

The Banyan Tree

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Dr Margaret Oliver . The eyfhs President

East Yorkshire FamilyHistory Society

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Hello This is a hybrid edition as the editor was having problems with adobe hence the missing pages, Edwina has now resigned and we wish her well and do sincerely thank her for her service in the past years.

Editor Urgently wanted

As some members may be aware, Edwina has resigned as editor and we now find ourselves with no one fully capable of producing the Banyan Tree. We are appealing for anyone who would like to take over the role of voluntary editor to contact me, Pete Glover, by email : treasurer@eyfhs.org.uk

Keeping the Banyan Tree going is an essential role with in the East Yorkshire Family History Society, and we hope to be able to announce the name of our new editor following the next committee meeting.

IMPORTANT NOTE: You do not have to live in Hull to become the Editor. The role can all be undertaken remotely, as Edwina has done for the last 17years.

The President's Report.

President's Opening Remarks

Mrs Margaret Oliver

First of all, I must state that I am honoured to have been asked to serve as the President of the East Yorkshire Family Society, I know I am following in the footsteps of well-respected incumbents of this post, and I sincerely hope that I can do the position justice. I must thank the outgoing President, Tom Bangs for his guardianship of the role, and hope that I can measure up to his performance in being a support for all the working members of the Society, and a worthy representative of its general membership.

For those who don't know me, my association with the EYFHS started in the early nineties as an ordinary member and in the mid-nineties I took over from Jenny Johnson as Secretary, sharing some of the duties with Eileen Coleman. This was in the days before the internet, when everyone wrote a letter and expected you to have the answer at your fingertips. Couple this with the fact that Yorkshire is the largest county in the country, and we were the only society with the word Yorkshire in its name, you can imagine the size of the postbag – many from abroad. Since then, I have served as Chairman and have just completed my time as immediate Past Chairman, having served on the Committee for thirty years. In addition, I took part in two mammoth census translation projects undertaken by the Society, and, until personal circumstances intervened, was a regular member of the Monumental Inscription team. There are others more experienced than I am, who still put in many hours on behalf of the membership, but I hope that

my previous roles with in the Society will stand me in good stead to serve it well.

As I am sure you will hear, Family History Societies are going through a difficult time. Some are closing or merging with other societies, and all of them are aware that changes need to be made to continue their activities, in what ever format that will be. The EYFHS is no exception, and the Committee has discussed and considered various options, and continues to do so as we move forward. Please ask yourselves if you have any skills to offer as the interaction of members may be of significant importance in the future.

I thank the Committee again for their faith in me to take on this role and I will endeavour to justify that commitment.

Chairman's Final Report

Pete Lowden

Firstly, I'd like to thank Margaret Oliver for taking on the role of President of the Society, Margaret has fulfilled most of the roles of the Society admirably in her time in the Society. I fully expect that her time as the President will enhance the Society's prestige and increase its profile in the local area. I wish her well.

The chair's report for this year is very similar to last year's. Where we were previously successful, we still are. Where we were failing previously is still a worry with no definite solution in sight.

I'd like to thank all of the committee members for their unflinching work within

their specific remits and in general for without them this Society would not exist.

One of the areas that has a positive slant is finances. The Society has a fairly healthy bank balance and our costs, although like most things these days, are always rising, the committee believes that it has enough in reserves to handle most kinds of disasters that may occur.

Another area that appears stable is our present status as tenants at Carnegie. The Carnegie Heritage Trust has a number of years of its lease left and we believe we are good tenants who cause little trouble to the landlord. The building also holds our stock of resources as well as providing a satisfactory venue for meetings etc. In essence we therefore see no reason for any change in our relationship with the Trust.

This brings us to another area of success which provides much needed funds to the Society, that is the publishing arm of the Society. It is fair to say that the retailing of the Society's MI books and other sundries brings in enough money to balance the loss of income that the decrease in membership has created. However, there would be no books without the MI team, so we also appreciate all the hard work that goes into providing this much needed stimulus to the Society's finances.

The family history courses, organised and run by Charlie Cradock, are always extremely popular and always over subscribed.

The Help desks continue to dispense good advice and resolve people's family history "roadblocks", and this help is often reciprocated with donations or, even better, someone joining the Society.

Janet Shaw, the membership secretary, continues in that important role and I await her report for this AGM with some trepidation. The membership numbers keep falling but that is far from Janet's fault. She is helped in her task by an ex-committee member, Alan Brigham, who sends out the reminders to members who have failed to commit to another year of membership.

Our secretary, Barbara Watkinson, continues in her role and I take my hat off to her for providing coherent and lucid minutes of the committee's meetings where everyone's voices may, at some point all be raised at the same time.

That the meetings mentioned earlier are not better controlled is entirely due to yours truly. However, as my time as the Chair is now coming to an end as per the constitution, I foresee that situation resolving itself sooner rather than later. My best wishes go to my replacement.

Another bright spot is that we will have an entry in this year's local Heritage Open Days brochure which should also raise our profile and hopefully may engender more interest locally in what we do. Who knows, perhaps gain us more members. We shall wait and see.

The Society held an Open Day in September, consisting of a book sale, help desks and a talk in the afternoon. It was felt that this event was successful, and it is hoped to hold another one sometime in the future. The transition to quarterly meetings appears to have been successful, and the talks are well attended which sadly was not the case with the evening meetings. Much of this success lies with the events organiser, Janet Bielby, for her choice of speakers and topics which

appear to be of interest to the general public as well as the membership who attend. My final commendation, in the positive side of this report is to the editor of The Banyan, Edwina Bentley. She has herself been on a rather painful journey over the last couple of years which I am sure most of you will know about and yet she still has managed to produce the Society's quarterly magazine on time regularly. I must also point out that this is often in the face of an alarming decline in contributions from the membership. I can safely say that her persistence in meeting her deadlines in the face of this apathy staggers me and I respect her dedication to the Society's cause.

As I mentioned earlier there are areas where we are failing. Quite frankly we all know where these are, and I don't intend to labour the point. This issue has been the hallmark of the chair's report for a considerable number of years now, well before my time as the chair. It can be summed up quite simply; we are dwindling away. As Tome Bangs, a past chair and president succinctly put it, "more are leaving at one end of the Society than are coming in at the other end". Now we cannot do a great deal about the ones leaving the Society at the "other end" that Tom mentioned for often it is illness or death that is the cause of their leaving. Where we probably could, and should, do more is, in regard to the opposite end, the new membership end. However, what has become evident in that societies such as ours are not attractive to that elusive membership that we seek. Why that is, when many people, when asked, really would like to know more about their family history, is difficult to understand. As this decline is affecting every family history society the possibility exists that organisations such as ours have reached beyond their "best

before" date. This may be due to our way of working or some other factor that we have not discovered as yet. Suffice to say that time is not on our side on this issue. Our decline in membership has been debated for a long time and we are still no nearer to finding a solution. The ball was thrown to the membership late last year for their ideas as to how we can resolve this issue. I think it is fair to say that the response from the membership was less than encouraging. Out of approximately 500 members only 11 decided to respond. Unsurprisingly there's not a great deal to say to that other than it highlights what a job the committee have to do simply to make the Society function, and what would, and probably will happen, when that committee says it has had enough.

The debate on the future of the Society has not finished but has been left in abeyance. In January at the committee meeting, it was decided by a show of hands that there should be no change in the format and function of the Society as it stands now. However, it must be said that this issue will certainly need to be re-visited at some point in the future and I for one hope, and expect, the membership to step up and contribute to any plans for the future of the Society. In this period of time when Zoom, Teams and Skype are at the touch of a button, when articles for The Banyan can be sent to the editor at the touch of that same button, no way to the well-being and future of the Society however far from the East Riding they live. If the membership wants the Society to continue then it is up to them to step up. The future of the Society lies in the hands of us all.

Thank you.

[Spotlight on Luttons Ambo]

Luttons Ambo Family History Sources at the East Riding Archives and Local Studies Service.

The Champney Treasure House, Champney Road, Beverley

Tel: (01482)392792

archives.service@eastriding.gov.uk

Luttons Ambo comprises the two villages of East Lutton and West Lutton. It was a chapelry within the parish of Weaverthorpe until 1856 when it was transferred to Helperthorpe parish. In 1874 it separated from Helperthorpe to form its own parish.

To access information from the records listed below, visit the East Riding Archives online catalogue: www.eastriding.gov.uk/calmview and contact the archives service by email, post or phone.

Parish records

Parish records for Luttons Ambo, St Mary's, are held at the Borthwick Institute for Archives, York, under the collections ref. PR/LUT.

Records of other denominations:

Primitive Methodist

The Driffield Primitive Methodist Circuit included a church at West Lutton. Surviving records include ref. MRD/44/1/1- Letter from the Hull district building committee (Primitive Methodist), sanctioning the sale of the school room at West Lutton, 25 Apr 1884.

The chapel was built in 1848 and rebuilt in 1863. It is now closed and demolished

See also Driffield Primitive Methodist Circuit Roll Books 1894-1931 which include West Lutton (ref. MRD/2/5)

Other Records:

- Electoral registers (ref. EL)
- Weaverthorpe, Helperthorpe, East Lutton and West Lutton otherwise Luttons Ambo Enclosure Act, 1801 (ref. AP/3160)
- m East and West Lutton enclosure award 2 Aug 1804 (ref. RDB/1/2/BookCA)
- Buckrose Petty Sessions records include court registers 1936-1963, juvenile court registers 1935-1963, registers of licences to sell intoxicating liquors 1919-1970, register of clubs 1930-1962, register of licences of stage plays 1954-1964 (ref. PSBU)
- Land tax assessments for years 1783, 1787-1830, 1832 (ref. QDE/1/3122)
- Postcard of village street from west, West Lutton, c. 1930 (ref. POil/151/1)
- Policing – East Riding Constabulary record book of appointments, late 1800s-1900s (ref. QAP/9); West Lutton beat report, 1928 (ref. POL/3/811/4/4)
- Driffield Poor Law Union Records, includes relief lists, workhouse inmates, (ref. PUD)
- Pocklington School property records relating to West Lutton, 1793-1821 (ref. DDPS/15)
- Register of recognizances on granting licences to keep inns or victualling houses, 1825 (ref. QDT/1/1/36)

• Alehouse recognizances 1822-1826 (ref. QDT/2/4)

• Removal orders and bastardy recognizances (ref. QSU)

• Indictments, convictions and recognizances at the Quarter Sessions, 1700s- 1800s (ref. QSF)

• Jury lists, c.1820s-1870s (ref.QSJ)

• General rate book, 1927-1928 (ref. RDDR/3/13/1/3)

• Photograph of pupils at Luttons Ambo school, c. 1912 (ref. DDX679/2)

• Sales particulars, various properties, 1990s-2015 (ref. SP and also DDUL)

• Vehicle registration cards and registers (ref. CVR)

• Ordnance Survey maps, 1855-1986 (ref. OS)

• Parish Magazines, early 20th century (ref. PM/106)

• Parchment roll giving details and valuation of estates, formerly property of dissolved religious houses, terms on which they are offered for sale and some names of purchasers, 1552 (ref. DDPY/27/l)

• West Lutton sewerage scheme, 1970s (ref. DDX745/35)

• Epitome of will and codicils of Sir George (Strickland) Cholmley, 16 Feb 1870 (ref. DDX1227/l/2/1)

Ancestry.co.uk, FindMyPast

other genealogical sites can be accessed to expand and complement the above sources.

Printed and indexed publications of Yorkshire societies etc and a selection of directories 1823-1937 are readily available.



Sally George

When walking across the tombstone which says 'Resurgam' I was asked by a visitor if I knew anything more. I'm afraid I didn't, that is, until I was looking through a 1939 guide book written by the Reverend WE. Wigfall. The Latin word means "I shall rise again" and on a pillar to the right is a tablet with an inscription and coat of arms of the Fleming family with the date 1665. In the Minster burial register for the year, there is an entry for Giles Fleming, clerical rector of Waddingworth in the county of Lincoln, dated Jan 23 1664. It is interesting to note that March was the first month of every new year and not January which is why the year is different. Our tour guides can tell you more on some of the Minster's hidden mysteries and anything they don't know, they will try to find out.

As you enter by the level access door, you will see in front of you a list of the provosts (governors), vicars and organists of the Minster. One famous name included, though he probably never came to Beverley is

Thomas Becket, provost c.1153-62 who later became the Archbishop of Canterbury, saint and martyr. Of other un-named musical staff, 4 shillings was given to John Merbecke in reward for songs by him given to the church. His father Robert Merbecke rented the Tabard Inn, Fishmarket, which was in a part of Wednesday market, from the Provostry (Church office). John's greatest claim to fame was in the production of the first Anglican prayer book in English with Archbishop Cramner, the book of common prayer noted, i.e. set to music and published in 1550. He was arrested for heresy under the Marion Catholic backlash but was spared the stake because Bishop Gardiner dismissed him as only a musician and not worth burning!

There are many memorials on the walls and floors in the Minster relating to prominent or rich residents, when it was thought that burying a body near to the altar would result in a quicker passage through purgatory. Local rich dignitaries were worried about being prematurely buried alive (which occurred often) and so they commissioned expensive tombs above ground for their bodies to lie in. Later bodies were removed to the church yard to prevent any unpleasant smells in the Minster. Some say that this is where the saying "the stinking rich" comes from! Behind the door of the North quire aisle I could see 2 memorials to research into. I could find nothing on Jane Mackerell or Harriot Box but plenty on Thomas Mugless who was a plumber and glazier in the Minster. He also owned several properties in Burdan Middin Lane (now Dog and Duck Lane) and Jockey Row (now Gordan Terrace, Walkergate). This information comes from the online East Riding Archives Catalogue and two of these property documents were dated: "8

days of St. Hilary" and "morrow of Holy Trinity", I had to look this up and found that these dates are from the four academic terms of Oxford University, Hilary, Easter, Trinity and Michaelmas, originating from the medieval legal system and four terms of the courts. One thing leads to another with these interesting facts when researching into the Minster history, so come and find out more on one of our tours with our friendly and knowledgeable tour guides at only £6 each on Saturdays at 1pm and Wednesdays at 11am. You will also be contributing to the upkeep of this magnificent building.
<https://beverleyminster.org.uk/guided-tours-date-selection/>

In 1767 Johann Snetzler was at work creating the organ for the Octagon Chapel in Bath where the organist was William Herschel the discoverer of Uranus. The Swiss-born organ builder had been in England for 26 years and his next job was already confirmed for Beverley Minster, the largest organ he would ever make and installed in 1769. It had a case made by Thomas Lightoler which remains the basis of the much remodelled organ today. Johann Snetzler also built the organ at Holy Trinity in Hull, in 1767. The original pipes are incorporated within the present instrument which has undergone many changes. At its opening in 1769 the 'modern' music of Handel was performed. The organ was considerably enlarged by Hill in 1885 and the case added in the early 20th Century, work being undertaken by a member of the Elwell family to a design by Arthur Hill. A major rebuild was undertaken by Wood of Huddersfield in 1993 which included several tonal variations and a new console. During the past decade, much more has been done with ranks of pipes added, repairs to the action and much to improve the reliability

of the instrument. The most up to date specification of the organ is available on the Minster website and is also displayed near the steps upto the organ in the north choir aisle. The organ has 4 manuals, around 4100 pipes, the longest being 32ft in length, and it has around 70 stops. This can be seen on one of our tours and so much more. Our visitors say they always learn something new every time and at £6 each, it is such a bargain. Tickets are available for our Wednesday and Saturday tours by booking on the website. At the time of the St John of Beverley Festival in 1961 students from the Kingston upon Hull College of Arts and Crafts presented 34 embroidered panels to Beverley Minster. These panels were designed by Jennifer Gray and worked by her, the young college students and mature day students.

The embroideries have been worked on an even linen, dyed at the college to give a range of suitable blues. The figures have been applied in material, inspired by Victorian netting patterns. Most of the stitches were worked by hand but occasionally machine embroidery was used by the college students. This technique was used by Jennifer Gray on her own panel where she helped some of the day students with the faces. The members of the Hull College group were Jennifer Gray, Joyce Bakes, Marjorie Bell, Jean Blechynden, Sheila Blechynden, Edna Bowness, Lilian Burton, Betty Cockerline, Bella Colinson, Edna Farrar, Gladys Herbert, Mavis Kind, Marjorie Moses, Phyllis Partington, Margaret Rackham, Mary Ramskir, Celia Richardson, Joan Ridout, Ida Russell, Gwendoline Strafford, Jacqueline Walker, Gladys Wellbourne, Caroline Woodrow, and Doris Wright.

These embroideries have since been remounted with new headings and

displayed on new screens by the Minster Dorcas sewing group. These ladies have also been responsible for the banners hanging in the nave and altar frontals used for services. Come and see these beautiful embroideries which tell the story of our founder St. John of Beverley. Our Minster tours cost only £6 and you will be contributing towards the maintenance of our magnificent church.

Anthony Hardman

Madge Hannah Jane MORRITT (1879-1910)

Madge was the niece of my Great Grandmother, Kate Hardman (nee Bradstreet), daughter of Kate's sister Emily. Her Birth Certificate shows she was born at 12 Hyde Park Terrace, Walcot Street, Hull to Thomas Moritt Railway Guard (Goods), (her Father) and Emily Moritt, formerly Bradstreet. The Signature of the Informant on the Certificate is E Morritt, Mother.

So, there are 2 variations of the surname on her Birth Certificate and her Father, Thomas, is worthy of another vignette due to his occupation and newspaper reports.

The 1881 Census shows the Family still living in Hyde Park Terrace, with Thomas' place of birth as Hull, and Emily's as Bardney in Lincolnshire which correlates to the Census sequence in Kate's vignette.

By 1891 the Family had moved to 19 Crowle Street, Drypool, Sculcoates, Hull, but Thomas was now a widower. In addition to Madge (aged 11) there was a Son – Thomas William (aged) 9. Also in residence was Rebecca Lancaster, described as 'Sister'

(aged 22) born in Lincolnshire – was she a sister to Emily or Thomas? [There is reference to Rebecca Morritt (Widow) in Thomas' Probate following his death on the 9th July 1911 – see Vignette on Thomas]

By 1901 Madge was living at The Post Office, Towngate, Hipperholme, Halifax and her occupation is shown as 'Post office Assistant'.

The Census shows her to be living with the Sub Postmaster as follows:

James Milms	Head Widower Aged 63
Sub Postmaster	Born Halifax

Clara Milms	Daughter
Aged 37 Post Off Ass't	

Elizabeth Milms	Daughter Single
Aged 33 PostOff Ass't	

Frances Milms	Daughter Single
Aged 31 Post Off Ass't	

Madge Merritt	Boarder Single Aged 21
Post Off Ass't	Born Hull

The next reference to Madge is in 1910 in the 'Passenger Lists leaving the UK: She is described as being a 'Masseuse' leaving Liverpool on the 2nd September 1910 bound for Parain Brazil on the 'Antony' of The Booth Line, Ships Master – Hy Forbes.

A Notice of Death then appeared in The Hull Daily Mail on Tuesday 6th December 1910 as follows:

'MORRITT – November 16th on board R.M.S Oravia, Madge Morritt of malaria fever whilst returning from Rio de Janeiro to Europe. Buried at sea. Friends please accept this (the only information):

In 1911 Probate was granted:

'Morritt Madge Hannah Jane of 22 Dyote Street, Oxford Street, Middlesex, spinster, died on board the SS Oravia in the Pacific Ocean. Probate London 13th January to George Frederick Seath, Timber Merchant. Effects £459'.

Strangely, on the same Probate Madge's is her Father's, Thomas.

And finally, from:

The Hull Daily Mail Monday 16th November 1914

'In Memoriam

MORRITT – In loving memory of my sister MADGE MORRITT who died November 16th 1910 and was buried at sea – Latitude 3.50N Longitude 30.2W'

The life of this interesting lady raises further questions for research:

- Why did she move to Halifax, and were the Mihns relatives?
- Who was Rebecca Lancaster?
- Why was she described as being a 'masseuse' on the passenger list going to Brazil.
- Why was she living in Middlesex at the time of her death?
- Who was George Frederick Seath, who was granted probate?

Barbara Watkinson

Sad Story with a happy ending

Last summer my husband and I did a few CWGC walks – these being Northern Cemetery and Hedon Road in Hull and Queensgate and the Queensgate cemetery that covers St John & St Martin Church in Beverley.

In the cemetery covering St John we were shown a grave of Edward Hall who died in WWI and his daughter just weeks afterwards. I did ask the guide what happened to his wife, and they did not know – this sparked my curiosity to research this family and to see what happened.

Edward Hall was born 1889 in Kirkburn near Driffield. His parents being John Hall (born 1856 in Driffield) and Sarah Jane Scott (born 2/2/1859 in Fimber) who were married 1880 in Driffield.

In 1881 John & Sarah are living in Kirkburn, with John being a groom & gardener. In 1891, they are still living in Kirkburn but John is now a grocers assistant. They now have children, Alberta, Ernest & Edward. 1901 they are now living at the Cottage, Wesleyan Methodist Chapel in Driffield and he is now a gardener, and they have two more children John William & Elsie.

Sadly, John died at Hull Bridge on 29 May 1910, the obituary states aged 55 a gardener, late of Kirkburn. He was buried 1 June 1910 at St Pauls churchyard, Tickton.

1911 Sarah is now a widow and living at Tickton, Hull Bridge with her sons Ernest who is a gardener and John and daughter Elsie. By 1921 & 1939 she is still living with Ernest at 36 Norwood Grove, Beverley. Sarah died 15 March 1948 and buried 18/3/1948 at St Pauls Churchyard, Tickton.

Edwards siblings – Alberta Hall was born 26 January 1884 in Kirkburn and in 1911 She is a cook at Tickton Grange, Beverley to Frank Nicholson & family a physician and 1901 she is now living at Side Lane, Foston and housekeeper to Thomas Scott a widower and farmer. By 1921 she is at 29 Westwood

Road, Beverley housekeeper to John Westerby & family, a tobacco merchant and accountant. In 1928 she married Arthur Herbert Dobson (born 2/10/1891) and in 1939 living at 11 Warton Avenue, Beverley, Arthur being an insurance agent. Arthur had previously married on 24 December 1914 at St Peters Church, Woodmansey Hilda Fisher with one of the witnesses being Alberta Hall. They both having worked together at Tickton Grange when Hilda was a kitchen maid. Hilda & Arthur had a son Maurice, born 3 August 1915 who in 1939 living with Arthur & Alberta at 11 Warton Avenue and he is a motor engineer. Sadly, he died 12 November 1944, he was a leading aircraftman in RAF Volunteer reserve and was taken prisoner on 8 March 1942 when Java fell and died on board SS Maras Maru during a journey from Aruba Island to Surabaya, Java.

The story is in Hull Daily Mail 5 November 1945.

Died In Prison Camp.

News has been received by Mr & Mrs Arthur Dobson of 11 Warton Avenue, Beverley that their only son LAC Maurice Dobson aged 30 who has been a prisoner since fall of Singapore died on 12 November 1944. His wife, who resides in Thearne has also been informed. LAC Dobson attended Tickton school in his early days and later St Marys Boys School Beverley. Previous to his joining up he was employed by Mr Thompson, Landress Lane, as a motor mechanic. Arthur died in 1962 at 18 Warton Avenue, Beverley and buried 4 December 1962 at Tickton. Alberta died after 1975 as there was an article in Hull Daily Mail, 23 July that year “Cottingham Pupils are Victorians for a day” when 91-year-old

Alberta returned to tell Hallgate Junior school about her life.

Ernest Hall was born 5 December 1886 in Kirkburn and appears to have been a gardener throughout his life. He died 27 February 1967 at 1a Queens Road, Beverley and buried 2 March 1967 in Tickton.

John William Hall born 1892 at Kirkburn and like his brother Ernest was also a gardener. He enlisted in the East Yorkshire Regiment 10th Battalion in Beverley on 8 February 1916. On 16 September 1916 at St John & St Martin Church, Beverley he married Ethel Jane Baker (born 21 January 1894 in Lund) he is a Private and both living at Butt Lane, Beverley with the witnesses being his brother Ernest and sister Alberta.

They had a daughter, Ethel May Hall born 7 October 1916 who is 1934 in Beverley married John Prest Carter. She died 16 September 1973 at 38 Kings Square, Beverley and was buried 19 September in Queensgate Cemetery.

Sadly, on 3 September 1918 John was killed in action in France and buried in the Le Grand Beaumont British Cemetery, Steenwerck but is also commemorated on the War Memorial at Tickton Church.

Ethel never remarried and in 1939 living with her daughter and husband at 4 Sylvester Lane, Beverley. She sadly died on 15 March 1971 at 38 Kings Square, Beverley and buried 18 March 1971 in Queensgate Cemetery.

Elsie Hall was born 15 May 1896 in Kirkburn and married 1922 in Beverley Robert McWilliams Agar (born 30 August 1895) and in 1939 living at 121 Norwood,

Beverley and he is a grocer's assistant. She died January 1945 at 43 Eastgate, Beverley and buried on 30 January 1945 in Tickton. Robert died 11 May 1975 in hospital but late of 1a Queens Road, Beverley and buried 15 May 1975 in Tickton.

Now we go to the sad part of the story.

As said before Edward was born in Kirkburn and can be found on the 1891 & 1901 census living with his parents and siblings in Kirkburn. In 1911 he appears to be following in the family tradition of being a gardener and living at Drewton Cottage, South Cave with Charles Ely a gardener and Edward as his assistant.

On 15 July 1915 at Brampton Parish Church, near Scarborough he married Florence Mary Estill, he is aged 25 and a gardener of Brampton and Florence aged 21 also of Brompton.

On 5 October 1916 Edward enlisted at Beverley No 82772 RAMC and address given as Southfield House, Butt Lane, Beverley and occupation gardener. On 6 October 1916 he was posted to N Coy RAMC at Ripon and sadly on 9th October 1916 he was found drowned in River Skell at Ripon.

Ripon Observer 12 October 1916

FOUND DROWNED – On Monday night, at Ripon Union Workhouse, Dr Husband, coroner held an inquest on the body of Pte Edward Hall (26) RAMC, Ripon, whose dead body was taken from the River Skell early Monday morning – Mr J F Wilson was elected foreman of jury – Sgt Major Lloyd in RAMC stated that he had known the deceased since 6th inst when he joined his

company. He was a private of RAMC. Before joining army, deceased was a gardener and his private address was Southfield, Butt Lane, Beverley. So far, as he knew the deceased conduct was quite satisfactory and he had every appearance of making a good soldier. He last saw deceased alive on Saturday. He was reported missing about 9.30pm Sunday.

Pte Arthur Parker of RAMC stated that he joined up late on Thursday night and met deceased who was in the same hut. On Friday morning he noticed deceased was very quiet. On Sunday afternoon the deceased came down to Ripon with witness and two other soldiers. They had a walk round Spa Gardens and then returned to the YMCA hut. They afterwards returned to Ripon and had tea, after which witness said he would go back to camp. Deceased went back so far and then returned to Ripon stating that it was too early to go back to camp – Pte Arthur Fisher stated that at 6.15 that morning he was proceeding to the sewage farm by the foot path near River Skell when he saw a body floating on its right side in the water. Matter was reported to the police and witness assisted to get the body out of the water.

PC Gladders stated that at 7am that morning he proceeded to River Skell at back of Messrs R Kearsley & Co varnish works. He there saw a soldier in the water. With assistance of last witness, they got the body out. The body was in about 3 or 4 feet of water. There was a metal watch on the body which had stopped at 12 minutes to 7. There were no marks of violence on the body. The coroner stated that a magazine had been given to him with some writing on it, but there was nothing to justify them connecting with deceased. The foreman suggested an adjournment to

see if deceased has written to his wife – after deliberating in private, the jury returned a verdict of “found drowned”.

Edward was buried at Queensgate Cemetery, Beverley on 12 October 1916.

Florence Mary Estill was born 10 June 1894 in Scarborough. She is the daughter of John Hazelwood Estill (b 1867 Pickering) and Annie Cornforth (b 1867 Malton) who were married 6 July 1893 at Brompton Parish Church. Florence was baptised 12 August 1894 at Brompton Parish Church.

In 1901 the family are living in Brompton and John Estill is an insurance agent. Florence is aged 6 and her brother Lawrence is aged 5. By 1911 still living in Brompton but now John is a labourer, Florence is a domestic and Lawrence a hall boy.

John died 1915 and buried 23 November 1915 at Brompton Parish Church. Annie died 1955 at Hengate, Brompton and buried 8 November 1955 at Brompton Parish church.

Lawrence was born 3 December 1895 and baptised 8 March 1896 in Brompton Parish church. Minnie 1893. He married 1917 in Scarborough Dawson, born 15 September. In 1921 they are living at Station Cottage, Station Lane, Cayton where he is a ticket collector for London & Northeast Railway. In 1939 they are still living at the same house, and he is now a bill poster for the railway. Lawrence died 21 December 1972 at this same address and Minnie on 16 February 1989.

Edward Hall and his wife Florence had a child, Elsie Adelaide Hall born 20 September 1915 in Scarborough. She was baptised 24

October 1915 at Brompton Parish Church. She sadly died 27 October 1916 and buried 6 November 1916 at Brampton Parish Church, though she is also recorded on the gravestone of her father in Beverley.

So, in a matter of days Florence has not only buried her husband but also her daughter.

In 1921 she has gone to live with her grandfather Joh Harwood at Hoggarth Hill, Cloughton. But on 26 October 1927 at Cloughton Parish Church she married Cyril Lister Horswood, he is aged 25 (b 22 May 1902) a forester of Moorfield, Burniston and she is aged 33 a widow of Hoggarth Hill, Cloughton.

1939 Florence is still living at Hoggarth Hill with her sons and mother. Cyril appears to be at 4 Market Place, Thirsk as a general labourer.

They had two sons – Edward Laurence Horswood, born 10 January 1930 in Scarborough, and died 27 December 2011 in Uxbridge, Middlesex.

Eric Lister Horswood born 18 December 1932 in Scarborough and died 20 August 2013 in York.

Cyril died 1967 in Scarborough and Florence died 1983 in Scarborough.

So, it seems that after losing her husband and child within days of each other – she found happiness again in marriage and having two further children. So, it did have a happy ending.

Spotlight On Foston on the Wolds

including Brigham, Gembling
and Great Kelk

The parish Foston on the Wolds is in the Wapentake of Dicking, and contains the townships of Foston, Brigham, Gembling and Great and Little Kelk. It lies 4 miles south east of Driffield and 4 miles from the East Yorkshire coast, and stretches for 5 miles from north to south. The village of Foston is over a mile long, stretching north east from Mill Lane at Foston Beck and Pitwerry Drain to the junction of Long Lane and Old Howe Lane towards Gembling. It was possibly an Anglian settlement and although not actually on the Yorkshire Wolds, was possibly named such to distinguish it from Foston in North Yorkshire. In 1935 the townships became civil parishes.

Foston stands on a chalk stream tributary of the River Hull – Foston Beck – and this stream was used to provide power to various mills for flour and ‘fulling’ and a brewery. Although the manufacture of cloth was not significant in the area following the decline of the Beverley industry in the thirteenth century, a fulling mill was recorded at Foston in 1565, and three fulling mills were later recorded there.

‘Fulling mills’ were used to bleach, shrink and thicken cloth to make it more weather proof. A new flour mill was built on the site in 1747. The open fields around Foston were enclosed in 1780, and special provision was made for the miller. This allowed him to divert the beck into a drainage ditch to allow him to carry out repairs to the mill or to scour the beck. Sir William St Quintin, 5th Baronet, bought the mill in 1792, and spent

some £1,500 over the next four years on repairs and improvements. By the time he had finished, two water wheels drove four pairs of grinding stones. Equipment also included two flour cylinders, four bolting mills, two corn-screens, a fan and acorn-drying kiln. Access to the mill was possible by boat along Foston Beck from the Driffield Canal. Water power was supplemented by a steam engine by 1854, the mill being one of only eleven in the county to be modernised in this way. It was also one of only four in the county to be fitted with rollers, which were used to produce fine white flour, of a quality which could not be produced by stones. The building burnt down in 1895-6. A new building was erected, and milling was recorded in 1925. In 1970, the building was in use by the adjacent farm, although it now had a turbine engine. The brewery closed in 1910 and the last flour mill in 1925.

The landscape is mainly flat, with many small streams, making it suitable for growing crops. The River Hull/Driffield canal, which opened in 1770, joined the Foston Beck near Brigham. The Foston Beck being navigable meant that many

goods could be transported to and from Foston and Beverley/Hull. Alternatively, goods and people went to Driffield, Bridlington and Beverley by canter. There are only a couple of side roads in Foston – Sheepdike Lane/Cowslam Lane leading from the main road (Mill Lane) to Brigham, and Long Lane leading from Old Howe Lane to Gembling and Kelk. Most of the farmhouses lay along the main roads and were built of brick in the 18th century. There are some single storey cottages near the site of the old vicarage, and some 19th century houses near the water mill – one

of which – MillHouse – is now a Grade II listed building. The Cross Keys Inn – which was mentioned in 1796 – closed in WWI and converted to a dwelling-house. The Plough Inn – which opened about 1933 – was on Main Street, but it closed in 2009 and was also made into a house.

Brigham has four 19th century farmhouses – one called Manor House and another Little Brigham. The Brigham Arms which replaced The Board about 1830's, stood facing the canal until 1909 when it was closed. It is now derelict. There is a small bridge over the canal here. Near Brigham there are buildings called Fisholme Barn – which was the name of a nearby medieval manor with a moat and other earthworks. The Blue Ball – also known as the Gate Inn – was situated at Frodingham Bridge. This pub was there in 1823 and closed in 1918. Gembling has 2 notable houses – one built c. 1840, the other 18th century. Gembling Lane End Farm has an old Wagon Shed and Gembling House is an early 19th century farmhouse. In March 1916 a zeppelin dropped a bomb on Gembling.

In Great Kelk the houses lie – in the main – on the eastern side of the main road. Most of the houses are brick built but 2 have chalk in them. In 1849 there were 10 houses, 8 homesteads, 20 cottages and more than 10 'garths'. The Chestnut Horse which also replaced the Board public house c. 1860's has a date stone of 1793. It is now closed (temporarily?). The parish church at Foston was originally called All Saints (according to the Baines directory for 1823 when Rev. Sidney Smith was rector there) but change to the present St Andrew's. It dates back to 1300, and though only a little of that church remains it has been Grade II listed since 1966. It consists of a nave dating from

the 12th century, a chancel dating from the early 13th, and the west tower, which dates from the late 14th century. There are some other early features, including a 12th century tub font, an effigy of a knight and the base of a medieval cubical sandstone cross (also listed). The first resident vicar was appointed in 1381, prior to that the rectors lived elsewhere. Since 1947 the vicar has ministered to 5 parishes – St. Andrew – Foston, St. Leonard – Beeford, St. James of Compostella-Lissett, St. Nicholas – Dunnington and St. Elgin – North Frodingham, and is based in Beeford. (All these churchyards have MI books available on our website). In 1886 new seating was provided by Sir Tatton Sykes. In 1552 there were 3 bells in the belfry, but only 2 in 1764. 3 new bells were cast in 1827 – 1 being made by James Harrison at his bell foundry in Barton upon Humber. Inside the church are a number of dedicated items and memorials. Most prominent are 2 Rolls of Honour for WW1. There are other items given in dedication – a table to the memory of Charles Forman; doors in memory of Rev. Edward Grey; lighting in memory of Marmaduke & Lucy Sellers; the clock in the tower for Mary Crompton; a screen for Fred Barnes; a window to the memory of Rev. Frederick Mitchell; the altar in memory of Jarvis Johnson; the pulpit dedicated to Sir Tatton Sykes; candle holders for Walter King and a stool and chairs for John Jones. More details from these memorials (including the burial register information) are in our Monumental Inscription Book – Foston on the Wolds. The church is open to visitors on Wednesdays.

A Wesleyan Chapel was built in 1802, but replaced in 1879, the previous building being used as a Memorial Hall until 1952, when it was demolished and a new parish hall built.

This was in use up till 1967. A second chapel for the Independents was built by Samuel Stables in 1814 and later connected with the chapel in North Frodingham, but it closed in 1865 and only the remains are left, near the mill.

There was a chapel of St. Margaret in Gt. Kelkin 1328. The Wesleyans built a chapel in 1814 which was replaced in 1894. It was on Main Street near to the Chestnut Horse Inn. The Wesleyan Chapel in Brigham was built in 1819 and remained in use until the 1950's. The Primitive Methodists built a chapel by the green in Gembling in 1845. It was disused by 1954 and had been demolished by 1968.

There were monthly meetings in Kelk attended by the Quakers in the late 17th/early 18th century, but by the mid 1800's this venue was changed to Bridlington. There was a schoolmaster in Foston in 1713, and by 1835 there were 2 schools – 1 with 28 boys and the other having 4 boys and 12 girls. There was another in Kelk with 9 boys and 8 girls, but these schools gradually disappeared. By 1871 all the children were educated at schools in neighbouring villages. In 1872 a new school was built between Foston and Gembling, supported by contributions and fees, of 35 boys, 24 girls and 12 infants. It was taken over by the County Council and enlarged in 1908/09. The pupil numbers fell to 39 in 1969 and closed finally in 2013. Now the nearest schools are at Nafferton, North Frodingham and Driffield. In 1823 in Foston there were 10 farmers, 2 grocer/drapers, 2 wheelwrights and 2 blacksmiths. Rev. Sidney Smith was the rector, Robert Bell the boot and shoemaker, Joseph Garbutt & Co. the corn miller/coal merchant and Jane Drinkrow the victualler at the Cross Keys.

In Brigham there were 7 farmers, George Blakestone was the victualler of the Board and Edmund Johnson the victualler of the Blue Ball at Frodingham Bridge.

In Gembling there were 8 farmers – one being John Mainprize who was also the carrier to Hull on Thursdays and Foston on Fridays.

In Great Kelk there were 8 farmers and 2 in Little Kelk. There was also George Dixon a gardener, Joseph Howgate a shoemaker and Robert Watson victualler of the Board.

In 1892 in Foston (Bulmer's) there were these trades and professions -

Abraham Bros. (Frederick, Charles, and Joseph William), millers, Foston mill ; William Allman, grocer, blacksmith & victualler, Cross Keys; Joseph Braimbridge, Jomer; Emily Drinkrow, grocer; Robert Drinkrow, coal dealer; Rev. W.H. Higgins M.A. and J.P.; James William Hodgson, blacksmith; William Grounds Mott, beer retailer; Robert Postill, horse dealer & Robert Spink, tailor.

Farmers were – George Robert & Robert Easby; William Green; John Botterill Johnson; Edward Jones; Marmaduke Sellers & Henry Wilson, Church farm. In 1911 in Foston these trades were carried out – Farmers – Joseph Coultas; Henry Covill; Frank Abram; Ada Williams; George Easby; Thomas Stork; Marmaduke Sellers; John Wiles; Tom Scott & George Story. Edmund & Ernest Webster – blacksmiths; Robert Spink, Fred Barnes & Mary Barr – tailors; Annie Hoggard & Jane Fenton – dressmakers; Robert Postill – fellmonger, John Postill – horsedealer; Amos & Fanny Darling – postmaster/mistress; Thomas

Southern – vicar; Mary Clayton – school caretaker; Frederick Taylor – mole & rabbit catcher; Walter Thurlow – innkeeper; Joseph & John Braimbridge – joiner & wheelwrights; John Croft – gardener & Harry Croft – railway clerk; Frederick Fenton – fruit hawker; Wm. Walter – coal merchant; Wm. Heseltine – Inn keeper, Cross Keys; Wm. Scott – carrier; George Foster – Railway worker; Wm. Jarrett – Water Bailiff; Stephen Griffin – groom; Isaac Fowler – flour dealer & Thomas Molton – shepherd.

In Brigham there were 9 farmers – Eliza Masterman; John Johnson; George Dunning; Isaac Hope; John Jones; Henry Gilbank; Wm. & Caleb Horsey & Nathan Morris. Henry Watson was a sand merchant; John Griffin & John Wilson – blacksmiths and 1 homeless person – George Rayner – an agricultural labourer – was found living in a barn.

In Gembling 6 were farmers – Wm. Lowish; Walter Rymer; Henry & Wm. Ullyott; George Morris & John Watson. There were 4 carriers – George Nicholson; John Greenlaw; Tom Boyes & Wm. Farthing, and a cartman – John Waite. Fred & Bertha Jackson were the elementary school teachers; Rachel Greenlaw was a shopkeeper and Alfred Walker was a council roadman. In GreatKelk there were 7 farmers – George Agar; Wm. Knaption; Wm. Sellers; Richard Nettleton; Mark Bell; Frederick Ullyott & Henry Staveley. 2 tailors – John Kirby & John Denny; 2 postmen – John Baron & John Drewery; Wm. Laybourne – publican; Henry & John Hall – Blacksmiths; David Plowman – shepherd; Thomas Scott – roadman; Sarah Sampson – dressmaker; Milner Watson – wheelwright; Wm. Beal – shoemaker & Tom Duke – groom.

The rest in all the villages were mostly agricultural labourers.

Today the villages are mostly private houses with the home owners commuting to work in Driffield, Beverley, Bridlington and Hull. There is a gift shop at Village Farm in Foston and a village hall. There is accommodation in pods at Kelk Beck Cottages on Main Street, Kelk, and at Bridge Farm Holiday Cottages in Brigham.

Our publication for this area is – Monumental Inscription Books – Foston on the Wolds (M081).

Janet Bielby

The eyfhs President

Dr M Oliver

A warm greeting to all EYFHS members. Having recently been appointed as President, I thought it would be appropriate to introduce myself. Long-standing members may recognise my name but many of you will not. My association with the Society began in the early 1990s when membership was high, and we had upwards of 150 members attending meetings in Beverley. The Society also hosted another three monthly meetings across its area, including the very successful Scarborough Branch. Things are very different now.

I became the EYFHS Secretary, a job I held for over 12 years, at a time when very few people had a home computer and family history research was done without the aid of modern genealogical websites. They simply did not exist. The position was rather

like a modern-day helpdesk. I received lots of handwritten written letters requesting information and advice, and answering was a time-consuming task. However, it did afford the opportunity to communicate directly with individuals and create relationships. Our excellent Help Desk co-ordinator, Janet Bielby, delivers much the same role today. I have also acted as Chairman and have recently completed my role as Immediate Past Chairman. I am honoured to have been asked to stand as President.

Today, the EYFHS is facing declining membership and rising costs. Interest in Family History has never been stronger but researchers of today do not see the necessity to join societies. They turn to commercial companies for their information because they can provide lots of material in one place. They take DNA tests and search for different kinds of connections to those we initially sought. Times have moved on. Many are not aware, and why should they be, that Family History Societies around the country were the first to gather and collate that information, all voluntarily. The companies have now developed and created access to many resources that would have taken decades to produce in the past. They have an important role to play. Reading some remarks and questions on online sites I am encouraged by the knowledge and expertise of the responses, even if some questions indicate a basic lack of understanding of the documents under discussion. We all have to learn and I, like many of you, will have made basic errors in the early days of our research. It was belonging to a family history society, such as ours, that kept me on the right track.

But times have changed, as they should, and we must consider if family history societies

still have a role to play in the modern world. Personally, I believe they do, but not perhaps in the same format as in the past. I am sad about the lack of attendance at meetings, because the personal interaction with like-minded people is invaluable, but I understand why people with busy lives do not attend when information is at their fingertips elsewhere.

So, where do we go from here? The EYFHS is under going a series of discussions on this very point. Those of you who have read the minutes of the recent AGM will know that one option has already been proposed and will be an item on the 2026 AGM Agenda. I would like to make it clear that this is not the only option, others are currently being explored and any comments, ideas and help from you will be very welcome. I look forward with a positive approach to the future of the Society, but we need to acknowledge that some things do have to change and we all need to be flexible in our outlook.

The Waite Connection. (forBT)

In the early days of my family history research, I was struck by how many of my Shores ancestors had the name of Waite included as a middle name. My Gt Grandfather, Arthur Joseph Waite Shores, was born at 24 Porter Street, Hull in 1861. His parents were Fanny (nee Parish) born at Huttoft Bank, LIN in 1832 and Joseph Waite Shores born at Hemingbrough in East Yorkshire in 1829. Joseph was a master mariner but sadly died aged 36 in 1865, leaving Fanny to bring up their only child on her own. Joseph had been one of the nine children of William Waite Shores and his

wife Mary Ann Backhouse. The majority of those children, including the girls, had 'Waite' included in their names and it was a tradition that was also passed on through the children of William's siblings. It was obvious that the Waite connection was important to this family but so far, I had not found any link to it, nor had I found William's parents' marriage. This was in the days before computers in every home and access to Internet resources, when every small piece of information required a visit to a record office or library, was hard won and like gold dust! I knew there must be a marriage between a Waite and a Shores somewhere but where? I had only a few printed indexes and the original unindexed IGI on microfiche to help. I had no idea when and where the merger of the two names might have occurred. At the time I had work, family, study and several other commitments and family history went on the back burner. When I did have the time, I concentrated on other lines and as time went by, I started to explore some of the resources that were now slowly becoming more readily available. Then, in the early 2000s JISC made C19th Century Newspapers available electronically to some educational establishments (later becoming available in libraries). Up until then newspapers had been on microfilm with no search facility, but now you could put in a name. Bingo!

The Yorkshire Gazette announced the death, in 1838, of Mrs Mary Shores at Goole, but what struck me was that the deceased was described as the 'eldest sister of the late John Waite, Esq. Dentist of Old Burlington Street, London'. There it was – the Waite Connection! I now had more idea of what I was looking for and found the marriage of my 4 x Gt grandparents,

Joseph Shores and Mary Waite in 1794 in Hull, Holy Trinity Parish Registers. That explained the connection but left me with another question – why was she described in the death announcement as John Waite's sister and not the wife of Joseph Shores? It seemed that the Waite connection was significant enough to eclipse mention of her husband. So, who was John Waite?

In my mind I associated early dentistry with the rough and ready barber/surgeons of the Sweeney Todd ilk. How wrong I was! First of all, Old Burlington Street, mentioned in the notice of death, was in the heart of Westminster, the historic core of London and consisted of substantial three or four storied Georgian buildings, many still extant today. I knew from Mary's death notice that John had predeceased her, and I found a notice of his death in the Yorkshire Gazette of 4 Nov 1820. He died suddenly at the Swann Inn, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire on 23 Oct 1820 while on his way home to Westminster after a visit north. The notice stated that 'he was of great eminence in his profession and of strict integrity in his private character'.

Further research revealed that far from being an unskilled tooth-puller, he was greatly respected and attended the Prince Regent, later George IV. He was described as the 'best practitioner in London' with an extensive practice. Not only did he attend royalty, but also other notable figures. His death was much lamented by the poet Lord Byron, who mentioned him several times in his letters home. Byron visited John Waite on his infrequent trips back to England from Italy 'for I can't find a good dentist here'. He relied on John Waite to supply him with brushes and tooth powder in his self-imposed exile. When his publisher,

John Murray, informed him of the dentist's death Byron was greatly moved. He called his death a 'national loss' and declared 'such men ought to be immortal and not your stupid heroes'. His description of John Waite gives us a flavour of the man himself 'he was such a delight, such a coxcomb, such a jewel of a man – who or what can replace him?' Even allowing for Byron's poetic licence he was clearly upset at the sad news of his passing, even if concern for himself was at the core of his sorrow.

Byron's question was eventually answered when John's son, George Derby Waite, followed in his father's footsteps and became an eminent dental surgeon in his own right. I have no evidence that George attended British royalty, but in 1843 he did attend the court and nobility of the Russian Imperial Family in St Petersburg. His name also appears in the accounts of Charles Darwin for removing five 'grinders' at one sitting, under the new substance of chloroform. Darwin suffered greatly with his teeth and was delighted with the extractions during which he hardly felt anything. Chloroform was first used on an obstetric patient in 1847 so Darwin's experience, in 1852, must have been among the first for a dental patient. George Waite was instrumental in getting dentistry acknowledged as a legitimate branch of medicine and wrote 'An Appeal to Parliament, the Medical Profession and the Public, on the Present State of Dental Surgery' in 1841, in which he advocated no-one be allowed to practice without undergoing strict examination by the Royal College of Surgeons, a body of which he himself was a member. After his death in 1880 an obituary, published in the British Medical Journal, mentioned his 'kind and amiable disposition and his courteous manner' which put me in mind

of The Yorkshire Gazette's description of his father. It was not only George who entered the medical profession. His brother Charles Derby Waite was also a member of the Royal College of Surgeons, but he practised as a medical doctor. A notice calling for all debts and demands relating to John's estate to be paid or presented to his widow, also declared that John's brother, Charles Waite M.D. would be conducting business as usual at the Old Burlington Street address. So, the Waites have been found, and they turned out to be a commendable lot and the name worthy of keeping in the family, although I suspect it was John's brush with royalty that impressed the Shores. My 4 x gt grandmother must have been immensely proud of her little brother. The problem of the Waite connection is now solved, but like all family history it throws up more questions than it answers. John Waite has an impressive plaque to his memory in St James, Westminster giving his age as 49 at death, meaning he was born c. 1771. His sister Mary was described as 'of this parish' when she married William Shores in Holy Trinity Hull but I had found no record of her baptism there. Then, while throwing John's name into the depths of the Internet I came across an article on the death of a Captain George Waite and his wife in India in 1815, described as the brother of John Waite of Old Burlington Street. Again, evidence of the importance of John Waite's position in society. This article proved to be significant, in that it led me to the marriage notice of the recently deceased couple in the Lincoln News Column of the Stamford Mercury, in which George was described as the son of Mrs Jane Waite of Lincoln. This was a vital piece of information. Like a lot of us I had checked the public trees online and found a tree for John that had him born in Anderby in Lincolnshire but there was no paper

trail, and I just could not accept it without more evidence. Now, I had a definite link to a place and his mother's first name. By searching for a John Waite with a mother's first name meant I could be more selective, and this led me to the parish records for St Michael on the Mount, Lincoln, where I found John, baptised the son of Charles and Jane Waite on 16 Sep 1771. I then began a trawl of the original register available on FMP (never rely on indexes alone!) I knew from her death notice that Mary was his eldest sister and there she was too, baptised in the same parish on 7 Jan 1763. Captain George Waite had been described as in his 37th year of his age when he died, which put him as younger than John and I found his baptism on 15 June 1778, the youngest of Charles and Jane's seven children. There they all were, together in one record, in the right years and in the right order. I am now as satisfied as I can be that I have the right family. That question, at least, is answered.

How did a Lincolnshire lad progress to such heights? He not only had the education to become one of country's leading dental surgeons but also had the manners to be accepted into the world of London's elite. Mary's marriage record to my 4 x Gt Grandfather, Joseph Shores, had revealed him to be a ropemaker, not a particularly auspicious profession.

Another major question is around his marriage. John Waite's memorial plaque in St James, Westminster, also commemorates his wife, Ann Lloyd Waite, who died in 1850. There was a marriage licence issued for Anne Lloyd Doughty, of St Leonards, Shoreditch and John Waite of St James, Westminster in October 1817 and the marriage duly took place at St Leonards Shoreditch on 10 November 1817. On hearing

of John's death, Lord Byron recalls hearing that John Waite had recently married, so this appears to be the relevant entry. John is described as a bachelor and Anne as a spinster, but they already had a family of ten children by this time. The eldest two had Doughty as a middle name, confirming that they've been together as a couple for at least eighteen years and Anne was the mother of all the children. If they were both single, as stated, why had they not married before? I will probably never know the answer to that question. It is strange, moving in the society they did, that they chose not to, thus rendering their children illegitimate. I feel there that they chose not to, thus rendering their children illegitimate. I feel there must have been some impediment to the marriage taking place before 1817. Further research is indicated here! However, their unconventional relationship did not seem to upset John's sister. Mary was obviously very proud of her brother and was responsible for his name being perpetuated down the generations and well into the C20th. I, too, am proud of my 4 x great uncle. He is high on the list of ancestors I would like to meet.

Hemingbrough is now in the Selby District of North Yorkshire.

International Genealogical Index compiled by the Church of Latter Day Saints, now the basis for www.familysearch.org.

Originally Joint Information Systems Committee now simply known as JISC providing digital resources to educational establishments.

American Library of Dental Practice (1839)

Letter to Samuel Rogers 3 Mar 1818

Letter to John Murray 18 Nov 1820

Letter to Augusta Leigh 18 Nov 1818

Letter to John Murray 18 Nov 1818

Monthly Review of Dental Surgery 1881
Vol. 1, p540

'Charles Darwin and the Dentist' in the
Journal of the History of Dentistry Vol 66
No 1 Spring 2018

The Asiatic Journal Vol. II Jun-Dec 1816.

Stamford Mercury 6 Sep 1811.

Climbing Boys

Pete Lowden

I remember reading *The Water Babies*, by Charles Kingsley, as a child and being fascinated by the account of Tom, the chimney sweep's life and how a child, who was probably about the same age I was at the time, had had to work at such a job simply to survive. Of course, I read it for enjoyment and the story, very much like as I read *Swiss Family Robinson* and *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Just a little bit older, I remember reading *Oliver Twist* and his close brush with being an apprentice to the vicious thug of a chimney sweep called Mr Gamfield, and how the young Oliver viewed the prospect. Considering that he was an orphan in the workhouse, badly starved and beaten, and with no prospects at all, that he recoiled from being a 'climbing boy' was a revelation to me. Of course, both Kingsley and Dickens knew what the reality of such a job entailed as did their readers. I, in mid- 20th century Britain, had no idea.

On reflection though, reading those tales was probably one of the many factors that nourished my interest in history then. Since that time, and trust met here have been more years than I care to count since then, child chimney sweeps have rarely troubled my thoughts until recently when I came across an article in the *Hull Advertiser* about one. Pete Lowden

This sparked, not only memories of Tom and Oliver, but also a reflection on that good old phrase, 'Victorian values' that has been bandied about by politicians since Mrs Thatcher's time without ever taking into account what the reality of such a phrase actually meant for those less advantaged who lived through those 'values' being pursued with a vigour. That the industries that paid for the rise of Great Britain to pre-eminence in the 19th century was more often than not built upon the brutal exploitation of those less fortunate both here and abroad is hardly news yet this cognitive dissonance between reality and the thought processes of recent politicians leaves one questioning how such people were elected. Or indeed how well educated they really are even though they may scatter Latin phrases about to show their knowledge.

I'm reminded of my old college tutor, Dr Eric Sigsworth who wrote,

'Those who advocate a return to Victorian values usually choose examples suited to their prejudices, leaving a side other less attractive values which, however are an inextricable part of the whole. Those values selected as worthy of emulation are not only wrenched out of context, but are usually presented in an over-simplified form – sometimes so as to distort misleadingly.

I noticed such an example today (31/01/2025) where some politician was railing against 9 million people not in work and how this was bad for the country's continued growth economically. Yet, as we all know, a good few of those people are probably out of work because of government policies that have encouraged businesses to relocate abroad where labour costs are cheaper. Of

course, central government has not taken up that slack by investing in public works as they did in the 1930s which is the double whammy. And this politician was the Chief Secretary to the Treasury when Liz Truss was the Prime Minister. I rest my case. Anyway back to chimney sweeps.

The newspaper article in question was printed April 30th in 1830, and the event occurred in Deal, Kent at the Naval Yard there, and was headlined, 'Shocking Death of Chimney Sweep'. The account detailed how a ten-year-old chimney sweep boy was sent down a chimney where a fire had burst out. The top of the chimney had been covered with mats and it was thought the fire was extinguished. Accordingly the boy was sent down and quickly came out again crying and saying his feet hurt from the heat. A hammock was thrown down the chimney to smother the flames, and the boy was sent down the chimney once again.

'Soon after, after cries of distress were heard, and a rope was let down, which he grasped two or three times, but could not hold fast by. A loop was made at the end of the rope and he was told to put it over his head but he replied he could not. His voice was heard no more'.

Eventually the chimney was broken down and amongst the many flues the boy's body was found.

'Head downwards, completely burnt from the waist upwards, the skull being bared (sic)'.

The article, probably reflecting the growing unease that wider society was beginning to see with this exploitation of children, stated,

‘Can anything more atrocious be conceived, that to expose a creature of ten or twelve years to such a death, merely to save a few shillings in the construction of a chimney? Were there a law passed tomorrow to put down this abominable trade, in a year after people would wonder by what perversion of reason it had so long been defended. But while the law is withheld, laziness and humanity will never want an excuse, and benevolent individuals and societies will work in vain’.

The sentiment of the above gives credit to the author. Where they let themselves down is that there was already legislation against this cruel practice and that it had been in place for a considerable time but widely ignored. The reason why it was ignored? Simply because to do otherwise than send small boys (and a few girls) up chimneys cost money and the people who wanted their chimneys cleaned, i.e. the middle classes and above, did not want to spend more money than they had to. A case of simple economics and even simpler greed.

Let’s start at the beginning and where better than the introduction of chimneys to houses. No don’t worry I’m not going back to the Middle Ages and holes in the roof of the hut to let the smoke out although the subject is interesting. The fireplace’s ancestor began in the 13th century when they began to be placed against the wall of a manor house or castle and these were vented by a hole in the wall further up. About a century later a hood was placed, protruding outwards over the fireplace to direct the smoke up towards this venting which were now situated within a flue and with this innovation the chimney was born. As *The Companion to Local History* suggests, the development of the chimney led to a further development;

domestic privacy. From this small change in internal domestic architecture smaller rooms became the norm as opposed to the huge halls and banquet rooms which had been the norm before in Medieval times.

‘Excessive draughts were no longer necessary to sustain a large central fire, and consequently corridors and stairways were enclosed, external doors provided with porches and windows more extensively glazed. No doubt the health of the occupants improved significantly as a result, as did the efficiency of the kitchen’.

By the Tudor period I’m sure we are all familiar with those beautiful decorative brickwork chimneys of the great houses. The fireplaces to these were usually very wide with enough room to sit in them and if necessary, especially in the kitchen, allow someone to turn a spit of meat with some meat hanging from it.

By the Tudor period I’m sure we are all familiar with those beautiful decorative features.

The second problem; that of removing the accumulation of soot was much trickier for many of the chimneys had not been constructed to allow a human being to ascend them. Often, they were only 9 inches by 12 and in some instances 9 inches square. I have seen instances recorded where the chimney was 7 inches square. The journal you are holding in your hands is 8.25 inches long which should give you pause for thought. So how could this problem be resolved?

I would like to say that after much soul searching and reflection people sadly began to employ children to climb up the chimney

and scrape the soot away because there was no other way. However, that's not true. The truth is that a young child was the easiest and cheapest option to choose.

Children, since ancient times, have always been, if not a willing workforce, then a quickly conscripted workforce for the family. And when a job dictates that the only person who can do it has to be small then the birth of the chimney sweep's climbing boys begins.

Because the work space was so cramped the climbing boy often had to take off all of his clothes to do the job. This was known as 'buffing' and may be the root of the expression 'in the buff' meaning to be naked. There are stories in the newspapers of the time where boys have become wedged in the chimneys because their clothes have rucked up and trapped them. Often these stories have a sad end for the child.

Now you may think, 'what's the matter with a little soot in the chimney?' but sadly we aren't talking about 'a little soot' nor are we talking about the chimneys you may see today. Firstly, chimneys were, as mentioned above, extremely narrow. They were also designed to fit in such away that in a large upper middle-class house you may have chimneys coming up from the fireplace that meandered like a snake, sometimes having parts where it was running horizontally before resuming its vertical ascent. In such parts soot could accumulate to such an extent it could block the flue. More seriously it could catch fire which in turn could lead to the house burning down.

So 'climbing boys' were an essential part of the smooth running of such a household. However, as you may have gathered from

young *Oliver Twist's* reaction, it wasn't something you'd really put your hand up for. Master Chimney Sweeps wanted children as apprentices. In the ordinary course of events if a young child was apprenticed to a trade the parents or guardians would have to pay a premium to the master or employer to have their child indentured to that trade. Strangely enough the chimney sweep trade was the only one, apart from the special cases of both the Army and the Navy, where the master paid the parents for their child. Just this fact alone shows how abhorrent the trade was.

What is even more abhorrent was the fact that sometimes parents sold their children into such a trade. Another way the master sweeps gained recruits was simply to steal children and secrete them away until the child had learned not to run away. One shies away from what methods were used to achieve this aim. Samuel Pratt wrote in 1802 that he encountered 'three pitiful boys' near St Martin's Lane in London and he asked them of their lives.

'They were in their boyhood; the youngest six, the next seven and the third told me he was 'past nine a little bit and going on for ten.'

The eldest one went on to say, 'If he lived would rather be a shoe black or a galley slave than a chimney sweeper, especially to the brute (his master) who had gone into that house, for he not only almost starves but beats me and my brothers to death, though I have gone all weathers through my morning work for many years. I have nothing to sleep on but some of these sacks in a soot cellar, and what's worse, my master won't allow us to wash and tight ourselves up (free from rags) not once a month; so that I

am quite sore with the clogged stuff that has almost eat into my flesh – only look, sir, at these sores and great lumps’

A Chimney Sweep master, in evidence to the Children’s Employment Commission as late as 1862 stated of one boy in his employ,

‘Part of his knee-caps had got torn off, the gristle all showed white, and the guiders (tendons) all around were like white string or animitation of white cotton; his back was covered with sores all the way up. To harden his knees, a lotion made of old ‘netting’ (i.e. urine kept long for the purpose) simmered with hot cinders, was put on them; and to make him hold his knees straight the while, he had a brush-tail tied up and down his back, and something else like it at the front and he was made to walk in this way 20, 40, or 50 times up and down the room. It was like killing him, and I had to stand by and see it all. However, he was the clumsiest boy I ever saw and no activity.’

Which brings us on to even worse things. Soot is acidic. As such it can eat into soft tissue especially when the child is using their knees and elbows to gain purchase on the walls of the chimney which would be grazed and cut. Eventually callouses would form but they in turn would be eaten away and ad infinitum. Climbing boys were also subject to ‘sooty warts’ which were cancers of the groin and scrotum due to their failure to remove the soot from their bodies regularly. As the example above cited by Samuel Pratt, washing once a month was not enough to save you from this disease. As Sue Wilkes states, ‘Climbing boys breathed, ate and slept covered in soot’.

The constant squeezing of the body into the unnatural shape that climbing chimneys

brought about left the child, by the time it was entering its second decade, a cripple as their young bones had been deformed by their constant climbing in the cramped conditions of the chimneys.

So, I think we have established that the profession was not one which was entered into voluntarily. In fact, the chimney sweeps’ apprentices’ lot was recognised as both dangerous and that they needed protection. They were the first group of workers to be afforded protection by statute. If we look at legislation that was instituted to protect workers then the Factory Act of 1833 and the 1844 Act to stop women and children working in coal mines arrive considerably later that the legislation to protect climbing boys.

In 1788 Jonas Hanway managed to get an Act on the books that limited chimney sweeps to a maximum of six apprentices and of these none were to be less than eight years old. Of course, we have already seen in the account from Samuel Pratt some 20 years after this Act was passed that six and seven-year-olds were still being used. The Act could easily be circumnavigated by not registering the children as apprentices. This was the first such piece of legislation. The second was in 1834 but in the intervening years Bills had been proposed in Parliament, select committees had investigated and both Houses of Parliament had debated the merits of the issue. All had foundered on self-interest.

This was the self-interest of the landed nobility who controlled the House of Lords. They realised that in accepting the proposed legislation they would have to have their own chimneys widened or changed and this would have cost them money. Much better

to sacrifice young children than spend money that could be better spent on fine wine and gambling.

'Lord Lauderdale ridiculed the 'zealots' who wanted to help the climbing boys. He accused them of putting their safety before that of the general public, who needed protecting from chimney fires.'

The Act of 1834 that involved magistrates was a step in the right direction as apprentices to this trade had to give their consent in front of two of them. This routine is savaged in *Oliver Twist* showing the degree of interest the magistrates often showed as yet another burden of local government was placed upon them. Another part of this legislation was that chimneys now had to be constructed to a minimum size of 14 inches by 9 inches. Of course this didn't change the chimneys already constructed. Unfortunately, too, no authority was made responsible for overseeing this radical change in the building regulations and it fell by the wayside.

A further Act in 1840 forbade anyone below the age of 21 to climb chimneys nor were sweeps allowed apprentices younger than 16. And yet the Act was studiously ignored by all and young children were still routinely pushed up chimneys with pins stuck into their bare feet to make them climb faster. Once a sweep was inside a house no one could stop them from sending the child, indeed any child, up the chimney. Episodes where children had become stuck in chimneys in some of the finest houses in the land including Apsley House, the home of the Duke of Wellington, and Lambeth Palace, the Bishop of London's residence abounded. The Houses of Parliament provided a clear example of this failure to

observe the law when it was revealed that 900 chimneys had been 'cored', removing excess mortar from the inside of the chimney, by five boys in 1862. The law was unenforceable if the establishment who legislated it did not abide by it.

As you can see, still in the 1860s, climbing boys, known now as 'assistants' instead of apprentices, were still being pushed up chimneys some thirty years after the abolition of slavery. Victorian values at its truest schizophrenic self.

In 1864 the Chimney Sweepers Regulation Act was passed. This Act stated quite clearly that no child under 10 could work in any way with a chimney sweep and no one under 16 could be an apprentice in that trade. The rider with this legislation was that it was backed up by imprisonment with hard labour as well as the usual fine. Monitored by concerned citizens who could take their concerns to the local police things began to change. There were still die-hards who resisted change both amongst sweeps who no doubt told anyone who cared to listen that 'it was good enough when I was a lad etc', and of course amongst customers who had intricate chimney work that they did not want to change.

This group, mainly aristocrats and large institutions such as town halls, hospitals and asylums were reluctant to accept any alteration to the status quo and fought in the House of Lords against any change. However, public opinion was flowing to the tide of change and further legislation placed the final nail in the coffin of this barbaric treatment of children in 1875 when chimney sweeps had to be licensed to practice their trade. The fear of losing their licence finally convinced the chimney

sweep to stop sending boys up chimneys. It had taken nearly a century of legislation to save the children of poverty – stricken parents or from the workhouse from this cruel and dangerous employment for which they were not paid.

The most difficult aspect of this whole episode in British history to understand is that in 1803, George Smart, a Surrey carpenter, had invented a mechanical chimney sweeper. This was perhaps familiar to us older folk, the hollow extension rods that could be joined together, topped with a flexible brush head that could be opened out or closed up as required. However, this machine was viewed with disfavour by the sweeps as this placed the work of cleaning the chimney upon themselves rather than sending a boy up to do the work. Over a decade after the invention of this machine only 50 to 60 were in use in the London area and when one thinks of all the chimneys in that area it can be seen that this change was not viewed favourably as long as the source of climbing boys appeared infinite. When that change happened, the sweep had to resort to his brushes and the children of the poor were saved from at least one source of danger in that world of Victorian values.

You may not be that surprised to hear that the plight of climbing boys rarely made the newspapers of the time and instances where they did are usually due to a death or criminal activity.

The Hull Packet of the 6th August 1811 made reference to a report made by the clerk to the courts to the magistrates at the Quarter Sessions that year. In this report it was stated that a chimney sweep's boy, named Joseph Flinders, had died in a chimney in

Hull. The gist of the report, that the boy had burnt to death from burning soot that may well have been ignited by carelessness once the boy was in the chimney, was the issue here. The fact that the coroner's court had failed to draw any conclusions from the event other than to state that the boy had burnt to death in the chimney worried the clerk. The clerk wanted the issue to be brought before the magistrates because in his words the coroner's jury had.

Without stating whether the fire that occasioned his death was lighted maliciously, in which case it would be murder; or negligently, without due regard for the safety of the boy which would be manslaughter; or by mere accident; which last, I hope will prove to be the case, and if the jury had stated this to their opinion, I should not have troubled you with the mention of this case.

The death of the child notwithstanding the issue here is an admin one. The clerk has an open file which he is hopeful that he can close. That a child had burnt to death in horrific conditions really is no consequence. It could well have been a man being trampled by a horse during a disturbance or a window cleaner falling from a ladder. Being burnt to death in a chimney flue was a hazard of the job of the climbing boy and not really newsworthy. It is a chilling insight into how society viewed those who worked in such circumstances.

Of course, there may have been good reason for chimney sweeps to be viewed with some caution. Chimney sweeps used to advertise their services at the crack of dawn. We are perhaps familiar with the milkman, newspaper delivery and some of you may be as old as me and remember the knife

and scissor sharpening man. These were the vestiges of the services that could be enjoyed by the householder from travelling sales people. The streets in those days must have been a cacophony of noise when the purveyors of services and commodities arrived. And the sweeps were always the first to arrive for they needed to complete their task before the household stirred and began to light the fires.

As such the servants needed to give access to the sweep in the early hours of the morning. This was a traumatic time for the servants for they not only had to continue with their day-to-day tasks but also keep an eye on the sweep and his boys. This was mainly to stop the spreading of soot everywhere, but also to watch out for opportunistic thefts by the sweep, for which the servant could be blamed.

In Driffield in the summer of 1822 such an occurrence happened when the school and dining room of the Rev. J. Earle were broken into and a number of items were stolen including a violin, a new umbrella, some gaiters and a small quantity of money. That same evening the National School and the Providence Chapel were also entered and the sacramental cup and table cloth were taken. The belief was that both of these robberies were committed by a company of chimney sweeps, who had taken a house in Driffield and 'decamped the evening the robberies were committed'.

A later news item from Hull appeared to show that crime does not always pay as two chimney sweep boys,

Of the names Lambert and Pattinson, were taken into custody at this place yesterday, on suspicion of having stolen from the

house of Mr. Wm. Bell, in English Street, a silver cream jug and some window curtains, and a person of the name of Cattley, is also in custody for having bought the same, knowing item to be stolen. So, we know that not all chimney sweeps' boys were like Tom and Oliver and the temptation to make their lives a little easier by taking someone else's property must have been great. However, their crimes laid against the abuse and cruelty they suffered on a day-to-day basis by society cannot be compared.

Maybe it was this buccaneer aspect of life that appealed to some boys. In 1831 a woman took her son to magistrates in Ilford, Essex. The newspaper report stated that she was a well-dressed woman, the widow of an officer. She stated that the boy was her son and that she wanted him apprenticed. The magistrates asked to what trade she desired him to take up and she said chimney sweep. The magistrates were appalled and asked why she chose this profession. She replied that she hadn't but her son was determined to be a sweep. She had argued and pleaded with him to change his mind but he was adamant. She had kept him confined but as soon as he was given his liberty, he ran off to be with the chimney sweeps. The magistrate questioned the boy who said what his mother had said was correct and that, 'nothing in the world delighted him so much as climbing to the chimney top and crying 'Sweep! Sweep!'. The magistrates duly signed his indentures.

From this account one can see that 'respectable society' saw the role of chimney sweep as a regrettable necessity and not something to be encouraged. This view was sharpened by the occasional 'mishap' that befell children working for Kingsley's archetypal Mr Grimes of their day.

In 1833 the local papers of Hull reported on an inquest on a John Wrigglesworth. This boy had suffocated in a flue.

‘It appears the deceased was sent down from the top of the chimney, after descending about 13 feet, he got into what is called – too appropriately – a ‘dead fine; from which it was impossible to extricate him until seven or eight hours had elapsed. He was found in a part of the flue which was about 7 by 8 inches square! According to the testimony of a bricklayer who helped to get the boy out, ‘his hands were above his head, and it was necessary to use a gavelock to get him out, as a lever, to prise him up’. He was wedged in. His soot cap was over his face. The boy was eight years old on the 6th of this month, and he had worked two years!

The verdict was accidental death. Yet, in this short account one can see how the press and most probably the readership, were viewing this practice. The use of exclamation marks and italics highlighting aspects of this trade which were deemed abhorrent indicated the way the view of the public was turning against the master chimney sweep’s treatment of his sooty slaves. This news item appeared in the very year that slavery was outlawed in the British Empire and many people could see the irony here, especially as the children employed in the sweep trade were as black as the negroes of West Africa.

However, sometimes poverty itself offered the best excuse for a child entering that profession. In 1838 another case appeared before the Hull Quarter Sessions. As reported in the local press,

‘Thomas Gawthorp, master chimney sweep, was brought before the Court, charged with

employing a child between six and seven years old to sweep chimneys contrary to the provisions of the Act in such cases made and provided. The mother of the child appeared in Court, and said that she had been living in Hull for many years, and that the boy, although not bound as an apprentice to the prisoner, had worked for him for the last five months. The mayor observed that it was extremely cruel to put a child of that age to such a business.

Mrs Mullins sworn; I am the mother of this boy who is about seven years old. He is employed by the prisoner as a sweep. He has been sweeping chimneys for the last five months, and I am to have something at the years’ end for his services. I am to have £2 per annum for two years. The prisoner here said it was only three weeks that he had employed the boy and not five months as stated by the mother’.

The magistrate read out the pertinent parts of the Act by which the prisoner was charged and the level offence that could be imposed upon him.

‘The Court inflicted the lowest penalty of 40 shillings upon the prisoner who said he would go to gaol rather than pay it. The mayor severely censured the conduct of the mother in thus cruelly disposing of her own child, and told her she ought to be ashamed of herself. The woman said she could not maintain the child and it would have to go to the workhouse’.

The Court here was displaying its abhorrence of both the trade of chimney sweeping and also the lack of any maternal instinct in the mother indicated a refreshing view of such practices. Yet, they could offer no solution to the problem. The child would go to the

workhouse and most probably would be apprenticed to some trade or other, possibly even once again as a chimney sweep's climbing boy and they themselves may be the ones to sign the indenture forms for they were trapped as surely as the mother and the boy in the moral swamp that was 'Victorian Values'. Until an efficient welfare state, which was an anathema to the laissez-faire economics of Victorian society, was established the poor and weak would always go to the wall.

A brief look at the local press shows a range of chimney sweeps, throughout the 1840s and 50s, being charged with cruelty and fined for using children to sweep chimneys.

In March 1848 James Batty was charged with assaulting and beating Edward Sullivan. This young boy was carried into the Town Hall and laid upon a table in front of the magistrates.

'The shawl was stripped off, and there was seen a poor little boy not able to walk but of necessity carried in. His arms, legs, and knees were stripped, showing the most horrible and terrific sight that could be seen'.

Mr Batty's solicitor objected to this evidence being brought up before the jury. The trial continued with numerous interjections from Mr Batty's solicitor, Mr Aspinall, on points of law. This basically boiled down to the fact that although the child was in a bad way, Mr Batty was being charged with hitting the boy with a brush that he broke upon the boy's back. Other injuries the boy had on his knees and elbows were from climbing chimneys and therefore was not material to the trial and should be discounted.

The pleasing part of this report, is that the magistrates found Mr Batty guilty of what he had been charged with and sentenced him to 12 months imprisonment. The Recorder in passing sentencesaid,

'It appears that your ill-treatment in compelling him to work in the miserable condition he then was, together with perhaps, neglect and want of food, might, if he had been allowed to be under your care for two or three days longer, have been the cause of losing his life, for which you might have had to render satisfaction by your own. I am sorry that I am not able to pass a sentence sufficient for the offence – I cannot even accompany your sentence with hard labour; all that I can sentence you to is, that you be confined to the goal of this town for the period of 12 calendar months'.

In June of that year another sweep, Charles Wilkinson, was fined for sending a boy up a chimney in Hodgson Street whilst in July a John Wilkinson, a master sweep according to the press, was also charged for sending a boy up a chimney in a house in North Street. The case was dismissed upon a technicality.

Later that month another sweep called Potteril was charged with sending a boy up a chimney. He admitted the same but didn't think he was breaking the law as the boy was his own son. He said,

'He had been a climbing boy himself, and a sweep for thirty years, but never had a lad with a piece of skin off or a blemish on him on account of climbing chimneys.

He went on to say that,

'There were in Hull not five chimneys out of six that a machine could be used

in, and without climbing boys, a sweep, he was certain, could not get his living'. The magistrates though this defence less excusable for using his own son and fined him £5.

It would be pointless to continue to show more of these tales, for they did not stop until as stated above the Act of licensing chimney sweeps in 1875 and the policing of that Act put paid to this exploitation of children.

And at the heart of that exploitation was the economics of greed which are still purveyed by politicians, billionaires, and businessmen and women of today as the answer to all our societies' ills. The urge to lower wages, have less work place health regulations, reduce benefits for the needy. Yes, those good old Victorian values will solve every problem. Where would we be without them?

Birthdays
Christine Hoyland

A while ago I came across a small book in a box which had been in our loft for at least 25 years, I had seen it before, it came from my parents home. Previously I hadn't actually opened it as I thought it was just texts from the Bible. However it is actually a birthday, book, with a text from the Bible every few days. It has my great, great grandmother's signature, Jane Thornton, in it from 1882, also it seems it was passed to my grandmother, Edith Evans at, some point and then to my mother. It has writing in it by several different people. There are names on a lot of the dates, sometimes the year as well. I wondered if it might help other members who are searching for a birthday

of an ancestor. I've attached pictures of it. The following is a transcript from it. Obviously quite a few of the names are from my own family tree but there are others too. I can't guarantee the spellings are correct, some of the writing is hard to decipher.

Jan 1st Samuel Skelton
Jan 6th Elsie May Arnell 1897
Jan 11th Mr Hazelhurst
Jan 19th Jean Simpson 1935
Jan 21st Lily Northgrave 1899
Jan 23rd William Dalton
Jan 26th George A Speed, Ethel Clixly
Jan 29th Mrs Speed
Feb 2nd Mrs Hazelhurst
Feb 14th Mrs Loft 65
Feb 16th E A Hazelhurst
Feb 24th Dorothy Northgraves 1905
Feb 25th James Robert Bailey 1906
Feb 28th Hilda Child
Feb 29th Sarah Appleton
Mar 2nd John Suddaby 1889
Mar 18th Walter Evans 1863 (my great grandfather)
Mar 30th Lucy Lingfield
Apr 10th Florence Lazenby
April 12th Gertie Murrey
Apr 25th Kate Northgraves 1902 Shirley Horsetest
Apr 27th Gertie Shipley 1891
Apr 30th Mr Northgraves, Dorothy Bugg
May 1st Frank Hodgson Micky 1916
May 9th May Appleton
May 11th Annie Ransome 1887
May 12th Edith Evans 1889
(my grandmother) John Simpson
May 19th Joy Simpson 1935
May 21st John Arnell
May 26th E Thompson
May 30th Willie Northgraves 1908
May 31st Clara Moss
Jun 3rd H E Dawson
Jun 4th Marjorie Strawson Hare

1906 Mr Hare
 Jun 14th Tony Hazelhurst
 Jun 15th Gladys Thornton
 Jun 19th Charles F Turner 1887
 (my grandfather)
 Jun 25th Mrs Mason
 Jun 30th Margaret Bramley
 Jul 8th Thomas D Thornton 1841
 Marjorie Clark
 Jul 16th Miss Jean Gillespie
 Jul 17th George Thornton
 Jul 24th John Edward Arnell
 Jul 25th Herbert Thornton (Timmy)
 Aug 4th Miss Audrey Gillespie
 Aug 5th Ethel Overton 1886 Wilfred
 Robinson
 Aug 6th George Chapinan
 Aug 21st Mrs Northgraves
 Aug 27th Hilda Hazelhurst
 Sep 2nd A E Thornton 1867
 Sep 5th Harry Blyth
 Sep 30th Roy Appleton
 Oct 6th Mrs Taylor
 Oct 8th John Lazenby
 Oct 9th George Henry Arnell
 Oct 11th Jane Thornton
 Oct 15th James William Arnell 1894
 Oct 18th Frank Creighton Arnell
 Louis Whitham 1891
 Oct 19th Mary Ann Thornton 1868
 Nov 14th Ethel Northgraves 1889
 Nov 18th John Scott and Mary Hewitt
 married 1911
 Herbert Broughton
 Nov 23rd Stephan Lazenby Ethel Bourman
 Nov 24th Albert Moss
 Dec 9th Gertrude Swift 1889
 Dec 16th AS Morriss 1860
 Dec 22nd Joan Taylor
 Dec 25th John Arnell married Mary Ann
 Evans 1891 (Mary Ann was my great
 Grandmother – John 2nd husband –
 possibly bigamously!) Nancy Becket
 Dec 27th Lily Witham

There are a few recurring surnames that may have been friends/neighbours I don't recognise from the family tree.

Hope this helps someone.

Christine Hoyland

Forum Corner

Sharing information is the cornerstone of a Family History Society. If you need help with any research problems or can respond to some ones questions or stories please use this section of the Banyan Tree.

The need to see original documents wherever possible. Transcripts cannot be relied on as the following shows...

Iverson

Melvin

Milstol

Wilson

Nelson

All transcripts from 1911 for various census etc.

What was the man's Christian name.....

Milson

Beryl Chamberlain

Let's spread the family history word.

We are all aware how numbers of family history (FH) society members are falling. This will be down to a variety of reasons but I believe we may be able to help in one way. If more people get interested in their own ancestors then there are more people who may join FH societies. Here is my

suggestion how we may be able to help and have a bit of fun at the same time.

You may have made or received a calendar with a personal photograph for each month, produced by one of the many photo-product companies. How about designing your own calendar for family members?

The photographs could be ancestors, either individuals or groups, one or more to a page. Alternatively places where ancestors lived or worked. In all cases there would be some indication of the subjects and their dates.

One could then go a step further by using a FH programme to list dates of birth of close cousins. Such cousins would ideally be listed in the relevant date box but it may be easier to have them in a table as an addition to the photograph(s). That way recipients could see which other family members share their birthday.

I am sure there are many more options so this is meant to be just a starting point for your imagination.

Thomas H F Kidman

East Yorkshire Archives

The First World War Lives project tells the previously untold stories of East Riding service personnel involved in the First World War. Since the project's launch in 2014, on the centenary of the outbreak of the War, a team of volunteers have researched the lives of over 1,100 individuals whose photographs were published in the Greens Beverley Almanac and Beverley Guardian

newspaper. These photographs show individuals of all ranks and walks of life, most of whom we previously knew little about other than their names and faces.

Developed by our volunteers, this exhibition highlights the stories of a selection of lives looking at various topics relating to the First World War:

Army
Royal Navy
Royal Air Force
Women in War
Teenagers in Service
Stationed Around the World
Prisoners of War
Health
Families in Service
Awards and Decorations

All 1,100 plus lives have a unique reference number beginning with 'WL' which you can use to request access to their wider research file. We hope that you find this information useful and that it inspires you to pursue your own research relating to the First World War. This online exclusive exhibition, launched in March 2021, marks the conclusion of the First World War Lives project.

Search the Archives Catalogue

Over 1,100 life stories of East Riding service personnel and their wider biographical research are preserved in the collection 'First World War Lives Volunteer Project' (archive reference WL), now searchable on the Archives Online Catalogue. More information on each life can be found in their file, including photographs, census information, military records, Commonwealth War Graves data, and newspaper articles.

To browse our most up-to-date list of service personnel and view extracts of their biographies, visit our Online Catalogue. Click on the 'Advanced Search' option and enter WL* in the 'FindingNo' field.

To gain access to a file, please contact the Archives team, and quote the record's WL catalogue reference.

Please note that the WL collection is growing as more lives are researched and added to the Online Catalogue. We would welcome any additional information you might be able to provide.

The size of the Army grew over the duration of the First World War as more men enlisted. First, there were the professionals, soldiers of the Regular Army who went out to France and Flanders as the British Expeditionary Force in August 1914. Then came the Reserves, time-expired Regulars, who were recalled to the colours. The Territorial battalions, those pre-war 'weekend soldiers' who originally signed up for 'Home Service only' were mobilized and began to supplement the Regulars in France from late 1914. Right from the start, thousands of volunteers – farm boys, tanner's labourers, bricklayers, clergymen and their sons, university students, office clerks, omnibus drivers and postmen – queued up at barracks and town halls across Britain to enlist. They formed the New Army of 'Service' battalions (the 'Pals' battalions). Some young lads, eager to 'do their bit' lied about their age. After 1916, when compulsory conscription was introduced, every fit and healthy British male aged between 19 and 40 years eventually became liable for service.

Over the course of the war, British soldiers who had not previously been further than

their home villages fought in places they never imagined they would ever see. They served in France and Flanders, Gallipoli, Salonika, Mesopotamia, Egypt, Palestine and Italy. The songs they sang and whistled as they marched up to the Front are still familiar today: 'Take me back to Dear Old Blighty'; 'Mademoiselle from Armentieres'; 'Keep the home fires burning'; 'Hanging on the Old Barbed Wire' – all good marching tunes.

The men who were fortunate enough to survive the battlefields and disease returned to pick up their lives or make a new one. Some came home with chronic medical conditions whilst others returned to their pre-war work. Some lived for a few years, others until they were well into old age. Many never spoke of their horrific experiences, and others found solace in Old Comrades Associations. None ever forgot the friends they had made and lost.

Please note: The online exhibitions are best viewed on desktop PC or laptop. Some images have been removed for mobile and tablet devices.

Yorkshire Regiment (Green Howards)

During the First World War, the full and official title of the Yorkshire Regiment was 'Alexandra, The Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment'. In 1920 this unit became 'The Green Howards (Alexandra, The Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment)', often referred to as 'The Green Howards'.

The eYfhs acknowledge the help the Archives has given to the eYfhs in providing the information in this journal.

*A LIST OF NEW MEMBERS TO
THE EAST YORKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
Janet Shaw: Membership Secretary*

We have another list of new members to welcome to the Society again in this issue.

We all welcome you to the EYFHS and we want you to get the most out of the Society.

Please make use of the many services the Society offers to family historians.

Visit the EYFHS website as often as you like, there are new features appearing all

the time. Passwords for the Members Zone are obtained automatically via the website.

www.eyfus.org.uk/index.php/members-area-login

The email address for Miss Janet Shaw is shown below.....

membsec@eyjhs.org.uk

Member	Name	Address
7283	Jill Theakston	York, UK
7284	Graham Wilson	Gosforth, Leeds, UK
7285	Gillian Sommerville	London, UK
7286	Andrew Caley	Beverley, East Yorkshire, UK
7287	Ian Winship	Newcastle, UK
7288	Julie Sheppherd	Corrimal, NSW, Australia
7289	Phil Atkinson	Lytham, Lancashire, UK

Please note

Unwanted Birth Mariage and Death Certificates

After checking to see if the certificate is indeed associated with your family.

If it is not part of your family line you could pass it on. Where it will be kept with our stock of unwanted certificates.

All unwanted birth, marriages and death certificates should be sent to

Dr Margaret Oliver, 14 Constable Road, Homsea. HU11 1PN

The certificates will however be stored at Carnegie

EAST YORKSHIRE
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Minutes of the 48th Annual General
Meeting

Held at the Carnegie Heritage Centre,
Anlaby Road, Hull
On 9th March 2025

Present – 22 members

The meeting was opened by the President,
Margaret Oliver at 1.30pm

1. President's Opening Remarks
(Margaret Oliver)

First of all, I must state that I am honoured to have been asked to serve as the President of the East Yorkshire Family Society, I know I am following in the footsteps of well-respected incumbents of this post, and I sincerely hope that I can do the position justice. I must thank the outgoing President, Tom Bangs for his guardianship of the role, and hope that I can measure up to his performance in being a support for all the working members of the Society, and a worthy representative of its general membership.

For those who don't know me my association with the EYFHS started in the early nineties as an ordinary member and in the mid-nineties I took over from Jenny Johnson as Secretary, sharing some of the duties with Eileen Coleman. This was in the days before the internet, when everyone wrote a letter and expected you to have the answer at your fingertips. Couple this with the fact that Yorkshire is the largest county in the country, and we were the only society with the word Yorkshire in its name, you can imagine the size of the postbag – many from abroad. Since then, I have served as Chairman and have just completed my time as immediate Past Chairman, having served on the Committee for thirty years.

In addition, I took part in two mammoth census translation projects undertaken by the Society, and, until personal circumstances intervened, was a regular member of the Monumental Inscription team. There are others more experienced than I am, who still put in many hours on behalf of the membership, but I hope that my previous roles within the Society will stand me in good stead to serve it well.

As I am sure you will hear, Family History Societies are going through a difficult time.

Some are closing or merging with other societies, and all of them are aware that changes need to be made to continue their activities, in what ever format that will be. The EYFHS is no exception, and considered various options, and continues to do so as we move forward. Please ask yourselves if you have any skills to offer as the interaction of members may be of significant importance in the future.

I thank the Committee again for their faith in me to take on this role and I will endeavour to justify that commitment.

2. Apologies for Absence

None

3. Minutes of the 47th Annual General
Meeting held on 16th March 2024

There were no amendments, and the minutes were passed unanimously.

4. Matters arising from these minutes

There were no matters arising

5. Chairman's Report (Pete Lowden)

Used earlier in the journal

6. Secretary's Report (Barbara Watkinson)

Since the last AGM held in March 2024, we have had five committee meetings when the minutes have been recorded as true.

If any correspondence or emails have been received, they have been forward to the relevant committee member or discussed at a meeting.

Once again Janet has booked some interesting speakers, where we have had a lot of suport and again the numbers of visitors has increased.

Let's hope that with the support of our members, the Society will continue into the future.

7. Treasurer's Report (Peter Glover)

I hope you all have had a copy of the 2024 accounts.

As you can see membership has fell again, but publication sales are up on last year, in part a lot of the credit must go to Judy Bangs our excellent publication sales officer.

Postage costs have risen and will continue to drain on the assets of the Society.

Again, we have made a deficit but not an alarming one.

8. Other reports

Membership Report

Membership Report for 2024

Membership was down from 495 in 2023 to 471 in 2024 – a decrease of 4.9%

New members were down from 26 in 2023 to 23 in 2024 – a decrease of 11.5%.

Member distribution was as follows:

- HU postcode 125 which is 26.54 % (26.26% in 2023)
 - YO postcode 62 which is 13.16% (13.74% in 2023)
 - Rest of UK 242 which is 51.38% (51.52% in 2023)
 - Overseas 42 which is 8.92% (8.48% in 2023)
- New Members distribution:
- HU postcode 10 (43.48%) (29.92% in 2023)

- YO postcode 2 (8.69%) (11.54% in 2023)
- Rest of UK 10 (43.48%) (42.31% in 2023)
- Overseas 1 (4.35 %) (19.23% in 2023)

Comparison Tables for the last six years.

The membership has decreased by 11.50%.

A digital subscription was introduced in 2023 and in 2024, 95 members (20 %) Opted for this.

Of these 95 members, 73 (17.02 % of UK membership) were UK and 22 (52.9 % of overseas membership) were overseas.

The Gift Aid claim for 2024 was £990.72

Publications Report (Judi Bangs)

Since the last AGM we have published – Hull General Cemetery parts 7, 8, 9, & 10. Haltemprice Crematorium parts 1 & 2. Priory Woods Cemetery and Hull Chanterlands Crematorium part 5.

We are nearly at an end of our recording, this summer we hope to record Scarborough Woodlands cemetery, that leaves Octon crematorium grounds.

Last year we only attended two events, the Family History Fair on York racecourse and the Book Fair at Hull Minster. Sadly, the York Fair has finished

– we could go to Aintree!!!

We are holding a second handbook fair here at Carnegie on the 6th April, 10am to 3pm.

I have sent out 154 orders, which is an increase on the previous year – people are obviously realizing how brilliant our MI books are.

Monumental Inscriptions (Dave Mount)

Last year the Monumental Inscription team recorded the grave stone inscriptions for Priory Road cemetery and Haltemprice crematorium.

This year we hope to record the gravestones at Woodlands cemetery, Scarborough. Unfortunately, this is not local, but we are running out of cemeteries and graveyards in our local area.

Yet, I need to seek permission from the Woodland cemetery authorities, so I plan to visit the cemetery personally in April and at the same time survey the area, then I can plan the dates for recording.

In closing I would like to thank everyone who has taken part in the Monumental Inscription projects last year.

9. Election of officers

Nomination or chairman was put to the vote, no one came forward. Therefore, the role is now vacant.

Barbara Watkinson was nominated as Secretary by Judi Bangs and seconded by Janet Bielby. This was put to the vote and passed unammously.

Peter Glover was nominated as Treasurer by Chris Brigham and seconded by John Ferguson This was put to the vote and passed unanimously.

10. Election of committee

The following stood for election

Chris Brigham, John Ferguson, Dave Mount, Janet Shaw, Judith Bangs, Janet Bielby, Sandra Cradock, Charles Cradock, Hannah Stamp, Pete Lowden, Linda McGowan proposed that they all to be elected and was seconded by Dave Morecombe.

This was put to the vote and were all duly elected unanimously.

11. Election/Appointment of Examiner of Accounts

Judi Bangs proposed the continued appointment of Nigel Coyle & Co. This was seconded by John Ferguson.

This was put to the vote which was passed unanimously.

12. Previously Notified Business

There were no previously notified items.

13. Any other business

Tom Bangs spoke re the future of the society. I have a lot of time for the Society having been a member since 1988. I joined the committee in 1993, and I have served as Publicity Officer, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Vice Chairman, Chairman and until last year the President.

In the past, amongst other events and activities, the Society organised four evening meetings a month with speakers in four different towns, an annual walk-about, family history fairs, a weekend national conference, an annual outing, weekends in London to visit the National Archives at Kew as well as many help desks at various places in our area. We also arranged a three-day trip to the Belgium and France war graves. We were also represented at various family history fairs including York, Doncaster, The Barbican in London, Earls Court in London, Birmingham, Sheffield and Huddersfield. Regrettably all these fairs have now ceased. We also undertook various projects including the recording of monumental inscriptions (almost complete) and the transcribing part of the 1881 census; we have also transcribed some of the larger parish registers

Sadly, all we now offer is four afternoon meetings a year and a reduced number of help desks.

Our greatly diminished membership is ageing and apathetic, judging by the abysmal response to the Chairman's recent article in The Banyan Tree, and the lack of attendance at any meetings including the

AGM. The majority of the committee are over 70.

The Society is dying and before it fizzles out completely, I suggest that we take some positive action.

I PROPOSE that we take steps to dissolve the Society and pass our assets to an organisation which undertakes family history research. In accordance with our constitution this must also be a Charity. I suggest that the Carnegie Heritage Centre will fit the bill, as they help the public with family history research. They are also a Charity. We use their premises and have a "sort of" relationship at present.

I have given this matter a lot of thought and ask that someone will second this proposal. Personally, I think this action should be taken sooner than later. This will enable key people who may be thinking of resigning will stay if they know there is a known date.

Proposed by Tom Bangsand seconded by Alan Brigham.

It was decided that this would be discussed at the next committee meeting.

The meeting closed at 1.40pm.

Something to consider

I thoroughly agree with Maggie Woodhouse's article in the February edition.

As the research became available online I began to lose interest in Family History. I too enjoyed the outings to the local society in Leicester where there was always a member ready to help and advise. The occasional visits to Hull where the Archive Staff were wonderful and the wonder at being able to read that an ancestor was so many miles away from Spurn Point on the

day of a Census.

The microfiche gave so many clues that I would not have got from the computer. Such as the fact that many of the crew came from the same Devon village and lived near each other in Hull or that my Great Aunt and her sister were named after their father's trawlers.

I felt cheated when I received a computer printed certificate instead of a photocopy of the original and from then onwards my interest waned.

I understand the ease and convenience of online research but I preferred the sense of a shared experience rather than sitting in front of a screen at home.

I'm certain that this is a minority view and I'm not sure how it relates to the current membership problems but I was pleased to know that I'm not the only 'dinosaur'.

Mary Evans
Member 4063

Editors Note

I keep reminding you all that I can only produce a journal if I receive articles from you the members.

PLEASE SEND ME something I can use in the journal

Thank you, the editor

What's On?

Help desks

HULL – Carnegie Heritage Centre, 342 Anlaby Rd. Hull. HU3 6JA. 01482 561216. Every Monday 1.00 – 3.00pm except Bank Holidays.

Hull History Centre, Worship St. Hull. HU2 8BG. 01482 317500.

1st & 3rd Thursdays of every month from 10:00–12:00.

Church of the Latter-Day Saints Family Search library – located at the Church of Later day Saints, 725 Holderness Road, Hull. HU9 3JA. (Next to Tower Grange). Opening Times – Tuesday 10.00 – 3.00; Saturday morning by appointment only. Ring Dave Miunt-01482 829168 for more information and details.

HESSLE – Library, Southgate. Hessle. HU13 ORB. 01482 393939. Every 3rd Friday except August and December.

HORNSEA- Leisure Centre & Library, Hub, Broadway, Hornsea. HU181PZ. 01482 393939. Every 4th Friday except August and December.

ANLABY – Haltemprice Library, 120 Springfield Way, Anlaby. HU10 6QJ. 01482 393939. Every 1st Wednesday 10.00am – 12.30pm by appointment only.

WILLERBY – The Institute, 58 Main Street, Willerby. HU10 6BZ. Every 3rd Saturday from 10.00 – 12.00 by appointment only. Contact – 01482 658077 or email – willerbylibrary@eastriding.gov.uk

BEVERLEY – Ask at the library, HU17 8HE – appointments only.

SCARBOROUGH – Ask at the library – Vernon Road, YO11 2NN. 01609536602 – for information on meetings/helpdesks. The Carnegie Heritage Centre also runs a Family History Course. Ask at the Carnegie for further information – 01482 561216

An EMAIL HELPDESK is also available. Contact – helpdesk@eyfhs.org.uk

HULL MEETINGS

Hull meetings are held at the Carnegie Heritage Centre, 342 Anlaby Road, Hull. HU3 6JA.

Talks start at 2pm. but doors open at 1.30pm to allow for personal research.

8th June 2025 – Sandi Readhead – Adrian Hardy Haworth of Cottingham – eminent botanist.

14th September 2025 – Pete Lowden – Burial sites of Hull.

7th December 2025- Elizabeth Smith – the Archives of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.



Janet Bielby

East Yorkshire Family History Society

We cover the East Riding of Yorkshire and so much more!



The EYFHS Help Desk

Email your questions to helpdesk@eyfhs.org.uk and we will do our best to assist.

Postal enquiries may be sent to our Hull address. Please see inside front cover.

The East Yorkshire Family History Society is a member of the Federation of Family History Societies. The Federation oversees the interests of all family historians

and genealogists as well as supporting the work of member societies. You can visit the Federation's web site, and access their extensive resources, at: www.ffhs.org.uk