

# *Barnsley Roots*

Journal of Barnsley Family History Society



Ian Harley and Melvyn Lunn at the Barnsley Grammar School Memorial Board  
See the book review on page 15

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**Your membership card is enclosed. Keep it safe, as it has your username and password for access to the Members Only area of our website.**



## EDITORIAL

**H**ello and welcome to the April 2024 edition of Barnsley Roots. Although it has been quite cold and wet, I can see many signs of new life in the garden, including the Miners Lettuce, Hollyhocks and Viola, growing between the paving stones, which of course I don't mind, preferring a bit more of a wild garden than the rest of my family. As far as I know, I don't have ancestors whose profession was gardening, but many of our past generations grew vegetables in gardens and allotments as I do and some in Cornwall were actual farmers so, is it all in the genes?

As I sit writing this, I still haven't been to Barnsley this year and was hoping to come up for the talk and the AGM on 21<sup>st</sup> March. Unfortunately I have a bit of a virus that is best kept to myself, so won't be able to attend.

I promised an update on the research into my father's ancestry but it is still only in bits and pieces. The DNA is proving interesting, as I have eight different close connections that appear to have no other links; could one of them be related to my paternal great grandfather?

In this edition, as well as all the usual items, we have articles from well-known and not so well-known Barnsley Roots authors.

Janet Town has written 'Criminals in the Family', a subject many of us find in our searches.

We have the concluding part of the Harry Wainwright and Barnsley PALS article from Suzanne Court-Oak.

The Stan and Grace Story from Liz Whitehouse, with information about a blogspot, is a lovely story.

Margaret Williams has reviewed a new book, 'Barnsley Holgate Grammar School Boys Who Fell During The Second World War' by Ian Harley and Melvyn Lunn. I'm going to buy this one.

If you have ancestors who worked in the mines during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, read 'More from Memories of Barnsley – Coal Mining In Silkstone'.

We have information from the Annual General Meeting and the Yearly Accounts which, as usual, I forgot about so one or two of the items planned for this month will be carried on to July.

Thank you all for these and your numerous other contributions that make Barnsley Roots what it is.

I also want to give a big thanks to our editor Roger de Mercado, who has done most of the work putting together this edition of Barnsley Roots, and as always, ironed out creases, and solved problems as well as making his own contributions and giving us an amazing cover for every journal.

### **In forthcoming issues...**

All the usual articles plus an update on Ancestral Homes and Birthplaces, (hopefully a full article this time), further information about BFHS library, and any of your articles you would like to see in the journal.

Please let us know if there is anything else you would like included but don't have an article, '*we shall do us best*', as my Dad used to say.

Wishing members, committee and editor all the best and not too many spring weeds.

**Shirley Sura**

## SECRETARY'S UPDATE – MARCH 2024



**H**ello there to you all, wherever in the world you may be. The seasons continue to change, and while each one brings different aspects of Nature – and weather – the spring months are my personal favourite. It is the freshness, the renewal of life after the long winter and the green shoots of growth in the gardens that gladdens my heart.

It is a very similar renewal for the BFHS, as well. There are no meetings in December and January as people are busy with festive commitments and family get-togethers, as well as having a reluctance to venture out to meetings on dark, miserable nights. Yes, I know the reverse is true for those of you in the southern hemisphere where early autumn is approaching for you with the portents of your winter. With climate change, though, weather patterns and temperatures seem at odds with the calendar; while I am happy with the 16°C temperature last week it still seems strange to me. (It was 3°C yesterday!)

### **BFHS MONTHLY MEETINGS**

The first meeting of 2024 was held at Buckley Street Church Hall on Thursday February 15<sup>th</sup>, the third Thursday in the month as usual. It was good to see members and new and not so new friends again, especially as Ian Harley and Melvyn Lunn were able to attend. These two Barnsley Holgate Grammar School Old Boys, both members of the Society, have written a book, **The Holgate Hundred**, which is about the lives and sad deaths of ex pupils during the Second World War. A complimentary copy has been donated to the BFHS. A review and details of how to obtain it starts on page 15.

Eric Jackson returned to give a talk on **Model Villages and the Philanthropic Movement**. He described the transformation of England from a rural, agricultural society to an urban, industrial one with consequent population growth. He explained how housing was provided in the cities, the rise of slums with associated disease and premature death, and the government's inaction. The first 'model village' was at New Lanark mill on the Clyde. The coming of the railways led to housing for workers at Derby and elsewhere, whilst industrialists such as Titus Salt and Colonel Edward Akroyd built villages at Saltaire and Akroydon respectively, both in West Yorkshire. Eric described the beginnings of the philanthropic movement, the Society for Improving the Conditions of the Labouring Classes (who built 'Prince Albert's Model Cottages' for the Great Exhibition of 1851), the Peabody Trust and others. Later model villages such as Port Sunlight beside the Mersey, Bournville in Birmingham and New Earswick in North Yorkshire eventually led to the 'Garden City' concept, 'Homes Fit for Heroes' and the Woodlands colliery village in South Yorkshire.

The next meeting was on March 21<sup>st</sup> when a speaker new to the Society, Ian Wilson, talked about **The History and Changing Places of the Shropshire Canal from Nantwich to Ellesmere Port.**

### **BFHS COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Since the last journal, we have held two Committee meetings, October 19<sup>th</sup> 2023 and February 1<sup>st</sup> 2024. Meetings are now held at Elaine Jackson's home so there are no costs incurred in hiring a venue; it is kind of Elaine to host us. The Committee consists of seven members at present, although two members are not local so they always offer their apologies for meetings while being an integral part of the group and the wider BFHS.

The main topic on both occasions has been the possible trips for 2024. It appears that feedback prefers an early summer whole day visit to Eyam, the Derbyshire 'Plague Village' and a September whole day visit to the People's History Museum in Manchester with time to spend in Salford Quays which is now the home of daytime TV as well as a terrific regeneration of a derelict dock area of Salford.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Elaine Jackson, as Membership Secretary, was able to report that membership on February 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 was 192, with five new people joining in January 2024. Elaine gave the caveat that this is not really a true figure as only 136 people have paid the annual subscription with a few still paying £10 instead of the £12 which the annual fee is now. It is usual for Elaine to send out reminders/updates during February as some members simply forget to renew or no longer require membership.

### **GENFAIR/PARISH CHEST**

As many of you are aware, the BFHS is a member of **Genfair** through which organisation members can join the society and purchase books, to name but two activities. Like everything else, the costs are rising and we, as a Committee, always seek out the best value for our members.

**Parish Chest** offers an almost identical service at a lesser rate than Genfair. Many local societies belong to this organisation. Our Webmaster, Jeff Chambers, is very familiar with its offering. Jeff is obtaining costings so that we can compare the two in order to determine which is the better fit for the BFHS. I hope to be able to offer a further update in the next journal.

Keep smiling!

My very best wishes to you all.

**Margaret E. Williams. General Secretary**

## VICE CHAIR ANNUAL REPORT TO THE 2024 AGM

Welcome Members. I hope that everyone has enjoyed 2023, one whole year without lockdowns. I'm sure we are grateful to be able to enjoy our beautiful countryside again whilst not forgetting the people who were not as fortunate as us.

We were heartened that our King Charles III was crowned on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2023; it was time for us to start a new era and celebrate the historical event.

We did have our excursion in September to the National Arboretum; members that had booked before the pandemic had been waiting patiently. We had a very pleasant day in beautiful surroundings, well worth the visit.

We also attended the Huddersfield Family History Fair on the 15<sup>th</sup> October, meeting up with friends from other societies. Incidentally, we hope to attend this year's Fair on the 26<sup>th</sup> October, please members come and say hello if you are attending.

On our sales front we are hoping to join the Parish Chest this year. Genfair will still be available, of course, but we need to be involved with other ventures to boost our sales.

Although we now have speakers at all our meetings, please don't forget that any member who wishes to use fiche readers etc for their research can do so by contacting a committee member three days before the meeting. We can then provide any equipment, fiche, books and other research material in the smaller room.

Please keep sending articles, news, photographs etc, anything of interest to our journal editors, Roger and Shirley. They do a great job and need material to produce our Journals.

Do we visit our Website often? There is a host of information etc due to Jeff's expertise.

Suzanne, although not a local member, gives her input on a number of things in family history. We need to use Suzanne's knowledge more.

Elaine, Margaret, Lynne and Janet are our local committee members who do a lot for the society behind the scenes as well as their usual posts. We are aware that we can do more for the society if we have more committee members. Please give this a thought and, if you can, please join the committee.

The day trips planned for this year are (1) Eyam in Derbyshire and (2) Manchester People's Museum & Salford Quays. Leaflets are provided at meetings, or please contact Elaine.

Before we conclude the AGM we, the committee, would like to thank all our members for their help at meetings: Vicky Myers for auditing the accounts, Pauline Hines for the tea/coffee and refreshments, always served with a smile. Last, but by no means least, many thanks to you our members for choosing to join Barnsley FHS. Thank you one and all,

**Doreen Piper, Vice Chair**

**BARNSELY FHS ACCOUNTS 2022/2023**

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## MY FIRST VISIT TO BARNSELEY

I joined the BFHS in late 1999, soon after learning that some of my maternal ancestors lived in and near Silkstone in the first part of the nineteenth century. Although I visited Silkstone some years ago, I had never been to Barnsley until now. Since becoming the journal editor a few years ago I had felt that I ought to put in an appearance, so this year's postponement of the AGM from February to March plus the provision of a talk on canals provided the motivation. The route from Stockport to Barnsley, over the Pennines, is scenic in places, but best avoided in the winter months.

En route we (my wife Liz was with me) visited Liz Whitehouse, creator of the Stan and Grace blog (see page 12) at her home in Silkstone Common. She showed us her meticulously filed collection of letters, photographs and newspaper cuttings. It was fascinating to view her parents' original writings.

Not wanting to drive back over the hills at night (at my age...) I had booked a room at the Travelodge at Stairfoot, on the eastern outskirts of town. The journey through town showed us how hilly is Barnsley.

Later, we drove to Buckley Methodist Church Hall, not far from the centre of town, arriving a little while before the start of the AGM. This was held in the back room usually used for members' research evenings with fiche readers etc. About 15 members attended. After those present had accepted the minutes of the previous AGM, Doreen Piper gave her report as Vice Chair, then presented the accounts in her role as Treasurer. The committee members all stood for re-election and were unanimously voted in. The proceedings were commendably swift and completed within ten minutes.

There followed the evening's talk, given in the main hall to an audience of about 20. Ian Wilson described to us the history and scenery of the Shropshire Union canal from Nantwich to Ellesmere Port on the River Mersey, making use of his father's collection of 1960s photographs and his own modern views to illustrate the changes. He lives on a narrowboat and having been involved with canals since boyhood he has an intimate knowledge of them. Particularly interesting to those who, like us, have been there were his maps and pictures of what is now the National Waterways Museum at Ellesmere Port, showing the change from hustle and bustle to decay and near-closure and, thankfully, restoration. Ian brought a collection of old pamphlets, some examples of iron tools used by boatmen and a large copy of 'Smith's New Map of the Navigable Canals and Rivers of England, Wales and Scotland, January 6<sup>th</sup> 1818'.



Map size about 3ft x 2ft6in.

It was good to meet Doreen (who remembered meeting us at Stockport Town Hall FHS fairs many years ago), Margaret, Elaine and Lynn. It was a great shame that Shirley Sura was unable to be with us due to illness, as we have never actually met.

**Roger de Mercado**

## SPRING QUIZ

**HEINZ**  
**57 VARIETIES**  
 PURE FOOD PRODUCTS

**Here is the latest quiz for you all to puzzle over.**

My last effort in the Winter Journal attracted some complaints as parts of it were deemed too difficult! So, try this one, as it has a wide variety of questions on a range of subjects although not 57 of them! It is for those of us who remember the Heinz 57 varieties slogan used prominently in their advertising, (although not anymore.)

1. What planet is closest to the sun?
2. How many hearts does an octopus have?
3. What is a group of crows called?
4. How many dots appear on a pair of dice?
5. Which is the only body part that is fully grown at birth?
6. In Australia, what is commonly known as a Bottle-0?
7. What country has the most islands?
8. What phone company produced the 3310?
9. Where is the strongest human muscle located?
10. What is the world's fastest bird?
11. The Parthenon Marbles are controversially located in what museum?
12. What is the largest Spanish-speaking city in the world?
13. What is the difference between Brandy and Cognac?
14. Which country drinks the most coffee?
15. Cacio and Pepe are a staple of which Italian city's cuisine?
16. How many elements are there in the Periodic Table?
17. What company was originally called "Cadabra"?
18. How many faces does a Dodecahedron have?
19. Aureolin is a shade of what colour?
20. Which country features a shipwreck on its national flag?

**Margaret E Williams (Secretary and Search Officer, BFHS)**

*Answers on page 35*

## CRIMINALS IN THE FAMILY

### JANET TOWN

I suppose we all like to think that our ancestors were fine, upstanding people, regardless of how rich they were, what their jobs were, and what curved balls life bowled them. Obviously, that can't be true for all of us. There were many prison occupants throughout the centuries, so a proportion of us have to have ancestors who were imprisoned. So, on finding a shameful part in my family's history, I can only accept that it happened, know that I cannot change it and carry on investigating.

One of my Great Grandmas was born in Barnsley workhouse in 1862 to unmarried Mum Priscilla – I guess that's why she was in the workhouse; dreadful to think that her family appear to have turned her out, but, I suppose, that wasn't unusual then. (*Was Priscilla in fact an inmate, or did she just have her baby in the Workhouse Infirmary? – Ed.*) On a mission to find the father's name I decided to search court records in the Barnsley archives at the Town Hall – looking for a court case that might have awarded Priscilla an income from the father. I didn't find what I was looking for, although there were many other cases where money was awarded to single women in respect of child care. By chance, though, I saw in those court records other names I knew belonged to my family – a 3 X Great Grandad Charles and his daughter Esther. No details were given, just that the case was 'settled'. I had found the entry completely out of the blue, whilst looking for something else, but making a note of the dates of the court, I then went to one of my favourite sources of information, the **British Newspaper Archive**.

The subscription to this site is not cheap – but, my goodness, what a superb way to begin to understand so many aspects of everyday life in different eras. Yes, Censuses, Births, Marriages and Deaths are all very well – but they're only names and dates. What I really want to know is how family lived, what they did, what were they involved in away from work, what was happening during the wars, during the strikes, all the fascinating everyday dramas. Newspapers of previous generations are so very detailed – I guess as there was no radio, TV or heaven forbid, social media, so the only way to find out as much factual information as possible was a newspaper.

I located what I was looking for almost straight away in a Barnsley Chronicle report of 1863. I did an advance search using a surname, Barnsley as the publishing location for the newspapers and limited the search dates to the time of the court case. 'Alleged Disgraceful Assault by a Father on his Daughter' is what I read about. Charles, a 45 year old miner was found guilty of criminal intercourse with his 15-year-old daughter, having threatened the girl to accede to his action. I read that the case depended only on Esther's statement, although a surgeon confirmed that intercourse had taken place on more than one occasion. Charles emphatically denied the charges, saying that family disagreements with his wife living away from home had led to the malicious accusation. However, he was sentenced to six months hard labour at Wakefield House of Correction. Shocking discovery, and not something anyone would want as part of their history – but we don't have any choice do we?

Of course it leads to more questions. Why did the case ever come to light? What did the family do whilst the breadwinner was in jail? What was life like in the Wakefield 'House of Correction', especially for one convicted of such a crime? Lots of new paths to learn about.

However, I am led to wonder if Esther was pregnant. It isn't mentioned, but why would the case have come to notice at all, and why would the word of a 15-year-old be believed before that of her father? I suspect I will never be able to establish the truth – what I do know is that James, my 2X G Granddad, was born three months after the court case. His birth certificate is as it should be, with James' mother shown as Charles' wife. But I am left wondering if in truth baby James' father is also his grandfather, and he was actually born to Esther. Then to avoid the child growing up surrounded by the stigma of incest, he was recorded as society considers he should be. Certainly, young James and Esther continued to live in the same household, even after Esther married.

To continue with the criminal aspect of that part of my family, James himself later featured in court cases. He was sentenced to a month in prison at the age of 16 for stealing 3 sixpences from his place of work as an errand boy – again the Barnsley Chronicle, this time 1879. Then the same wonderful paper runs a story in 1887 about James, whom it describes as a 'brutal and foolish fellow' for assaulting his wife. Many details of the story are given; James was fined and ordered to pay maintenance for his children.

The idea that domestic violence is a learned behaviour is confirmed in my family – my Mum remembers her own grandfather's violence towards his wife, that grandfather being James' son.

One thing to be wary of on the Newspaper Archive site – it's completely addictive. You will end up reading about intriguing, diverse happenings – in the local papers I am struck by the number of suicides in the Canal and about the sheer scale of drunkenness and violence. Those aspects of the tough lives of our ancestors are reported alongside music recitals, charity fundraisers and cricket matches. My eye has been caught on two occasions by women charged with murder. I leave it to your own investigation, but, besides the above shockers for me, I now know about a Great Gran that assaulted a bailiff whilst he was doing some repossessing of property, I have the details of two family suicides, and have read about another family death that resulted from a fall off a bus – and on it goes...

**Janet Town**

## THE BRITISH NEWSPAPER ARCHIVE

### 'Hot Off The Press – New Titles This Week'

The BNA website includes a blog which is updated weekly to review their latest additions. On 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024 it announced the addition of over half a million pages of Country Life, from its start in 1897 to 2009, taking the current total to over 75 million pages.

[www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk)



## THE STAN AND GRACE STORY

LIZ WHITEHOUSE

**E**arly in 2001 my sister, Susan, and I were working on the task of clearing our mother's house. Our father, Stan, had died in 1989, just a month short of his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. Our mother, Grace, had now declined with dementia to the point where there was no alternative but for her to go into a care home. Susan and I needed to empty the house prior to it being sold.

We opened the wardrobe. There, in the bottom of the wardrobe was a large old cardboard box. We pulled out the box, put it on the bed and opened it up. Inside we found hundreds of letters, in random piles, in our parents' handwriting or typed on an old manual typewriter. They were the letters our parents wrote to each other between February 1942, when they met, and April 1946, when our father was demobbed at the end of the Second World War.

Over a number of years I transcribed the letters, over 400,000 words, buying museum-standard clear leaves to put them in and museum-standard files to store them. I managed to re-connect some of the photographs that had found their way into the big box of family photos with the letters that mentioned them, together with other pieces of memorabilia.... and there they sat for a long time.

Next birthday I will be 70. I feel that I have neither the time nor the skills to turn them into a book or a radio play, which was my original intention. Then, I realised that they were the ideal subject for a blog. After a slow start when some of the early letters were not saved, letters were flying to and fro at a rate of a letter from each of them every two or three days. I realised I could post them over four years on the dates that they were written.

Although my mother was training as a nurse in Nottingham and my father was in the Army (still stationed in the UK when they met) they mainly saw each other when on leave with their families in Grimethorpe. While, in essence, the letters are a love story, they also cover the realities of life during the Second World War: the difficulties of travel, rationing, working life and getting leave, shopping visits to Barnsley in the 1940s. After she qualified, Mum worked for about six months at Kendray Hospital, which she did not enjoy! This photo of her, left, was taken in 1939.



Stan was a journalist and this picture, right, was used in a newspaper story about his enlistment. As he was born in 1919, he was among the first tranche of young men to be called up in 1939.



The blog is at <https://stan-and-grace.blogspot.com/>. The first letter appeared on 12<sup>th</sup> February, but if you visit and want to catch up on the 'back story', you will find the earlier letters under 'Archive'. If you are interested in life during the Second World War, why not follow the Stan and Grace Story?

*Liz's blog can also be accessed from our Society website at  
<https://barnsleyfhs.co.uk/home.html>  
Look for Blogs/Links in the top menu bar*

## **An Excerpt from the Blog Going to a Dance**

On 6 February, 1942, two young people were at home on leave in Grimethorpe. Stan Bristow was 22 years old, a Corporal in the Royal Signals. He had been in the Army for two years, having been just the right age to be conscripted in 1939.

Grace Skuse was just 21 years old - her birthday was 2 February and she may have arranged her leave so she could be at home for her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. Grace was training to be a State Registered Nurse at the City General Hospital in Nottingham.

Both their fathers, George Bristow and William Skuse, were involved with the Nursing Association in Grimethorpe and were part of the organising committee for a dance being held at the Welfare Hall. Neither Stan nor Grace were particularly bothered about going to the dance, but both were persuaded by their fathers to turn out on a cold February night.

As the evening progressed a fight broke out on the dance floor. George and Stan broke up the fight and took a young man, whose nose was bleeding profusely, into the kitchen. William went to find Grace so that she could tend to the young man's injuries. This was how Stan and Grace met.

Later in the evening they danced together and Stan walked Grace home. "I will write" he said. Grace was not particularly impressed and, many years later, she told me this story and said "... and I thought, you needn't bother!"

However, Stanley must have done something to change her mind in his first letter (which has not survived), as you can see from Grace's first letter to Stan, dated 12 February, 1942. Note the 3.45 a.m. time when Grace started writing.

Nurses Home, General Hospital, Nottingham 3.45 a.m.

Dear Stan,

Thank you so much for your letter which I received yesterday.

You did manage the six pages after all, even though it was with the addition of a P.S.

I was so sorry to hear about your journey back. I am afraid that if I had been in your place I would have felt really bad tempered when I reached my destination. I did quite well, I was only a quarter of an hour late.

You know, I am not in the letter writing mood, so you must forgive me if I don't manage six pages. As a matter of fact I am feeling pretty fed up. A sort of reaction I suppose after the weekend. I really did enjoy the weekend,

thanks to you. I was pleased to hear that you did. I know that all good things come to an end but time does fly when one does not want it to. I no sooner arrived home than it was time to come back again. Still, I am looking forward to another weekend. I am trying to get it after the 12th of next month but shall not know definitely for about another week.

By the way, I hope you note, I have put you second on my list of letters. Don't you feel honoured? (ahem)

I will have to finish writing this letter in the day as I have heaps of work to do. There is somebody calling me, men are always wanting something, they are worse than women to nurse.

DAY - the same

TIME 9.30 a.m.

PLACE My bedroom

I am trying to finish my letter but it is very nearly impossible as Kit (my friend) is quoting French and singing love songs in my ear, she is also brushing my hair vigorously over my face so that I can hardly see what I am writing, so I have a good excuse if my writing squiggles all over the place.

I have managed to push Kit out of my room but not until she had drawn my curtains and switched off the light, leaving me in the dark. Ah me!

Have you been dancing since you got back? I suppose you will have or else you will have been doing a round of the cinemas. I am hoping to get to a trade show\* in the morning but we get very little opportunity of going out on night duty. If I do go it means that I come off duty at about 8.30 a.m., dinner till 8.40 a.m. lecture from 9 - 10 a.m. and the trade show starts at 10.30 a.m. We get back here at about 1.15 p.m. and we are called for duty at 7 p.m. Little girl you've had a busy day, what?

I must stop rambling now as I am feeling tired and I have heaps of things to do before I can go to bed.

What do you think, the maid has just come to do my room - no peace for the wicked.

I hope that you manage to read this scrawl, my father says he never can. You might like to know that I can read yours quite easily, in spite of what you said. Hoping to hear from you soon.

Yours very sincerely,

Grace x

\* 'a trade show'. At this time, studios sometimes produced films and then showed them on a very limited run to the public to gauge opinion. The film may then have been taken back to the studio to be 'tweaked' before its full release. As you can see, they were often shown at odd times of the day, such as 10.30 a.m., but it meant that shift workers could go to the pictures.

**Liz Whitehouse**



## BOOK REVIEW THE HOLGATE 100

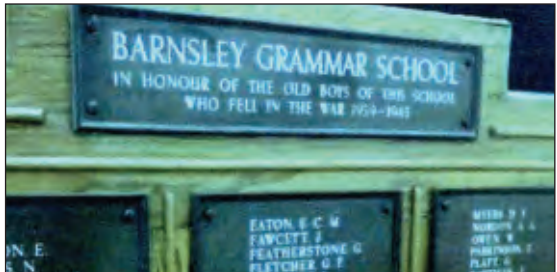
### Barnsley Holgate Grammar School Boys Who Fell During The Second World War

Reviewed by  
**Margaret Williams**

I have just received a complimentary copy of the above book for the BFHS library. On even a first glance, this book, published November 2023, is so obviously a labour of love, a touching remembrance from two Holgate Old Boys as it is so meticulously researched with a depth of detail, accompanying photos and press cuttings with each section so well documented that it tugs at the reader's heartstrings. Ian Harley has been a member of BFHS for many years as well as a, now retired, member of the Barnsley Chronicle Editorial team for 42 years – it shows from reading the 130-page text!



The preface to the book explains how the research came into being through Jane Ainsworth, the well-known local historian and author (as well as a member of BFHS), asking for the Holgate Memorial Board to be restored to public view. The board, made of light oak in 1948, has four panels with cream lettering. It has now been permanently installed at Shaw Lane Sports Club, ironically a few yards away from the site of Holgate School which was demolished in 2012.



The Memorial Board; see also Journal front cover

Jane's initial approach led to Ian recruiting his accountant friend Melvyn Lunn, another Holgate Old Boy, to see if they could discover more about the initials and surnames listed on the board. Give any genealogist a search query, it is impossible to ignore it!

So it was in September 2019; the pair could not resist taking on the challenge, obtaining material and verification from so many sources such as the 1939 Register, 1921 Census, Commonwealth War Graves Commission, European War Graves, then, crucially, gaining access to the Barnsley Chronicle Wartime Issues to mention just a few of the records used. The Covid lockdown offered the two intrepid authors the ideal opportunity to bring their diverse, yet complementary, skills to researching the lives of all the men mentioned on the board without much interruption from outside commitments. No-one was going anywhere during that period!

Although a member of the 'Baby Boomer' generation, I soon realised how poor was my knowledge of the actions and bravery made by so many servicemen during the Second World War. I have read every single one of the entries, feeling so proud yet humbled by the stories of sacrifice by so many men and their families. Each entry is written in a way that feels immediate and relatable, from the youngest Holgatonian (page 92) who died on May 10<sup>th</sup> 1940 age 17 years, the first member of the Land Forces to do so (he did not even have his name on the memorial board, either) to one of the oldest Holgate servicemen of the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve who was 'lost without trace' on December 10<sup>th</sup> 1943 aged 34 when his Vickers Wellington plane simply vanished at 00-53 hours (page110).

Each entry, where possible, starts with details of the age and the death of the serviceman, then it is accompanied by a longer pen portrait of their life, the local press report of the manner of death, family obituaries together with photographs relating to the death; one such chapter has three pages (125-127) of these, with the family kindly loaning photographs for the publication. How on earth Ian and Melvyn managed to compile such detail for each of the men featured is almost beyond belief. Ian pointed me in the direction of one such report where the father of the Holgate Signalman had died on the Somme on September 28<sup>th</sup> 1916 when his son was less than 18 months old, his wife then becoming a single parent bringing up her only son alone. The death notices in the Barnsley Chronicle from his wife and his young daughter are heart breaking:

*"Nothing is forgotten of the heartache and the bliss from the moment of our meeting to the last sweet kiss,"*  
 From four year old Jean,  
*"God Bless my dear Daddy."*

As I read through the book, I noticed that the larger percentage of the fallen had been serving with the RAF, or affiliated Volunteer Reserve, although members of the old Holgatonians served in all branches of the Armed Services, Army, Navy and Air Force as well as a few in support services.

Every death was, and is, a tragedy for family and friends. The deaths of some will especially resonate with a reader, such as the airman shot down on his way back from the Dam Busters Raid on the Mohne Dam, the two friends killed while travelling in an ambulance in a Wiltshire accident on their way back from leave, the Leading Aircraftsman killed by friendly fire and a Captain in the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps who died of his wounds on June 17<sup>th</sup> 1945 age 33, six weeks after VE Day, May 8<sup>th</sup> 1945. For many the fear, horror and brutality of war, combined with the trauma of losing so many friends was, mentally, too much for them to bear as one record possibly illustrates.

The authors also tell of men whose names are on the Memorial Board when research indicates that they should not be there as well as others who definitely made the ultimate sacrifice even though they are not mentioned at all. It is good to think that, through this book their names and their sacrifice are documented. (There is also a possibility that one commemoration is of a man who survived the war and died in early 1982 aged 75 although searches cannot positively identify him.)

This is a truly moving and valuable document telling one aspect of Barnsley's past although, Ian told me, "*It's not the happiest of books is it? No one gets out alive and some are really sad.*" Yes, it may not be but what a fantastic achievement to complete such an important and well researched piece of history. Ian and Melvyn can be satisfied and more than proud of their work which I know has taken hours and hours of checking and double-checking. No-one reading the book can fail to be moved by the 100 accounts so patiently and sensitively documented.

I have no hesitation in recommending this book to our members, indeed, to anyone; it will leave you with a range of emotions at the sacrifices these men made as well as a sense of awe at the depth of detail about each individual documented. Even the Mayor of Barnsley is impressed, having invited the authors to the Town Hall to present a copy of their book. Councillor Joe Hayward, Barnsley Council's Armed Forces champion, said "It's a brilliant bit of work and it's more than a book, it's a reference to Barnsley's past."

The book can be purchased for £10 per copy at our book stall at meetings, at the Experience Barnsley Museum Shop, through Lynn Smith, Book Stall officer for the BFHS (contact details inside front cover) or from Genfair.

As of January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024, the book has raised over £900 towards the target of £3000 Ian and Melvyn had set themselves. This profit is to be shared between three charities:

**The Royal British Legion, Help for Heroes and the Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's Families Association, (SSAFA).**

Thank you, Ian and Melvyn for such a good job well done, you should be so proud of your achievement.

**Margaret E. Williams. (Secretary and Search Officer BFHS)**

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Barnsley Holgate Grammar School, known as BHGS locally, was a secondary education school for boys. It closed in 2012.

The original school was founded in 1660 and was situated opposite St Mary's Church. In 1887 the Grammar School founded by Archbishop Holgate in the 16th Century at Hemsworth was combined with the Barnsley school. In 1911 a modern new school was built in Shaw Lane at a cost of between £14,000 and £15,000 to accommodate 300 scholars. There were 12 classrooms, laboratories for chemistry and physics, a large assembly hall, dining room, gymnasium and library. The school was opened on January 23<sup>rd</sup> 1912 by the Archbishop of York.

**A request from member John Robinson:**

I would be very interested in researching the events of the Barnsley Pals leading up to and on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916. I've read the book the BFHS loaned me, but wondered if any other members had done any deeper or more personal research they might be able to share?

John is at [johnrobinson16@gmail.com](mailto:johnrobinson16@gmail.com)

## HARRY WAINWRIGHT AND THE BARNSELY PALS IN WW1

Suzanne Court-Oak

In part 1 of this article, in the January 2024 issue of Barnsley Roots, I described Harry Wainwright's army life up to his involvement in the Somme offensive that began on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916. This concluding part relates what happened in the ensuing months and during the remainder of his army career.

*Ed.: For continuity, we repeat here the last two paragraphs of part 1 of Suzanne's article.*

For the nights of 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> July the grim task for survivors was to keep bringing dead and wounded back under cover of darkness from no-man's land as well as clearing dead bodies out of the trenches. The task of burying the dead began. Men were also tasked with collecting anything they would find which was salvageable from the battlefield.

Harry and his fellow survivors must have felt they were living through a nightmare. They were kept busy with lots of movement over the rest of the year, maybe this was a good thing to stop them reliving the horror, but they must have been absolutely shattered after all they had gone through. The table below summarises their movements from when they were initially relieved on 4<sup>th</sup> July by the Gloucester regiment. They moved around northern France, but ended up back in the trenches around Serre as the battle of the Somme drew to a close in November 1916.

### Now read on...

Much of the end of 1916 was spent in either doing trench duty, working again with the Royal Engineers or as raiding parties on the German lines. It was very much a cold and dispiriting time with Harry and his fellow soldiers spending a lot of time cold, wet and no doubt still in shock over what they had witnessed. The men were living in an almost permanent state of filthy saturation, lots of illness and disease was reported, including trench foot.

### Overview of Harry's location and activities from 4<sup>th</sup> July to the end of 1916

4 <sup>th</sup> July 1916	Relieved by men from the Gloucester Regiment and marched 7 miles to Louvencourt, arriving at 5am.
5 <sup>th</sup> July	On parade, praised by senior officers for their actions in the battle.
Date unclear	Marched to Gezaincourt.
Date unclear	Marched to Frévent where they got on cattle trucks to Neuve Chapelle where they had a few days rest.
14 <sup>th</sup> July	Billeted in Vielle Chapelle.
15 <sup>th</sup> July	Back in the trenches at Neuve Chappell to relieve men from the Warwickshire regiment
Mid July to Mid Sept	Either at billets in Vielle Chapelle of the trenches at Neuve Chapelle.

Mid Sept	Arrived at Festubert close to the north bank of the La Bassée canal.
Early Oct	Arrived at Béthune.
5 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Reached Robecq where they carried out training, cleaning up and re organising as new men arrived to boost numbers.
8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Marched to Berguette
Date unclear	They took a train to Doullens then marched to Sarton 4 miles w of Mailly-Maillet.
14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	New recruits arrived.
18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	They marched back to Warnimont wood for the rest of Oct and a few days of Nov. They patrolled around John copse and the settlement of Hébuterne. Many of the old trenches around Serre had flooded and had been abandoned.
Evening 12 <sup>th</sup> Nov	They left Warnimont wood and walked to the ruined village of Sailly-au-Bois.
13 <sup>th</sup> Nov	The Battle of Ancre; the Barnsley battalions were in reserve and were not called to march up to the communications trench until 3.50pm. Through the night the Barnsley battalions rescued dead and wounded from the battlefield. The 13 <sup>th</sup> rescued more than 60 wounded officers and men.
14 <sup>th</sup> Nov	They shared the holding of the front line with other units of the 94 <sup>th</sup> Brigade and continued to clear the battlefields. This time there were much lower losses; none for the 14 <sup>th</sup> while the 13 <sup>th</sup> lost 2 dead and 5 wounded.
22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	They were withdrawn to Sailly-au-Bois. The Battle of the Somme was over. The Barnsley battalions were there for the first and last days.
23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov- 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	This time was spent between the waterlogged front line post of Hébuterne and cold damp billets at the rear. They were always on potential call for the Royal Engineers who would use extra men as working parties. On a trench raid in November the 13 <sup>th</sup> captured some German prisoners.
23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	The 13 <sup>th</sup> carried out a large-scale raid on the German lines; 77 men and two officers volunteered to cross no-man's land and enter the German trenches. 1 officer and 8 men of C company wounded but its not clear if all 4 companies were involved.
24 <sup>th</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	The 13 <sup>th</sup> were withdrawn from the front line and moved back to Rossignol Farm near Coigneux. On Christmas day they had a gift from Barnsley of 4,400 oranges and half a ton of nuts.

Harry's service record has many documents dated towards the end of February 1917; all were concerned with the process of his application to be an officer. What I cannot tell is if Harry instigated the request for promotion or if his commanding officer suggested it, but it is apparent he was keen to stay with the 13th Battalion. The papers in his record are not filed in chronological order, so the table overleaf shows the sequence of events regarding his application.

## Summary of the time between Harry's application for a commission and the notification of this in the London Gazette on 20<sup>th</sup> Nov 1917

21 <sup>st</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup> Feb 1917	This shows a 4-page form. pg 4 of form 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb; Harry passed his medical exam; signed (unreadable name) Capt. Location; in the field, suggesting Harry was still with the 13 <sup>th</sup> Battalion in France. 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb; Major Currin, Harry's CO signed the form recommending him. 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb; is the date put by Harry on all the parts of the form he completed. The form has been date stamped 10 <sup>th</sup> May 1917.
10 <sup>th</sup> May 1917	Form S.D. 605 (S.D.3.b.) Particulars of a NCO or man who has been sent to the UK for the purpose of joining an Officer Cadet Unit. Harry was given a rail warrant for travel and told to report to 13(S) York & Lancs at Pontefract, so Harry has arrived in England by this time.
5 <sup>th</sup> July 1917	Register no 217255/1 Minute Sheet no 1 date stamped 5 <sup>th</sup> July 1917. Harry is accepted for admission to No 4 Officer cadet Battalion to join them at Oxford.
20 <sup>th</sup> Nov 1917	Harry's Commission is announced in the London Gazette, publication date 16 <sup>th</sup> Nov 1917, although the supplement is dated 20 <sup>th</sup> Nov 1917 (see below) Appointed to a temporary commission as 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant posted to West Yorks Regiment.

### SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE, 20 NOVEMBER, 1917. 11989

Pte. E. N. Elsworth. 13 Oct. 1917.  
Actg. Corpl. H. E. Beall, from Devon. R. 13 Oct. 1917.  
Corpl. E. Mellows, from H.A.C., T.F. 13 Oct. 1917.  
Serjt. R. C. Laing. 13 Oct. 1917.  
Actg. Regtl. Qr.-Mr.-Serjt. G. E. Codd. 19 Oct. 1917.  
Actg. Serjt. W. P. Grime. 19 Oct. 1917.  
Actg. Serjt. H. B. Rowland, from A.S.C. 19 Oct. 1917.  
Pte. W. G. Abercrombie, from Arg. & Sub'd Highrs. 19 Oct. 1917.  
Actg. Staff Qr.-Mr.-Serjt. G. S. Ballard, from A.S.C. 19 Oct. 1917.  
Pte. J. W. Thompson, from M.G. Corps. 19 Oct. 1917.  
Co. Qr.-Mr.-Serjt. T. Merchant, from Devon. R. 19 Oct. 1917.  
Actg. Serjt. F. Godfrey. 19 Oct. 1917.  
Lee.-Corpl. J. B. Harwood, from A. P. Corps. 19 Oct. 1917.  
Lee.-Corpl. A. R. Bussey, from A.O. Corps. 19 Oct. 1917.  
Corpl. E. G. Terry, from Lond. R., T.F. 19 Oct. 1917.

Alfred James Geen.  
Walter John Hannam.  
Alexander John Kitt.  
Harry Arthur Lewis.

*Suff. R.*—Fred Bentley.  
Sydney George Kemp.  
Frederick Lemmon.  
William Norman Newbery.  
Percy Thomas Clarke.  
Arthur North.

*Som. L.I.*—Harry Elliott Cottee.  
Sidney Tom Dyte.  
Walter Breeden Kent.

*W. York. R.*—Fred Wood Grimshaw.  
Christopher Longstaff.  
John William Brown.  
Charles George Burman.  
James Parke Calam.  
Ernest Pattison Clark.  
Frank Craven.  
Thomas Madeley Finnie.  
George Raymond Marshall.  
Harry Wainwright.  
Charles Stuart Walker.

Notice in the London Gazette of Harry's temporary commission to the Rank of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the West Yorkshire Regiment supplement date 20<sup>th</sup> Nov 1917



This information proves the partial validity of family story number 3; Harry was commissioned as second Lieutenant in the West Yorkshire Regiment, not the 13<sup>th</sup> Yorks and Lancs as he had requested, but at least in a Yorkshire regiment. Mum was correct with some of the story about him being sent to Oxford, but he did not attend at the University. However, it gives me another future area to investigate as I do not have any information about No. 4 Officer Cadet Battalion.

The next part of Harry's war is quite short; his service record shows he arrived back in France as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion 10<sup>th</sup> West Yorkshire Regiment, sometime in mid-January 1918. The reason for this assumption is that on 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb, Harry suffered a gunshot wound (GSW) in his upper left arm whilst in action at Cambrai. The forms in his service record suggest he had been in France for three weeks at the time of this injury, see next page. A rifle bullet penetrated his left humerus bone shattering it. Records recount that the wound was treated *insitu* initially to stop infection and bleeding, then Harry was sent home for further medical care. I need to spend more time now studying the War Diaries for the West Yorks Regiment, as I found from the 13<sup>th</sup> battalion War Diaries that officers are often mentioned by name.

His service record shows he had to attend numerous medical boards where he was frequently assessed. The army classified the wound as severe and he initially had limited movement in his left elbow, so he was prescribed massage to help strengthen the arm. I have spent a great deal of time studying these records; many do not make sense as much is coded. However, the more I read about armed services records, so the forms gradually begin to make more sense. I have created a generalised timeline, although there are some periods when I cannot make out where he was; see table below. These records prove the validity of family story no 1, that Grandad had suffered a serious GSW.

### **Summary of Harry's hospitalisations following his GSW and his location during the final months of the War.**

15 <sup>th</sup> Feb 1918	Harry was evacuated from Boulogne to Dover with a severe GSW and compound fracture of the left arm. He was admitted to the Royal Free Hospital; I have not yet been able to find out where this hospital was located.
5 <sup>th</sup> Mar 1918	Harry attended a medical board and the form has this date stamped on it. His wound is described as very severe.
25 <sup>th</sup> Mar 1918	Harry is stationed at Caxton Hall SW. I am assuming this is a hospital.
April 1918	Another Medical Board examination finds that he was not fit for general service or home service; he required indoor hospital treatment in an officer's military or auxiliary convalescent hospital. Harry was described as "remains in Royal Free Hospital forwarding transport to an aux court hospital at the seaside. 50% disabled"

21 <sup>st</sup> May 1918	Another medical board examination: Harry had been moved to an officers Convalescent hospital; KLMCH Blackpool. His wound had healed but he still had limited elbow movement. He was classed as fit for serving at the Command depot. By now he was described as 50% disabled. He was told to remain in the officer's convalescent hospital pending transfer to Command Depot at Ripon.
6 <sup>th</sup> June 1918	Harry married Susie Smart MELLER, sister of one of his fellow Barnsley pals from the 13 <sup>th</sup> Battalion, George Smart MELLER who was also close friends with Harry's Best Man Arthur WAINWRIGHT.
15 <sup>th</sup> Aug 1918	Harry was granted 19 days leave up to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept and told to report to C/E 3 <sup>rd</sup> West Yorks at Whitby and a Rail Warrant was issued. His address was given as 3 Freeman St (home of his wife's parents). Station; Command Depot Ripon; a final medical board stated that there was now no disability and that Harry was fit for general service.

1	cms PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	ms	1	2
<b>Ref.: W0339/115406</b>		<b>86778</b>		
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet.				

484-30230 100/000 7/27 HWV(bF436) Forms(A45a/18) 743-P.5 500,000 10/17 Army Form A. 45A.

**Confidential.**

To be used in cases of wounds or injuries received in action.  
(For instructions for preparing this report see back of form.)

PROCEEDINGS OF A MEDICAL BOARD assembled by order of  
*G.O.C. London District*

for the purpose of examining and reporting on the present state of a wound or injury sustained  
by *2/Lt. W. Wainwright* *3/22 10/4 Yorks*

at (Place of Injury) *Cambrai* on the (Date of Injury) *3.2.18.*

The Board find *that in action he was wounded by a rifle bullet which passed through the left upper arm about the middle fracturing the humerus in the lower 1/3 - no injury to large nerve or vessel. The wounds were debrided the same day.*  
*Evacuated Home 15.2.18.*

*The wounds have now healed & the fracture united - there is some limitation of the elbow joint movement which under further massage should be overcome.*

Detail from Harry's Service Record concerning his gunshot wound inflicted at Cambrai.



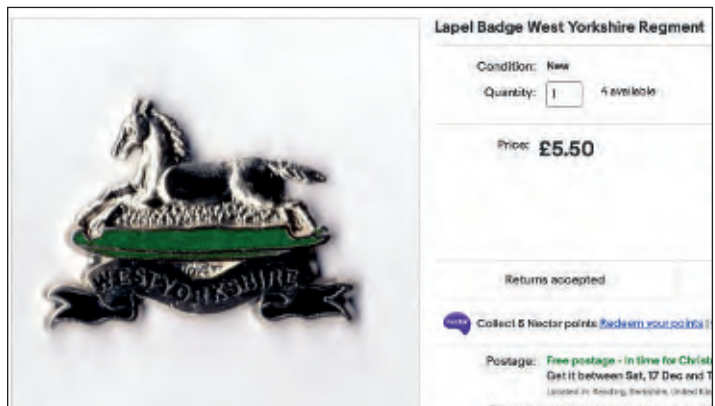
Harry married during this time at home; the photo of the wedding, below, shows him in his West Yorks Second Lieutenant's uniform. The earlier photo also shows him in the same uniform. I was able to see the lapel badges very clearly on the wedding photo as I have a large high-resolution copy of it. Using Ebay I was able to identify them as being West Yorkshire Regiment lapel badges, see picture at bottom of page.



Harry's wedding 6 June 1918, St Peters, Barnsley.

Standing L to R: bridesmaid Dolly MONKMAN or Ethel JAGGER, unknown lady, Emily WAINWRIGHT (Harry's aunt), Edith GRIFFITHS (Harry's sister), Tom Hague MELLER and Ellen MELLER (Harry's parents-in-law), possibly John GRIFFITHS (Edith's husband), bridesmaid Dolly MONKMAN or Ethel JAGGER, Arthur WAINWRIGHT (best man).  
Seated L to R: Harry, Phyllis Smart MELLER (sister of the bride) and Susie Smart MELLER

West Yorkshire  
Regiment Lapel  
Badge for sale on  
Ebay.



In September Harry reported to Barracks in Whitby, then the trail of his location and activities goes cold. Armistice day was only two months away and Harry was to see out the war in his beloved Yorkshire, away from the horrors that must surely still have played on his mind. He was released from the army on 27<sup>th</sup> April 1919, shortly after the birth of his first child, who would go on to follow his father's footsteps by serving in the Yorks and Lancs Regiment in WW2.

Having only one of Harry's medals I wondered what his entitlement would be; I looked on the Ancestry website to locate the Medal Rolls and find Harry's entitlement. I found his entry which is shown opposite. Harry was entitled to two medals: the British War medal and the Victory Medal. However, we only have one medal, the Victory medal, below. Harry



Name	Rank	Regiment	Date
WAINWRIGHT	Yorksham R. Sgt.		12/20/23
		W. Hatch	x 5/65
<p>Harry</p> <p>10 York R x 00856</p> <p>32</p> <p>0/102/2 - 176</p> <p>comm 207014. 1/1/20</p> <p>1/102/2/10. 8. 27. 10/1/1910</p>			
<p>2 Medal of War Entitled to</p> <p>Was it ever issued</p>			
<p>Correspondence</p> <p>B.S.G. ref? 27/25</p> <p>Address: 23 Willshope Crescent</p> <p>Barnsley</p> <p>Yorks</p>			

may have returned his other medal, as many men did; the UK Government website states that if a medal was returned it is possible to apply for the return of these medals. This is something I need to follow up as it would be wonderful if I could one day locate it.

I had always felt overawed by the depth and variety of army records and did not initially understand enough about the workings of the British Army to feel confident to tackle research in this area. I knew that Harry had fought in WW1, travelled to Egypt and swum the Suez Canal, but never sought any proof. As Grandad had talked about his wound, I knew that he was, like so many, injured in the war. I never sought to find out where he was serving, how bad his wound was or what was done to help him recover. I had heard of Pals regiments being decimated in the war, but had not connected it to my grandad. It took a visit to The National Archives to find his service record and a long summer holiday with time on my hands and a copy of the "Barnsley Pals" as my summer reading target to awaken my interest in Harry's experiences.

The final event which got me fully invested was my visit to Serre and the WW1 cemeteries looked after by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (see back cover of the January Barnsley Roots). Standing at Luke copse by the trenches Harry sheltered in, seeing how close the German front line was and being shocked at the sheer number of graves, I felt the immense sadness of the place. I knew about the Battle of the Somme and what had occurred, but I did not understand the enormity of it and had never thought my beloved granddad had been there. Now I need to go back as my eyes have been opened; next time it will all mean so much more to me.

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## Acknowledgments

War Diary extracts, service record and medal roll images courtesy of TNA.

## Appendix

### The composition of the 31<sup>st</sup> Division

The 31<sup>st</sup> division was made up of thirteen locally recruited "New Army Battalions" from the industrial heartland of Northern England.

Yorkshire provided eleven of the thirteen battalions from six towns/cities. As the recruitment encouraged large numbers of men from the same community to join up at the same time they became known as the "Pals Battalions". It seemed a good idea in Kitchener's plans to encourage friends to join up and fight together. Men would be happier with people they knew. The idea has some logic. Sadly no one seemed to think what impact this would have upon a community when a Pals battalion was engaged in major battle such as the Somme. The result was that local areas had whole generations of young men wiped out, leaving communities without husbands, fathers and brothers.

The 91<sup>st</sup> brigade was made of four battalions, all from Hull.

The 93<sup>rd</sup> Brigade consisted of Leeds, Bradford (two battalions) and Durham.

The 94<sup>th</sup> Brigade included the Barnsley (two battalions), Sheffield and Accrington 'Pals'.

The Divisional Pioneer battalion were known as the Halifax pals.

**Suzanne Court-Oak**

**Editor's note:** in her IHGS assignment Suzanne properly included footnotes giving the exact sources of all her information. We have not repeated them in this presentation of her article, but if anyone wants to know more about her sources she'll be pleased to help.

## KEEPING YOU IN THE LOOP NEWS SNIPPETS



**A**fter the festive period, followed by the inertia of January, up pops February and, it seems, the Family History family gets gradually up to speed with research requests and information regarding various sources of possible interest to us family historians. Here goes with the few updates I have for you:

### FAMILYSEARCH

As Search Officer, I am increasingly finding this site is offering details about BFHS members' ancestors which I haven't found on the generic sites such as Ancestry or Findmypast. This is a site which I and other researchers are increasingly using. Although I have written about this source before, there has been a major development which may be of interest to some of you. At the end of 2023, FamilySearch announced the completion of the free, fully searchable index and images of **the 1931 Census for Canada**. (This is the 7<sup>th</sup> Census for Canada.) The Ancestry.com site collaborated with the non-profit FamilySearch to digitise information to create a name-searchable index of over 10 million people from the 234,678 pages of the original document. The FamilySearch collection title is *Canada Census, 1931 (On Ancestry it's called the 1931 Census of Canada – Ed.)*

### NATIONAL ARCHIVES EXHIBITION

#### **Great Escapes: Remarkable Second World War Captives**

This is one for anyone who lives in the London area, or who may be visiting London from now until 21<sup>st</sup> July 2024. The exhibition is open from 9am Tuesday - Saturday and 11am on Sundays. You can also book a guided tour (limited capacity) with curators who devised the exhibition; these last for 45 minutes. There is one tour per month, with the last one being at 3pm on Friday July 5<sup>th</sup> 2024. The timetable tends to alternate timings between 11am and 2pm until the final day, although it is best to check before you book. <http://tinyurl.com/myya8tx5> takes you to the booking page. There is an accompanying book **Captives: Prisoners of War and Internees 1939-1945**, price £17.99.

### THE HOLGATE 100

The authors of this publication, Ian Harley and Melvyn Lunn, have kindly donated a complimentary copy of this fascinating book, which tells the stories of the 100 former pupils of Barnsley Holgate Grammar School who gave their lives in World War Two. This will be available for members to borrow from the Library. A review of the book and details of how to obtain it starts on page 15.

**WW1 INJURED SOLDIERS' MEDICAL RECORDS** (fee paying site run by Ancestry Ireland)

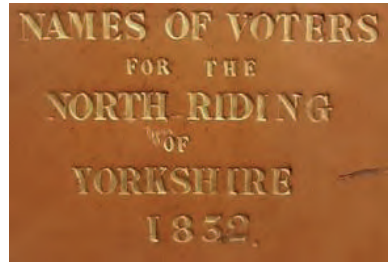
You can search over 1 million records from the 'First World War Representative Medical Records of Servicemen' Collection, which includes soldiers' admissions. These records will enable you to discover where and when your military ancestor was wounded, the nature of their wounds, where they were treated and how long they were held for treatment and so much more with discharge records from hospitals, field ambulances and casualty clearing stations. The site <https://uk.forceswarrecords.com> holds over 670 million records in total.

**NORTH RIDING ELECTORAL REGISTERS 1832-1971**

There are members of the BFHS who have ancestors in the North Riding, which is why this may be of interest to you. These electoral registers can be very useful; they are now available on Ancestry. The registers cover the period 1832 to 1971 and were compiled each year except 1916, 1917 and the years 1940 to 1944 inclusive.

Qualifications for inclusion in the electorate varied, with universal male suffrage introduced in 1918 and votes for all women over 21 in 1930. Access to Ancestry is free at many libraries (you must be a member!) around the world, as well as the North Riding Record Office and at North Yorkshire Libraries.

I hope some of these updates may be of interest to you.



**Margaret E. Williams (Secretary and Search Officer, BFHS)**

P.S I can recommend visiting the **Harrogate Flower Show**, which runs from Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April. It's at the Great Yorkshire Showground, HG2 8NZ, 9.30am to 5.00pm.

*Well, I had to fill the space with something...-Ed.*





## MORE FROM 'MEMORIES OF BARNSELEY' COAL MINING IN SILKSTONE

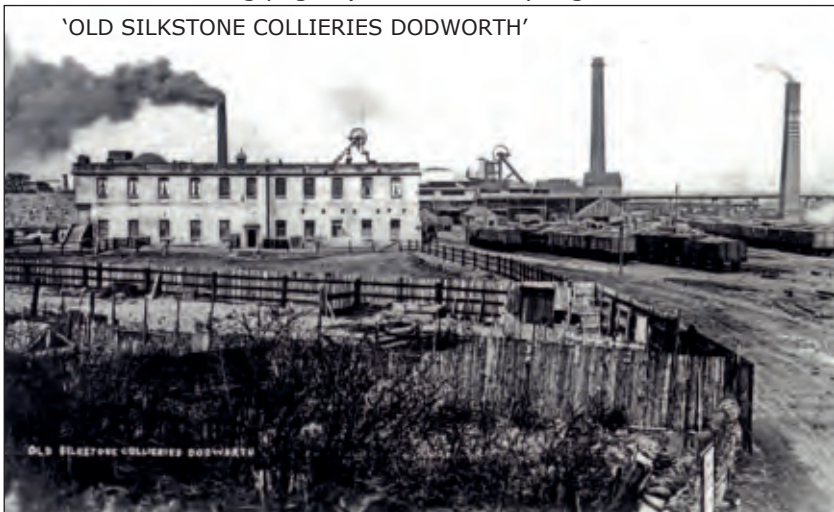
You may recall that in the October 2023 issue of *Barnsley Roots*, there was an article about the magazine and website 'Memories of Barnsley'. This always provides me with some interesting reading and the latest issue, (68, Winter 2023) is no exception, including '*Coal Mining in Silkstone*' by Paul Stebbing, Experience Barnsley's Local Studies and Archives manager.

As I probably mentioned once or twice previously, coal mining is a subject close to my heart because my nearest and dearest as well as more distant ancestors worked in the pits, so when our editor Roger de Mercado mentioned it, I had to have a look, and do a bit more research.

Paul's article will be of particular interest to our members who might have ancestors that worked in or owned the Silkstone collieries in the late 1800s. He tells us that the Barnsley Archives hold a ledger that can '*...identify those employed at Mr Robert Couldwell Clarke's Silkstone collieries between 1873 and 1899*'.

Paul tells us about the Clarke family and the pits sunk in Silkstone and Dodworth. He points out the changes made during the Victorian era including Acts of Parliament in 1842 and 1872 that were said to be the beginnings of improvement in working conditions.

The ledger '*relating to Robert Clarke's collieries at Silkstone was compiled specifically to ensure that miners would agree to the conditions of the 1872 Coal Mines Regulations Act*'. In addition to the miners agreement, pit managers had to have state certification of their training and miners '*had the right to appoint inspectors from amongst themselves*.' The ledger includes the date, signature, occupation, age and witness to the signature of each miner as well as the pit the miner worked in. The pits mentioned are '*New Sovereign, Old Sovereign, Silkstone and Swilley*'. Examples from April 1878 and May-August 1878 are on the following pages (note how many 'signed' with 'x his mark').



**We**, the undersigned, having each received a Copy of the Abstract of the Mines Regulation Act, 35 & 36 Vict, cap. 76, General and Special Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws now established and in force at *Mr R C CLARKE'S Old Silkstone Collieries*, near Barnsley, hereby undertake to Obey, Fulfil, and Agree to them, and the Owner of the said Collieries hereby undertakes to Fulfil and Perform the same on his part.

*We*, the Undersigned, having each received a Copy of the Abstract of the Mines Regulation Act, 35 & 36 Vict, cap. 76, General and Special Rules, Regulations, and Bye-Laws now established and in force at *Mr R C CLARKE'S Old Silkstone Collieries*, near Barnsley, hereby undertake to Obey, Fulfil, and Agree to them, and the Owner of the said Collieries hereby undertakes to Fulfil and Perform the same on his part.

*Wright Mason* Manager.

Date	NAME	Occupation	Name of Pit	Witness	Age	Remarks
1870						
Apr 1	Thomas Proctor	Miner	Sudley	CMason	26	200
	George Moorhouse	left		left CMason	31	200
	William Kibner	Dayman	Paragon	CMason	22	5 paces
	Joseph <sup>the</sup> Gannett			CMason	45	5 paces
	George <sup>the</sup> Batty	left		left CMason	21	
9	Frederick <sup>the</sup> Lythe	left Miner		left CMason	36	200
	John <sup>the</sup> Glaser	left		left CMason	26	200
	George <sup>the</sup> Hoyland	left		CMason	27	
10	Walter Lockwood			left CMason	20	100
	Allen Winter	Waggoner		J Hutchison	16	
	William Townsend	Waggoner		J Hutchison	40	
	Richard <sup>the</sup> Goss	Waggoner		left J Hutchison	69	
	Samuel <sup>the</sup> Sedgwick	left Labourer		J Hutchison	34	
	John <sup>the</sup> Olinson	left Labourer		left J Hutchison	49	
	Thomas <sup>the</sup> Walton	Bankman		J Hutchison	32	
	Samuel <sup>the</sup> Meersdale	Labourer		left J Hutchison	16	
	John <sup>the</sup> Pendar			J Hutchison	50	
11	William <sup>the</sup> & William <sup>the</sup> Mellor	Miner	Paragon	left CMason	25	200
	Edward <sup>the</sup> Darwent		Sudley	left CMason	30	
15	W Henry Walker	left	Four Feet	CMason	30	
16	Walter <sup>the</sup> & Moses <sup>the</sup>	left	Paragon	left CMason	18	
	Thomas <sup>the</sup> & Francis <sup>the</sup>	left		left CMason	41	
25	Charles Jackson	Engineer	Sovereign	CMason	25	

We, the Undersigned, having each received a Copy of the Abstract of the Mason Regulation Act, 33 & 34 Vict. cap 76, General and Special Rules, Regulations, and Bye-Laws now established and in Force at Mr. R. C. CLARKE'S Old Millstone Collection, near Barnsley, hereby undertake to Obey, Fulfill, and Agree to these, and the Order of the said Collection hereby undertaken to Fulfill and Perform the same to his put.

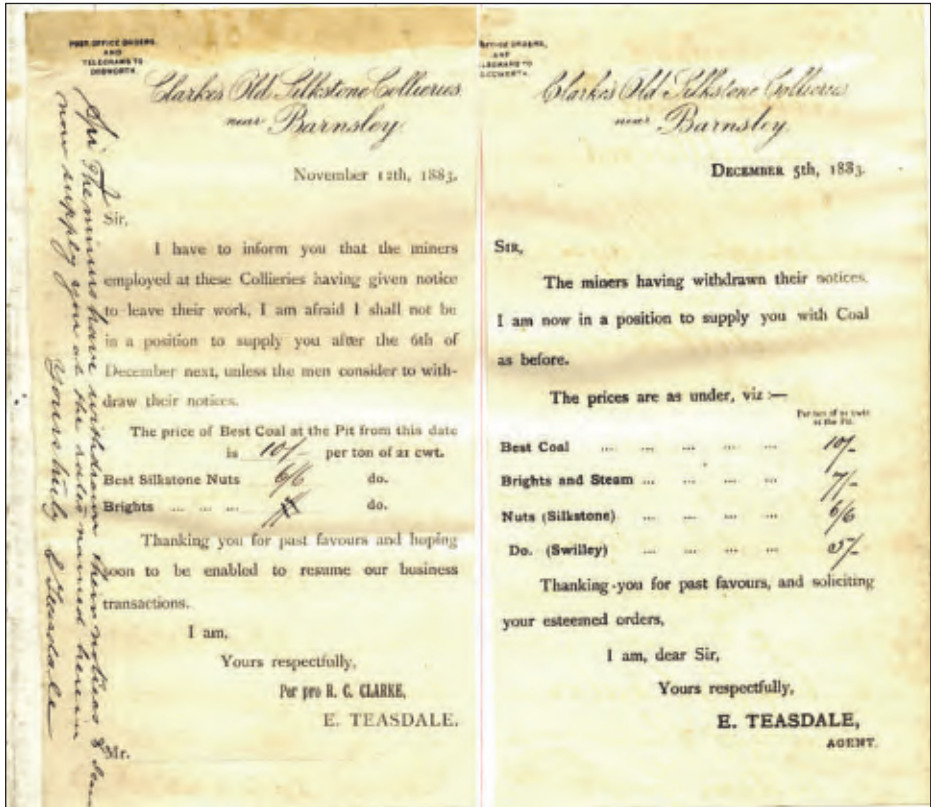
Wright Mason Manager.

Date	NAME	Description	Name of PE.	Witness	Age	Cost
1878						
May 4	Elijah <sup>his</sup> & <sup>mary</sup> Parnwell	Menor	Partgate	C Mason	27	200
2	Sam Shyphurd	"	"	Left C Mason	23	Left 2
6	Jonas <sup>his</sup> & <sup>mary</sup> Sykes	"	"	C Mason	24	2
8	George Hutchinocoff	"	"	Left Geo Hutchinocoff	22	2
9	Charles Lodge	Builder	"	Left Geo Hutchinocoff	20	2
14	Thomas Shaw	Menor	"	C Mason	25	2
"	John Shaw	left	"	C Mason	27	2
2	Tom Hudson	left	Selkstone	Geo Hutchinocoff	27	2
10	George Stronger	"	"	Geo Hutchinocoff	28	none
	Arthur Colman	Trapper	Partgate	C Mason	13	2
June 6	Isaac Fordoff	left Steerer	"	Left Geo Hutchinocoff	15	2
June 8	Jimmi Miller	left Drapper	Selkstone	Albert Gidders	12	Left 2
20	Joseph Shaw	Menor	Partgate	C Mason	50	2
July 3	George <sup>his</sup> & <sup>mary</sup> Schepelt	"	Selkstone	C Mason	40	2
9	Jim Fordoff	left Driver	"	Left C Mason	14	2
18	Wm Crossland	Menor	Partgate	C Mason	43	2
19	Allen Senior	left	"	Left C Mason	20	2
20	George Miller	left	"	Left Albert Gidders	22	2
31	Moric Dyson	left Tailor	"	Left C Mason	39	2
Aug 12	Jos Armitage	left Menor	"	Left C Mason	21	2
"	Jonathan Mitchell	Driver	"	Albert Gidders	28	2
20	William Strutt	left Pipman	Selkstone	J Hutchinocoff	17	2
22	Joseph Whitham	left	Partgate	Left C Mason	26	2
23	Charles Mann	left Menor	"	Left C Mason	25	2



The 'almost 3000' signatures include 'hurriers, pony drivers, shunters, day men and top men'.

The ledger also notes industrial unrest and disputes.



So, if you have ancestors who might have worked in these pits during 1873-1899, the archives is the place to visit.

There are also several other articles on coal mining in Memories of Barnsley previous issues, available to buy or online if out of print including Lundhill in 1853 (issue 2), Oaks colliery (issue 27) and Wharnccliffe Woodmoor 1960 - 1968 (issue 30) to mention but a few.

Some of the articles are about disasters and some give general information, some have names of the miners and some the owners. In all these articles and others I have read, one thing is clear, a mining family did not have an easy life.

All images are courtesy of Paul Stebbing, Barnsley Archives.

Shirley Sura

**MEMBERS' SECTION**

**NEW MEMBERS**

**A** warm welcome to the following members who have recently joined the Society. I hope that you will find your membership useful, enjoyable, rewarding and above all productive.

**1981 Mr Paul Ford**

**1982 Mr Paul Ramsbottom-Isherwood**

**1983 Mrs Andrea Willis**

**1984 Mr R. Varley**

**1985 Ms Su Senior**

**1986 Ms Sue Middleton**

**1987 Mr Melvyn Lunn**

**1988 Ms Rachel Beedham**

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**Elaine Jackson**

<b>MEMBERS' INTERESTS APRIL 2024</b>				
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<b>Mem. No.</b>	<b>1982</b>	<b>Paul Ramsbottom-Isherwood</b>		
<b>Surname</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Period</b>
<b>Bannister</b>				
<b>Brindley</b>				
<b>Ellis</b>				
<b>Fox</b>		<i>Details awaited</i>		
<b>Garner</b>				
<b>Gregory</b>				
<b>Morgan</b>				
<b>Parker</b>				
<b>Mem. No.</b>	<b>1983</b>	<b>Andrea Willis</b>		
<b>Surname</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Period</b>
<b>Calvert</b>	Bradfield	WRY	ENG	After 1800
<b>Calvert</b>	Hoyland	WRY	ENG	After 1880
<b>Coe</b>	Barnsley	WRY	ENG	After 1800
<b>Gleadall</b>	Tickhill	WRY	ENG	After 1785
<b>Gleadall</b>	Wombwell	WRY	ENG	After 1865
<b>Jubb</b>	Barnsley	WRY	ENG	After 1780
<b>Littledyke</b>	Barnsley	WRY	ENG	After 1870
<b>Littledyke</b>	Ryhall	RUT	ENG	After 1800
<b>Sharman</b>	Barnsley	WRY	ENG	After 1840
<b>Sharman</b>	Cresswell	DBY	ENG	1800 to 1840
<b>Wingell</b>	Austerfield	WRY	ENG	1860 to 1915
<b>Wingell</b>	Barnsley	WRY	ENG	After 1870
<b>Mem. No.</b>	<b>1984</b>	<b>Rob Varley</b>		
<b>Surname</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Period</b>
<b>Carr</b>	Silkstone	WRY	ENG	Before 1850
<b>Longley</b>	Cawthorne	WRY	ENG	Before 1820
<b>Mann</b>	Silkstone	WRY	ENG	1800 to 1950
<b>Sykes</b>	Silkstone	WRY	ENG	1860 to 1950
<b>Mem. No.</b>	<b>1985</b>	<b>Su &amp; Steve Senior</b>		
<b>Surname</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Period</b>
<b>Dyson</b>	Barnsley area	WRY	ENG	All
<b>Kelk</b>	Barnsley area	WRY	ENG	All
<b>Senior</b>	Barnsley area	WRY	ENG	All
<b>Watkinson</b>	Barnsley area	WRY	ENG	All

## SURNAME SEARCH INDEX

### **Surnames uploaded to the Barnsley FHS 'Surname Search Index' between 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 and 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024:**

Calvert; Carr; Coe; Gleadall; Jubb; Littledyke; Longley; Mann; Sharman; Sykes; Wingell.

**Jeff Chambers**

## THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES ONLINE OFFERING APRIL-JUNE 2024

The National Archives contacts local family history societies with details of online courses which some members may be interested in. These courses are available worldwide so our members overseas can access them if they wish. As a Society, we are very aware that some members do not have, or do not want, internet access so this negates access to these courses listed below, we are sorry about this.

The BFHS has just received the latest updates for the next quarter of 2024 from April to June inclusive:

Great and Horrible News: Murder and Mayhem in Early Modern Britain, Wednesday April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

Empire World How British Imperialism Shaped the Globe, Wednesday April 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

The Blazing World: A New history of Revolutionary Britain, Friday May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2pm.

An African History of Africa, Wednesday May 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

Using Discovery, the National Archives Catalogue, Friday June 7<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. "Join us to learn top tips for using Discovery, our online catalogue which allows you to download 100 free records a month. You will come away with all of the tools needed to make the most of the catalogue for your research, whether you are a new user or an experienced researcher".

"Catland: Feline enchantment and the making of the modern world. Explores how the Victorians and Edwardians fell in love with cats. Friday June 21<sup>st</sup> at 2pm.

You need to be aware that costs vary from those events that are free to those offering speakers, with costs up to £15-00 per session. When you book an event, you are invited to pay what you can. The cost is optional and entirely at your discretion. Talks are available to watch for 48 hours after the event. Days and timings also vary. See

**[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/visit-us/whats-on/online-events/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/visit-us/whats-on/online-events/)**

Please get in touch with the BFHS to let us know if this information is useful - or not...

**Margaret Williams**

## SPRING QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Mercury
2. Three
3. A murder
4. 42 dots
5. Eyes
6. An off-license
7. Sweden –it has 270,000. (Who counted them?)
8. Nokia
9. The jaw
10. The Peregrine Falcon
11. The British Museum
12. Mexico City
13. Cognac MUST come from the Cognac region of France
14. Finland
15. Rome
16. 118
17. Amazon
18. 12 sides
19. Yellow
20. Bermuda



## MY HEINZ 57 VARIETIES DNA

The title of this quiz made me think of something my mother used to say when I was a child. She told me and my siblings we were "*Heinz 57 variety mongrels*". Not very PC I admit but, as it happens, true in a sense because my DNA estimate shows 41% England and Northwestern Europe, consisting of mostly Yorkshire, a bit of East Midlands, some Devon and Cornwall, a little bit of France and 19% Denmark and Sweden, (all inherited from my father), some from Norway and Iceland, bits of Irish, Welsh, and Scottish. If I break down the local areas in each of them there are more than 57 varieties. I wonder how she knew?

Margaret, you certainly got me thinking, thanks for the memories.

**Shirley Sura**

## SEARCH SERVICES

The Society offers its members free searches – there is now no limit (within reason, of course!). Our fees for search services for non-members are at [www.barnsleyfhs.co.uk/Searches.html?sid=2](http://www.barnsleyfhs.co.uk/Searches.html?sid=2)

**Margaret E Williams**

### Baptisms

Barnsley Ebenezer	
Methodist New Connexion	1862-1973
Barnsley St. George	1832-1844
Barnsley St. Mary	1813-1837
Barnsley Wesleyan	1839-1910
Bretton Chapelry	1813-1841
Cawthorne All Saints	1800-1844
Darton All Saints	1813-1822
Royston St. John	1813-1831
Silkstone All Saints	1813-1840
Wentworth Wesleyan	1849-1980
Wortley St. Leonard	1813-1856

### National Probate Calendars / Wills Index 1858 to 1943

Please give full name and year of death. Because wills were not always proved immediately, we will search up to three years after the death.

### National Burial Index; Third Edition

England & Wales. Please give full name, year-range and county if known.

### Soldiers who died in the Great War

Please give full name and age if known.

### 1851 Census, Barnsley Area

Please give surname and forename(s) if known and age. Or request all occurrences of a given surname.

### 1891 Census, Barnsley

Please give surname and approximate age. 1891 Search results supplied as copy of enumeration page.

### Marriages

Barnsley St. George	1832-1837
Barnsley St. Mary	1800-1837
Cawthorne All Saints	1800-1837
Darton All Saints	1813-1822
Penistone St. John	1800-1837
Royston St. John	1799-1837
Silkstone All Saints	1800-1837

### Burials

Barnsley St. George	1832-1850
Barnsley St. Mary	1800-1840
Bretton Chapelry	1800-1840
Cawthorne All Saints	1800-1845
Darton All Saints	1800-1845
Denby Chapelry	1800-1856
Dodworth St. John	1848-1934
Hoyland Nether St. Peter	1813-1861
Penistone St. John	1800-1856
Royston St. John	1800-1837
Silkstone All Saints	1800-1840
Tankersley St. Peter	1813-1858
Worsbrough St. Thomas	1859-1903
Wortley St. Leonard	1800-1854

For searches or enquiries please contact:

### Margaret E Williams

5 Summer Road, Royston, Barnsley,  
S71 4HY

**Email: [search@barnsleyfhs.co.uk](mailto:search@barnsleyfhs.co.uk)**

If applying by post please  
enclose a large SAE

**If applicable, please include your  
membership number.**

## DIARY DATES

Please check our website for updates or call Doreen on 01226 383606 or mobile 07963 243 538

18 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Lizzie Jones</b> "Nothing can go wrong!" – great historical blunders.
16 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Richard Axe</b> – "Family History in the West Riding Registry of Deeds at Wakefield." Wakefield holds one of only five surviving Registry of Deeds in the whole country. It contains memorial copies of over seven million deeds covering the years 1704 to September 1970. What you might not realise is the sheer quantity and quality of family history and genealogical information contained within the memorials of deeds – and Barnsley is well represented.
20 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Eric Jackson</b> "Stand and Deliver" – The Highwaymen, from Dick Turpin to Claude Duval, the story of these 'Gentlemen of the Roads'
July & August	<b>Summer Recess</b>

*Barnsley Roots* is the official journal of the Barnsley Family History Society, published in January, April, July and October of each year. Please send material for the July 2024 edition by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024 to:

**Email: [subeditor@barnsleyfhs.co.uk](mailto:subeditor@barnsleyfhs.co.uk), or**

**Shirley Sura, 254 Appleton Ave., Great Barr, West Midlands, B43 5QD**

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Meetings of the Society are held at the Buckley Methodist Church Hall, Union Court, Barnsley, S70 1JN on the 3<sup>rd</sup> **Thursday** of each month from 7.30 to 9.30pm. There are no meetings in July, August and December. Free parking is available and there is full wheelchair access. The venue is within easy reach of Barnsley town centre.

For more information visit the website at: **[www.barnsleyfhs.co.uk](http://www.barnsleyfhs.co.uk)**

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At the north west end St Mary's church, Barnsley, is a stained glass window provided by the prominent citizen Dr Matthew Sykes and his wife. The inscription at the bottom reads:

To the glory of God and to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of her Majesty Queen Victoria of England this window is dedicated by Matthew Carrington & Annie Sykes June 20 1897

The Barnsley Independent of Saturday June 19 1897 reported that the window, depicting the appearance of the angels to the shepherds, announcing to them the birth of Christ, was dedicated on the previous Monday afternoon by the Bishop of Wakefield.

We thank Jane Ainsworth for providing these photos, taken by Brian Rowe.

