

The Banyan Tree

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The Journal of the East Yorkshire Family History Society



Dorothy Richardson on Rocket

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No meetings until the restrictions are eased - due back soon!.

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From the editor

We start this edition of the Banyan Tree with a special message from our eyfhs Chairman Pete Lowden his thoughts are on page 5. Please take the time to reflect upon what we have all seen recently in the news.

Our Banyan Tree contributors have been really busy over the past few months, writing articles and seeking out information that they are willing to share with the eyfhs members. So I would like to thank them all and offer a brief description of their items in the next few paragraphs.

Colin Cleavin delves back to the 17th century to tell us about the problems facing an East Yorkshire Family.

Paul Mellor tells us about Freeman Dawson D'Ossone when he researched some of his family links to Hull.

Geoff Bateman has been undertaking research about Harold Morris of Ellerby (and USA), the research came about after taking possession of an heirloom. Later there is an item about a Cup Tie Mystery.

Valerie Reeves looks back to the 1940s, especially during the busy Christmas festive season.

Geoff Giles reminds us about the Scarborough Bombing in the 1st World War. Brenda Marshall lets us look at photographs from the past.

Else Churchill provides information relating to The Old Poor Law.

Keith Leonard delves into his family history and provides some images to look at as well. Pete Lowden submitted an article about the Stone masons of the Cemetery. Part 1. (Due to space availability the images that went with the piece have been omitted)

Sally George has provided a snippet for us to ponder upon, later on Sally has provided

another item for us to read.

My thanks as usual also goes to the members who provide information and details which appear on the pages of the Banyan Tree.

Tom and Judi Bangs; Janet Shaw; Janet Bielby; Margaret Oliver; Peter Glover; Alan and Chris Brigham; Barbara Watkinson; Hannah Stamp; etc.

The Family History Federation

The Family History Federation Really Useful Bulletin News sheets regularly pass on information which can be seen at their web site

www.familyhistoryfederation.com

The postal address is shown below.

Family History Federation

P O Box 62

Sheringham

Norfolk

NR26 9AR

The Findmypast web site has a lot of information which can be useful to researchers.

Take the time to track down the details held on their web site.



Edwina Bentley
editor@eyfhs.org.uk

**The Chairman's Remarks
Pete Lowden**

I'm writing this in early March and you'll probably be reading it in May so a lot may have changed within that period of time. However, I don't feel I can avoid touching on this subject as it is so reminiscent of all of our recent ancestor's shared past history.

I'm watching, nightly, the invasion of a sovereign, neutral country by its vastly stronger neighbour with whom it has signed numerous treaties. That this is happening is terrible as well as unthinkable in this day and age. What it also does is bring home to us that we must view history as a process.

History is not something that is done and dusted. There is no end date to history. When I was at school, we were taught history in blocks. I'm sure you're familiar with this format. 'Right, today we're going to learn about the Tudors' and we'd open the books to the Battle of Bosworth Field and away we'd go. It's convenient to study the subject like this but history in reality is not so easily sub-divided. History is a continuum; a process that humanity is engaging in and is non-stop.

The war in the Ukraine is not simply about Putin's desire to re-invent the USSR. Nor is it a residual part of the Cold War. It goes far deeper. Back to Stalin's destruction of the Ukrainian peasantry in the first 5-year plan. Back to the White Russians holding the Ukraine against the Bolsheviks in the Civil War of 1918-20. Back to the subjugation of the Ukraine in the 18th Century by Catherine the Great, when it was part of a Lithuanian / Polish confederacy. Back to the formation of Kievan Rus in the 9th century by Scandinavian traders on the back of their links with the Byzantine Empire.

Well, I defy any teacher to try to teach that section of history in traditional blocks!

Speaking as I am to fellow historians, I

know you will understand the above. For when we trace our family trees, we encounter ancestors who lived through similar troubling times. For example, my grandfather was born in 1894. He fought in the Great War in the Royal Navy. These days, from my reading of history, I can cite many indicators that a great European war was brewing many years before it broke out. The Agadir crisis, the Kaiser in Morocco, Austro-Hungary's annexation of Bosnia, the wooing of the Turkish Empire by Germany, the wooing of the French by Edward VII.

None of these factors were directly involved with Princip shooting Archduke Ferdinand that sunny day in June 1914 but looking on it with an historian's eye one can trace the path that led to the shot being fired. My grandfather may have noticed some of these issues but he would not have been able to join the dots so to speak. For that one needs hindsight and he didn't have that for he was living through it.

The people in the Ukraine, and in Russia too, may not be able to join the dots either and wonder what they did to deserve living through this. The answer is that they are victims of a process where ancient injuries become more important than present day agreements. History never stops. It just gets messier.

**A GLIMMER OF THE TRIALS
& TRIBULATIONS OF AN
ORDINARY 17 C. EAST
YORKSHIRE FAMILY**

Colin Cleavin

We are constantly made aware from history books of the strife and chaos of the royal and aristocratic families during different monarchies. There is little insight to ordinary families. Sometimes small stories such as the one below shed light on concerns of

ordinary people.

During a court case in 1432, Margaret Dalton the sister of Sir John Dalton, Chaplain of York (He died in 1458) was described by all the witnesses as Virgo Juvenis, Pulcra et Formosa. (Meaning beautifully formed young maiden and possibly no deficiency towards being married).

She was the ward of Robert Cleaving of Burnby and his wife Margaret who also was her Godmother.

Margaret Dalton had been contracted to marry John Warde of Burnby but he had deserted her for Alice Skelton thus being brought before the court for Breach of Promise. The witnesses were her brothers Richard Dalton, age 30, and Robert Dalton, age 28. The brothers came from Burnby and her sister Ibbota was wife of Robert Piries of Hayton.

That story helps to destroy the folly that the only thing rural east Yorkshire families had to worry about was if they had dug up their vegetables or sheared their sheep at the right time. It led me to look closer at some items discovered during investigations into my family in the 17th Century.

Through tumultuous days of Henry VIII, Elizabeth I, Jacobean and House of Stuart eras, ordinary families had to know how to avoid being burnt as Witches or Heretics and when to be Catholic, Protestant or non reformers. As well as coping with that, ordinary people had their own trials and tribulations to deal with over and above dodging fines as a result of infringing Manor Court by-laws, commonly called 'Pains'.

In 1590 as such Christopher Cleaving was fined in South Cave for not repairing a fence he had knocked down.

In 1601 Henry Cleaving was fined at South Cave for not ploughing and planting beans.

In 1647, 3s 6d had to be paid by Henry Cleaving and John Moulder for neglect of their office as Overseers of the Highway.

Historical records and Wills tie together family members and connections to other

families highlighting how they intermarry, share resources and develop their community spirit.

In the year 1610 there is a good example of how a community came together to right the injustice placed upon one of its members.

Like society today, not everything was conducted fairly, especially when the perpetrator of the injustice was extremely wealthy.

South Cave, West Hall. The Girlington family bought the Manor of West Hall in 1589. Nicholas Girlington enforced loans on the inhabitants of his manor thus forcing many into a debt. In the December of 1610, in the 7th reign of James I, he confiscated all the cattle and geese of Nicolas Johnson and evicted him from his house and land so that he had nowhere to live and no means of supporting his family. As a result, in January of the following year a number of villagers turned up at Nicolas Girlington's house to reason with him that the taking away all the cattle and geese was more than the debt required. Richard Girlington called on his friend Richard Staverly, the deputy sheriff. With the help of bribed witnesses like William Clarke, Stephen Todd and Girlington's own servants, they claimed the villagers had turned up in rebellion with battle-dress consisting of steel helmets, chain mail, pikes, and swords with the intention of murder. They claimed the 'mob' had broken down his fences and driven away his cattle and oxen and had entered the house to steal. In other words they had caused riot.

Some how the Sheriff of Durham became involved, may be through connection with the Ellerker family's, and the case was passed to the Royal Commissioners to go before the Court of the Star Chamber at the Kings Court at Westminster, London. The defence was led by John Ellerker and Alongside their own internal difficulties families had to deal with the onset of the

Civil War (1642 to 1652) when nearly a third of all adult males in England were killed.

Among the people from this period I would really like to speak with would be Frances Cleaving the wife of John Cleaving who demonstrated her own individual strength of character in a period when it was not easy for women to take charge. To know her maiden name could have helped to understand where her strength came from.

On 24th October 1640, Anthony Cleaving of Saltmarshe (recorded in the Saltmarshe Muster Roll of 1636) died. The tuition of John, William, Mary and Anthony, children of the deceased, was granted to Anne Cleaving, widow, relict of the said deceased, and executrix in the Will. An inventory of £40 and a bond entered. Unfortunately Ann then also dies. There is no information on the cause of death. As a result John Cleaving and his wife Frances agree to take care of Anthony's children. At this stage John and Frances have possibly 4+ children of their own. However, in 1645/6 John dies leaving Frances to take care of this now enlarged family. John Cleaving is recorded at Saltmarshe but has land assets elsewhere in east Yorkshire. Although it is not until 1655 that the Commonwealth's Administration in Canterbury gives permission for Frances to inherit her husbands goods and chattels, Frances disposes of some land in 1647, eight years earlier, so she can look after the family. Is this because it is her widows entitlement of 1/3 portion or maybe it was her dowry? The item below show the sales transaction.

In September 1611 the situation was resolved. The witnesses for Nicolas Girlington had admitted to the commissioners that they had been bribed and made false statements against the villagers. Nicholas Girlington was fined 100 marks and bound over to keep the peace. The Court ruled that the villagers had not turned up in a riotous manner. Nicholas Johnson got his home back and

it was exposed that Nicolas Girlington had been collecting money under the false guise of collecting it for the Royal Exchequer. Among the names of the 'mob' that were supposed to have turn up armed was Christopher Cleaving. The other names mentioned are, Ann Ellerker, John Ellerker, Henry Southeren, Thomas Todd, Stephen Todd, Henry Tindall, Peter Hall, Samuel Robinson, Matthew Arncottes, Christopher Southerly, William Benson, Marmaduke Blackburn, Richard Stavely and William Clerk.

Witnesses were Gi. Tomlin, Tho. Thorpe, Tho. Sisson, Robert Thorpe. Endorsement of livery of seisin by Thomas Sisson and William Idle. Witnessed William Stevenson, Tho. Guy, John Hooker, Christopher Keld, Tho. Cleaving, John Barrell, John Clarke, Thomas Turner, William Browne, Tho. Wardill. 21 March 1647

Eventually Frances remarries. Frances Cleaving married John Jackson on 5th March 1655. The records state, 'John Jackson of Kiplin, Yeoman, and Frances Cleaving of Saltmarshe married at Saltmarshe by Philip Saltmarshe. Witnessed by John Estoby and Martin Stamper.'

There was a second administration in 1657 granting of tuition of Anthony Cleaving, John Cleaving's son to John Jackson.

France seems to have made such an impact on the family that children and grandchildren were still being called Frances(is) in the middle of the 1700's.

Frances Jackson was buried on the 19th Dec. 1679. John Jackson died 25th Jan. 1779/80. Anthony Cleavin was a witness to John Jackson's Will.

Living through the Civil war with all its senseless atrocities must have had an impact on Frances. She knew the strongly Puritan John Saltmarshe family well which may have resulted in her influencing her daughters (Ann and Frances Cleaving) into to becoming non-conformists and members of the Society of Friend. Rejecting the

formal church services and instead attending the Society's meetings around Hull and East Yorkshire contributed to the trials and tribulations of the family.

Although I might feel intimidated in his presence I think Frances's son Thomas Cleaving would be an interesting person to speak with about his thoughts on his 17th Century.

Thomas Cleaving lived at Ellerker and he is recorded as the keeper of the Brantingham Parish register of 1653. On the back cover of the register held at Beverly Archives it states 'Thomas Cleaving was the keeper of the Church register.' I am a little haunted by the fact that the following P.R. went missing. He married Maria Roward of Thearne on the 1st July 1661. She was born 12th December 1641 and her father was called Marmaduke. The parish register states Thomas Cleaving of Ellerker. He eventually held land in Firth Close at Woodmansey/Thearne.

The 1667 records of Beverley Minister show that Thomas and his wife Maria were excommunicated by the Pope on the 23rd October 1667! In the past Thomas seemed a good servant of the Church. There is no reasons given. It is most likely that he was protesting strongly against the maltreatment of his sister Ann's husband, William Stathers refusing to attend Church on a regular basis. At that time the Law demanded regular attendance. At the same time there were many others excommunicated to which some are given reasons but maybe some were in support of Thomas Cleaving.

Thomas's sister Ann Cleaving of Ellerker more than likely being influenced by her mother became a member of the non-conformist Society of Friend attending the Society's meetings around Hull and East Yorkshire. The Society met at Beverly, Elloughton, Howden, Market Weighton, Pocklington and Oustwich. Ann married

William Stathers, of North Cave, at a meeting house at Oustwich on the 1st March 1664. They had a son, born 24th March 1666, called William who was born at Elloughton. His birth was also recorded at Ellerker and Hull as non-conformist. They also had a daughter called Ann. Her sister Frances similarly married Thomas Johnson at the Society of Friends at Burdsea in 1668. Ann's husband William was one of those imprisoned for not attending the Anglican Church. He died in 1694 and was buried in the Society of Friends Cemetery, Elloughton. No doubt Thomas will have had to support Ann and her two children whilst William was imprisoned.

An explanation note from the BIHR at York suggests that the crimes committed by the people from Beverly were for not receiving communion, Other crimes in the list included incest (with his late wife's daughter), papism and recusancy (meaning they continued to practice other faiths instead of the Anglican faith of the Church of England), teaching scholars without a licence, playing Nine Pins and Shovel Board instead of attending Church. Excommunications were a common form of punishment handed out at the Courts of Visitation and were rarely permanent. Once penance had been made, absolution could be granted and the wrongdoer readmitted to the Church. 'Eius ux' is a Latin abbreviation meaning wife

The year 1662 contributed more trials. It was never plain sailing owning land, especially, if part of it was rented out.

Thomas Cleaving of Ellerker certainly had a life with complications. In 1662 he allowed Maria's mother with her new husband Richard Hodgson to live under a purchase agreement in one of Thomas's cottages at Firth Close.

The agreement meant that Richard Hodgson owed Thomas Cleaving £60. Richard

Hodgson gave Thomas 2 oxen worth in total £34 and therefore still owed £26. In 1663 Richard Hodgson then agreed to pay a further £16 if Maria Cleaving could prove that this portion of money was her 'wife's portion'.

Maria agreed to go to a County Steward's tribunal in Beverly if Richard Hodgson turns up with the £16. Maria Cleaving turned up but Richard Hodgson did not appear. Following this Richard Hodgson disappeared along with all Maria's mother's money. From then on Thomas had to support Maria's mother and pay rents and tithes for the cottage. At one time the cottage burnt down and Thomas had to pay for its rebuilding.

On the 11th November 1691 Thomas's wife Maria had died and was buried at Ellerker,

In 1692 Richard Hodgson suddenly turned up again obviously thinking that with Maria dying he was in the clear. Thomas began to pursue him for the debt. As a consequence Richard Hodgson made a complaint through the Court against Thomas Cleaving for harassment in 1693. Below is the details of a claim submitted as a defence by Thomas Cleaving, providing a very strong case.

He showed that after Maria's mother died in 1679 he had rented the cottage for 15s per year, the close of land at 20s per year and two gates of land at 4 shillings each, all equivalent to 45 shillings per year. He had not received any rent for 17 years.

He claimed that with £27 invested he would have earned 45 shillings per year for 11 years.

Richard Hodgson owed £34 + £57 interest up to the present day of 1693. Thus he owed £91 + another £10 for rebuilding the cottage.

He also gave Richard Hodgson's wife (Maria's mother) 1 shilling and 8d yearly for 17 years because of her poor situation, equalling 28 shillings.

Thomas Cleaving stated that without his

support the burden of Richard Hodgson's wife would have fallen on the poor rate causing raise in contributions from the families of Ellerker.

Thomas seems to have acquired his mothers tenacity!

In 1695, two years later another problem came along.

Over the years the course of river Humber had changed freeing up areas along its banks which could be cultivated.

In 1695 there was an inquisition or Interrogatory into several portions of land or grooves running along the bank of the river Humber. These lands were called South Cave Sands, Ellerker Sands and Broomfleet Grooves. The interrogation was held at the house of John Cawood, Inn holder at Market Weighton, involving some 20 people whom had use or were owners of the land. This interrogation was concerned with how much land had previously been flooded by the River Humber and then had been reclaimed for personal use but was effectively common land. The Lordship of South cave was claiming it was his land. The landholders were claiming that he never owned it and it had been claimed independently as the river had changed its course and receded. This process was more than likely a prerequisite to implementing the enclosure act.

As part of the interrogation, evidence was given by a number of witnesses and in particular John Dunne of Howden, woollen draper, aged, according to his defence, twenty-seven.

He said that he knew of the lands in Ellerker, mentioned in the Interrogatory, part of the Manor of Howden and lands belonging to the Bishop of Durham for 10 years.

For 10 years he was employed as the receiver of the Bishop of Durham rents in Howden and Howdenshire. His father was similarly employed for 30 years before, and his father before that and had a several ancient books and rentals showing yearly demands paid

by the inhabitants of Ellerker to the Bishop of Durham. Yearly, 13 Shillings and 4pence were paid called 'Sands Rent' or 'Sands Silver'.

Rents were collected quarterly by copyholders for the use of the land and by owner- occupiers in particular Thomas Cleaving, Thomas Brocklebank, Richard Galland, Richard King, Richard Ayre, Richard King and Richard Thorpe.

This confirmed that the Cleaving family had been established at Silver Sands, Ellerker belonging to the Bishop of Durham, for many decades.

Other defendants named were, Walter Laycock, Robert Appleton, John Flint, William Cooper, John Robinson, William Idell, James Bayork, Robert Markham, John Freeman, Richard Gallon, Richard King, William Ayres, Charles Hedon and Mary his wife, Richard Lloyd, Henry Fairfax and Ann his wife, Henry Washington and Elanor his wife, James Moorhouse, Jeremiah Kirkhouse and son Jeremiah junior, William Marshall, Thomas Bottlebank, Richard Gallans and Francis Taylor.

The general opinion of the witness was that no one had gained significant land and part of the misconception was due to high spring tides which often caused the Humber to overflow its banks. Thus the claims of the Lordship of South Cave could not be substantiated.

The Inquisition interviewed more than 25 people about their knowledge of the course of the Humber over time. Many of them over the age of 50 years. The names of some of those people are as follows:-

Robert Woodmansey of Anlaby, Yeoman aged 60 years, Thomas Best of Green Work, Grassman of 52 yeas, Robert Burley of Sainton, Grassman of 58 years, William Kirkington of Broomfleet, Grassman of 49 years, John Crosby of North Cave, Labourer of 44 years, Edward Dudding of 5 Shipton, Carpenter aged 68 years, Robert Richardson of Bishop Burton, Yeoman aged 60 years,

John Dunne of Howden, Woollen Draper aged 27 years, Thomas Penrose of Hessele, Yeoman aged 53 years but 29 years previous was servant to Mr Longthorne of South Cave, Christopher Wadman of Brantingham, Yeoman aged 56 years, Stephen Banks of East Fields lands at Broomfleet, Christopher Swarforth of Broomfleet, Yeoman aged 66 years, William Jefferson of Ferriby, Yeoman aged 55 years, George Binningham of Beverly, Yeoman aged 65years, Thomas Dewell of Sainton, Yeoman aged 56 years, Thomas Coulson of Brough, Boatman aged 48 years, John Atkinson of Newbold, Yeoman aged 64 years, John Johnson of North Newbold, Grassman aged 20 years, Thomas Gill of Newbold, Gent aged 29 years and Jacob Cookeley of Marshlands, Carpenter aged 59 years.

In 1692 we see again Widowers and Widows come together quickly. After Maria had died Thomas Cleaving married Elizabeth Rowley at Kirk Ella on 23rd March 1692. At one time she was Elizabeth Hewland and had married James Rowley on 26th March 1662. It was nether-the-less a good decision because a Marriage Act was passed in 1695. Bachelors aged over 25 and childless Widowers had to pay an annual Tax.

Thomas Cleaving died and was also buried at Ellerker on 7th November 1711. His Will, made in 1704, refers to him as Thomas Cleaving of Ellerker and he wished to be buried at Brantingham Churchyard in the grave of his first wife. He refers to the great number of years he has attained to. He must have been around 75 years of age. He gives his wife Elizabeth 40s in full of her claim on his estate and £3 yearly for life and if she is not happy with that she can have in total her claim immediately on his death. He gives the rest of his estate to his daughter Frances, wife of Christopher Leake of Kerkella (According to the Hull Bench Books, Christopher Leake, of Kirk Ella was surveyor of highways in 1701). In 1709 Thomas modified his will to include his niece Ann Stathers (daughter

of Ann Cleaving and William Stathers) as joint executor but she declines possibly because she appreciates the help Thomas had given in the past. Christopher Leake and a Matthew Langrick, yeoman, act as executors to Thomas's Will. From the inventory it can be seen that Thomas has a house with upper and lower chambers, milk-house, storehouse, hay-house and a barn. He also has a Robert Mawer who pays him rent.

What if we could discuss and compare with Frances and Thomas their perception of their Century and our present circumstances, excluding advances in technology. Which society would be seen as more ethical? Would they say the same as I have heard from some people even after experiencing two world wars. "I am glad I've had my time over. I would not have wanted to start again. Things seems to always get worse."

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

The 45th Annual General Meeting of the East Yorkshire Family History Society will be held at the Carnegie Heritage Centre, 342 Anlaby Road, Hull on the 11th June 2022, commencing at 2pm.

AGENDA

1. **President's opening remarks**
2. **Apologise for absence**
3. **Minutes of the 44th Annual General Meeting held on 25th September 2021**
4. **Matters arising from these minutes**
5. **Chairman's report**
6. **Secretary's report**
7. **Treasurer's report**
8. **Other reports**
9. **Election of officers – chairman, secretary and treasurer**
10. **Election of committee**
11. **Election/appointment of Examiner of accounts**
12. **Membership options – print or digital**

copy of Banyan Tree

13. To amend/remove point 6 of the Constitution with regard to the AGM being held in March

14. Previously notified business (items should be given in writing to the secretary not less than 21 days before the date of the meeting

15. 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.

FREEMAN DAWSON D'OSSONE
Paul Mellor

Starting about 20 years ago with the debut of GenesReunited I quickly explored my two family links to Hull and its surrounding areas. My 20th century family were based in Nottingham and Shropshire, but I have a direct paternal link to Hull and the FURLEY shipping company with offices on the Hull waterfront and up the Trent in Gainsborough, and a direct maternal link to HEBBLEWHITE cloth merchants of Hull and Cottingham.

My research sharpened up considerably with the use of Ancestry and the Family Search Mormon site, and much more detail ensued. For instance, I learned that John HEBBLEWHITE 1769-1832 married

Frances DAWSON 1776-1852 in the delightful church at Tickhill on 22 October 1799. I have an old work colleague who lives in Tickhill, and when I visited him a few years ago I enjoyed walking down the same main aisle of the beautiful parish church over 200 years later.

I know too that John Hebblewhite was responsible for the building of the lovely Elm Tree House in Cottingham, now the Cottingham Memorial Club. Elm Tree House was the Hebblewhite home for over 50 years.

The next major step was sending off my DNA sample to Ancestry, and then being astounded with the detail of 400 4th cousins or closer around the world who shared my DNA. I now correspond with new distant cousins in Australia, the USA, and of course in England.

New Dawson cousins arrived via links to my Frances Dawson above. She had had a younger brother Freeman Dawson, and via an as yet unidentified mother he too had had a son Freeman John Dawson born 1811 in Hull. This much we have conjectured using our DNA links.

The younger Freeman, now with a new intriguing surname of D'OSSONE arrived in the USA and was naturalized in Philadelphia in 1854 having been in the USA already for at least 5 years.

The first name of Freeman is not replicated in any other members of my fairly large family tree, and of course the surname of D'OSSONE is unique. It would seem that the name originated in England with the arrival of the Normans in 1066.

Sir Marmaduke D'Ossone was one of the Norman noblemen who accompanied William the Conqueror. Subsequent

descendants anglicised the surname to Dawson, and we must presume that nearly 800 years later Freeman decided to re-use it as part of his new life in the USA.

Do any readers have any clues for me? Perhaps your DAWSON members can help!

Morris of Ellerby (and USA)
Geoff Bateman

I own one heirloom. It is a gold pocket watch that belonged to my father, and before that to his uncle by marriage, Harold Morris. It was bought for Harold by his wife, formerly Mary Lee, who was always known as Pop. It seems to me that such good but ordinary people, who left little trace, deserve at least a short memorial write-up. Perhaps readers will recognise some of the Morris's ancestral family names in their own family trees.

My father, brought up in Swine, spent many, if not most, of his childhood weekends, in the 1930s, at the Morris's home in New Ellerby, in Granville Terrace, which is one of the first groups of buildings on the left as you approach the village from the south (from Old Ellerby). Harold and Pop had no children of their own, while my grandparents had plenty to spare, and so my father was sent, willingly, to Ellerby.

My father once wrote: "A huge influence on my life was Auntie Pop (Mary), sister of my mother, and her husband Uncle Harold Morris, who was a teacher at Courtney Street School, Hull. Auntie Pop was the village 'agony aunt' in Ellerby, to whom everybody in trouble or distress turned." In another of his stories, a lady newcomer to the village complained to Harold that the village was dead. He asked her a series

of questions: did she belong to this, that or other group, or participate in one of the many and various village activities? “No” she replied to each question. “Madam, it is you who is dead, not the village”. Harold would walk his dog down the lane towards Burton Constable after returning from work (probably by train; a bus journey would have meant a shorter walk at each end, but I don’t know when that became a practicable option).

It seems that I owe my presence here to Auntie Pop. She was visiting us in Coniston when I was a baby. I came down with pneumonia and complications. I was burning up, but she had the knowledge and presence of mind to place me in a cold bath, to await the ambulance to take me to hospital (I assume). So the story goes, anyway. I remember visiting them in their house, and having tea in front of a large rear window. They were the first of our relations to have television, a small Bush in Bakelite with a 9-inch screen; we had the same model eventually. My memory of Harold is only vague, since he died when I was very young. Pop lived a little longer. Despite her reputation for patience and kindness, I thought of her as somewhat impatient and cranky. My father told me this was because she was already ill.

Mary (Pop) Lee (1883-1954) was the elder daughter of William and Margaret (née Westoby) Lee of Routh, where they ran the Nag’s Head pub and a butcher’s business. She married Harold Morris in 1910 in Beverley. The couple first lived in Hull (1911), but spent most of their married life in Ellerby. A break occurred when Harold served in the Royal Garrison Artillery during World War I.

Harold Morris (1881-1953) was born in Hoboken, New Jersey, USA, where his father worked for a while. He was Joseph Morris (b.1848, Skirlaugh), a shipping clerk, who

married Ada Caley Good in Hull in 1870. They had a son Charles (Charley) in 1871 in Hull, before leaving for America, where Harold was born in 1881. A daughter Lilian (Lily) was also born in Hoboken, in 1885. The Jersey City census for 1880 states that Joseph was a “Foreman ironwork”. I don’t believe it! Suspiciously, the person listed above Joseph on the New Jersey census is described as a shipping clerk, and so it seems like a mix-up; a transcript also states that the ironworker was “fireman” but the original looks like “foreman” to me. Lesson learned: always check original documents (or digitised scans, at least) if possible.

Harold
Morris,
WW1 soldier



Ada, Joseph & Charley Morris (taken at P J Rice’s Photo Art Gallery, 87 Montgomery St. Jersey City, New Jersey, 1880)

The family returned to England before 1891, when Joseph was described as “living on own means”, apparently retired or out of work at age 42. With him in South Skirlaugh were Ada, Harold, Lilian and a servant. They were still together in 1901, on Main Road, Skirlaugh, but Joseph was now working as a domestic gardener and Harold was assistant teacher at a board school; the servant had gone. Charley was then a boarder in Holborn, London, and working as a decorator.

In 1911, Joseph, now a widower, is recorded as living in Hull with daughter Lily and again working as a shipping clerk. Their lodger was William Watson Fewlass, one of a large Hedon family, whom Lily married the following year. Their descendants are still in Hull as far as I know. Charley was, at this time, a carpenter living south of the Thames, in Lambeth, with wife Alice from Bexhill and their daughter Elsie, born about 1905 in Hull.

Despite Harold’s somewhat exotic beginnings, his ancestry was entirely East Yorkshire, apart from his mother Ada, who was born in Broughton in north Lincolnshire. Joseph Morris (b.1848, Skirlaugh) was the son of farm labourer Thomas Morris (b.1809, Nafferton) and Ann Barchard (b.1804, Ellerby). Thomas’s parents were John and Jane (probably née Poskit). John was also born in Nafferton, probably in 1765, to parents John and Margaret née Dixon. Harold’s grandmother, born in Ellerby, was baptised Ann Barchard in Swine in 1804. The surname Barchard is of particular interest, to me anyway, because it may be of strictly East Yorkshire origin (as I described in *The Banyan Tree* 169, pp.21-25).

Ann Barchard’s first husband was William Downs, whom she married in Sutton-in-Holderness in 1823. They had four children, William, Mary Barchard, William and

Coulson, between 1824 and 1830; the first son named William evidently died young. Ann’s husband William then presumably died prematurely, since she married Thomas Morris in Skirlaugh in 1839. They also had four children: Jane, Harriet, Thomas and Joseph, between 1840 and 1848.

It seems most likely that Ann Barchard was a daughter of carpenter Simon Barchard (1781-1857) and Ann Gibson (b.1782, Skirlaugh). Simon’s parents were Ralph Barchard (b.c.1736) and Frances Eman (b.c.1739). As far as I can determine, these Barchards lived in Ellerby but their baptisms took place in Swine. I assume that the church of St James in Old Ellerby is a later building and that the village was in the parish of St Mary, Swine. So the present-day combination of these parishes is nothing new. Ann Gibson was a daughter of Whitehead Gibson and Alice née Wardel. Seven more generations of Barchards and, usually, their wives can be traced back to about 1550, all in the East Riding.

And so the respectable, kindly Morris couple left no offspring, and only a few temporary memories carried by nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews - and a pocket watch.

Mary (Pop) Lee and husband Harold Morris, circa 1950



AUNTS, UNCLES AND
MONKEY NUTS:
CHRISTMAS IN THE 1940s
Valerie Reeves

Christmas Decorations in our house

Last Christmas I was given a booklet called 'The Christmas Wren' in which the author, Gillian Clarke, describes her childhood Christmases, so I thought that I'd do the same for my grand-daughters Harriet and Phillippa. As a child I loved to hear my grandmother, who was born in 1877, talk about her Christmastimes all those years ago. Maybe my recollections of Christmas in Hull in the mid-1940s will bring back memories for some of our older readers.

In those far-off days, Christmas did not start in August and September like it does nowadays. After the autumn term started and we had got past Hull Fair (mid October) and Bonfire Night, then there was a sort of lull until the excitement of Christmas began. Christmas seemed to start at school, when plans were made for a play featuring the nativity from some angle. I can't ever remember having a speaking part but was always part of the support cast of angels, shepherds or even, on one occasion and memorably, a tree! If paper was available, we then began making paper chains and cards for our parents.

Because of the very serious bombing all over Hull during World War II, many of the departmental shops in the city centre were severely restricted in size but this was quite normal to us children as we had known nothing else. Anyway, there wasn't a great deal of stuff to buy and much of that was on ration. My mother's favourite store was Thornton-Varley's on Hull's Prospect Street, where I remember her buying some doll's house furniture for me. Goodness knows where it came from and I guess it didn't cost much either.

My mother held out against putting up the decoration, or 'trimmings' as they were known then, until the very last possible moment. Our artificial tree (pre-World War II, sparsely clothed with leaves on its branches) went up first with the pre-war (again) baubles and tinsel, but to me those tired and tarnished decorations were magical. My favourite was a large scarlet strawberry; sadly this fell and broke last year (2021) but the silver spire from that time still lives on. At the ends of the branches there were candles in holders, but my mother thought that lit candles were dangerous and I'm sure she was right. So we had a set of fairy lights, the bulbs of which had to be tightened every year or they wouldn't work. I can't imagine how they managed to become loose during 11+ plus months lying undisturbed in a box in a cupboard. The hall, front room and dining room of our 1930s semi were trimmed with those paper balls, bells, trees, etc. which opened out from flat. A few chains went round the walls, but one year whilst my mother was out my father and I set about doing up the dining room with silver tinsel tape, draping it from the picture rail (yes, we still had those!) to the shade of the centre light where it was fastened with sticky tape. On her return, my mother didn't share our enthusiasm for the effect, she said it looked like a giant spider's web. I can't remember the outcome, but I expect that it was 'moderated' in some way. We always had holly and mistletoe in the house every year, a tradition inherited from my grandmother who had to have some greenery at Christmas. I have continued this, although not always holly, sometimes I use twigs of conifer or other evergreen leaves.

Can you still buy indoor fireworks or are they banned because of health & safety? These were popular in my childhood at parties and Christmas and were usually discs or paper

rolls which were lit by the application of a glowing cigarette end (most adults smoked then). There were no bangs, just a gentle 'whoosh' noise and a few coloured flashes. The most memorable indoor firework in our house was quiet but gave off an immense amount of fine dust, which settled on the table with its food, all the other furniture, the carpet, hearth and even the curtain tops – in fact the whole room. My mother was startled, concerned and finally and mostly, very annoyed. No more indoor fireworks for us.

Writing the Christmas Cards

My mother used to buy several boxes of mixed design cards with great care, which extended to the selection of which card to send to which recipient. She and my father sat down at the dining table with the cards and the address list spread out ready. My father had lovely copperplate handwriting so it was his job to write them.

This is how it went : My mother, showing my father a card, "Do you think this is all right for —?"

My father, "Yes, that's fine."

My mother, "Or is this one better?" showing him another card, "Or this?"

My father, "Well ..."

My mother, "I wish you'd decide!"

By this method the cards were written, but it took time. My mother licked them up, bought the stamps and posted them. Why didn't she just buy a few boxes of all the same design? Could have saved hours and some stress. Once I suggested this but it was rejected.

On Christmas Eve bedtime my stocking was hung at the end of the bed and a pillow case with it for larger presents. In the depths of the stocking I would find a tangerine (we didn't call them satsumas in those days), maybe an apple, a few sweets such as liquorice allsorts if the sweet ration could

stand it, and a small gift or two like hair slides, something for my doll's house, and a coin. The pillowcase held larger presents such as a Rupert Bear annual, a painting book, coloured pencils or a paint box and some other sorts of toys. I wasn't very keen on dolls and preferred my teddy. My dolls led reckless and perilous lives as they were victims of earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, plane crashes and the like. Now I realise just how lucky I was to get so many gifts.

My maternal grandma used to tell me about when she was a young girl living in Hull and I was amazed at how little she received at Christmas. Usually she was given some sweets, fruit and nuts and a small amount of money; she never got a pillowcase full. She was one of eight children so had to share. My mother also recalled her childhood. She was born in 1910 and had one older brother, my Uncle Tom. Her Christmas take was larger – always a book, sweets, hair ribbons and fruit, maybe a doll – as did her brother, but no doll or ribbons for him of course!

Monkey Nuts

I had heard a lot about monkey nuts and seen pictures of them and being a nut lover, desperately wanted some. One Christmas morning I was lucky. Evidently my mother had made a valiant and exhaustive search of the town and found a shop with some available to buy and there they were in my Christmas stocking. Deep joy! Bypassing the tangerine and liquorice, I set about them. After a little while in came my mother, just as I had my arm fully extended inside the stocking (really one of my father's socks), feeling about in case a 2/- piece or, better still, half a crown, was lurking in the toe. The conversation went like this :

My mother: "Did you find the monkey nuts?"
Me "Er, yes" She noted my lack of enthusiasm.

My mother: "Well? Have you eaten any?"

Did you like them?"

Me: "All right. A bit dry."

My mother: "Only all right? Dry?"

Then, looking on the floor, "Where are the shells?"

Me: "What shells?" I had eaten the whole lot, shells and all and yes, they were dry, but it didn't put me off monkey nuts.

bird was a chicken, one of our own when my father kept hens, but I remember it as a great treat. One year, for a change, my mother bought a goose, but although it was tasty, the experiment was never repeated. Every Sunday lunchtime during the year we used to have a good piece of beef but chicken was rare.

I heard the real Christmas story at my school and as an attender at a Methodist Sunday School so I was familiar with the Star of Bethlehem, the three wise men, the three kings, the shepherds, Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus in the manger, but also I knew it was the time to give and receive presents. I suppose that I believed in Father Christmas (we didn't call him Santa Claus). In later life some of my friends admitted how upset they were when they learned that Father Christmas wasn't real. "It's your Dad," they had been told by jeering schoolmates. I don't remember learning the truth so don't remember feeling any distress.

When the time came to kill one of our own birds, my father, who just couldn't bring himself to do the deed, brought in Jack, an old boy from the allotments who would 'neck' the bird, very quickly and, I hope, humanely. Then my father would pluck and draw it, that is, taking out its innards. Old Jack used to chew tobacco and consequently would spit a lot. I had never seen this before and couldn't stop watching him. "Why does he keep spitting?" I asked my mother, not very discreetly. "Because he does!" was her reply and I knew it was no good enquiring further.

Boxing day was a mystery in those early years. I thought that I knew what boxing was – something to do with men in big gloves hitting each other – until the real meaning was explained to me. I thought it was quite disappointing, just giving Christmas 'boxes' to friends and tradesmen. I fear that nowadays my meaning is acted out, minus the gloves, in places other than boxing rings.

As a dessert Christmas pudding was always served, but certainly not doused in brandy or whatever and set alight as in the pictures. Mince pies followed. Wherever did we put all this food? Mind you, I missed the pudding and the pies due to my dislike of dried fruit.

Boxing Day

Christmas Day was always spent at home. After my mother's father, Grandpa Bristow, died in 1947, Grandma always stayed at our house for a few days. Our open fires used coke and not coal, so although there was warmth, there were no flames, just a red glow. Grandma couldn't understand that even with much use of the poker, she never could make the fire blaze up!

The next big event was teatime on Boxing Day. Aunts and Uncles of my mother were invited (they were my Great Aunts and Great Uncles really, although I never called them that) my mother's brother Uncle Tom and sometimes his daughter, my cousin Jean, so there could be nine or ten at the tea table.

At midday or thereabouts, we had the big meal. We never had a turkey, usually the

Chairs had to be brought in from other rooms and I remember on one occasion sitting in on a cushion on the sill of the bay window. The very best china tea-set in a design called 'Crab Tree' by Shelley, got

its annual outing. I think it was a wedding present to my parents in 1933 and I've still got it, all twelve place settings, completely undamaged.

The food usually comprised : a plate piled high with buttered slices of bread (white of course) , salad made up of lettuce, tomatoes, cucumber and celery and possibly radishes – my father grew some of these on our allotment - and home-pickled onions. There were plates of cooked ham, tongue, pieces of pork pie accompanied by that great favourite, Heinz salad cream. Nothing unusual or rare or, oh horror, 'foreign muck'. This was in Yorkshire, of course!

Everyone drank tea and everyone took sugar. I remember clearly the rather genteel tinkling as teaspoons stirred sugar into the eight-sided china teacups. Next came the dessert, always tinned fruit like peaches or apricots with jelly and blancmange, never cream, but there might have been custard. Cakes followed, often a sponge cake, mince pies and finally, a taste of Christmas cake which was made by my Grandma and cooked in her side oven (an oven at the side of an open fire known as a 'range'). Dried fruit was out for me, I much preferred the sponge cake.

After tea there was much talking between the aunts, uncles and my parents; voices lubricated by some form of alcohol but never in excess. My father liked a little tot of whiskey, but I never saw him drunk. He just used to get happy. I can't remember what sort of games were played, but what I do remember was an event called 'Lord Nelson'. This was set up in great secrecy and involved my Uncle Mark (the tallest uncle). I was first to experience this and after being blindfolded was led into the front room by my father, who explained that I was to enjoy the honour of meeting Admiral Lord Nelson's corpse. It went like this : My father : "You have heard about the

famous Admiral, Lord Nelson of course. Well, here we have got his body(my hand placed on Uncle Mark's chest)

"He was a very brave sailor and won many medals and here they are..." (my hand was directed feel the medals on his chest) ..

"And during his sea battles unfortunately he lost an arm....well, here is the empty sleeve of his coat – feel it" (I duly felt an empty sleeve) ...

"And did you know that he also lost an eye in battle?" (I nodded)

"And here is the place where his eye used to be..."

At this my father tried to put my finger into an eggcup of cold custard, but I backed off, yelled out, tore off the blindfold and saw my Uncle Mark stretched out over three dining chairs draped in a jacket, sleeves hanging, with three half-crowns on his chest and laughing, as was my father.

Now it was my turn to watch the next victim which happened to be Uncle George. He was quite composed, took it very seriously and didn't even flinch when his finger went into the cold custard. A bit of a disappointment! Many years later I learned that he had been in the trenches in the First World War and had probably seen far worse horrors in reality. Next came Aunt Millie, wife to Uncle Mark on the chairs. She came in laughing and twittering, having had at least two small glasses of sherry to which she was quite unused as Uncle Mark was a strict Methodist and they kept no alcohol in their house.

She giggled at the medals and the sleeve but when it came to the eye socket and cold custard she gave out a piercing scream, ripped off the blindfold, dashed out into the hall and back into the dining room, where she spilled the beans to the others waiting for their turns.

Later in the evening my father played the piano. There were no 'pop' songs, although

we heard on the radio the popular music of the day and at the cinema and my father had bought the sheet music to some of them. No Christmas carols were sung, I wonder why?

A cup of tea rounded off the evening. I don't know how the aunts and uncles got home as none of them owned cars. It was usually very late and the buses weren't running, so were taxis hired? I doubt it. I suppose that they walked, although four of them lived in East Hull, a long and probably frosty walk from our house in Fairfax Avenue which was very close to the city boundary with Cottingham .

Later in the Christmas holidays

As the excitement of Christmas began to fade, the presents which I'd hardly had time to play with came into their own. Books were read, picture books coloured in, dolls' house furniture arranged and, of course, the sweets and fruit didn't last long.

From being about five and upwards my Uncle Tom, who was gifted in his use of metal and wood, used to make me a really exciting Christmas present. These included a school desk with joined-on seat, the dolls' house which was a copy of our house, my Noah's Ark, a great favourite which survives with my grand-daughters and a beautiful small sledge, painted pale blue with coloured transfers on the sides. As we always had snow at some point, the sledge was much enjoyed by me and my friends, as were the other gifts.

Looking back, it all seems, and of course it was, a quite different world and now I'm the only person left from those jolly Boxing Days at Fairfax Avenue. On Twelfth Night the tree and all the trimmings were taken down and packed away, which to me seemed sad, but that feeling didn't last. Yes, we had a long winter ahead, but school would soon start, and at home I could look forward to

cosy teatimes with Children's Hour on the radio, roasted chestnuts and, when the snow came, lots of fun with my little blue sledge.

World War 1 Bombardment of Yorkshire

Geoffrey J Giles

I don't often have the opportunity as a historian of Germany to contribute to The Banyan Tree, but here is a modest offering!

The illustrations of the 1914 bombardment of Scarborough in the February 2022 Forum Corner of The Banyan Tree reminded me of further terrorism by the German military in World War One.



The attack of Scarborough in December 1914 came from the sea, but from the following January another threat arose in the form of air raids, when Zeppelins began to attack the east coast, and notably towns like Hull.

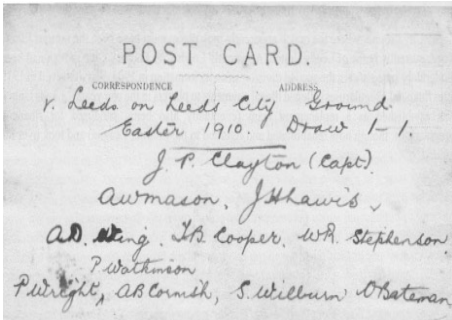
The Germans were very pleased with the destruction they wrought behind England's home front, and actually celebrated it with postcards such as this one on page 20. If you look closely, you can see a mother and small child, standing in the ruins of their

home. It may be Hull, but the caption on the back says simply: "Effects of a Zeppelin Raid on England." I'm not sure how the Germans got hold of this photograph—probably it appeared somewhere in the British press.

It may have been saluted as a great triumph in Germany this early in the war, but in Britain such attacks on the civilian population fueled the image of the cruel and heartless Hun, and increased the number of volunteers for the army.

Cup-tie Mystery
Geoff Bateman

I have a number of photos of sports teams (cricket, football and rugby league) that include my grandfather, Oswald Bateman. Most are Skirlaugh teams from around 1910. This photo is unusual in that it is from West Yorkshire (sorry, readers!). The players are named (also unusual) on the reverse, not in their positions in the photo but in the positions they would have played on the field.



Note that the formation is the old-fashioned 2-3-5 system, never encountered nowadays I believe, but which I remember from school days. My grandfather is at the left hand end of the back row in the photo. I know more or

less which team this was, and that they played against "Leeds", in a drawn cup-tie (1-1), at Easter 1910, on Leeds City's ground. I am sure that the opposition was not in fact Leeds City. The team pictured was likely to have been made up of railway clerks from Hull. I found supporting evidence for this. The team captain and goalkeeper is, I suggest, John Percival Clayton (1877-1961), who was a railway clerk like my grandfather, and lived in Hull (according to censuses for 1901 and 1911). Other team members whom I have been able to identify as railway clerks resident in Hull are Alfred Wingfield Mason b.1887, Augustine Duke Wing b.1881 (great name, especially for a footballer!), Thomas Brough Cooper b.1879, and Walter Robert Stephenson 1889-1967. I also have another photo of a team, which includes my grandfather, probably from the following season; they are wearing the same shirts and the photo is labelled "Hull Loco AFC". The mystery is: who were they playing in this cup-tie? Any more information on either team will be gratefully received.



Leeds City ground, where the match apparently took place, must have been the famous Elland Road, currently home of Leeds United. Apparently Leeds City Football Club, which had been moderately successful in the second division since its formation in 1904, was dissolved in 1919 after financial irregularities (alleged illegal payments to players in the war years). Leeds

United was established as a replacement team (eventually also being penalised for financial irregularities, though now rehabilitated and returned to the Premier League) and took over the ground.

Family Photos from the past
Brenda Marshall

Here are some family photos I found whilst clearing my parents house. I would like some help with them and wondered if anyone recognised themselves, their parents or venues.

The first one shows my grandparents, Ethel and William Walton with the only grandson who knew my grandad who died in 1946. I know they lived in St Leonards road off Beverley Road at some point but would like to identify the building in the background. Grandad worked for the Hull and Barnsley railway company.

The second one is of a childrens Christmas party, possibly DCL/BP as the girl between the girl with glasses and the boy looks like my older sister. She would have been about 8 or 9 as you went to these parties till age 10 then went to the pantomime at Hull New Theatre. My dad is the man at the back at the highest point with the pullover on. He was known as Fishdock Bob at work. A name he earned from his days on the fish dock where he started his engineering trade.

The third one is of a group of elegant looking people at some sort of dance some where. Mum is the lady in the checked suit behind the lady in the silky dress and dad is peeping over her shoulder next to the man with glasses on. I did wonder if this was a Buffs do but my cousin thinks not. The last one is a group, some of whom are in

fancy dress. My dad is next to the lady with the basket and mum is next but one to him the other side of the lady with glasses on. Again I wondered if it was a Buffs do.

If anyone recognises places or people I would be very interested.



Brenda's grandparents
Ethel & William Walton



Childrens Christmas Party



A Formal group



A Fancy Dress Party !

Can anyone help Brenda?

The email address is shown below -
brendaabarbara@brendabarbara.karoo.co.uk

**The Old Poor Law
Else Churchill**

The London Group of FHS has allowed the eyfhs to use some information which related to The Old Poor Law and the Workhouses. I would like to thank the group for giving their permission to use the item in the Banyan Tree.

Ian Taylor is the secretary of The London Group of Yorkshire Family History Societies he can be contacted via the address shown below.
lgyfhs@virginmedia.com

The Old Poor Law - Else Churchill

Introduction

Else started by saying that her talk would be focussed on what the Old Poor Law (OPL) records can generate. The OPL dates from the late Tudor period and continues through to the 19th century, and you might well see the word "pauper" used to describe individuals in the parish records.

The 'problem' of what to do about the poor became particularly pressing in the 18th century when the cost became a huge burden on the parish. There was a growing number

of single mothers with illegitimate children who needed support. In addition, there was the challenge of increasing prices at the end of the Napoleonic Wars (1793-1815) in conjunction with low wages, and many small farmers were bankrupted. The poor were associated with a criminal underclass.

Settlement and Workhouses

There was a series of Poor Law Acts from 1601-1832 and details can be found on the Workhouse website (<http://workhouses.org.uk/>) created by Peter Higginbotham. The concept was that parishes were to look after their own 'settled' community which was defined by the 1662 Act of Settlement as the following:

- paternal descent in the parish
- owned/rented property to a certain value in the parish
- had completed an apprenticeship in the parish
- had worked a year and a day in the parish

Thus, the incentive for a parish was not to allow people to achieve settled status. Those who had settled status were generally provided with out-relief, i.e., perhaps money or clothing when an individual fell on hard times. But the concept of the deserving and non-deserving poor developed when it was felt that someone in receipt of relief should do some work for it. Throughout the 18th century parish poor houses were set up but the General Workhouse Act of 1723 and the Gilbert Act of 1782 allowed parishes to combine to provide work houses for the old, sick and infirm. By the end of the 18th century there were more than 2000 work houses.

Some examples of these larger unions in Yorkshire are Hunmanby workhouse which opened in 1785, and was the centre for 10 parishes, and Rillington workhouse was the centre for up to 50 parishes in 1812. So, someone you are trying to trace might actually be living some distance away from where you expect. The Workhouse website

is a good guide to the situation before 1834. The London Lives 1690 to 1800 website (<https://www.londonlives.org/>) is a further good source. It has a lot of information about city parishes combining but some small parishes had a single poor house and about 1% of the parish population went through it at some point in their lives.

However, the poor law started to fail in providing adequately for the poor and there were a number of initiatives to address the problem:

- The Speenhamland System in Berkshire, set up in 1795 by a group of magistrates. The aim was to provide a minimum income for an agricultural labourer by topping-up his wage to an amount based on the price of bread. Some argued that it depressed wages, and some that it encouraged idleness and vagrancy.

- The Roundsman System in East Yorkshire. Under this initiative a pauper would be sent around the parish looking for odd jobs where the payment would be topped-up by the overseers so that his family had enough to live on.

- Jeremy Bentham's scheme at the end of the 18th century in which he suggested huge, industrial workhouses with almost prison-like conditions to house the mad and the poor.

- Sir Frederick Morton Eden wrote a book, *The State of the Poor*, in 1797 with the intention of providing facts relating to the poor. He listed the amount of relief in each parish, the wages in each parish, and the number of widows and the sick or infirm.

Records Relating to the Poor

Since administration of the poor law fell on the local parish, there were committees to administer the system, and minutes and accounts might survive. There might be wages for people employed to look after the church, and details of apprenticeships for pauper boys and girls. Parish records are to be found in the local Record Office, but not all parishes will have all such records.

The government of a parish fell to the Vestry which had both a clerical and secular role taking on many of the administrative functions of a mediaeval manorial court. Vestries had a lot of autonomy and vestry minutes can contain a rich wealth of information, for example:

- they set the parish rates
- they oversaw accounts
- they decided how parish money should be spent
- they might fine someone for bringing a pauper into the parish

But by the end of the 18th century not all vestries were deemed to be doing a good job.

Church wardens accounts might provide some of the following:

- Disbursement, e.g., to an artisan or tradesman
- Relief of the poor
- Income, e.g., pew rents

Overseers Accounts

Relief payments involved such matters as rent, clothing, repairs to houses, funeral payments, doctors' bills, etc., and might contain a lot of detail, including names. One might also find expenses paid to people outside the parish such as constables charged with 'removing' non-parishioners, and those removed were also sometimes paid a small amount to help with setting up in their parish.

The Overseers Accounts might also contain a register of apprentices possibly providing information on parents' names and to whom the child was apprenticed. Local people were sometimes forced to take on a pauper child apprentice – some as young as 8 years old. This would involve teaching husbandry to the boys and domestic work to the girls.

Apprenticeship records are usually to be found in Parish Chest Records at county record offices. They are rarely to be found on-line although this is changing, for example Lincolnshire has put indexes on-line on Findmypast.

Quarter Sessions

Although the parish was the main administrator of parish affairs, judges did have oversight. So, Quarter Session (QS) records might have a list of pauper lunatics, matters relating to the relief of the poor, apprenticeship disputes, etc. Rate payers were not always keen to have a poor child foisted on them and might dispute the arrangement. Parishioners might complain about the upkeep of cottages in the village.

Act of Settlement 1662

There can be a fascinating range of records resulting from this piece of legislation:

- Settlement examinations
- Settlement certificates
- Removal orders
- Bastardy bonds
- Vagrancy

These records are fairly plentiful from the end of the 17th century and throughout the 18th century, but fewer documents exist towards the 19th century.

Poor Law officials were constantly on the watch to prevent newcomers gaining settlement in their parish. In 1766 the overseers of Elloughton made a Thomas Shaw sign a bond of £100 which would be forfeit to the parish if he allowed any of his apprentices to gain settlement.

As one of the criteria was the ownership or rental of land worth £10 a year, incomers found they were unable to rent land to such a value without a certificate of indemnity from their own parish. Another concern was of unsupported women becoming a burden on the parish. In Norton, in 1825, the constable was instructed to prevent a “notorious woman” from renting a room and remove her from the parish.

There was a great concern about vagrants which including a wide range of people such as common players, minstrels and jugglers, unlicensed chapmen and pedlars, and anyone wandering about the parish

begging. Officially, vagrancy was meant to be assessed by a JP (Justice of the Peace) but relevant records might be found in the parish chest. People in receipt of support were meant to be identifiable and were sometimes made to wear badges, a practice known as badging.

Vagrancy records can be found both in constables accounts and QS records. These can be very detailed and give individual names. As with most Poor Law records these often concern women and children whose husbands, for example, might be absent in the militia.

The Vestry would meet to decide whether to accept or reject a new parishioner – and the minutes might show the result of the discussions. Parishes would sometime fall-out over an individual and would then have to go to the JPs for a decision. These records are full of such judgements.

Ancestry has digitised copies of QS records for 1690-1790 and it is helpful to look at the Settlement Orders for both parishes involved. The individuals are asked all sorts of questions about their circumstances, for example where they were married, how many children they have, etc. It can provide a wealth of genealogical information. By 1720, illegitimate children had to take the place of settlement of their mother, whereas legitimate children that of their father. But by the end of the 18th century removing people from a parish was becoming less common.

Illegitimacy often shows up in these records. Efforts would be made to force a father to marry the mother of his child, and if he refused, he would be instructed to pay child maintenance. Not surprisingly, fathers often renege and the overseers might go to the QS to compel payment. Some men went to quite extreme lengths to avoid their obligations. One man joined the militia to escape but the overseers tracked him down. By the early 19th century, ‘Bastardy’ orders were replaced by ‘Affiliation’ orders.

Other Sources

Alms-houses:charitable/philanthropic bequests might establish an alms-house.

Friendly Societies: these were mutual unions or insurance clubs allowing an individual to take out insurance by joining the Society in order to avoid the workhouse, but records are patchy.

Emigration schemes: from about the 1820s these schemes were designed to remove the poor from the area; or might remove them to one of the northern industrial towns.

Poor Houses: from the end of the 18th century some ad hoc lists were made of who was in the poor house. These might be found in the Parish Chest, and the SoG has some records. Local family history societies have done much transcribing of these.

Family Search: if you can access a Family Search centre, they have filmed a lot of poor law records.

Ancestry: contains some West Yorkshire poor law records which can be found by searching the card catalogue, for example:

- West Yorkshire, England, Select Poor and Township Records, 1663-1914 and
- West Yorkshire, England, Bastardy Records, 1690-1914

Suggested Reading

Tracing Your Poor Ancestors by Stuart A Raymond; Pen and Sword Family History; 2020

The Workhouse Encyclopaedia by Peter Higginbotham; The History Press; reprinted 2014

The Old Poor Law in East Yorkshire by N Mitchelson; 1953 (? out of print)

Anything by Steven King on the background to the Poor Law, e.g., Poverty and Welfare in England, 1700-1850: A Regional Perspective; Manchester University Press; 2000.

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 a 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 members of this great society of ours do try to help each other out so it is nice to show how people care about offering help and advice.

We therefore start this Forum Corner with a letter that I received from John Stead, John sent the letter to me in response to an item that appeared in the Banyan Tree No 169, Feb 2022 edition.

Derek Mason wrote an article entitled 'Where are my Toes?' pages 8-10 which was based upon his family history research. Derek was seeking family information.

John Stead offered some advice to Derek about trying to solve a few questions that cropped up during his research.

The letter contained 11 ideas which could have proved useful to Derek. I forwarded a copy of the letter to Derek

Derek got in touch with me and said - 'Many thanks for forwarding the letter to me.

I have previously looked into many of the research suggestions/queries made by John Stead but all were to no avail.

I will write to him in the next day or so and thank him for contacting me with his thoughts.'

Muriel Hutton a member of the eyfhs wrote to me about an unusual topic - a caul.

A caul or cowl (Latin, Capus galeatum, literally means 'helmeted head') is a piece of membrane that can cover a newborn's head and face. Birth with a caul is rare, occurring in fewer than 1 in 80,000 births. The caul is harmless and is immediately removed by the parent, physician or midwife upon birth of the child.

(The editor)

Muriel said 'My grandfather was born with a Caul, as was one of my brothers. Both cauls were kept and treasured as they were supposed to prevent the owner from drowning. What happens to Cauls nowadays? Do midwives throw them away, do they know what they are, and what 'magical' properties they hold. They were highly prized and much sought after among seafarers and were often bought and sold. I still posses one and wonder if anyone else has one or knows if the 'myth' is true?'

Peter Riggall has asked for some help from the eyfhs members

I was wondering if the following could be included in The Banyan Tree Forum Corner at some point? A shot in the dark I know but something may turn up!

Attention
Prince, Rowntree, Wright, Stephenson

Regarding Josephine Marjory Prince b. 1893

I'm trying to determine my paternal grandmother's parentage as it's likely she was adopted:-

No details relating to her father on her marriage certificate

No trace of a birth certificate

The couple who brought her up, and who were always thought to be her parents, were William Prince and Ann Elizabeth Prince nee Rowntree.

Needle in a hay stack comes to mind.

Best (only) guess is that she's the daughter of Sarah Unthank Prince one of her "father's" sisters who went on to marry a William Wright (1895) and have six children of her own. The father, may be one Olaf S Stephenson - born Denmark - a corn seed merchant of Westbourne Avenue where Sarah U was a general domestic 1891 census night. She'd previously had an illegitimate child in 1888.

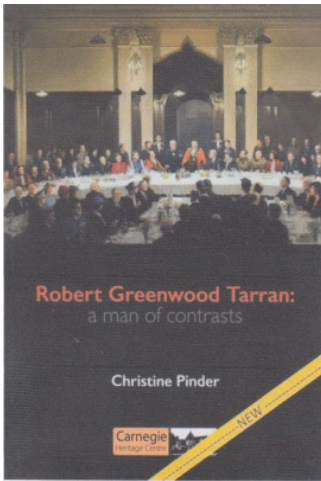
Any Prince, Rowntree, Stephenson or Wrights out there who can shed any light?

Contact Peter at -
riggallp@riggallp.karoo.co.uk

Book Reviews

There are 2 books to review in this May 2022 edition of the Banyan Tree.

Both books have interesting features inside them, so read the reviews and make your decisions regarding the purchase of the books



This biography of Robert Greenwood Tarran is newly published, and costs only £5.95 plus p&tp at www.carnegiehull.co.uk, or you can pick up a copy from Carnegie, open on Tuesdays and Fridays - we're at the gates of West Park, at the bottom of Anlaby Road flyover in Hull. Throughout his adult life, Tarran (1892 to 1955) was a well known figure in Hull and beyond, as the founder of a very successful building firm which made and constructed many prefabs after the Second World War. Tarran was also Hull's Chief Air Raid Warden for the duration of the war and as such, was well respected by Hull's citizens. However, his career was tainted more than once by accusations of fraud and shady dealings, one resulting in a high profile court case in 1947. This book outlines Tarran's personal life and business career, drawing on original sources whenever possible.

INTRODUCTION

Robert Greenwood Tarran (1892 to 1955) was a well-known, self-made builder and contractor based in Hull and beyond. His businesses were very successful but his career was not without controversy; it was tainted more than once by accusations of fraud, one resulting in a high-profile court case in

1947. For the duration of World War Two, Tarran was Hull's Chief Air Raid Warden. In this role Tarran was responsible for Hull's Air Raid Warden Service, working alongside various departments of Hull Corporation and many other organisations such as the Women's Voluntary Service (WVS). He was also Sheriff of Hull during the war in 1940/41, and was therefore a high-profile figure throughout this period and beyond. In July 1941, after some of the heaviest bombing raids of World War Two on Hull, Tarran wrote a report on the practice of "Blitz (or night) trekking", in which people living in areas of high risk from the bombing trekked out to the outskirts of cities and to neighbouring villages to avoid the bombs and to get a better night's sleep, sleeping rough until returning to their homes the next day. During World War Two, this happened on a fairly large scale in Hull and in particular in East Hull because of its proximity to the city's main docks, which were a Luftwaffe target. Tarran's report was the inspiration for this book, and is transcribed in full in an appendix. It is particularly fitting to publish this book in 2021, the eightieth anniversary of the Hull Blitz. We will remember them.

Christine Pinder

Identifying Cap Badges (A Family Historian's Guide)

Graham Bandy.
Pub, Pen & Sword. Pub 2022
Hardback. 310 pages
Price 25.00
ISBN 9-781526-775-979

A lot of family historians will have ancestors who fought in the 1914-1918 conflict and also have members of their family who took part in the 2nd World War. This book looks at Cap Badges of the Army over the centuries.

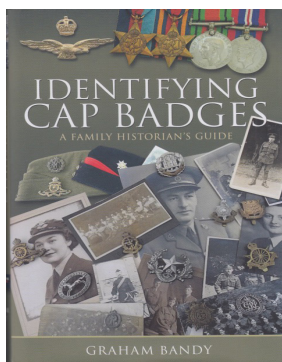
Although some of our photo albums contain

images which vary in the quality of the pictures between the covers it can be an easy or difficult process to identify the badges that are shown on the caps. Graham Bamdy tries to offer his assistance to the family historian who would like to know which Regt the ancestor was serving in at the time of the global conflicts.

There is a useful intro about “How to use this book” where the author suggests – look for what you can see- Does it have a crown on top of it? Can you see wings, or something else? When you have identified the main features in the pictures use the contents list to find the appropriate section.

A tip to use and remember is to try to get a good quality picture, scan it and use a magnifying glass in conjunction with this guide.

Good luck identifying your military ancestors Regt.



The Editor.

This book 'IDENTIFYING CAP BADGES' is in the Banyan Tree book giveaway lucky dip draw.

If you wish to be included in the draw for this book (1 copy only is available) Please send an email or postcard to the Editor.

The email and postal addresses are on page 2

Looking into the past
Keith Leonard

Keith Leonard would like to share some details about his family along with some pictorial images.

Here is Keith's item -

The two undated and unsigned water colour paintings came from my mother's family home at Sands Farm near Paull (or Cherry Cob Sands to give it, its full name). The family also had Little Humber Farm next door to Sands and Old Hall Farm at Sunk Island. Unfortunately, the paintings had been glued on to acid backing board which was causing major deterioration so I had to take the difficult decision to get a restorer to get them off the acid board and bleach out some of the damage – this accounts for the white blots here and there and the creases in the paper. At least there will be no further deterioration. Anyway, there are several reasons for sharing these paintings. First, given the paintings are unsigned, they were probably done by a talented amateur rather than a recognised artist. But, does any reader have any idea who the artist might be? Second, any thoughts about date? I'm guessing late 19th century or very early 20th century. Third, and I find this very interesting, the painting of the draft horses being led has a milestone in the painting, which I've included as an enlargement. This shows that the location was on the York to Pickering Road, 11 miles from York and 8 miles to Pickering. I wonder if one of your local readers might like to search for the spot, perhaps the milestone is still there. It would be great to get a photo of the location as it is today. My mother loved horses and was a great horsewoman herself so she loved these paintings, which I inherited on her death. I've included a photo of my

mother with her horse Rocket which she used to hunt with. She always said that her severe look was because she was worried the horse was going bolt as it was getting agitated by the photographer, which you can see by the horse's ears. I like to think that the horse and trap is actually a painting of my grandfather, Charles Richardson and his wife Mary Collingwood. I've included photos of Charles and Mary so readers can make up their own minds on this. By the way, the paintings are very well travelled – they have been in New Zealand for many years and then they accompanied us to the Philippines for 7 years, Fiji for 3 years and London for 5 years. They have now been resident in Australia for 5 years! A little piece of Yorkshire has always been with us.



The water colour of a mile stone



A water colour painting of the Horses and a carriage



Charles Richardson



A water colour of some draft horses



Mary Collingwood aged 16 years



Mary Collingwood circa 1903



Mary Collingwood at the time of her marriage in 1901.

Stonemason of the Cemetery
Pete Lowden

Peter Hodsmen. A common enough name. However, in the story of Hull General Cemetery he stands alongside John Shields, Cuthbert Brodrick, John Solomon Thompson and other luminaries. Peter has left a legacy for us all. Much more than any of the others already named. For you see he was a stonemason of the cemetery.



The headstone of Peter Hodsmen

Let me tell you a little about him.

Peter was born in Swanland in the East Riding. His father, William had been born in North Ferriby in 1797, and had married Peter’s mother, Ann Watkin in January 1813.

The Hodsmen family were non-conformist in their religion. This may have had some bearing on Peter’s work in the future.

Peter doesn’t feature in the 1841 census. Nor does his father. This may well be due to an enumerator error. The possibility of recording the name as Hodgson cannot be ruled out. Many such instances of this occur in this particular census.

The next time we meet Peter is at his wedding. This took place in the ancient church of St Peter’s, in Barton on Humber. He married Mary Robinson on October 12th 1847.

Much can be gleaned from this record.

Firstly, that Peter now lived in Hull, in Holy Trinity Ward. Secondly, it is recorded that

his trade was now that of a stone mason. Thirdly that he was literate unlike his wife as evidenced by her mark.

It provides a mystery too. Why did he marry in an Anglican church?

As you all know, Hull General Cemetery was opened in 1847 and it would have seemed likely that this place would have been a good source of employment for a stone mason. Of course, we do not know when he began working at the cemetery. Employing the workforce was not something that was deemed important enough to record. Perhaps that's one of the reasons I feel it's important to record their existence. Let's face it, without them the Cemetery would not have happened.

We do know that in March 1849, some 5 months before the great Cholera epidemic struck, the Directors were asking the superintendent, John Shields, to shed some of the workforce. At that time the Company employed just five men.

'Four men being employed on the grounds, preparing graves, gardening and rubbing stone and one mason at the stone yard.'

It's tempting to believe that Peter could have been this stone mason but sadly we have no evidence for this.

In December 1850 John Shields reported to the Board that,

'That complaints had been made by the stonemasons engaged in the Company's stone shed of the dangers likely to arise from the near proximity of the Dead House to such a shed and the matter having been fully considered by the Board it was ordered that the use of the present dead house be discontinued and that a new one be forthwith built on the vacant ground behind the chapel.'

Interesting as this comment may be in many ways, the reason it is cited here is that the plural use of the word stone mason is used. This shows two things at least.

Firstly that, since the Cholera outbreak, business had increased dramatically for the cemetery. Secondly. It showed that the stone yard business was taking off and extra skilled workers were needed. Thus at least two stone masons were now employed.

Obviously stone masons were more numerous at that time than now. Hull was going through an expansion not seen before. It's only equal would have been the post-war boom of erecting the housing estates that encircle the city now.

During this early Victorian period many buildings were erected, some public and many private dwellings. For example, in the 1839 directory of Hull only 13 stone masonry firms are listed. Three of those are the Earle's so they could count as one. By the 1861 directory this number had doubled to 27. Neither directory included the Hull General Cemetery Company's own stone company.

Of related interest here is the account of a funeral of a stone mason that took place in Hull General Cemetery shortly after its opening. It perhaps shows the amount of stone masons in the town at that time.

"THE NEW CEMETERY

On Wednesday afternoon, a procession consisting of nearly 200 stone-masons proceeded from Carr-lane, conveying the body of one of their number, who had come to Hull in search of employment and had died suddenly, to this beautiful place of sepulture, for the purpose of interment. The appearance of the procession during its progress along Prospect-street and Spring-bank was striking, the masons preceding the corpse until their arrival at

the cemetery, and filing off right and left formed themselves into an avenue, through which the coffin and mourners were allowed to pass. The procession was then again formed, and followed the corpse to its last resting place. The Rev. Newman Hall, B .A. of Albion Chapel officiated on the occasion, and at the grave delivered an appropriate and solemn address, which was listened to with deep attention by the multitude. The admirable arrangements of Mr Shields, the Superintendent of the Cemetery, deserved and elicited the warmest eulogies from those who witnessed the impressive service.”

And perhaps only interesting to such people as me who love the minutiae of such doings, this grave, the very first public grave in the cemetery, was used as an experiment as the *Hull Packet* describes,

“Hull General Cemetery - On Friday last, an interesting experiment was made in this beautiful burying place, to ascertain the effect of the means adopted for draining the ground.” A grave was made about 11 feet 6 inches deep to receive the remains of a journeyman stonemason, who had come to this town in search of work, and had suddenly died. The ground was found to be perfectly dry, and the efficiency of the plan effectively proved. The remains of Mr Dick, of the Hull Advertiser, were then consigned to the tomb in the presence of a large concourse of members of the typographical profession and other friends. The vicar officiated, and the entire management appeared to give the greatest satisfaction”.

On the first page of the Hull General Cemetery burial records the grave number 14122 in compartment 81 occurs eight times. This is the first public grave in the cemetery. The one that was dug to a depth of 11 foot 6 inches in the article above.

The first burial was of the stonemason as mentioned above. Burial number 5 in the cemetery. Charles Cromack. And then

John Dick, Susanna Blackburn, Ann Cain, Hannah Cooper, Ann Shefling, Thomas Hindson and finally Emma Parkinson. In total eight people, two of them infants.

In this way the poor who could not afford to buy a family grave were still buried with dignity. Public graves were not placed in the ‘wilderness’, far from the wealthier patrons of the cemetery. There was a democratic feel to the placement of such graves. They were made to feel just as much a part of the community as the person who afford a family grave. This was one of the positives of the Hull General Cemetery.

By 1850, Peter may had found work with the Cemetery Company. Sadly, we do not know.

However, he was listed as a stone mason in the census of 1851. His address was Eliza Place, Walker Street and this was quite close to a stone yard in Great Thornton Street. The owner was a J.C.Scorer, so perhaps Peter worked closer to home. His daughter Elizabeth, cited in the census, would not survive the year.

The next we hear of Peter is in the local newspaper. He was one of the signatories of a notice requesting that the Mayor, Thomas William Palmer, called a public meeting. The aim of this meeting was to petition Parliament with regard to children’s education.

This idea was well before its time. The free schooling of children did not occur nationally until the passing of Forster’s Education Act of 1870. That Peter was a supporter of this idea is interesting as one of granddaughters went on to become a school teacher in the late 1890s.

The petition was signed by more than 500 ‘working men’. The mayor duly called the meeting for the 15th April at the Town Hall.

It was a rowdy meeting. The purpose of the meeting was as set out above; namely the education of every child via a secular system. The mayor outlined this idea and how it was progressing through Parliament. A Mr. T.D. Leavens, a foreman at the Minerva Oil Mills, seconded the motion. He also observed that,

‘This was the first public meeting ever convened by a Mayor of Hull in compliance with a requisition from the working man.’

An amendment was put forward. The proposer, Mr. Frederick Smith, contended that secular education on its own could not work. It needed to be balanced with religious education too.

This attempt met with some serious disapproval from the audience. Some of the audience felt that the motion was being derailed by this suggestion

The intervention of E.F. Collins, noted editor of the Hull Advertiser, appeared to take the sting out of the amendment and his words brought much laughter. The motion was carried and the mayor was entrusted to pass on the wishes of the townspeople of Hull on this issue to Parliament.

Meanwhile, in December 1852, John Shields requested that,

‘An enlargement of the Mason’s Work shed was now essentially necessary in consequence of the great interest in the Company’s stone business and that the same must be made forthwith and he having also produced an estimate of the expense of such an enlargement amounting to £20 Is, and the question having been considered and discussed it was resolved that such enlargement be forthwith made and that the costs be charged to the alterations account.’

The Company’s stone business was well

and truly taking off. By 1856 the Company were amenable to selling the Cemetery to the Corporation but they wanted to keep the stone yard business. I’ll talk about this issue in another article.

In September 1853 three apprentices were taken on in the stone yard. Business was booming.

Peter’s census return of 1861 shows a change of address.

The information recorded is that Peter and his family now lived in Great Thornton Street at 1, James Place. Interestingly he lived next to Gardener’s Place where my great, great, grandfather lived around this time and just around the corner was Hodsman’s Court.

Family tragedies

His family had increased. He now had two daughters; Louisa and Mary Jane, and two sons; William and Frederick.

Sadly, in 1863, the family was struck by tragedy. Mary Jane died of smallpox. She was buried in the land that the Corporation had leased from the Cemetery Company in 1860. This is now part of Western Cemetery. A year later young Frederick also passed away of ‘brain fever’.

Amidst this sea of woe Mary Hodsman had another boy. He was called John Thomas and he features in this story.

Strike!

Three months after Frederick died the stonemasons of Hull came out on strike. This is poorly reported in the newspapers of the time and the only reference I can find to it is from the Company’s minute books. In this John Shields reported to the Directors,

We have no way of knowing how this turn of events affected Peter. Was he a striker? Was he a strike-breaker?

We do know that John Shields was in a bind due to this strike. He told the Directors that, property in a better area but still not the best kind.

‘In consequence of the masons’ strike he was unable to execute the orders received for stone and granite work and that several parties were pressing to have their work done without delay.’ The Hodsmen family had increased again. Another daughter Anne Elizabeth, had been born in 1866. William, the eldest son, is classed as a stone mason like his father

The Directors agreed with his request to go to Aberdeen, which was where most of the Company’s stone came from, and seek out a qualified ‘letterer’. He duly did so, Tragedy hit the family again in 1873 when Peter’s eldest daughter, Louisa died at the age of 21. Peter is now a ‘Foreman of masons’

‘And had engaged a man named James Mitchell as a mason and letter cutter for the company at the weekly wage of 30/- ‘ This is the first mention, outside of the minute books, that Peter is now the foreman of the masons for the Cemetery Company. Peter signs as the informant and modestly calls himself ‘mason of letterers.

Our next entry is where Peter and the Company arrive together. At last, concrete proof that Peter was a stonemason of the cemetery. On the 3rd April 1868 the secretary, The burial entry is interesting No cause of death is cited. The reason for this was simple.

‘Read a letter from Peter Hodsmen, the foreman of the stone masons, asking for an advance of wages. Louisa sadly committed suicide ‘whilst in an unsound state of mind’ She consumed a quantity of poison, ‘salts of lemon’, and died.

The decision was stood down till the next meeting. At that meeting his wages were increased from 35/- a week to 42/- A considerable increase of a fifth. This probably shows his worth to the Company. That Peter wrote them a letter requesting an increase in his salary must have also impressed the Board. That the cause of death was not entered in the Cemetery burial register may well have been a show of sympathy from the superintendent, Edward Nequest, respecting Peter’s feelings, and not placing the mode of death in the ledgers for posterity.

In the following August another event took place. Peter asked the Board if his son William could be an apprentice stone mason. The appeal was successful. William at this time was barely 14 years old. In the August of 1877 Peter once again approached the Board to have another son apprenticed. This son was John Thomas. Once again, they accepted him on the same terms as they had accepted William. The following year Peter’s eldest son William married. His wife was Emma Marie Cole. Peter moved home again to 2, Stanley Street, Spring Bank. Closer to work and a better house.

1871

We next find Peter at home in the census of 1871. His home now was in Albion Terrace in Walmsley Street, Spring Bank. a larger By the winter of 1879 Peter was not well. He

fell ill of chronic bronchitis. The result no doubt of too many days spent doing hard labour in cold weather. He was also suffering from heart troubles.

Peter died on the 30th October that year. He was buried in the same grave as his daughter Mary Jane and his son Frederick. His wife must have demanded that a burial space be left for her in her husband's grave.

When Louisa died, she had been buried in the grave next to the original family one. Mary obviously wanted to lie, in death, with her husband. A sure sign that neither partner wanted to be separated even in death.

Peter left a will. His estate was under £1000 but he left his family some funds to carry on. The executors were as expected his wife Mary and his son William.

One other executor also appeared. That of Edward Nequest, the cemetery superintendent. I would take this to indicate how much both men thought of each other. It also showed how much the Company thought of Peter in giving Mr. Nequest the time to go to Court in York to have the will proved.

So, when you read a headstone in Hull General Cemetery and it is dated before 1879 there is a good chance that Peter carved those words. When you see a headstone from before that date with the 'Cemetery Company' inscribed on it you see the handiwork of this man. This man would have inspected all of the work or done it himself. His legacy will, with careful husbandry, outlast us all. He was, after all, a stonemason of the cemetery.

His burial record stated his occupation as 'Manager Monumental Works, Cemetery Co'

This epithet appears a mite too grand. I'm pretty sure that if Peter could have written it, it would have said simply, 'Stone mason'. I'm also pretty sure that Peter was proud of that simple title.

William, his eldest son, signed the burial register as the informant. Monumental letterer' was what he called himself in the burial register. I'm sure his father would have been proud.

I'll tell the story of his son William next time.



Sally George, a Banyan Tree regular contributor has offered a few small snippets to read.

When you next go to a meeting of your family history society or any other meeting, seek out the rules and compare them with those below which date back to 1710:-

The Society must meet or assemble at four.
There must be a pot of Bohee Tea of half an ounce to Twelve dishes.
There must be twelve clean Pipes and an Ounce of the best Tobacco.
There must be a Chamber Pot.
Then a Tankard of Ale holding One Quart and No More must be set upon the Table.
The President must always sit on the Right-Side of the Chimney and take care of the Fire.

I had to do a Google search for Bohee Tea which is a type of Lapsang Souchong and we used to drink tea from dishes without handles which was normal.

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
7203	Roy Mortier	Swindon
7204	David King	Toton, Nottingham
7205	Anne & John Harris	Alwoodley, Leeds
7206	Paul & Janet Hodgson	Woking, Surrey
7207	Keith Leonard	Labrador, Queensland, Australia
7208	Janet & Chris Such	Brighton, East Sussex
7209	Wendy Austwick	Cayton, North Yorkshire
7210	Anne-Marie Westcott	Barnetby le Wold. N Lincolnshire
7211	Karen Little	Heddon on the Wall, Northumberland
7212	Stephen Jenkins	Bristol

Important News

Do you have any 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?. The information could relate to family history research, photographs or queries which you might have regarding the project you are undertaking, I am sure that someone in the society could help you to resolve a problem.

Get in touch with The Banyan Tree editor. The relevant addresses are given on page 2.

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
Marshall	Elizabeth	43	D	11 Apr	1857	Selby, YKS
Marshall	Elizabeth	67	D	31 Dec	1912	Gateshead, DUR
Miller	Thomas	83	D	01 Nov	1940	Hull, ERY
Roberts	Elizabeth		B	27 Mar	1876	Myton, ERY
Thompson	Thomas		D	31 Jan	1841	Myton, ERY

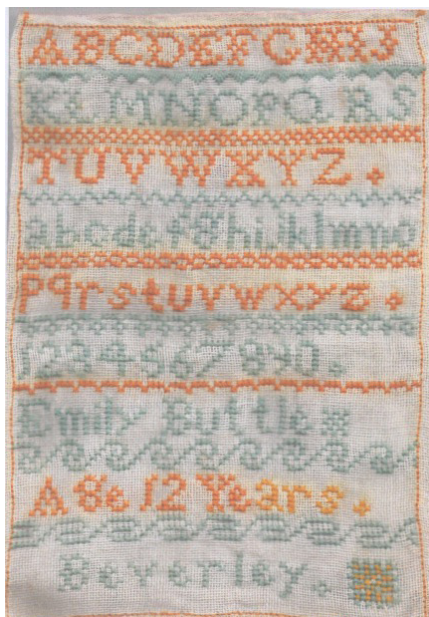


The Reckitt Company offered its workers a grand day out to Scarborough in the 1949 Autumn period - dress style formal. Sent in by Muriel Hutton

THE SAMPLER BY MISS EMILY ELIZABETH BUTTLE 1874-1954

Sally George has submitted an interesting piece to the Banyan Tree from the past which shows how young people in the 1880s fulfilled their educational and leisure time!

The sampler was stitched by a young girl aged 12 years old, Emily E Buttle



I will let Sally explain the story.

“Hazel Ford is one of our members who has worked tirelessly for 12 years typing up recordings and manuscripts for the Society. Hazel is custodian of this beautiful sampler as Emily Buttle was her Great Aunt. The sampler was created by Emily at the age of 12 years in 1886. Hazel has carried out research making a note of the family on the census and in trade and street directories. We thought it could be deposited in Beverley Guildhall along with the family postcards as part of the history of the town.

Hazel went on to explain:- “Emily Buttle was deaf all her life and I would have loved to have known more about her childhood and which school she attended as she was well learnt and after her mother died ran the shop for a while but I believe she had to give it up through her lack of hearing. When I was in my teens I can remember visiting with my grandmother to see Emily when she lived in the Annie Routh Hospital in Keldgate, Beverley. Emily lived upstairs there and the window of her room was the one on the left hand side of the front entrance as you walked in. It was always so dark and very quiet walking

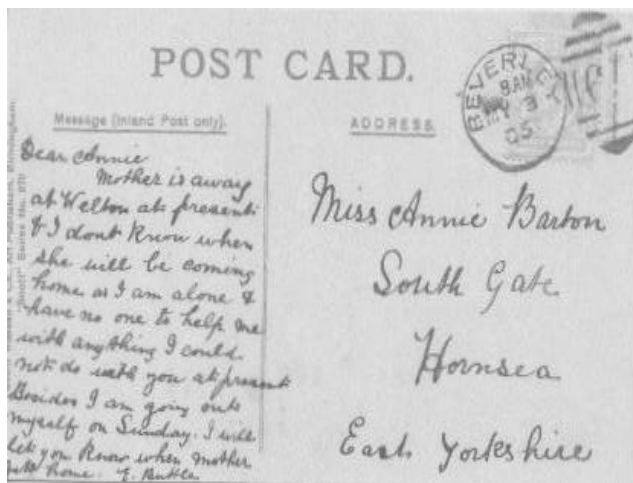
along to her room and I will always remember going to visit there. The last time I saw Emily she came to stay with my parents and family but sadly was taken ill and died and was buried in Goole where we lived. I will always remember her as she was a really lovely quiet lady, and being the custodian of her sampler which Emily did at the age of 12 years in 1886, and lived all her life in Beverley, I would like it to be kept in her memory for the people of her home town and hope it will be of interest. The postcards written and sent by Emily to W. Barton are to her mother's brother and (my great grandfather,) and A. Barton (one of his daughters) and sister of my grandmother, who all lived in Hornsea and were a big part of both her life and family."

We did note that on one of the postcards in 1905 Emily wrote "Glad you liked your music. Can you play 'Ora Pro Nobis' yet. It is a favourite of mine. This makes us think that perhaps she could hear something in her younger days, but that her hearing became worse with age.

Father :-			
Thomas George born June Q1842 Howden XX111 Bap 10-07-1842 Howden. Married Sept Q1870 (29-09-1870) Hull 9d 318 Holy Trinity Church Hull Died 24-12-1888 (29-12-1888 Kirkgate BB51) Beverley 9d 74 age 46 yrs Occupation - Tailor. (Beverley Guardian 29-12-1888)			
Mother :-			
Elizabeth Barton born 1840 Wolverhampton 23 284 (13-10-1840) Died 23.06.1919 Beverley 9d 110 (buried Kirkgate (BB51) age 78 yrs			
Children :-			
Edward Thomas Born 16-08-1872 Beverley 9d 96 Bap 02-09-1872 St Marys Beverley Died 12-05-1884 Bur. 14-05-1884 Beverley 9d 70 (Kirkgate) age 11 yrs (Beverley Guardian 19-05-1884)			
Emily Elizabeth Born 29-03-1874 Beverley 9d 96 Bap 23-04-1874 St. Marys Beverley. Died 22-02-1954 Goole 26 641 age 77 yrs Buried Plot 692 BX1 Hook Rd Cemetary: Goole.			
Pinfold St. Howden.			
H. Hannah Buttle	52	Charwoman	H0107/2358 f218v Faxfleet)
D. Ann	22	Gen. Servant	Howden
S. Thomas	8		Howden
Pinfold St Howden.			
H. Hannah Buttle	61	Washer Woman	RG98/3564 f007v Faxfleet)
S. Thomas	18	Tailors App.	Howden
St Marys Terrace Beverley			
H. Thomas Buttle	M 28	Tailor	RG10/9758 f142 Howden
W. Elizabeth	M 29		Bilston Staffs.
Newbegin Beverley			
H. Thomas G. Buttle	M 38	Tailor	RG11/4740 f128 Howden
W. Elizabeth	M 38	Tailor wife	Bilston Staffs
S. Edwin T.	8	Scholar	Beverley
D. Emily E.	7		Beverley
69 Love Lane Beverley			
H. Elizabeth Buttle	48	Dressmaker	(MF14/18) Bilston Staff
D. Emily	19		Beverley
9 Woodlands Beverley			
H. Elizabeth Buttle	W 60	Tailoress	RG13/4961 f41 Bilston Staff
D. Emily	S 27	Tailoress	Beverley
11 Wilbert Lane Beverley			
H. Elizabeth Buttle	W 70	Retired Dressmaker.	RD14/28549 Bilston Staffs
D. Emily E.	S 37	Shop Keeper	Beverley
V. Annie Wetherall	48	Cook/Dom	Beverley



(Post Card Number 1)



(Reverse side of the Post Card)

Editorial note - some of the writing on the reverse side of the post cards is not easy to read due to fading ink and the time factor, so where there might be a problem with legibility I have transcribed the message which appears on the card.



(Post Card No 2)

Reverse side, (Of No 2) Dear Annie. Mother is going to Welton on Thursday so we shall be pleased to have any time when convenient to you to come. Love to all, (it is signed) Emilie.

(Post Card No 3)

Reverse side of Card No 3.

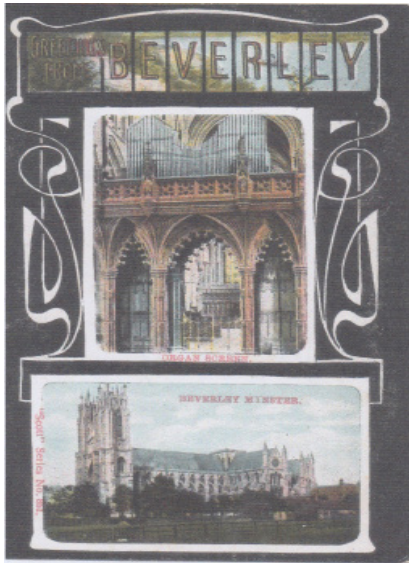
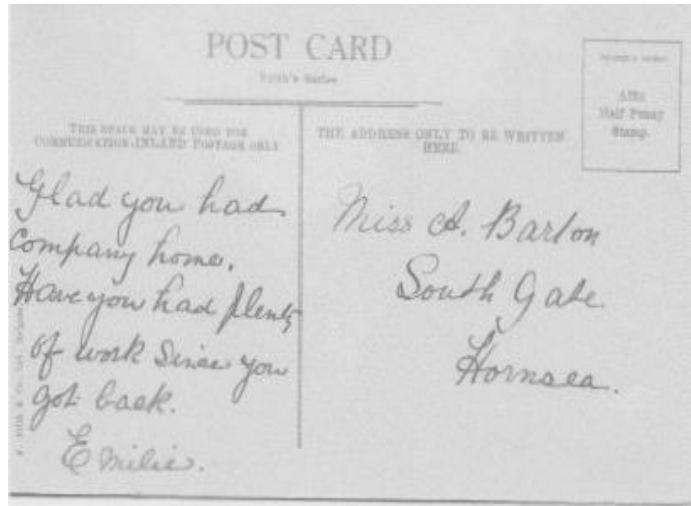
Dear A.
I can only say the same to you as to E. I hope you are all well let us know if you do think of coming any time. We have not been at all well. I think we shall be better when Spring comes. With love from us both.
E.



Post Card No 4)

Westwood Burning
Bushes

Reverse side of Post Card No 4



Post Card No 5

Beverley

Reverse side of Post Card No 5. (The message was written up side down)

Dear All.

Arrived home safe by 10 o'clock. Many thanks for P.C which arrived this morning. The sea air affected us we are tired yet. Expecting to see you soon. Drop a line to say when. Love to all. Your affectionate niece and cousin.

Emilie E Buttle

What's On?

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.

2022

19th April. Neil Hutton. Wenlocks Horse - the East Riding of Yorkshire yeomanry in the Great War.

17th May. Elaine Moll. "the Cottingham Review" a short lived local newspaper.

21st June Jane Bowen. "From triumph to tragedy" -the story of the paddle steamer 'Pegasus' and her people 1835 - 1843.

19th July. Pete Lowden & Bill Longbone - Hull General Cemetery Walkabout part 2 - and faith supper at Carnegie Heritage Centre to follow.

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

Entry to the church hall is via the back door on Albion Crescent, either up the steps from the bottom iron gate, or by a pathway from

the top iron gate. There is plenty of disc parking on Albion Crescent and Grosvenor Crescent, for 3 hours. The number 7 bus from town stops opposite the church, outside the St Catherine's Hospice Shop; the number 17 from the Eastfield/Filey Road direction stops just above the church.

Unless otherwise stated, doors open at 1pm for research and meetings start promptly at 2.00 pm. Tea/coffee and biscuits will be available for a donation.

If you wish to wear a mask, please feel free to do so, ditto hand sanitising.

Please check the venues for further details because at the time of this entry the Corvid-19 virus was still a potential problem in the UK, Although the restrictions are easing a bit we all still have to be careful. So, please stay safe, where ever you are.

Let us hope that by August 2022 we will be experiencing a further lifting of the restrictions that we have had to endure

Good bye for now!

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