

Barnsley Roots

Journal of Barnsley Family History Society



The Barnsley Board of Health Map 1856 - see page 22

July 2025

Volume 33 No. 3

ISSN 2754-9070 (print)

ISSN 2754-9089 (online)

SOCIETY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

Chairperson	Role vacant
Vice Chairperson	Doreen Piper Email: vicechair@barnsleyfhs.co.uk
Secretary	Margaret Williams, 5 Summer Road, Royston, Barnsley, S71 4HY Email: secretary@barnsleyfhs.co.uk
Treasurer	Doreen Piper Email: treasurer@barnsleyfhs.co.uk
Membership Secretary	Elaine Jackson, 8 Regent Court, Royal Street, Barnsley, S70 2ED Email: membership@barnsleyfhs.co.uk
Projects Coordinator	Doreen Piper Email: projects@barnsleyfhs.co.uk
Publications Officer	Jeff Chambers Email: publications@barnsleyfhs.co.uk
Journal Editor	Roger de Mercado Email: editor@barnsleyfhs.co.uk
Sub-Editor	Shirley Sura, 254 Appleton Ave., Great Barr, West Midlands, B43 5QD Email: subeditor@barnsleyfhs.co.uk
Bookstall and Genfair	Lynn Smith, 3 Oaks Farm Drive, Darton, Barnsley, S75 5BZ Email: booksalesbarnsleyfhs.co.uk
Search Officer	Margaret Williams Email: search@barnsleyfhs.co.uk
Librarian	Lynn Smith Email: library@barnsleyfhs.co.uk
Programme Co-ordinator	Doreen Piper Email: program@barnsleyfhs.co.uk
Webmaster and e-journals	Jeff Chambers Email: webmaster@barnsleyfhs.co.uk
Exchange journals	Elaine Jackson Email: exchange@barnsleyfhs.co.uk
Committee Member	Suzanne Court-Oak Email: commem01@barnsleyfhs.co.uk
Committee Member	Janet Haigh Email: commem02@barnsleyfhs.co.uk

Front cover image: Board of Health map 1856, courtesy Barnsley Archives.
Back cover images: Elaine and Tony Perkins, from Public Speakers Corner.

CONTENTS

2	Editorial	Shirley Sura
3	Secretary's Update	Margaret Williams
4	West Riding of Yorkshire Miners' Permanent Relief Fund	Roger de Mercado
5	AGM Report	Margaret Williams
6	Agnes Peterkin – The Cunning Woman	Margaret Williams
8	Finding Out What's New on Ancestry	Roger de Mercado
9	The Long Distance Romance of Stan and Grace Continues	Roger de Mercado
14	Summer Quiz	Margaret Williams
15	William Smith Booth	Jane Ainsworth
17	One of My Most Precious Heirlooms	Jane Ainsworth
18	Keeping Family Research	Jane Ainsworth
20	Yorkshire Recipes: Grandma Skuse's Beef Stew	Liz Whitehouse
22	Barnsley Board of Health Map 1856	Roger de Mercado
23	Locating Ancestral Homes	Roger de Mercado
25	New Members	Elaine Jackson
25	Members' Interests	Jeff Chambers
25	Surname Search Index	
26	Searching for Abigail Sheldon	Ruth Allanach and Ian Norgate
27	The Wordsworth Connection	Robert Watson
27	Quiz Answers	Margaret Williams
28	Search Services	Margaret Williams

*An honest census return in 1891. His wife lived a few streets away.
When she died some years later, he did marry Lillie.*

Geo. Levison Thompson	Head	M	55	
Lillie Emma Dowling	Mistress	S	25	
Ethel Rosina Dowling	Daughter		9	
Maud Dowling	Daughter		6	
Lillie Dowling	Daughter		3	
Ernest Dowling	Son		7mo	

EDITORIAL

Hello and welcome to the July 2025 edition of Barnsley Roots, for which all credit goes to our wonderful editor, Roger de Mercado and our contributors. For various reasons I have had a little 'break'.

Summer has arrived with temperatures rising to 32 degrees on several days in my garden and home and from what I hear, around the country. Apparently our ancestors would have had slightly cooler temperatures most of the time but without the cooling assistance of fans, coolers as we know them, or electricity for many years. How would we have managed? If anyone has information about how their ancestors managed, let us know, maybe an article?

Unfortunately, I was unable to make it to Barnsley for the talks but, as you will see from the contents, our own Margaret Williams has provided us with some wonderful overviews; read 'Agnes Peterkin' on page 6 of this issue, it really is fascinating.

My own research has taken a bit of a back seat recently, however my DNA links are suggesting possible connections with some of our members...

In this issue of Barnsley Roots, as well as all the usual, we have another delicious recipe from Liz Whitehouse, along with photographs and some of her own family history. (I'm working my way through all our recipes.) Thank you Liz for your interesting and tasty contributions. We also have more about the long-distance romance of Stan and Grace, from Liz via Roger – a great team. In addition, Roger has provided us with some interesting information about the Barnsley Board of Health Map, very exciting as his research confirmed where some of my ancestors lived. He has given us information about the West Riding of Yorkshire Miners' Permanent Relief Fund, a society founded in 1877 to support injured or deceased coal miners and their families, and where to find what is new on Ancestry. I am going to have a look this afternoon and let you know how I get on. We have three more contributions by Jane Ainsworth whose articles are always interesting. We have 'Searching for Abigail Sheldon' by a new member, Ruth Allanach, and her cousin Ian Norgate, and we have an interesting link to William Wordsworth, by Robert Watson, which also gave me food for thought.

It is wonderful that we are getting more and more articles from our members, after all it is your society and your 'Roots'. Thank you everyone.

In forthcoming issues...

All the usual plus a little bit about Memories of Barnsley, a bit of fun and any of your articles you would like to see in the journal.

Shirley Sura

SECRETARY'S UPDATE – JUNE 2025



Hello there to you all. I hope that you are all well. I never thought that I would write this sentence but, as I am writing this June update, the sun is beating down and the outside temperature is 28°C. All the lawned areas in the parks and gardens have acres of very dry, yellowing grass. All my husband wants is enough rain to fill the water butt as, here in Yorkshire, we are officially in a drought area. Climate change in action?

I have to apologise for the brevity of my update in this issue of Barnsley Roots, as well as the complete lack of the 'Keeping You in the Loop' News Snippets. I have been unable to attend the AGM and a couple of monthly meetings because of family issues. Sometimes, unfortunately, life has a way of upsetting our plans. Hopefully, I shall be back and 'firing on all cylinders' by the October issue.

I was so sorry that Janet Haigh had to resign because of work commitments; I totally understand her reasons. Lynn Smith has taken over her role as Librarian to run alongside the work she does for the BFHS with regard to Genfair and the Bookstall. You will notice from the list of Society Officers and Committee roles on the journal front inside cover that many of us multitask. As you know, all Officers are volunteers as well as having busy personal lives. With my 'Search Officer' hat on, I get many enquiries from members (and non members) and always do my best to answer them as quickly as I can. Unfortunately, one non-member was less than pleased when I took three days to reply to him! The point I am making is that the BFHS needs more of you to be actively involved, if you can, with the day-to-day running of the Society. Reading Doreen's Vice Chair's Report emphasises the point. The BFHS has records in storage that need to be made more widely available to you all, but it is just finding the time to offer to this project. Please can you offer us some of your time and expertise? Just contact any of the Committee members.

The Speakers' evenings have not been attended as well as in previous years. There are several reasons for this as I, personally, know only too well this year. If you are able to come along, please do, the extra incentive is Pauline's free tea/coffee and cakes! Having said this, we welcomed Elaine and Tony Perkins on April 17th, what an informative and fun evening this was; I have written a review for this issue – see page 6.

So it was that on Thursday June 19th we welcomed the two of them again with Tony scheduled to talk about 'Everyday Clothing in Medieval England'. The pair of them were in costume, Elaine officially assisting Tony although she was able to offer her own insights. All clothing was made of wool or linen, often dyed yellow or blue as these dyes were the cheapest for working people. Elaine had made all the costumes, trousers, dresses and cloaks. The two of them modelled them for us and we were able to handle the garments as well and wear them if we wished. One brave member did! I shall put in a review of this talk for the October journal as it will complement the 'Agnes Peterkin' review. Who knew, for example, how Lucy Locket lost her pocket, according to the nursery rhyme?

Every dress had a girdle, with a purse or pocket tied on it. This one looks quite robust although very often purses were attached with a string or ribbon. Along would come someone who distracted the worker, they would cut through the string or ribbon and run off with the purse. These criminals were known as 'cutpurses'. It was how Lucy Locket lost her pocket, who knew that?



As for Eleanor of Aquitaine... watch this space for the October issue!

I hope that you all have a good and comfortable Summer or a tolerable Winter if you are from the Southern Hemisphere.

My very best wishes to you all.

Margaret E. Williams, BFHS Secretary and Search Officer

WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE MINERS' PERMANENT RELIEF FUND

From the BMHT newsletter June 2025:

Barnsley Archives has released a brand-new catalogue of the West Riding of Yorkshire Miners' Permanent Relief Fund, a society founded in 1877 to support injured or deceased coal miners and their families. The archive, with over 1,000 entries, includes minute books, reports, and member records - some receiving benefits for over 50 years. Famous names like Churchill, Attlee, Emile Loubet, and even Greta Garbo make appearances. The full catalogue is now available online, and documents can be viewed for free at Barnsley Archives in the Town Hall.



Customers are encouraged to book in advance to view documents and use resources by emailing archives@barnsley.gov.uk or telephoning 01226 773950 (during opening hours). Booking is recommended for accessing microform resources and the digital version of the Barnsley Chronicle.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT BUCKLEY STREET CHURCH HALL
THURSDAY MARCH 25th 2025 at 7-00pm**

Minutes of the last AGM meeting Thursday March 21st 2024: Copies were available for all attendees. These were unanimously accepted as a true record.

Matters arising from the above Minutes: There were no matters arising.

VICE CHAIR'S REPORT:

Doreen Piper, in her role as Vice Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Firstly, on behalf of the Committee, she wanted to thank you, our members, for your support throughout 2024 and into 2025.

If the last year seems to have gone by so quickly for you then you must have been as busy as our present Committee. Sadly, Janet Haigh had to resign due to work commitments.

Doreen reminded us that her first post on the Committee was as Projects Co-ordinator, a role which she has had to put on hold to undertake more pressing assignments. The suggestion was made by Doreen that we should probably have a couple of research evenings again; she is interested to hear your thoughts on this.

The excursion to Eyam last July was a great success. While we remember the very poignant history of the village's inhabitants, what could be better than a beautiful day surrounded by the English countryside? Well worth a visit, Doreen commented.

Doreen concluded with a plea to all members to keep sending articles and stories to the Journal Editors. Keep using the society website and coming to meetings if you are able.

A big thank you to Pauline Hines for providing the refreshments at meetings. Many thanks to Vicky Myers for auditing the Accounts, it is much appreciated.

Personally, Doreen offered her thanks to her colleagues on the Committee for their unstinting support.

Last, but not least, many thanks to all members for choosing to join Barnsley Family History Society, it would not be the Society it is without you, our members.

Thank you one and all.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Copies were circulated to all present. Doreen Piper in her role as Treasurer, reported that the Society is in a relatively healthy position

Thanks, as always, to Vicky Myers for her great work in auditing the accounts.

Nominations of Candidates for the Committee: The Secretary has received no nominations.

Election of the Committee: The current Committee was willing to stand so all personnel were unanimously re-elected.

The meeting concluded at 7-10pm.

Date and Time of next AGM: Thursday, February 19th 2026 at 7-00pm.

Margaret E Williams, BFHS Secretary & Search Officer

AGNES PETERKIN THE CUNNING WOMAN

The BFHS Committee is very well aware that we have many members who are unable to attend meetings for many reasons, distance being the main one, so we want as many of you as possible to feel part of our monthly get-together. On Thursday April 17th 2025, the BFHS was pleased to welcome Elaine and Tony Perkins to our monthly meeting.

What an unexpected delight Agnes' talk was!

Elaine, dressed in medieval costume, transformed herself into Agnes Peterkin to give the smaller-than-usual gathering of members a talk on curing unexplained pains and concerns, as well as offering an answer to many problems and difficulties ordinary people faced in the 15th and 16th centuries. Elaine became a Christian medieval practitioner, offering protection from serpents, thieves and fairies, as well. Yes, fairies! (For myself and probably many members of the BFHS born in the 20th century, this comes as a surprise as I thought that most fairies have a benign, beneficial effect on us mere mortals, or so I have been led to believe.)

This talk gave a fascinating glimpse into life in medieval England.

Agnes Peterkin was, she emphasised from the outset, a Christian woman who tried to help people who had ailments, illnesses or who felt cursed. **She was not a witch.**

Of course, there was always some form of payment involved, either monetary or in the form of goods.

It was believed that witches and elves were two of the most terrible causes of infection that Agnes had to deal with.

Girdle measuring was one way of discovering if a person had been infected by a witch. The girdle was measured the first week, then, if the measurement had increased by the second week, then infection was present so herbal remedies were needed.

Elves cannot touch iron so proximity to metal such as a horseshoe is essential as a cure. Most households had access to one of these. Blacksmiths would hang a horseshoe upside down so the evil magic fell out.

A common belief was that the Elf Queen can bewitch one's husband and everything in the home can change in a night. This occurs down the elf line one night in every hundred years. The disruption can be stopped with five bells.

Snakes and serpents were dreaded so Agnes used the herb rosemary to rid a garden of pestilence.



Villages were prone to light-fingered thieves; nothing ever changes, does it? A handwritten curse was read, then cheese was offered to a suspect. If the taste was bitter then the person was guilty.

Another method was placing four nails in a loaf of bread then turning it while reciting God's curses from a Bible. Yes, there are plenty!

Agnes also offered insurance for a house which was a personal handwritten charm that was read then placed in the eaves of the house for one year.

ABRACADABRA! How often do we hear this charm which dates from the Middle Ages? Again, a very personal charm is written; it is read every night until the pestilence or problem has gone.

The Devil was a real fear for people so Devil protection was offered in the form of an old shoe, which Satan hates. An old shoe is placed in the hearth, the Devil comes down the chimney, falls into the shoe and shrinks. Agnes returns the next day and beats the shoe to get rid of the Devil.



Charms and items Agnes used in her work.

(Can you spot any in the samples above?)

- Stone to use in baking or a dairy to prevent witches ruining the milk or cream.
- A Thunderstone to stop lightning.
- A Plague Stone which has a Cross on it, blessed by God. This was given to some Crusaders; all those who held a plague stone did not get the disease.
- Whitby had a plague of serpents so a stone with a hole in it which could identify witches was deployed with all the serpents turned to stone.
- A blue bag worn at the waist containing herbs which brought health and happiness.
- Elves cause shooting pains so stone was used for relief.
- Alabaster.
- Written charms to protect against being Hag-ridden.
- Charms were used to protect from toothache.

More expensive items used by the more wealthy clients Agnes treated:

- Witch bottle containing liquid which protects from witches.
- A red wool heart, some urine and sharp iron nails were left by the door. When a witch is attracted to it, this results in severe pain and distress.
- Doll with sharp nails inserted is buried in the garden of a person who is spreading rumours about another individual.

It is easy to be sceptical with our modern perspective regarding the 'cures' and 'remedies'; did they really work? There was no evidence of cures, or was there? This medieval role certainly offered a good living for those Christian women, like Agnes Peterkin, who travelled around a local area offering aid.

All those present gave a generous round of applause, we'd had our eyes opened and been thoroughly entertained.

Margaret E. Williams, BFHS Secretary and Search Officer

FINDING OUT WHAT'S NEW ON ANCESTRY

Although there is a blog page, it's only general news. I find that the best way of seeing their latest offerings is to go to the bottom of the homepage, Historical Collections, All Records and then right at the bottom of the page that appears go to View All in Card Catalog. Alternatively go direct to **www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/catalog**.

Clicking on an item brings up the details, as shown below.

Card Catalogue

Searchable listing of all record collections

Results 1-25 of 2,166

Sort By Date Added

Title	Category	Records	
Isle of Man, UK, Civil Birth Marriage & Death, 1849-2013	Birth, Marriage & Death, including Parish	379,142	NEW
Buckinghamshire, England, Electoral Registers, 1832-1971	Schools, Directories & Church Histories	12,602,814	NEW
UK, Navy Board and Predecessors Prisoner of War Registers, 1755-1831	Military	1,238,250	NEW
Web: Caribbean, Aircrew in the RAF during World War II, 1939-1945	Military	467	NEW
UK, Postal Establishment Books, 1691-1979	Schools, Directories & Church Histories	1,655,863	NEW
UK, World War II Audio, 1939-1945	Military	47	NEW
Birmingham, England, Non-Conformist Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1825-2007	Birth, Marriage & Death, including Parish	137,890	NEW
UK, Recommendations for Honours an	UK, WWI Hospital Registers, 1915-1919 Published on Ancestry 09/04/2025		
→ UK, WWI Hospital Registers, 1915-1919	Updated 09/04/2025		
West Dunbartonshire, Scotland, Poor L Registers, 1846-1914	This collection is an index of British hospital records which pertain to the First World War.		

Roger de Mercado

THE LONG-DISTANCE ROMANCE OF STAN AND GRACE CONTINUES...

In June 1943 Stan was still in North Africa, now in Tunis after the retreat of the Axis Forces to Europe. Grace had spent a longer-than-expected time at Selston outpost, but was now back at Nottingham General Hospital. Her letters often had comments about the Ward Sisters who had such power over them and seemingly regarded as much with fear as with respect. Apart from observations about the weather, occasional cinema visits, infrequent trips home and the health of her family Grace had little to write about. Stan could probably have written more than he did about life in North Africa, but restrained himself to remarks about the heat and the sandflies. He had more to report when having driven the Axis troops out of Tunis, the British Army took control of the city. Not only was Tunis the capital of Tunisia, but it was also a modern sea-side resort and the British troops soon made use of the facilities. In his letter of 2 June, 1943, Stan says:

"I am pleased to say I am feeling fine once more and enjoying all the daily dips I am getting at present in the Mediterranean. We had a swimming gala in the local swimming pool last night and I managed to win the long plunge and was in one of the teams in the final of the water polo match. I am writing an ordinary letter, by the way, and will put in a photograph of the swimming pool."



The Tunis 1930s Art Deco lido

Stan also sent Grace an Afrika Corps cap band. It appears never to have been used and was probably 'liberated' from German stores in Tunis. Grace wrote that it caused quite a stir in the hospital wards with everyone wanting to see it. 'A 'souvenir' of this sort would have been a rarity!



Letters between Grace and Stan were of three types: conventional paper and envelope, airletter forms and 'airgraphs'. Most readers will remember airletters – example on the right. Airgraphs were introduced in April 1941 as a means of allowing servicemen to write home without large quantities of mail taking up scarce air transport space. Messages were written or typed on lettersheet forms, which were photographed onto microfilm. Rolls of film were flown to England where they were developed and printed; the prints were enclosed in window envelopes and posted.



Write the address in large BLOCK letters in the panel below.
The address must NOT be typewritten.

TO: MISS GRACE SEUSE,
NURSES' HOME,
GENERAL HOSPITAL,
NOTTINGHAM, U.K.

349673

Write the message very plainly below this line.

Sender's Address: ARTHUR S. BRISTOW, HEADQUARTERS, 15 L. OF C. SIGNALS, BRAN.

28. JUNE 6th 1943.

MY OWN DARLING,

IT'S THE SIXTH OF THE MONTH AND I HAVE A FEW ODD MOMENTS.
THE COMBINATION OF THESE TWO FACTS LEADS BUT TO ONE THING -- AN ODD
WORD OR TWO FROM ME TO YOU (LAST BIT SOUNDS FORTIG DOESN'T IT. MUST
BE THE SUN THAT'S EXTRA HOT TO-DAY!!!)

I COULD GO ON TYPING ALL NIGHT, BUT AS YOU SEE THERE'S NO
MORE ROOM, SO I SHALL HAVE TO GIVE UP!

WILL WRITE AG'IN SOON.

all my love, my Dear
James Bristow

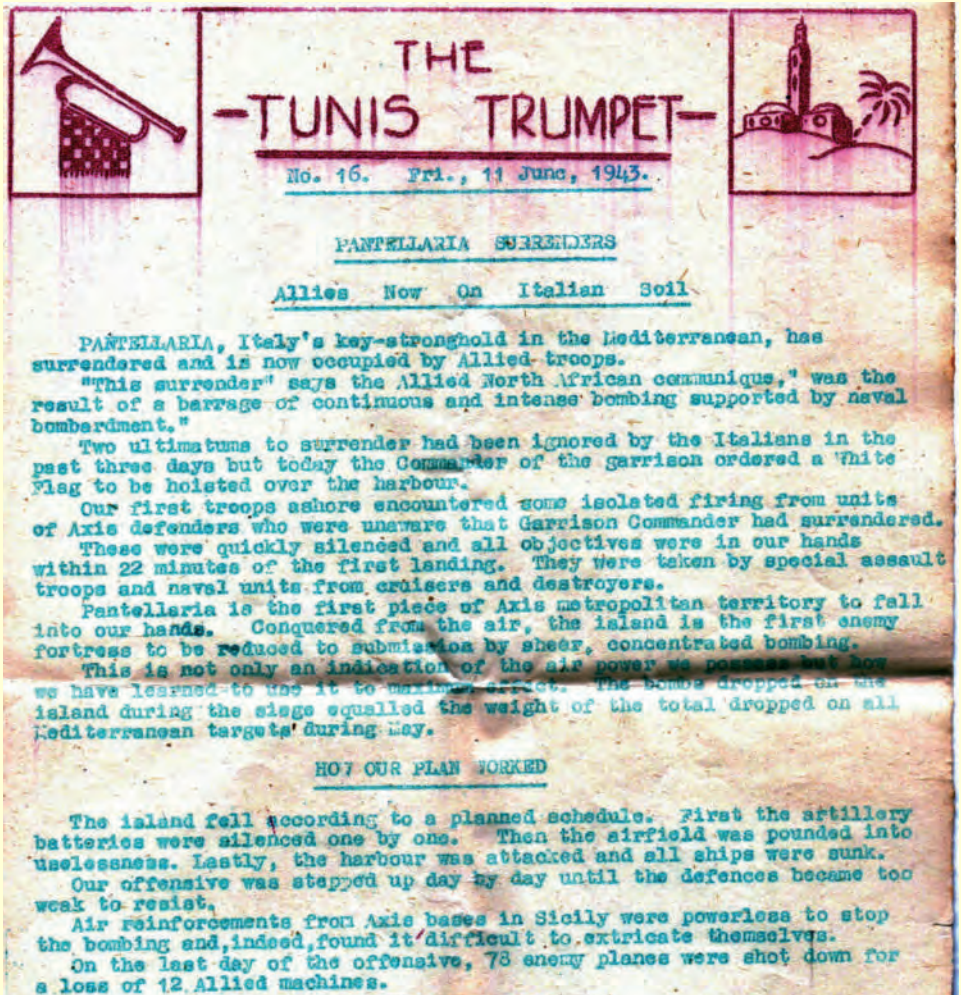
Above are the top and bottom of Stan's airgraph of 6 June 1943.

The inevitable vagaries of deliveries meant that letters in either direction could arrive out of order, so very early on they started numbering their letters to each other as sometimes two different formats were used on the same date.

It's well worth reading their correspondence. At the time they had no idea when they would see each other again and when the war would end.

There was a 'spin-off' for me recently: see next page.

Stan sent Grace some copies of the Tunis Trumpet, a newsletter produced for the troops. The one partly depicted below was of great interest to my wife. It's about the surrender of the island of Pantelleria. Her late father, Major DDC Cox, was the officer who accepted the Italian general's surrender.



Major Cox's Account of the Surrender of Pantelleria

There was a small island between Sicily and Tunisia called Pantelleria. Apparently Winston Churchill feared that the Axis powers would use the remote Italian island as a launch point for operations in North Africa and he needed it to launch the invasion of Sicily. At the time I was serving with the 2nd Battalion the Hampshires. The 1st Battalion North Lincs (The Loyals) was chosen to capture the island and I with other officers was transferred to the Loyals to bring

them up to full strength for the operation. This was entered in the War Diary on 26 May 1943, and I was assigned to "C" Company.

This island of 8 square miles was bombed so heavily it should have sunk. It had a tremendous reputation as Italy's "Rock of Gibraltar" and the powers that be felt that it must be taken before the invasion of Sicily and mainland Italy could be started.

We went over in a troop ship, but because there was no suitable harbour we had to go down scramble-nets into small boats in order to get ashore. It was about 60ft. down with full equipment. Some soldiers inflicted severe wounds on themselves and their comrades with their bayonets while making this totally unpractised descent. In fact these were the only casualties incurred because the garrison gave up without firing a single shot.



Map of Pantelleria from previous day's
Tunis Trumpet

We were told that the garrison consisted of low grade Italian troops who were not expected to put up much resistance, which was just as well because there were many more than had been forecast. As we landed two German fighters flew out from a cunningly constructed runway and hangar dug deep into the mountain as a large cave. The Italians were mighty glad to see us as no supplies had been able to get to them for a week, there was very little water on the island and they had been bombed severely, though with very few casualties.

As things turned out the rest of the Invasion went back to Tunis, leaving just my company on the island, with some Bren Gun carriers. The Company Commander, Major Browning, allocated billets and areas for us to look after. The whole island was littered with discarded arms and ammunition, including thousands of little red and blue grenades.

On our very last day we made an expedition to the highest point on the island and then down a track to a beach of pulverised volcanic material generously sprinkled with unexploded RAF bombs standing upright in the sand. At the far side of the beach was a house tucked under the cliff, and as we watched, a group of people came out and waved a white flag. When we got to them they turned out to be the Italian General commanding the island, his staff and their ladies, and the house was stuffed with food and wine. As the top brass had gone back to Tunisia, and we infantrymen rarely got any glory, I felt justified in accepting his surrender on behalf of General Alexander and all the Allied Governments. I also received his magnificent sword and an Italian flag as big as a bedcover. Later on I was taken prisoner myself at Cassino and the sword

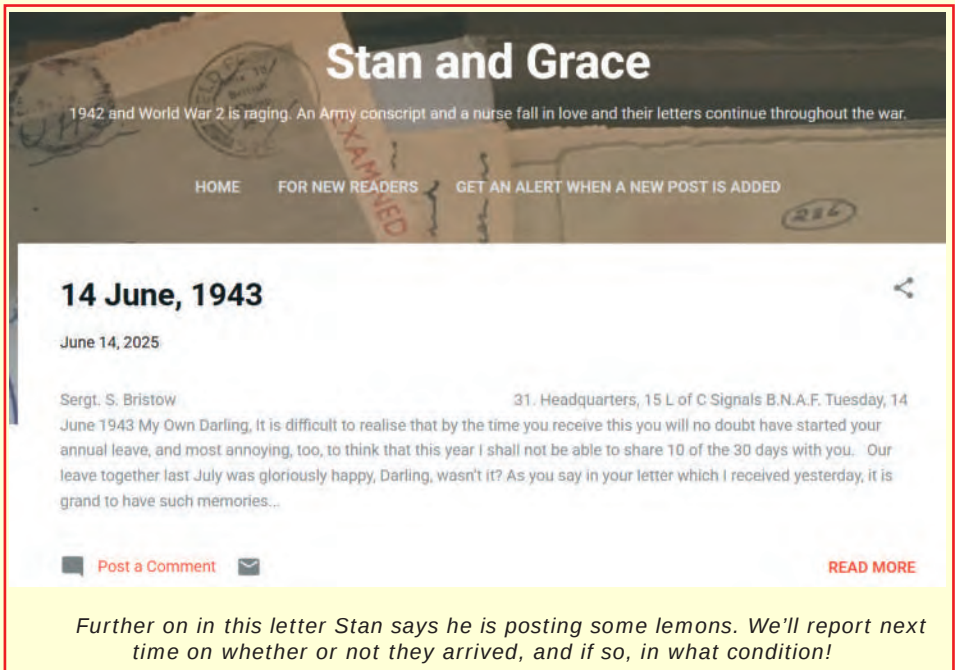
was “recycled” by my comrades. The flag eventually got home with the rest of my kit but the moths had got to it.

Our return to Tunisia was memorable because the Navy, who have never officially recognised soldiers, organised MTB type vessels for the journey back to Bizerta. We had to take off our boots, and they packed us on deck round the superstructure, roped us in and told us to hold tight. The boat then set off, 0 to 40 in about 5 seconds, and we were back in Bizerta in about 20 minutes. I was reminded of this when I read a travel item about Pantelleria in the Sunday Telegraph in Feb. 1996. It appears the island now has an airport and tourist hotels.

DDC Cox, 1996

Do try to make time to look at Liz Whitehouse’s regular postings on

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



The screenshot shows the homepage of the 'Stan and Grace' blog. The header features the title 'Stan and Grace' in large white letters over a background image of a letter. Below the title is a subtitle: '1942 and World War 2 is raging. An Army conscript and a nurse fall in love and their letters continue throughout the war.' Navigation links include 'HOME', 'FOR NEW READERS', and 'GET AN ALERT WHEN A NEW POST IS ADDED'. The main post is dated '14 June, 1943' and is from 'June 14, 2025'. The post is by 'Sergt. S. Bristow' and is dated '31. Headquarters, 15 L of C Signals B.N.A.F. Tuesday, 14 June 1943'. The text of the letter begins: 'My Own Darling, It is difficult to realise that by the time you receive this you will no doubt have started your annual leave, and most annoying, too, to think that this year I shall not be able to share 10 of the 30 days with you. Our leave together last July was gloriously happy, Darling, wasn't it? As you say in your letter which I received yesterday, it is grand to have such memories...'. At the bottom of the post are links for 'Post a Comment' and 'READ MORE'. A yellow banner at the bottom of the screenshot contains the text: 'Further on in this letter Stan says he is posting some lemons. We'll report next time on whether or not they arrived, and if so, in what condition!'.

You can also access it from our website at **<https://barnsleyfhs.co.uk>** by going to the Blogs/Links tab.

Liz posts letters on the date equivalent to when they were written. There is provision for adding one’s own comments.

See our April 2024 Journal for Liz’s introduction to the saga. That issue is also on our website, in the Members area.

Roger de Mercado

SUMMER QUIZ

A little bit of everything flower related and beyond.



1. Which flower was once more costly than gold and has bulbs which can replace onions in some recipes?
2. Which flower inspired the William Wordsworth poem 'I Wandered Lonely As A Cloud'?
3. The largest horticultural campaign in the U.K. is called 'RHS Britain in...' what?
4. Which flower's name comes from the Ancient Greek word for star?
5. Most species of eucalyptus are native to which country?
6. What is Antirrhinum commonly known as, due to the flower's resemblance to a mythical creature?
7. What colour is a Welsh Poppy?
8. What is the common name for the blue flower 'Myosotis', also known as mouse's ear?
9. Which flower's colour depends on the amount of acid in the soil?
10. In Floriography, what colour rose means 'Perfect Happiness'?

FLOWER ANAGRAMS

Rearrange the letters to get a flower's name, simple!

1. ITS LOVE
2. RAIN ON ACT
3. MEET FOR TONG
4. THE LIST
5. FLEURS NOW
6. THY CHAINS
7. NOSE AND LID
8. CHEEKY LO SUN
9. ANGRY HEAD
10. ROWS POND



Margaret Williams (thanks to Lily and Liz.)

WILLIAM SMITH BOOTH

Congratulations to Roger and Shirley for putting together yet another fascinating, varied and well-illustrated "Barnsley Roots". I rarely manage to attend a talk despite being interested in many of the topics, but I feel I get great value for my membership from the quarterly journals.

This time, I want to thank Janet Town for her article with transcription of an Indenture, which has inspired me to write (again). I could do with Janet's skills in deciphering lengthy legal documents because I have been struggling to make sense of several 19th Century Wills recently – I'm sure solicitors were paid by the word and the lack of punctuation does not help!

My 2 x great grandfather, William Smith Booth (1809-1880) was a chemist & druggist but we do not have an indenture for him. His family roots were in Kirkburton with several ancestors being Parish Clerks – there are hundreds of their signatures in the Parish Registers and some Booth relations were buried in expensive chest tombs close to the walls of All Hallows Church.

William appears to have done his training in Huddersfield, where his father Richard Booth was a chemist & druggist before becoming an innkeeper then farmer in Kirkburton. I had assumed he did an apprenticeship, which would have prevented him from getting married until completed.

William is recorded in various records with different but related occupations: general practitioner, doctor, surgeon, chemist & druggist (master). He was registered as a pharmacist rather than GP and he had a good reputation in the Hoyland area.

There was an explosion on 22nd December 1852 at Elsecar Low Colliery (Hemingfield Pit) where 140 men were working, 9 were killed and 13 seriously injured. Volunteers ran towards the pit to assist in the rescue and bringing out the bodies. Several local

medical men were sent for, including Dr Booth.

William was in Hoyland by late 1838 but I could not find him on the 1841 Census. He met Sarah Vaines (1817-1861) daughter of a local nailmaker, and their illegitimate daughter Mary – my great grandmother, who married Charles Firth – was born in August 1839, registered by Sarah as Mary Booth Vaines, although no paternal details were provided. William, surgeon of Hoyland, and Sarah got married in July 1842 in Leeds; their fathers were Richard Booth, gentleman, and William Vaines, innkeeper at the Rose & Crown in Hoyland. Their daughter Mary became known as Mary Vaines Booth and they had another seven children after marriage.

In 1855, William acquired land on which he had built a substantial family home with surgery. This was called Netherfield House overlooking fields (now housing estates) at the end of Booth Street, which was named after him and where several Firths lived over the years. He died suddenly in 1880, aged 71,

For BACKACHE try Dr. Booth's

NOTED

GRAVEL PILLS

These Pills have been in use for the last 20 years, and for Gravel, Lumbago, Sciatica, and all pains in the back they are unequalled.

PRICE 10³d. PER BOX,

AND SOLD BY

J. E. MATTHEW,

CHEMIST,

KING ST., HOYLAND.

and he was interred with his wife in St Peter's Churchyard Extension. Their large headstone is laid flat and is close to the path from the main entrance.

IN AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCE OF

SARAH THE WIFE OF WILLIAM BOOTH
WHO DIED AUGUST 10TH 1861 / AGED 44 YEARS

ALSO LUCY DAUGHTER OF THE ABOVE
WHO DIED JULY 30TH 1853 / AGED 13 MONTHS

ALSO JOHN KNOWLES SON OF THE ABOVE
WHO DIED AUGUST 18TH 1855 / AGED 12 YEARS

ALSO WILLIAM SMITH BOOTH
BORN MAY 20TH 1809 / DIED NOVEMBER 30TH 1880

ALSO ELEANOR ROWNTREE,
DAUGHTER OF THE ABOVE / WHO DIED DEC 15TH 1911, AGED 57 YEARS

ALSO WALTER BOOTH
SON OF THE ABOVE WHO DIED IN CANADA / DEC 10TH 1913, AGED 54
YEARS

Unfortunately, I do not have any photos of William, Sarah, or most of their descendants or wider family. Mum's Firth family do not appear to have kept in contact with the Booths, who moved away from Hoyland, or Vaines, two of whom I met about 15 years ago. I have just two photos of Mary (right) in her older years, one of which is damaged, and my older sister inherited a prayer book inscribed in 1857 by her mother.

St Andrew's Church, Hoyland, was consecrated in 1890 and my great grandfather Charles Firth was the contractor for the plumbing and glazing. The Booth family donated the stone font and lectern, but I do not know who – it may well have been Charles' wife Mary (Vaines Booth).

I managed to look round Netherfield House before it was sold in 2012 for demolition and eventual replacement by two small houses, after suffering major subsidence damage when the NCB took over the collieries. I left a note for the new owner offering to buy one of the original ornate bell pulls as a memento. I was very pleasantly surprised when he called round with the rank of servants' bells, which now take pride of place in our kitchen.



The house had been purchased by Cecil Ottley, printer, and remained in his family for many years until sold for demolition. It was latterly occupied by local historian Sheila Margaret Ottley, his only daughter and a contemporary at Ecclesfield Grammar School of my parents – she was the first student there to win a place at Oxford. Sheila, a friend of the Booths and Firths, wrote about them and the history of Netherfield House in her fascinating book “When Martha Told the Hours”.

Jane Ainsworth

ONE OF MY MOST PRECIOUS HEIRLOOMS

My mother Edith née Firth Hardy was fortunate to be born into a “middle class” family because her grandfather Charles Firth (1839-1892) established in 1862 his own painting, decorating, gilding, graining, plumbing and glazing business, which became C Firth & Sons of Booth Street, Hoyland. He died young and bequeathed the business to his widow Mary Firth with their two sons, William and Arthur, mum’s father, carrying out the work. They had premises built in King Street in 1908 and mum’s brothers kept it going along with an ironmongery shop until 1977.

Arthur Firth (1874-1941) married Edith Louisa Dearling (1876-1956) and they had seven children. Their firstborn, Violet Mary, died on 14th October 1918, aged 16, of Pulmonary Tuberculosis with a devastating impact on her family. Arthur had been called up that year to serve in WW1 and was away training, Edie was unable to complete a detailed letter to her own mother because she was heartbroken (my older sister has this) and her four siblings felt keenly the loss of their eldest sister. (Mum was born in 1921).



My grandmother Edith - “Ma”.

The entire family were devoted to “Ma” and cared for her well during her long period of widowhood. Edie had a leg amputated at the end of 1950 because of Gangrene and her children continued to take her on day trips and holidays in her wheelchair.

She died at home on 8th February 1956, aged 79 (one day under a year before I was born). She attended three weddings of her children and met four of her six grandchildren.

Amongst the items I inherited many years ago, are the fawn-coloured wool shawl my grandmother made and is wearing over her lap in the photograph, a piece of a gold chain possibly for a

pocket watch, a tiny diamond & opal ring and a very worn gold locket. It is the last item, which probably has little monetary value now because of damage, that is the most precious to me.

I occasionally wore the locket because it is pretty, but I could not open it and, as the back was broken, I did not want it to deteriorate further. I put it away in a safe place and only looked at it again recently. The front enamelled piece had broken off exposing a lock of hair, confirming my suspicions that this is mourning jewellery. I imagine that there used to be a photograph inside too, but this had disappeared over time.



I have no proof, but I am convinced that the hair belonged to Violet Mary and that her mother wore the locket until she herself died 37 years after her firstborn. Holding the locket in her grief caused some of the enamel flowers to wear away and the seed pearls to fall out.

Holding this locket and seeing the hair was a very poignant experience. It made me feel closer than ever to two members of my family I never met but know so much about. The love passing down the generations is palpable. I can only hope that future generations will treasure it as I do

Jane Ainsworth

KEEPING FAMILY RESEARCH

I was ill for several weeks over Christmas and New Year with a viral infection. I felt like I was hibernating and thoughts inevitably turned to my mortality, especially because two very close friends died in 2024. I kept thinking about what would happen to my 20+ years of research and what a waste it would be if it was lost. Nobody else would be able to make sense of my filing system on the laptop!

I have never used digital family trees such as Ancestry because I don't like the format and they were useless for sharing with my cousins not on the internet, ie most of them. I created my own Word files that allowed me to tell the chronological stories, highlighting gaps in records.

I had started writing these up, beginning with dad's Hardy ancestors, which I circulated to relations via email in December 2022 to mark the 20th anniversary of his death. As I didn't have the time or inclination to attempt to contact all cousins again to ask for permission to include them, I decided to only include details of family who had died with just names and dates of birth of living relations.

I had a mixed reaction with a few thanking me but others ignoring me, which was disappointing! I continued to carry out research and to refine my stories to include copies of records and photos as well as descriptions of key places. I wanted to make my work accessible and interesting to read but only for my siblings and their descendants.

I contacted various printers to find out what my options might be but the only firm that could meet my needs was Hot Metal Press (HMP) in Elsecar. I had used them to print my five booklets on the history of St Mary's Church in 2022 so I knew that they were very helpful and would do an excellent job.

After checking my page formatting met their requirements, I saved my Word files as PDFs, which I sent to them via We Transfer. Staff at HMP suggested a design for the hard cover for my first book (a tree with my selected photos) and assembled the interior pages with numbering (400 pages of A4 size). As I only wanted five copies the cost was much greater than for a large run, but I felt that approximately £45 per book for a bespoke job using high quality paper represented excellent value. (I have no idea how much I have spent on research over 20 years but with Ancestry, FindMyPast, buying Wills, BMD Certificates, visiting Archives and other places, this would be £thousands).

I have just We Transferred my fourth book to cover maternal as well as paternal branches of my family and the tree design for the cover is being used for all four with different photos added.



So far, I have only seen my Firth book in print and I am delighted with it. My siblings and only Firth first cousin are impressed and enjoying reading it. I feel sure that their children will also appreciate it when they have more time from raising their own families. I hope that at least one of them will want to continue my work.

I feel an enormous sense of relief that my legacy will live on

Jane Ainsworth

YORKSHIRE RECIPES

GRANDMA SKUSE'S BEEF STEW WITH DUMPLINGS



Alice Walker as a young woman, before her marriage. A lovely photo although sadly a little battered and creased.

In the early 1960s I went to primary school in Grimethorpe, where both my sets of grandparents lived. For several years I used to go 'home' for lunch to my Grandma Skuse's house at 56 Brierley Road. I used to be able to walk to Grandma's house, eat a two-course cooked meal, play a hand of 'rummy' with my Auntie Vera and then walk back to school, all in the hour available. Looking back that seems quite an achievement!

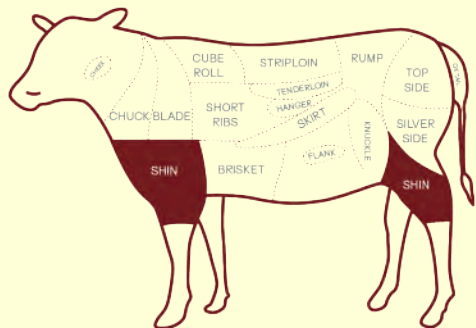
Grandma was Alice Skuse, born Alice Walker in Barnsley in 1889 to Elizabeth (née Ryder) and John Walker. At an early age she went into service, firstly to a farm near Halifax. Later she worked in different places including Kettlewell and Ainderby Manor near Northallerton. Her final job was as Cook at the home of a member of the Stonehouse family in West Parade, Wakefield.

On Christmas Day, 1914, Alice married William Skuse and my mother, Grace, was their youngest child.

As a trained Cook, Alice was a very good cook and made tasty and nourishing meals for her family on a miner's wages. I remember this beef stew being lifted out of the coal oven in a large, shallow enamel bowl with the crisp dumplings floating on top and filling the room with the most appetizing aroma.

I suppose this is a fairly standard stew recipe, but it is important to make it with shin beef as this is what makes it so rich in flavour. Find a proper butcher rather than relying on "supermarket meat".

This quantity feeds up to eight people, so you can halve the quantities for a smaller family, but the stew freezes really well so why not make the full recipe and freeze what does not get eaten?



For the stew

3 lb shin beef, cubed
 1 lb small shallots or pickling onions
 3 or 4 large carrots
 2 bay leaves
 1 teaspoon thyme
 1 teaspoon Worcester sauce
 3 oz lard
 Salt and black pepper
 2 pints beef stock
 2 rounded tablespoons of plain flour



Peel the onions, clean the carrots and cut them into large-ish chunks.

Melt the lard in a large casserole and fry the meat in batches until browned. Remove from the pan and set aside. Add the vegetables to the remaining fat and cook these until they begin to brown at the edges. Remove from the pan.

There should be some fat left in the pan, but if not, add another ounce. When this is hot, sprinkle in the flour, stir and let it cook for a minute or two. Slowly add the stock and Worcester sauce, stirring all the time until it boils and you have a smooth sauce. Return the meat and vegetables to the casserole together with the bay leaves and thyme. Season with salt and black pepper.

Bring back to the boil, cover the casserole with a lid and transfer to the oven at 150° C (fan oven) and leave to cook for 2 ½ hours. At this point the stew can be removed from the oven and allowed to cool and stand overnight.

For the dumplings

6 oz self-raising flour
 3 oz shredded suet
 Salt and black pepper

Re-heat the stew if necessary until boiling. Remove about half the meat and vegetables, cover and keep warm.

Put the flour and suet in a bowl and mix together with the salt and pepper. Add cold water, a little at a time, mixing with a flat-bladed knife until it forms a soft dough – but not too wet! Sprinkle some more flour and pepper on a plate. Form the dough into eight balls, rolling each ball in a little of the flour on the plate.

Make sure that the remaining stew in the casserole is boiling. Carefully drop the dumplings into the stew so they sit at the top. Return the stew, uncovered, to the oven at 220° C (fan) for 20 minutes. Your dumplings will rise and become crispy and brown on top.

Serve – not forgetting the stew you removed from the dish!

To suit modern tastes, I make a slight change to the original recipe. I replace half a pint of the beef stock with half a pint of red wine and add three crushed cloves of garlic at the same time as the bay leaves and thyme.

Liz Whitehouse

BARNSLEY BOARD OF HEALTH MAP

With many old Ordnance Survey maps online, researching the history of one's ancestral homes can be rewarding – especially if you track down a location and are then lucky enough, as I have been on occasion, to find it on Google Street View. Probably the oldest detailed map of Barnsley is not, however, to be found on the internet: it's the Board of Health map of 1856, held by Barnsley Museums & Archives. Paul Stebbing, Barnsley Museum's Archivist, wrote about this map in a blog post in November 2021, the text of which is reproduced below with his kind permission:



The full map is on the left above; on the right is the detail showing St Mary's church.

Local Boards of Health were local authorities in urban areas of England and Wales, created following the Public Health Act of 1848, largely in response to the cholera epidemics of the previous decades. These new boards had substantial local powers, including regulating environmental health risks, controlling sewers and drainage, and ensuring the supply of water. Local Boards could be formed either by a petition from the inhabitants, or by the General Board of Health, if the death rate exceeded twenty-three in a thousand in any place.

The Local Board of Health in Barnsley came about following the inspection of the town in 1852 by Mr. William Ranger of the General Board of Health. Ranger surveyed the general sanitary condition of Barnsley, and an original copy of his published report is held by Barnsley Archives. He criticised the unsatisfactory condition of the town, particularly citing the mortality rate, the water supply, and the inefficiency of both sewerage and drainage. Conditions were such that the decision was taken to create a new board to tackle these problems.

Eighteen men were duly elected to serve: Henry Harvey, John Birks Pigott, Richard Inns, Joseph Canter, Thomas Cope, Edward Bromley, Edward Brady, Henry Richardson, Edward Parker, Charles Tee, John Twibell, Jonathan Carnley, Edward Newman, Benjamin Hague, James Frudd, Edward Lancaster, William Shepherd and Henry Jackson. The new board commenced its work, with the first meeting being held on June 28th 1853 in the Court House, where Mr. W.H. Peacock, a local Solicitor, was elected the first clerk. Two large

handwritten minute books record the business of the board during its sixteen year existence, with the very last meeting taking place on September 6th 1869, prior to Barnsley becoming a borough

Of the many hundreds of maps held by Barnsley Archives, one gem is the map which was surveyed in 1856 to show the extent of the jurisdiction of the new Barnsley Local Board of Health. Measuring 131 x 97cm, the map is tremendously detailed, showing every house, building and structure. It stretches from Pogmoor and the Union Workhouse in the west, to Beevor Hall and Mount Osborne in the east. To the north is the Old Town and to the south is the area historically known as Barebones. The jurisdiction of the new board matched that of the local police, as noted on the map, which was compiled by Day and Son, a major British lithographic firm.

The map captures a key moment in Barnsley's history, when local industry was booming and the town was expanding. Earlier surveys of the town, such as the 18th century enclosure plan, can be useful for research, but lack the immense detail provided by this particular map. We see for the first time the new railway station and three lines: the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway; the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway; and the South Yorkshire Railway. Most of the key town centre roads can be seen, including Eldon Street, Market Hill, Church Street, Pontefract Road and Cheapside. Buildings such as the Grammar School (now the Cooper Gallery) are also featured, whereas well known town centre buildings like the Civic (Public Hall) have yet to arrive.

The tremendous changes that have occurred in the last 160 years are also demonstrated. The area at the top of Market Hill, now occupied by the Town Hall and Barnsley Sixth Form College (previously the Central Library) has changed beyond all recognition, with the housing, lanes, pubs and alleys having been cleared away during the 20th century. We can also see Barnsley's tithe barn, the old St. George's Church, and numerous linen mills – all now consigned to history. As for sport, it was to be another 30 years before the Reverend Preedy founded the town's football club. Where Oakwell now is was just open fields back in 1856!

With acknowledgment to Paul Stebbing

LOCATING ANCESTRAL HOMES

Tracking down the location of an ancestral home, be it mansion or hovel, can be absorbing and sometimes fruitful when one finds it STILL THERE! To see the very latest street maps, it's usually best not to rely on the various offerings from the likes of Google, but to go to the relevant Council's own website. In the case of Barnsley it's at **www.barnsley.gov.uk/barnsley-maps/barnsley-interactive-map**. One can zoom in to great detail and there is a choice of overlays.

The National Library of Scotland has a wonderful selection of old maps online, including some detailed street maps. It takes a while to find one's way round the website, but it's worth it. See the item on page 32 of the July 2024 issue, also the Family History Federation's Really Useful Bulletin No. 17 of January 2022 at **www.exploreyourgenealogy.co.uk/bulletins**

I asked Shirley to give me one of her ancestors' addresses in old Barnsley. She offered 85 Shambles Street, home in 1851 to not one but two of her paternal 3 x great grandfathers. These days there is an 83-85 Shambles Street, a small block that may have some old bits remaining. Detailed Ordnance Survey town maps did not generally have house numbers until the 1940s or later. The earliest I found was the 1960 map, which shows 83, 85 and 87. The Board of Health map of that area shows much the same block for 83 and 85. These days there is a business registered there as 83-85 Shambles Street. Google Street View in August 2024 shows buildings which may or may not include elements of old buildings; however, in close-up the large lower blocks of the right-hand part do look old, also the wall to the right of the access looks old and could be part of what was no. 83.



1960 OS survey



1856 BoH survey



Street View 2024; new roofs, new windows, but old stonework?

Whether or not my conclusion is correct, I hope this illustrates how use of modern maps can help one to locate buildings on much older maps such as the Board of Health map – to be found only by actually going to the Archives. The same is true in many other places. There is so much that you won't find unless you ask your local archives. Barnsley Archives and Local Studies is based in the Discovery Centre, located within the Town Hall. Do try to go!

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.

2006 Ms Ruth Allanach

2007 Mrs Avril Adamson

Elaine Jackson

MEMBERS INTERESTS JULY 2025

Mem. No. 2006 Ruth Allanach

Ruth wrote that she and her cousin have been searching for information about **Abigail Hollingworth**, born 1869, died 1938. She was buried in Royston churchyard.

Her first husband **William Sheldon** was killed in the Peckfield mining disaster 1896. Abigail had four children, the youngest, Ruth's grandma Mary was just six weeks old at the time of the disaster.

In 1898 Abigail married **David Hollingworth**. He died in 1905. Abigail moved in with her daughter Roseanna or Rosehanna; the spelling of her name differs. Rosanna married **Herbert Ball**. Abigail died at 17 Park Crescent, Royston in 1938.

Ruth said they were trying to find where she is buried in Royston church yard. One aunt remembered seeing her headstone close to the Allanach family grave. It was known that after her second husband died she used her first husband's surname, so they have been searching for a Sheldon grave. Since their last visit they have obtained Abigail's death certificate. This records her surname as Hollingworth. Ruth would like to find her grave and most of all, a photo of her, wondering if any of the descendants of Herbert and Rose Hannah Ball have any photos of her and her other children.

Jeff Chambers

See next page for Ruth's progress report...

SURNAME SEARCH INDEX

You can add your names of interest to our database by sending the details in the format below to Jeff Chambers. For County and Country use the Chapman Codes; see **[www.genuki.org.uk / big / Regions / Codes](http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/Regions/Codes)**

Surname	Location	County	Country	Period
eg Smith	eg Barnsley	eg WRY	eg ENG	eg pre 1850

SEARCHING FOR ABIGAIL SHELTON

Abigail Sheldon (née Evans), 1869-1938, was our great grandmother. Like many women of her time she had a hard life. Her father, husband, brothers and son-in-law were all coal miners in Yorkshire. Her husband William Sheldon was killed in the Peckfield Mining disaster of 1896. Our grandmother Mary was just six weeks old.

This isn't a story going back centuries, but in the living memory of my Auntie Margaret Norgate (née Allanach), Ian's mum.

For several years Margaret and Ian (my cousin) have travelled back to Royston to lay flowers on the Allanach grave. Close by is the grave of Rose Hannah Ball, Abigail's daughter and our grandma's sister.

In the early 2000s our Auntie Joan sent letters to her siblings asking for information about the family to help with her family research. She was particularly interested in Abigail and asked if anyone had a photograph of her.

Ian and I met again after the death of our Auntie Joan. Reading some of Joan's research has spurred us on to find a photo of Abigail and her final resting place. Joan recalled seeing Abigail's grave close to the Allanach grave when she visited the Allanach grave as a girl.

Ian and I searched Royston cemetery for Abigail's grave. Margaret Williams (Barnsley Family History Society) kindly searched the cemetery as well. We were searching for Abigail Sheldon as we know this is the name she used after the death of her second husband. The census returns from 1911 show her as using the name Sheldon.

We came across some documents about the Peckfield mining disaster that said Abigail died in Monk Bretton. Auntie Margaret said this was incorrect as they would often visit Abigail and Rose Hannah in Royston. We were then able to obtain Abigail's death certificate which showed that her legal name was still Hollingworth and that she did live in Royston. She died at 17 Park Crescent Royston on the 23rd May 1938.

Margaret Williams suggested we contacted the Cemetery Bereavement Service Barnsley, which we did. They were so helpful. They were able to give us the plot number for Abigail's grave and our great grandparents from the Allanach side of the family.

Our search was over, we have found Abigail! She is in the same plot as Rose Hannah, her husband Herbert and son Harold. We have stood at Rose Hannah's grave not knowing how close we were to our Abigail.

We don't want Abigail to be forgotten. Currently, we are trying to find the owner of the grave. If we are able to do this we would like to add Abigail's name to the current gravestone.





We used Ancestry and Find My Past for our research. Margaret and Jeff from BFHS encouraged us to continue with our research when we felt we were hitting brick walls. Auntie Margaret has many memories of Royston which has helped us understand life in Royston as a mining village.

Ruth Allanach and Ian Norgate

Margaret Norgate, age 95, born Royston, now living near Southampton.

THE WORDSWORTH CONNECTION

I was born in Barnsley in 1945 and until the 1980s my family lived in the various mining villages around Barnsley. As a youngster, I was often told by family members that we were decended on my mother's side from the eminent poet, William Wordsworth. At the time I always took the story with a large inch of salt, but nevertheless decided on retirement and in the course of my family history research to explore the truth of the matter.

Research began with visits to churchyards at Thurgoland and Silkstone where so many Wordsworths lie buried, having made livings generally as farmers wire manufacturers. Subsequent investigations in the archives soon revealed that we were not direct descendants of the poet, but rather a co-lateral branch. This poet's ancestors did in fact live in the Thurgoland/Penistone/Silkstone areas until his grandfather, Robert, my ancestor, moved to Cumberland (now Cumbria) to work on the estate of the Lowther family, the Earl of Lonsdale. Like so many family history tales this one contained a grain of truth, but required examining in detail.

Despite some disillusion on learning the facts of the case I nevertheless discovered that having a 'gateway' ancestor, albeit a distant one, can prove to be a great help in tracing a family tree a long way back, in my case, as far as the 16th century.

Robert Watson

SUMMER QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Tulips
2. Daffodils
3. Bloom
4. Aster
5. Australia
6. Snapdragon
7. Yellow
8. Forget-me Not
9. Hydrangeas
10. Pink

ANAGRAM ANSWERS

1. VIOLETS
2. CARNATION
3. FORGET ME NOT
4. THISTLE
5. SUNFLOWER
6. HYACINTH
7. DANDELIONS
8. HONEYSUCKLE
9. HYDRANGEA
10. SNOWDROP

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 or call Doreen on 01226 383606 or mobile 07963 243 538

July & August	Summer Recess
18 th September	Liz Whitehouse , A Nightshirt, A White Dress and a 6ft Long Sampler. Liz will talk about what she and her sister found while documenting Barnsley Museums un-accessioned costumes and textiles.
16 th October	Lizzie Jones , Left Behind in Stratford – The Family of William Shakespeare.
20 th November	Eric Jackson , A Tale of Two Houses – Chatsworth House; Hardwick Hall and Bess of Hardwick.
December	Christmas Break

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 October 2025 edition by 31st August 2025 to:

Email: subeditor@barnsleyfhs.co.uk, or

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

Copyright clearance is the contributor's responsibility and you must ensure that written and illustrative material does not breach copyright and that all sources are correctly acknowledged. The Society accepts no responsibility for the views expressed in the articles published. The right to final editing lies with the Journal Editor.

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**

Copyright ©2025 Barnsley Family History Society. All Rights Reserved. Reproduction of any part of this publication is not permitted without the written permission of the editor.



Our recent speakers Elaine and Tony Perkins



Barnsley
Family History
Society