

The Banyan Tree

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Feature Story
God's Acre Cemetery, Hunmanby

East Yorkshire Family History Society

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Yorkshire Riddle

What goes round the house, and
lies in every corner?

Answer on Page 24

From the Editor

Hello everyone,

Welcome to the latest edition of the Banyan Tree. I hope you enjoyed the November edition and are looking forward to this one. I would love to hear your thoughts on the magazine, what do you want its content to be. Is there anything you do not like; do you want more of something. Your feedback is especially important as well as your contributions. It is extremely hard to produce the magazine without your contribution of articles, otherwise it becomes a magazine filled with Alan and my thoughts.

The main article this issue is from Lisa Blossfeld and is about God's Acre Cemetery in Hunmanby and has some beautiful photographs of gravestones. Well done, Lisa, I think you must have a particularly good camera, I wish my photographs came out so well.

Chris Bringham
editor@eyfhs.org.uk

President's Reflections

I was talking to my scientist daughter recently when the topic of AI came up in the conversation. I know from online forums that some family historians have embraced the concept and look for ways in which it can enhance their research. My view is, I suspect, the same as many of you; that it offers endless possibilities and very deep pitfalls simultaneously. My daughter tells me she can recognise AI 'speak' in reports that she receives and often the information is incorrect, which in a scientific environment is not good. I also read an account from a family historian who had passed his DNA results through different AI programs with widely differing results – even from the same source at a second submission. One of the problems is that, put very simply, AI learns from itself and so perpetuates its own mistakes, until the data is corrected. Sound familiar? This is a modern version of an age-old problem. Historians in general are culpable of this. One gets it wrong but others copy the mistake until it becomes accepted as truth because so many people have said so! We all know of people who have rogue family trees because the data has been copied from someone who has not done their homework properly

in the first place or have accepted an assumption as truth. It is easily done but not always easy to spot.

I am excited by the possibilities AI can bring to the world of family history. I can envisage access to transcriptions of some of the more difficult records, that at the moment are not viable to the commercial companies. It can organise and analyse large amounts of data – and we all have that! It can help create the story of our ancestor and our place in that narrative. But the guiding principles remain the same. We all, including AI, make mistakes. We must check, and check again, before accepting its suggestions as truth in order to maintain the integrity of our research. In other words - for all the hype around AI - nothing much changes day to day. Carry on as normal, folks!

Margaret Oliver

Edwina Bentley

It is with great sadness that we share the news that Edwina, the previous editor of this magazine from January 2011 to earlier this year, passed away on the 27th November. Her death came as a shock to all who knew her as her illness was short and unexpected. In a telephone conversation her husband said that she appeared to be getting better and so I was surprised and upset for him to ring just 4 days later to say that she had died. He was very upset and it wasn't the time nor the place to ask for any further details.

As mentioned before, Edwina took on the onerous task of editor of The Banyan, the Society's magazine in January 2011 as the previous editor, Alan Brigham, had relinquished the role. It is no easy matter being an editor. The work that goes into editing a magazine with its deadlines, soliciting contributions for publication from reluctant authors, formatting, proof reading, correcting, consulting with printers etc can wear down even the strongest and enthusiastic souls and that is without mentioning the cushioning of fragile contributors' egos. The feedback that one receives from the audience often highlights the minor negatives rather than the vast majority of the work that is good. No, it is not an easy job.

Edwina approached it with a quiet blend of intelligence, humour, warmth, humanity and friendliness. All of these qualities were necessary as she attempted to maintain the magazine in the face of declining contributions from the membership who were

and are the mainstay of every such type of journal. Her gentle cajoling of the membership for their recollections, stories, ideas, photographs and postcards from the past often fell upon stony ground but she continued to attempt to encourage contributions for she realised that the magazine was for the members and should be constructed around their input and not from 'general articles' culled from national magazines or such like.

In the pandemic The Banyan was the only conduit between the membership and the committee and I'm sure that the magazine landing on the mat helped one or two of us through a very difficult time by reassuring us that the world outside did still exist. A couple of years ago Edwina suffered a freak accident where she managed to break her shoulder when putting something in her bin. I was the chair of the Society at the time, and I told her to put all thought and anxieties about The Banyan from her mind and concentrate upon getting well again. I'm afraid that was not Edwina's way. She was determined that the publication would get out even though she knew she could not keep up with the schedule. She told me that, 'the members have paid for this, and they will get it even if it is a bit late.' And she kept her word on this for The Banyan did not miss an issue. Her view was that she was a trustee of the members' interests in her role as the editor and the members always came first.

From a personal point of view Edwina encouraged me to write after accepting my first article for her in 2014. Via telephone calls and emails, she pushed me to write more, and from that first article for her and her encouragement I have written for other publications as well as The Banyan and have also written six books, edited two others and this year have another three near to publication. All of this industry is all due to Edwina and her encouragement. She encapsulated what a good editor should be; constructive yet critical, encouraging but not fawning and to also be open to other's ideas and thoughts which may enhance the publication. She was all of these.

I can say that all who worked with her will miss her greatly and the East Yorkshire Family History Society are reduced by her sad, untimely loss. Our thoughts are with Bruce, and we hope he can find some peace and solace in the passage of time and know that he is not alone in this time of grief.

Pete Lowden

Interesting Graves

God's Acre Cemetery, Hunmanby

Introduction

There are almost eight hundred graves in God's Acre Cemetery on Bridlington Street, Hunmanby. The cemetery was opened in 1893, has been enlarged twice since then and is still in use. The cemetery is roughly rectangular in shape with a triangular section which was added in the mid-1980s at the top of the left-hand side. New Road runs along its right-hand side, there is a public footpath to its left while there is farmland at the top of the hill above it. The sea, which is about two miles distant, can be seen from the top of the cemetery.

Too many of the graves have religious or floral decorations to be included in this article, while there are also many of unusual shapes which have also had to be left out. I apologise in advance to the families of the occupants of any graves which have been omitted for lack of space.

Notable Locals

John Taylor is notable for being the first person buried in the cemetery. He worked in the brickyards and lived in the brickyard cottage on Northgate. He died on the 29th of October 1893 at the age of 67. **Agnes**, his wife, outlived him by 29 years, dying in 1912 aged 94 and was buried with John.

Frances Hargreaves was headmistress of Hunmanby Hall School from when it opened in 1928 until she retired in 1955. She continued to live in a cottage in the grounds of the school (and no doubt kept an eye on things from there) until she died while on holiday at Exmouth in 1969. Her sister, **Maggie**, who died in Otley in 1953 is buried with her.

Frederick William Parker was an engineer and businessman who lived and had his works a short distance from God's Acre at Rosedale House just the other side of the level crossing. He built and owned traction engines which he rented out and was one of only two motor car manufacturers in East Yorkshire. He also ran the brickworks behind his workshop where a Bronze Age chariot burial was found in 1907. His headstone has an anvil engraved on it.

Birnie Robert Browne of the Indian Forest Department was a native of Hunmanby and died at the age of 73 in 1902.

Three men in the cemetery received the **British Empire Medal (BEM)** for practical, charitable, or voluntary work within the community. They are **Arthur Hallem**, **Clifford Little** and **Sidney Chapman**. Lily, the widow of **Capt. W K Roadnight, MBE** is buried in God's Acre, and the widow of **Rev Alec Lee**, who died in Venice in 1939 is also buried in Hunmanby.

A Tragedy

Five young girls' faces adorn the grave of **Martha Alice** and **Hannah Mary Webster**, aged 11 and 5 respectively, at 24L3. They were two of five little girls who drowned on the 22nd of August 1902 when the tide swept in behind the sandbank they were paddling on, despite the efforts of onlookers to rescue them. Their nursemaid was saved. They were staying with an aunt at Reighton with three of their cousins, **Lilian Taylor**, aged 12, **Elsie Taylor** aged 7 and **Clarissa Taylor** aged 9, the only children of their parents, David and Lavinia Taylor of Leeds. The three Taylor girls are buried in Holbeck Cemetery in Leeds. All the children of Reighton and Speeton school accompanied Martha and Hannah to their graves carrying white wands, a symbol of a child's innocence.



War Graves

The grave of **Thomas Brown** can be found in God's Acre. His brother, John, whose body was never found, is commemorated on the stone with him. Their parents were Alfred and Frances Brown. Other war graves are those of **John Burr**, a **Canadian** who married a girl from Hunmanby. Although he did not die until 1921 his death was due to TB which was the result of being gassed. His grave has a **maple leaf** on it. **Riby Green**, a village butcher, is buried to the left of the main

path. **Charles Hicks**, who was killed on manoeuvres in 1941. **Albert Lawty** who died as the result of a shooting accident at Southend on Sea, and an **Unknown Sailor** of the Merchant Navy who was washed ashore on Hunmanby beach in 1940 and is buried close to the right-hand hedge.

The Menagerie

Many graves in God's Acre have animals engraved on them, most of them probably the beloved pets of those buried there.

A Persian cat can be seen on the grave of **Norman Pledger**; two Persian cats will be found on the grave of **Albert Edmond** and there are two black cats on **Vicky Edmond's** grave.

Dogs include two Dobermans on the grave of **Audrey and Derek Wood**. A boxer dog adorns the grave of **Graham Warley**. A Yorkshire terrier will be seen on the grave of **Harry Chapman**, an Alsatian on the grave of **Barry Spencer**, another (or perhaps a wolf) on the grave of **Eileen Martin**. A Jack Russell terrier is engraved on the headstone of **Dorothy Nesfield**. A photo of a King Charles spaniel on the grave of **Dorothy and Ernest Brooker**, and another spaniel is on the grave of **Alison Markham**. There is an engraving of a greyhound on the grave of **Sandy Rudd** and two more Jack Russell's can be found on the graves of **David Paddock** and **Peter Reed**. The photograph of a Dalmatian dog can be seen on the grave of **Claude and Joan Edmond**.

Some graves have horses on them (although I have included horses ploughing in the next section 'Work and Play'). **Les Fletcher** has a pony's head on it, and a horse's head will be found on **Harry Chapman's** grave (as well as the Jack Russell mentioned above), as has **Derek Hullah**. The grave of **Beryl Lind** has a statue of a horse's head on it, while there is a statuette of a winged pig on the grave of **Heather Yorke**.

Wild animals in God's Acre range in size from butterflies to an elephant. In rough order of size there are butterflies (the symbol of rebirth) on the graves of **Frank Bradley** and **Carol and John Robson**. A robin is etched onto the grave of **Carol Mather**. One owl will be seen on the grave of the **Milner/Carter** family while three owls in a church window will be found on the grave of **Anne Cowton**.

A bald eagle, the symbol of the USA, may be seen on the grave of **Derek Mallinson**. Two dolphins decorate the grave of **Joan Chapman**.



Finally, a giraffe and an elephant will be seen on Pam Day's grave.

Work and Play

To begin with service graves, **Eric Chester** has Masonic symbols on it. The crest of the Coastguard Service is on the grave of **Graham Warley**, while that of the RAF will be found on the plinth of the grave of **Leigh Adams**. **Graham Hutchinson's** headstone has the crest of the Royal Navy on it while that of his brother, **Colin**, next to it, has that of the Royal Marines. **Norman Clegg's** grave has the crest of the Parachute Regiment on it. Other graves of people who worked in the services are those of **Major Bill Gregory**, which has a **cannon** on it, while that of **William Gregory** has a Spitfire. Finally, the grave of **Ida Light SRN, SCM, QN** and her husband **Charles** carries the symbol of St James Hospital in Leeds.

Several graves have an image of horses ploughing on them. These are **John Swinn**, **Dorothy Nesfield**, **Clive Wilson** and **Ernest Wilson**. A tractor ploughing will be found on the grave of **Geoffrey Hardwick**. Corn stalks adorn the grave of **Constance Sutton**.

Other symbols connected to the work of the deceased are an articulated lorry on the grave of **Paul Hebden** and an ordinary lorry on the grave of **Norman Pledger**. A man carrying a sack on his shoulders – probably a coal man – is on the grave of **Les Fletcher**. A coble will be seen on the grave of **Albert Edmond** while a fishing trawler appears on the grave of **Thomas Finegan**.



Turning to leisure activities, **Leigh Adam's** grave bears the image of a hang glider and a pair of crossed guns. It also has what is considered to be the most amusing inscription in the cemetery.

Another inspiring inscription will be found on the grave of **John 'Shetly'**

Sinclair: 'Drink it while it's fizzing' which has a (probably) empty beer bottle in front of it.

Also mentioned previously, **Graham Warley's** grave has a yacht on it. That of **Geoffrey and Caroline Burden** is an interesting shape and bears the image of a motorbike. Racehorses galloping in front of a grandstand will be seen on the grave of **Pamela Sellers**. A stylised owl, the symbol of Sheffield Wednesday Football Club, can be seen on **Haydn Eblet's** grave. **Herbert Shields** would seem to have been a keen gardener as there is a picture of a watering can on his grave, while **'Guy'** has a trowel hanging on it.

Other Decorative Graves

There is a beautiful landscape on the grave of the Botham family and another beautiful landscape with a tree shedding its leaves on the grave of Christopher Larkin. Colourful flowers and a shamrock are engraved on the resting place of Anne Harrison. There is a thistle and a rose on the grave of James Kydd, Yorkshire roses on the graves of Derek Mallinson and of James Owen. The grave of George and Delia Wardell has both a Yorkshire rose and a horseshoe on it. Ivy in high

relief is on the grave of Thomas Young and a heart, cross and shamrock on that of Gerald Wilkinson.

There are several Celtic designs in the cemetery. These are on the graves of Elizabeth Nickless, Elijah and Eliza Pledger, Malcolm Huckle-Moncrieff, and Claude Bettington. Angels and fairies will be found on the graves of Levi and Mary Jowsey, Georgia Robson-Porter, and Hilary Horner.

Finally, the headstone of the Franks family is shaped like a book and has two dogs etched on it.

A living tree with a memorial stone at its root at the right-hand side of the cemetery marks the grave of the Thorley/Wilson family.

Readers might also be interested to learn that Holmes and Watson are buried diagonally next to each other at the top of the cemetery while Doyle is nearby. Little and Large can be found in the cemetery while Cook and Kitchingman occupy adjacent graves to the right of the main path near the shed.



The Ultimate

Frank and Maureen Leigh have no fewer than nineteen motifs etched on their headstone which is the most decorated in the cemetery. The motifs are: a cotton boll (the burst seedpod of a cotton plant which contains the fibre extracted to make fabric), a loom, a ship, garden tools, a wheatsheaf, a lamb, a bear and staff, a pheasant, swallow, peacock and dove and assorted flowers.

Further information including several more graves which have had to be left out for want of space, and a plan with details of how to find any grave mentioned in this article are in a six-page leaflet which I am happy to email anyone free of charge. I can be contacted via the Parish Council's website.

Lisa Blosfelds

Editor's note: Hunmanby Churchyard & Cemetery Monumental Inscriptions book is available from our bookshop on GenFair Reference number M232.

Trench Cake

Here is a quick and easy cake recipe that you might like to try. It has one big advantage over most cake recipes – it also travels well! Please let us know how you get on, and your photographs would be very welcome.

During the First World War people in Britain baked and posted a fruit cake to loved ones on the front line. Some traditional cake ingredients were hard to come by, so alternatives had to be found.

There are no eggs in this recipe so vinegar was used to react with the baking soda to help the cake rise.

Ingredients

1/2lb flour	3 oz brown sugar
4 oz margarine	3 oz cleaned currants
1 teaspoon vinegar	2 teaspoons cocoa
1/4 pint of milk	1/2 teaspoon baking soda

Chris Brigham

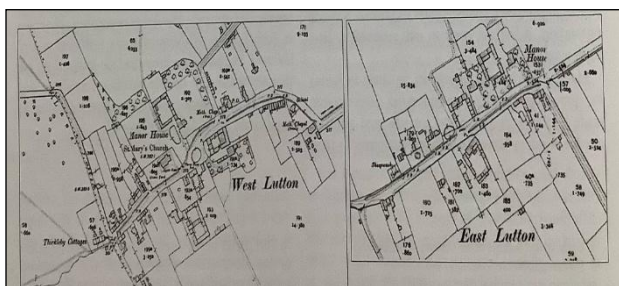
Fascinating Facts

The Roman month Februarius was named after the Latin term februum, which means purification. February's birthstone is the amethyst. Violet, Iris and Primrose are the associated birth flowers.

Spotlight on Luttons Ambo

Luttons Ambo consists of two adjoining townships; East Lutton and West Lutton, which are small villages half a mile apart, situated between Kirby Grindalythe and Helperthorpe. It is in the Wapentake of Buckrose and the Liberty of St. Peter's, York. The name Lutton is recorded in the Domesday Book as meaning Luda's Farm - from the Anglo Saxon. The prefixes East and West were in use by the 13th century.

Luttons Ambo is a long parish extending across the Great Wold Valley for 3.5 miles but only 1 mile wide.



The many earthworks and barrows around the north and south of Lutton confirms that this area has been settled since the Bronze Age. An Iron Age cemetery has been found there and there is evidence in ditches and pathways of

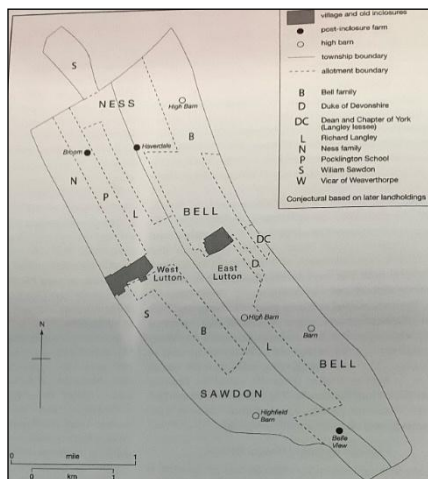
settlement by the Romans. The Gypsy Race stream, which flows from Wharram-le-Street to the sea at Bridlington, flows through both villages along the Main Street. The 'Gypsy' in the name refers to the fact that the stream flows both below and above ground - 'coming and going'. There are many superstitions about this stream foretelling bad luck.

In 1297 there were 7 taxpayers at East Lutton and 5 at West Lutton. The Black Death hit W. Lutton in 1349 which left houses and land unoccupied, so the townships were combined. By 1377 there were eighty-six taxpayers and in 1584 26 men were on the Muster Roll. In 1672 only 12 of the 36 households in Luttons Ambo were exempt from hearth tax, but by 1764 there was a decline in population with empty garths and cottages. By 1801 the 36 households had decreased to 20. In 1783 there were 3 non-resident landowners in Lutton. Lord Middleton held about 1/3, and John Ness and John Bell - both Lords of the Manors of E & W Lutton had about 1/6 each. By 1787 this had increased to 17 proprietors, 12 being resident.

After inclosure of the open fields in 1804, the population of both villages doubled. New cottages were built in West Lutton, including Addison's Row, by Thomas Addison (wheelwright), and Booth's Row, named after William Booth (shoemaker). In 1830 a row of seven cottages at the east end were built by William Grice (joiner) and known as Russell's Row. The population peaked in 1861-71, and between 1851 and 1871 19 houses were built in W. Lutton compared to only one in E. Lutton. Robert Belt (blacksmith) built 3 cottages in the Primitive Methodist Chapel yard. He built agricultural equipment and built Forge House just west of the churchyard at W. Lutton. He was a prize winner at the Driffield show for his improved Turnip Hoe and Plough in the 1850's. In the late 1940's 18 council houses were built on Back Lane W. Lutton, with six more and two old people's bungalows being added in the 1950's.

The manor of E. Lutton was held from 1316 - 1418 by the Colville family. It then passed to the Wandesford family. From 1605 to the early 1700's the estate was owned by the Lutton family, and then up to inclosure, by the Bell family Of Scarborough.

In W. Lutton Thomas Lutton was the principal tenant of William Wyville, and the Lutton family held the manor until after 1696, when it was eventually sold to John Bell, a merchant from Scarborough. Other families owning lands in Lutton up to 1721 were the Bards of Butterwick; the Langtons; John & Thomas Wood; Barney Wood of Kilnwick Percy and the Boteler family. John Ness then acquired the manor and Ness family members are buried in Lutton and Weaverthorpe cemeteries. After inclosure, estates were awarded to the Bell, Ness, Langley and Sawdon families and to Pocklington school.



Agriculture was the main occupation of the area, cows and sheep grazed on common areas, with pigs and horses to a lesser extent. In 1674 William Wise had sown peas, oats, barley & wheat in E. Lutton, and there was an oatmeal mill there

in the 1700's. Hay and hemp were also grown along the Gypsy Race, and a hemp yard was known at E. Lutton between 1678 & 1731.

While most of the area was grassland, in the 19th century the crops were barley, turnips or rape, oats, wheat & peas. After inclosure, the land was worked from the farmsteads of Holme Farm, Manor Farm & Manor House Farm in E. Lutton, and Sycamore Farm, Manor Farm & Church Farm in W. Lutton. Broome Farm and Haverdale Farm were built in the early 1800's. By the 1920's poultry was also being farmed. In the 20th century the main crops were potatoes & peas, with fewer cattle but more pigs and poultry.

There were many agricultural labourers in Lutton, which meant that in hard winters many were unemployed. In 1888 the vicar set up a soup kitchen at the Three Tuns pub for seven weeks.

In the 18th century there were the usual village crafts and tradesmen, and also weavers (of linen?). In 1823 there were 9 farmers, 1 corn miller, 2 tailors, 3 shoemakers, 3 wheelwrights, a blacksmith, and a victualler - of the Board Inn (which became the Three Tuns). By 1851 this had increased to 8 farmers, 3 millers, 7 tailors, 8 dressmakers, 1 rope maker, 6 shoemakers, 4 wheelwrights, 5 blacksmiths and a victualler/shopkeeper/carrier.

On the 1881 census there were 12 farmers, 6 blacksmiths, 3 dressmakers, 2 grocer/carriers, 3 tailors, 2 shoemakers, 2 joiners, a carpenter, a bricklayer, a laundress, a rat catcher, a groom and a gardener. William Kell and his wife Jane were the school master/mistress in Chapel Row, Reuben King was the publican of the Three Tuns, John Hardbattle was the Police Constable and Thomas Fowell Buxton Scriven (of Weymouth) was the vicar.

By 1921 there was now 2 quarrymen, a sub postmaster - Arthur Skelton - at the post office, a small holder, a postman and a poultry farmer amongst the other occupations. Wallace Elvidge was the Police Constable, J. Wilkinson licensee at the Three Tuns and Arthur Bastiman and Catherine Lisle were the school master/mistress.

By 1949 the village/s had 2 joiners, a blacksmith, 2 general stores, a sub postmaster at the post office, petrol station, and a motor engineer.

In the late 19th century, there were quite a few community activities going on in the villages, including the Buckrose Lodge of Grand United Order of Oddfellows.

The members in 1913 included John Dawson (shoemaker), John Harding (blacksmith) and William Holtby (joiner). There was a Band of Hope, a Girls Friendly Society, a clothing club, Yorkshire Penny Bank, and a Brass Band. The cricket club held an annual sports event until the 1920s.

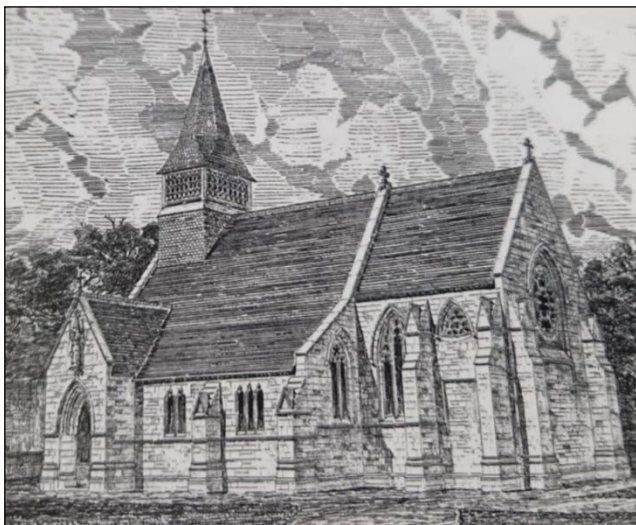
In the 17th century most of the houses were small, with 32 of 36 listed for hearth tax having only 1 hearth. They were possibly built of chalk stone and thatch. Chalk was still being used for building in the early 19th century, and 'White House' in E. Lutton - a 2-storey/2-bedroom house with a pantile roof - was not demolished until 2004. Most of the farmhouses are brick built, but some outbuildings are chalk. Manor Farm is late 18th century, and Holme Farm and others in E. Lutton are 19th century. Manor Farm, Sycamore Farm, Church Farm and Haverdale Farm - all in W. Lutton - are 19th century. There are more 19th century properties still in W. Lutton including Holly House, Forge House, and the Old Post Office. Wold View, the old vicarage in E. Lutton, is also still in use.

There was a school in Luttons Ambo in 1764. Thomas Flower was the schoolmaster there between 1786 & 1819. A day school, supported by subscriptions, was recorded in 1856. The Primitive Methodists opened a day school in their chapel, so needed a new chapel costing £400. In 1862 they held a bazaar to raise funds for the chapel which opened in 1863. It closed in 1955. The Methodist school closed in 1871 and a parochial school, which had opened in 1864, was renamed National School in 1889, but this school closed in 1911 when a council school and schoolhouse was built between West & East Lutton. In 1947 the school at Kirby Grindalythe closed and in 1957 the one at Duggleby also closed. The pupils were transferred to Luttons Ambo school. In 2006 there were 31 pupils at Luttons Community Primary School.

Both townships were part of the Weaverthorpe parish until the mid-19th century. In 1858 E. & W. Lutton were united with Helperthorpe and then in 1874 Luttons Ambo became a separate parish. It was united with Cowlam for 30 years and then in 1963 it was again attached to Helperthorpe and Weaverthorpe.

Luttons Ambo did not get its own churchyard until 1876. Prior to that all the burials were at Weaverthorpe, although there were separate burial registers kept from 1875. Our Monumental Inscription book for Weaverthorpe has the earlier stones, with the burial register entry showing they lived in East or West Lutton, and the Luttons Ambo MI book shows post 1876 burials.

The parish church of St. Mary in West Lutton is a grade II listed building. It is located on the site of a 12th century Chapel of Ease. This chapel was demolished and rebuilt several times between 1384 and 1875 prior to the present church being built by Sir Tatton Sykes II of Sledmere. It was one of six in Yorkshire designed by George Edmund Street and cost £17,000.



Sir Tatton Sykes was the patron from 1874 - 1914, when the patronage passed to the Archbishop of York. The church has a wonderful painted roof and beautiful stained-glass windows made in 1891 by Burlinton & Gylls. The entrance to the churchyard has a Grade II listed bridge (over the Gypsy Race) and Lych Gate. There is a stone pulpit, an octagonal

font, an organ, and an iron and brass chancel screen provided by Sir Tatton Sykes in 1877. There are 3 bells in the belfry, cast by Taylor's of Loughborough to a Grimthorpe design. Above the porch is a niche containing a statue of the Virgin Mary and child.

A Wesleyan chapel was built in 1817. It was restored in 1880 and closed in 2006.

There was a poorhouse in East Lutton in the late 18th century funded with money from Sir Christopher Tatton Sykes. Rillington Workhouse provided relief from 1793 - 1820. In 1836 Luttons Ambo became part of the Driffild Poor Law Union.

The Monumental Inscription books for Kirby Grindalythe/Luttons Ambo (M138) and Weaverthorpe (M129) are available via GenFair (link on the website - www.eyfhs.org.uk) or by writing to our publications officer at the address on the price list on the shop page - also on the website.

Janet Bielby

Luttons Ambo Family History Sources
at the East Riding Archives and Local Studies Service
The Champney Treasure House, Champney Road, Beverley
Tel: (01482)392792
archives.service@eastriding.gov.uk

To access information from the records listed below, visit the East Riding Archives online catalogue: www.eastriding.gov.uk/calmview and contact the archives service by email, post or phone.

Parish records - the Parish Records for Luttons Ambo, St Mary's, are held at the Borthwick Institute for Archives, York, under the collections - (ref. - PR/LUT)

Records of Driffield Primitive Methodist Circuit included a church at West Lutton. Records include a letter from the Hull District Primitive Methodist building committee sanctioning the sale of the schoolroom 25/4/1884 - (ref. - MRD/44/1/1) and the Circuit Roll books 1894 - 1931 - (ref. - MRD/2/5)

Other records -

Electoral Registers - (ref. - EL)

Weaverthorpe, Helperthorpe, East & West Lutton otherwise Luttons Ambo enclosure act, 1801 - (ref. - AP/3160)

East & West Lutton enclosure award 2nd Aug 1804 - (ref - RDB/1/2/BookCA)

Buckrose Petty Sessions Records include court registers 1936 - 1963, juvenile court registers 1935 - 1963, registers of licenses to sell intoxicating liquor 1919 - 1970, register of clubs 1930 - 1962, register of licences of stage plays 1954 - 1964 - (ref. - PSBU)

Land tax assessments for years 1783, 1787 - 1830, 1832 - (ref. - QDE/1/3122)

Postcard of West Lutton village street from the west, c.1930 - (ref. - POil/151/1)

Policing - East Riding Constabulary record book of appointments, late 1800's-1900's - (ref. - QAP/9.) West Lutton beat report 1928 - (ref. - POL/3/811/4/4)

Driffield Poor Law Union Records includes relief lists, workhouse inmates - (ref. - PUD)

Pocklington School records relating to West Lutton 1793 - 1821 - (ref. - DDPS/15)

Register of recognizances on granting licences to keep inns or victualling houses 1825 - (ref. - QDT/1/1/36)

Alehouse recognizances 1822 - 1826 - (ref. - QDT/2/4)

Removal orders and bastardy recognizances - (ref. - QSU)

Indictments, convictions, and recognizances at the Quarter Sessions 1700s - 1800s
- (ref. - QSF)

Jury lists, c. 1820s - 1870s - (ref. - QSJ)

General rate book 1927 - 1928 - (ref. - RDDR/3/13/1/3)

Photograph of pupils at Luttons Ambo school, c.1912 - (ref.- DDX679/2)

Sales particulars, various properties, 1990s - 2015 - (ref. - SP and also DDUL)

Vehicle registration cards and registers - (ref. - CVR)

Ordnance Survey Maps, 1855 - 1986 - (ref. - OS)

Parish magazines, early 20th century - (ref. - PM/106)

Parchment roll giving details and valuation of estates, formerly property of dissolved religious houses, terms on which they are offered for sale and some names of purchasers, 1552 - (ref. - DDPY/27/1)

West Lutton sewerage scheme, 1970s - (ref. - DDX745/35)

Epitome of will and codicils of Sir George (Strickland) Cholmley, 16 Feb 1870 -
(ref. - DDX1227/1/2/1)

Hannah Stamp

Copyright Update

The article in the November 2025 issue of The Banyan tree included images of newspaper articles from the British Newspaper Archive in the UK and Trove in Australia, but the acknowledgements for their use were omitted by mistake.

For Figures 2, 3, 4, 6 and 14 - consent provided by THE BRITISH LIBRARY BOARD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. With thanks to The British Newspaper Archive (www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk).

For Figures 8, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 19 - consent provided by the National Library of Australia accessed through Trove (<https://trove.nla.gov.au/>).

Thank you to the British Newspaper Archive and the National Library of Australia for their permission to publish.

Full citations of the above Figures are available from the Author.

Sue Turner

Book Reviews

Sam Allon and his impact on the City of Hull

A Series of Photographs from the Sam Allon Collection

by David Ostler

Hard back, 2025

Carnegie Heritage Centre, 342 Anlaby Road, Kingston upon Hull

www.carnegiehull.org.uk

ISBN: 9-7817-3854-3816

Price: £25.00

David Ostler's *Sam Allon and His Impact on the City of Hull* is an enlightening and engaging tribute to a figure whose influence on Hull is both historically significant and deeply human. With a thoughtful blend of research, narrative skill and genuine admiration, Ostler has crafted a compelling portrait of Sam Allon; an individual whose contributions to the city helped shape its identity and forward momentum.

From the very first page, the book projects a sense of warmth and respect. Ostler writes with clarity and quiet enthusiasm, guiding the reader through Allon's life and achievements, without ever dipping too far into technical or academic territory. Instead, the book reads more like a conversation with a knowledgeable friend who appreciates the nuances of local history and wants to share the story of a man who truly made a difference.

One of the book's greatest strengths is its balance. Ostler manages to capture both the broad sweep of Allon's influence on Hull; whether through civic leadership, community engagement, or cultural enrichment; and the smaller, more intimate moments that reveal the character of the Allon family. The anecdotes sprinkled throughout the chapters breathe life into their story, offering glimpses of his humour, determination, and instinctive ability to bring people together. These humanizing touches keep the narrative grounded and relatable, celebrating Allon's accomplishments.

The structure of the book is particularly effective. Each chapter focuses on a specific theme or period in Allon's life, allowing readers to follow his journey chronologically while also understanding the broader context of Hull's development. Ostler's skilful storytelling offers the reader a sense of how one

person's efforts can ripple outward, influencing policy, morale, and even the cultural feel of a city.

What sets this book apart from many local history biographies is its accessibility. Readers do not need prior knowledge of Hull's past to appreciate the significance of Allon's work; Ostler provides all the context necessary while avoiding the unnecessary and oft-suffocating details. Hull itself becomes a vibrant supporting character and those familiar with the city will enjoy seeing familiar landmarks and events woven thoughtfully into the narrative.

Ostler's writing is consistently positive, but never simplistic. He acknowledges challenges and complexities, presenting Sam Allon not as a flawless hero but as a deeply committed individual whose perseverance made real, tangible differences. This balanced approach enhances the book's credibility and makes Allon's achievements feel that much more inspiring.

By the final chapters, the reader is left with an uplifting sense of what it means to contribute meaningfully to a community. *Sam Allon and His Impact on the City of Hull* is not just a biography; it is a celebration of civic spirit, determination, and the profound influence one person can have on the place they call home.

Whether you are a resident of Hull, a lover of local history, or simply someone who enjoys reading about extraordinary lives, David Ostler's book is a rewarding and heartfelt tribute that is well worth your time.

Alan Bringham



King Richard III House in Scarborough, North Yorkshire and its History and Heritage

Author: Raymond Varley

An interesting account of this well-known house in Scarborough, going back some five hundred years to its earliest known owner. One Thomas Sage (circa. 1430-1497), which places it in the short reign of Richard the Third, who supposedly stayed there during his short visits in May and June 1484.

The book traces the owners of the house with its most famous family being the "Tindalls," well-known ship builders in Scarborough.

There are many illustrations to show how the house has developed over the centuries until today, but its exterior has scarcely changed despite its many uses in modern times.

This is an interesting booklet showing how the house has retained its character and is now a grade 2-listed building.

For more information, please contact yorkwriter@hotmail.com

Sandra Cradock

Another Brick in The Wall

I have recently been trying to find an elusive ancestor, I'm sure many of you have been there too, so when I came across this article in The Hull Daily Mail I immediately thought, "That's one for the Banyan Tree!"

NEURASTHENIA OR MELANCHOLIA?

EX-SOLDIER NOT TO BE SENT TO WILLERBY ASYLUM

"A discussion took place at the meeting yesterday of the Sculcoates Guardians as to the removal of an ex-service man, an inmate of the Workhouse, to Willerby Asylum. Mr D. Green presided.

Councillor Shepherd said that he had made arrangements that the man should be sent into a home at Newcastle, and the Discharged Soldiers' Federation was willing to provide for his maintenance. They wished this ex-service man to be prevented from being sent to the asylum at the bidding of the medical officer.

Dr H. Robinson (Medical Officer) said that he had been blackguarded round the town by certain people with regard to this man, and he was not the sort of man to be blackguarded. The man was a person suffering from mania of a melancholy character. He was not a neurasthenic, for whom the hospital at Newcastle was provided. If the man had been sent to Newcastle he would have been returned. He had to do his duty. The Newcastle people had refused the man since.

Mr Shepherd added that Dr Robinson was wholly wrong. He produced a further medical certificate that the doctor found the man suffering from neurasthenia, developing into mental disability.

At this point Dr Robinson rose and left the meeting.

A resolution that the Federation take charge of the man was agreed to.”

How many researchers would have thought to look as far away as Newcastle for their Hull ancestor on their return to the UK? This must have been happening to relatives all over the country, particularly those from smaller towns, villages, and settlements.

Alan Brigham

Long Riston Monumental Inscription

In/affectionate/remembrance of/ELIZABETH/wife of/WILLIAM THOMAS BILLANEY/of Riston/who died on the 13th of March 1871/aged 31 years/Also of/three of their children/who died in infancy/Also the above/WILLIAM THOMAS



BILLANEY/who died April 17th, 1879/aged 40 years.

There is nothing exceptional about this headstone but when reading a book on the East Riding I found the following:-

The headstone now lies in pieces. Richard Carlill, joiner, and wheelwright also served as the village undertaker, and he left a detailed account book of his “customers” and the manner of their deaths.

On April 17th, 1879, we learn of the death of William Billaney (aged 40) from an overdose of laudanum and the cost of his coffin, shroud and other fees came to £4.14s. (Laudanum was an opium-based painkiller popular in Victorian times for anything ranging from headaches to tuberculosis.)

There is an MI for a Richard Carlill, but it does not mention his occupation.

Editor’s note: £4.14s amounts to approximately £790 today, still a significant difference to today’s prices for a funeral.

Judith Bangs

Answer to the Yorkshire riddle on Page 3 is: Dust

Annual General Meeting

The 49th Annual General Meeting of the East Yorkshire Family History Society will be held at the Carnegie Heritage Centre, 342 Anlaby Road, Hull on Sunday 8th March 2026, commencing 11.30am.

AGENDA

Presidents opening remarks

Apologies for absence

Minutes of the 48th Annual General Meeting held on 9th March 2025

Matters arising from these minutes

Chairman's report

Secretary's report

Treasurer's report

Other reports

Election of officers – Chairman, Secretary & Treasurer

Election of committee

Election/Appointment of Examiner of accounts

Previously notified business (items should be given in writing to the secretary not less than 21 days before the date of the meeting)

Any other business.

The AGM is open to current members and invited guests only.

Nominations for Officers & Committee members are invited.

Please send all nominations to the Secretary Mrs Barbara Watkinson, 161 Moorhouse Road, Hull, East Yorkshire, HU5 5PR, after making sure that the person nominated is willing to serve. Alternatively, nominations can be made from the floor at the Annual General Meeting.

Barbara Watkinson

2026 Prize Draw

Don't forget that you still have time to Recommend a New Member and win a full year's subscription to Ancestry Complete. The new member will also be entered into the draw for a one-year subscription to Findmypast. The draw ends on 1st April 2026 – so don't miss out!

Hull Meeting September 2025

“A Short history of the Burial sites of Hull” By Peter Lowden

Janet Bielby introduced this month’s speaker, Peter Lowden, with an illustrated talk being “A Short History of the Burial Sites of Hull.” This was held at the Carnegie Library to a very full audience – standing room only!

He introduced his talk stating that he had a long interest in cemeteries, and his research is mainly based on Hull as it was at the end of the 19th century, therefore St Johns, Newland or Northern & Eastern Cemetery are not included.



Holy Trinity Church

He then went on to say that before the churches were built, burials would have taken place in a consecrated field as happened during the Roman period when burials would have been outside an urban area. The Saxons also chose this way of burials. But by 752 St Cuthbert had received permission from the Pope that churchyards could be place around a church, and over the years things

progressed, and the first recorded burial in Holy Trinity was 1304 and at St Marys church 1334. Two other parish churches that had interments in the medieval time are St Marys Sculcoates, this church may have been consecrated before the Hull churches so burials may have taken place in the churchyard in the 13th century. The burial ground still exists on the corner of Air Street and Wincolmlee. The other parish church is St Peters, Drypool, which had a churchyard by 1298, so this means it would also have the right to bury before the main Hull churches.

Peter then told us of other cemeteries in the area, the first being Castle Street which was used from 1783 to its closure in 1861 – the last burial being number 1563 on the 31st of December 1860. This is now the site for the road widening of the A63 which is taking some of the cemetery land, many bodies have been exhumed for reburial in the Minster crypt.

The Division Road cemetery on Hessle Road was for the parishioners of Holy Trinity who lived in that area. It was opened in January 1862 and consecrated April 1862, though the first burial was on 22nd January 1862. Burials continued until its

closure in 1952 – I found the history of this cemetery very interesting as a lot of my ancestors lived in the Hessle Road area and were buried here. Sadly, now it is just a green field with a few headstones resting along the wall.

St Johns Church was the first to be sited outside the old town walls and was consecrated in 1791. It remained till 1925 though it had closed in 1917 and had vaults where parishioners were buried. The bodies were exhumed and reburied in Hull General Cemetery that year and the Ferens Art Gallery now stands on the site of the church.



St. Johns Church by FS Smith

St James Church was built for the large population in the “Potteries” area of the city, this being due to the brick fields that were around the area, but also for some of the people living in the large houses of Lister and English Street. It was built in 1831 and demolished 1957. There has been no renovation of this site and today it remains as a grassy space in an industrial area.

St Stephens church was open in 1844. Burials were in the vaults, the first being May 1847 and the last number 58 in October 1855. This church was damaged during WW2 and demolished in 1955 and is now under the St Stephens shopping centre.

St Lukes church was in Nile Street and firstly was an Independent Chapel in 1827 and Baptists after 1845, followed by the Primitive Methodists 1847 and by 1856 was an Anglican church. However, this is not the same church as St Lukes that was on St Lukes Street. The site later was the German Lutheran Church and is now under the Mytongate roundabout.

St Marks church was consecrated in 1844 for the growing population on the east side of the River Hull. It was badly damaged during WW2 and demolished 1958/9.

Another site is the Jewish burial ground on Hessle Road, the first burial being in the 18th Century in the Walker Street area which later became the site of Villa school and is now a grassed area. The other Jewish burial ground is still there on Hessle Road next to the Alexandria Pub and opened in 1812 and closed in 1857.

His talk ended with the fact that Northern & Eastern cemeteries were created after



Hedon Road Crematorium

1900. Though Hedon Road cemetery began to inter bodies from 1873 and in 1894 the Municipal Crematorium was built.

Peter followed his talk by answering any questions from the audience and Janet Bielby offered thanks on behalf of us all for a very interesting talk. This was also the first time that

the society had provided the talk on zoom which apparently went well – this could be a first for the society. Tea and refreshments were then provided to everyone, and conversations were engaged amongst all.

The EYFHS has recorded all the monumental inscriptions of the cemeteries in Hull which are available either from Carnegie Library or via the society shop on Genfair. They have also published a leaflet “Burial Places in Hull” which again is available from Carnegie Library. Pete Lowdens book, “A short history of burials in Kingston Upon Hull from the Medieval Period to the Late Victorian Period”, which is part of the Hull General Cemetery Series No 4, which goes into a lot more detail than I have stated, is available from Amazon – I do have to say that this series of books are very interesting and certainly worth purchasing.

Barbara Watkinson

Burial Sites of Hull

I’ve been asked to write this piece in the wake of me giving a talk to the Society in September 2025. In a first for the society, a remote audience joined us via ‘Zoom’. Hopefully it will not be the last. The talk, ‘Burial Sites of Hull from the Medieval Period to Late Victorian Period; Part One’. I also displayed a copy of a book I had written with the same title. I explained to both audiences that within, it included a comprehensive history of **ALL** of the Hull burial sites of that period.

After the talk I walked to my car with Barbara Watkinson, the Society’s secretary, and her husband. She said she had all of my books, but she wasn’t sure of the one I had just spoken about. Later that day she emailed me to say she had it but again was unsure of how many I had written about Hull General Cemetery. Much later,

in the wake of Barbara's review of my talk (which should be gracing this issue of The Banyan Tree) the Editor asked me to write a synopsis of all the books. I was a bit squeamish about this as it looked a bit like me getting 'a bit above myself' with a whiff of 'product placement' in there too. The Editor calmed my fears so here is a synopsis of the books on Hull General Cemetery written by yours truly. I must mention they are all available on Amazon and that all profits go to the Friends of Hull General Cemetery, a registered charity who are doing a marvellous job of reclaiming a derelict site back for the community.

The first book (September 2018) was entitled **Hull General Cemetery 1847-1972: A Short Introduction**. It was 63 pages in length. The first part of the book was a very brief history of the Cemetery followed by about a dozen or so profiles of some of the famous people buried within. It includes people such as Sir James Reckitt and Zacharian Pearson and sold over 100 copies within the first week, demonstrating a great deal of interest in the Cemetery.

The second book was published about a month later. This was called **The War Dead of Hull General Cemetery**, 126 pages, and again the title said it all. The first part of the book looked at how memorialisation of the fallen in war time evolved into the Imperial war Graves Commission, later to become the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The second part looked at the people who had died in both World Wars and were buried in the Cemetery. Some of them had been buried with their relatives in a family grave whilst others had no markers on them at all. The book provided a map where each grave could be found and the Friends of HGC provided concrete markers for the unmarked ones.

The third book, **Public Graves, Workhouse Graves, Catacombs and Crosses**, (October 2019). The Heritage Open Days brochure the previous year included an article about the Cemetery, but a number of factual errors were published within. I was appalled by this and that was the impetus behind this book. The major error promulgated was the conflation of public and workhouse graves which to anyone with any knowledge of Victorian cemeteries is complete nonsense. A workhouse grave was a grave purchased by the relevant workhouse, usually consisting of burial spaces for five to eight interments. It was only used for burials of residents of the appropriate workhouse. The term 'a parish burial' covered this type of burial and that process continued long after the workhouse system had disappeared into history and well into the 1990s. I am led to believe from an undertaker I know that

it still continues but now the people who die and have no funds to cover their funeral costs are now cremated so burials no longer take place.

Public graves on the other hand, were a purchased grave space. The drawback, at least to us who were raised in the 20th century, was that nonfamily related people may well be buried alongside you. In essence you paid for a space within a grave but not the full grave. This book explains the reasoning behind that and the historical reasons why, to the average person in the street, this was a good deal.

You may have heard of, or maybe visited, catacombs in some of the cemeteries around the country. Highgate and Nunhead Cemeteries in London being particularly popular to visit. Well, Hull General Cemetery also had catacombs built close to the chapel on the north side of the Cemetery. They are long gone, and the book retraces their short lives and their eventual fate. The Crosses of the title refer to the ornamental cast iron crosses that decorate three graves in the Cemetery. Modelled loosely on the Eleanour Cross outside of Charing Cross Station in London, they are listed with Historic England as important historical structures. The book explains their origins, who built them and whose graves they adorn.

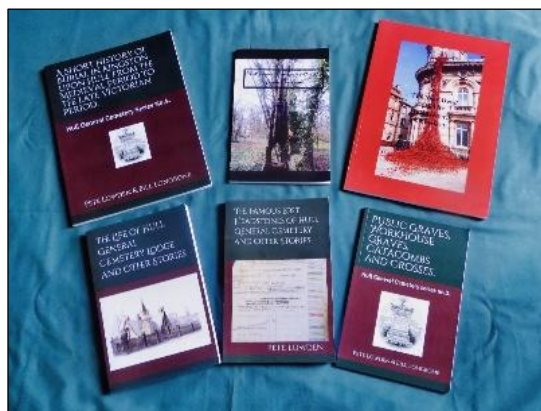
The fourth book has already been mentioned. **A Short History of Burial in Kingston Upon Hull from the Medieval Period to the Late Victorian Period**, looks at the history of the burial sites in Hull within this time frame.

The fifth book, **The Life of Hull General Cemetery Lodge and Other Stories**, (2022), is a collection of articles around aspects of the life of Hull General Cemetery that didn't quite fit in the other books. These articles range from the title story of the creation of the gothic superintendent's lodge of the Cemetery that stood at the junction of Spring Bank and Princes Avenue from 1847 until its destruction in the early 20th century and the inhabitants of the building over its life. Another article explores why the Cemetery was founded and the reasons behind its success. An article by Karen Towner is included where she follows in the footsteps of John Symons, a late Victorian magistrate and local historian who wrote an article for the Eastern Morning News in the 1880s of his walk around the Cemetery. The final article is entitled **A Monumental Loss** and recounts the sad tale of how Hull City Council came to the decision to destroy 80% of the headstones in the Cemetery in the late 1970s with their mis-guided idea that the site needed 'redevelopment'.

The final book, **The Famous Lost Headstones of Hull General Cemetery and Other Stories**, (2024), joins together many articles I had written for the now defunct website of the Friends of Hull General Cemetery. Every month for about four years I would write an article ‘celebrating’ an event that occurred in the Cemetery. Some of these were short such as the August 1846 one which describes how John Shields, the Cemetery Supervisor for York Cemetery applied for the job at Hull and how the Hull General Cemetery Company grabbed this capable and experienced man with both hands. Indeed, it is from him and his previous work that all of the plans of our municipal cemeteries today are based upon. Some of them were much longer and dealt with much weightier matters such as the time that a group of young graduates approached the Hull General Cemetery Company in 1972 with an offer to buy the land. These graduates were ridiculed at the time but went on to become a well-known firm in the Hull area with extensive property holdings. A tantalising ‘what if’ story.

Much longer articles, looking in depth at aspects of the Cemetery previously not researched or written about, such as the workforce of the Cemetery. We have the lives of a stonemason, a gardener, a gravedigger, a superintendent and even a brief look at some of the early Chairmen of the Company. Even the Beatles and Charles Darwin get a mention.

As previously mentioned, all of the books are available on Amazon with the



royalties going to the Friends of Hull General Cemetery. The books publishing was never about making money but raising the profile of a valuable historical and cultural aspect of the city that the local council was allowing to degenerate into a no-go area. That it brought in some spare change for the charity was icing on the cake and over the years the books

have raised in the region of about £2000 for the Friends. If you want to, you can add a bit more to that total by buying one of these books.

Pete Lowden

The Tissiman Family

I have been a member of the Cambridgeshire FHS for a long time but a few years ago I looked at joining other societies relevant to my ancestry. I hoped this would go some way to supporting the volunteer work that we all use at one time or another. One of the societies I have joined is the EYFHS.

My particular surname interest in East Yorkshire is the Tissiman family. That is one variant and is the one that came in on my maternal line, so I am using it for convenience. In the 18th century they were mainly the Tesseymans, clustered in



and around Scarborough, Hull and York. Indeed, there is a widely circulated photograph of the Land of Green Ginger which shows the Tesseymans name on the end of a building. Around 1800 it appears that my ancestor John changed from Tesseymans to Tissiman hence all those with that name are likely to be related with him as a common ancestor. Actually, the name has many variations, T[e|i|y]ss[e|i|y]man for example. Furthermore, those Tesseymans who lived in South Shields and the Tyne often had a 'd' at the end, which one can understand from the local accent, and that gave us T[a|e|i]ss[e|i]m[a|o]nd. A branch of those variants is also around Liverpool, while the Tissimans spread to

Derbyshire, Kent, New Zealand, South Africa and elsewhere.

The Tazzymans, although similarly sounding, seem to be quite separate, mainly based in Lincolnshire and possibly coming from the Netherlands.

Going back to Scarborough, John Tissiman was a wine merchant in Queen Street. John was also involved with the Scarborough Archaeological Association and was in regular correspondence with Lord Londesborough (Albert Denison, born Conyngham) about their finds amongst other subjects. I have a few of the letters, transcripts of which are deposited in Scarborough library.

My mother always told me that the Tissimans had originated in Sweden which fascinated me as I was interested in anything Nordic and enjoyed reading the sagas as a child. Other members of the family who I have been in touch with had the same story passed down the generations although sometimes it was Denmark or Norway rather than Sweden.

I have been a blood donor for many years and have taken an interest in blood groups as some of mine are on the rarer side. There are over 35 blood groups, that is ways of classifying blood, we normally use only two of them. The letter(s), A, B, AB or O signify which A or B antigens we have, if any, in our ABO blood group and A can be A₁ or A₂. The plus or minus that usually comes after the letter(s) is the D (positive) or d (negative) part of the Rhesus blood group which in full is [D|d][C|c][E|e]. I am an A₂ which is genetically dominant so more likely to be passed down the generations. When I was born it probably accounted for fewer than 2% of the English population but I have found that it accounts for nearly 50% of Swedish Lapps giving credence to the story that the Tissimans came from Sweden.

On the subject of name variations, my suspicion is that Tesseyman was itself a variant and the original was perhaps Tesman as in Ibsen's Hedda Gabler. Tesman is seen in Scandinavia and northern Germany. Consider a Yorkshireman hearing a Scandinavian saying Tesman and maybe that is how the spelling changed.

I have now ventured into the world of DNA ancestry where names are somewhat irrelevant except for recording, it is all digital pattern matching. I have found new branches of Tissimans worldwide and would urge anyone who hasn't done a DNA test yet to give it a try. It has confirmed most of my work, helped me make a few corrections and added a great number of cousins who I never knew I had.

I feel that family history societies have a new role to play in this digital/DNA genealogical world. In the members' section of society websites we could show where we have test results along with our members' interests. DNA verified branches of trees could be stored and seen by members. There are many possibilities, and I am only thinking aloud at this stage. We all have to change to survive, and I hope family history societies can embrace the digital world to keep them strong and relevant for years to come.

Thomas H F Kidman

Kingston upon Spey

A Story of ambition, pride in Hull heritage and the spread of Victorian aspirations.

FIR WOOD of GLENMORE to be fold.
TO be SOLD by private contract, the Duke of Gordon's Fir Wood of Glenmore, in the county of Inverness, North-Britain. This wood is very extensive and full grown, containing above a hundred thousand trees, many of which are of quality and size fit for the royal navy. It is very conveniently situated, by having a sufficiency of water, ~~not only for every preparatory purpose of manufacture, but also for~~ floating the timber by the river Spey to the sea-port of Garmouth in the Moray frith. The privilege of erecting saw-mills, and every other accommodation the purchaser may require, will be given.
John Stewart forester in Glenmore will show the wood, and those inclining to purchase are desired to transmit their proposals, addressed to the Duke of Gordon, at Gordon Castle, by Fochabers, before the 1st of October next.

Newspaper Archive. 2 September 1782. Aberdeen Journal. Page 2, col. 3

This advertisement was widely published in Britain and was observed by Ralph Dodsworth of York and William Osborne (sic) aka Osbourne, of Kingston upon Hull. Osbourne was the originator of the plan supported by Dodsworth. Both men were timber merchants, but Dodsworth may also have been a merchant adventurer. Far-fetched as it was, it seems the original idea was to build ships although the export of timber to Hull was a bonus.

Ralph Dodsworth was born in June 1738 at Helmsley and died at York on 9 May 1792. He had been Sheriff of York in 1777 and Lord Mayor of York in 1792. William Osbourne was born in 1746 at Sculcoates and died on 24 May 1831 at his residence on Story Street in Hull. He had been an alderman for several years and Lord Mayor of Hull in 1786.

The Contract

On May 19th, 1784, after lengthy negotiation, an agreement was reached for the successful purchase of the timber rights to the Glenmore Forest in the Highlands of Scotland for the extraordinary sum of £10,000 sterling. Among the terms of the agreement were the following:

Trees less than 18" girth at a height of 5 feet were not to be cut to ensure regeneration.

They would have the facility of assembling timber on Loch Morlich and erecting a dam, dyke or sluice at the outlet thereof and of floating the woods down to the Burns of Luineag and Druie, at all times and seasons, either by means of natural or artificial speats (floods).

When floating timber down the Spey in the fishing season, they shall not require the Dukes tacksmen at the braes to break them down to allow rafts to pass timber more than twice a month, and not for more than three hours at a time.

The Contract would be completed in the time of 26 years (1810).

Dodsworth and Osbourne created a ship building enterprise, known as both the English Company or the Glenmore Company and later as W. Osborne & Co.(sic). This was a high-risk venture at a time of speculative fever and dubious and fraudulent projects. The liquidation of the York Buildings Company in 1740 would have been fresh in the minds of investors. Moreover, the venture's location—distant from the bustling ports and commercial hubs of the south—further complicated efforts to secure shipbuilding contracts and manage the daily operations of a fledgling enterprise. Certainly, the idea caused local curiosity, but the prospect of much needed employment was welcomed.

After the formal ratification of the contract, Dodsworth returned to York and Osbourne to Hull, where he consulted his cousin, Thomas Hustwick Sr., a shipbuilder. Hustwick recommended his son, Thomas Jr.—a fully qualified and experienced shipwright—for the role of Master Shipbuilder. This was an opportunity not to be missed so Thomas Jr and his wife Jane and two children moved from Dover to the new location. In 1787 they had a son, William, who was the first child born in the new settlement. When the business was wound up Thomas Jnr stayed on for a few years and returned to Hull in 1815 with his wife, where he lived until his death aged 94 in 1844.

With the team of skilled craftsmen prepared to head north, Osbourne returned to Scotland to establish the new business venture and apply his experience and commercial acumen. It was no small undertaking—demanding discipline, energy, and the resolve of a no-nonsense, tough taskmaster. A new settlement was to be created at the mouth of the river Spey where it enters Moray Firth and the North Sea. The new settlement was named Kingston upon Spey—later known as Kingston Port—in tribute to Kingston upon Hull. This naming choice suggests a

deliberate cultural and emotional connection between the two locations, perhaps reflecting Osbourne's and Hustwick's shared origins, aspirations, or a desire to transplant a familiar identity into unfamiliar terrain.

Logging and timber export had been ongoing in the region for many years, and experienced tree fellers and loggers were readily available. The new company expanded the workforce employing local craftsmen and workers from almost every household, including the signing up of apprentices. In 1789, Ralph Dodsworth registered nine apprentices namely: John Russell, John Thomson, Charles Lobban, Alexander Gray, Alexander Mcbey, John Wilson, George Lobban, Robert Cruikshank and James Simpson. James Simpson was my maternal great x 3 grandfather and was trained as a ship carpenter: more about him later.

The New Settlement

Osbourne rented Red Corff House on the coast, which he enlarged and repurposed as the operational base for his enterprise. Until 1784, the surrounding area had been an empty river mouth—an expanse of shingle and marshland presenting considerable challenges for development.

To secure navigable access from the newly established shipyard, a slipway was laid out and a canal constructed to connect with the River Spey, thereby opening a route to the sea. Within the emerging settlement, Osbourne oversaw the construction of a wind-powered sawmill, shipbuilding yards, and workshops capable of producing vessels exceeding 500 tons, with masts reaching up to 60 feet in height. Basic workers' dwellings were erected along the shoreline, adjacent to the shipyard, forming the nucleus of a thriving shipbuilding community. Other local shipbuilders were attracted to the area establishing seven shipyards and becoming the largest shipbuilding centre of its time in Scotland.

The Timber Venture

With vast reserves of timber in the Fir Wood of Glenmore at their disposal, the partners envisioned a thriving shipbuilding operation. The forest comprised mature 'Scots fir' of a size suitable for wooden ships and especially the tall masts required of the larger vessels. One tree with an estimated age of 230 years is reported to have had a girth of 19 feet at the base tapering to over 6 feet at the top; it was named "the Lady of the Glen". Once the forest had been cleared, considerable local distress arose over the extent to which the landscape had been stripped bare.



Glenmore Forest by R Webb
www.commonswikimedia.org

The river Spey was already well used for floating wood from inland forests - a distance of about 50 miles - for processing at Garmouth situated on the river one mile south of Kingston on Spey. The process of getting the timber down the Spey could be a spectacular one. One observer at the time reported: "The logs and spars belonging to the English Company are at times floated down in single pieces, to the number of perhaps 20,000 at a time, conducted by 50 or 80 men going along the sides of the river to push them off by poles as they stick to the banks, hired at 1/2d per day and a competent allowance of spirituous liquor."

Ship Building

Before the Victorian era, the demand for wooden ships in Britain was immense - driven by military expansion, global trade, and imperial ambition. Here's how it unfolded:

17th to Early 19th Century: The Age of Oak and Empire

Royal Navy dominance: Britain's naval supremacy during the Anglo-Dutch Wars, Napoleonic Wars, and other conflicts relied heavily on wooden warships. A single ship of the line, like HMS Victory, required up to 6,000 trees—90% of them oak.

Timber-intensive construction: A 100-gun warship could consume 40 hectares of forest. Masts alone demanded tall, straight trees—often imported from the Baltic or North America due to domestic shortages.

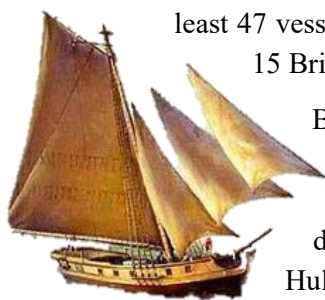
Strategic timber imports: Britain imported vast quantities of softwood from Scandinavia and the Baltic. This created trade deficits and strategic concerns, as timber was essential for defence but hard to source domestically.

Merchant marine expansion: The growth of the East India Company and transatlantic trade required thousands of merchant vessels, all wooden-hulled and sail-powered. **Shipbuilding centres:** Major dockyards like Chatham, Deptford, and Portsmouth flourished, employing thousands of skilled craftsmen—carpenters, caulkers, and shipwrights.

The English Company swiftly established its shipbuilding yard, launching its first vessel—the Glenmore—in 1785. This was a single-deck brig of 76 tons burden. Burden or burthen refers to the estimated cargo capacity in tons and not the weight of the vessel. The following year saw the launch of a second vessel, the Yucatan, a 214-ton ship square-rigged on all three masts (foremast, mainmast, and mizzenmast). In 1787, the yard produced a larger vessel, the Duchess of Gordon, weighing 330 tons. Production accelerated, and over the next two decades, the English Company—later known as W. Osborne & Co.(sic)—constructed wooden sailing vessels of every description and size.

These included barques, brigs, caravels, clippers, schooners, and sloops, ranging from the 25ton sloop Harriot to the Abraham Newlands, a 613-ton ship armed with four nine-pounder guns. They also built the Lady Madeline Sinclair (610 tons) in 1805 which is known for its involvement with Captain Bligh and the Bounty. Most ships were merchant traders with smaller vessels for the coastal and Baltic trade; larger vessels were destined for the Cape, South America, Australia and China trade. Several vessels were built and owned by Osbourne who used them to transport timber to Hull for sale through his timber trade business.

Records indicate that during the period 1785-1806 the Glenmore Company built at least 47 vessels with a total burthen of 19,000 tons. This included 15 Brigs, 8 Carvels, 4 Schooners, 25 Ships and 8 Sloops.



By 1806, the timber rights contract was nearing its end, and the surrounding forest had been largely depleted. Faced with dwindling resources, Osbourne shut down the business and concentrated on his business in Hull.

The closure brought considerable hardship to the local communities. With employment opportunities scarce, many residents were left without work and forced to emigrate—numerous families resettled in New Brunswick, Canada, in search of a new beginning.

The apprentice James Simpson was now apprenticed to William Osbourne following the death of Dodsworth in 1794. This lucky young man, now a skilled ship carpenter, moved to Kingston upon Hull before 1806 still in the employment of Osbourne.

Timber Crisis and Transition

The contract with the Duke of Gordon formally concluded in 1810; however, the felling of the trees had been completed by 1806. It was at this juncture that Osborne chose to wind up operations in Kingston upon Spey. The timing proved fortuitous, as the shipbuilding industry was on the cusp of significant transformation—marked by evolving design principles, shifting material preferences, and changing market demands for wooden vessels. Although iron shipbuilding would not gain momentum until the mid-19th century, the groundwork for change was already being laid. Timber prices were rising, and industrial techniques were beginning to reshape traditional practices. This pre-Victorian period laid the groundwork for the dramatic shift to iron and steam in the Victorian age.

James Simpson

As previously noted, James Simpson was apprenticed to both Dodsworth and Osbourne, receiving his training as a ship carpenter.

Ship Carpenter or A Shipwright

A ship carpenter typically worked aboard vessels, maintaining and repairing their wooden structures, while a shipwright was a shore-based craftsman responsible for designing and constructing ships. Both roles required considerable skill and carried professional status. Given that James Simpson was apprenticed to a shipbuilder, it is likely he trained as a shipwright. However, since Osbourne owned several merchant vessels operating between Hull and other ports, James may also have gained practical experience at sea as a ship's carpenter. Through such voyages, he would have become familiar with Hull's rapid expansion and the employment opportunities it offered. When Osbourne eventually closed his shipbuilding business, James may have seized the chance to relocate to Hull and continue his career amid the city's growing maritime industry.



James Simpson and His Family in Hull

James was born in 1772 in Fochabers, a community closely associated with Gordon Castle, seat of the Duke of Gordon in Moray. By the time Osbourne wound up W. Osbourne & Co.(sic) in 1806, James had already relocated to Kingston upon Hull—

presumably in Osbourne's employ. That same year, records show he married Ellen Clarkson of Market Weighton.

Between 1806 and 1821, the couple had six children two girls and four boys. In 1823, James is recorded as a freeman and the publican of the Spaw Bone Inn, later renamed the Whalebone Inn, located in Wincolmlee, Hull. James died in 1856 aged 84 and Ellen died in 1862.

The second eldest son, John, trained and qualified as a stonemason. In his twenties, he entered into partnership with William Malone, a skilled carpenter from Beverley. Together they established the firm Simpson and Malone, which would go on to play a pivotal role in the architectural development of Hull and the wider regions of East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire throughout the 19th century.

In the 1860s, Simpson and Malone were appointed contractors for the restoration of two of Hull's most prominent ecclesiastical landmarks: Hull Minster and St Mary's Church, Lowgate. At the time, J.W. Pease Esq., of Pease Bank in Hull and a member of the Hull Minster restoration committee, remarked that "the lowest contract had been offered by such eminent masons, as Simpson and Malone were known to be." He further noted that Banks and Barry, architects based in London and famous for the Palace of Westminster, had employed Simpson and Malone for seven years on the restoration of Duncombe Park for Lord Faversham, adding that "they should never think of employing anybody else."



St. Mary's Church

The firm became renowned for its restoration work on more than fifty historic churches, including Selby Abbey, Lincoln Cathedral, and several of the Wold's churches under the patronage of Sir Tatton Sykes of Sledmere and the architect John Loughborough Pearson. The 120 feet high monument to Sir Tatton Sykes at Sledmere was built by Simpson and Malone.

Their contributions extended beyond ecclesiastical architecture: they constructed the Hull Gaol, which remains in use today, and undertook extensive road and bridge works to support the city's rapid expansion. Notably, they laid Hull's first tramway network and completed all stone and marble work for the Royal Hotel and Paragon Station, as well as the Royal Institution, which was later destroyed during the war.

Such achievements form a remarkable legacy for James Simpson—ship carpenter of Fochabers and Kingston upon Spey and his wife Ellen—who through their son John, laid the foundations for a firm that helped shape the built heritage of the region.

William Malone died aged 70 in 1882 and is buried at St. James' Church, Sutton on Hull. John Simpson died aged 78 in 1888 and following a requiem at St. Charles Borromeo Church was buried at Sculcoates.

Philip D. Ronchetti

A list of new members to EYFHS

We have another list of new members to welcome to the Society in this issue.

We all welcome you to the EYFHS and we want you to get the most out of the Society.

Please make use of the many services the Society offers family historians.

Visit the EYFHS website as often as you like, there are new features appearing all the time. Passwords for the Members Zone are obtained automatically via the website.

www.eyfhs.org.uk/index.php/members-area-login

The email address for Miss Janet Shaw is membsec@eyfhs.org.uk

Member	Name	Address
7296	Peter Holford	Uppermill, Oldham, Greater Manchester
7297	Mike Hopkinson	Stafford, Staffordshire
7298	Gareth May	North Cave, Brough, East Yorkshire
7299	John Vice	Brill, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire
7300	Ruth Weatherill	Stamford Bridge, York, North Yorkshire
7301	Daniel Elleker	Nanaimo, B.C., Canada
7302	Sally Morton	Tonbridge, Kent

Membership Secretary, Janet Shaw

My Family and the Howden Airships

My grandfather, Ernest HOLFORD, was enlisted into the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) during the First World War and, at the end of the war, was stationed at Howden. His occupation was licensed victualler of the Palmerston on Well Street, Hackney in the East End of London. His wife, May (my grandmother) was left to run the pub and look after two toddlers. This is a photo of Ernest from that time in his RNAS uniform. The RNAS merged with the British Army's Royal Flying Corps in April 1918 to form the RAF.



The airship base at Howden was set up in 1916 to protect shipping from the threat of U-boat attacks. Ernest's role was ground crew. He was transferred to Howden from Slindon in Sussex in July 1918 and moved from Howden to Crystal Palace in April 1919. So, while he was stationed at Howden he became a founding member of the RAF. As far as I know it was the only time he went north of the Watford Gap! And I've no idea if he ever went up in one of the airships: I never got the chance to ask him – he died in 1931, aged 47.

That was my dad's side of the family. My mum was from Hull and most of her family lived there. Her uncle, Thomas Sidney SMITH (known as Sid), joined the Hull Constabulary after surviving the trenches of Northern France and Flanders (right). One of his early tasks as a PC was to stand guard over the wreckage of the R38 which had been dragged from the Humber. The airship had taken off from Howden on 24th August 1921 for testing before it entered service. Problems had been detected and the structure had been reinforced. On the flight it attempted to make some turns and simply crumpled, broke up and exploded. 44 crew members died.



Left, Sid doing his job – guarding the remains of the R38!

<https://www.aerosociety.com/news/the-r38-disaster-100-years-on/>

Peter Holford

What's On?

Hull Meetings

Hull meetings are held at the Carnegie Heritage Centre, 342 Anlaby Road, Hull. HU3 6JA. Talks start at 2pm, but doors open at 1.30pm to allow for personal research. Always check the EYFHS website Events Diary for details of meetings and helpdesks. An EMAIL HELPDESK is also available. Contact - helpdesk@eyfhs.org.uk. The Carnegie Heritage Centre also runs a **Family History Course**. Ask at the Carnegie for further information - 01482 561216.

8th March - Paul Schofield - Hull's Myths, Legends, Stories and Witches.

14th June - Mike Rymer - The Harry Lazarus Hotel & Georgian Houses, Posterngate, Hull 1850-1900.

13th September - Pete Lowden - The Cholera Epidemic of 1849.

6th December - Hannah Stamp - The Work of the East Riding Archives – Sources for Family History.

Help Desks

ANLABY - Haltemprice Library, 120 Springfield Way, Anlaby. HU10 6QJ. 01482 393939. Every 1st Wednesday 10.00-12.30 pm by appointment only.

BEVERLEY - Every 4th Thursday morning, 10-12:00 pm at Beverley Library HU17 8HE (by appointment only). Ask in branch or call 01482 392750.

HESSLE - Library, Southgate. Hessle. HU13 0RB. 01482 393939. Every 3rd Friday except December, 10:00-1:00m pm.

HULL - Carnegie Heritage Centre, 342 Anlaby Rd. Hull. HU3 6JA. 01482 561216. Every Monday 1.00-3.00 pm except Bank Holidays.

Hull History Centre, Worship St. Hull. HU2 8BG. 01482 317500. 1st & 3rd Thursdays of every month from 10:00-12:00.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Family Search Centre, 725 Holderness Road, Hull. HU9 3JA. Tuesday 10.00-3.30 pm and Friday 10.00-3.30 pm. Telephone 01482 794250 for more information and details.

HORNSEA - Leisure Centre & Library, Hub, Broadway, Hornsea. HU18 1PZ. 01482 393939. 10:00-1:00 pm every 4th Friday except December.

MARKET WEIGHTON - Every 2nd Friday, Wicstun Centre, 14 Beverley Road, Market Weighton YO43 3JP 10.30-12.00, Contact 01482 393939

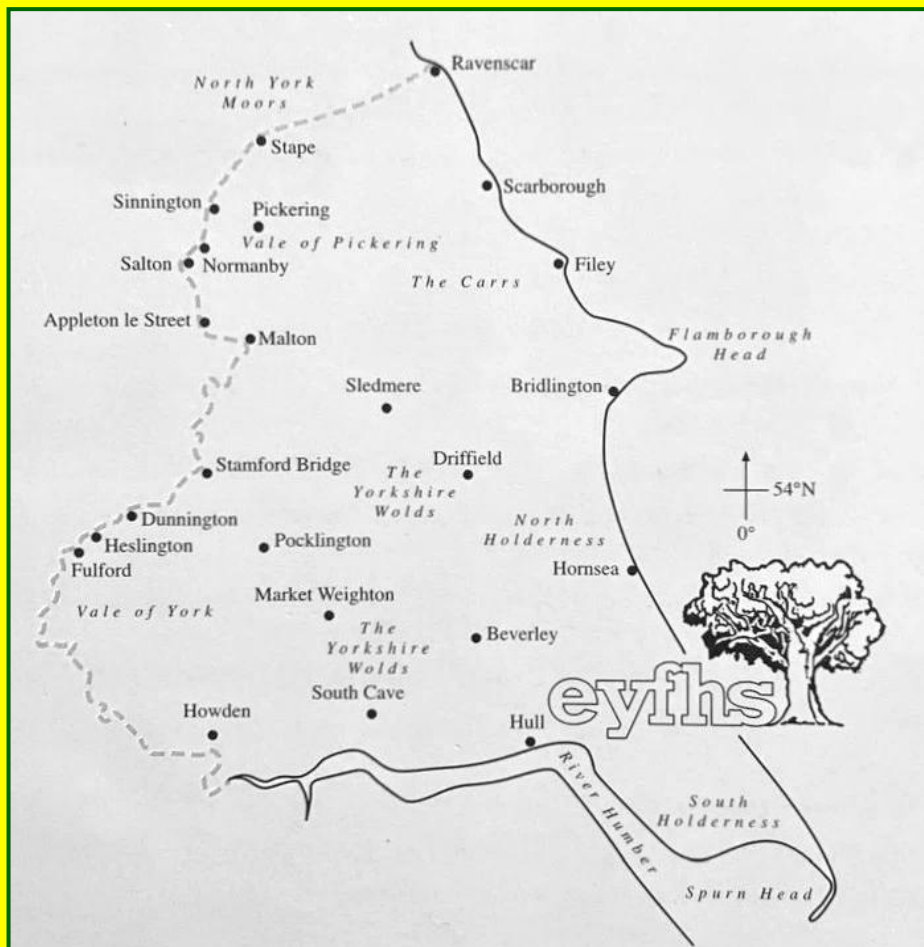
SCARBOROUGH - Ask at the library - Vernon Road, YO11 2NN. 01609 536602

WILLERBY - The Institute, 58 Main Street, Willerby. HU10 6BZ. Every 3rd Saturday from 10.00-12.00 by appointment only. Contact - 01482 658077 or email: willerbylibrary@eastriding.gov.uk

EAST YORKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Covering the East Riding of Yorkshire and beyond!

The East Yorkshire Family History Society is a UK Registered Charity, N^o. 519743, formed in February 1977. Membership information is available from our web site www.eyfhs.org.uk.



The East Yorkshire Family History Society is a member of the Family History Federation. The Federation oversees the interests of all family historians and genealogists as well as supporting the work of member societies. You can visit the Federation's web site and access their extensive resources at www.familyhistoryfederation.com