

# *The Banyan Tree*

May 2021

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The Journal of the East Yorkshire Family History Society



St Giles Church - Marfleet

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Cover photo: St Giles Church, Marfleet

See 'Spotlight On Marfleet' by Janet Bielby. pgs 20-23

## From the editor

Hello everyone.

Well, here we are entering into the May 2021 edition of the Banyan Tree. Who would have thought that when the Corvid-19 pandemic hit the world we would all still be under various forms of restrictions in 2021.

Hopefully, this issue of the journal will provide some form of diversion from the 'gloom, doom and disaster' news which we still hear about in our everyday lives. As the vaccinations against the virus take hold in society let us all 'stay safe and well'!

Contributions to the journal have many different themes, so settle down with a cup of tea and begin your journey.

Geoff Bateman tells us about A Small Brass Plaque, then he describes a Memorable Ice Cream Parlour. Pete Lowden takes us down Mean Streets. Sally George dons her walking shoes to continue the hike along the Holderness Coast. Just to round off this edition of the journal Sally examines a new hobby 'Deltiology' - do you know what that is?

Lisa Blossfelds introduces us to Some Interesting Nuggets, and later Lisa tells us about Nathaniel Constantine Strickland Wendy Thomas looks at a special Wedding Celebration.

Mike Young examines a Prolific Family story.

Our Spotlight On feature returns in this issue we look at Marfleet, The Treasure House provides the archive material and Janet Bielby tells us about the area.

Bob Jennings has submitted a tale about a forger and the dodgy dealings which got the forger into trouble. Colin Cleavin has a story about the Yorkshire Wolds. Richard Otter provides the journal with 'A story from the Colonies'. Anthony Hardman introduces a bit of light relief with The Kitching Children. My thanks go to the following 'behind the

scenes' contributors Janet Shaw, Margaret Oliver, Alan Brigham, et al.

The East Riding Archives has made a plea for assistance about what you have done since the Corvid- 19 affected the world!

How you can contribute your COVID-19 experience to the Archives

'Since June 2020 we have been asking for your experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic to be donated to the archives, and will continue to welcome new additions. Thank you to all who have donated so far to this important collection that will benefit future generations.

Some ideas:

**Interview** your family, friends, or work colleagues: Why not record an audio or video interview using your phone discussing what you have been doing during the periods of national lockdown and local restrictions, and how you feel. Archive users in the future will be able to watch or listen to your experiences as told by you.

**Write a diary:** These can be handwritten, printed or even typed up on the computer, whatever your personal style we would like to receive these as first-hand experiences of the pandemic.

**Photograph** your experiences: Photos of people and places during the lockdown provide an invaluable insight into the changes in our local areas. Don't forget to record names and dates.

**Record a song:** Your personal documenting style may be to reflect on your experiences through song or musical performance.

**Write a poem or prose:** Stories or poems can be an effective way of documenting personal experiences.'

Edwina Bentley  
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A Small Brass Plaque  
Geoff Bateman

I was once shown a mysterious item: a small rectangle of engraved brass (77x38 mm), finely decorated and inscribed “Presented to W.C. Spencer, Esq. by his fellow workmen after 35 years’ service with G. Clark & Sons 1909”. It was recovered from the house in Hull of Aunt Ada, after she died in 1977, aged 101, and had apparently been attached to a sideboard, which was so damaged by woodworm that it had to be burnt. Ada was not my aunt, but supposedly the aunt of my uncle by marriage, Robin Ferguson, now also passed on. I had already researched his family tree, continuing his own research in fact (reported partially in *The Banyan Tree* No.159, pp.43-46), but had not discovered any relationship between him and an Aunt Ada. Therefore I decided to investigate further and find out how she, and the plaque’s original owner, were related to my uncle.



I soon discovered that the presentation was made to William Christopher Spencer (1850-?1913). His employers, George Clark & Sons (“copper and tin merchants, coppersmiths, braziers & brassfounders”, as their advertising material explained) had a metal-working factory, Alexander Copper and Brass Works, in Water House Lane, Hull. William worked there as a brass

finisher. Aunt Ada proved to be his daughter, Ada Louisa Spencer (1875-1977), a ladies’, later children’s, outfitter. She lived with her parents until at least 1911, and probably until they died. I met her once at her own little house when she was about 90. I think that must have been her house in Cromwell Street, Spring Bank (later demolished).



*Cromwell Street in the 1960s; the building at the near right housed the ice-cream business of G.A. Padgett & Sons (Photo kindly supplied by Andrew Ferguson)*

William Christopher Spencer was born in Hull in 1850 and married Ann Elizabeth Simpson at Holy Trinity in 1873. He was already retired in 1911, aged 60, and received a pension. Ann Elizabeth was born in Scalby (near Newport), also in 1850.

William’s father was Edward Spencer, born in Malton (actually Settrington, I think) in 1809 and became a cooper. He married Elizabeth Lightfoot at Holy Trinity, Hull, in 1829. Elizabeth was born at Langdale End, Hackness (near Scarborough) in 1809 or 1810. Although married in Hull, her first child with Edward was born in Hackness, the rest (including William Christopher) in Hull.

Ann Elizabeth Simpson’s parents were

George Simpson, a farm worker born in Eastrington (near Gilberdyke) in about 1818, and Sarah Watson, born in Adlingfleet in about 1818. They married in Hull in 1840.

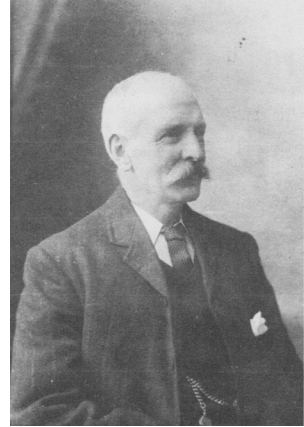
William's Spencer grandfather was another William Spencer, possibly born in Norton in 1784. His wife was Elizabeth. I was unable to find with certainty his Lightfoot grandparents. Ann Elizabeth's Simpson grandparents were Thomas and Mary Simpson. Her other grandparents were John and Mary Watson.

So far, I had found no connection between my uncle and the Spencers. But then I discovered that Ann Elizabeth Simpson, Aunt Ada's mother, had an older sister, Esther Simpson (b.1846, Scalby). She married Robert Weddall (b.1839, Faxfleet). Their daughter, Emily Beatrice Weddall (1881-1959, of Blacktoft), married William Hendry Ferguson (1880-1953), a doctor's son, of Newport. They were my uncle's parents. So Aunt Ada was my uncle's second cousin (his mother's cousin), and her father, W.C. Spencer, the recipient of the plaque, was his great aunt's husband.

After I had completed that piece of research a further small archive of Aunt Ada's possessions, including cards for her 100th and 101st birthdays, was discovered. It also included two photographs of her father. One is a glass-plate photograph probably taken when he was a teenager and the other (shown here) is of him as a distinguished-looking gentleman. There is also an age-darkened oil painting; apparently he was a moderately accomplished artist.

Since my intention in doing this research was to determine the family relationship of the original recipient of the plaque, and the

item it labelled, to my uncle, the job is done.



William Christopher Spencer  
\*\*\*\*\*

Mean Streets  
Pete Lowden

I was born in the Hedon Road Maternity Hospital but when I, and my mother, left the hospital, she returned, and I made my first journey, to the family home in Grange Street, on the south side of Fountain Road. I was to live there until the street was demolished in the 1970's slum clearances. Of course to me, as a child, the concept that Grange Street had never existed was something I did not even trouble my little brain over. The street had always been there. I had no idea when it was built. I could not conceive of it never having been constructed. It was the backdrop to my childhood and teenage years. It was as safe as houses.

Now of course it's gone, no residue of its existence left, no corner shop or bombed buildings, no blue plaque showing where I played Cowboys and Indians. There is a green patch of grass where my home was, and that in itself is somewhat strange; the idea that something could grow where once there was just brick, stone and concrete and the only green thing growing back then was probably a dandelion in a cracked pavement still strikes me as peculiar. Of course the idea

now exists that; well, if the street doesn't exist now, at some point in the past, it didn't exist and this in turn lead me to examine its beginnings simply to satisfy my curiosity. In indulging this whim I discovered a story of a crime the like of which perhaps has a too modern ring to it. Let me tell you about it.

Grange Street, like all of its neighbours, and indeed, similarly to the way "developments" of today are constructed, was built in stages. Fundamentally, when a builder had accrued enough money to put up a dozen houses or a single terrace he did just that, selling them on as quickly as he could and realizing the profit made before ploughing some of the capital back into erecting another few house etc.

All of Grange Street was built after the 1854 Improvement Act that forbade builders from erecting courts that had tunnel entrances. However some of the houses in the terraces on both sides of the street were back-to-back houses; that is the house did not possess a back passage or rear exit. The houses consisted of one room and a small scullery/kitchen downstairs with a circular staircase off the main room to the one bedroom above. A small yard with outside toilet made up the rest of the property.

When I was a child of 11 or 12 my elder brother married and rented one of these houses and I was surprised when the dustman knocked, opened the front door, walked through the living room to the back yard and then carried the bin through the house to the waiting cart and took it back through the house to the yard again when emptied. My brother lived there for 5 years with his wife and their 3 children who were all under the age of 5. I, living in a two bed roomed house without hot water or bathing facilities and with an outside toilet, felt suddenly superior! Everything is relative.

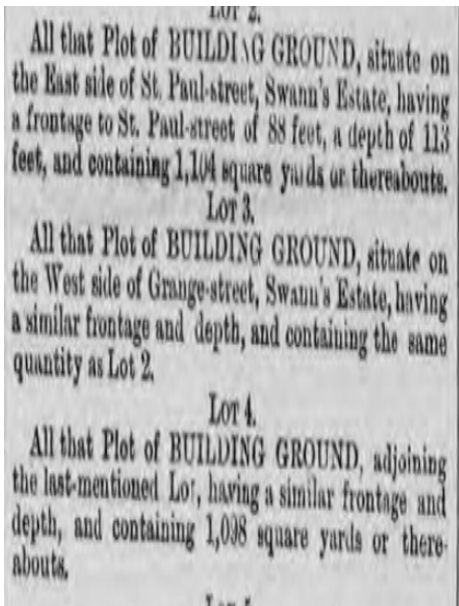
Grange Street did not exist in the 1871 census but did in 1881 but, as mentioned above, it developed slowly, in haphazard form, beginning its birth, as it were, from both ends of the street. From the Lorne

Street end there were about two terraces on either side of the street with a small number of "better" houses fronting on to the street. The same format of construction took place from the Fountain Road end. See the map below. The enumerator actually complained in writing on the 1881 census form that "the numbering of the houses was very bad" and it appears in this census that there are two of every number for the houses fronting out on the street. The enumerator also comments that there are a great number of houses being built and by the 1891 census it is fully built up.

There were no further changes to the street until Hitler dropped a landmine on the east side of St.Paul's Street which demolished almost the entire side of that street and also took out two full terraces of Grange Street and a number of houses in between. He also took out about 9 houses at the Lorne Street end of Grange Street and a terrace on Lorne Street with another bomb. Such were the joys of living within spitting distance of the target that was the Hull and Barnsley rail line with its route to the Sculcoates electricity pumping station.

The first houses in Grange Street were probably built in 1872 and the street finished by the mid 1880s. Adverts in the local press begin to offer lots of houses to prospective buyers and areas of land to potential builders. One advert in 1875 offered, "Seven tenements or dwelling houses together with the shops fronting the south side of Richmond Terrace, Grange Street, on the Swann Estate, let to respectable tenants at a gross rental of £82 14s 8d," which indicates that the housing stock was occupied at least in part by then. The advert goes on to say that, *'The whole of the above property has been erected within the last few years, it is a respectable and fast increasing neighbourhood, is well and substantially built and in excellent condition, is let to respectable tenants, and offers a most favourable opportunity to capitalists and others desirous of purchasing property as a speculation or an investment.'*

The whole area must have been one huge building site with whole parts of streets being erected with, on the one side, spare ground where holes were being dug for brick clay and building materials were being stored and on the other, houses already occupied by busy working class families. Another advert of 1877 gives more of this flavour with a variety of lots of property being sold in a liquidation sale. Plots ranging from a town house in Walmsley Street, complete with stables, hayloft and yard to plots of un-built land on St Paul's Street and Grange Street were to be sold. The details of the Grange Street plots were as follows,



All of this indicates that the whole area was busy and that workmen would have been evident throughout the day and a workmen's day would have been considerably longer than today. So, with all this industry and the area having some inhabitants, how did a toddler come to be murdered on the wasteland that was to become Grange Street well over a mile from his home?

In 1873 Joseph Cowling was a child of just two. He appears in the 1871 census as

a child of one month old. He had an older brother Thomas, who was aged two in the 1871 census. His father, William, was a cabinetmaker, originally from Drewton and his mother was Elizabeth, originally from Easington. They all lived at 4, Roseanna's Place, Hill Street. The street itself was situated between Great Thornton Street and Pease Street and the court lay on the north side of the street. See map below.

As I said earlier the distance between Hill Street and Grange Street was about one mile as the crow flies and probably another half a mile on top of that taking into account travelling via the street system. So what on earth happened?

The first news we have is the information that a body has been found. The body of Joseph Cowling was reported to have been found on Tuesday morning the 8th of April 1873, "lying in a pool of water in a field in Grange Street." Henry Golding, who was living at 4, Barmston Street found the body. Henry was a boy aged nine, and in the company of another child called Marforth, they went out to recapture a lark that had escaped from their father's house. In a field in Grange Street they discovered the body lying face down in a pool, underneath a hedge in the same field. These children ran and found two bricklayers who told them to go and fetch a policeman and they told the first inquest that they did not find one till they reached Parliament Street.

By the time the boys returned to the site, the victim's body had been removed to the dead house. The boys both said that the victim had pieces of hedge lying against the body when they had first seen it. They also said that there were man's footprints either side of the hole but it was too difficult to tell how long the footprints had been there.

PC 155 told the inquest that he had been alerted to the body's whereabouts by a bricklayer, Mr Bycroft who said, "it was in a field, about 50 yards from his house." Charles Bycroft lived at 6, Grange Street in the 1881 census, (later renumbered to 12 in



later censuses). This house was situated on the north side of Grange Terrace. On arrival at the scene the policeman noticed that the body was lying face down in the hole that was filled with about five inches of water. The policeman said there were several twigs broken over the body from the hedge nearby and placed over the body as if to hide it. The policeman took up the child, and wrapped it in a piece of carpet and took it to the police station.

An old lady living next door to Mr Bycroft said that she had heard what she thought was a child scream about one o'clock on the Tuesday morning. She said she thought the screams came from a distance, "and not as if from a child in one of the houses in the terrace in which the witness resided." The PC said he did not think the child fell by accident into the pool.

At the initial inquest on the 11th of April the father William was questioned. He said that he last saw his son alive on the Monday, the 7th at about 1.30 p.m. just before the father returned to work. He described his boy as, "sitting on the couch in the kitchen." William said that Joseph had no marks upon him at that time. William went on to say that he had been sent for from work at 6.30 p.m. that evening from the shop he worked at in Cogan Terrace. He said that his elder boy was in the habit of coming to meet him from work but the victim did not often leave the house. William said that when he got home he was told that Joseph was missing and he went searching for him until 2.00 a.m. He said the police had been informed of Joseph's disappearance that night.

The police surgeon who conducted the post mortem said that the victim had died from drowning and that the "windpipe and air tubes (were) full of froth and containing a substance which proved to be vegetable matter such as grows in stagnant water. The stomach was full of water, and contained the same vegetable matter." He also examined the scene of the crime and said the hole only contained about 7 inches of water but it had "high sloping sides next to the field and a

high perpendicular side next to the hedge." The doctor was of the opinion that the child would find it very difficult to get out of this hole if it fell or was placed in it.

Of course all of this could have been just a tragic accident. A young toddler wanders off away from his home and comes to a sticky end accidentally. This is all too common and tragic scenario that still sadly occurs today. What appears to make this death something more malignant is that, not only did this tragedy occur a considerable distance from his home but when the body was found many of the clothes the child had been wearing were missing.

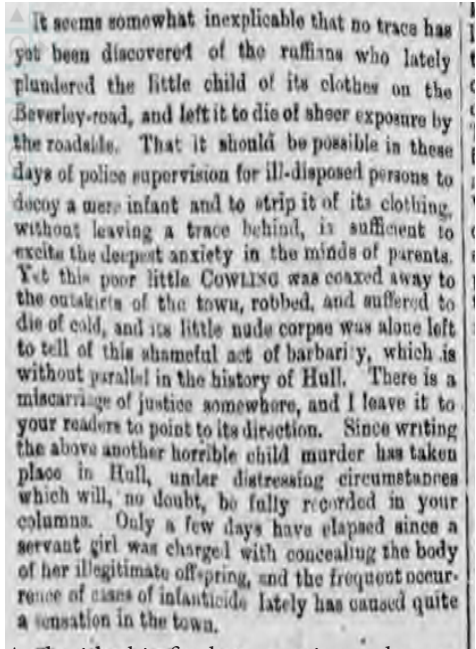
At the second inquest the mother was questioned. She said that Joseph went out to play and he was dressed in "a red flannel shirt, scarlet petticoat, attached to a light waistcoat, drab skirt, also tacked to a waist, a light green woollen smock with dark spots. Over this he had a white pinafore. He had also a grey beaver hat with a feather to one side." When the body was found it was dressed simply in a "shirt, a pair of grey socks and a pair of laced boots."

The mother went on to tell the Court that Joseph could not undress himself and that he was, "not in a (insurance) club, nor was his life insured." Questioned by the jury she said she had had no cross words with anyone and that clothes on the child would probably get about 2 shillings if sold.

The police said that they had followed up the meagre clues that they had but were no further on in their enquiries. At this point the Coroner said to the jury to give a verdict so that the police could then offer a reward that may help them find the killer or killers. He went on to state, "if the child had taken the clothes off themselves some of them would have been found, and if the child had walked about without part of its clothes someone would have noticed it." The jury, after this helpful cue from the Coroner, returned a verdict of Wilful Murder against Some Person or Persons at Present Unknown.

In the Hull Packet of the 2nd May 1873 a short notice appeared offering £50 for “information leading to the detection of the perpetrator of the cruel murder in Hull, of a child two years old, named Cowling.”

A fortnight later the Hull Packet, in its editorial guise, ran a small piece on the murder,



It seems somewhat inexplicable that no trace has yet been discovered of the ruffians who lately plundered the little child of its clothes on the Beverley-road, and left it to die of sheer exposure by the roadside. That it should be possible in these days of police supervision for ill-disposed persons to decoy a mere infant and to strip it of its clothing, without leaving a trace behind, is sufficient to excite the deepest anxiety in the minds of parents. Yet this poor little COWLING was coaxed away to the outskirts of the town, robbed, and suffered to die of cold, and its little nude corpse was alone left to tell of this shameful act of barbarity, which is without parallel in the history of Hull. There is a miscarriage of justice somewhere, and I leave it to your readers to point to its direction. Since writing the above another horrible child murder has taken place in Hull, under distressing circumstances which will, no doubt, be fully recorded in your columns. Only a few days have elapsed since a servant girl was charged with concealing the body of her illegitimate offspring, and the frequent occurrence of cases of infanticide lately has caused quite a sensation in the town.

And with this final press snippet the story of Joseph's Cowling murder comes to an unsatisfying end. The culprits mentioned in the above piece were never apprehended and it appears a young life was snuffed out for the value that his clothes would bring at the nearest pawnshop. The article above, although wrong on so many facts of the crime, does paint a graphic picture of Joseph's sad end that to my mind unfortunately has resonances with the Jamie Bulger tragedy in the early 1990's.

Often we are told that the world is more dangerous now, that our children were safer in the past, a closer eye must be kept upon them now, “there are a lot of sick, weird people out there.” All well-meaning instructions to modern day parents I'm sure

but probably not really accurate as the story above illustrates.

I was hoping, at the beginning, to look at the history of a street and its development, with a view to taking the story up to say the end of the Second World War. Poor little Joseph Cowling's demise took the shine off this project for me. The callousness of the act sickens; that of abducting the child by coercion, force or just temptation, and when far from his home, taking his clothes off, and placing him in a hole where he could not get out and probably pushing his poor little head beneath the foul water until he died and all for the princely sum of 2 shillings maximum. I know Victorian Britain was hard and brutal and cruel and that was what rampant capitalism was and is all about but this crime was a particularly vicious abuse of innocence that even the most Mr. Gradgrind-like of Victorian entrepreneurs may have paled at.

Grange Street, for me, was always comforting, a place one knew and where everyone knew each other. Neighbours looked out for one another and they all knew “your mam” so that the numerous children of the street didn't step out of line too far. Kids played in the street till dark and ball games were rife. In fact it was a safe environment, something that seems to be constantly striven for by parents nowadays. Yet we had it, even though we had precious little else and I think that perhaps it could have been a place that Joseph Cowling would have been happy growing up in.

If there were such things as ghosts and he had one and it lingered where he had died I'd like to think he may have been happy looking out at all those children playing and maybe wishing he could still join in with their innocent games.

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Walking the Holderness Coast  
Sally George

*This is the final part of Sally's walk along the Holderness Coast. Sally begins her walk*

*at Hornsea - let us join her.*

### ***Hornsea to Rolston Bay***

On leaving the sea defences of Hornsea, the cliff retreats quite dramatically, carving out a lovely sandy bay which is Rolston Sands. There used to be an army camp and rifle range on the cliff top but with coastal erosion I don't think there is any trace or if it is still there whether it is still in use? The place name Rolston comes from Rolf's farmstead. Rolston Hall, once a moated mansion was occupied by William Brough in the 1700's when he was a Marshal of the Court of Admiralty. The notorious pirate Paul Jones took great pleasure in presenting William Brough with a 18lb shot whenever he passed Hornsea! We only made it half way to Mappleton as the tide was coming in rather too quickly so we shall walk the other half from Mappleton and enjoy more cake in the Old Post Office.



### ***Rolston to Mappleton***

The silver sea and waves were thanks to the morning sun. The rock armour has saved Mappleton from falling into the sea. In 1786 the church was 630 yards from the cliff. This had been almost halved by 1956 and in 1991 defensive works consisting of cliff walling and granite groynes were put in place to protect the village. Of course erosion continued at Great Cowden the next village along. The population of Mappleton fell in the mid 1800's because of the prohibition of gravel extraction from the beach but military personnel increased the population in 1951. The Y.M.C.A. had a holiday camp in the village from the 1930s. It was requisitioned by the Army during the Second World

War, and after its return was used to house boys from the North East under the British Boys for British Farms scheme. Hungarian refugees were also lodged there before the camp was closed in the 1960s.

### ***Great Cowden***

Continuing our walk along the Holderness coast and avoiding unnecessary social contact, we visited Great Cowden which fell off the cliff top around 130 years ago. It took with it the Cross Keys pub, the Wesleyan Chapel, village green, landing stage, manor house and moated site. Only the pub and Manor Farm were rebuilt inland. On tentatively looking over the edge we noticed fishermen on the beach. Their cars were parked at the end of the lane and we would love to know how they got down the crumbling cliff and more importantly how they intended to get back up!



### ***Withernwick***

The last church we visited in Holderness whilst walking the coast was 4 km inland although between 1,000 and 2,000 years it will most likely be 'by the sea'. In the 11th century Withernwick was written down as Widforneuc (1086 in the Domesday Book). Meaning possibly 'dairy farm of the place near the thorn-tree'. OE with+thorn+wic. There was a church at Withernwick by 1115 and it is dedicated to St. Alban. It was described in the early 19th century as "a small building comprising of a tower, if it can be termed such (this tower was built in 1722 and set within the nave), a nave, south aisle and chancel". It was rebuilt in 1855 by Mallinson & Healey incorporating old materials of cobble, red brick and stone.

The chancel is the only part that has escaped the barbarous hand of modern improvement. The Church has several indications of ancient work, but it has been mutilated by repair. The exterior is beautifully restored but much work is needed on the interior which is damaged due to dampness.



The Church is responsible for four Trust Accounts. I found detailed information about two of these accounts in a booklet I was given by the Churchwarden who kindly showed us around the interior of the Church. The Oman Trust Account can be attributed to Mr. and Mrs. Oman and their son, William who lived in the Mill House. Mr. Oman Snr. was a miller. They had a number of acres of land and some dairy cattle. Mrs. Oman wore a “coarse” apron and a poke bonnet and was kept busy making and selling curd, butter and cheese. On Tuesday and Friday, Willie took his mother, by horse and cart, to Whitedale Station. There, he loaded onto the train, her butter, fresh milk etc. and she took this into Hull to sell to Fowlers or on a stall in the market. When William’s parents died, Willie after having a number of housekeepers, finally married one of them and left the village to live at another mill. On his death, Willie Oman left a large sum of money to the Church. The bulk of this was spent on making a memorial chapel

in the Church. The remainder was invested, the interest to be used to maintain the family gravestones and the rest to be put into the fabric fund. William also left £200 to be specifically used as a fund for widows and spinsters who had lived in the village for five years or more and were over the age of fifty years. This money, or rather the interest on this money, is paid out, as requested, each Christmas. The Edith Tanton Trust Account is another legacy from a previous resident in the village. Edith Tanton’s mother and her brother, Frank, who was a joiner lived at the cottage known as Katy’s Nook. In those days this was a lovely old world house, early 18th Century, surrounded with flowers, rambling roses and leaving you with the feeling that it should have had a thatched roof. When Edith’s mother died, Frank still lived on at the now “modernised” cottage and Edith eked out their income from her Uncle’s joinery and her dressmaking. Edith, by all accounts, was a quiet, reserved lady, a regular and generous Churchgoer. She owned Tanton Cottages, and so the story goes, only allowed a certain gentleman to rent one on the condition that his wife to be, never worked in the garden on the Sabbath. On her death, the cottage and contents were auctioned. Edith was buried in the Church yard and in her will, she left money to the Church, the interest on which was to be used to maintain the family graves and the remainder to go into the fabric fund. Sunday School at the church was held during a Sunday afternoon. In the early days the Catechism was taught. Prizes were awarded for good attendance and these prizes were presented at the annual Christmas party held in the village school. Around £10-£20 per year was spent on these prizes and the children could either have a bible or prayer book or some other “reputable” story book, i.e. “Treasure Island”, “Little Women”. Most years after 1910, apart from during the War, a Sunday School outing was arranged. The children were taken to Hornsea in a decorated farm cart on loan from Witherwick Hall and other large local farms. The pupils took a packed lunch and tea was provided in the Usher’s Booth, Hornsea, and then in later years, they went to

Miss Binnington's in Hornsea. The children were given from 3d to 1/- to spend and, in later years, they went in the local carrier's van, occasionally going as far as Hornsea. The accounts for Church Sales and Bazaars appeared regularly around 1910-20: they are described sometimes as a Jumble Sale. These sales took place in the school with varying stalls selling jumble, preserves, cheeses and hand-made articles which were made at sewing groups held in the vicarage during the winter months. These bazaars were held during the Easter period and were well advertised with printed posters and invitation cards. Some of these sales raised between £60 - £100, even in 1921. The money for the new organ was partly raised by an Organ bazaar and Outdoor Fete held on June 28th, 1906. This was advertised in a beautifully produced 36 page programme costing 2d. They had, among many other attractions, a pottery, postcard and sweet stalls; a weighing machine, Art gallery, a meat tea (1/-) and music from a band from the Hull Orphanage. Nearly £250 was raised at this event, the remaining £250 needed for the new organ was to be given by a wealthy Scottish benefactor by the name of Andrew Carnegie.

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Some Interesting Nuggets  
Lisa Blossfelds

I've been reading a little book on the History of Kilham church by Bernard Jennings and found out some interesting little details.

1. The vicar of Hunmanby at one time was originally a Catholic but turned Protestant under Henry VIII and Edward VI, then had to become Catholic again under Mary I. Only, he got into trouble because he had got married when he was a protestant. This is likely to have been Thomas Johnson, vicar 1538 to 1554. Edward VI died in 1553, after which there was the disturbance caused by the crown being given to Lady Jane Grey. He was succeeded by Charles Deaconson, vicar 1554 to 1559. He, in turn, seems to have been removed from his post after Mary

died in November 1558 and was replaced by Robert Lacey, vicar 1559 to 1568 under the Protestant Elizabeth.

2. At one time church attendance was compulsory. All pubs had to close when a church service was in progress. The vicar of Kilham had to employ a man to go around the church to stop people wandering around the church and gossiping with their friends during services. I can imagine that the women took their knitting and sewing with them too.

3. In 1884 Rev F Fellowes, vicar of Kilham, was living in London and never went near Kilham. However, he claimed the church funds while employing a curate to do the work for him.

4. In the mid 1800s the church was only attended by the wealthy people of the village. Shopkeepers, tradesmen and craftsmen attended the Wesleyan Methodist chapel while the labourers went to the Primitive Methodists. The church clergy were ordained and received church funds whereas most Methodist preachers were unpaid lay members. The Driffield Primitive Methodist Circuit, which included Kilham, had 75 lay preachers during the 1880s. Of these 24 were farm labourers, 26 were craftsmen, fourteen were shopkeepers, there were 5 farmers, 3 pig jobbers, 2 merchants and a gentleman.

(A pig jobber was a person who dealt in pigs.)

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A Diamond Wedding  
Wendy Thomas (eyfhs 7027)

*Wendy wants to tell us about her great grandparents.*

These days, diamond weddings are fairly common place, but very few couples as long ago as the late 1920's would have celebrated. This is the story of the celebrations enjoyed by my maternal great grandparents Mr and

Mrs Hallage Howes Savage of Lilac Cottage, Winestead.

On the 26th February 1927 many friends and relatives came to celebrate with the happy couple. Telegrams and letters of congratulations were read out, from the King and Queen, the Archbishop of York, the sheriff of Hull and Sir Harold J. Reckitt and the secretary of the Meccano Guild. Also the Archangel Lodge of Oddfellows at Terrington St Clements of which my great grandad was the oldest member, having joined in 1859.

Presents came from as far afield as Italy, Southport and, interestingly, Lymington, Hampshire. Since 1996, I have lived in Milford on Sea, 3 miles from Lymington! I wonder who sent them a gift from Lymington?!

The above was a brief report, probably in a local paper. A much larger report was given in the Hull Times, giving details of their lives:-

My great grandparents had been resident in Winestead for 52 years, but neither was a native of Winestead. My greatgrandfather was born in Terrington St Clements near King's Lynn in Norfolk in 1839 to parents, Maria Howes and Thompson Savage, who worked on the land. He was one of around six siblings. At the early age of 7 he had to 'keep the home fires burning' by scaring birds, picking 'wicks' (?) and any other jobs the farmer required of him - for a wage of 6d a day! The only time he could get any schooling was when he was 'out of work' and none at all after the age of 10.

At the age of around 20 he decided to try his luck 'up North', firstly working as a waggoner at Preston West End, then Frog Hall, followed by farm work at Meaux. Before finally moving to Winestead, he worked for Hull Corporation, driving the first steam roller. It was working in Winestead that he met his future wife - Elizabeth Jackson from Preston. They were married in St Marks Church in Hull (no reason given, for usually weddings take place in the brides locality) However, from the marriage record, I see

they lived in adjacent streets on the East side of the River Hull, so perhaps that was how they met! After the marriage, in 1867, they initially lived in Anvil Buildings, off Spring Street near the centre of Hull, Hallage Howes Savage worked on the docks. Their first child, a boy, Charles, was born there in 1870, but sadly died. The couple returned to Winestead. For many years Hallage was gardener and handyman to the Rector of Winestead. He later developed a business of his own as florist and gardener.

They had 11 children, that I could trace, and two died either at birth or soon after. My grandmother, Amy Savage, was number 6! My grandmother, too, had little education, leaving school around the age of 11 to 'go into service' at Winestead Hall. Later she was 'home help and nanny' to the Maxted family in Kirkella (where she met her future husband)

Her mother, Elizabeth Jackson, from Preston, near Hull, again came from a large family of 11, whose father was an agricultural labourer (as where about 99% of my ancestors!) Like her future husband-to-be, she first worked on the land, eventually going into service herself on Holderness Road, Hull.

When researching ancestors, it is often difficult to find out about their lives apart from B.M.D and the censuses. Somehow, I managed to access the British Newspaper Archives and eventually, the Hull Daily Mail. Here I found some interesting snippets!

Mrs Savage frequently entered the annual Patrington Show - among her entries being butter, eggs, '6 spikes' - presumably flowers! a hand bouquet and rhubarb!

The following entry in the paper is a bit of a mystery - perhaps one of your readers could solve it!

The entry on 27.10.1916 was:- 'The 1,000 shillings'. Mrs Savage and Mrs R. H. Jefferson (daughter Dorothy, recently married to Robert Henry Jefferson)

This is followed by a second announcement

on 28.10.1916 - 'The 2nd 1,000 shillings - same names.

Hallage and Elizabeth Savage enjoyed a long life, Hallage dying on 23.4.1933 and his wife the next year, 10.4.1934. They are both buried, along with daughters Dorothy, who died from a burst appendix in 1924 and Ruth, who died in childbirth in 1928.

It appears that I descend from a long line of 'long lived females' on my mother's side. Elizabeth Jackson's mother died at 100 years, Elizabeth was 86, and her daughter Amy 97. My own mother, Amy's younger daughter is 103!



*Mr & Mrs Hallage Howes Savage*

*If you have any questions or information concerning this item Wendy has provided her email address*

**wendeete@icloud.com**

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A PROLIFIC FAMILY  
Mike Young (293)

I would like to introduce you to the Mason family of Edinburgh, Leeds and Hull because they are a remarkable example of the way some Victorian families flourished, helped by better education, a better public health background and the remarkable appetite that the Victorians had for making - and enjoying - progress.

The banns book of St Cuthbert's Church, Edinburgh, proclaimed 17.2.1845 the intended marriage between James Mason, printer, of Blackfriars Wynd, in Tron Church Parish, Edinburgh and Isabella Clapperton,

living at East Crosscauseway, the daughter of James Clapperton, shoemaker in Dalkeith. The space for the marriage date was left blank so we cannot say in which church the marriage took place, but presumably St Cuthbert's.

Just three months later, twin girls, Isabella and Mary Ann were born. By the 1851 Census, the family were at 84 Pleasance, Edinburgh, with another girl, Jessie, and the first son, James. By 1852 they had moved to the Horse Wynd, which was at the bottom of the Royal Mile where the Scottish Parliament now is. By May 1864 six more sons had appeared, the youngest being my grandfather, Adam.

When, in the 1970s, our children's homework was to draw up a simple family tree, my late wife and I were very well placed to provide them with the facts because each of us had an older member of our family who was steeped in the history. In my case, it was my Aunt Mary, the youngest of Adam's children. She had been told that when her father was only ten days old, James, Isabella and their ten children reserved two (side to side) compartments on the train and moved house to Leeds. Thus my claim to be one quarter Scottish is quite precarious!

Well, what drew them to Leeds? The explanation is that Edinburgh was traditionally a great centre of printing and publishing due to the conjunction of the Court, Church, University, commerce and book publishing, so when there arose a demand in England for printing machinists like James Mason, it was natural for there to be a southward migration. James was offered a job in Leeds with a newly established newspaper publisher. As Roy Strong says in his "The Story of Britain" (at p.444):

"By the 1850s the middle classes were hungry for reading matter. Taxes were progressively removed from advertisements, newspapers and, finally in 1861, from paper itself. The result was a printing explosion, and a barrage of newspapers, books and periodicals. By 1880 there were no less

than ninety-six dailies in the regions and the national papers also sped their way across the country.”

This arose from the spread of literacy downward through society. The abolition in 1861 of the tax on paper meant that newspapers printed on the new rotary presses could compete on grounds of price for the mass market.

James and Isabella had their eleventh and last child, Jenny, in Leeds. At the 1871 Census they and their nine youngest children were at Bentinck Street, Leeds. The twins had each married and were living in Leeds also.

Very soon after that the family was on the move again, this time to Hull where James had been offered employment with the Eastern Morning News. Hugh Calvert, in his “A History of Hull” says:

“The Hull Morning Telegraph, established by Edward Holden in 1855 to print news of the Crimean War [the first to have war correspondents] continued until 1880. However, the Eastern Morning News, established in January 1864 by William Saunders (later, in 1885, MP for East Hull) is generally regarded as the first daily newspaper in the city. The Eastern Morning News absorbed the much older Hull Advertiser and Exchange Gazette (founded 1794) in 1867. At first the office was in Scale Lane.”

In 1929 the Eastern Morning News was incorporated into the Hull Evening News, which itself combined with the Hull Daily Mail the following year.

In January 1873, when their second son, John, who was unmarried, died of TB aged 20, the family were at 4 Lucas Square, New George Street. Very unusually for that era, all the Mason children survived childhood and all but one had families of their own. At the 1881 Census James and Isabella were still at Lucas Square, but with only the four youngest children. By 1891 James and Isabella had moved to 5 Woodbine Terrace, Sculcoates, with just one grandchild with

them and in 1901 the old couple were at 80 Raywell Street, off Charles Street, with James said to be “in decline”. This was perhaps a bit premature as he only died 7.3.1909, aged 85. In the meantime, they had celebrated their diamond wedding, no doubt a rarity in those days

Isabella was joined at Raywell Street by her widowed daughters Isabella and Jessie and, as evidence of her stamina at 85 years of age, she visited London for the first time for the funeral of King Edward VII, which took place 29.5.1910. She survived to 1.6.1912, when she died aged 87. My aunt Mary recalled being lifted up as a three year old to see the coffin leave the house. Isabella’s newspaper obituary is a family historian’s dream. It has her leaving 101 living descendants, namely eight children, 39 grandchildren and 54 great-grandchildren. Such precision suggests the existence of a central record of the family’s births marriages and deaths. Now what happened to that? Oh to have inherited it! Well, our reaction has been to do a fresh calculation based on our own researches. We found we could put a name to 98 then living descendants, made up of eight children, 42 grandchildren and 48 great-grandchildren. A small number of the granddaughters we know about could have married and had children of their own for all we know. That would explain our shortfall in great-grandchildren. On the other hand, we are claiming three more living grandchildren. Either we have not spotted some deaths or in 1912 they had failed to record some grandchildren. At any rate the closeness of the two results suggests that our researches have been reasonably successful regarding this remarkable family.

Thanks to the obituary notice, we learn that the Mason family had a big impact on the popular music and entertainment world of Hull, with Alexander Mason leading a drum and fife band, which included five of the brothers and, later, the Mason Brothers Quartette (sic) Party, being a popular novelty act. What is clear is that the Masons believed in a good elementary education for



every child, an apprenticeship and a trade for each of the boys and full participation in the community, notably through the Methodist Church. My parents followed this pattern, to my great benefit.

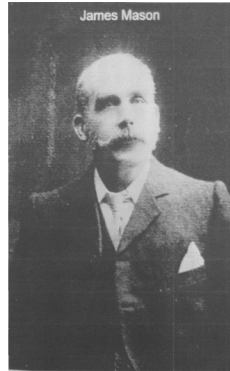
This family reached across the centuries - James and Isabella's first two great-grandchildren were born in 1894 and their last one in 1948. Throughout this long story the Masons married into numerous other families. At the last count we have encountered 111 other surnames, so if you think your Hull or Leeds families could be connected why not log on to [www.youngfamilyhistory.net/?s=Mason](http://www.youngfamilyhistory.net/?s=Mason) and check out the name finder. You might even like to just have a little read. It is all there.

By way of a last anecdote, my mother Elsie (1904-51) was the sixth child and second daughter of Adam Mason (1864-1929) and his wife Rosa Turner (1866-1937). My mother told me that in 1883 her father, then a 19 years old printer compositor, had found the fellow Bethel Chapel member 17 year old Rosa Turner rather attractive but had learned that she was leaving Hull to live in Halifax, her widowed mother having decided to move there because work prospects were better. A picture was painted of Adam at Paragon Station watching the departing train with a distinct pang and hoping that Rosa's promise to write to him was sincere. It was but it actually took them six years, the marriage taking place in the Hanover Street Chapel, Halifax, 18.4.1889. Incidentally, I can confirm that their courting by correspondence is not the only time this has happened in our family!

Herewith 3 photos, i.e. my grandmother Rosa Turner (taken before her marriage when she lived in Halifax) and her parents-in-law, James and Isabella Mason, the principal protagonists in the story.

Looking at her picture, I think I can understand my grandfather Adam Mason's feelings for Rosa.

Rosa Turner



James Mason



Isabella Mason

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[Spotlight on Marfleet]

The East Riding  
Archives and Local  
Studies Service

The Treasure House,  
Champney Road,  
Beverley  
Tel: (01482)392792  
archives.service@eastriding.gov.uk

**Parish records**

Marfleet St Giles (ref. PE28) includes baptism registers 1713-1971; marriage registers 1713-

2014; burial registers 1714-1935, (registers include copy terriers c.1794-1865); banns register 1828-2010; register of confirmations 1939-1973; register of services 1884-1982; faculties 1930-1998; churchyard plans 1990s; terrier and inventory 1969; miscellaneous minutes 1903-1974; combined vestry and parochial electors meeting minutes 1948-1965; Parochial Church Council minutes 1953-1968; District Church Council minutes 1975-1991; Marfleet Parochial Church Council minutes 1974-1978; Parochial Church Council accounts 1954-1974; electoral roll [1922]-1970; copy 19th century of enclosure award [orig. 1764]; Church of England Men's Society, Marfleet branch, minutes 1954-1964; Chapel of The Good Shepherd, Mission to Seaman, marriage register 1971-2000; Marfleet Team Ministry Parochial Church Council minutes 1974-2008, church restoration records 2002-2010

Marfleet St Philip (Bilton Grange) (ref. PE188) includes baptism registers 1952-1963; marriage registers 1973-1980; banns registers 1973-1985; register of services 1951-1978; inventory 1985; minutes 1953-1988 (includes church committee, annual vestry, annual general and district church council); annual and 'ledger' accounts 1954-1987; cash books 1952-1979; electoral roll 1954-1971

Marfleet St Hilda (ref. PE189) includes register of baptisms 1960-1970; register of marriages 1973-1981; banns register 1973-1980; register of services 1960-1982; church committee minutes 1960-1976; district church council minutes 1980-1987; balance sheets 1960-1975; cash book 1971-1976

Marfleet St George (ref. PE190) includes baptism registers 1938-1985; marriage registers 1948-1993; banns registers 1948-1953; confirmations register 1938-1985, register of services 1938-1981; minutes 1938-2008 includes congregation meeting minutes, annual vestry meeting minutes, church council minutes, and Parochial Church Council minutes (1947-1949), church council and church organisations to the annual vestry meetings 1940-1946, District Church Council minutes 1973-1979, 1987-2008; quarterly and yearly accounts 1938-1945; income and expenditure accounts 1966-1991, quinquennial visitations 1977-2007, vicarage files 1953-1988, and electoral rolls 1990-1999, 2007-2008

Microfilm of Bishops transcripts 1598-1874, has gaps in the earlier years (ref. MF7/12)

The website Find My Past has some coverage from bts and registers. Staff will advise on the years available

### **Records of other denominations**

Marfleet Wesleyan Methodist Chapel was part of the Hull Circuit, records are held at Hull History Centre

### **Other records**

Marfleet Enclosure Act 1763 (ref. AP/3/4/1)  
Marfleet Enclosure Award, 1764 (refs. RDB/1/2/ Book AF, IA/104 and DDCC/142/10)

Drypool and Marfleet Steam Tramways Board of Trade Orders 1890 and 1892 (refs. BTO/22 and 26)

Marfleet Primary School, School Governors' minutes 1969-1988 (ref. CCHU/3/10)

Commissioners of Sewers includes minutes, assessments, reports, petitions, accounts, apportionments of General Sewer Tax and correspondence (ref. CSR)

County Rate Committee returns for Marfleet 1848 (ref. CTR/1/5/17) and Copy property tax assessments for Marfleet 1847 (ref. CTR/2/1/17)

Holderness Drainage Commissioners Records 1764-1941 (ref. DCHO)

Plan of the lordship of Marfleet showing estates belonging to Trinity House by Edward Johnson junior 1776 (ref. DDCK/35/4)

Plan of land in Keyingham, Marfleet, Drypool, Skeckling and Burstwick belonging to Sophia Broadley taken for Hull - Holderness Railway 1855 (ref. DDHB/21/10)

Cropping book relating to Harrison-Broadley estates 1902-1917 (ref. DDTH/9)

Marfleet Residents' Association, 1993 (ref.

DDX725)

Marfleet, St Hilda church plans and parsonage plans 1957-1962 (ref. DDX1182/5)

East Riding Club and Race Course Company Limited plan of race course between Marfleet and Hedon nd. [c.1888] (ref. DDX1694/2/70)

Electoral registers (ref. EL/2/2)

Monumental Inscriptions for Marfleet (ref. JL/152/65 and 65a); Monumental Inscriptions for Marfleet, Jewish Cemetery, Hull (ref. JL/152/277)

Land tax assessments for Marfleet 1782, 1787-1830, 1832 (ref. QDE/1/6/20)

Land tax assessments for South Hunsley Beacon 1917-1942 (ref. LTA/10) and Land tax redemption certificates for South Hunsley Beacon 1896-1941 (ref. LTA/15)

Plan of proposed embankment, River Humber, Marfleet 1906 (ref. NBT/137)

Ordnance survey maps (ref. OS)

Parish magazine: Contact, 1968-2014 (ref. PM/108)

Holderness Middle Petty Sessional Division Records 1845-1986, includes magistrates' minutes 1890-1976, court registers 1957-1987, juvenile court registers 1954-1986, register of music and dancing licences 1962-1982, miscellaneous court records for Holderness Middle and South Divisions 1845-1892, court records for Sproatley Magistrates Court 1960s-1983 (ref. PSHM)

Sculcoates Poor Law Union Records 1838-1969 Includes Board of Guardians minutes 1920, 1929; Boarding out Committee minutes 1928-1930; Works Committee minutes 1929; Cottage Homes Committee minutes 1919, 1923-1930; Clerk's miscellaneous papers 1898-1969; valuation list 1925; poor rate books 1838-1925; Cottingham survey 1865; School Attendance Committee minutes 1877-1903. (ref. PUT)

Sculcoates Guardians Committee Records contains guardians committee minutes 1930-1935 (ref. PGS)

Recognizances and lists of persons licensed to sell ale 1754-1793 (few gaps) and 1822, 1823, 1825 and 1826 (ref. QDT/2/7 and 9)

Humberside Police records Hull City Police POL/4/8/2/ Alehouse registers 1880-1969 Series of bound volumes, handwritten registers, containing: lists of licensed premises, their whereabouts; names of licence holders; applications and transfers of licences; character references.

Accounts for repairs to Marfleet Jetty. 1742 – 1743 (ref. QDU/1/80)

Marfleet Primary School Records 1892-1992, includes log books 1892-1978; admission registers 1892-1972; summary attendance register 1943-1946; punishment book 1900-1968; school portfolios 1893-1939, 1949-1979; timetables 1931, 1932; miscellaneous account and inventory books 1927-1984 (ref. SL157) - some access restrictions will apply

Lay subsidy 1629 has 8 names under Marfleet, printed version (ref. YE/336.23)

Muster roll 1636 has 12 names under Marfleet, printed version (ref. YE/355)

The Register of Deeds 1708-1974 is particularly useful for freehold transactions and wills (ref. RDB)

A search by place and personal name in the currently available online catalogue will pick up deeds, wills and other items not noted above, particularly in 18th and 19th c. Quarter Sessions papers and Local Studies books

Ancestry.co.uk, Find My Past and other genealogical sites can be accessed to expand and complement the above sources

The printed and indexed publications of Yorkshire societies and a good selection of directories 1823-1937 are readily available

*Helen Clark*

Spotlight on Marfleet  
Janet Bielby

Marfleet is a township 2.5 miles east of Kingston upon Hull, in the Wapentake of Holderness in the East Riding of Yorkshire. It came under the Sculcoates Union, middle Holderness petty sessions division and Hull County Court district and rural deanery. It is in the East Riding Archdeaconry and the diocese of York. It is mentioned in the Domesday survey as - Merefleet, part of Drew de Brevere's Manor of Mappleton. The name is thought to refer to a pool/stream. The area is low lying and has several drains and streams which run into the Humber. In the 18th century it was separated from Drypool in the west by the River Wilflete - which later became the Holderness drain - from Bilton in the north by the Marfleet Old drain and from Preston in the east by the Old Fleet.

In the 12th century the Manor of Marfleet was owned by the Marfleet family. Later Stephen de Danthorpe and then his great grandson Adam held a 1/3rd share. From 1331 until the late 16th century it was held by the Thorp and Wilton families. In 1530 William Thorp sold land to John Lambert, who in turn sold it to St John's College, Cambridge. In 1596 the manor and 4 messuages went to Marmaduke Haddesley and the remaining 2 messuages to Humphrey Hall and Hugh Graves. Haddesley's land passed to Nathaniel Dring in 1614 and the Dring family still held the Manor House in 1764. By 1784 the Manor House had passed to Samuel Menthorp, then to the Rheam family in 1831 and Sophia Broadley in 1852. During the 1660's the very unpopular 'Hearth Tax' was levied on properties worth more than 20 shillings a year, at the rate of 2 shillings per hearth. The people in Marfleet with 3 or more hearths were - John Sikes, Mar Gedney, Geo Sigwith, Jo Hunter, Magd Hallyday, Jo Harpam, Robt Harpam, Wm Ambler, Hen Dring, Paul Almond and Robt Harphan.

Prior to 1786 Marfleet was just a small settlement grouped around the church - which dated back to c1217, but which was demolished in 1793 and St Peter's church built, when an acre of land was endowed by Adam de Marfleet. (There is some confusion about the church name - I have found it called St Peter's and St Giles, but also found it referred to as St Martin's! ) This church was demolished in 1883 and the present day church of St Giles opened and re-dedicated in 1884.

On 18th August 1552, Church Commissioners seized items of value from St Giles church, Marfleet. These items were no longer needed in plainer protestant services: a silver chalice, brass candlesticks, bells and a brass holy water vat. Witnesses from the parish were Marmaduke Loickwos, Herry Birkett, Richard Walker, and Thomas Almonde.

The incumbent in 1636 was George Osbourne - a Puritan - who came to Hull in the Civil War. Thomas Sedgwick - also a Puritan - was the next incumbent between 1639 and 1672. He managed to survive the reformation and is one of the few clerics who managed to keep his post ( and his head ) despite the restoration of the monarchy when Charles II came to power. A memorial to Sedgwick from the second church was preserved and is on display in the present church. It is written in Latin but translates as - Here lies the Reverend and Theologian Thomas Sedgwick recently pastor of this church who died on the 17th day of September 1679 at the age of 58. Here on this place on earth is the body of the three times thrice blessed. In the chariots of angels his soul seeks the alms of God.

The churchyard was extended in 1953, after a cottage and school room were demolished. The vicarage in Church Lane was designed by Brodrick, Lowther and Walker and built in 1908. It was occupied at that time by Rev George Brittan, his wife Rosamond and son Stamford (who was a church warden). In the vicarage garden there was a small cottage which was believed to be the former vicarage, and was the oldest building in Marfleet before it was demolished in 1914.

There is a record in the parish register of it being "restored" in 1807!

When the foundation stone of the present church was laid in on 24th June 1883 by Col. Gerard Smith J.P., the vicar was Rev. Edward Birt Kay (born Sheffield 1831, died and buried Marfleet 1901). Jesse Leonard and Peter Rodmell - both old Marfleet families - were churchwardens. Rev. Kay married his 2nd wife Ann Eliza Park on 2nd August 1883 in Hedon. He was vicar for 35 years. St. Giles church became a listed building in 1994.

From 1859 the Methodists in Marfleet met in a small house on Greatfield Lane. This was, however, very small, and so in 1871 a Wesleyan Methodist church was built on Hedon Road - opposite Marfleet Lane - and this opened in 1873. It closed as a church in 1906, when plans were afoot to build the King George V dock, but the building managed to survive until 1998. In 1908 a much larger Wesleyan church opened on Marfleet Ave., and was in use until 1972. It was demolished in 1990. There are 2 Jewish cemeteries in Marfleet - one in Delhi Street which opened in 1858 and was extended in 1902, and one to the south side of St. Giles church on the site of Crosby Hall, which opened in 1930. They are still in use by the Hull Hebrew Congregation in Anlaby.

Historically Marfleet was an agricultural community. In the 17th century Marfleet was surrounded by large open fields - Great Field to the east, Humber Field to the west and Church or Ox Field to the north west. In 1688 Five Acre Close and 4 other Garths were among the old enclosures. In the 18th century some old established families such as the Leggatts, Ducketts and Drings received allotments of land. In 1891 there were at least 9 farms - the Grange, Ivy Farm, Station View Farm, Trinity House Farm, Elmtree Farm, Hopewell Farm, Sutton Lane Farm, Homeleigh Farm and Whitehouse Farm being some of them.

The centre of the village was the area around Church Lane and Marfleet Lane, until 1833 when Marfleet Lane, Greatfield Lane and Back Lane/Marfleet Avenue were joined to the newly opened Hull to Hedon turnpike road. Since 1789 Marfleet Lane

had continued north west to the Holderness Road, and this had been the main way into Hull until the turnpike road was built.

The Hull to Withernsea Railway line opened in 1854, after the line was promoted by Hull businessman Anthony Bannister, with the intention of linking Hull with the rich agricultural area of South Holderness, and the development of a coastal village (Withernsea) into a new seaside resort. The silting up of Patrington and Hedon Havens were another incentive for the construction of a line, since they could no longer be used for transportation by water.

The station at Marfleet was situated where Marfleet Lane and Back Lane met. Prior to 1864 the line went from the Victoria Dock Station to Patrington, but after the line was acquired by the North Eastern Railway company, the line joined the Hull and Barnsley Railway line at Southcoates. It then served the following stations - Paragon, Botanic Garden, Stepney, Wilmington and Southcoates in Hull, then Marfleet, Hedon Racecourse ( after 1888), Hedon, Burstwick, Keyingham, Ottringham, Winestead, Patrington, Hollym Gate and Withernsea. It was well used, bringing agricultural produce from the Holderness area, and taking manufactured goods and passengers to the outlying villages from Hull. Withernsea was a very popular seaside resort from the late 1880's. At Marfleet the line was crossed by a gated level crossing - with a gatekeepers cottage next to it - but a road bridge was built on Marfleet Avenue in 1932, reducing the need for a gate keeper. There was a foot crossing, with a small gate and a stile, until the line closed in 1965. There was a signal box next to the gate, and a station masters house on the south side of the station. In 1920 the station master was a Mr. Alfred E. Train!

Although Marfleet was incorporated into the Borough of Kingston upon Hull in 1882, it retained its rural character until around 1912 when new properties were built to house the people who came to work in the new light industries in the area. In 1901 there were only 373 people living in Marfleet, but that soon changed. Joseph Henry Fenner moved his business manufacturing leather belts for

driving machinery, from the Bishop Lane/ Chapel Lane area of Hull to Back Lane in 1908. They bought the 18 acre site of White House Farm for £2,200. Initially they produced leather machine belts and leather/canvas fire hoses. A house - Eastville - was built on the now Marfleet Avenue, and this became the home of Walter Fenner. They built houses for their employees - Frodsham and Egypt Streets between 1890 and 1907. Then by 1914 Ceylon St., Cyprus St. and Delhi St. were built using bricks from the local brickyard, next to St Giles church, of brick maker Thomas Leonard. In 1941 much of the factory and parts of Frodsham St. and Egypt St. were destroyed in the Blitz, but the factory was re-built and in full production again by 1948.

In 1906 the 'Joint Dock' was built on the south side of the turnpike road - now called Hedon Road. It was a joint venture between the Hull and Barnsley Railway and the North Eastern Railway. It was eventually opened in 1914 by King George V, and named King George Dock. At that time it was one of the largest, deepest and best equipped docks in the northeast of England and employed many people. It had a water area of 53 acres, extensive sheds and warehouses for wool and other goods. The proximity of Hull to the coalfields of Yorkshire et al meant that coal could be brought to Hull for export. The Dock was equipped with conveyor belts and coal hoists to convey the coal directly from the railway sidings to the ships. The empty railway wagons were then filled with wooden pit props brought from Scandinavia and taken directly to the mines. There was also a huge 40,000 ton Grain Silo - built in 1919 to receive grain from Canada and the USA. This was demolished in 2010. As well as the hundreds of Dock labourers, many more men were employed by the railway company on the docks, bringing trade and prosperity to Marfleet. In 1968, work on a 28 acre extension to King George Dock built on reclaimed land to the south-east of the dock was begun. The extension was officially opened in August 1969 by Queen Elizabeth II and named Queen Elizabeth Dock. A container terminal was opened in 1971 at Queen Elizabeth Dock. Two roll on-

roll off terminals were opened in 1973 and by 1975 there were six such terminals in the two docks. The Dock is also the passenger terminal for the Hull/ Zeebrugge and Hull/ Rotterdam ferries.

In 1915, two more employers opened businesses in Marfleet. William R. Todd and Sons brought their paint, colour and varnish works to Marfleet and the Pancreol Chemical Works opened next to it between Marfleet Avenue and Frodsham St..

After WWII many more industries sprang up along the north side of Hedon Rd. from Marfleet Lane eastwards. Humbrol - paints, adhesives and model making products - opened in 1947, next along was British Cod Liver Oil Products - now called Seven Seas - which opened in 1935. Then came the Imperial Typewriter Company of Leicester, who opened a second factory here in 1954 but it closed in 1975. Next was the Wyke works of Papropack paper products, built in 1959, and finally Priestman Bros. built in 1958. William Dent Priestman was a Quaker, born in Hull in 1847 died 1935, and an engineering pioneer. Along with his brother Samuel they founded a firm making steam powered dredgers, cranes, winches and excavators. Their original factory was the Holderness Foundry on Williamson St. in Hull. This company failed in 1895 but was reformed after WWI and moved to Marfleet in 1950. It went on to be a world wide exporter of heavy duty construction machinery. It is no longer in Hull or manufacturing cranes and dredgers.

There were plenty of shops in Marfleet once the industries were established. A large Co-operative store - branch no 30 - opened on the east corner of Marfleet Ave. and Hedon Rd. in 1914. In 1929 they expanded next door to have a butchery shop. It closed in 1963 when many of the customers had moved away. During WWII there was a restaurant above the shop.

At one time there were 7 grocers/ shopkeepers, 2 hairdressers, 2 milkmen, 2 butchers, 2 tobacconists, a tailor, a gents outfitters, a drapers, a cobbler, a blacksmith, an electrical retailer, a joiner, a hardware shop, a fish and chip shop, 2 coal merchants, a post office, a restaurant, a cafe and a public house ( the New Inn 1833 - 2000) - all in

the area around Hedon Rd., Marfleet Ave. and Marfleet Lane. In the early 1900's many different 'carriers' came through Marfleet from the East Holderness villages, on their way to the Hull Market. Many of them supplied the Marfleet shops on their way into a Hull or on the return journey with goods for the outlying villages.

The "M" tramcar ran from Hull along Hedon Rd. to the tram-shed at Holderness Drain. Later - when King George Dock was built, the tram became "MA" and ran as far as Marfleet Avenue. This was also the terminus for the No 47 bus to Hull - which was noted for having the Bus Stop sign written in English and 7 other languages saying it was the bus for the Eastern Port.

214 men and 2 women left Marfleet to fight in WWI. They are remembered on the roll of honour - which was originally on the west walk of the Co-op store. In 2003 a new stone was unveiled in the memorial gardens by the Marfleet Avenue roundabout on a Hedon Rd.. There are also memorials in St Giles church to Private J. T. P. Walker killed on 7th October 1917, and the Reredos and a brass plaque are both memorials to those who died.

There were a few notable people in Marfleet in the early 1900's.

Sarah (Grannie) Hines (1870-1954) was the local midwife and brought many Marfleet children into the world. She lived in Egypt St. and retired in 1935.

George Wm. Bell (1889 - 1959) set up his butchery business at 10 Marfleet Avenue ( on the corner of Ceylon St.) in 1910. He served in WWI and then continued to serve the community until his retirement in 1950. The business was carried on by his daughter Marie and son Bernard, who kept up the business until 1985.

Reginald Frost Skelton (1886-1985) worked as a tram conductor and then driver on the Marfleet route until 1935, when he transferred to petrol buses. He retired in 1951.

Peter John P. Partington(1895-1964) was the son of Peter Partington butcher. He inherited the large butchers chandlery on Hedon Rd. from his father, but his love of horses led

him to found the Marfleet Hackney Stud Farm in 1921 at Homeleigh Farm next to Marfleet Station. He became a nationally famous judge of Hackney horses, and bred Hackney horses which were sent all over the world.

Thomas Benjamin Routledge (1880-1960) had a tobacconist kiosk next door to the Co-op. He kept a pony called Baby in a stable behind the kiosk. He was well known in Marfleet as a slightly eccentric but genial man who had a kind word for everyone,

Much of Marfleet has changed with the building of the housing estates Greatfield, Bilton Grange and Preston Road to the north of the railway line, the widening of Hedon Road after 2000, and the building of a housing estate on Marfleet Lane. But the school is thriving and the area still has a community feel. It was designated a conservation area in 1994.

The monumental inscription books for Marfleet are - M065 - Marfleet (St Giles churchyard); M277 - Marfleet Jewish Cemetery; M 259 - Hull Delhi Street Jewish Cemetery. All available from our website shop page - [www.eyfhs.org.uk](http://www.eyfhs.org.uk)

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## Society News

### Obituary (1)

**Regretfully we announce the death of Tony Scaife. Tony, who was 81, was a former chairman of the Society and he died in January this year. Our thoughts are with his family.**

### Obituary (2)

**PETER SIDDLE. It is with regret that we announce the passing of Peter Siddle. Peter who lived in Bridlington and was 91 died in mid-February. He had been a member of the Society for many years**

**and until he gave up driving 2 or 3 years ago regularly attended all four monthly meetings of the Society. He will be greatly missed. Our condolences and sympathies are with his family.**

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### 2021 EYFHS MEETINGS

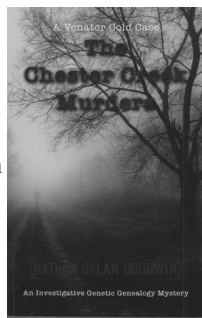
*News concerning the Monthly Meetings at HULL AND BEVERLEY.*

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic all meetings have now been postponed until at least September. The talk scheduled for 6th April in Beverley (ghosts of Beverley - Mike Covell) has been rearranged for the 7th September.

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Venator Cold Case Series. An investigative Genetic Genealogy Mystery.  
Nathan Dylan Goodwin

Pub by Amazon  
Jan 2021  
Price. £8.99



ISBN 979-8575329886

The author is well known to the eyfhs Banyan Tree book review feature. His series of novels under the guise of Morton Farrier the Genealogical Detective have appeared in this journal many times as he took us on adventures that sought answers for his clients and for Farrier himself.

This new novel takes us upon a new pathway, here is a spoiler alert but I only intend to give some brief details away. The story line is set in America, the main character is a lady detective and Nathan Dylan Goodwin enters into the world of DNA to help resolve

some unsolved crime cases. There is intrigue and darkness in the cases which are under scrutiny. It is worthy of being read while it takes us on an unfamiliar journey.

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### *Computer program press release*

### *Family Historian 7*

Calico Pie today announced the release of version 7 of Family Historian, the award-winning desktop genealogy program. The new version includes word processing features, source templates, and tools to support a wholly new way of entering data, based around sources. Although announced today, version 7 has been available for purchase since before Christmas.

London, United Kingdom, January 21, 2021 -- "Version 7 supports a wholly new way of entering data that is designed to match the way genealogists actually work" explained Simon Orde, CEO of Calico Pie. "Typically a genealogist will find a source of some kind – a document, a gravestone, a newspaper article ... whatever – and the data comes from that. Our new tools reflect this reality. We call it 'source-driven data entry'. In version 7, any source type can have one or more tools called 'data entry assistants' that facilitate the process of entering data straight from that source type. The goal is to make the whole process significantly easier and quicker, while giving better, and more consistent results. We already supply a number of data entry assistants, but more are on the way. Any technically-sophisticated user can write them and share them with everyone else."

"At the same time we've added support for source templates. There is an Essentials collection, which we designed with the help of the Genealogy Programme of the University of Strathclyde, and an Advanced collection which is modelled on the work of Elizabeth Shown Mills."

It is not just about sources though. "This is



a big upgrade and there's a lot there. For example, we've added support for word processing features in notes and other long text fields. This is by some margin the thing we've had the most requests for. The word processing features are extensive – everything you probably expect and more. For example you can add web links, and even record links, to any note. Our users asked that we support tables. So we did that. And our users were right. Tables turn out to be a very useful feature for genealogy. We use them extensively now – in the new source transcription tools, and also in the new research notes ... in anything where the data is naturally tabular, which a lot of data is. We had to completely rebuild the report engine to support all the new features, but that turned out to be a great opportunity. We've improved the design of the Report Window, added new reports, and even added new tools for creating reports. Users can now create custom reports that can show any information, and which are indistinguishable from built-in reports.”

The new version also supports language packs for multi-language output. Current language packs in the free plugin store include French, German, Swedish, Dutch/Flemish, Norwegian, Portuguese and English. Simon Orde expects that more will be added over time. “Every copy of Family Historian includes all the tools you need to create language packs, and we encourage creators to upload their packs to the plugin store so that everyone else can benefit”, he explained. “Once they're in the plugin store, anyone can download and install them.”

For more information about the new features in version 7, please see <https://www.family-historian.co.uk/whats-new-in-7>

## About Family Historian

Family Historian is a powerful, desktop genealogy program for Windows. In 2020, TopTenReviews gave Family Historian their highest overall rating in their review of the best family tree software of 2020, and gave

it 10 out of 10 for ease of use. It has won a Top Rated Genealogy Software award from GenSoftReviews in every year from 2011 to 2020.

Family Historian 7 runs on Windows 10, 8, and 7. It is published by Calico Pie Limited. For more information, please contact us.

Tel: +44 (0)20 3637 6694

Email: [info@family-historian.co.uk](mailto:info@family-historian.co.uk)

Web: [www.family-historian.co.uk](http://www.family-historian.co.uk)

Alan Brigham tried this program and here are his views upon Family Historian 7.

The most important tip I can offer you, is;

- install the sample data and experiment a while before importing your own family tree(s),
- play as much as you like with the sample data, but do not save you changes as you exit the program,
- having satisfied your curiosity visit; <https://www.family-historian.co.uk/whats-new-in-7> followed by <https://www.family-historian.co.uk/tour/thetourvideo> to get the very best from Family Historian 7 and only now should you consider loading you own data.

## Should I Upgrade or Change To Version 7?

Well, without wanting it to appear as if I am sitting on the fence; “Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes”. It has been a very long time since I have been so convinced that it is time for me to open my wallet and upgrade my aging, 5¼” floppy disks copy of Version One. I love it!

You can download a 30 days Free Trial by visiting the following page;

<https://www.family-historian.co.uk/downloads/free-30-day-trial>

**So why not suck it and see for yourself? I have made the switch and thoroughly recommend that you consider doing so too.**

**Best wishes, stay safe, and let us all look forward to better times.**

Alan Brigham

East Yorkshire Family History Society.

Nathaniel Constantine Strickland  
1802 – 1886

Lisa Blossfelds

Nathaniel Constantine Strickland (NCS) was born at Boynton and baptised at York, the third son of Sir William Strickland, the 6th Baronet, (1754– 1834) and his wife Henrietta Cholmley, (1860 – 1827) the daughter of Nathaniel Cholmley of Howsham and Whitby. The Stricklands' family seat was at Boynton near Bridlington, and it's likely that NCS spent his childhood there. He gained an MA at Lincoln College, Oxford, took holy orders and shortly thereafter, in October 1822, married Charlotte Danvers Hecker, the daughter of S La Touche Hecker, at New Radnor in Wales. In 1835 he became Vicar of Reighton and Bessingby, his elder brother, John Strickland, having had the living from 1819 to 1824.

*(1) Later censuses indicate that John Strickland didn't continue in his career as a clergyman but instead lived off private means. He married but seems not to have had children*

NCS's marriage to Charlotte Hecker proved childless.

### ***Reighton Vicarage***



They lived at the fine Georgian brick house next to Reighton church which was given as a vicarage by Sir William Strickland in the early 1820s, probably when his son John took up residence. It is likely to have been a full house. In 1871 the Stricklands had five servants living with them: a governess, nursery maid, cook, housemaid and groom. The old vicarage had only four bedrooms (one of them only 8ft x 6.5ft) and two attic rooms. There were also a drawing room, dining room, kitchen and scullery. This means that it is likely that by the mid-1870s

there were likely to have been fifteen or more people living in the house. The children would have needed a day room to take their lessons in and the governess would have expected a bedroom of her own. The groom would probably have lived above the stable. In those days the vicarage garden was bigger than it is today as, in 1924, part of it became the churchyard extension.

Charlotte Strickland died in 1851. That year's census shows that NCS was then living South Cottage, Wimbledon Common and describes him as a 48 year old widower living alone apart from two servants. He gives his profession as being Vicar of Reighton and Perpetual Curate of Bessingby.

Three years later on the 25th of March 1854, at Christchurch, Southwark in Surrey, and by special license, NCS married Harriet Hennings, who was twenty six years his junior. The 1851 census shows her earning her living as a general servant at the Kentish Drovers Inn in Peckham. In other words, she was a Cockney barmaid. Her father was Richard Hennings, a printer, while her mother, Mary, was just literate enough to be able to sign the register. NCS's second father in law was two years younger than he was. It must have been a great change for Harriet to move from dirty, crowded London to the fresh air, open countryside and scattered villages of East Yorkshire. She and Nathaniel proceeded to have eleven children including twin daughters, Emma and Charlotte, born in 1857. However Emma died aged 7 months in January 1858. NCS's last child, William, was born in 1872 when NCS was seventy years old.

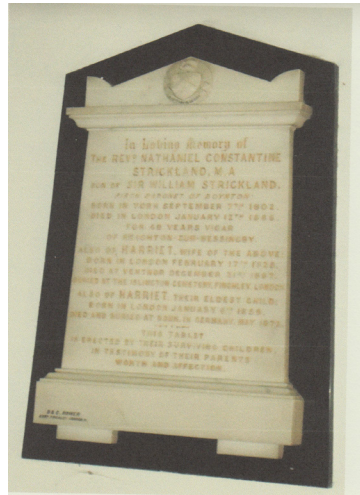
NCS is described as being tall and thin with a long white beard. He drove between his two parishes every Sunday. While giving sermons he had a habit of pausing to take snuff. In 1877 NCS was warned by the local School Board for employing two children, John Scrivener and Robert Noble, who were of school age and should have been attending lessons. He could have been fined £2 for doing this but it seems that he took no notice as, two years later, he was again warned by the Board for doing the same thing. Needless to say, he was not on the School Board.

NCS resigned the Reighton living in 1883 after having been its incumbent for 49 years. He performed his last baptism on the 18th of December 1878, his last wedding on May 20th 1878 and his last burial on September 28th 1879, his handwriting having become increasingly difficult to read as he aged. NCS was succeeded by his son in law, William Rowley who had married NCS's daughter, May, in 1879 having been at that time NCS's curate, and who had been deputising for NCS. The vicarage was vacant at the time of the 1881 census. However, it shows that NCS was living at Reighton Villa, Ashley Road, London with his wife, seven of his children including Charlotte, the surviving twin then aged 23, one of his married daughters, Harriet, her husband Thomas Griesbach a former curate turned land agent, a grandson and a female servant, although NCS is still listed as being Vicar of Reighton. NCS died at 46 Chalcot Crescent, Primrose Hill, London the age of 84 in January 1886. Harriet, survived him by almost two years, dying in Ventnor in the Isle of Wight in December 1887.\* There is a fine memorial tablet to them in Reighton church. It should be noted, however, that the inscription is wrong in that it states that NCS's father was the fifth baronet when, in fact, he was the sixth, the fifth having been Sir George Strickland, NCS's grandfather.

*at Reighton: Harriet, 6 July 1855, Henrietta Anna, 11 March 1856, Emma and Charlotte, 12 May 1857, Walter, 24 April 1859, May, 10 May 1860, Hugh, 21 August 1861, George William, 16 February 1863, Nathaniel Henry, 5 January 1866, Charles, 29 September 1870, William, 21 June 1872.*

*(7)£2 in 1880 would have been a week's wages or a skilled craftsman, or equivalent to £140 in 2020.*

*(8)William Rowley was curate of Reighton 1878 – 1880, curate of Fivehead, Somerset 1880 – 1883 and vicar of Reighton 1883 – 1901.*



**Note** Her father had died in 1883 at the age of 80 but her mother outlived her, dying in 1895 aged 81.

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Family History Federation  
A small piece of news

FHF AGM - Change of Date

Due to the new regulations which are now in place in England regarding the pandemic we have taken the decision to postpone the FHF AGM on Saturday 20th March 2021 at Wesley's Chapel.

The FHF AGM will now be held on Saturday 5th June 2021. More details will follow in due course.

*1)Destroyed in the Blitz in 1941, a new church of the same name was built in 1958.*

*(2)A pub of this name still exists but is on the opposite of Peckham High Street to the original one.*

*(3)To be precise he was a copper plate engraver, which meant that he engraved images onto copper plates used for printing pictures. This involved using sharp tools and nitric acid, and was a skilled trade.*

*(4)The 1841 census shows the Hennings to have been living at Phoenix Place, St Pancras, Richard describing himself as a copper plater.*

*(5)The 1851 Census shows the Hennings family living at 9 Fleet Row, Holborn. It comprised Richard Hennings, 47, printer, his wife Mary, 37 and six children, George 15, Henry 10, John 8, Mary 6, Alfred 5, and Lamartine (Son) 3.*

*(6)Their children are as follows, the dates being given for their births. All were baptised*

FORUM CORNER

**Sharing information** is the cornerstone of a family history society and we really do our best to try and include everyone's **letters and request's** for help in these pages. Due to space availability it is not always possible to fit everyone's letters and enquiries into the edition they expect. However, all of the letters and e-mails sent for inclusion in the Forum Corner will appear as soon as possible.

**Important advice.** Please do not send any original material to the Banyan Tree, send a copy. We do not want to lose any of your items which are valuable and irreplaceable family treasures. If you use the postal system please ensure that you include stamped self addressed envelope, we try to be prudent with your subscription fees.

*Please include your eyfhs membership number with your letter or email. Send your enquiries to the editor. The postal and email address is on page 2.*

*If you need help get in touch!*

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*Geoff Bateman begins the Forum Corner with a response to an item sent in by Hannah Stamp in the Feb 2021 issue of the Banyan Tree.*

I was interested in Hannah Stamp's story (The Banyan Tree No.165) of her family's Spurn connection, partly because Spurn is such an amazing place, even though now not really accessible. Also, since the name Pinder, one of her ancestral families from that area, seemed quite unusual, I had a look to see if her Patrington branch of the 1800s connected up with my branch in the Skipsea and Nafferton areas (about 20 miles to the north) of the 1700s. Sadly I was not able to make the link, but it may be there waiting to be discovered. The name itself, apparently one of several variants meaning "official of the manor or village responsible for

impounding stray cattle or other domestic animals and holding them within a 'Pound'" (surnamedb.com), may not be as scarce as I thought.

While on the subject of Spurn, I will add that a book, "The People Along the Sand: the Spurn Peninsula and Kilnsea" by Jan Crowther, is a good background read (and widely available second-hand), especially as it describes not just the lifeboat families but also the early birdwatchers (if I remember correctly). The latter include two of my teachers in the few years that I was at Malet Lambert High School. They were George Ainsworth, woodwork teacher, who built the Heligoland traps for bird ringing, still in place and sometimes used I think, and Eva Crackles, biology teacher, and later renowned botanist and author of the "Flora of East Yorkshire". Miss Crackles used to take some of us youngsters out in her Morris Minor at weekends botanising in the Wolds – great days out, as were other days spent cycling from Hull to Spurn and back with binoculars.

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*Jennifer Towey responded to the article by Pete Lowden 'The Training Ship Southampton' part 3 which appeared in the Feb 2021 of the Banyan Tree.*

The above named article caught my eye because one of the inmates, Herbert Buckley, married my 2C2R Elizabeth Siddle.

As I do genetic genealogy I research my cousins to this level so I already had Elizabeth and Herbert on my tree. Despite the remoteness of the connection it was good to see a family member mentioned in the journal.

N.B Editor's comment - It is good to know that articles which are used in the Banyan Tree help to bridge a divide between members. (No matter how remote the connection)

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We now have a slight deviation in our Forum Corner section. Martyn Trueman has asked

if anyone can provide some information about his Uncle Ronnie Brummitt. Ronnie Brummitt was in the Merchant Navy and lived in Grimsby, besides this fact very little is known about Mr R Brummitt.

(Editors note) I did a bit of checking in the census returns and found some details which I passed onto Martyn -

Ronnie Brummitt was born in 1924. He served in the Merchant Navy - 1939-1945  
Discharge No ~ R285217  
Father - Walter  
Mother - Elsie (inferred)

*Martyn responded* 'It seems that my Uncle Ronnie may have had a different a step mum (which I was not aware of) I always thought my mum's mum was called Gladys.

(Editor) According to the records I looked at Elsie Brummit' was the 'inferred' mother of Ronald Brummitt! Ronnie was adopted.

*Martyn said* 'Just to confirm my Uncle Ronnie's mum was called Gladys which is on her headstone but his dad 'Walter' married again to 'Elsie' so the information you have is correct, my mum (his sister) was called Gloria who was born in Rothwell Leeds, Ronnie's mum's Maiden name was Churchill and there were Lily, Charlotte, Alfie and Winston Churchill (not the Winston Churchill) however one of them was buried with a union flag over their coffin as they were councillors'.



Ronnie Brummitt  
Served in the  
Merchant Navy  
during the 2nd  
World War.

Can anyone help Martyn?

William Witty - Forger  
Bob Jennings

Bob Jennings a member of the eyfhs (Mem No 3202) has provided us with the following intriguing story about a forger.

Bob said - *"It is not entirely East Yorkshire but it does have a connection. All the content was found by searching newspapers with FindMyPast. Newspapers from Manchester, Leeds, Hull and Dorset*

In 1851 widow Frances MALKINSON had a lodging house at Fish Street, Hull. Some of her 9 daughters lived with her. Daughter Esther Malkinson, b. 1826, was housekeeper to William WITTY, a linen draper, at Market Place, Louth in 1851.

William WITTY's career of crime was reviewed at the Assizes Court in Dec. 1852. In September 1851 William had ordered a large quantity of textile goods from Leeds, on credit, and got his brother Richard to take out an auctioneer's licence and sell the goods off cheap and quickly. The goods were sold at Malton in December for 10 days and at Hull, from September to January. William was a licenced hawker No.1073B.

In January 1852 Richard Witty requested a London 'ticket porter' to move two large boxes from the premises of Manories & Co. 'outfitters for emigrants' firstly to Shadwell Dock and then to Blackwell railway station. On 3rd January 1852 William Witty had bought, from shipping agents in London, tickets for 3 persons and a quantity of goods, to be on board the S.S. Euphrates to Australia. He used the name J. Richards, Louth.

The berths in the names of Sutcliffe, White and Richards.

The agents advised Witty (as Sutcliffe) that the Euphrates had left London on 10th

January and they would be allowed to the 21st of January to go on board at Plymouth. The Leeds textile merchants were concerned that Witty had not paid for the goods that they had supplied and in January a bankruptcy hearing about Witty was held of Leeds District Court of Bankruptcy at the Town Hall, Hull. (Witty was not present) - From evidence provided, an adjudication of bankruptcy was obtained and a commissioner's warrant made to arrest Witty.

Evidence included a letter written by Witty to his creditors saying ---

“You will think me a villain, but it is my intention to pay all creditors 5 shillings in the pound and the rest within 3 years. You will find me an honest man”, etc.

Mr. Hunt, an accountant, was despatched from Manchester to Louth to make enquiries. He telegraphed back that the bankrupt had left Louth several days before leaving his shop entirely stripped of his stock and the house of furniture and it was reported that he had sailed for Australia and that a large quantity of goods had been sent to a shipping agent in London.

On the 19th of January Witty, as Sutcliffe, called at the agents in London with reference to the goods and arranged for the goods to shipped on board the ‘Roman Emperor’ to Sydney.

In court it was disclosed that on 10th of January Witty had sent via a man named Thompson on the ship called ‘Success’ £150 to be given to another brother at Geelong, Australia.

Mr. Clark, assistant officer of the Court, left Leeds by train for the South at 3 p.m. on 1st of February.

Owing to the Sunday intervening, the messenger and the other creditors arrived together at Plymouth on Monday 2nd of February and found the Euphrates just on the point of sailing. They went on board where they found the bankrupt, the female (whose passage had been taken as his wife,

but who in fact was his housekeeper), and the brother of Witty.

Esther was ticketed as his wife. Esther also used the alias of Esther DAVEY. (Esther's sister Hannah had married my wife's gt. gt. grandfather George DAVY.)

The party had in their possession upwards of £800 in cash and a variety of effects which the messenger got possession of and with the assistance of the police took the bankrupt into custody and compelled him to leave the vessel, which immediately proceeded on her voyage.

On his being arrested and the property seized the female and the brother also left the vessel and accompanied the messenger, with the bankrupt in charge, to Leeds. They arrived at Leeds on Wednesday 4th of February and both William and the brother were examined before the court by the solicitors at great length. The court sat until nearly midnight.

The bankrupt having fully answered all the questions put to him, his honour, the commissioner, was bound to discharge him, but as they walked out of court he and his brother were apprehended by the Leeds police under a warrant on a charge of conspiracy to defraud creditors and of forgery. They were committed to York Assizes. The bankrupt was found guilty and transported for ten years. The brother was acquitted.

Witty was transported from York Castle to the penal colony at Gibraltar.

He was released on Licence on 12th June 1856 with destination Hull, after serving only 5 years.

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‘DID YOUR YORKSHIRE WOLDS’  
DNA GIVE YOU A HEADACHE??’  
Colin Cleavin

I used to ask my father where did our surname come from? Always, the answer was that people have looked before and decided it came from nowhere and was made

up. One day I thought I should at least give it a go. There was none of today's Website technology, but unlike my parents I was able to travel to distant archives and libraries. I did find out where the name came from and about 800 years of information about the family. The surname came from a Saxon Village in the Yorkshire Wolds now called Cleaving Grange near Londesborough. I also found out that anyone with my surname was a family member. Recently I was enticed to have my ancestral DNA profiled. That led me into thinking maybe I could find out the origin of the first people recorded at Cleaving in 1213.

What about the people who had taken Cleaving as their surname. The first reference to this is in 1213 and 1218. These were in court cases and refer to Cleaving as a village. The term village was possibly altered in the Domesday Book to Grange much later for the convenience of the Court of Augmentations in the 1530's. A number of people from the village were mentioned including some who were not referred to as de Cleaving suggesting that those who were had been the earlier inhabitants, possibly from the middle 1100's. The older names were Ranulf de Cleaving, Maliger de Cleaving and Warin de Cleaving. They arrived at a time, as I understand it, when that Area of East Yorkshire had laid at waste from the time of the 'Harrying of the North' by William the Conqueror when every thing was killed burned and destroyed in his passage eastward from York to the Coast. The Domesday Book states Cleaving was only depopulated when Pocklington, only 3 miles away, and Nunburnholme, next door, were recorded as waste? It was also recorded that Cleaving was now owned by the King. One of the things which began to intrigue me was that these people came, did not use their own surname and within a shortish period of time were not just residing there but had residence in Nunburnholme, Hayton, Burnby and Warter. They were still in Burnby in the 15th century. The area was under populated with few villagers who had survived the winters and raiding bandits. Hence the land shows evidence of the moated site. During this period they had developed a collaborative merchandising

system for the the people in the area of Nunburnholme called a 'Collecta System'. The evidence is in a record of the Merchants of York Court in 1300 when Robert Cleaving of Burnby is recorded as owing £14 to Thomas Merston (Wool merchant at York) and John Merkingfield. There was plenty of room on Cleaving Coombe for sheep. The question has to be, how did the Cleaving family end up dealing with such a high status person like Merkingfield and trading in the Merchants Court of York? He eventually became the Royal Chancellor. They continued in this fashion as Freeman of York and as Mariner/Merchants, with their own Ship until 1487 when a law was passed restricting wool and cloth exports exclusively to the London Merchants. Thus the family then sent William Cleaving to London where he is

recorded in the London Guild Hall Court. Throughout this period the family were supplying Chaplains, Vicars and Rectors to the Area. Was that some kind of feedback and control strategy? Certainly they were acting well above the restrictive practices of the feudal system as the lower classes were mostly composed of serfs, Boarders, Villeins or Soke-men and were never able to improved their status.

There were other people whom they came into contact with who were of a station in life one would expect to be well above those of the Cleaving family.

Dom Robert Cleaving who in the 1500's was the Rector of Goodmanham having the Grimston family as his patrons and was also a legal Clerk dealing with many cases in the area. He wrote out the marriage contract between William Grimston and the widow of Marmaduke Constable. As a member of the Corpus Christi Society at York he may have acted as Master. There is a record of Joan Cleaving, possibly Robert's sister, alongside Alice Stapleton, a likely sister of Robert Stapleton, Parson of Goodmanham, as nuns at Nunkeeling possibly earlier at Warne

Next door to Cleaving Grange is Londesborough and the people who resided there were William Fitzherbert, Lord Broomfleet and Lord Clifford. These families were all connected.

On the the Death of the last Fitzherbert, Edward St. John, the Londesborough Estates passed into the Broomfleet family (1389) through the marriage of the heiress of St. John, Margaret to Thomas Broomfleet.

Sir Lancelot Threlkeld who came from Threlkeld in Greystoke. He probably took his name from the place just like the Cleaving family had. He married Margaret the Heiress of Lord Broomfleet, thus he also became Lord Broomfleet. On the death of Henry Broomfleet his only surviving child and heiress Margaret married Lord Clifford who then inherited Londesborough.

Lancelot's daughter, Dorothy, married Henry Grimston. The font Robert Cleaving presented to Goodmanham Church had the armorial shield of the Grimston family, the arms of St, William (Fitzherbert) of York and the 'Help' of the Threlkeld family. Historians such as Horace Round state that the male line of Lancelot Threlkeld can be traced back to Uchred. It is possible that he had connections to the Grimthorpe family who took over the Lordship of Greystoke in 1305 by default. Marmaduke Constable's ancestors are also connected to that family by marriage. All this really complicates the transition of Cleaving Grange and does not explain how, when Lord Clifford was expanding his estates in 1587 and gained Cleaving Grange from his relative Robert Aske in 1597, Robert

Cleaving bought or gained (60 ac. with lots of rent paying tenants) half of Broomfleet previously held by Margaret heiress of Broomfleet and Lord Clifford? By then the Cleavings had moved on to Saltmarsh, South Cave, Ellerker and Anlaby. In 1647 Mrs Frances Cleaving sold parts of Anlaby for £220 but that's another story. A will of Robert Cleaving in 1606 provides evidence that they are all one family.

Researching one's family history does not make one a historian. I was under the impression that the people mentioned in the Domesday book as holding Cleaving before 1068 would be killed or have completely vanished. I was wrong. I greatly admire the Historians who have persevered to sort out the complicated pre 1066 entwined history of Northern England and been able

to present it lucidly. The task made my head ache as I tried to assimilate all the complex facts and conflicting information.

The people mentioned in the Domesday Book were Thorketill (Tenancing Chief), Ligulf, Forne (son of Sigulf who held Nunburnholme) and Brunne who were Lords paying taxes to the Tenant-in-Chief. Thanks to Stephen Lewis in his, 'The Wild Peak' where he reviews the writings of 16 historians on the subject of my research and the other important source William E Kapelle, we find that they belong to important Cumbria/Northumbria families. They were known as Magnates or Thegns who were able to make accommodation with the 'hated French Conqueror' and prosper out of it.

It is a matter of record that Ligulf went to his estates in Northumberland to avoid William's attacks in Yorkshire. Is it of significance that the Domesday states Cleaving was only depopulated when Pocklington, only 3 miles away, and Nunburnholme, next door, were recorded as waste? It is important to remember that it was recorded in the Domesday Book that Cleaving was now owned by the king. There was no subtenant recorded.

Ligulf became an advisor to Walcher the Bishop of Durham who had been appointed by William the Conqueror in 1071, and further became Earl of Northumberland. Ligulf was connected to the House of Bamburgh by marriage to the daughter of Earl Eldred. After a disagreement with Walcher Ligulf and his family were murdered and as a consequence Walcher was beheaded himself by members of the House of Bamburgh.

Many people will be more acquainted than I am with the history of Nunburnholme especially if they have read 'Nunburnholme – its History and Antiquities' by Rev. M. C. F. Morris.

Sigulf was recorded, according to Stephen Lewis, in a writ which was written in 'old' English, in 1040/50s. Sigulf (the name, incidentally, is not common) the father of Forne is named as a tenant of land in Cumbria. Sigulf was, at the very least, a powerful Cumbrian land holder and possibly also a magnate in Yorkshire



and Northumbria prior to the Norman Conquest. He was undoubtedly a Gospatric 'man'. Gospatric held Bamburgh Castle and was Earl of Northumbria until in 1072 when William the Conqueror stripped him of his title. It is suggested that both Ligulf and Sigulf family all bore Norse names and thus of Scandinavian descent/origins. It is most likely to be from the early settlement of Irish/Norwegians into Cumberland.

Forne, Sigulf's son, in 1066 was Lord of Nunburnholme with its surrounding area, Anlaby, Fridaythorpe, Acaster (Selby). When King Henry I (born at Selby) came to the throne in the year 1100 his policy was to promote local people into positions of influence. Forne (son of Sigulf), who was known as a Yorkshire man, became Minister to the King for Yorkshire in 1120 and later Nunburnholme. He was also in a royal writ of 1121 suggesting he must already have held some office in Yorkshire and Northumbria and would therefore have been present to greet King Henry I on his arrival in the north. King Henry I also had Forne's daughter Edith as his mistress. They met at Carlisle in 1122 during Henry's visit. She had an illegitimate son and daughter by him. The son was called Robert FitzEdith FitzRoy (son of the King) and the daughter Elizabeth/Joan d'Angleterre. Edith eventually married Robert D'oilly one of the kings constables. Elizabeth married into the Dunbar/Lords of Galloway family and hence the Balliol connection. Henry I rewarded Forne with Thornton Le Moor a small estate in Yorkshire. At this time he was Lord of Nunburnholme. In 1086 he was recorded as an under tenant at Anlaby and Kirkella with the King as Tenant-in-Chief. The Historian Farrer stated that Forne's 'small fee at Nunburnholme and the neighbourhood had been given by King Henry I. It must have included Cleaving as 50 acres (there was a total of 275 useable acres) plus some lands in Burnby were passed down to Edith his daughter and then on down to John de Balliol. He noted that in 1086 a king's Thegn named Forne held eleven carucates in Nunburnholme (held in 1065 by Morcar, Thorfroth and Thorketill). Forne was made the Baron of Greystoke

in addition to Cotuetdale in Northumbria and Coniscliffe in South Durham. In later years the Yorkshire estates were always an integral part of the Barony of Greystoke, Forne also held other lands in Yorkshire in 1086, Millington and Bielby for instance, which were also later parts of the Barony of Greystoke. Forne's second child was Ivo (1080-1156) who had the estates of his father confirmed to him in 1129/30 by King Henry I. He had a son called Walter (1106-1162) and a Grandson called Ranulf (1130-1210). Brunne had been Lord in East Newton, Holderness in 1066 and the only time he is recorded after that is an entry in the Roll of 1162 in connexion with the levy for the army in that year. In the following year Ranulf made an agreement in Yorkshire with Robert, son of Brunne, [ib., 27 Hen. II, 44.] Rannulf (died 1210), successfully defended, in 1182, a claim brought by Richard Malebisse to 6 carucates in Thornton-le-Moor. [ib., 28 Hen. II, 45.]

King Henry I was the first to try and improve the economy of this area in the north by placing what he would call indigenous rather than Norman people in control. Hence Forne Sigulfson and his son Ivo who held Nunburnholme. Henry I died in 1135 and that policy was only reinforced when Henry II came to power in 1154 and so it became the responsibility of Walter and his son Ranulf. I think one of the obstacles would have been that families left in the North and East Yorkshire area who would have a long memory of slaughter and burning of the Normans and the names of people who they thought stood by and watch. If the Greystoke did send members of their family to Nunburnholme it would be very convenient to take the surname from a piece of isolated land in their portfolio i.e. Cleaving. It may just be coincident that one of the earliest names is Rannulf.

The original quest of doing this was to see if I could identify family ancestors before 1213 using my DNA map. Certainly, I would not be considering the de Balliol family because they were Norman and the timing is wrong. Historians say the Lords of Galloway were Irish/Norwegians but again the timing is not right and the same is for

the Grimthorpe family. The Sigulf/Ligulf family are purported to be from the Irish/Norwegian ancestors who entered Cumbria from the east coast of Ireland. This is the most likely connection. Walter Fitz Ivo had 5 children, Robert (b 1136), Adam (b 1138), William (b 1140), Henry (b 1142) Lord Ranulph (b 1145) and Ralph (b ?).

This theory may be substantiated if we investigate the process by which Cleaving devolved to the Londesborough Estate. The entirety of Cleaving covers 2000 acres. The document of the Court of Augmentation and wills etc. of the Aske family refer to the Manor of Cleaving and Cleavingfield under the chapter seal of the St John of Jerusalem Preceptory at Beverly. This is until a Post Mortem Inquest of lands held by John Aske when he died in 5th March 1543/4. Grandson & heir Robert Aske (son of son Robert) then aged 11 years 7 months. Inquisition at York Castle 16 June 1544. This stated, 'Tofts and Croft, 4 bovates (about 50ac.) called Cleaving and 2000ac. In Cleaving.'

The only transaction I've seen where land in Cleaving was transferred to the Preceptory was from Adam Everington after John d'Balliol was stripped of his land. This was 50ac. Held by Ralph Lascelles who, in 1286, complained and won his case that he was paying rent to both Adam Everington and the Preceptory. This had originally devolved from Edith Fitz Forne. When I looked at the Aske family I found that in 1462, 60 years earlier,

John Aske married Elizabeth Bigod daughter of Johanna Greystoke.

Ralph Fitzwilliam, lord of Grimthorpe married Johanna Greystoke the 3X Great granddaughter of Walter Fitz Ivo of Greystoke. In 1297 Lord Fitzwilliam of Grimthorpe and his kinsman John Lord Greystoke sailed with King Edward's army to France to recover the duchy of Guienne.

Whilst they were encamped together at Odyrnor on the 17th of August, 1297, John Greystoke, who had no children, prevailed upon the king to grant him a licence to enable him to enfeoff Ralph Fitzwilliam Lord of Grimthorpe with his paternal inheritance of the manors and estates of the

barony of Greystoke. Under the settlement which John de Greystoke was thus empowered to execute, his vast possessions in Cumberland and Yorkshire, which included Nunburnholme, passed upon his death, in the year 1305, to his kinsman the Lord of Grimthorpe, to the exclusion of his own brother and sister, who were then living, and thus Ralph Fitzwilliam became Lord of Greystoke. I suspect that through this the whole area of Cleaving minus the 50ac. given to the Preceptory at Beverly but including the other 225 ac. of cultivatable land was passed down from Ivo Lord of Greystoke to the Aske family.

As far as Cleaving Grange (Grange is what an area of land was called if attached to a religious organisation.) is concerned I could only confirm that when the exploits of John II Balliol (King of Scotland for 4 years) incurred such debts, his estates were seized by King Edward I in 1285/6 including from adherents such as Ralph Lascelles, Balliol's Auditor. 50 acres of Cleaving and some land in Burnby, originally Edith's, was subsequently placed in the hands of Adam de Everington, the Sheriff of Nottingham and the guardian of Nottingham Forrest. He passed them on to St John of Jerusalem at Beverly. I have tried to show what I think happened to the balance of 225 cultivatable acres. Considering the time scales and different families involved the pieces fit nicely into a jigsaw of who may have resided on this 225 acres of Cleaving after 1066. Without precise documents or DNA from the right body in the right place at the right time it can only be conjecture and can only remain so.

In January 1637 Lord Clifford was brought before the Justices of the King's Bench to agree that a number of lands including Cleaving belonged to the King.

One brilliant summers day in year 2000 I visited the Wolds for the first time and was overwhelmed by its beauty. On Cleaving Grange was a moated site of protected historical interest where Cleaving Hall once stood and I walked down the Nature Trail at the side of Cleaving Coombe viewing the

beautiful landscape. When I went back some years later the moated site was a cow pasture and I feared to climb over the stile at the top of the Coombe because of the threatening stares coming from the cows. That is a shame because after a bad day at work I used to visualise myself sitting on Cleaving Coombe on a summer's day with the heat of the sun on my face. I would then imagine an ox with its cart meandering peacefully along the dirt track to the moated enclosure.

I always thought I may be of Anglo Saxon origin. If my genetic origins are Norwegian I cannot understand why I don't like sailing and find any ambient below 20C unbearable! However, I've just remembered my niece has a hobby of cold water swimming and her brother moved to Dingwall. Another family member became a Submariner and Naturalist.

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Memorable Ice-cream  
Geoff Bateman and Andy Ferguson

Do you remember Padgett's ice-cream? We understand the Padgett family was Italian (originally called Pacitto), and so their ice-cream must have been especially good. The memory returned while we were looking through old photographic slides, which included some from the 1960s-70s taken in Cromwell Street in Hull during visits to an elderly relative. Padgett's factory was located there, behind double doors, where it was possible to take a container to have it filled with their delicious product. Cromwell Street, off Spring Bank, no longer exists. Searching the web for evidence of the existence of Padgett's ice-cream has so far produced little. Online correspondence among Pacitto descendants on an Italian genealogy website has confirmed that they traded under the name Padgett, which was adopted as the family name for that branch.

Also, we learn that the company provided ice-cream parlours at Hull Fair. A former Hull Fair showman, Lawrence Gallagher of Hull, recalled in a "community memory" recorded on [www.hullfair.net](http://www.hullfair.net) that "Padgetts came from out of town and had three ice cream parlours ... big sit down parlours. I recall a 40ft wide parlour next to Uncle Bert's Boxing Booth. It sold coffee, tea and ice cream with wafers." Either he was mistaken about Padgett's coming from out of town, or they moved to Hull at a later date, which is unlikely since the family seems to have been in Hull since at least 1911.



"The premises of G.A. Padgett & Sons in Cromwell Street, 1960s"

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Findmy past information

National School Admission  
Registers & Log-Books 1870-1914

Over 13,000 new additions from Yorkshire schools have been added to this exclusive collection. Explore these records to discover your ancestor's birth dates, admission years and the school they attended. Some records may also reveal their parents' names, father's occupation, exam results and any illnesses that led to absence from school. The National School Admission Registers & Log-books records are the result of a landmark project between schools, record offices and archives in England and Wales.

A LIST OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE EAST YORKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

*Janet Shaw: Membership Secretary*

Society offers to family historians. Visit the EYFHS website as often as you like, there are new features appearing all the time. Passwords for the Members Zone are obtained automatically via the website.

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

[www.eyfhs.org.uk/index.php/members-area-login](http://www.eyfhs.org.uk/index.php/members-area-login)

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

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

*membsec@eyfhs.org.uk*

Please make use of the many services the

Number	Name	Address
7164	Linda Gifford-Hull	Hayling Island, Hampshire
7165	Sheila M Newsome	Huddersfield, West Yorkshire
7166	Julie Maberley	Wantage, Oxfordshire
7167	Ms Goodale-Truelove	Bridlington, East Yorkshire
7168	David Smith	Royston, Hertfordshire
7169	Carolyn Williamson	Liphook, Hampshire
7170	Graham Tritton	Wolverhampton
7171	Lesley Holmes	Wrexham
7172	Heather Martin	Harrogate, North Yorkshire
7173	Karen King	Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire
7174	Stephen Swinburne	Taunton, Somerset
7175	Florence Beetlestone	Cirencester, Gloucestershire
7176	Sue Honeyman	Scarborough, North Yorkshire
7177	Lucinda Hastings	Livingston, Texas, USA

## EYFHS Member's Certificate Bank

We all have them, unwanted certificates that is. We were convinced it was Uncle Edward from our family but, it turns out we were wrong. **DO NOT THROW IT AWAY!** IT may not be your Uncle Edward but he must be someone's, and that someone might just be a fellow member.

The Society has built up a huge collection of unwanted certificates and sends out a lot of replies to requests for 'more information' by members who have seen their ancestors in our Certificate Bank on the EYFHS website in the members Zone

Do not forget, of course, if you have not got Internet access at home, you can usually gain access to the Members Zone at your local library, or community centre. Passwords for the members Zone are now automatically arranged via the website which has instructions on how to get one

Please send your unwanted certificates to our BMDs person - Margaret Oliver. 12 Carlton Drive, Aldbrough. HU11 4RA

Please note: We cannot photocopy the certificates, but we send a copy of the details

Surname	Forename	Age	Type	Date	Year	Registration District
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**There are no unwanted certificates to enter in this section.**

**The certificates that are held by the eyfhs are very recent and not within the guidelines for publication.**

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**Findmypast introduce new and improved image viewer**

**Findmypast announce a variety of new tools and features designed to enhance user discoveries**

- **Major update improves accessibility to detail rich genealogical resources**
- **Users can now locate and decipher the hidden details within images of original documents**

Now available to all users, the upgraded viewer introduces a raft of new tools and features all designed to enhance user discoveries.

For both beginner and expert family historians, digitised images of original documents are an essential resource that often provide significantly richer levels of detail than transcripts alone.

With many millions of images available to explore and with millions more being added to the site each month, Findmypast have launched this upgrade to help users make the most of this vast genealogical goldmine by making the contents of historical documents easier to access and understand.

These new features and tools include;

Brightness and contrast adjustors – to help improve the legibility of difficult to read documents. Also included is the option to 'invert colours' for those who prefer to read light text on dark backgrounds

Previews of previous subsequent pages - Thumbnails of the images either side of an individual record have now been added. This helps users understand what might lie beyond the page they're initially looking at - whether a volume cover, new volume or record. For the 1911 Census, Findmypast have also created thumbnails for additional information about each volume

A story from the Colonies  
Richard Otter

Edward Otter, my fourth great-grandfather, was born about 1760 and lived with his wife, Mary Ashbridge, and children in Kirk Ella outside of Hull. My direct ancestor was James, one of their children, but this is the tale of another son, William. William was born in 1787

By profession their father, Edward, was a gardener, fastidious in his trade. When his son William was derelict in an assignment to weed their garden, Edward administered what William later described as a “genteel walloping” to his disobedient son. William took offense and ran away. He was eleven years old and did what any indignant English lad would have been disposed to do. He went to Hull, represented himself as an orphan, and signed on to a whaling vessel as a cabin boy.

His ship selection turned out to be unfortunate as it subsequently had a rendezvous with an ice sheet near Greenland and sank. The crew boarded the ice sheet except for the cook who went down with the ship. They floated for 25 chilly hours until rescued by the whaler Jane.

Misfortune followed, however. They encountered the Nonesuch in their return to Hull. It was a 64-gun prison ship of His Majesty’s navy. William, along with some other seamen, was “impressed for life.” Initially, his major duties were in feeding the mostly American prisoners but he worked his way up to cabin boy. Four years at sea elapsed until an opportunity to retire from the service presented itself when in port in London. Otter attached himself to three seamen he overheard planning an escape but was deserted by them after they reached shore. He headed for home on foot, hitch-hiking by cart and as a rump-rider behind a young horseman.

As he neared home he encountered those who knew his parents and was advised they had departed with their children for America two years prior and their son William had been reported as dead – presumably lost at sea. In despair he continued on to the home of his uncle, James Otter, a school master in Analby some two miles from Hull.

With the assistance of his uncle, arrangements were made for him to be smuggled out of Hull past the press gangs on an American ship, Charlotte. He had to lie prone at the top main until past the custom house and was secreted under a pile of potatoes below deck as they passed the guard ship.

William was 16 years old when he arrived in New York. With help of the ship’s captain, his father was notified and he reconciled with his family. His father apparently maintained a relationship with William Nelson, the owner of the Charlotte, possibly as a gardener for Nelson. William was initially employed by Nelson but wanted to have a trade and went through several apprenticeships until finally settling on becoming a plasterer.

While in New York he became associated with individuals who participated in various activities of merriment including street fights and destruction of property. They were certainly ruffians. They engaged in at least one riot against Irish Catholics and would generally choose a side in confrontations, not by principal, just by opportunity. He described his activities as sprees, mischief, brawls, scrapes or pranks.

Some of the actions were taken against those who were pompous or trying to cheat him or others, but many were just for the fun of doing something to confuse or disrupt. Some were fairly innocent and funny. Unfortunately, some were just mean.

William always enjoyed a good practical joke delivered at another's expense. On one occasion a friend was observed visiting a lady by placing a ladder to her second-story window. After his friend was safely ensconced in his lady friend's bed chamber, William removed the ladder. He then advised the girl's parents that something was askance. He said the "Daddy of the family, a rough sort, in short order raised a hell of a rumpus." When his friend found it expedient to make a hasty retreat, he failed to notice the ladder's absence and experienced a rather abrupt descent to the ground below. William helpfully summoned medical assistance and was very attentive during the friend's subsequent incapacity.

On one occasion William convinced a man suffering from an intestinal disorder that he should eat only chicken broth. Meanwhile, Otter happily subsisted on the chickens. When a lady complained about people stealing apricots from her tree, Otter convinced her to tie a dog to the tree to keep the culprits at bay. He then snuck out at night and aggravated the dog whose tantrum shook apricots from the tree which ended up in his satchel.

William had a capacity for creating situations where he could thereafter become the innocent helpmate and reap the rewards, either financial or in grog. This frequently happened with rowdy crowds where he participated in stirring something up and then would come to the rescue of the aggrieved party.

Although engaging in many tasteless sprees, at the same time he was proving himself as a very accomplished plasterer and demonstrating considerable industry. After he left New York he acquired a reputation in Pennsylvania Dutch country as Der gross Bill der plasterer. At this point he had matured in body to six foot four inches and 252 pounds. Big Bill the plasterer lived up to his name physically and as a proficient tradesman.

Plastering was seasonal and he acquired off-season jobs including running a bar, serving legal papers and other activities of opportunity. He also captured escaped slaves.

In one instance Big Bill ran into a man who had what was reported to Bill as an escaped slave to be returned to his master, but the story did not ring true to him. Otter became convinced the man did not intend to return the slave to a rightful owner but was going to sell him to a slave dealer. He questioned the slave separately and decided to help him escape suggesting he head for the mountains. Otter subsequently learned the slave had lied to him and found out from whom he had escaped. He traced the slave down and returned him to the owner. Of course he negotiated a fee.

According to Otter's narrative, although he had done some nasty things to other people, he did not mistreat or disrespect the slaves he captured and returned.

When working in Pennsylvania he had met a "Little Dutch Girl." Although he had been working in other communities and states, he had not forgotten her and returned and carried her off as his bride. He continued his required traveling but there is no indication of any indiscretion and he always returned to her. While on his many trips, however, he also remained faithful to visiting taverns and carrying on his jokes, but

his sprees seem to have become less horrendous except in cases where they appeared to be reasonably well-deserved.

The reputation of Big Bill the plasterer had become well-known and preceded him to many communities where he was immediately welcomed and his employment sought. In addition to the quality of his work, the speed of his performance was greatly valued

One of his early successes that followed him in his career was work for the Sisters of Charity House of St. Joseph's in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The location was known as The White House that is still standing although slightly expanded.

Emmitsburg later became his home where he and his family settled down. He even acquired his own tavern. In the year 1835 he wrote a book about his experiences, History of My Own Times. He was also then elected by the people of Emmitsburg the chief Burgess. It is not known how many terms he may have served as mayor as the records were lost. His tavern burned down in 1845 and thereafter he moved to Baltimore where he lived until he passed away in 1856.

Although throughout his book there is virtually no recognition as to occurrences outside his personal world, he obviously maintained some contact with at least his brother Edward as he knew of his location later in life when Bill was in Emmitsburg.

Richard B. Stott reprinted Big Bill's book and, to the extent he could, fact-checked Otter's stories and experiences. Stott commented: "Confirming the existence of the people involved gives us more confidence in Otter's veracity, but in the end we can never know for sure if these escapades actually happened." Otter had not hesitated to specifically identify most of the people involved in his mischief.

It is amazing that Big Bill, having shipped off at age 11 with a very limited education, would become an author. His book is very readable but certainly has grammatical errors and many agonizing paragraphs, each encompassing a full spree that could consume from four up to ten pages. Possibly "The Little Dutch Girl" helped in its production.

Otter has been harshly criticized for many of the things he reputedly did but his critics fail to recognize him as a product of his time. His contemporaries were rough individuals and he did not create the system, he reflected it. It is also likely many of his stories were embellished in their telling as the result of years of tavern chatter. It was interesting, however, that some of the things Stott points out about his experiences not only are factually correct but also could have been inflated to Otter's personal aggrandizement but were not.

Both the original book and the fact checked version by Stott are available digitally through the United States Library of Congress.

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#### Members of the eyfhs

The Banyan Tree journal thrives upon Family History stories and Social History stories which you are willing to share with the other members' of our great Society. We also like to include 'old photographs' from times gone by - the pictures can be of people or places.

If you do have any items available please do get with the editor, my email and postal address are shown on page 2.



The Kitching Children  
1798-1813 a curious story of  
rebaptisms  
Anthony Hardman

Anthony sent this story in to the Banyan Tree saying 'I thought this amusing story may help to 'lighten' the mood at this difficult time.'

Between the years of 1798 - 1812 Thomas Kitching (1773-1835) and his spouse Mary (nee Archer) (1776-1849) – my 4x Great Grand Parents - had 8 children in Hull, though they were married in Barton on Humber:

Elizabeth (b) 6/4/1798 (d) 9/9/1868  
Charlotte (b) 5/12/1799 (d) Jan 1875  
Richard (b) 5/8/1801 (d) 20/3/1879  
Thomas Geo (b)30/1/1803 (d) 30/5/1874  
Mordecai (b) 27/1/1805 (d) Jan 1839  
Lucy Archer (b) 8/9/1807 (d) 1012/1857  
Leticia (b) 8/3/1809 (d) Jan 1850  
Mary Ann (b) 8/9/1812 (d) Oct 1901

These children were baptised several days after their birth in the Fish St Chapel. However, on the 8/4/1813 all of the eight children were baptised again in the Holy Trinity Church.

Whilst Thomas and Mary are mentioned in a Family Bible in my possession, only one of their children – Thomas George Kitching (my 3x Great Grand Father) is shown.

However, the first 7 children are shown on 'Family Search' to have been baptised at The Fish Street Chapel in Hull between 1798 and 1809.

But all 7 children, and their younger sister, were baptised again in 1813 in Holy Trinity Church, Hull, recently renamed as Hull Minster, which was but 'a stone's throw' from The Chapel.

So why was it considered necessary to rebaptise children for a second time at the beginning of the Nineteenth Century?

The answer was found in a book from our local library entitled 'The Story of Fish Street Chapel, Hull' by The Rev. C E Derwent MA, published in 1899. On page 201, under a Chapter on Church discipline, the story becomes clear:-

*'On Feb. 12th 1812, Mr Kitching and his wife were brought before the Church. 'She had discovered such temper and he had so abused her, and they had exhibited such conduct on an excursion to Brantingham that they were excluded from the Lord's Table.' In this case of 'pot and kettle', the church gave up the attempt of allocating the blame as hopeless, and wisely turned them both out.'*

So it seems that Holy Trinity Church was able to offer sanctuary to the family, but perhaps they were excluded from any future church picnics!

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Little Switzerland  
Sally George

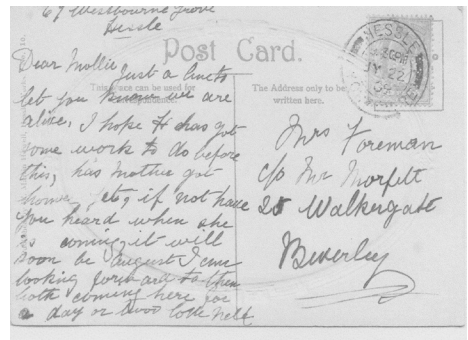
*During the 2020-2021 pandemic we have all been pursuing new hobbies or interests, here is what Sally George has taken to in her lockdown moments (editor)*

With all the restrictions of the pandemic, I have found myself a new hobby called 'Deltiology' although think I prefer 'Collector of Postcards'. Instead of spending money on going out, cafes, restaurants, holidays etc. I am staying at home and following the guidelines. Lockdown treats in the form of chocolates are no good health wise so I have been

browsing eBay for postcards of places I am interested in, preferably to buy a few of these postcards which have been written and sent, to give me a snapshot of a life back in time, that I can research. I have been lucky in finding one or two of Hessle Mill and especially 'Little Switzerland'. The background to this little piece of wilderness is that in 1408 the De La Pole family owned this land until they granted it to Hull Charterhouse. They let parcels of land for chalk quarrying. When this activity moved inland the quarry returned to nature and the wilderness became known as 'Little Switzerland' by the local people who came to enjoy the natural beauty. Many children with their families spent hours playing in Little Switzerland, enjoying the deep chalk ponds full of great crested newts and frogs. On social media I have read many memories of a childhood in the sort of 'Secret Seven' adventures where grass was up to your waist off the track, and that was the jungle. The deep dark woods, always an adventure, and sliding down the hills on cardboard and ending up in the nettles. Chalk fights, swimming with the frogs in the chalky water and making a boat out of tin cans and a plank then 'sailing on the high seas to find treasure'. Apparently Hessle High School used this area for cross country running and not all pupils appreciated running up and down those steps. Mention was made of allotments where the car parks are now and a cottage that sold ice-cream just before the mill, and a sweet shop on Hessle foreshore. I wonder if those two places were one and the same.

The postcard, which is dated 22nd July 1909, is from Nell at 67 Westbourne Grove, Hessle to Mrs. Mollie Foreman c/o Mr.

Morfitt, 25 Walkergate, Beverley, and I thought was worthy of further research. It mentions that Nell is looking forward to her parents visiting. This leaves me in no doubt they would have had a delightful walk through and around Little Switzerland. I did find that Nell was Mary Ellen Bolton (née Morfitt) and Mollie Foreman (née Morfitt) was her sister Mary. I have walked past their family home of 25 Walkergate many a time. Mollie married a 'hairdresser' Harry Foreman of 37 Ladygate. This building is opposite the entrance to what was Beverley Baths, the old Corn Exchange building and Picture Playhouse, (now Brown's). Number 37 Ladygate is now 'Hot Slots Sunbeds and Amusements'!



The message on the Postcard from Nell



A nice image of Little Switzerland Hessle  
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**What have you done during the 3 times we have been in nation wide lockdown?**

## What's On?

Beverley Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at the Beverley Town Cricket Club, Norwood Park Recreation Lane, Beverley, HU17 9HW. The doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

Michele Beadle  
16th November - Pete Lowden & Bill Longbone - The War Dead of Hull General Cemetery.

2021

6th Apr - Ghosts of Beverley  
Mike Covell  
4th May - TBA  
1st June - Old Beverley & Local History  
Enquiries Sally George  
July - Walkabout Hull General  
Cemetery Part 2  
7th Sep - TBA  
5th Oct - The history and Making of  
Anlaby Road Liz Shephard  
2nd Nov - The Avenues of Pearson Park  
Paul Schofield  
7th Dec - Christmas Social & Faith  
Supper  
Tails of the unexpected  
Alan Beadle

Scarborough Meetings are held in the St Andrew's Church, Ramshill Road, Scarborough, YO11 2LN

Entry to the church hall is via the back door on Albion Crescent, either up the steps from the bottom iron gate, or by a pathway from the top iron gate. There is plenty of disc parking on Albion Crescent and Grosvenor Crescent, for 3 hours. The number 7 bus from town stops opposite the church, outside the St Catherine's Hospice Shop; the number 17 from the Eastfield/Filey Road direction stops just above the church.

Hull Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month (excluding July & Dec) in the Carnegie Heritage Centre, 342 Anlaby Road, Hull HU3 6JA. The doors open for personal research at 7pm. Speakers commence at 7.30pm.

Unless otherwise stated, doors open at 1pm for research and meetings start promptly at 2pm. Tea/coffee and biscuits will be available for a donation.

2021

20th April - John Simpson of Simpson and Malone Hull builders and masons - Philip Ronchetti  
18th May - The victims of the blackouts in Hull - Mike Covell  
15th June - Beverley Minster & its Parish magazine from 1870 - Sally M George  
20th July - Walkabout in Hull General Cemetery part 2 & Faith Supper - Pete Lowden & Bill Longbone  
14th September - Animal Roles in War - Marina Hartley  
19th October - The Hull Lady part 2 -

Please check the venue for further details because at the time of this entry the Corvid-19 pandemic was still a problem in the UK.

Hopefully more information will be available in 2021.

# East Yorkshire Family History Society

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



## The EYFHS Help Desk

Email your questions to [helpdesk@eyfhs.org.uk](mailto:helpdesk@eyfhs.org.uk) and we will do our best to assist.

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

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

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