

THE DONCASTER ANCESTOR



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Rossington**

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and District Family History
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DONCASTER AND DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.doncasterfhs.co.uk

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continued on the back cover

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THE DONCASTER ANCESTOR

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Editor: Jenny Ellis
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Chair's Report

Welcome and we hope you enjoy reading the latest Ancestor Journal.

It has been a very busy few weeks for the Society.

On the 12th of October we held our second fair, post the Covid-19 pandemic, and used extra space to spread the exhibitors out at the old Art College, now known as C-View. The feedback we have received has been extremely positive. I thank all the volunteers who helped make this a very special occasion, which a lot of people enjoyed, both exhibitors and visitors.

Many of you will be aware that we started a project to remember one of Britain's most iconic Railway Engineers, Sir Nigel Gresley, and his involvement with Doncaster. The outcome of this is that a number of agencies have come together to help, including Doncaster Civic Trust, The Gresley Society Trust, Great Northern Railway Trust, LNER and Doncaster Council. Gresley is commemorated at Edinburgh Waverley Station, the city of his birth, London Kings Cross Station, where he worked, at Hadley Wood Station, where he lived, but not Doncaster where he both lived and worked, and where 2 of his World Class locomotives were built, Flying Scotsmen and Mallard. Next year, a heritage plaque with an information board will be installed at Doncaster Railway Station in full public view, with the benefit to DDFHS of publicity, whilst meeting one of our objectives to educate people about a significant part of our great city's history. This involvement has also raised the profile of the Society and puts us in a position of influence for future development of heritage initiatives within Doncaster.

The community library project started by our previous chair and membership secretary, Philip Langford, continues to grow and we now have research help days at the Archives and Conisbrough. A number of you have joined the society after attending one of these sessions, which is a very encouraging aspect of this work.

Finally, I want to thank my fellow committee members. The committee are a dedicated group of people, all volunteers, who work very hard to keep the society going, but we do need new volunteers to help, so if

you are interested in volunteering, please get in touch.

I thank you all for your membership and support.

Andy

Mr A Harbon, Chair and Member 4461

From the Editor

Hello and welcome to the Winter Ancestor.

A big thank you to everyone who has sent in articles this time, and as I said previously, I am really struggling to fill the pages. I hope that you enjoy reading it enough that you will also contribute, as this makes my life so much easier. Otherwise we will have to reduce the Ancestor to three copies a year.

There are some interesting articles this time and Jean gives us tips about reading the census on page 11. I am sure you will find this interesting, and have probably thought at sometime, it is easier to read the transcribed document than the original. We also have information about the 1939 Register. Please let me have your stories.

Can anyone beat Samantha's story about twenty-two children?

It will be the 45th Anniversary of the Society in 2025, so perhaps you would like to share your memories of the Society over the years you have been a member. Why did you join the Society? How has it changed over the years? I think you will agree that the Membership fees are still extremely low and there are a lot more records available to help with your research. More information will be made available in the next Ancestor.

Information about our AGM is available in this Ancestor, which is the time of year that the Committee members have to decide whether or not to continue in their role. Some members have been on the Committee for many years, and continue in their roles because no-one else has come forward. We welcome new members, with new ideas to shape the Society over the next five years. If this is something that you could help with, then please look at page 30 for further details.

As Andy says we need help. The Society will eventually decline without new volunteers.

Jenny Ellis, Editor

ddfheditor1@outlook.com

Doncaster & District Family History Society would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas & a Happy & Healthy New Year



Deadline for the next edition is 1st Jan 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 1 Edition will be published in February 2025

Disclaimer.

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Monthly Meetings via Zoom / Hybrid

Roomers and Zoomers Unite Hybrid Members Meetings 2024

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.

October 30th 2024

The Trolley Bus Museum, Sandtoft by David Chick

A volunteer tells us more about this fascinating place. He is also hoping to have some recordings of people with memories of their ancestors.

David will be in the Room

November 27th 2024

The Victoria Cross by Paul Grimley

Former Soldier & ex prison officer Paul tells us about the Victoria Cross holders from around our area. Did you know for example how many are actually buried here in Hyde Park Cemetery? Hear about the medal and those who were awarded it.

Paul will be in the room

No Talk in December

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**

Hybrid Members Meetings 2025

January 29th 2025

Stories from a Churchyard by Roger Offord

When Roger Offord volunteered to help with some churchyard maintenance at St Mary's Church, Sprotbrough, he never imagined that some gentle gardening would lead to him investigating monumental inscriptions. He found that each tombstone in the churchyard had a story to tell and his talk will encompass just seven of them. From tragic deaths, romance and strange medieval practices to events that changed the world. His talk will cover all of these and show us that even a country churchyard can contain a wealth of fascinating stories.

February 26th 2025

Hotels in the Sky by Mike Ogden

In the years after the First World War, few people believed that aeroplanes would ever develop into a safe, efficient and affordable way for people to travel long distances, especially across the oceans.

The first airliners had only a short range – 500 miles at most – though that was probably plenty for the passengers because they were not for the faint-hearted. They were basically wartime bomber designs, adapted to carry a few passengers in a rudimentary cabin.

In this popular presentation, richly illustrated with photographs and original newsreel footage, Mike tells the fascinating story of a whole lost technology, and a whole lost way of travelling the world.

March 26th 2025

**'The good old days when hygiene was just a dirty word' . . .
. . . about sums up what I'll be about.**

David Bell, fondly known as the Plague Doctor, will be the Society's return guest speaker.

Many will remember David - and his inflatable dummy- regaling us about the tragic story of Eyam, the famous Peak District plague village. This time David is leaving his inflatable friend at home but assures me his equally tongue-in-cheek new talk

Picking the bones out of the London plague lockdown of 1666 and what really happened in Eyam all those years ago.
.....will put the cat amongst the pigeons!!!

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 Sept 2024

Hatfield St Lawrence Update 2024

We have updated the download for Hatfield St Lawrence.

The new update includes burials from Hatfield Cemetery, which is situated on Cemetery Road Hatfield, close to Hatfield Woodhouse.

This has not previously been transcribed and burials date from 1886 to 1996.

There are around 4500 burials, many are from the local area of Hatfield Stainforth and Thorne but also from all districts of Doncaster and many parts of England, so if you have a missing burial please take a look.

This has been transcribed by our Volunteers who help keep our Society running. We hope to have new information available every year and I would like to say a big thank you to all Transcribers and Volunteers for your help.

Margaret Jackson, Project - Coordinator

From the Postbag / via email

Our Magazine - The Doncaster Ancestor

Our Editor, Jenny's comments in the Autumn magazine regarding articles for entry made me feel rather guilty. I had done the research needed for an item for the Autumn edition but had never got round to writing it.

Whilst sitting in the chair or even in bed I can mentally write what I hope is an interesting article for the magazine. Once I sit at my laptop my mind goes completely blank. I can't think of that opening sentence or put into words that particular piece of information that was so important to the item I have just sat down to write.....does this "strike bells" with anyone else I wonder!

During the past couple of days, I must have discarded six attempts at writing an article about Hall Gate. Why Hall Gate you may ask – Hall Gate has a lot of history attached to it. It originated as an alternative route of Ermine Street bypassing the fort of Danum. When new fortifications were built in the 12th century, Hall Gate formed the section leading south east away from the town with one of the four gates out of Danum at the end of the road.

Now I've started writing yet again about Hall Gate perhaps I will manage to finish it!!

Jean Rounthwaite, Member 3664

Jean did send an article about the census which is on page 11
We will all look forward to the Hall Gate story...no pressure Jean!

Hi Jenny,

My apologies for my confusion with your email address but pleased it's all sorted now. (I keep hoping all these computers etc are a flash in the pan and won't catch on).

I do have another little story but from my mother's side and hope to get started shortly.

Keep up the good work.

Best wishes

Frank Hanson. Member 3067

All articles to ddfhseditor1@outlook.com please.

Dear Andy,

I read the Doncaster Ancestor Summer edition with interest and vowed to complete the questionnaire but unfortunately I have been unwell and I missed the deadline.

However I had made a few notes regarding my ideas and ways to encourage new and younger people to become interested in family history and to join our Society. Which I hope are not too late to share.

Family Chats.

I think as we get older we do not appreciate how little of our past we share with our children, grandchildren and other family members. I was talking with my 12 year old granddaughter, when she asked me if I had any cousins. That one question led to a huge family discussion about where we lived and how we lived. The conversation went to the sort of games we played and the fact there was no television, only the radio.

People did not have a house phone, and most families did not own a car. We chatted about my grandparents and how families usually had many children, and there were many families living in a two bedroomed house, or renting a room in a larger property. No bathrooms, a small back yard and shared toilet for the terrace, which could mean as many as 12 people sharing one toilet. My dad often told me he and his 5 brothers lived by the saying 'first up best dressed' as there was only one tie between them. If they went for a job interview neighbours would lend their best shirt or dress, they all shared. This conversation took us to our Family Tree and we spent some time looking at different relatives and discussing what I had discovered about them. I hope this will lead to more discussions in the future and that as she gets older she will want to become custodian of and learn more about our Family and its History.

Community Groups

When our two boys were younger I became a Cub Leader and my

husband a Scout Leader; we were always looking for people to come and share their life skills with the children. One activity that gained a lot of interest and involved the families, was when I designed a short questionnaire for the children to take home, sort of a family project sheet. It was very simple, I just asked them to work with their parents to make a family tree to see if they knew how many relatives they had, and what they knew or could find out about them. It was very successful and the parents were keen to participate. In fact one parent came a few weeks later and shared some incredible family stories with us. After that the children were begging for more, and the whole project went on for weeks. I hope that sowed a seed from which some new Genealogists have grown. If you have a Scout group, or similar meeting nearby, why not pop in and talk to a leader about offering your services for 20 minutes or so one evening. I am sure the Leaders would welcome you with open arms.

I hope these ideas are useful Andy, as it would be a very sad day if the Doncaster and District Family History Society and all it stands for was lost to us all.

My best wishes to you all.

Barbara Wood, Member 4253

Help Wanted

Doncaster Theatre Royal and Edward Phillips Addison

I am researching the theatrical **Addison** family. According to an obituary published on his death in 1874, **Edward Phillips Addison** was 'for many years' the manager of this theatre. I wondered if any of your members have come across him? I'd be happy to offer what information I have found in return.

Thank you,

Dr Frances Hurd.

Trevor has since found out that he died 16 Apr 1874 - 6 Queens Street, Plymouth, Devon, England.

Please contact Trevor Betterton on the e-mail below if you can help.

researchenquiries@doncasterfhs.co.uk

Stockings Galore

During the reign of Elizabeth I, knitting by hand became a flourishing industry throughout the country, especially in rural areas. This was a time when men wore short breeches and long hose (or stockings as we now call them) so there were plenty of customers for this product. Knitting was originally done by men in their spare time and was a way of making extra cash. Entire families were encouraged to knit as it was an easy way to reduce unemployment and by supplementing meagre wages poor families were less likely to request financial support from the Parish. It also had another positive outcome in that it kept the price of wool higher and reduced dependence on foreign imports.

By 1664 several thousand pairs of stockings were sent to London every year from the main towns where knitters were based. One of these towns was Doncaster. The knitters were taught and organised to produce standard items and entire families could be seen knitting as they travelled to the local markets in carts.

Knitting was an industry in Doncaster for decades. In about 1725 Daniel Defoe described Doncaster:

“A noble, large, spacious town, exceeding populous, and a great manufacturing town, principally for knitting; also as it stands upon the great northern post-road, it is very full of great inns; and here we found our landlord at the post house was mayor of the town as well as post-master, that he kept a pack of hounds, was company for the best gentlemen in the town or in the neighbourhood, and lived as great as any gentleman ordinarily did.”

Your Doncaster ancestors were almost certainly proficient knitters, and it sounds as if they were regular attenders in the inns too.

Karen Walker, Member 2062

Original or Transcribed Census?

How many of us read the original census forms? Often, they are difficult to decipher and it's easier to read the transcribed version but be wary of the later. Transcribers are only human and we make mistakes; some of the writing we have to read can be difficult to say the least, or maybe we don't know the area or even English may not be our first language.

One of my hobbies is tracing doctors, mainly living in Hall Gate (Doncaster) and medicine in general during the 1800s, hence the

following comments; -

In the 1911 census the transcription gave the occupation of one doctor as

“surgeon chief crusher of musician part time”

It should have read: -

chief surgeon, part-time curator of museum!!!

I later found that Dr Corbett was a part-time curator of Beechfield Museum (predecessor of Chequer Road Museum) in 1910 when it first opened.

In a 1921 census another doctor was given the occupation of
medical prockmer

Whilst his two sons were given the occupations of

nursing student Miccles Main Colliery and

nursing student Bevdarak Colliery

Needless to say, they were both mining students.

Miccles colliery I can't make my mind up which colliery this might be as I can think of several beginning with the letter M but it must be reasonably near Doncaster as he is still living with his parents in Hall Gate.

Bevdarak colliery is Brodsworth, written very clearly in the original document!!

Happy reading.

Jean Rounthwaite, Member 3664

Private Robert Haywood Jones Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry

I have been doing a series of the men who served in the KOYLI Regiment on our social media.

Private **Robert Haywood Jones** No. 33050, Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, 2nd Battalion. He enlisted on 5th July 1916. Robert, a Yorkshireman was amongst the last casualties during the Battle of Somme when he was killed on November 18th 1916, France. Cemetery Thiepval Memorial.

Robert Haywood Jones was born on 30th August 1882 in Armley, Leeds. He was the son of **Joseph Jones** and **Anne Haywood**.

On 25th March 1909 he married **Zillah Hannah Blackburn** in Doncaster. In 1911 Robert's profession was a Bootmaker (dealer) and proprietor of the Jubilee Boot Company, Doncaster. They had one daughter **Roma Jones** and the family lived at 41, St. Sepulchre Gate, Doncaster. In 1912 they had a son **Haywood Stenton Jones** who was also born in Doncaster.

On the Register of effects for Private **Robert Hayward Jones** it shows the Guardian of **Roma Jones** was in the care of **Ann Jones** mother of **Robert Hayward Jones** and the guardian of **Haywood Stenton Jones** was in the care of **Frederick Blackburn** Zillah's father so, it looks like the children were separated.

In **Robert Haywood Jones** Will & Probate the effects of £225 7s went to his father-in-law **Frederick Blackburn**.

Zillah Hannah Blackburn was born in 1887, Doncaster. She died in Doncaster in 1917, and is buried at Hyde Park Cemetery.

Robert and Zillah had a very famous grandson **David Robert Jones** who we know better as **David Bowie**, and was the son of **Haywood Stenton Jones** and **Margaret Mary "Peggy" Burns**.

As we know Robert and Zillah lived at 41 St. Sepulchre Gate, Doncaster. This is now Nero Café opposite the Frenchgate Centre. There is nothing to show on that building that David Bowie's grandparents once lived there in 1911.



So, the question is how many people from Doncaster would know this? I would think hardly anyone. I personally think it is very sad as there is no plaque, nothing to show that the grandparents of David Bowie once lived there.

Marion Baxter, Secretary

Family Pride

Shortly after I began taking an interest in my family's history, Aunt Glad, my last remaining link to my parents' generation, died, but not before she gave me bits of information about her paternal

grandfather, my Great Grandfather. I had already found out the basics. Grandad Walter was born in 1856 and died in 1894.

According to Aunt Glad he had been a businessman (a pleasant surprise from the collection of 'Ag. Labs' and 'Miners' which made up the totality of my family tree). Evidently his business interest had been to do with steam traction engines and that his early death was the result of a nasty accident with one of them on South Parade, Doncaster!

I wanted more information and thought getting details of such a unusual accident involving a local businessman would be easy and would be well covered in the Doncaster Press. So, off to the family history section of Doncaster Library I went! Soon I was searching the library's micro-fiche records but drew a blank with any report of Walter's unfortunate demise on South Parade.

Newspaper stories and adverts from Victorian Doncaster however were fascinating so I didn't consider the afternoon a total waste of time.

At home I realised that concentrating on news reports only, I had omitted searching the obituary columns. So, hot foot back to the library again. Within seconds of setting up the micro-fiche reader, there it was:

“Hanson, Walter of Carr Hills, Doncaster, died 2nd September 1894 in the South Yorkshire Asylum, Sheffield.”

Died in an asylum! That was a bolt out of the blue, but considering the mishap with the steam traction engine, could poor Walter have suffered some sort of head injury that had affected his mental state?

Wanting to find out more I needed to visit the Sheffield Archives. The staff there were very helpful to this novice researcher. Unfortunately, however, much of the Asylum's records are no longer available.

Thankfully though the “Register of Discharges, Removals and Deaths 1872 – 1906”, the “Register of Patients” and the “Clerks index 1891 – 1911” had survived and what a revelation these turned out to be, as the following extracts show:

Register of Discharges, Removals and Deaths 1872 – 1906

Date of Death/Discharge or Removal: 2nd September 1894

Date of Admission: 5th June 1894

No. in Register of Patients: 4278

Name: Walter Hanson

Male

Died

Assigned Cause of Death: General Paralysis

2 Acute Bronchitis

Age at Death: 41

Observations: Doncaster

Clerks Index (1891-1911)

4278 Hanson Walter, 41, Doncaster, Gen. Labourer, Admitted: 5/6/94

Discharged: 2/9/1894

Condition on Discharge: Died

Register of Patients

Date of Reception: June 4/94

No. in Order of Admission: 4278

Date of Admission: June 5

Walter Hanson, Married, Aged 41, Gen. Labourer

Previous Abode: Doncaster Workhouse

Form of Mental Disorder: "Dementia with epilepsy. He is dull heavy and stupid. He cannot enter into conversation or reply to most questions put to him."

Supposed Cause of Insanity: "Death of Father"

Bodily Condition and name of Disease if any:

"In only fair health though stout. He has aortic valve disease."

Duration of Existing Attacks: 6 months

No. previous attacks: 1st

Date of Discharge/Death: 2/9/1894

Earlier, in the archives I had got into conversation with fellow researchers, one of whom happened to be a presenter on Radio Sheffield's family history phone-in programme. When I announced the cause of death her immediate reaction was that "paralysis in the mentally ill was usually the result of Syphilis!". Syphilis! Hearing this information was a bit of a shock and to the amusement of the others I blurted out "Oh! I don't like the sound of Walter. I'll be tippexing HIM out of my family tree!". I explained to the group that three generations had been led to believe the family myth of the South Parade accident.

Shortly afterwards the radio presenter had to leave as she was to host a programme that afternoon on Radio Sheffield (the studio being almost next door to the archives). I expressed an interest in hearing the programme and was invited to the studio to listen, which I did. After answering a few questions put by listeners, the subject of family myths arose, and sure enough details of my story were broadcast to South Yorkshire. "Only this morning" said the presenter "we had a man in the archives whose family had believed for three generations that.....etc. etc." with my 'tippex' remark generating even more smiles and laughter in the studio.

Some 130 years on however, it is easy to be flippant but after Great Grandad Walter died his poor wife Rose was left with six children ranging from the eldest at 14 years to Walter Junior (my Grandad) at

only four years. This must have been an unimaginable and sad time for Rose and the children. Her husband Walter had initially been admitted to Doncaster Workhouse then transferred to Sheffield and died some three months later in the Asylum. Now she had the added burden of explaining to a young family the circumstances of their father's death. It must have been extraordinarily painful and is well understandable why Rose opted for an 'accident' as a more sympathetic explanation to her young family. The family myth was therefore established and remained the cause of Walter's death for three generations.

Notes:

Despite its reputation Syphilis wasn't just an Ag. Labs and miners' disease but affected all classes - indeed one of Queen Victoria's sons died of it.

Following Walter's death, Rose went on to remarry and have two further children.

The site of the Sheffield Asylum is now a housing estate.

Frank Hanson No. 3067

The 1939 Register – A Brief Guide

This is a brief article to explain a bit about this valuable resource.

What is it

The 1939 Register was taken on 29th September 1939, and it provides a snapshot of the civilian population of England and Wales just after the outbreak of the Second World War.

Why is it important

The 1931 census was destroyed by fire during the WW2 and no census was taken in 1941. The Register provides the most complete survey of the population of England and Wales between 1921 and 1951.

It includes - Address, schedule number, sub number, surname, first name(s), role (for institutions only – Officer, Visitor, Servant, Patient, Inmate), gender, date of birth, marital status, occupation. Military personnel were not recorded. The records do include members of the armed forces on leave and civilians on military bases.

The register is not a census with less information, but it does show exact dates of birth rather than a person's age. These records only include the civilian populations of England and Wales. Changes such as marriage status were added later, and you'll see handwritten entries on top or near to names often in green ink. The Register became a living document (see below).

U.S. Entry Card # <i>DA 357</i>		Remarks, U.S. or D.R. # <i>DA 357</i>		Examination Period Start and End Dates		Period of Interest		
ADDITIONAL ADDITIONAL		NUMERICAL No. 1 No. 2		SERIALS OTHER NAMES		PERSONAL OCCUPATION		
<i>5 Alexander, Ed</i> <i>1875-1882</i>	153	5	5	Susan, John	F 253-40	5	Building a garden	183
				Susan, Anne	F 253-70	5	Milk retailer	
				Susan, George	M 253-110	5	Building a garden	
				Susan, Emily	F 253-140	5	unpaid D. service	
				Susan, Margaret	F 253-190	5	unpaid school age	
<i>7 D. W. C.</i>	151	7	7	Schubert, Arnold	M 253-115	5	Building a garden	182
				Hall, Carl R.	M 253-01	5	Milk and bread of school	
The record is criminally closed.								
<i>9 D. W. C.</i>	187	9	9	Tucker, Wilfred	M 253-04	5	unpaid D. service	182
				Tucker, Wilfred	M 253-04	5	unpaid D. service	
The record is criminally closed.								
<i>11 D. W. C.</i>	186	11	11	Wright, John	F 253-12	5	unpaid D. service	182
				Wright, John	F 253-12	5	unpaid D. service	
				Wright, John	F 253-12	5	unpaid D. service	
				Wright, John	F 253-12	5	unpaid D. service	
				Wright, John	F 253-12	5	unpaid D. service	
<i>13 D. W. C.</i>	181	13	13	Wright, John	F 253-12	5	unpaid D. service	182
				Wright, John	F 253-12	5	unpaid D. service	
The record is criminally closed.								
<i>15 D. W. C.</i>	183	15	15	Wright, John	F 253-12	5	unpaid D. service	182
				Wright, John	F 253-12	5	unpaid D. service	
The record is criminally closed.								
<i>17 D. W. C.</i>	184	17	17	Wright, John	F 253-12	5	unpaid D. service	182
				Wright, John	F 253-12	5	unpaid D. service	
The record is criminally closed.								
<i>19 D. W. C.</i>	185	19	19	Wright, John	F 253-12	5	unpaid D. service	182
				Wright, John	F 253-12	5	unpaid D. service	
The record is criminally closed.								
<i>21 D. W. C.</i>	186	21	21	Wright, John	F 253-12	5	unpaid D. service	182
				Wright, John	F 253-12	5	unpaid D. service	
The record is criminally closed.								
<i>23 D. W. C.</i>	187	23	23	Wright, John	F 253-12	5	unpaid D. service	182
				Wright, John	F 253-12	5	unpaid D. service	
The record is criminally closed.								
<i>25 D. W. C.</i>	188	25	25	Wright, John	F 253-12	5	unpaid D. service	182
				Wright, John	F 253-12	5	unpaid D. service	
The record is criminally closed.								

1939 Register - Tommy Bray
11, Alexandra Rd, Balby

Why are some records blacked out?

These are closed records and if someone was born less than 100 years ago, and has died, their record may still be closed if their death was not notified and recorded in the register.

Deaths that occurred outside the United Kingdom are unlikely to have been notified. These include the majority of WW2 deaths.

From 1948 the Register was also used as the National Health Service (NHS)

Register and was updated until , when the paper-based system was discontinued.

This included notification of deaths, so the records of people born less than 100 years ago, but whose death was reported to either the National Registration authorities or to the NHS, will be open.

Find My Past have checked the names and dates of birth in the 1939 Register against the General Register Office indexes of deaths in

England and Wales and opened many records where exact matches are found. Furthermore, the records of individuals born 100 years ago (according to the date of birth shown in the Register) are opened at Findmypast.co.uk on a regular basis.

The version of the 1939 Register on Ancestry.co.uk is updated less frequently.

Don't forget

By 29 September 1939 there had already been mass evacuations of the population so many people may be listed in an entirely different location to the rest of their family including seasonal workers and were still in the countryside when the Register was taken.

To learn more visit <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/1939-register/>

Twenty-Two Children

In the heart of Victorian Doncaster lived **Rose Ann Pinder** and her daughter, **Elizabeth Laycock**, matriarchs of exceptionally large families: **Rose Ann gave birth to eighteen babies and Elizabeth to twenty-two.**

Their lives unfolded in the densely populated and impoverished streets of Low Fisher Gate, Robinson's Row, and Milner's Yard. Their houses would have had three or four rooms, either two up and one down, or two up and two down, who would have shared a tap and washhouse and maybe two or three privies between several houses. No indoor plumbing, no electricity, and just a cast-iron range for both heating and cooking.

For one woman to give birth to eighteen children is astonishing by both historical and modern standards, and twenty-two even more so. The *total fertility rate* (TFR) is the average number of children a woman is expected to give birth to during her lifetime. In pre-industrial Britain, it is estimated to have been between 5.0 and 5.5 and has steadily decreased since then, to the current number of 1.49. So, for at least the last five hundred years, Rose Ann and Elizabeth's childbearing was well above the average.

At first glance, their childbearing might seem to have been a fascinating anomaly, but it wasn't just a quirk of fate; all four – Rose Ann and her husband Noah, and Elizabeth and her husband, Arthur

came from exceptionally large families.

Noah Pinder was one of seven children. Three of his siblings had thirteen children each, and their father, Joseph, was one of twelve. Rose Ann was the eldest of twelve children, and one of her sisters had thirteen children, another ten. **Arthur Laycock** was the youngest of ten children born to **George** and **Elizabeth Laycock**, and his father had one further child with his second wife. Elizabeth was the eldest of Rose Ann and Noah's eighteen children.

So, Rose Ann and Elizabeth's strong fertility wasn't just a quirk of fate – it was quite literally in their blood.

Noah and Rose Ann married at St George's Church on 25 Jul 1865. It was Noah's nineteenth birthday and Rose Ann had turned 16 a couple of months earlier. Their first child, Elizabeth, was born nine months later and she was followed by at least fifteen more over the next twenty-four years.

'At least' is important here. The Doncaster and District Family History Society's parish register transcripts contain baptisms for sixteen of Noah and Rose Ann's children, and (infant) burials for five of them. The only record of the couple having had eighteen children is the 1911 Census, which states that Rose Ann had had eighteen children "born alive". The number "18" is clear, and so the legibility of the enumerator's writing is not in doubt. It is possible that he wrote down the wrong number, but I consider that doubtful given that even sixteen children are astonishing. I can imagine him, stood 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 is also possible that Rose Ann herself got the number wrong, but this idea insults her. Instead, it is likely that the two babies who aren't recorded were born too early to be either baptised or buried. Contemporary parents of rainbow babies do not need a birth or death certificate to know that their baby existed, and there is no reason to think that the parents of miscarried or stillborn children of yesteryear felt any different.

Now, Noah and Rose Ann's tribe were not just remarkable – they were extraordinary, because **the youngest eight children were four consecutive sets of twins**. The first three sets were all boys, and all

survived to adulthood.

Rose Ann died in 1912 and Noah in 1922. Their gravestone is inscribed with loving words, speaking of affectionate bonds, and suggests that they were a devoted family.

*In loving memory of Rose Ann the beloved wife of
Noah Pinder died Sept 25th 1912 aged 64 years*

*She suffered much but murmured not
We watched her day by day
With aching heart grow less and less
Until she passed away*

*Also of the above Noah Pinder died Nov 13th 1922 aged 76
years*

*We saw him fading like a flower
but we could not make him stay
We tended him with greatest care
but the Lord took him away*

Like her mother before her, Elizabeth Pinder married at just 16. She and Arthur said their vows on 25 Jun 1882, twelve weeks after Elizabeth's birthday. Arthur was 20.

They would outlive twenty of their children.

Their first child, Lily, was born exactly fifteen weeks after Elizabeth and Arthur's wedding, meaning Elizabeth would have been 15 when she conceived. Lily was a flourishing beginning to the new family and given the tragedies that then befell them, I believe she would have been most precious to her mother, a friend and confidant, although this is of course supposition.

The next three babies after Lily all died: Sarah aged seven months, and Arthur and George, both aged four months.

A second Arthur, born in 1887, would live to 40, but during the eight years after his birth, at least six babies were born and buried: Rose Ann, aged three months; another Rose Ann, aged ten months; Harry

aged seven weeks; James, aged six months; Tom, aged five months; and a third Rose Ann, aged three months.

Joy did come again with the next three babies all thriving: Noah, Rose Ann, and Jack. Noah and Rose Ann, clearly named for their maternal grandparents, would be the only two to outlive their parents.

But tragedy then reigned again. At least five more children followed Jack's birth, but none of them survived infancy. Elizabeth died aged six months, Polly aged two months, and then there were three babies all named Tom, who died aged three months, two months, and one year.

Again, as with Rose Ann, 'at least' is important. The DDFHS's parish records transcripts contain nineteen of Elizabeth's children. Three died too young to be either baptised or buried.

I wonder if Elizabeth thought of her Aunt Betsy, one of her mother's sisters. She bore ten children and buried eight of them. When Betsy died Elizabeth would have been 29 and would have buried at least nine of the eleven children she'd had by that time. Elizabeth's and Betsy's children's births and deaths throughout the 1880s and early 1890s, up until Betsy's death, are entwined and I've no doubt that the families were close.

When Elizabeth's youngest child died in early 1911, five children remained: Lily, Arthur, Noah, Rose Ann, and Jack. All had survived the perilous years of infancy, with Lily and Arthur being in their twenties, and Noah, Rose Ann, and Jack being in their teens.

Yet, Elizabeth and Arthur would bury three more, and the next death was dreadfully cruel. Thirteen-year-old Jack began work at The Plant as a "hair lad" on 2 Dec 1911. Eleven days later, he was "caught in a machine belt" and died. Arthur died in 1927 and Lily in 1931. Both were married and had children.

Their parents followed them a few years later.

Elizabeth buried her husband on 13 Dec 1935, and she joined him three months later, on 26 Mar 1936. They were buried with Jack.

Rose Ann and Elizabeth's stories are of women who bore the weight of the world on their shoulders, but never let it crush their spirit, and I am filled with admiration for them. Their lives stand as a testament to

the quiet courage of women who kept their families together through the most challenging of times, and their legacy is one of strength, survival and an unwavering love that carried their families through, reminding us that even in the darkest corners of history, there are tales of perseverance, dignity, and hope.

Rose Ann Selwood m. Noah Pinder	Betsy Thackray m. George Gardiner Ward	Elizabeth Pinder m. Arthur Laycock
Elizabeth 1866 Alice 1868 – 70 Mary 1870 – 72 John 1872 Tom 1875 George 1876 Ann 1878 – 80 Sam 1879 – 80 Joseph 1880 Noah 1880 Arthur 1883 Sam 1883 Fred 1885 Walter 1885 Sarah 1890 – 90 Harry 1890 – 92	Rose Ann 1879 – 79 George Gardiner 1880 Edward 1882 – 82 Frederick 1883 – 83 Ernest 1888 Edward 1887 – 88 John 1889 – 89 Henry 1890 – 90 Albert 1892 – 92 Harriet 1893 – 93	Lily 1882 Sarah 1884 – 84 Arthur 1885 – 85 George 1886 – 86 Arthur 1887 Rose Ann 1888 – 89 Rose Ann 1889 – 90 Harry 1890 – 91 James 1891 – 92 Tom 1894 – 94 Rose Ann 1895 – 95 Noah 1896 Rose Ann 1897 John 'Jack' 1898 – 1911 Elizabeth 1900 – 1900 Polly 1902 – 02 Tom 1903 – 03 Tom 1905 – 05 Tom 1910 – 11

Samantha Taylor, Member 4427

DDFHS Family History Fair

October 2024

We had a good day; all the exhibitors were busy, and they enjoyed the day. I was informed that it was better planned and set out this time, more space, not so cosy as last year. We also had exhibitors in the foyer this time, which gave us more space.. Photo on next page.

This time we had a couple of new exhibitors: Jim Carley City of Doncaster and David Ingleby Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC).

We kept to the same venue Doncaster Central Trust as it is central and easily accessible for those using public transport.

One thing I do know is that everybody enjoyed the cakes.

Ideally we would like a bigger venue so we could have more exhibitors but unfortunately we are short on venues to hold our Family History Fair and of course we have to look at the cost.

I would like to say thank you to all the exhibitors who supported us. Also, those who volunteered on the day a huge thank you to each and every one of you.

Last but not least, thank you to those who were able to attend in person.

A selection of photos follow.

Marion Baxter, Secretary



Unclaimed Raffle Ticket at the Family History Fair

BLUE 241

Please contact Lynn Snowden, details inside cover



Hyde Park Cemetery Talk



For the Fallen

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted:
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

Lawrence Binyon



A Story from the Grave, Part I

I recently found that some of my relatives had a headstone in Hyde Park Cemetery, so I decided to go and have a look. This was an occasion for me, as it is only the second headstone that I have found for ancestors.

The names on the headstone were **John Alfred Thompson**, who died 5th November 1913, aged 28 years, **William Gilbert** who died 1st August 1946, **Harriet Hannah Hudson** who died 23 March 1954, and **Ada Gilbert** died 4th December 1963.

I decided to find out more about these people.

John Alfred Thompson was born in Kettering, Northants in 1886. He married **Ada Hudson** in St Mary's Church, Doncaster just before Christmas 1909, he was a scaffolder by trade and lived in Wheatley Lane, Doncaster. The marriage document also told me that **John Alfred's** father, who had the same name, had worked as a signalman for the railway. That made me realise it was the probable reason the family moved to Doncaster, as a lot of other families moved to Doncaster with the railway. Ada's father, Wardrobe and her brother Albert were the witnesses to the marriage.

Ada and John's daughter **Dorothy Thompson** was born in February 1911 and on the census of that year, they are still living with her parents in Conisbrough. Their son, **Harold Hudson Thompson** followed in 1912 and was baptised at St Mary's Church, Doncaster.

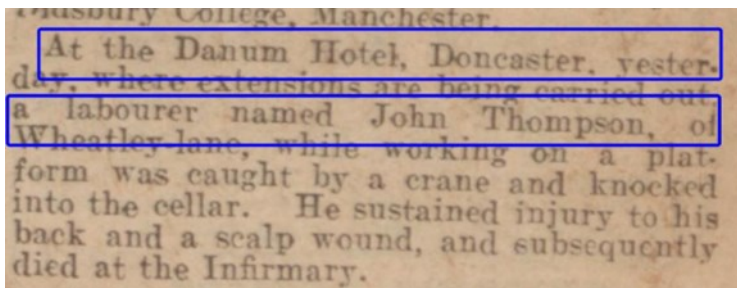
When his children were just one and two years old, **John Alfred Thompson** was killed in an accident whilst at work on 5th November 1913.

The newspaper cutting from the Leeds Mercury dated 6 November 1913 says:

*At the Danum Hotel, Doncaster, yesterday, where extensions are being carried out, a labourer named **John Thompson**, of Wheatley Lane, while working on a platform was caught by a crane and knocked into the cellar. He sustained injury to his back and a scalp wound, and*

subsequently
died at the
Infirmery.

If you read
that you
would think
that he had
got off lightly with his fall.



However, the Hyde Park Burial Register, says that he died due to an accident, and that there was a collapse of the crane whilst on the building and he died of a rupture of the kidney and haemorrhage.

I am guessing that his death would have been quick, but poor Ada was left with two small children to bring up.

The story of the grave will continue in the next Doncaster Ancestor.

Jenny Ellis, Editor

Telling the Truth?

Found in the 1881 census:

4 Derwent Square West Derby, Lancashire

Name		Age	Occupation
George Xavier SEGAR	Head	43	Barrister in Practice
Gertrude M SEGAR	Wife	30	Looking After Me & The Family
Mary G SEGAR	Dau	3	Eating Sleeping & Talking
Robert S SEGAR	Son	1	Eating & Getting Into Mischief

Have you found anything like this in your research?

Sorry not sure where this snippet came from.

Editor

The Cold & The Frost

Doncaster Review February 1895

February, 1895, came in accompanied by intense cold and a heavy fall of snow. Severe frosts followed, and during the month the weather was colder than had been experienced since 1860, on one night as many as 39 degrees of frost being registered. The frost continued, with one or two slight thaws, for a fortnight or so, and great distress prevailed among many of the poorer residents of the town. The Mayor called the attention of his colleagues to the need for assistance that existed, and the Corporation at once contributed £25 to start a relief fund. As soon as it was known that a fund had been started money flowed in rapidly, and nearly £200 has been subscribed.

A soup kitchen was opened, with Mrs. J. T. **Spencer** as head cook, that lady coming forward and giving her services in a very commendable manner. The Mayor and Mayoress have been indefatigable in their efforts to assist the poor. As many as 700 persons have been supplied with soup in one day. Hundreds of children, too, have had breakfast at the Glyn Hotel, St. George's Hall, Marshgate Club, and at Mrs. **Gilbert's** Refreshment Rooms in St. Sepulchre gate. Several private gentlemen have also given away soup and provisions, notably Mr. **Curtis**, of the Magdalen Hotel, the Co-operative Society, Mr. **Outwin** (of Nether Hall road), Mr. **Rodwell** (Carr House road), and Mr. P. Crawley (Somerset road). Gifts of coal have been made by Mr. **Tuby**, Mr. **Corrie** (Nether Hall road), Mr. C. W. **Hall**, Mr. C. D. **Clayton** (of Broxholme House), and Mr. S. W. S. **Taylor** (for Balby district). Mr. W. **Fulwood**, a neighbouring farmer, sent a load of wheat to Councillor **Abbott** to be ground into flour and distributed to twenty deserving families. Indeed the bitter weather seemed to make those possessed of means more generous than usual, and the poor of Doncaster benefitted accordingly.

Of course there was plenty of skating, every sheet of water being frozen over, and a good stretch of the Don was also covered with ice. Unfortunately, after the thaw set in there was quite a number of accidents, many persons of both sexes being submerged, several being rescued after narrow escapes, and one young man named Henry **Bolland** lost his life near Mile Thorne, on the afternoon of Sunday, the 17th.

Great inconvenience was caused by reason of the pipes of the street

lamps being frozen, and consequently many parts of the town were in total darkness after nightfall. Water pipes were frozen in a majority of the houses in the borough, and the Corporation had to send water-carts round to supply ratepayers with sufficient to keep the domestic requirements of householders in going order.

Makes you appreciate how lucky we are.

Editor

D&DFHS Annual General Meeting 2025

The 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Doncaster and District Family History Society will take place at The Earl of Doncaster on **Wednesday, 26 February 2025 at 7.30 pm**. Members will also have the option to attend via Zoom as it will be a hybrid meeting.

Agenda

The main business of the meeting will be to receive the Annual Reports and Accounts for 2024 and to elect the members of the Society's Executive Committee.

Nominations

Nominations for any of the Executive Committee posts should be sent to the Secretary by **Wednesday 08 February 2025**.

A Nomination Form is available in the members' area of the Society's website or from the Secretary.

Questions

Members wishing to raise questions at the AGM should submit them, either by post or email, to the Secretary by **Wednesday 25th January 2025**.

See the inside front cover for the Secretary's contact details.

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 I D	Title	Initial	Last Name
4623	Mrs	K	Wade
4624	Mr	D	Ingleby
4625	Ms	J	Hurd
4626	Mr & Mrs	A & S	Biggs
4627	Mr	A	Skillcorn
4628	Mr & Mrs	D & E	Pearson
4629	Mrs	C	Andrews
4630	Ms	L	Metali
4631	Mrs	E	Bisby
4632	Mr	R	Terrell
4633	Mr	T	Avery

Members' Surname Interests

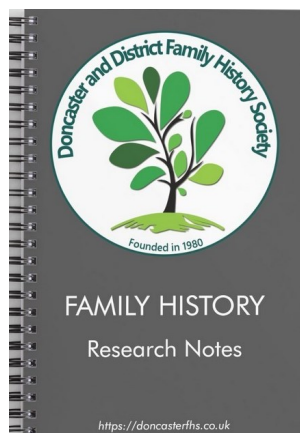
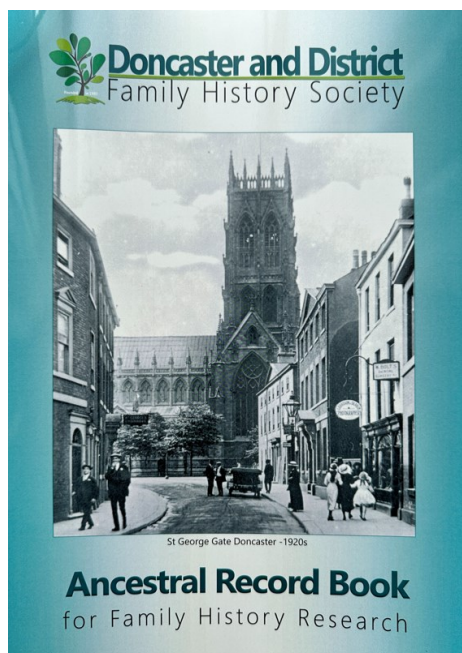
Surname	Code	Place	Dates	Member Number
Drower	YKS	Swinton	1800-1900	4609
Foss	YKS	Swinton	1880-1900	4609
Horsfield	YKS	East Cowick	1750-1900	4609
Kitchin	WRY	Fishlake	1850-1900	4467
Granger	WRY	Thrybergh	1900-1950	4467
Butterfield	WRY	Sykehouse	1800-1920	4467
Bailey	ERY	Hull	1840-1870	4467

Members' Surname Interests continued

Bailey	WRY	Hatfield	1900-1940	4467
Bailey	WRY	Fishlake	1750-1900	4467
Billings	YKS	Doncaster	1800-1999	4628
Warren	YKS	Doncaster	1800-1999	4628
Webster	YKS	Doncaster	1800-1999	4628
Jow	YKS	Doncaster	1800-1999	4628
Bullock	YKS	Doncaster	1800-1999	4628
Pearson	YKS	Doncaster	1800-1999	4628
Biggs	WRY	Doncaster	1895-2000	4626
Venables	YKS/STS	Doncaster	1600-2024	4633
Purcell	YKS/SAL	Rotherham	1700-2024	4633
Cusworth	YKS	Various places	1800-2024	4633
Haigh	YKS	in area	1800-2024	4633

Merchandise for Sale / Stocking Fillers

Ancestral Record Book	£5.00 + p&p
Family History Research Notes	£3.00 + p&p
Pen	£1.50 + p&p
Pencil	£0. 50+ p&p or free with
Research Notes Book	
A Family Historian's Great War by Karen Walker	
This book tells the stories of people with a connections to Doncaster or to our members.	
	£4.00 + p&p



The above items are for sale via the website and also on monthly Library and Archives days and would be handy as stocking fillers. The new Ancestral Record Book now contains space for the 1921 census and the 1939 Register.

Also new members who join the Society between January - March will receive up to 3 months membership free, so 15 months for the price of 12 months. A bargain at £10.00, with our 1.6 million Database available for members only.

A good time for family history during the winter months.

DDFHS Family History Research Days
Please come along and meet the teams

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**

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**

**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**

**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**

doncasterfhs.co.uk for further details

D&DFHS Subscription Rates

01 Apr 2024 - 31 Mar 2025

Paper Journal / e-Journal

Individuals	£10.00
Family in same house	£12.00
Institutions UK	£12.00
Overseas via Air Mail	£15.00

Please make cheques etc.
payable to:

**Doncaster & District
Family History Society**

and send to 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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*Please only contact Committee
Members and Volunteers between
office hours*

Parishes and Townships in the Archdeaconry of Doncaster 1914

