

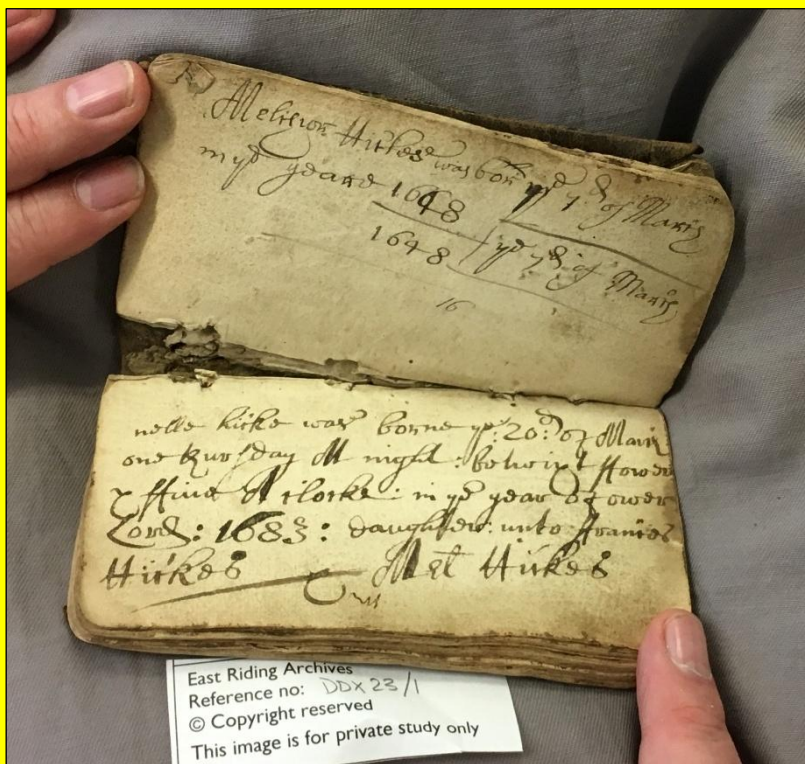
The Banyan Tree

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Feature Story Melchior Hickes Notebook

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From the Editor

Welcome to the August edition of The Banyan Tree, I hope you enjoy reading it. Please tell me if you have any thoughts about the magazine, as I would really appreciate your feedback.

Next year we will be holding a celebration of 50 years as the East Yorkshire Family History Society.

We are hoping to make a big splash with a display of the history of the Society at the Carnegie Heritage Centre. As such, we are looking for any pictures, light-hearted stories or memories of any events that we have held over those 50 years at Beverley, Bridlington, Scarborough and Hull, which we can exhibit. Do you have any pictures of M.I gatherings, family history fairs, Christmas social events, walkabouts, venues, talks, or any of our coach trips? Please delve into your attics and albums and send anything you come across to me. Do not worry about the condition of your pictures or cuttings because Alan can fix it. Please only send copies if you can because we cannot return any originals. I really look forward to seeing what you all come up with to make this a fantastic event.

Chris Brigham
editor@eyfhs.org.uk

President's Reflections

Do you have a favourite ancestor? I am sure you do, maybe a few favourites. I admire all my ancestors for surviving much harder times than we are living through. Even though modern life can be tough, it is all relative in a way. The poverty and hardships of earlier times seem dreadful, but our ancestors had no concept of the luxuries their descendants would enjoy. And by luxuries, I mean the things most of us now take for granted, comfortable homes, food on the table and health care for a start. So yes, my ancestors have my respect even if they don't all inspire my imagination.

There is one lady who stands out for me, for no other reason than she has a wonderfully alliterative name. I know nothing about her apart from the usual landmarks of life – baptism, marriage, children and burial. Love Laverence, my 7 X Great Grandmother, was baptised at Churston Ferrers (and as a lifelong Agatha Christie fan this has significance to me as the location of Agatha's home,



Churston Ferrers Church
Ruth Sharvill / CC BY-SA 2.0

Greenway, and as the 'C' in The ABC Murders) on 6 Aug 1689. In the previous November, Prince William of Orange (Later King William III and the subject of Hull's own King Billy statue) led his army past the same church, having landed at Brixham, just down the road. A momentous moment in British history remembered as The Glorious Revolution. Her mother, also Love (nee Hanever) may well have been

one of the villagers who turned out to see the future king ride past, and just may have been newly pregnant at the time, so it is possible that Love Laverence was there on this occasion too! Love married at Stoke Damerel in 1716, aged around 27, to John Parris. I have only identified two children of this marriage, both sons, and sadly the younger son John died at five months old.

Their marriage lasted 42 years until John's death in 1757, aged 74. Love survived her husband by eight years, and in 1766 she joined him in the parish burial ground, aged 77. I have no evidence of John's occupation, but most of my Devon ancestors were fishermen, so I will go with that as a possibility until I know better. Whatever he did to support his small family I don't suppose life was easy, but they both lived to a good age for their time. Love witnessed the beginning of the Kingdom of Great Britain in 1707, the first ever Prime Minister in 1721, the publication of Samuel Johnson's Dictionary of the English Language in 1755 and the first gothic horror novel, Horace Walpole's 'The Castle of Otranto', published in 1764. She lived in the reigns of William & Mary, Queen Anne, George I, George II and George III. I suspect none of these things had a significant impact on her life. She was born, had her children and died in the same place, but she married about 30 miles away. Did she leave home to go into service and met and married her husband there? Did he work in the same place? I shall never know, but I am pleased that Love still has a little mystery to intrigue her descendant!

Margaret Oliver

Newspaper Transcription

The Yorkshire Evening Post July 1953

100 years old this month.

MR. ISAAC SANDERSON, of Burniston, near Scarborough, who will be 100 years old on July 30, is here seen doing a spot of gardening. The hedge seen in the picture has been kept in perfect condition by Mr. Sanderson for the past 12 years.



The original version of this picture was supplied by Jennifer Lazenby as a newspaper cutting.

It has been enhanced and colourised by us to show what can be achieved using Chat GTP AI.

Starting work on a farm at the age of 11, he drew the handsome wage of £4 a year plus his keep. He stayed a second year for £5, and later on, at a more mature age, worked among sheep. In his time, he has clipped well over 40,000 sheep and used to get 1½d. for each clipping.

When working with horses, early rising was the order of the day. His breakfast time was 5.40 for a 6 a.m. start. His wage was then 18s. One winter he worked on the roads, and broke 210 tons of stones at a payment of a shilling a ton.

Jennifer Lazenby

Members Helpdesk

The following has been received by Janet, our help desk co-ordinator.



It was so lovely to receive your email. Indeed, you were instrumental in assisting in my journey of discovery regarding the Pearce girls and my father Walter Kendal Pearce (aka Miller), now known to be Walter Kendal Hodgson through DNA (but never in official documents). Emily Pearce (nee Pickett) was definitely his mother, and the Pearce girls and boys are his siblings, either half or full. Could we put the picture [see above] of the Pearce girls into the Banyan Tree and ask for the assistance of readers to see if anyone can pinpoint where these folk hail from.

You were kind enough to pass my details onto Pete Dixie, for which I remain eternally grateful, as I think both of us have been able to glean information and I even passed his details (with permission) onto my cousin in Japan (Elisabeth). I have no idea whether they connected or not, but her grandmother is Mary Agnes.

Attached is the photo - Emily is the smallest in the photo (Pete's great grandmother) and my grandmother and I am assuming the male is perhaps David Dixie which leaves the remaining Pearce girls but in what order? We are now looking to identify Mary Agnes 1892, Ida Nelson 1895, Harriett 1896, Dorothy 1899, Esther 1903 and Florence 1905.

The 2021 census was worth waiting for as I found evidence of Florence and Walter appearing together with Emily listed as a housekeeper for *Archibald Kendall Hodgson*. This ties in to Walter Kendal's death certificate which substituted Miller instead of Hodgson for the name of the father.

Thank you again for reaching out, I greatly appreciated the response and the chance to reconnect and lovely to know my subscription is up to date for the rest of the year. I love receiving this and reading all the stories.

Karen Milford Vicary

Editor's note: If you can help Karen please contact the editor and I will forward any responses on to her or publish them in a future Banyan Tree.

Interesting Headstone



Hedon Road Cemetery

The stone originally looked like the picture, but when the Society recorded the stone, it was just the lower part of the legs that remained.

It was said the mother took a photo of her son dressed in his school uniform to the stone mason and asked him to carve a headstone from the photo. His mother attended the grave every day.

Policemen who patrolled in the cemetery said that the boys' eyes seemed to follow them. After the death of the mother on 26th April 1952 the grave was tended and the stone kept clean, but no-one was ever seen at the grave.

Treasured memories of/our dear boy/ALFRED MIDDLETON/passed away/July 30th 1933/aged 12 years/Watching and waiting/Mama's bairn.

Alfred died of meningitis, son of Thomas Alfred Middleton.

Judith Bangs

Spotlight on Aughton

Aughton is a small, peaceful village, in the East Riding of Yorkshire. It is located about 7 miles northwest of Howden and 9 miles southwest of Pocklington, and is notable for All Saints' Church, a historic church associated with Robert Aske, a leader of the Pilgrimage of Grace in 1536. It lies west of the B1228 road and east of the River Derwent.



Image Source: Mark Holinshed, *The Pilgrimage of Grace*
<https://www.henryviiithereign.co.uk/the-pilgrimage-of-grace.html>

Aughton was a settlement in the Domesday Book, in the Hundred of Cave and the county of Yorkshire. It had a recorded population of 10 households in 1086, putting it in the smallest 40% of settlements recorded in the Domesday Book.

Aughton was formerly a parish in its own right, situated in the Wapentake of Harthill (Holme Beacon division), but is now incorporated in the neighbouring parish of Ellerton, both villages being part of the historical East Riding of Yorkshire.

Before the 1832 parish boundary changes, Aughton included the sub-parishes and localities of Aughton Ruddings, East Cottingwith and Laytham. In 1931 the parish had a population of 100. On 1 April 1935 the parish was abolished to form Ellerton.

The Pickerings of Killington came into possession of Ellerton in the late 1200s. In 1331 Sir Thomas Pickering purchased 8 acres of meadow in Aughton, and by 1385

Sir James Pickering was holding 2 messuages, 160 acres of land and 4 acres of meadow in in the same parish. A cutting in the land lying between the parishes of Ellerton and Aughton and the embankment to the south are still known today as Pickering Clough and Pickering Bank respectively.

All Saints Church, Aughton is located at the far end of the village and overlooks vast expanses of the floodplains of the River Derwent. Tucked away in the village, it can only be accessed on foot through a small gate and field adjacent to Aughton Hall. An historic church, famous for its association with Robert Aske, leader of the insurgents in the Pilgrimage of Grace, October 1536. Aske was executed for treason on 12 July 1537. The church displays a mixture of architectural designs, as it has been altered throughout the years, but is noted especially for its Norman arch between the chancel and nave. On the chancel floor a well-preserved ancient brass of a knight in 15th century plate armour and his lady can be found, although much of the lady is now missing. Standing in the churchyard and looking up at the tower, (which was rebuilt by Christopher Aske sometime after



1536), a shield with six quartering's can be seen engraved on the outside wall, now badly weathered but it offers the following inscription in old French text: "Christofer le second filz de Robert Ask chr oblier ne doy, Ao Di 1536." This literally translates as: "Christopher, the second son of Robert Aske, chevalier, ought not to forget the year of our Lord 1536." Also on the tower is a benchmark of the time and carved, in sunk relief, a newt or salamander otherwise known in Old English as an Ask.

The church was designated in 1966 as a Grade I listed building and is now recorded in the National Heritage List for England, maintained by Historic England.

To the north of the church are the surviving earthworks, now restored, of a motte-and-bailey castle, that has been scheduled under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 as an ancient monument. It was, most likely built in the years following the Norman Conquest to guard the approaches to York. In the 19th century, the adjoining bailey was levelled and landscaped to make way for the construction of Aughton Hall and its gardens, removing in the process any visible trace of ancient features.

Chris Brigham

Aughton 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



Image: 1910 map of Aughton (East Riding Archives OS/4/207/10-11)

Where is Aughton?

Aughton is a village and former civil parish, now in the parish of Ellerton.

To access information from the records listed below, you can visit the East Riding Archives online catalogue: www.eastriding.gov.uk/calmview

Contact us for further information on accessing the records by phone, email or letter.

Parish records

Church of England records for Aughton All Saints Church are held at the Borthwick Institute for Archives, University of York. The collection reference is PR/AUG Parish records of Aughton with East Cottingwith. 1610-2020. Please consult the Borthwick Institute regarding these parish records.

The East Riding Archives do hold microfilm copies of the Bishop's Transcripts (originals held at the Borthwick Institute) for Aughton, reference MF7/18. These cover the years 1600, 1602-1603, 1605, 1607-1608, 1626, 1628, 1632-1633, 1635-1639, 1679, 1683, 1685-1689, 1661-1671, 1691-1704, 1706-1707, 1709-1785, 1787-1855, 1860, 1862-1865.



Image: All Saints Church, Aughton. Photo from East Riding and Yorkshire Churches photograph album, undated. (East Riding Archives DDX2126/1/1)

Records of other denominations:

The Howden Hailgate Wesleyan Methodist Circuit records (ref. EMG/65-124) collection includes entries relating to Aughton, 1837-1883. Also see EMG/106: Letters from the Wesleyan Chapel Committee concerning the trusts at Aughton, Ellerton and Sandholme chapels, 1872-1874.

Poor Law Union:

Aughton was part of the Howden Poor Law Union. The collection (ref. PUH) covers 1837-1930, although there is minimal information relating to individuals. Records in this collection mostly contain Board of Guardian minutes and ledgers.

The Howden Guardians Committee collection (ref. PGH) also includes records relating to the Howden Poor Law Union which may mention Aughton individuals:

register of births 1914-1948, register of deaths 1914-1948, inmates' property registers 1925-1947.

Search PUH* and PGH* on the Archives Catalogue to see the full list.

*E. Riding
Com. 20/11* The Examination of Elizabeth Bilton
of Oughton Widow taken before me the
Justice of Peace for the East Riding this twentieth
of July 1716.

This Examinant saith that on or
about the 18th of April 1716, about 12. on the night
this Examinant lay in bed in her own house
at Oughton aforesaid. One Richard Lolly of the same
town husbandman did come into her house, the
doors being unlocked, and to her bed side, at which
the said Elizabeth was affrighted, and the said Rich
Lolly was in drink and then did solicit to have
carnal knowledge of her body, but at that time
he did not know her.

This Examinant further saith that about
Christmas following, in some of the nights then
the said Rich Lolly came to her house, opened her
doors, & to her bed side, upon which she asked, who was
there, and the said Rich answered, None that will
hurt you, and he solicited her to have carnal
knowledge of her body, on which she arose out
of her bed, and pulled on a Petticoat and went out
of her lodging room into the forehouse, and he
threw her on the floor of it, and entered the
body of this Examinant once that night, & then
went for her.

This Examinant further saith that on An-
=dromas night last, the said Rich Lolly came to
her house about night & to her bed side, & with
his cloaks on, he came to bed to her, and then
entered her body and had carnal knowledge of her
body whereby this Examinant is now big with child. & she
further saith, that no other Person besides the said
Rich Lolly since her husband's death has had any

Left: The Bastardy
Examination of
Elizabeth Bilton of
Oughton [Aughton]
widow (Richard Lolly
of Oughton [Aughton]
husbandman), 1716
(East Riding Archives
QSF/34/D/3)

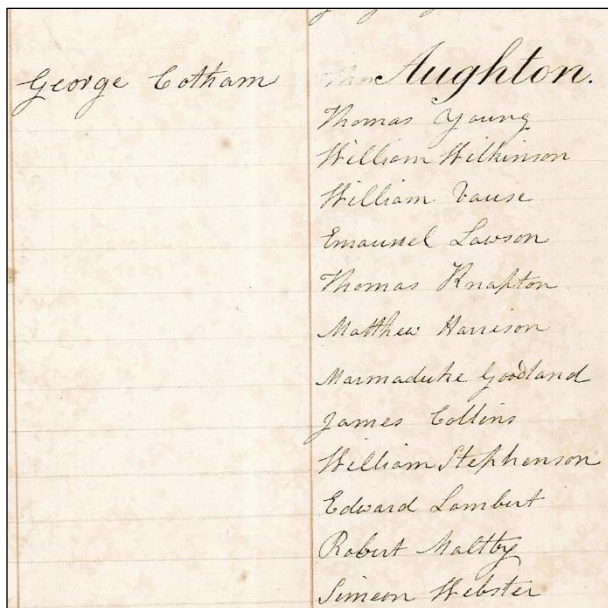
Quarter Sessions, Settlement, Licensing and Policing

Bastardy examinations,
Indictments,
Convictions, Abstract
of Inquests, Removal
Orders, Recognizances
at the Quarter
Sessions, 1700s-1800s
(ref. QSF)

Jury lists (ref. QSJ)

Bastardy recognizances and removal orders (ref. QSU)

Settlement examinations and certificates relating to Aughton (ref. PC7)



Left: 'A List of Names of Special Constables within the Division of Holme Beacon' volume - Third Section: Aughton township, 1831 (East Riding Archives QAP/8/20 page 14)

East Riding Constabulary record book of appointments entry relating to Joseph Hemmingway, 1858 (ref. QAP/9/1 page 133)

Register of recognizances on granting licences to keep inns or victualling houses,

entries relating to Holme Beacon Division, 1820s (ref. QDT/1/1)

Alehouse recognizances, 1820s (ref. QDT/2/10)

List of persons licensed to sell ale for Holme and Howden Divisions, 1750s-1790s (ref. QDT/2/12)

Holme Beacon Petty Sessional Division records. 1915-1976 (ref. PSHB) includes court registers 1915-1968, juvenile court registers 1934-1967, register of licences to sell intoxicating liquor 1946-1976, register of cinematographic licences 1931-1955, remitted fees book 1887-1957.

Education:

East Cottingwith School Board records (ref. SB10)

East Cottingwith School records collection (ref.SL33) includes log books 1878-1967, admission registers 1878-1967.

Residences and Property

Land tax assessments for Holme Beacon, includes the parish of Aughton, 1929-1949 (ref. LTA/4)

Electoral registers (ref. EL)

Valuation Book relating to Aughton, Laytham and Harlthorpe, c.1910 (ref. NV1/9)

Valuation Book relating to Aughton, Harlthorpe, Laytham, Lund and Middleton, c.1910 (ref. NV1/58)

The East Riding Register of Deeds 1708-1974 is particularly useful for freehold property transactions and wills (ref. RDB)

Sales particulars relating to Wentsford House, Aughton, 2005 (ref. SP/2/8) and Particulars of sale relating to the Aughton and Ellerton estates, 1947 (ref. DDX225/4)

Other Records:

Records of Ellerton and Aughton Parish Council, 1997-2019 (ref. PC116)

Wilkinson family of Aughton records, 1777-2017 (ref. DDX2187)

Bridges family, deeds and family papers relating to estates in Ellerton and Aughton, 1658-1887 (ref. DDX73)

Copy tithe maps relating to Township of Spaldington parishes of Bubwith and Aughton, 1876 (ref. DDX215/28)

'They Went West Three: the founding of a family in Canada' relating to Young family from Aughton, 1986 (ref. DDX406/1)

Charities accounts for Aughton (ref. NCH/7)

Vehicle registrations (ref. CVR)

If you search by place and personal name in the East Riding Archives online catalogue it will pick up deeds, wills, and other items not noted above.

Ancestry.co.uk, FindMyPast other genealogical sites can be accessed to expand and complement the above sources. Printed and indexed publications of Yorkshire societies etc and a selection of directories 1823-1937 are readily available at the East Riding Archives.

We are more than happy to assist with your enquiries, so please do get in touch!

Hannah Stamp

Hull meeting March 2026

After having the society AGM in the morning, the afternoon was the famous Hull speaker, Paul Schofield – known for his wonderful talks & also his guided tours around Hull.

There was a good audience gathered at the Carnegie library to hear his talk; Hulls Myths, Legends, Stories & Witches.

He told us of the background for the talk which started in February 2025 when the central library held an event known as ‘Wizarding Night’. He mentioned the Harry Potter link – the train from Hull to Kings Cross & platform 9 ¾. There is a statue of J K Rowling at Kings Cross station – Paragon Station was Philip Larkin.

The talk began at the Land of Green Ginger in the old town – but why was it called that? It’s a mystery. Could it have been due to the sale or storage of the spice ginger in the Middle Ages? Or was it due to a Dutch family called Lindegreen (meaning green lime tree) in the early 19th century – the modern name may be a corruption of Lindegreen Jonger. Or maybe, the corruption of Landgrave Grange meaning a walk or pathway leading to the home of the Landgave family – no one knows! But it does have a blue plaque being one of the oldest street names in the country.

But it is often mentioned in the arts & media. Winifred Holtby wrote the novel ‘The Land of Green Ginger’ in 1927. Alan Plater wrote a play for today in 1973 ‘Land of Green Ginger’ – I can remember watching this on TV a few years ago and it is brilliant – to see Hull how it was back then – shame it couldn’t be reshownd! Even The Orb on their 2004 album Bicycles & Tricycles has a track ‘The Land of Green Ginger’. Hull trains in 2022 named one of their class 802 Paragon trains after the street.



Also situated in the Land of Green Ginger is the wonderful magic address ‘Second Star on the Right and Straight on ‘til morning’ from Peter Pan.



It was built in 1850 as offices by J Brown, a handsome Victoria red brick building which has now been converted into luxury grade II apartments.

Land of Green Ginger is often used in films – the George Hotel renamed the Prince of Wales features in *Enola Holmes 2*.

Another famous feature of the Land of Green Ginger is the smallest window in the George Hotel. It was said that a porter would sit in the room at the back waiting for any stagecoach that may need attention. But as a child I was told it was a look out for the coming of the Press Gang – maybe for both – another mystery. Paul mentioned that he often saw a lot of people reading the blue plaque – but unable to find the window!



It could also be a myth that the oldest pub in Hull is the Old Black Boy down High Street – it does appear in the 1729 directory but the building dates to 1336, when it was opened as a tenement and has had many other uses over time; from a coffee house to a brothel! It was said that it may have got its name from a slave market down High Street, which is untrue.

Yet another myth is that there are tunnels under the old town – there are none. The area floods so how could there be tunnels and the cellars of the buildings often flood. However, there may have been smugglers tunnels from High Street to the River Hull.

The Royal Station Hotel was originally known at the Station Hotel, an architectural masterpiece with deep historical roots. It proudly stands as a central landmark in the city. After a visit from Queen Victoria in 1854, it was renamed the Royal Hotel, forever marking its regal status.

Paul mentioned another myth, that of Harry Ogle or Harry Oglesby who was allegedly imprisoned in the Castle at Hull but escaped through a small window that left him with a gash to his throat. As he ran down the River Hull the blood turned the waters red till he could bleed no more. Some eyewitnesses claim he can be seen on occasion walking and stalking children along the riverbank.

The Olde White Hart is another famous pub in the old town that faces a courtyard between Silver Street and Bowlalley Lane. It dates from 1660 as a house and a public house from the mid 1770's. The mystery surrounds the skull now behind the bar. Some say it was a murdered boy, or a murdered pregnant servant girl. It

was in October 1937 when workers, who were in the roof, discovered a skull and Thomas Sheppard, the curator of Hull Museums, examined it and said that it appeared to be modern, not an ancient relic. It was later said that it was a fraud – the jawbone of a child aged about 5 and a jawbone of a lady aged 30, both attached to a female skull. It has been given the name of Freda.



In the Market Place is the statue of King Billy or William of Orange. It was created in 1734 by Peter Scheemakers, and it was often said that the sculptor committed suicide; hence why the statue of King Billy sat on a horse doesn't have stirrups. He is dressed as a Roman soldier, and stirrups were not invented at that time. The statue is the subject of another myth, that at the stroke of midnight he goes across the road to the King William pub for a drink. He then

uses the toilet the statue are situated on and gets back onto the horse. These toilets are also famous in Hull for having cisterns filled with water and goldfish. It all sounds bizarre, but they do feature in several books and visitors' guides!



Paul then took us into Whitefriargate, where one side is owned by Hull Trinity House Charity. The Neptune Inn, which is above where Boots once traded, was built 1794-97 and its original planned role was as Hull's leading inn. Between 1815-1912 it was Hull's Custom House. It was here that Lewis Carrolls grandfather worked as a collector of dues.

Paul then spoke about J R R Tolkien who in 1917 was admitted to Brooklands Officer Hospital, which was situated opposite Hull University. A blue plaque can be seen on the building. He spent 18 months in Hull and East Yorkshire. There is also the Tolkien triangle, this being many of the villages he visited whilst staying in the area – places like Hornsea, Withernsea, Roos and Spurn Point, with the final part of the triangle being Hull – a lot of these places inspired his works.

Even the Frankenstein monster has connections in Beverley, as Highgate was where Mary Wollstonecraft lived as a child, her daughter being Mary Shelley. There is a green plaque on her childhood home.

Moby Dick is another Hull connection.

Herman Melville got the inspiration for his 1851 novel from East Yorkshire; a large bull sperm whale was breached at Tunstall in 1825 and aroused a great deal of public



interest. The whale was claimed by Sir Clifford Constable of Burton Constable Hall, where the skeleton remains and can still be seen today.

Paul also told us about a mysterious creature with eyes the size of potholes that fill you with terror and lurks in the depths of the Humber Estuary. About 90 years ago a group of fishermen caught a glimpse of the Humber Monster. In 1934 it rivalled the Loch Ness monster, when the story became a county wide sensation. It was jet black with a head shaped like an ostrich & eyes the size of potholes. Another description said the head was the size of an elephant, it had six humps and flashing eyes. Though there were a lot of descriptions it was agreed that it was bigger than a seal or porpoise. Does it still live in the murky water of the Humber? Who knows!!!



In the Maritime Museum is the mummified mermaid corpse of an aquatic curio that was eventually revealed as a fake. It is 2 ft tall and covered in desiccated brown, grey skin and at one point believed to date back to the 17th or early 18th century. In the 1930`s it was X-rayed and found to be made from the body of a fish and head of a monkey, held together with a system of wires. In the 16th & 17th century British sailors would return from trips to Indonesia and Malaysia with tales of beautiful half woman, half fish creatures and thus the fascination of mermaids grew.



Many fake corpses such as the Hull Mermaid were created to satisfy popular demand.

It was said that Beverley had witches. The road from North Bar to Westwood Gate was known as Cockstulpit Lane or Ducking Stool Lane. The ducking stool was used here to punish women who were “too free dames, Saucy scolding queans” suspected witches and others. In the early 1600s Hull was hit by the plague which caused 200 deaths. This was blamed on witchcraft and in September 1904 Baron John Saville arrived in the town to hold a session of gaol delivery. Five locals were arrested and hanged for practising magic. On 19th July 1692, five women were hanged in Salem, MA, USA accused of witchcraft. One of these being Elizabeth Jackson born in High Hunsley, just 12 miles from Hull, who had emigrated to North America in 1638 with her parents.



The talk ended with a photo of the mural on Clumber Street showcasing some of Hulls iconic legends. People like Mick Ronson, Roland Gift, Everything but the Girl, Mandy & the Girlfriends, Housemartins and many more. It also shows Paul Jackson who sadly died recently and was the owner of the Adelphi Club where many of these legends played.

The society thanked Paul for his interesting and informative talk – I feel sure we all learnt something new from the talk. A question-and-answer section followed. Conversations continued by all whilst enjoying a welcome cup of tea or coffee and a couple of biscuits.

Barbara Watkinson

Members Question Time - Answers

Thank you to all those who replied to Colin's query in the last edition.

Nick Tanton stated: "GILDINGWELLS, in the township of Woodsetts with Gildingwells, and parish of South Anston, upper-division of Strafforth and Tickhill; 4½ miles NW. of Worksop (Nott.) 9½ from Bawtry, 12 from Rotherham. Pop. included in Woodsetts.

From genuki.org.uk - South Anston parish in West Yorkshire. May have died at Gildingwells and brought back to Wawne for burial?"

Pete Glover comments: "Your member question in the banyan tree intrigued me as I know Wawne but never the question. I put it in my computer, and it bought this up from the family search website: -

Page: - Court of the Peculiar of the Chancellor of York with the Prebendal Jurisdiction of Laughton en le Morthen.

jurisdiction: - Acklam near Malton, North and South Anston, Firbeck, Handsworth, Laughton en le Morthen, Letwell with Gildingwells, Thorpe Slavin, Throapham St. John, Wales (the parish of that name in the West Riding of Yorkshire), and Wawne. It was inhibited six months by Episcopal Visitation by the Chancery Court and the Visitation of Dean and Chapter."

Derek Mason also replied: "In my copy of Geographia Ltd.'s Gazetteer of Great Britain that lists all the towns, villages and hamlets in Britain it shows as follows:

Gildingwells, West Riding of Yorkshire. Parish and village 4 miles north of Worksop. Families 23, Population 75 (based on the County Reports on the Census 1961 and the Registrar General's Estimates of Population, June 1966 and 1967). It lists the parish and village of Wawne near Beverley as having 191 families and a population of 630. There is no listing of a Gildingwells near Wawne.

It seems to me that Colin's ancestor was to be buried at Wawne (the Original Event Place) and then for some reason it took place at Gildingwells near Worksop (Event Place). Perhaps the Borthwick Institute at York University can provide some clarity on the matter."

We always welcome queries from members, so if you have a brick wall, get in touch.

The Wood Family

This photograph shows the five daughters of Ernie and Lily Wood. There were no sons! It dates to around 1928. It is a pleasant, composed picture taken in the family garden on Dover Street, close to Spring Bank in Hull. It is a picture of middle-class respectability and contentment; a family to be admired. But all is not as it appears – this was a seriously dysfunctional family. It's possible that the reader might think that is just my opinion. So here are a few stats to explain that this is not just a personal view.

The five girls pictured here had many relationships during their lives. All but the youngest, Stella, trailed through the divorce courts, one of them married four times, another used to go missing from her family for months on end.

Stella married once and the marriage lasted but the other four had a total of eleven husbands, several lovers and there were just four children between all five of them – ironically four boys. I am one of them. There were uncles I never knew, been and



*Back – Eva (Eve)
Middle – Hilda, Elsie, Phyllis
Front – Stella*

gone before I was born, others I barely knew and just one I viewed as a genuine uncle that I could relate to.

So, what was the character of this family? Bohemian? Unconventional? Politically radical? No, not at all! Their parents, Ernie and Lily, were stalwarts of the community – churchgoing, members of Cottingham Cricket Club – RESPECTABLE!

John Ernest Wood (known as Ernie) was from a solid middle to upper middle-class family. His wife Lilian (née Smith) was from a working-class family of railway workers. To their families Ernie had married beneath his station and Lily had married well.

Ernie was the son of an engineer, Francis Houlton Wood, who had moved his family around the country as he took on various commissions. Ernie's grandfather, Capt. James Wood, had been a very early pioneer of steamships in the 1830s. His grave is in the south transept of Hull Minster. One of Francis's sisters was married into the county set in Driffeld with contacts to Jeremy Bentham. A cousin lived in Worsley, an upmarket suburb of Manchester, and was the company secretary of Lever Brothers (now Unilever). Yes, the Woods were a very middle-class family indeed. I will return to them in another article.



The Smith family that Lilian grew up in was dominated by men. Lily was the second eldest of ten and she was just one of two girls. Her father, George, worked on the railways as a foreman shunter and most of her brothers followed in their father's footsteps. Another brother became a mariner and two others were policemen.

The Smith family originated in the Vale of York, where they had been farmers. George's father Michael had left the land and arrived in Hull via York. Indeed, George had been born in York.

The great disparity in social class between the Woods and the Smiths was even more marked for that era before the First World War. Whenever my mother, Stella,

talked about her Grandma Smith she always said, “Grandma was from a good family.” I asked what that meant; religious, moral, middle class, respectable? The answer was always, “Yes, I suppose so.” It was obviously a mantra passed down the family but with no apparent substance. It didn’t seem at all right when I discovered the truth about Grandma Smith’s father, Richard Gower. By all accounts he was a seriously unpleasant man who was often before the magistrate and once spent a few weeks in prison for contempt of court. His neighbours lived in fear of him as well.

Nevertheless, I did the research to test my mum’s belief in the ‘good family’ and eventually I unearthed the greatest surprise in my quest to discover my roots! That is another story.

Next time – Ernie and Lilian Wood; how did they meet?

Peter Holford

How Useful Are Monumental Inscriptions (MIs)?

My husband always thought that they did not give you much information, but he has changed his mind after one of his family stones has helped us. I have been involved in recording MIs for over 32 years and the one I am talking about was found quite a while back but we did not realise the significance of the information.

Sacred / to the memory of / JACOB ROSS / who was an Ackworth boy / and died December 30th 1824 / aged 67 years / Also of HANNAH ROSS / wife of the above / who died December 24th 1842 / aged 83 years / Also of THOMAS ROSS / son of the above / who died January 10th 1867 / aged 72 years / He was a Schoolmaster and also Parish Clerk / of this place upwards of [44] years, in the latter capacity he was remarkable for punctuality and attention and was / seldom absent from his post.

This is from Bubwith graveyard. Both my husband and I had assumed he came from a place called Ackworth and it was not until this year that I thought he could have been at Atworth School. Somewhere along the way I had heard that some children at Atworth had come from the Foundling Hospital, London.



The Foundling Hospital, London (<https://coramstory.org.uk>)

The hospital was started by a former sailor and the ship-builder Thomas CORAM, who was horrified at the number of babies abandoned in the London streets of the 1720s. He campaigned for seventeen years for a Royal Charter, which was granted in 1739, establishing the hospital as one of England's first children's charities. Mothers leaving their babies could leave a token so they would be recognised if they came back. For the first five years of their lives, the children were fostered in the countryside because it was healthier than London. It is a very interesting place to visit; 40 Brunswick Square, WC1N 1AZ.

From looking at the Foundling Hospital records, I discovered that Jacob was sent to Ackworth on the 19th of May 1757; his number being 4527. Apparently, the children were identified by a lead number on a chain around their necks. He was apprenticed to William KNAPTON, a farmer of Althorpe, Bubwith, on 10th December 1766 until he was 24 years old. Without the information recorded on the headstone and in the EYFHS MIs, I would never have been able to find out more about Jacob.

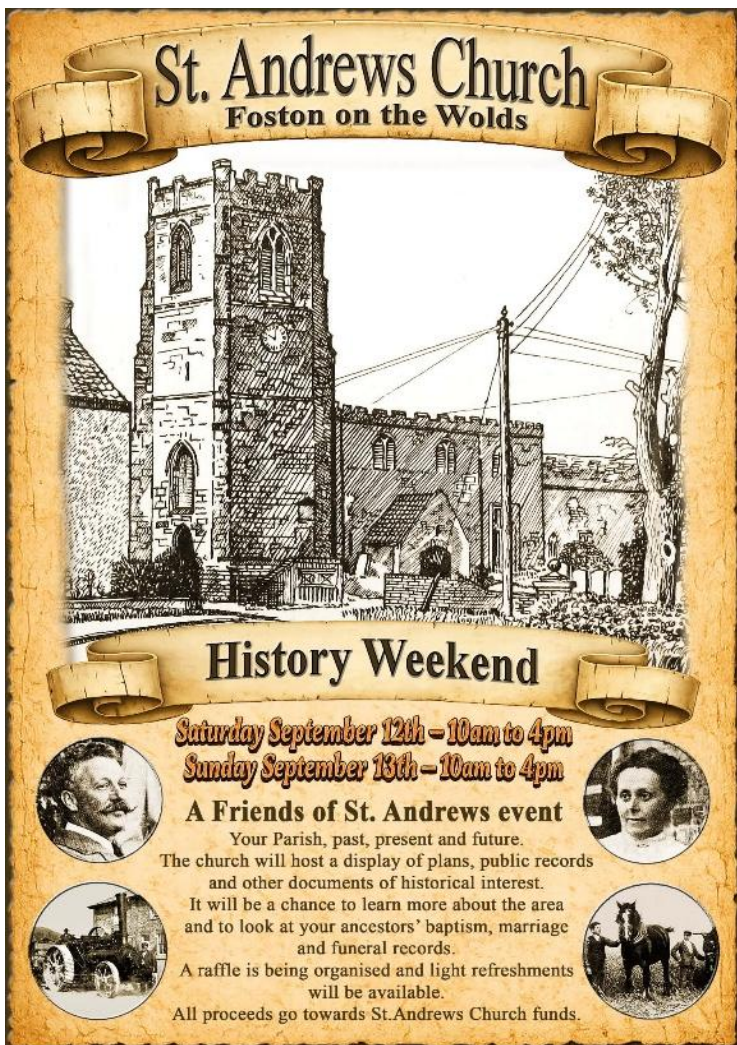


My next project is to see whether his wife Hannah, néé ASK, is related to Robert ASKE (pictured left in the year 1536) one of the leaders of the Pilgrimage of Grace.

Judith Bangs

History Weekend

The East Yorkshire Family History Society will be present at this event on Saturday September 12th, please come and say hello. We will have our publications of Foston on the Wolds and the surrounding area for sale as well as our publications lists, maps and many other useful and interesting booklets and pamphlets. We will also be able to assist with enquiries and hopefully help with any problems you are encountering.



St. Andrews Church
Foston on the Wolds

History Weekend

Saturday September 12th – 10am to 4pm
Sunday September 13th – 10am to 4pm

A Friends of St. Andrews event

Your Parish, past, present and future.
The church will host a display of plans, public records and other documents of historical interest.
It will be a chance to learn more about the area and to look at your ancestors' baptism, marriage and funeral records.
A raffle is being organised and light refreshments will be available.
All proceeds go towards St. Andrews Church funds.

If you require any further information, please email the editor editor@eyfhs.org.uk or the helpdesk helpdesk@eyfhs.org.uk

Origins of a Holderness Family

Sometimes during perusal of my family tree and its branches a surname appears that I had forgotten about. The name Burstall took my attention in that way. It did not seem familiar but was connected to other interesting East Riding surnames that appear intermittently at the edges of my tree, such as Barchard and Suddaby (two of my favourites). The Burstalls that I found belonged to a family living in Hedon in the 1600s. It seemed that the surname might be interesting and so I decided to find out more about them.



*St. Augustine's
Church, Hedon*

I checked early records in the Mormon database and found that in the early years in which surnames were commonly used, from the 1500s, it was indeed most common in Holderness. There were a few elsewhere, mostly with different spellings, and a small cluster in Leicestershire. Over the next few hundred years the name was a little more widespread and, it seems, most common in Leicestershire. Further searching revealed that it is a locational name, of Anglo-Saxon origin, derived from places called Burstall (meaning site of a stronghold) in Suffolk, Staffordshire and East Yorkshire, as well as from Birstall, one just to the north of Leicester, and one in West Yorkshire, south-west of Leeds.

Since there is no such place as Burstall in present-day East Yorkshire, that was a small mystery to solve. Easily done: Burstall Abbey, founded in 1219 (at



*Ruins of Burstall Abbey in 1721, after Poulson (1840).
From a print by Samuel Buck.*

“Byrstall”), was situated near the Humber bank just south of Skeffling. Several publications include a picture of the abbey ruins, mostly taken from Poulson’s book on the history of Holderness (1840), as they appeared in 1721 in an engraving by Samuel Buck. The ruins

seem to have been washed away between 1786 (when they were shown on a map) and 1840. Complete inundation of the area in 1906 could not have helped. The

area had earlier been heavily populated, apparently, and I am sure would have been the local origin of the Burstall surname. I decided to try and trace at least one or more of the south Holderness families, inevitably making assumptions about family connections from the only records available; missing records may well have led to slightly different family lineages.

In the 16th century there were one or two Burstall families in Beverley and Hull, which I will ignore, and concentrate on those in Halsham and Hedon. In Halsham,



*St. Wilfrid's Church,
Ottringham. Paul
Glazzard CC BY-SA 2.0*

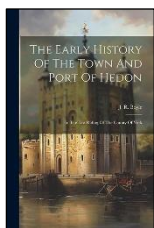
perhaps the focus of the Burstalls at that time, there were baptisms of children of at least two Burstall families, with fathers Ralph (“Raph” or “Rayffe”) and William. Ralph’s children included John (b.1568), Ellen (b.1571) and Robert (b.1573). Their mother may have been Jenett Hancocke, whom Ralph married at Halsham in 1567. Ralph may be the one buried at Ottringham in 1613. William’s children included Elizabeth (b.1569), unknown (b.1571), John (b.1574), Ellen (b.1576), William (b.1579) and Leonard (b.1585). Their mother was probably Agnes Burkincode, whom William married at Halsham in 1568. Perhaps the elder William and Ralph were brothers.

There was also a Burstall family at Hedon in the 16th century. It was there that John Burstall had children Catherine (b.1593), John (b.1597) and Elizabeth (b.1599). Their mother was probably Isabel Thornton, whom John had married at Hedon in 1592. It is possible that father John was the one baptised in Halsham, 1574, but that is perhaps a guess too far.

There were Burstalls in a few other south Holderness villages in that century, probably from earlier families whose records are lost (to me anyway). Three Burstall girls married at Roos: Alison to John Rawlings in 1567, Margaret to Thomas Mow in 1583, and Elizabeth to Thomas Smith in 1585. Jane Burstall was buried at Hollym and Withernsea in 1567, but I do not know whether she was really a Burstall or the wife of one. Nearby, at Easington, Thomas Burstall married Jenet Storye, and Katherine Burstall married Thomas Wrey, both in 1571. (The Mormon records have those marriages at Easington County Durham, which I suspect is incorrect, partly because of other Holderness connections with the Storye family).

There were at least two Burstall families at Hedon in the first half of the 17th century. One was headed by John, probably the one born in 1597. The other, or perhaps each of two others, was headed by William, who may have come from elsewhere, perhaps Ottringham. I am unable to find their marriages. John's children included Elizabeth (b.1622), John (b.1624), Robert (1631-35), Ellen (b.1632), Isobel (b.1633) and Robert (b.1638). The first group fathered by William were William (1617-55) and Frances (b.1619), whose name suggests that their mother may have been a Frances; they may be the couple who married at Preston in 1613 (bride unknown). The second group, probably a different family, or with just a different mother, were William (b.1634), Lancelot (1635-36), Mary (1637-47), Thomas (1638-38), Elenor (?-1636) and Elizabeth (?-1637). Mother of some of the children may have been Elizabeth Thompson (1618-37), whom a William married at Ottringham in 1636. A marriage between a William Burstall and Margaret Smythe at Hull in 1642 may be a second (or third) marriage of the same William or indicate a branch of the same or a different Burstall family nearby.

As the 17th century progressed the Holderness families seemed to become centred mostly in Hedon, but with at least one or two families at Hollym and Keyingham. We will concentrate on the Hedon group for the rest of the story. The largest family was that of Robert, although this may have been two families, with about ten children born between 1650 and 1675. I am not certain of Robert's origins, but the



mother of at least some of his children was probably Anne Southwick, whom he married at Hedon in 1648. Boyle's "*The Early History of the Town and Port of Hedon*" mentions Robert Burstall, probably the same one, who appears to have been a landowner, and his wife Anne in 1671. There was also a "Mr Burstall's Orchard". Robert died at Hedon in 1680.

During the same period, we find two successive families at Hedon fathered by William. I suspect that these were descendants of our previously mentioned William (1617-55; he died in Hollym), whose father was also William. Anyway, it is convenient to assume these Williams were in a direct line of succession. The father of the first family was perhaps the William born in 1634, with at least seven children born between 1658 and 1672. One of those children was William Burstall (b.1665), who was, I suspect, the father of a further five children born at Hedon between 1686 and 1698.

William Burstall (1617-55), mentioned above, who was born at Hedon and died at Hollym, was head of the family I had at some earlier time attached to the outer reaches of my family tree. The next William Burstall (b.1634), a son of the same family (I assume), is probably the William who married Susannah Nicholson at Hedon in 1657. Their daughter Mary (1668-1717), born at Hedon, married into the Barchard family, an even more distinctly East Riding family (as I described in *The Banyan Tree* 169, 21-25). That is the point at which my curiosity wanted me to reach. It is possible to trace descent from them and some other members of the 17th century Burstalls of Hedon and elsewhere, but it becomes excessively complicated and I will stop there.



*St Nicholas Church,
Hollym. Paul
Glazzard / [CC BY-SA 2.0](#)*

It is uncertain whether these Burstalls were involved in agriculture or trade; the former is most likely, at least in the earliest times, especially in view of the Boyle reference (above). The censuses of the 19th century are not much help, suggesting that menfolk with that surname were then mostly in Hull, often in trade, as mariners, or even ship owners. My impression is that over the centuries the family centre has moved as the population as a whole has moved, from east to west, from the Skeffling-Easington area, to Halsham, to Hedon, and then to Hull.

Geoff Bateman

In The News

29th August 1840 - Sudden Death - On Monday a person named Joseph Mainprize was found dead in his bed. The coroner's jury returned a verdict of "Died by the visitation of God."

Peculiar Cures

For Rheumatism: Carry a raw, shrivelled potato in your pocket or tie a red ribbon around your bad leg.

Alan Wanders

Nº 1: Interesting Placenames of the East Riding

East Yorkshire is renowned for its distinctive character and charm, with many aspects that make it truly special. Wandering around the county I have encountered many intriguing villages and locations – with all located conveniently close to a road sign. Over time, a bizarre urge to discover their origins has grabbed me by the steering wheel.

Land of Nod - ([53.8185°N 0.7215°W](#))

The very first mention of the Land of Nod can be found in the Holy Bible's book of Genesis, although I did discover a further namesake at Woburn, Massachusetts, in the United States. The Bible narrates a sad tale of Cain being exiled to the Land



of Nod, by an unhappy God, following the murder of his brother Abel. However, I have not discovered any similar slayings occurring near our Land of Nod, which probably rules out Cain & Abel as a direct link.

A Greek interpretation of Nod, written *Nain* in the [Onomastica Vaticana](#), is thought to have derived from the plural form of *nahim* which relates to rest and sleeping. Could *Nod*, then, relate to that place we all drift off to during a Friday afternoon staff meeting?

While the residents and historians apparently remain undecided, my preferred explanation is that 'Nod' was derived from the Hebrew verb 'to wander' marking out the Land of Nod as a great place for a relaxing walk-about. It sounds like the ideal destination for Judith Bangs, the EYFHS Publications Officer, to take her 'Wednesday Walking Group'; once the milder weather returns. Of course, there could be no better place to explore than the East Riding.

Alternative Viewpoints

In Genesis 4.1, Cain's name is connected to the verb meaning 'to get' or 'to take'; while the name *Nod* is very similar to the word *Nad*, which usually translates as 'vagabond'. Although that may fit well with the Bible story, the '*Land of Thieving Vagabonds*' does seem to be a bit of a long shot for a peaceful East Riding hamlet.

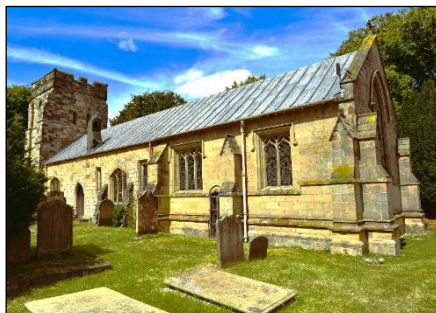
In 1982, George R R Martin, best known for the *Game of Thrones*, wrote *Fevre Dream* in which he claims the Land of Nod as the place from where the vampires originated. In East Yorkshire? No, I just don't buy it.

In Henry Miller's *World of Sex*, Miller claims that people behave like automatons, in the "[L]and of nod, with everyone spinning like tops." Well, it is thought to be a very friendly place ...

Launched in 1995, in the *Command & Conquer* war-games series, one of the two warring factions is called the Brotherhood of Nod, led by a delightful chappie bearing by the name of Kane. Are Emmerdale's 'Dingles' anything to do with the Land of Nod, I wonder?

Wetwang – ([54.0194°N 0.5789°W](#))

The village of Wetwang occupies an area of the Yorkshire landscape at the side of the A166, six miles west of Driffield. It should not be confused with its 'Middle Earth' namesake as featured in the 'Lord of The Rings' – which is reputed to be Tolkien's interpretation of Holderness, by many of those who have read beyond the first page. Personally, I never made it that far (and was just as bored by the film).



St Nicholas' Church, Wetwang

There are two popular explanations for the origin of Wetwang: the first being drawn from the old Norse *vaett-vangr*, which describes '*a field for the trial of a legal action*'. The second theory describes Wet Wang as a '*wet field*', as opposed to the nearby '*dry field*' of Driffield. The jury is still out.

A further, entirely improbable, explanation may be found in Douglas Adams' '*The Meaning of Liff*' – which gathers spare placenames which are doing nothing more productive than hanging around on the UK's road signs. They are then repurposed by Adams and put to better use. The Humber, for example, becomes '*akin to the smell of a weekend cottage*'. However, Adam's reinterpretation of Wetwang is probably far too anatomically incorrect for inclusion in the Banyan Tree – and probably not too popular with the locals either!

Wetwang is well known for its Iron Age chariot-burial cemetery at Wetwang Slack and speculation sometimes names Wetwang as a possible candidate for the unfound Romano-British Town of 'Delgovicia'.

No mention of Wetwang would be complete without a mention of its famous mayors and scarecrows. Currently serving as the Mayor is BBC weatherman Paul Hudson who, has held the post since 2006. Prior to Mr Hudson being invested with this honorary title, Richard Whitely OBE, DL, held the post from 1998 until his death in 2006. For those unfamiliar with the name, Richard Whitely was part of the BBC Local News programme, Look North, with fellow anchorman Austin Mitchel, a one-time MP of Grimsby. Richard was, of course, best known for his time hosting the popular tv quiz 'Countdown'. Both associations have certainly worked well for Wetwang village, as hardly a week goes by without its name being mentioned on the BBC's local radio and television networks.

Nunburnholme ([53.921854°N](#) [0.707718°W](#))

Exploring an area roughly three miles east of Pocklington and you will soon discover yourself in the ancient village of Nunburnholme, but do not expect to find yourself surrounded by crowds of locals as checking the 2011 census reveals a falling population of 234 souls.

The civil parish is formed by the village of Nunburnholme and the hamlet of Kilnwick Percy – currently believed to be the home of under 70 persons.

As a youngster, my childhood fantasy was based on the story of some mad monk who was being blackmailed by one of two competing gangs of mafia-like



Nunburnholme St James

criminals who wanted nothing more than the destruction of the other group. He, asked the man in charge of the nuns and their 'monastery' (yes, I know, but I was only nine at the time), to use his 'heavenly powers' to convince the youngest nun of the 'sect', that everyone who lived in the house of one group of rivels, was totally evil and the spawn of The Satan. Well, to cut the story short, she carried out the will of the mad-monk and the whole village was immediately renamed in her

honour. I remain totally disappointed to this very day that my juvenile thought process turned out to be hogs wash.

The truth, it turns out, is relatively boring when compared to my pre-teen imaginings. The Old English form of Nunburnholme was *Burnholme*, which can be broken down as follows: a *burn* was (and is) a *spring* or *stream*. An Old English *holm* describes an island in a river. Various spellings, or interpretations saw the village being known as *Brunnum*, *Brunne* and *Bruham*, throughout the medieval era. It was during the 15th century that the prefix ‘*nun*’ first appeared as a reference to Nunburnholme Priory, which was founded during the reign of Henry II. Today, the site of the priory ([53.926N 0.7012W](#)) is a Scheduled Monument consisting of an area of earthworks and the well preserved, although dried up, remains of the fishponds.

The whole of Nunburnholme was laid waste during the Harrying of The North (1069/70) and remained deserted until 1086. However, during the restoration in 1872-77, two parts of a late Anglo-Saxon cross were found embedded in the church walls. It still stands on display within the church, although the two highly decorated parts are said to been incorrectly rejoined at, or around, the time of its discovery.

Bugthorpe ([54.011634°N 0.823619°W](#))

There are places our minds immediately drift to when we picture the destination of road signs such as Foxholes and Holme ... but *Bugthorpe*? Where on earth did that come from? Were they breeding maggots for fishermen or suffering from being a dumping ground for East Yorkshire’s nightsoil-men? I do wonder.



*Beck Row, Bugthorpe circa 1900 (A.I. colourised)-
www.bugthorpevillage.co.uk*

Well, it wasn’t always known as Bugthorpe but does appear in the Domesday Book as *Bughetorp*/*Buchetorp*. Back then, in the year 1086, it existed as a quiet little hamlet of just five houses; owned in part by the Archbishop of York (St Peter) and Odo the Bowman. When we travel forward to the medieval era, *Bogethorp*, *Buckthorpe* and *Bugthorpe* all appear as viable village naming options.

So, from who, what or where is the village's strange name derived? Well, there is no definitive definition. Most of the Banyan Tree's readership will have come across the old English term *Thorpe*, meaning a *secondary farm* or an *outlying settlement*, but the *Bug*, *Bog* and *Buche* part remains a little unclear. The Old English term *boc* offers us a choice of interpretations, i.e. 'book' or 'beech tree'. Might this mean that Bugthorpe was once was a place of book learning, as in *Buche-Thorpe*, or simply indicate a hamlet where the beech trees grew aplenty? It is possible that Mr Bugg was either a landowner or a distinguished local figure from the past. Local historians tend to support the latter explanation, even though his name does not seem to crop up in any of the searches I have made on Ancestry.

Although Viscount Halifax adopted the spelling *Buckthorpe* for a period in the 19th century, the village is presently known as *Bugthorpe*. This does raise the question of whether there is still some merit to my preferred interpretation: "*that place where one disposes of the undesirable contents of one's thunderbox.*"

In the future, I hope to present a report on further trips of exploration, to see what else I can find on the road signs of Yorkshire.

Alan the Wanderer

M251 Scarborough Dean Road Cemetery Part 1

Please note that the following stones which appeared in the above booklet as face down have now been recorded. This is due to the help received from the partnership between the Community Pay Back Team and the Probation Service with Scarborough Borough Council, as they have lifted and repaired many of the stones in the cemetery.

Section A – 80, 147, 153

Section B – 77, 86, 133, Border 28

Section C – 33, 188, 272, 332, 363, 368, 370, 374, 383, 389, 431, 442, 481, 484, 489 & 521, C border 20, East Circle 36.

If you would like a copy of these corrections, please send an SAE to Mrs. J.D. Bangs, 5 Curlew Close, Molescroft, Beverley. HU17 7QN

Judith Bangs

Uncle Melchior Hickes (1648-1717) and his Notebook

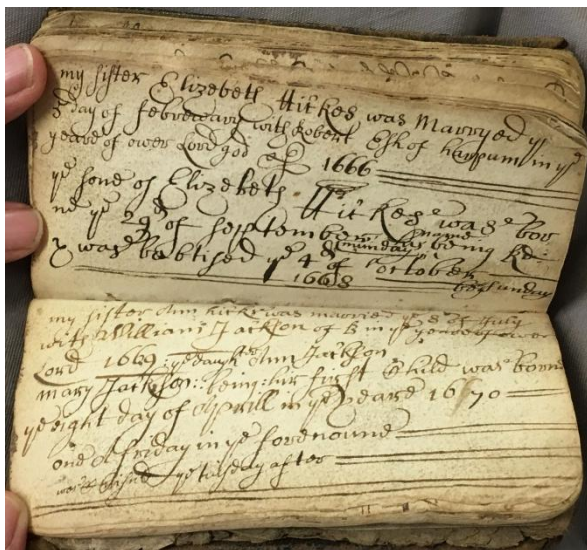


Researching the origins of my ancestor, Elizabeth Hicks, who married Robert Esh at Burton Agnes in 1666, I hit a brick wall. I had to look beyond parish registers and that is how I came across the notebook of Melchior Hicks, donated by his descendants, and now in the East Riding Archives (reference DDX23/1).

Melchior's little notebook, which he began on 5th April 1666, not only broke through that brick wall, but it also gave a fascinating glimpse into his family, business life and interests.

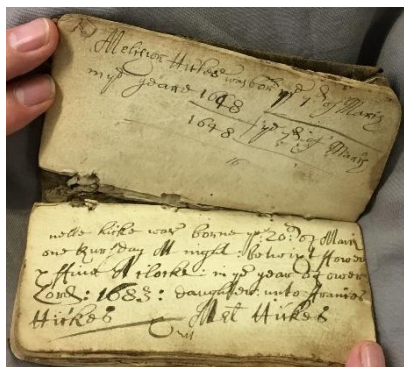
There is so much to be gleaned from the book, but I shall limit myself to sharing a few examples of what is contained in its pages and how it has helped my research.

It's a delightful, higgledy-piggledy notebook, with rhymes, events, important dates and more appearing somewhat at random throughout. Melchior took



pleasure in it, writing his name several times and sometimes adding little decorations. He wrote in a bold hand, his spelling all over the place by modern standards, but the inconsistencies and apparent disarray are part of the notebook's charm. After Melchior's death in 1717,

entries continued to be added till the mid-19th century by his descendants, outlining the Paull and Forge families of the East Riding.



Melchior tells us that he was born on 7th March 1648. His baptism was recorded in the Bridlington parish register in April 1648, his parents, Anthony Hicks and Ellen Jackson, having married there in 1641.

Melchior married twice, recording both events in the notebook: “Melchior Hicke & Luce hill was maried the: 20 day of november being wadinsday betwixt 8 & 9 A Clocke in the

Morneing in Yeorke Minseter in the yeare 1672 annoque domini”. Paver’s Licences gives the place of marriage as the “Cathedral”, but I have found it in the registers for York, St Mary Bishop Hill Junior. Why there’s this discrepancy in the location, I don’t know, but there is always more to learn.

Luce Hicks died in 1676, her death the only one that Melchior noted, and he remarried a few years later: “Melchior Hicke was Maried the 29 day of September with Frances Peighen of yeork one a sunday being Michillmes day betwixt 8: & 9: A Clock with Mr Broadlay: in the year 1678”. This event appears in the register of York St Michael, Spurriergate.

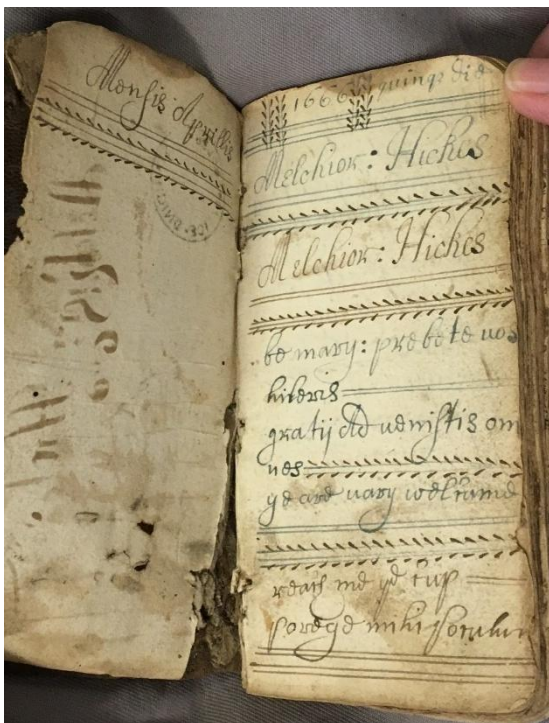
Melchior recorded the births of his six children in the notebook, giving the times and dates. His first child was Lucie: “the yeare 1673: Luce – hicke daughter unto the said Melchior Hicke was borne the 12 day of February being thursday : borne betwixt 5 & 6 A Clocke in the Morneing one Thursday At morne: blessed be unto Allmighty god: good Loard give his grace that as she growes in years soe she my grow in grace And wolke be foare the all the dayes of hir Life she being Crissined one the Sunday After in the After- nounce”. And Bridlington PR shows that Lucie was baptised on 15th February 1673.

From this beginning, I have been able to take Lucie’s story further. She married Francis Clarke in February 1694 at Boynton. Their daughter, Frances, was baptised at the Bridlington Independent Chapel in 1700, daughter of the late Captain Francis Clark and Mrs Lucy Clark of the Key, Widow. Frances Clark and her mother,

Lucie, appear in Melchior's will, proved at York in 1721, Lucie having apparently remarried, because she is named there as Lucy Everile/Everite.

Melchior's notebook has given me invaluable information and has added wonderful detail about my Esh family. Of Elizabeth Hicks and Robert Esh, Melchior wrote: "my sister Elizabeth Hickes was Married the 5 day of febreuary with Robert Esh of harpum in the yeare of ower Lord god...1666". And he has identified another missing sibling: "my sister Ann hicks was married the 8 day of July with William Jackson of B in the year of ower Lord 1669". So, there were three siblings, Melchior, Elizabeth and Ann. Assuming they had the same mother, their parents were Anthony and Ellen (Jackson) Hicks of Bridlington.

Melchior mentioned three of the Esh's children: Richard, another Richard, and Melchior. The first Richard Esh's birth was recorded in the Burton Agnes BTs (Harpham Chapelry), "Septem.



28 The Birth of Richard sonne of Robert Ash & Elizabeth his wife". Melchior's version reads, "the sone of Elizebeth Hickes was borne the 29 day of September munday his name being *Richard* : / & was babtised the 4 day of october 1668 being Sunday". The 29th September 1668 was actually a Tuesday, so Melchior was a day out. A burial in Bridlington PRs on 28th December 1674 almost certainly belongs to young Richard Esh, who would have been about six years old: "A child of Robert Eshe buried in the Church". The next Richard Esh's arrival was recorded in the Bridlington PR on 2nd October 1676. Melchior's account reads, "Richard Esh sonn unto the said Robert Esh was borne the 24 day of September being Sunday At night and was babtised the 2 day of october being Munday annoque domini 1676". So, my ancestor is the Richard Esh born in 1676.

My mother's handwritten tree from the 1980s wrongly shows our ancestor Richard Esh's birth date as 1668. She didn't know he had died and that another Richard had come along in 1676. Mum took her date from the Harpham Chapelry records, but she had not seen the Bridlington PRs, nor Melchior's notebook. Mum's correspondence from that time shows the error was passed to another researcher, and I think from there it was disseminated, appearing in online trees a decade or more ago, some of which mentioned my mother's correspondent. I recently checked 193 Ancestry trees, and all show their lines descending from the 1668 child. None show the 1674 burial, nor the baptism of Richard Esh no. 2 at Bridlington in 1676. And of course, Bridlington PRs are not available on Ancestry.

Mum's tree and the online trees also miss out Robert and Elizabeth Esh's son, Melchior. The notebook says Melchior Esh was born on Friday 27th January 1670, and baptised the following Tuesday, or 31st January 1670, as Bridlington PR puts it. There were other Esh siblings, also baptised at Bridlington, but who don't feature in the notebook, and they, too, are largely missing from online trees.

Melchior Ash married Mary Vevers at Elloughton on 9th April 1693. Their son, Vevers Ash, was buried at Bridlington on 21st November 1694. Melchior Ash, formerly of Bridlington, died somewhere at sea. Administration of his estate was granted at the Prerogative Court of York to his widow, Mary Ash, in 1710. Besides



Melchior Hicks' family, there were his business interests. The notebook shows he traded in malt. "A noat of Those persons that doth owe me for Malt May the 27 day annoque domini 1672", he wrote, listing various people e.g., "Richard hill", "Elizabeth Pech" and, "the preast of whitby". And he made calculations, asking, "If 1 *quarter* of malt cost 15s 10d what will 100 *quarters* cost"?

I think Melchior was a money lender. This was the time before modern banking, and I have seen evidence of money lending in other 17th century documents. Melchior listed people across Yorkshire alongside various sums of money. For example, among the names are, "Cuthberd Waid of Kilneay (Kilnsey) & Robert Goodgion of Skipton", and "Francis vavasour of Weston & John vavasour of Spalldington", with £50 alongside both groups. I think they represent debts owed to Melchior. Cuthbert Wade of Kilnsey, Robert Goodgion of Skipton, and various Vavasour family members, all appear in the Royalist Composition Papers, having been fined for their support of the Royalists in the English Civil War. Was Melchior able to capitalise on these families' debts? And if so, how did he finance it all?

There is also the rhythm of Melchior's year, with saints' days, the quarter days, and even the "*Pouder plot*" on November 5th, all noted.

Melchior loved his Latin. I don't think he'd had formal tutoring, but he was aware of its use in legal documents. That is probably why he made lists of Latin numbers, months and monetary amounts, along with drafts of bonds. One such refers to "A:H: de Bridlington:", who I suspect was Melchior's father, Anthony Hicks.

And there are the little rhymes and the prophecies. Some are in Latin, with English translations. We think the sources for the verses include the 17th century dramatist and poet, James Shirley, and Mother Shipton's Prophecies, which was published in England in the mid-17th century. Whether Melchior owned these works himself, I don't know, but they certainly fascinated him.

Melchior's brother-in-law, Robert Esh, died late in 1685. Melchior was named in the will and had some administrative role alongside his widowed sister, Elizabeth Esh, but quite what that role was is not clear because the will is very damaged. Elizabeth Esh moved to Long Riston, where she had family living, and was buried there, '*Elizabeth Ash*', on 17th October 1715.

Melchior Hicks was buried at Bridlington on 31st January 1717. He might have written the will himself because the spelling is as fantastical and distinctive as that in the notebook. Melchior was survived by his daughters, Frances (Pall), Elenor (Allenby), Lucy (Everile/Everite), and several grandchildren, to whom he left property, rents and money. He also left his sister, Ann Jackson, £2. He remained close to his nephew, Richard Esh, of Thwing, or “Richard Eash” of “Twinge”, as Melchior called him, who was made joint attorney along with Frances Pall, with powers to sell some land, to collect the monies, and to pay Melchior’s debts. Richard Esh and his cousin, Frances Pall, were also to manage certain rents.

There are more records in the archives concerning Melchior and they need following up. But for now, I shall finish with one piece that caught Melchior’s fancy and which he copied at the back of the notebook: “Empresse of the Sea, the Moon so bright drawes as A Load stoin by Attractive might; the dreans streames, which this way that way runes, And by their motions, End where they begun”.

Images by kind permission of East Riding Archives, ref: ERALS: DDX23/1

Eleanor G R Hart

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.

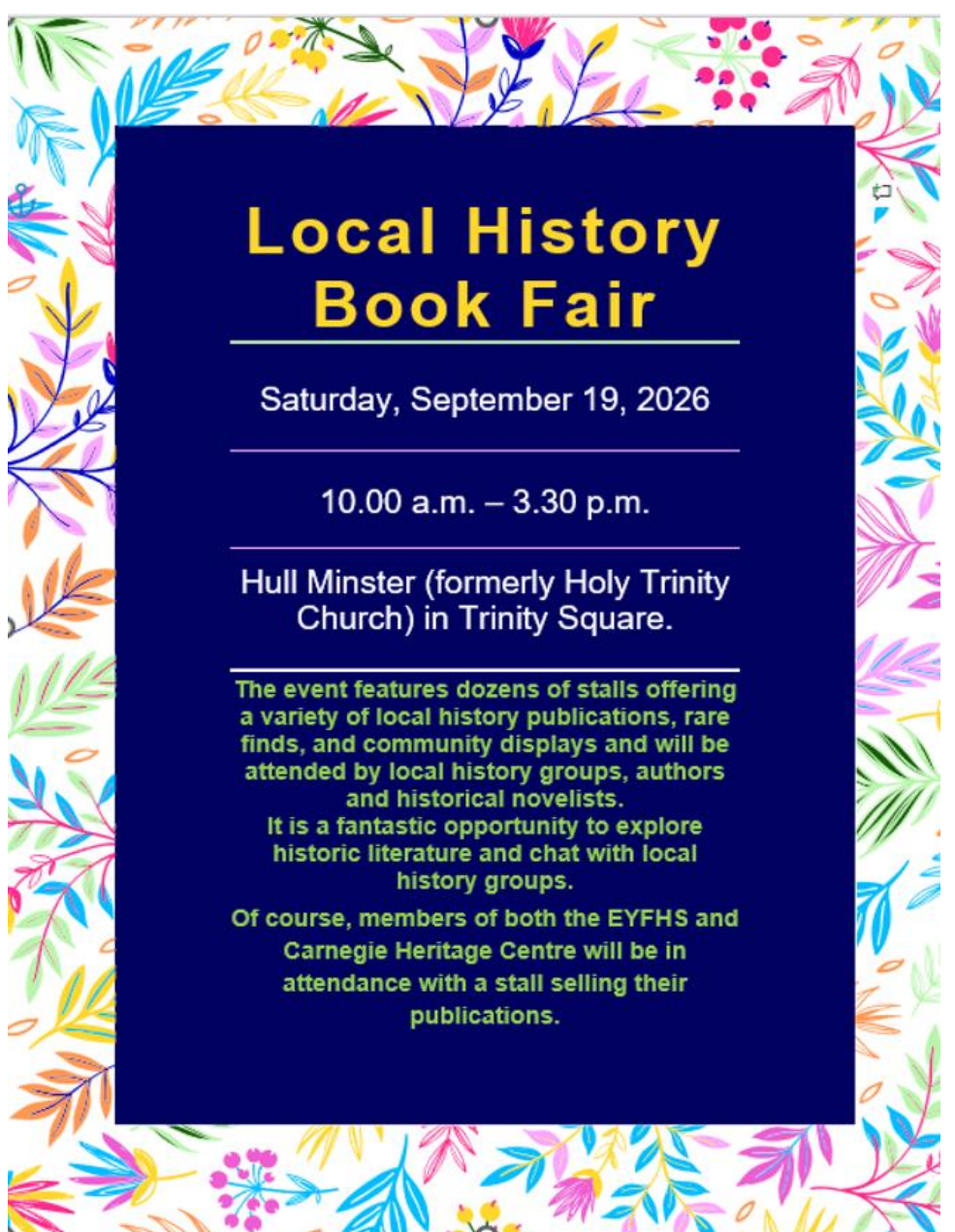
www.eyfhs.org.uk/index.php/members-area-login

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

Member	Name	Address
7310	Veronica Rowe	Cottingham, East Yorkshire
7311	Matthew Barker	Brough, East Yorkshire
7312	Jackie Parr	Cambridge, Cambridgeshire

Membership Secretary, Janet Shaw

Hull Minster Local History Book Fair



Local History Book Fair

Saturday, September 19, 2026

10.00 a.m. – 3.30 p.m.

Hull Minster (formerly Holy Trinity
Church) in Trinity Square.

The event features dozens of stalls offering a variety of local history publications, rare finds, and community displays and will be attended by local history groups, authors and historical novelists.

It is a fantastic opportunity to explore historic literature and chat with local history groups.

Of course, members of both the EYFHS and Carnegie Heritage Centre will be in attendance with a stall selling their publications.

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.

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

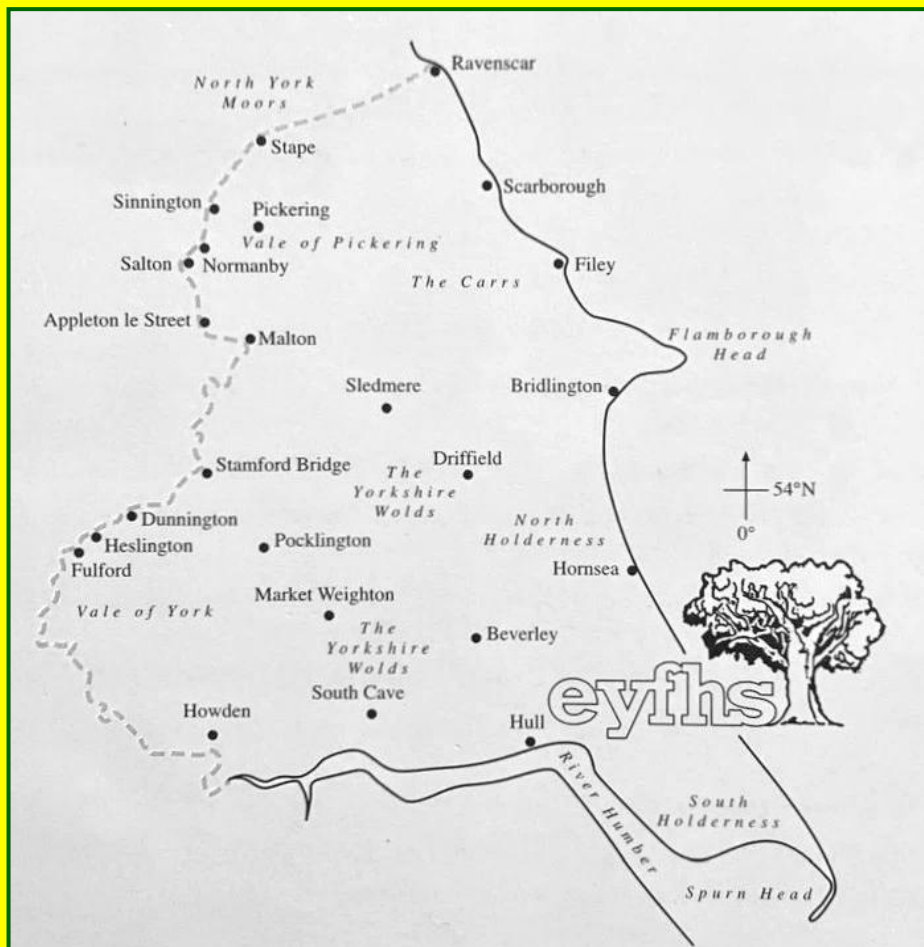
SCARBOROUGH - Ask at the library - Vernon Road, YO11 2NN. 01609 536602

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