

Founded 40 years ago

*Barnsley
Family History
Society*

Barnsley Roots

Journal of Barnsley Family History Society



Our stand at the Yorkshire Society Heritage Summit, at Barnsley Civic.

L to R: Elaine Jackson; Steve Manning, chairman of the Family History Federation; the Mayoress, Mrs Alison Leech; the Mayor, Councillor David Leech; Phillip Watson (our new Chairman) and Janet Haigh.

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Ruby Anniversary



1986-2026

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EDITORIAL

A warm welcome to all members of the Barnsley Family History Society and I hope it is as warm and sunny when you sit reading your Barnsley Roots as it is while I sit here writing it.

This year is the **40th Anniversary** of Barnsley Family History Society, which you can see more about in our 'Secretary's Update'.

I do not have as many updates about my research as I thought I would have, believing that verbal information 'confirmed' what family trees said. They did both provide the same information, but it was incorrect! Lesson learned – unless you see enough verified documentation, wait, search further. Even seeing a copy of a birth certificate that is difficult to read can be misleading, especially when a baptism record has the same address as you expect it to have. Well, I should have known because it was not the first time someone has thought inaccurate information would be 'better for the family,' that there would be "no shame that way." Also, one document is not always sufficient and/or might require more scrutiny, as in the case of the 1921 census for my paternal grandmother who, according to the main page, lived at 1921 Northfield but on the first enumerator page the address was 21 Northfield. Since first writing this I have found out a little more and shall be doing a lot more research. I hope my experiences helps some of you that ask, "However could that be?"

In this issue...

First and foremost, our new membership cards.

As well as all our usual items, such as Margaret's News Snippets, we have reports from the Annual General Meeting plus our Annual Accounts; for the first time since I joined Barnsley FHS, we have a Chairman's Report. A big welcome to Phillip Watson.

Liz Whitehouse has given us more of Stan and Grace, we have 'A Memory Jog' from our Editor Roger de Mercado, a sad but true and interesting article about child deaths and the first instalment of another article from David Allen about his research. We have a book review, more about Alan Godfrey Maps and a reminder about the British Newspaper Archive. We also have a questionnaire where all members can have a say in deciding the future activities and direction of the Society.

In forthcoming issues...

All the usual plus an update on Ancestral Homes and Birthplaces (not quite what I had expected), a bit of fun, some more delicious recipes and of course, we would love to see more of our own members' articles. If you want to send handwritten notes or typed, about whatever family history subject interests you, we will look at it. I am also hoping to have more articles about our ancestors' places of worship; do you have anything?

Shirley Sura

SECRETARY'S UPDATE – MARCH 2026

Here we are again looking forward to lighter nights and Springtime!

I don't know about you, it has been such a long, wet, dreary Winter here in Barnsley, with very little relief from daily grey skies. We've had very little snow or the kind of real biting frost which is fine when it comes with sunny Winter days.

The upside, in our garden, is that the snowdrops, crocuses, (croci?) and now daffodils are giving such pleasure, flowering so much earlier than usual. The yellow forsythia bush is a real treat to see, as is our redcurrant tree.

There will be, hopefully, positive changes to the BFHS in the coming months as events over the last four months have made these a necessity.

First of all, I had no idea that the **Barnsley Family History Society is 40 this year.**

I suppose that I am one of the newer members, only having joined in September 2015.

I am grateful to Jeff Chambers, our Webmaster/Publications Officer, who was a founder member along with Doreen Piper in 1986. He has sent me a brief history which you may find interesting.

The Society was formed in 1986, most likely between September and December of that year, when evening classes in Genealogy were held by Lynne M. Pamplin at Snydale Road School, Cudworth. Lynne was the wife of Rev Richard Pamplin, then Rector of St Mary's Church, Wombwell; she played a key role in setting things in motion.

Barry L. Kelly, who at that time lived in Cudworth, became involved in Genealogy; he was later to become the Founder and Chairman of the Barnsley FHS.

Inspired by Lynne and the members of her classes, he and several other local participants began meeting at his home, where the Barnsley Family History Society was founded.

At a time when some Family History Societies are folding, some locally, such as Rotherham, having already gone, 40 years and counting is a milestone to celebrate.

Any celebratory ideas? Please get in touch with me, or any of the Committee, if you can think of how we could mark this occasion. (All details are on the front inside cover of the Spring copy of 'Barnsley Roots'.)

Unfortunately, Doreen Piper, who held four, yes four! roles with the Society, including the major ones of Vice Chair and Treasurer, had to resign through ill health. I am really pleased to say that Doreen is recovering well and was looking so much better when I called round to see her. Other Committee members have also visited her regularly which shows how much she is loved and valued.

There now will be changes of personnel on the Committee and, very probably, with a new Chairman, new direction.



It was decided to ask members to fill in a Questionnaire so it gives us some idea of the direction you would like the BFHS to take and what you would like us to offer. (Our annual trips are usually well subscribed although not many actual BFHS members attend!)

Liz Whitehouse, who was a committee member before moving to North Yorkshire in 2009, has returned now; she offered to design the Questionnaire and to edit and collate the information from your responses. You will not be surprised to know her offer was accepted with alacrity. The Questionnaire is in the centre pages of this edition of Barnsley Roots. It can be completed on paper or online - see bottom of the last page.

There will be positive changes on-going for the BFHS, possibly starting with the next Committee meeting as soon as Thursday March 26th 2026. I will keep you updated as always.

Enjoy the lighter nights (if you live in the Northern Hemisphere!).

My very best wishes to you all,

Margaret Williams, General Secretary / Search Officer

HERITAGE SUMMIT WEDNESDAY 25th MARCH 2026

Barnsley Family History Society received an invitation from The Yorkshire Society in late January to attend this event being held at Barnsley Civic, Eldon Street, with a series of talks in the morning and display tables for affiliated Societies. We accepted the invitation, so our new Chair, Phil Watson, Elaine Jackson, Janet Haigh and Liz Whitehouse 'manned the stall' for us. Any opportunity, however small, to publicise the BFHS is important as so many people locally in South Yorkshire do not know that we exist!



Liz took the photographs which are on the covers of this issue of our journal.

Margaret Williams, General Secretary / Search Officer

We seek them here, we seek them there

The search for that elusive ancestor...

... with acknowledgement to cartoonist Geoff Thompson of The Oldie magazine.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 19th MARCH 2026

This was held at Buckley Street with 19 members in attendance. It was so good to see Doreen Piper at the meeting and looking so much better.

The main business was to appoint a new Chairman. Phillip Watson was proposed and seconded. Phillip gave a short introductory talk, was willing to stand and was unanimously elected to the role of Chairman. His report is below.

No other nominations for the Committee had been received by the Secretary, excepting one that proposed the whole Committee be re-elected. All the current Committee are willing to stand. The vote to elect everyone was unanimous.

No speaker had been booked for this meeting. At the April meeting on Thursday 16th April 2026 we will have a talk by Barnsley Main Heritage Group.

Margaret Williams, General Secretary / Search Officer

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It is my responsibility to present this year's Chairman's report for the Family History Society. First we must thank Doreen Piper for doing such a fantastic job over 30+ years in more than one job and keeping our Society going. Due to her health she had to step down, but she hopes to be able to carry on with her favourite job of Projects Coordinator so we haven't lost her altogether.

I must acknowledge that the past twelve months have brought significant difficulties and setbacks for our society. Despite the unwavering commitment of our members, we faced numerous challenges that impacted on our activities and overall engagement.

While some workshops and talks went ahead, attendance was lower and we missed the vibrancy of our usual community spirit. Our quarterly newsletter continued to circulate, but contributions were fewer, reflecting the quieter period for research and discovery.

Looking ahead, our focus will be on rebuilding momentum and reconnecting with members who may have felt distant during these challenging times. We aim to renew our outreach efforts, seek new opportunities for collaboration, and encourage participation in both traditional and digital formats. I am grateful to the committee for their perseverance, and to every member who supported us through adversity. Together, we will strive to overcome these difficulties and restore the energy that defines our society.

Let us move forward with hope, determination, and a renewed commitment to celebrating our shared history.

More information about myself will follow in our next journal, and I hope we can persuade you all to contribute.

Phillip Watson, Chairman

.....

The Balance Sheet and the Accounts are on the next two pages

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KEEPING YOU IN THE LOOP – NEWS SNIPPETS

I t's back after a break of six months! Sometimes, life catches up with us all, I am no exception, as I suddenly realise that a deadline is looming with very little of the 'Snippets' section written. I am still rather last minute, but I promise to do better as you, our members, deserve my full attention.

FAMILY HISTORY FEDERATION – The Family History Shows. The Barnsley Family History Society is affiliated to the Family History Federation along with many other Family History Societies throughout the UK. The FHF arrange Family History Shows throughout the UK, where Societies can have a display stand, meet other enthusiastic family historians, professionals and hobbyists as well as investigating avenues for further research. All the venues have free parking as well as excellent access for everyone whatever their mobility. The BFHS needs to make people aware that we exist and our new Chair, Phillip Watson is keen for us to be involved.

The next show is **The Family History Show, Liverpool on Saturday May 9th 2026 from 10-00 to 16-00 at Aintree Park Racecourse.** Phil and Elaine Jackson, our Treasurer and Membership Secretary, will be in attendance.

Two other dates for your diary are:

The Family History Show, London Saturday October 3rd 2026 from 10-00 to 16-00 at Kempton Park Racecourse March 13th 2026 and

The Family History Show, Midlands, March 13th 2027 from 10-00 to 16-00 at the Three Counties Showground, Malvern

BARNSELY U3A GENEALOGY GROUPS. I am often asked about places locally where you can go to pursue family history research. Although you have to be a member of the u3a to participate, there are two local groups, at **Dodworth Miners Welfare** and at **Priory Campus, Lundwood.**

This is the info for the Dodworth Group. I am the co-ordinator and you would be so welcome. We offer free refreshments! It's open to new members; the group contact email address is https://bu3a.u3asite.uk/u3a-contact-form/?contact_id=16147. We meet weekly on Wednesday mornings, 10:30 am to 1:30 pm at Dodworth Miners Welfare, High Street, Dodworth, Barnsley, S75 3RF. There is ample parking.

The Priory Group meets at the Priory Campus, Lundwood (where there is ample parking, too!) This group meets fortnightly on the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month. You do need to bring your own tablet or laptop to the meeting; this is the same when attending the Dodworth Group.

Exploring Barnsley Research Group

This group researches various aspects of town centre areas, features or issues. Initially, they have focused on the **Heritage area of Regent Street;** now, in 2026, they are widening their area of research.

Barnsley Archives are located in the Town Hall, open Tuesdays from 9:30 am to 6 pm, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9:30 am to 4:00 pm, closed lunchtimes 12:45 to 1:30. The archives are closed on Mondays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. It is highly recommended to book in advance to view. Phone number: 01226 773950, email archives@barnsley.gov.uk.

Barnsley Archives Unveils Historic Catalogue of the West Riding Miners' Permanent Relief Fund on June 23rd 2025.

Barnsley Archives and Local Studies announced the successful completion of a long-term project to catalogue and make accessible the archives of the West Riding Miners' Permanent Relief Fund. This collection is now available for researchers, historians and members of the public to access, offering a unique view into the lives of miners and their families across South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire.

The West Riding Miners' Permanent Relief Fund, often referred to as the "Miners' Permanent," was a voluntary society founded in 1877 to financially support miners who were injured and unable to work. In cases of fatal accidents, the Fund also extended benefits to widows and children.

Family Search UK. As Search Officer for the BFHS, I am often asked which sites I would recommend. This is the first site that I turn to for members who are starting their ancestry research. As I've mentioned in a previous issue, it is run from Utah by the Mormon Church. Very often, I have found records on this site which are not to be found on the generic sites of Ancestry and Findmypast. If you are researching ancestors in the UK, put Family Search UK into whichever search engine you use, otherwise you get reams of records from all over the world! You are asked to login, or join, with email address and password. This is purely for their records, the site is **completely free to use**.

There is also a local facility at Chapeltown where a researcher can book an appointment to discuss any problems they may be experiencing. More about this in the Summer issue of 'Barnsley Roots'.

FINDMYPAST – 1921 UK Census Warning! Originally, FMP had exclusive rights to the 1921 Census as they paid a large fee for this privilege to last until 2026. They recruited a large group of transcribers from all around the world. Some of these people did not have English as a first, or even second, language, not good if you are transcribing UK records! This has led to many transcriptions that appear to be guesses or are just plain wrong! If you are transcribing UK records you need to be reasonably fluent in the language, especially when it comes to occupations. Two examples I have recently encountered is a hosier listed as 'hostlier' and a cordwainer is listed as 'crd winer'.

One lady from the Dodworth Group had this experience, going down a family route back from the 1921 Census which was completely wrong. When we looked at the original 1921 census document, names, locations and occupations, especially miners roles, were very questionable. She asked me to alert new researchers to this problem which is arising more regularly now. (As a researcher into your ancestors, many of you know to be wary of the Public Members trees as well, as they may contain information that has not been verified through legal documents and records.)

Having said all this, the 1921 Census is available on Ancestry now, as well.

Do feel free to contact me if you want any further information on any of the Snippets. Please use the email address: **searchbfhsupdate@yahoo.com** as the Secretary email address on the inside front page of the journal does not work! Until the Summer...

Margaret E. Williams, General Secretary / Search Officer



This should be a little easier than the last Spring Quiz...at least we have daffodils and tulips to cheer us all, if not!

1. A flower between the hills
2. One way to get rich
3. What shepherds watch
4. Artificial stones
5. Place for a kiss
6. A virtue
7. Comfort
8. An animal in a hurry
9. Avalanche
10. Results from Cupid's arrow
11. A very proper maiden
12. Part of the eye
13. American greeting a girlfriend?
14. A sweetheart's farewell
15. City vanity
16. Smart dandelion
17. Fastener for a single man
18. Royal drinking vessel
19. Bovine accident
20. A wise man's stamp

Margaret E. Williams

THE STAN AND GRACE STORY – April 2026

In one of your air letters received yesterday you said that a sea letter of 45 pages was on its way to me. I only hope that it all gets past the Censor. I am certainly looking forward to receiving it.

One of these days I think that I shall have some of them printed. They will certainly make an interesting book."

From Grace's letter to Stan, written on 9 December 1943.

Around the time I launched the Stan and Grace blog, in February 2024, I gave a short talk at a Barnsley Family History Society meeting about the letters and the blog. At the end of the talk, one of the audience asked me what my parents would think about me sharing their most private and intimate letters in this way.

My response was that my parents – and my mother particularly – always had a strong sense of history and that they had chosen not to destroy the letters, as many couples did after the war. The letters had sat quietly in their box at the bottom of the wardrobe until my mother moved into residential care in 2001, when they were discovered by my sister, Susan, and I.

I think that my mother always knew their value as a window for future generations into the past, into the experience of two ordinary people living through an extraordinary time.

In the last issue of the Journal, there were excerpts from this long letter, which Stan wrote describing his journey from Sicily to his new base in Italy. Of course, he is not allowed to tell Grace where he is, but we now know that Stan had arrived in the town of Bari, on the Adriatic coast of Italy. This was the administrative HQ for the Royal Signals for the South of Italy and (although he doesn't know it) Stan will be based there for the remainder of the war.

The great news in the lives of Stan and Grace in December 1943, however, was that Grace had passed her final exams and was now a State Registered Nurse. Grace and Stan had agreed, before Stan was sent abroad, that they would not get married before Grace achieved her qualification as a State Registered Nurse. Passing her final exams removed this barrier to them getting married when Stan returned to the UK.

There are few happenings of note during January to March 1944, and Stan and Grace wrote about their families and their everyday lives. However, Stan's letter of 18 February contains a fascinating nugget:

"I was just settling down to write to you last night when our new interpreter came in and asked me if I would write a letter for him. He can speak English quite well but cannot write it good enough to correspond. He has just recently escaped from the hands of the Germans, after having spent five years in various concentration camps, including the dreaded Dachau (see foot of page 13), and wanted to get in touch with his sister, who is apparently in Sydney, Australia. I feel very sorry for him and did the job for him. I know you wouldn't mind!"*

Given that the interpreter is interpreting English and Italian, it is likely that he is a native Italian speaker – clearly, he is not English. We don't know how he managed to escape from the concentration camps and from Germany, but this man seems to have been able to join the Allied armies by becoming an interpreter.

We catch up with the interpreter again on 2nd March, when Stan says *"The most interesting item of news that has happened in the past few days is the opening of our unit canteen. Actually, we have taken over a cafe lock stock & barrels (filled). We have an orchestra there, too, & it is all very nice. Soldiering-de-luxe! We had a classical concert there last night & a Sergt. Major of the Italian paratroops came along & gave us a few songs. He had a grand baritone voice."*

Some days later, Stan sent Grace a sheet with two photographs taken that evening and, for the first time in his letters, he tells Grace the names of the other men in the photograph. One of them is *"Paul Rosenstein (Unit Interpreter and organiser of the concert)"*.



The photograph above was taken on the evening of 3rd March at the opening concert. The interpreter, Paul Rosenstein, is seated second from the left and Stan (*in glasses*) is the last seated person on the right



Taken during a classical concert, at the Cafe Vista,
"Somewhere in Italy" on the opening night of our Unit
Canteen, March 3 1944.

Here present (left to right) in first photograph:-

1. MAJOR LIDINGTON (Administration Officer)
2. PAUL ROSENSTEIN (Unit Interpreter + organiser of concert).
3. ITALIAN PARA TROOP SGT MAJOR (Baritone soloist & quite a handsome bloke eh?)
4. LIEUT DOCKERING (ASST ASSISTANT)
5. SGT GIAN MORGAN (Swansea, Wales, one of my assistants in the office)
6. You should know!!
7. Bloke I don't know.
8. SGT ARTHUR VILES (another of my lunchmen)

This is a copy of the whole page

* Most of the German concentration camps were liberated from January to June 1945. The fact that concentration camps existed, and some of their names, including Dachau, were well known to the British public by 1944. A search of the British Newspaper Archive for January 1943 to January 1944, results in over 100 mentions of the word 'Dachau'.

Liz Whitehouse

<https://stan-and-grace.blogspot.com/>

A MEMORY JOG

The 'Between Ourselves' card below, sent by Grace Skuse to Stan Bristow after one of his leaves (see his letter to her dated 19th February 1944, on Liz Whitehouse's blog) reminded me that "somewhere" I had a similar one that my father had given my mother. Sort-outs over the years meant that it wasn't where I thought it was, not was it in the next likely repository – then the penny trundled down and I remembered where it was. Phew! It's a booklet, not a card, entitled 'With You Beside Me', with six inside pages of text and sketches, only some of which are coloured. It was given to my mother by my father at Christmas 1945. Both items were made by Lychgate Ltd of Worthing.

As paper was severely rationed during the war there would have been much less choice than we have these days and clearly companies would have been producing items for the soldier/girlfriend market, which would have been huge. Liz Whitehouse says "It does illustrate my idea that Stan and Grace represent 'Everyman' - their experiences are particular to themselves but also the experiences of everyone, even down to the cards they send."

I expected to find at least a few examples on the internet, but not one. Does anyone have examples of their own?

My reason for writing about this is to remind you all that recent family history, especially the ephemeral kind tucked away in boxes and envelopes, is really important and needs to be sought "before it's too late".

Roger de Mercado



CHILD DEATHS IN CUDWORTH

My sister Susan was having a bit of a 'spring clean' in one of the large cupboards in her spare bedroom and came across a box of paperwork relating to our father, Stanley Bristow's life and career. Amongst all the paperwork was a short article, clearly copied from an earlier document, concerning the number of child deaths in Cudworth. Could it possibly have been an article in the Parish Magazine? The document begins:

'Cudworth churchyard has now been open for interments for about eleven years, the first burial having taken place on July 30th, 1895.'

This means that the article must have been written in 1906.

'At the present time the number of interments has been exactly 600, of which 315 have been those of infants under two years of age. Another 33 children have been buried between the ages of two and six.

The figures are:

•	Under one week	40
•	1 – 4 weeks	26
•	1 – 6 months	103
•	6 – 12 months	96
•	1 – 2 years	50
•	3 – 4 years	18
•	4 – 5 years	7
•	5 – 6 years	8
•	Total	348

These figures, while unfortunately we believe not exceptional, illustrate strikingly that deplorable waste of infant life which goes on even in these days of comparative enlightenment.

Why are half our burials those of children under two years of age? It is not because they are born unhealthy. We are told that babies born in Cudworth compare very favourably with those of other places. It is not because it is the natural thing for young children to die. Nature endows the young with astonishing vitality and powers of recuperation. It is not we may be assured that there is any want of parental affection in the great majority of these cases; few of these little children have been buried without many bitter tears. When we pass by the little mounds in the churchyard, multiplying so rapidly and ask, "Who slew these?" we obtain an answer, "Largely Ignorance and Folly."

Ignorance on the part of parents as to the physiological nature of infant life; folly in seeking information from those equally ignorant. An elderly woman once claimed to be able to advise the young mother with regard to her baby because, she said, "I have buried eight."

One would have thought that the woman who had been herself so unsuccessful in rearing children would be the last to advise another. Yet doctors have continually to complain that their directions are neglected and the advice taken instead of some well-meaning, but foolish, neighbour who "has buried eight".

Feeding infants with food which their miniature stomachs cannot without a miracle digest, and especially wrong treatment in times of summer diarrhoea, these doctors tell us, are the principal causes why so many parents have to weep over empty cradles.

When a man takes to breeding rabbits, he buys a book on the subject and makes it a careful study. In civilised countries, no less care is needed for the rearing of the human young and the necessary knowledge comes hardly more naturally in the one case than in the other.'



Old postcard of Cudworth church, courtesy Barnsley Archives

I have no doubt that this article was written by a member of the middle classes, most probably a man, making the sweeping assumption that working class women lose their children to disease due to the mothers' stupidity and ignorance.

In my family history I have families where every child survived and one, my maternal Grandfather's family, where seven of the first ten children died between infancy and the age of six years. Why did the remaining three children survive?

Their mother, Harriett, was living with her husband, Morris Skuse in Denaby, near Doncaster, until late 1892. Denaby was full of jerry-built miners' cottages with 'middens' at the end of the back yard. A long trench had been dug with a row of brick toilets above it. The contents were periodically dug out overnight by the 'night soil men', who removed the excrement to use as fertiliser on the land. In the meantime, the liquid could soak into the surrounding land, complete with all the germs that it contained, only to turn up again in the drinking water. TB was also rife in the overcrowded houses.

In late 1892, Harriett left her husband and 'ran away' with a man called Tom Roberts, taking her three remaining children with her. They moved to Lancashire and had one further child, also called Thomas Roberts. The baby, and Harriet's remaining three children, all lived into old age, with Tom surviving service in the Army in the First World War.

Had Harriett suddenly become wise and educated – or did she just find somewhere to live with better sanitation?

Liz Whitehouse

JOE OR JOSEPH; BRETT OR JAGGER? THAT IS THE QUESTION

Members may remember reading my article (*David Allen's article on Transcribing was in our issues of July and October 2024*) regarding the research I had carried out on the Lord family, who had piqued my interest as a result of the transcribing work I had been carrying out for Peter Lord of Calderdale FHS as a member of his transcribing team completing work on the Exley Cemetery gravestones inscription project.

Recently the team has been working on transcribing the Workhouse records for Halifax and District. Whilst doing this work, an entry has again piqued my interest and has led me to undertake further research, the result of which I describe below.

The original PDF file we were given to work with showed the following: -

Admittance Date 12/11/1900, Brett, Lucy Ann, DOB 1867, Religion: - Established Church, Informant Self (Wd of John, Farm Labourer) Date of Discharge 22/11/1900

Admittance Date 12 /11/1900, Brett, Leonard, DOB 1889, Religion: - Established Church. Informant: - Child of John & Lucy Ann Brett, Date of Discharge 22/11/1900.

Admittance Date 12/11/1900, Brett, Harry, DOB 1890, Religion: - Established Church. Informant: - Child of John & Lucy Ann Brett. Date of Discharge 22/11/1900.

Admittance Date 12/11/1900, Brett or Jagger, Clifford, DOB 1895, Religion: - Established Church. Informant: - Illegitimate Child of Lucy Ann Brett. Putative father Joe Jagger, Barkisland now serving in S A (...)

Admittance Date 12/11/1900, Brett or Jagger, Lena, DOB 1896, Religion Established Church. Informant: - Illegitimate Child of Lucy Ann Brett. Putative father Joe Jagger, Barkisland, now serving in S A (...)

Admittance Date 12/11/1900, Brett or Jagger, Thomas, DOB 1899, Religion Established Church. Informant: - Illegitimate Child of Lucy Ann Brett, Putative father Joe Jagger, Barkisland, now serving in S A (...)

Well. What to make of this family?

Here we have a couple (John and Lucy) who were seemingly quite content, had had two children up to 1890, and then in 1900, Lucy finds herself being admitted to Gibbet Street Workhouse described as the widow of John, with by then five children, the last three of which she had obviously produced between 1890 and 1899. The first two, (Leonard and Harry), were obviously the progeny of John, Leonard having been born in 1889, and Harry in 1890, clearly stated on Lucy's admittance record as their father. But the next three, Clifford, Lena and Thomas were only the putative children of Joe Jagger of Barkisland, and shown in the Workhouse records as having a surname of Brett or Jagger.

So that begs the initial questions such as: - Where had the Jagger name come from.? Why had the Jagger name appeared? Why was there apparent doubt about Clifford, Lena and Thomas's surnames? Did this mean that John

and Lucy had parted. If so, did it mean that John had been difficult in their marriage, causing Lucy to leave John, or perhaps Lucy had been a loose woman and had an extramarital affair, eventually becoming destitute, and having to resort to the workhouse? If so, where or what had happened to both John and Joe? Had Joe become tired of being responsible for five children?

To try and sort out this conundrum, I started by looking at Lucy's background. Lucy's admittance record shows her as the widow of John. So, what had happened to John? Where had he come from?

Starting as always with the Census information, this led me to the birth records on Findmypast which showed that John O Brett had been born in 1866. The birth had been registered in the District of Wisbech in Cambridgeshire; the 1871 Census showed that his actual place of birth was Walpole St Andrews in Norfolk. (Only a few miles up the road from where I live). This makes sense, as at the time of his birth Wisbech would have been the centre for such administrative records for the area. He was 5 years of age and a Scholar. His father was John Brett, 45 years old, an Agricultural Labourer, and had been born in Brockdish Norfolk in 1826. His (son John's) mother was Emily 38 years old, who had been born in St Germans Norfolk in 1833, and was a Dressmaker. Son John was also living with siblings Simon, 16, born 1855, Agricultural Labourer, Jane E, 14, born 1857, Field Worker, and Caroline 8, shown as a Scholar as was son John. Simon and Jane are shown as having been born in Denver Norfolk, and Caroline and John having been born in Walpole St Andrews. At the time of the 1871 census, the whole family are shown as living in King Street, Somersham, St Ives, Cambridgeshire. Obviously, the family had to keep moving around trying to find work, which was typical of a farmworker in East Anglia at this time.

All of this is reflective of the life in East Anglia at this time, with more or less the whole population being employed in the farming way of life, or a supportive trade such as Dressmaker (Emily). No polluting mill chimneys or big factory buildings down here and virtually the only alternative to farm work being on the coast around the ports of Ipswich, Lowestoft, Felixstowe, Aldborough, Kings Lynn, etc, working in the fishing industry or being involved in the import/export of goods through Ipswich and Kings Lynn.

By 1881, John's family had moved back to Bonnets Row in Walpole St Andrew. Simon and Caroline had flown the coop, and only John and Jane were left living with their parents. Emily and Jane are shown as No Occupation with father and son Johns being employed as Agriculture Labourers. By this time son John is 14, well past the school leaving age at the time. The 1891 Census threw up his name as living in Cross Lane, Shelf, with his wife Lucy Ann, and sons Leonard and Harry.

Err?? What had happened between 1881 and 1891? Had I got the right John Brett? There then followed a 3 or 4 day break whilst I tried to gather my thoughts as to the best way forward to try and discover what had happened. The biggest stumbling block was that I didn't know Lucy Ann's maiden name. Birth records for Leonard and Harry only showed the parents surname (Brett).

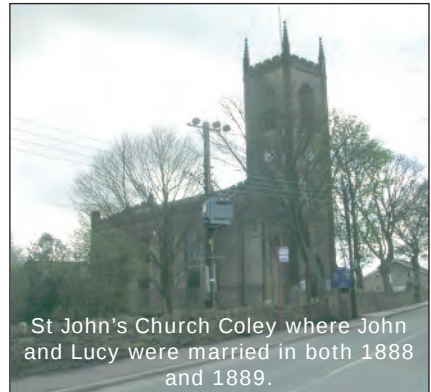
Eventually, I decided that there was only one thing for it and I would have to try and scroll through marriage records for a John and Lucy Ann Brett. (Always supposing that they had got married). Not just in our area of

Shelf/Halifax, but also Norfolk/Cambridgeshire. There were loads of possibilities thrown up! Trawling through them, I went boss-eyed, and almost gave up the will to live.

Almost at the end of my options, Eureka. Gold dust. I found a record for John Owen Brett and Lucy Ann Sherwin being married in 1888. But there was a problem. The first record I found showed them as being married on May 5, 1888, at Coley, with a second showing them being married on May 11, 1889, again at Coley. Why is there a twelve-month gap between dates? Why are there two entries? I don't know. The set of records quoted are the same. I can only think that there may have been some sort of problem thrown up with the first marriage to render it inadmissible, or the registration procedure hadn't been followed correctly. Or even part of the transcription had been done incorrectly.

Have I got the right John Brett? I'm 99.9% certain I have, as the original record I've managed to find shows John's birthplace as Walpole, Norfolk.

So, how had an agricultural labourer from Norfolk managed to meet and marry a young lady from West Yorkshire? As always when looking back in time, we can only put conjecture forward without firm evidence. My own thoughts are that in the years around John and Lucy's marriage, there was great upheaval in the farming industry in East Anglia, which was seeing the



St John's Church Coley where John and Lucy were married in both 1888 and 1889.

introduction of steam power into the agricultural industry, with the consequent loss of jobs in the tending of the land. At around the same time, as mentioned in Ben Stables' excellent book 'The Early History of Shelf, before 1700' (I know this is before when we are talking about, but projections are made forward), Shelf was transitioning itself from a predominantly rural and agricultural hamlet, into a more industrialised village. Coupled with the continuing expansion of the West Riding industrialisation (not to mention nearby Lancashire) and therefore expanding job opportunities, I surmise that John had made his way North to try and obtain more secure employment and finished up in or close to Shelf, thereby coming to meet Lucy Ann, probably through attending a local religious establishment, religion being quite important down here in East Anglia although, the Brown Cow, Hare and Hounds or the Whitehall Hotel can't be ruled out, or any other drinking establishments long consigned to distant memory.

So, apparently living contentedly together with their two sons, why or how did Lucy come to have children in 1895 (Clifford), 1896 (Lena) and Thomas (1899) with an alternative surname of Jagger, and only a putative father of Joe Jagger?

Bearing in mind Lucy's entry to the workhouse describing her as the widow of John, I continued to research his name and found that although he and Lucy were living together in Cross Lane at Shelf in the 1891 Census, with their

children, by 1894, I found that he had died. Strangely, his death is recorded once again as with his birth, in Wisbech Cambridgeshire. Why was it recorded in Wisbech?

This opens up several thoughts. Had John and Lucy parted? If they had, why? Had Lucy been 'seeing' Joe, forcing John to leave his family? Was John feeling homesick, and wanted to return home to Walpole with Lucy not wanting to leave her home with their children? Perhaps John had fallen ill, realised he hadn't long left and decided that he wanted to be back nearer to his upbringing, leaving Lucy in her own surroundings? Had John found out that Lucy had been having some sort of affair with Joseph and washed his hands of Lucy and their children? But, at this time, Joseph had enlisted in 1882. Had he come home on leave and met up with Lucy and perhaps rekindled a relationship they had struck up before his enlistment in 1882, or perhaps he had met her for the first time, and things had got out of hand. Or, perhaps John had returned home on a visit to see his family and had died in an accident. Who knows, we can only wonder about their reasons for seemingly being apart.

He was 29 years old when he died. Obviously somewhere along the line, Lucy Ann had struck up some sort of relationship with Joe, (in some records described as Joseph). So, who is Joe Jagger and where had he come from?

I soon found a difficulty, as the 1871 Census showed Joseph Jagger aged 6, living with his grandmother Hannah, Dressmaker aged 60, James Jagger aged 34 Quarryman, Hannah Coates aged 17, the elder Hannah's granddaughter also a Dressmaker. Their address is shown as Horley Green Road, Northowram. All the family are shown as having been born at Northowram except Joseph who had been born at Bacup in Lancashire.

However, this Census also shows a Joe Jagger age 10, employed as a Worsted spinner living in Jagger Green Dean, Stainland with his father James age 35 Woollen Dyer, mother Mary age 34 Woollen Dyer, sister Sarah 13 Power Loom Weaver, brother John 11 Woollen Piecer, and a second brother William 8 Scholar.

So, having seemingly found Joe, why is there a difficulty? From personal experience I know that there is often confusion between the names Joe and Joseph with them being used interchangeably between records. My own father had been christened Joe, but I can remember several occasions when both my father and mother would be asked if Joe was an abbreviation of Joseph.

And so, it was to prove during my research into Joe, with several records showing an interchange of the use of Joe and Joseph. It didn't help that my research threw up the existence of two further families with the surname of Jagger, and both intimated family members with the name of Joe or Joseph. The first as indicated above was based in Northowram, and the second in Stainland. Both were distinct possibilities as to the relationship with Lucy Ann but particularly Northowram Joe, Northowram being next door to Shelf.

The third family which after much head scratching and soul searching, I am fairly certain is 'our' Joe, in 1871 were shown as living at 4, Slack Lane, Barkisland. As we shall see, I think this is important in future developments between Joseph and Lucy Ann.

Lucy Ann Sherwin was born in 1865 presumably at Shelf, although her details only show Halifax. She was baptised on 30 March 1866 at Coley. Her mother is shown as Mary Ann Sherwin, with no father's name and a Denomination of Wesleyan Methodist. This could mean that Lucy Ann had been born a bastard child, with the father wanting nothing to do with the child, therefore Mary Ann had passed her surname to Lucy Ann, or her father had died before or after having married Mary Ann and Mary Ann for some reason didn't want him recorded on Lucy Ann's birth record. Researching Mary Ann, produced a result for Mary Ann's birth being recorded in Sheffield with a birthday of 13 March 1832, a Baptism date of 27 May 1832 but a Birthplace of Halifax. Why Mary's birth and baptism records should be recorded in Sheffield, I've got no idea. Perhaps Sheffield was the administrative centre at the time, although if it was the case that Halifax didn't or hadn't responsibility for such records at the time, why didn't Leeds, Bradford or Wakefield default? The only possible reason I can put forward is that Mary's Denomination is shown as Wesleyan Methodist. Perhaps Sheffield was the administrative centre for the Wesleysans?

More importantly, I can't find a marriage record for Mary Ann. Trying to make sense of Lucy Ann's background and add context to her life, I followed Mary Ann's life through from her birth. In the 1841 Census, she is shown as living at Shelf, 'Lower Halifax', with her parents William and Ann Sherwin and three sisters. In 1851, the family is shown living at Stocks, 'Low Shelf'. With Ann shown as a widow and head of the family having been born in Dalton Lancashire, and, two of the three sisters shown in 1841, but also William a grandson, obviously of Ann, but no indication as to which of the sisters was his mother. In 1861, they are shown living at 'Lower Shelf, with the addition of Sarah Ellen, Granddaughter, again with no indication as to her parents. Ann is again shown as head of the family and an occupation of House work, and the three sisters as Worsted Weavers. By 1871, Ann appears to have died, as Jane is now shown as head, occupied as a Worsted Weaver and from this census, it now appears that William (Clog Maker), Sarah Ellen (Worsted Weaver) Louisa (Scholar) and Ann (only aged 2, so no occupation given) are entered as her children. Also living with Jane and her children are Mary Ann, shown as Jane's sister, and Mary Ann's daughter LUCY ANN, aged 5, Sarah, Jane's sister, and her son Fred. 9 people from three different families in one presumably small cottage. Phew.

At the 1881 Census, Jane appears to have died, as Mary Ann is now listed as head and Single, and living with LUCY ANN, her daughter, Sarah her sister and Louisa, Fred and Annie her nephews and niece, presumably Sarah's children. I say that it appears that Jane had died, but they are shown as living at Coley Road Shelf, and I don't know if this is the same address as shown in the 1871 Census but described differently. If it isn't the same address, then it's probable that they had moved to try and 'get some more room'. If it is the same address, then what had happened to Jane, William, Sarah Ellen and Ann? Had Jane indeed died, or had she and William, Sarah Ellen and Ann moved to get more space?

On the 6th May 1887, Mary Ann died at Coley aged 55 years, unfortunately without a burial place being entered.

And so, having followed Mary Ann's life through from birth to death, we can get back to one of the main subjects of this article, Lucy Ann Brett. It must be said though, that from the above, men don't appear to figure much in the day-to-day life of the Sherwin women, and it is apparent that it seems to have become somewhat of a tradition in the family that female descendants of the original Ann Sherwin were given this name as their second name.

As stated above, Lucy Ann Sherwin was born in 1865, to Mary Ann Sherwin. Her life and background up until 5/5/1888 or 11/5/1889 has been described above and doesn't need repeating.

In the 1891 Census, Lucy and John were shown as living at Cross Lane Shelf, with their two sons, Leonard and Harry who are both shown with an age of 0, and a birth year of 1891. Perhaps they were twins? John's fate has been described above, so I'll move straight to Lucy Ann.

By the 1901 Census, Lucy is shown as Lucy A Jagger, the wife of Joseph Jagger, living at Brick Green Cottage, Barkisland, with her children Leonard, Harry, Clifford, Lena and Thomas. Although described as the wife of Joseph Jagger, I can't find any record of Lucy and Joseph being married. This is troubling, as although it is possible that Lucy and Joseph were trying to conceal the fact that they were living 'over the brush' and give some respect to Lucy's children, and their living circumstances, to give false information in the Census is a criminal offence, and therefore if they were found out, would be liable to prosecution. In this Census all the children are shown as having the surname of Brett, even though Clifford, Lena and Thomas had been born after John Brett had died.

By 1911, Leonard and Harry the two oldest Brett children had disappeared, and had been replaced by Joe Willie and Mary Ann, born in 1902 and 1906 respectively with the surname of Jagger, whilst the older children Clifford, Lena and Thomas retained the surname of Brett. It is interesting that Clifford is described as 'Stepson' having been born in 1894, whilst all the other children are described as Son or Daughter. It seems a bit of a coincidence that Clifford had been born in 1894, the same year that John had died. Had he been conceived before John's death, or was he in fact Joseph's child? Perhaps Joseph was in fact Clifford's father, and John had found out and decided that he'd had had enough off Sarah's loose living and decided to go back home where he died. (How. Suicide? with supposed shame perhaps.)

By 1921, the family are still living in Barkisland but only with Lena, Joe Willie and Mary Ann of the children still resident. At this time, it's interesting that Lena, who at the 1911 Census had been given the surname of Brett, has by now seemed to have adopted the surname Jagger.

There now follows a gap in the traceability of Lucy until the 1939 register as the 1931 census records were destroyed in the blitz. She is shown as living with Lena at Quebec, Ripponden, and described as Widowed. Obviously, this means that Joseph had died between 1921 and 1939. Also shown are two further records who are described as 'The record for this person is officially closed', presumably, because whoever they are were still alive at the time the records were released. The fact that Lucy and daughter Lena's names were publicised suggests that both had died at the time of publication.

The next record shows that Lucy Ann died in 1946, aged 80.

Moving on to Joe/Joseph. As intimated above, this part of my research into the Brett/Jagger family was about to get even more confusing. A brief introduction to Joe/Joseph has been given above, so to carry on,

According to 1881 Census records, a Joseph Jagger had been born in Barkisland in 1866 to Thomas and Sarah Jagger and was employed as a Railway Porter, aged 15. However, the 1871 Census only provides a Joseph Jagger aged 6, and a Scholar, born in Bacup Lancashire, Grandson to Hannah as head of the household at Northowram. I've been unable to find a birth record for Barkisland Joseph, in order to be able to confirm his parents.

The 1871 Census also provides a JOE Jagger aged 10, employed as a Worsted Spinner, having been born in Stainland to James and Mary. The 1881 Census shows him still living at home with his parents and by this time seven siblings.

Mmm. Which one is our Joe/Joseph?

At the time of Clifford, Lena and Thomas's births, much unrest was taking place in South Africa with the Boers, which led to the first and second Boer Wars. In view of the timing of their births, both at the same time as John's death, and shortly after, I wondered if Joe/Joseph had 'done a runner'.

Therefore, the obvious route was to check Military records. Using FMP's military records, (Since Forces War Records acquisition by Ancestry, I've found access to be extremely difficult and expensive, so beware. Not only that, but any results for searches are poor)

In 1882, a Joseph Jagger with an age of 19yrs and 3months was enlisted into the Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) on February 17, 1882. His Attestation record shows that his birthplace was Halifax, with an occupation of Delver. He states that he belonged to the 4th Battalion of the Yorkshire West Riding Regiment, but for some reason, he wanted or was willing to be enlisted to the Royal Highlanders. (Black Watch) Unfortunately, his attestation record doesn't give any detail as to his family or next of kin. It's of interest, that his occupation is shown as 'Delver'. Why had he changed his job from Railway Porter to Delver? Being a Railway Porter seems to me an 'easier' occupation than working in a Quarry. Perhaps it paid better, but I would doubt it.

Of further interest, is the fact that he joined the Black Watch at Portsmouth. Amongst the various questions he answers on his record, he states that a) He is not married b) He hadn't lived continuously away from his father's house for three years c) He'd never served in the Army d) He answers yes to the question that had he or now serves in the Militia or Militia Reserve e) He answers yes to the questions of having been given 'Notice' and that he understands it's meaning, and that Sergeant Major Pilgrim had given him such notice.

It would appear that he signed up for a period of twelve years, with the proviso that he could be called back to the colours for a period not exceeding twelve months if the country was at war, or Her Majesty (Queen Victoria), had declared 'a period of "imminent national danger, or great emergency'.

I'm not sure what 'being given notice' means, as Conscription was never used in this country until 1916, halfway through the First World War. Perhaps it refers to the possibility that he had joined the Army as a reservist for civilian service. An early form of Territorial Reserve?

Two things of interest from this are: - 1) If Joseph did serve the full twelve years of his enlistment, then that would tie in with John's death back home in East Anglia. 2) Why would he travel to Portsmouth to enlist in a Scottish Regiment? Why not stay at home, and enlist in a local regiment such as The Duke of Wellington's or The West Riding Regiment, especially as he states that he belonged to the 4th Battalion Yorkshire West Riding Regiment?

Bearing in mind that John and Lucy had got married in either 1888 or 1889, perhaps Joseph and Lucy had indeed been having a relationship, he had got 'cold feet' bearing in mind his young age and Joseph had indeed 'done a runner' and tried to cover his tracks by travelling to Portsmouth and joining a 'strange' regiment, with the connivance of Sargeant Major Pilgrim.

Have I got the right Joe/Joseph?

Joseph's birthplace on his 1882 Attestation, states Halifax, which as we all know is a loose description for the whole of Calderdale.

Lucy's last three children, Clifford (1895), Lena (1896) and Thomas (1899), along with Lucy and her first two children, Leonard (1889) and Harry (1890) are shown as being admitted to Gibbet Street from Barkisland on the 12/11/1900. This would suggest that Lucy and Joseph had set up home together with Lucy and her children sometime after John's death and Joe/Joseph's demobilisation in 1894, obviously meaning that Lucy had left behind her sisters at Cross Lane in Shelf. Where was Joe/Joseph? Had Lucy and he split up, if they had in fact 'got back together' after his demobilisation.

Further research in FMP's military records shows that in 1900, Joseph had been recalled to the colours. His Attestation record for re-enlistment shows this time a birthplace of Barkisland. He is 38 years old, and a labourer.

Again, amongst other things he states that he is not married, that he had previously served with the Royal Highlanders, and had been demobbed because he had served his time. His Corps of preference for service this time, was again the Royal Scottish Reserve, and that he had been given notice to serve by Sergeant D W Foster of the West Riding Regiment, for a period of twelve months on Home Service. In 1901, he is Attested again, for a further twelve months serving as above at home. Both these recalls tie in with the second Boer War, when all available soldiers would be needed to serve in South Africa, but because of his age and previous service, he would have been reserved for Home Service only.

In the 1901 Census, Joseph and Lucy Jagger are shown as living together at Brick Green Cottage Barkisland, described as man and wife, Leonard described as head, with all of Lucy's children having the surname of Brett and a relationship of either son or daughter. This is perhaps misleading, as Relationships in Census returns are intended to be to the Head of the Household. Leonard and Harry are John's children. So, are Joseph and Lucy trying to cover something up? In addition, Joseph had been recalled to the colours in 1900, so how can he and Lucy be living together at Barkisland if he was in the Army. Perhaps he hadn't received his travel notice, or perhaps he was home on leave? Who knows.

By the 1911 Census, Joseph and Lucy are again shown as living together as man and wife at Stile House, Scammonden, with children Clifford Brett

described as Stepson, Lena and Thomas Brett described as Daughter and Son, and Joe Willie and Mary Ann Jagger described as Son and Daughter. There is no sign of the two oldest Brett children, Leonard and Harry. Oh heck. Things seem to be getting even more complicated the further I delve into this family.

In 1921, the family are still at Stile House, but by this time, the remaining children (Lena, Joe Willie and Mary Ann) still living at home are shown with the surname Jagger, and descriptions of either Son or Daughter.

I've been unable to find any trace of a Marriage record of a Joe/Joseph Jagger to either a Lucy Ann Sherwin, or a Lucy Ann Brett.

At this point, I thought my research into Lucy Ann's life was more or less finished, and only a quick look at death records would enable me to summarise her family's life. I couldn't have been more wrong.

As stated above, according to the 1939 Register, Lucy Ann is living at Quebec, Ripponden, with Lena her eldest daughter, and died in 1946, aged 80.

to be continued

David Allen

David's article was first published by Calderdale FHS.

SPRING QUIZ



ANSWERS

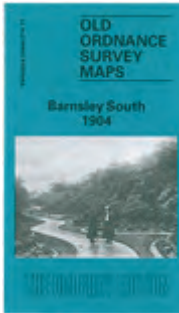
Perhaps a couple of the answers were more of a challenge than I thought?
(Tested by my daughter and granddaughter.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Lily of the Valley | 11. Primrose |
| 2. Marigold | 12. Iris |
| 3. Phlox | 13. Hyacinth |
| 4. Shamrocks | 14. Forget-me-not |
| 5. Tulips | 15. London Pride |
| 6. Honesty | 16. Chickweed |
| 7. Heartsease | 17. Bachelor's buttons |
| 8. Bullrush | 18. Kingcup |
| 9. Snowdrop | 19. Cowslip |
| 10. Bleeding Heart | 20. Solomon's seal |

Margaret E Williams

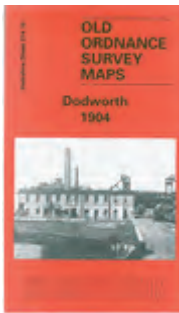
ALAN GODFREY MAPS

Since we featured Alan Godfrey maps in previous journals I have noticed some additions that might be useful including: regular bargains, reprints, large and small scale, maps in colour and slideshows. I also have a newsletter at least once a month.



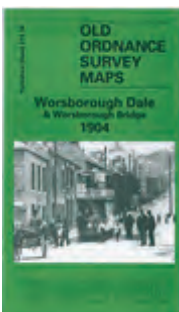
Yorkshire Sheet 274.11 Barnsley (South) 1904

'This map covers the southwest area of Barnsley, with coverage extending west to Gilroyd (bottom left corner) and Keresforth Hill. Features include Keresforth Hill Farm, St Thomas Mission church, Shaw Lane, Kingstone Place, Locke Park, Greenwood Square, Castle Hill, Highstone Fold, Park Road, Duke Street, Castlereagh Street, New Street, Worsborough Common, Dillington House. The built-up area in the NE quarter of the map covers Barnsley old 'working class' area with many courts and cramped houses. On the reverse we include a selection of street directory entries.'



Yorkshire Sheet 274.10 Dodworth 1904

'This map covers the village of Dodworth, just west of Barnsley. Most of the village is covered, including High Street, church, Church Hill, Lambert Fold, Dodworth Bottom, Dodworth Hall, Rose Hill Colliery, North Field, Dodworth Grange. A major feature is Old Silkstone Collieries, shown with full track layout, with the GCR Barnsley Branch with Dodworth station. The map stretches westward to Silkstone Fall Colliery and Champany Hill. On the reverse we include directories for Dodworth in 1901 and 1912'.



Yorkshire Sheet 274.16 Worsborough Dale & Worsborough Bridge 1904

'This map covers the the villages of Worsborough Bridge and Worsborough Dale, just south of Barnsley. Coverage of the map goes from Darley Cliff southward to Worsborough Dale Mills, and from Vernon Road eastward to Swaithe. The GCR Worsborough Branch crosses the map, roughly parallel with the Sheffield & South Yorkshire Navigation which leads to the Dearne & Dove Canal; short stretches of other lines are in the SE corner including Dovecliffe station. Tramways to both Worsborough Bridge and Worsborough Dale are shown. Features include Worsborough Bridge, Worsborough

Basin (with rail incline), Glass House Crossing, Marrow House, Dearne & Dove Sawmills, Goose Hulls Bridge, St Thomas church, Yews Lane Quarry, Hollin Well, Lower Lewden, Lewden Hill. Directories of both villages are included.'

See www.alangodfreymaps.co.uk

Shirley Sura

BOOK REVIEW NAH THEN

A celebration of life in and around Worsbrough by Worsbrough Local History Society

I read this book many years ago when I first joined Barnsley Family History Society and I have read sections of it many times since. It isn't just an informative book, it's interesting and educational, but fun too and has more than a touch of nostalgia.

Throughout the 125 pages of poetry and prose, 57 black and white and 7 colour images (on the cover), there is something for everyone. If you are a local historian as well as a family historian, amateur or professional, or simply interested in anything Worsbrough, read this book. It is full of personal memories and facts.

On page 1, Jane Doyle asks, 'What's a Wappin?' and tells us.

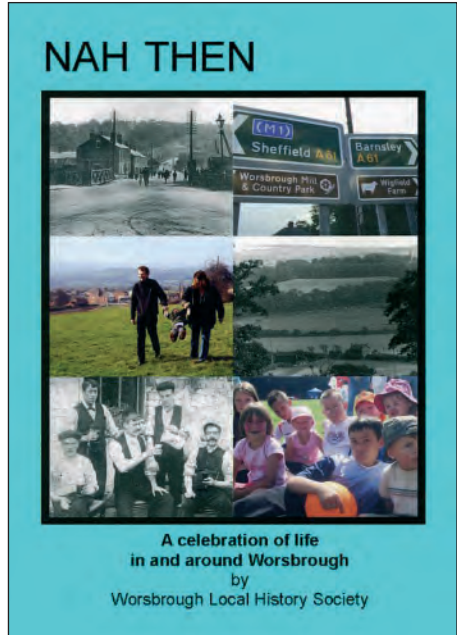
Then there is the beautiful and still useful Worsbrough Mill where I like to buy my bread flour. Mary Stubbs tells us that a mill at Worsbrough was mentioned in the Domesday book.

You can read about family life, schooldays, churches, sport and leisure time, work, war and much more.

'Nah Then' also brings back long forgotten memories, for me one being the hymn at the bottom of page 77, 'Jesus bids me shine with a pure clear light'. This in turn reminds me of the prayer we used to say at the end of the school day, 'Jesus friend of little children be a friend to me,' (I cannot remember the rest of it so if any of our members can, please let me know).

Other memories and lots of information this book provides is about mining and the lives of miners' families. One little boy, Niall Dunn aged 10 at the time, might well remember and be remembered for his statement at the bottom of page 31 'Coal is rotted trees that dropped in swamps millions of years ago'.

I think mining is in my blood because not only do I have Yorkshire coalmining ancestors, I also have Cornish tin mining ancestors. A sad but interesting occurrence mentioned in 'Nah Then' is an explosion in Worsbrough Powder Mills in 1907, page 45, not too long after my second great grandfather moved to Barnsley from Cornwall following another powder mills explosion – where he worked. No connection as far as we know but looking at this again, I am tempted to check.



Last but certainly not least I want to mention the people who fought in the wars, and those left at home. Read about experiences of some who helped to make it possible for us to lead the life we do today and to write wonderful books like NAH THEN.

Edited by Jayne Dowle, Nah Then was first published in 2005 and revised in 2017. It can be purchased through Genfair, Amazon, Ebay and several other outlets.

Shirley Sura

THE BRITISH NEWSPAPER ARCHIVE

Hot Off The Press – New Titles This Week

March 24, 2026 In [Headlines from History](#) [New Titles](#) [Leave a comment](#)

 by Molly Pearce



A reminder for existing members and perhaps a tip for new members is the weekly update of additions to the British Newspaper Archive. Go to the home page at www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk and scroll down to see the last seven days' additions. Click on the Blog tab at the top to see details of past additions. The entry for 24th March noted the addition of another 211,776 pages.

I find it worth while to do a new search on names or places or events of interest every six months or so to see what might turn up. Some news items were syndicated all round the country. I have found things in newspapers far from 'home' that seem not to have been reported locally, although the relevant issues are in the BNA. One such was a report in 1935 about an uncle who had been fined £2 for riding a motorcycle assembled from various parts which included someone else's registration plate, also without insurance. His parents were fine upstanding members of the village and must have been horribly embarrassed about their son's misdemeanor!

I also find it easier to make initial searches using the BNA, then use Findmypast to look at the actual entry, as we have a subscription to that, but not to the BNA. (It's actually my wife's Findmypast subscription, but she lets me use it...).

Roger de Mercado

MEMBERS' SECTION

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the following members who have recently joined the Society. I hope that you will find your membership useful, enjoyable, rewarding and above all productive.

2012 Mrs Ruth Weatherill

2013 Miss Gillian Stapleton

2014 Ms C E Rhodes

2015 Ms Helen Hill

2016 Mrs Jacqueline Priest

2017 Mrs Maxine Gray

Elaine Jackson

MEMBERS' INTERESTS MARCH 2026

Mem. No.	2013	Gillian Stapleton			
Surname	Location	County	Country	Period	
Owram	Ardsley	WRY	ENG	1700 to 2026	
Owram	Darfield	WRY	ENG	1700 to 2026	
Taylor	Worsbrough	WRY	ENG	1	1890 to 2026

Mem. No.	2014	Christine E Rhodes			
Surname	Location	County	Country	Period	
Ellis	Thurnscoe	WRY	ENG	1920 to 1960	
Rhodes	Goldthorpe	WRY	ENG	1920 to 1960	

Notes:

My research now tends to focus on the history of places, having recently completed a piece on the social history of Elsecar, particularly the reservoir.

I am also interested in cinema buildings, and I have recently undertaken research on this subject in the Dearne Valley.

I would now like to concentrate on the Barnsley area, with a particular interest in researching cinemas and the village of Elsecar. So, any material on these topics will be appreciated.

Mem. No.	2015	Helen Hill		
Surname	Location	County	Country	Period
Burton	Darley	WRY	ENG	1800 to 1850
Burton	Silkstone	WRY	ENG	1800 to 1850
Burton	Worsbrough	WRY	ENG	1800 to 1850

Notes:

My Barnsley-related research is very much in its infancy; whilst working through my 3x G-grandmother's birth certificate recently I found out that her father was not in fact the man who raised her (and who family lore said was her bloodline), but was a collier named **John Burton** who died in the Darley Main explosion in 1849.

Unfortunately, I only know what is shared on John's marriage and death certificates: that he was married in Silkstone Church near Barnsley on 21st August 1848, that his father was also called **John Burton** and was a weaver, and that he was 26 years old when he died in January 1849. My 3x G-grandmother was born a few months after his death, his wife remarried later that same year and family history unfortunately seems to have 'forgotten' about him.

I have not (yet) found any birth/baptism record for John, nor can I confirm him or his family on a census (too common a name/too little other information available). My mission this spring is to sort through local parish records and see whether I can locate him/his family in the area. I think my 'hope' is that he had siblings somewhere in the Barnsley area who someone else has been tracking down.

Mem. No.	2016	Jacqueline Priest		
Surname	Location	County	Country	Period
Columbine	Any	WRY	ENG	All
Collumbine	Any	WRY	ENG	All
Cullumbine	Any	WRY	ENG	All

Mem. No.	2017	Maxine Gray		
Surname	Location	County	Country	Period
Taylor	Mapplewell	WRY	ENG	1550 to 1859
Taylor	Staincross	WRY	ENG	1550 to 1859

Note:

The Taylor family were stone-masons.

Jeff Chambers

SURNAME SEARCH INDEX

Surnames uploaded to the Barnsley FHS 'Surname Search Index' between January and March 2026:

Burton, Columbine, Collumbine, Cullumbine, Ellis, Oworm, Rhodes, Taylor.

Jeff Chambers

ORANGE BREAD PUDDING

Made in NORFOLK by MARTHA ELIZABETH LENTON (MY GREAT, GREAT GRANDMA)

Victorian bread and butter pudding is a classic, thrifty British comfort food made by layering buttered stale bread (often with crusts removed) and dried fruit, such as sultanas or raisins, then soaking it in a rich custard of milk, cream, eggs, sugar, nutmeg, and vanilla before baking until golden.

Ingredients

1. 5 slices of white bread.
2. Butter (Victorians liked their butter!).
3. Orange Marmalade.
4. Three eggs.
5. 575 mls milk (1 pint).
6. White sugar.
7. Orange Juice – your choice.
8. Sultanas/raisins.
9. Nutmeg - if liked.



Method

- Spread butter generously on the 5 slices of bread.
- Put plenty of orange marmalade on the buttered bread.
- Cut the slices into small pieces.
- Place in a well-buttered ovenproof dish.
- Beat three eggs, then add a pint (575mls) of milk.
- Add 3 tablespoons of orange juice, 2 tablespoons of sugar to the liquid.
- Pour over the bread.
- A little nutmeg can be added if you wish.
- Bake at 325°F/160°C oven for about ¾ of an hour or until it is set and firm to touch.
- Serve with cream.



Margaret E Williams, BFHS Secretary

SEARCH SERVICES

The Society offers its members free searches – there is now no limit (within reason, of course!). Our fees for search services for non-members are at www.barnsleyfhs.co.uk/Searches.html?sid=2

Margaret E Williams

Baptisms

Barnsley Ebenezer	
Methodist New Connexion	1862-1973
Barnsley St. George	1832-1844
Barnsley St. Mary	1813-1837
Barnsley Wesleyan	1839-1910
Bretton Chapelry	1813-1841
Cawthorne All Saints	1800-1844
Darton All Saints	1813-1822
Royston St. John	1813-1831
Silkstone All Saints	1813-1840
Wentworth Wesleyan	1849-1980
Wortley St. Leonard	1813-1856

National Probate Calendars / Wills Index 1858 to 1943

Please give full name and year of death. Because wills were not always proved immediately, we will search up to three years after the death.

National Burial Index; Third Edition

England & Wales. Please give full name, year-range and county if known.

Soldiers who died in the Great War

Please give full name and age if known.

1851 Census, Barnsley Area

Please give surname and forename(s) if known and age. Or request all occurrences of a given surname.

1891 Census, Barnsley

Please give surname and approximate age. 1891 Search results supplied as copy of enumeration page.

Marriages

Barnsley St. George	1832-1837
Barnsley St. Mary	1800-1837
Cawthorne All Saints	1800-1837
Darton All Saints	1813-1822
Penistone St. John	1800-1837
Royston St. John	1799-1837
Silkstone All Saints	1800-1837

Burials

Barnsley St. George	1832-1850
Barnsley St. Mary	1800-1840
Bretton Chapelry	1800-1840
Cawthorne All Saints	1800-1845
Darton All Saints	1800-1845
Denby Chapelry	1800-1856
Dodworth St. John	1848-1934
Hoyland Nether St. Peter	1813-1861
Penistone St. John	1800-1856
Royston St. John	1800-1837
Silkstone All Saints	1800-1840
Tankersley St. Peter	1813-1858
Worsbrough St. Thomas	1859-1903
Wortley St. Leonard	1800-1854

For searches or enquiries please contact:

Margaret E Williams

5 Summer Road, Royston, Barnsley,
S71 4HY

Email: search@barnsleyfhs.co.uk

If applying by post please
enclose a large SAE

**If applicable, please include your
membership number.**

DIARY DATES

Please check our website for updates.

16 th April	The Barnsley Main Heritage Group , The History of Barnsley Main.
21 st May	To be announced.
18 th June	Elaine Perkins , Herbs for Protection in the Medieval Period.

The Barnsley Main Heritage Group's website is at
<https://storyofbarnsleymain.weebly.com/>



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site now.



Barnsley Roots is the official journal of the Barnsley Family History Society, published in January, April, July and October of each year. Please send material for the July 2026 edition by 31st May 2026 to:

Email: subeditor@barnsleyfhs.co.uk, or

Shirley Sura, 254 Appleton Ave., Great Barr, West Midlands, B43 5QD

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Meetings of the Society are held at the Buckley Methodist Church Hall, Union Court, Barnsley, S70 1JN on the 3rd **Thursday** of each month from 7.30 to 9.30pm. There are no meetings in July, August and December. Free parking is available and there is full wheelchair access. The venue is within easy reach of Barnsley town centre.

For more information visit the website at: **www.barnsleyfhs.co.uk**

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The Civic Mayor of Barnsley, Councillor David Leech, visited the Barnsley FHS stand and met our new Chairman, Phillip Watson.

Barnsley
Family History
Society

Ruby Anniversary



1986-2026

