

The Banyan Tree

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Cancelled due to pandemic - due back soon!.....

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Cover photo: A photograph of Thomas Mitchell Arthur Lowden.

Read the story on page 38

From the editor

Hello everyone.

I would like to take the opportunity to apologise for the errors on the cover of the May 2021 issue, for some reason my fingers overtook my capacity to enter the correct caption. The image depicted was **St Giles Church, Marfleet**; not the 'St Giles Church, Marflett.' Sorry!

At the time of preparing this August edition of the Banyan Tree we are all still in the grip of Covid 19 restrictions, but we are looking forward to being on the road to recovery! Whenever that might be?

There are a lot of items in this edition that will hopefully whisk you hither and thither in time in pursuit of family history articles and projects. So lets get going...

Alan Brigham takes a look at The Old Holy Trinity Burial Ground:

Lisa Blossfelds tells us more about Nathaniel Constantine Strickland's Children:

Dianne Smith looked into the Royal Navy story about HMS Pathfinder. Dianne's, Great Uncle Harry Harness served on board the ship:

Brian Ward researched his family history and discovered that misfortune seemed to be deeply involved in his historical ancestral line:

Geoff Bateman provides a few stories for us to read e.g. Looking for Aunt Effie, Whatever happened to the SS Melrose Abbey, The Skirlaugh Workhouse Part (1) and Part(2) (part 1 & 2 had to entered where space was available)

The Treasure House has given us archive material for the Spotlight On Londesborough feature, and Janet Bielby has provided the write up for the feature, Janet has also added a bit more detail to the previous Spotlight On Marfleet area:

There are a few photos from the past to identify sent in by Beryl Chamberlain:

Sally George tells us to be careful about

DNA family links, and also looks at some messages which can be written on the back of old postcards:

The agenda for the eyfhs AGM is included in the journal:

Forum Corner is worth reading, you will see why when you get to that section:

A list of new eyfhs members is provided by Janet Shaw:

Margaret Oliver gives us a few unwanted certificate names to look at:

Pete Lowden tells us about his grandfather:

I hope that you will find this edition of the journal entertaining, my thanks goes to all of the contributors who have taken the time and effort to supply items for me to use.

Many societies have had to find alternative methods of keeping in touch with their members while the pandemic restricted our movements around the country. By utilising the technology available some have relied upon 'Zoom' to get information to people.

The London Group of Yorkshire FHS has been no exception. Hoping that things get back to some sort of normal they are looking forward to the later part of the 2021 year.

Our forthcoming meetings:

18 September 2021 Else Churchill

Early Poor Law

20 November 2021

Claire Moores

"The Art of Criminal Conversation" – the history of divorce

At the moment, all meetings held by Zoom, starting at 10.30, with the room open from 10.

Stay safe everyone we all hope that things will change by mid-July 2021.

Edwina Bentley

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***Underneath The Castle
The Old Holy Trinity Burial Ground***
Alan Brigham

The roads of The City and County of Kingston upon Hull has never been known as the easiest way of travelling between the east and west sides of the city – especially during rush hours and derby matches, but for the next few years ‘total chaos’ is not quite going to cut it! The problem is, the A63 is being re-constructed yet again and Castle Street is the primary target. “So what?”, I can hear the majority of members crying out in unison; “I neither live, work nor visit the place.” Okay, I get that, but it may just be of interest anyway.

Three hundred and fifty five millions of your hard-earned pounds is being invested in the scheme which will, no doubt, end up costing a whole lot more by the time it is finished; but that is by the by. What will interest many of us as family historians is the huge tent covering 90 archaeologists and the old Holy Trinity Burial Ground which nestles between the Mytongate Roundabout (Castle Street) and the old Railway Dock section of The Marina. (If you have the ‘What Three Words’ application on your computer/telephone, search for ‘rapid.truck.wins’. Otherwise, search for the junction between Commercial Road and Mytongate and you will be able to spot the site, hidden amongst the trees, to the east).

When the current incarnation of the Mytongate roundabout was created, a large slice of the burial ground was sliced through and processed, 1970s style, with very little public interest or input. There will, no doubt, be a record of the dig held in the archives of the Humber Field Archaeology, since 1996 which succeeded the Humberside Archaeology Unit. (Humber Field Archaeology are easily found with a quick search online; should the need arise)

Digging on the site has been ongoing for some months and is likely to continue for quite a while yet. Unconfirmed reports

claim it to be the largest single dig in the United Kingdom at the current time, while the tent is also claimed as ‘the biggest in Europe’ – but I have no plans to reach for my personal set of measuring irons anytime soon. I would love the opportunity to get inside that tent with my Box Brownie, but feel sure that ‘Health And Safety’ would object most strongly and may just invoke the ‘Data Protection Act’ to keep me out. I can’t even get a shot from my favourite drone due to all of the canvas and netting! For now, I have to rely on the sparse reports I am getting direct from Highways England – and they hold very little in the way of detail. However, members may be interested to visit the official web site for themselves; <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/a63-castle-street-archaeology>

Amongst the many items that are surfacing from ‘Underneath The Castle’ have been beads, coins, cufflinks and, from the surface layers, clay pipes and a boot from (it is believed) the 1950s/1960s. Could it have been yours, lost after a night out in the city, or maybe a rendezvous’ on Waterhouse Lane or one of the infamous local taverns? I’ll leave that one hanging (and Hull folk will understand why).



Stud Work
coffin plate

Intriguingly, a stud-work coffin plate has been recovered in the name of ‘Jane GRISWOOD’. The archaeology report tells us; “The use of studwork for recording

the biographical information (rather than condensed information, such as initials) seems both unusual and a little outdated for the time of burial, as was the use of ‘obt’ rather than ‘died’ as seen more commonly on the painted coffin plates”.

They also report; “We’ve been able to match the data to a burial register record, where the surname is actually spelled incorrectly as Griswold rather than Griswood!” However, as the members of our monumental inscriptions (MIs) team is likely to scream out in unison; “Why can’t the stud-work being wrong? We see this all of the time on headstones!” For that matter, they could both have it wrong; the MIs team have come across this scenario too. Literacy levels, the cost of making corrections, broad accents and the uncertainty of the nearest surviving relative have all been cited as reasons for such errors having survived.

Can you expand on Jane’s story? Who was she; Griswold, Griswood, Grimwood? Is it just possible that she appears in your family tree? Lockdown has kept us all out of the archives and becoming more and more expert in making use of on-line records, so there must be a number of you who could explore Jane’s past on our (okay, my) behalf. I will even send out a prize for the best (in my exclusive opinion) ‘story’ of her life and family – and you can interpret the word ‘story’ as you will! Submissions should be sent to The Editor using the details in the front of your copy of The Banyan Tree. Entries may be shared with the A63 Archaeology Team.

Also Appearing in the most recent report from the A63 Castle Street Archaeology Team I have had ‘eyes-on’ are snippets relating to the River Hull, the original flow of which saw it reaching the Humber Estuary along the present route along Manor House Road and Commercial Road; two previously unknown limestone buildings which could date back to the original settlement of Wyke (circa 12th/13th century); a timber yard dating from the industrial revolution era (18th/19th century); and the ‘New Goal’,

as it was known to 18th century residents at a time when it replaced the House of Correction in Whitefriargate. The New Gaol was where those unlucky to have been sentenced to deportation to the penal colonies would be destined to commence their journey.

Figure 1: Copyright © Highways England



The Strickland family were of royal blood, being descended from Edward III. However, by the late nineteenth century this was much diluted and some minor branches of the family were on the cusp between the gentry and the middle class. Younger sons of the aristocracy and gentry had always had to earn their own living, and there were several traditional ways for them to do this. Many of them joined the army or became farmers or academics. Others trained for the professions, the church and the law being considered particularly suitable. Even those who became farmers often had a manager to deal with their labourers for them. Daughters, of course, were expected to marry respectably or, if they failed to do that, to look after their parents and devote themselves to charitable works.

Nathaniel Constantine Strickland was the seventh son (1802-1886) and the youngest child of the eleven born to Sir William Strickland of Boynton, the sixth baronet. His first marriage, in 1822, to Charlotte Hecker, was childless and came to an end when she died in 1851. Three years later, at the age of fifty one, he married Harriet Hennings, the daughter of a copper plate engraver, who was twenty six years his junior and who had earned her living working in a pub. They proceeded to have eleven children, including twins, the last of whom was born when Nathaniel was seventy years old.

Their children were: Harriet, born in 1855, Henrietta Anne, 1856, twins Emma and Charlotte, 1857, Walter Richard, 1859, May, 1860, Hugh, 1861, George William, 1863, Nathaniel Henry, 1866, Charles, 1870 and William, 1872. All of the children were baptised at Reighton where the family lived in the fine Georgian brick vicarage next to the church. Although Nathaniel probably had savings and investments, his income as vicar of Reighton and perpetual curate of Bessingby, was, by the 1870s, £170 a year, about twice that of a skilled craftsman, and a house to live in rent free. There would also have been a small stipend from the curacy of Bessingby. In 1834 Nathaniel Constantine inherited £3,500 from his father, which is about £230,000 in today's terms. Even so his finances must have been stretched to provide for eleven children.

Emma Strickland, one of the twins, died at Reighton in 1858 aged seven months and was buried in Reighton churchyard. Her grave is unmarked. In 1861 all the surviving children then born were living at Reighton, being aged between six and one. However, by 1871 the four girls were being educated at the Sandwell Training Home in West Bromwich near Birmingham. Walter, aged 11, was being educated at Rossall College, Poulton le Fylde near Fleetwood. It was a large school whose list of pupils runs to several pages of census entries. The younger children were still at Reighton that year. Although they are likely to have received a similar education at a minor public school there was not enough money available to send any of the sons to university. The daughters who married would have had to have been provided with marriage settlements too.

Although Nathaniel Strickland was still nominally Vicar of Reighton in 1881, he had ceded his duties to his curate, William Rowley, towards the end of 1879, and was then living at Reighton Villa, Ashley Road, Finsbury, London, with his wife, Harriet, daughters Charlotte (the surviving twin) and Henrietta, Henrietta's husband Thomas Griesbach together with their first child, four

month old Henry, sons George, Nathaniel, Charles, William and Walter, and Walter's four month old son who was also called Walter. Julia, Walter's wife was not living in the house and I have been unable to find her at this date. Walter gives his profession as 'former farmer'. The family of twelve had one servant to look after them so they must have done some of the housework themselves.

Harriet, the eldest child, had died at Bonn in Germany in May 1874 at the age of nineteen. Henrietta had married Thomas Singleton Griesbach in 1879 at Reighton, where he had been a curate. His father was a clergyman and his mother's family was the most important in Great Givendale near Driffield. The Griesbachs went on to have a second son, Robert, in 1884, who later changed his surname to Gresby. The church had not agreed with Thomas as by 1881 he had left the clergy and was earning his living as a land agent, a profession he followed for the rest of his life.

Walter had married Julia Maud Jenkyns, the daughter of a clerk in the India Office, at Fimber, near Driffield.

The 1881 census is the last time Charlotte appears in the records, although the death of a Charlotte Strickland is recorded in Bethnal Green in 1910.

May Strickland had married her father's curate, William Rowley, at Reighton in 1879 at the age of nineteen, her husband then being twenty four. William is an interesting and elusive character who will be dealt with separately. The wedding breakfast and honeymoon were spent at the Royal Crescent Hotel in Filey, at a total cost of £11 and had still to be paid for in 1887. One of the witnesses at the wedding was a Maud Jenkyns who was probably related to May's brother Walter's wife. By 1881 they had moved to the vicarage at Swell in Somerset where their only child, Mabel, was born that summer. In 1881 there was no one living in Reighton vicarage. The small family moved back to Reighton in 1883

when William took over from his father in law as vicar there, and May returned to her childhood home. Even though the village school had opened by this time William taught his daughter himself and also took in other pupils as boarders. They had two servants. However, May died in the house where she had been born, on Christmas Day 1882 at the age of thirty two and was buried in the churchyard where her grave can still be seen tucked away behind the church.



Here are two extracts from the Parish Magazine of February 1893.

‘After many weeks of suffering, during which she had most bravely borne up, the end which had been cheerfully looked forward to by the sufferer, came on the evening of Christmas Day.’

‘Greatly attached as the deceased had always been to the parish in which she was born and brought up, yet even more attached to it did she seem to become to it during the latter part of her short life. The same may also be said of her increasingly kind and anxious desire for the happiness of all around her, and few there are, now that she is gone, who will not often, and for years to come, recall the many excellencies which went to make her bright and beautiful character.’

Nathaniel Constantine Strickland was living at 46 Charlot Crescent, Primrose Hill, London, when he died on the 12th of January 1886 at the age of 83. I can find no trace of his will. Harriet, his wife, who was twenty five years his junior, survived him by less than two years, dying on the 21st

of December 1887 at Ventnor on the Isle of Wight where, perhaps, she had gone for the sake of her health. Probate records show that her official address at the time of her death was 18 Nicholl Road, Harlesden and that she left £494 1s 6d, which is equivalent to about £40,000 in modern day terms.

In 1891 Walter and Julia Strickland were living in Hampstead near London and had six children. At this date he gives his profession as contractor. They had been on the move in the previous ten years as their children were born in, in order, Leeds, London, Bognor, two in Willesden and the youngest in Rickmansworth. They had moved again by 1901 and were then living in Ilford. Walter senior was an electrical engineer, one of their sons made bikes (perhaps with his uncle Nathaniel) and their two daughters were typists. They were well enough off by this time to employ two servants. It is at this point that I lose track of Walter and Julia, although in 1911 their eldest son, Walter E, was recently married, living in Warwickshire and working for the Post Office. A Julia Strickland is recorded as having died in Ashford, Kent in early 1911.

In August 1890, at the age of twenty three, Nathaniel Henry married twenty year old Alice Morris the daughter of George Morris, a tailor. Thomas Griesbach, his brother in law, was a witness at their wedding. At that time Nathaniel Henry had been living in Judd Street, St Pancras and earned his living as an engineer. The marriage was childless. 1891 found him and Alice living in Bloomsbury. Nathaniel Henry was now working as a cycle manufacturer. They were adding to their income by hosting a lodger, thirty one year old Bernard Deabato, a jeweller born in France, while by 1901 they were living in Islington and Nathaniel was still making cycles. I have been unable to trace them in 1911 but it seems they emigrated to Canada in 1904, there being a hint in one record that Nathaniel went out there on his own in 1898, perhaps to see what kind of life he and Alice could make for themselves there. The next trace of them comes in the 1916 Canadian census when they were living in Saltcoats,

Saskatchewan. Nathaniel was working as a foreman and both of them had taken Canadian nationality. They were still living in Saltcoats in 1921 but by 1935 they had moved to Vancouver where Nathaniel died at the age of 74 in July 1938. Alice outlived him by about five years, dying in Essondale, British Columbia aged 73 in 1943.

The Griesbachs moved around after Nathaniel Strickland's death. In 1891 they were lodging with a dentist in London, while by 1901 they had moved to Birmingham and had their niece, Mabel Rowley, living with them. Thomas Griesbach died in 1906 at the age of fifty three by which time the family were living at Foleshill in Warwickshire. In 1911 Henrietta was living with her son Robert and her niece Mabel in Kingston on Thames where Robert, still unmarried, was earning his living as an electrical engineer (Henry had become a draughtsman to a car manufacturer.). She died, aged seventy, in London in 1926.

By 1891 the four unmarried Strickland brothers were sharing the house in Harlesden which had been their mother's official residence at the time of her death, and were being looked after by a fifty eight year old widow, Mrs Alford. Hugh, then aged thirty, was a paper merchant, a trade he was to follow for the rest of his life, George William, twenty eight, was living on his own means, Charles, twenty, was a clerk, and William, eighteen, was an apprentice electrical engineer, the same trade as his brother Walter. Ten years later the brothers were living independently. In 1898 at the age of thirty seven Hugh married twenty nine year old Susannah Nottage whose father, Nathaniel Nottage, is described as a gentleman. She was living at 87 Brondesbury Road, while Hugh was living at 57 Westbere Road, Hampstead, where the pair of them were still living in 1901. By that time they had a one year old son, inevitably named Nathaniel, and were able to afford two live-in servants. Hugh died in early 1911 at the age of fifty. That year's census shows the widowed Susannah, aged 42, living in an eight roomed house at

120 Fordwych Road, Cricklewood, with her eleven year old son Nathaniel, a daughter, Mavis Grace, born in 1901, and a live-in servant. Susannah was living in Wembley when she died in February 1941. She left £688 13s (about £27,000 in 2020 terms.).

George William never married and seems never to have had a home of his own. In 1901, aged thirty eight, he was a visitor at the house of Emma Nicholls, the widowed manageress of a dyers and cleaners. George then had his own business as a fancy warehouseman. By 1911 he seems to have joined his brother Hugh's company for he is described as a paper merchant. He was then lodging, with four other boarders, at the house of Marie Runa, a German widow, at 1 Kymberley Road, Harrow on the Hill. He next appears in the records in 1939 as a patient at the Kersney Court Nursing Home for Nervous Disorders in Dover. George William died the following year at the age of seventy six while living in Camberwell.

I have been unable to find Charles in the 1901 census. In 1904 he married Annie Grace Abram at St Pancras parish church. He was then living at 17 Norbury Place, St Pancras and describes himself as a manufacturer. Annie came from Hastings and her father was a Professor of Music. Charles was then thirty three and his bride twenty seven. His brother, Hugh, witnessed the wedding. By 1911 the couple had had no children and were living with her parents, John and Ann Abram at 5 Warrior Square, St Leonards on Sea. Charles was still in the paper business and employed others in his company. John Abram was still teaching music at the age of seventy and was also the organist at All Saints church in Hastings. In 1939 the couple were living in Launceston, Cornwall where they described themselves as caterers. Perhaps they had decided to open a tea shop as they aged. Nevertheless, they were back in Hastings when they died, Charles in early 1953 at the age of eighty three and Annie a year later aged seventy seven.

Of William the only thing I can say is that he

probably died in Whitehaven in Cumberland in early 1901 as, like his brother Charles, I can find no trace of him in either the 1901 census or that of 1911. Nor can I find any trace of him in passenger lists. It may be that with further research I come upon further information about him.

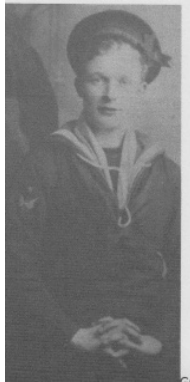
So of the eleven children born to Nathaniel Constantine and Harriet Strickland seven had no children as far as I can discover. The rest had a dozen between them. Despite being of royal blood and the grandchildren of a baronet they earned their livings in either trade or as skilled craftsman, occupations which were respectable but not those of a gentleman. The reason, of course, was the age-old one of money. My research will continue.

The Sinking of HMS Pathfinder

Dianne Smith

A photo of my great uncle, Harry (Henry) Harness, first sparked my interest in the story of HMS Pathfinder.

The photo appeared in a Green's Almanac of the WW1 years and underneath it said that Uncle Harry had been on the Pathfinder when it was sunk. I knew very little of him but was intrigued to find out more.



I did some research and then just put it away in a folder. With the recently launched East Riding Archives online exhibition of WW1 Lives which, among other things, shows volunteers' researches into the lives of local lads who served in the forces during WW1 (www.eastridingarchives.co.uk/WW1Lives), I looked out my old folder about HMS Pathfinder to start work on it again. HMS Pathfinder was a scout cruiser built by

Cammell Laird in Birkenhead and launched in 1904. In 1911/12 she was modified with extra armaments and at the start of WW1 was part of the 8th Destroyer Flotilla patrolling the North Sea coast off the Firth of Forth.



Great Uncle Harry was a Beverley lad who joined the Royal Navy in 1908 as a boy sailor at the age of 15½, and trained as a telegraphist.



Royal Navy Insignia 'Telegraphist Badge'

He was assigned to Pathfinder in October 1913. Just under a year later and barely a month into the War, the Pathfinder was blown to pieces under him.

At first it was thought that the cruiser had hit a mine, the German Navy having laid down mines indiscriminately in the North Sea. The Times and The Scotsman newspapers ran articles on the danger of these mines, German mines having sunk two Navy ships prior to this (HMS Amphion on the 6th August off the Thames Estuary and HMS Speedy, a torpedo boat, on the 3rd September just off the entrance to the Humber).

The Press Bureau made a statement that the Pathfinder had struck a mine, but, after

hearing from eyewitnesses and survivors, backtracked and issued another statement that she had been sunk by a torpedo from an enemy submarine. They would not say where the Pathfinder had been patrolling but the event had been so catastrophic and witnessed by so many people onshore and on fishing vessels, that local newspapers were soon full of reports.

Eyewitnesses spoke of “a cloud of steam and smoke just like a big white mountain” and “flames that rose about 150 feet in the Air.” Another reported seeing the ship “break in two, her stern rising in the air and with an awful plunge she disappeared.” All agreed it took under four minutes for the Pathfinder to sink.

The explosion was spotted at St Abb’s and the lifeboat made its way to the scene followed by smaller fishing boats, all eager to help. It took them over an hour to reach the spot and five torpedo boats were already in the vicinity. All that was left of the Pathfinder was debris, densely packed for about a mile and a half. As William Linton, the mate of a trawler, recorded, “there was not a whole piece of wood . . . there were broken oars and spars all around, bits of the ship’s side and bottom, and even the mast was smashed up into 3 bits.” The Scotsman reported that “the small size of the fragments of woodwork which were floating about . . . as well as the rents and gaps in the clothing and caps which were picked up, bore testimony to the terrific force of the explosion.” The lifeboat, torpedo boats and fishing boats patrolled the area until dark looking for survivors.

There had been no time for crew members to launch the lifeboats but one survivor told how he and his comrades had thrown overboard anything that would float for the sailors to cling on to. Then the Captain gave the order “Every man for himself and God for us all”, and those who could, leapt overboard.

It was reckoned that the only survivors were those who were on deck at the time

the torpedo hit, and as most of the crew were below decks in the mess, the losses were heavy. Uncle Harry was one of the lucky ones who managed to jump or was thrown overboard and then cling onto wreckage. Along with the other survivors, he was floating in the water for over an hour and eventually picked up and landed at Queensferry. Once back on a shore vessel he sent a telegram to his wife, Harriet, who was staying with her parents in Skidby: “HMS Tyne, 2am, Sunday – Safe; all well.” This was a bit of shock to Harriet as this was the first she knew of the disaster and potential danger to her husband!

One of the most difficult things to find out about HMS Pathfinder after the sinking was who was on board at the time. Certainly with the Pathfinder there was no actual crewlist. (The National Archives has an ongoing project at the moment which has involved transcribing Royal Navy Seamen’s Service Records with a view to reconstructing crewlists of Navy ships during WW1). With the chaos following the sinking of the Pathfinder a total number of crew members was a ‘guessing game’ for the press and accounts varied widely. One newspaper consulted an outdated Navy List and named all the officers who should have been on board but with no indication as to whether they were alive or dead. It must have been a headache for the Admiralty but on the 7th September the Press Bureau issued a list of dead, missing and wounded. An additional list of names was issued a few days later. The lists give totals of 4 dead, 247 missing and 12 wounded. This does not take into account officers. Nor does it list survivors, the total of which is still a moot point. Even the Press Bureau lists could muddy the waters as one seaman is listed twice and another man, originally listed as missing turned up on the wounded list (how relieved his family must have been!) Nevertheless over 250 souls perished in the sinking of the Pathfinder – a terrible loss of life.

The U-boat responsible for the sinking was later identified as U-21 under the command of KaptLt. Otto Hersing. At one point,

Hersing had navigated as far as Carlingnose Battery beneath the Forth Rail Bridge but had fled when fired on. He then took to patrolling the coast southwards from the Isle of May where he eventually spotted the Pathfinder.

A trawler skipper thought he had spotted a U-boat near the Isle of May on the 4th of September. What followed sounds like a game of 'Chinese Whispers'. The trawler skipper had mentioned it to the crew of a passing torpedo boat who said they thought it must have been a British submarine. Eventually one of the crew of the torpedo boat told his captain there was a 'buzz' going on one of the trawlers about the sighting of an enemy submarine but the captain of the torpedo boat "did not pay much attention to the report owing to its vagueness." The Admiralty held an enquiry into the incident and found that "it is a matter for regret that Officers and men should have failed to realise that information regarding the sighting of Submarines off our shores, even if vague, may be of the utmost importance and in any case should be immediately investigated. Had this necessity been appreciated in this case, it is possible the loss of the "PATHFINDER" next day might have been averted."

As with the East Riding Archives WW1 Lives project it would be interesting to piece together the stories of some of the crew, at least four of whom were young men from the East Riding. Because of the devastating explosion the bodies of over 250 men have never been recovered for burial, only their names recorded on memorials such as at Chatham or Portsmouth. My next main project is to find out just how many survived the catastrophe.

Some sources which have been useful:
Registers of Seaman's Services (The National Archives ADM/188, also available on www.findmypast.co.uk)
www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk
www.iwm.org.uk
www.naval-history.net
www.cwgc.org

<https://uboat.net>
www.eastridingarchives.co.uk/WW1Lives
www.scottishshipwrecks.com
acknowledgement to Wikipedia for the HMS Pathfinder picture

Florence Baggley Brian Ward.

Brian Ward submitted several stories about the tragic incidents which befell his family over the years and which he found out about as he did his research. The stories have appeared in various issues of *The Banyan Tree*.

Florence Baker, (nee Baggley)
3rd Cousin 1x removed to Brian Ward.

Florence Baggley was born on 1st August 1906 in Hill Top Road, Thornton, Bradford, West Yorkshire. She died on 3rd Dec 1983 on Thornton Road, Bradford W Yorkshire. Florence was buried on 7th Dec 1983 in Thornton Cemetery, Thornton, Bradford, West Yorkshire.

The death certificate recorded that she had sustained. 'Multiple injuries including a fracture at the base of the skull'. The result of a Misadventure.

Florence was married twice. Her first marriage was to William McMarth in Dec 1924 in the Bradford Registration District W Yorkshire. Her 2nd marriage was to Morrell Baker on the 12th Aug 1959 in the Register Office. Morrell Baker died in Sept 1974 in the Bradford District, W Yorkshire.

2 newspaper reports highlighted the accident which befell Florence Baker - 'The Telegraph and Argos' stated
A WOMAN DIES IN A CAR ACCIDENT

"A woman died after being struck by a car near her Bradford home, Mrs F Baker 78, of Rhodesway, Fairweather Green was fatally injured when hit by a Fiat Saloon. Police are appealing for witnesses to the accident at the

junction of Thornton Road and Rhodesway at 7.40 pm on Saturday”

“An inquest on a 78year old woman, who died after being knocked down on a pedestrian crossing in Thornton Road, Bradford, last Saturday, was opened and adjourned yesterday. She was Mrs Florence Baker of Rhodesway, Bradford. Her son Mr Joseph McMarth of Wrose Grove, Wrose, Bradford formally identified Mrs F Baker.”

Mr J McMarth was nominated as Mrs F Baker’s Executor to her LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT. He was directed to pay off any debts and the funeral and testamentary expenses. Small bequeaths went to members of her family and to several other people
The Net effects amounted to £25,000

<p>Looking for Aunt Effie (1) ‘Whatever Happened to SS Melrose Abbey?’ (2) Geoff Bateman</p>
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Looking for Aunt Effie

The fifth child of my great great grandfather, Robinson Bateman (1823-88), was Euphemia Bateman (1859-1911). She was no doubt named after her Scottish grandmother, Euphemia Bell of Fife. Her father, Robinson, was the last of the flax dressers in my ancestry (as I described in The Banyan Tree No. 156). He and his family lived in Hull from about 1850 until his death. Of all his children, Euphemia’s life has been the most difficult, and the most interesting, to trace, mainly because she married twice and moved away from East Yorkshire. I will describe here the search for details of her life, and of the lives of her two much-married husbands.

Euphemia was a bookseller while living at home with her family at Wawne Street in Hull in 1881. Her first husband was widower Thomas Henry Whitehead (1826-92). They married at Hull Register Office on 5 October 1885. Thomas described himself

as a confectioner, aged 49. Other evidence suggests that he was in fact 59; his age in most census returns, as well as on his marriage certificate, seems to be incorrect. His address at the time of this marriage was the same address as our Bateman family: 5 Wawne Street, Hull. He was presumably a lodger.

Thomas Henry Whitehead was born in 1826 in Easton on the Hill, Northamptonshire (which is actually in Stamford District, Lincolnshire, adding an extra obstacle to the search process), where he became a small farmer and baker, like his father, also a Thomas. In 1847 he married Harriet Benner in Easton. They had ten children until, perhaps not surprisingly, Harriet died in 1863. Thomas next married Rebecca Pick, of Rutland, at St Andrew’s, Holborn, London, in 1866. They had four children in Easton before moving to Peckham, south London, where, in 1871, Thomas was employed as a corn chandler. With them in Peckham were Harriet’s four youngest children (all girls; the older children were boys, and independent by then), and Rebecca’s two surviving children. By 1881 they had moved to Market Harborough, where Thomas was now a confectioner. Of his children, only his youngest daughter with Harriet, 21-year-old Louisa, had remained with them, and was also a confectioner. Rebecca’s children, Tom b.1867 and Eva b.1868, were still in London, as boarders at Roman Catholic schools for the poor in London. Tom was at St Mary’s Roman Catholic School in Charlton, Woolwich (a Poor Law school); he later became a post office clerk. Eva was at St Wilfrid’s Convent School, Cale Street, Chelsea; she became a dressmaker. I can find no other family connections with the Roman Catholic Church. I lost track of those two children after 1891, when Tom was in March, Cambridgeshire, and Eva was in Sheffield. Rebecca died in Market Harborough in 1883. There were clearly disasters and upheavals in Thomas Henry’s life, which began in relative affluence, apart from the deaths of his first two wives; maybe it could all be explained by further research.

Thomas Henry Whitehead and his next wife, our Euphemia, were living at 7 Jennings Terrace, Hull, in 1891. Thomas described himself as a commission agent in the 1891 census, apparently having given up the confectionery business when he came to Hull. The couple then must have moved to the Grimsby or Caistor area (Great Grimsby was in the Caistor Registration District up to 1891), since Thomas Henry died in Caistor District in 1892. His recorded age at death was 62, again probably incorrect.

Euphemia's second marriage confirms that she really had moved across the Humber. This marriage was to Eli Edward Bravery in Grimsby in 1893. Eli had been widowed twice already. He had previously married Eliza Elizabeth England in 1874 in Middlesex, where both of them were born. They then evidently moved before 1877 to Grimsby, where Eli was recorded in 1881 as a boot/shoe maker, and where Eliza died in 1883. He married again at the George Street Methodist Chapel in Grimsby in 1884. His new bride was local girl Lavinia Bannister, aged 23; he was 33. Eli had three sons born in Grimsby: Charles Ernest in 1877, Eli Edmund in 1880 and Jesse in 1883, who died the same year. A daughter, another Eliza Elizabeth, was born to Lavinia in 1889. Young Eliza died in 1890 and Charles died in 1891, while young Eli, who stayed in the area, went on to have a family of his own. Eli senior and the boys were present at the census in 1891 (Charles died towards the end of that year). Lavinia died in 1892, the year before Eli married Euphemia. After their marriage, Euphemia and Eli moved to Gilderstone Street in Woolwich, east London. They may have been tired of Lincolnshire after the deaths of three spouses and three of Eli's children. Euphemia died in Woolwich in 1911 and Eli in 1918.

It is not surprising to find that Eli Bravery came from London. According to www.surnamedb.com, his name is of Spanish-Portuguese origin and all the earliest Braverys listed on its web page were Londoners. Eli junior was one of the

descendants spreading the name to other parts of England. Sadly, such proliferation and dispersal of the name did not involve our Euphemia, who seems to have had no children.

Euphemia's younger brother, James Robinson Bateman (1862-1900), was my great grandfather. He was apparently a sociable, probably unreliable person, who clearly found it hard to live with his difficult school-teacher wife. He left her and his two young children in their school-house home in Halsham and went to live in east London, where he died at an early age of tuberculosis. He was understandably disowned by his son (my grandfather) and never mentioned. But one of his possessions has come down to me: a book about Scottish life and language with his personal library stamp and the family's Wawne Street address on the flyleaf. I like to think it was presented by his sister Euphemia (was she known as Effie? I wish I knew), in her time as a bookseller, to celebrate their Scottish ancestry (their mother was an Aitken from Fife). I suspect that he escaped to east London to be near his older sister, Euphemia.

SS Melrose Abbey

Melrose Abbey was a packet steamship that operated on the Hull-Rotterdam route. Actually, I know what happened to her; the full story is explained on various web sites (and, briefly, below). The mystery concerns a builder's model that used to be in the shipping company offices near Princes Dock in Hull.

Let me explain. My grandfather was a railwayman all his working life (as well as a hard-working small farmer). Oswald James Bateman (1891-1960) found a job in Hull with the London and North Western Railway (LNWR) in 1906, after leaving school. That information surprised me at first, since the railway companies operating into Hull at the time were not LNWR but the North Eastern Railway and the Hull and Barnsley Railway. Ossie's employer became the London Midland and Scottish Railway

(LMS) after “grouping” of all railway companies into “the big four” in 1923. The London and North Eastern Railway (LNER) then operated in the Hull area. LNWR, and subsequently LMS, maintained an office in Hull and presumably had running rights. They all merged to become British Railways (BR) after nationalisation in 1947.

For a long period my grandfather worked on “claims”, which involved cycling around Hull. He also spent some time in West Yorkshire, probably based in Leeds while living in Church Fenton, but evidently did not enjoy those foreign parts. The railway companies had control of some of the shipping from the UK. Associated Humber Lines (AHL) was created in 1935 to manage the services of various railway-controlled shipping lines and port activities in the Humber. The ownership of vessels, and control of the ports (Hull, Goole and Grimsby), remained with the railway companies and their successors. Oswald was eventually seconded to AHL, where he spent the latter part of his working life. For a period he was working at Goole for Goole Steam Shipping Company Ltd (which belonged to LMS), travelling each day from his home in Swine (where he also farmed). Latterly he was involved in the management of one of AHL’s ships operating from Hull, SS Melrose Abbey, as an accountant I think. He retired from that job on 30 October 1955, a few months short of 50 years of service (and maybe missing out on a gold watch?).

SS Melrose Abbey, 1908 gross tonnage, was built by Earle’s Shipbuilding & Engineering Co. Ltd of Hull in 1929 for the Hull & Netherlands Steamship Co. Ltd to operate on the Hull-Rotterdam service. She was managed by AHL from 1935. After the occupation of the Netherlands in World War II, Melrose Abbey was employed in coastal convoy duty until her conversion as a convoy rescue ship, planned for 1941. She was seriously damaged and ran aground between Peterhead and Aberdeen, probably after being struck by a mine, while on her way for conversion. Since her services were needed, she was refloated and repaired,

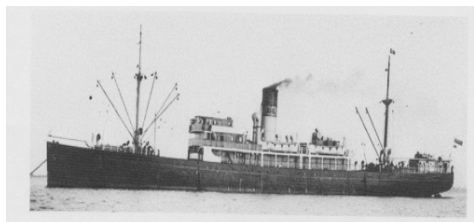
finally being converted on the Clyde to make her first Atlantic crossing in May 1942. She made 14 voyages to Halifax or Gibraltar, apparently operating as a sweeper-up at the tail-end of convoys. Her crew rescued 85 seamen and gave medical aid to many more. She resumed service on the Hull-Rotterdam run in 1946 after modification. The ship was renamed Melrose Abbey II in 1958 in readiness for a replacement ship, MV Melrose Abbey, which was introduced by Ellerman’s Wilson Line for the Hull-Rotterdam service in 1959. The old ship was sold in that year to a Greek cruising and ferry company, Typaldos Brothers, and renamed Kriti. The company was liquidated in 1966, when the ship was laid up in Piraeus, where she was broken up in 1984.

Occasionally, as a very small boy, I would be taken to visit my grandfather in his office, perhaps when my family was meeting him at the end of the working week on a Saturday morning (most office workers worked five-and-a-half-day weeks at that time). Memory is a very unreliable resource, but I remember that in his office was a beautiful builder’s model, which I assumed to be SS Melrose Abbey, in a glass case. Such models are wonders to behold, especially to small boys. There are plenty to be seen in Hull’s Maritime Museum, including a model of an earlier “Abbey” ship. The best collection I have seen was of many of the ships built on Clyde side, including the Cunard liners, in the Glasgow Transport Museum (which I believe has moved since I visited). My query is: what happened to the model of SS Melrose Abbey?

Having failed to find the model in Hull’s Maritime Museum (but very much enjoying the search), I asked a helpful staff member about it. My request was duly passed on to the museum experts but no information could be found. I suppose I could be wrong, and that the model was that of SS Bury, an older but similar ship that also worked the Hull-Rotterdam route after the war. It had a very similar role in wartime convoy duty. I understand that the model of SS Bury is now safe in the National Railway Museum, York.

A different SS Melrose Abbey, a somewhat

larger cargo ship at 2473 tonnage and built in West Hartlepool in 1936, was sunk by a German U-boat when carrying coal in an Atlantic convoy in 1942.



SS MELROSE ABBEY



The Treasure House
Champney Road
Beverley

Tele:(01482) 392792
archives.service@eastriding.gov.uk

Spotlight on Londesborough
Family History Sources at the East Riding
Archives and Local Studies Service.

Parish records

Londesborough is in the Archdeaconry of York and original deposited records are held at the Borthwick Institute for Archives, University of York, Heslington. They include baptisms 1580-1941, marriages 1580-1980, burials 1580-1992, banns 1823-1918. Microfilm of bishops transcripts is available at Beverley 1600-1865 (ref. MF7/20). Check with staff on the latest coverage from Find My Past.

Records of other denominations

Pocklington Methodist Circuit records until 1875 then Market Weighton Methodist circuit to include baptisms (ref. MRP and MRM)

Other records

Enclosure Award 1821 (ref. IA/98, 99)
enclosure plan (ref. IA/100)

Land tax 1783, 1788-1830, 1832 (ref. QDE/1/8/17). Land tax assessments for Holme Beacon 1929-1949 (ref. LTA/4)

Printed voters lists 1832-1915, 1918-1939, 1945-date (ref. EL), latest years are edited versions

Printed poll book 1807 on shelf, more are in poll books 1837 and 1868 (ref. DDBC/11/65 and 66) under Pocklington District

Londesborough Estate records 16th century-20th century, uncatalogued collection (ref. DDLO)

Londesborough estate map by Thomas Pallison, 1739 (ref. DDX31/173)

East Riding 4th Battalion [Market Weighton?] Home Guard Company book includes Londesborough no.4 platoon (ref. HG/13)

Hearth tax returns (heads of households) 1660s and 1670s (ref. MF3), printed version available for 1672

Monumental inscriptions in church and churchyard by EYFHS (ref. JL/152/10, 130a)

Return under the 1902 Education Act has a brief report on the school, more inspectors reports to 1940, registers of teaching staff to include dates of birth and employment 1919-1946 (ref. CCER/5)

Indexed East Riding County Council Education Committee minutes 1903-1974

Copy property tax assessment [mid 19th c] (ref. CTR/2/3/19)

Plans for Londesborough railway station 1896 (ref. NR2/5/3)

Inland Revenue "Domesday Book" i.e. valuation book under the 1910 Finance Act,

- giving property owners and occupiers (ref. NV/1/123)
- Londesborough Parish Council records includes minutes 1955-1995, income and expenditure book 1978-1998 and correspondence files 1986-2004 (ref. PC87)
- Pocklington Poor Law Union records to include Guardians minutes 1836-1930, letter books 1866-1912, admission and discharge books 1852-1930, indoor relief lists 1853-1917, outdoor relief lists 1837-1912 (gaps), valuation lists 1868 and 1917-1926, register of deaths 1887-1914 (use online catalogue), Assessment Committee minutes 1862-1882, 1888-1927, and School Attendance Committee minutes 1896-1903 (ref. PUP)
- Pocklington Guardians Committee records to include minutes 1930-1948, registers of inmates c. 1920-1949, registers of admission and discharge 1930-1964, religious creed register 1930-1948, register of births 1887-1944 (use online catalogue) and indoor relief lists 1931-1942 (ref. PGP)
- Holme Beacon Petty Sessional Division records to include court registers 1915-1968, juvenile court registers 1934-1967, register of licences to sell intoxicating liquor 1946-1976, register of cinematographic licences 1931-1955, remitted fees book 1887-1957 (ref. PSHB)
- 1823, 1825 and 1826 (ref. QDT/2/10 and 12), online catalogue useful
- Lay subsidy 1629 has 2 names under Londesborough, printed version (ref. YE/336.23)
- Muster roll 1636 has 6 names under Londesborough, printed version (ref. YE/355)
- Muster rolls (ref. LT/7)
- Charity accounts 1901-1955 give names of administrators and recipients (ref. NCH/101/1 and 2)
- Ordinance Survey maps (ref. OS)
- Postcards (ref. PO) and photographs (ref. PH/2/182)
- Londesborough School Records includes log books 1863-1980, admission registers 1889-1980; one file containing Inspectors' reports 1858-1898, 1949 and 1960, annual return to Board of Education 1898, duplicate examination schedules 1875-1898 (ref. SL78) – some access restrictions will apply
- Sales particulars of various properties and years 1979-2007 (ref. SP/2/135)
- Pocklington Rural Sanitary Authority records to include minutes 1872-1892 (ref. RSPO)
- Pocklington Rural District Council records to include minutes 1894-1974, valuation lists 1928, 1934, 1956 and 1962, rate books 1931-1970 (selected years), overcrowding survey 1936-1938 (ref. RDPO)
- East Yorkshire Borough Council (formerly North Wolds) records to include minutes 1973-1996, councillors declarations of acceptance of office 1974-1995, and year books 1974-1995 (ref. EY EY)
- East Riding County Council records to include minutes 1889-1974 and year books 1895-1974 (ref. CCER)
- 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 Londesborough
Janet Bielby

Londesborough is a picturesque village in the Wapentake of Harthill (Holme Beacon Division, Weighton Hundred); the Poor Law Union and County Court district of Pocklington and the Diocese of York. It lies on the fringe of the Yorkshire Wolds and is historically and architecturally significant. It has been in existence in some form since Roman times when it was possibly the station of Delgovitia. Roman coins, artefacts and part of a Roman road have been found in the area.

The Weighton Hundred comprised Bishop Burton, Cleving, North Cliffe, Easthorpe, Goodmanham, Harswell, Holme upon Spalding Moor, Houghton, Kiplingcotes, Londesborough, Sancton, Shipton(thorpe) Towthorpe and Market Weighton.

Londesborough village comprises of 3 main streets - Love Lane, Top Street and Low Street which continues onto Howgate Lane. Low Street has the older houses - built in the 17th/18th century of bricks and tiles from the Earl of Burlington's brickworks at Thorpe Moor near Market Weighton. Holland tiles from Hull were used in the Almshouses. One house has a date stone of 1750. The Reading Room was built in the late C17th and altered in the C19th. One half of the stable block with its original 1678 facade is still there, but converted to 8 houses. At the other end of Low Street are the Almshouses - an E shaped building called Burlington Row. It was built in 1677 and founded as a hospital in 1680 by Richard Boyle (1st Earl of Burlington) and his wife Lady Elizabeth (Clifford).

Top Street is mainly late C19. There are 8 estate cottages with the Londesborough family crest on the gable. A large brick

built concert hall and house dated 1880 is prominent. It was originally built as the laundry for a visit of the Prince of Wales. The tiled interior has murals painted by German Prisoners in WW2. At the eastern end of this road is the the National school. It was built in 1830 for 70 children, and enlarged in the 1870's. It is now a residence. Prior to its building the school was housed in the Reading Room on Low Street before the C19th reforms and then described as both a Cottage School and an Endowed School.. At the west end are 2 larger houses - Redhouse built around 1900 and Raincliffe House built in the 1860's

Traces of Anglo Saxon influences of the C9 - C10 are found in All Saints church porch which itself was built in 1678. The church was restored in 1873 and 1885 by Temple Moore. The font is an octagonal stone one from C13. The rood screen, from 1885, was carved by J. E. Elwell. 3 funeral banners dating from 1698 hang in the North Chapel. There are burial monuments in the church to Lady Margaret Clifford 1493; Grisold, Countess of Cumberland 1613; Francis Clifford(16hrs old) 1619; Richard Charles Clifford, Baron,1694; Charles, Earl of Burlington, 1703; John Hall Park keeper 1725; Henry Boyle, Baron of Carleton 1725; Richard Boyle 1753 and many more. There are also many memorials to the various clergy who have presided over the parish - Abraham J. Rudd 1768; Andrew Ewbank 1822; Richard Wilton 1903; Genile Cave-Browne-Cave 1929 and the Rev A. G. Bagshaw is on the Roll of Honour. In the churchyard there is the tomb of Thomas Knowlton 1781 and a cross for the 1st Earl of Londesborough 1900.

The Londesborough estate was part of the Archbishop of York's manor of Everingham in 1086. The Lordship of Londesborough was first held by the Fitzherberts and passed to the Bromfletes during the reign of Richard II. Then the male line died out and it passed to Margaret de Bromflete who was born in 1436 at Londesborough. She was the daughter of Henry Bromflete, 1st Lord Vessy and Eleanor Fitzhugh. She married, firstly,

Sir John de Clifford, 9th Lord Clifford, son of Thomas de Clifford, 8th Lord Clifford and Joan Dacre, in 1453. John Clifford was killed at the Battle of Towton in 1461. Then she married Sir Lancelot Threlkeld in 1462. She died on 12 April 1493. She was buried at Londesborough. Her eldest son, Henry, was placed in the care of a shepherd at Londesborough (to escape the wrath of the Yorkists). He later moved to Threlkeld in Cumbria - Margaret's 2nd husband's estate. He regained his title of Lord Clifford in 1485 when the lands were reinstated by Henry VII. (Wm Wordsworth wrote of this event in ' The Song at the Feast of Brougham Castle') Henry died in 1522. He was succeeded by his son Henry (1493 - 1542) who was in turn succeeded by his son Henry (1517-1570). His son George (1558-1605) 13th Baron de Clifford was succeeded by his brother Sir Francis Clifford (1559-1641) who married Grisold Hughes in 1589. On 27th January 1599 the Earl of Pembroke's players stay at Londesborough House for a week , performing plays for the Shrovetide period and were paid £1 5s. Francis Clifford's daughter Lady Margaret Clifford and future baronet Thomas Wentworth were married in All Saints church, Londesborough on 22nd October 1611. The Earl's finances were not healthy, due to a protracted legal dispute with his mother Lady Anne Clifford over his inheritance, so the celebrations were low-key, with only 40 in attendance, and a simple dinner of pasties, mince pies and turkey, a speciality of the estate. The artist Augustine Harrison was present, so that the Earl could present his 2 daughters with identical portraits of himself. Lady Margaret died childless in 1622 and Thomas Wentworth was executed at Tower Hill in 1641. Francis' son Henry was the last of the Clifford line. Henry's daughter married into the family of the Boyles, Earls' of Cork. In 1728 Lord Burlington spent over £1600 on the gardens. The head gardener was Thomas Knowlton who had 40+ men working under him.

The original Londesborough Hall was built by Francis Clifford in 1589, and extended by the 1st Earl of Burlington in 1670 to a design by Robert Hooke. The 3rd Earl

altered the interior in the 1720's and 30's. The well known botanist Thomas Knowlton was the gardener from 1730 onwards and grew exotic plants including pineapples! Between 1753-1845, the Estate was owned by the Devonshire family, who spent little time at Londesborough, as the family favoured their residence at Chatsworth. Sadly, it lay neglected for over 80 years and in 1818, the decision was made to demolish the old hall by the 6th Duke of Devonshire. There is little remaining to show where it was - however - part of the stable block built in 1678 and Burlington Row - an 'E' shaped Almshouse for 6 men and 6 women built in 1677 - are still in existence. (They are now converted to individual houses but retain the outward appearance). In 1839 the 6th Duke of Devonshire built a large mansion as a hunting lodge. The house is surrounded by parkland and lakes and once had formal gardens and hothouses. During the following years, the surrounding farmland was enclosed and the present hall (then known as The Shooting Box) was erected. In 1845, the estate was sold to George Hudson (The Railway King) who owned Londesborough for a brief period of five years, principally to block a rival railway company from gaining the line between York and Market Weighton. Londesborough was sold again in 1850 to Lord Albert Denison , later known as Lord Londesborough, who spent vast amounts improving the buildings in 1875 and 1898 in order to provide servant accommodation during Royal visits. The house and gardens teemed with servants and therefore offered employment locally. Many parties, fetes and festivities were enjoyed during this period, as well as sporting events, including golf, cricket and shooting . The latter attracted numerous visits from both Edward VII and George V, whose presence motivated even more building projects to be carried out, including that of the concert Hall, which originally served as a Laundry for the Hall.

The railway line from York to Market Weighton built by George Hudson's Company and opened on 4th October 1847, passed through the grounds, and a private station called Londesborough Park was

built at the end of the Avenue. Another station close to Shipton(thorpe) was built for the villagers of Londesborough. The last train ran on this line on 27th November 1965. The station building - called Avenue House/Cottage - had no running water or electricity. Water was delivered twice a day by train! Much of the trackbed is now a green footpath - the length from Market Weighton onwards to Beverley being called Hudson Way though that stretch was built by the North Eastern Railway.

On the 1891 census there were 78 properties in the village, 1 being uninhabited. 30 of these properties were less than 5 rooms. There were 196 men and 184 women.

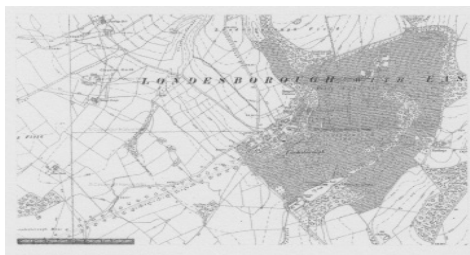
Henry Hobbs the schoolmaster was the census enumerator. Henry Towse and Thomas Hagus were railway workers living at the Avenue station. The hospital had 17 residents, there were lots of grooms, agricultural and general labourers and shepherds living in the village. At the laundry was living Alice Butten(widow) a laundry maid, with 5 other young women, and Mary Denning a trained nurse.

In 1892 a variety of trades were carried out in the village. There were many farmers - mostly farming land belonging to the Londesborough Estate. These were - Nathaniel Shaw Brough - Londesborough Wold Farm; George Cobb; Wm Harrison - Warrendale Farm; Wm Knapton - Easthorpe House; John Charles McPherson - bailiff and head gardener - Park Farm; Elizabeth Usher - Middlethorpe and John Wreghitt - master of the horse at Towthorpe Stud Farm - Londesborough Moor Cottage.

Other trades were - George Gurney foreman gardener; James Hagyard and John Illingworth - bricklayers; George Hudson - joiner; Frank Hyde - blacksmith; Wm Henry Hyde - carrier; John Simpson - shoemaker and postmaster; Rev Richard Wilton; David Young - head gamekeeper and Thomas Young (Young & Co. Pocklington) - Land agent & Brewer - Hillside House

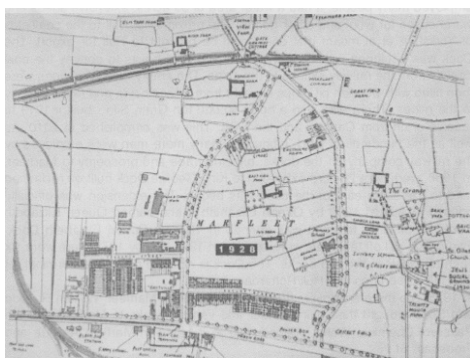
The Monumental Inscription book for Londesborough and Shiptonthorpe is M130 and is available from the website shop - www.eyfhs.org.uk

Thanks for assistance in writing this article go to Carol Osgerby (Hull and East Yorkshire Local History Calendar), Jean Fenwick and Jayne Fisher (Londesborough resident)



A view from the Londesborough Park Walk (from a Try a Trail easy access walk range)

Marfleet a bit more information about the school. Janet Bielby



Marfleet Primary School opened on 28th March 1892 in Marfleet Lane, to cater for the increasing population expected through the expanding industries. When it opened the school had 24 scholars and the Headteacher

was Miss Constance Reed. Prior to that there had been a schoolroom near to St. Giles Church. In 1841 the schoolmaster was Robert Wilson and in 1851 it was Thomas Binnington, whose father was a farmer in Marfleet. There were lots of children classed as scholars on the 1851 census, so the school should have been fairly well attended. It is still in full use - in 2017 having 219 pupils.

Photographs from the past

Beryl Chamberlain (eyfhs Mem No 4436) asked for help with some photographs that some members may be able to put names to faces. They are of the Pork Butcher shops of Kress & Wagner in Hull...no longer trading.

No. 1. Do any members know the address of this shop, or the staff outside, or the date?

No. 2 Again which shop is this...I could not improve on the image.

No. 3 More later is the Endike Lane shop. Do you know the two ladies in the doorway?

No. 4 This is the Hessle Road shop. `Jimmy` is the gentleman in the doorway. Who were the ladies. Or maybe you know the gentleman in the shop next door?

The shop window in picture 4 reads.....`Going To Odsal/ Get your sandwich early tomorrow.`

I am guessing Odsal refers to the rugby stadium of the Bradford Bulls. Did the flags and bunting mean there was a big match playing the next day. Boulevard being the home of a rugby club, maybe fans were leaving in a coach the next day...needing their sandwiches?

If anyone can assist Beryl with identifying these photographs please contact the editor, the postal address and email address is on page 4.



(Photo No 1)



(Photo No 2 below)

(Photo No 3 below)



(Photo No 4 below)



East Yorkshire Family
History Society News

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

The 44th Annual General Meeting of the East Yorkshire Family History Society will be held on Saturday 25th September. The venue is the Carnegie Heritage Centre, 342 Anlaby road, Hull.

The AGM will commence at 2pm.

AGENDA

1. Presidents opening remarks
2. Apologise for Absence
3. Election of President
4. Minutes of the 43rd AGM held on 7th March 2020
5. Matters arising from these minutes
6. Chairmans report
7. Secretarys report
8. Treasurers report
9. Other reports
10. Election of officers – chairman, secretary & treasurer
11. Election of committee
12. Election/appointment of examiner of accounts
13. Previously notified business (items should be given in writing to the secretary not less than 21 days before the date of the meeting)
14. Any other business

The AGM is open to current members and invited guests only.

Nominations for officers and committee members are invited.

Please send all nominations to the secretary. Mrs Barbara Watkinson, 161 Moorhouse Road, HULL, East Yorkshire, HU5 5PR after making sure that the person nominated is willing to serve. Alternatively, nominations can be made from the floor at the Annual General Meeting.

The AGM meeting will depend upon the Covid-19 Governement guidelines and any further information will be advertised on the website.

No one knows how the next few months are likely to develop in respect of the Pandemic, but at least the Society is trying to hold the AGM – whether it will just be the committee we don` t really know – the Society has even thought of doing it as a zoom feature but that could prove complicated. There may not be much to report.

New Monumental Inscription Publications.

- M334 E Fulford Churchyard
- M335 G Edenfield Cemetery, Hornsea
- M336 G Hull Northern Cemetery part 11
- M337 C Hull General Cemetery part 6
- M338 G Hull Northern Cemetery part 12
- M339 G Hull Northern Cemetery part 13
- M341 F Hull Northern Cemetery part 15

Prices

	UK	Europe	World
E	£5.30	£7.90	£9.50
F	£6.25	£9.00	£10.85
G	£7.90	£10.15	£12.10

The Hull Northern Cemetery part 16 is at the printers and will be ready soon.

3 EYFHS Obituaries

The Society was sad to learn of the death of Heather Petch, who died on the 6th June in Scarborough.

Heather was a regular member at the Scarborough meetings, she was also a valuable member of the monumental inscription team. Our thoughts are with the family.

Chris Bellingham got in touch with the eyfhs to advise us that Roger Bellingham had died earlier this year.

The Society was sad to learn of the death of Roger Bellingham as he was a long standing member of the East Yorkshire Family History Society.

Our thoughts are with the family.

Terry Middleton It is with regret that we announce that Terry died on the 12th June following surgery in hospital. He was a longstanding member of the Society who regularly attended meetings in Hull and Beverley. He was also active with our Memorial Inscription recording sessions and did some typing for our publications. He was also involved with the packing and distribution of Banyan Trees. Our thoughts are with Clare and the family.

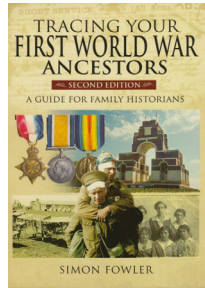
Book Reviews

Pen & Sword provided 2 books for the society to review

(1) 'Tracing your First World War Ancestors'
 (2) BRITAIN'S WARTIME EVACUEES

Tracing Your
 First World War
 Ancestors

By Simon Fowler
 Pen & Sword
 2nd edition.
 Pub 2021
 Pages 163.
 Price £14.99



ISBN 978/1/3990/0390

There are 8 chapters which will help family historians who are trying to research their ancestors who served 'King and Country' during the 1914 – 1918 conflict.

Over the years since the War ended the veterans have passed on to a more peaceful stage and we who want to find out about what or where our ancestors were in these turbulent, dreadful years have to rely on digital information or try to experience the battlefield trauma by visiting the various areas of war.

Our ancestors fought on land, at sea or in the air. The author should be able to guide you to the appropriate archives and records. Research can be tricky, sometimes unrewarding but usually we all learn something along the way.

This book is worthy of a place on your bookshelf.

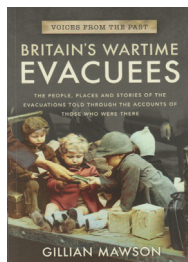
Happy hunting!

VOICES FROM
 THE PAST
 BRITAIN'S WARTIME
 EVACUEES

By Gillian Mawson
 Pen & Sword
 Pub 2016
 Reprinted 2020
 Pages 214

Price £14.99

ISBN 978/1/52678/1512



In September 1939 when the Government declared war upon the Axis Powers, the Evacuation Scheme was implemented. It sought to take civilians away from the cities

which might be the targets of bombing raids. The scheme had a big impact upon a vast number of individuals – those who were evacuated and the people who had to accommodate and care for the displaced people.

Gillian Mawson has given the reader an insight into this turbulent period. A lot of us will have heard the stories which can be emotive, moving and distressing.

Children were sent away from their parents and placed in the care of total strangers – some were treated well, while others did not experience a pleasurable time in such anxious times.

It is a difficult book to read from the point of view of some heart warming snippets and some very sad recollections.

The tales of woe or happiness can make you feel that it would be an interesting idea to find out what happened to the people in these pages before time takes its inevitable toll on them.

The editor

A DNA Cautionary Note
 Sally George

Sally came across this item and submitted to the Banyan Tree for us to read.

Careful What You Donate To: A man in the USA keeps bumping into siblings on dating apps thanks to his sperm donor dad. Here is a bit of a nightmare that nobody envisioned 20 or 30 more years ago, when you have an unknown, but undoubtedly large, number of half-brothers and half-sisters, you may meet them at any time. This can be especially awkward when dating. For 24 year old Zave Fors, a dating app is nothing short of a nightmare as he keeps bumping into long lost siblings. In fact, it has happened so frequently that Zave is now mortified just by the words dating app. All the blame goes to his 'serial sperm donor' father. Zave has managed to track down eight of his siblings. It seemed that his biological father sold his sperm hundreds of times over in a

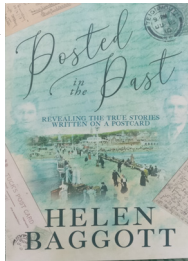
10 year period. The donor is said to have an estimated 50 children.

Postcards from the past
Sally George

Sally introduced us to the terminology of ‘Deltiology’ in the May Issue of the Banyan Tree. The new ‘lockdown’ hobby has encouraged her to look at postcards from a different perspective - investigating some of the stories on the back of the postcards that have been found.

Sally said, “I am reading a book which our members might be interested in called “Posted in the Past” revealing the true stories written on a postcard, the author is Helen Baggott.

It is well researched with 8 pages of indexed names of people and places. A fascinating piece of social history and the writer and recipient of any of these postcards might connect to someone’s family tree. In her



introduction Helen says that there are many books written about postcards - locations, themes, the photographers, the artists who painted the images - but there are very few that look at the messages and the people who wrote and received the cards.”

Here are some of the postcards and social research that Sally has managed to do on her collection.

Beverley then and now. The Museum and picture gallery occupied most of the first floor and opened in 1910. A list of the exhibits acquired suggests that the word ‘local’ was interpreted fairly generously. Local artists’ exhibitions were held in 1911 & 12 but nothing more was heard of the event until 1934.



An artist called Fred Elwell gave 55 of his paintings to the town in 1958. On the back of this postcard which showed the Museum and Picture Gallery was a message from Emily Kennedy. (née Lotherington) in 1960. On the 1939 National Register an Emily Kennedy is living at 2 New Walk with her husband George, a builder’s labourer. Also with them is their daughter Flora Clark and Grandson Peter. Sadly Flora died in 1957, George in 1959 and Peter was married in 1960. If this is the correct Emily, no wonder on the postcard she says “Breakfast in bed, I am having a good rest”, as she would definitely be in need of some TLC. If I have the correct family and it is connected to anyone’s research, I can pass the postcard on.

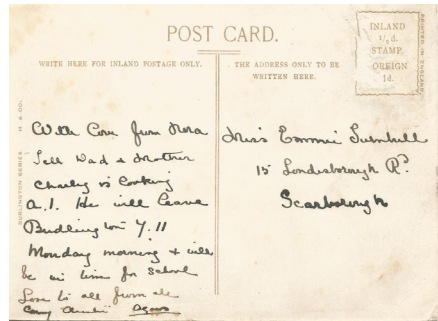


The seaside view on the next card is a Summer weekend 1934 in Bridlington. Sally says, “I’m impressed about how everyone dressed up and wore formal hats for a seaside trip.”



This postcard shows how people enjoyed their trip to the seaside circa pre 1918, all dressed up in their suits and frocks etc.

The postcard sent to Miss Connie Turnbull, 'Lily Bank', 15 Londesbrough Road, Scarborough reads "With love from Nora. Tell Dad & brother, Charley is looking A.I. He will leave Bridlington 7.11 Monday morning & will be in time for school. Love to all from [all loving] Auntie Agnes" Looking on the 1911 census Charley was born in 1906 and his father Charles Turnbull was Head Teacher of St. Martin's Grammar School Scarborough. If it is anyone's family history I can post it back!



The postcard is from Mrs. Ethel Hoggard of 58 Windsor Crescent, Bridlington and reads "Just to wish you A Happy New Year. I have had Mr. Hoggard ill since last June, not been down stairs since Sept. Fred is still in Khartoum, come home on leave in April. Kind regards, E. Hoggard" Sent to Mr. & Mrs. C. Mutch, "Winnats House", Stanton-on-the-Wolds, Near Nottingham. Anyone's family history? Sadly William Hoggard died in 1935 aged 80.

Skirlaugh Workhouse:
a Brief History
Part 1. The workhouse community
Geoff Bateman



Before the 1830s there were already parish-run poorhouses, usually also known as "the workhouse", in England and Wales. The unfortunates reduced to such parish-dependency were usually put to manual work, on farms or on parish projects such as road repairing, with men and women often separated as a kind of further punishment for being poor and dependant. In mid-Holderness, there were parish poorhouses in Skirlaugh, as well as in Witherwick and Grimston.

The Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834

was part of the process of rationalising the haphazard system in which individual parishes were responsible for the care of their own poor and needy. It led to the creation of a more centralised system based on Poor Law Unions involving groups of parishes. Conditions in the new Poor Law Union workhouses would still be harsh, to discourage dependency.

Skirlaugh Poor Law Union was formed on 25 July 1837, overseen initially by a Board of Guardians, 42 of them, representing the 42 parishes in mid-Holderness, which apparently had a total population of 8,288. The Union Workhouse was erected in 1838-9 on the left-hand side of the road leading north-west out of Skirlaugh towards Long Riston and Leven. It could accommodate 60-130 inmates (depending on which account you read). It has been described as a rectangular building with a central courtyard (not apparent in the present ground plan or photo below), where a central partition separated the male and female sides, and further partitions possibly separated the able-bodied from the infirm.

The 1841 national census included little detailed information. The Skirlaugh census for that year gives us names and approximate ages of the employed staff and inmates of the workhouse, and the positions held by the staff. The 46 inmates at that time were looked after by Thomas Little, Master, and his wife Mary, who was Matron. I assume that this couple took on management of the workhouse from its beginnings. The only other information on them from the 1841 census is that they were both aged about 55 and were born in Yorkshire.

The Littles remained in charge as Master and Matron in 1851. We now learn that Thomas Little, aged 71, was born in Wheldrake. His wife Mary, 68, was from Bubwith. She was assisted by her daughter, Mary Sharp, 45, also of Bubwith. Since Mary Sharp was listed in the census as “unmarried”, we might assume that she was daughter of the elder Mary from a previous marriage, but I have found no definite information on any of this family. I suspect, but with no good

evidence, that the younger Mary was also Thomas’s daughter and already a widow. The other staff were Mary Finnin, 21, of Saltfleet (Lincolnshire), employed as Union Schoolmistress, and Ann Bilton, 30, of Sigglesthorpe, a general servant.

Robert Catlin (aged 38, b. Grantham, Lincs) had become Master by 1861 and his wife Mary (34, b. Chesterfield, Derbys) was Matron. Robert’s mother Hannah Catlin (68, b. Suffolk), a retired housekeeper, was with them in that year, and resident schoolmistress was Ellen Roney (21, b. Linesley?, Yorks). No other staff were listed. Robert Catlin remained as Master until at least 1891, when his wife Mary (perhaps deceased) had been replaced as Matron by 29-year-old Ann E. Dalkin of Barnard Castle. There were also further changes of schoolmistress: Annie Atkins (19, of Roos) in 1871, and Sophie Rawson (41, of Marylebone, London) in 1881. Jane Keith (27, Brandesburton) was employed as domestic servant in 1891.

No resident school teachers were listed after 1881. If the pauper children then attended the village school I think they may have suffered at the hands of their more affluent (though probably still mostly poor) classmates; children can be cruel. There had long been a church school in Skirlaugh, where education was supported by a charitable trust set up by Marmaduke Langdale in 1609. A new National School was built in 1860 and run with the help of Langdale’s charity, subscriptions and, later, an annual government grant. A succession of Elementary Education Acts from 1870 led to the establishment of board schools, partially funded by the state, then compulsory schooling for young children and, by 1891, education that was education that was effectively free. There was presumably no longer a need for a classroom in the workhouse.

Changes in population structure among the workhouse inmates over the years might be more meaningful to a social historian than to me, but I have assembled some data please refer to the following Table,

Table: Inmates of Skirlaugh Union workhouse at each census during its existence

Census year	No inmates (incl. children)	Men			Women			% children
		Number	% over age 60	% farm workers	Number	% over age 60	% dom. servsnta	
1841	46	12	66.7	-	21	23.8	-	28.3
1851	63	15	60.0	80.0	20	30.0	70.0	44.4
1861	60	16	75.0	62.5	20	35.0	70.0	40.0
1871	73	15	60.0	60.0	24	16.7	70.8	46.6
1881	75	30*	63.3	60.0	12	16.7	50.0	44.0
1891	38	23**	56.5	-	5	20.0	-	26.3
1901	29	15	73.3	33.3***	8	50.0	50.0	20.7
1911	16	7	42.9	57.1	6	83.3	50.0	18.8

*Incl. four "casuals"; **Incl. six "vagrants"; ***66.7% if "general labourers" included.

I will attempt an explanation of the data as it shown.

The number of inmates reached a peak around 1871-81. There were always more women than men up to 1871. The reversal from 1881 may coincide with the period when (so I read) there was a slump in agriculture (the industry in which many of the men worked), caused by bad weather and poor harvests, outbreaks of animal disease, surplus of American crops for export, and so on, as well as a tendency towards the end of the century for young women to move into town for employment. The predominant former employment of the inmates (not stated in 1841 or 1891) was, especially in the earlier decades, farm work (men) and domestic service (women, especially the unmarried ones). Until the final census year (when numbers were small), about two thirds of the men and one third of the women were elderly. The higher proportion of young women is partly explained, no doubt, by young mothers with fatherless children, either illegitimate or orphaned. There were only very few mentally deficient inmates of both sexes, described early on as "idiot" and later as "imbecile", who were usually long-term inmates. The list of male inmates for 1881 includes four "casuals", and that for 1891 includes six

"vagrants". The casuals were described as agricultural or blacksmiths' labourers, and so were probably casual workers rather than "tramps". No such information is given for 1891's vagrants.

Allowing for the inevitable inaccuracies in the census, there are some quite revealing, if not unexpected, statistics concerning marital status. Between 1851 and 1881, 27-53% (average 41%) of men were unmarried and 20-69% (average 46%) were widowers. In the same years, 65-80% (average 71%) of women were unmarried and 5-30% (average 19%) were widows. Evidently the young men were better able to find employment, especially when not encumbered with children, but older men, who were more often widowers, were less able to provide for themselves than the widows. Most of the older people, men and women alike, would probably have suffered from a lifetime of heavy work, but more of the men may also have been incapacitated by injury. After 1891 the percentages for marital status are not very different between men and women, but are based on small numbers.

As our data for Skirlaugh suggest, the need for workhouses declined in the early 20th century as charities and other organisations took over the care of the poor,

and eventually they were discontinued. Skirlaugh workhouse had only 16 inmates in 1911, three of them children. It continued to function until 1915, when its remaining children were sent to Beverley. In 1916 it became a military hospital for a while, coping with some of the injured from WWI no doubt. In 1922 it was converted to housing, known as Rowton Villas. My grandparents were among the first tenants, living there with their young family, which then consisted of three sons. A fourth son, my father, was born while the family was still living there. Their sister was born a few years later, after they had moved to Swine. More recently the building has been used as council offices.

Part 2 will include stories of some of the individual pauper inmates, mostly from the earlier years of Skirlaugh workhouse, in the hope of understanding better the circumstances of those unfortunates.



The Grade II listed building, Rowton Villas, formerly Skirlaugh Union Workhouse as it is today, showing, hidden at the rear (fortunately), part of the attached modern office block (Photo: Andy Ferguson).



The Grade II listed building, Rowton Villas, formerly Skirlaugh Union Workhouse as it is today, showing, hidden at the rear (fortunately), part of the attached modern office block (Photo: Andy Ferguson).

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!

The May edition of The Banyan Tree included 2 articles that inspired some recollections from members of the society.

One article was written by Anthony Hardman entitled 'The Kitching Children' 1798 -1913 a curious story of rebaptisms.

Lisa Blotsfelds wrote the other piece about Nathaniel Constantine Strickland 1802 - 1886.

Valerie Reeves responded to Anthony Hardman's item about the Kitching Children,

Valerie said 'I was especially interested to see the story of the Kitching children and their double baptisms - as I am descended from one of them : Lucy Archer Kitching.

Lucy married George Francis Bristow in Hull in 1828. His father Charles Bristow had set up a grocery business in 1814. Previously Charles had been in partnership in a drapery business with premises in Fleet Street, London but branched out on his own and went bankrupt. However, the grocery shop seemed to flourish and George Francis Bristow took it over in 1835. It was still on the go in the 1930s.

Lucy's older brother Mordecai, who was a joiner, made a beautiful secretaire-bookcase as a wedding present for his sister. This found its way to an auction house in London and was bought by Hull City Museums in the 1990s as it was made by a Hull craftsman. I'm not sure whether it is on display (*and in any case, I doubt if any museum will be open at present due to the Covid-19 situation and the ongoing Lockdowns*). I've seen it and photographed it and it is a lovely piece of work with a brass plaque on the front showing the names of Lucy and her husband, also the date of their marriage in 1828 and by whom it was made.'

Valerie provided additional information relating to The Kitching Family and the Secretaire-Bookcase.

Further to Anthony Hardman's interesting article on the Kitching family in the *Banyan Tree* for May 2021, I would like to add a snippet about two of those Kitching children who were re-baptised at Holy Trinity Church in 1813.

An article in the *Hull Daily Mail* in November 1999 alerted me to a sale to be held at Christie's of London, where a secretaire-bookcase made by a Hull cabinet maker was up for auction in their "Important English Furniture" sale. It was reported in the newspaper that there was a plaque on the top drawer with the following inscription :

"This Secretaire was made by Mordecai

Kitching and presented to his much loved sister Lucy Archer Kitching on the occasion of her marriage to George Francis Bristow at the Holy Trinity Church Hull, July 24th 1828"

The couple were my 3 x great-grandparents.

I wrote to Christie's and they kindly sent me their sale catalogue with a photograph of the secretaire-bookcase which was expected to fetch a price between £15,000 - £28,000. It is described as a George IV mahogany and boxwood secretaire-bookcase.

"inlaid overall with a boxwood and ebonised beading, the pediment centred by an arch and with pendant brackets above a pair of geometrically glazed doors enclosing three removable shelves, above a secretaire drawer with a brass plaque to the front. The top drawer encloses a central door inlaid with a marquetry vase of flowers, flanked by pigeon holes and drawers above a green baize-lined writing surface with hinged well. Below are three graduated drawers."

I don't know how the secretaire found its way to Lymington where a depository label mentions the firm of Langham Browne, Ltd.

Lucy's father Thomas Kitching set up in business with a tailor/drapery shop in Queen Street, Hull. Not far away was the grocery shop owned by Charles Bristow. Charles was also from a long-established Lincolnshire family based at Barrow on Humber. He and his wife Martha (pet name Patty) had two surviving children, Martha Jnr. and George Francis. The latter had been born in London in 1799 at a time when his father was a partner in a drapery in Fleet Street. By 1814 Charles had come to Hull and set up in business as a grocer. Thomas Kitching died in 1835 and left Lucy £350 and Mordecai £600 plus other amounts and property in Hull and Lincolnshire so he must prospered in business. Mordecai was running an upholstery and cabinet making

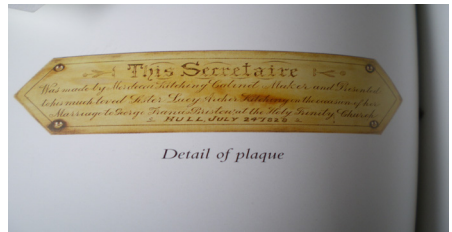
business at 13 Queen Street, although he died in 1839 aged 34, only two years after his marriage to Rebecca Foster at Holy Trinity Church, Hull.

It is likely that Lucy and George Francis Bristow knew each other as neighbours in Queen Street. Amongst their children was Robert, born 1837, who is my great-grandfather. My mother Elsie Read (nee Bristow) who died in 2003 aged 93 remembered Robert very well, thus establishing a link through the family of over 160 years.

The secretaire was bought by Hull City Council and placed in Wilberforce House but was then moved, I believe, to the Georgian Houses in High Street.

And I have always thought that the craftsmen were on the other side of my mother's family!

Valerie sent in 2 images of the Bookcase one was a Black and White photo and the other was the colour image that was used in the Christies catalogue - both are produced here.



Detail of plaque



The inscription on the plaque reads -
‘This Secretaire - Was made by Mordecai Kitching Cabinet Maker and Presented to his much loved Sister Lucy Archer Kitching on the occasion of her Marriage to George Francis Bristow at the Holy Trinity Church Hull, July 24th 1828’

John Elley (eyfhs Mem No 6636) also read the article by Antgony Hardman and sent in the following.

‘I wonder if your readers might find the following of some interest.

After reading the article by Anthony Hardman in the May 2021 issue of The Banyan Tree regarding the Kitching family, I have discovered that there is a very distant connection with my maternal side of the family, namely the Hursts.

Thomas George Kitching (father Thomas Kitching) married Elizabeth Smith in Dec 1830 and one of their children, Elizabeth Menell Kitching, married John Walker Happey in March 1885. One of their children, Alice Gertrude Happey, married Charles Alfred Hurst in 1893. Charles Alfred and his brother William Thomas were both taken into care of the Seamans Orphan Homes in 1874 (sadly William Thomas died in 1879 whilst in the home and is buried in the orphanage grave in the Western General Cemetery) Their father captain Thomas Hurst (a great uncle) was drowned when his ship The George Kendall was wrecked off the Norfolk coast in 1867. Thomas was washed ashore and is buried in the churchyard of St.Margarets in Lowestoft.

Christine Rossington (eyfhs Mem No 3536) found Lisa Blossfelds item about the Strickland family interesting.

Christine said, "I was very interested in the article by Lisa Blossfelds about Nathaniel Constantine Strickland and Reighton Vicarage in the May 2021 issue of the Banyan Tree, as my grandfather Walter Coates was a servant at the vicarage in 1891. According to the 1891 Census, William Rowley and his wife May (son-in-law and daughter of Nathaniel Strickland, as mentioned in the article) were living at the vicarage with their daughter Mabel aged 9, Walter Leadbetter a boarder aged 8, Elizabeth Cass aged 23, a cook, and my grandfather Walter Coates aged 16, a servant. Walter's mother Jane died in Thwing aged 32 when Walter was aged 7. I don't know what happened to Walter's step-father, a blacksmith from Wold Newton, but an aunt told me that Walter was brought up in a vicarage."

I passed this message onto Lisa for her records, the editor.

The next entry in this Forum Corner section comes via an email which I received from Alan Brigham.

Initially, Alan was contacted by Paul Parritt who lives in Australia and is seeking information about his family history.

Although this Forum Corner section is usually kept for eyfhs members to use, Alan suggested that an entry in 'The Banyan Tree' might be used to help Paul with his research project. So I am going to place both email messages here just in case anyone can provide a response to the enquiry.

"My name is Paul Parritt and I live in Canberra, Australia.

My family have lived in Hull for several generations and I lived in Hull before I left to live in Australia on 10 Dec 1970.

My sister Pauline is the only surviving member of my family living in Hull.

The reason I am contacting you is because I am researching my family history and it is believed that my ather, James Louis Parritt (born 4 Sep 1904 - died 20 Mar 1960) was an ambulance driver during the Hull Blitz.

So far I have been unable to obtain any information about my dad.

I even wrote to the Editor of the Hull Daily Mail but received no response.

If my dad did drive ambulances during the blitz can you, or anyone in Hull help me to find any records of his service."

Alan sent this reply,

"There are no obvious records as they were classified under several categories; especially the ladies who could be WVS, WAAC, etc. For men, they could be armed forces serving in the UK or not considered fit enough for overseas service; they could be members of the police, Civil Defence, Ambulance Service, volunteers, unfit fire crews, drivers with larger local companies ... and so on. I would start the search at The National Archive (TNG) and Hull History Centre; both of which are easily found on Google. I will check through our records (and contacts), but it will be unusual to be able to discover anything. That said, NEVER give up!

I have also copied this email to the editor of The Banyan Tree, the journal of <http://www.eyfh.org.uk/> The East Yorkshire Family History Society who may put out an appeal for information. The is usually a service restricted to members.

Is there anyone in the society who can help?

Skirlaugh Workhouse: a Brief History

Part 2. Some family stories

Geoff Bateman

Part 1 described in outline the origins of Skirlaugh Union workhouse and its demise, the people responsible for running it and, to some extent, the make-up of the community of inmates. In this part I hoped to discover, if possible, what led some of the individuals and families into their desperate situation, and what were the eventual consequences for them.

The shame of being admitted to the workhouse was not lessened when the old parish workhouses (poorhouses) were replaced by the Poor Law Union workhouses in the late 1830s. Nowadays we are distant enough not to judge the workhouse inmates. We can be more understanding and perhaps consider them, some of them anyway, as unfortunate victims of circumstances and not necessarily disgraced people who caused their own downfall. Of those that are traceable, the Union workhouse inmates make a much easier study than those in the earlier parish poorhouses (before the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834) because of the availability of national census records from 1841, which form the basis of this study. It was necessary to be very selective because, apart from the obvious unpracticality of tracking everyone, many individuals are untraceable outside the confines of the workhouse. The situation of some of the inmates is reasonably obvious: the unmarried former house servants

with children, the elderly former farm labourers and, of course, the poor “idiots” or “imbeciles”. There is space here for very few of their stories and I decided to concentrate most on children with one parent or with no parents, and on the early years of the workhouse.

The 1841 census included little detailed information and so is not very informative about the inmates of Skirlaugh workhouse. The 46 inmates in 1841 included 12 men, eight of them over 60 years old, and 21 women, only five of them elderly. The remaining 13 inmates were children or babies. On the basis of later censuses, we might assume that most of the men had been farm labourers who were too old, infirm, or incompetent to work, and that most of the women were widowed housewives, former house servants and/or mothers of illegitimate children. We can track some of them by looking at later censuses and records of births, marriages and deaths. Names that follow are spelled as they appear in the records, or as nearly as I can decipher them, and so there is some inconsistency – they are not typing errors.

The five children at the head of the 1841 census list all have the surname Embley. They are all girls and presumably sisters. They are Easter (10), Ann (8), Mary (7), Ezebella (4) and Ellen (2). The list of women inmates includes Elizabeth Hembley (30), perhaps their mother. That assumption seems to be correct, since I found baptism records for three of those girls, all daughters of Joseph and Elizabeth Embley. Sara Ann (I assume this is Ann from the workhouse) was baptised at Skirlaugh in 1833, Isabella at Skirlaugh in 1837, and Ellen at Hull (Holy Trinity) in 1839. My only candidate for their father, Joseph Embley, was baptised at Sproatley in 1810. The 1851 census records a Joseph Embley, aged 40, married and a general labourer, at a lodging house in Hull (where, perhaps significantly, the youngest daughter had been baptised). This may be

him, as may a Joseph Embley whose death was registered in Beverley in 1854. He seems to be absent from the 1841 census. He may have died before then but, if he lived beyond 1841, we must assume that he was unable or unwilling to support his family and abandoned them to the workhouse. Of all the daughters, the only one I have traced beyond 1841 is Sarah Ann. She had a long life. In 1911, aged about 75 and unmarried, she was employed as a nurse in the farmhouse of the well-off Richardsons at Thirtleby. Her death was registered in Skirlaugh in 1922. Apart from Sarah Ann, a disappointing lack of information on that family.

The Turner family is better recorded, some of their story coming from apparently well researched public family trees. The two Turner children on the list of inmates in 1841 are Rebecca (3) and James (1). There is also Mary Turner (30), perhaps their mother. The two children were baptised at Withernwick in May 1838 and September 1839, respectively, with their mother recorded as Mary Turner. The presence of only a mother at the baptisms suggests that they were illegitimate. The daughter's birth, however, was registered as Rebecca Wright Turner at Skirlaugh, and so the child's middle name is a clue to the father. There was a Wright family in Withernwick District. According to a public family tree, James's father was named as Samuel Wright, who did not marry Mary Turner. A Samuel Wright (b. abt 1804; I can find only this one), farm labourer from Aldbrough, married Rebecca Abbott (1809-39) at Swine in 1830. They had two sons. After Rebecca's death Samuel married Mary Wilkinson (1815-73) at Swine, in 1839. A public family tree tells me that at Beverley Quarter Sessions in October 1838 a Samuel Wright was ordered to pay 1s 6d per week for the child he had with Mary Turner (i.e. Rebecca) until the child was 7 years old, and to pay 6s accrued since the birth. Young Rebecca Turner reappears in 1851, as a 12-year-

old scholar living in Sutton with her uncle and aunt, Samuel Stark (59), a bricklayer's labourer from Paull, and Hannah Stark (56) from Garton. Hannah Stark was Mary Turner's sister. The parents of Mary and Hannah were William Turner (1783-1861) and Ann née Mortimer (1786-1849). Mary Ann Turner (1809-48; she died at Seaton of consumption), listed as plain Mary Turner in the workhouse census, had two other children, both also surnamed Turner and with no fathers identified at baptism: Lavinia (1833-60) and Hannah (1835-96). In a court order similar to that described above, John Gorbert was ordered in October 1835 to pay 1s 9d per week for the daughter he had with Mary Turner (possibly Lavinia) until she was 7, and £1 6s 3d accrued since the birth. All the children were baptised at Withernwick except for James, baptised at Atwick. In 1841, the two older girls were with their Turner grandparents in Sigglesthorne, and so Mary's children had not been completely ostracised by the older generation of her family. Young Rebecca went on to marry farm labourer Robert Simpson (1831-71); they lived in Brandesburton and had a daughter, also Rebecca, in 1861. James also became a farm labourer and married Ann Evans (1842-1907), with whom he had a lot of children.

The youngest of the workhouse children in 1841 was George Jackson, almost certainly born in the workhouse since he was only 5 days old at census time. I assume that Ann Jackson, 15, was his mother. This may have been one of the saddest cases, but their common names have made them impossible to trace.

Most of the other inmates of 1841 have inconclusive stories or are untraceable, and so I will now try to describe events in the lives of a few of the later intake of inmates.

First, the Dean family. Harriet Dean, 38, from Out Newton, is listed in 1851 as a

pauper and blacksmith's wife – not a widow, I notice. The five Dean children also in the workhouse are Ann (15, born Burton Pidsea), Mary (14, Lelley), Jane (10, Garton), George (8, Garton) and John (4, Hull). The only baptism records I found are for George, apparently born in 1839 but baptised on 31 May 1840 in Garton with Grimston, and John, baptised in Garton, not Hull, in 1844 (but possibly registered in Hull). John in the 1851 census may have been a second John born in Hull in 1846/7, in which case the John b.1844 would have died as a baby. In 1841 the family had been living at Grimston Lodge, Garton. Joseph Dean, blacksmith aged 30, was there with wife Harriet (25), and children Ann (6), Mary (4), Isaac (2), and George (1). Joseph's mother, aged 60, was also with them. She is listed in several records as Dina or Dinah, but in this census record she looks to me more like Desire or Denice. Note that Isaac was not at the workhouse in 1851; he may have died. Young John's birth suggests that the family moved to Hull at some stage during the 1840s. If so, a death record for Joseph Dean in Sculcoates in 1846 may be our Joseph, making Harriet a widow by 1851 after all. Why would she be in a workhouse otherwise, unless Joseph had abandoned her and the family, or had become ill or incapacitated? Young George is the only one of the children I have been able to follow into later life. He was a "farm servant" at Rimswell in 1861, and married Jane Nightingale of Hornsea in 1867. George remained a farm labourer and lived subsequently in Hornsea, where he and Jane produced at least six children.

William Haggerston (also spelled Haggerson, Haggerton, Haggerstone) was 6 in 1851. He was born in the workhouse in 1845, and baptised as William Thomas Haggerston on 24 February of that year. His mother Jane, 40 (b.1809), also an inmate and described as a former house servant, had also been an inmate in 1841. Perhaps she had a job for a

while, became pregnant and returned to the workhouse. Mary Haggerston, 35, was also in the workhouse in 1851, and also a former house servant. I assume they were sisters. Jane, and probably Mary (her birth seems to be unrecorded), was a daughter of farm worker William Haggerston and his wife Ann, who had a large family in Skirlaugh. Mary was still in the workhouse in 1871 and 1881, described successively as housemaid and former laundress. A laundress with initials M.H., listed in 1861, was also her, I suspect - not much of a life. I am not sure what happened to young William Haggerston, but I wonder if he was the boot and shoe maker listed in Hull censuses from 1871 as William Haggison or Huggison, who remained unmarried, and died in Hull in 1907.

Inmates were identified only by initials in 1861, and so they are not traceable. A story arising from the 1871 census concerns the family of John Hesk (b.1818, Aldbrough). His wife Harriet née Parker (then 51; 1819-94, b. Preston) and three of their children, Mary Ellen (10), Frances Harriet (8) and Sarah (4), all born in Stratford, East London, were in the workhouse. John is missing in 1871. He was a smith (1851) or labourer (1861) who, presumably for reasons of employment, dragged his family around the country. He and Harriet, married in Hull in 1842, had other children: Eliza (1843-1919, b. Humbleton), John (b.1845, Preston), William (b.1847, Birmingham), Robert Parker (1852-76, Pottersbury, Northants), Sarah Elizabeth (1854-66, Pottersbury), and Robinson (1856-1936, Stratford). According to a public family tree, John Hesk (or someone of his description) had emigrated and was in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1880, when he was listed in the Federal Census as a servant, aged 63, single, and from England. In 1881 Harriet Hesk (60) was living in Hull (Cooper's Place, Holderness Road) with her youngest daughter Sarah (14) and two

lodgers, both twine spinners (one Scottish, one Irish), who would have provided an income. In 1891 she was on her own at the same address, and died 3 years later. The 1871 workhouse census described Harriet as married (and a laundress), but she was listed as a widow in 1881 and 1891. If it was her husband in the USA, maybe she was aware of his movements. The children with her in the workhouse were to have mixed futures. Sarah (1867-1953) married Joseph Mooton (1861-1949), a brush maker, in 1887 in Hull, where they had a large family. Harriet (b.1863), presumably Frances Harriet, died in 1873, possibly in the workhouse. Mary Ellen (b.1860) was, in 1881, an unemployed domestic servant staying with her older brother Robinson, a clog maker, and his wife Annie and young family, in Sheffield. She married Arthur Martin (a "spring knife finisher") there in 1885; they had at least one son, George Herbert, in 1885. Limited evidence so far suggests that Mary Ellen became a housekeeper in 1901, after Arthur died in 1897, was a patient in the Jessop Hospital for Women in 1911, and died in 1924.

I will end with one more individual, in the workhouse in 1881, only because she belongs to one of my own ancestral families: the complicated Sissons family of Brandesburton. Sarah Sissons was 12 in 1881, and apparently in the workhouse with no other relations. How sad is that? In 1871 she had been at the home in Brandesburton of her grandfather, widowed farm worker John Sissons (60), her mother Hannah Sissons (28) and John William Sissons (2), who I think was Sarah's cousin and son of Hannah's sister Elizabeth. Both children were illegitimate. There were many Sissons children with the same names but recorded very patchily. I found no other definite records for Sarah.

These unfinished stories give just a

hint of the life and times of some of the impoverished and outcast members of mid-Holderness families in the middle of the 19th century. With nothing but the bare, impersonal records, we can only imagine the circumstances that led to their plight.

<p>Family History Federation News</p>

The Catholic Family History Society was planning to set up a database of Catholic Burials. This project has now been launched.

Catholic Burial Records Database

During the period of over 200 years from the middle of the sixteenth century until the late eighteenth century, when the practice of the Roman Catholic faith was illegal in what is now the United Kingdom, Catholics had no churches and no official burial grounds. Even well into the nineteenth century this was the case. Many Catholics were buried in the local Anglican churchyard as there was frequently nowhere else. This can make finding burials difficult for family historians looking for the graves of Catholics or even just a record of their deaths.

It was quite common for parish incumbents who were thorough in their work to indicate the religious affiliation of the deceased in their burial registers. The Catholic Family History Society (<https://catholicfhs.online/>) has now launched a database of such burials. This can be accessed from the website <https://catholicburials.weebly.com/>. It uses Google Sheets and so the data can be manipulated and searched or downloaded for that purpose.

The society hopes that family historians who notice Catholic, Papist or Recusant burials in the course of their research will be able to submit their findings in one of the several ways explained on the 'Contribute' tab on the website.

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

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

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

membsec@eyfhs.org.uk

Please make use of the many services the

Number	Name	Address
7178	Cliff Buckton	Uxbridge. Middlesex
7179	John Windas	Withernsea. East Yorkshire
7180	Adrian Finch	Cupar. Fife
7181	Dave White	Hull. East Yorkshire
7182	Cheryl Kaufman	Mckinney, Texas. USA
7183	Karen Appleby	Sutton. Coldfield
7184	Janet Bessey	Thornhill, Ontario. Canada
7185	Matthew Waudby	London. England
7186	Michele & Mike l'Anson	Thirsk. N Yorkshire
7187	Shirlee Cottam	Scunthorpe. North Lincolnshire
7188	Amy Fieldhouse	Portnewyn. Torfaen, Wales

Do you have any family history research projects which you are undertaking at the moment? If you find anything of interest would you be willing to share the details with the other eyfhs members. Please get in touch with The Banyan Tree.

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

N.B. We cannot photocopy the certificates, but we send a copy of the details

Surname	Forename	Age	Type	Date	Year	Registration District
Brown	Emily E	28	M	27 Apr	1910	Nafferton. ERY
Burden	Emily	18	M	08 May	1911	Ulceby. LIN
Burge	Kate	20	M	27 Aug	1940	Dunstan LIN
Dickinson	Alice May	18	M	06 Mar	1934	Sleaford LIN
Dickinson	Raymond	32	M	24 Mar	1951	Rauceby
Firth-Kettle	Edith H	46	M	24 Jul	1924	Spilsby LIN
Johnson	Walter	23	M	06 Mar	1934	Sleaford LIN
Laking	Herbert V	24	M	27 Aug	1940	Dunstan LIN
Parker	Richard J	37	M	24 Mar	1951	Hull ERY
Slater	Charles W	26	M	06 Jul	1946	Sleaford LIN
Trafford	George W	21	M	08 May	1911	Ulceby LIN
Wilson	Ernest	73	D	07 Feb	1957	Driffled ERY
Wilson	Esme		B	10 Apr	1919	Drifffield ERY
Wilson	Ernest		B	25 Nov	1883	Drifffield ERY
Wilson	Ernest	26	M	27 Apr	1910	Nafferton ERY
Wilson	Nora S	71	D	26 Mar	1983	Leeds WRY
Woodward	Horace H	21	M	24 Jul	1924	Slipsby LIN



Hessle Whiting Mill, she is dressed in Victorian Clothes and acting as a Steward. The Mill is next to the Humber Bridge. The photograph was taken on a breezy day. The Mill was renovated with Heritage Lottery Funding.

My Grandfather Part 1
Pete Lowden

I became a grandfather in August 2015. What joy my granddaughter gives me, and judging by the wriggly little legs and beaming smile from this little girl when she sees me, I guess the feeling is reciprocal. All of the above made me ponder about my own grandparents.

I never met any of my grandfathers but this article is about my paternal grandfather. Here's a picture of him. On the back it's dated April 1933 and this may well be the last photograph ever taken of him.

As a child it was the only photograph my section of the family had of him. As you can see he is dressed in a postman's uniform. Of course as a child I just saw the uniform and thought he was a soldier. He looked like someone from the American Civil War in his kepi and at that time I was devouring history like a locust. So I was a little disappointed that he was, and I hesitate to say it, just a postman.

My father never spoke about his father. I don't know why. Maybe I never asked the right questions. As such my knowledge about him came from my mother, who had to put up with my incessant questioning. She told me a few facts about him and they had to suffice until I was in my early 30's and began this long, never-ending, drawn out process of "finding out about my ancestors". In the intervening 30 years since that journey began I can now, perhaps, add more substance to my mother's "potted bio" of Thomas Mitchell Arthur Lowden.

My mother told me that he had been an intelligent chap and had been a telegraph messenger boy before the Great War, and that he had been in the Royal Navy during the Great War. When he left the navy he had become a postman and finally, and I can still feel the tingle of that ghoulish thrill and feel the goose bumps raising on my skin as she told my siblings and I the circumstances of his death on New Year's Eve, 1935. But let's start with his birth.

He was born on the 18th of September 1895 at 5, Vincent Place, Medley Street. This house was demolished around the turn of the 20th century for the construction of King Edward Street. A vague estimate of where the house actually stood would be approximately where the cash point of the Nat West branch on the corner of King Edward Street is today but it is extremely difficult to place the whereabouts of it exactly.

Thomas was the third of his parent's four children. His elder sister, Euphemia, born in 1891, had succumbed to bronchitis that, according to her death certificate; she had suffered from for 2 months. She was 13 months old at her death. His elder brother, David Adam, born in 1892 at the house in Medley Street, died of whooping cough convulsions some 5 days short of his 4th birthday.

His younger sister, Amy Jane, born at 38 Scott Street in the December of 1896 when Thomas was just 15 months old, was dead by July 1900 of bronchial pneumonia meningitis. Thomas would have been just a few months short of his 5th birthday when she died so he probably had some recollection of her in his later life and I am sure that he would have been told of his other sibling's short lives as he grew up. No one in my family

had heard of these poor unfortunates until I turned them up searching burial records in the Hull Crematorium Offices in 1984 way before Internet searches were an idea never mind a possibility.

My grandfather's name had a number of sources. The Arthur was derived from his mother's maiden name. The Mitchell part was derived from her mother's maiden name. The Thomas part was derived from his mother's only brother who survived infancy and he too died young. The notice below was published in June 1894 in the Hull Daily Mail.

The young man died of an aneurysm to the aortic region of the heart that obstructed the lungs working. This condition is extremely rare, and especially in one so young. The young man was obviously well thought of at work and he had been well placed in a vibrant and go-ahead industry of its time. At his funeral he joined his mother, Isabella, who had died some 3 years before him and sadly he also just preceded his father, Joseph, by a scant 3 months. Their headstone is in Western Cemetery on the East Side.

FUNERAL OF A POST OFFICE OFFICIAL

The interment of the late Thomas M Arthur Lowden, the only son of Mr Joseph Arthur Lowden, Governor of Hymers College, took place yesterday at the Western Cemetery, in the presence of a large gathering of the deceased colleagues in the Post Office. A contingent of postmen and telegraph messengers, under the charge of Sergeant Thomas, assistant inspector, followed the remains to their last resting place, and amongst those present were Mr B Thrall, chief clerk (representing the Postmaster), and Mr J B Power, superintendent of telegraphs. The deceased was only 27 years of age, and had been in the Telegraph branch of the Post Office over 13 years. Beautiful wreaths were placed on the grave from his fellow clerks, and also from the messenger staff, amongst whom he principally worked.



Thomas's parents were David and Amy. Amy was a Hull girl whilst David had come down from Dundee around 1890. Just before the turn of the 20th century this couple moved into Clifton Terrace and stayed there the rest of their lives. Clifton Terrace has long gone, demolished after the Second World War and the site is now under the flats on Anlaby Road about opposite Fountain Street. Thomas went to the Day Street School from this house and managed to get himself into the local newspaper in 1907 but for all the right reasons.

HULL BOY'S RECORD ATTENDANCE

A boy named Thomas Lowden (13), the son of a seaman, of Clifton-terrace, Day-street, received at the Day-street School, this morning the reward of an extremely creditable school attendance record. He has attended the school since he was five years of age, and from 1903 to 1907 he has not been absent or late once. The headmaster, Mr Spafford, presented him with the words "Awarded to Thomas Lowden for perfect attendance 1903-1907" engraved on it.

Alas the medal has never surfaced in the family to my knowledge. The second "alas" that I'm prompted to make is that the very next day the same newspaper printed this article.

With reference to the attendance of Thomas Lowden (13) at the Day-street school, where he had not been absent or late once between the years 1903 and 1907, attention has been brought to the attendance at the Wheeler-street school of Arthur Edward Pattison, who for five years and four months has never been absent or late.

Which perhaps shows graphically how fleeting fame can be. I'm sure his parents only kept the first article.

Not that it would have bothered Thomas who was by the next year, at the heady age of 14, employed, perhaps with the unseen assistance from his dead uncle, as a telegraph messenger.

If one is under 40 one can't quite grasp the importance of telegrams to us members of the older generation. They were **Important**. No two ways about it.

If you received one then it harbingered news that would affect your life in some way be it good or bad. Telephone or trunk calls were also important, especially when you had to be at a certain phone box at the right time to receive them. Letters were more important than postcards and so on but nothing created a greater frisson of tension than the arrival of a telegram. And to facilitate this mode of communication a young workforce had to be employed. My grandfather was one of those fleet footed messengers.

My grandfather is the fourth from the left in the photograph below. I imagine he, and his friends, are standing outside the telephone exchange in Trippett Street. The photo below shows him as the young man sat on the right of the front row.





This third photograph is one my wife found on the website Hull: The Good Old Days and my grandfather is second from the left on the back row of the messengers drilling. Do postmen still drill with rifles? Of course within a few short years many of these young faces would be looking over rifle sights for real in the mud of France.

In 1909 the new Head Post Office building in Lowgate was opened. I believe my grandfather may have been working for the Post Office at that time. If he was he may well have seen the disturbance that accompanied this new headquarters being opened.

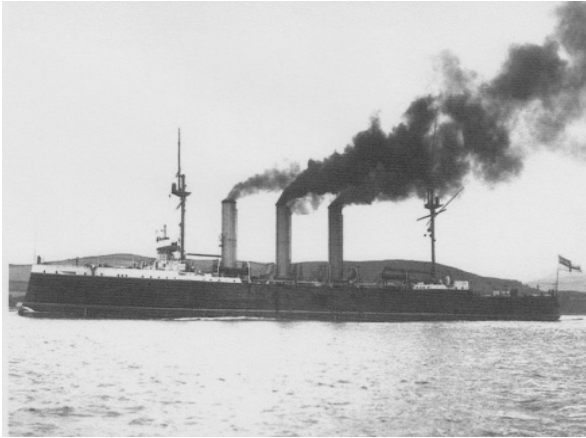
At the opening of this fine building by the Postmaster General, Mr Buxton, in July 1909, there was a demonstration by suffragettes. The demonstration was not particularly aimed at this gentleman; more that he represented the government and the demonstrators used any such event to highlight their cause.

One of the leaders of the movement on the national level was a lady called Miss Charlotte Marsh and it was she who attempted to disrupt the visit. However she was, by dint of her previous activities, widely known and her face was in the public's eye. Unluckily for her, she was spotted by an alert Superintendent of Police who disrupted her "evil" plans by simply taking her into custody and then letting her go later on. Totally illegally of course but she was "only a woman."

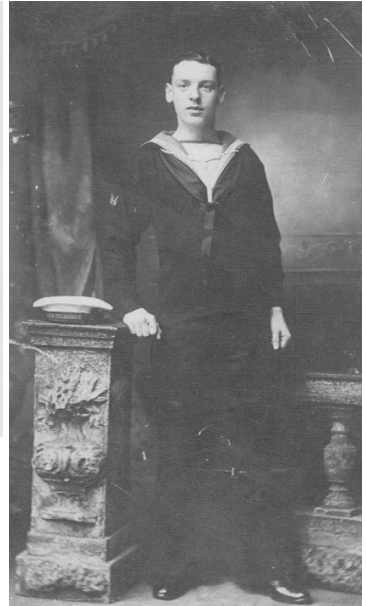
Shortly after the photographs of him as a messenger were taken my grandfather had enrolled in the Royal Navy. He did this in July 1910 at the age of 15 for 12 years. He was classed as a boy at first and then a boy telegraphist and was trained at Devonport. Finally, upon reaching his 18th birthday, he was classed as an Ordinary Telegraphist and was stationed on the HMS Colossus. He must have been very proud as shown in the photograph below he sent home to his family. The full-length photograph of him below is dated on the back “18th birthday”.

He remained on the HMS Colossus until the December of that year and then transferred to HMS Vivid I. I am reliably informed that if a ship has a roman numeral after its name then it is usually a shore-based unit, principally for training and administrative purposes. This posting was for about a month and then he was posted for a further 6 months to HMS Defiance, which was the torpedo and mining school ship for the Royal Navy.

By this time it was June 1913 and the world was looking a bit more troublesome that when he had joined the Royal Navy in 1910. From June to the August he was posted to HMS Skirmisher, then briefly posted to HMS Talbot for a further 2 months until he rejoined the crew of HMS Skirmisher in October 1913. He remained with this vessel until February 1916. He served firstly in the Humber Flotilla. It was this unit that pursued the German ships that bombarded Scarborough and Hartlepool in 1914 without catching them unfortunately. He remained with the ship when it was transferred to the Mediterranean theatre to help with the Gallipoli campaign. During this period he was promoted to Leading Telegraphist. A photograph of HMS Skirmisher off Lemnos is shown below.



The Photograph next to the ship HMS Skirmisher (above) shows the young proud 18 year old Royal Navy seaman in the uniform of a Naval Telegraphist.



The next part of the story about Pete Lowden's grandfather will be in The Banyan Tree shortly.

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.

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

2021

- 7th Sep - Ghosts of Beverley
Mike Covell
- 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
-

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.

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.

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.

2021

- 14th September - Animal Roles in War -
Marina Hartley
- 19th October - The Hull Lady part 2 -
Michele Beadle
- 16th November - Pete Lowden & Bill
Longbone - The War Dead of Hull
General Cemetery.
-

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 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