

THE DONCASTER ANCESTOR



Corn Exchange Bazaar

**The Journal of Doncaster and District
Family History Society 1980 - 2026**

ISSN 0144-459X & ISSN 2633-8440

Volume 36 No 2 Summer 2026

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.doncasterfhs.co.uk

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continued on the back cover

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Doncaster Ancestor— Summer 2026

THE DONCASTER ANCESTOR

Journal of the Doncaster and District Family History Society
Charity Number 516226

Free to Members Volume 36 No 2 ISSN 0144-459X

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Editor: Jenny Ellis

Assistant Editor: vacant

Editorial Team: Karen Walker, Richard Cuell

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. If you want to learn more and become further involved with the various activities that we undertake, please express your interest with any of the committee or volunteers.

We are continuing to develop our Family History Help days in the local libraries and although these are successful, we are still seeking to progress further and secure a permanent base centrally in Doncaster. Our Thursday morning Self Help / Computer group, (run over zoom)

continues to be active. We are looking at ways to develop this further and be more helpful to members.

We have good support at our monthly hybrid meetings at the Earl of Doncaster with a varied range of speakers. It is nice to see members joining us on Zoom from as far afield as the USA, Portugal as well as across the UK.

Our journal from Jenny has been greatly affected by Microsoft's decision to end the Publisher app. The loss of MS Publisher means learning a new program to format and present the journal. We would welcome anyone with skills in this area to help. Jenny also receives an irregular supply of articles. I am sure that there are members with interesting family stories that we all would love to hear. Please share them.

How many of you have renewed your Find my Past / Ancestry / My Heritage subscription recently? Did you get a good deal? It is always interesting to discover who has the best "luck" in doing this, and the most successful method. I have tried numerous ways in the past, via online, ringing the help lines etc. to obtain a good deal. I was pleased with myself recently in gaining 30% off FMP by contacting their helpline, only to be outdone by Andy getting 50% off his by renewing his subscription online!

Please share your experiences on what works best for you.

Best wishes with your research
Clive Damms
Chair
Doncaster & District Family History Society

chair@doncasterfhs.co.uk

From the Editor

Welcome to the summer edition of the Doncaster Ancestor.

As Clive has said, Publisher will disappear on 1st October and that is the software that I have used for the last ten years to produce the Ancestor. He always pinches my lines!

I decided not to bury my head in the sand but see what could be produced using Word. Karen Walker, the previous editor of the journal, and I got together to look at Word, as we are told that Word can do everything that Publisher can do. Oh no it can't!! Unless, of course, anyone out there knows better? Then please contact me.

Our printers said that most of the journals that they print are completed in Word. Anyway, this is now a word document, which has certainly been a challenge. For the time being the cover will be in Publisher until I master that on Word.

The Society has a vacancy for an assistant editor, so if anyone feels that is something they would be interested in, then please do contact me. This job would entail finding articles for the Ancestor and other suitable information to help people in their research.

I don't have any articles to even start the next Ancestor, so unless there is help from you the membership, then I have no idea when the next Ancestor will be published. It doesn't have to be a long article, it could just be something that you have spotted while doing your own research, a good website you have found, an interesting book you have read, or do you need help with that brick wall that we all have?

Do you enjoy reading the Ancestor? What do you like or not like? What would you like to see in it?

The autumn edition usually includes something military as it is the closest one to Remembrance Day. I am sure someone can find me a story from their family history.

Jenny, Editor

ddfhseditor1@outlook.com

Disclaimer

The Editor reserves the right to edit and defer items sent for inclusion in this journal. It is the contributor's responsibility to ensure that items submitted do not breach copyright laws. Opinions expressed in this publication are those of their author and not necessarily those of the Editor or the Society.

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Deadline for the next edition is 1st July 2026 at the latest.

Please send in any articles, preferably as a Word Document, which can be sent in at any time.

The Doncaster Ancestor is published in February, May, August and November each year Vol 36 No 3 Edition will be published when it is full.

Monthly Hybrid Members Meetings 2026

Roomers & Zoomers Unite

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 are available from the bar.

May 27th 2026

My Uncle Drove the Mallard by Ian Carpenter

Fred Sleaford, from Conisbrough, was an engine driver in the Golden Age of steam railways. Ian is his 2x great nephew looking back on Fred's life on the footplate and finds a few interesting stories on the way.

June 24th 2026

Lockerbie - Family Tragedies by Andy Harbon

This talk will look at the events of 21st December 1988, when Pan American Airways Flight 103 was destroyed over the Scottish Border Town of Lockerbie and in particular the impact to those families on the ground in the Sherwood Crescent area. Andy will show images of a visit to Lockerbie last year, and the main memorial sites, including Dryfesdale cemetery, where the Flight 103 memorial is found, and his research to discover what happened.

July 29th 2026

How Family History Wrote my Novel by Janet Dean Knight

Janet is a writer from Barnsley, with family connections in Doncaster, who now lives in York. Her novel, *The Peacemaker* is a moving story of a young woman's struggle to make peace with her father on the eve of the Second World War. The book is based on extensive family history research of her grandparents' families, ironstone miners in the North York Moors, who subsequently moved to the South Yorkshire coalfields. Janet's talk is illustrated with family photographs, documents, and a moving letter written from the Somme in 1916 which provided the original inspiration for her book.

August 26th 2026

The Work of the Victoria Trust by Keith Lumley Restoring Military Graves and Memorials of the Brave

Keith is a qualified memorial mason and works with a local charity restoring military graves and memorials. In this highly visual presentation Keith will show how he and the team

complete this delicate work from a conservation perspective whilst also telling the stories behind headstones and memorials.

This presentation attracts both military historians as well as audiences who enjoy the experience of seeing badly damaged memorials restored to their former glory.

September 30th 2026

**William Snawsell: Goldsmith, Mayor of York and Friend of King Richard III,
by Maria Grazia Leotta**

William Snawsell, former Mayor of York and Goldsmith, the most famous resident of Barley Hall York, Friend of King Richard III. The story will tell us of why he was so close with the King and the Nevilles of Middleham

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

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

Nothing to report at present

Please contact:

Margaret Jackson, Project – Coordinator
margaret.jackson5@btinternet.com

From the Postbag

E-mails, Letters and Postcards

It's taken me a month to read the latest issue of the Ancestor (Spring 2026). I just couldn't get past our editor's tale of woe on page 3. I've lived too long to waste time on crying or getting angry, both wasted emotions in my opinion, but I did waste a lot of time asking "WHY?". I'm sure Jenny has too.

What our editor needs are helpful solutions from supportive readers, so here's my suggestion for starters. How about a change in the society's title? Cut out "and District" and make room for "and Local History". I belong to another society where we research both subjects. In the past, Jenny has kindly printed a few of my articles on local subjects: Doncaster Baths (before it was owned by the Corporation), Temperance Hotels and a house called "Danum".

I've always thought that local history was just an extension of one's family history. How many readers have photographs and postcards that they haven't been able to identify? Perhaps buildings or house in the background of a photo of grandparents? And talking about mystery houses...

Not long ago, I bought a postcard on eBay that was simply titled "Mystery House – Posted Doncaster." I didn't have to do any research because the seller had scanned both sides of the card. It's taken a long time, but a few dealers are now realising that some buyers are looking for more than a pretty picture. The dealer scanned it – but didn't read it! The sender had written the address clearly on the back - Hexthorpe Hall. I couldn't believe my luck when there were no other bidders. That was another surprise because when I first started looking for Hexthorpe local history, I found a Friends of Hexthorpe website, and they were asking if anyone had a picture of Hexthorpe Hall.

And how about a Question Corner? I'm not thinking about detailed research that keeps Trevor occupied for hours at a time. I'm thinking about short queries with even shorter answers that other readers can answer. For example, I spend too much time looking at the Mansfield shoe shop on St Sepulchre Gate postcards. That's where my mother bought all her shoes. My daughter says it's just a square advertising sign – I say it's a clock. There must be lots of small questions like my Manfield Clock query. They only need one-word-answers. Give it a try and fill Jenny's postbag.



St Sepulchre Gate, Doncaster

Pauline Stainton, Member 4573

From the Postbag continued:

Thank you for all the hard work you do as editor.

David Brown Member 4357

David's comments are much appreciated.

Hi Jenny

I wanted to say how much I enjoyed the articles in the spring journal, especially the one about Ann Marsh and her connection to the Titanic and the one about the research you had done into the Public House Through Time. You must have spent hours researching all that.

Sheila Cave, Member 4018

Thorne Pit Sinkers

It was somewhat to my surprise that I discovered what a nomadic existence my mining family led during the 19th and early 20th century. I discovered after reading *The Migrant Miners* by Melvyn Jones (The Genealogist Issue 046 / February 2017) that I ought not to have been surprised at all, as he says:

As will become clear, migration levels were so high in the second half of the 19th century and the first 25 years of the 20th century in South Yorkshire that the concept of the 'Yorkshireman' (and woman) may need some reappraisal. In the period in question the South Yorkshire coalfield was like the Wild West. Migrants flocked in from every corner of the country and beyond.

After tracking the family to Liverpool, Halifax, Sheffield, Rotherham, Leeds to name but some areas, I found my father's family: the **Sharmans, Ellis, Griffiths** and **Lovegroves** in Moorends, Thorne. The family were still living near each other. **Sarah Ann Sharman** (the younger) had married one **Henry Ellis** and had her first child, **John Andrew**. They had taken in lodgers, the Froggett family, a couple with two children. The address was The Pit Sinkers' Huts, Moorends, Thorne. They had the sum total of four rooms, including the kitchen, to accommodate seven people.

Next door at No. 1 Hut, Moorends, was my great grandmother **Sarah Ann Sharman** (nee Lovegrove) now married for the second time; her husband was **Elijah George Griffiths**. All the children Sarah Ann had had by my great grandfather, **James Sharman**, had left home; there were now only three children remaining: Olive, George and Elijah. A **Lucy Cutts** was staying as a visitor, and this is Sarah Ann and James' daughter who had married **John Cutts**. The Griffiths also had one 'servant' – a term probably meaning a girl who did a lot of the drudgery around the place; **Beatrice Froggett** (presumably they were her parents next door). She was 16 and the 'General Domestic'. There would be plenty for her to do as the hut had 11 rooms and 7 lodgers.

These lodgers were all men working as Pit Sinkers at the new Thorne Colliery, as was Elijah Griffiths who, at the age of 57, would not have found the strenuous work easy. The lodgers came from all over, including London, Hampshire and Ireland; amongst them was one **Arthur Harris**, destined to join our family later. Pease and Partners, a Quaker company, was responsible for the sinking of the shafts. Just as the Pit Sinkers lowered themselves

into the bowels of the earth, there is a wonderfully fascinating rabbit hole drawing us downwards into the lives of the pit sinkers in general and at Thorne Colliery in particular. It briefly took me away from the genealogy but allowed great insight into the bravery of my ancestors. I will make do with these few references from various sources:

On October 12th, 1909, Pease & Partners Ltd., an iron making company with ironstone mines on the Cleveland Hills, began sinking shafts at Moorends, near Thorne. This was to become one of the longest and most difficult sinkings in the annals of mining. It was truly an ill-starred venture.

(Northern Mine Research Society – Thorne Colliery)

Thorne Colliery: A sinking nightmare

Set in the flat land east of Doncaster, barely above sea-level, the sinking of Thorne Colliery must rank as one of the most difficult, most prolonged, most expensive (£1.5 million: about £45 million today) and most tragic engineering tasks in the history of modern British mining.

(Tracing Your Coalmining Ancestors by Brian Elliott page35)

Decked in linseed oil-soaked calicos to keep them dry, they were the ones who helped sink the original pit shafts between 1909 and 1926...The clothes and hats worn by the 1st sinkers were made of unbleached calico, soaked in linseed oil for a week then dried. The water would then roll off them.

(Men Who Sank Thorne Pit by Gary Horner)

My ancestors were there, carrying out frighteningly dangerous work on a daily basis. The following images show groups of sinkers at Thorne. It goes without saying that nobody bothered to record the names of these men, but my relatives could well be among the faces looking out at us.



*Thorne and Moorends Bygone Memories Facebook page posted by Peter Dumville
September 2020*



From Thorne Old Photographs Facebook page. The men are sitting on the steps of one of the pit sinkers' huts in which my family was living at the time. The chap at the front left is very like my father, Leonard Ellis; could this be Henry Ellis, his father?

Dating these photographs accurately is proving difficult. The Thorne Old Photographs Facebook page dates the second one 'about 1910' and although I have seen the same photograph dated in the 1920s, the gentleman with his hand in his pocket would also seem to be in the first photograph, smiling, so it is reasonably safe to conclude they are contemporaneous and taken when the Griffiths, Ellises et al were working at Thorne as pit sinkers. The first photograph appeared in an article published in The Yorkshire Post (04.11.2023) and was attributed to the year 1923. Sinking had started around 1909 when the huts were used to house the sinkers. My best guess is that the photographs are much nearer the 1910 date.

This work was not for the fainthearted; if hewing coal was a very tough way to earn a living, pit sinking was another level of toughness as noted here by Peter Ford Mason:

'Sinkers were respected by other miners as the elite of miners. Often coal miners would work as sinkers at one colliery and after sinking was complete, would then remain working at that colliery in some other capacity. However, if sinking was 'in the blood', and they could not go back to ordinary pit work, then, as sinkers they would have to move on to the next pit to be sunk.' (The Pit Sinkers of Northumberland and Durham by Peter Ford Mason, pg 114)

It appears that this is what my family did; they can be tracked moving from one colliery to the next until the danger or age eventually drove them to a marginally safer job in the collieries.

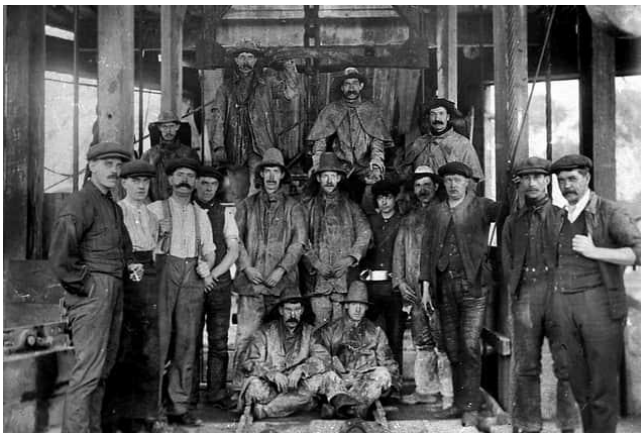
In fact, **Elijah George Griffiths** was not to survive for many weeks after completing the 1911 census. He died on the 8th May 1911 at the Pit Sinkers' Hut. He was 56 years of age, and the certificate records his cause of death as Pyelitis Cystitis Exhaustion. His occupation is

recorded as Railway Platelayer. In reporting the death of a second husband, Sarah Ann would be very aware that she still had three young children to look after.

On the 11th of May 1913, **Sarah Ann Griffiths** married for the third time, her new husband being **Arthur Harris**, the lodger from Hampshire previously mentioned. He was 36 and Sarah was 51. The address on the marriage certificate is Stainforth for both of them and they married at the parish church, St Mary's. It would be about one hour's walk from Moorends to St Mary's and there were closer churches, so had they actually moved from Moorends by now? This is quite likely considering all we know about the tribulations of the work at Thorne Colliery; however, Arthur is still describing himself as a 'Sinker'. I feel pretty sure that the couple had now moved to Stainforth and Arthur was one of the sinkers at Hatfield Colliery. About this time, sinking at Thorne was interrupted but they were sinking shafts at Hatfield from 1911. Flooding at Hatfield caused the usual problems and it was 1917 before coal was being mined.

The photograph below provided an opportunity for some detective work. It is apparently of pit sinkers at Hatfield Main Colliery. There are resemblances between the faces here and some of those in the photographs of Thorne Colliery pit sinkers.

It is very likely that one of them is Arthur Harris, the youthful third husband of Sarah Ann:



This photograph accompanied an article on Hatfield Main Colliery in The Yorkshire Post in 2024

Sarah Ann Harris (nee Lovegrove), my great grandmother, died aged 58 on November 15th, 1919. The couple were now living at 75 Pottery Street in Rawmarsh, Rotherham. Sarah died of '1. Rheumatism 2. Epileptic Fit'. Arthur reported the death and recorded his occupation as 'Colliery Surface Worker'; he seems to have been moving away from the treacherous job of pit sinking, or maybe having been injured, he could no longer manage it. He was left with the youngest son of Sarah and Elijah George Griffiths, **Elijah** aged 16. In 1921 they were still living together in the house on Pottery Street and Elijah, now aged 18 years 6 months, was working as a 'Rope hand' at New Stubbin Colliery, Rawmarsh where Arthur was a Colliery Yard worker. However, both were recorded as 'out of normal employment' which is the phrase used to indicate that they were on strike. They are also

living quite close to Sarah Ann's daughter and my grandmother, **Sarah Ann Ellis** and her family at 59, Pottery Street.

It is **Sarah Anne Lovegrove (Sharman, Griffiths, Harris)** who haunts me; I suspect I will never discover the truth about her, but I cannot let her go. I am unable to find any record of her birth to **William** and **Rachel Lovegrove**. I do know that she is totally consistent in recording her birthplace as Glasgow, though I can find no record of William or Rachel in Scotland. There may be a few reasons for this: she may have been unofficially fostered or adopted; she may have been Rachel's daughter from a previous marriage; William may simply just not have registered her birth, or the registration was lost or transcribed inaccurately so not showing up on any searches. I have been pursuing all these lines of enquiry but to no avail... yet.

Frustratingly, we are only a generation removed from being able to ask somebody who would have known so much more - my father for example - did his mother have tales to tell about her mother? How often are we told to listen to those stories the older generation tell before it is too late? It would seem it is an exhortation to be forever ignored.

I believe that I still have relatives in the Doncaster area. Perhaps they have some answers for me?

Geraldine Norman (nee Ellis) Member 4495

Condolences

The Society has been informed of the death of the following members:

Trevor Stenton

Stan Thomas

Raymond Hewitt

Stan Hogg

We send our condolences to their family and friends

D&DFHS Family History Fair

Saturday 18th July 2026

The Corn Exchange,

Doncaster

9.00am - 2.00pm



We have Heritage displays. Free Family History Research, Help and Advice, Raffle, and **entry is free.**

There is something for everyone so if you want to know more about family history, please do come along and support us.

Learn about your Ancestors and Doncaster's amazing Heritage.

Marion Baxter, Secretary

Purchasing Copies of a Will

The fee for purchasing wills in England and Wales rose in November 2025.

The fee for a copy of a Will or Grant of Representation governed by the Statutory Instrument SI 2025 has increased from £1.50 to £16.00. The Family History Federation (FHF) states that you can search and purchase online using the Find a Will Service.

<http://probatesearch.service.gov.uk>

Second World War Service Records

The National Archives (TNA) has announced a new delivery service for Ministry of Defence (MoD) records, including Second World War service records, with fees starting at £42.25.

The records were previously held by the MoD but began being transferred to TNA in 2021. Some records have now been published online by Ancestry, subject to privacy restrictions.

TNA announced that, from 2 February 2026, fees will be introduced for access to open and closed records.

TNA said the fees were not for profit and would allow it to cover costs and offer “a more timely and better-quality service”, with users requesting the Standard Service after 2 February receiving their records within 30 days.

Records access will remain free for those requesting their own service record or requesting on behalf of a living person born before 1940.

TNA also announced a broader increase in service fees, the first since 2019.

The cost of a 15-minute search will increase from £24.35 to £38.95, the cost of a naturalisation certificate will increase from £27.15 to £68.84, and the cost of a page check will increase from £8.40 to £9.92.

Rosemary Collins, Features Editor, Who do you Think You Are magazine.

Hereby lies the tale of William Trotter Lamb

This is a true story of Family History, love, deception, incest and mystery.

It all began in 1822 in Heighington County Durham when **William Lamb** was born. Father **Lamb** mother **Trotter**.

William Lamb married **Mary Sherwood** in York in 1849. A boy child was born to William and Mary Lamb in 1855 in York. He was registered as William Trotter Lamb. Only one William Trotter Lamb has ever been registered.

In 1861 William was living with his mother at 22, Hilda St, Atranton Durham. His mother Mary was listed as married, head of the household and a seaman's wife. By 1871 William was still living with his mother who was now a widow. His occupation was engine fitter (another name for a mechanic) living at 7 Douglas St, Stockton.

On 10th March 1879 at Sunderland Register Office **William Trotter Lamb** aged 24 years (engine fitter), bachelor, married **Elizabeth Maria Stanfield**, spinster aged 21 years. Both were living at 19 Pemberton St, Bishopwearmouth. Both fathers were called William and listed as deceased.

By 1881 William and Elizabeth are nowhere to be found, although in 1891 William was recorded as living at 46 Queens Rd Jarrow aged 41 years together with his wife Elizabeth aged 38 years, with their three children. William was a steam engine fitter.

Mabel Lamb age 10 years born Sunderland, **Joseph Lamb** was 8 and born Sunderland and **William Lamb** aged 4 years born in Devonport Devon.

On 15th October 1900 **Elizabeth Lamb** died and the following year, William was living at 12, Gardner Street, South Shields. He is a widower aged 50 years, born in York and a marine engineer. Living with him in 1901 are:

Mabel Haliday daughter, married aged 21 years, born Sunderland.

Elizabeth Haliday, 2 months, granddaughter born South Shields

William Lamb son 14 years, born in Devonport

George Lamb 8 years, born Jarrow

Myra Lamb was 5 years old, born Jarrow.

Now the mystery begins...

There are no birth registrations for his daughter Mabel or son Joseph. Even more intriguing are the births of the other three children.

William Charles Ernest Lamb was born 21st March 1887, at 23 Morice Street, Devonport. The birth was registered on 28th May 1887 by the mother Elizabeth Lamb, formerly **FORREST**. Father is listed as William Trotter Lamb engine fitter.

George Lamb was born 20th August 1892 at 46 Queens Rd Jarrow. The birth was registered on 5th September 1892 by **Elizabeth Lamb** formerly **FORREST**. Father William Lamb, marine engine fitter.

Myra Lamb was born 9th February 1896 at 32 Lord Street, Jarrow. The birth was registered on 30th March 1896 by the mother Elizabeth Lamb formerly **FORREST**. Father William Lamb iron turner (journeyman).

Mabel Lamb (Halliday) (no record of a marriage) had four children:

Elizabeth 1901, Thomas 1904, Margaret Jane 1907. All Halliday plus Frederick 1910 registered as Lamb.

The death of Frederick after just three weeks prompted a coroner's inquiry. Questioning the mother Mabel, it was established that Mabel was a single mother and all her children were by the same man. She wrote his name on a piece of paper, and the man was her father, William. He was arrested, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to four years in prison in 1910.

In the 1911 census, Mabel completed the census as the daughter of the head of the household, 12 Ormonde Street, South Shields. Mabel 29 daughter, George 18 son, Thomas 6 son, Myra 15 daughter, Elizabeth daughter 10 and Margaret 4 daughter. All on the census return were called Lamb.

On 1st September 1913 Mabel married **Henry Donaldson**.

In the 1921 census, again at 12 Ormonde Street, South Shields we have the **Donaldson** family. Included in the return interestingly are:

Thomas **Halliday** not **Lamb** as in 1911, stepson,

William **Lamb**, father-in-law, born York fitter and turner,

Elizabeth **Lamb** 1901, Mabel's eldest child is listed as sisters-in-law.

Thomas may have wished to be known as Halliday, the name his birth was registered in

Why would a man let another man who committed incest with his daughter (now **Donaldson's** wife) be allowed to live in the family home, unless of

course the house belonged to William Lamb.

Perhaps William took the fall for someone else. His sons William and Joseph quickly went under the radar.

In 1924 Catherine Cookson at the age of 18 started working in the laundry room at West Harton. This was the South Shields Union Workhouse.

On 26th June 1925 at 1 Moor Lane, West Harton, the Union Workhouse, William Trotter Lamb passed away, aged 70 years.

What was he doing there? Inspiration for Miss Cookson? Tilly TROTTER?

There is nothing to be found on either Elizabeth Maria **Stanfield** or Elizabeth **Forrest**.

Did Elizabeth Stanfield die? Did they separate?

Was there a second Elizabeth who took the place of the first one?

Was Elizabeth Maria Stanfield fictitious as she was an underage girl?

I.e. Under 21 years of age and not having parental consent?

Any help, ideas, thoughts are most welcome.

David Rayner Member 2231

A Brief Glimpse of a Local Mid-1900 Business

Some of our readers may remember the places mentioned in the following stories relating to businessman Mr. Joseph H. **Tear** who was born in Doncaster in 1926.

Joe started his business career selling wool from a stall in Doncaster Market and in the 1950s left the market to open a wool & haberdashery shop at the top end of Hall Gate, Doncaster which he called 'The Spinning Wheel'. This shop was filled with everything that could ever be needed for home use and was run by a manageress with two assistants. I think it was the only shop in the town which had a small flight of steps leading from the pavement up to the entrance door.

Around the same time, he also opened three smaller shops which were all called 'Goblin Wools', one each in Selby, South Elmsall and Mexborough which dealt mainly with wools and their associated products. Each one was run by a sole manageress.

All the wool shops were equipped with the latest electric cash tills which produced a copy of the items keyed in by the user on a paper till roll and was inserted & removed through a small door in the side of the machine. Every time this door was opened, a counter at the side of the door was increased by 1. I received the weekly till rolls each Monday morning and it was vital that I checked that the number by the door had only been incremented by 1. The reason for this was that without this counter, at the end of the day when the shop door had been locked, a dis-honest manageress could remove the till roll, tear off the day's entries, replace the till roll, then copy in most of the entries, but omit some. She would then take the value of the omitted items from the cash drawer & pocket it. The only clue to the theft would arise at stocktaking at the end of the year when the value of the remaining stock would be a lot lower than it should have been.

In the 1950s Mr. Tear bought J. T. Smith's in Scot Lane, Doncaster, a high-class ladies' fashion & underwear shop which had two sales floors and was run by a manageress with three younger assistants plus an older part-time assistant who went in at busy times.

He also bought a disused chapel on High Road/Low Road, Balby and started a firm called Arts & Crafts (Doncaster) Ltd from where all his other businesses were run. This is the firm I joined as Office Manager in March 1961.

J. T. Smith's had been long established in Scot Lane and was probably the best high class ladies' shop in Doncaster, selling up to date fashion items, modern hats and ladies' underwear and when he bought it, Joe decided to keep the old name with all its connotations. It was used by many Doncaster ladies who had dress allowances from their husbands and these ladies were able to buy on credit, but other customers had to pay cash. J.T. Smiths had a sale each year in which old stock was sold off at greatly reduced prices. Nothing was 'bought in' for the sale. Except for Fridays, when I took the wages down for the manageress to distribute, I rarely visited this shop.

In the spring of 1962, Mr. Tear arranged to put on a mannequin parade to bring attention to the fashion items which were available at the shop and chose the Charnwood Hotel on the outskirts of Blyth as the venue. He didn't hire specialist mannequins but used the staff from his own shops and some of his lady friends which gave him a good range of ladies aged from about seventeen to fifty. A lot of time and effort was spent in preparing and rehearsing for it. On the evening it was held, Joe asked me to go along as a 'dogsbody' and give a hand wherever it was needed. Whether it proved to be a success or not, I don't know, but there was a large audience and quite a lot of clapping. I was kept very busy doing all sorts of things I'd never done before, and I enjoyed the evening very much. It was very late when everything was eventually cleared up and I took one young lady assistant home to Scawthorpe in the Goblin van.

There was no space at the side of the shop for a rubbish bin, so rubbish for the tip was kept in boxes in the basement and the binmen used to go down and collect it weekly. One week however, when they had gone, the manageress found that they had also taken a big unopened box of stationery as well as the rubbish. She phoned Mr Tear, who found out where the dustbin lorry would have gone and got permission for someone (me) to go and look for it. I got to the tip and walked around the top of it, but many other lorries had also dumped their loads of rubbish, and a bulldozer had already levelled everything off. There was no sign of any cardboard boxes so eventually the stationery had to be re-ordered and I suppose that a different system of storing and collecting the rubbish would have been established.

All the dockets for items which had been bought by Smith's credit customers were sent to me to be dealt with and one of them always brought a smile to my face. When knickers had been sold on credit, all the full-time assistants would write (for example): - 1 pair knickers but the part-time assistant always wrote, in capital letters '1 KNICKER.' I always tried to imagine what '1 knicker' might look like but never succeeded.

Mr. Tear was a very 'hands-on' employer, he used to try and visit every shop each day to chat to the manageress's and deal with any problems which may have arisen.

Tragically, in 1971 when he was only 21, Joe Tear's son David was killed in an accident which must have left both Joe and his wife in a state of shock and grief. Sometime later, he opened a new shop at Bawtry called David House as a memorial to his son.

George Laycock, Member 4256

Using Hearth Tax Records for Your Family History Research

Background

The Hearth Tax was introduced in England and Wales in 1662 by the government of Charles II. Although it only remained in place for 26 years, it had a major impact on the lives of our ancestors.



Following the Restoration of the monarchy in 1660, Parliament calculated that the Royal Household needed an annual income of £1,200,000 and new ways of raising money had to be found. The Hearth Tax was an additional tax to make up the shortfall of income from other means. Any additional tax was going to be unpopular but the decision to base it on the number of hearths in each property was made because hearths could not be hidden away and would be easy to count. There was some element of fairness in this idea as most people had a hearth, but the richest in society would pay a tiny proportion of their income compared with a large proportion from those least able to afford it.

The Act decreed that householders who paid more than 20 shillings a year in rent had to pay two shillings per year for each fire, hearth and stove within the property. Payments were to be made in two instalments, due at Michaelmas (29 September) and Lady Day (25 March), starting at Michaelmas 1662. The poorest in the community were to be exempt from paying if they occupied a house worth less than £1 a year in rental value and had income that was less than £10 a year.

The legislation setting the Hearth Tax into statute had been put together in a hurry and turned out to be unfit for purpose. Several amendments had to be made to the Act to correct the omissions. The original Act failed to make a distinction between owners and householders. As very few people owned the property in which they lived, this was the most important clause in the legislation. The first amendment to be passed clarified that it was the occupier of the property who was liable to pay, not their landlords. This was a major blow to most tenants as they were the least able to pay the tax. The poorer people paid as much as the rich and most could ill afford it.

Householders had to make a written return of the number of hearths in their homes within six days of the notice. It was then up to the Parish Constable, on behalf of government officials, to collect all monies in cash. Parish Constables were appointed to the role for one year, in rotation with other prominent members of the community. It was already an unpopular burden on the men chosen for the post and to make matters worse they were now expected to collect taxes from members of their own community and pass it on to central government. This task was sweetened by allowing the Parish Constable a commission of two pence in the pound for his trouble. The Parish Constable was now more unpopular than ever, and many had to resort to paying for an escort for protection against theft and abuse. Collecting the Hearth Tax became the most dreaded duty for the Parish Constable during his year of office.

As family historians we are interested in surviving records and what they will tell us. The Hearth Tax lists became more detailed over time. In the first few years following its introduction they only included the number of people who were exempt and did not name them. From 1665 the names of the exempt were also listed. If you cannot find your ancestor on the lists of those who paid, you also need to look for any lists of those too poor to pay.

My Family

William Booth (1644 – 1722) was my seven times great grandfather who lived in Tinsley, South Yorkshire, with his wife and children. William made a living as an awlsmith, occupied in the manufacture of awls. These were small, pointed tools with wooden handles used by shoemakers for piercing leather. He was skilled in both woodwork and metal work, and a small smithy would have been essential for his work.

The Booth family were hit hard by the introduction of the Hearth Tax. I know this because some of these taxation records for Tinsley have survived. I have seen the Hearth Tax returns for “Lady Day”, collected on 25th March 1672. The returns show that the house where William Booth lived with his family had three hearths and his smithy was classed as an additional hearth, making four in total. These tax records confirm that William was not living in a tiny cottage like many of his neighbours. He was living in a house of some size. In comparison, his brother-in-law Alphonso Morton, also living in Tinsley, was assessed for one domestic hearth and one hearth in his smithy, so I know that William was doing well for himself. Unfortunately, he now had to pay the price.

Working men were incensed at being taxed on their smithies, especially when the law describing what constituted a hearth was open to interpretation. The Cutlers Company of Hallamshire (CCH) believed they must mount a legal challenge to the way the tax was being applied as it could deprive some craftsmen of their livelihood. They campaigned to have hearths in smithies exempt. William, and his father before him, were members of the Cutlers Company for a time and would have had to pay a levy to the CCH to help pay for this legal action. This was in addition to having to pay the Hearth Tax until the matter was resolved and there was no guarantee of success.

The surviving archives for the CCH include documents that confirm that William Booth was amongst fourteen other awlsmiths who were admitted as Freemen of the company in 1676. The papers describe these craftsmen as “subulators”. This was the Latin term for an awlsmith. His admission confirms that he had been apprenticed to his father and that he was now qualified to work on his own account. He was allowed to use his own mark which was “W”. In the same year, 1676, the CCH imposed another levy on the Freemen to raise more money for fighting the Hearth Tax. A record was kept of all those who paid the levy, but William Booth is not on the list, so he must have been made a Freeman later in that year. William would have had no choice other than to join the CCH as he needed membership to be able to work at his chosen trade.

A local JP who was well connected at Court, Sir John Reresby of Thryburgh, campaigned on their behalf. I see that he had been assessed for 22 hearths himself, one of the largest in the area, but that was unlikely to be the reason he took up the cause. He needed the votes of the men who asked for his help. He was successful in having the tax demands on smithies temporarily put aside but it was reinstated later. Unfortunately, members of the CCH suffered a double whammy. They had to pay their Hearth Tax and contribute to a fight against it that cost a fortune (estimated at about £200) and was not completely successful.

In 1680 William Booth was appointed as Parish Constable of Tinsley for a year and then again four years later in 1684. He was now responsible for collecting the Hearth Tax from his friends and neighbours in addition to having to pay the tax himself. Campaigns against the Hearth Tax continued for several more years before finally being abolished in 1688.

Where to find Hearth Tax records

Apart from being able to contact your local Archives for records, many records have been transcribed and are freely available online.

Hearth Tax Digital - <https://gams.uni-graz.at/o:htx.WR8>

This website is free and you do not need to register to use it. If you are looking for anyone within the Diocese of Doncaster, remember to choose the link to "Tax Assessment West Riding of Yorkshire - Strafforth and Tickhill wapentake Lady Day 1672"

Karen Walker, Member 2062

The picture of King Charles II was taken from Wikipedia and is said to be in the public domain.

Editor

Slater Brothers Mineral Water Works in Balby

A while ago I inherited a box of glass plate photo negatives and prints from my grandfather. This rather charming image taken in 1874 was showing its age but was enhanced digitally 150 years later! It shows my maternal Grandmother Fanny Goodison on her mother's knee. She was born in Sheffield in 1873, her father Edward being a spring knife cutler and her mother Sarah Ellen Hinchliffe, also from a family of Sheffield cutlers.

Tragically Fanny and her sister were orphaned some ten years later when both parents died of tuberculosis within a couple of months of each other; there were no antibiotics in those days! Fanny and her sister Annie were brought up by their Aunt Mary and Uncle George Gill; he was a talented engraver of silver, and they lived in Ecclesall in Sheffield

In 1900 Fanny married William Slater who had been



managing the family brickworks in South Elmsall. After the family business was sold they moved to Doncaster and eventually set up home in Albany Road in Balby. William and his brother Samuel established a mineral water business on what is now Sandford Road in Balby.

They delivered their products by horse and cart across Doncaster, and the picture shows their driver Jim with the dray and his horse Dolly. The business shut down apparently due to a sugar shortage on the outbreak of WW1.

We have one of Slater's "codd" lemonade bottles complete with a marble in the neck to seal it. A few years ago, I spotted a Slater Bros ginger beer flask had been sold on eBay, but I have no idea where it could now be; however, I'd love to lay my hands on an example so if you know of one do, please let me know!

David Brown, Member 4357

City of Doncaster Archives – Introduction to Paul Stebbing, New Archives Manager



Hello family historians! I arrived in Doncaster on January 19th this year to take up the post of Archives Manager. Archives Managers in Doncaster have long been referred to as 'time lords' and I'm reliably informed that I'm the seventh incarnation. I think in the world of Doctor Who that makes me Sylvester McCoy. The latest in a long line of archivists stretching back to the 1970s, all tasked with collecting, safeguarding and making accessible the area's documentary heritage. So, as I start a new chapter in my life and that of the City of Doncaster Archives, it's the perfect opportunity to introduce myself to Doncaster and District Family History Society members.

I'm afraid that I can't claim to be a Doncastrian, however, I was born just a few miles away in North Lincolnshire. There, my interest in family history started in the late 1980s. I can remember being excited at the forthcoming release of the 1891 census back in 1991, long before the existence of the internet. Research involved many hours scrolling through microfilm to find a snippet of information. I once spent nearly an entire day searching for my great great grandfather's death on the GRO index microfiche – a task that could be performed in seconds today! Ordering birth, marriage and death certificates could be a long, complicated process. And the International Genealogical Index (IGI) on microfiche was the go-to source for linking the generations. Being a family historian in my teens brought me into contact with actual records. There were no online census returns, parish registers or hints to follow. I also spent a great deal of time in my teens visiting and quizzing elderly relatives. 35 years later, not only has that left me with great first-hand testimony, but many wonderful photos that otherwise might now be lost to history.

My early years also taught me the value of family history societies. I joined the relatively new Lincolnshire Family History Society in the early 1990s, along with the slightly older Isle of Axholme Family History Society (my maternal grandfather's family being from Haxey and Owston Ferry). The knowledge of the society members and volunteers was invaluable, and it took my research to the next level – using many of the lesser-known sources held by county archive services, which had been indexed by the two societies.

Fast forward a few years and I went off to study history at the University of Lincoln. After my degree, I was naturally keen to pursue a career in history, so organised a placement at the Lincolnshire Archives, followed by a year working in the archives department at the British Motor Museum in Warwickshire. In 2002 I graduated from Liverpool University with a

master's degree in archives and records management. From 2002-2007 I worked at the Derbyshire County Record Office in Matlock, first as archivist and then senior archivist. I then headed to Barnsley where I was Archives and Local Studies Manager from 2007-2026. Doncaster represents a new challenge after nearly 19 years in Barnsley, but I am fast learning about the city, the people, the collections and the priorities. I've quickly realised just how large, varied and important Doncaster's collections are. Decades of collecting has built a collection Doncaster can be proud of.

Family history remains a big passion of mine. Like most family historians, I've definitely got the family history bug for life. So, I will of course welcome any opportunity to promote and support the work of the Doncaster and District Family History Society. I've already taken the opportunity to investigate a few of my own family links to Doncaster. My 4x great grandfather **John Hutchinson** was born in Tickhill in the 1770s. My great grandmother's brother **Arthur Morwood** worked briefly as a Police Officer in Doncaster back in 1911 (and appears in the pay ledgers held by City of Doncaster Archives). Also, my great great grandmother's sister **Sarah Baddiley** died in Doncaster in 1930 and is buried in Hyde Park Cemetery (sadly, in an unmarked grave). It's been great to see what I could find in the archives relating to my own family. It was also an important reminder that not everything is online. Family history newcomers expect to log in to Ancestry, Findmypast, MyHeritage etc. and for everything to be there. That's simply not the case. City of Doncaster Archives holds millions of documents; the vast majority of which only exist in their original format. The internet has indeed revolutionised family history research, but researchers must never forget that only a small percentage of local archives will ever find their way online. City of Doncaster Archives is a treasure trove of original records dating back nearly one thousand years. Whilst I work hard to expand the collections further and improve access, I am always keen to champion the work of Doncaster & District Family History Society (DDFHS) and I look forward to working with the Society in the coming years.

An Enumerator in the Family

In a previous article, *Twenty-Two Children*, I invited the reader to picture an enumerator standing at the door of Noah and Rose Ann Pinder's home in 1911:

"I can imagine him, standing at the door of Noah and Rose Ann's home, 10 Low Fisher Gate, staring incredulously at Rose Ann as she answers his questions, triple-checking that he has heard her correctly."

It was a scene that felt plausible based on the knowledge I had at the time, but I've since come across new information which has changed my understanding of the census enumeration process as a whole. An enumerator may well have stood at the door, checking a household schedule or clarifying details, but the census information wasn't primarily gathered via doorstep questioning. Instead, it was gathered using a more complex administrative system, beginning the week before census night.

Sometime after writing *Twenty-Two Children*, I listened to an episode of the podcast *Journey into Genealogy*, in which the guest speaker, experienced genealogist and AGRA member, Dave Annal, explained how nineteenth-century censuses were conducted.

Prior to 1841, census information was indeed collected by officials who went from house to house, often parish officers or churchwardens, but in 1841 this changed with the introduction of the Census Act 1840. The increased scope of information required made it impractical for one individual to collect everything in a single day. Instead, in the week leading up to census night, enumerators distributed household schedules to each inhabited dwelling, to be completed by the householder and collected by the enumerator the day after census night.

Not all householders were literate. Although literacy was improving during the mid-nineteenth century, many adults could not read or write, and so they had to turn to someone who could. This might have been a child, a neighbour, or a local shopkeeper, simply anyone in their community who could read and write. If they couldn't find anyone, the enumerator would need to fill in the schedule.

Once collected, the enumerator copied the information from the schedules into official enumeration books. It is these books which we consult today; the original household schedules have, in most cases, not survived. The information in those books might have passed through at least a few people before its final recording in the enumeration book.

Enumerators themselves were selected by the District Registrar and were expected to meet particular standards. Contemporary census instructions state that the enumerator must be "of intelligence and activity", able to read and write well, with some knowledge of arithmetic; not infirm; and "temperate, orderly and respectable", capable of conducting himself with propriety and earning the goodwill of those whose households he recorded.

The official instructions issued to enumerators in 1871 provide a practical insight into how this work was carried out. Enumerators were required to begin early on the morning of 3 April, equipped with writing materials, spare schedules, and a bag in which to collect completed forms. Care was to be taken that none were lost and that every dwelling was accounted for. Where a schedule had not been completed, the enumerator was expected to obtain the information directly, either from the occupier or, in their absence, from another person able to provide it. Such instructions offer some explanation for inconsistencies within the census, particularly in relation to ages and places of birth. The completed schedules then had to be checked, copied into the enumeration books, and returned promptly to the registrar, upon whose approval payment depended.

Among those undertaking this work in 1871 was my great-great-great-grandfather, **George Poskitt**.

George was born in 1832, the youngest of four children. His father was an agricultural labourer, and his grandfather has been a 'pauper labourer'. The family were therefore from very humble origins, but George was afforded a better path. By 1851, aged eighteen, he was an apprentice cordwainer and over the course of the next decade, he had established himself as a master cordwainer with an apprentice of his own.

It is likely that family connections played a part in George finding this path. His first cousin and brother-in-law (married to George's elder sister), James Meggitt, was also a shoemaker, and although we don't know how George's apprenticeship was arranged, the presence of a close relative within the trade is notable and is likely to have influenced him.

George married **Elizabeth Belk**, who in 1851, aged sixteen, when George was an apprentice, was an apprentice herself – a dressmaker's apprentice. They married five years later and settled in Kirk Sandall, but their union lasted only nine years. Elizabeth died on 29 Dec 1865, aged thirty, from complications following childbirth a few weeks earlier. George found himself a widower with four young sons. His baby son died four months later, a month before George married a second time. He married **Hannah Richardson** on 27 May 1866, and they had one child together, another son, in 1869.

This was George's situation when he enumerated the 1871 census two years later.

George was responsible for Enumeration District 12 within the Doncaster registration district. This wasn't the district in which he lived, which was District 11. That was enumerated by

William Meakin, a rather distinguished man – schoolmaster, overseer, parish clerk, and organist.

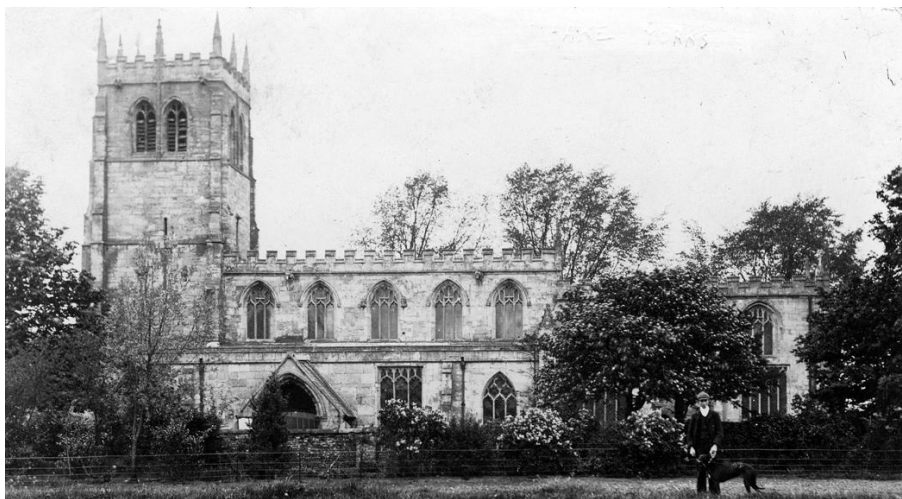
District 12 was made up of the following places: *The whole of the township of Long Sandall, including the village of Long Sandall; Sandall Grange; Brickyards; and Beat Wood Cottage. The whole of the parish of Wheatley, including Wheatley Hall, farm, and cottages; The Holmes (South East Side); Broxholme; Highfields House; Avenue Road; Green House and cottages; Intack Farm; and Flint Cottage.* It encompassed a range of households, mainly agricultural labourers and farmers, but also some middle- and upper-class families, and some less common occupations, such as a bookseller, binder, and printer; a toll collector; and a police constable. Most people were local, or from not too far afield, but a few were a good way from where they'd begun – Surrey, Warwickshire, Northumberland. George would have visited each of these households.

A particularly notable household was that of James Wilkinson. He was a farm bailiff responsible for 212 acres and employed three labourers and three boys. The household is notable because James's six-year-old daughter, Mary Ann, would later marry one of George's sons.

Samm Thompson, Member 4427

St. Cuthbert's Churchyard Fishlake and the Briggs Family Gravestone

A lovely country churchyard, gates to the front, a stile to the side, bordered by a wall on the south separating it from the vicarage drive. A public footpath running through it with a gate at the north which is dedicated to the late **Lillian Ball** a church warden of St Cuthberts - taking the footpath further into the village after bordering the large vicarage garden. The graveyard further round having a wall separating it from a field and Church Farm.



Fishlake Church

Although having been given a book with details of my great grandmother's family, I am going to do some more research as many of them were buried in Fishlake. As well, the friend who gave me the book, mentioned a barracks being in this village not too far from the church and she is going to research this as well as a story of a soldier riding into church on his horse! Lots more to this village than we think!!

SO ... story about a family who seem to have died out within the area. Going to and forth from the Vicarage for many years I was always aware of one large stone on the way back from church to my gate-



The stone is larger than most and it has seven names on it, some of which show that the named had died overseas. This is the one I have tried to research with not total success as you will see. I have researched my own family tree quite extensively and so know my way around websites and archives to a certain extent and I looked forward to discovering more about the **Briggs** family named on the stone.

The stone: erected at some expense presumably by other family members after the last person named on the stone had died. That was Elizabeth whose name appears at the bottom of the stone.

On the gravestone is inscribed In Loving memory:

William Briggs who died August 11th 1843 aged 80 years

Followed by the words "also of 5 children namely" and there follows

John Briggs who was drowned at Boulogne Aug 31st 1833 aged 19 years

Jonathan Briggs who died in America Sept 6th 1833 aged 23 years

James Briggs who was drowned at Hamburg June 3rd 1834 aged 16 years

Charlotte Briggs who died April 13th 1833 aged 24yrs and

Charles Briggs who died in Windsor Aug 29th 1841 aged 30 years

And then on a separate inscription but still on the headstone we have

Also, Elizabeth Briggs wife of the above William Briggs who died January 14th aged 68 years

They grew in beauty side by side,

They filled one home with glee

Their graves are severed far and wide

In land and stream and sea

The questions I wanted to ask about this headstone are ones that can't always be answered –Who put it up? Were there family members left in the village? It's not a family name still around and where did they live?

Where to start to find out more: Births, deaths or marriages? Remembering to allow some discrepancies in dates. I used Find My Past Genealogy site, Doncaster Archives and Fishlake baptism and death records which the archives hold, being the archivists for Sheffield Diocese.

My search began with William. The first census returns began in 1841, and William was listed as being born in 1766, no occupation and his address as Fishlake, Thorne, West Riding. In later records he is described as a labourer, grocer, farmer, publican and innkeeper. Family member listed was Elizabeth with last name Briggs. William's father was John and his mother Frances.

Elizabeth's dates from gravestone work out as her birth being 1778 but, on her census, returns her birth date is 1776 (2yrs out but researchers know that often we have to allow a couple of years down)

Condensing all the information because if I went through all I have discovered in detail you would be either as confused as I have been or asleep! BUT interestingly I have found names which are still in use today or have connections within the area – namely a **Frances Yeuden**, his mother, married into the family and there is still a family of that name in Barnby Dun and Trumfleet and they are related to the **Robinsons** of Bramwith Woodhouse and from there to the **Duckitts** of Fenwick who meet up with my branch of the Duckitts eventually. Let's return to our **Briggs** family - William married twice, firstly to **Ann Peaker** of Hatfield daughter of **Jacob Peaker** in 1789 in Fishlake church (a name I know because a Peaker appears on my own family tree) She died in 1797 aged 27 years having had 5 children and William went on to marry Elizabeth(who is recorded in her children's baptisms variously as being a daughter of both John and on occasion , Thomas Peaker). This was in Hull 10 years later in 1799. Why Hull? Because the marriage shouldn't have happened as by church law a man couldn't marry his wife's sister. Elizabeth had by this time given birth to quite a family of Brigg's! – all baptised in St Cuthbert's so I suspect Elizabeth looked after the motherless children after Ann died. William is described in baptism records variously as being a huckster, labourer, farmer and Innkeeper.

Finding out about the son's deaths abroad was more difficult as deaths in Boulogne, Hamburg of John and James are not recorded as far as I can find. One has to presume that they were seamen of some sort given that Fishlake was connected to Thorne and so to Hull or even London. British merchant seamen were only recorded from 1835 – 1857 and our chaps died before then. Crew lists began 1861 – and finished 1913. Passport applications began 1851 and a register of deaths of passengers at sea began 1854 – 1890 These archives are held in the national Archives Record Set and then if they were in the forces there is the British Armed Forces and overseas Deaths and Burials. I have not pursued these deaths at the moment.

Jonathan died in America but of course no passenger lists are available as he died before lists were started. When my daughters were in America, they visited the archives of people entering USA through Ellis Island and found numerous **Duckitts/Farrars** but I hadn't started on the Briggs and yet I haven't been on that site that would allow me to trace Jonathan. It

may yet happen! There is no trace of a baptism for Jonathan around his birth which if his age is correct on the gravestone would have been 1810. However, I have received an email from Find My past giving information relating to my search that a Jonathan Briggs died in Canada in 1833 so whether that is the person I have yet to discover.

Charlotte: her baptism record gives us the info that she was the 7th child, but we don't know for certain if this relates to mother or father, baptised 22nd March 1809 Fishlake, father described as Anglican, innkeeper, Mother Elizabeth. She is recorded as being buried 16th April 1833 in Fishlake.

Charles: born 6th January, baptised 27th January 1803, father William Briggs, Mother Elizabeth Peaker (note, not married) and maternal grandfather given as John Peaker. Later we find his marriage by licence to **Sarah Ann Knight** aged 19yrs of Thorne intended marriage 30th March 1833. Charles age is given as 28 and birth year 1805 – note 2yrs discrepancy! Her parents were **John** and **Mary Knight** of Thorne. Charles died in Eton, Buckinghamshire, (hence the Windsor on the gravestone) in the 3rd quarter – July/Aug/Sept. of 1841. No record of how or date and in the census returns for that year neither he or his wife is listed in Eton and district, Fishlake, or Thorne. Cannot find any further record of Sarah either.

So ends the tale of this large gravestone. There were other Briggs in the area and only scant record of them. There was a **John Briggs** living with a family at Eskholme. A James briggs lived with a family of Thorpes at Fosterhouses, he was a local Methodist preacher, an agricultural labourer and had a wife called Elizabeth and 5 children. In 1871 a Charles Briggs lived at Barnby Dun Old Hall and in 1881 a Martin Briggs is recorded at Hatfield Woodhouse.

William had a brother, James. James married **Mary Langfield** in 1802 – there are still Langfields in Trumfleet. Their father was John and he was the one who married **Frances Yeudan** in 1759. All the family produced numerous children, many of whom died early and as was usual they often used the same name over again which makes life interesting for the researcher.

Eva Atherfold, Member 4031

News in Brief

Did you know that the family history website **Ancestry** has published the records of the Prerogative and Exchequer Court of York. This new record set consists of 2,462,539 wills and probate records dating from 1389 to 1858. Before Ancestry launched this record set the Prerogative Court of York records, held at the Borthwick Institute for Archives at the University of York, were only available online in indexed form on Findmypast. You could use the indexes to identify that a will was held at the Borthwick and then apply to them directly to obtain a copy. There was a charge to pay for each will but now the entire collection is available on Ancestry, including digital images of each will.

I have tried searching for some of my ancestors and found wills where they were beneficiaries in addition to finding copies of their own wills. You can view and download wills without having to pay for each copy.

Separately, Ancestry also added a set of Yorkshire bishops' transcripts of Church of England parish registers. The record set dates from 1558 to 1912 and consists of 13,500,549 records. Bishops' transcripts were copies kept by the bishop of parish registers. They are therefore a good alternative source for finding parish records, which include vital records of our ancestors' baptisms, marriages and burials. Some of these Bishops Transcripts are also available on Find My Past but it is always an advantage to have the option of using two different search engines because errors and omissions occur in any digitisation project.

Find My Past has added 40,000 new photos to their Photo Collection. They have also launched more than 130,000 records from eight schools across England. One of these schools is Ackworth school in Yorkshire from 1879 to 1930. Ackworth took pupils from the Doncaster area so may be of particular interest to our members.

Karen Walker, Member 2062

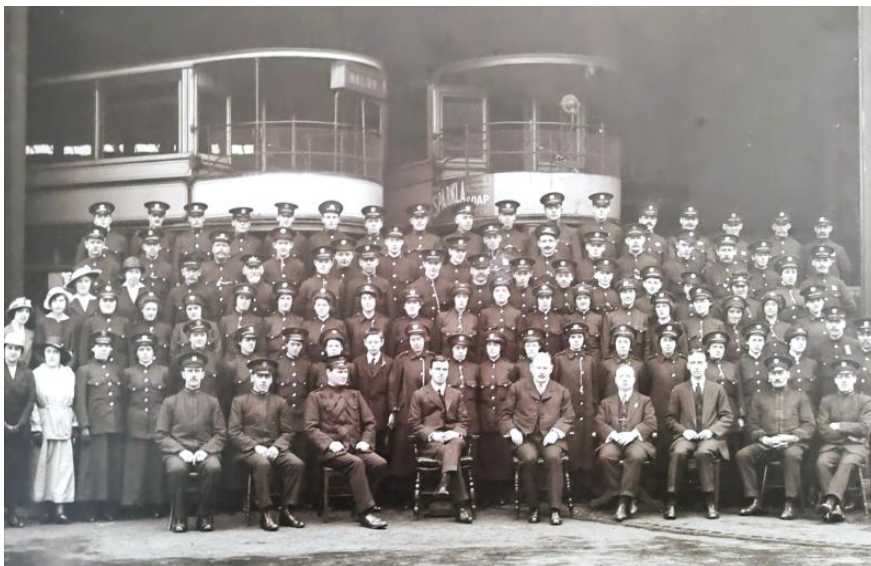
Doncaster Free Press 1986-2004

This paper was first published in Doncaster in June 1925.

Findmypast now have available the years 1986-2004 on their website, contained in 125,566 pages.

If you feature in any of the articles, then do please let me know.

Jenny, Editor



**Doncaster Tram Workers
1918**

Did any of your Ancestors work on the Trams? Do you recognise anyone?

Please contact me at ddfhseditor1@outlook.com

The Town of Askern

The first recorded mention of the town was in the reign of Edward 111 (1312 – 1377) “that the people of Askern are bound to cleanse a certain part of Askern pool, which is a common water course, and that neither horse nor foot passenger can go along it”

Ever since the early 18th century, it had been known that there was a source of mineral water used mainly by local farmers to cure diseased cattle of ‘chafed feet, and saddle galling’ and to cure ‘mangy dogs and scabbed horses’.

It was way back in 1796 that it became fashionable for visitors to ‘take the waters’, this being the year that the first bath house was built; later in 1815, to become the Manor Baths. By 1828, there were six bathing establishments where mineral baths could be taken, or the waters drunk. Askern Spa was born rivalling Harrogate.

It was early in the nineteenth century that Askern became comparatively famous, and the Pool itself played an important part in Askern’s development as a spa, giving to the whole village a seaside appeal.

Sadly, at the peak of its development, all was to change with the discovery of coal in the vicinity and the opening of the mine in 1911. The wells were filled in and the 'unequalled climate and the best sulphur springs in England' were lost to posterity forever.

The first sods for 2 x 21½ - feet diameter shafts were cut on 22nd February 1911 and sinking proper began in April.

The Colliery Company planned to build 2366 dwellings in Askern to house their mainly migrant workforce from the Midlands, Northumberland, Scotland and Wales. However, by the end of 1913 only 255 houses had been built.

In 1920 an additional 176 houses in blocks of four had been built. Each house had three bedrooms, a bathroom and front and rear gardens. The model housing constructed was named Instoneville, after the Company Chairman. By 1930, a total of 486 semi-detached houses had been added to Instoneville together with a Miner's Welfare Park complete with children's play area.

The main seams worked by the colliery were Warren House Seam (the Barnsley Rider Seam) and Flockton Seam which was temporarily abandoned in 1925 due to economic reasons being abandoned again for the final time in 1960.

The owners of the colliery set up a subsidiary company called The Askern Coke & By-Products Syndicate Limited signalling its intentions to develop a coking plant adjacent to Askern Main Colliery.

On the 5th of July 1929 Askern Coalite Plant was opened producing smokeless fuel. The plant also had a by-product recovery section, which produced crude oil, motor spirit, ammonia and ammonium sulphate.

The Coalite Plant was decommissioned in 1988 due to a rapidly declining market for smokeless solid fuel. The plant demolished one year later.

In the financial year ending March 1978, the colliery employed 1439 people and produced 772,000 tons of Warren House coal.

Closure of Askern Main Colliery was announced on 23rd November 1991, production ceased on 20th December 1991 and the Colliery closed with the loss of 460 jobs. The surface buildings were demolished and the shafts filled in 1993. The tip was landscaped in 2000.

In 2015 the former spoil heap of colliery waste was transformed by Anesco Limited to a Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Farm producing electricity for the national grid.

2017 construction of mixed tenure housing commenced on the colliery site.

Whilst industry may have gone, Askern is a progressive suburban commuter town offering a friendly family environment.

Little known fact

In 1894, the Doncaster Review carried an article in which it was claimed that a pike weighing more than 22lbs had been caught in the Pool.

Francis Jackson

International Harvesters

Carr Hill Works

This factory was originally a rail wagon repair shop. During WW2 the government requisitioned the factory to produce R.A.F Bomber aircraft parts. After the war it was used as a Ford Motor Car Assembly Plant. In 1964 it was turned over to International Harvesters.

This site was to relieve the pressure from the main works in Wheatley Hall Road.

Carr Hill works is where I worked alongside my father-in-law **Frank Cox** as Millwrights in the early part of the 1970s. We were responsible for all the plant & equipment within the factory.

The engines & transmission would arrive from the main works and place on the production line. Power steering was assembled and added to the tractor. It would then enter the spray booth where the familiar red paint was added. It passed into the oven where the paint was dried. Wheels, wings & bonnet added, other items such as the cabs to complete the tractor.

There was also a bailer assembly area.



Are the International Harvester Company origins really known?

International Harvester Company is American owned and produces agricultural & construction equipment, automotive, commercial trucks, lawn & garden products & household equipment. It was formed in 1902 with a merger with McCormick & Deering and three smaller companies.

Wheatley Hall Road

It was purchased by Doncaster Corporation in 1936. During WW2 it was requisitioned by the Government to manufacture munitions. In 1946 it started producing service parts for machines manufactured in the USA, Canada & Europe. 1949 the first tractor came off the production line and 1952 saw the first diesel powered tractor introduced.

This factory was originally a rail wagon repair shop. During WW2 the government requisitioned the factory to produce R.A.F Bomber Aircraft parts.



Lancaster Bomber Wings being made



After the war it was used as a Ford Motor Car Assembly Plant

Ian Jeffries, Member 4296

Research Enquiry Snippet

A research enquiry via the Family History Federation web site, forwarded by webmaster.

"I am trying to find out about my grandfather's family home in Doncaster. His name was **Thomas Frank Scales** (he was a navy man decorated by the king in 1918). He was born at his home called "Church Hill" which I believe is now a clergy house."

Stoker P.O. T. F. Scales was a volunteer aboard HMS Sirius, a block ship, during the Zeebrugge-Ostend raid 22nd and 23rd April 1918. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for his actions.

Thomas Frank Ware SCALES was born in 1888 at Church Hill (now Church Street), son of John Henry, Master Boot and Shoemaker, and Mary Adelaide [nee WARE]. He enlisted in the Royal Navy on 8th April 1907 for 12 years. He extended his service and was discharged on 31 December 1928. He served on several ships including H.M.S. Iron Duke.

In 1919 he was awarded the Royal Humane Society Bronze medal "for saving Life".

In 1926 Thomas married Rose Ann McINTOSH at Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. Their eldest child was born at Portsmouth a few months before he left the Service, their two younger children in Boston, Lincolnshire, to where Thomas had retired.

Thomas died on 30 November 1960 in Nova Scotia. Probate was sealed in London in 1962.

With the help of Membership Secretary some images of Church Hill have been sent to the enquirer.

John Henry SCALES was born in Bentley, baptised at Arksey All Saints in 1852, son of John, farmer, and Ann [nee KIRBY]. He married twice, firstly Jane PIGOTT (who died in 1881) and, secondly, Mary Adelaide WARE at Nusling, Hampshire. They are buried in Hyde Park cemetery.

John Henry SCALES had his business at 24 Baxtergate.

John SCALES was baptised at Arksey All Saints in 1815, son of Robert, cordwainer, and Hannah [SIMPSON], who were married there in 1812. There are burials of this family At Arksey All Saints.

And the house? It may be the building just to the east of the Minster. In the 1891 census it was listed as Church Hill House, 1901 as Church Hill and in 1911 as 1 Church Street.

What started as a request for information on a building expanded in to a fascinating story of a Doncaster man and his roots.

Trevor Betterton, Research Enquiries

Funny Gravestones

Some people take their humour right to the grave so that cemetery visitors will leave with a chuckle instead of tears.

Did you see the auctioneer's gravestone? It said, "Going, going, gone."

New Members

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

Mem ID	Title	Initial	Surname
4692	Ms	P	Watene - Pickering
4693	Mrs	J	Hunston
4694	Mr	D	Colwill
4695	Mr	A	Osborne
4696	Mr	W	Caudwell
4697	Mr	D	Brown
4698	Mrs	E	Waite
4699	Mrs	J	Hoy
4700	Ms	L	Haworth
4701	Mrs	M	Sever
4702	Ms	G	Cowan
4703	Mrs	L	Scarfe
4704	Mrs	J	Kilburn
4705		J	Fleming

Members' Surname Interests

Lee	WRY	Snaith	1700-1840	4702
Tomalin	NTH	Long Buckby	1730-1800	4702
Penney	LEI	Pickwell	1775-1850	4702
Rowe	LIN	Bourne	1720-1880	4702
Allen	LIN	Welbourne	1750-1800	4702
Ditton	OXF	Aston Rowant	1750-1850	4702
Neal	LIN	Boston	1750-1800	4702
Dowding	SOM	Cucklington	1700-1800	4702
Lawson	CAM	Thorney	1750-1800	4702
Thorpe	WRY	Doncaster & Wadworth	1200-all	4699

Warde	WRY	Doncaster & Wadworth	1200-all	4699
Copley	WRY	Doncaster & Wadworth	1200-all	4699

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
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
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**

**Please visit: doncasterfhs.co.uk for further details
and look under events for any changes**

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Please make cheques etc. payable to:

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 appreciation of the time spent by our volunteers.

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*Please only contact Committee
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office hours*

Parishes and Townships in the Archdeaconry of Doncaster 1914

