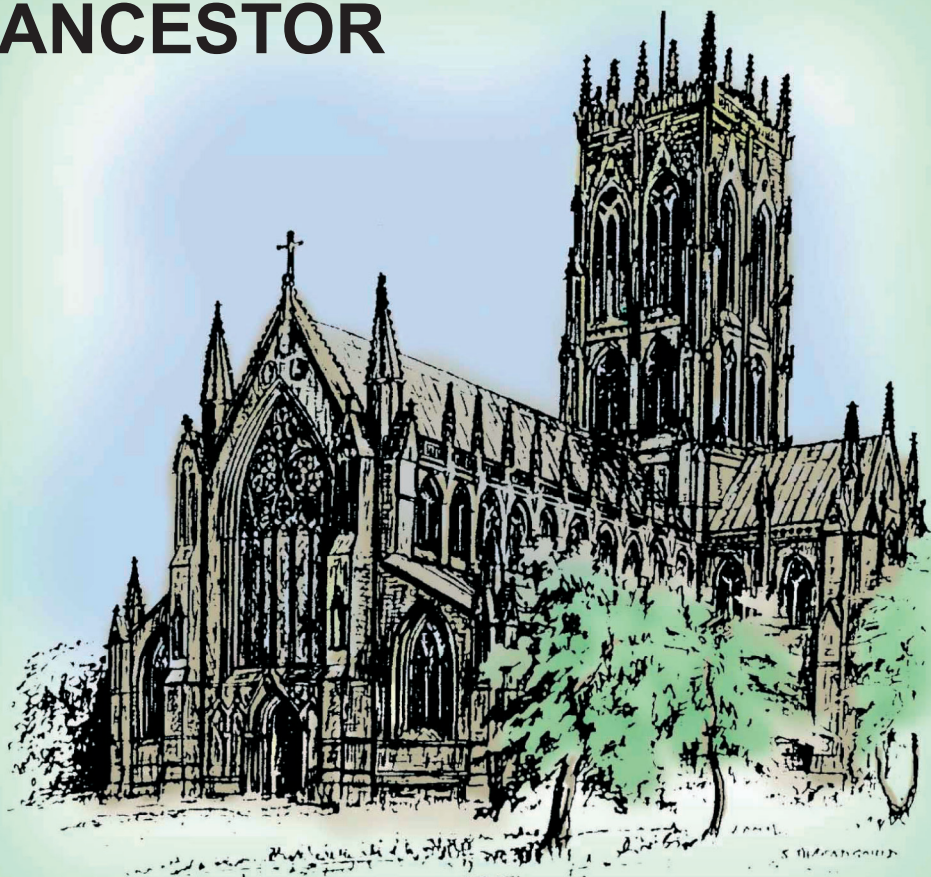


THE DONCASTER ANCESTOR

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Doncaster Minster

S Threadgould

**The Journal of the Doncaster and District
Family History Society 1980 - 2021**

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DONCASTER AND DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.doncasterfhs.co.uk

Registered Charity No 516226 Formed January 1980

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continued on the inside back cover

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THE DONCASTER ANCESTOR

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Free to Members

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Editor: Jenny Ellis
Assistant Editor: Keith Crouter
Editorial Team: Karen Walker, Richard Cuell

Society AGM 2021 - Proceedings

The 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Society took place via Zoom on **Wednesday, 28 April 2021** at 7.30 pm.

The proceedings were as follows:

The 2019 AGM Minutes were approved

- Reports and Accounts
 - The Chairman's Report was received.
 - The Treasurer's Report 2019, including the Accounts were received and approved.
 - The Treasurer's Report 2020 was received. The Accounts were received and approved, subject to independent examination.
- The Independent Examiners, Eyre & Co, were reappointed.
- Election of Officers
 1. The following were re-elected unopposed:
 - Chairman George W Hiley
 - Editor Jenny Ellis
 - Member Keith Crouter
 - Member John Humberston
 - Member June Staniforth
 2. The following were elected unopposed:
 - Secretary Marion Baxter
 - Treasurer Sheila Cave
 - Project Organiser Jon Finegold
(Lynn Snowden did not stand for re-election)

The 2021 AGM Papers are available on the Members Area of the Society's website.

If you do not have a user account please email the Membership Secretary ddfsmemberships@doncasterfhs.co.uk.

From the Editor

Hello and welcome to the Summer edition of Doncaster Ancestor.

Well we had the 2021 census on 21st March and the first anniversary of the first lockdown for the Coronavirus Pandemic on 23 March 2021. I don't think we will forget those dates anytime soon. A challenging time for us all, but hopefully things will improve with the vaccine rollout, and we might get back some normality soon; whatever that may be.

Thank you to everyone who has sent in their articles and you will see that we have a good variety again. Please keep the articles coming and if you have any stories about your Ancestors during either of the World Wars then do send them in. We also have more book reviews this time, which I am sure is a benefit to other members.

The Computer Group continues via Zoom on Thursday mornings and we have recently welcomed some new members. Please see the website for further details.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip has recently passed away at the age of 99 years. The majority of us have known of him for all our lives but after all the news coverage recently, you realise that you didn't know him at all. Quite a remarkable man who among many other things, introduced the Duke of Edinburgh Awards, which has motivated many young people to achieve so much.

Jenny Ellis

Deadline for the next edition is 8th Jul 2021 at the latest.

Please send in any articles, preferably as a Word Document.

The journal is published in February, May, August and November.

Vol 31 No 3 Edition will be published in Aug 2021.

Disclaimer

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

Monthly Meetings via ZOOM

24th May 2021 Treasures in the Tower: the Doncaster Grammar School Railway Collection by Chris Barron

Arguably one of Doncaster's best kept secrets is about to be secret no more. The unique Doncaster Grammar School Railway Collection has left its home of the last 70+ years at Hall Cross Academy, where it was hidden away in the clock tower, and is now in the custody of Doncaster Council's Museum Service. A small portion of the Collection - which numbers about 10,000 items - will be going on show in the new Rail Heritage Centre at the Danum Gallery Library and Museum in Doncaster.

30th June 2021 Chasing Million Eyres : From the West Riding to Siberia by Jackie Depelle

Little do we know what awaits when starting out on the family history trail. Very often our ancestors led ordinary lives however they all have their place in history, making us who we are. Occasionally though we find something really unexpected about our families or our research touches on the lives of others who moved in very different social circles. This is exactly what happens in this case study where an accidental discovery becomes a vortex of amazing co-incidents and almost a parallel family history universe.

28th July 2021 The History of the English Canal System by Eric Jackson

The talk starts with the industrial revolution & the transportation system as it existed at that time with a comparison of different modes of transportation's load carrying capacities.

August 25th 2021 Letters From a Faraway Laddie by Sue McGeever

In 1899 Harry Gill travelled from his home in Summerbridge to visit the Holy Land on board the Steam Yacht Argonaut. His letters to his fiancée and the photographs he took were amongst family papers. This lecture follows in his footsteps from the Nidd to the Nile. This couple are the 2x Grandparents of Sue our speaker.

All meetings will start at 7.30pm, although you will be able to use the link that you will be sent via email from 7.15pm

Any queries please contact June Staniforth on 07901 523529

From the postbag / via e-mail

February Talk Feedback

As an out of the area person I would like to say a big thank you for organising such a fascinating talk for last night. I have really enjoyed all the talks which have happened thus far.

Looking forward to the next one.

Thank you once again. **Ann Berry, Member 2510**

March Talk Feedback

Really enjoyed the presentation. **Paul Lack**

Thoroughly enjoyable presentation. **Roger Luffman**

Absolutely fascinating! Living in Doncaster, we have strong roots to where some of the beginnings happened. These people were “strong” individuals – not sure I would be brave enough to set off on a boat like that!

Ian & Susan McCreadie

An absolutely fascinating and informative talk. Thank you. **Hilary**

Above are just a few of the comments that we have received about the monthly ZOOM Meetings.

If you have any comments then please feel free to get in touch.

Membership Renewal Notice

Thank you to the members that have renewed their subscription this year.

For those of you who have decided not to renew, we would like to thank you for your previous support and if you wish to re-join sometime in the future please contact the Membership Secretary.

Benefits of membership include quarterly copies of Doncaster Ancestor, invitations to our monthly Zoom talks a free Research Service, Members' Interests and Journals of other Family History Societies.

You will also have access to the Members section of the Society website which will soon include our fully searchable database containing over 1.5 million names.

Book Reviews

Children in Care 1834 – 1929

The Lives of Destitute, Orphaned and Deserted Children by Rosemary Steer

Rosemary Steer, is a teaching fellow at the University of Dundee where she completed her master's degree in family and local history in 2014. For her dissertation she researched the Dickleburgh Charity for destitute and workhouse children.

The charity was founded around 1875 by Louisa Brandreth the wife of Henry Brandreth the Vicar of the Parish is covered in the opening chapter and often referred back to when looking at children's lives 'after care' and the stories of some who were sent to live in Canada and later to Australia. Due to records kept of the girls and Louisa's continued interest in them once they left her care, one gains an interesting perspective of life in those days. Many of the girls wrote to her from their new place of employment and referred to her as 'Godmother'.

Reading about the orphaned and abandoned children and the conditions they lived and survived in from a very early age it is not difficult to see where Charles Dickens (who is mentioned in the book along with others as having written pamphlets, novels and articles highlighting the plight of the poor in Victorian England) got the ideas and characters for his novels.

The book gives a brief history of the Poor Laws, with records going back to 1349, including the Statute of Cambridge, preventing workers moving around the country without proper reason up to the 1929 Local Government Act which transferred the responsibility for poor relief to the County Councils and County Boroughs along with Infirmarys and Fever hospitals.

There are stories of children's lives in the work houses, and the realisation that these were no place for children leading to the Poor Law Unions setting up children's homes, boarding out and fostering schemes. Boys also found themselves on training ships run by the Marine Society.

A very interesting and informative read.

Sheila Cave, Member 4018

May I recommend a good read:

'Black Diamonds' by Catherine Bailey published by Penguin

This is not a novel but nevertheless a real page turner. It follows the Fitzwilliam family of Wentworth House and of Wentworth village near Rotherham, and tells of the spectacular decline of inheritance, the opulence,

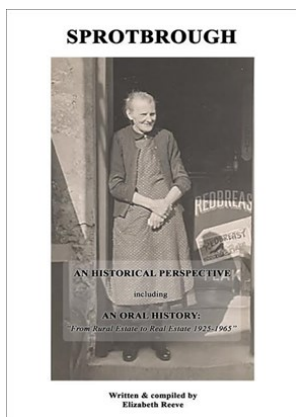
greed and the lengths to which the family will go to ensure their birth right and infidelity among the rich and famous against the background of poverty, despair and sacrifice of the miners of wealthy mine owners like the **Fitzwilliams** and other aristocratic families. This is no Downton Abbey, this is a raw account of all lives involved. It documents the tragedy of the Cadeby Colliery disaster, the starvation and evictions during the pit strikes, the rise of socialism, the betrayal of the Government and the fall of the Fitzwilliams and the destruction of the beautiful Wentworth House itself.

My personal interest is due to an ancestor of mine **Annie Oates** b. 1863 who was a laundry maid at Wentworth House in 1881. (Surprisingly she doesn't get a mention in the book!!) She later married **Samuel Thompson** in 1889 in neighbouring Elsecar where they set up home, Samuel was an Iron Moulder and could have possibly worked in one of the Fitzwilliam's foundries.

Jean Walker, Member 4092

Sprotbrough, An Historical Perspective

Including an Oral History: From Rural Estate to Real Estate 1925 – 1965



A book has been written by Elizabeth Reeve giving the brief history of Sprotbrough Village from prehistoric times to 1965, but its main focus is the stories of some of those who lived in the village between 1925 and 1965.

In 1925, Sprotbrough Village estate was sold following the deaths of Brigadier-General Robert Calvery Alington Bewley Copley on 23 June 1923 and his wife, Selena Francis, on the day of his funeral. The next in line, their son, Lord Cromwell, decided that the price of maintaining the estate, along with also having to pay double death duties, was too high a price to pay and decided to sell.

Although the estate covered many acres, until that time, the population of the village itself was only around 300 and most of them were tied to the estate through work, so the impending change to their lives was one of uncertainty but also opportunity.

By the early 1960s, the population had grown to 1014 and home ownership had well and truly arrived in the village.

Very few people were found who had actually experienced life in the village in 1925, but their descendants still had a story to tell, as some arrived in the

the village having purchased land and commenced building. This is their story.

This is the first book written about Sprotbrough since 1969 and its is hoped that villagers will enjoy being reminded of those early days and that newcomers will discover something of the history of the place in which they now live.

The Chester Creek Murders by Nathan Dylan Goodwin

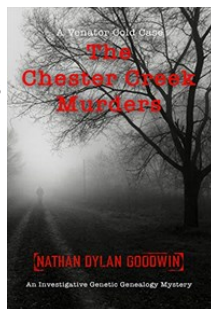
Venator is a business which use investigative genetic genealogy to profile perpetrators solely from DNA evidence, and are asked to take on the case by a detective who is reviewing unsolved homicides. Yes, the murders aren't good but the work that the team at Venator do is remarkable. The story is set in America and the team seem to have a lot of genealogy information at their fingertips, as they try to solve three brutal murders that were committed over 30 years ago, using DNA.

You know you have enjoyed a book when you don't want it to end. Well worth a read.

ISBN

9798575329886

Jenny Ellis



The Valley by Richard Benson

Richard Benson's great-grandfather Walter, a miner, returned home from the First World War damaged in body and mind. His wife Annie led front room seances, and their daughter Winnie married Juggler, an eccentric amateur comedian.

The Valley follows four generations of their family as they try to build a better world in the close-knit pit villages of the Dearne Valley in South Yorkshire.

Against a backdrop of world wars and mining disasters, rock and roll and party politics, pit closures and the miners' strike, we share the family's moments of hurt and loss, their banter and intimacies, their personal victories and disastrous love affairs. Spanning Winnie's ninety-two years in the valley, this is an unflinching, deeply personal account of working-class life over a century of profound social upheaval; a tribute to a community that no longer exists, but still resonates in our memories.

A must for anyone who has mining history in their blood.

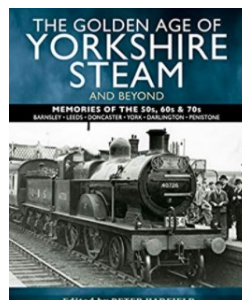
Pauline Stainton

The Golden Age of Yorkshire Steam and Beyond

Memories of The 50's, 60's & 70's

Edited by Peter Bradfield, who gathered the experiences of seven of his friends and colleagues who recalled the days when steam power was king in the areas surrounding Barnsley, Leeds, Doncaster, Darlington and Penistone

All the authors have grown up with the sights and sounds of London North Eastern Region (LNER) giants, the former London, Midland Scottish (LMS) system and the British Railways Standard locomotives. The book will surely ignite the memories of anyone who enjoyed the thrill of trainspotting during the aforementioned years. The introduction of diesel and electric traction during 1968 led to the complete elimination of steam locomotives apart from those now preserved.

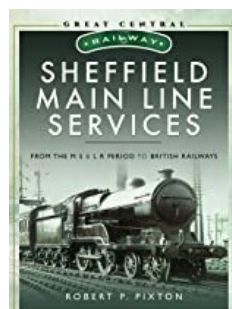


Pen & Sword Transport - Price £14.99 - ISBN 1526765888.

Sheffield Main Line Services: Great Central Railway

The book by Bob Pixton, illustrates one of the Railway Companies in days of steam. It consists of maps, charts, timetables and photographs (some undated) along the routes which were controlled by the Great Central Railway.

One theme is the passenger traffic via Penistone down to Sheffield and east to Retford. The other was the movement of coal centred on Wath Marshalling Yard via Worsborough incline to Penistone, then via Woodhead tunnel to Mottram and Godley Yards, thence forward to Manchester and Liverpool.



Another stream of wagons passing east through Mexborough and Doncaster avoiding line to Keadby Power Station and Scunthorpe Steel Works. The lines from Barnsley to Sheffield, Wakefield and Penistone are also looked at. Acknowledgement mentioned of George Dow's 1959 trilogy about the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincoln Railway, and other sources, including Dave Fordham of Doncaster for his work of homes and the Yorkshire Coalfield - all have been a wonderful source of information.

Pen & Sword, Price £30.00. ISBN 978 152673 5997.

Keith Crouter, Member 1623

Help Wanted



If anyone recognises anyone in the photo's, can they please contact me. We think they were taken in Doncaster just after the war at the same church.

Thanks

Jenny Ellis

Hi, for many years (20+) I have been trying to trace my grandfather's family and have had nothing but brick walls, until during lockdown I discovered a dusty old box in my mother's attic.

My grandfather was a proud Donny boy working for the Yorkshire Post, my late grandfather was **Raymond Leslie Wright** and I believe his mother was **Nellie S Whinfrey** of 11 Stone Close Avenue, Balby with Hexthorpe in the 1901 census. They are listed as living at 5 Rockingham Road in 1939 just prior to my grandfather's enlistment to the RASC in WW11. I would love to know if anyone can put me in touch with anybody connected to **Nellie Whinfrey** or under her married surname of **Wright**. I believe my grandfather **Raymond Leslie Wright** had a brother Harry (who was killed in WW1) and a sister whose name escapes me at present. If anybody could give me any information, please get in touch. Sadly my grandfather passed in 2002 and I have been trying to research his family and reconnect since then.

Kind regards **Stephen Turner**.

Replies to researchenquiries@doncasterfhs.co.uk

Raymond Leslie Wright married a Danish lady in 1946 in Copenhagen, name unknown.

Raymond's father was **Harry Russell Wright** and came from Doncaster.

Teetotal till the Races

Sheffield Daily Telegraph 15th August 1922

Doncaster, Monday. An old woman **Louisa McGlone** charged at Doncaster with having been drunk, was convicted six times last year for a similar offence and was said to be addicted to drinking methylated spirits.

The Mayor, Alderman Tuby reminded the prisoner that the last time he paid her fine and now said, "You must promise not to have anything to drink until the races (laughter). You will be fined 5 shillings and I will pay the fine but if you come again you will go down to the "farm" (Laughter).

Louisa died in 1932 at the age of 73 years. Her late husband Joseph was killed in an accident in 1893, so perhaps that is why she started drinking.

Jenny Ellis

Doncaster's Mining Communities by Dave Fordham



Above: Dave Fordham and his co-author Christine Leveridge with their book on the Yorkshire Coalfield outside colliery housing at Woodlands Model Village. The house behind received a special visitor in 1912 when King George V and Queen Mary were given a guided tour by the tenants. Woodlands Model Village was built by the architect Percy Houfton to house miners at Brodsworth Colliery.

On Wednesday 27th January 2021, the Society held its fourth online Zoom Meeting which was attended by 61 participants including two members from the USA and one from Canada. Dave Fordham, a local historian and author, presented an illustrated slide show on Doncaster's Mining Communities. Over the past 10 years, Dave has been researching the development of the Doncaster Coalfield and has self-published eight books on Doncaster's pit villages and co-authored two other titles, with plans to publish more in the future.

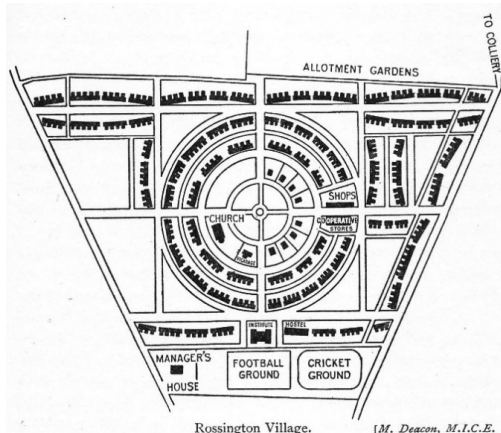
Within a period of 100 years, the Doncaster area has seen the dramatic growth of the mining industry, coupled with its rapid decline culminating with the closure of the last coal mine at Hatfield in 2015, leaving a series of former mining settlements now lacking their collieries.

The talk started with an explanation of what coal is and how it was formed – 300 million years ago - when the country was situated along the equator and covered in tropical rainforests. The need for coal was demonstrated by its necessity in fuelling the booming British Empire, but the Doncaster collieries were late developers due to the depth of the coal and the economic difficulties in extracting the seams. During the boom around 1910 and again in the 1920s, for each colliery to make a profit, it was expected to produce a million tons of coal per year, command a large royalty area of 10,000 acres, and

employ up to 4000 men. However, as the area around the town was largely agricultural, the colliery companies took it on themselves to provide new communities to house their workforces and instigated an incredible building operation, the likes of which will probably never see again.

The talk started with a look at Denaby Main, built to house miners at Denaby and Cadeby Main Collieries in the 19th Century, and which almost serves as a 'prototype' to the Doncaster Mining Communities that followed afterwards. At Denaby Main, the company town built by the colliery company, the houses were cheaply constructed and there was criticism of the poor standards deployed. At one time several hundred houses had to share two water taps, before a deputation of angry miners' wives berated the colliery manager and a water supply was installed to each house!

When the Doncaster Mining Communities were built, there was a determination not to follow with the mistakes made at Denaby Main. The increasing influence of the 'Garden City Movement' together with the involvement of a group of Liberal MPs, including Lord Aberconway, Sir Arthur Markham and Sir Tudor Walters, led to the establishment of a series of colliery settlements which adopted some of the better town planning standards of the time. Following his success in Doncaster, Sir Tudor Walters was commissioned by the British Government into producing the 1918 Tudor Walters Report which led to the establishment of the 1919 Housing Act from which local authorities could obtain loans and subsidies for a nationwide scheme for building council houses.



Rossington Village. [M. Deacon, M.I.C.E.]

Above: Maurice Deacon's unusual circular layout plan for Rossington Colliery Village.

The talk continued with a look at where the first miners and their families came from, and the migration of people across the country to come and work in the new coalfield was discussed. This was demonstrated by the local nicknames still in use in certain areas, for example China Town at Maltby and Little Wigan

at Rossington, reflecting the origin of people from the Staffordshire Potteries and the Lancashire Coalfield. Other migrations of people came from Ireland, Wales, Scotland and the Midlands, together with the local area, where local farmers were complaining that people were leaving the land to sign on for higher wages at the pits. There must have been a variety of cosmopolitan accents in the Doncaster pit villages at the time!

Of interest was the increasing involvement of the local communities with the establishment of local urban district councils in the 1920s, and several miners established careers as local councillors. The local community was now becoming increasingly involved with local governance. The talk continued with a look at the evolution of the area following the nationalisation of the industry in 1947, when the new National Coal Board built additions to many of the Doncaster Mining Communities to house miners and their families from elsewhere, particularly from Scotland and the North East, and a further migration into the area occurred in the 1950s.



Above: Mooredens was built in the late 1920s for workers at Thorne Colliery and this Greetings Postcard shows some of the first inhabitants. The 1,100 houses at Mooredens were designed by architect Harold Jarvis and built by The Housing Corporation of Great Britain.

Following the Miners' Strike and the decline of the coal industry, the slide show continued with a look at the uncertain future that the local pit villages now find themselves in, as they have now evolved to serve other purposes. It was pleasing to see that the mining legacy of the area has been commemorated with various memorials, together with a new memorial intended to be sited in the town centre, and a fascinating proposal to restore the Hatfield Colliery Headgears as a focal point for a new community museum and facility and country park, all honouring the great contribution the Doncaster Miners have made to the industrial success of the country.

The author's books are available from the Doncaster Tourist information Centre next to the Mansion House, on his online sales page on www.ebay.co.uk and through the website www.fedjbooks.co.uk.

Family Affairs

I always thought it unusual, possibly unique, that three of my aunties had married three brothers. The **Dove** brothers, **Llewellyn (Lew)**, **John (Jack)** and **Robert (Bob)**.

Jack married my Great Aunt **Ivy May Armstrong** in 1935 at All Saints South Kirkby, then in 1952 her sister **Clara Evelyn Armstrong** married Lew at the same church. Also, in 1952 **Dorothy Holey**, niece of the sisters, married youngest of the Dove brothers, Bob at All Saints.

At the wedding of Clara and Lew my mum **Elsie Holey** (Dorothy's sister) met my dad **Eric Wilson** who at the time was lodging with Ivy and Jack!

But during many years of research I found that sisters marrying brothers was not uncommon in my family.

The father of the above Dove brothers, **Llewellyn Dove (snr)** married **Annie Bywater** in 1901 at All Saints, South Kirkby and his sister **Edith Alice Dove** had married Annie's brother **Frederick Bywater** in 1887 at Hooton Pagnell.

Alice Beaumont married **George Fow** in 1891 and her sister **Edith Beaumont** married George's brother **Thomas John Fow** in 1897.

First cousins of Alice and Edith Beaumont - **Tryphna Beaumont** married **Arthur Fozzard** in 1898 and Tryphna's brother **James Beaumont** married Arthur's sister **Minnie Frazer Fozzard** 1905 in Knottingley.

Ernest Godley married **Lily Tyson** in 1908 at Christ Church, Doncaster and his brother **Francis Bernard Godley** married Lily's sister **Ada Tyson** in 1913 at Holy Trinity & St Oswald church, in Finningley.

These are the ones I have discovered so far. Do I belong to a weird family or have other family historians come across similar instances?

Jean Walker, Member 4092

Plague in Doncaster

There have been many plagues of different causes around the world for thousands of years. The DNA of the bacterium *Yersinia pestis*, which is responsible for Bubonic Plague, has been extracted from the remains of Bronze Age individuals which date to around 2000BC. In the year before Vesuvius erupted (AD 78) there was reported to have been a pestilence in Rome which carried off 10,000 in a single day. In India it is reported that thousands died in a single night. The plague which became known as the Black Death swept across Europe from east to west between 1347 and 1350 and is believed to have killed at least 25 million individuals, with no doubt

similar numbers in Asia and Africa. Thirteen million are said to have died in China and fifteen thousand died in a single day in Cairo. Because the churchyards were full, the Pope, who was in Avignon, consecrated the River Rhone as a burial place. Some reports say that up to 90% of the population of England died of the Black Death. In Doncaster in 1349 two thirds of the beneficed clergy died of bubonic plague and in the same year in York a third of the population of 5000 died. Because there were so few people unaffected, burials took place in pits as it was too difficult to dig individual graves. Recently a burial pit was discovered at Thornton Abbey in North Lincolnshire which dated back to the period of the Black Death or Great Pestilence. Recent research has shown that not only were rats and fleas involved in the spread of the disease but also body lice. Thus, it was that diseases spread faster in the poorer sections of the population, where crowding was inevitable and clothes and bedding were shared, but this does not mean that the rich escaped totally. Despite the difficult time that we have had in 2020, epidemics are nothing new in Doncaster as the Parish registers testify.

Doncaster suffered from the Sweating Sickness in 1517, *Sudor anglicus*, when those afflicted were said to die within 3 hours of infection. We have no reliable record of the numbers until the Parish registers were introduced soon after the accession of Elizabeth I.

Looking at all the registers of burials which we have for Doncaster and district, it is obvious that there were many epidemics but of course we do not always know the causes. There were outbreaks of cholera, measles, typhoid etc and we usually cannot identify these from the parish registers.

The Council tried their best to control the spread of the diseases which came into the town. According to the Doncaster Courtiers records of 1579, it was forbidden to take in a traveller or stranger without first notifying the Mayor and Alderman. The fine was 40 shillings, and this was strictly enforced, (a great deal of money at that time.)

The most devastating plague in Doncaster started in September 1582 and gained momentum during the winter of that year and reached a peak in the following summer when there were 121 burials in June and 141 in July after which it seemed to subside. The Doncaster Couriers claim that 908 persons died of the plague in Doncaster and many were buried in an area behind the Corn Market close to the Parsonage. The register for St George has 761 burials for the period, but some persons who died of the plague were buried in adjoining parishes. The registers for St George indicate the victims with a P

beside the name but only a few other parishes indicated which persons died of the plague. These include Wadworth, Hatfield, Arksey and Cantley. Other places which recorded a big increase in deaths at this time were Finningley, Tickhill and Austerfield.

From the mid-16th to the mid-17th century there were almost 1600 more deaths than baptisms, so that there was a decline in the overall population of Doncaster. The deaths were not only within the borough but stretched throughout the archdeaconry. I have looked at over 50,000 burials from that period in our records. There can be no doubt that there were deaths from plague elsewhere that were not recorded as plague. In a market town, where there were always markets and fairs, strangers and travellers, there must have been a good deal of mixing. Add to this the fact that in the 1640's the Civil War was raging and there were large numbers of troops garrisoned in Doncaster, (up to 5000 were in the town for up to 90 days during 1645 which was double the population), sometimes the soldiers were Parliamentarians and sometimes Royalists. There is no wonder that the town suffered so much during the 17th century. (No one to tell them to stay at home or keep social distancing.) When the troops moved on they took with them goods to the value of about £500 which they had not paid for. However, the town was responsible for feeding the men and horses and the going rate for horses was 4d a day and for horsemen 13d. With as many as 12,000 cavalry and infantry in town for up to six months, Doncaster was theoretically able to claim up to £1000 from the government.

The markets became strictly regulated in the 1640s and apparently, people buying meat in the markets took it from the hook themselves and put the coins into bowls of vinegar to protect both themselves and the vendors. So, it would seem that they were aware of ways that transmission of the disease occurred, and the council were at pains to try to stop the increasing number of deaths.

In 1646, the current mayor, Robert Ince, was stripped of his office after flouting a number of the rules that had been laid down by the council. He had allowed his daughter and her nurse to go to Swinton and stay at a house where there was plague. He returned them to Doncaster and shortly after, the nurse discovered that she had the tell-tale lump under her arm. The child died and then the nurse. Robert Ince then allowed his wife and other members of the household to go about the town, which was against the rules. He was visited by two aldermen, to certify the truth of allegations regarding the plague in Swinton, and also the health of his daughter and nurse. He said that his daughter had died of other causes. He continued to deny all the allegations. In

May of 1645 the parliamentary forces in Newark defeated the loyalists and the garrison were released to travel home. The plague was rampant in Newark and Doncaster had laid down strict rules which forbade any soldiers from staying in the town, but Robert Ince took in Thomas Ince (presumably a relative) and allowed him to lodge with him.

Finally, the aldermen decided that they had to stop the mayor as he was a person to whom the public looked for guidance and example. He was obviously flouting the rules and they discharged him from his office, which was taken over by the deputy mayor, Thomas Rasine. Robert Ince was not only stripped of all his offices, but also forbidden from holding any office in the future.

The registers for Doncaster St George for the years 1644 and 1645 combined show the total burials as 360. Arksey showed another peak in burials, along with Braithwell, Campsall, Conisbrough, Hatfield, Rossington and Snaith at the same time.

Other places in the region had peaks in the numbers of burials but there is no indication of the causes. The parish of Whitgift recorded 329 burials in 1631 and of those, 208 of the individuals were from Reedness. This seems an enormous number from such a small community. However not far away in 1632, in Thorne, the registers show 273 burials when the normal average was about 40. The movements of the troops of the Civil War could not be blamed for these deaths as the war had not yet started. We will never know what the cause was, but we do know that although Doncaster suffered greatly there were many other places in Yorkshire which suffered catastrophic losses.

Beverley suffered outbreaks of plague in 1604 and 1610 leaving the town very poor and then in 1640 the Civil War caused further impoverishment. Wakefield had the plague in 1625 and it moved to Halifax in 1631 and then back to Wakefield. In 1644 Halifax recorded 500 deaths and in the same year approximately 20% of the population of Leeds died. Plague was devastating in Dewsbury and Ossett in 1583 and 1593

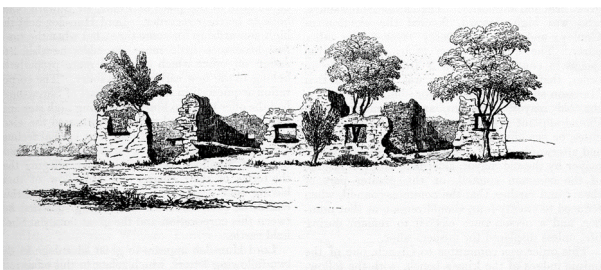
Hull suffered the plague in 1635 and it lasted until 1639. It is known that 2730 persons died but many fled the area so there may have been more deaths. Any boat entering the harbour was watched for 30 days before crew or goods were allowed ashore. It is said that the town was so depleted that grass grew amongst the cobbles of the streets. Hull forbade meetings of societies, and the churches and schools were closed.

In the 17th century there was a spa in Fulwood, Sheffield, that was believed to

have curative properties. Many people tried to visit, and it became necessary to guard all the roads leading into the city to prevent persons from affected areas entering and transmitting the disease. York had strict laws to stop the spread by preventing incomers from mixing freely, but in 1605 it is reported that 3512 people died of the plague.

Further north, Newcastle was visited by the plague. After a number of smaller plagues, the city was hit hardest in 1636. It originated in South Shields and then spread to Newcastle and was believed to have come from Holland. Between 6 May and 31 Dec 1636 there were 5037 deaths from plague in Newcastle

During the reign of Queen Ann, a pest house was built in Hexthorpe. It stood on the left side of the trackway which led from Doncaster to Conisbrough, roughly on the line of the present Little Moor Lane.



This was at the outer boundary of Doncaster. It consisted of four cells each with a window and a fireplace. The ruins were demolished in about 1829.

Of course, this was not the last epidemic which we suffered, as the so-called Spanish 'flu outbreak in 1919 led to more deaths than during the First World War. In 1918 the Doncaster registers show 1453 deaths but in 1919 there are 6236. Of course not all these deaths would have been due to 'flu, but it obviously played a major role in the marked increase.

Despite the losses which Doncaster has suffered during all these catastrophes we have always recovered eventually and surely we will do so again now that there are vaccines, something which our predecessors didn't have and they only had vinegar as a hand sanitiser.

Sources

Hunter, South Yorkshire 1803

Brian Barber A History of Doncaster 2007

C W Hatfield Plague 1870

Parish records

Pattie Birch, Member 3232

Will the right John Ashmore please stand up!

Using Newspapers to Discover More About My Ancestors

Trying to identify pieces about your family in the historical newspaper collections can be time-consuming but it can also be an enlightening experience. Copies of thousands of national, regional and local newspapers going back hundreds of years are held by the British Library. They also have an extensive collection of newspapers from overseas. In addition to this national treasure it is also possible to find copies of some local newspapers in local libraries, but these are usually only available to see on microfilm.

In the not too distant past, the only way to access the British Library collections was in person at Collingwood in London. You had to pre-order the titles and issues you wanted to see and when you arrived you would be presented with a massive bound collection of original newspapers to look through. On the assumption that you knew exactly what you were looking for, you were able to turn to the pages you were after and find the articles in question. If you were not sure of the date or topic you hoped to find, you had no alternative other than to scan the page of every newspaper and hope something leapt out at you. I spent a number of days looking through dusty newspapers that were quite literally disintegrating before my eyes. I must be easily distracted because I found myself reading most of each newspaper as they were so interesting - especially the adverts!

My husband's mum wrote a diary for most of her life and she was good enough to mention if family members were featured in the local newspaper. His task was so much easier than mine as he knew which newspaper he needed and he had dates for the editions from her diaries. He was very successful in identifying the pictures and articles she mentioned and we were able to get copies of them while we were there.

Things changed as the world moved towards the digital age and the British Library decided to digitise their entire collection to make it accessible online. It was an essential step as many of the newspapers were too fragile to be handled without causing further damage and the project began. They scanned the national newspapers first and are currently working their way through an extensive local newspaper collection. It is frustrating having to wait years for the area you are interested in to come online, but it does mean you can search the growing collection from the comfort of your own computer and with the added bonus of a search engine.

The first time I tried the new process I was successful in finding something about one of my ancestors as the search engine took me straight to it in seconds. This was thrilling, even if it was only a notice of a forthcoming marriage, but I was hooked. It soon became my practice to try searching for everyone in my family tree and also looking for pieces about the places where they lived. However, sometimes you hit a conundrum. You find something about a person with the same name as your ancestor, living in the same location, but is it the person you are looking for? I try not to make assumptions and do not use the information unless I am sure it is correct and I thought other members would be interested to know how I approach the issue of deciding matters of questionable identity.

I came across one of these conundrums when I was trying to find out as much as possible about my great grandfather **John Brown Ashmore**. I found lots of articles in local newspapers which appeared to describe his life of public service within the Methodist movement. The earliest find described him entertaining a large group of people attending a fund-raising event in Calow, near Chesterfield, Derbyshire in 1881 and the latest is a description of him giving a speech at a Temperance Conference in Wombwell, South Yorkshire in 1905.

Between these dates I have discovered more than a dozen different articles describing the activities of “John Ashmore from Brimington”. This man was the president of the Sunday School Union, a member of the Brimington Burial Board and a member of Brimington School Board. He was in the habit of writing to the newspapers to complain about other people and there was a series of letters that I like to call “orange gate”. John Ashmore gave free oranges to the children of Brimington on Shrove Tuesday. He was then accused of giving the fruit to influence the fathers of the children to vote for him in the forthcoming School Board election. His accuser was a grocer and John Ashmore had a letter of denial printed in the local paper followed by his own accusations against the nameless grocer. It sounds quite comical but it was quite an issue at the time.

As my great grandfather, John Brown Ashmore, had been born and bred in Brimington I initially assumed that all these articles related to him, but looking through all the articles together I began to realise they could be about two men, not one. I made a list of each article in chronological order and picked out words that could confirm an identity. Every article described a John Ashmore who was a leading light inside the Methodist congregation and also someone who was involved with the temperance movement – a good

description of my great grandfather. My next step was to compare the information about my great grandfather's life that I had already established to see if there were any discrepancies, and there were.

The major discrepancy was the place where John Brown Ashmore was living. I was sure that he was living at Whittington Moor in 1886 because he gave that address when he registered the birth of one of his children. Whittington Moor was only two miles away from Brimington and the two communities were closely linked. He was still living in Whittington in 1888 when his son Lawson was born so it looked feasible that he was serving the Methodist congregation by representing them on the School Board and the Sunday School Union. However, by 1899 he had moved to Park Gate near Rawmarsh, so his continued membership of these bodies looked doubtful. As the John Ashmore in question (the one serving on all these organisations) became very ill in 1895, so ill that he had to resign from these posts, it looked even less likely that this was John Brown Ashmore, as he had just remarried in Park Gate.

So who is this other John Ashmore if it is not John Brown Ashmore? The mystery was solved when I found his obituary in another newspaper. This John Ashmore was born in 1840 and died in 1905. He had made his living as a butcher with a shop on Burnell Street, Brimington. His obituary described his membership of the bodies mentioned in the collection of articles I had amassed and when his children were also listed I was able to confirm that he was in fact John Brown Ashmore's second cousin.

I have now been able to identify which newspaper article relates to which John Ashmore and have separated the ones about my ancestor from his cousin. My great grandfather was the entertainer, lay preacher and campaigner but did not serve on any board. He did not play any part in the scandal of the oranges either. This example illustrates how easy it is to use the wrong information by making assumptions.

Karen Walker, Member 2062

Browney Points -The Way to Maurice Chevalier's Success

This is the story of fascinating links between the First World War, the village of Browney Colliery, Durham, a schoolteacher and an international star. The booklet was written and researched by Thomas H. Fox, a member of Doncaster & District Family History Society and Brancepeth Archive & History Group, Durham.

Tom was researching the history of Browney Colliery, for an article for the History Group. Whilst interviewing William **Smith Richardson**, a former under-manager of nearby Brandon Colliery he mentioned that he had met Maurice **Chevalier** in the 1920's. William recounted how one of his former teachers – Ronald Kennedy – often spoke to pupils concerning his experiences as a soldier, and of meeting **Chevalier** at a prison camp in Germany during WW1. This was corroborated by a miner Albert **Balmer** a former fellow pupil.

Further references to the Home Front, Browney School, **Chevalier's** visit to Durham and a short biography of both Ronald **Kennedy** and Maurice **Chevalier** are also included.

In 1914, **Chevalier**, an infantryman in the French Army, was involved in combat at Cones-la-Grandville in the Merthe-et-Moselle district of France. He suffered a chest wound and was captured and given emergency treatment. He was sent to Allen-Grabow where he was hospitalised. Whilst at the camp of 12,000 inmates there was an epidemic of typhus and dysentery which took its toll; ousted from his bed he later volunteered to be a medical orderly.

Later he witnessed the arrival of a group of British prisoners which triggered an idea that was to influence his career. He considered that if he learned English then his opportunities to appear in the London stage might possibly follow. He approached a British Sergeant-Major who duly selected Sergeant Ronald **Kennedy** because of his teaching background. They agreed to teach each other their language. After a few sessions **Kennedy** proved to be the better teacher and gave up the idea of learning French. He taught **Chevalier** English, Music Hall hits and traditional English songs, which **Chevalier** performed at camp concerts, much to the delight of the inmates.

In Autumn 1916 the Swiss Red Cross organised exchanges of French & German prisoners of war (in particular medical personnel). So, after two years and four months internment **Chevalier** was freed; after a medical examination he was declared unfit for further service and discharged. He was subsequently awarded the Croix de Guerre.

Ronald **Kennedy** remained a prisoner of war for the duration of the war at camps in Germany & Holland. **Chevalier** had commented that he would not forget him 'He was a wonderful teacher and a great friend'.

Following the war **Chevalier** resumed his career in stage and cabaret, but bouts of depression caused him to lose confidence. After a year of rehabilitation in Switzerland his mind turned to memories and his friendship with Ronald, and so he decided to visit his good friend at his home in Neville's Cross, Durham City.



Maurice Chevalier

Following Ronald's discharge on 3rd March 1919, he resumed his teaching at Waterhouses School and then Browney School on 6th January 1920, later becoming Deputy Head Teacher before moving to Brandon new school in 1929. In the early 1930s he was appointed Headmaster at Whickham School and remained there until his retirement in 1955.

With the advent of talking films **Chevalier** found a new niche which complemented his stage career – his first Hollywood film was in 1929. After WW2 he toured the world with his one-man show, and in 1950 another film appearance relaunched his career, being a mini success in "GIGI".

A mutual friendship which had been born of extraordinary circumstances and which strengthened with the passage of time came to an end on New Year's Day 1972 when **Chevalier** passed away in Paris aged 83.

His great friend and much-admired teacher Ronald died at Gateshead in March 1975 aged 85.

Source: Booklet researched and written by Thomas H. Fox.
Published by Brancepeth Archive & History Group, Durham.

Copies of the booklet price £2.00 + postage 65p can be obtained from Tom via Keith Crouter, 01302 342301

K. Crouter, Member 1623

Transcribing Doncaster's Death Registers

My wife, Amanda, and I have been part of Lynn's team who are (or were, prior to the closure of the records archives, and then the pandemic and lockdown!) transcribing Doncaster's various official registers to a more accessible form of electronic record.

The process is fairly straightforward, and it's easier with two people at a time – one to read out the content of the register and one to transcribe the data to an Excel chart. At a later point, a second team then checks the input of the first team, following the same routine: one reads each of the electronic records, and the other checks it against the official register. With the best will in the world, it is so easy to make mistakes – a minor transcription glitch, where age 15 becomes age 51, or where a date of birth becomes 1884 rather than 1848 – things which simply aren't obvious (whereas a Jhon Smith is clearly mistyped...). This second check is then followed by a third check, this time looking specifically at the (hopefully very few) things which the first two teams weren't able to resolve – and if you've seen some of the handwriting

involved, and the abbreviation used, you'll understand why this can be an issue! In most cases, these are medical terms which are illegible, apparently meaningless, or obviously incorrectly written.

The aim, ultimately, is for all of Doncaster's official records – births, marriages, deaths – to be available to society members on a simple search basis, so searching for an ancestor locally becomes a much more straightforward operation.

However, one 'hidden' benefit of this transcription onto Excel spreadsheets means that all of the raw data is capable of being interrogated, re-sorted, classified, arranged and compared in ways which our non-electronic predecessors could never have imagined.

The 'base data' is simply arranged in columns, following the layout in the official register: date, surname, Christian name or initials, sex, age at death, d/m/y of death, address, cause of death.

Using Excel, however, it is the work of moments to re-sort this data by, for example, address. We can then see the 'unhealthy' areas, where maybe larger numbers of death have been recorded than might have been expected – which in turn possibly shows how some infectious diseases have spread. If this '**address-sorted**' data is then *also* sorted by '**cause of death**' the prevalence of certain types of illness or infection in a given area becomes very apparent.

Alternatively, we can sort the data by '**age**' – and maybe also by '**date of death**' – and see how certain childhood illnesses have become more – or less – prevalent, over time. We can sort the data by '**surname**' and possibly by '**address**' to see those families suffering excessive deaths, maybe over a given period of time; this could also show genetic predispositions to certain conditions, useful for later family researchers.

We can sort simply by '**cause of death**' and see what were the most – and least – common causes of death: taking this small four-year sample, of some 2,000 entries, we can see around 230 cases where bronchitis was cited; 70 of cancer, 30-odd brain-related causes (usually strokes); 50 cases of 'convulsions'; 60 cases of diarrhoea; 120-odd cases of heart failure/cardiac issues, etc. Some of these illnesses or diseases could also have demonstrable links with different industries around the area at the time.

There are around 100 cases where 'premature birth' was the cause of death of the infant. Just consider those figures: 100 deaths out of 2,000 from this

single cause, and an alarming 600 children died before adulthood. However, there are around 340 people who lived beyond the proverbial 'three-score year and ten' – and 100 of them lived beyond 80!

160 people out of our 2,000 died in the Union Workhouse; 60 in the Infirmary.

From a social history perspective, these sorts of facts and figures speak volumes, and must make us so glad we live in today's NHS- and social services-protected age.

There are also those sad cases with more of an unknown story behind them: 'run over by a train'; 'run over by horse and cart', 'hanged himself', 'suicide by hanging', 'drowned', 'wounds inflicted by husband Philip', 'injured on railway', 'accident on road', 'injuries to finger'. For interested researchers, these could lead on to investigations with the local coroner's archives, or to archived copies of local newspapers of the time.

This has just been a tiny sample: around just 2,000 entries in the death register between January 1891 and November 1894. Consider how much more social information will become available when we have completed this task!

Although we don't yet know when we will be able to continue with this work (due both to the pandemic and to the local reorganisation of the archives and the library service), we always need volunteers to help with this. All you need is good eyesight and a good attention to detail. Also, an ability to decipher handwritten copy is vital, ideally coupled with a knowledge of Doncaster, so you recognise various street names. In some cases, it is really helpful to have a slight knowledge of medical terminology (although many of the medical terms encountered are somewhat archaic: phthisis, apoplexy, albuminuria, softening of the brain, dropsy, etc.).

It's a classic case of 'do what you can'; this a long-term project, and nice though it would be for it to be over by next Thursday, that's not going to happen! So, if you feel you could only do a couple of hours, once every three weeks – that's great. It's two more hours than we would have had without you!

Jon Fingold, Member 4349

How Grandad Ellis got to Thurnscoe; a story of family migration

When I was very young, time went far more slowly than it does now. I thought that the people I knew would live forever and that they had always lived in the same place. Every Sunday in the early 1950s, I went with my mother on the Yorkshire Traction bus from Wath to visit my Nanna and Grandad **Ellis** in Thurnscoe. They'd always been there as far as I was concerned, although I realised that they talked differently to my father's family and I couldn't always understand everything they said.

My grandfather William **Ellis** was a face worker at Hickleton Main colliery and he and my grandmother Harriet lived in a house owned by the National Coal Board in Briton Street in Thurnscoe. There was a built-in iron range in the large kitchen with an open coal fire, but Nanna did a lot of the cooking on her tiny two ring Baby Belling that sat on one side of the sink in the corner. She got down on the floor in the pantry to stab tins and lever them open with the tin opener. The kitchen was the busy heart of the house and I remember the holes in the lino where my Uncle Joe had played marbles as a boy. Everywhere was spotless, especially the front room, with its three-piece suite and great big gramophone. We only went in there on special occasions.

I came eventually to understand that my grandparents were from Sunderland and that my mother had been born there, and for a very long time as far as I was concerned that was where it had all started.

When I retired from my job as a social worker in the soft south, I decided to find out about my family. I travelled to Silksworth in Sunderland. They've knocked down the row of crude terraced housing in Tempest Street built by the mine owners where my grandfather William **Ellis** was born in 1899. The **Vane-Tempests** owned large swathes of land in the Durham coalfield and in 1819 the heiress Lady Frances Anne **Vane-Tempest** married Charles **Stewart** who shortly afterwards inherited the title of Marquess of Londonderry. He developed the local coal industry and became notorious for his poor treatment of the miners. But by the 1900s conditions had improved and the little terraced house down the way in Aline Street, where William "Billy" **Ellis** lived as a lad, is still there. It's what's known locally as a Sunderland cottage, and was regarded as advanced housing for its time. Many still remain and these "little palaces" are described and celebrated in Michael Johnson's book of 2015.

Billy's father and grandfather were both called Joseph and both were miners

in the Durham pits, but this was not how Joseph senior had started his working life. I “lost” this Joseph for a while and this is where I learnt yet again of the need not to make assumptions and to be open to surprises. Many lateral checks later I found Joseph in 1851 aged 8 living in the little village of Meavy on the western edge of Dartmoor, where he had been born and christened.

Like so many of all our ancestors Joseph was originally an agricultural labourer. Meavy seems an idyllic spot now, with pretty holiday cottages and busy with cyclists and other tourists when I visited, but in the mid-nineteenth century life must have been very hard and insecure for labouring families. Men were employed by farmers for as little as 7 or 8 shillings a week, as identified by the vicar **Edward Girdlestone** of Halberton, north east of Dartmoor, who lobbied for reform and actively encouraged men to migrate. According to census returns Joseph was working in 1861 as a carter and “servant” for a local farmer three miles from Meavy. I suspect that he must have moved several times locally to find work. By 1871 he had moved again even further away from home to work as a labourer for a miller in Plympton St Mary, outside Plymouth. By then he had a wife and a small child to support and conditions for agricultural workers in Devon and much of the country had become even harder. Cheap grain from the US and improved transport by the new steamships led to an agricultural depression from which it took several generations for the country to recover.

Throughout my childhood years in the Dearne Valley, I remember my assertive female relatives talking very negatively about work in the pits and how good it would be to get away. So it has been curious to find out about people actively seeking work in the coal mines. In the latter decades of the nineteenth century Sunderland and the north east became the Yukon of this country, with no great riches for ordinary people but the very alluring prospect of relatively well-paid work in the mines. At some point between 1871 and 1881, Joseph moved himself and his growing family from Devon to Sunderland. I have not been able to find out exactly how, but I suspect that this again was to do with the steamships and the availability of coastal transport, and I presume that Joseph took a ship from Plymouth to Sunderland.

From 1911 to 1939 his grandson Billy’s own story also has its gaps and like many of us I will be very pleased to see the 1921 census when it is published in January 2022. I have always found the more recent history of my ancestors more difficult to trace than more distant events. Billy followed his father

Joseph to work in the local colliery, and records confirm that in 1921 he married Harriet my grandmother, who lived a couple of miles away at Ryhope, where her father and grandfather were miners too. Not long afterwards my mother was born. But the 1920s were hard times in the north east, where the general unemployment rate had risen to 15% by 1925. In the coal industry, output and wages had been falling for a number of years and fell even further as demand for coal dropped in the face of competition from “free coal” from Germany, one of the penalties the Germans paid after the Great War. In 1926 miners were locked out after refusing to accept the owners’ proposal of longer working hours and further reductions in wages. After the subsequent General Strike many remained unemployed for years. It is not exactly clear what happened to Billy and Harriet at this time but it is against this background that Billy started to look for work elsewhere.

It seems that at some time after 1921 and before 1928 when the birth of their second child, Joseph, my Uncle Joe, is recorded, Billy and Harriet had come down to South Yorkshire. I remember Billy always being known in the family as an adventurous type who was often getting into scrapes. He was once chased and nearly shot as a trespasser, when he had taken a short cut across the allotments after a very merry night at the club; he fell over and came home with a broken arm. So it did not surprise me to learn a couple of years ago from my late uncle that **Billy Ellis** had walked all the way down from Sunderland to the Dearne Valley to find work. There are no details of this hundred-mile journey and I know many of us must regret not learning more from our families while there was still time. I have a feeling that many men must have walked long distances to find work in those days.

The house in Briton Street, in the north east of Thurnscoe, where my grandparents had their home was built in the early 1920s as part of a large development by the Industrial Housing Association. The population of Thurnscoe was growing, particularly as a result of the expansion of Hickleton Main colliery just to the south, where deeper seams were being sunk. The houses had indoor toilets and downstairs bathrooms, so miners could wash as soon as they got in from the pit. My grandparents’ house had three bedrooms and large gardens front and rear. It could only have been a few years old and my grandmother Harriet, who was always as neat as a new pin, must have been very pleased indeed. In those days women from working families cannot have had many luxuries and I shall always remember how she enjoyed having Carnation Milk in her tea.

Harriet passed away in 1974. In her seventies she was still having to make coal fires in the little bungalow that she and Billy had moved to in Market Street, Goldthorpe. Billy had contracted silicosis and did not live for long after her, but he and his family have left a legacy. Like many miners he was a keen gardener and his land at Briton Street was full of flowers and vegetables. I didn't appreciate at first that I was carrying on a family tradition when I started growing things here in my own garden. Joseph has continued as a family name and Billy's young great-great-grandson is Joseph now.



Billy's aspirational daughters all achieved their goal of escaping the pits. One of my aunts got as far away as she could without leaving the country and ended her days as a dog breeder on the south coast. My father started work as an electrician in the colliery at Highgate, Goldthorpe, but in the late 1950s my mother encouraged him to move south to the rapidly developing car industry around Luton.

For me, family history is always enriched by finding out about economic and social change. Most people have always had to find work somewhere, and migration continues today.

Chris Rhodes, Member 4433

Donations

The Society would like to thank to following people for their kind donations:

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| F. Cooper | Member 3680 |
| K. C. Foulds | Member 1157 |
| J. Scott | Member 4114 |

Correction

In the last Doncaster Ancestor, the author of Kiss Myself Goodbye, should have said Ferdinand Mount and not Hilary Mantel. Apologies.

Recent Publications by D&DFHS

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

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

Our latest updated Parish download now includes Hensall marriages & additional information.

Hensall St Paul's Church

Baptisms 1852 to 1931
Marriages 1856 to 1950
Burials 1854 to 1920

Monumental Inscriptions
White's Directory 1837
Kelly's Directory 1893 & 1927



Pollington St John's Church

Baptisms 1854 to 1932
Burials 1855 to 1951

Monumental Inscriptions
Universal Directory 1791
White's Directory 1837
Kelly's Directory 1857 & 1927

New Members

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

| Mem ID | Title | Initial | Last Name |
|--------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 4456 | Mr & Mrs | A & L | Woodward |
| 4457 | Ms | T | Worboys |
| 4458 | Mr & Mrs | C R & C A | Hennis |
| 4459 | Mrs | C M | Brammer |
| 4460 | Mr | R | White |
| 4461 | Mr | A | Harbon |
| 4462 | Mrs | C | Tritton |
| 4463 | Mrs | S | Kenny |
| 4464 | Mr | P | Barnett |
| 4465 | Mrs | S | Sura |

Members' Interests

Detailed are new or revised "Members' Interests". At the end of each line is the membership number of the person researching that name. The names and contact details for each member are available from:
Members' Interest Enquiries (see inside back page).

Please note that Chapman codes have been used for counties. Full details of the Chapman Codes can be found on our website, If you do not have access to the internet, please contact a committee member to obtain a written copy.

| Name | Code | Place | Dates | Member |
|------------|------|------------|-----------|--------|
| Gleadhall | WRY | Tickhill | 1700-1900 | 4245 |
| Herrington | WRY | Bawtry | 1700-1900 | 4245 |
| Herrington | WRY | Rossington | 1700-1900 | 4245 |
| Hill | WRY | Rossington | 1700-1900 | 4245 |
| Packin | WRY | Rossington | 1700-1900 | 4245 |
| Strawson | WRY | Doncaster | All | 4245 |
| Willobey | WRY | Rossington | 1700-1900 | 4245 |

| Name | Code | Place | Date | Member |
|-------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Bacon | NTT | South Leverton | 1660-1850 | 4455 |
| Cole | NTT | Treswell | 1660-1850 | 4455 |
| Fisher | ESS | West Ham | 1880-1910 | 4455 |
| Fisher | MDX | Edmonton | 1824-1880 | 4455 |
| Fisher | MDX | Spitalfields | 1824-1880 | 4455 |
| Fisher | MDX | Tottenham | 1824-1880 | 4455 |
| Fisher | NTT | Littleborough | 1700-1850 | 4455 |
| Fisher | NTT | Rampton | 1700-1850 | 4455 |
| Fisher | WRY | Dalton | 1700-1850 | 4455 |
| Fisher | WRY | Dinnington | 1700-1850 | 4455 |
| Fisher | WRY | Laughton-en-le-Morthen | 1620-1850 | 4455 |
| Fisher | WRY | Rotherham | 1700-1850 | 4455 |
| Fisher | WRY | Sheffield | 1620-1850 | 4455 |
| Fisher | WRY | Throapham | 1700-1850 | 4455 |
| South | WRY | Conisbrough | 1667-1750 | 4455 |
| Warrener | NTT | Ollerton | 1614-1850 | 4455 |
| Ashurst | LAN | Wigan | 1750-1850 | 4459 |
| Brammer | WRY | Sheffield | 1800-1900 | 4459 |
| Haydock | LAN | Wigan | 1750-1850 | 4459 |
| O'Neill | IRE | Any | 1750-1850 | 4459 |
| Plunkett | IRE | County Louth | 1750-1850 | 4459 |
| Rockcliff | WRY | Kirk Smeaton | 1750-1900 | 4463 |
| Palmer | WRY | Tickhill | 1700-1800 | 4463 |
| Jenkinson | WRY | Campsall | 1700-1800 | 4463 |
| Palmer | WRY | Rossington | 1750-1850 | 4463 |
| Palmer | WRY | Wragby | 1750-1850 | 4463 |
| Foster | WRY | Sutton | 1700-1850 | 4463 |
| Kenny | WRY | Goole | 1850-1950 | 4463 |
| Kenny | WRY | Howden | 1850-1950 | 4463 |
| Kenney | WRY | Goole | 1850-1950 | 4463 |
| Kenney | WRY | Howden | 1850-1950 | 4463 |
| Marshall | WRY | Askern | 1850-1950 | 4463 |
| Broom | WRY | Doncaster | 1850-1950 | 4463 |

Obituaries

The Society passes on condolences to the following people.

Kerry Milan informed us that sadly his wife **Patricia** has passed away.

We have also been informed that **Ian Liddle**, husband of **Jenny** has recently passed away.

Former Doncaster Archives & Palgrave Research Centre site taken March 2021



Dates For Your Diary

June 19th The Family History Show

10.00 - 16.30 online price £6.00

**September 29th DNA What do you learn? Are you really a Viking by
Karen Evans**

Adverts for DNA testing are constantly on TV – but what do you actually get? The talk covers understanding how the test works in very general terms, getting the most from the test (what the results mean) & how to validate paper research or illegitimacy. It also highlights the range and pitfalls of using DNA testing, particularly finding out where your family came from – Do You Think You Are a Viking.

**October 27th WDYTIA and it's Impact on Family History Today by
Dr Nick Barrett**

Dr Nick Barratt is an author, broadcaster and historian best known for his work on BBC's *Who Do You Think You Are*. He is an honorary associate professor of public history at the University of Nottingham, the Director of Learner and Discovery Services at the Open University, a teaching fellow at the University of Dundee and a fellow of the Royal Historical Society. He is currently the President of the Family History Federation, sits on the Executive Committee of the Community Archives and Heritage Group and is part of the Midlands 4 Cities Doctoral Training Partnership Advisory Group.

'Nick's lecture takes us back to when *Who Do You Think You Are* was first commissioned, and he explores how the show was made, illustrated with case studies and anecdotes – as well as considers the impact it has had on the way we see family history today.'

November 24th From the Mill to Monte Carlo by Anne Fletcher

Joseph Hobson Jagger: Yorkshire's Man who broke the bank at Monte Carlo

Anne is his great, great niece and she will talk about her search for her ancestor's story and how newly discovered sources and the assistance of local history societies helped her prevent his extraordinary life from being lost to history.

D&DFHS Subscription Rates 01 Apr 2021 - 31 Mar 2022

Please make all cheques/postal orders
etc. payable to:

Doncaster & District Family

History Society

Send to Membership Secretary

- see back page

or **www.genfair.com**

Individuals £10.00

Family in same house £12.00

Institutions UK £12.00

Overseas

Electronic journal £12.00

Paper journal £15.00

**New Members who join January - March can receive
up to 3 months membership free**

DDFHS Research Enquiry Service

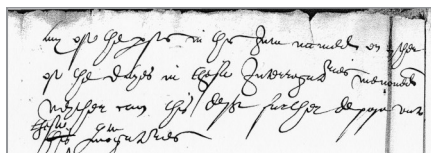
Due to the closure of the **HELP DESK** & to celebrate the Society's 40th Anniversary we are offering a limited free email Research Service.

The Research Service is primarily a "look-up" service and is limited to one surname search of the Society's 1.5 million transcriptions database. Any additional research will be at the discretion of the Society's Research Enquiries Coordinator, Trevor Betterton. **researchenquiries@doncasterfhs.co.uk**

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

Transcription Service

**That will you have ordered or downloaded
Can you read it? We can!**



The Old Documents Reading Group are offering a Transcription Service of wills, inventories, deeds, indentures and other old documents, including ones that you have part-transcribed but just cannot make out that last bit.

Competitive charges. Send a photocopy of your documents (NOT the original) for an estimate of the cost to:

Philip Langford, 45 The Avenue, Bessacarr, Doncaster, DN4 5JZ
Tel: 01302 539194 or email readolddocs@aol.com

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Vacancies

- Vice Chairman
- Committee Member
- Fairs Co-ordinator
- Bookstall Co-ordinator

Please contact the Chairman if you are interested in undertaking any of the above roles.

chairman@doncasterfhs.co.uk

***Please do not telephone Committee Members
and Volunteers after 9.00pm***

Doncaster Ancestor – Summer 2021

**Parishes and Townships in the
Archdeaconry of Doncaster 1914**

If undelivered please return to:
Mr K Crouter
21 Sandall Park Drive
Wheatley Hills
Doncaster DN2 5RP