

# Airedale & Wharfedale Family History Journal

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Deadline for articles for the Journal are 12<sup>th</sup> of the month of February; May; August and November.

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Front Cover Illustration: - Cowling Holy Trinity Church

## **Programme of Meetings**

### **Burley in Wharfedale Meetings**

Dec 2nd	Annual Quiz	
Jan 20 <sup>th</sup>	The New FamilySearch website A look at ways of using the website	John Hanson
Feb 17 <sup>th</sup>	175 years of Family Photos How photography has changed  And how we can make our photos available to our descendants	Stephen Gill
Mar 17 <sup>th</sup>	T.B.A.	

### **Keighley Meetings**

Dec 6 <sup>th</sup>	Tracing Criminal Ancestors	Kate Hurst
Jan 10 <sup>th</sup>	From St Catherine's to online data Ian Waller Changes in family history in 40years	
Feb 7 <sup>th</sup>	Rationing in W.W.1 Raspberries & cream for tea!	Kathryn Hughes
Mar 7 <sup>th</sup>	Secrets & Lies in Family History Dr. Frances Hurd Poignant stories from other peoples' history	

### **Threshfield Meetings**

As there have been three meetings each month since Wharfedale & Keighley joined together it has been decided to amalgamate the Burley & Threshfield meetings into one meeting on the **third Thursday** in the month. This means that there is a meeting on the first Monday & the third Thursday **all virtual**.

## **Burley Meeting. Thursday September 2<sup>nd</sup>**

### **Behind the scenes working for 'WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?' as a researcher. Speaker Gill Blanchard**

This was the first talk of our autumn season and did not disappoint! Gill has worked on a few episodes of this popular television series but her talk focused on the two she had actually appeared in on screen; the family history of Jonnie Peacock, the Paralympian and the television cook, Mary Berry.

She said the first question she was always asked was 'Do the celebrities know?' An emphatic 'No!' was the answer. The element of surprise was crucial and if anyone had already done research and knew what may be revealed, this was lost and did not make good viewing!

The first series was aired on BBC2 and was so popular it was moved to BBC1 and has been shown around the world to every English speaking country. People have asked 'Why use celebrities?' Celebrities, especially in the public eye at that moment, help to give appeal to the programme. There have been many subjects from 'Strictly Come Dancing' as they have become more well known to the public. It is important to tell a story and although they sometimes make it look easy and instant, many hours of research have been carried out for maybe only a few minutes screen time.

Research is often built on small details such as ' I think my ancestor may have been a musician' or 'I believe one of my family from long ago was involved in an accident'. Although different research teams can work on the same subject, there could be big variations in their results which sometimes could lead to friction! Gill said you could be asked to work on a topic but maybe nothing would come of it...very frustrating.

When Gill was brought in as a researcher on Jonnie Peacock's episode she quickly found a direct ancestor, Louisa Voss, who had four illegitimate children. Her name was mentioned in a document of the quarter sessions of Warboys, a few miles north of Huntingdon. A public house there called the Royal Oak was refused a licence as it was quoted as a house of ill repute. Louisa and two other women were named as 'riotous company' and worse!. Jonnie visited the Royal Oak and talked about this with Gill on screen. This was a very hot day in May with many noisy ducks and motor boats about! Because of continuity they could not add a sun hat or even take off a layer of clothes as it got hotter! Suddenly Jonnie said 'That's it, I need a break'.....and they did!

Mary Berry's episode named an ancestor, Christopher Berry, who became bankrupt and his wife and children were admitted to the workhouse. Mary was delighted when one of her Berry ancestors was named as a baker in trade directories and when they had a break for coffee and cake said that the portions were too big and cake should be 'a little bit of deliciousness to break up the day'. All the hours of research Gill had spent on Mary Berry's episode resulted in just 3 Minutes and 22 Seconds on screen and there must have been much frustration when vital information was not included by the research team.

Gill led us to believe that she has done research for an episode of the new series but was sworn to secrecy.....we will just have to be patient!

Gill gave us a fascinating insight into what goes on behind the scenes of one of the most popular non-fiction programmes on television.

Lynda Balmforth

### **October Meeting Wills at the Borthwick**

The Borthwick Institute holds half a million wills, dating from 1267 to 1858. Most are from Yorkshire and Nottingham , there are also

wills and probate documents from Cheshire, Lancashire, Westmorland, Cumberland, Northumberland and Durham.

Unfortunately no notes were taken at the meeting.

## **KEIGHLEY BRANCH**

### **Report of the September Meeting 2021 After You're Dead Eric Jackson**

Early Remains – do we care?

It is surprising what went on in history regarding the care of bodies ...or not as the case maybe, after death. It was hoped that souls went to heaven after a person's death so when Charles 1 was beheaded it was sewn back on so that his whole body would enter the Kingdom of Heaven!!! Did he deserve to go there????

For students to study anatomy, bodies were obtained from various sources one being bodies of criminals which were dissected this often took place immediately after the hanging and in public!!!

Between 1701 and 1744 24 lecturers ran private schools of anatomy securing 6 hanged felons a year! Agents bargained for bodies even bargaining for a body as they went to the gallows.

In 1795 in Lambeth 8 surgeons were robbing 30 different burial grounds. Dead children were measured and robbers paid 6/- (shillings) per foot in height. Grave Robbing was a problem in 1821 watch towers were built in cemeteries as there was no law to stop grave robbing. In 1826 592 bodies were dissected at the school of anatomy most of these were got by grave robbers.

Charles Byrne was an Irish Giant he was 7+ foot tall his skeleton is in the Royal College Surgeons in Liverpool.

Burke and Hare the notorious body snatchers killed 16 citizens, one Robert Knox was drunk at Mrs Hare's lodging house he was then smothered. Burke was hanged on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1829 his body was publicly dissected; his skeleton is in Edinburgh. Hare was not executed as he testified against his former accomplice but the public were after him and he was sneaked out of Edinburgh by the authorities to where – who knows!!!

A poem of the time was;  
Up the close and down the stair  
But and Ben, Burk and Hare  
Burke the butcher  
Hare the thief  
Knox the boy who buys the beef.

From 1832 to 1900 50,000 bodies sent for dissection.

The comedian Charlie Chaplin's body was stolen and found in a cornfield about 10miles from the original burial place in a Swiss Village near Geneva in 1978, a ransom of 600.000 dollars was requested. His wife Oona had her phone tapped by the police and the body snatchers were caught. Charlie's body is resting securely in the original plot but surrounded in concrete for safety.

A very interesting, if somewhat macabre, talk by Eric, hopefully enjoyed by everyone who listened to it via zoom. At least we didn't have to go out on a dark night after the talk!!!!!!

*Susan Daynes*

### **Report of the October Meeting War Widows of World War 1 Andrea Hetherington**

Andrea has written books on the history of WW1 and gave us a very interesting talk about the lives of widows of the men killed in the war.

750,000 died in WW1, 28% of these were married. At first the government thought that about 15,000 women would be widowed but in the end there were 230,000 widows – some of them would have remarried.

At one time widows were only entitled to a pension if they acted in a good way. They could have the pension stopped if they were drunk, neglected their children, lived out of wedlock or had an illegitimate child. A woman who married an ex-soldier would not get a pension if he died later from war wounds. If a man was shot at dawn, his widow would not be told why he had died but would not get a pension. This we now know as Shell Shock. They also received an allowance for any child under 16.

Many women felt that they had also served the country by sacrificing their men to the war and deserved recognition. The impact on these women was not just emotional but financial as well. At that time a man's wage was about 26 shillings a week but a woman's was only about 11 shillings. As the government came to realise this was a big drop and with children in the mix they had to start a State-funded non-contributory pension. This was the first time a state pension had been given. The Soldiers and Sailors Family Association and the British Red Cross also helped. At first the pension was 6/- a week put soon put up to 18/-. This was heaven to some of the poor women.

It was not only husbands & fathers who counted towards their wives getting a pension but sometimes a son would be killed and because he had been the main breadwinner in the house; then his mother could claim a pension.

A tragic loss of life. A thought provoking talk by Angela.

Betty Hardaker

### **Report of the November Meeting**

### **Posted in the Past by Helen Baggott**

Helen opened her Zoom meeting with a postcard of the Mechanics

Institute in Keighley but her talk focused on a few old postcards she had bought and then researched into.

The first was a postcard bought at a car boot sale. It had been posted in America and was addressed to Pte. G Freeman No. 16373 at the Chelsea Barracks in December 1913 wishing a Happy Christmas and New Year. Unfortunately **Gilbert** Freeman was killed in the Somme but Helen had traced his family. **George** was born in 1891. He had 2 brothers, 3 sisters and a half brother. The half brother was called William Freeman and he was the oldest being the son of his father William and his first wife who died when William Junior was very young.

William senior worked in the mill in the village where they lived. Little has changed there to this day except that the mill burnt down and has now been redeveloped into living accommodation.

William junior moved away to become a gardener in Gloucestershire and later moved with some of his half siblings to Saltash in Cornwall where he opened a shop in Fore Street selling seeds and other gardening equipment. Helen found a photograph of the shop taken in 1908. William's brothers had allotments so would supply some of the goods sold in the shop.

Gilbert Freeman is listed on 2 War Memorials. There is a group photograph of Gilbert taken at the Barracks before they left to join the fighting.

Helen put all her information online and within a few days she was contacted by someone from the US. They said that 2 of the brothers had emigrated to Massachusetts so this was who would have sent the postcard to Gilbert. Some of the descendants have been in touch and sent a lovely family photograph.

Another postcard was sent to Mr Leonard Whitford in West Street, Ontario, California, US. Leonard was a third generation silver

smith. He had emigrated to the US in 1895. He was the son of Samuel Whitford who was the first Secretary of what became Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, which opened in 1852. Samuel was responsible for fundraising and was helped by donations from J M Barrie and Charles Dickens.

Helen also had two postcards sent to children in Great Ormond Street Hospital. One was to Doris May from her friend Ada Wildman and the other was to Harry Peebles, son of a policeman. It was sent by Harry's brother. Unfortunately he had Kidney Disease and died a few weeks later.

Helen gave us a link to the "Historic Hospital Admissions Records project".

Julie Wood

## **RECORDING MY NEW AUSTRALIAN RELATIVES**

***Notes From An Exile* by Rod Moulding**

Much of my time recently has been occupied by a major transcription exercise. Some three or more years ago I was contacted by a lady in Australia who was looking for information on a "William Moulden or Moubry" of Bradford who had died in Adelaide in 1876. I was able to make the connection to William Moulding, who was born in Bingley in 1796, the son of William Moulding and Hannah née Jackson, and who married Sarah Kemp at St Peter's Bradford (now Bradford Cathedral) in 1825. William had been unaccounted for, in my eyes, since his listing in the 1841 Census, where he is shown at Portland Street, Horton without an occupation. Meanwhile his two younger brothers had both moved to Horbury near Wakefield where the elder was a grocer (later a farmer) and the younger a wool-comber. After 1841 William had vanished from my records.

My new Australian contact admitted that she had been assembling a family tree with only very limited source information. She was quite aware that this would be a problem for anyone else who might be interested in William's descendants, and promised to backtrack through her data and rectify the omissions, using her local genealogical society records. She has clearly worked hard to achieve this.

Since William Moulding/en was a 1st cousin 4 times removed I felt I should incorporate him and his descendants into my "Mouldings of Bingley" tree, and set about checking and recording his family and connections. This has taken an unbelievably long time. I've felt obligated to check and record all public record mentions of William and his family in Bingley, Bradford and Leeds, all press and other records (William was an ostler who became a publican, first at the Ring o'Bells in Shipley and later at the George Inn in Kirkstall), all sea travel and landing records from the family's emigration voyage in 1849-50, and all available Australian birth, marriage and death records (no preserved census records in Australia, of course). Doing all this for rather over 200 direct descendants and a similar number of spouses has taken an absolute age.

There are glimpses of worlds that seem totally remote. South Australia in the 1850s had a major influx of copper and tin miners from Cornwall, with mines on the outskirts of Adelaide itself; Victoria had its gold rush in the late 1850s, centred on Ballarat and Bendigo; Queensland had its own "tin rush" in the 1870s. Moulding/en relatives were involved in all of these.

Aside from mining, farming was a staple occupation, and relatives were part of this across South Australia and Victoria. Farm and livestock sales are frequent topics in local 19th century newspapers, accessed via *Trove*, the admirable website of the National Library of Australia

## **Letters**

### **C. Sturdy & Son, Butchers in Sutton-in-Craven**

From: David Busfield

Membership Number:

Email:earlsroad7@hotmail.com:

Today I found a very old pencil that is triangular in shape and printed on it is the following text:

Side 1: C. STURDY & SON Family Butchers

Side 2: Main Street, Sutton-in-Craven

Side 3: Tel. 2153 Cross Hills

I went to Sutton-in-Craven Primary School between 1956 and 1958, at that time the family lived in Cross Hills. I have photos of the pencil but there is no way of adding them here. I wonder if anything is known about C Sturdy, I cannot find anything on the internet. Many thanks

David John Busfield (born in Keighley, now living in Northamptonshire

### **Wainwright DyeWorks**

I am a volunteer for Horsforth museum. I help trace family trees. I am fascinated with the photograph of the 6 boys from 1911 at Wainwrights

Dye Works. I have been looking into the lives of the boys via ancestry.com. However I have managed to only trace 2 of them. H Barnes was Harry Barnes age 16 living in Horsforth. Harry had 4 brothers one of whom was a mechanic at the dyeworks. They lived at Ivy Cottage Old Mill Lane Woodside. He died in 1969 aged 74 My second boy is George Ernest Bywater age 13. He was a cotton bobin

carrier? The family consisting of 4 siblings .2 of them at the dyeworks. Father was a blacksmith and the family lived at 19 Springfield Terrace In the 1939 war register he was still working as a textile dyer. He died in 1981 in North Yorkshire aged 83.  
Freda Varty Email: [david.varty@btinternet.com](mailto:david.varty@btinternet.com)

### **: My Grandfather John Maroney – in Haworth**

Email:[colinmaroney@hotmail.com](mailto:colinmaroney@hotmail.com)

Hello,

I have emailed Gina Birdsall at Keighley Library a few times in the last year about my great grandma Jane Whitaker, who married the above, about her ancestors throughout West Yorkshire & she has kindly passed your contact details to me. I was born & bred in Skipton before leaving in 1958 for University & the wider world of jobs all over the Midlands. Now long retired to the South Coast, my Family Tree has become my great hobby cum obsession & I write each stem up & get it printed, but only for my family, who seem to enjoy them. Perhaps because it keeps Dear Old Dad busy & active.....As a thank-you, I do though send a complimentary copy to the relevant various institutions which helped me – Skipton Library local Studies, North Yorks County Records Archives, Upper Dales FHS, Coldstream Guards & Keighley Library (see attached).I have 3 more books in the pipeline, due to Covid shutdowns etc & 4 more in my head. LOL

My grandfather was born in 1858 in the Whitechapel Workhouse in London's East End, living in what is described by Fiona Rule in her eponymous book "The Worst Street in London" & he was in & out of workhouses till 1868 when he was sent to an Industrial School after which I lose track of him. As yet, I have been unable to discover anything about his years there. THEN, he re-appears but on the 1881 Census (see attached) in HAWORTH when he was a Wool Dyer. I am convinced he was of those described in the

C4 TV programme in 2013 called "England's White Slaves". Why & how else would he have made that journey to the West Riding? After the loss of his first two children in Keighley, they had moved by the mid 1880s to Silsden & then, by 1902, on to Skipton where my father was born.

What I would like to discover is what was the name & a brief history of that mill in Haworth & where was it, when could he have arrived in Haworth & any other minor details eg of his employment. That will fill the gap between his childhood & my next completed draft book of my ancestors in Skipton, which is awaiting the release in January of the 1921 Census.

So, can you help me please to find a researcher ? Obviously, I would be happy to pay any fees.

Best Regards. Colin Maroney, 2 Highfield Gardens, Rustington  
W Sussex BN16 2PZ

### **Emigration to South Africa 1859**

I run the 1820 settler section and the newspaper transcription section at <https://www.eggsa.org/>. J. CAWOOD (mentioned in the article below), was the son of the 1820 settler David CAWOOD, and I have added a page on him at <https://www.eggsa.org/1820-settlers/index.php/additional-information/c-surnames/1785-cawood-david-extra-data>. Despite there being three sons with the initial J, further minutes from the newspaper show that it was Joshua CAWOOD who returned to Keighley and complied the list of those wishing to emigrate.

Those of you with Keighley ancestors may be interested in an article I have just transcribed from the Eastern Province Herald (South Africa) for 1 July 1859. The CAWOOD family from Keighley were amongst the original 1820 settlers to the Cape of Good Hope and were instrumental in trying to persuade others to join the second wave of aided emigration to the Cape in the late 1850s. As can be seen here, not all applications were successful. I have checked some of the more unusual names listed

below and they were all still in the Keighley area in the 1861 census, so descendants of those listed may never have known that their ancestors were so keen to emigrate.

#### A FACT FOR MR. FIELD

It has been said that an unnecessary outcry has been raised against the Emigration Commissioner for his mismanagement of the emigration scheme, and especially for his treatment of the intending emigrants, and we, as well as others of our contemporaries, have been upbraided with pressing hard upon Mr. FIELD without having his statement before us. Nay, one of his "academic" supporters has gone so far as to say that he has discharged with consummate ability the duties of his office, and that the discontent which has been manifested, and the angry expressions of dissatisfaction that have been so numerous, are all a mistake together and, if we did but know it, we have great cause to be exceedingly thankful to Mr. FIELD for his "valuable services" to the Colony.

Now we would beg to direct attention to what we have to say. We have a plain and simple story to tell, which, if we mistake not, will "tell" more and better than anything else that could be said.

About a year ago our fellow townsman, Mr. J. CAWOOD, visited England, and when there went to Keighley, in Yorkshire – his native town. Here he was besieged by numerous applications from persons wishing to emigrate to the Cape. He explained to them the nature of the country and its capabilities – its climate – the labour for which there was a demand – the rate of wages they would be likely to earn – the cost of provisions – and the comparative discomforts they would probably have to put up with in a new country. All this only increased their desire to seek their fortunes in this Colony, and they wanted to know what steps they must take. Many of them had already, at that time, addressed Mr. FIELD, but had received no reply, and they did not know what to do. Mr. CAWOOD advised them to apply again, which they immediately did. Weeks and months passed away, but no reply from Mr. FIELD.

In the meantime Mr. CAWOOD returned to this country and received, by the last mail from England, the list of persons which we have published below. Up to the date of their letter enclosing this list they had received no reply from Mr. FIELD – not even an acknowledgement of their communication. It must be remembered that most of these people have made application. We do not say the whole of them – for several, disheartened by their friends not having received any answer, of course

concluded that application in their case would be equally fruitless. This list has been sent to Mr. CAWOOD, and was intended to be laid before Parliament, just to show how many eager applicants there are, just of the description we require, anxiously waiting an opportunity to emigrate. A reference to the list will show that the majority of these people are between the ages of twenty and thirty-five – all able, hardy active men – a large proportion of them being farm labourers, whilst the other tradesmen are well adapted for this Colony, having been accustomed to country work. These men, too, are most of them in indigent circumstances, who would not be sticklers about sixpence-a-day wages. Some of them, in the winter season, are compelled by their necessities to have recourse to the Union for assistance and are glad to get a day's work for which they receive 9d or a shilling. They themselves say they do not care so much about wages at first – they will take anything – and this is just the way to get good wages in the end. At home they have barely a meagre living – here they would have at least all the necessaries of life; and Mr. CAWOOD assures us they are just the people we require. Much has been said about the small number of agriculturists and farm labourers that have been sent out, and with great justice. Here are upwards of 130 persons, besides their children, all from an agricultural district, who would gradually embrace the opportunity for becoming colonists were it placed within their reach. We may add that a few families, in rather better circumstances than their neighbours, wearied out with waiting for some reply from Mr. FIELD, mustered up their little means and determined to take the important step without any extraneous assistance. They have arrived here, and are perfectly satisfied with the change. But the hundreds who remain behind have not the means to enable them to do this, and whilst we want farm labourers and servants, they are crying for work, and are either starving at home or are a drag upon the parish.

Mr. CAWOOD informs us that so eager were the applicants that there would have been no difficulty whatever in obtaining a sufficient number for a ship, from Keighley alone, in less than a week! Our readers will be able to judge, from the ages and occupations as set forth in the annexed list, as to the suitability of the applicants for this Colony.

Why the operations of the Emigration Commissioner should be confined to Ireland and the south of England, when in the towns wages are higher than in the rural districts, we cannot understand. If farm labourers and agriculturists be required – and the demand for these is admitted to be

great – then Yorkshire, we are sure, would supply the labourers required better and cheaper than any other English county. How it happens that these people have received no reply to their letters, especially as the correspondence department, according to Mr. SAUNDERS's singular letter to his chief, is conducted with such admirable regularity, we leave others to determine. All we know is that these people are just the labourers we require – that they are willing, waiting to come – have applied to Mr. FIELD – and that we are still without them.

## School Dinners

Who remembers school dinners? Some were good and some were not so good. Reading through a 'Best of British Magazine' – September issue, I found that Bradford was the first city in England – if not in the world to offer a hot meal each day to children. When school became compulsory in 1870, many children were found to be hungry and were not able to concentrate as they should. Some charities helped but only to the poorest. In 1906 a new law – Education (Provision of Meals) Act allowed councils to spend money on feeding the children. So it was that Bradford started the Bradford Feeding Experiment. In 1907, Green Lane School was the first school to serve hot dinners to pupils. They used the boiler that heated the brand new swimming pool to heat the kitchen. The city recognised the significance of food to its children and the scheme was so successful that it was soon rolled out across the country.

I can remember taking money to pay for tickets that you had to give in when you had your meal. This was when after the war I moved to Cowling. Previously I lived in Otley and walked home each lunch time from the National school in the town to home near the hospital. It was quite a long way and I cannot think how we did it! In Cowling we had a shop and the timing was not right for me to go home for lunch and so I had school meals which came in tins from the mill.

Things have changed from those far off days when you were glad to have something to eat even though you hated what was out in front of you. Now children have a menu to choose from often cooked on the site and so they are more appetising – hopefully!

Colin Mayo's article has been very interesting and quite graphic, talking about children being spanked for forgetting their dinner money.

I have never seen this magazine before but as this issue is number 302 it has been here for a while. There are articles about actors both past

and present, stories of war time and treasures found in attics and tales from the different counties. Have a look sometime or you maybe just one who like me had it put through your letterbox!

## Clothes Rationing

We have thought about food rationing before but not about our clothes. Stomach comes before fashion I suppose!

It wasn't until June 1941 that clothes started to be rationed. It did not matter where you bought your dress or shirt – Harrods or Marks & Spencer they all needed the same amount of coupons. To begin with everyone was given 66 coupons for a year. This was not generous as a ladies dress or jacket cost 11 coupons and a boy's overcoat was 11 also. A man's two piece suit cost 21 coupons and if he wanted a waistcoat – as many men then did – that was another 5. No wonder men stopped wearing a waistcoat! There were no turnups on trousers; lapels were cut to a minimum. The width of the trouser leg was narrowed. Ladies dresses were similarly shortened with little or no pleats in the skirt. All this to save inches of material. To make two dresses out of what would once have made just one was the intention.

Many ladies got the sewing machine out and started to make their own clothes. It was usually cheaper and cost less coupons. My mother made a lot of my clothes and altered clothes for other people. I do remember one lady coming with her husband's trousers and asking Mum to make her son a pair out of them. Mum was not keen as the trousers were not clean and rather smelly!

In 1942 the ration was slashed from 66 to 60 for 15 months (about 48 a year). An MP 'Chips' Cannon wrote in his diary about this reduction 'Luckily I have 40 or more suits...I have enough to last me for years.' Everybody had the same allowance but of course the well off ones had more clothes to start off with and it was because of this that the Utility clothing scheme was introduced aiming to ensure high standards in textiles.

Eventually children were given an extra 10 coupons and the WVS opened clothing exchanges where decent clothes & shoes could

be exchanged for bigger sizes. New mothers got an extra 50 coupons.

The black market flourished as traders and 'spivs' found goods from looted bombed shops and houses.

When a girl got married, many of her friends and relations would send her their coupons and it was said that many sent their coupons to Princess Elizabeth when she was marrying Prince Philip.

The rationing was at its worst between September 1945 and April 1946 when only 24 coupons were given out. Rationing finally ended in 1949 after 8 years.

The Utility scheme was also introduced into the furniture shop. I am not sure just how it worked but each piece of furniture had the Utility mark on the back. You got some many coupons when you got married or if you had been bombed out.

I wonder just what today's young people would have coped with all that rationing?

Betty

## **Obituary**

We are very sorry to announce the death of our member Joyce Ormsby who died September 24<sup>th</sup> 2012. She lived in Australia and had been a member since 1992. We send our condolences to her family.

## **The Dalesman 1945**

Slowly the dales are acquiring again those peacetime features which we have missed for 6 years. Lights in cottages, bright clad RAC & AA men on street corners, parties of cyclists pedalling along dales roads. The revival of rural shows & similar events which mean so much to our countryside. We look forward to the return of a great many who have been enforced exiles from our fells & villages and a new stirring of Dales life everywhere.

They looked for so little! I wonder what they would think of Christmas today.

Our best wishes for a merry Christmas and a happy & healthy 2022 to all our members.

## **Website Update**

**By Stanley Merridew**

Since my last update in the September journal much progress has been made on various projects, not all reflected on the website as yet. Here are the files added to date:

Addingham Farfield Friends Meeting House Inscriptions

Baildon Moravian Church Inscriptions

Bramhope & Carlton Cemetery Inscriptions

Bramhope Puritan Church Inscriptions

Oakworth Dockroyd Cemetery Inscriptions

Keep checking the Members Database for additions. We have the advantage of local knowledge over the national sites, so much of our material will not appear elsewhere.

Last time I mentioned the transcription of Keighley Methodist Circuit Membership Roll 1777 to 1781. This is now complete, thanks to the help of volunteers and is in the queue to appear on the website.

I have also borrowed two copies of the "Airedale Pictorial" 1937 and 1938 from Horsforth Museum. This publication was produced by Wharfedale Newspapers and each copy contains dozens of photographs which appeared in their newspapers during the year. Many are weddings, golden and diamond plus various events that took place during the year. Once I have scanned the photographs they will be included on the website.

I managed to film several additional school admission registers from Bradford Archives, Otley Museum, Skipton Museum, Keighley Local Studies and Yeadon Library. Realising the volume

was beyond one individual I put out a plea for volunteers via the website and received a superb response. We now have twenty of us busy transcribing. **So many, many thanks to all those who responded.** I now have the task of keeping track! It will still take some while as some of these schools had huge intakes.

I have also filmed Morton Banks Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School register 1897-1910. This has names, addresses and dates of birth.

Here is an update on the school admission registers:

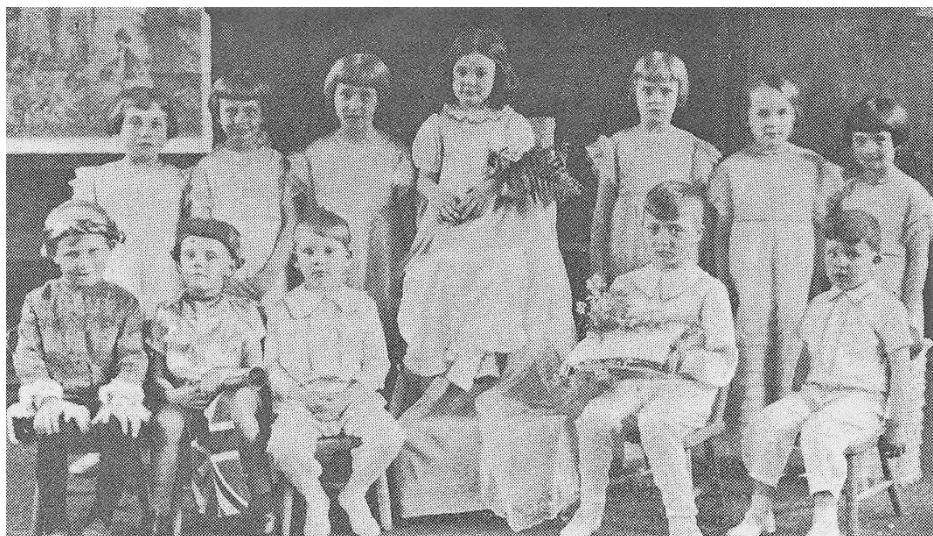
Name of School	available	state
Addingham National	1877-1910	to film
Bashall Eaves	1867-1884	complete
Bentham Parochial	1876-1920	complete
Bingley Grammar	1873-1920	to film
Bingley National	1877-1902	in progress
Chapel le Dale	1892-1919	complete
Clapham Newby	1889-1920	complete
Coniston Cold	1866-1920	complete
East Keswick C of E	1888-1920	1903-1920 to film
Eccup National	1892-1920	1913-1920 to film
Embsay	1907-1913	complete
Halton Gill C of E	1887-1919	complete
Haworth		missing
Hebden C of E	1874-1920	complete
Horsforth National	1890-1900	complete
Horton in Rib. Selside	1899-1919	complete

Ingleton National	1913-1920	complete
Keighley St Annes	1910-1920	complete
Litton Council	1913-1919	complete
Low Bentam Council	1909-1918	complete
Otley National	1906-1921	in progress
Oxenhope Infants	1881-1896	complete
Rawdon Little London	1875-1907	in progress
Rawdon Littlemoor	1875-1921	in progress
Rawdon W/dhouse Grove	1831-1853	to film
Rylstone District	1872-1920	complete
Silsden Bolton Rd	1911-1920	complete
Silsden Hothfield St	1914-1920	complete
Skipton British	1866-1884	in progress
Skipton British Inf.	1881-1909	in progress
Skipton Brougham St. Inf.	1907-1913	to film
Skipton Sackville St Inf.	1907-1909	missing
Slaidburn Grammar	1864-1878	complete
Steeton Provident	1871-1907	complete
Steeton Infants	1917-1920	complete
Steeton (unidentified)	1867-1898	complete
Steeton Mixed	1898-1919	complete
Sutton in Craven National	1902-1920	complete
Worth Village Infants	1907-1920	complete

By the time you read this many of those shown as "in progress" will be complete. However, it will take Steve a while to include them on the database. If you want me to search through the transcriptions for a particular individual please contact me.

**Children of Little London School, who took part in an Empire Day celebration. This included crowning of the May Queen, Catherine Wilson in the centre of the picture.**

**Taken from the Airedale Pictorial 1837  
Produced by the Wharfedale & Airedale Observer**



### **Dam Burst at Ickornshaw**

There is little left now of what was the water supply for the mill in Ickornshaw, Cowling. For those who are interested there are the remains of the embankment and overflow but you need to know where they are to be able to find them.

The dam was built in 1820 by John Halstead of Colne who owned the cotton mill in Ickornshaw. The four storey mill had been built in 1791 by John Dehane, nephew of Rev Joh Dehane, vicar of Kildwick. John junior was himself a clergyman and when he was appointed to a living in Shropshire he sold the mill. The mill was powered by waterwheel fed from a mill pond at the back of the mill.

It was a small pond and so it was difficult to have enough water to run the mill. The answer was a big reservoir to power his own mill and others downstream. So Cowlaughton Dam was built on Ickornshaw Moor.

It was in 1849 that things started to go wrong. A newspaper article said 'the embankment had for sometime been in a condition to excite some anxiety with regard to its ultimate security.' But no action was taken. Then about 11 o'clock at night on Sunday April 8<sup>th</sup> 1849 'the waters burst the embankment and rushed with uncontrolled force and rapidity down the bed of the stream towards the village of Ickornshaw.' It first hit Cowlaughton Farm on the right hand bank of the beck. Fortunately the bridge over the beck gave way and allowed the torrent of water to pass which enabled the occupiers to rescue themselves and their cattle. As the water raced down into Ickornshaw through Summer House Clough it is said to have reached 15 to 20 feet carrying with it huge stones some weighing several tons.

A newspaper report said that' the water entered a house occupied by a widow and her two young children up to a height of 4-5 feet. As there was no escape through the door, a hole had to be broken through the floor and the battered woman and her children were pulled to safety.' In one place a hole big enough to contain a large house was found. It was fortunate that no lives were lost.

The dam was never rebuilt and the mill still stands to this day but now it had been turned into flats and a workshop. It wove satins and it was where I bought the material for my wedding dress!

My thanks to Robin Longbottom for allowing me to use his 'Down Memory Lane' reminiscences in the Keighley News.

## **Season Greetings**

What has happened to Christmas? It seems to come round earlier each year. We used to have Bonfire Night and then Christmas came around but now Christmas cards are for sale in July and August. I suppose that we are all getting older and of course, for

most of us, Santa has stopped coming. It is a sad day when the children do not believe in Santa Claus and you stop seeing their faces when they go to see the plump gentleman in the red suit and boots. Then you wait for your grandchildren but it isn't the same somehow.

Did you go out carol singing when you were young and did you knock on the door after you had sung one verse of Good King Wenceslas and expect a bit more than a penny? I think that Hallowe'en has now taken over in the door knocking game.

Having lived in Otley all through the war years when the rest of the family were in Keighley, we always travelled to Keighley on Christmas Eve. I went with Mum through the day and Dad came later when he had finished work. Dad was a baker and so worked early in the morning and finished late afternoon. We had to go to Shipley by bus and then train to Keighley as I was a poor traveller. This particular day, we waited for Dad to come to my Aunty Ella's. My cousin had been put to bed a long time before me and he was not all happy as he was 2 years older than me! It was about 11 o'clock when at last Dad came and I was getting worried that Santa would miss me out as I was still awake. Apparently, Dad got on the train in Shipley into the guard's van. The train was full of soldiers going home for Christmas. The guard asked where Dad was going and when he said Keighley, the guard was a bit worried. 'We don't stop in Keighley' he said. Then, 'We always slow down as we get to the platform in Keighley. The signal is against us. You jump off and I will throw your suitcase after you.' he said. So as they came round the bend into the station, the guard was ready to open the door when the train sped on! Dad had to wait until Hellifield before he could get off the train and then it was a while before a train came back to take him to Keighley. Mum had brought the presents and Dad had my nightdress! I think that they thought of a better way to do it another year!

What about New Year? I had never heard of 'mumming' when we came to live in Cowling in 1945. I was just coming out of the kitchen when the outside door burst open and 2-3 people came in all in black and all humming. I screamed and they all flew out. I

don't know who they were – I never did find out, and I don't who was most scared – me or them!

I know that my grandad went first footing when he was middle aged as it was the first time that mum had been allowed to take her boyfriend home and grandad came home drunk! He did not drink usually! I think that we do not do that sort of thing down her in England. Perhaps it is still carried on in Scotland.

## New Members

We welcome the following new members and hope that they are successful in their research with us.

3707	Barry Peacock	3708	Jenny Meadows
3709	Florence Ballard	3710	Julian Smith
3711	Brian Todd	3712	Melanie Sheerin
3713	Jean Crampton	3714	Anne Butterfield
3715	Kerry Holdsworth	3716	Allison Drake
3717	Andrew Sargent	3718	Natasha Clayton
3719	Arthur Swailes	3720	Lorraine Merkel
3721	Penny Velandier	3722	Joanna Ackroyd
3723	Chris Moorhouse		

## New Members' Interests for Dec 2021 Journal

**3708** Hardaker, Oates, Smith

**3709** Balderstone, Battersby, Bayliff, Briscoe, Burrow, Butterfield, Craven, Downham, Ellershaw, Furnass, Guy, Hebden, Hodgson, Lambe, Preston, Readman, Scott, Tennant, Tomlin, Wilcock, Wildman

**3710** Currie, Bambridge, Fewster, Simpson, Tose, Suttle, Myers

**3715** Holdsworth, Brigg

**3722** Bottomley, Holmes, Tyson, Brook, Whitaker, Robinson, Hill, Waterhouse, Overend, Newall

# An Account of the Population of the Wapentake of Skyrack

An Account of the Population of the Wapentake of Skyrack;										
IN THE WEST-RIDING OF THE COUNTY OF YORK,										
Taken May 27th, 1811.										
HOUSES.				OCCUPATIONS.				PERSONS, including Children of all Ages		
Inhabitants	No. of Families	Building	Empl.	Farmers, &c.	Tradesmen, &c.	Not in 2 <sup>d</sup> Institutions	Males	Females	Total	Number of Persons
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

As usually happens I came across this interesting table printed in the Leeds Mercury 7 September 1811 whilst searching for something entirely different. I have reproduced the information for places within our area of interest

A Wapentake - the Danelaw equivalent of an Anglo-Saxon Hundred in most other counties is an administrative sub-division of a county. The word derived from an assembly or meeting place where literally one's presence or a vote was taken by a show of weapons.

The Wapentake of Skyrack was centred in Headingley, Leeds and its upper division included the parishes of Bingley, Guiseley, Otley and Ilkley. The name Skyrack is said to be derived from the old English 'scir ac' meaning 'shire oak'. The said tree in Headingley under which meetings were held in past times gave its name to two public houses: The Original Oak and The Skyrack. The ancient tree finally collapsed in 1941.

The information is taken from the national 1811 census and as far as I can tell the original will be held at West Yorkshire Archives, Wakefield. Whilst not as informative as the 1841 census it is interesting to see this sort of information for the places where our ancestors lived.

Susanne Young

An Account of the population of the Wapentake of Skyrack in the West Riding of Yorkshire

Taken May 27 1811

	Houses	Occupations			Persons inc. children of all ages						
		Inhabited	Families	Building	Empty etc.	Farmers etc.	Grocers etc.	Other	Males	Females	Total
Arthington	59	61				56	3	2	178	166	344
Baildon	445	454	5	9	28	424		2	967	1106	2073
Bingley	931	973	5	17	105	879	59	2368	2414	4752	
Bramhope	64	67		1	49	12	6	6	149	169	318
Guiseley	184	186	2	6	27	148	11	510	449	959	
Harewood	159	159	1	1	62	54	43	363	408	771	
Haworth	95	101		1	51	38	12	284	298	582	
Horsforth	473	481	4	4	107	281	20	1132	1183	2315	
Ilkley	78	78			40	38		221	258	459	
Menston	41	41			20	15	6	103	114	217	
Morton	203	202	1	3	63	58	91	500	487	987	
Otley	559	575	1	33	104	391	80	1229	1373	2602	
Poole	54	54		1	10	42	2	147	157	304	
Rawdon	255	255			26	195	34	727	723	1450	
Yeadon	378	383	6	6	33	537	13	1019	935	1954	

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