

Bod-Kin

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Bradford Family History Society**

BRADFORD FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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Many others help the Society from time to time. Without their help, we would not function so well.

Please include your membership number in all correspondence and a SAE if you require a reply unless you are purchasing items that include postage.

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Front cover picture – Hirst Wood Nature Reserve © Sue Steel (see page 23)

The Editors

As summer approaches, our '**Photos and Postcards**' theme for this quarter has, perhaps unsurprisingly, prompted three members to submit about holidays. One of these articles offers a unique storytelling approach you won't often find in the Bod-Kin. It's fascinating to see how this quarter's theme has inspired such diverse narratives.

Beyond our holiday features, this issue of the Bod-Kin offers a wide range of topics - sport, delving into old family lines, and uncovering valuable research resources.

Looking ahead, the September issue of Bod-Kin will explore the intriguing theme of '**Crime**'. We are eager to hear your stories! Was one of your ancestors ever accused of breaking the law - perhaps horse theft or poaching in the King's forest? Maybe there was a mysterious death in the family, an ancestor falsely accused, or even one who worked in law enforcement or a related field.

We can't wait to receive your articles! The submission deadline for the next issue is **7 August 2026**. Remember, no article is too short or too long. Longer pieces (over six pages) may be serialised or featured in full on the Society's website.



From T'Chairman

Sue Steel

As I write this we still have Easter Eggs left (a miracle) and the sun is shining.

Where did the first half of 2026 go? January seemed to take ages and then next minute it's the Easter holidays. I've crossed my fingers for June, as we are expecting my Granddaughter's GSCE results in summer – a fraught couple of months during exams. Do you remember exam time? Awful and stressful back in the 1970's.

Enough wool gathering. A huge thank you to the outgoing committee, especially Bill Boldy. When I became Chairman (a few years ago now), he was one of my go-to committee members when I needed help. He sorted out leaflets, technical bits and bobs and always turned up to help at fairs. Thank you for your help over the years. Then a welcome to the new committee, even if it has many of the same faces. Without you there would be no Society.

We have been very quiet recently. As ever we are looking for a Speaker Finder (you don't have to be a committee member) to help with the 2027 Programme. Suggestions for topics you would like to be covered and the names of speakers you found interesting would be most welcome.

With the help of my sister-in-law (in USA), I have managed to transcribe some papers handed to me a while back from Kath Alred's widower. The details are for:

Laisterdyke Greenhill/Trinity Methodist Church – Memorials
Laisterdyke Greenhill/Trinity Methodist Church – Memorial Plaques
Laisterdyke Greenhill/Trinity Methodist Church notes (please read first)

St Clare Roman Catholic Church, Fagley Grotto Memorials
Mount St Marie, Roman Catholic Church baptisms from 1823 to 1829.
Mount St Marie, Roman Catholic Church notes (please read first)

These are all on-line in our *Members Only Area* under *Resources / Transcriptions*. Just be aware, these are from transcriptions made and not the original documents and so are prone to errors but can be used as a starting point. I have also included some information on each of the churches / chapels.

We still need transcribers for converting our CDs to spreadsheets for Find My Past and to photograph and transcribe Holme Chapel records. The chapel is on Holme Lane off Tong Street. We have permission to photograph the registers held there but I just haven't had a chance to start this. Volunteers always needed.

On Saturday 27th June 2026 there is a Family History Fair at Acomb Parish Church Hall, 18A Front St, Acomb, York YO24 3BZ from 10.00-15.00. The fair is run by York Family History Society and will feature various stall holders, family history talks, books, pamphlets, and databases related to local genealogy. Refreshments and cakes will be on sale. We will have a stall there as well. Come along and say hello. (4097)

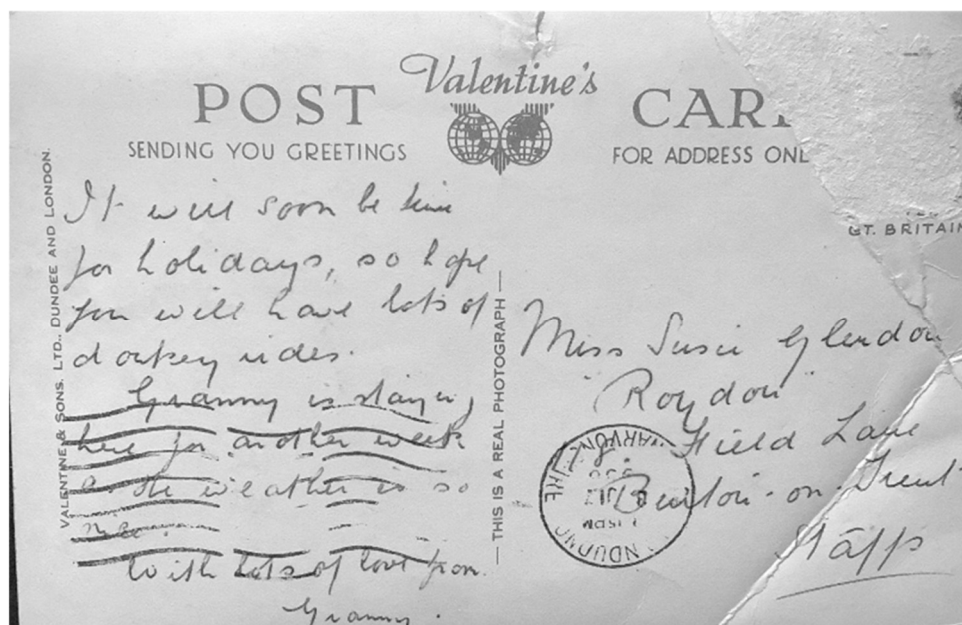
Photos and Postcards

The 'Photos and Postcards' theme for this issue encouraged BFHS members to delve into their family archives. The traditional association of postcards with holidays naturally emerges as a recurring secondary theme for two of our authors. The third utilises a unique poetic style to share the author's personal holiday experience, with postcards and photos as the assumed mementos of the trip.

Holiday Postcards

Sue Carson

This postcard was sent to me by my granny in 1956 from Llandudno. Does anyone else remember having donkey rides on the beach?



Her message on the back reads:

It will soon be time for holidays, so hope you will have lots of donkey rides.

Granny is staying here for another week. The weather is nice. With lots of love from Granny

When I searched for photos of me on a donkey, I found one but riding a pony. This would have been Filey in 1955 I think. Does anyone recognize the background?



And searching further back in the albums one of my mother Nancy taken in Saltburn in 1924, also on a pony. I presume now these rides are not allowed on beaches for hygiene or safety reasons. (4127)



A Postcard from America

Ben Shaw

This quarter's theme of *postcards and photos* immediately made me think of some incredible things I inherited from my grandmother, June Habgood (née Williams). June was a brilliant writer, the keeper of our family's stories, and the owner of a huge collection of photographs, a lot of which had been passed on to her over the years as family members died. She was a Londoner but absolutely loved it when my parents emigrated to Yorkshire. Having been a boarder at a school near Wakefield, she learned to love the County, especially Haworth, home of her favourite authors, the Brontës.

When June was just three years old, she received a postcard from her Aunt Margaret (known to everyone as Maggie), who was sailing to New York on the *MV Georgic*. Maggie always made a massive fuss of her little niece and was June's favourite aunt. She was heading off on holiday with her own aunt, June's great-aunt Margaret, who the family called "Mag". In June's collection are letters and jottings that contain snippets about Mag's life, and by piecing these together with records on Ancestry. I've managed to put together her story, and what a story it is.



Maggie Lynch aged 21 (1935)



Mag Lynch aged 21 (1920)

A Life Across the Atlantic

Mag was born Margaret Lilian Lynch on 26 August 1899 at 25 Faustin Place, in the parish of St Olave's, Rotherhithe, in the County of London (Surrey in some records). She was fifteen years younger than her brother, John Lynch, my grandmother June's grandfather.

The family's American connection actually started a generation earlier, with Mag's aunt Ellen Maud Lynch, born in 1859 in Bantry Bay, Ireland. Ellen emigrated to the USA in 1890 at twenty-six, following four older

siblings who'd already scattered to England, Australia and America. By 1896, she'd settled in Salem, Massachusetts, working as a domestic servant, and that's where she married Jeremiah Ring. Sadly, their only child died the day after her birth in May 1903 and Jeremiah died after being hit by a car in October the same year.

Ellen made several trips back to Ireland and England over the years. On one of these visits, in 1916, she brought sixteen-year-old Mag back with her to America to act as her companion. They sailed from Liverpool for New York on 27 May 1916.



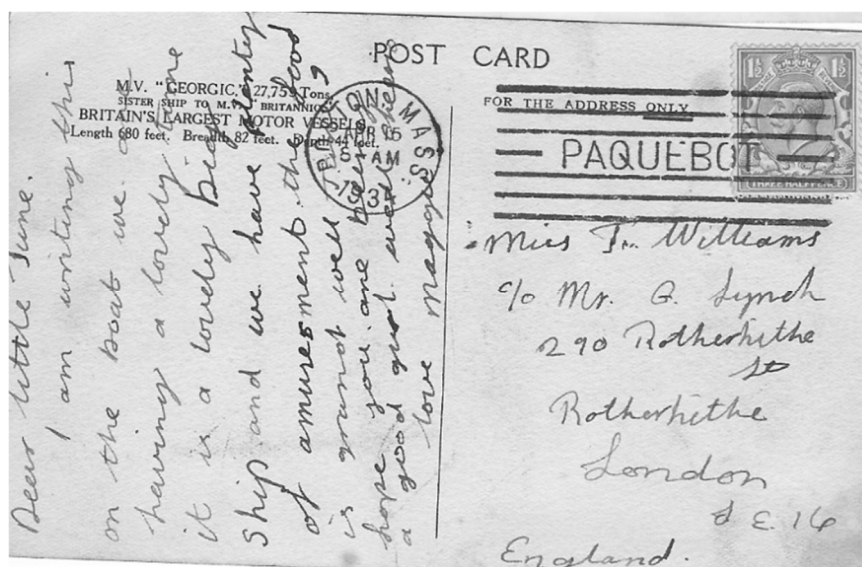
Ellen Ring (nee Lynch)

By December 1920, Mag was working at the Adams House Commercial Hotel on Washington Street, Boston. Ellen died in 1922 and Mag married William John Cooke two years later on 2 February 1924 in Salem. The couple had two children, John and Ellen. Mag officially became a US citizen when her naturalisation petition was accepted in Boston on 17 May 1932, quite a journey from Rotherhithe.

Mag returned home several times over the years, but two visits in particular stand out, both because of the mementoes they left behind in June's collection.

The 1934 Visit

June was born in 1931, so she was just old enough to have memories of Mag's visit to Rotherhithe in 1934. When the time came for Mag to head back to America, her brother John and his wife Catherine decided to tag along for a holiday, bringing their daughter Maggie with them. They boarded the *MV Georgic* in Southampton in April 1934, bound for New York, and it was from that ship that Maggie posted the now-famous card to her little niece, June.



Maggie's postcard from the MV Georgic (back)

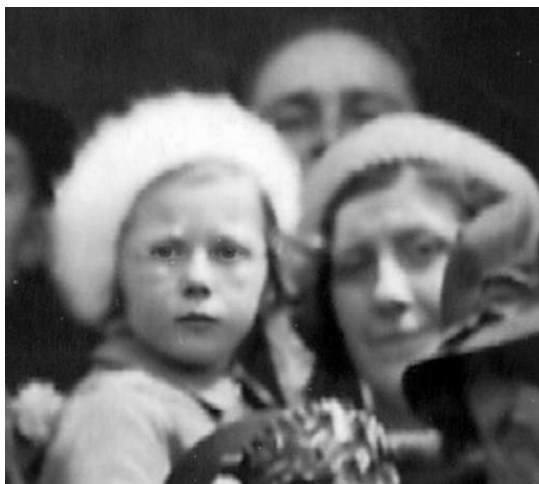


Maggie's postcard from the MV Georgic(front)

For anyone who loves ships, the *Georgic* has a fascinating history. She was the very last ship built for the White Star Line, completed in June 1932 by Harland and Wolff in Belfast. Mag's crossing may actually have been one of the last under the White Star flag, as the company merged with Cunard on 10 May 1934, just weeks after they sailed. The *Georgic* kept her White Star colours, a black hull and buff-coloured funnels with black tops and flew both companies' flags for a time. She had two squat funnels, with the forward one being a dummy, used for ventilation and housing the radio room. Sadly, during the Second World War, she was bombed and gutted by fire in Egypt in 1941, but she was salvaged, rebuilt as a troopship and later an immigrant ship, before finally being scrapped in 1956.

Now, the postcard's address puzzled me. It was sent to *June Williams c/o Mr G. Lynch, 290 Rotherhithe Square*, but June and her family lived at 3 Thorburn Square. The 'c/o' notation told me the person wasn't normally at that address, so I went digging through June's papers for an explanation.

It turned out that Mr G. Lynch was Maggie's older brother George, the only adult left in the house while his parents were away in America. That explained the address, but it still left me wondering why June was there too. The answer was in June's letters: part of Maggie's role in the household was to *look after George*, his washing, cleaning, meals, the lot. With Maggie away in America, her sister Rose Williams (née Lynch, June's mum) stepped in. She moved in with George, bringing baby John and June along with her, while her husband Alf was left at home to manage on his own. June was not impressed by this arrangement, writing in one of her letters: "*Why the lazy s*d couldn't manage for himself, I don't know!*". Though to give George some credit, Rose was also there to look after her youngest siblings, Thomas (15), Albert (13) and Eileen (10). Puzzle solved!



June with Rose at the wedding of George Lynch and Edith Howard 1934

The 1952 Visit

Going through June's collection, I found some brilliant photographs from Mag's visit to England in 1952. June was twenty-one by then, and Mag had come over to be part of her great-niece's coming of age celebration. June was delighted that one of her favourite aunts was able to be with her.



June with Mag in England

On the return trip, John again joined Mag for the voyage, this time leaving his wife at home and taking June's mum, Rose, with him instead. By all accounts, it was an unforgettable trip for Rose. She got to spend real time with Mag's family, see their home, and experience a completely different way of life. When she came back, Rose couldn't stop talking about it, the huge house, the beautiful countryside, and the bees they kept on their land. Luckily, she brought back loads of photographs, so June got to see it all for herself too. (5355)

1952 photos



Mag with her sister-in-law Catherine and brother John in England



Mag, John, and in beekeeper's protective clothing, Rose and Mag's husband William Cooke in Salem.



Mag and William's home in Salem

Ode to Holidays

Pat Whitford-Bartle

You remember how I smashed me teeth, last year, and were consumed wi' grief?
How me cousin were a gem and helped me to get reight again.
That week we 'ad in Porthcawl Bay completely took me 'blues' away.
Now she'd said, "Tha's nowt to lose, I'm gonna tek you on a cruise"!

Well on a lovely August day, we set off for t' airport, Manchester way.
The flight to Frankfurt went easy as pie, it were really lovely up in t' sky.
We landed and went t' Munich Gate, but my oh my, we were too late.
Me cousin said, "what can we do, I really don't have a clue."

I took her to the airline desk, said, "sit down here and have a rest."
I told the Rep our sorry tale and heard me cousin begin to wail.
Then said to t' Rep "another flight? We really should be there tonight,"
The Rep said, "you'll have to stay in t' airport lounge all the day."

She gave us vouchers for a meal, "15 Euros, that's no deal" my cousin squealed.
Well, then she cried and began to rock, I said to t' Rep, "It's all the shock!"
As me cousin cried and cried, the poor young Rep just stood and sighed.
Then she went to use t' phone, came back and said, "It's the VIP lounge for you."

"The VIP lounge is over that-a-way and there you can stay all the day.
It's all for free to eat and drink and watch TV – what do you think?"
Our Rita sniffed and dried her tears, well, me I gave three silent cheers!
At ten that night a message came through, "there's another flight for you and you."

We trundled off in the dark, another flight, another lark!
It was 1pm in Budapest as we got to t' hotel for a rest.
The Corinthian, it was magnificent, but we could've slumbered in a tent!
We breakfasted at 6am then were on the go again.

Four hours on a motorway, watching all t' foreign traffic play.
A hold up here a gridlock there, it really wasn't very fair.
We finally caught our Danube cruise, but a day and a half we'd had to lose.
Dinner that night at t' Captain's table should have been a lovely treat, but we were dropping on our feet.

We settled next day to our shortened cruise, of course we had no time to lose.
Salzburg, Vienna, Schonbrun Castle. Ah! It really was worth all the hassle.
As we took in all the sights, our Rita said "NO MORE FLIGHTS.
If we go on another cruise, it's from Liverpool, we'll sail and booze!" (2980)

My Warburtons of Clayton Heights

Linda Corry

In the December 2025 issue of Bod-Kin our attention was drawn to a new book about Samuel Cunliffe Lister by Chris Cobbley. Because of Lister's connection to one of my relatives, I had recently been doing a bit of research about him myself, while researching my own family. Using the internet (London Gazette, newspaper articles, Google searches, etc.) I had found that my relative James Warburton (1814 - 1877) had been in partnership with Lister from 1852 to 1864. Afterwards the relationship became acrimonious as Lister began suspecting James of fraud. Chris briefly mentions James on pages 32 - 33, chiefly as a swindler!

I have been inspired to write about my Warburton line. For a long time, I hadn't known anything about it, until DNA matching broke down the 'brick wall'. Now I believe that James was the nephew of my 3x great grandmother, Ann Warburton. What I had known about Ann was that she lived in Clayton Heights and died in 1820. Because both the Old Dolphin Wesleyan burial register and Arthur Blackburn's transcription of her gravestone gave her age at death as 38, I thought she had been born in 1782 but couldn't find a christening record. There was a christening in the Kipping Independent chapel register of an Ann born 1785, father - John, and there had been a few christenings previously of the children of John Warburton, weaver of Clayton Edge. Only a few months ago I started investigating a group of DNA matches, who match each other, and there are trees online showing my Ann as the sister of their ancestor. Now I think that the 1785 Ann is mine, and that her death age of 35 was mistranscribed.

Ann Warburton (1785 - 1820) married, in 1804, George Jagger (1778 - 1857; weaver of Clayton Heights and sexton of Old Dolphin Wesleyan chapel - his gravestone said he interred upwards of 1700 corpses) and had 6 children:- Jonathan (1805 - 1816), James (1809 - 1881), John (1811 - 1883), Daniel (1812 - 1882), Abraham (1815 - 1817?) and Mary (1817 - 1869; my 2x great grandmother). One of Daniel Jagger's descendants also matches the 'DNA group'.

Ann's parents were **John Warburton** (1747 - 1817) and **Hannah Barker** (? - 1795), who married in 1768 and had 7 children, 5 of whom died in the 1780s leaving just Ann and her brother James (1778 - 1828) to reach adulthood. I haven't found a christening record for John, but there were Warburton families in Clayton from at least the 1600s, so I assume he was part of one of those families.

James Warburton (1778 Clayton - 1828 Louth, Lincolnshire) had moved to Leeds by 1797, to Ossett (*near Wakefield*) by 1802 and to Louth by 1812. (*Louth was a carpet and wool textile manufacturing town*). He was described in christening records as, variously, carpet weaver, worsted maker and worsted spinner. I am assuming this meant he was managing a business, as usually people

doing the actual spinning were quite young - and female. He married twice and had 10 children. I haven't been able to find out much about 5 of the children, so I am just writing about Hannah (1802 - 1877), Edward (1806- 1849), Abraham (1809 - 1884), James (1814 - 1877) and Joseph (1815 - ?). James and Edward are the most interesting. The others were in the same trade as James and their lives were all affected by his story to some extent. Edward had a somewhat different life story.

James Warburton (1814 Louth - 1877 Doberan, Germany), was the one with connections to S.C. Lister. He must have had some dealings with Prussia by 1841, as he married in Berlin then, to Amalie Tiedt (1811 Neustrelitz, Mecklenburg - 1885 Zierke, Germany). By 1851 he was one of 4 partners in a company in Holbeck, Leeds, operating as Warburton & Co., as Berlin wool spinners and employing 42 people. That partnership was dissolved in 1852 and he moved to Addingham to be in partnership with Lister.

During the 1850s he took out several patents, either by himself or together with Lister, for the invention of improvements to machinery for yarn processing, especially combing, and particularly silk combing. By 1859 he and Lister were in business as S.C. Lister at Halifax and Keighley, and as Warburton & Co. at Uebigau, Saxony. In the 1861 census he lived at Victoria Park, Shipley and was described as 'comber and spinner'. By 1864 he was fearing that he would be financially ruined and his partnership with Lister, as flax, cotton and silk spinners at Manningham, Halifax, Addingham and Keighley was dissolved.

By 1867 Lister was suspecting James, and his brother Joseph in Uebigau, of fraud. The fraud, amounting to between £10K and £15K, involved buying combing machines in England and charging them to Lister, shipping them to Saxony for the Uebigau Mill - but then selling them. In 1870 Lister initiated proceedings against James, who by then was living in Beeston. James was committed for trial and released on bail of £1000, which was stood by his brother Abraham and a Thomas Waddington. He fled the country, causing the bail money to be forfeited when he was found guilty.

In a speech made late in his long life, Lister (1815 - 1906) **did** give James Warburton credit for his part in his enormous success. *(Lister became one of the wealthiest men in the country; built Manningham Mills; owned Swinton Castle in Masham, Jervaulx Abbey, Middleham Castle, Ackton Hall Colliery and estates in the Punjab; became Lord Masham; made significant donations to Bradford Corporation towards Lister Park and the Cartwright Hall; and played a significant part in the formation of the Labour Party when he chose to prioritise his profits and reduced his workers' wages when affected by the US trade tariffs in the 1890s).*

Hannah Warburton (1802 Ossett - 1877 Bradford) married, 1823 Louth, William Halliwell (1797 Stainland - 1879 Bradford; overlooker of woolcombers in 1841 and 1851, and of spinners in 1861; agent for sale of stuff pieces in 1871)

and had 4 children. Moved from Louth to Bradford by 1831 and to Clayton West (*near Huddersfield*) by 1838. Was in Addingham in 1861, so possibly William had moved there to work in James' business. By 1871 the family was back in Bradford.

Abraham Warburton (1809 Ossett - 1884 Earlsheaton) married, 1838 Bradford, Martha Wilkinson (1810 - 1882). He was an overlooker living in Horton, Bradford in 1838 and 1841. The first of 2 children was born in Bradford in 1844, but the second was born in Berlin in 1850, and I haven't found Abraham's family in England in the 1851 and 1861 censuses. He was in Wakefield by 1870 when he stood bail for brother James, in Wakefield in 1871 and in Earlsheaton (*near Dewsbury*) in 1881 - in both censuses described as retired worsted spinner, which I assume means he had run a spinning business.

Joseph Warburton (1815 Louth - ?) married, 1838 London, Caroline Stevens (1821 London - ?) and had 3 children, 2 of whom seemed to have died by 1851. He was an engraver in London from 1838 to 1851. Not found in 1861 and apparently was running the mill in Uebigau by about 1864; S.C. Lister prosecuted him for fraud (*see James above*) in 1867, and he was sentenced to 6 years' imprisonment in Saxony. He didn't seem to ever return to England, and I have found no further information.

Edward Warburton (1806 Ossett - 1849 Council Bluffs, Iowa) was the ancestor of the 'DNA group'. He married, 1828 Louth, Sophia Bywater (1805 Louth - 1868 Tooele, Utah). He was a cabinet maker. By 1843 he was president of the Louth branch of Mormons. In 1849 he answered the call to be one of the pioneers in the recently (*1847*) established settlement of Utah. With Sophia and the 2 survivors of their 4 children, he sailed to New Orleans and up the Mississippi to St. Louis. Unfortunately, he died of cholera in the Mormons' winter quarters in Iowa. Sophia and the children, Richard (1829 Louth - 1907 Tooele) and Mary Ann (1839 Louth - 1912 Tooele) crossed the plains to Salt Lake City in an oxen drawn wagon train. Richard had 2 wives, both living in the household together, 16 children and at least 53 grandchildren - he served 6 months for bigamy in 1887. Mary Ann had 10 children.

I can work out how 11 of my DNA matches are descended from Edward's two children; mainly they are my 5th cousins once removed. There are many other matches in the 'group' where I don't have enough clues as to exactly how we're related. Interestingly my brother has no DNA matches with any of the 'group' - showing how random the inheritance of DNA (and the knocking down of 'brick walls') is. (2391)

Women's Sport -

The Ancient and Modern Game of Golf

Jackie Depelle

An idea of how to contribute to the topic requested for the December 2025 Bod-Kin didn't surface until reading the interesting articles printed in Volume 16. Only knowing my maternal grandmother, I don't have any recollection of female sporting activities for that generation other than some element of shooting at some time. This was evidenced by a rifle pellet embedded in her hand which I recall vividly moving around under her skin!

My mother played golf for many years as a member of the nine-hole Fulneck Golf Club founded in 1892, a key element of the remaining green belt between the major cities of Bradford and Leeds. I believe she was introduced to the hobby / sport on marriage and certainly golf was a major aspect of my childhood. My father was very active in The Yorkshire Rabbits Golf Association and The Bradford and District Rabbits Gold Association hence we regularly travelled to weekend mixed foursome events around the county. Nothing particularly unusual in this so far, though in those days ladies' golf didn't have much of a profile, no high value earnings in prize money or sponsorship income as today. What did become out of the ordinary was when I started to play as a child with cut-down golf clubs carried in what I don't recall. There was a fledging Junior Boys' Section in due course, at times supplemented by pupils from Fulneck School who had private lessons after teaching had concluded. Only once did I have a female companion when the daughter of an adult male member joined me for a while but that was very short-lived.

Eventually, by the time I started work, ladies' access to golf courses was still strictly limited especially the 19th hole! It wasn't until part-time hours enabled me to play on weekdays that more competitive events opened up including travel to other clubs representing at various times Fulneck Golf Club, Bingley St Ives Golf Club and latterly Headingley. There was also an increased profile for girls by then with several local players representing the county and making a name for themselves.

With this background to my own junior golf days I was fascinated on a recent lunch visit, last year to a course in North Yorkshire during school holidays. It was amazing and wonderful to see the equipment grandparents were unpacking from their cars, properly manufactured junior sized golf clubs, small trolleys though I didn't spot any that were battery operated! Perhaps they are out there, and I have to say on that particular day I didn't spot any girls, though there were ladies on the course. Looking recently at Fulneck Golf Club's website I see they

launched their Junior Golf Academy in 2025 with an image of a young girl driving off on the 3rd tee! How times have changed – excellent!



Practice green and 1st fairway Fulneck Golf Club, Nr Pudsey, West Yorkshire, summer 2025: © Jackie Depelle

For information on ladies' golf see:

History of Women's Golf – <https://womenonthetee.com/>

Further reading: The First Hundred Years. Fulneck Golf Club 1892 – 1992

1st (and only?) Female President of the Club: 1904 – 1937 Lady Tempest of Tong Hall

1st Lady Captain: 1922 – Mrs V M Tullie

1st Lady President: 1904 – 1935 – Lady Tempest of Tong Hall

So, I wasn't quite the female trail blazer I thought! (2929)

The Life and Times of Lady Anne Clifford

John Parker



Lady Ann Clifford 1620 (public domain)

Whenever you read about Lady Anne Clifford, the words redoubtable, formidable and forceful are the adjectives used. She was born in 1590 in Skipton Castle, pictured, into a family that owned most of the Yorkshire Dales and parts of Westmorland and Cumberland, estates that had been extended over three centuries of marriages to the right people. She was Countess of Dorset, Pembroke and Montgomery, and 14th Baroness de Clifford.



Skipton Castle (public domain)

Take a look at the 'Great Picture', it is Anne's life story on canvas and a record of her place in the Cliffords of Skipton Castle. Known as the 'Great Picture', the original painting is in the Abbot Hall Art Gallery in Kendal. The triptych was commissioned by Anne in 1646, the artist was for many years unknown but is now attributed to Jan van Belcamp, a Flemish painter from Antwerp. In the centre is Anne's father, George Clifford, 3rd Earl of Cumberland, born in Brougham Castle, near Penrith. He was a seafarer and navigator who

commanded the '*Elizabeth Bonaventure*' in the fleet that defeated the Spanish Armada. He was a speculator who was a founder member of the East India Company but lost money on several ill-fated sea-faring expeditions. Even he didn't get it right all of the time.



The Great Picture (public domain)

Her mother, Margaret Russell, was the daughter of the 2nd Earl of Bedford and also in the picture are two sons who died young. On the wall we see framed family trees and portraits of four aunts. Anne and her mother formed a close relationship which strengthened after George died in 1605.

In the left-hand panel, we see Lady Anne aged 15 in 1605. On the wall is a portrait of her tutor, Samuel Daniel, and her governess Anne Taylor along with a selection of books. Anne was very studious and under the guidance of her tutor and her books she became very learned in a range of subjects and was introduced to Elizabeth I's court at the age of 13 and soon became very popular.

In the right-hand panel we see lady Anne in 1646 when she commissioned the painting. Also are framed portraits of her two husbands with their heraldic coat of arms. First, Richard Sackville, Earl of Dorset, described as a gambler and wastrel, and Philip Herbert, 4th Earl of Pembroke, a favourite of Kings James I and Charles I, but joined the Parliamentarians and acted as a negotiator between the two sides. With her first husband she had two daughters Margaret and Isabella and three sons who died in childhood. She had two sons with Philip Herbert, but both died in infancy.

Anne is holding a document, her father's will, and the story centres around this will. When her father died Anne expected to inherit the estates as her two brothers had died young, but it was not to be. As a female she was excluded and her father left the large estates to her uncle Sir Francis Clifford. George had not recognised Anne's determination. Helped by her mother, they began a long battle of words to regain the estates for her side of the family.

As well as Skipton Castle there were four other fine castles at Mallerstang near Kirkby Stephen, Brough, Appleby and Brougham near Penrith. She travelled

to these castles to copy the deeds and other family documents, now valuable sources of information.

Through two turbulent marriages the disputes over the estates continued, the King, James I, arbitrated against Anne on one occasion. She then contested ownership through the courts in 1628 and 1630 without success.

In 1641 the uncle who had inherited the estates died but again she was disappointed as he left the estates to his son, but it was only another two years before he too died without children. So, at last, in 1643 the castles and estates came to her, but there was bad news. This was in the middle of the Civil War, so it was 1649 before she could head back from her marital home in London to Skipton. They were ardent Royalists but after the Battle of Marston Moor the Parliamentarians were in control of northern England. What she found was devastating. During the Civil War Skipton Castle had been partially demolished by order of Parliament. The castle had been home of the Cliffords since 1311, and Anne resolved to rebuild it and the four others in her realm. She was now 59 years old, had borne 5 + 2 children and Anne set out to organise the rebuilding of her 5 castles and much more besides.

She made Skipton Castle habitable again making it more like a home than a fortified castle, restored the parish church, which is next door, and renovated Barden Tower as a hunting lodge. On her travels across the country, mostly on cart tracks through fair weather and foul, she kept diaries which recount the trials and tribulations of the journeys. She was High Sherriff of Westmorland and travelled in a manner appropriate to her position. She rode in a horse-litter, ladies in waiting were next in a coach and six horses, the estate officials and menservants on horseback. They took their own chairs, tapestries, carpets and curtains, all went with them wherever they went so Anne could be comfortable. In all, her retinue amounted to 300 people. The route of her travels is known as Lady Anne's Way, a 100-mile walking route from Skipton to Penrith through some magnificent scenery and passing all the castles in her realm. There is a statue of Lady Anne on the main street in Kirkby Stephen.



Pendragon Castle (public domain)

Lady Anne saw the next part of her dream come true in 1663 when she restored Pendragon Castle near Kirkby Stephen, pictured. It used to be called

Mallerstang castle by an earlier generation, Robert de Clifford changed the name to Pendragon Castle when stories about the exploits of King Arthur were all the fashion. It is alleged to be the former home of Luther Pendragon, King of Britain and father of King Arthur. Fact or fiction, we will never know. Anne spent Christmas 1663 at Pendragon Castle, the first time for 100 years. It was at this castle that she wrote her will.

On through Kirkby Stephen to Brough where she renovated her castle there and the round tower is called Clifford's Tower because she stayed in the room at the top of the tower whenever she visited.



Brough Castle (public domain)



Appleby Castle (public domain)

Next along the Eden valley is Appleby, well known for its horse fair. Appleby Castle, pictured, had suffered from Scots raiders as well as Civil War destruction. She restored the massive Norman Keep which is larger than the White Tower at the Tower of London. Anne describes this as the most ancient seat of her inheritance and the 'Great Picture' originally hung in the great hall. The church and many other buildings were restored by Anne's determination, and the residents of Appleby had a lot to thank her for, even a hospital completed in 1651.



Brougham Castle (public domain)

The final property on her travels was Brougham near Penrith where she made the castle habitable again. Nearby is the 'Countess Pillar', pictured, a monument erected to the memory of her mother and it still stands today. Anne died at Brough Castle in 1676 in the same room in which her father was born and her mother passed away and is buried in the church of St. Lawrence in Appleby in a vault next to her mother.



The Countess Pillar (public domain)

Resilient, Indomitable, Formidable, she was all of these in an age when women were not given the status they have today. She is remembered not only for the rebuilding she did but for the records and writings she kept for posterity.

Anne left her properties to her daughter, Margaret Sackville, Lady Thanet, and through her to her grandchildren, particularly Nicholas Tufton, thus ensuring the continuation of her family line and estates. She meticulously arranged for her vast inheritance to pass to her descendants, making sure the Clifford estates remained with the Tufton family, the line of her daughter Margaret.

Skipton Parish Church

The medieval Holy Trinity Church of Skipton. The first church on the site was built in the early 12th century, probably of wood near where the tower now stands, but the present church dates from about 1300 built with the help of monks from Bolton Priory and was extended to the east in the late 15th century, probably helped by a gift from Richard III.

The tower was restored with the help of Lady Anne in the 1650's after suffering damage in the Civil War. Anne's father George is buried in an elaborate tomb in the church, pictured.

After the questions and discussion recently when I described the life of Lady Anne Clifford, here are a few additions.

Clifford's Tower, York

It is named either after Roger de Clifford, a rebel hanged there in 1322 or possibly the Clifford family who held the constableness of York Castle.

Roger de Clifford was executed for treason against King Edward II. His body was displayed in chains from the tower walls. Roger was captured at the battle of Boroughbridge, fought by rebel barons led by Thomas, Earl of Lancaster who resented the King's favouritism against them. The Earls of Lancaster and Hereford were killed as well as Roger de Clifford.

Current Owners of the Castles

Skipton Castle is now owned by the Fattorini family. They bought it in 1956 and restored it so they could live in the Tudor wing as their private residence.

Barden Tower is owned by the Bolton Abbey estate, so it is under the stewardship of the Dukes of Devonshire. This was the home of the ‘Shepherd Lord’, Henry Clifford.

Pendragon Castle is owned by John Bucknall who inherited it from his cousin Raven Frankland, an archaeologist who bought it at auction in 1962 and conducted restoration work.

Brough Castle is now owned by the Beckwith family and managed by English Heritage. Originally built by William Rufus and given to the state in 1921. Free entry.

Appleby Castle is owned by Sally Nightingale who bought it in 2009 and transformed it into a hotel and events venue with a private residence and a museum in the Keep.

Brougham Castle is owned by the state and managed by English Heritage as a historic monument and tourist attraction.

The Shepherd Lord, Henry Clifford, 10th Baron Clifford hid as a shepherd in the Cumbrian fells for 24 years during the Wars of the Roses to escape Yorkist enemies. His father was killed fighting for the Lancastrians, so his mother was desperate to protect him. He later returned to claim his estates under Henry VII and established Barden Tower as his home. (4313)



Tomb of George Clifford, 3rd Earl of Cumberland (public domain)

What's New On-line?

Sue Steel

Do any of you check what records are being added to the internet for Family History Research? I must admit I do not. Yes, I see items as I use Ancestry and Find My Past, but on the whole don't go looking for new stuff. So, after a prompt, I have done just that and here are my findings on the new records this year (as at the start of April).

Ancestry

- East Riding, Yorkshire, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812
- East Riding, Yorkshire, England, Church of England Burials, 1813-2000
- East Riding, Yorkshire, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1950
- East Riding, Yorkshire, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1925
- England, Prerogative and Exchequer Court of York Wills, 1389-1858
- Shropshire, England, Electoral Registers and Poll Books, 1676-1954
- UK Personnel of the Polish Air Force in Great Britain, 1940-1947
- Yorkshire, England, Bishops' Transcripts of Church of England Baptism, Marriage and Burial Registers, 1558-1912. *Very useful if the parish registers are unclear and you need a second opinion, or the parish records no longer exist from the Borthwick Institute at York*

Genealogist

- Calendar of Chancery Proceedings, Bills & Answers: 1625-1649
- Calendar of Chancery Cases During Reign of Queen Elizabeth I 1558-1603
- Courts of Requests for the City of London, Southwark, Palace Court & Tower Hamlets, 1831
- Ducatus Lancastriae (Duchy of Lancaster) - Calendar to Pleadings: 1503-1603
- Exchequer Deponents: 1559-1695
- List of Proceedings in the Court of Requests 1509-1603
- List of Proceedings in the Court of Star Chamber 1485-1558
- National Probate Calendar, 1880-1899

There are also new additions from Family History Societies on a regular basis

Find My Past

- Australia, Navy Lists
- Britain, Directory of Women Teachers, 1927
- Britain, Register of Anaesthetics, 1909-1911
- Britain, The Medical Registers, 1859-1895
- British and Allied Warships Lost in the Second World War
- British Army, Worldwide Index (1881)
- British Royal Navy Casualty Logs 1939-1945

- British Royal Navy, Submarine Movement Cards
- British Women's Royal Naval Service Enrolment, 1917-1919
- College of Preceptors, Student Registers and Diploma Examinations, 1881-1931 University College London
- Ireland, Dublin Port Employment Records, 1862-1925
- London (and Provincial) Medical Directory, 1847-1869
- London Society for Promoting Christianity, 1885-1889
- Royal Horse Artillery & Royal Artillery
- Royal Naval Division Service Records, 1914-1920
- Suffolk Hearth Tax Lists, 1662-1675
- Surgeons' Case Books, University College London, 1836-1851
- The Jewish Year Book, 1895-1955
- University College of London School Registers, 1831-1890

Don't forget *Find My Past* also updates the 1939 Register every month, adds newspapers to their on-line catalogue each month and adds more parish records / monumental inscriptions from Family History Societies on a regular basis.

My advice is to keep checking. You never know when that brick wall will come down. If anyone sees new or updated records that could be of use, please do let me know so I can pass the information on to other members. (4097)



Hirst Wood Nature Reserve

Sue Steel's photographs on the front and inside back covers are of Hirst Wood which was once part of a vast ancient forest.

The name 'Hirst' comes from the Old Norse word for 'wooded hill'. In the 18th and 19th centuries, the Wood was physically transformed by the Industrial Revolution. The construction of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal in 1774 and the railway in 1847 carved through the landscape, separating the woodland from the river. During this era, the woods were heavily managed to support local industry; beech trees were planted to provide timber for mill bobbins, while oak bark was harvested for leather tanning. The site eventually became part of the estate of Sir Titus Salt.

In the 20th century, the area slowly changed from an industrial site into a recreation space, though some parts were sadly neglected. The area was given renewed purpose in 2015, when the Hirst Wood Regeneration Group—a dedicated team of local volunteers—officially opened the Hirst Wood Nature Reserve. They transformed what had become a derelict plot of land into the community-led sanctuary for wildlife, offering visitors the opportunity to escape into nature.

Meeting Programme 2026

Please check the website in case meetings have been cancelled or changed.

Hybrid Meetings will be held by Zoom and in person on the 2nd Floor, Mechanics Institute, 76 Kirkgate, Bradford, BD1 1SZ

The venue is small wheelchair accessible.

Zoom Meetings may be charged at £2 and all face-face meetings at £1.50 per member.

Morning Hybrid meetings open at 10:00 am with the formal meeting from 10.30 am.

Evening Zoom meetings open at 7:00 pm with the formal meeting from 7.30 pm.

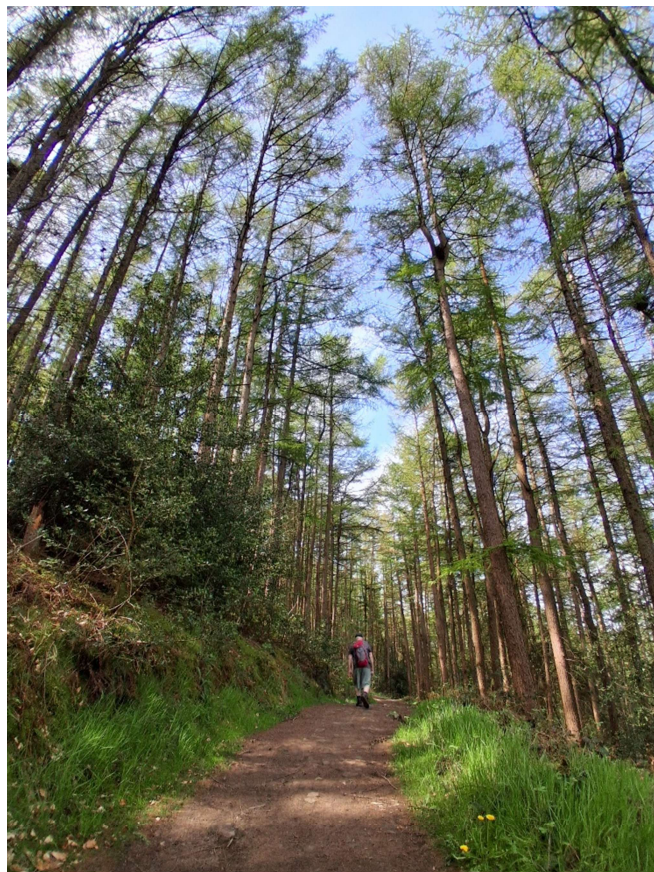
Month	Date	Time	Description	Speaker	Type of Meeting
Jun	4	AM	W. E. Forster: The Man who sent us all to School	Dr. Simon Ross Valentine	Hybrid
Jun	15	PM	Electoral Registers for Family Historians	Sue Steel	Zoom
Jul	2	AM	No Meeting		
Jul	20	PM	No Meeting		
Aug	6	AM	No Meeting		
Aug	17	PM	No Meeting		
Sep	3	AM	Life on the stage: the story of Sam Ranson and Blanche Slater who toured the country as music hall artistes.	Anne Mealia	Hybrid
Sep	21	PM	Buried deep but not lost forever: Discovering your Ancestor's final resting place	Linda Hammond	Zoom
Oct	1	AM	Looking Up in Bradford	Geoff Twentyman	Hybrid
Oct	19	PM	Researching 'before' a novel - The Mourning Brooch - A novel based on true life ancestry from 1839 to WW2 - Part 3	Dianne Page	Zoom
Nov	5	AM	Lawless Ladies: a thousand years of female criminals	Trish Colton & Diane Holloway	Hybrid
Nov	16	PM	Open Evening – bring your queries, problems and discoveries to the Zoom meeting	Sue Steel	Zoom
Dec	3	AM	The History of the English Canal System: including the now closed Bradford Canal.	Eric Jackson	Hybrid
Dec	21	PM	No Meeting		

N.B. The Society holds liability, but not personal accident insurance. Members are therefore responsible for their own personal accident cover and attend meetings and are involved in Society activities at their own risk.

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Hirst Wood © Sue Steel (see page 23)





Lady Anne Clifford and the Great Picture (public domain – see page 16)

