

THE DONCASTER ANCESTOR



The Flying Scotsman

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DONCASTER AND DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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continued on the back cover

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THE DONCASTER ANCESTOR

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Free to Members

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Chair's Report



First, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members and hope that we will be able to help you in tracing some of your ancestors.

I am writing this during the third heatwave of the year. I usually experience this weather surrounded by a swimming pool, air-conditioned rooms, and wait-ress service!

Research on Family History is generally done more in wintertime, however with it being far too hot for outside chores, staying inside on the PC doing research has been beneficial. The half price offers by Ancestry, FMP, and My Heritage earlier this year are paying off. How many of you took advantage of these?

The weather was extremely hot at the unveiling of the Gresley Plaque at the Railway station in June. This was well attended, and the information board looks good at the station entrance – check it out when you next visit.

Our monthly meetings at the Earl have also been hot - not just the talk by Janet Stain on women's knickers, but also getting your collar felt by policeman John Hope. With air con, and an enthusiastic audience, and Zoom technology constantly causing problems the meetings are entertaining and well received. Apologies to some of the Zoomers who do not always get a quality service. There are many reasons for this, and we are striving incredibly hard to improve the quality of the meeting to our Zoomers.

I look forward to our Family History Fair at the refurbished Doncaster Corn Exchange on Sat16th August 2025. I and other committee members will be there to help with any issues and receive any feedback you may wish to give.

The monthly community library help days continue, and dates are available on page 34.

Our Thursday morning self help / computer group, (run over zoom) still generates interesting topics as well as general family history help and

ideas.

I would like to thank all the other volunteers for their support, without which the society could not function. If you need any help, or wish to get involved more, please ask! This can be in person at our weekly library help days or via email to the committee.

Best wishes with your research.

Clive Damms
Chair
chair@ddfhs.co.uk

From the Editor

Welcome to the autumn edition of the Doncaster Ancestor.

Time seems to go by so quickly and it is scary, because as soon as this Ancestor goes to the printers, I will start on the winter edition and before we know it, it will be C.....as. I refuse to say the word yet!

Thank you to everyone who has sent in articles this time. You can send your articles in at anytime, although they might not always get put in the next Ancestor.

As it is the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Japan (VJ) Day on 15th August, we have a couple of articles about this. Please share how you plan to mark this occasion, if it means something to you.

If there is anything you would like to see in the Ancestor, then please do let me know. If there is something that you don't like, or think could be improved on, also let me know.

All the major websites keep adding to their databases on a regular basis, so if you have previously looked for that elusive ancestor, then it is always worth having another look. You may find them this time.

Don't forget that you can always come along to the local libraries, where the Society volunteers are on hand to help you. See page 34/35 for further details.

Of course you can always contact Trevor, who is Research co-ordinator for the Society and his details are on the back cover. Trevor likes to be kept busy!

Well **16th August** is creeping up on us for our **Local & Family History Fair & 45th Anniversary** of the Society. I have it on good authority that there will be cake!

Do come along and support the Society if you live locally. We appreciate it is holiday time but this has all been booked at short notice and we had to go with the availability of the Corn Exchange. It will be a learning experience for us all, and hopefully will go well and we can use the same venue next year. Your feedback about the event will be appreciated.

The Society is run by a small group of volunteers and you know the "ageing population" that people talk about, well that is us.

If you think that you have something that you can volunteer to do, then please contact one of the committee. It doesn't matter where you live in the world and any offer will be appreciated. Without volunteers, there is no Society.

Jenny Ellis, Editor

ddfhseditor1@outlook.com

Deadline for the next edition is 1st Oct 2025 at the latest.

**Please send in any articles, preferably as a Word Document.
You can send articles in at anytime.**

**The Doncaster Ancestor is published in February, May, August
and November each year**

Vol 35 No 4 Edition will be published in Nov 2025

Monthly Meetings via Zoom / Hybrid

Roomers and Zoomers Unite Hybrid Members Meetings 2025

You are invited to join us at the **Earl of Doncaster, Bennetthorpe, Doncaster DN2 6AD** 7pm for 7.30pm start. ZOOM link open from 7.15pm via email.

These will be Hybrid meeting where members can also join on Zoom, so why not join us at this excellent venue. There is plenty of well-lit parking and the venue has a lift. Refreshments will be available from the bar.

August 27th 2025

A Funny Thing Happened when... by Jane Price

You will have to come along and see what this talk is all about. The last talk by Jane had all the audience laughing!

September 24th 2025

The In Laws at War by Peter Rudd

The talk mainly relates to my father-in-law Basil Browne, with a brief introduction about his father, Joe Browne.

Joe Browne was an 18 year old miner at Thyrbergh and rushed off to Rotherham to join the war in 1914. His enthusiasm was "rewarded" with a 1915 visit to Suvla Bay, Gallipoli with the 6th Yorks and Lancs, after a rest in Egypt he was thrown into the Battle of the Somme 1916 and suffered serious shrapnel injuries that curtailed his war!

Oct 29th 2025

The Last Goodbyes by Ian Walker

This is basically a talk about how the Government of the day allowed relatives of the deceased to put headstones on the graves of their loved ones. The Imperial War Graves Commission as it was then known, finally bowed to pressures from relatives to have a say on parts of the inscription to be put on the headstones.

Hybrid Members Meetings 2025 continued

November 26th 2025

Doncaster City by Jim Carley

Jim will describe the story of how Doncaster went from the town status we had to a new City, with all the twists and turns to get there.

December 2025 No Talk

Please note the change of talk in August, to the one that was previously advertised.

If you are interested in attending the venue in person (Roomer), then you can do this via the email link that you will receive, or contact

June Staniforth either by telephone: 07901 523529 or email:

events@doncasterfhs.co.uk

If you have heard about any interesting talks that would be suitable for Doncaster Family History Society (DDFHS), then please do get in touch with June at the email address above.

Disclaimer.

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Publications by D&DFHS

**Society publications can be purchased by post (see inside back cover or our website for full details) or through GenFair at www.genfair.com
Please allow 21 days for delivery.**

Goods can be returned within 14 days of receipt of order only if found to be faulty, or if you have been sent a different item from that requested.

Projects Report

New Project for 2025 – Edlington Cemetery

The transcribing of New Edlington Cemetery is going well and we are currently up to the 1980s. It should take about a couple of more months to finish the transcribing.

Trevor and Philip are currently updating a Cemetery Plan to add to the file.

Margaret Jackson, Project - Coordinator

margaret.jackson5@btinternet.com

From the Postbag / via email

Hi Jenny,

Thank you for a gripping Ancestor! I had to read it all in one go, the stories were just fascinating!!

I really enjoyed reading the articles so thank you too to the contributors.

I loved the lemon cover with an old photo of the Corn Exchange. I haven't yet seen its latest revamp, not since it was renovated after the fire not too many years ago. I think it's a really great choice for the fair day in August; parking is much better and hopefully it will attract the shoppers who may come in out of curiosity and be inspired to join the society.

I also enjoyed Clive's opening article, hit just the right note and very welcoming.

Your editorial was encouraging too...perhaps haven't said "thank you" enough in the past but each journal is so well produced with an interesting mix of articles. So thanks to you and all those involved in producing a polished piece of historical memories.

I look forward each quarter to receiving it and long may it continue.

Best wishes

Sylvia Wileman, Member 3819

Keep up the good work you are doing a fantastic job, I am hoping "The Doncaster Ancestor" can live on forever.

Best wishes to you all from us both,

Barbara and Richard, Australia, Member 5498

William Appleby

From 1948 until 1953 I was a pupil at Doncaster Technical High School for Girls in Danum Road.

For the first 3 years we were lucky enough to have as our Form Teacher Mrs. **Elsie Stovin**. Head of Music. She organised bus trips to theatres in Leeds, the Grand and Sheffield, the Lyceum. We were introduced to a wide range of music including ballet and opera.

We met **William Appleby** who we called (Pop) on numerous occasions.

In 1951 the Festival of Britain was held in London. We sang in the schools choir at the Royal Albert Hall and Pop was with us. To this day I've never forgotten the labyrinth of passages underneath. It was a miracle anyone found the stage.

We all thought the world of them both and they certainly inspired me and many others to a lifelong love of theatre and music.

Janet Gleadall (Green), Member 3148

1911 / 1921 Census and Much More

One of my Christmas gifts from my granddaughter was a book with sixty questions for me to answer about me and included a family tree of my family.

I had started my research just after the millennium using fiches of birth, death and marriages as well as the International Genealogical Index (IGI) at the former Palgrave Centre. My granddaughter had also given a copy of the book to her father's mother and said that she would be asking me to obtain their family history details for their **Drewery** name as well as the other family names which cropped up, so she had only fifty-nine questions to answer.

Nowadays, family history research has been made much easier with the advent of online facilities available through public libraries as well as joining Find my Past, Ancestry, Family Search etc, and working from home.

I used the facilities at Sprotbrough Library - I work there Wednesday morning as a volunteer stopping there in the afternoon and using the two-hour free time facility.

Following the introduction of the 1911 & 1921 census returns and the 1939 Register, it enables you to obtain very comprehensive details of the families you seek. Be aware though, not all the census returns from 1841 to 1921 pick up every family - some may be missed for one reason or another.

Following my early retirement from the Railways, I joined the Great Northern Railway Society and with a colleague commenced seeking the names of all those railwaymen who had joined the GNR from its inception - as all the records had been lost when Kings Cross Station was bombed during the Second World War. We used whatever documents we could find - obviously the census returns were one of the main sources as well as visits to Kew, Archives, Family History Centres at Lincoln and Nottingham and names from countless railway books and magazines.

During my research of the **Drewery** family, I realised I had missed something on the census returns. Having viewed one of the above dated returns you will notice that once you have decided who you want to trace - you insert name, date of birth and location of birthplace in an attempt to find an answer.

Once you have inserted the relevant details you await the result. Scanning the results until you think you have your man - a click in the appropriate box and the census return shows your man and family. Eureka found him/her. By scanning down further it shows further census returns available for you.

But are you aware that the 1911/1921 also shows snippets that should not be missed? (like I did). Whilst looking for a **John Thomas Allam**, born 1893, at Market Deeping, I found him on the 1921 census, with wife and young family living on the High Street, Market Deeping and he was a 'Platelayer' a person who works on the tracks on the GNR.

Scrolling further down was a snippet - did I want a list of other Great Northern Railway employees - if so, click here and forty-one names were shown. On the same page a further question - did I want to know the names of any other platelayers in the area - I clicked, and one thousand six hundred and one names were displayed.

I contacted my colleague from GNR - he was like me amazed that both of us had failed to notice these extras.

Just to make sure I was not dreaming, I used one of my family who had worked on the railway - **Stuart Crouter**, born 1857, Bawtry, Doncaster and was a driver at Stamford in 1921, over five hundred names of drivers were shown. In a matter of two days, I had located two thousand railway staff who had worked for the Great Northern Railway.

I thought the original gift of the book and the time spent filling it in gave me satisfaction - but by finding the extras more than compensated for the time spent looking for the other families for my granddaughter.

Keith Crouter, Member 1623

Unveiling of the Sir Nigel Gresley Plaque & Interpretation Board 19th June 2025

Today has finally come with the unveiling of the Sir Nigel Gresley Plaque and Interpretation Board at Doncaster Railway Station.

This is dedicated to the work and memory of a railway pioneer and to mark what would have been his 149th birthday.

He became the Chief Mechanical Engineer of the London and North Eastern Railway (LNER).

On the interpretation board we have remembered **Joe Duddington** the driver of the Mallard and **Tommy Bray** the fireman.

It has been a year in the making but what a fantastic event it was. Our Mayor Ros Jones, Ed Turner LNER, and Philip Benham MBE Gresley Society all gave a short speech.

It was only fitting that Ros Jones actually “on the spur of the moment”, invited **Matt Delaney**, great grandson of **Joe Duddington**, to help with the unveiling.

I am pleased to say that our society was very much involved in this project. I do have a few people to thank. The groups who were part of the Gresley Committee were Doncaster Council, Bill McHugh MBE, and Anne-Marie, The Gresley Society, Philip Benham MBE and Chris Clark, GNR David Ingleby, LNER, Ed Turner, Doncaster Civic Trust,

Steve Kimber and Doncaster and District Family History Society, Marion Baxter and Keith Crouter.

But also, I have to thank Andy Harbon, who is our Webmaster was very much involved at the beginning for a few months and did a lot of work on this project.

How did this all begin? Well one person in particular I have to thank is Jo Fairweather, who is one of our followers on Facebook. Jo brought this to my attention and wanted to know the mystery of "Shillington" on Avenue Road which was one of the houses where Sir Nigel Gresley and his family resided. So the research started, and the fruition of all the hard work which the Gresley Committee did has made this event a great day.

My heartfelt thanks to all those involved it has been a great pleasure working with you all.

Marion Baxter. Secretary



The Gresley Plaque & Interpretation Board



The Gresley Committee



**Philip Benham, Ed Turner, Ros Jones and Matt Delaney
after the unveiling**

Pedigree Collapse

Our family trees don't stand alone, silos of individual lineages. They are all part of a vast forest, a dense and interconnected woodland, roots merged beneath the soil, branches tangled above, an intricate network of kinfolk.

The deeper we dig into our lineage, the more we realise that we are all connected. This is not just a romantic notion but a mathematical certainty. Each of us has two parents, four grandparents, eight great-grandparents and so on. By the time we reach the tenth generation, roughly three hundred years ago, we each have 1,024 direct gr-x8 grandparents.

But there's a paradox. If we continued doubling our ancestors every generation, we would quickly outnumber the total human population that has ever existed. By the time we reach our gr-x20 grandparents, born around the fourteenth century, the number surpasses 4 million – we all have 4,194,304 gr-x20 grandparents. Yet in 1300 in England, it's thought that the population was between 4 and 6 million. So, if even just two of us each have completely distinct ancestors, the numbers don't add up.

The further back in history we go, the smaller the population was, and the fewer ancestors existed to distribute among us all. By the time we reach the 13th century, statistically speaking, nearly everyone with English ancestry is descended from the same individuals. Furthermore, our own ancestors will appear more than once in our family trees, because our parents and grandparents and even great-grandparents, etc., will also descend from the same individuals as one another. This phenomenon is known as pedigree collapse. Our family trees do not expand infinitely; instead, they fold in on themselves as the same ancestors appear in multiple places, weaving our ancestral lines together.

My own family tree illustrates this beautifully. I have discovered various instances of pedigree collapse and will share two of them with you here: one of my great-grandmothers and her husband were sixth cousins once removed and, my favourite one, my parents are seventh cousins. I owe these discoveries in no small part to the Doncaster and District Family History Society and its fantastic, extensive collection of parish records. I also owe it to the fact that so much of my ancestry is widely entrenched in the Doncaster area.

Both my parents were raised in Doncaster, Dad in Bentley and Mum in Intake. Mum's dad's family came from Hull – he moved to Doncaster when he was conscripted as a Bevin Boy. Apart from one branch which came from Wales, her mum's family came from Doncaster and the surrounding villages, including Kirk Sandall, Cantley, Armthorpe, Hatfield, Wadworth, and Tickhill. One of her great-x4 grandmothers was **Elizabeth Yates**, born in 1762 in Hatfield.

My dad's ancestors hail from various counties – North Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Warwickshire, and Northamptonshire, but his maternal grandmother's line came from Thorne and Hatfield. She was **Lydia Ridgill**, and we've traced the Ridgill line to 1577 in Hatfield. Lydia's grandmother was Nancy Yates and Nancy's father was **Thomas Yates**, born in 1767 in Hatfield.

Elizabeth Yates, Mum's ancestor, and **Thomas Yates**, Dad's ancestor, were first cousins. Their fathers were **William Yates** 1729 and **Robert Yates** 1739, respectively, sons of **John Yates and Jane**. John and Jane were great-x6 grandparents of both my mum and dad.

The Yates line traces back to one **Alexander Yates** in sixteenth-century Mexborough, a gr-x10 grandfather of both my parents. I know nothing about him other than his name and that he had at least seven children born across the 1580s and 1590s in Mexborough. His youngest son was **Godfrey Yates** born in 1600 and the line continued through Godfrey to his son Thomas, and to Thomas's son Ralph, and to Ralph's son, John, and then to two of John's sons, the aforementioned William and Robert.

John Yates married Jane, most likely in the 1720s. I don't know when or where they married, and I don't know Jane's maiden name, but I do know that they had at least five children: John, William, Anne, Thomas, and Robert. Anne died in early childhood, but all four boys lived to adulthood. William married **Elizabeth Thorp** on 21 Apr 1751 at Hatfield and among their six children was Elizabeth, my mum's gr-x4 grandmother. Robert married **Elizabeth Thompson** on 4 Feb 1760, also in Hatfield, and among their four children was Thomas, my dad's gr-x4 grandfather. The two families would have been close, the children born in a jumbled mix throughout the 1760s and 1770s.

Elizabeth married **Thomas Belk** and moved to his parish of Armthorpe, where they raised eight children. Thomas moved to Thorne where he married first **Ann Walton**, and then **Nancy Gillett**. He had four daugh-

ters with Ann and two sons and a daughter with Nancy. The branches grew apart until they became two seemingly separate trees, but my birth joined them two hundred years later, the child of Elizabeth's gr-gr-granddaughter and Thomas's gr-gr-grandson.

Alexander Yates m. ? <i>gr-x10 grandfather</i>		
Godfrey Yates 1600 Mexborough m. ? <i>gr-x9 grandfather</i>		
Thomas Yates 1634 Mexborough m. Margaret Firth <i>gr-x8 grandfather</i>		
Ranulph 'Ralph' Yates 1665 High Melton m. Ann Wood <i>gr-x7 grandfather</i>		
John Yates 1694 Hatfield m. Jane <i>gr-x6 grandfather</i>		
William Yates 1729 Hatfield m. Elizabeth Thorp <i>gr-x5 grandfather</i>	Siblings	Robert Yates 1739 Hatfield m. Elizabeth Thompson <i>gr-x5 grandfather</i>
Elizabeth Yates 1762 Hatfield m. Thomas Belk <i>gr-x4 grandmother</i>	first cousins	Thomas Yates 1767 Hatfield m. Nancy Gillett <i>gr-x4 grandfather</i>
Thomas Belk 1808 Armthorpe m. Charlotte Ridge <i>gr-x3 grandfather</i>	second cousins	Nancy Yates 1808 Thorne m. William Ridgill <i>gr-x3 grandmother</i>
Elizabeth Belk 1835 Armthorpe m. George Poskitt <i>great-great-grandfather</i>	third cousins	Ann Elizabeth Ridgill 1830 Thorne m. Thomas Ridgill <i>great-great-grandmother</i>
William Poskitt 1859 Long Sandall m. Mary Ann Wilkinson <i>great-grandfather</i>	fourth cousins	Lydia Ridgill 1872 m. Edward Barnes <i>great-grandmother</i>
Ivy Poskitt 1898 Doncaster <i>grandmother</i>	fifth cousins	Maud Barnes 1910 Westwoodside <i>grandmother</i>
Marion Gardiner 1927 <i>mother</i>	sixth cousins	Maureen <i>mother</i>
Kathryn	seventh cousins	Stuart
Samantha and Katie siblings and eighth cousins		

Now to my great-grandmother, **Ivy Poskitt**, and her husband, **Albert Ernest Gardiner**, being sixth cousins once removed.

Ivy, mentioned in the table above, was my mum's maternal grandmother. She was born in Doncaster Town in 1898 and married **Albert Ernest Gardiner** in 1920, with whom she had two girls. Ivy and Albert were sixth cousins once removed, and there's more pedigree collapse along Ivy's branch of their shared lineage, with her gr-gr-grandparents being first cousins.

Edward Ridge m. Elisabeth				
Edward Ridge 1663 Tickhill m. Alice Parsonson				
Edward Ridge 1688 Tickhill m. Mary Bell				
Richard Ridge 1721 Wadworth m. Ann Parsonson			siblings	Elizabeth Ridge 1710 Wadworth m. Thomas Ranfield
John Ridge 1755 Wadworth m. Ann Dobson	sibs	Thomas Ridge 1757 Wadworth m. Mary Smith	first cousins	Esther Ranfield 1736 Wadworth m. Robert Heppenstall
Thomas Ridge 1781 Armthorpe m. Hannah Ridge	cous	Hannah Ridge 1787 Sheffield m. Thomas Ridge	second cousins	Mary Heppenstall 1775 Harworth m. Willliam Battie
Charlotte Ridge 1809 Cantley m. Thomas Belk			third cousins	Margaret Battie 1802 Doncaster unknown
Elizabeth Belk 1835 Armthorpe m. George Poskitt			fourth cousins	Jane Battie 1824 Doncaster m. Peter Gardiner
William Poskitt 1859 Long Sandall m. Mary Ann Wilkinson			fifth cousins	Jane Gardiner 1853 Doncaster unknown
Ivy Poskitt 1898 Doncaster m. Albert Ernest Gardiner Jr.			sixth cousins	Albert Ernest Gardiner Sr. 1872 <u>Donc.</u>
				m. Ann Elizabeth Cutt
			sixth cousins once removed	Albert Ernest Gardiner Jr. 1899 <u>Donc.</u> m. Ivy Poskitt
Joyce Gardiner and Hilda Gardiner <i>Ivy and Albert's children</i>				

What might simply be considered amusing quirks – couples being distant cousins – is actually a profound insight into the nature of ancestry itself. We think of family as something immediate: parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, first cousins, but the reality is that our kinship web extends far beyond this. We are all part of an intricate pattern of lineage and every day we cross paths with distant relatives and don't realise it.

Samantha Taylor, Member 4427

The Boundaries of the Yorkshire Parish Gentry

An exploration of my paternal grandmother's ancestry helped me to understand the boundaries of the Yorkshire parish gentry as they were experienced in Swinton, near Wath-upon-Deane, in the early second half of the nineteenth century through to the early twentieth century.

The starting point for my journey was the marriage certificate of my paternal grandmother's parents, who were wed at St John's Church in Heysham, Lancashire, on 1 February 1912. It revealed that my paternal grandmother's father, **Percival Haden Jenkinson**, was a farmer, living at 4 Fitzwilliam Street, Swinton, and that Percy's father was **John Jenkinson**, who was described as a Gentleman. Percy (as he was known) was marrying a **Lizzie Mountain**, a spinster without occupation, who was the daughter of **Thomas Mountain**, a gardener. This marriage intrigued me, as it seemed to transcend the boundaries of the social classes of the time with the son of a Gentleman marrying the daughter of a gardener. This invited me to delve into my family history further.

I resolved to explore census records to see if they could enlighten me any further on where my great-great-grandfather's designation as a Gentleman came from, and these were to reveal that the situation was more complex than at first appeared. For instance, in the 1911 census, just one year prior to the marriage in question, **John Jenkinson** was also living at 4 Fitzwilliam Street, where his mother, **Sarah Jane Jenkinson**, was the Head of the Household. At this time, this was a nine-roomed property, excluding bathrooms, where there were seven residents, including a domestic servant, yet only Percy was economically active. In that record, for **John Jenkinson's** occupation it stated "None", however the census taker had overwritten this with "Retired Innkeeper". In Dickens' novel *Great Expectations*, Pip asserts that a

Gentleman could not keep a public house, and, although agreeing, Herbert Pocket replies that a public house could, however, keep a Gentleman. This narrative confirms the unwritten social rule that a person could not be both a Licensed Victualler, or a publican, and a Gentleman at the same time. Could John Jenkinson have made sufficient money from running and selling a public house to end up financially independent and therefore being a Gentleman after being a publican? David Hay in *The Oxford Companion to Family and Local History* advises that in popular usage the word Gentleman meant someone who did not have to work with his hands, such as a person with an independent income. I needed to explore earlier records to learn more.

Percival Haden Jenkinson's birth certificate of 24 September 1887 revealed his mother to be **Angelina Jenkinson** (née **Haden**) and **John Jenkinson's** occupation to be a 'Bus Conductor', so John had certainly been a publican for less than twenty-four years. Being a bus conductor seems a far cry from gentlemanly status, although the 2nd Lord Teviot also chose to take on this role. The 1901 census did reveal John Jenkinson to be a Licensed Victualler as the landlord of the Dolphin Inn in Stamford St. George, Lincolnshire. There was a domestic servant named **Caroline Plowright**, who presumably helped to keep the inn for him, and he lived there with his young family. A Professional Actor called **Albert J. Hurst** was also resident. I wished to explore how long John Jenkinson had been a publican to gain some sense as to how he might have made any wealth. This would involve stepping back further in time in the census records.

In 1891, **John Jenkinson** was living at 79 Fitzwilliam Street in Swinton, with his wife **Angelina Jenkinson**, and their three children **Lily Jenkinson**, **Percival Haden Jenkinson** and **Cecil Haden Jenkinson**. This is a different wife to the **Clara** or **Clary** appearing in the 1901 and 1911 census records, who was John's second wife. Also resident was an **Alice Pollard**, their domestic servant. Interestingly, the census this time records **John Jenkinson** as "Living on own means" under occupation, so here he is supporting his family of five and a domestic servant with no earned income. This was curious, as this was before he became a Licensed Victualler and after he had worked as a bus conductor. It seemed unlikely that the latter occupation earned him enough money to not need to work. Somehow, John Jenkinson and his family must have had a private income that gave them some financial independence.

I noticed that John Jenkinson's father was missing from the census record of 1911. Indeed, **William Jenkinson** died at 4 Fitzwilliam

Street on 21 August 1908. His will of 26 September 1904 (Probate: London, 13 February 1909) revealed that he was an Engineer and that he owned the minerals 'under the close of land called the Rowms Field containing seven acres one rood and two perches or thereabouts', confirming that he had an interest in land. Swinton was a mining area, so there was the potential for there to be coal underneath this property. The 1902 Poll Book for the Township of Swinton also recorded that William Jenkinson was the owner of 'Freehold Dwelling Houses and Land' on Fitzwilliam Street. This showed that William Jenkinson had some property, however the chief beneficiaries of his will were his daughter Annie and any grandchildren, so this could not be the source of his son John's wealth.

John Jenkinson's birth certificate revealed that he was born in Swinton on 10 January 1862 and that his mother's maiden name was **Haden**. **Sarah Jane Haden** was born on 16 April 1841 and on her birth certificate her father **John Haden** was recorded as a 'Butcher'. At the time of her marriage to William Jenkinson at the Parish Church of Sheffield on 24 September 1861, her father was identified as a 'Farmer'. This is not the sole time the name Haden features in the family. It was the middle name of **Percival Haden Jenkinson**, and the marriage certificate of his parents **John Jenkinson** and **Angelina Haden** at Wath-upon-Dearne on 2 August 1880 revealed that Angelina's father was a **Thomas Haden**, also a 'Farmer (deceased)'.

This Thomas's death certificate (died Swinton 1 October 1879) stated that he was a 48-year-old 'Farmer and Butcher', having had the same occupations as John Haden. In fact, the birth certificate of **Angelina** confirmed that her parents were **Thomas Haden** and his wife **Harriet Ridgill**, and their marriage certificate of 26 March 1855 identified that Thomas Haden's father was **John Haden**, a 'Farmer'. This is the same John Haden who was the father of Sarah Jane, the mother of **John Jenkinson**, and Percy's grandmother. Sarah Jane and Thomas were siblings, and thus John and Angelina, Percy's parents, were first cousins. This consanguine cross-cousin marriage could have been to conserve property within the family. John and Angelina were just 18 and 16 years of age respectively at the time of their marriage. If they were due to inherit property, it would have been likely to come from their common grandparent John Haden.

The will of **John Haden** of 22 December 1865 (Probate: Wakefield, 11 April 1866) revealed that by the time of his death he was a Gentleman. The will was quite long and complicated and established a trust for the management of his property for the benefit of his children Sarah Jane

and Thomas Haden, and made provision for his grandson **William Blackburn Haden**, with benefits then passing on to his other grandchildren, one of whom was **John Jenkinson**. Indeed, owing to the deaths of other beneficiaries of the will, including John Jenkinson's first wife **Angelina** who died at 29 years of age in 1893, property from this side of the family also passed on to **John Jenkinson**. This is seen in the Poll Book records of 1899, where a 'Freehold Dwellinghouse and Land' at Hilltop, Kimberworth, gave John Jenkinson his eligibility to vote, which was a property originally destined to John Haden's son Thomas. John Jenkinson, with his sister Annie, was the co-beneficiary of his mother via his grandfather's will.

This maternal grandfather, **John Haden**, also the paternal grandfather of his wife, benefited from an inheritance from his own uncle and namesake **John Haden**, a Gentleman and the proprietor of Holywell House (Probate: Prerogative Court of York, 21 October 1852), who died childless. This left Sarah Jane's father, **John Haden**, a Gentleman farmer. According to Malcolm G. Plant's *Piccadilly: The hamlet*, Holywell House was a substantial three-storey country house, which had an ornate staircase and extensive oak panelling, which was located in the then rural Piccadilly district of Swinton. This country house was left to another nephew, **George Littlewood Haden**, after the death of his uncle's sister, **Alice**, who died unmarried. After this, George Littlewood Haden was also styled a gentleman farmer. Another nephew of that John Haden, **William Haden**, became a corn dealer in Wadsley, who bought there a country house called Dial House, and died described as a 'Gentleman'. These nephews were lifted out of the yeomanry into the lower ranks of the gentry by the inheritance they received from their uncle, granting them financial independence.

In *An open elite? England 1540-1880*, Stone and Stone define the parish gentry as those 'men whose interest and powers were limited to the boundaries of one or at most two villages, most of whom had had no education beyond that at the local grammar school, and who were rarely eligible for any administrative post above that of JP.' This definition applied to the Haden family members who rose into the lower ranks of the gentry.

John Jenkinson clearly liked to dabble in work, whether as a Bus Conductor, a Licensed Victualler, or as his will of 28 February 1928 confirmed (Probate: Wakefield, 5 December 1930) as a (retired) Boarding House Proprietor. The will itself referred to John's half share as a beneficiary to a £600 mortgage and half share in the absolute ownership of some fifteen cottages, which would have given John Jenkinson

an independent income. His sister Annie was presumably the other co-beneficiary. Scholars have pointed out that the boundaries of the gentry were permeable, and John Jenkinson appeared to have hopped from side to side over these.

The Haden family of Holywell House were not armigers, and John Jenkinson would not have inherited any armigerous identity through his mother with her brother having had male issue, so they were held to be Gentlemen at certain stages in their lives based on their port, charge, and countenance, and freedom from manual labour. There was some evidence for this in his maternal grandfather **John Haden** being described in 1862 *Drake's Directory* among Swinton's private residents as 'Mr. John Haden', rather than under any occupational category, where this title was omitted for most other males. Penelope Corfield observes the equation of 'Master' or 'Mister' with gentlemanly status, albeit that some of the entrants in *Drake's Directory* are alternatively styled 'gentleman'. **John Jenkinson** was probably aware that his grandfather had become regarded as part of the 'parish gentry' and embraced the same identity in the moments of his own economic independence. **John Jenkinson's** death certificate bears some witness to this in his final occupation being noted as being 'of independent means'. Perhaps the fact that he was known in the village for saving a young boy from drowning in his youth added to his acceptance as a Gentleman. He could at times call on the source of his financial independence, the provisions of the will of his maternal grandfather, John Haden, to lay claim to a gentlemanly status and the freedom from the need to engage in manual work.

John Jenkinson's maternal grandfather **John Haden** started off in life as a butcher, inheriting a yeoman status from his grandfather and father, as he moved on to farming. Like many other yeomen, and like his father before him, he served his parish as the local parish constable, yet he ended his life as a Gentleman farmer. Evidence of his financial independence further to his inheritance from his uncle could be seen in the 1861 Census and its preamble, where he was identified as living in Haden's House, which was described as 'consisting of 11 houses' in its yard 'with a house, stables, etc.' These tenanted properties would have provided a significant private income, which afforded him to live in the manner of a Gentleman. That this cast some legacy onto his family could be seen in that his only son **Thomas Haden**, brother of John Jenkinson's mother Sarah Jane, was also styled a gentleman in *The Mexborough and Swinton Times* of 28 March 1879, in the year of his death. This John Haden's uncle and namesake,

John Haden, the benefactor of the family's small fortune, added to the family's landholding over time, purchasing the tithes of the parish, and invested well, leaving significant property interests and effects of under £8,000 at the time of his death in 1852. His death certificate clearly noted him as a Gentleman, as the proprietor of Holywell House, as did his last will and testament.

This exploration into my family history revealed that the boundaries of the parish gentry were not fixed or impenetrable in this time period, when a person became financially independent, although by the late nineteenth century, the expectations of them were adhered to less rigidly.

Mark Lindley-Highfield, Member 4487

V J Day 15 August 1945 Before & After

In June 1944, just after D Day, I was called up a month after my 18th birthday into the Royal Air Force "for the duration of the present emergency". After 6 weeks basic training, drilling etc in Scotland, I spent time at Leicester Technical College, a special Radar school, and also Yatesbury in Wiltshire. I was next at RAF Cosford, training as a Radar Mechanic, to be able to service the secret radar equipment carried in our aircraft and for which I had to sign the Official Secrets Act.

I was training at Yatesbury on V.E. Day May 8th, 1945, and we were excused school for the day. We had a merry time celebrating with a big bonfire, lots of rejoicing, singing & gaiety. The Commanding Officer almost lost his Avro Anson plane on the bonfire because several tiddly airmen thought he wouldn't be needing it anymore and were wheeling it to put on the bonfire when they were stopped by the special police.

In July 1945 I passed out successfully as a Radar Mechanic qualified to service and repair airborne radar equipment and was posted to Blackpool to await a troopship to the Far East as part of 'Tiger Force' for the forthcoming invasion of Japan. My pay was one shilling (5 new pence) a day, 7 shillings a week, half of which I sent home to my mother, so I had the equivalent of 17.5 new pence per week for myself. What with Blanco, razor blades, NAAFI tea etc, it never lasted a full week.

In April and May of 1945, the Americans had invaded Okinawa, an island 350 miles from Japan and eventually captured it after many weeks of extremely fierce fighting and heavy losses, with the deaths of 12,500 American Army Navy & Marines & 22,000 wounded. Japanese troops usually fought to the end & although a few eventually surrendered, 110,000 died. It can be imagined that we thought our chances of surviving an invasion on mainland Japan were very slim, so it was a great relief when the news came through on 3rd and 8th August 1945, whilst I was still at Blackpool waiting for a troopship, that atomic bombs had been dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the war had ended.

V J Day was August 15th 1945 but there weren't the same widespread celebrations that there had been for V E Day because that had only happened 3 months before and for a lot of people this was something quite remote, on the other side of the world. There may have been some celebrations in Blackpool, but if there were, I don't remember them and it just seemed to be another ordinary day. However, for troops out there, prisoners of war, families and many thousands of others who like me, were shortly about to become involved, it was an incredibly marvellous and timely ending to the conflict.

With hindsight, some people maintain that these bombs should never have been used, but they weren't living in those terrible, desperate war-time days and didn't look at things in the same way that we did. Japanese troops had committed incredible atrocities on prisoners of war and the natives whose countries they had taken over, causing hundreds of thousands of deaths through starvation and unbelievable cruelty, many of the deaths very painful and lingering. When our remaining imprisoned troops were finally released in 1945, they were like walking skeletons with very little flesh on their bodies. There is no wonder that we detested the Japanese.

Without doubt. the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki paid a very high price, but the casualties on both sides would have been many times higher (the Americans were expecting more than a million deaths of allied troops) when the invasion took place.

In August 1945 I imagined that the 'present emergency' would now be over and that I would be demobbed but in fact I was retained by the RAF for another 3 years. In September 1945 I was posted to the Far East and served in Air Transport Command Squadrons in India, Burma and in 1946 ended up at Kai Tak airfield, Kowloon on the Chinese

mainland opposite Hong Kong island, servicing the radar equipment on 88 Squadron's 4 engine Sunderland Flying Boats in Kowloon Bay. The Sunderlands made routine trips to various places in the far east, including Japan, which was normally a 10 hour trip each way for the planes 140 to 150 miles an hour cruising speed.

In March 1947 I flew the 1,400 miles in one of our Sunderlands to Iwakuni in Southern Japan with my best friend, Bill Rees for 2 days leave and we took a train to Hiroshima. The views on this journey were marvellous because of the spring flowers and particularly the masses of white and pink cherry blossom which seemed to be everywhere. This was about 18 months after the atom bomb had been dropped in August 1945, and the city of Hiroshima had been completely wiped out. No houses to be seen, nothing but rubble, a network of empty roads and streets, leaning lamp posts and a few gutted concrete buildings as far as the eye could see. There were no people about, but a few new wooden buildings had appeared on the outer boundaries of the city and presumably there would be people living in them. It was mind numbing to think that one bomb could cause such a vast amount of damage.

I was posted back to the UK from Kai Tak in April 1947 and after serving at RAF Shawbury, then RAF Manby, I was finally released on June 16th, 1948, by which time I had completed four years in the Royal Air Force from age 18 to 22 years of age. For these 4 years of service, I was rewarded with a Post Office Savings book containing the sum of £30.00.

Hiroshima March 1947





John George Laycock, Member 4256

VJ Day Eighty Years on, We Remember

August 15th 2025, will be the eightieth Anniversary of the victory over Japan. It doesn't get the same attention as VE day in Europe, which is possibly because of the two bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, that preceded this event. We know that many thousands of people were killed with these attacks, but they also saved the lives of the hundreds of thousands of people on both sides who would have been killed had the allied forces invaded Japan, as well as the prisoners of war that had spent many years in the numerous camps at the hands of the Japanese. I am sure that people are aware of the many atrocities inflicted on the prisoners at this time, as we have seen the graphic images that have been released and heard the stories of how they were treated.

We also know that on their return home, these Prisoners of War (POWs) were told not to talk about their years in captivity and many didn't. **Walter Hudson**, my dad, was one of those prisoners, who didn't talk about his experience.

All I can remember him saying was that that he had been a Japanese prisoner of war for about four years, which didn't mean anything to me as a child. I do remember that he wouldn't eat rice.

Walter joined the Royal Artillery 35th LAA Regt 89th Battery in December 1939 and was promoted to War Sgt in September 1941. He embarked for overseas on 9th November 1941. At this time, they didn't know where they were going and were eventually re-routed to the Far East. He disembarked in Singapore on 13th January 1942 and according to his War Records he was missing in the Far East on 15th February 1942 and then later in Netherland East Indies. Reading various stories about the fall of Singapore, I now understand that they didn't stand a chance against the Japanese and were ill prepared for the ordeal that was in front of them.

Walter was captured in Java in February 1942 and imprisoned in Tanjong Priok camp until 25th October 1942, when he was shipped to Singapore on the "Hell ship" Yoshida Maru with about one thousand other prisoners. When they arrived in Singapore they were told that they were bound for Japan and knew that if they survived, they would be there until the end of the war.

Their journey to Japan was aboard another "Hell ship", the Singapore Maru. There was an outbreak of dysentery and within two days of being at sea, the first person had died. Within another forty-eight hours, scores of men had been hit by the epidemic. The stench in the holds became foul as the epidemic ran riot. As supplies were used up, beriberi, scurvy, malaria and exhaustion took its toll and the Japanese weren't very sympathetic and did little to help. When they arrived in Formosa, they were told that they would have to make room for another five hundred troops returning to Japan. The conditions became much worse as they had to turn another hold into a sick bay, causing overcrowding for those who were not already sick. It became difficult to persuade men to go to the sick bay as they knew they wouldn't come out alive. By the time they docked at Moji, Kyushu Island, sixty men had died and over four hundred were groaning in the sick bays. Of these about three hundred were left behind, too sick and weak to move.

Nearly 200 prisoners, including Walter, were loaded into a barge and headed to the small port of Ube on the island of Honshu. Here they learnt that they would be working in a large coal mine close by, called Okinoyama. The mine was on two levels underground and had mineworkings below the Inland Sea.

From all my research, it seems that as the war progressed the prisoners had to work for longer periods without a break and were given less food. The Japanese also kept the Red Cross food parcels and didn't pass them to the prisoners.

As the allied forces fought steadily closer to the islands of Japan, the Japanese Emperor had issued a decree that in the event that Japan was invaded, all prisoners were to be executed. About mid July 1945 the prisoners were told that they were to be given a "swimming pool", but they would have to make it themselves. They were made to dig a hole 60 feet long by 25 feet wide and 6 feet deep. They were aware of the probable use of the "pool" if the Allies invaded the Japanese mainland and were probably relieved when they heard that the first atomic bomb was dropped on 6th August 1945.

It was not until they were on their way home that they knew that two bombs had been dropped, the first one on Hiroshima and the second one on Nagasaki. They saw an official account of the second bomb which said that it could have been dropped on Ube (1/4 mile away from the camp) or other targets but due to cloud obscuring the primary target area, it was dropped on the alternative target, Nagasaki.

The war officially ended on 15th August 1945 and many of the POWs who came home were impacted by physical and mental trauma, and never fully recovered from this. I don't know how it affected my dad, as I only had him for a short time.

I am a member of Children of Far East POW (COFEPOW) and receive the details of other members and the names of their relatives who were POWs, the camps they were in and whether they returned. On my list I noted the name of a Lieutenant Cecil West who was documented as being in Tanjong Priok and camp 7 Fukuoka Japan, which were the same camps as my Dad. I contacted his son Phillip, who lives

in Australia and asked if he had any information that he would like to share with me. I thought that perhaps I would receive some information about life in the camps. When he replied he told me that his Dad had mentioned a Sgt Hudson on his debrief records. He then sent me a copy of the following document:

The record states: "I wish to bring to notice the exemplary conduct of Sgt W Hudson No 1546081 89th Battery 35th Regt. LAA.RA. while POW at Ube camp Japan. Although the Japanese refused to recognise non-commissioned officers (N.C.O.) ranks and placed every obstacle in their way; Sgt Hudson carried out his duties as an N.C.O. to the benefit of men and officers. His service and good conduct were a fine example to all". The above was written in Lieutenant West's own handwriting.

The next piece was typed. "9. AWARD DATA- OTHER PERSONNEL I would like to recommend Sgt. Hudson, No. 1546081, 89 Btn. 35 Regt LAA for his organisation of the work in the mines and his general behaviour toward the men. N.C.O.'s was generally disregarded entirely but he retained the authority and respect of his rank with both the POWs and the Japanese". Paragraph 12 also stated that Sgt. Hudson was in charge of the fund with which foodstuffs were purchased for the sick through the Japanese civilian guards. This was under the supervision of Captain A.T. Greenway R.A.O.C.

It is very difficult to express how reading the above made me feel, as I have always been proud of my dad as any child would be. The sad thing is that I don't know whether he ever knew what was written about him and it is something that I had only recently thought about.

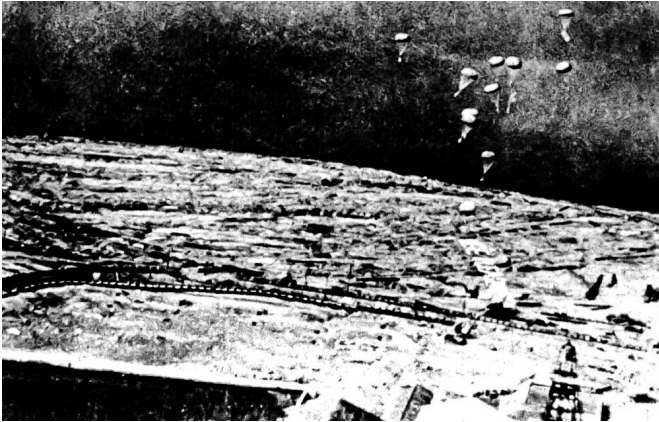
If the bombs hadn't been dropped in Japan, then my dad and thousands of others would have died, and I certainly wouldn't be writing this article.

This is Ube Camp, Fukuoka, where my dad Walter was a POW. The picture was kindly sent to me by Defence Attaché Captain Keizo Kitagawa, who I met at the Japanese Em-



bassy about ten years ago. He said that Ube was the village where he was born and he would try to get some information for me. He contacted Mayor Fujita, and I received the above picture.

The other picture I received was a supply drop by a US Air Force B-29 Bomber over Ube on the 10th September.



The document tells that there was a sign “here please” and 3 arrows for direction.

I will be attending the remembrance service at the FEPOW Memorial Building and Grove on 17th August at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas. This will be followed by a fly-past by the RAF and lunch.

Editor

New Members

Listed below are the names, and membership numbers of members who have recently joined the Society. We extend a warm welcome to them and wish them good luck in their personal research.

Mem ID	Title	Initial	Surname
4661	Mr	N	Smith
4662	Mr	I	Angus
4663		D	Tywoniuk
4664	Ms	A	Morgan
4665	Mrs	M	Wood
4666	Dr	A	Wood
4667	Mr	J	Thompson
4668	Mr	I	Sprakes
4669	Mrs	B J	Porter
4670	Mr	T	Walker
4671	Mr & Mrs	S & H	Patching
4672	Mr	A	Stevenson

Members' Surname Interests

Surname	Code	Place	Dates	Memb ID
Hepworth	YKS	Treeton	1850-1890	4672
Stevenson	YKS	Conisbrough	1910-1950	4672
Stevenson	YKS	Denaby Main	1890-1920	4672
Oakley	YKS	Denaby Main	1890-1920	4672
Hepworth	YKS	Todwick	1870-1930	4672
Stevenson	YKS	Whiston	1870-1910	4672
Newton	WKS	Doncaster	1600-1800	4116
Dawson	DBY	Derbyshire	1600-1800	4116
West	DBY	Derbyshire	1600-1800	4116
Coates	WKS	Doncaster	1600-1800	4116
Parkin	WKS	Doncaster	1600-1800	4116

Surname	Code	Place	Dates	Memb ID
Hall	WKS	Doncaster	1600-1800	4116
Parkin- Coates	WKS	Doncaster	1800-1900	4116
Wood	WRY	Hooton Pagnell		18504666
Wakelin	ESS	Tolleshunt D'Arcy	1700-1850	4610
Wakelene	ESS	Mersea Island	1700-1850	4610
Singleton	LIN	Bassingham,Boston	1790-1930	4600
Gash	YKS, LIN	Navenby,Scopwick, Bos- ton,Blankney	1717-2025	4600
Oxley	YKS	Doncaster,Leeds	1759-1880	4600
Eastgate	YKS, LIN	Doncaster,Kirton in Hol- land,Horsington,Boston	1764-1880	4600
Etches	YKS, NTT	Doncaster,Newark	1800-1850	4600
Winterburn	YKS, DBY	Doncaster,Sheffield, Middleton	1790-2025	4600
Cooke	NTH	Grendon	1700-1935	4664
Birt	WAR		1700-1935	4664
Beeby	LAN		1700-1935	4664
Scholey	SLI	Roscommon	1700-1935	4664
Paterson	LKS	Glasgow	1700-1935	4664
Kelly	NBL	Hartlepool	1700-1936	4664
Severn	DBY	Cotmonhay	1700-1935	4664
McDonald	NBL	Hartlepool	1700-1935	4664
Morgan	STS	Tamworth	1750-1935	4664

Condolences

We have been informed that Roger Luffman has died, and send our condolences to his family and friends.

Dates for your Diary

Doncaster & District Family History Society

Local & Family History Fair

&

45th Anniversary of the Society

Saturday 16th August 2025

The Corn Exchange, Doncaster

DN1 1NE

Doors open at 9.00 am - 4.00pm

Help Desk with over 1.6 million name database

St Oswald's Church Kirk Sandall Open Days

Sunday August 17th 1.00pm - 4:00pm

Another opportunity to view the church that has been at the heart of the ancient Parish of Kirk Sandall for over 900 years

Heritage Open Days Festival 2025

Saturday September 20th. 100pm - 4:00pm

Sunday September 21st 1.00pm - 4:00pm

Display of Local History Photographs

We have a large archive of photographs which we have gathered over many years. Please come along and have a look you maybe surprised at what you find.

DDFHS Family History Research Help Days

**Conisbrough Community Library
Old Road, Conisbrough,
Doncaster DN12 3ND**

Please note these days are the **1st Monday of every month
throughout the year including December 2nd**

10.00 - 12.30

Entrance free, Tea & Coffee by donation

**Experienced volunteers will be on hand to help with your
research and it is free**

**Please note that if this is a Bank Holiday, it will be moved
to the 2nd Monday, if available**

**Armthorpe Community Library
Armthorpe
DN3 3AL**

Please note these days are the **2nd Monday of every month
throughout the year, except Bank Holidays**

10.00 - 13.45

Entrance free, Tea & Coffee 50p

**Experienced volunteers will be on hand to help with your
research and it is free**

**Doncaster Archives
Chequer Road
Doncaster
DN4 0NA**

**Please note these are on the 3rd Tuesday of every month
throughout the year, excluding December
10.00 - 2.00,
Entrance free, no refreshments available**

**Experienced volunteers will be on hand to help with your
research and it is free**

**Sprotbrough Library
Sprotbrough Rd
Doncaster DN5 8BA**

**Please note these days are the 4th Wednesday of every
month throughout the year, excluding December
10.00 - 2.00
Entrance free, Tea & Coffee free**

**Experienced volunteers will be on hand to help with your
research and it is free**

doncasterfhs.co.uk for further details

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Doncaster & District Family History Society and send to the Membership Secretary.

see back page or **www.genfair.com**

**New Members who join the Society between
January - March will receive up to 3 months
membership free**

DDFHS Research Enquiry Service

The Research Service is primarily a “look-up” service and is limited to one surname search of the Society’s over 1.6 million transcriptions database.

Any additional research will be at the discretion of the Society’s Research Enquiries Coordinator, **Trevor Betterton**:

researchenquiries@doncasterfhs.co.uk

If you are not a member we will endeavour to assist, but ask you to consider joining the Society as an appreciation of the time spent by our volunteers.

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office hours*



Parishes and Townships in the
Archdeaconry of Doncaster 1914