It was her "baby" from the beginning. Some, I know, were doubtful – I admit, I was myself. Were we taking on too big a project? But Gwen persevered, and she proved to be right. The Research Room grew and has been shown to have been of immense help and benefit to many, - members and non-members alike.

But what does the future hold? Unfortunately, I can only give you brief glimpses from the past, not into the future! I hope, though, that the information people get from their efforts on-line may give them the Family History Bug, and they will swell the numbers of the Society and be able to benefit from all it has to offer!

Maureen Hambrecht

DDFHS Online Members' Meeting via Zoom

Friday 11th December 2020 10.30am

The Sand House: A Victorian Marvel (Part 2) by Richard Bell

Part 2 begins with **Richard Bell** giving a brief recap of the Sand House's origins, before telling the story of its use by Doncaster Corporation in the first few decades of the 20th century. Richard then tracks its demise and how its tunnels repeatedly made their presence felt after the house had gone. The talk concludes with a look at how this amazing piece of Doncaster's past is being given a fitting legacy, through the work of *The Sand House Charity*. Members' should have received an email to register for these events, or further details are available on our website.

Wednesday 25th January 2021 time to be confirmed

Doncaster's Pit Heritage by Dave Fordham

Please see our website for further details

www.doncasterfhs.co.uk

Murderer in the Family?

I grew up in Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire and probably one of my first potential contacts with family history was an article my father made reference to in the local "Hebden Bridge Times." It was an account of an unsolved murder that had taken place a little over hundred years previously. It referred to a prime suspect Enoch **Helliwell** (1811 – 1874). "I think he was one of our relations; some of them used to live in Burnley." my father said.

When I started my family history, eventually an Enoch **Helliwell**, a tailor in Burnley appeared in a 1851 census record along with his nephew, Sutcliff (my Gt Grandfather), who was living with him as an apprentice tailor.

Once I had pieced together the family tree, I decided it was time to look for some stories so I then took a one month subscription to the British Newspaper Archive and the stories started to fall out of the pages! Lancashire, Yorkshire, London, even Cornwall and Durham! Stories of Gt Gt Uncle Enoch were everywhere and the information poured forth!

It seems fairly clear that it was Enoch that was suspected in addition to a second person for the murder of the Toll Bar man on King Street, Hebden Bridge in 1850. They may have even colluded. There was some circumstantial evidence but insufficient evidence against him and he was released without charge. The initial evidence relates to him being summoned by the murdered toll gate keeper for assault, but he had appealed against it. The appeal hearing was due to take place at Leeds Assizes, the week following Smith's murder. Helliwell had been identified as travelling between Burnley and Heptonstall that night. This information is based on a Hebden Bridge Times report of the story in the 1960/70s which my Father had brought to my attention.

After further research, library reference files reports, local and national press reports regarding this event, the following summary: -

The first newspaper reporting this grizzly crime dates from the London Times of 3rd October 1850 which reports: -

"The inquest was carried out by the Coroner of Halifax, Mr **Dyson**, at Mytholm School, Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire, into the death and murder of James **Smith**, the toll-bar keeper at Kings Street, whose body was discovered on Saturday 26th September sometime after 6.00am.

Mr Smith, known as Jammy, was a bachelor of about 60 years of age, a cripple, living by himself. The cruel and barbarous circumstances to his death were that his throat had been cut, almost severing his head from his body. No murder weapon has been recovered at the scene or in the vicinity, but the walls and doors had blood stained marks and hand markings.

A man's shirt was found, heavily stained with blood and supposed to belong to the murderer, being torn off in the struggle. Several items have been removed but it is clear that robbery was not considered a motive.

Money to the value of 8s was found as toll fees, plus some other money, and the deceased's watch at the bed head.

From information gained by the police of two persons in the vicinity late on Friday night PC **Heap** of Todmorden approached a married man of 40 years by the name of Enoch **Helliwell** of Burnley. A tailor by trade, his cap or hat is supposed to be saturated with blood and has been sent to the chemist for examination.

James **Smith** was last seen alive by William **Holt**, a carter who drives through the toll gate between Heptonstall and Rochdale and passed through a few minutes before 12.00pm on his way home, at which time James **Smith** was standing at his doorway of his home remarking ' that he was just in time as he was about to close the gate.' The door closed on the inside with an iron bar but which could be accessed by means of a crooked wire introduced through the keyhole of the door, and which, had no lock. Going upstairs the intruder may have been able to wait for Mr **Smith** whilst he slept.

One of the cuts inflicted almost severed the lower part of one ear, extending along the left cheek, and was a continuous gash as deep as could be made from the jaw line. Another one commenced one side of the neck and extended across the throat to the other side, cutting the windpipe and carotid arteries and almost severing the head from the body.

In consequence, James **Smith** did not make his appearance on Saturday morning at his usual time to collect the toll fees. Two of his neighbours, Mr William **Crossley** (butcher) and Mr William **Speak** (blacksmith) of King Street went to the door of the Toll House, which was shut but not fastened. They entered the house and called out, but no one answered. They sent a boy named Greenwood, about 9 years of age, up the stairs telling him to awaken Mr **Smith**. The boy usually came in and fetched milk for Mr **Smith** from a neighbouring house.

The boy returned in 'great fright' saying "Jammy has cut his throat!" **Crossley** and **Speak** then went upstairs and found the deceased, kneeling, with one knee on the bed and the other leg off the side of the bed and the upper part of the body hanging over the bed. The body was seemingly almost cold.

The toll money that had been collected was left behind, as was savings of the



murdered man, and his watch left by the bed head. Various are the reports current in the neighbourhood, relative to the motive actuating the murderer to commit this horrid crime, but up to the present it is a complete mystery.'

Since the apprehension of **Helliwell**, Mr **Brierley**, Superintendent of Detective Police in Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway has apprehended an outdoor labourer named **Greenwood** of about 22 years of age. **Greenwood** resides in James **Smith's** neighbourhood and both men are being questioned. County Police Superintendent **Carswell** of Rochdale, and police under him, as well as police at Halifax and the County Constabulary are making strict inquiries as are several constables in the neighbourhood."

The murder was reported over the next three to four weeks widely, both nationally as well as locally.

I present a summary of reports below as follows: -

Following the adjourned inquest, it was again reopened at Myholme School under the Halifax Coroner Mr **Dyson**, four magistrates and jury, Rev **Rhodes**, John **Crossley**, John **Sutcliffe**, and John **Foster**. Enoch had now been discharged, though clearly by subsequent comment, not eliminated.

Rev **Rhodes** opened up a discussion regarding his possible involvement as he had been last seen at Hebden Bridge at around 10.00pm and was next seen at around 7.00am the following morning at his front door in only trousers and shoes. (So, what happened to the bloodied torn shirt and cap?) Reference was also made of the summons for assault and debt and Helliwell's pending appeal.

John **Spencer** of Hebden Bridge Lane had spoken to Enoch at his home at 10.00pm and Enoch made reference to the summons and appeal as John **Spencer** was surety for Enoch in this action. 'Enoch said: 'If anything particular occurs let me know.' Because of Mr **Smith's** murder he did write to him immediately the following day. At some point during the proceedings someone re-quoted this comment as 'if anything happens to William **Smith** let me know'

Constable Edward Heap confirmed Enoch **Helliwell's** location as being at home in Burnley from the milk lad who had seen him at 7.00am. However, Rev **Rhodes** suggested his whereabouts between 10pm and 7am were unaccounted for.

Attention was then directed to William **Green**, still in custody, who lived at Heptonstall, and who had stopped at the toll house shop for some pop and a 'pennoth of parkin' on the Friday night. He was there between 10.00pm and 11.30 as he usually waited for Holt's cart to pass through and procure a lift home. On this occasion he didn't wait.

Constable **Dugdale** visited **Green** at the family home and identified blood stains on his bed sheets. However, his mother confirmed that on the Friday

night, he had slept down stairs in her bed, and yes, with her (strange?) and the blood stains had resulted from a nose bleed.

It was also noted that **Green** was also present with other witnesses to **Smiths** body on the Saturday morning. At this point the Coroner discussed an open verdict, pending further investigation by the police, and kept William **Green**, perhaps described as 'not that bright,' in custody.

The Halifax Guardian had quoted Rev. Rhodes comments regarding Enoch Helliwell as:-

1. **Helliwell** had an objective of disposing of this man's evidence and had procured or committed the murder.
2. It was probable that there was more than one person in the actual perpetration of the murder.
3. The man who committed the murder was himself 'wounded.' There was blood on walls and doors. The carotid artery injury could have heavily impregnated the murderer's clothing.... and there were no injuries to either **Helliwell** or **Green**.
4. The murderer could have gained access through the door whilst **Smith** was closing the gate.
5. The perpetrator would have had his right sleeve covered in blood (?).

William **Green** was subsequently released without sufficient 'perhaps secure evidence.' By 27th October a comment by Enoch's wife when visited by Constable **Heap** regarding confirmation of his presence at home that night, said 'if anybody has done it, it's his brothers!'

Perhaps 'a little late in the day' the brothers were questioned. One was so intoxicated his answers to the magistrate were so incoherent that nothing satisfactory could be made of them. Oh dear! Could that have been my Great Grandfather, John **Helliwell**?

There was even a suggestion that someone else had slept in the bed that night with **Smith** 'due to a cleared ridge of impressed bed clothing being observed' which opened up further speculation.

The open verdict was confirmed at this stage. The Trustee of the King Street toll gate had put up a reward of £20 and then the Government put in place a reward of £100 for any evidence that would lead to a prosecution. Interestingly there was also 'a free pardon to any accomplice, who was not stained with the actual crime.'

The crime was never solved.

John Helliwell, Member 3365

Grey Friars Baths and the Aspinal Connection

In the September 2nd 1870 issue of the *Doncaster Gazette*, you will find a notice from a Mr. Henry **Morrell**, of the market-place, Doncaster asking for a few respectable young men to canvas for subscriptions for a “very desirable object” – a public swimming baths.

Before the end of the month, a meeting had been held in the Guildhall and it became clear that Doncaster would get its much needed swimming baths. The coroner was at that meeting & after noting his comments about inquests, I browsed through the local papers for drownings in the River Don. I was shocked by the numbers. And I hadn't considered the River Cheswold. I have a friend who volunteers to transcribe documents for museums and archives and she told me that she had worked on Doncaster coroner's reports. Many of the bodies recovered from the Cheswold, were the poor and needy folk who lived in the “yards” to the rear of French Gate. One wonders why the Town Corporation didn't think a swimming pool was a priority.

On Wednesday 5th of July 1876, the swimming pool was opened. The Corporation had given £500 to match the subscriptions of the townsfolk. It also provided the site, close to French Gate and at the side of the Cheswold. It had been planned and erected by Mr. **Athron**, a well-known and respected local builder. A George **Burtwhistle** was the first manager, probably because he had been the manager of a bath-house on the same site. He was a carpenter by trade and was residing at the bath-house on the 1881 census. Sometime after that, he and his wife returned to Belton where he was born.

My grandfather William Gathorne **Aspinal** was born on the 1st of January 1886 at the baths. Many years later when a reporter from the *Doncaster Chronicle* interviewed my grandparents on the occasion of their Golden Wedding, his exact words were, “I was born in a house attached to the Grey Friars Road baths where my father Henry **Aspinal** was the manager.” Was it the old bath-house? I have no idea. His birth certificate simply says French Gate and his father Henry's occupation was recorded as marine stores dealer.

In the early days of my family research, great grandfather Henry **Aspinal** was the reason that I couldn't uncover a strong connection with my family and that swimming pool. When he married Sarah **Whitmill** in 1870, his occupation on the marriage certificate was pleasure boat proprietor. The following year on the 1871 census he was a soda water manufacturer. Only on the 1891 census was he the baths manager, and at other times, an old metal broker. The baptisms of his eleven children at the parish church didn't help either, occupations included inn-keeper, moulder or broker. However my Grandfather William's middle name was a connection to the baths. The Hon. Alfred **Gathorne-Hardy** was a Conservative M.P. who unsuccessfully

contested a West Riding seat in 1882 and a Doncaster seat in 1885. But he was an excellent swimmer and a very keen water-polo player as was Henry **Aspinall**. It was only when I found a newspaper article about Sarah's death that I realised there was more to discover. It said, "Her late husband Mr. Henry **Aspinall** had been the baths manager for many years".

The Sheffield newspapers have lots of reports of aquatic performances at the pool and I enjoyed one from 1886, which stated "The entertainment, which was for the benefit of the manager Mr. H. **Aspinall**, lasted all afternoon and throughout the evening". (Some of these articles refer to Henry as the proprietor. I wonder if he was among the original share-holders.) There were lots of races for different age groups and winners came from as far away as Wakefield, York, Barnsley and Leeds. I have to admit I didn't realise how popular the sport was in the 19th century.. After the serious stuff came the fun and games. They started with a "Clothes Race" when the competitors entered the water fully dressed including boots, hat and an umbrella. There was exhibition swimming too from Henry himself and children. In later reports Henry's own children were part of the show. Grandad had told me about the polo matches so I wasn't surprised when I found a report where his brother Percy captained the local team. Another brother Sam was frequently among the winners in the races. Percy went on to a career in the Royal Navy and never returned to Doncaster except on family visits. Sam's story, written by his granddaughter Christine **Green**, was in the Doncaster Ancestor Autumn 2012.

In the 1890s, the Corporation spent more than £2000 upgrading the facilities. That is a lot of money; perhaps they now had the majority of shares? In 1892, private bathing rooms were added, each having an electric bell. The rooms and corridor of this extension had mosaic tiled floors and all the walls were tiled to a height of 5ft. The swimming pool got a new filter system and the manager got a new house. The house



Grey Friars Road Power Station & Baths Offices

faced on to French Gate at the side of Friars Bridge. (This is the view that readers will find in most local history books). The house where my Grandad was born was demolished to make way for these improvements. In 1894, William **Potts** and Sons of Leeds installed an internal clock but I've no way of knowing whether it was paid for by the Corporation or if it was a gift. In 1899, the Corporation spent £350 for more improvements. £250 was the cost to line the 90ft swimming pool with white glazed tiles. I'm curious to know what it looked like without tiles – and I



Corner of Greyfriars Road showing Private Bathing Rooms in centre circa 1900

should know, but don't remember, as Grandad had an old photograph of the pool when it was empty. There were two men with very large sweeping brushes standing in the bottom and a line of small children stood between them. They were his older siblings. On this occasion, the baths were re-opened by the Mayor, Councillor **Birkinshaw**. J.P. which leaves me wondering if there had been opening ceremonies in 1876 and 1892. After the ceremony, the usual events took place in the pool and a young Sam **Aspinall** came third in the 120 yards handicap.

And finally, in 1903, the Sheffield Daily Telegraph reported that "The

Baths are now under the direct control and management of the Corporation. Councillor **Armitage** is the Chairman. The heating is now from the boilers at the Power Station and the dressing-boxes are being repainted."

It's frustrating not having access to local newspapers and this research has left me with more questions than answers. Did that first committee buy shares and who were the share-holders? Did the Corporation buy them back when offered? And was 1903 the year that the Corporation finally owned the baths? And that's just for starters!

Pauline Stainton

If anyone has any old photos to share of Greyfriars Baths, then please send them to me.

doncasterancestor@doncasterfhs.co.uk

Human Cargo – South Yorkshires links to Slavery by David Adgar

On Wednesday 30th September 2020 the Society held its first online Zoom Meeting which was attended by 43 participants including 1 member who joined the meeting from Canada. David Adgar is the Chairman of Friends of Doncaster Museum and started researching South Yorkshires links to Slavery

after an ex Chief Executive of the Council stated there weren't any links.

Thomas Wentworth of Stainborough oversaw the building of Wentworth Castle at Stainborough. He was given the title of Earl of Stafford by Queen Ann and made his name for diplomatic work in Prussia and work in ending the Spanish War. This included the Treaty of Ulrecht 1713; Article 12 The Asiento covered the right to import 4,800 units (slaves) to Spanish Colonies for 30years. The contract was assigned to the South Sea Company who soon had a monopoly on trade in South America. However in 1727 the Quakers forbid the owning and dealing in slaves and there is a large Quaker Community in Doncaster.

In Scone Castle there is a famous painting 'Lady of Colour' of Dido Elizabeth Belle the mixed-race daughter of Captain Sir John Lindsey, nephew of Lord Mansfield. She was brought up by Lord Mansfield and his wife and inherited money on his death. Lord Mansfield was the brother in law of the Marquis of Rockingham and as Lord Chief Justice in 1772 he ruled on the James Somerset Case. James Somerset was a Negro slave who lived in England and had been captured and put on a ship to go to the Caribbean. Lord Mansfield ruled that slavery had never been allowed in Great Britain and any slave who set foot in England became a free man.

For almost 300 years Cannon Hall, Barnsley was home to the Spencer-Stanhope family. Benjamin Spencer brother of the Hall's owner John Spencer, purchased a small slave ship in the mid-18th century and called it Cannon Hall. He was hoping it would enable him to get rich quick. However, his slaves arrived in Antigua in poor condition and went onto Charlestown in South Carolina; the ship returned to England with a cargo of rice and indigo. The value of the slaves was recorded as £1697. This was in total contrast to his nephew Walter who inherited the Hall from his Uncle John and was a friend and supporter of William Wilberforce.

Brodsworth Hall was bought by Peter Thellusson in 1791; he made his fortune providing loans and insurance to slave ship and plantation owners and as a result of defaults on debts he gained interests in Caribbean plantations.

In 1790 Olandah Equiano, who had been enslaved as a child and purchased his freedom in 1766, passed through Doncaster on his way to Sheffield to give a talk.

In May 1807 the Yorkshire Election saw William Wilberforce and Viscount Milton elected to Parliament. The 3rd candidate was Henry Lascelles, son of Lord Harewood, whose campaign was funded by slavery. Viscount Milton celebrated his election to Parliament at the Mansion House. In 1833 the Abolition of Slavery Act was passed in the Commons and owners of slaves were paid compensation. However, in 1981 Mauretania became the last

country to abolish slavery.

Thank you, David, for a very interesting talk.

Sheila Cave. Member 4018

Edward Lawrence

I have been interested in researching my father's side of the family for almost 45 years, finding that they have lived in Yorkshire for over 300 years. They lived in Ledsham for at least 90 years, from the mid-1600s, moving to Kippax in the mid-1700s then to Mirfield where they were watermen and clothiers. They settled in the Barnsley, Rotherham and Doncaster areas in the 1800s.

I have started looking more into the lives of my ancestors, starting with my grandfather, Edward **Lawrence**, born in Mexborough 1868. My father, David **Lawrence**, knew little about him as he was 2 years old when Edward died in 1929. Edward's father Thomas **Lawrence** died at 33 years of age while still working on the canals. He is buried in Mexborough. My father didn't know anything about him as he was never spoken about.

The following is some of the information that I have researched and some from the local paper of the time, which I am assuming is Wombwell's. It tells of the lives and deaths of several family members, mainly through the United Methodist Church in Wombwell.

As a young boy Edward went to the church Sunday School, which was held in rooms (one report says in the outhouse) in Bond Street and later in various halls in Wombwell, including the 'Albert Hall' in Hawson Street. When the church was opened in Cemetery Road in 1887, he became a Sunday School teacher.

He then went on to give 50 years of service as a worker and official. He was appointed president and superintendent of the Sunday School, after the death of his step-father John **Davison**, who had held the role for 41 years. Edward was also the choirmaster for 36 years. His step-brother, John William **Davison**, was organist at the church, also for 36



Edward Lawrence

years. When the church celebrated occasions such as anniversaries, Edward was 'delighted' to be included in the singing and would often go to help at other churches.

Together the family served for a total of over 100 years in the United Methodist Church in Wombwell, for which they were all presented with the diploma of honour, by the National Sunday School Union for long service.

Edward worked as a coalminer. He was also a keen sportsman and played cricket and football for Wombwell. He and his eldest son, Earnest, were avid supporters of Wombwell Football club. He was married to Martha Ann Wilkinson, daughter of Edwin Wilkinson, who, by the report in the newspaper was a 'well-known Wombwell figure in his day'. Together they had five children. Earnest was their first child, born in 1893. Sadly, their youngest son died when he was 2 years old. Martha died in 1916.



John Davison, John William Davison & Edward Lawrence

On Christmas day 1922, Edward married my Grandma, Beatrix **Mills**. They had two sons; my father and my uncle.

Earnest was a painter and decorator in and around Wombwell and was well known in the area. He also played football but for the United Methodist Church which was in the Barnsley Sunday School League. In the First World War he was in the York and Lancaster Regiment, joining in Sheffield. He served three years in France. Later he served in the Durham Light Infantry, where he became a Company Sergeant Major. During this time, he served in the Army of Occupation for a year.

'A Wombwell Tragedy' is how one paper headlined the report of their deaths.

Very sadly in 1929, Edward, who was 61 years old and Earnest, who was 36 years old passed away within four hours of each other, dying of pneumonia. In the previous fortnight Edward's brother and brother-in-law had also died from pneumonia. Earnest was married and had two children.

Beatrix's mother, Julia **Smithson** had nursed Edward through his illness. Very sadly, and just one month after Edward, she also died, of pneumonia, aged seventy..

The church was full for Edwards funeral. Scholars from the Sunday School led the cortege, with the coffin being carried by young men from the church. The Rev. T. B. **Reid** conducted the service, where he said that ‘words were poor things to express the thoughts of the mind and the feelings of the heart on such occasions.’ One of the many wreaths said from ‘His beloved church. In deepest sympathy and in loving memory of a highly esteemed brother and a faithful disciple. Faithful unto to death.’

The newspaper reports that ‘they could not pay adequate tribute to his memory that afternoon, that would be done later no doubt.’ They did pay tribute to his faithfulness to the church. There is a very moving account saying he will be missed in church ‘more than words could tell, for his leadership, for his spiritual contribution to the life and atmosphere of that church. They would miss him in so many ways.’ and ‘he will be missed in so many ways in non-conformist circles generally’. At the graveside Mr Reid said, ‘We mourn this afternoon, one who has been in very close touch with this church for fifty years – practically the whole history of the church.’ He is buried in Wombwell Cemetery with Martha **Wilkinson** and his 2-year-old son. Unfortunately, his headstone has been taken down for safety reasons, as I understand.

Earnest’s funeral also had ‘a large following of mourners and many wreaths were laid.’ His funeral was conducted at the church by the Rev. W **Swinnerton**, Primitive Methodist minister and is also buried in Wombwell Cemetery.

A mural tablet was unveiled at the church by Mr T **Lindley** of Barnsley, in memory of John **Davison**, John William **Davison** and Edward **Lawrence**.

They were commemorated for their ‘remarkable record of church service’

I find writing this, in the time of today’s pandemic, very poignant and makes their deaths feel even more tragic.

Christina Watson, Member 4441

Roni Chapman, Vice Chair & Former Chair of Doncaster Family History Society

" My association with Roni Chapman goes back over 40 years, and is mainly political. I first met her at the Doncaster Labour monthly supper club around 1979. In 1980 I won the then Richmond Ward council seat from the Conservatives turning a 2000 majority into a Labour majority of just over 500. Labour regained the County Council seat in 1981 with a similar majority, but in 1982 only just won the seat after two recounts. It was obvious that we needed someone special if we were to beat the strongest opposition candidate. From my talks at the supper club I decided that if she would do it Roni seemed to be highly suitable although she lived outside the ward, provided she was agreeable, it then fell to me to persuade the local party, and then win the seat. Roni appointed me as her agent, and we won the seat in very adverse circumstances in 1983.

Her background was interesting, and her forenames (Ann Veronica) showed that she had a long association with the Fabian Society, her mother being a Fabian stalwart in Bradford. She came to us as a former chair of Ulley Parish Council in Rotherham district.

She mentioned at a supper club meeting that she had been ballet trained, and as NCB Librarian she was a member of NUM (Cosa), thereby opening other avenues of support.

I always found her nice, and very radical in her views. Early in her career she was wrongly detained by the police at a CND demo outside RAF Finningley. This was on a council meeting day, so I had the privilege of demanding at the meeting urgent steps be taken to secure her release as she had done nothing wrong. Over zealous police again! Her arrival at the Mansion House a few minutes later was greeted with delight by Councillors who supported the CND cause.

Sadly, following internal disputes, she was narrowly de selected as candidate in 1987, and in her usual dignified manner accepted this, and supported the new candidate in her campaign.

Roni returned to the council in the early 1990s, the only previous member to do so, and after the changes in the late 1990s was elected as Chair of the Social Services Committee, a post which she thoroughly deserved. It was difficult to say the least after the collapse of mining employment in the borough, but she again served with distinction.

Not only was she an active political figure, she was wife to John, and mother of three children and had at least one granddaughter. My last meeting with her was sadly at the funeral of former council leader

Colin Wedd in January 2020. Still alert and political.

I believe she joined DDFHS in early 2007, but I only attended one meeting with her (March 2007) as we left the area shortly afterwards. I was delighted to see she was elected chair of the society later on, and her pieces from the Chair in our journal were always interesting. I, and I am certain society members who can readily attend will miss her greatly.

Roger Luffman, Member No 1253, Former Council colleague and friend

Gold Fischli: A Winter's Travelogue of Eastern Europe during the 1990s

Before the advent of Doncaster's Civic and Cultural Centre, readers will remember the old Doncaster College building at Waterdale. The 1960s sheer steel and glass construction was set like a concrete castle on a sea of steps leading to the entranceway. The library, an echelon of learning with its unique spiral staircase, stood to the left; the reception area to the right. Yet more steps must be climbed to attain the lofty heights of higher learning above. There was also the Beechfield High School building of solid red brick, with its separate entrances for 'Boys' and 'Girls', always freezing in winter and boiling in summer. When it rained we had to place buckets to catch the drips from the leaking roof: when the sun shone we wound the windows open with an antiquated iron 'winder'. Now all has been laid waste by the advancing army of progress. Now the Waterdale library; the Doncaster Girls' High School; (Is the statue of the Greek goddess retained inside along with the façade outside? I wonder) Doncaster Museum and Art Gallery, will all be contained within one superior construction. In 2020, not only have the educational buildings been turned to the dust of History books, but also the type of educational travel that I experienced, indeed travel of any type, has been changed irrevocably. Brexit signals an end to border crossings without check across Europe and Covid 19 has slammed us all to a standstill.

My winter's tale begins beside that old College building. The stillness of frost hung like static in the early morning air as I huddled myself into my thick black coat and pulled the fur collar tightly around my neck. My breath formed curly white tendrils that pointed ahead. Shivering, I slipped out of the shadows into the pearly grey light of dawn and stood pensively in the silver frosted snow. Thus, dawned that first fateful day of my departure as an English teacher abroad, on a college trip, behind "The Iron Curtain" (as my mother, so sensitively put it. We were waiting for our coach and waiting for our coach and waiting for our coach, until finally it arrived some forty-five minutes late and we were all frozen static to the spot. Our driver who had the appearance of an ear ringed weasel, was uncommunicative to the point of rigor mortis. 'We' were a party of twenty-six persons: six staff, twenty

students – from the High Melton and Waterdale sites of Doncaster College.

It did not come as a surprise that we missed the ferry at Dover. However, we were able to board the next one with our two new drivers, One was rather like a large, portly, overgrown baby in appearance, with little or no hair and a chubby face. He was a cheerful cove with a penchant for terrible jokes. The other was quieter and more serious in demeanour, he had a nervous cough, reminiscent of the character on The Fast Show who tried to film badgers at night and every time the badger appeared he had a coughing fit. Ian also had a slight speech impediment which made his dramatic announcement: 'We are now cossing the Wiver Whine' all the more poignant. Nevertheless, they were both the most courteous and careful drivers and we felt totally at ease for the remainder of the journey with them at the wheel and in charge of the map.

After a calm and uneventful crossing to Calais, we began the long trek across four European countries: France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. We stopped at various service stations on the way, sleepwalking to the loo, lost in the world of the living dead, scrabbling around to try to understand the currency and language, not to mention why the milk was always hidden and never cold. The torment continued as periodically, we were subjected to video 'entertainment' on the coach. Having watched two hours or was it two years of 'Joe Pasquali'? I now know the true meaning of torture; 'American Pie' was not much better.

We entered Poland through the German border, a bleak and bitter place where all our passports were rigorously checked in dismal, dark surroundings as snow settled silently on the ground. The countryside was flat and greenery sparse. After an interminable journey along what appeared to be the same stretch of road, where the same background is continually rolling, reminiscent of the early 'Scooby Do' animation, we followed the complicated signs to a 'motel/restaurant'. This was really just a large farmhouse and the owners looked rather bemused when twenty-eight people queued up to use the one toilet and asked for 'toast' which, judging by the reaction, is possibly not a regular feature on Polish breakfast menus. Three huge, ferocious dogs appearing from nowhere, looking as though they had not eaten any kind of breakfast and fancied a bit of 'English tourist rare', did nothing to enhance the ambience.



Therefore, we quickly returned to the coach and headed for Gliwice,

Doncaster & Gliwice students together

Doncaster's famous twin town. Here, poor Kate, the blonde and beautiful English teacher had waited with her long-suffering students for two hours for our eventual arrival. Our students and the Polish students were instant friends. We ate together and then returned to the coach all too quickly. As we travelled along, we passed the Silesian radio mast that marked the beginning of the Second World War when German soldiers dressed up as Polish officers and 'attacked' it. It was cold and snowing outside and the countryside looked prettier somehow. As I looked out of the windows of the coach, I noticed the small statues and shrines at the edges of the villages and towns. Every house had a piece of land attached to it with small fruit trees painted white at the bottom and chickens scratching around in the yards.

Eventually, we reached The Hotel Krakus in a snowstorm, had a 'quick fix' and dashed out again for a tour of the city. We were scuttled around the city by our guide Elizabeth, the fastest woman on two legs. She was small, dynamic and animated, we were cold, tired, and yet fascinated by her and the history of this ancient city that she told. We travelled up hill and down dale, beginning in the Jewish Quarter of Krakow. We saw the restaurant frequented by Stephen Spielberg whilst he was making 'Schindler's List' and visited a synagogue, disturbingly daubed with recent disturbing anti-Semitic slogans. We saw the castle and looked down at the statue of the Krakow dragon of a legend involving a virgin, a knight and a sheep stuffed with sulphur. We heard tales of various kings and looked at a church with dinosaur bones by the doorway. We went down to the university and the market square, past a statue of Kopernicus, the parks, or 'Plantys', and shopped in The Cloth Hall. We drank a spectacular hot chocolate and met by the statue before a return journey by taxi to the hotel for a shower and bed.



Auschwitz Concentration Camp looking out

The day we visited Auschwitz, the bleak and depressing place of nightmares and terrors, it was freezing cold. The coldest place I have ever been, it was colder than the following day which we spent in the snowy mountains. The trees were ugly, dead and stark and the birdsong discordant. As we trooped around the buildings, colder inside than out, in the pale-yellow sunshine, I felt claustrophobic and the artefacts and photographs had a ghostly, oppressive quality,

testament to man's inhumanity to man. The tension mounted and was enhanced by the sounds of prayers and hymns chanted by visiting Jewish groups who paraded their flag in flagrant defiance around the camp. Flowers were placed by 'The Wall of Death' to commemorate those who were murdered there. It was a place of pure evil and the display cases of human

hair, spectacles, artificial limbs, suitcases and empty tins of cyclone B will forever haunt my dreams. There were suitcases with the names, 'Jacob' and 'Sarah' chalked on them because the Nazis had even taken their victim's names from them and every Jewish man was named 'Jacob' and every woman, 'Sarah'. In every building, our young student guide told us the whole story again, until we could repeat it in our sleep. As we left, I felt like I had been put through an emotional wringer before being rinsed with fabric conditioner and dried out on a fast spin. I was beyond tears.

Unfortunately for me, the day did not improve, but continued spiralling into a thrumming vortex. Our visit to The Wielicka Salt Mine was my worst nightmare as I felt even more claustrophobic underground and, with every pounding step, my ears drummed as we ventured deeper. There were hundreds of steps and narrow passages, leading to creatively carved chambers. There was a ballroom, a glowing green underground lake, a chapel and many beautiful tableaux. Our guide was very humorous: 'The good news is that you will return to the surface by lift, the bad news is you will have to find the lift yourselves!' The lift was a small dark cage, into which what seemed like twenty people were squashed. I happened to be with someone who was afraid of the dark, someone who was claustrophobic and someone who jumped up and down in it like 'Tigger', until I threatened to kill him.

Next day, blew the shadows away on a breeze of cool, cleansing mountain air as we set off for the village of Zakopane. We drove through sugary snow-capped mountains with gingerbread houses and 'Heidi' type chalets clinging to the foothills. Crystal clear mountain streams ran along the roadside delivering us on to our delightful destination.

Soon we stopped and disembarked. The ski lift shot to a halt and we climbed aboard alongside the crates of provisions, (sausage, bread and vodka), for the mountain top. Slowly we began our perilous ascent into a completely white world. At the summit, we suddenly stopped and found ourselves in a swirling snowstorm where there was only one small café, only serving sausage and bread and only washed down with vodka. Stuck in a blizzard, set in a freezing world of white, we were reluctant to walk far on the snow-covered summit, literally needing a hearty shove to get over the first snow drift outside the café.

Back at the hotel we showered and changed before going out for a delicious dinner in the city. The restaurant was ornate with antique décor and fantastic food. We returned to the hotel feeling happy and content only to see an ambulance parked outside it. Our blood ran cold with foreboding, yet another of our students was to experience a stay in a Polish hospital, it was another young lady, suffering from a 'virus', as diagnosed.

When the doctor declared our poorly student 'fit to travel', we set off for Budapest. Some of the students were studying 'Access to Nursing' and were very eager to show off their nurturing skills with our patient.

Unfortunately, this was not conducive to a calm journey; the more attention given, the more was required. It proved to be a very long journey to Budapest, broken up by a rigorous border crossing into Slovakia. There was snow on the mountain tops, glinting in the pale translucent sunshine. All the houses had long sloping roofs and there were shrines in the gardens along with chickens and fruit trees. All the churches had spires with spheres on top. Apparently, the spheres contained plans of the church buildings below, so that they could be rebuilt in the event of destruction. As we travelled along I bravely opened my Hotel Krakus packed lunch. I am still speculating the contents of the circular tin we were all given and never dared to experience.

Ruth Scott Chambers, Member 4292

To be continued.....will they get home for Christmas?
 Sorry, but you will have to wait until the spring Ancestor for the rest of the story.

Below is a paragraph that is in part two, which I felt needed to be viewed now.

I had been sorely tempted to take him up on the offer of a meal, (gnocchi and something?), but I was also wary, weary, worn and sad and so staggered up to bed and made do with a packet of ‘gold fischli’ - buy some for Christmas, you have to try them!

Has anyone heard of “gold fischli” or tasted them? Answers will be in the Spring Ancestor.

<h2 style="margin: 0;">New Members</h2>

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

MemID	Title	Initial	Last Name
4444		M	McIntyre
4445	Miss	J	Mullineaux
4446	Mr	J	Fisher
4447	Mrs	V	Fairclough

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
Lefley	ERY	Hull	1800-1930	4444
Lefley	ERY	Riston	1800-1930	4444
Lefley	SFK	Syleham	1750-1900	4444
Lefley	SFK	Wingfield	1750-1900	4444
Lefley	WRY	Armthorpe	1800-1930	4444
Lefley	WRY	Mexborough	1800-1930	4444
Lefley	WRY	Sheffield	1800-1930	4444
Leftley	NFK	Pulham Saint Mary	1750-1900	4444
Watson	ERY	Cottingham	1800-1930	4444
Watson	ERY	Hull	1800-1930	4444
Watson	ERY	Kirk Ella	1800-1930	4444
Watson	ERY	Willerby	1800-1930	4444
Watson	ERY	Walkington	1800-1930	4444
Keeton	WRY	Edlington	1910-1960	4445
Mullineaux	WRY	Edlington	1910-1960	4445
Becket	WRY	Barnburgh	1818-1894	4446
Fisher	WRY	Barnburgh	1825-1892	4446

Obituaries

We have been informed that **Gwen Gray** of Scarborough, has sadly passed away. She was a longstanding member of the Society, and we send our condolences to her family.

We have also been informed that **Raymond Scholes**, Member 4277 has also passed away. Condolences to his family.

Roni Chapman, Vice Chair

Roni Chapman became a member of Doncaster and District Family History Society in 2006, so had seen a number of changes within the Society. After being with the Society for a number of years, she became a valued member of the volunteers' team at the Palgrave Research Centre, Balby. Although Roni had many other interests including the Labour Party at that time, she was always willing to offer help to attends Fairs etc.

She joined the Executive Committee in 2013 as a general member, and was elected Chair in 2016. As Vice-Chair she was involved in the discussions with Doncaster Council as to where the Society would be moving to, when the Palgrave Research Centre closed.

Roni had been really looking forward to all the new changes and was thrilled when one of her daughters was chosen to do a piece of art for the new Doncaster Museum and Art Gallery.

June Staniforth

"When Roni was Chair of the Society, and I was Secretary, we worked very well together. She was always very helpful, kind and thoughtful; nothing was too much trouble and she was a very kind person. I have very good memories of her and she will be very sadly missed".

Marion Baxter

Dates For Your Diary

Members' Online Meetings via ZOOM

Friday 11th Dec 10.30am-12md
The Sand House a Victorian Marvel:
Part Two by Richard Bell

Wednesday 25th January 2021 time to be confirmed
Doncaster's Pit Heritage by Dave Fordham

Please see our website for further details.

Feb 2021

Roots Tech Connect

25 - 27 February

A Free Online Conference Experience

For the first time ever, the world's largest family celebration event will be entirely virtual and completely free. Get ready to celebrate shared connections with people from around the world. Connect with friends, your family, your past, and your heritage and homelands—all from the comfort of your home and in your browser."

Visit the RootsTech Connect website

June 2021

The Family History Show, York

19 June 10.00 - 16.30

Remember to check with the organisers before you travel

D&DFHS Subscription Rates 01 Apr 2020 - 31 Mar 2021

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

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

DDFHS Research Enquiry Service

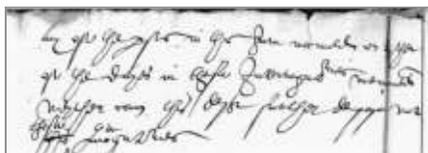
Due to the closure of the **HELP DESK** & to celebrate the Society's 40th Anniversary we are offering a limited free email Research Service.

The Research Service is primarily a "look-up" service and is limited to one surname search of the Society's 1.5 million transcriptions database. Any additional research will be at the discretion of the Society's Research Enquiries Coordinator, Trevor Betterton. **research.enquiries@doncasterfhs.co.uk**

If you are not a member we will endeavour to assist, but ask you to consider joining the Society as an appreciation of the time spent by our volunteers.

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**

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***Please do not telephone Committee Members
and Volunteers after 9.00pm***

