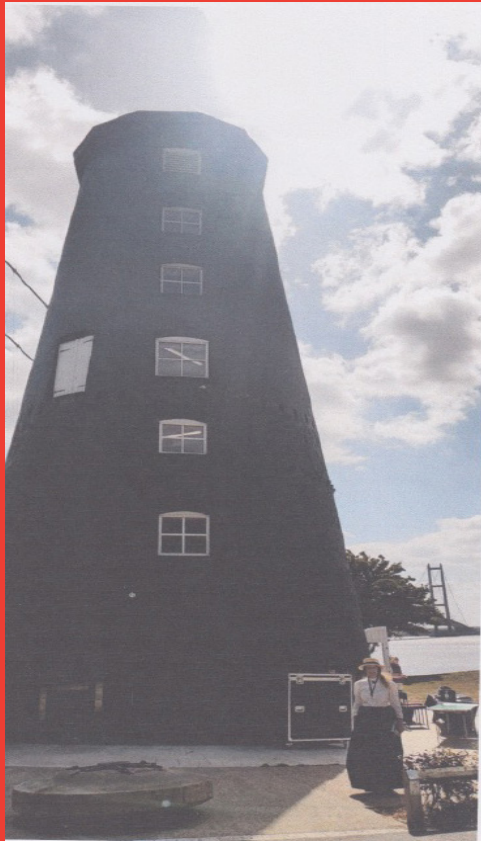


The Banyan Tree

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AROUND THE ARCHIVES

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Society News

THE CONTENTS PAGE WILL BE BACK IN THE NEXT ISSUE.

Cover photo: Sally George as a volunteer

From the editor

Hello everyone,

We begin this edition of the journal with an item from Geoff Bateman. (“Patrington’s Industrial Magnate”) This item appeared in the ‘178’ issue but due to an editorial error the text reproduction was incorrect. Therefore, it now is included with out the error on pages 6-8.

Sally George has given us a great article to read ‘Walking along the bank of the River Humber.’

John Walker tells us about his Bubwith Roots.

Valerie Reeves has contributed an article about Captain John Kirkus.

Pete Lowden (the eyfhs Chairman) has provided a fascinating piece relating to a **murder case** ‘The Murder of Madge Dry’.

Geoff Bateman has sent in an item which tells us a story entitled ‘From Siggleshorne to Hollywood’

Chris Brigham has done some research into the Hull Memorial which is in France, it looks at the men from the East Yorkshire Regt’s battle at Oppy Wood.

Margaret Harrison provides a tale about Winstead Tile and Brickworks

Dave Mount has given us a story regarding a chap who was married 3 times.

A Book Review, one of a few in this issue.

The New Members’ List

Forum Corner.

Sue Turner tells us about On line Libraries for Family History.

Some more Book Reviews.

The What’s On - Help Desks Guide.

Something for all family history researchers with an interest in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

The archives.

East Riding Archives and Local Studies offers you the chance to access the extensive and unique archives collection (dating from 1129 to present) based at the Treasure House.

We collect the written and photographic heritage of the East Riding, its communities and its people. We preserve this unique collective memory for present and future generations. We encourage and support the use of our collections by everyone for research, learning and enjoyment. Viewing original archives is free to everyone, however there are charges for making copies for personal research.

Edwina Bentley
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Chairmen's remarks

Pete
Lowden

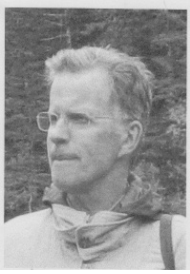
Hello. I'm writing this in late June during the General Election campaign. I'm told regularly that, according to the polls and the media, this election could be 'historic.' This makes me wonder how many 'historic' events I have lived through; Brexit, Iraq, Afghanistan, Falklands, the Troubles and those are just a few of the events touching international situations. The national ones are just too numerous to mention. So, what makes an event 'historic' and what do we, and I'm really talking about society here, mean by 'historic'? Or is the use of the word just another media bubble designed to capture our 15 second attention span in the world of click-baiting?

I'm pretty sure you all have your own ideas on these questions and your answers will probably all be different which is a good sign. A society where independent thought thrives is a healthy society. If you don't believe that just look at North Korea. But I digress, for really when I'm told that something is 'historic' I can't help but try to picture how it was viewed at the time.

I live in a house that was built in 1908 and I often imagine the inhabitants, at certain times, reading in their morning paper about the loss of the Titanic, an Austrian Archduke shot down in Sarajevo, the Czar being murdered along with his family, the Armistice being signed etc. All events that have come down to us as 'historic' and rightly so and then within a day or so those same morning papers would have been used to light their fires and life for the inhabitants of the house would have continued as they always had done. As George Harrison allegedly once said of newspapers when the press was pestering him for some reason or other, 'Today's headlines, tomorrow's fish and chip paper.'

I always treat the term 'historic' cautiously and to use that term so casually, as the media do, is simply wrong. People are still writing books on the First World War containing new fascinating insights from forgotten or mislaid papers that have come to light. Or divergent theories may be put forward to explain events differently.

So, In essence a certain period of time needs to be placed between the event and whether it merits the description of historic and that period of time cannot be accurately measured but it is usually a lot, lot longer than the media may be prepared to give before it uses the term 'historic'. I'm reminded of Zhou En Lai, the Chinese Foreign Secretary during Mao's reign, who was asked in the 1970s what his thoughts were on the effects of the French Revolution of 1789. He smiled and said, 'It's too early to tell yet.' My thoughts entirely.



***Geoff
Bateman***

Patrington's Industrial Magnate

Researching my ancestors' involvement in the flax-processing industry, as I once did, led me to the curious discovery that the Marshall family, wealthy industrialists and politicians of Leeds and Cumberland, had a significant operation in Patrington. Surely the circumstances of that deserved further investigation.

William Marshall (1796-1872), once lord of the manor of Patrington and apparently the family member responsible for Patrington's flax scutching mills, is the main subject of this story. He was the eldest son of highly influential Leeds industrialist John Marshall (1765-1845).

John Marshall, born in Leeds, was the son, and only surviving child, of linen draper Jeremiah Marshall (1731-87) and his wife, Mary Cowper (1728-99) of Yeadon, West Yorkshire. John, aged 17, inherited the business on his father's death. He had recently heard that two Darlington men, John Kendrew and Thomas Porthouse, had registered a patent for a new flax-spinning machine. John visited them and bought the right to make copies. He tried to improve the performance of his machines over the

next ten years, succeeding only after employing engineer Matthew Murray. Then, in 1791-2, he built Marshall's Mill on an acre of land he had bought in Holbeck, Leeds, conveniently close to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and the Aire and Calder Navigation. Enough water power was generated from Holbeck to operate 7000 spindles with 2000 workers. In 1796 he built, with business partners, another flax mill at Ditherington, near Shrewsbury. This building was highly significant, since it was the first iron-framed building, paving the way for the subsequent building of skyscrapers. (I probably learned that from the great Fred Dibnah on television.) Next to the Holbeck mill, the Temple Works flax mill was built in 1836-40, in Egyptian style with the chimney in the form of an obelisk. Its work space was said to be the largest single room in the world at the time. It survives as a listed building, undergoing restoration after a long period of deterioration. In the photo (below), only this small section of the façade of Temple Works was left uncovered during restoration in June 2022; the fully refurbished Marshall's Mill is just visible on the right. John was also involved in establishing the Mechanics' Institute, and other institutions including Leeds University and Leeds Library. He had also become Sheriff of Cumberland and a Member of Parliament for Yorkshire, but resigned through ill health in 1830 and retired to his home near Ullswater.

John Marshall and his wife, Jane Pollard of Halifax, had eleven children. William, the eldest, served as Member of Parliament for a number of constituencies between 1826 and

1868, including Beverley in 1831-2. His younger brothers John, James Garth, and Henry Cowper Marshall were also politicians as well as industrialists. James Garth Marshall (1802-73) became senior partner in the Leeds business and was known as a social reformer. He was also responsible for creating the spectacular landscape of Tarn Hows, near his home in the Lake District.

For reasons unclear to me, the Marshalls built the flax scutching mills at Enholmes, Patrinton. Perhaps it was just because it was close to the place William had chosen to live, the family having bought property in Patrinton in 1846. William became lord of the manor. But maybe the plan for the mills had been decided on earlier and was the reason he moved there. The mills, built in 1848, were near the main road to Hull, about a mile west of Patrinton. The site appears to be conveniently close to the Hull-Holderness (Withernsea) Railway, but that did not open until 1854. It seems that the mill only prepared fibres from the raw flax, which must then have been transported by cart, probably to Hull, since Patrinton Haven was apparently usable only by small craft up to the 1820s and had silted up and become unusable by 1869. The fibres would presumably have been spun in Hull or at Marshall's own mill in Leeds. The flax-spinning industry of Leeds was apparently supplied with Russian flax through Hull (www.british-history.ac.uk), although Hull had its own flax mills in mid-century. Perhaps it is significant that John Marshall had been an influential supporter of the extension of the Leeds-Selby railway to Hull; the link was completed in 1840.

I assume that William Marshall was in charge of the land purchase in Patrinton, since he built Enholmes Hall, about a mile west of the town and south of the scutching mills, in 1858, while he was M.P. for East Cumberland. The Hall and estate of about 1000 acres later became the property of his son, George Hibbert Marshall (1832-87), who was succeeded by his brother, Walter James Marshall (1837-99) of Patterdale Hall in the Lake District, and occupied in the 1890s by Walter's son, Richard Marshall (1867-after 1939), who was born at Enholmes. There is a report of the flax mill burning down in 1854, putting 100 people out of work. But it must have been rebuilt or repaired, since it finally ceased operations in 1883, when most of the machinery was sold. The disused buildings still appear on successive Ordnance Survey maps up to at least 1952, adjacent to the Enholmes Brick and Tile Works. The Enholmes estate remained in the possession of the Marshall family into the 20th century, but Richard had retired to Cumberland by 1939. Enholmes Hall was on sale in 2021, with 43 acres of land including a private golf course, for £1.5 million.

The Marshalls were perhaps the most important business family in Patrinton for a while, but they were not the only one. At the same time there were apparently steam-operated flour mills, malting houses and breweries (I wonder how many!). Other important businesses included the bigger farms, such as the Thorps' at West Gate. There was also, later on, the brick works, and Redfearn's potato crisp factory, which I used to cycle past on my way to Spurn

Point. So far I have been unable to find out anything about that, but its demise seemed to me to be associated with the rise of Smith's national near-monopoly (later replaced by Walker's and Golden Wonder).

This sketchy outline of the story of William Marshall and his flax processing business in Patrington was based only on a few easily accessible online sources (British History online, Wikipedia and others), and so there is plenty more background to be uncovered.



Marshall's Temple Works, Holbeck, Leeds. Only this small section of the facade was left uncovered during restoration in June 2022, the fully refurbished Marshall's Mill is just visible on the right.

Sally George



Walking Along The Bank of the River Humber To its Source.

Protecting the entrance to the Humber Estuary 1.5 miles off Spurn Point lies Bull Sand Fort built in 1914 and taking 4 years to complete. It has 4 storeys to house 200 soldiers and was built with great difficulty on a sand bank 11 feet below water and constructed of 12 inch concrete armour. In WW2 it was reactivated and modernised, was regularly attacked by aircraft and had nets to stop submarines. Abandoned in 1956 it was give a Grade II listing in 1987. In 2022 it was sold for £490,000. Haile Sand Fort was built at the same time which is smaller and situated between Cleethorpes and Humberston on the coast and sold for £117,000 in 2018. There is talk of them being converted into hotels. Fresh water comes from under the sea bed.

As we walked back from Spurn Point we arrived at Kilnsea which had to be rebuilt on the Humber side of the coast having been washed away on the East coast. The church was finally washed away in 1826 but the tower was left standing until 1831. The graveyard and coffins, with contents exposed, fell on to the beach. One old man called Medforth rescued his father's bones and placed them in a Granary until his sister died and had them buried together. There was an argument with the Vicar who said he must pay for two burials. The Undertaker quietly buried both. Of the 32 people buried in the graveyard, no less than 15 of these were ship wrecked mariners. Church services had to be conducted in a farmhouse until St. Helen's a smaller church was built in 1865. This church has become redundant

and was offered for sale. If not sold then the roof would have to be taken off so it could become a safe ruin and a place for the wild bird population.

We came to the Bluebell pub, rebuilt from an earlier building that was washed away and previously known as The Ship. It was built in 1847 at a distance of 534 yards from the sea. It is now 55 yards from the sea. The first Licensee was William Westerdale who was a farmer as well, the two jobs went together at that time in most rural places. Robert Snowdon, a Hull man took over and then Francis John Clubley, a farmer from Easington. In 1901 David Murray is recorded as Licensee. The war period brought the Army and Navy to the area for defences and so the pub flourished. In 1932 John Robert Stephenson and wife Charlotte are recorded as Licensees. Between 1933-35 Benjamin & Rose King were listed there. In the 1950s John B. Clubley took over but the War Department site was deserted, trade diminished and the pub became a cafe and then a shop. The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust bought the building before their new centre was built in 2018 and now the first floor is let as holiday accommodation.

The Crown and Anchor pub is tucked away near to the River Humber and was built in 1855. The land belonged to Edward Tennison who had kept an alehouse in old Kilnsea. His son Merdforth Tennison was the first Licensee and later his daughter who married William Hodgson ran the pub. In 1929 William (Bill) Whiskers took over in 1986. In 2000 Jean Bunker became Licensee and presently the

Licensees are Adrian Bennet & David Whittaker. From the old church, two sanctuary chairs were preserved and made their way into the pub.

With this pub behind us we set off to Easington Bank with the Gas installation behind us on the coast and the next village was Skeffling. The church here is redundant but looked after by the Friends of the Friendless churches. Burstall Priory was on the river bank at one time but was later owned by Kirkstall Priory and was confiscated during the Wars with France. The lost villages of Orwithfleet and Sunthrop were also in this area and washed over. Welwick can be seen over the fields and their church is thriving I believe. From the bank I could see across to Cleethorpes and Waltham Mill in Lincolnshire with the zoom lens on my camera.

We arrived at the bank overlooking Sunk Island. The Old Hall can be seen in the distance and this was built for Anthony Gilby, Governor of Hull when the land was leased to him in 1668 by King Charles II on condition that he would reclaim the land and add to it. Fifteen farms were set up and the population is around 200. It was the farming community inspiration for Cold Harbour Colony in Winifred Holtby's novel *South Riding*. A resettlement for men discharged from the Forces after the Great War was set up by the Ministry of Agriculture and became Sunk Island Crown Colony. Sadly it was not a success as many men were from an urban background and not suited to agricultural work.

The mud from constant erosion of the Holderness coast gets carried round Spurn Point by the sea into the Humber and has

formed Sunk Island. The church has been deconsecrated and turned into a heritage centre open on occasions, and the school is a holiday cottage along with the coastguard cottages. Geologically Spurn Point detaches from the mainland every 400 years or so, a process which is currently ongoing. When the point reforms it is swinging further in towards the estuary, the whole coast moving westwards all the time caused by the erosion. In the distance Patrington church (Queen of Holderness) can be seen.

The next place on the map is Stone Creek which takes its name from the barges who delivered stone there to bridge the gap between the Island and the River. Commercial fishing for shrimps and prawns also took place. Today leisure craft has taken over. Nearby, towards Sunk Island is an anti aircraft gun station designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

On our way home from this section, we noticed that Ottringham church was open so couldn't resist a look in to see the numbered box pews and 14thC wicket door. Halsham Waterside Farm Shop and Cafe were nearby for refreshments and just a few fields away near Winestead we saw the Redhill Engineering building, which was, in WW2 the most powerful transmitter in the world sending BBC broadcasts to occupied Europe. It is so easy to get distracted!

Back to the Humber Bank and Cherry Cobb Sands where in WW2 poles with lanterns were put up and the ponds made angular to form a decoy for Hull docks when the fighter aircraft came over. Now all is peaceful with just birdsong, sunflower fields and commercial ships on the River Humber. We did notice that one drainage dike contained a rather red looking water. This is naturally

occurring ochre (iron oxide) in many soils. We have it in most of our fields and it is horrible stuff for blocking field drains. This is why a lot of old maps show a lot of Red Lanes or Red Carrs.

We were soon at Paull where the former Gun Battery is situated built in 1542 for 12 guns and has been used for several wars since. The current buildings date from 1861-4. During WWI it was considered too close to Hull, so was disarmed when the new sand forts were built in the Estuary and became training bases between wars. In WW2 it was converted into a magazine to serve Russian Convoys until 1960 when it closed down. The Friends of Fort Paull restored the site as a Heritage Museum which opened in 2000. It became the location of the last remaining Blackburn Beverley built at Brough. In 2020 the contents went to auction for a 6 figure sum. The Blackburn Beverley sold for £21,000 to the Solway Aviation Museum and in 1986 the site became a Listed Scheduled Monument.

At Paull Holme there is a nature reserve created for intertidal habitat due to the loss of mudflats and saltmarsh and from here we walked along the bank into the village of Paull passing some fishermen and concrete sections of path, leading to abandoned wooden jetties and also to the Humber Tavern. Where the houses finished we were on the bank to Saltend Chemical Park. There is an amazing fact here about a female Peregrine Falcon flying 201 miles from Chichester Cathedral to breed at this attractive BP site. The little family with 5 chicks has been well looked after by the employees who have also made a nest box.

There was no permitted path around the

Saltend works, nor along the King George Dock but there is a free car park where you can see the P & O Ferries. The Trans Pennine Trail is now routed inland around the back of the Sieman's factory next to the busy Hedon Road and returns at Victoria Dock, which is now the site of a housing estate and park built in the late 80s and early 90s. We noticed that the flood defences had been built up considerably since then. Walking past The Deep, the Aquarium, at the mouth of the River Hull we walked over the bridge. At one time this River was smaller and known as Sayer's Creek and Sayer de Sutton, Lord of the manor at Sutton was responsible for diverting the River Hull which was where the entrance to Albert Dock is now, to better drain his lands to the North and this is where a small town developed that took the name Wyke (Scandinavian for Vik meaning a small creek). Looking the other way down the River Hull, which runs parallel with the High Street, I reflected upon my 3 x Great Grandfather drowned on Christmas Eve 1870 when slipping off a ladder leading down to his tug boat. He lived in Mabbs Entry, opposite Wilberforce House in one room with a wife and 7 children.

Walking past Victoria Pier we came across the 'Oss Wash' Cafe. This site is where the horses would wait to be washed in the River. From there we were at the Marina situated in the old Humber Docks. We were away from the River Humber now walking back passing 5 Scale Lane which is Hull's oldest domestic house dating back to the 15th Century. Over the River Hull we were back at Victoria Park the site of King Henry VIII's Blockhouse built with the stone from Meaux Abbey after the dissolution of the monasteries. It was later replaced by the Citadel to accommodate the cannons and other modern weaponry. The outline of

these battlements are set out on the ground.

Starting again we were at Albert Dock, the site of the original River Hull which flows underground and connects to the present River Hull just after the Scott Street Bridge. When Princes Dock was being made a feature of the new shopping centre of the same name, the Architects were worried about stagnant water in the old Dock and the great cost to aerate it. It was noted that workmen were fishing in their lunch hour and catching fresh water fish. This bonus must have had something to do with the course of the old River Hull.

The area around Albert Dock is Myton belonging to Ralph de Mortimer of the Manor of North Ferriby. There was a Grange there too owned by the monks of Meaux to farm the land. King Edward I discovered Wyke and Myton whilst on a hunting trip in East Yorkshire in September 1292. He decided that it would become "King's Town Upon Hull" ideal for his campaigns against the Scots, therefore Kingston Upon Hull. From here we followed the path over the rooves of the abandoned fish sheds which offered fantastic views over Grimsby Tower in the East and Humber Bridge in the West. It is hard to believe that Hull was one of the world's largest fishing ports, full of ships, but no more, finally coming to a close in 1992. There is also a lifeboat training centre, one of the many set up after the sinking of the Titanic. Amongst the dereliction, the Council had planted flowers around concrete benches to brighten up the area.

The Humber Bridge was soon visible and a narrow path along the busy and deafening A63. Not far was the site of the last resting place here of the redundant Paddle Steamer 'Lincoln Castle' which had been a restaurant



for a short time after the Humber Bridge was opened. Constructed in Glasgow and delivered to Grimsby's Royal Dock on 4th July 1941 to complement the 1934 Wingfield Castle and Tattershall Castle. From here we passed worker's cottages for the Chalk Mill and Quarry. The end house had been the Three Crowns Public House. The Hessle Whiting Mill has been refurbished with history boards which are displayed all through the site of the Quarry, now a nature reserve and country park. The Mill is usually open on two days a week which at present is a Thursday and Friday. The crushed chalk, turned into 'whitening' was shipped to many places but particularly Hull where paint manufacturing continues to this day. The Mill was built between 1810 and 1815 replacing a former horse led mill. The Hearfield family worked this mill spanning 4 generations. A steam mill rival owned by Marshall's was situated on the Country Park Inn car park.

Above the Quarry is Hesslewood Hall Grounds which Joseph Pease, a rich Hull banker in the 1830s, owned and kept selling off the land to the Quarry, which was getting closer and closer to his front door at Hesslewood Hall.

His diary has been published by the East Yorkshire Local History Society. He also sold land off reluctantly for the new 'railroad' which, as it turned out, he so

enjoyed using as he could travel to London in just one day!



The parkland is open to the public all the time and there is a cafe for the general public and employees of the business park there. You can see into the Chalk Quarry from the railings at the edge of the grounds. Chalk extraction stopped in the 1950s and the quarry was left to go back to nature until the 1970s when it became part of the land acquired to build the Humber Bridge. Chalk quarrying can be traced back 6 centuries to documents belonging to the Charterhouse Trust of Hull from 1317 as a lot of land in that area is still owned by them.

The park used to be called 'Little Switzerland'.

Sally at 'Little Switzerland'



We could walk along a newly constructed Humber Bank path from here to North Ferriby, looking across the River to South Ferriby. I was a church bell ringer at one time and as North Ferriby church spire came into view I remembered being a guest ringer

there on a practice morning with lunch afterwards at the Duke of Cumberland. On this walk though, we stopped for refreshments at the Riverside Walkway Cafe before walking to Brickyard Lane taking note of the cement works and the site of Capper Pass, the controversial tin smelting works demolished in 1991. The only person we met was a man whose dog was trying to get into the Humber and was nearly taking his master with him. We were told that the dog did get in the River once and proudly came out with a decomposing sheep's head. I think the dog wanted to try his luck again.

The path to Welton Water deteriorated into a mud bath, so we abandoned it and drove to Brough Marina to walk back East to Welton Water and West from there. We could see across to the South bank and the villages of Winteringham and South Ferriby in Lincolnshire. Brough Haven's existence was an important part of the Romans' Ermine Street for 400 years going back to 70AD as a naval base. At this time the Haven came further inland, to the present day site of the Ferry Inn, but during the 4th Century the changing shoreline and constant flooding left the Haven silted up with mud. Since then the Roman Fort of Petuaria and civilian town with a theatre and a ferry crossing faded into insignificance until the railways came in 1840 and has been expanding ever since with new housing estates. The land at the factory in Brough has now become available for building and a new road leading to a new Aldi supermarket became apparent as we walked on. In 1910 aviation pioneer Robert Blackburn set up a business in Leeds and incorporated the Blackburn Aeroplane and Motor Company in 1914, soon after establishing a new factory at Brough in 1916. Later it became BAE Systems employing thousands of people. It

closed in 2020.

From Brough Haven we walked to Crabley Creek Farm and level crossing.



The main line from Hull to London runs alongside the Humber. The deeds of Crabley Creek Farm stipulate that the railway crossing should be manned, whereas all others on that line are automated. For refreshments, Julie's Tea Room in Elloughton is to be recommended.

The windswept expanse of Walling Fen brought us to the Transpennine Trail which is the route needed inland when the permitted path on the River bank comes to a temporary end. A relief to get away from mud and on to tarmac lanes.

Broomfleet was the village to walk through, noting the

leaning tower of the church and the ridge and furrow fields on the way to Faxfleet. On land now called Temple Garth, part of Thorpe Grange Farm, stood one of



Yorkshire's greatest Preceptories for the

Knights Templars who were the Military Order of the Catholic faith. No doubt the rivers would have been their motorways. It was closed in 1308 after several persons were arrested and sent to do penitence in the Cistercian Order at York! The walk was getting quite exciting as we were nearly at the source of the River Humber and crossed the bridge over the Market Weighton Canal.



As the handful of farmhouses and cottages came into view, we could not see the River until we noticed a pathway through the dry reed beds known as Faxfleet Ness on the maps. At the end was the meeting of the Rivers Trent and Ouse and known as ‘Trent Falls’ which is just a bit of rapid movement at the meeting point. Well we did it!

***Bubwith Roots
John Walker***

Much of my maternal family history originates in Yorkshire and the East Riding in particular, with surnames of Wilkinson and Newstead leading the way during the 19th century.

My great great grandfather, Rev John Wilkinson, 1780 to 1846, was the vicar at Bubwith for some 30 years to his death. From his marriage at St Olave, York in January 1808 to my great great grandmother

Anna Joanna Newstead, 1785 to 1870, there were 12 children. Rev John Wilkinson was also vicar at Gate Helmsley from 1810 to his death, where he is buried. The grave, looking at the church from the main road is to right near to the building.

Rev John’s father, also John, was borne in 1757 and came from Clerkenwell, London. He was sent to a boarding school at Kirby Hill, Kirby Ravensworth, around the age of 6 following his father, James, drowning in the River Thames when John was 5. His father, James, was a coal merchant. His mother was called Martha. At the time of writing, I have been unable to trace any other information about James and Martha, apart from there being a son, Robert, born in 1755.

An uncle on his mother’s side (name not known) took on John’s upkeep and died when John was 14. In 1779 John married Esther Elsdon, 1761 to 1836, at Kirby Hill. Rev John, borne in 1780 was the first of six children. Rev John’s father became a school master in North Yorkshire and then a curate or vicar at various churches, including Alne. He was also a land steward. His wife, Esther died in 1836 and John in 1841. They are buried in a joint grave at Alne.

Some of this information was gleaned from a document at the Gloucestershire Archives and in a book called ‘Her history in four centuries’ by Sylvia Webber. Sylvia is a direct descendent of Rev John and Anna through their son Rev William George Wilkinson (1813 to 1891) of Bubwith.

To avoid confusion, I refer to Rev John Wilkinson, 1757 to 1841, as Rev J 1st and his son, Rev John Wilkinson, 1780 to 1846, as Rev J 2nd.

Rev J 2nd's wife, Anna Joanna Newstead, 1785 to 1870, was a daughter of Christopher John Newstead, 1758 to 1825 and Ann Joanna Batty, 1761 to 1829. They married in 1782 at St Marylebone. London. Christopher's father, Christopher, 1730 (approx) to 1801, it seems was from York and married a Mary Wilkinson in York in 1756. Little is known of Mary and not proven to be connected to the Wilkinsons, I am writing about. The Newsteads were builders and attorneys, and one was a goaler, in York and are very much part of my work in progress, including Newsteads at Bubwith. To have a London connection before the railways is a factor too.

Anna Joanna Newstead, via her mother, can be traced back Sir John Lisle MP, 1610 to 1664 and Lady Alicia Lisle, nee Beconshaw, circa 1617 to 1685. Sir John Lisle was an MP in Hampshire and supported Cromwell and the execution of Charles 1st, although it seems he did not sign the execution warrant. With the Restoration of the Monarchy. Royalists sought revenge on those involved with the regicide and Sir John was assassinated in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Lady Lisle, who lived in her father's former home at Moyles Court, near Ringwood, Hants, was accused of giving refuge to two retreating soldiers following the Battle of Sedgemoor and the failed Monmouth Rebellion, was found guilty of treason by Judge Jefferies. Lady Alicia was condemned to burning at the stake. This was changed to execution by an appeal to James II. The execution took place by the Eclipse Inn in Winchester and there is a memorial stone opposite. Much has been written about Sir John and Lady Lisle.

A few Wilkinsons in the 1800s have Lisle

as a middle name. Newman is a name connected with Ringwood, including Christopher Newman Wilkinson.

Of particular note with other descendents of Rev J 2nd and Anna, there is Christopher Newman Wilkinson, who was Secretary of the NE Railway for some 30 years, although precise dates are yet to be determined. He was very much part of the railway expansion in the North East. The 'Stop, Look & Listen' signs on railway crossings bear his name.

Descendents of Rev William George Wilkinson, who succeeded his father Rev J 2nd at Bubwith, and Dorothy Wright, went to Australia. One of their sons, Rev Christopher George Wilkinson, 1856 to 1929, who married Florence Shann, 1861 to 1937, in 1882 at Ripon. Rev Christopher Wilkinson helped Bishop Montgomery establish a C of E Ministry in Tasmania. One of their children, Dorothy Irene Wilkinson, 1893 to 1947, was Headmistress at Sydney Church of England Girls Grammar School (SCEGGS) for 25 years through to her retirement in 1947. Very sadly, a few days after her retirement, she was hit by a bus and died.

Another Wilkinson branch was established by descendents of George Newstead Wilkinson, 1816 to 1884 and Frances Elisabeth Johnson, 1824 to 1893. in Australia.

My great grandfather, Charles Wilkinson, 1819 to 1881 and Sarah Fairbourn, 1832 to 1889, had 15 children. He was a solicitors' managing clerk at a firm in York. I am yet to research where he worked. There were 9 girls and 6 boys. Their first son, Charles, 1851 to 1938, was a bank manager at Howden. Edwin 'Ted Wilkinson', 1872 to

1937, was a Station Manager at Newcastle, married Eleanor Maughan, 1869 to 1950.

Alice Maud Wilkinson, 1877 to 1965, married Charles Tatlow who became Managing Director of Lever Bros. My grandfather, William Arthur Wilkinson, 1866 to 1940, married Margaret Charlton Brown, 1889 to 1979, He worked in the railway offices in York. My mother Katherine, 1919 to 2012 married my father Alexander Alan Coull Walker, 1901 to 1978, my father's second marriage.

Seven of the nine girls did not marry. They were Louisa, 1851 to 1940; Catherine, 1856 to 1940; Rosabel, 1859 to 1941; Charlotte, 1861 to 1937; Mary Newstead, 1863 to 1950; Sarah Lisle, 1868 to 1953 and Gertrude Octavia, 1869 to 1945. Most of them were ladies companions, governesses etc. When they retired, the family bought a property in Starbeck, Harrogate for them to live in.

Annie, 1857 to ? married in Fulford York Hugh Lloyd Jones, 1872 to ? of Sidcup Kent in 1900. In the 1911 Census, there were no children noted. In the 1901, 1911 and 1939 censuses Annie's birth year is given as 1867., although the birth certificate has 1857. They lived in Derbyshire.

Of the remaining boys. Christopher Newstead Wilkinson, 1865 to 1932 and Harry Newman Wilkinson, 1871 to 1940, they married and had families in London. I have more research to do on them. Percy Kidd Wilkinson, 1873 to 1932, did not marry, died in Canada.

The children of Rev J 2nd and Anna Joanna Wilkinson were:

John Christopher Wilkinson, 1808 to 1878 Emigrated to Richfield, Ohio and was a farmer, in what was probably as a pioneer. He married Jane Moody Robinson, in Ohio in 1850. He fought in the Civil War.

Anne Dorothea Wilkinson, 1810 to 1891 Married Thomas Gray, 1806 to 1880 in 1854, saw manufacturer. Sheffield. No children.

Louisa Mary Wilkinson, 1811 to 1887 Did not marry.

William George Wilkinson, 1813 to 1891 (9th April) Married Dorothy Wright, 1809 to 30th March 1891, of Eyam, Derbyshire. William succeeded his father as vicar at Bubwith, until his death in 1891

Henry Charles Wilkinson, 1814 to 1859 Did not marry. Solicitor in York.

George Newstead Wilkinson, 1816 to 1884 Married Frances Elisabeth Johnson, 1824 to 1893, of Keighley. Excise Officer, as was her father.

Charles Wilkinson, 1819 to 1881, my great grandfather. Married Sarah Ann Fairbourne, 1832 to 1880, of Newton Kyme, Tadcaster in 1855. Solicitor's Managing Clerk in York. Had 15 children, incl my grandfather, William Arthur Wilkinson 1866 to 1940.

Charlotte Jane Wilkinson, 1821 to 1894 Did not marry.

Lucy Esther Wilkinson, 1822 to 1896 Did not marry.

Elizabeth Harriet Wilkinson, 1824 to 1898
 Married Robert Leighton, lived at
 Goodmanham.
 One child, Robert Stainton Leighton, 1861
 to 1933.

Christopher Newman Wilkinson, 1828 to
 1904
 Married Mary Anne Newstead, cousin of
 Otley, 1829 to 1911.

Secretary of NE Railway, for some 30
 years, most remembered
 for 'Stop Look & Listen' railway crossing
 signs.



A picture of Anna Joanna Wilkinson

Captain John Kirkus, of Hull
Valerie Reeves

Captain John Kirkus, my four-greats
 grandfather was baptised at Wawne Church
 in East Yorkshire on 29th March 1770. His
 parents were John Kirkus, a farmer and his
 wife Ann (surname not yet found). This
 John was baptised at Rise, East Yorkshire
 in 1730, died in 1782 and buried at Wawne.
 Going back a further generation, Captain

John Kirkus's grandfather, also called
 John a farmer, married Elianor Grievous in
 1726/27.

John K's next appearance in the records,
 unless I've missed something, refers to
 him gaining the Freedom of Hull, through
 his apprenticeship to George Alder, who is
 described as a "shipowner" of Hull. This
 took place on 7th February, 1792 and gave
 him the right to vote in elections.

In 1804 he married Sarah Rayner, whose
 father Richard Rayner, a Hull man. was
 the owner or part-owner of several ships,
 including one named the Richard and Jane
 – Richard's wife was called Jane. Much
 later in his sea-going career, John captained
 this vessel.

John and Sarah had eight children – Jane,
 John, Richard Rayner, Henry, Sarah, Mary,
 Thomas and Ann, all born between 1804
 and 1821.

At the Hull History Centre there are some
 very useful records relating to shipping
 in the port of Hull. These give, as well as
 the name of the vessel and its master, the
 dates of the voyage and its destination, as
 well as the number of crew members with
 comments such as 'some crew members
 Swedish'. By using these records, I found
 out that Captain Kirkus made many trips,
 almost all to various Baltic ports between
 the years 1796 to 1822. His first mention
 in these records was in the 'Dido' to Archangel
 with a crew of eight which lasted two
 months and twenty-five days. John is listed
 as the master, aged 29 years! Later, for at
 least six years he was master of the Albion
 (in which he had a part-share), but in 1801
 he travelled much further afield in the same
 vessel.

It is recorded that he and his crew of twelve (one mate, one carpenter, four seamen and six 'servants') left Hull on 2nd April 1801 in the Albion to cross the Atlantic bound for Norfolk, Virginia, returning home on 8th October. I don't know what he took to America but have discovered his return cargo. This comprised tobacco, cotton, and, according to the Hull Packet newspaper, '10 barrels of fine American wheaten flour' and '8 barrels of fine American flour, imported by the Albion, John Kirkus, from Norfolk, Virginia.' These items were advertised in the local press for sale at the Dock Warehouse by Bell & Hendry.

A report from Scotland in the Caledonian Mercury of Edinburgh, where the Albion was in December 1816 said that "Amongst the ships which received damage on Friday night the 24th were the following Albion, Kirkus, from Hull which lost anchors and cables and drove (sic) out to sea." Many other Hull vessels were also damaged.

Between the years 1802 and 1806 John Kirkus sailed to various Baltic ports in the Albion. After what seems to be a break, he returns to the Baltic trade, this time in a vessel called the Henry, in which he held a share and returns to the Baltic at least once a year between 1814 and 1822.

In 1816 he leaves Hull on 3rd May bound for Petersburg, returning home on 11 August and still makes a further visit to that port from September to December. The same happens in 1817 with voyages to Archangel and Petersburg and even manages three trips the following year to Memel, Archangel and Petersburg, returning home in mid-November. The conditions at that time of year, in that sea in what by modern standards is a small boat must have been challenging

if not dangerous.

Some of the names of these places (and the names of their countries) have altered over the years. For instance, Memel is now Klaipeda and in Lithuania and what he called Danzig is now Gdansk in Poland. Elsinore in Sweden is now Helsingør, but Riga in Latvia and Peterburg and Archangel in Russia have kept their old names, as far as I am aware.

John Kirkus's last voyage was to Archangel when he left Hull in March 1822 and returned at the end of July. As he died thirteen days later and did not sign off – this was done by a Henry Levett (for John Kirkus). I think we can guess that he was taken ill at some point during this trip

During the gap between John Kirkus being the master of the Albion and that of the Henry,

his name features again in the records at the History Centre records. It appears that in 1808 a Captain called "Kirkus" was in charge of a vessel called the 'Mayflower' but as there is no initial and another member of the Kirkus clan was also a master mariner, this is not necessarily my John Kirkus. In the same year, a ship called the Neva, of Hull, master, Kirkus sailed to Canada but again, no initial is present. The next two trips, two years later in 1810 again captained by Kirkus, no initial, were the Jane, a coaster, and the Richard and Jane, another coaster. As this last vessel bore the name of John's in-laws, Mr & Mrs Richard Rayner, it is very likely that he made these two journeys

Between 1810 and the resumption of his regular sailings to the Baltic, there are several possibilities to consider about what

John was doing. A newspaper report for 23th July 1811 states that the ship Richard, 96 tons, J Kirkus, master, will sail with goods that leave Leeds on 27th inst for Oporto. This could be his father-in-law's ship again.

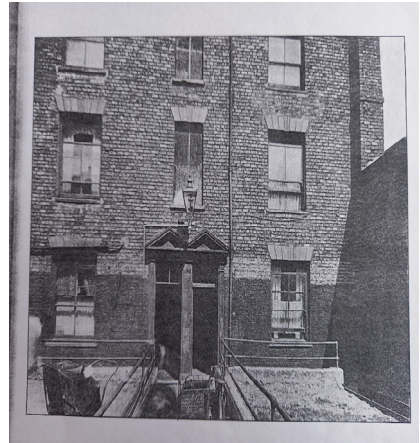
Two other items dated 1813 from the newspaper refer to a master called Kirkus in the Neptune arriving at Deal from St. Kitts and the next year, 1814, "the Hornby, Kirkus, of this port from London to St Domingo which was taken by an American privateer, has been recaptured by the Sceptre and carried to Bermuda". Is this my John Kirkus? Further research needed!

John Kirkus made his will in 1819. He left his 8th part of the ship Henry to his eldest son "to sail her for the good of my widow and dear children". Sarah, his wife received "the interest of monies and benefits arising from property, so long as she continues my widow" and at her death divides it amongst his children, all except his eldest son who was left a house, no. 1 Robson's Place, Manor Street, Hull. This eldest son was a cooper, so unlikely to actually sail the Henry!

According to census records this house was occupied in 1841 by Sarah Kirkus, a widow, and in the 1861 census by John Kirkus, a cooper, aged 54 years with Harriet his wife (43 years) and their three children.

(See illustration)

The name Kirkus or Kirkhouse (or many other variants, some very strange indeed) have been found in records dating from the 16th century in Hull and surrounding area, but whether Captain John Kirkus is descended from them I have not yet discovered. It seems quite likely. What I have found are other members of the Kirkus clan who have been in the news (and in jail



in one case) for, separately, disreputable or illegal goings-on such as a serious case of assault, a bigamy and an amusing court case over the labelling of quack medicine.

The Murder of Madge Dry Pete Lowden



What is, on the face of it, a simple task becomes, seemingly of its volition, something much more be that bad or good. The simple task I has set myself was post an old photograph of a site in Hull on a Facebook page. Obviously, I wanted some context so rather than just posting the image I researched it a bit. No big deal I thought. Look in an old directory, check on Ancestry etc. I'm sure you all know the drill.

Well, that's not what happened. See the image I posted of a shop

A fairly ordinary scene on Chanterlands Avenue in Hull, taken during the Second World War as you can see by the taped-up windows. The 'context' for the image was a little bit of research on the owner of the corner shop, which incidentally is a rather nice Indian restaurant today.

The owner of the premises was a Mrs Lily Ramsden. She was listed as a grocer in the 1937 Hull Directory. Her husband was retired Police Superintendent James Ramsden. He died in 1940 leaving his wife to run the shop on her own but we'll come back to him.

By the time this image was taken The Ramsden's family comprised of James and Lily and five girls, Marjorie, Ellen, May, Lily and Jeanette. Their only son, Joseph James, had volunteered for active service with the army as the threat of war loomed. Serving with the 8th Army he was captured in July 1942 in Libya and spent some time in Italian prison camp no.82 before being released in late 1943 after the Italian surrender. We'll come back to Joseph James soon.

I looked at the 1939 census in order to check that the family information mentioned above was correct.

Lily moved house after the war to 202, Westbourne Avenue. A step up you may think and you'd probably be right. She however continued to manage the shop until ill health made her give the management of it to her returned son. This may well have been a mistake as both her and her son were prosecuted in January 1949 for 'overspending of a points banking balance at

the shop'. Rationing was still in force after the war and many people wanted things that only careful saving of their 'points coupons' could get and so a black market evolved. It was this legislation that Lily and Joseph James had fallen foul of. In fairness their solicitor said that the son managed the shop for his invalid mother but they were both fined £10 each. I'm pretty certain that Lily would have been mortified and glad that her husband was no longer alive to see her disgrace. Lily died the following year. Her son left Hull and went to live in Cardiff and as far as I can ascertain he never returned.

However, this little snippet was not the thing that carried me forward on this trail. It was quite another thing; a much more dreadful crime. Murder.

Let's look at the career of Lily's husband James Ramsden. James was born in Keadby, Lincolnshire in June 1863. Like many young men of that time James saw a career in the Army as a way out of agriculture which was severely depressed at the time. From there he joined Hull Police in 1890. His first address in Hull was at 39, Queen Street where he boarded with a family. By 1901, he lived at 3, Rugby Villas, Division Road and shared this house with his father James, a retired mariner and a domestic servant called Ellen Young. By 1911 he had moved up in the world. He now lived at 43, Freehold Street with a niece Ellen Hancock and his trusty domestic servant Ellen. He was now a superintendent. In 1914 he married Lily Elliot and perhaps that is why in 1921 we find him living with his brother-in-law at a farm on the Warne Road, near Sutton. He is now a police pensioner.

It is in his role as a police superintendent that interested me for, he was one of the

investigating officers in the murder of Madge Dry in 1917 in her own home in the newly built Marne Street just off Chanterlands Avenue, a stone's throw from the shop in the image. And questions still remain as whether the right culprit was found for her murder.

Madge Proctor, aged 32, had married her husband Fred Oswald Dry, 34, in Hull on July 11th 1904. They had proceeded to have three boys over the next few years. Frederick Harry born in December 1904 which date perhaps indicates that the wedding was a necessity. Five-month pregnancies were frowned upon at that time. Frankish Trevor was the second son, born in November 1907 and finally William Harold was born in September 1909. According to the 1911 census one other child had been born but died. Fred Oswald was a school teacher in Hull and later in Doncaster. That he was an itinerant teacher is showed in that the children were all born in different towns.

In February 1915 Fred enlisted in the East Yorkshire Regiment, 5th Battalion, and proceeded to train for his role in France. He served in France from December 1916 until March 1917 when he was given leave to return home to his family in Hull.

The family now lived in Marne Street, off Chanterlands Avenue and it is apparent from newspaper reports that Fred had never seen this new family home as Madge and her children moved there whilst he was in France in December.

Fred came home from France due to Myalgia, 'trench fever', which had to be treated in hospital in Leicester. As part of this leave, he was allowed to spend time

with his family. He arrived at the new house on the 23rd April and the story unfolded very quickly

On the 26th April 1917 Fred walked into the Central Police Station in Parliament Street where he made a statement. This was that his wife was killed in the bed at Marne Street and he handed the keys of the house over to the police so they could take possession of the house. He also enjoined them not to disturb anything nor take anything away.

Police were sent from Norfolk Street station to the house where they found the deceased lying in bed in the front bedroom. Her body was covered with a blanket and the bedclothes and the face was also covered. Superintendent Kilvington pulled the bedclothes back and discovered that the victim had multiple stab wounds and by the bed was found a rusty piece of iron and a soldier's bayonet both with blood stains upon them.

The superintendent returned to the Central Station and cautioned Fred to which the soldier said nothing.

'Asked whether he had anything to say why the case should not be remanded until Monday next, prisoner replied in the negative. He stated that he would like to know whether he could obtain legal advice as he did not think he could pay. He had no idea of his financial position. The Acting Magistrates' Clerk (Mr Bairstow) replied that the request could be considered when the prisoner was committed to the Assises. They had no power to give the assistance at present. 'Very Good, your Worship' the prisoner replied. Mr Bairstow added that the prisoner should make the application

for assistance when he was committed. Prisoner: 'I thank you very much'. The prisoner was then remanded until Monday, April 30th.'

At the Inquest Madge's mother made it clear that the marriage had been an unhappy one. When asked if the pair got on well, she replied, 'No, never'. She also said that Madge had left her husband once in the past. The next witness, Dr Hartley, who had conducted the autopsy was more graphic with his evidence.

The victim had suffered 21 wounds and the body was still warm when he arrived at the house just after 9.00 a.m. The arms of the victim had been crossed over her body and she had been dead for some hours by the time he arrived. There were eight wounds to the head which he believed had been inflicted with the iron bar. There were 13 puncture wounds altogether, 'six being over the heart and four on the right side of the neck'. The doctor thought these had been inflicted by the bayonet.

'One lung was penetrated, the heart was penetrated in two places, and the skull had been fractured and the brain lacerated. Witness added there were no indications of a struggle, and he suggested that deceased was probably rendered insensible first by a blow on the head.'

The inquest also found that Mrs Dry had been seeing another man who was identified in the Court as Mr Spooner.

A neighbour called as a witness said that she had first met Fred Dry on the Tuesday the 24th when she had seen him in the garden of 12, Marne Street and he had approached her to sew a button on to his tunic. He had asked her if she knew his wife and she said she

had only just met her the week before. He asked if she had seen other men there and she said only one. Asked whether this man was in uniform she replied no to which the defendant said, 'Oh, that will be her brother then.' Mr Spooner was identified in Court by this witness as the other man. Fred Dry also commented to the neighbour at this meeting that he thought it was wrong that married men were sent to the front.

On the night of the 26th this witness also said that she heard a loud thud during the night which woke and frightened her.

'The Coroner summed up and asked the jury if they connected the death of deceased with her husband. There was no evidence of anyone else having been in the house during a certain period. The jury, after deliberation, and after asking the Coroner's direction on one point, returned a verdict of 'Wilful murder against some person unknown.'

The following week, at Hull Police Court, the charge against Fred Dry was investigated. The emergence of the 'other man' in the relationship was debated. It was said that the victim had met Mr Spooner, the 'other man' at Paragon Station on the 23rd. When the prosecutor was asked by the clerk who was Spooner, this description was given and from that he also gave a detailed description of the events immediately previous to the murder.

'Dr Jackson replied that he was the man who had been going to the house for some months, but he said he had not been there all night, although he had stayed till the early hours of the morning and one of the witnesses thought Spooner was the deceased's husband. Dr Jackson added that when they met near Paragon Station the deceased made a statement about her

husband, and about this time, Spooner's umbrella and stick, bearing his name, were taken by the deceased to another house, with the message that the man would call for them, the inference being to get these articles out of the way.

Spooner said he last saw deceased about noon on April 23rd. The next day the prisoner had a conversation with the next-door neighbour, who he asked to sew a button on his tunic. He asked her about his wife, and if the neighbour had seen anyone in his house to which she replied in the affirmative. The night of the 25th and the morning of the 26th were the material dates. During the morning of the 25th the prisoner and his wife left the house and appeared to have gone to an address in De La Pole Avenue. About 1.40 p.m. they left together and said they were going to the pictures and also to have their photographs taken but they were not seen to return to the house in Marne Street. At 9.30 p.m. the next-door neighbour, Mrs Ablett, and her sister-in-law, retired; the former, owing to an abscess on her face, was unable to sleep, and about midnight she heard a conversation in the deceased's house as of two people talking; about two hours later she heard a heavy bang and a thud.'

The Hull Police Court also saw Ernest Henry Spooner give evidence for the first time. A clerk for the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway he was born in September 1886. He lived with his parents at 24, Lambton Street on Newland Avenue although in Court he had said he lived on Anlaby Road. He said he had known the deceased for approximately two years and 'intimately for about six and half months.' He said he visited the house daily and stopped because her husband was coming home on leave.

He admitted he knew she was married to a soldier but denied ever staying the night at the house although he did admit to staying there until the early hours of the morning.

Mr Williamson, conducting the defence, said that he felt that the evidence as presented was not enough to warrant a trial at the Assizes.

'He ventured to submit there was no evidence on which prisoner could safely be committed for trial. That there was no direct evidence against the prisoner must be obvious to the magistrate. It might be a case of suspicion, but it was not sufficient to commit prisoner for trial for the offence with which he was charged. He submitted the conduct of the prisoner from beginning to end was consistent with his innocence. There was no positive evidence, and the only evidence the prosecution relied upon was that Dry went to the police station. He had been out in France and had contracted trench fever and when convalescent, came back to Hull. He (Mr Williamson) urged that Dry could not be committed on evidence of suspicion.

The Magistrate retired with the Clerk, and after about ten minutes deliberation, the Chairman returned and stated; 'I have very carefully considered the evidence in this case adduced by the prosecution. The only witness who connects the prisoner with the death of the deceased are the girl Alice Ablett and the police I feel no jury would convict prisoner on such slender evidence on so serious a charge, and it is my duty, having heard all the evidence, to discharge the prisoner, and he is accordingly discharged.

Private Dry then stepped out of the dock,

was handed back certain property, and subsequently left the Court.’

The following day, May 1st, Mrs Dry was buried in Western Cemetery. Neither her children nor her husband attended the ceremony.

One month later, on the June 1st, Fred Dry was re-arrested and charged with the murder of his wife. This development took place on the orders of the Director of Public Prosecutions, who was himself acting on instruction from the Attorney General. According to the press there was no new evidence but it was felt that the man should be tried for the crime. He was remanded in custody until the 20th June.

The prosecutor once again was Dr Jackson and he surprised the Court by saying he was presenting fresh evidence. He began by relaying the past events but with some new material added. One of the new items was that the deceased had a handbag in which she kept her letters both from her husband and Mr Spooner. It also contained other letters but more of that later. Her relatives and friends knew she kept this handbag specifically for the purpose of keeping such things. When the police searched the house, they found the handbag but the letters were not present. However, traces of burnt paper, lying in a grate in the one of the rooms of the house, and evidently the remains of the letters had been found and destroyed.

The deceased also kept letters that the accused had received from another woman and she had shown them to her mother in front of the accused asking her mother ‘what do you think of him’ to which her mother replied, ‘the same as I have always thought; not much’. The accused was said

to have replied that that was all over now. Mrs Proctor, when removing furniture from the house in May, had found the handbag hidden in a barrel in the pantry but the letters had gone.

It was also revealed that both the accused and his wife had gone to the Palace Theatre on Anlaby Road on the evening of her death and that they did not return until 11.00 p.m. at the earliest. The prosecutor also reminded the magistrates that the next-door neighbour had been suffering from severe toothache

that night and had a troubled sleep. This neighbour had said that she awakened by a ‘heavy thud’ in the bedroom adjoining her house ‘between 2 to 3 a.m.’, the inference being that only the deceased and the accused were the sole occupants of the house at that time.

Another factor was that someone had taken a bath during the last day or so. This was seen as a possibility that the accused had committed the murder whilst naked and then washed the blood stains away in the bath.

The final piece of evidence was that a young girl living nearby had seen Fred Dry, in his uniform, leaving the house about 7.00 a.m. as he made his way to the police station and therefore as it was thought that Mrs Dry was killed between 11.00 p.m. and 7.00 a.m. and there was no evidence of any other person being in the house at that time,

‘Dr Jackson concluded that upon these facts he should unhesitatingly ask the Magistrates to say there was a prima facie case for prisoner to be put on trial. They were not charged with the obligation of saying whether the accused did or did not kill his wife, and it was not for them, fortunately, to say whether

prisoner was guilty or not guilty. It was quite sufficient to find there was evidence which required an explanation, and to put him on trial before one of the judges of assize.'

The Magistrates agreed and Fred Dry was arraigned to appear at York Assises on July 10th.

On that day the prosecution stated quite clearly at the outset that the case relied entirely upon circumstantial evidence. However, placing this case before a judge and jury, the opportunity was allowed for Fred Dry to state his case.

He told the Court that he and his wife had a loving relationship. However, upon returning home on this leave he noticed a change in his wife's demeanour to him. He said they slept together that first night but 'the usual relations between a man and wife were non-existent.' He said he first heard of his wife's relationship with Spooner the following morning. He said it was a terrible blow to him as he loved his wife. That night he slept on the couch and his wife slept upstairs. He said that Spooner was a topic of discussion between them and that he said he could not go on and co-habit with her until he had seen her mother. So, it was arranged that they should go the following day to Withernsea where her mother lived. On the evening of the 25th he said she cried off from going to the Palace that night and she said she would go to Withernsea. He went along to the Palace and believed that his wife had gone to Withernsea. He said that was the last time he had seen his wife alive.

He left the Palace about 11.00 p.m. and went for a walk as he was troubled. He said he got back to the Marne Street house about 1.00 a.m. expecting to find the house empty. He

had a key to the house but he said he did not know how many other keys there were. He said he was very tired and took his boots off, took an aspirin and fell asleep on the couch. He said he was awakened by the alarm clock ringing in the bedroom upstairs. He went into the front bedroom and discovered his wife's body. Realising the predicament he was in he thought the best thing to do was to go to a police station.

'Cross-examined by Mr Lowenthal; When he first taxed his wife with infidelity with Spooner there was no scene. His wife did not carry about letters from other women to himself. He had received letters from girls, but had shown them to his wife.

Why did you ask to be detained when you went as an afflicted husband to the police? I naturally thought that, as I was probably the first to discover the murder, the police would want me.

Asked why he did not tell the police at once the story he was asking the Court to believe, Dry replied that he thought it would be better to wait until he was asked in Court before making a statement.

The jury retired to consider their verdict. On returning, the foreman announced they could not agree. The case was thereupon adjourned to the next Assizes.'

The next trial took place on the 21st November 1917, once again at York. This trial produced some new evidence. A man called Fred Kirk and a Miss James, his fiancé, said they had been at the Palace Theatre on the night in question. Fred Kirk said he had known Mrs Dry for about 18 months and recognised her at the Palace that night. Both of these witnesses also said that

she was with a soldier in uniform wearing glasses which fit the description of Fred Dry. It was suggested that Fred Kirk had been intimate with the deceased but he said he only danced with her a few times.

Superintendent Ramsden had organised an identity parade at Hull Prison where Fred Dry was picked out by Fred Kirk. Dry, in response, said that he went to the Palace Theatre that evening on his own but he said he went to the Palace Theatre three weeks in succession, once with his sister. He implied that Fred Kirk's evidence may be mistaken and that he saw him there on another night.

The jury believed Fred Kirk.

SENTENCE

Dry was found guilty, and sentenced to death

The date for his execution was set for December 11th at Armley Prison, Leeds. Before that Fred Dry had written to friends saying he was not going to appeal for another trial but was 'petitioning the Home Secretary' to have the sentence reduced to penal servitude. When asked why he was not trying for another trial as the evidence against him was still quite shaky he told his friends and colleagues in the forces that,

'He adds that he was actuated in the manner by motives of consideration of his immediate and near relatives as well as for himself, and he asks for the efforts of his friends at soldier's entertainments etc. He adds that under the terrible circumstances he is moderately well.'

On the 30th November the press revealed some facts that had been presented to the Home Secretary in Dry's appeal. These were that jury in the trial had strongly

recommended mercy. This was based upon 'the trials he had undergone,' and 'of course',

'By the terrible provocation he had received, and the prolonged agony he had suffered in gaol, no doubt brooding upon his wife's unfaithfulness, and the advantage taken hold of by the seduces while the prisoner was fighting for his country abroad.'

The jury also implied that the ferocity of the murder indicated something like madness at the time and, 'it was like a man suffering from temporary 'furor dementia'.

'In support of this latter theory, the prisoner's father died in Willerby Asylum about five years ago, and sister in a home for mental deficiency at Farmfield, Horley, Surrey.

'Under these circumstances, considering the prolonged agony awaiting trial, which probably affected his mental control, his services rendered abroad on behalf of his country, and lastly his wife's unfaithfulness, it is respectfully urged, are strong circumstances for the consideration of the authorities, and for the Royal Clemency of the Crown being exercised for the reprieve of the condemned man'

This petition finally had around 20,000 signatures. On New Year's Day, 1918 the Home Secretary granted his request that his death sentence was to be commuted to one of penal servitude for life.

On January 19th 1918 the Hull Daily Mail published snippets from a letter he had sent to his sister. In it he thanked a prison officer at Hull Prison, Mr W.H. Walker who had taken 'an active interest' in him and had visited him in Leeds Prison. He also asked this same man to thank all who had offered

support and help to him during this time. Still further in the letter,

‘Writing further to his sister he mentions his children and his fate, which is a source of worry to him.

You cannot tell a child a little and expect it to be satisfied (he adds.) Should they get up to visit you let them see my books and take away any text books they require.

Referring to a small sum in his possession ex-Private Dry states: - This I wish you to send in my name in remittance of 3s to my boys, say every three weeks or a month. Cheerio, cheerio. I take the opportunity to thank you for all the labours that rested upon your shoulders when the skies were blackest. The great reward – the respite – came. Let us hope and trust in God to open before us much brighter prospects than the dread year 1917.’

Fred Dry served the next 14 years of his sentence at Parkhurst Prison. He was released on life licence on the 19th May 1931. He married Mary Carter in summer 1935 and in the 1939 ‘census’ he was living in Slough with his wife and he worked as a travelling circularising chemist. He died in the spring of 1944.

I would love to end this story with some happier words but there are none.

Here was tale where there were no winners. Madge Dry lost her life. Whether Fred killed her or someone else did that is a sad fact. Whether being unfaithful in marriage merits such a death is unthinkable. Her grave is not adorned with a headstone and I doubt if it is ever visited for it lies right at the very end of the Cemetery. A sad end for a young woman

who liked to dance.

The boys who Fred was thinking of his letter to his sister back in spring 1918 appear to have been ‘fostered’, if that’s the right word. The eldest Fred Harry disappears entirely only reappearing at his own death in Trafford in 1981. The two younger boys appear to have been placed in different households in Bugthorpe, Northamptonshire and the census of 1921 cites them as boarders. William Harold, the younger child, died in 1972 in Buckrose and Frankish Trevor, the middle child, died in 1990 in Leeds, the city that was to have seen his father’s execution.

Of all of the family perhaps Fred came out of it the best. Although losing a considerable part of his life behind the bars of H.M.P. Parkhurst, it looks like he may have rebuilt another life after release from custody. But, as I said, there were no winners here.

I began this tale simply by finding and posting an image on a Facebook site and look where it has led us all. One really has to be careful when online. Never mind the scammers; it’s the history that can take over your life.

***From Siggleshorpe to Hollywood
Geoff Bateman***

This is a story of one line of descent within an East Riding branch of the Westoby family, beginning with James Westoby (1788-1852). It starts in the unassuming East Riding village of Siggleshorpe, and ends in tinseltown - Hollywood, USA. Although James was my 3x great grandfather, this story does not include my own subsequent line of descent, which, by the way, is through one of James’s sons, William Westoby (1825-94).

The generations from James that I intend to describe continue through our William's younger brother, Paul Richardson Westoby (1831-60), although I will end with a couple of tales of descendants of Paul Richardson's even younger brother Fred Westoby (1835-88).

James Westoby and his siblings were all born at Sigglesothorne. James was a farmer and may have taken over the farm from his father, who I think was John Westoby, b.1743 in Walkington, in turn possibly a son of Richard Westoby, b.1713 in Beverley. James married Sarah Sissons (1798-1848) in Sigglesothorne in 1822. Sarah was from a Brandesburton branch of the vast Sissons family, many of them farm workers. Her home was Burshill, a hamlet signposted off the main road near Brandesburton. I often used to see the signpost to Burshill and Hempholme as I cycled past in my youth, but only recently ventured down the lane to find the old farm workers' cottages. All five children of James and Sarah were born at Sigglesothorne.

White's directory of 1840 lists James Westoby as one of four farmers in Sigglesothorne. In the 1851 census, "Westoby's Farm" is listed between Postill's Cottage (home of the Postill family) and the rectory (home of the rector, Rev. William Bentinck). This seems to indicate the farm's location. That census also tells us that the farm was of 73 acres and employed two labourers. It also accommodated at that time a lodger, curate William Richard Ick (35, born in Antigua, West Indies) and a visitor, Horace Mann Blakiston (31, "chaplain at Constantinople", born Ashbourne, Derbyshire; web information tells me his dates are 1819-78, son of Sir Matthew Blakiston, 3rd Bt, and he was supposed to

have been vicar at Benhall, Suffolk, 1840-75). All but one of the children had already left home by 1851. I have already told the story of James Westoby's small claim to fame, by inadvertently foiling the exploits of a highwayman at the White Swan Inn in Seaton, in an earlier article (The Banyan Tree No.160, p.8-10).

Paul Richardson Westoby (1831-60), who became an engineer, was the fourth child of James and Sarah. In 1851 he was a flax-machine maker, living in Stanningley Road, Hunslet, with Thomas and Ann Harrison. Thomas was an agricultural engineer and, in 1851, also described as a flax-machine maker. Paul Richardson was listed in the census as nephew of Thomas, but I can't find any family connection to Thomas or Ann. (Their employment in the flax processing industry is an entirely coincidental link with the flax workers on the Bateman side of my family, whom I described in The Banyan Tree No.156.)

Paul Richardson Westoby married Margaret Hey (b.1833) in 1852 in Hunslet. They apparently moved to Doncaster where their son, another James, was born in 1855. This move was probably temporary, since Paul's premature death in 1860 was recorded as being in Hunslet. In the same year, his widow Margaret was re-married to Thomas Hillerby, a tailor from Mappleton. In 1861, Thomas, Margaret and her son James were living in Atwick, along with Thomas's son Alfred Hillerby. Atwick is where Margaret's brother-in-law by her first marriage, William Westoby (1825-94), was running the Black Horse pub; he later moved to the Nag's Head, Routh. By 1871 the Hillerby family was living in Holbeck, Leeds, where young James had become an iron turner.

In 1881 young James was in lodgings at 17 Ellis Street, Southcoates, Hull. In 1885 he married Frances Ann Patterson in Tynemouth. She had been born in Newcastle in 1861 to parents James Patterson (a “machine man”, born in Newcastle in 1831) and Isabella (born in Newcastle in 1837). James and Frances had two children, born in Wallsend: Margaret (1886-1976) and James (1888-1969). My grandmother, Sarah (Lee) Bateman, became particularly close to her cousin Margaret (Maggie) Westoby, since Maggie lodged with the Lee family at the Nag’s Head when she and Sarah were young. But Margaret and her brother James (Jim; I’ll use this name now to limit confusion) both spent much of their lives in California; more of that later.

Frances Ann may have died when her children were very young because in 1891 James senior and his 2-year-old son, Jim, were alone together in Wallsend. In 1901 Jim is recorded with his grandmother, Margaret Hillerby (née Hey, then Westoby), then a widow of 67 and living in Leeds. In 1908, Jim joined the territorial army (6th Battalion West Riding Regiment) while working as an iron turner in Keighley. In 1912 he (or someone with the same name) transferred to the Royal Engineers, having apparently returned to Wallsend to work. He may have married Margaret Smith, at Tynemouth in 1916. There is a problem with the records here because they seem to suggest that he was living in both Keighley and Wallsend (unless there are two of them). Since I can find no record of him in WWI he may have already left for the USA. Or perhaps his job as an engineer was sufficient to qualify him for exemption from conscription through employment in a reserved occupation. Also, the Smith marriage was in the middle of WWI. We do know that in 1925 he returned

to Southampton from New York (to visit the Keighley home) on Cunard ship SS Berengaria. He is later listed as arriving back in New York in 1926 on SS Samaria. It seems certain, however, that Jim’s wife was known as Elsie; we even have a note from her on the back of a photograph, signed “Elsie”. Also, in the 1950 census return for Long Beach, Los Angeles, she is listed as Elsie M. (aged 53). At that time James (61) was employed as a marine machinist in the ship repair business. The Smith marriage may, of course, relate to someone else, although a USA death record for a James Westoby in 1969 indicates that she was “Margarete”. A little further research is clearly necessary.

His sister Maggie, meanwhile, seems to be missing from the 1891 census records, but in 1901 she was with her grandmother Isabella and bachelor uncle, James Patterson, in Newcastle. Then aged 14, she was already working as a dressmaker. She later went to live with the Lee family at Routh, but the timing is uncertain; she was lodging at the Nag’s Head, Routh, in 1911, and still a dressmaker. Maggie left Liverpool for New York on the Cunard ship SS Caronia in 1928; she gave as her home address the Nag’s Head, Routh, on her passage documents. It seems likely that she followed her brother to the USA, and probably to California. She lived the rest of her life in Hollywood, remaining unmarried. Her work as a dressmaker/seamstress evidently put her in contact with a few film stars (she mentioned Charles Laughton), possibly at their homes, but I am not aware that she worked for any film studios. She kept in touch with her cousin Sarah (my grandmother) and returned for a lengthy visit (10 August to 11 November) in 1954. Fortunately she was able to see her cousin Mary (Pop) Morris of Ellerby, my grandmother’s elder sister, just

before the latter died. I remember Maggie as a very nice old lady; she even wrote to me, a small boy, a few times later on. Maggie died in Los Angeles in August 1976. Her brother Jim probably died there in 1969.

Maggie had an English friend in California whom she may have known from earlier days. This was Olive Davidson, a typist who, aged 26, emigrated with her mother Anne Davidson (aged 67) from Southampton to New York in 1924 on Red Star Line ship SS Bergenland. Maggie and Olive returned to England together on their visit in 1954.

A family story tells of another Westoby, called Charlie, who went to America (probably Canada) earlier, and may have been the inspiration for the emigration of Jim and Maggie to California. The story tells that he became a stagecoach or wagon driver, which creates visions of the real Wild West. This seems to have been Charles Frederick Westoby (b.1875, Seaton), a nephew of Paul Richardson Westoby (and son of Frederick Westoby). In 1891 he was apprenticed to one of his cousins, James Westoby (1856-1923), a butcher in Skirlaugh. He then emigrated in 1896 (if I have the right person). He evidently returned to England for a short time, before returning by ship (RMS *Virginian*) to Quebec in July 1912. RMS *Virginian* acquired fame as one of the ships that picked up and passed on a distress message from SS *Titanic*, also in 1912, while sailing in the opposite direction, from Halifax to Liverpool. The *Virginian*'s purser's passenger list states that Charles had been in Canada for 17 years, giving his home as Ashcroft, British Columbia, but giving no occupation. The shipping company's list of British passengers gives less information, but says he was a labourer. According to a census for 1916, he (or someone with

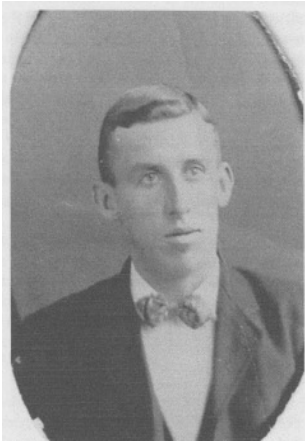
the same name and background) was then lodging in Edmonton, Alberta, aged 41.

But even Charlie was not the first in the family to emigrate. His elder brother William Paul Westoby (b.1866; eldest son of Frederick Westoby), a flour miller who had served his apprenticeship with his father at Skipsea, left for the USA in 1886. He appears in Huron, Ontario, Canada, in 1901, at the farm of the Irish Methodist Cox family. He had married Matilda Ann Cox (b.1870), one of at least twelve Ontario-born children of Samuel Cox and Catherine née McLean, in 1897. William and Matilda were later resident in Minneapolis (1905) and Seattle (1930, 1940).

There are, of course, plenty of other stories that emerge from the descent of the Westobys from our Sigglesthorne farmer, but the ones that led to Hollywood may be the most exotic.



The first photo shows us
Aunt Maggie Westoby



This is a photo of Charlie Westoby

***The East Yorkshire Regiment's
battle at Oppy Wood on
3rd May 1917***

Chris Brigham

This is a very concise description of the battle on one particular day; there were prior and later battles for the same area where so many men lost their lives and the reason the Oppy Memorial was built.

Preparations began on 1st May.

On the 2nd May at 11.00 p.m. the 11th & 12th Battalions started to move to their assembly positions with the 10th Battalion moving at 11.30 p.m.

Start time for the attack was 3.45 a.m. with the 10th Battalion on the right flank next to 93 Brigade, the 11th Battalion in the centre & the 12th Battalion on the left flank next to a brigade of the 2nd Division.

The debris from the previous Battle of Arleux on the 28/29th April littered the

ground.

The assembly trenches were merely an isolated untraversed length of trench, barely four feet deep, with no communication to the rear, or any means of contact to the left or right.

The battalions moved to the assembly trenches guided by 13th Battalion troops, who then were relieved of duty.

The moon silhouetted the movement of the troops and during this time a German aircraft flew over, so the enemy knew where the troops were located.

The assembly trench was only 250 yards from the German trenches and Very Lights (brilliant white flares) fell amongst the battalions whilst they were waiting.

At 12.30 a.m. the Germans commenced their bombardment, this lasting for twenty minutes. Forty minutes later it began again, only this time it was fiercer and continued until zero hour (3.45 a.m.).

Confusion reigned.

The Battle was due to start at 3.45 a.m. at which time the British barrage started. The Germans increased their bombardment.

The troops set off in four waves, in the dark, dust, smoke and fumes; headlong into the murderous machine gun fire.

The barbed wire had not been cut in many places and the troops were funnelled into those areas where it had.

Due to the terrible conditions and the barbed wire the British barrage moved forward

quicker than the troops, thus allowing the German's to become more active with their machine guns and the troops were in the middle, with the German barrage behind them, the machine guns in the centre and the British barrage too far in front.

With the onset of daylight it was apparent that the battle was a disaster and those lying in No Man's Land had a long, terrible day ahead. They were unable to move for fear of the artillery, machine gun fire and snipers.

The dead and the dying lay everywhere.

With the arrival of darkness the survivors, who could move, were able to crawl back to the assembly trenches.

The Battalion War diaries recorded:

10th Battalion

	Killed	Wounded	Missing
Officers	1	7	6
O R	7	103	107

11th Battalion

	Killed	Wounded	Missing
Officers	2	4	6
O R	9	150	98

12th Battalion

	Killed	Wounded	Missing
Officers	2	1	6
O R	7	150	127

(O R - Other ranks)

These figures were later revised with a large percentage of the missing being killed, and the wounded dying.

The revised figures were:

Men Killed:

10th Battalion	69
11th Battalion	56
12th Battalion	81
13th Battalion	3
Total	209

10th Battalion:

The greatest number of deaths during the War, in one day, was 69, this occurred on 3rd May 1917.

11th Battalion:

The greatest number of deaths during the War, in one day, was 56, this occurred on 3rd May 1917.

Honours awarded for the attack on Oppy Wood:

10th Battalion:

- 2 Distinguished Conduct Medals
- 1 Military Cross
- 5 Military Medals
- 1 Mentioned in Dispatches

11th Battalion:

- 1 Military Cross
- 2 Distinguished Conduct Medals
- 4 Military Medals
- 3 Mentions in Dispatches

12th Battalion:

- 5 Military Medals

13th Battalion:

- 5 Military Medals
- 3 Mentions in Dispatches

The following is an extract from the Diary of the 12th Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment,

just one of the many battalions at Oppy Wood on the 3rd May 1917.

2.5.17 11 p.m. Battalion moved up into Assembly positions in No Man's Land at B 18 b 0.5 with the 11th Bn. E. York. R. on the right and the Composite Bde of the 2nd Division on our left.

The Right flank was the Northern Boundary of OPPY WOOD, the left flank a line drawn through B 12 c 84 to C 7 a 7.1, the final objective being from C 7 a 7.1 to C 7 d 2.5. The Assembling took place in brilliant moonlight over quite unknown country and with poor guides. The enemy evidently saw the troops assembling and put up an intense barrage followed by another one later. This considerably disorganised things and at Zero hour, the blackest part of the night, the troops moved forward to the attack. They failed to obtain their objectives and were compelled to withdraw to the Assembly trench where they remained all day under heavy shell fire.

3.5.17 10 p.m. The battalion were relieved at 10 p.m. by the 11th Bn. E. Lanc. R. For Casualties please see attached list. Honours. 5 Military Medals, see attached. Moved out of the line to Nissen hut Camp at G.4.a.

5.5.17 10 a.m. Battalion reorganised into two composite companies A & C and B & D. A & C was attached to 10th E. York R. and B & D to the 11th E. York R. for duty.



Hull Memorial - Oppy Wood France

Winstead Tile and Brickworks

Margaret Harrison

I was interested to read in the last Banyan Tree about the flax scutching mill which was adjacent to the Enholmes (Winstead) Brick and Tile Works on the road to Patrington where at least two generations of my family worked.

In the 1841 census my great great grandfather, William George Wood Curtis (son of Robert Curtis and Ann Wood) was down as a 22 year brickmaker. He was married to Elizabeth Overton of Patrington. In 1851 he was a tilemaker journeyman and 1861 a brickmaker with his sons George and Robert down as brickmakers assistants.

In 1871 he is listed as brickmaker employing 3 men, who were 3 of his sons, this time George, William and John who was my great grandfather.

The census of 1881 gives a little more information putting him down as Brick and tile make occupying 12 acres of land employing 4 men and 1 boy.

1891 states he is a 73 year old widower still a brickmaker living at Brickyard Tilery cottages, Winstead Rd Patrington then in 1901, rather sadly 81 years old, labourer (brickyard).

Meantime his son John Edward, my great grandfather, we first saw in 1871 as a 14 year old helping his father in the brickyard. In 1880 he married Selena Scott and family folk lore says he went up to Hull on the milk train, married at St Mary's in Lowgate on 28th June, returned home and did a days work before saying they were married and he would be going to his own home.

In 1881 shortly before the birth of my grandmother Emily Elizabeth, he is listed as Drain pipe maker, and in 1901 Brick and tile maker living at Rettary Cottages with 2 of his 4 sons, George and Ernest, also labouring in the brickyard. He and Serena also had 4 daughters.

Before the next census they have left the brickyard and moved to run a small shop in Dansom Lane Hull prior to moving to Withernsea where John died on 3rd January 1926.



W G W Curtis



A group of men from the brickmakers company



John Edward Curtis

Noted below is an item from the local paper.

**DEATH OF A WELL-KNOWN
WITHERNSEA RESIDENT**

The death occurred suddenly at Withernsea, on Sunday, of Mr John Edward Curtis, of Cummidge-street. Mr Curtis was in the town last week and appeared to be in his usual health, after he had retired to rest with his wife, a daughter who had arrived unexpectedly by the 10p. pm train, knocked them up, and it was the deceased who got up and looked out of the window to see who

wanted them. His wife got up to get the daughter a cup of tea, and on returning to the bedroom found her husband sleeping peacefully. About six o'clock in the morning, she was awakened by hearing him making a peculiar noise in his throat. The daughter was summoned, but the deceased never regained consciousness and died. The deceased was 68 years of age. He was formerly a resident in Hull, but since 1912 he lived at Withernsea.

Dave Mount a member of the eyfhs MI group sent in this small piece for us all to read. It was taken from the Salisbury & Winchester Journal - dated 1844.

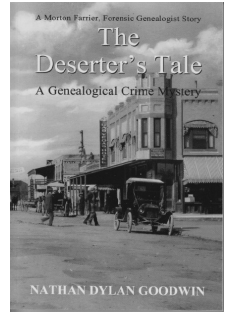
Mr John Feltham had been married 3 times, the wives were named as Anne Lovegrove, Mary Shergold and Elizabeth Sainsbury.

The newspaper provided the following information.

Died, lately, at Wilton, Mr John Feltham, in his 84th year having had three wives and twenty-four children. The age of his wife when he dies was 23 years, and his youngest child was only seven weeks old.

Book Review

(No 1)



The Deserter's Tale
Nahan Dylan Goodwin

A Genealogical Crime Mystery.
A Morton Farrier Forensic Genealogist
Story .
Page Numbers 1-146
Published in 2023

Reviewed by the editor of the eyfhs journal

The author has given us another story involving Morton Farrier. There are a lot of research techniques which we have all used in order to trace our own family ancestors.

The series of the Morton Farrier stories are recommended to anyone who has an interest in genealogy and good story plots. The book has many twists and turns albeit in a very small number of pages. It is a mystery worthy of space upon your book shelf.

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

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.

Janet Shaw: Membership Secretary

We have another list of new members to welcome to the Society 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.....

Please make use of the many services the

membsec@eyfhs.org.uk

Number	Name	Address
7269	Katie Firth	Hessle, East Yorkshire
7270	Ronald & Lynda Major	Bransholme, Hull. East Yorkshire
7271	Anthony Taylor	Hull, East Yorkshire
7272	Terry Wilson	York, North Yorkshire
7273	Geoffrey Bengé	Pocklington, East Yorkshire

Please note

Unwanted Birth Marriage and Death Certificates

After checking to see if the certificate is indeed associated with your family. If it is not part of your family line you could pass it on.

Where it will be kept with our stock of unwanted certificates.

All unwanted birth, marriages and death certificates should be sent to Mrs Margaret Oliver. 14 Constable Road. Hornsea. HU11 1PN

The certificates will however be stored at Carnegie

Forum Corner

Sharing information is the cornerstone of a Family History Society. If you need help with any research problems or can respond to some ones questions or stories please use this section of the Banyan Tree

John Walker got in touch with the Banyan Tree saying that he was a member of our society.

I have been a member of the East Yorkshire FHS since 2019, member number 7121.

Your article in the latest journal is not dissimilar to those I have read from other societies. A great shame.

My family history runs from Moray and Aberdeenshire through most counties down to the Isle of Wight, so I am a member of twelve Societies. I have not attended any East Yorkshire meetings, so far, mainly due to geography but also meeting times and subject.

I live in Surrey, although my late mother grew up in York with one branch of her roots going back to the vicarage at Bubwith in the 19th Century. Surname Wilkinson. One of her uncles was a Bank Manager in Howden. Before Bubwith, her line runs up to Fife, Hexham and North Yorks.

My parents came to Surrey in the 1950s, when my late father needed a job following leaving the regular army after the war.

Some local societies are more active than

others, and can centre around a few active officers, often with succession issues. I do not know the spread of local members to those living in other areas in the societies generally, incl abroad.

Because of the Yorkshire connection, I am a member of the York FHS and Cleveland & North Yorks, and East Yorks. I have been to a few meetings at York and they have always been well attended and relevant. I have not attended any in person Cleveland meetings, as they seem not to have any at present.

You make an appeal for new Committee members and whilst geography would count me out, I could assist with Twitter, now X, but not Facebook, in an honorary capacity. Twitter can help publicity but like websites, the provision of material is important.

Perhaps the Society meetings could be publicised both before and after with a brief note of the highlights, plus other items. My own twitter is @johnjwalker24. I have looked for an East Yorkshire FHS Twitter address without success.

I am intending to attend the York Family History exhibition on the 22nd June, which by chance fits with something I am going to in South Yorks that evening. I see East Yorks are exhibiting, so I shall visit the stand.

Best regards

John Walker

Online libraries for Family History

Sue Turner

Finding out about our families and the environment they lived and worked in is part of the joy of Family History. Understanding what the normal documentation that we find actually says is also useful.

I was looking for the meaning of ‘caused the body to be buried’ that had appeared on a death certificate and found an article on Death Certification . In the section for England (and Wales) it says that the informant on the death certificate can be:

1. A relative of deceased present at the death
2. A relative of deceased in attendance during the last illness
3. A relative of deceased dwelling or being the sub-district in which the death occurred
4. A person “present at the death”
5. The “occupier” of the house in which the death took place
6. An “inmate” of the house in which the death took place
7. The person “who caused the body to be buried”.

The above was in the Registration Act of 1836 and in the amendment act of 1874 it should be the nearest relative of the deceased who meets those criteria. If no relative is available, it is anyone who meets the criteria.

As can be seen in the citations at the bottom of this article, the article was published in the ‘Journal of Comparative Legislation and International Law’ in 1921. It has been digitised and made available on JSTOR, which is a not-for-

profit organisation that makes available scholarly journals in electronic form. It is primarily intended for students and academics, but it is possible to get free access by registering for a personal account that allows you to read up to 100 articles every 30 days (see <https://support.jstor.org/hc/en-us/articles/115004760028-How-to-Register-Get-Free-Access-to-Content>)

I also did a search on JSTOR for ‘Watton Abbey Drifffield’ (one of the pictures in the rotating gallery on our website) and the first item found was entitled ‘Rural Settlement Contraction in the East Riding of Yorkshire between the Mid-Seventeenth and Mid-Eighteenth centuries’ . Even if that is not the period you are researching there may be other books and articles mentioned in it that are more relevant.

There are other websites that provide digital access to magazines and books, e.g Google Books, HathiTrust Digital Library and Internet Archive. Some books you can download to your computer, some you can access temporarily (like a library), some you can only search inside and sometimes you are just informed that they exist.

When I searched Google Books (<https://books.google.co.uk/>) for ‘Watton Abbey Drifffield’, its first book was ‘Haunted Ancestral Homes’, but while I could search inside, I could not read it all. Further down it gave me free access to the whole of Jackson’s Guide to Yorkshire which included information about Watton Abbey.

The search on HathiTrust (<https://www.hathitrust.org/>) found ‘Contributions towards a History of Drifffield and the Surrounding Wolds District’ by the late Frederick Ross with Watton Abbey mentioned on page 17.

One of the largest of these Digital Libraries is the Internet Archive (<https://archive.org/>) which includes books, audio, video and old websites. A search for ‘wotton abbey driffield’ in their metadata option provided nothing indicating that there was nothing with that in the title. However a search with the text contents option, where it searches inside the books, found lots of books about Driffield, including ‘The Transactions of the East Riding Antiquarian Society’ for 1899, which included articles on ‘Some East Riding Families’ and ‘A Fifteenth-Century Fabric Roll of Beverley Minster’. A text search for “wotton abbey” (with the quotes) gave a Regency romantic fiction book and ‘The Castles and Abbeys of Yorkshire: a historical and description account of the most celebrated ruins in the county’. The Regency romantic fiction book could only be ‘borrowed’ for an hour, whereas the Castles and Abbeys could be downloaded. Internet Archive also has some specific collections on Genealogy (<https://archive.org/details/genealogy>) and Family genealogies (<https://archive.org/details/familygenealogy>).

Most of these digitised books and articles have come from US University libraries, probably from the dustiest shelves and corners of libraries that have not been visited in decades. The age of some of these books is amazing. The earliest book I have seen was printed in 1693 - *The Life and Reign of King Henry the Eighth* by Edward, Lord Herbert of Cherbury and available from the website of Yale University Library. How I found out about it, I cannot now remember, probably a simple Google Search!

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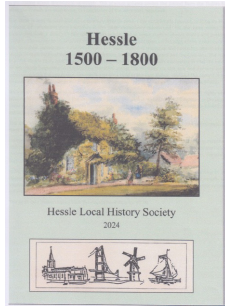
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Book Review

(No 2)

Hessle
1500 - 1800



Reviewed by Pete Lowden

This book, written by three members of the Hessle Local History Society, is part of a series the Society is producing about the history of Hessle. The present volume covers the period from the Tudors to after the French Revolution and the beginning of the wars with Napoleon.

The book is well illustrated and surprisingly easy to read. I say surprisingly because judging by the amount of references and footnotes it has been extensively researched. Yet the book wears its knowledge well. It does not talk down to the reader and in some cases is almost chatty and gossipy allowing the reader to smile while they learn about life in a small town on the edge of the Wolds during this turbulent period. And turbulent it was. The book describes the social and economic effects upon Hessle of such national events as the Reformation, the Pilgrimage of Grace and the Civil War. The role that the Hessle Ferry took in the Pilgrimage of Grace turmoil is especially interesting in that the news of the revolt beginning in

Lincolnshire travelled across the Humber via this link and fed into local grievances with the result that the revolt also took hold in the East Riding. Without the Ferry it is an interesting speculation that the Pilgrimage of Grace may well have hardly touched the East Riding.

On a more mundane level the book looks at the role of education, religion, landowner's rights and poverty within the history of the community during this period. Industry is not forgotten as the book looks at the ship building industry at Hessle Haven and the use of the Hessle Quarry and the limestone extracted for other industries located in Hull such as the fledgling paint industry.

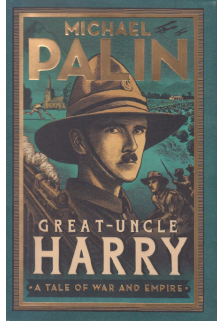
The Enclosure Acts and their effects upon the town are discussed in some detail and surprisingly, at least to me, how these affected the road network in and around the town.

No book on Hessle would be complete without a look at the 'old' landowning families such as Percehay and Legard and the 'new' money that flooded in to the town in the 18th century mainly with the Pease family noted mainly for its banking arm. This book covers fully these important dynasties, complete with genealogical charts, and their effect upon this small town.

In all a thoroughly enjoyable and interesting book that offers not only a historical overview of an important period for this town but many of the factors discussed within its pages could equally be applied to other small towns of East Yorkshire and further afield. The book is not as parochial as may be assumed by its title. A worthy addition to your local history bookshelf.

The book may be purchased from the Hessle Bookshop for £7.99.

Great - Uncle HARRY



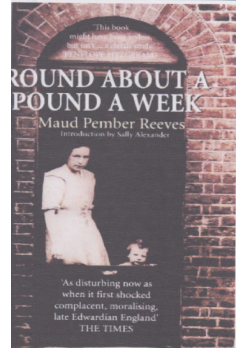
Author Michael Palin.
Pub in 2023. pages 322
Price £22.00
Pub by Hutchinson Heinemann
ISBN 978 1 529 15261 6

Reviewed by the eyfhs editor

I purchased this book when it was published in 2023. Michael Palin felt a need to seek some information about his ancestor “Great Uncle Harry” who fought in the 1st World War. It was very apparent how Michael and Great Uncle Harry looked so alike, the photograph of Harry as a young man in his uniform.

Michael decided he wanted to know more about his Uncle Harry and embarked upon some genealogical research a subject which we have all undertaken with our own ancestors. I finally got around to reviewing the book for the eyfhs. If you like to read about specific periods of history this is a book worthy of your attention. The depth of his research into the story was considerable, get a copy for yourself or borrow it from your local library.

ROUND ABOUT A POUND A WEEK



Reviewed by Sally George

This is an excellent book and an example of life in major towns and cities at that time. I borrowed the book from my local library. Copies are selling on eBay for about £2 - £3.00. My ancestors in Hull lived in one room in Mabbs Entry off the High Street, parents and 7 children. When the husband died his wife became a Charwoman along with 2 of her daughters. This did not provide enough money for rent or to feed the family so two of the children were sent to the orphanage and the last baby to be born only survived for 3 months. In the Winter, wood from the rotting windows and floorboard were used for a bit of heat and cooking.

From 1909 - 1913 the Fabian Women's Group recorded the daily budgets and daily lives of women in Lambeth. The declining birth rate and the high rate of infant mortality had taken on a new significance in the wake of the disastrous Boer War. Anxiety was provoked by the debility of the Army recruits which had been confirmed by the poverty surveys

(Charles Booth in London in the 1890s discovered 30 per cent of the population to be living below the poverty line; Rowntree in York uncovered similar proportions). In 1906 the Liberal Party introduced old age pensions, provision of free school meals and medical inspection. Family Allowance was introduced in 1945 for everyone, was not means tested and applied to each second and subsequent child in any family. I remember in the 1980s collecting my Family Allowance from the Post Office.

This book teaches us about family life, births, marriages and deaths; of grinding work carried out on a diet of little more than bread, jam and margarine. We learn how they coped with damp, vermin and bedbugs; how they slept - four to a bed, in banana crates; how they washed, cooked, cleaned, scrimped for furniture and clothes, saved for all too frequent burials.

A dark and damp basement room was the cheapest and even then would cost a third of the working man's income. The air was stale and mothers could not afford a pram so young children often never saw the light of day and were kept tied up to a high chair for safety all day. Infant mortality increased with the number of children born. One double bed would have to sleep at least 4 people. The quality and quantity of food was not of a standard to raise a healthy child. A room upstairs cost more, and the stairs were very steep with no landing, just a wall or door into one of the rooms. No handrail either. As for vermin, a plague of rats was seen as an act of God. Broken, defective grates, and stopped up drains were common, but the family would rather not complain as there was the fear of being told to find new quarters if they made too much fuss. If a man lost his job, he would walk 3 hours each way to find work, being afraid to move out of the area where he had friends and family to help if he was ill, as

they all helped each other.

Food was mainly bread with margarine and sometimes jam. One 13 year old was sent out to the back door of restaurants to buy left over bread and this hung on a nail by the back door. It was a bit stale by the end of the week but even so, there may have been a few pence left over to buy some neck of mutton and potatoes. Children never had milk again after they were weaned and mother's never seemed to have much milk as their food amounted to less than their husband and children who would have the food first. A husband would earn on average £1 (20 shillings) a week and the minimum cost to feed a child would be 4 shillings and in the Workhouse Children's Home children would be fed on 6 shillings a week. The more children there were, in one family, would result in stunted growth, docile temperaments and with pale complexions also lacking in intelligence for their age. A mother would often pawn her own boots or go out to work and leave a baby and toddler unattended in the house for a few hours, in desperation.

The disgrace of a pauper burial forced parents to pay into a burial insurance and therefore go without food. My Grandfather's siblings, plus his mother all had pauper burials and the burial register tells the story of them being put into the graves with total strangers. <https://www.deceasedonline.com/>

Have you read any books that you would recommend to the other members' of our society? If so please contact me with the details

What's On?

- for information on meetings/helpdesks.

Helpdesks

HULL - Carnegie Heritage Centre, 342 Anlaby Rd. Hull. HU3 6JA. 01482 561216. Every Monday 1.00 - 3.00pm except Bank Holidays.

Hull History Centre, Worship St. Hull. HU2 8BG. 01482 317500. 1st & 3rd Thursdays of every month from 10:00 - 12:00.

Church of the Latter-Day Saints library - Holderness Road, Hull. HU9 3JA. Ring - 01482 829168 for more information.

HESSLE - Library, Southgate. Hessle. HU13 0RB. 01482 393939. Every 3rd Friday except August and December.

HORNSEA - Leisure Centre & Library, Hub, Broadway, Hornsea. HU18 1PZ. 01482 393939. Every 4th Friday except August and December.

ANLABY - Haltemprice Library, 120 Springfield Way, Anlaby. HU10 6QJ. 01482 393939. Every 1st Wednesday 10.00am - 12.30pm by appointment only.

WILLERBY - The Institute, 58 Main Street, Willerby. HU10 6BZ. Every 3rd Saturday from 10.00 - 12.00 by appointment only. Contact - 01482 658077 or email - willerbylibrary@eastriding.gov.uk

BEVERLEY - Ask at the library, HU17 8HE - appointments only.

SCARBOROUGH - Ask at the library - Vernon Road, YO11 2NN. 01609 536602

The Carnegie Heritage Centre also runs a Family History Course. Ask at the Carnegie for further information - 01482 561216

An EMAIL HELPDESK is also available. Contact - helpdesk@eyfhs.org.uk

HULL MEETINGS

Hull meetings are held at the Carnegie Heritage Centre, 342 Anlaby Road, Hull. HU3 6JA.

Talks start at 2pm, but doors open at 1.30pm to allow for personal research. 2024 Talks

Sunday 3rd March - Dennis Chapman - Hull's Lost Historical Buildings

Sunday 9th June - Sandra Readhead - Haltemprice Priory.

Sunday 8th September - Pete Lowden - The Spanish Flu in Hull.

Sunday 1st December - Paul Schofield - Beverley Road.

Always check the EYFHS website Events Diary for details of meetings and helpdesks.

Janet Bielby



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