

The Banyan Tree

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Feature Story
Researching Canal & Waterways Ancestors
East Yorkshire Family History Society

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**Carnegie Heritage Information Centre, 342 Anlaby Road, Kingston upon Hull. HU3 6JA
Telephone (message service) 01482 561216**

**Committee Members
President
Dr. Margaret Oliver**

**Chairman
This position is vacant**

**Secretary Barbara R Watkinson
161 Moorhouse Road, Hull. HU5 5PR.
secretary@eyfhs.org.uk**

**Treasurer
Mr. Peter Glover, 1 Sylvia Close, Kingston upon Hull. HU6 8JF
treasurer@eyfhs.org.uk**

**Membership Matters
Miss Janet Shaw, 28 Harland Road, Elloughton, East Yorkshire. HU15 1JT
membsec@eyfhs.org.uk**

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Editor: Mrs. Chris Bringham 86 Rokeby Park, Hull HU4 7QF editor@eyfhs.org.uk

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The Banyan Tree - Contents

From the Editor	4
President's Reflections.....	4
Members Feedback – Frederick Oswald Dry	5
Hull Meeting December 2025.....	6
Researching Canal and Waterway Ancestors	9
Members' Question Time	18
Picnic at Filey Beach, about 1937-1938	19
History of Churches	21
Don't Throw Out the Baby with the Bathwater	22
A North Newbald Vicar	24
2026 Renewals Prize Draw	26
Co-operation - Tuting/Crosskill connection	27
The Upper Deck.....	30
Annual General Meeting	35
<i>Talk to Me, Please!!!</i>	40
Member's Feedback.....	41
A list of new members to EYFHS	42
In the News.....	42
What's On?.....	43

From the Editor

Hello everyone,

Welcome to the latest edition of the Banyan Tree. Thank you to those members who gave their feedback regarding the magazine, I will take on board your thoughts, good and not so good and endeavour to not repeat some of the errors, but I can't guarantee it as I am only human!! I hope you are finding it interesting and will contribute an article or two, so that we can continue to produce a magazine that you will enjoy and find useful in your own family history.

Chris Bringham
editor@eyfhs.org.uk

President's Reflections

Every morning, I walk our little blue whippet along the beach, as close to the sea as possible without getting my feet wet – or hers, as she is a bit of a princess and is not keen on water at all. But she does like a good sniff around the sand and shingle, with the occasional zoomie thrown in. So, we are both happy. I consider myself very privileged to have such easy access to a magical place that is the British seaside. I was brought up by the sea, and it has always had a pull for me, lifting my spirits on sight. I had always thought that was why I felt a great affinity with the ocean.

When I started to look into my family history, I found that my father's side originated from Brixham in Devon and were all fishermen or mariners of one sort or another. They were the pioneers who came to Hull for the fishing industry and were well established there by the time of the 1851 census. At that time, they were living in the same house as the ancestors of the son in law of our esteemed former President, Richard Walgate. It is even possible that the two families sailed up to Yorkshire together. Family history is certainly a world of wonderful connections!

But that got me thinking again about my connection to the sea. Not only was it because I had grown up within the sound and smell of the North Sea, my ancestors' lives and work were so closely connected to it that it just had to be in my blood, a part of me too.

Then I realised that we all go to the seaside for a day out, or holiday on some beach in the Mediterranean. The sea is a draw for so many people that I have decided I am not special after all and that it is because we are all islanders and the sea is never that far away. We all have that same connection!

Margaret Oliver

Members Feedback – Frederick Oswald Dry

I would like to thank Pete Lowden for his article in issue no 179, re Frederick Oswald Dry. He has introduced to me to an item of my family history I knew nothing about. I knew the name Dry from some of my research but wasn't sure he was related. As I read on I knew he had to be, as one of his children was called Frankish Trevor. Both these are family surnames on my paternal grandmother's side. It took me a while and a lot of help from a friend before I got the connection.

My grandmother, Agnes Helen Hawley nee Trevor, and Madge were cousins. Agnes' mother was Alice Mary Frankish and Madge's mother was Sarah Hannah Frankish. As you may guess from that Alice and Sarah were sisters. Alice married George Drummond Trevor and Sarah married Henry Thompson. Alice and Sarah's parents were Jane Batler and Virgil Frankish. You can now see where the Frankish and Trevor comes from. Sarah and Henry had a daughter – Madge. Henry died (haven't found his death yet) and Madge re-married to Proctor(?).

I have spoken to cousins about this and they knew nothing either. It's surprising where you get information about your family from.

The other interesting thing about the article is that when I left school I went to work for the Spooner Group of companies. In a newspaper article in the Yorkshire Post it is mentioned that a Mr A E Laverack was in court as representing Mr Spooner. Two of Spooner's subsidiary companies were Laverack, Goddard & Tealby and Laverack & Goddard. I've not managed to find out yet if the Spooner mentioned is related to John Leslie Spooner who started it all, but it seems a strange coincidence to have Spooner and Laverack together even if it is one generation back. Will keep digging on that one. If anyone else can shed any light on any of

Brenda Marshall

Hull Meeting December 2025

The CWGC Archives

7th December was a very rainy Sunday, but it still brought over 20 people to the meeting of the EYFHS at the Carnegie Heritage Centre to hear Sarah Shepherd talk about the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

This is a global organisation caring for the War graves at 23,000 locations in more than 150 countries & territories. They commemorate almost 1.7m Commonwealth individuals who died during both the World Wars.

Once WW1 was over, the work of the CWGC started, by commemorating the Empire's dead across the globe. Sadly, a vast number of bodies needed to be buried, thousands more lay undiscovered. Authorities were not prepared for the practicalities of dealing with the dead, there was no formal process of recording burials which meant that there were many isolated graves & small makeshift cemeteries with temporary markers.

From the start the commission had to delicately negotiate relationships with the bereaved across the UK & the world, to commemorate so many people whilst ensuring that voices from different nations & communities were heard. For the commission, this meant a gradual shift from divided public opinion to a consensus of approval.

In 1914, the former civil servant & journalist Fabian Ware, who at 45 was too old to serve in the army, headed a mobile ambulance unit run by the British Red Cross. Having realised the improvised nature of burials & grave markings, he lobbied higher authorities to turn his unit into a dedicated team for the dead.

Once the War Office agreed to the unit, it was transferred from the Red Cross to the British Army & was known as the Graves Registration Commission (GRC). By 1916 the unit had evolved to handle enquiries from the bereaved relatives & became known as the Directorate of Graves Registration & Enquiries (DGRE). This department marked & recorded existing graves but also searched for missing bodies, moving isolated graves or burial plots to larger cemeteries & also tried to identify bodies that were found or disinterred. This was done by dividing the WW1 battlefields into grids, so they could be searched. The maps recorded the number of known burials & temporary grave markers thus helping the teams to find & remove the fallen for reburial in the cemetery.

By 1921 many thousands of bodies had been recovered & reburied. Identification was achieved by name tags, uniform features & personal effects.

Fabian Ware wanted an Empire wide organisation and on 21st May 1917 the Imperial War Graves Commission (IWGC) was established by Royal Charter. The Prince of Wales (Edward VIII) was President, Lord Derby, Secretary of State for War was Chairman and Fabian Ware the Vice Chairman. It was planned that they would organise cemeteries, creating memorials to the missing and maintain them forever.

By July 1917 a working party had visited the Somme to see how formal cemeteries & memorials would be created. These would include classifying cemeteries into four sections – “large, monumental”, “garden or Forest”, “Town” with a cloister, and “Village and country”. Lutgens & Baker became official architects for the cemeteries.

It was decided that all headstones should have the same uniform appearance. The commission said there should be a commemorative focal point to tie the amount of graves together & Lutgens said it should be a universal or non-religious symbol to which people could add their own meanings.

By November 1918, the Kenyon Report produced the first formal statement of the commissions purpose, principles & processes. Whilst this report was useful, the commission still needed to explain to the public how this would be realised. Rudyard Kipling in 1919 wrote “The Graves of the Fallen” which explained & showed the cemeteries key features. He also asked for suggestions from the public as to the design of the memorials which at this time had not been agreed by the commission.

Forceville, Louvencourt & Le Treport designed in 1920 by Reginald Blomfield was set up as trial cemeteries to test the commission design. But cemeteries were not only being built in the Western front but from UK to Gallipoli, Middle East to Africa and Commonwealth men & women were being commemorated.

But there were still people who thought it was state controlled & that people were not able to have a say in how or where their loved ones would be remembered. It was said that the bodies of those who died abroad would not be repatriated. Large numbers of bodies were scattered over former WW1 battlefields in isolated graves & makeshift burial grounds which had to be exhumed & buried in larger cemeteries.

We were told of prominent campaigner, Sarah Smith of Leeds who wasn't happy with the decision not to repatriate the dead, who organised a petition lobbying the Prince of Wales, being the President of the Commission to reverse this policy. It had over 2500 signatures. Though this petition failed it did lead to the creation of the British War Graves Association, who opposed the approach of the Commission. It was based in Leeds and in 1922 had over 3,000 members.

Symbols for all major religions feature on the headstones, the most common one being the Christian cross. But many headstones don't have a religious symbol by request. Personal inscriptions were allowed and limited to 66 characters with a fee of 3½d per letter - though of course probably only the wealthy could afford this.

Gradually the public opinion changed over the Commissions approach to a more consensus of approval during the last century and this led to the style of cemeteries & memorials shaping the look of remembrance the world over. In the early days these sites were places of pilgrimage for families but today hundreds of thousands come to pay their respects.



We were also shown photos of how cemeteries were laid out & one was at Imphal – this I found interesting, as my husband's uncle, George Watkinson of 9th Battalion



Border Regiment, who was killed in action on 14 May 1944, was buried there.

The CWGC do various walks around local cemeteries which can be found on the CWGC tours, talks & events. We have participated in our local ones at Hull Hedon Road, Northern Cemetery, Withernsea, Beverley & Cottingham. The guides are extremely informative, and these walks are certainly worth doing.

The society thanked Sarah for her interesting and informative talk with a question & answer section to follow.

This was followed by refreshments of tea, coffee and with it being the Christmas social event, mince pies, Christmas cake etc was served. The conversations continued.

Barbara Watkinson

Researching Canal and Waterway Ancestors

East Yorkshire boasts several canals and waterways, including the Pocklington Canal, the River Hull, and the Driffeld Navigation. The River Hull connects to the Humber Estuary, while the Driffeld Navigation links Driffeld to the River Hull. Additionally, the Aire & Calder Navigation and the Selby Canal are also in this area. These waterways, both natural and man-made, played a significant role in the region's trade and transportation history and influenced the lives of ancestors. Many waterways were used for transportation of goods and people, affecting trade and daily life. Canals like the Pocklington Canal, Leven Canal and navigations like the Aire and Calder Navigation were vital for moving agricultural products, coal, and other materials.

Pocklington Canal: A 9.5-mile canal that runs from the village of East Cottingham to the town of Pocklington.

River Hull: A natural, although somewhat re-routed, river that flows through the city of Hull and into the Humber Estuary.

Driffeld Navigation: A canal and river system that connects the town of Driffeld to the River Hull.

Aire & Calder Navigation: A navigable waterway that runs from Leeds to the River Ouse at Goole.

Selby Canal: A short canal that connects Selby to the River Ouse.

Leven Canal: The Leven Canal runs from the River Hull between Arram and Aike, to the south end of the village of Leven. It borders the Leven Carrs in the north and Eske and Routh Carrs in the south. As it enters Leven, it passes Little Leven. Just upstream on the River Hull is the start of the Driffeld Navigation.

Market Weighton Canal: Initially designed for drainage, this canal also facilitated trade and reclamation of land.



Brigham Village canal side

Hedon Haven is a waterway that connected the Humber Estuary with the port of Hedon. The waterway allowed ships to unload at the port of Hedon, which was also known as Hedon Haven and had, at its peak, three canalised arms that stretched into the town. The port of Hedon was the main port for south Holderness between the 12th and 13th centuries, and was the busiest port in Holderness before the docks at Hull were built.

It can be difficult to research Canal and Watermen ancestors as they were continually on the move. If you are struggling to find your ancestors try thinking of the waterway as a parish and look at churches near the waterway for birth, marriage and death registrations. The following places may also offer you some information or guidance.

The Cathedral of the Canals

It may also be worth looking at the records of All Saints Church in the Northamptonshire village of Braunston which is known as “The Cathedral of the Canals” for its close links with the families that operated canal boats on England's inland waterways. <https://www.allsaintsbraunston.org.uk>

Books

Look for books like "Tracing Your Canal Ancestors" by Sue Wilkes for practical guidance on finding canal boatmen, navvies, and their families. “No. 1” and “Anderton for Orders” by Tom Foxon which has names of people and boats.

Yorkshire Waterways Heritage Society



This organization has useful resources and information about the lives of watermen and boatmen who worked on the canals. Please see East Riding Archives article below under *Other Resources* for more information.

Canal and River Trust

Have put together a handy booklet as a starting point for your journey of discovery into the past. <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk>

The Railway and Canal Historical Society

Have an extensive website for research into various forms of transport. Whilst I could not find a specific page about ancestors they do appear to have a helpdesk, so may be worth enquiring if you have hit a brick wall. <https://rchs.org.uk>

East Yorkshire Local History Society

The "Inland Waterways of East Yorkshire, 1700-1900" by Baron F. Duckham is a valuable resource for understanding the history of canals and waterways in the region. It was published by the East Yorkshire Local History Society as part of their local history series. You can find a PDF version of this publication on the East Yorkshire Local History Society's website under their out-of-print section. <https://www.eylhs.org.uk>

The Pocklington Canal Amenity Society

<https://www.pocklingtoncanalsociety.org>



Has some interesting pages of information and links to other organisations.

Copyright The Pocklington Canal Amenity Society

London Canal Museum

Has a page dedicated to Family History Research with a wealth of information and sources to help. <https://www.canalmuseum.org.uk>

Online Catalogues and Local Studies Libraries

Search online catalogues and explore local studies libraries in towns like Goole, Bridlington and Hull which can provide access to records, photographs, and other materials related to waterways and the people who used them.

Chris Brigham

Discovering the Lives of Your Waterways Ancestors - Sources at the East Riding Archives

With its extensive network of navigable waterways, East Yorkshire has long been a hub for cargo transport and industrial growth.

The East Riding Archives, based at the Champney Treasure House in Beverley, hold records relating to the canals and waterways of the East Riding. These include the Aire and Calder Navigation, as well as canals around Pocklington, Market Weighton, Leven, and Driffield.

Image: Humber Barge on Driffield Canal, c.1900 (East Riding Archives, Peter Calvert Collection DDX1544/1/11)

Of particular interest to family historians are the individuals who had a connection with the waterways. These people may appear in various records from photographs to wage books, diaries and petitions. This article will provide some key collections to enable you to start your research!

Aire and Calder Navigation

The Aire and Calder Navigation is an inland waterway extending from the port of Goole to Castleford and is approximately 10 miles long.



Aire and Calder Navigation Collection (ref. DDAC)

If you are researching ancestors from the Goole area, the Aire and Calder Navigation collection will be a fruitful resource.

Key records include staff records (1873–1969), diaries (1885–1964), accident books (1952–1966), staff memoirs (1958–1973), and ship movement logs (1947–1960). The wider collection includes photograph albums, cargo ledgers, dock dues

and river tolls, minutes and correspondence files detailing everyday activity on the waterway.



Image: The Barge Dock at Goole, undated (East Riding Archives Grayburn Photograph Collection DDX882/15)

Market Weighton Canal

The Market Weighton Canal opened in 1777 and extends just short of 10 miles from a sea lock connection with the Humber. The canal was under the authority of the Market Weighton Drainage Board.

John Hutchinson, lock keeper, collection (ref. DDX799)

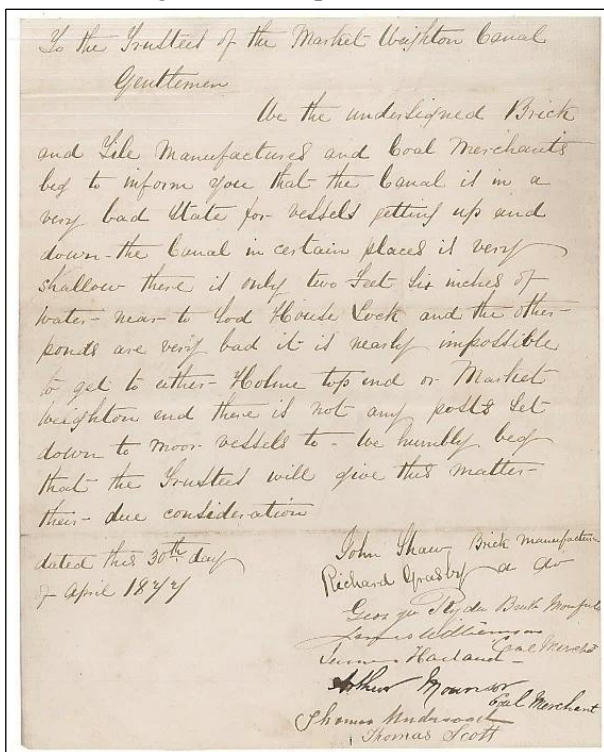
John Hutchinson was the lock keeper at the Weighton Lock on the Market Weighton Canal. The East Riding Archives care for his collection which includes day books for lock dues 1820-1845, weekly cash accounts for lock dues 1826-1840, accounts for bricks and tiles sold 1810-1829, and accounts of ales and spirits sold by the lock keeper 1836-1858.

Market Weighton Drainage and Navigation (ref. DDMW)

This collection covers 1772-1949 and includes minutes, agendas and notices of meetings; agreements; fishing leases, assessments, award, contracts, correspondence, journals, financial; rate books and schedules; legal and parliamentary papers, acts and bills; newspapers, plans, reports, summonses and tolls.

Pocklington Canal

The Pocklington Canal opened in 1818 and connects the junction at the River



Derwent to East Cottingham, extending approximately 9.5 miles. The canal's purpose was to transport agricultural produce to the industrial towns of the West Riding.

Sheila Nix collection (ref. DDX2226)

Sheila Nix of York was a founder of the Pocklington Canal Amenity Society. This collection mainly relates to the Pocklington Canal Amenity Society, with records covering [c.1802]-2009. It includes minutes of the Pocklington Canal Amenity Society 1983-2009, historical, research and printed records relating to Pocklington Canal [1802]-2008, photographs covering

Image: Petition to trustees relating to insufficient water in parts of the lock, 30 April 1877 (East Riding Archives DDMW/7/330)

1969-2008, a photograph album 20th century, slides [1909]-1998, news cuttings scrap books 1964-2009, Driffield Navigation file 1999, Market Weighton Canal Society files 1960s-2005, and River Derwent Trust files 1907-2007.

Beverley Beck

The Beverley Beck has an entrance lock at the junction with the River Hull and is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile long. After an Act of Parliament, the Beverley Beck opened in 1731.

Beverley Beck documents collection (ref. DDX342)

This collection includes a list of tolls and duties to be levied on goods landed or shipped in Beverley Beck, 1837.

Documents relating to Beverley Borough Council (ref. DDX1237/4)

This collection includes a schedule from 1894 regarding the tolls and charges and classification of merchandise, report on the Beverley Beck by William Welstead civil engineer and surveyor 1894, and notices of objection by Tigar's Manure Company, Crathorne and Sons Limited and Mansion House Association relating to the revision of Beck dues.



Image: Lock Gate at Beverley, c.1904 (East Riding Archives DDX1321/5/1)

Drifffield Navigation

The Drifffield Navigation begins at Aike on the River Hull and extends 11 miles to Great Drifffield with various locks along the route. The navigation was opened in 1770 after local businessmen in Drifffield wanted to connect with the port of Hull.

Drifffield Navigation Trust Records, (ref. DDX2050)

This collection covers 1953-2006, and includes minutes 2003-2004, accounts 1978-1986, report of the directors 2004, general correspondence file 1955-1977, letter from John Dosser relating to re-opening Drifffield Canal 1959, rights of way near Drifffield Canal correspondence file 1978-1979, River Humber navigation charts 1986-1988, printed sources 1953-2006, George Parkes' slides undated. [late 20th century], David Gladwin's photographs 1991 and newsletters 1978-2001.

Drifffield Navigation Records (ref. DDX237)

Wages Book 1928.

<u>1928.</u>				
July 4.	Verify W.W.	4 days	1	8
	Verify W.G.	4 "	1	3 4
14	Verify W.W.	1 "		4
	Verify W.G.	1 "		5 10
21	Verify W.W.	1 "		4
26	Verify W.W.	2 "		14
Aug 11	Verify W.W.	3 "	1	1
			£	5 6 2
Aug 18	Verify W.W.	6 days	2	2
	Verify W.G.	6 "	1	15
25	Verify W.W.	5 "	1	15
	Verify W.G.	5 "	1	9 2
Sept 1	Verify W.W.	6 "	2	2
	Verify W.G.	6 "	1	15
8	Verify W.W.	6 "	2	2
	Verify W.G.	3 "		14 6
			£	13. 14. 8

This collection mostly covers 1894-1979 records of Drifffield Old and New Navigation and includes Commissioners' minutes 1894-1954; financial records 1894-1964; correspondence 1929-1961; photographs of warehouses late 19th century; printed notices 1925-1948; printed guides 1975, 1979; with a plan of the lock gates by William Chapman from 1801.

Image: Wages book, Drifffield Navigation Records, 1928-1934 (East Riding Archives DDX237/8)

Leven Canal

Leven Canal extends nearly 4 miles to the village of Leven from the River Hull. The canal was initially surveyed by William Jessop for Mrs Charlotte Bethell of Rise in the 1800s.

Leven Canal House Boats Photographs (ref. DDX2028)

This collection contains digital photographs of house boats on the Leven Canal taken in 1972.

Leven Local History Photographs (ref. DDX1590)

This digital collection contains various 20th century photographs relating to Leven Canal depicting people working on the waterway.

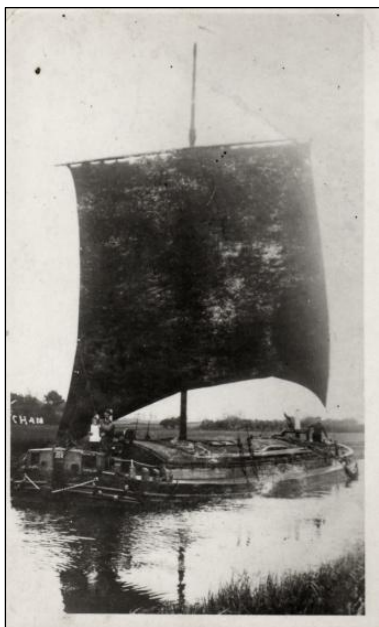


Image left: Nellie, Mrs Ada Aaron and Clifford on a keel at Brigham, undated (East Riding Archives DDX1590/4 no98)

Image Right: Bargemen and Cook's Mill from Canal Head, Leven, undated (East Riding Archives DDX1590/4 no89)



Other useful resources:

The Yorkshire Waterways Heritage Society website (ywhs.org.uk) contains a wealth of information for the family historian including transcriptions of watermen and their families on the 1881 census, a historic photograph collection, and also a useful online database of canal boat registrations.

The waterways of East Yorkshire are more than just channels of transport, they are lifelines of local history, carrying the stories of generations who lived and worked along their banks. From lock keepers and barge operators to canal societies and engineers, the records preserved at the East Riding Archives offer a vivid glimpse into the lives of these individuals. Whether you're tracing your family roots or exploring the region's industrial heritage, these collections provide a unique and rewarding journey into the past.

If you would like to consult any of the records mentioned in this article or find out more, please contact the East Riding Archives at:

archives.service@eastriding.gov.uk or by phone 01482 392792.

Hannah Stamp, Archivist, East Riding Archives

Members' Question Time

Colin Cleavin has emailed the Banyan Tree with the following question. If anyone has any answers for Colin, please email the editor editor@eyfhs.org.uk

Where is or was a Gildingwells at Wawne as shown below?

Name	Katherine Cleaving
Event Type	Burial
Event Date	3 June 1725
Event Place	Gildingwells, Yorkshire, England, United Kingdom
Event Place (Original)	Wawne, Yorkshire (East Riding), England
Affiliate Name	Borthwick Institute for Archives

Editor's note: Our experts, Charlie and Dave, have researched this and have provided Colin with a lot of information but have yet to find Gildingwells, Wawne.

Picnic at Filey Beach, about 1937-1938

A strange photo from the archives! Unlike nearly all photos of that era this one is spontaneous and unposed. Somebody wiping their nose, another eating, people sat with their backs to the camera. Photos were rare and expensive and usually recorded significant events. This is obviously a holiday but where?



From the left (as identified by my mother, Stella) – John Ernest Wood (her father), Julia Gower (wife of Jim Chapman), Lilian Etta Wood (her mother), Jim Chapman, Leslie Richardson (glasses), anon, Phyllis Wood (sister), Mary Winifred Chapman (daughter of Jim and Julia).

The people in the photo were identified by my mother, Stella Holford (née Wood). It turned out that not all her ID's were correct. But she couldn't identify the location; it remained unknown – somewhere on the Yorkshire coast. It is a family group with nobody outside the family. One young woman is unidentified by Stella. She is sitting with the Chapman and Richardson members of the party. And who was the photographer? The spontaneous nature of the snap says it is somebody young who has picked up the camera and not asked people to pose. An older person would be aware of how much each photo cost to buy and develop. It is probably Stella herself. She would be 15 or 16 years old and was bound to be on holiday with mum and dad. The photo is also taken in closer proximity to her parents, Ernie and Lilian Wood, which supports that theory – when eating at a picnic the food would be made by each family unit and so those eating it would sit close-by,

especially hungry teenagers. The presence of Phyllis also confirms that this is pre-war as she married in 1939.

But there has always been a problem with this picture. It is undoubtedly on the coast of East Yorkshire, but where? There are very few low headlands south of Scarborough and those to the north of Scarborough are set in very hilly terrain. It doesn't have the shape of Flamborough but looks more like Filey Brigg. But it would have to have been taken north of Filey Brigg. However, Filey Brigg is a continuation of the coastline to the north and doesn't project out to sea in any views.

The answer came in a sudden flash of insight. Part of this involved noticing that most of the people shown are left-handed! I realised that the image is shown in reverse – it needed flipping on its vertical axis. Most photographic processes before the War (Daguerreotype, Ambrotype and Ferrotype) were taken as reverse images and needed to be printed correctly. It was especially obvious if there were any written signs in the image! This one hadn't been corrected before printing!

I looked through my own snaps and found this image showing Filey Brigg. It is the same shape and the shapes within the cliff face are consistent with those in the family picture. The promenade and the railings are consistent, as is the grass.



Flipping the image (page 21) makes sense of it – it's definitely Filey Brigg and Ernie and Lilian Wood as well as Phyllis are now right-handed! The anonymous young woman also turns out to be right-handed! Then I began to doubt that the person Stella identified as Jim Chapman is correct. Jim was Lilian's uncle and was born in 1866 which means he is about 72 in this photo – clearly this man, sitting upright and leaning back-to-back with a young woman, is no older than 50; probably less. So, the identification of Julia will be wrong as well. Another possibility for the young woman on the left is Winifred Richardson (b. 1910), the

only sibling of Leslie (the one wearing glasses). She married in 1938. Eventually my cousin (Phyllis's son) identified Phyllis's best friend Nan and her husband 'Mac'. So, the revised cast list is as shown below. And Filey is the setting!



From the left – Winifred Richardson, Phyllis Wood, Nan McKinley, Leslie Richardson (husband of Mary Winifred Chapman, with glasses), 'Mac' McKinley, Lilian Etta Wood, anon, John Ernest Wood

Peter Holford

Editor's note: This article just goes to show how you should not believe everything you see and are told, and that you should, if possible, have three proofs of evidence for each fact. I think Peter was very observant to notice that everyone seemed to be left-handed and investigated further.

History of Churches

For information about access and the history of the following churches - Sewerby, Flamborough, Bempton, Speeton and Reighton, check out their website: www.headlandbenefice.co.uk

Janet Bielby

Don't Throw Out the Baby with the Bathwater

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water is just not how you like it, think about how things used to be. Below are some facts about the 1500s.

Most people get married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet of flowers when getting married.



Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the sons and other men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water."

Houses had thatched roofs of thick straw piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and small animals (mice, other vermin and assorted bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying, "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed, hence a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That is how canopy beds came into existence. Oh, for the romance of a four-poster bed.



The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, "Dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread threst (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside, so a piece of wood was placed in the entrance way. Hence the saying, "A thresh hold."

In those days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get very much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over again for quite a while. Hence the ryme, "Pease porridge hot, pease porridge cold, pease porridge in the pot, nine days old."



Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could bring home the bacon. They would cut off a little to share with their guests and they would all sit around the table and, "Chew the fat."

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with a high acid content caused some lead to leach onto the food, causing death by lead poisoning. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered to be poisonous.

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whiskey. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for 48 hours and the family would gather around, eating and drinking, while waiting to see if they would 'wake' up. Hence the custom of holding a wake.



Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle and guests got the top, or the upper crust.

England is old and small and local folks started running out of space to bury people. So, they would dig up coffins and take the bones to a bone house and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, around one in twenty-five were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realised they had been burying people alive. They began to tie a string on the wrist of a corpse, lead it through the coffin lid, up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Thus, someone could be 'saved by the bell' or considered to be a 'dead ringer.'

And that is the truth ... now, whoever said history was boring?

A North Newbald Vicar

My 4-x great grandfather, Thomas Atkinson, was born in 1751 in the Lake District, South Lakeland to be precise, in Kirkby Ireleth which is on the Duddon Estuary. It is a remote place even now. He was the son of a farmer, but he didn't follow in his father's footsteps but chose a different course by becoming a Clergyman.

To enter this profession with his background might have been uncommon at the time and maybe indicates that he stood out as being a bright scholar. He might have attended St Bees School, further up on the Cumbrian coast, as the Headmaster there was one of the men who gave him a character reference when he applied to join the Church. The vicar of Lorton Church, deep in the heart of the Lakes near Loweswater, also gave him a reference. He had probably been working there on probation, and so it was at Lorton that he met his first wife.

He was accepted as a candidate for ordination and after a ceremony in Chester Cathedral he became a Deacon and was sent over to East Yorkshire to the village



Sancton Parish Church

Roger Gilbertson [CC BY-SA 2.0](#)

of Sancton. He did some teaching at the school there and was obviously kept busy in other parishes too as the vicars of Market Weighton, Aldborough and South Cave all wrote letters of support which led to him being ordained in York Minster in 1775. He was then appointed as the Curate of Sancton and swiftly returned to Lorton to marry Jane

Fisher. This required a Marriage Bond as he was considered to be a 'stranger' who was not living in the parish. One of his guarantors was a Soap Manufacturer from Workington. Thomas had to sign this Bond too and he did so with a bold, confident signature. The journey back to Yorkshire must have been arduous with a number of stops along the way.

He served at Sancton for several years but then his wife died in 1788 before he took up his new posting, a couple of miles south, as the Vicar of St Nicholas's at North



St Nicholas Church, North Newbald

J Thomas [CC BY-SA 2.0](#)

Newbald. It is a Norman church with a delightful bright and cheerful interior. Thomas devoted the rest of his life to this church and its parishioners.

Two years later in 1790 at the age of 39 he married Anne King who was the 17-years old daughter of a local Yeoman and the granddaughter of one Richard Mountain who also lived in the village and who was described as a

Gentleman. It is tempting to think that Thomas was a personable man, even perhaps charming, and was able to present himself as a suitable match to allay any misgivings Anne's family may have had about the age difference and the necessity of her taking on the role of step-mother to three children of 12, 8 and 4. Anne soon had children of her own, in fact she went on to possibly have sixteen but sadly they did not all survive. Some died in infancy others as young children and eventually she herself died too in 1821. Whatever it was that claimed the lives of half his children, Thomas continued unscathed into his eighties.

In 1825 there was a bit of a scandal. One of his sons, Richard (my ancestor) eloped with the young housemaid. This was a family story which had been passed down through the generations and so it was interesting to find that it was in fact true. One can picture Richard and Ann Chater (born in Kent, and it is a mystery how she came to be working in rural Yorkshire) sneaking out of the house and running down the hill to wait for the stagecoach, which passed through the village on its way to Hull where they married. However cross the Reverend may have been they seem to have been forgiven as the couple returned to North Newbald. For a number of years Richard and his brother William were Millers in the village. Their father had been involved in the purchase of land, just to the south, with a windmill erected on it.

Thomas finally died in 1835 at the age of 84. By then he would probably have relied a lot on his Curate. In fact, some time previously he had written to the Bishop

asking to be relieved of his overseeing duties at the church in Filey where he held the post of Perpetual Curate (which presumably required a number of visits from him per year) citing difficulties in getting around in old age.

A few months before his death he wrote his will. The sole beneficiary of his estate of £100 was his unmarried daughter Eliza. His eldest daughter Ruth, the wife of Francis Watson a clockmaker of Beverley, was given a white quilt belonging to her mother. This would have been Jane, his first wife, who must have brought it with her from Cumbria all those years previously.

From the records it is possible to find out what became of some of the siblings. One of the older daughters married a York doctor but died a year afterwards. Eliza went to live with a sister who was married to a Manchester merchant. Their brother, Mountain, lived nearby and was a shopkeeper in central Manchester. Richard left too, moving to Rotherham – so ending the Atkinson connection with the area which had lasted 60 years.

L. Boyle

2026 Renewals Prize Draw

Thank you to everyone who renewed their 2026 membership before the prize-draw cut-off date. As you know, renewals fall annually on the first of January, but we allowed a little extra time as it is such a busy time of the year for one and all.

The Prize of a totally free copy of The Latest Version of **Family Historian by Calico Pie** had to be drawn twice!

The first name out of the hat was that of overseas member Mr Keith Anderson, membership number 6509, who reported that his research does not require the use of a family history application - so he generously decided to return the prize to the EYFHS membership, allowing his prize to be drawn again.

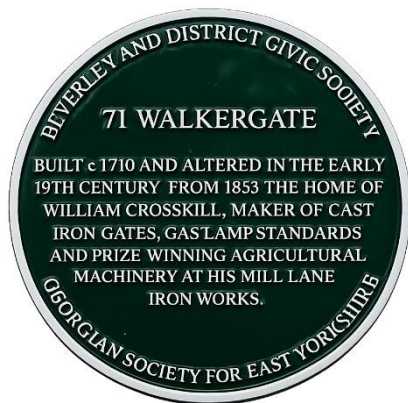
At the second drawing, an East Riding member, Mr J Durrant (membership number 7265) came up trumps and is now the proud owner of my personal favourite family history application; Calico Pie's Family Historian.

Thank you once more to all participating members for their prompt renewals and to Mr Anderson for his generosity in offering the prize to be-drawn.

Alan Brigham

Co-operation - Tutting/Crosskill connection

The article in November's Banyan Tree about "The Tuttings and Boltons of Beverley" prompted me to look again at the life of my 3x great grandfather, Henry Morritt Crosskill (1808 – 1878) who was born in Beverley. He was only 4 years old when his father, William Crosskill (1778 – 1812) died at the young age of 33 years leaving a wife, 4 sons and 2 daughters.

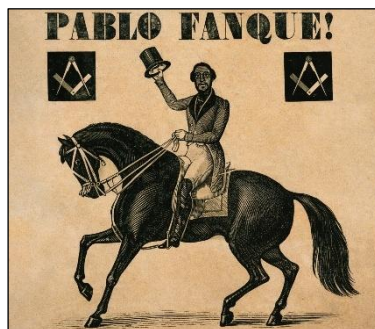


His elder brother, William Crosskill (1799 – 1888) helped his mother in the family Whitesmith business, building it up to eventually become the largest employer in Beverley with William becoming well known across the Country and the Empire as a result of his fine agricultural implements. He became Mayor of Beverley as did his sons who carried on his business until their deaths.

William was helped in growing his business by his brothers John and Thomas and his sister Ann's husband (William Harrison) may also have been involved. However, Henry took no part in William's business, being apprenticed to a Beverley printer. He was made a Freeman of Beverley on 6th April 1829, presumably when he came out of his indentures and by 1830, he was listed in a Beverley Poll book as being a Printer in Rochdale.

Perhaps Henry moved to Rochdale as he saw it as somewhere that would be sympathetic to his liberal political inclinations and it was certainly a city that was experiencing rapid growth hence providing greater business opportunities.

He soon entered into a partnership with Edward Thomas Jones and traded as Jones and Crosskill, Printers and Booksellers. They were probably most famous for printing the poster advertising Pablo Fanque's Circus Royal in 1843 which was eventually purchased by John Lennon and used by him as the basis for the song "Being for the benefit of Mr Kite!" on the Beatles album "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band".



It has always been part of our family “tradition” that Henry helped to start the Cooperative movement in Rochdale. Certainly, Rochdale is accepted as the birthplace of the successful Cooperative movement with the founding of the Rochdale Equitable Pioneers Society in 1844 which was the first really successful Coop whose “Principles” acted as a model for subsequent societies. However, I have found no evidence that Henry was involved in any way with its foundation.



Rochdale Pioneers Museum
31 Toad Lane, Rochdale
(by [Chemical Engineer](#))

1835 more than 250 Cooperative Societies were founded across the country, and the Rochdale Pioneers was not the first Cooperative society in Rochdale. In 1830 the Rochdale Friendly Society was formed. One of the six original founders was “John Turley, an immigrant from Beverley” according to W Henry Brown in his 1944 book “The Rochdale Pioneers: A Century of Co-operation”.

According to Brown the founders gathered their neighbours around a house in Toad Lane, No 15, and persuaded them to rent it and to sell groceries from the front room. This, in 1833 became the “Co-operative Shop”. At that time Henry Crosskill lived nearby so would have been one of the neighbours. A few years later he moved to Toad Lane itself.

John Tuting Turley was born in Beverley in 1800 but by 1830 he had moved to Rochdale, perhaps also recognising the potential for growing his business as a Painter. Could John and Henry have known each other and perhaps this is my family connection to the Co-op?

This early Coop store initially did very well and in 1834 employed “the wife of a journeyman painter” to assist at the shop counter. She may have been John’s wife, Jane, although as he was a master painter, it could have been one of his employees. Unfortunately, this early Co-op lasted for only a few years before running into problems caused by offering too much unsecured credit and by 1835 the shop’s doors were closed.

It always seemed likely to me that Henry and John knew each other and that Henry would therefore have been aware of the formation of the early Coop, so he may have been involved at least perhaps in the collection of books for their library. Later in life they both lived on Cheetham Street, close to each other.

Henry married his first wife Mary Ann Mortimer in 1831. They had 2 sons and 2 daughters although only Elizabeth (1834-1893) and William (1840-1909) survived more than a few years, indeed his wife died in 1847. Within a year he married another Mary – always confusing to family historians when two wives have the same name, but in this case even more so as her full name was Mary Morritt, the same name as Henry's mother!



The Toad Lane store in the 1920s

When I obtained a copy of the marriage certificate, imagine my pleasure to find that the witnesses to the wedding were John Tuting Turley and Jane Turley. So, the two families did know each other well and I'm happy to continue believing that Henry had a hand in establishing a Coop in Rochdale.

Henry and his second wife went on to have three children, Julia Morritt (1849-1873), Herbert Morritt (1858-1915) and George Henry (1860-1862). Herbert married in 1888 but didn't have any children of his own until he adopted Edith Harrison b.1904 from Beverley in about 1912. Edith's own mother had died when she was 2 years old and her father died in tragic circumstances in 1912 when she was only 8 years old. Edith's terrible start in life continued as Herbert died in 1915 when she was only 10 years old. Later she married and lived what seems to have been a happy life.

If anyone has any more information about the early Cooperative movement in Rochdale or about Edith Harrison or any of the Crosskills, I'd be very pleased to hear. I know that I'll be heading off to Carnegie as soon as I can to consult the latest information from Australia on the Tutings.

Stuart Crosskill

The Upper Deck

You can see a lot from the top of a double-deck bus - especially an East Yorkshire bus. One bright sunny, but cold day in late winter (2023) I decided to make a round trip from Hull via Withernsea and Hornsea. I travel the Hornsea-Hull section quite often, but the rest of the route much less so. I always travel upstairs if there is an option. Hull to Withernsea buses are frequent and always seem to be double deckers. The Withernsea-Hornsea route is usually a single decker, I think, but I made sure I was by the window in the raised rear part of the bus for the best view. Sometimes the Hull-Hornsea route uses a single decker bus. On this occasion, fortunately, it was a double decker.

Among the first noteworthy spectacles along Hedon Road is the large and apparently well-maintained cemetery. It seems to be an interesting place, and I must take a look one day.

Sometimes the top of one of the huge P&O ferries from the Hull-Rotterdam route can be seen parked outside King George Dock (they are too big to go inside). But not at this time of day, it seems.

When I used to cycle this route, which was quite often in my teenage years, there were three landmark spires between Hedon and the coast. They were attached to the churches at Keyingham, Ottringham, and Patrington. The spire at Keyingham was removed in 1969, apparently being unsafe, and the church is now almost invisible from the main road (except from a bus!). The dumpier spire at Ottringham remains



Keyingham church, minus spire

intact, as does that on the magnificent Decorated-Gothic church of St Patrick at Patrington. These spires were apparently once used as navigation aids for Humber shipping.

I left the bus at Patrington for a closer look at the church and a walk round the town. I call it a town rather than a village, but it is a small one; a very small one. It has suitably small supermarkets, and no overwhelming Tesco, presumably since there are insufficient customers. There is also a cosy-looking coffee shop, which was busy as I walked past, and a small variety of other shops. The road branching to the south-east, which was formerly my usual cycling route, leads to Skeffling, Easington, Kilnsea and Spurn. I wonder how car-less people living down that road manage without a bus service. I remember the red Connor & Graham double deckers that used to link those places with Hull, but they were withdrawn decades ago.

The next bus arrived at Patrington exactly on schedule and I was away again. Alighting in front of the old pier towers in Withernsea meant that I was still only a few steps away from the shopping street. Hornsea, in contrast, has most of its shops two or three bus stops from the sea front. Both sea fronts are protected by concrete promenades, sea walls, and huge imported boulders. Since erosion is rapidly removing the low cliffs at either side of these protected sections, especially to the south, it seems that each of these towns may, in years to come, exist on a southward projecting peninsula before finally, and inevitably, being lost to the sea.

The shopping street in Withernsea is dominated, I note, by its Tesco store, with an Aldi having sprung up impertinently nearby. There are still plenty of seaside-type shops though, on this short main street. Best of all is the “Golden Haddock”, serving superb fish and chips at what seemed to me (as a long-time resident in the south of England) a ridiculously low price. Since the sun was shining, I ate my lunch *al fresco* in the shelter of the nearby concert arena, trying to ignore the patiently waiting, occasionally screaming herring gulls. They were not brave enough to steal from my hand, which happens in some places, encouraged by idiot tourists who find amusement in feeding them. Next to the concert stage is a discrete memorial plaque to Pete Suddaby, originator of the Withstock Festivals of the 1990s. The festivals meant nothing to me (I was elsewhere), but I note that Suddaby is very much an East Riding name, which I can even link to my family tree through various marriages. My favourite Suddaby, because of his first name, is Sheriff Suddaby (1836-1902), a publican originally from Skeckling/Burstwick. There was just time to find my way, with difficulty, into the churchyard to look at the tall-towered, unfussy church of St Nicholas, built mainly of beach cobbles.

The little bus from Withernsea diverted to the trailer parks at Tunstall and Aldbrough, where a few passengers alighted with their shopping. It seems that these places might stay open year-round. The trailer park at Aldbrough is near the end of the dead-end road to the shore. In my youth this was a favourite half-day cycling destination from Hull, but I don't go to the shore there anymore – too depressing to watch the coast disappear almost as you watch.

I was probably not paying attention when I should have been looking out for a glimpse of the attractive little 1950s church at Hilston, built as a replacement for the original, bombed in 1941, or the nearby folly of 1750, known as Admiral Storr's Tower.

One of the coast's squat, cobble-built churches can be seen at Garton, between Tunstall and Aldbrough. St Michael's, Gothic and Grade-I listed, presumably also serves the village of Grimston, down the lane towards the sea. Grimston Garth, built by the Grimston family as a replacement for the medieval fortified manor house, which burnt down, is a Grade-I listed house, built in 1781-6. Unfortunately, it is hidden by trees and not visible from the coast road, even from a bus. A fine photograph of it was available on the internet when I looked, probably taken from a drone. It is a castellated neo-Gothic building, designed by John Carr, with an unusual triangular construction, and with a near-matching Grade-II listed stable block. Only the very visible gatehouse of 1812, also neo-Gothic and Grade-II listed, tells of the treasures beyond. The Garth must surely be at risk from disappearing into the sea quite soon, if it has not gone already. The building's origins as a country house are fully described on the internet. After being sold by the Grimston descendants, it eventually came into the possession of Reckitt & Sons (later Reckitt & Colman), from 1964 to 1972, who then sold it to Oliver Marriott. I don't know who lives there now, if anyone.

Then through Great Cowden, where one of my distant Westoby cousins still farms, I think, although I don't know how much of his land above the cliffs remains. Further on, the church at Mappleton looks as resplendent as always, dominating the tiny village. It would be less impressive without the spire, which was added during restoration in the 19th century, using stone salvaged from a shipwreck. I used to park in the little car park above the beach and walk on the sand. It remains one of the most attractive spots on the Holderness coast, despite (or perhaps because of) the huge concrete sea defences.

Not much time to spend in Hornsea on this occasion, where I changed buses, after a short wait, near the little shop in a former promenade shelter, south of the Marine Hotel.



Hornsea: Marine Hotel (2015)

There was just enough time to buy a warming coffee at the shelter-shop and briefly watch a pair of snow buntings as they flitted along the shore.

The Leven road out of Hornsea skirts the Mere, mostly obscured by trees. But there is a view across one open pasture, on which I noticed a lot of greylag geese (as also at the ponds around Tunstall trailer park). There were no greylags when I used to park my bike in the hedge and cross that field to identify the other waterfowl from the Mere's shore.

Evidence of ancient farming methods is clearly visible from the bus between Hornsea and Seaton, with many small, hedged pastures showing ridge and furrow patterns, traces of the strips ploughed by medieval farmers, which have never been levelled by modern ploughing. There are also some around Siggleshorne and Catwick, which are a little less clear, and I thought I saw traces of them at Brandesburton and Leven, but not sure.

I noticed that the Swan Inn at Seaton is still in business. I seem to remember it being rescued from closure as a local amenity venture around 2010. I watched its revival while making this journey regularly at that time. Some of the larger inns and pubs in Leven and Brandesburton were clearly once important refreshment stops along the main road from Beverley to the coast. Both of those villages are now bypassed of course, but not by the trusty bus.

The abandoned gravel pits at Brandesburton have long been popular with anglers. At least one of them has now been transformed into an attractive holiday resort, with chalets around the lake. The upper deck gives a fine view, unobtainable from a car.

The bus leaves the main road to pass through Long Riston village on the old main road. It is now a quiet backwater. Nobody boards or leaves the bus. Skirlaugh is relatively bustling: a large village with successful sports teams and a thriving local history group. Glancing to the left I noticed that the former Sun Inn still stood abandoned and wrapped in plastic (removed soon afterwards, when a “For Sale” sign appeared) after



Sun Inn, Skirlaugh, seen in 2019 after demolition was halted

being saved by public protest from demolition. Before the junction with the Ellerby road (my preferred route from Hull to Hornsea when I drove or cycled), areas of woodland can be seen far to the left. One of them hides the mansion known as Wood Hall, which was never visible from the road. It is part of the Burton Constable estate, I think. I remember visiting that eerie place as a small boy, when one of my uncles lived there with his family, as a tenant farmer.

We are quickly through by-passed Coniston (my first childhood home), and then Ganstead, split into east and west sections by the rebuilt main road. We pass between the estates of Longhill and Bilton Grange, quite new when I was a boy, and familiar to me as home to some of my school friends. Then come the familiar, often scruffy sights along Holderness Road, the stately Astoria former cinema, and the shopping area opposite, where I sometimes watched Hull Kingston Rovers and where greyhounds raced, at the old Craven Park. Then came glimpses of the huge former Crown pub (I’m sure I listened to a rock and roll band there once), now an angling-goods centre, the pub converted from a bank with neo-classical architecture, the old windmill that once belonged to Joseph Rank, and eventually the Victorian East Hull swimming baths, now apparently abandoned, which we visited weekly from school in the summer term. A grand day out. Next time I can sit on the other side of each bus for a different view of the landscape.

Geoff Bateman

Annual General Meeting

EAST YORKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Minutes of the 49th Annual General Meeting

Held at the Carnegie Heritage Centre, Anlaby Road, Hull - 8th March 2026

Present – 15 members

The meeting was opened by the President, Margaret Oliver at 11.30am

President's Opening Remarks (Margaret Oliver)

It hardly seems any time at all since I stood here last year to officiate at the 2025 AGM. Over the last twelve months, I suspect not a great deal has changed in the general disinclination of people to join family history societies. It is a great shame that this great wealth of knowledge and expertise is not being used as it could. However, perhaps we should contrast that with the advances that are happening in our discipline and the enthusiasm with which family historians are embracing them. Our personal obsession with our ancestry is shared by millions of like minds, and the study of family history itself is certainly not in decline. With that in mind, I look forward to the coming year with excitement for the advantages that new technologies might bring, and I hope that we, as a society, can embrace some of them. This last year saw the Society hold its first zoom meeting, and while we may have to investigate and evaluate this and other online possibilities it is good to have a toe in the water.

You will hear about the work of the Society from other reports today. The wheels keep turning out of sight, people generously give their time and expertise for the good of the Society and its membership. I will not mention them individually. Some will present reports today, others will stay in the background, but all are equally appreciated and valued for the work they do. They know who they are and I thank you all for your support and loyalty for the EYFHS. It is true to say that we simply couldn't manage without you. We are very fortunate that these people are prepared to do what they do, but we are always looking for more volunteers to ease the burden. If you think you can help, particularly with modern technologies, please do get in touch. The future of the Society is always forefront in our minds, and it is possible that your contribution could make all the difference.

Apologies for Absence

Hannah Stamp, Janet Shaw, Peter Lowden

Minutes of the 46th Annual General Meeting held on 9th March 2025

There were no amendments, and the minutes were passed unanimously.

Matters arising from these minutes

With reference to Tom Bangs comment with the proposal to close the society. It was decided at a committee meeting held on 14th April 2025 that at this present time we would carry on as normal though this will always be discussed in future committee meetings.

Society Report in lieu of a Chairman (Judi Bangs)

Sadly, once again the Society is without a chairman, but between all the committee members we are managing to cope.

We still have a healthy bank balance, money is coming in from the sale of our publication, but this has dropped this year.

We must thank all those members that run our Help Desks, also our web master Sue Turner as she arranged the changeover to Genfair through which we now sell our publications. This was an onerous task working out weights and costs etc. Sadly, Edwina Bentley had to relinquish the editorship of the Banyan Tree and regrettably died soon afterwards. We thank Chris Brigham for stepping in and taking on this difficult task.

We only attended one outside event this year, the Local History Book Fair at Hull Minster. It was sad to lose the Family History Fair at York, but these seem to be becoming a thing of the past. People want everything online.

Our quarterly meetings are well attended, although we have only managed to present one on zoom.

Charlie and Judith made a presentation at the Archives on zoom promoting the Society, which seemed to go very well.

Secretary's Report (Barbara Watkinson)

Since our last AGM held in March 2025, we have had five committee meetings when the minutes have been recorded as true.

Any correspondence or emails have been forwarded to the relevant committee member or discussed at a meeting.

We experimented with a zoom meeting in September, which had good results. We have also started to write up a description of the talks we do at our Carnegie meetings, and these are published in the Banyan Tree.

I would like to thank Chris Brigham for taking on the role of editor of the Banyan Tree – along with Alan they do a wonderful job, and I have received emails from members saying how impressed they are with the new editions.

Again, let's hope with the support of our members, the Society will continue.

Treasurer's Report (Peter Gover)

I hope you all have a copy of the 2025 accounts. As you can see on the 2025 accounts we made a deficit again. The publications costs are higher as we are expanding the publications to PDF versions, thanks to Judi Bangs, Chris & Alan Brigham our hardworking scanning team, they are making them available on Genfair for purchased downloads. Overall, our funds are quite healthy.

I would also like to extend my thanks to our webmaster Sue Turner, publication officer Judi Bangs and our new editor Chris Brigham, all are doing a tremendous job.

So, if there are any questions I will endeavour to answer satisfactorily.

No questions were asked.

Other Reports

Membership Report

Membership was down from 471 in 2024 to 418 in 2025 – a decrease of 11.2%

New members were down from 23 in 2024 to 15 in 2025 – a decrease of 34.8%.

Member distribution was as follows:

HU postcode 106 which is 25.35%	(26.54% in 2024)
YO postcode 58 which is 13.88%	(13.16% in 2024)
Rest of UK 217 which is 51.92 %	(51.38% in 2024)
Overseas 37 which is 8.85 %	(8.92% in 2024)

New Members distribution:

HU postcode 1	(6.66 %)	(43.48% in 2024)
YO postcode 4	(26.67 %)	(8.69% in 2024)
Rest of UK 7	(46.67%)	(43.48% in 2024)
Overseas 3	(20.00%)	(4.35% in 2024)

Comparison Tables for the last six years:

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Members	589	584	558	495	471	418
Inc/Decrease	-47	-5	-26	-63	-24	-53
% Change	-7.4 %	-0.8%	-4.5%	-11.3%	-4.9%	-11.2%

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
New Members	36	40	33	26	23	15
Inc/Decrease	+7	+4	-7	-7	-3	-8
% Inc/Decrease	+24.1 %	+11.1 %	-17.5 %	-21.2 %	-11.5 %	-34.8%

A digital subscription was introduced in 2023 and in 2025, 88 members (21.1%) opted for this – 73 UK and 15 overseas.

The Gift Aid claim for 2025 was £865.21.

Publications Report (Judi Bangs)

Since the last AGM we have published four Drypool St Peter MI books, this was from information that had been found from an old source. We have nearly completed recording monumental inscriptions in our area, we are slowly working on Woodland’s cemetery in Scarborough, this may take us some while as numbers of those recording is five. The only other cemetery we know that requires doing is Octon crematorium.

We only attended the Local History Book Fair at Hull Minster where we sold more of our second handbooks than our own publications.

In June, we changed over to using Genfair from our books being ordered through our website, we were hoping this would increase the number of orders, but we only had 99 compared to 154 which I sent out the previous year, also the amount of money we took has dropped.

Now, Chris, Alan and I are busy converting our publications into PDF versions which is a slow process as the original master copies are over 35 years old and were sellotaped together.

Monumental Inscriptions (Dave Mount)

Last year we started to record the stones in Woodland's cemetery, Scarborough and we hope to continue this year recording stones in the same cemetery.

I would like to thank all those that have taken part in this project, without your help working as a team we would not have achieved what we have done so far.

So, thanks to all.

Election of officers

Nomination for chairman was put to the vote, no one came forward. Therefore, the role is now vacant.

Barbara Watkinson was nominated as Secretary by Judi Bangs and seconded by Janet Bielby. This was put to the vote and passed unanimously.

Peter Glover was nominated as Treasurer by Tom Bangs and seconded by Alan Brigham. This was put to the vote and passed unanimously.

Election of committee

The following stood for election –

Chris Brigham, John Ferguson, Dave Mount, Janet Shaw, Judith Bangs, Janet Bielby, Sandra Cradock, Charles Cradock, Hannah Stamp, Roger Watkinson. Liz Shepherd to be an observer from Carnegie. Alan Brigham proposed they are all to be elected and was seconded by Tom Bangs.

This was put to the vote which was passed unanimously.

Election/Appointment of Examiner of Accounts

Chris Brigham proposed the continued appointment of Nigel Coyle & Co. This was seconded by Judi Bangs.

This was put to the vote which was passed unanimously.

Previously Notified business

None.

Any other business

Tom Bangs wanted to express his thanks to the committee for all the work that they have done.

The meeting closed at 12:00.

Talk to Me, Please!!!



When I send out my messages to members, I still get a lot of 'Recipient Not Found' messages bouncing back to my email inbox. That makes it so much more difficult to contact you with important news and reminders.

It is particularly important that e-members keep their email address up to date as that is how your Banyan Tree gets delivered. Your email address can also help you gain instant access to the Members Area of the web site should you forget, or do not know, your password. More and more FREE goodies are appearing there all of the time – including lots of stuff that non-members have to pay for. All (existing) back issues of The Banyan Tree are also available for members to download too.

Remember that **we keep all of your personal data private**. If you do receive an email from us it will usually be sent by Janet, our Membership Secretary [membsec@eyfhs.org.uk], Alan [alan@eyfhs.org.uk], who sends out any important news and reminders, or Chris [editor@eyfhs.org], who deals with anything related to The Banyan Tree.

Please send your email address to Janet [membsec@eyfhs.org.uk] now

Alan Brigham

Member's Feedback

Hello Chris,

I just wanted to say how much I've enjoyed reading the latest BT! So much to read, I've had to have several goes at it.

Firstly, thanks to Pete Lowden for his very thoughtful article about Edwina and her editorship of the BT. Also, Peter Holford's piece about his family connection to the R39 airship disaster which rang a bell with me. My father, who would have been 18 in 1921, was working as a clerk in an office in Hull's "old town" when he heard about the disaster of the airship coming down over the Humber. He and many others rushed down to the pier. I guess it was late afternoon, otherwise, I suppose he would not have been allowed to leave the office.

And yet another article which brought back memories - The Long Riston MIs. When I lived in New Ellerby my next-door neighbour was a Mr Norman Carlill, a great neighbour and a lovely man, who, I believe, was a son of the Richard Carlill mentioned in this article.

I think that reading the mag. has spurred me on to doing some long-needed sorting out of my family history paperwork, during which (and I've only just started) I have found an original copy of the Hull Rockingham newspaper for Yorkshire & Lincolnshire dated 21st February 1835. I have scoured every page and column of it but I cannot find any reference to an ancestor of mine, so I wonder, would any member like to have this paper? There is a list of Death Notices and Marriages and lots of shipping news.

Finally, I have found a report that I wrote for the 40th anniversary of the EYFHS which mentions several of the original members and some of my recollections of outings and, whilst Programme Secy, of having to sidle shiftily around the room after a less-than-engrossing talk, apologising for a rather tedious speaker. Still, some members had a good nap!

I was a founder member of EYFHS and have so many happy memories of friends, meetings, outings, MI sessions and so on, and rather less appealing, of having to sit on a table AND share it with another member as all the seats were taken! Good Old Days!

Valerie Reeves

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
7303	Heather Hembrey	Manassas, Virginia, USA
7304	Richard Midforth	Putney, London
7305	Lynn Boyle	Horsforth, Leeds, West Yorkshire
7306	Anne-Marie Hutchinson	Anlaby, Hull, East Yorkshire
7307	Noreen Robinson	Hull, East Yorkshire
7308	Claire Cunningham	West Bergholt, Colchester, Essex
7309	Amanda Hinchley	Saltburn-by-the-Sea, North Yorkshire

Janet Shaw

In the News

2nd June 1905

Abraham Featherby, a farmer, died on Wednesday from injuries sustained by a kick from a horse. At the inquest, the evidence showed that on Monday the deceased was taking the girth off a young horse when the animal kicked out and caught deceased in the stomach. The foreman was with him and asked if he was much hurt. He replied, "No, but I shall be stiff in the morning." And unfortunately, he was.

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.

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