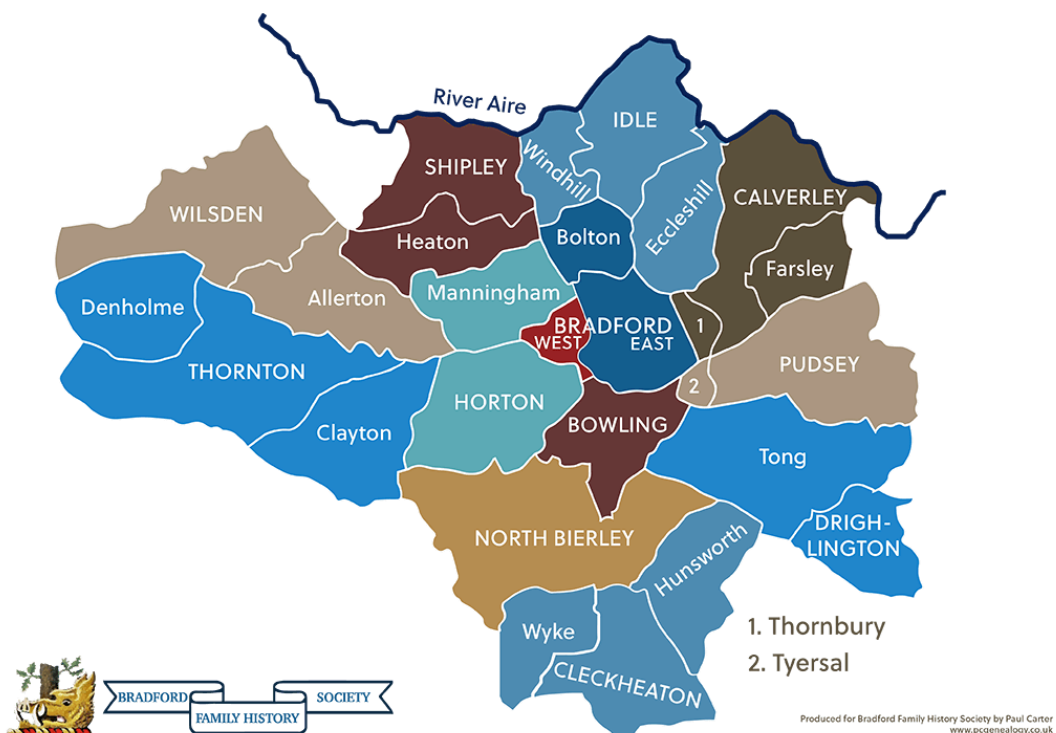


# Bod-Kin

Volume 14

Number 6

June 2022



Bradford district map, produced by Paul Carter for BFHS  
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**Journal of the  
Bradford Family History Society**

# BRADFORD FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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**[www.bradfordfhs.org.uk](http://www.bradfordfhs.org.uk)**

**A member of the Family History Federation and the  
Yorkshire Group of Family History Societies.**

Chairman	Mrs Sue Steel	9a Grove Ave., Shipley, BD18 3BG chairman@bradfordfhs.org.uk 07855773102
Secretary	Mrs Bobbie Hipshon	1 Norfolk Close, Chapel Allerton, Leeds, LS7 4QB Secretary@bradfordfhs.org.uk
Treasurer	Dr Gill Overend	22 Harbour Crescent, Wibsey, Bradford, BD6 3QG Treasurer@bradfordfhs.org.uk
Membership & Members Interests Secretary	Mrs. Andrea Brown	20 Canberra Drive, Crossroads, Keighley, BD22 9DG membsec@bradford.fhs.org.uk
Publications Officer	Ms Sally Tetlow	Sleepy Hollow, Soaper Lane, Halifax, HX3 7PX pubsofficer@bradfordfhs.org.uk
Committee Member	Mr Bill Boldy	
Committee Member	Mrs Anne Attfield	
Committee Member	Mr Derek Dyson	
Committee Member	Mrs Maureen Logan	
Committee Member	Mrs Shirley Sura	
Committee Member	Mrs Pat Whitford- Bartle	
Non-Committee Member		
Link Scheme Co-ordinator	Mr Ken Kenzie	Contact by letter with SAE, 45 Victoria Road, Eccleshill, Bradford, BD10 8AQ
Bod-Kin editor	Miss Sally Robinson	1 Nab Wood Gardens, Shipley, BD18 4ES Bodkin@bradfordfhs.org.uk

Many others help the Society from time to time. Without their help, we would not function so well.

Please include your membership number in all correspondence and a SAE if you require a reply unless you are purchasing items that include postage.

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# **Journal of the Bradford Family History Society**

## **Editorial: [bodkin@bradfordfhs.org.uk](mailto:bodkin@bradfordfhs.org.uk), or**

Postal address: 1 Nab Wood Gardens, Shipley BD18 4ES  
Please use this address for editorial matters only

### **The Editor writes .....**

Welcome to the anniversary edition of the Bod-Kin. We begin with a copy of the first newsletter which went out in Spring 1983 but gives a good review of the first year of the Society.

I am looking forward to putting some faces and names together at our anniversary celebrations in October and being part of the great programme that the team has been working hard to put together.

Here's to the next 40 years...

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# Number 1, Volume 1

## Spring 1983

It seemed inevitable that a Family History Society would be formed for the Bradford area. Historians have abounded in the area, Scruton, Cudworth, James, all contributing their research and writings for our generation to enjoy and assist with our family research. The Bradford Family History Society was officially formed in April 1982, with about 60 persons preens, since then monthly meetings have been held, with the benefit of talks, visits and slides embracing the subject of family history.

A course of six lessons were held at the Bolton Road annexe of the Ilkley and Bradford College, "Tracing Your Family Tree", 41 persons enrolled, most of whom completed the courses, and anyone interested should contact the Society.

A full set of Mormon Microfiche Index of Parish and Non-Conformist registers for the Whole World, has been on order since October, this will be purchased from Society funds, and will be deposited in the Local Studies Department of Bradford Central Library for public use. The latest information, is that is in transit by sea from America.

The success of any undertaking depends upon the support it receives from its members and further ideas and suggestions will be welcomed. It is hoped that the members will assist in the Undercliffe Cemetery recording project, stated by the Family History Section of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society some time ago. A party will be present initially each Sunday in May and with plenty of help, fine weather, it is hoped to complete this most important piece of Bradford's history before vandalism takes hold.

Any contributions towards this newsletter will be appreciated, I am sure that you have all found facinating facts in your researching, read a book not well known to others, found an unusual source of information or just wish to express an opinion about the subject.

This is your society concerning Bradford and its people the Bradfordians, the majority were just ordinary people, who paved the way in history, and gave us true Yorkshire traditions which are part of our own family histories.

Philip Rushworth AGRA

Chairman/Secretary.

## From T'Chairman

Sue Steel



From June 1982 to June 2022 Bradford Family History Society has made 40 years. Congratulations to all members, officials, committee members and anyone who has been involved over the years. From small beginnings on a course in Family History with a handful of individuals, we have grown to become a large enterprise with members in USA, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Europe. Not forgetting the many people throughout the UK. There has been not surprisingly many changes since 1982 with many venue alterations, the coming of the internet and research changes, price changes and technological advances especially the more recent Zoom meetings. But one thing has not changed. The enthusiasm for Family History research and the investigations into the past. As a Society we hope to carry on for yet another 40 years, whatever that may entail.

Inside the envelope containing this magazine you should have received a celebratory bookmark. There are 14 designs in all containing details of Bradford landmarks and people. These have been given out at random to all members. We do have more if you want another (cost post & packaging I'm afraid). The designs are of – Bronte Birthplace; Conditioning House (wool testing centre); Fattorini (Jewellers); Kirkgate Market; Lister's Mill; Bradford Mechanics Institute; Newlands Mill Disaster; Henry Pullan (music hall fame); Robert Milligan (Mayor of Bradford); Swithin Anderton (wool baron); Titus Salt (of Saltaire); W E Forster (Education Act 1870); William Mawson (architect) and the Wool Exchange.

**Please do see the separate article and update on the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary weekend, it contains important information on changes we have had to make.**

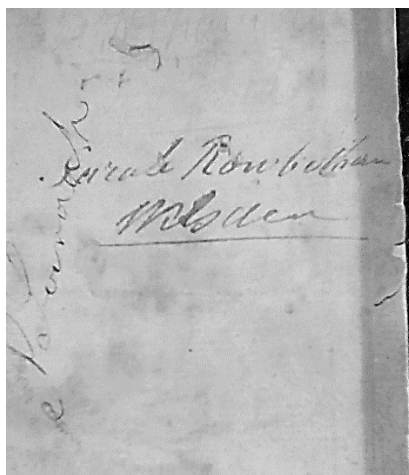
As ever I would like to welcome the new committee for 2022/23 – Bobbie Hipshon as Secretary; Gill Overend as Treasure; Andrea Brown as Membership Secretary; Sally Tetlow as Publications Officer; Anne Attfield; Bill Boldy; Derek Dyson; Maureen Logan; Shirley Sura and Pat Whitford-Bartle. My thanks also to Lorraine Birch as the retiring member of the committee. Of course, we must mention the continued work of Sally Robinson as the excellent Bod-Kin editor. They work tirelessly behind the scenes to make the Society great.

Please do get in touch by email, phone or letter if you have questions or need further information. I always love hearing from and talking to members whatever the reason. (4097)



## Are you researching the surname Rowbotham?

I was contacted by Carol Dougherty in April with this:



This is a book she inherited. It is in a poor condition, with the inscription "Sarah Rowbotham, Wilsden". The inscription is not dated but the book was printed/published in 1772, so the book is 250 years old. It has no connection to her family history and she would like to reunite it with a family who may recognise the name in their own genealogy.

If this is of interest please get in touch and I will put you in contact with Carol.

Sue Steel

(4097)

# What I did during lockdown

## Rod Marten

### *I WROTE AND PUBLISHED MY FAMILY HISTORY !*

'The Marten Family of Winchelsea and Bradford – Their Exploits at Home and Abroad' is the title of my book. This reflects the two places where my family resided the longest: the Cinque port town of Winchelsea in East Sussex where they lived in a house named Firebrand and the woollen cloth manufacturing town (now City) of Bradford, West Yorkshire where their residences were Undercliffe House and then Summerhill, Rawdon near Bradford.

With the first lockdown in 2020 appearing open-ended the question arose as to how to pass the time. Having been intending to write my family history for what seemed like decades I was inspired to start writing seriously. I had previously written short pieces about a few family members and events but this didn't amount to more than ten percent of the finished work. Having started writing in Spring 2020 I set myself a deadline of the end of the year which was thankfully achieved and I had the book printed privately in early 2021.

Prior to lockdown I was still intent on doing research and on pursuing various new leads. My writing task was helped by the fact that I had some interesting characters as ancestors and had inherited a lot of family papers. Even if you don't have a mass of information you can still with a little imagination write about your family and their times. What follows are details of my writing experience and the advice I would give to anyone wanting to record and publish their own family history.

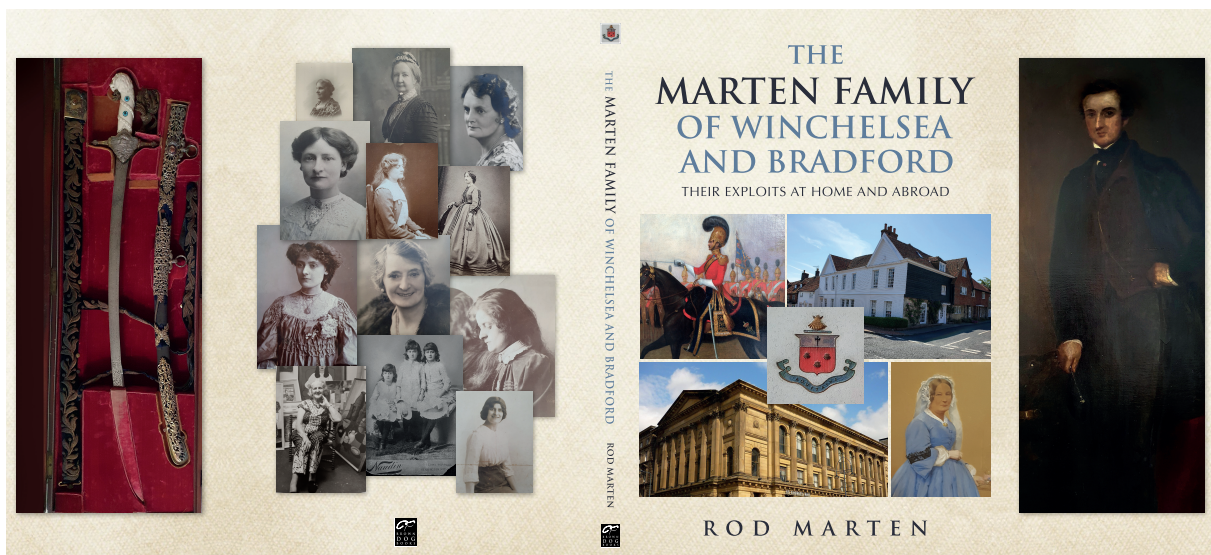
### **Planning the style and presentation**

One of the most important decisions to be made is deciding on the style and presentation of the subject matter. A cousin once told me that you needed to choose one person to focus on and tailor the writing as if they would be the only reader. In that way you would hope to retain a consistency of style and one that would also appeal to a wider readership. I allocated a chapter to each family member that I wanted to write about in detail, starting with the most interesting in the hope of engaging the readers' interest and leaving them wanting more. I went on to write about other family members in chronological order and the houses and places where the family lived. Of course, there are other equally valid approaches to presenting the narrative. It is a personal choice.

An important factor in writing about individuals is, where possible, to put them in the context of the period in which they lived and to describe the political, economic and social influences that may have shaped their lives. Relevant events of national significance should be mentioned where these could have impacted the life of an ancestor. The most obvious of these would be any number of wars not only affecting members of the armed forces but also the general population.

## Illustrations

it is important to include photos and other illustrations to add interest to the text. These can include photos of people, places, houses and family memorabilia as well as maps and drawings. I was fortunate to have many family photos to use. These can be supplemented by obtaining illustrations from online photo libraries. Some images are free to use while others have to be paid for. The images need to be around a minimum of 300dpi (dots per inch) for them to be printed. A word of warning: what may appear to be a photo of good quality on a computer screen won't necessarily turn out to have sufficient dpi for printing. Online photo libraries can often reduce the printable quality of their free images in the hope that you'll pay to download a higher quality image capable of being printed at an acceptable size.



## Copyright

It is the responsibility of the author to ensure that the copyright situation has been resolved when using someone else's images. The payment to online photo libraries for use of their images covers the copyright. Some (often public) institutions may allow use of their images free of charge provided an acknowledgement is made of the source.

## Choosing an Editor/Publisher

I found my publishing company online. They were the Self-Publishing Partnership of Bath who, as their name indicates, specialised in self-published books. They provided the editor, proof-reader, the cover and internal layout designers as well as the printers of the final version of the book. It is important to find one whose approach and examples of previous publications you like. They should be able to give you lots of helpful advice.



## **Errors and Proof-Reading**

Having your 'final' version of the book proof-read is, of course, essential but this process can only go so far is spotting mistakes. It may not highlight errors of fact unless these are obvious. For example, a person stated to have got married in, say, 1889 instead of the correct date of 1898 would probably not be flagged up as an error by someone outside the family. No end of re-reading by the author will identify every error unless the person is hyper-diligent. The author will often tend to 'see' what was intended rather than what was typed. After many dozens of re-readings of the text I was still coming across passages where a better way of saying what I wanted to convey could be found. In the end I needed to have a final deadline beyond which no further amendments could be made. Needless to say, a numbers of errors remained which were spotted by eagle-eyed members of my family!

## **Front and back covers**

The publisher will make suggestions for the design of the front and back covers if the author is uncertain of what is required. I had a definite design concept in mind but was glad of the cover designer's input both in terms of the font to be used, the colour of the title words and aspects of the layout. The illustration with this article is of the front and back covers with the flaps to both at either side.

## **Publication, Readership and Distribution**

I published my book privately (with a print run of 80 copies} and therefore did not require an ISBN. It was intended for family and interested friends and as such I decided not to sell it but to give it away with a request that the recipient make a donation to my favourite charity. I raised a sum that reached four-figures. Copies have or will be sent to the Society of Genealogists, the relevant County Archives and other interested bodies.

This whole enterprise turned out to be a very satisfactory conclusion to years of work and research culminating in an intensive eight months at the computer most days. For me lockdown had a positive outcome !

## Bradford Family History Society Ltd Profit and Loss

These are the “final, official” accounts for 2021. The surplus has been offset against the loss in 2019 so there is no tax to pay for 2021.

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	£	£
<b>Turnover</b>	8,199	6,620
Other income	1	30
Cost of raw materials and consumables	(3,931)	(3,783)
Depreciation and other amounts written off	(106)	(106)
Other charges	(2,415)	(2,504)
<b>Profit</b>	<b>1,748</b>	<b>257</b>

### Bradford Family History Society Ltd Trading Profit and Loss

		<b>2021</b>		<b>2020</b>
	£	£	£	£
<b>Turnover</b>				
Membership subscriptions		6,251		5,595
Publications		845		726
Donations received		92		149
Door receipts		100		150
Zoom receipts		911		-
		8,199		6,620
<b>Cost of sales</b>				
Opening stock	944		923	
Publications	49		45	
Bod-Kin costs	2,845		3,194	
Room hire	210		128	
Speakers' expenses	675		170	
Catering & misc	116		267	
Closing stock	(908)		(944)	
		(3,931)		(3,783)
<b>Gross profit</b>	52.06%	4,268	42.85%	2,837
<b>Administrative expenses</b>		(2,521)		(2,610)
<b>Operating profit</b>		1,747		227
<b>Investment revenues</b>				
Bank interest received	1		30	
		1		30
<b>Profit before taxation</b>	21.32%	1,748	3.88%	257

## **Bradford Family History Society Balance Sheet**

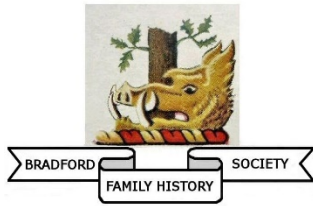
	<b>2021</b>		<b>2020</b>	
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fixed assets		-		106
Current assets	16,523		15,607	
Prepayments and accrued income	495		115	
Creditors: amounts falling due	(1,917)		(2,475)	
Net current assets		15,101		13,247
Total assets less current		15,101		13,353
Net assets		15,101		13,353
Capital and reserves		15,101		13,353

## **Bradford Family History Society Ltd Administrative Expenses**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Administrative expenses</b>		
Computer running costs	979	1,174
Professional subscriptions	207	231
Honoraria	200	-
Accountancy	480	560
Bank charges	121	120
Insurances (not premises)	356	390
Printing and stationery	72	16
Sundry expenses	-	13
Depreciation	106	106
	<b>2,521</b>	<b>2,610</b>

**Calvert Dawson Ltd**  
**Chartered Accountants**

25 April 2022  
288 Oxford Road  
Gomersal  
Cleckheaton  
West Yorkshire  
BD19 4PY



**Bradford Family History Society**  
**Focusing On Bradford**  
**40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Weekend Celebrations**  
**1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2022**  
**Aldersgate Methodist Church, Low Moor**

**Programme**

The weekend day sessions will be at Aldersgate Methodist Church, Common Road, Low Moor, Bradford, BD12 0TW. This is not far from the exit of the M606 coming into Bradford. The Church is on the corner of Common Road and Netherlands Avenue. Parking is free on site and on Netherlands Road. The rooms we will use during the day are on the ground floor and there is wheelchair access - <https://bradfordsouthcircuit.wordpress.com/your-churches/aldergate/>

The formal dinner will take place in the ground floor Poppy Suite, Best Western Guide Post Hotel, Common Road, Low Moor, BD12 0ST - <https://www.guideposthotel.net/>. The hotel is just down the road from Aldersgate Methodist Church. A bar will be available throughout the evening.

Please book by using the form in the centre of the magazine or from our website under 'About us'.

**Session 1: Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 – Day Delegate – Cost £30 per person**

The day's talks will take place in Aldersgate Methodist Church Hall and other activities in their 1986 Extension Room. There is a dining room for lunch when a buffet will be provided.

Tea & coffee (plus biscuits and cake) will be served on arrival, mid-morning and mid-afternoon.

See below for other activities available throughout the day.

Approx. Time	Activity
9.30-10.30	Registration & coffee/tea
10:30-10:35	Welcome
10:35-11.30	Talk 1 – Orientation Throughout Bradford – Mary Twentyman & Sue Steel
11:30-12:00	Tea Break
12:00-13:00	Talk 2 – The Early Years of the Bradford School Board – Janet Senior
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:00	Talk 3 – Pulling it all Together – Basics And Beyond - Jackie Depelle
15:00-15:30	Tea Break
15:30-16:30	Talk 4 – Bradford Workhouses and Children's Homes – Peter Higginbotham
16:30	Closing Remarks
16:40 -17:30	1:1 booking with local experts will be available

## **Session 2: Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 – Evening Formal Dinner – Cost £25 per person**

The formal evening Dinner at the Guide Post Hotel will start at 7pm for 7:30pm. See the booking form for menu details. The menu choices you made on booking will be printed on a name card which you can pick up on entering the dining area.

There will be a full bar available – all drinks are payable on the evening by yourselves. The bar will close at 12:30am.

Dress code for the evening will be smart casual, but feel free to ‘dress up’.

**Lesley Ellis** has kindly agreed to be our after-dinner speaker. She took part in the BBC production ‘Back in Time for Tea’ (2018) when her family from Bradford travelled back in time to discover how changing food in the North of England reveals what life had been like for working class families over the past 100 years.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b09rdv80>

Lesley will be speaking from around 9pm for approximately 30 minutes.

## **Session 3: Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2022 – Day Delegate – Cost £15 per person**

The day’s activities will take place in the 1986 Extension Room as the Church Hall will be being used for Sunday Service. There is a dining room for lunch when a buffet will be provided.

Tea & coffee (plus biscuits and cake) will be served on arrival, mid-morning and mid-afternoon.

Approx. Time	Activity
9.30-10.30	Registration & coffee/tea
10:30-10:35	Welcome
AM	Bradford Centre Walk or activities in the 1986 Extension Room
13:00-14:00	Lunch
PM	Activities in the 1986 Extension Room
16:00	Closing Remarks

See below for other activities available throughout the day.

### **1986 Extension Room Activities:**

- Throughout each day there will be displays for you to browse, such as Bradford Family History Society (of course); Low Moor Local History Group and Wibsey Local History Group.
- We are hoping to have a computer containing the Cemetery Database from Bradford Local Studies Library available for searches (please note that you will need to know the date of death as the records are not indexed).

- Friends of Undercliffe Cemetery have agreed to look up burials on their databases for you as long as you send these in before hand as it takes time to carry out searches. The results will be available during the weekend.
- There will be a laptop containing all the copies of the Bod-Kin magazine for you to examine. We have the digitized all copies and these are searchable.
- Family History trees (sent in by attendees) will be available to examine – maybe you can find a long, lost cousin. Charts will be sent out to all delegates for completion before the weekend.
- We will have maps of Bradford and surrounding area for you to look at.
- Local Experts will be available to speak to about your research and to answer any questions you may have.
- On Sunday only – Workshops will be set up depending on delegate interests (please let us have your suggestion)

### **Sunday Walk Around Bradford**

Geoff Twentyman will show us Bradford and its splendid buildings during the morning. This will either be as a walk around the city itself or virtually from Aldersgate Methodist Church depending on numbers and weather. We will meet at Aldersgate Methodist Church and travel into Bradford either by coach or cars depending on numbers. The highlights are the old buildings of the Cathedral, Wool Exchange, City Hall, St George's Hall and Little Germany to name a few.

### **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September / Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**

- We are hoping that Bradford Local Studies Library and West Yorkshire Archives (Bradford) will be open on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September and Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022 if you are visiting for longer than the weekend. You will need to book a place if you would like to visit. Please contact the library and archives direct.  
<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/libraries/find-your-local-library/local-studies-library/>  
<https://www.wyjs.org.uk/archive-service/contact-us-and-opening-times/bradford-archive-service-opening-times-and-information/>
- If you would like one of our members on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October to help in your research, please contact [Chairman@Bradfordfhs.org.uk](mailto:Chairman@Bradfordfhs.org.uk) once you have booked and we can arrange a 1:1 session at no charge.
- If you are a visitor to Bradford, staying longer than the weekend and wish to see more of the area we can offer help and advice.

## Accommodation

In order to keep prices down, we have taken the decision not to include accommodation in the price. **It is therefore attendees' responsibility to book their own accommodation if required.**

Hotels in the area are:

- Best Western Guide Post Hotel - <https://www.guideposthotel.net/>
- Premier Inn, Bradford South - [https://www.premierinn.com/gb/en/hotels/england/west-yorkshire/bradford/bradford-south.html?cid=GLBC\\_BRAHUN](https://www.premierinn.com/gb/en/hotels/england/west-yorkshire/bradford/bradford-south.html?cid=GLBC_BRAHUN)
- Bankfield Hotel - <https://www.mercurebradford.co.uk/>
- Great Victoria Hotel, Bradford - <https://www.victoriabradford.co.uk/>
- Holiday Inn Express – Vicar Lane Leisure Centre, Bradford, BD1 5LD
- Jurys Inn – 2 Thornton Road, Bradford, BD1 2DH
- Midland Hotel - <https://www.peelhotels.co.uk/midland-hotel/>
- Premier Inn – Vicar Lane, Bradford
- Travelodge Central - <https://www.travelodge.co.uk/hotels/545/Bradford-Central-hotel>

## Other things to see and do in the area:

If you are planning stay in Bradford for a few more days or your partner is accompanying you there are lots to see and do in the area including:

- Alhambra Theatre, Bradford - <https://www.bradford-theatres.co.uk/venues/the-alhambra-theatre>
- Bradford Industrial Museum, Bradford - <https://www.bradfordmuseums.org/>
- Bolling Hall Museum, Bradford - <https://www.bradfordmuseums.org/>
- Bolton Abbey, Wharfedale - <https://boltonabbey.com/>
- Cliffe Castle Museum, Keighley - <https://www.bradfordmuseums.org/>
- Haworth and the Bronte Parsonage - <https://www.bronte.org.uk/>
- Kirkstall Abbey, Kirkstall, Leeds - <https://museumsandgalleries.leeds.gov.uk/kirkstall-abbey/>
- National Science & Media Museum, Bradford - <https://www.scienceandmediamuseum.org.uk/>
- St George's Hall, Bradford - <https://www.bradford-theatres.co.uk/venues/st-georges-hall>
- Worth Valley Railway, Keighley - <https://kwvr.co.uk/>
- South Square Thornton - <https://southsquarecentre.co.uk/>

And of course, there is always shopping:

- Broadway Shopping Centre, Bradford - <https://broadwaybradford.com/>
- Trinity Shopping Centre, Leeds - <https://trinityleeds.com/>
- White Rose Shopping Centre, Leeds - <https://white-rose.co.uk/>

# **A Fortified Whine**

**Mary Twentyman**

Our Editor and Chair have been whining about wanting folks to write something for the special Bodkin 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary issue, so I thought I had better put pen to paper in an effort to quieten them.

Forty glorious years of our society, but sadly I have not been on board for all of them. I was originally member number 197 but didn't attend a meeting until Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 1990. I can vividly recall that first foray and walking into Raphael House, on William Street which is now a car park on the opposite side of the road to the Library car park. I can remember what I wore – a white polo neck, a camel jacket, brown trousers and boots. I carried a smart black leather, box type brief case and felt distinctly overdressed! Raphael House was a terrapin type building and parking was very restricted. Early birds found themselves blocked in by later arrivals and at the end of the evening there was often a lot of to-ing and fro-ing as people tried to leave and get their car out, sometimes two or three deep. Tony Naylor used to assist us out and I have to admit to hoping this wouldn't happen as I could never understand the "left hand down" type instructions. Ken Kenzie was our chairman and had a thatch of straw coloured hair and seemed to wear the same yellow jumper a lot. (Sorry about that Ken!) Josie Smith was secretary, and it wasn't long before I had been persuaded to help with the 1881 census transcribing project which the Family History Federation was embarking on with the Mormons. Rev Geoffrey Greenough and I did the North Bierley section filling in by hand pages and pages of forms. How I wish my handwriting and block capitals were as neat and legible today!

**"I have now trained Word to  
recognise "hereditaments" and  
capitalize "Barraclough."**

I had my first article in the Bodkin in August 1991 and the following month I had volunteered to do the HELP pages and looking through back issues I recognise my trusty Amstrad PCW dot matrix printer must have been used to compile them. Looking through the Bodkin archive I am surprised to read again some of the articles I submitted. Was it really me who wrote them and why can't I remember some of them?

We changed venues over the years as numbers grew. We were able to spread ourselves out in the huge premises of the Blind (now Visually Impaired) Centre up Little Horton Lane. We didn't like the dark entry passage into the Cathedral Hall up Stott Hill and were glad to get back to the Library and its choice of rooms to suit out numbers. When it closed suddenly, we found ourselves checking out most of the meeting rooms within the city centre until we reluctantly decided to meet in Shipley Library. When the meeting rooms



vanished from that library too we came back to Bradford and settled first on Glyde House, then homeless again to the Midland Hotel and now are happily installed at the Mechanics Institute.

I can also recall some meetings of the Computer Group Tony Naylor used to run in the Quaker Church up Russell Street in the 1990s. That was when microfiche readers ruled OK and we had a steady supply of them when, I believe it was the Post Office, got rid of their then outdated equipment when digitisation was just beginning. Tony also tried out a VERY early version of speech recognition software which we hoped would revolutionise our ability to transcribe monumental inscriptions. It was fairly competent at the likes of “in loving memory of” but its interpretation of surnames had us in stitches. It has taken many years for software to improve but I have now trained Word to recognise “hereditaments” and capitalize “Barraclough.”

It wasn't until I stopped working at the end of 2006 that I was able to attend regularly the then, newly started, Thursday morning meetings. They had begun as workshop sessions, led by Kath Alred and Carol Duckworth but soon speakers began to be booked. That first meeting of January 2007 I sat next to a lady I did not know and we got chatting. Whilst waiting for the speaker to appear we established we were both interested in the Low Moor area, newly or about to be, free of work commitments, and both computer literate. I asked her if she wanted to come and have coffee at my house the next Thursday when we could explore our common hobbies, and from that a great friendship has developed between Barbara Reardon and me, resulting in our [www.sblha.com](http://www.sblha.com) transcription website, both agreeing to be committee members, and later leading the “Getting Started Courses” and very popular “Drop in Sessions”. We still meet up each Thursday.

### ... “Then along came computer programmes” ...

When Geoff and I started our own family history research in the early 1980s we got off to a bad start. Like so many people, we didn't start with ourselves and work back. Geoff's sister told us the Twentyman family hailed from Caldbeck so off we went and trailed round the graveyard, finding a Lewis Twentyman. He had a son Thomas and although Geoff's dad didn't talk about his family, (he had been brought up as Edward Jackson and changed his name to Twentyman when he got married,) we knew his father had been called Thomas. So off I went up the wrong tree – but I did make some very good Twentyman connections by writing, (remember letters?) to people all over the world. When Geoff's parents went into care in the late 1980s and we cleared their house, we first saw his dad's Birth Certificate. I had read enough “Family Tree” magazines to know what to do and by the time I was attending BFHS regularly Ken, Elvira, Tony and co. had instilled into me the “check it carefully, look at the whole census

enumeration district, don't stop at the first instance of the name in the parish register" which would stand me in such good stead.

I did my own and Geoff's family history research the old way. I visited Record Offices all over the country, St Catherine's House, the Family History Centre and the Society of Genealogists in the London. I used microfiche for Parish Records and microfilm for the 1841 to 1891 census. I well remember one newly addicted Twentyman researcher announcing shortly after the census became available for the first time on line that she found two errant brothers of Geoff's grandfather attending a private school in Malton Yorkshire on the 1871 census. She couldn't understand why I hadn't I found them. I cringed. I remembered all those visits to Workington Library, Whitehaven and Carlisle Record Offices, when I searched the microfilms for them in ever widening circles around Wigton where their parents lived. She found them at the press of a button. I resisted thumping her. But she couldn't find them on the 1861! And I knew why...they were indexed as Svenlymen. The delights of mis-transcription!

Our sblha (South Bradford Local History Alliance) transcribers lost heart a little when West Yorkshire Archives sold their parish records collection to Ancestry. Fortunately, we had almost finished all the standard church records and turned our attention to graveyards, but websites such as "Find A Grave" and "Gravestone Photos" soon came along and we transferred our efforts to lesser known records, such Manor Court Rolls and School Log Books. Despite the increase in digitization, everything will never be online. Just think of all the items in Record Offices waiting to be found – the old-fashioned way.

### ...“or should I resort to Sanatogen?” ...

I started off using Andrew Todd's printed research sheets. You filled in your Family Group Sheets, your census sheets, your baptisms, marriages and burial sheets. Then along came computer programmes. My first one was called *GENNY* and it ran on my trusty Amstrad PCW. It was the only one I was unable to transfer into the next generation of software I used. Then came *Brother's Keeper* which used the GED.COM format and that was easily transferred to *Family Tree Maker* until I fell out with it's never ending upgrades. When I discovered *The Master Genealogist* I was in the process of my Twentyman One Name and DNA Study. With its colour coding and flags system at the time it was way ahead of the competition and had a reputation of being for family history nerds and I was happy to own up to being one. I was distraught when its creator decided to call time on it in in 2014 and after assurances from Simon Orde of *The Family Historian* that there was legacy planning I transferred my own research across. I have to confess that my Low Moor database is still happily running in TMG which I can still manipulate to my heart's content.

Yes, we are lucky to be able to find things from the comfort of our own homes and be able to share our trees with other people in way we never dreamed of years ago. But with this freedom comes a responsibility to check for ourselves and make sure that the “hints” on Ancestry and the ever-widening trees of strangers whose methods, abilities and motives we can’t begin to guess at really do refer to OUR ancestors and not some other person with the same name.

That’s the whining of the title of this article done with, but something which has struck me in putting this article together, is that we often place too much weight on people’s memories of what went on and when things happened. If I hadn’t had Geoff’s meticulous diaries to consult, I would have been way out on some of the information and dates I’ve given in this article. We spent ages looking for the first time I went to a meeting as I was convinced we’d always met on a the first Monday night of each month. Not so! Wednesday was the night of choice until a new venue required a change of night. As I get older myself, I begin to wonder about other people’s reminiscences. I think about my own teaching sessions and the difference between primary and secondary sources. Forty years is a long time – memories do fade or become confused.



The prevalence of the use of newspapers in our research reminds me of the tut tutting when the goings on of myself and friends have been misreported in the good old T&A. You have been warned!

So, thank you for reading this – perhaps it’s time for some fortified wine now or should I resort to Sanatogen – or even Plyllosan. What did they used to say “Phyllosan fortifies the over forties!” Cheers! (1135)

# **My Introduction to BFHS**

**Ken Kenzie**

“Don’t leave before I’ve had a word with you.” said Sue, our society chair, at the first actual post Covid meeting in August 2021. That ‘word’ is the reason why you are, I hope, reading this delve into the early days of family history research before I became a member of The Bradford Family History Society following its formation in 1982.

It all started with two words - Teacher Says - uttered by my then twelve years old eldest daughter - two words which can put fear into the mind of any parent, especially as it was followed by “We’ve to do a Family Tree”. As to whether the teacher actually said “We” or not, it soon became evident that the “We” would involve me, and is still involving me ever since that evening in 1975.

After despatching my eldest to her maternal grandparents for her late mother’s ancestral details I tried to put together what I thought I knew about my own ancestry which resulted in an outline tree showing my parents and their parents. Some two hours later my eldest returned clutching an exercise book with an outline tree which stretched back to her grandparents and their grandparents. To say the least, my eldest was pleased with the results of her homework – whether her teacher was I never found out. I certainly wasn’t, with my paltry three generation tree. Had it been my homework, the response from my teacher would have been “Could do better.” There and then I took up the challenge to improve my knowledge of my forebears.

## **“Memories of my daughters’ excitement, finding their names in the G.R.O. registers “**

My parents and grandparents were deceased and beyond immediate contact, which left two of my mother’s five sisters and one of my father’s two brothers as possible sources of information. Their addresses were on my Christmas card list and so my enquiries began. Exchanges of correspondence produced a slow trickle of information including clippings from the public notices in the local newspaper concerning my family’s Hatches, Matches and Despatches and a few family photographs.

A visit to the local library turned up Copies of ‘Who’s Who’, Burke’s Peerage and The Directory of National Biography which unsurprisingly had overlooked my ancestry. The local archives had collections of pedigrees for some of the areas families of note deposited by local antiquarians – mine apparently, were not of sufficient note. Some books on tracing your family tree were available on loan, but what I needed was a simple guide.

A search amongst W.H. Smith's book shelves provided me with a pocket sized 1975 edition of the 72 page Shire Publication Discovering Your Family Tree by David Iredale.

That, now dog-eared, 50 pence purchase became the key to unlocking the facts, half truths and the 'Not spoken about' events - of which there were quite a few - in my family's past.

My paternal grandfather (1874 -1948) was a railway brakesman born in Cambridgeshire however my maternal grandfather (1860 -1917) was a quarryman born in Idle, near Bradford and so I concentrated on him, only to find that the 1861 census, at Bradford Library, informed me that his father (1819 -1874) was born in London, Middlesex. This meant that I would have to find other sources beyond Bradford.

Family day trips by train to see cousins of my late father in Newark, and Cambridgeshire, and alone to the Record Office at the Shire Hall in Cambridge. Short stay holidays in London at The Union Jack Club during the school holidays became the norm. Memories of my 11 and 13 years old daughters excitement, at finding their names in the G.R.O. registers of birth index at St Catherines House, and their introduction to tube travelling on the London Underground.

I became a member of the Cambridgeshire Family History Society which had been formed in 1976. And childless, made brief visits to the Public Record Office in Chancery Lane, and the Society of Genealogists in London which my earlier 50p purchase stated had " a good library and manuscript collection, with a card index of genealogical material, available to researchers for a fee.

The release of the novel - Roots: The Saga of an American Family by Alex Haley in 1976 which told the story of an 18<sup>th</sup>-century African slave's descendants transportation to North America and subsequent descendants there, and a television adaptation in 1977 and a mini-series in 1979 led to a rise in interest in family history. It was this later mini-series and a T.V. series looking into the family history of television presenter Gordon Honeycombe which promoted a wider interest amongst the general public. 1979 also saw The Parochial Registers and Records Measures Act of 1978 came into effect which resulted in an increase in deposits of Parish and Non Conformist records into many record offices and archives.

In Bradford, Philip Rushworth, had also become smitten via Alex Haley's book and in 1979 wrote his useful guide "Tracing your Bradford Ancestors". The following year he was accepted into membership of The Association of Genealogists and Record Agents. Two years later (1982) he founded The Bradford Family History Society and continued as chairman until the AGM of 1989 when he accepted the first Honorary Membership bestowed by the society.

The actual foundation and early years of the Bradford Family History Society is featured in "Bod-Kin Supplement in celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bradford Family History Society" included in Bod-Kin. June 2007: [Vol 7. Nr 2.]

# James Theodore Bent

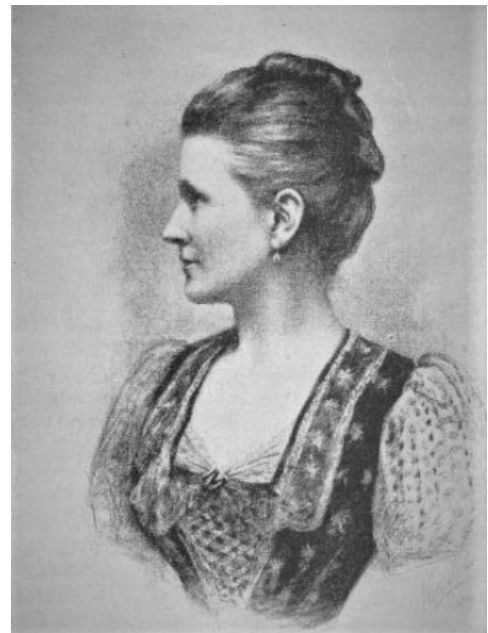
John Parker

According to the deeds of our house in Baildon, the land, described as ‘Lower Stubbing Field’, was sold by James Theodore Bent in 1877, and later bought by George Ambler, one of the many Bradford textile barons who lived in Baildon at the time. Who was James Theodore Bent and how did he originally become the owner of the land? The surname Bent is not one of the names associated with the mill owners of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century Bradford.

James Theodore Bent was born in Liverpool on 30 March 1852, the only child of James (1807-1876) and Eleanor (née Lambert, c.1811-1873) Bent of Baildon House, Baildon, near Bradford, Yorkshire, where Bent lived in his boyhood. He was educated at Malvern Wells preparatory school, Repton School and Wadham College, Oxford.



Baildon House [photo; Baildon Wiki] is on Station Road and is rather difficult to see behind its high stone wall. It was built in 1724 by Robert Holden; a stone on the south front of the main house has the initials “R. H.” and the date 1724; hence Holden Lane, which runs alongside. William Holden of Low Baildon died in 1809, aged 71, leaving an only daughter, Anne, who married John Lambert.



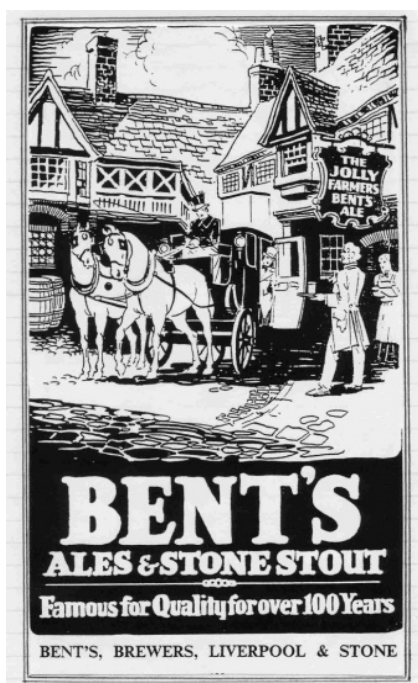
In 1877 Bent married Mabel Hall-Dare

[photo; By Riga-to-Rangoon - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0 <https://commons>]

She became his companion, photographer and diarist on all his travels. Mabel Bent contributed by her skill as a photographer and in other ways to the success of her husband's journeys. From the time of their marriage they went abroad nearly every year, beginning with extended travels in Italy and Greece. In 1889 he undertook excavations in the Bahrain Islands of the Persian Gulf, looking for evidence that they had been a primitive home of the Phoenician civilisation.

From the late 1870s until Mabel's death in 1929, the Bents lived in Great Cumberland Place, London, a Regency/Georgian sweep of properties, a stone's throw from Marble Arch

For nearly twenty years they would leave their comfortable London residence together every winter for the hardships of archaeology and exploration in the Eastern Mediterranean, Southern Arabia and Africa. It would appear that they sold land and property in Baildon to finance their trips.



The Bent family made their money from Bent's brewery businesses in Liverpool, Newcastle-under-Lyme and Macclesfield.

Bent spent a year in South Africa, with the object, by investigation of some of the ruins in Mashonaland, of throwing light on the vexed question of their origin and on the early history of East Africa. The majority of Bent's collections (hundreds of artefacts but relatively few on display) is to be found in the British Museum, London. The Natural History Museum, London, has small collections of shells and insects the Bents returned with in the 1890s.

While on another journey in South Arabia and Socotra (1896–1897), Bent was seized with malarial fever, and died in London on 5 May 1897, a few days after his return.

## **Family Research in the early 1990s**

**Patricia Douglas**

Here are my reminiscences of when I first joined the Bradford Family History Society. It is hard to remember when and how I came to find out about the British Family History Societies as I live in Maryland, USA. I have now looked at my records and got a surprise to find how much information I had written down and have also found that I have the 1990 issues of the Bod-Kin which shows Mr. Kenneth Kenzie as Chairman and editor of the magazine. The Directory of Members Interests Edition 1 was published for the first time that year 1990 and there is a list of the names that I was researching. I also have a note saying that I sent a letter including dollars to a Mrs. Renee Rennie who was the Membership Secretary. The yearly fee for the Bod-Kin was 5 pounds.

In the 1990s, I was living in Laurel, Maryland between Baltimore and Washington, D.C. so I had easy access to the Peabody Library in Baltimore and the Enoch Pratt Library in Baltimore, both Libraries having a large Genealogy Section. I have a vague memory of visiting the Peabody Library because I have so many resources written down, such as, Genealogists Guide by George C. Marshall, Topographical Dictionary of England, Topographical Dictionary of Ireland, several books on Irish Families, their names, Arms and Origins, British Record Society, even some British Parish Registers and some for Ireland, many more resources too long to write down here. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints was starting to record the British Parish Registers so I was able to look up names I was researching on the computer.

Renee Rennie was a great help in checking my lists of names of the extended Whelan family, living in different districts of Bradford in the Census Returns of 1881 and 1891. The copies she sent me were all written by hand.

Another source of finding family members was looking in telephone directories. I had a friend in England who was also doing research on his family, so he looked in the Salisbury Telephone Directory for my relative, D.R.E. Whelan where he found his name listed with telephone number. I was able to contact my relative who I had not seen or heard from in 40 years. All the libraries at that time, had telephone directories of each city and were a source for looking up family names.

In the March 1990 edition of the Bod-Kin, Tony Naylor is listed as Librarian. I'm sad that he is not here to attend the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. It was in the 90s that he started to write up information on how to find family history information on computers.

I did write a couple of articles for the Bod-Kin which appeared in Sept. issue 2009. One was about my Mother having had Tuberculosis and the other about the World War 1 Memorials in St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church where my Great Uncle Frank Whelan was listed. I was very grateful for Carol Duckworth and Kath Alred who recorded the memorials in the various churches



as some churches were being closed down and demolished. I did get some feed back from the article on the Whelan family which was very helpful.

In the early issues of the Bod-Kin, committee members would list the latest articles and books on Genealogy that were added to Bradford Reference Library.

In 1993, we still had to rely on researching this way.

(1037)



## Heaton Correction

It has recently come to our notice that we have made a mistake on the transcription on one headstone in the free download Heaton Baptist Highgate Cemetery, Bradford Supplement: Early Graves. Hannah Child Atkinson was the child of William & Elizabeth Child Atkinson and not the granddaughter.

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[Grave 23/5, a broken stone slab]

In memory of William Child of Manningham, school master, who departed this life July 6th 1848 aged 78 years.

Also of Mary Child his wife who departed this life May 27th 1852 aged 79 years.

Also of Joseph Atkinson of Bradford the eldest son of the above Mary Child who departed this life July 18th 1855 aged 57 years.

Also of Hannah Child Atkinson **granddaughter** of William & Elizabeth Child Atkinson of Manningham and granddaughter of the above William & Mary Child who departed this life Nov 17th 1858 aged 2 years and 4 months.



## Help Wanted

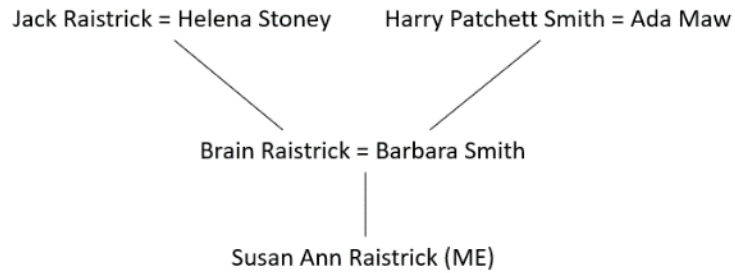
A member, Barry Ibbotson, has contacted me who is researching the Teal(e) family of Keighley. He has a Victorian photo of the late 1800's showing a choir or musical society from Keighley. The photo has been taken by H. Charlton of Highfield Studios, Highfield, Keighley.

As anyone come across this particular photographer before and have any details about them? If you do, please let know and I can pass on your reply to the member.

Sue Steel (4097)

# Grandmothers

## Sue Steel



In the last edition of the Bod-Kin, I wrote about my grandfathers. So, I thought I'd continue the theme and this time write about my grandmothers. Throughout history it is the women who get forgotten and who are often not mentioned in documents other than those for vital events (births etc.). Many didn't write wills, owned property, were able to vote or even had jobs outside the home. So, I believe it is really important to tell our future generations about the women in the family.

### Helena Stoney



My paternal grandmother was Helena Stoney or Lena as she was known. She was born 12<sup>th</sup> November 1909 at 10 Bridge Street, Shipley to Fred and Emily Stoney nee Wright. Bridge Street no longer exists, but was between Dockfield road and View Croft Road opposite the once large Airedale (Worsted) Mills. It was an area full of small terraced houses that had no rear yard or gardens. The terraces were demolished after the second world war as part of Shipley slum clearances and road widening.

Lena was baptised at St Paul's Church, Shipley on 6<sup>th</sup> December 1909 as Elena rather than Helena which was the name on her birth certificate.

Lena's early life was largely spent at home looking after her mother and siblings. She was the fourth of ten children and the eldest girl. Her mother was constantly pregnant and died two years after the birth of her youngest child, Annie, in 1925 when my grandmother was nearly 16 years old.

My brother and I always considered Lena to be uneducated and convinced she couldn't read or write very well. There is some truth in this since Lena always claimed to have had no schooling and her father was summoned to court in April 1921 for not sending his daughter to school back in 1918. Having been surrounded by books all my life, I always thought it strange that there were never any books or magazines in Lena's home.

Despite her lack of education, Lena grew up to be a kind and loving person, always eager to help friends and neighbours whoever they were.

After her marriage to Jack Raistrick in 1932 she lived in Windhill in yet another house demolished as part of Shipley slum clearances just after the second world war. Her family was rehoused by Shipley Council at the newly built West Royd Estate, Shipley not far from where her old house had stood. Then in 1957, now a widow, she moved to a council flat on Alma Street, Windhill and remained there for the rest of her life.

Although she worked as a dinner lady in the 1950's and in the Metal Box factory on Leeds Road, Shipley, I remember her as retired through ill health. This may have been caused in 1964 when she was diagnosed with breast cancer and had to undergo a mastectomy and radiotherapy. Very radical treatment compared to today. She survived and was immediately the source of much teasing from my father, Brian. Whenever we went on holiday to the coast, he would buy a postcard to send home to his mother. This postcard was special and he spent hours looking for the perfect one. It had to be a funny cartoon picturing a woman with large breasts! Fortunately, Lena did see the funny side of this but I was never sure even at a young age that he should have been sending such cards.

***“It wasn't until I was much older that I realised my grandmother was an enigma”***

I'm afraid that my hatred of the soap 'Coronation Street' was firmly Lena's fault. My brother, Derek and I were forced to watch at least one episode each week when Lena looked after us whilst my parents went out for the evening. Silence was expected for the full half an hour, which was not easy to maintain at a young age.

Lena was definitely a woman born before her time. In the 1970's she had a relationship with a man, not uncommon you may say. But Arthur Edmondson regularly stayed overnight and sometimes most of the day. Arthur finally moved in permanently with Lena and they lived together for many years, although she refused to marry him. Not something that was done on a regular occurrence in the 1970's and by my grandmother's generation. We all called her boyfriend, 'Uncle Arthur' and the family accepted the situation with no problems what so ever. Lena and Arthur regularly went to Morecambe for an annual holiday, often with my family or her eldest daughter's family in tow. As children we never really understood being told that in Morecambe, Uncle Arthur was always called Granddad! And who were Mr & Mrs Edmondson? Arthur became blind in later life and had to move into a care home where he died a few years after my grandmother.

One of the highlights of my grandmother's life was to happen out of awful circumstances. In the 1980's she was once again diagnosed with cancer, this time with mouth cancer. She had an operation and chemotherapy, followed by a couple of recuperation stays in the Sue Ryder Home, Manorlands,

Oxenhope. But she eventually succumbed to the cancer and died 21<sup>st</sup> June 1990 at the age of 81. It was while staying at Manorlands that she met and spoke with Princess Diana on 27<sup>th</sup> July 1899. Always a large fan of the Royals it was a dream come true. A lowly poor working-class girl to be able to meet and have a conversation with a young and beautiful princess. I have a photo of the moment with my grandmother in her Sunday best sitting in a chair whilst Princess Diana was sat on her bed.

To my way of thinking she had had a dream fulfilled for being such a warm-hearted person all her life.

## **Ada Maw**

My maternal Grandmother was a different person although not in a bad way. She had a very strict and Victorian outlook on life with a huge sense of duty. She loved her family but was not one for overtly demonstrating this fact.

She was born 6<sup>th</sup> March 1907 to Tom and Clara Maw nee Gibson at 26 Chislehurst Place, Little Horton, another small terraced house which still exists near St Luke's Hospital. For some reason she was baptised aged 2 years at All Saints Church, Little Horton on 19<sup>th</sup> May 1909. The family moved to Jacob Street, Manchester Road not long after and then Buttershaw. She always claimed her family was from Buttershaw rather than Little Horton. Her father had been born in Oakenshaw and her mother in Horton.

She worked in a local printers before my mother was born, and so although left school to become a 'part-timer' at 13 years old, she was more than capable of reading and writing. There were always plenty of books in her home as well.



Ada became a central figure during my childhood, since by then she lived across Leeds Road, Windhill and down the street on Thackley Old Road, a short distance from my childhood home. When my brother and I were in Junior School (aged 7 to 11), we would go home for lunch. To us that meant instead of catching the bus home, we would run up the hill as fast as we could to beat the bus home. That way we could spend our bus money on sweets. But a couple of days a week, lunch was at my grandmother's house. She would make a hot meal for not only us but my father as well. I still remember fish cooked in milk in the oven served with

mashed potatoes and peas, or meat and potato pie. During the school holidays, Ada would take us to visit our Great Aunts, my grandfather's siblings. One of my favourite visits was to my Aunt Millicent (notice the dropping of the Great

part), who lived on Harrogate Road, Eccleshill in a house that had one room downstairs and one room upstairs. The kitchen was just a scullery at the top of the cellar steps and the toilet was outside and down the road to the side. There was no bathroom. Needless to say, my brother and I always had to pay the toilet a visit before we left for home.

Ada would also take us to see my favourite Aunt in Union Road, Great Horton. Aunt Bessie was actually Ada's niece although they were the same age and were brought up as sisters. We spent many a lovely afternoon walking in Great Horton Park and then having tea with my aunt. Again, her house was very small with no kitchen just a scullery and an outside toilet. My biggest impression was the bath in the scullery which had a wooden board over it that was used as a kitchen surface. How the bath was filled and emptied I have no idea.

It wasn't until I was much older that I realised my grandmother was an enigma. We spent so much time with my grandfather's family that I hadn't realised Ada had brothers as well. They weren't spoken about or visited in any way. Why? I never did find out.

We spent many happy hours in my grandmother's company, visiting relatives, blackberry picking in the Autumn or playing in her home on a Saturday morning. But she was not a 'cuddly' sort of person (her body always felt stiff due to the bone corsets she always wore).

When my grandfather, Harry died in 1970, Ada became rather lost. My grandfather had been in charge of all the finances giving Ada housekeeping money each week. She had no idea how to manage money on her own, something my mother decided was never going to happen to either her or me. Ada would often buy enough food for two and seemed unable to reduce her shopping for just one person. She became reliant on my father, especially for what she considered 'man's work' such as decorating and explaining insurances, wills, bills in general.

In 1974, Ada suffered a heart attack whilst visiting her sister-in-law, Lennah in Birmingham. She was hospitalised and given LSD to help with her condition. The experience of the drug was one she never hoped to repeat. Coming home, she lived with my parents (I was 16) having her bed in the front room (our house had two bedrooms). We tipped toed around so as not to disturb her whilst she recovered enough to go home. Yet, once there she had another heart attacked and died on 28<sup>th</sup> December 1974.

My grandmothers were very dissimilar in outlook and personality, but both looked after their grandchildren with care and love in their own way.

(4097)

## Dent to Bradford - a round trip

Rick Kitson

My great-grandfather moved from rural Dent to Bradford in the late 1800s. He was part of the mass-migration from the countryside to the booming industrial towns of the Industrial Revolution.

Dent, of course, is an attractive and picturesque Dales town and a popular holiday destination today. But what was it like to live there 200 years ago? ‘Fern Lea’ cottage where Richard Parrington grew up is still there and the tea shop just down the lane used to be the Primitive Methodist chapel. No doubt the scenery was just as beautiful then as it is now, but I wondered what his job prospects would have been like?

Adam Sedgwick was a famous son of Dent, a geologist and contemporary of Charles Darwin (There is a monument to him in the town). He published a history of area in 1868, at which time Richard was aged ten.

In terms of farming, there had been local landowners known as ‘Statesmen’. They had not moved with the times, ceased to prosper and sold their farms. The result was a larger number of tenant farmers, no doubt some of them previous employees, on even smaller farms paying rent to sometimes distant landlords. In the 1881 census there are many of these, worked by a family, and with the farmer frequently having another occupation too – miner or shoemaker for example.



Rock Lea, Dent

There was wool too. Dent had a reputation for yarn stockings and socks, gloves and caps made by its famous knitters. Mills were built across the land to improve the economics of textile manufacture, but did not form a significant part of the Dent economy.

As Sedgwick observed: ‘...the knitters of Dent had the reputation of being lively gossips; and they worked together in little clusters – not in din and confinement like that of a modern manufactory – but each one following the leading of her fancy; whether among her friends, or rambling in the sweet scenery of the valley’.

Mining and quarrying had also been important. There was a peak in employment resulting from the construction of the new railway viaducts but once this passed, and Italian marble imports started to compete for the fireplace market, there was a decline.

Sedgwick did some analysis of the Parish Registers, and looked at two 20-year spans in the middle of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. In the years 1747-1766 there were 985 baptisms (49 a year average). In 1847-1866, there were 529 (26 a year).

This quantified Sedgwick's view that the population of Dent had dropped significantly. He says: *'Emigration has relieved the burthen .....Education has made good progress. Roads are greatly improved. Railroads are touching the extremities of the valley, and are greatly benefiting the farmers.'*

So Richard's move to Bradford was on-trend. He went to live with the Burtons who had jobs as blacksmiths in a corn mill, and he worked as a groom. They lived close to Town Hall Square in a city that had a population of over 183,000 people compared with less than a tenth of that at the beginning of the century. Most of the growth was made up of immigrants of many nationalities; Irish people of course had formed the backbone of the 'navvies' who built the railways and canals (The Shamrock Hotel was round the corner from Richard's lodgings) but there were also many Germans and Italians.



So even if our recent migrant had been used to narrow streets and perhaps basic rural standards of accommodation, the contrast must have been remarkable. Air quality was bad; the water supply was unreliable; and building standards barely existed which contributed to appalling sanitation. There were cholera epidemics in 1848 and 1866.

These circumstances were experienced in many fast-growing cities of course and improvements followed. Saltaire, a model community for millworkers was built 1853-71 and new sewers were laid starting 1862.

Bradford was renowned for its many textile mills. Listers was (and is) an imposing example with a 255-foot (78m) chimney and 26 acres of floor-space.

Richard moved into the textile industry, got married to Sarah Jane Chapman and moved to Great Horton by the time of the 1891 census. He was an assistant weftman. The following is from Betty Boothroyd's autobiography and the best description I can find: *'As weftman, he had a lot of responsibility: he was the warehouse stockman who checked that the count, size and colour of the yarn were correct before it was supplied to a particular loom.'* By 1939 he was working at Priestman Mills, Brick Lane.

Richard and Sarah Jane raised their family in Villiers Street: William (1885), Agnes (1888), Ellen (1889), Margaret Annie, my grandmother (1893) and John (1895).

He did not lose touch with Dent and the family returned on holidays. Richard and Sarah retired there to a cottage near the church, then moved to Rock Lea cottage by Dent Stores. (2678)

## **The beginnings - ‘a little book’**

### **Derek Cartwright**

My starting point was an item on my bookshelves - a little book, “Local History” Philip Riden, published 1983. Yes that was my starter for ten, if you look quickly it was not that long since, er, pardon!

Then in this magazine in Volume 8, Number 7, September 2010, I did a little piece here on my 3rd great-grandfather, John Cartwright, 1824–1907... you had to wait until Volume 13, Number 1, March 2019 before I mentioned here one of his brother’s, Henry - Henry Cartwright, 1837–1910 who died, December 1910, 6 Robert Street, Shipley, but he may have been a bit of a scamp as that piece detailed.

You think you have a picture of a family, then along comes the next release of census information or the *1939 Registry*. Now, of course, we have the release of the 1921 census.

Anyway, here’s what I thought might interest someone.

Henry had fourteen children: Martha Ellen Cartwright, was his third child born in 1869 at Horton, Bradford, she died in 1950, my 1<sup>st</sup> cousin 4x removed. So, let’s have a look at her, and her husband and children.

From FreeBMD, I found she was born in 1869, and in 1871 census at Mount Street, Bingley. By 1881 Census, she was an 11-year-old domestic servant, of 100 Ryan Street, Bowling, Bradford to Moses A. Brown, a Stuff Merchant Salesman.

The church records showed that on the 13<sup>th</sup> July 1889 she married, Albert Hart, at St Johns Church, Great Horton, Bradford. Martha was from 27 Cambridge Street, witnesses Louisa Hart & Henry Cartwright – gardener. That will be her father.

The 1891 Census shows her aged 21 at 93 Cragg Road, Windhill Village, Idle, with Albert her husband aged 23, a Gas Lamp Lighter. I then followed them through the Record Office Electoral Rolls (They were not on-line then).

In 1892 they were at the same address, but in 1893 to 1901 they were at 3 Annie Street, Windhill, Shipley. The 1901 Census showed her now aged 31 of 15 Robert Street, (That was her rogue (?) father’s address) with Albert, aged 33, now a Gas Stoker Gas Works Henry’s death on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 1910 was at 6 Robert Street, with Albert Hart, present. That tells you I bought his death certificate from the GRO. (£7 now for an online PDF version.)

Now with the 1911 Census, the family are still at 6 Robert Street, Windhill, Shipley, with Albert, a Foreman Gas Stoker.

Back to my search through the Electoral Rolls (and it was not as easy as it looks as it involved a lot of page turning.) 1915 they are at 18 Annie Street, Windhill, Shipley. Then after a war break, 1924 at 11 Briggate, Windhill. I am back to FreeBMD to see in 1934 that Albert, died aged 66, Martha remained until 1936.

The couple had four children: Laura, 1890; Charles Henry, 1892; Lawrence, 1896 and Alfred in 1898. It is the boys we will see more of first shortly...



Through electoral rolls, Martha was with her daughter, Laura at 19 Park Road, Shipley from 1937-39 and then from 1945 to 1949 though Martha died aged 81 in 1950.

Let's add a bit more on the children that we can see from other records first with Laura, born on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 1889, baptised at St. Paul's Shipley on the 16<sup>th</sup> October then on the 1891 Census aged 1 was at 93 Cragg Road, Windhill Village, Idle, Bradford. On the 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1916, aged 27 she married William Clarence Bateson at Windhill, Christ Church, from 11 Briggate. Witness: Ralph Dracup.

On the Electoral Rolls from 1937-39 the couple were at 19 Park Road,, Shipley with her mother. The 1939 Registry added them still at 19 Park Road, unpaid Domestic Duties with William, born 9<sup>th</sup> June 1892, Power Loom Overlooker; Jack, born 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1919; printer's; Donald, born 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1929, at school; Brian, born 11<sup>th</sup> April 1931, at school. We are back to the Electoral Rolls as from 1945-49 they are still at 19 Park Road, PD 'Q' East Ward, Shipley. There is a slight change as from 1951-62 the Electoral Rolls show Laura & William. We can add that William died aged 77 in 1970 in the district of Bradford, whilst Laura died aged 82 in 1972.

Laura's brother, Charles Henry Hart was born on the 26<sup>th</sup> August 1891, Windhill, Bradford. The 1911 census showed him aged 19 as a cycle repairer, Aged 25, he married on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 1916, Grace Newbould, aged 23, Windhill, Christ Church, Yorkshire, from 11 Briggate, Albert Hart, Verger; Mark Newbould, Labourer. Witnesses: William Clarence Bateson and June Newbould. On the Electoral Rolls from 1918-19, with a "NM" note telling us he was naval military. The 1939 Registry gives an address of 4 Hollin Road, Shipley, estimator, cost & invoice motor car repairers with Grace, born 17<sup>th</sup> April 1893 with next two records closed. We resume at the same address 1945-48 with Hilda, Lawrence C. Nappy, Ernest W.

We are back to Martha and Albert with their son, Lawrence Hart, born 14<sup>th</sup> November 1895, Windhill, North Bierley, then with his baptism, 10<sup>th</sup> November 1897, aged 2, at Shipley, St Paul, Yorkshire. The 1901 Census showed him aged 5, 15 Robert Street, Windhill, Shipley, then the 1911 Census, showed him aged 15, an Office Boy, of 6 Robert Street, North Bierley, Windhill, Shipley. Then on the Electoral Rolls from 1918-23 he was at 11 Briggate, Windhill, Polling District Q, East Ward. Aged 25 he married on the 12<sup>th</sup> September 1921, Alice Cummins, Windhill, Christ Church, Yorkshire. We are back to the Electoral Rolls as from 1924-31, 21 Hall Royd, PD S, South Ward, Shipley, West Yorkshire then from 1932-40 the couple were at 10 Moorfield Drive, Polling District P, North Ward, Baildon West Yorkshire, with William & Hannah Elizabeth Stevenson – Alice's parents where on the 1939 Registry the couple were with Lawrence born "18<sup>th</sup> November 1895, a Worsted Yarn Salesman and Alice, born, 14<sup>th</sup> Sep 1897 with Hannah E. Stevenson, aged 81, born 2nd April 1858, (Aunt) and Alice Hart, aged 42, born 14<sup>th</sup> September 1897. with one record is officially closed.

Then on the Electoral Rolls from 1945-55 the couple are still at the same address. The couple had a child, Muriel J. in 1926.

We are back to Martha and Albert with their final son, Alfred Hart, born 9<sup>th</sup> (7<sup>th</sup> Baptism Record) October 1897, Windhill, North Bierley, Bradford. (9<sup>th</sup> 1939 Registry), baptism: 10<sup>th</sup> November 1897, at Shipley, St Paul, Yorkshire. The 1901 Census showed him aged 3, 15 Robert Street, Windhill, Shipley, then the 1911 Census, showed him aged 13, Office Boy, 6 Robert Street, Windhill, Shipley. Then on the Electoral Rolls from 1918-21 he was at 11 Briggate, Windhill,. In 1921, he married Frances Martin, North Bierley, and from 1921-30 they were on the Electoral Rolls at 38 Church Street, PD 'R, North Ward, Shipley. We also see them from 1931-40 at 96 Thackley Old Road, PD 'R', North Ward, Shipley. The 1939 Registry shows them still at the same address with Alfred, a Local Authorities, Rates & Enquiries, Non-Graded Clerk; Household Members: Frances, aged 41, born 30<sup>th</sup> May 1898, unpaid domestic duties; Thomas M. aged 18, born 10<sup>th</sup> August 1921, student teacher to Municipal C. E. Then on the Electoral Rolls from 1945-62 they are still here.

Alfred aged 79, died, 25<sup>th</sup> September 1977, Bradford. The couple had the child above, Thomas Martin in 1921.

It is odd I could find no Army or Navy records on Ancestry, yet there has been a good few sources of information to put the above together.



## **Bored teen is dragged along**

**Sally Robinson**

It's 1982 and I'm 13.

Am I left at home alone or am I taken to Mum's latest night school course? I remember her always ready to learn something new each year locally.

It's at Beckfoot Grammar School and I'm required to attend, family history - really?

At the front of the room stood a very softly spoken lady who looked like a librarian and commanded the attention of everyone including me. My introduction to the Bradford FHS stalwart Elvira Wilmott. It was years before I found out she was a librarian!

I don't remember the details of the class but I still have Mum's notes and occasionally refer to them.

I do remember being completely enthused and not moaning too much about being dragged round graveyards in Yorkshire in fine weather (it wasn't always).

An early encounter was at Lothersdale, just outside Skipton. My great Grandfather, Riddiough Thornton, was named with his maternal grandmother's surname which you think is helpful. Until you find out how many ways it can be spelled or mis-typed (these days, mis-transcribed).

The vicar was very helpful. There were a family "The Thorntons of Lothersdale", sure we were related. We triggged round the graveyard, writing down anything that might be vaguely related or useful and went home.

A few days later in the post, I received the hand written family tree from the vicar for us to tie into. it took several years, but I'm pretty certain I can say: "We ain't one of those Thorntons!"

After the course finished we joined several local history societies, Bradford and Keighley, being the closest both geographically and genealogically. The meetings were held at the local studies library in Bradford.

Memories of :

- Walking the six flights as that lift was seriously on its last legs.
- Lovely people (who were clearly ancient to my teenage eyes, but probably not in recollection) meeting us at the door.
- Wearing a name badge that you were supposed to hand in at the end (but ended up in a bag somewhere for next time if you were lucky).
- Rubbish tea.
- Peter Higginbotham fascinating me on the workhouse. I had no idea about that, school history was about Tudors not living memories.
- Ken Kenzie amazing me with his knowledge and tales, usually in the form of questions at the end of a talk.

Things changed, I found other interests, but always kept my hand in. The library closed and we moved to Shipley Library, Glyde House etc.

I rejoined many years later and here I am, editing the Bod-Kin. Still looking for the elusive Elizabeth Graves, who was never born, appeared aged six in a census, disappeared for the next one before marrying and suddenly turning up as Susan Graves in a later one. The story of her being a "Graves of Sheffield" as told by Grandma Robbo because her mother arrived in a carriage was a great red herring. Her father was someones driver so he probably dropped her off when he was out and about doing rounds.

So Thank You to Elvira for being such a fascinating teacher that this bored teen is still talking about it 40 years later.

## **1982: a slow start on Flaxington family history research**

### **Shirley Beaumont**

1982 was a difficult year. Following a short illness my father passed away very suddenly in March that year.

My mum was born and grew up in Guiseley, surrounded by extended family members living in Eccleshill, Calverley and Guiseley. When dad passed away, she told me "I hate Nottingham and I am not staying here!". We then went into action on a mission to find good accommodation close to us in Warwickshire. She wanted a home of her own and in October 1982 a very nice flat became available close to where we live. The move involved considerable downsizing and this kept us very busy!

On the first day of the big sort out mum handed me a long envelope and said "Shirley, you need to look after this, it is our family tree". I looked at the package of large documents about the intestate death of Sarah Hanna Flaxington. I recalled my grandfather talking about this. He came to live with us in Nottingham when grandmother died. I was very young at the time and he used to tell me lots of stories about life in Guiseley.

His father was Edwin Riley (the rope maker who had a rope work behind Guiseley Town Hall) and his mother was Ellen Flaxinton. In 1982 I put the documents in a safe place and concentrated on Mum. In 1986 and 1987, Mum and I had short holidays when we stayed at the Cow and Calf Hotel on Ilkley Moor. She had always wanted to stay in that hotel.

We had a great time, visiting people she knew. I was also shown around Leeds, Bradford, Eccleshill and Guiseley. Mum directed and I did the driving. It was so interesting to visit the Bradford Industrial Museum, formally Moorside Mill, where my grandmother worked as a weaver before she was married. I took lots of photographs during these visits and those who have joined the Zoom meetings will have seen some of them as my back screen.

1988 was another difficult year. Mum suddenly became ill and passed away. She left me my homework. When we sorted out her flat, we found a lot of collections of paperwork and photographs. These were clearly put together and placed for me to find and to keep me busy. Items included her school reports, my grandmother's school attendance certificates and a tin of things that belonged to my grandfather including his Guiseley Veterans membership badge. There was an equal amount of paperwork from my dad's side of the family. In 1988 I had not heard of family history societies. However, I saw a family history course advertised at the local college and so I enrolled. We were advised to join family history societies so this was my next step. I joined the Yorkshire society and in their list of members' interests was Flaxington. I made contact with Dennis Flaxington, a delightful and very knowledgeable gentleman. He was a member of the Bradford Family History Society. Now I wish I had joined Bradford Family History Society then. Hindsight is a wonderful thing!

I met Dennis twice, once for lunch at the Cow and Calf and once at the York family history fair. Dennis and I shared our information and research. I gave Dennis all the details of my tree from the Flaxington documents that mum gave me and he gave me a CD with his whole Flaxington tree. He also inspired me to research Flaxintons in Aberdeen. A very interesting family with two members who were “head hunted” by the Crombie overcoat company to manage Grandholm Mill in Aberdeen. Dennis was my 4<sup>th</sup> cousin once removed.

The document relating to the estate of Sarah Hannah Flaxington is interesting because she died intestate. She also owned property. Quoting from the document:

*”Sarah Hannah Flaxington died on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1950, a spinster. She left no parents, brothers or sisters, uncles or aunts but numerous cousins and the issue of deceased cousins. Miss Flaxington’s father was Joseph Flaxington and he had four sisters, Margaret Riley, Hannah Clarke, Sarah Horsfall and Ellen Riley and four brothers, Ben. Wright, William and James. Miss Faxington’s mother was Emma, nee Peel, who had one sister Sarah Ann Armitage and one brother William Peel. Ben Flaxington and Hannah Clarke predeceased the intestate without issue to survive her. The estate will accordingly be divisible as to the eight shares for subdivision to the issue of these uncles and aunts per stirpes.”*

The Administrators of the estate were my grandfather and Mr Horsfall. The solicitors were Watson, Son and Smith of Argus Chambers, Hall Ings, Bradford. The solicitors paid £22 10s 0d for “Administrators Indemnity” needed in the event of other claimants on the estate making contact after the distribution had taken place.

The process of contacting his relatives caused my grandfather quite a lot of stress. His brother George died in the USA and his married daughter had to be contacted. I think of granddad every time I watch “Heir Hunters” on TV! Mr Horsfall and my grandfather were both beneficiaries and so both were provided with full documentation of the estate distribution. Other beneficiaries were only given documentation for their family.

I have included family names from the documents. If any of our members have interest in these names, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

I enjoy my family history society membership and I so wish I had known about the society back in 1982! It is absolute joy to share the stories, information and photographs with like-minded people. Our family histories are more than just dates on a tree; they celebrate the lives of interesting people.(4464)

## Meeting Programme 2022

**Please check the website in case meetings have been cancelled or changed.**

Meetings will be held via Zoom and/or at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Mechanics Institute, 76  
Kirkgate, Bradford,  
BD1 1SZ

The venue is wheelchair accessible and there will be a PA system.  
Zoom Meetings may be charged at £2 and all face-face meetings at £1.50 per  
member.

**Morning** meetings open at 10:00 am with the formal meeting from 10.30 am.  
**Evening** meetings open at 7:00 pm with the formal meeting from 7.30 pm.

Month	Date	Time	Description	Speaker	Type of Meeting
Jun	9	AM	Yorkshire's Watermen - examining the Canal Boat Registers to see what extra insight they offer the family historian, illustrated with real examples from watermen families across the county.	David Scrimgeour	Face to Face and Zoom
Jun	20	PM	The Gwen Glass Diaries - 1930s Bradford Through the Eyes of a German House guest.	Carol Sherrard	Face to Face and Zoom
Jul	7	AM	You Always Remember Your Co-op number - The amazing rise of the people's own shops	Stephen Caunce	Face to Face and Zoom
Jul	18	PM	Open Zoom Meeting		Zoom
Aug	4	AM	An Apothecary's Apprentice	Astrid Hansen	Face to Face and Zoom
Aug	15	PM	Business Records - Brackendale Mill and the Raistrick Family	Sue Steel	Face to Face and Zoom

## Meeting Programme 2022

Month	Date	Time	Description	Speaker	Type of Meeting
Sep	1	AM	Caught in Chancery - this is the tale of an 18th century dales girl, whose life could have been lived in total obscurity had it not been for a court case	Marion Moverley	Face to Face and Zoom
Sep	19	PM	British Widows of the First World War	Andrea Hetherington	Zoom
<b>Oct</b>	<b>1-2</b>		<b>40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Weekend</b>		
Oct	6	AM	No Meeting		
Oct	17	PM	The Absolute Pitts - philandering husbands, abandoned wives and children, emigration and good fortune.	Sylvia Valentine	Zoom
Nov	3	AM	Other Folks Rubbish	Chris Helme	Face to Face and Zoom
Nov	21	PM	Ancestral Tourism - Trips Finding Ancestors	Maureen Logan	Zoom
Dec	1	AM	A light hearted look at Advertising in the 1930's, 1940's and 1950's – Part 2	Bill Boldy	Face to Face Only
Dec	19	PM	No Meeting		

Details of Meetings were correct at the time of writing, but things do change. Please check the website for any alterations.

N.B. The Society holds liability, but not personal accident insurance. Members are therefore responsible for their own personal accident cover, and attend meetings and are involved in Society activities at their own risk.

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Princess Way and Central Library, Bradford

B.2631

Central Library, where it all began © The Bradford Timeline

Speed learning the modern way © Sally Robinson

