

Barnsley Roots

Journal of Barnsley Family History Society



The bicentenary celebration of
Barnsley St Mary, October 2022:
Rev Canon Stephen Race welcoming
the Mayor and the Lord-Lieutenant of
South Yorkshire. Inset: the choir.

See story at page 30



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EDITORIAL

Hello to all members of the Barnsley Family History Society. This has been an exciting year for me, as it is the first time I have been to Barnsley since lockdown and the first time I have been to a talk at Buckley Street. It was so good to meet some of our members and lovely ladies on the committee, who I have been communicating with since I started with the BFHS journal. Everyone made me feel so much at home and part of one big family. Thank you lads and lasses, I don't feel so much of an offcumden now.

Without the support of our committee members and of course our ever-patient Editor Roger de Mercado who has taught me all I know about editing and is still doing so, I wouldn't be sitting here writing this now.

I also want to thank everyone who has contributed to the journals since I started. It's you who make it special.

Whilst in Barnsley, I had a wander around and oh those hills, I had forgotten how steep they are but it was very good exercise – I think.

I am absolutely sure about my visit to the archives though. The staff were so helpful and friendly, advising and assisting and I found more than I was looking for.

Something strange and surprising happened when I booked into a hotel in Barnsley. Not being very good at geography, I had looked for one with a bus route to St Mary's for the Bicentenary. The young woman who welcomed me was very knowledgeable about the area and I found out from her that I was right in the middle of where my Barnsley ancestors were born, lived, worked and died. There they were, Dodworth, Cudworth, Worsbrough, Ardsley, Oaks Colliery, Kendray Hospital, etc. I won't ramble on anymore or the editorial will have to be renamed 'My Barnsley' and it might turn into an article. Now there's a thought...

As well as our usual items we have the story of Joan Swaby's working life and more, kindly provided by Keith Dyson. Joan's story is written in her own hand, which makes it all the more exciting. We have an interesting article about the Barnsley Mechanics' Institute, by Roger de Mercado, which has inspired me to look into it further. We also have the Wilkinson Family History provided by Stephen Barrett, passed on to us by Jeff Chambers and edited by Roger de Mercado. Thank you lads.

In forthcoming issues...

All the usual plus a look at our ancestors' connections with St Mary's and other churches in the Barnsley area, a bit of fun and any of your articles you would like to see in the journal

It just remains for me to say, "A very happy Christmas and New Year to all our members from Editors and Committee of the Barnsley Family History Society".

Shirley Sura

SECRETARY'S UPDATE – WINTER 2022



Although it is only Friday December 2nd, I've just finished making my Christmas Puddings and put them on to steam for six hours. I missed Stir Up Sunday by five days but no-one is counting. (I use a Victorian recipe handed down through generations.) "Who even makes their own Christmas puddings in the 21st century?", my husband always asks me... I don't know of any although I'm sure members of the BFHS do!

Yes, it's miserable outside, even our garden looks sorry for itself with plants dripping everywhere and the final few leaves floating down as if even they have finally given up. However, I am a fairly positive individual, Christmas is coming and New Year is lurking with the optimism and new opportunities it will offer, even the county cricket fixtures for next season have just been published so, as avid cricket fans and members of Yorkshire CCC, my husband and I are planning visits to support the lads. (Scarborough is always favourite.)

Back to business, what of Barnsley Family History Society? In my role as General Secretary, the word 'general' is key. I receive communications from the Family History Federation each month, I write up Minutes of the Committee Meetings, try to answer members' queries, plan visits requested by members for the Spring and Summer as well as trying to give our valued global members a flavour of the activities their society takes part in. The Committee, those brave souls listed on the inside cover of the Journal, have not been able to arrange our schedules to organise a meeting date recently so it is a priority to do so sometime in January 2023.

As you are aware from the Journal, our meetings at Buckley Street are the third Thursday of every month. Meetings this season so far were held in September and October with the November 17th meeting being a talk followed by a seasonal finger buffet. I could not attend the earlier meetings because of other commitments although I made it for the November one which was really well attended on a very wet and windy night. Eric Jackson's talk on the English Canals 1759 to the Present Day was superb; it was enjoyed by us all as he is such a good communicator. Probably, it was Eric's talk and the lure of the Christmas Buffet which boosted the numbers? Whatever the reason, it was so good to see so many local members and guests present. Shirley Sura, the Journal Sub Editor, made the journey from Great Barr in the Midlands to be with us, it was amazing to see her and to put a face to a name that some

of us on the Committee had been in contact with for over a year. Thank you, Shirley, your attendance was so appreciated, it was a pleasure to meet you.

There are no BFHS meetings now in December and January; the next one will be on February 16th, which will be the AGM. As I always say at this time of year, if any members feel like coming on to the Committee, being more actively involved with running the BFHS, please allow yourself to be nominated; do think about it, as you will be so welcome. You do not have to live locally, or even in this country as 't internet makes distance no longer a problem now. The BFHS is also investigating ZOOM face to face meetings so watch this space...

One thought occurs to me as I write this, as Barnsley Town Centre has been transformed in the last three years, so, for those of you who do not live locally, you could start by having a look online, initially, at the council link if you wish - <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/love-barnsley/> This is the town your ancestors lived and worked in. Although the whole of South Yorkshire was decimated by loss of the mining industry and those businesses that serviced it for well over 20 years, it is truly rising from the ashes. I could not believe how busy it was when I went into Barnsley town centre last Monday morning!

The BFHS tries to organise visits in the Summer months, as those of you who have been members for some time will probably be aware from the reviews in the Journal.

Westonbirt Arboretum is the number one priority for late Summer 2023, suggested by several members, although the Committee is asking for suggestions to places that may be of interest to our members. Please get in touch with me on secretary@barnsleyfhs.co.uk if you have any ideas for a venue, your ideas would really be appreciated.

You will not be surprised to know that the trip in 2020 was cancelled because of the Covid lockdown. Where were we hoping to go? Eyam, the Plague Village in Derbyshire! Is it time to revisit this suggestion now?

Thank you for being a member of the BFHS family. May I wish you and your loved ones a peaceful Christmas and a positive 2023?

Very Best Wishes to you all.

Margaret E. Williams - General Secretary

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF GENEALOGY

Only a genealogist views a step backwards as progress.

Genealogy: where the answer to one problem leads to two more.

Genealogists are the only people who are excited to read obituaries.

Genealogy is like playing hide and seek: they hide - we seek.

Roger de Mercado

BARNLEY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY AGM 2023

Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting

To be held on Thursday 16th February 2023
at Buckley Street Methodist Church Hall, Union Court, Barnsley, S70 1JN at
7.30pm – Doors open at 7.00pm

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Vice Chairperson's opening remarks
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the last meeting held on 17th February 2022
4. Matters arising
5. Vice Chairperson's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Acceptance of 2022 Accounts
8. Election of officers

Please note that only fully paid-up members of the society can take part in and cast their votes at the AGM.

POLITE REMINDER

THE 2023 MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION WAS DUE ON 1st JANUARY 2023

We hope you have enjoyed your membership of Barnsley Family History Society.

To continue your membership, if you have not already done so, could you please complete, sign and return the forms printed on the centre pages of the October 2022 edition of the journal. You will also find all payment options and a standing order mandate. Please send your subscription to:

**Elaine Jackson, Barnsley FHS Membership Secretary,
7 Honeywell Street, BARNLEY S72 1PR**

You can also pay your membership subscription through the Genfair website:

<https://www.genfair.co.uk/supplier/barnsley-family-history-society-2>

KEEPING YOU IN THE LOOP NEWS SNIPPETS FROM BFHS 2022



Sometimes, I feel that I keep repeating myself as similar announcements from the major genealogy sites keep re-occurring in my inbox. I do not think that I have replicated any previous information in this section, my apologies if I have (although I do check before I send new information.)

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The National Archives send regular updates on topical events and exhibitions as well as special sales and books in their retail outlet. The information regarding the Armistice was particularly good as was the one called "Treason" for the beginning of November. If you are into online sites, it is worth subscribing to The National Archives site, then you will get all the updates they offer.

ANCESTRY

At the moment, Ancestry are promoting their DNA offering with regular deals discounted to appeal to those of us buying friends and family something a little different for Christmas. The latest initiative is **Ethnicity Inheritance** which is focussed on those people who have had their DNA analysed as it now offers parental matches to identify which side of the family your matches come from. This seems to be quite a specific aspect which I have yet to fully understand!

The second initiative from Ancestry is more readily accessible. You are invited to send in your family story to yourstory@ancestry.co.uk So, if you feel that aspects of your family story may be of interest to others, this is the link to use.

Ancestry has also formed a partnership with the **Imperial War Museum** which will be helpful for people searching for relatives in the military over the last couple of centuries plus.

FAMILY SEARCH

This site is free to use for all researchers.

Run by the Mormon Church from their base in Utah, USA, this is the largest Family History site in the world, according to their blurb. I have mentioned previously that researchers from Britain using this site need to make sure they click the UK on the world map or go to Family Search UK in their search engine otherwise you will get reams of American records which may be of no use to you at all.

The Family Search site has three new initiatives which may be of help to you:

1. ROOTS TECH 2023 is a family history and technology initiative to be held **March 2nd – 4th 2023**. Registration is open now; the three days for UK users are virtual, free to use, unless you wish to travel to Utah or live in the USA! There are conferences, lectures, virtual exhibitions, you just sign up for any that takes your fancy. This global event is well worth the effort; I speak from personal experience.

2. NEW HISTORICAL RECORDS. On November 7th 2022, Family Search made a raft of new records available for researchers; many of these are not on any other sites, at present, I am informed.

3. FAMILY HISTORY CENTRES. Family Search has set up a network of Family History Centres worldwide, readily available for all researchers. The most accessible for Barnsley FHS members is in Dewsbury, West Yorkshire. It is open daily, you will be most welcome, there are people on hand to help you, especially if you are uncertain with technology.

Initial contact is by `phone: 01924 465 961

Locally, there are also centres in Pontefract (very limited opening) and Leeds.

I have noticed there are many centres in the Southern Hemisphere which may be of interest and help to several of our members. It is worth inputting Family History Centres into the Family Search site so you can possibly locate one near you.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you want any further information or assistance. My email is search@barnsleyfhs.co.uk

Possibly there is something of interest to you in this short section; if you find any useful site or source, please let me know so that I can share it with members.

All the best to you.

Margaret E. Williams Search Officer/General Secretary

JOAN SWABY AND FAMILY

One of BFHS's valued members, Keith Dyson, wrote to me in July 2022 saying he had some information gathered over the years, written by a distant cousin, and thought it might make an entry in the journal. Keith was right; following his initial letter and copy of Joan's working life, he sent several other letters, emails, a photograph and documents relating to her, and therefore Keith's family history.

Keith wrote *'Joan, who I discovered very late in my research of my maternal Heeley family, came into focus for me as her mother SELINA WALMSLEY (nee HALL) became very much part of my HEELEY story. Her UNCLE JAMES HALL (SELINA'S BROTHER) married my Great Aunt FRANCES. They emigrated to UTAH USA in 1912 and are all a part of my stories of the emigration of these families in the early part of the last century, all presented in the Barnsley Family History Society's book MOVING LIVES, under the Heading SEEKING A BETTER LIFE. The picture on the front of the book is of my maternal HEELEY family, which shows my Great Grandparents and my Grandparents and their children, of which my Great Aunt FRANCES is the second from the right on the back row.*



Joan, the daughter of Thomas Walmsley and Selina (née Hall) was a Barnsley lass through and through. She was born here in 1923, worked in Barnsley, married Roland T Swaby in 1945 and had a son, Alan S Swaby born in 1946. Keith tells us that Joan also lived in Hope Street, Barnsley. Joan died in 2010 in Barnsley.

Many thanks to Keith for sending Joan's story and the information about his family, for his patience in answering my questions and providing further information. Thanks also to our Editor Roger de Mercado, whose research was invaluable and inspired me to look further.

Joan's working life

Joan. 26. Nov. 99 ①

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I was born Thursday. 6.A.M. 14 June 1923. a long time after the others. I was welcome, & loved, but never spoilt. I was 11 yrs^{old} when we moved to 169. Park Rd., (Lynwood was the name of the house.) I left school aged, 14. on the Friday & started work at the Co-operative Stores. on the Monday.

It was considered the (cat's whiskers) if you could work at the Co-op, you had to have some-one to speak for you. Mr. & Mrs. Martin lived next door & one to us on Park Rd., & he spoke for me, he was the President of the Co-op. & they don't come much higher than that!!

You could buy any-thing & every-thing at the different departments. & I was in the Chemist Dept.

Down stairs was the work shop, every-thing was delivered in bulk, & there were girls sat at long tables packing, pills, potions, peppes, Olive oil, cod-liver oil, glycerine & any-thing else you can mention which were distributed out to the branch shops in all the towns & villages around Barnsley.

But I didn't get on those tables, me & Dorothy Munro had to wash the bottles that came back, for re-fills a huge tank of hot water & a huge tank of cold.

The customers got a penny (in old money) for returning a bottle & 1/2p for Cod Liver Oil bottles, that wasn't nice, but worse to come. Gertrude Laycock & I had to pack lime. People used it to when decorating, ceilings, cellars our house was covered in it when we moved in here, horrible! We had to tip a hundred weight sack into a pot, then weigh it off in 1/4 stone & 1/2 stone bags, that went on for weeks. No gloves, No mask, it was horrible.

Next we had to weigh up "Colour Wash" that wasn't quite as keen as the lime, but still not nice, it was used to paint the walls in the house, when people were too poor to buy wallpaper. There was blue, yellow & red.

(2)

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Another job I got, was bottling Ammonia. We had a large container like a dust-bin with a tap. I had to pour so many 'Winchester' sized bottles, ^{of full strength ammonia} in, plus so many water, to get the correct strength. You must know about Ammonia, it just took my breath away. Bear in mind I am only 14 or 15 years old. I wonder if they would do this now-a-days. I worked 48½ hours a week my wage, 10 shillings in old money. (to days money, is 50 new pence.) For a treat I could pack pepper and rub huge blocks of salt through a sieve to make, Cray Salt.

I think this start in my young life has given me my ~~own~~ character, grit and determination.

It wasn't all bad, I eventually got to work in the tobacconist, with a saint of a manageress. Miss Jenny Williams. Then when I was 18, I was 'called up' I had to work in munition's 1941, for 4 years.

These always seem to be ~~the~~ some-one turn up to be my friend. At this time it was Florence Bates, also 18. We had to go on the train to Sheffield & find our way to 'West Bar' to the training Centre. I had never been to Sheffield before. It was the black-out. No lights on the train. we found our way by following the bombed out buildings. Sheffield had been blitzed, we could see the glow of the ~~blazes~~ fires, in the sky from our front door at home, when it was happening. We worked 3 shifts. 6am-2pm / 2pm-10pm / 10pm-6am we were taught how to work different lathes. On training Florence & I were sent to 'Brightside' where we had to work 12 hour shifts 8am-8pm & 8pm-8am

As the young men came up to 18 years old they had to go into the forces & we had to take their places. News kept coming through, about them, not always good
I am sorry to say.

we had rough pieces of metal, and they were heavy. We had to put them onto the lathe, push the lever & the tool cut it to the correct shape & off that came a on with another as quick as you could, for 12 hours. I can't remember my wage for a week, but I do remember, Florence was absent 1 week & I worked both lathes & for that I was paid £5. in old money. I didn't like the night shift. By the time it got to 10pm, I was ready for my sleep.

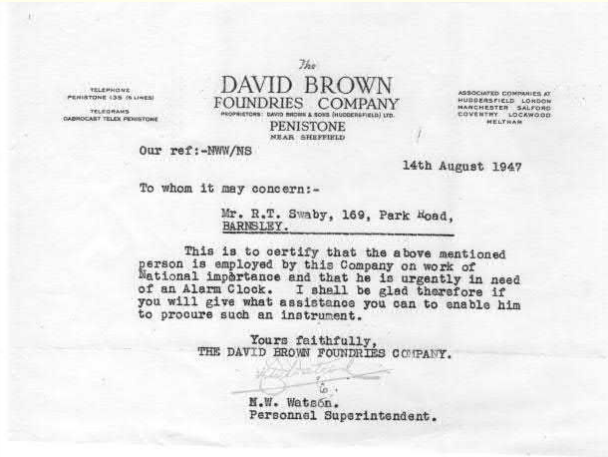
Some nights, a young lad that worked a capstan, I called Herbert, used to say, Go & have a break, I will work your lathe for you. It would have been a poor wage, if he hadn't, and a poor war effort. Eventually, that Government order came to an end, completed. & Florence & I were not needed. at Nild's any longer.

So we were sent to David Browns Foundry at Penistone, we were put in the air-craft dept I think we only worked days there 7.30AM to 5.30/ 1/2 hour lunch break.

It was hot in there and dirty, dusty, mucky. There were big furnaces. It's still interesting now when I watch a programme on T.V. where all the work is going on. watching the casting & all the other jobs. Roland worked there, & that is how we met. & the rest is history!!

Say thank you to my 'Special Friends' both here and at home. They will know who I mean

Herbert Barton



Courtesy of Keith Dyson

Joan's husband might have asked for this letter because alarm clocks were in very short supply during and after the war. All the makers, such as Smiths, had turned to making parts for aeroplanes, also the materials were in very short supply.



This is a document Keith provided to show us what people had to endure 80-90 years ago. Joan's father Thomas Walmsley paid his father James, six shillings a week. This would be 30 pence today.

Courtesy of Keith Dyson

22. Dec 1999. Wed.

I just thought that I would write a bit more of my life. When the 2nd world war was over. V.E. Day was the 8th May 1945. V.I. was the 15th Aug 1945. and after Alan was born. I didn't work until Alan was 5 years old & started school.

It came about that my cousin Emma & husband Alf Ogden (Cousins on my dad's side) had a Newsagents shop. & Alf was always being poorly with his chest & at this particular time he was in bed with acute bronchitis & Emma was trying to look after the shop & the paper boys, etc and Alf so I went and asked her if there was anything I could do, like fetch his medicine or make a meal or whatever, & she said,

"Thank goodness you are here, come round this counter & help me here; I had experience of shop work, because as I said earlier I had worked at the Co-op, before the war work. I stayed there for 12½ years. My wage was £2. a week!

I could run that shop. I did the morning papers ~~and~~ did the orders. Saw to the paper boys & those who collected the paper money & when Emma & Alf went on holidays. (which they did often) I saw to the evening papers.

I enjoyed it, I like people & talking to them. I started in February 3rd 1951 & left there 1963 & went to work on School meals.

I hated it at first. I have never seen so many plates, dishes, cutlery, tins, boilers, ovens & steamers and steam in my life. Roland said, "you are not going back here." but you know me, Stubborn to the last. & I said, I have to do, I can't let them think I cannot do it.

with in a short while I got to 'Springwood School' & then I was the Cook-in-Charge. & I enjoyed that & stayed for 25 years until I had to retire for my age. (62)

The children were backward & from poor families & the only meals they got were what I made at school, & they enjoyed them.

At that time Alan was married & lived 10 yrs in S. Africa. Then 10 yrs in Australia. So things evened out. The children needed me, & I needed them, while my own family were doing their own thing. I gave them time & talked with them, that was some-thing they didn't get at home & they couldn't do enough for me.

When I baked biscuits to go with a milk pudding I broke some (accidentally on purpose) & I would say, "do you think you could eat these & then no body will see I have broken them". Of course it was no problem. I worked a 40 hour week & my wage was almost £3.

I used to say, don't tell Mr. Wood (the headmaster) guess who they told straight away? Correct! Mr. Wood & he used to say "hey! where's my biscuits" the children were delighted.

They came to us from 5 to 16 years old. & then we used to get some of their children. I am not meaning about the wages. Just pointing out, how things were, & how they are to day.

They gave me a good send off & sang their hearts out, cards & gifts for quite some time. I missed them! Then one day, in a shop. this young man spoke to me & said, he still remembers his good dinner I had made. & he told the other customers. I know I

should not be vain, but my heart swelled & I am sure I grew 6 inches. I was so proud.

I made the menu's. Cooked the meals, first ordering the food. Baked puddings & pies, steamed puddings. I had a full time lady that did the potatoes & vegs (2 fresh vegetables each day) → 2 part time ladies to do the washing up & help with the cleaning.

At first we had 150 children, but that kept dwindling down. To app. 90 odd.

Christmas was a lovely time. I made a table centre. Sometimes paper flowers, sometimes a candle with holly rounds we bought extra goodies for staff & children out of our own money (we would save).

So a week after the school, started again in Sept. we had turkey & all the trimmings, roasts, creamed potatoes, 2 or 3 vegetables, then Christmas pudding & we scraped a space in greasytrap for them all.

The school had a huge Christmas tree presented to them by some organization, we sang carols, the children had a concert, which took some time for them to learn, as they couldn't read or write, I have such good memories of it. I just hope the children have. It was enough to have the children say, "I enjoyed that, Miss". Can I have the recipe, so my mam can make it." & you know for a fact that she wouldn't.

Children should be happy, & I tried to make it so. for them.

THE BARNSLEY MECHANICS' INSTITUTE & PUBLIC HALL

The Barnsley Mechanics' Institute and Public Hall opened in 1878, partly funded by public subscription and partly by Henry Harvey (1814-1879), a local industrialist and Quaker. A few years later the building was gifted to the people of Barnsley by his brother Charles Harvey and renamed the Harvey Institute in 1890. It became the heart of the community, providing many forms of entertainment from variety shows to cinema. It housed the public library, shops and provided space for public meetings and celebrations, speakers and education. Run by the council, the institute was also home to Barnsley School of Art and Technical College.



From The Builder, March 1878

Moving pictures started to be shown in the early 1900s. In 1908, during a penny performance for children, a stampede on the staircase resulted in the death of 16 children under ten, another 40 seriously injured. The Public Hall was used as headquarters and billets for Barnsley Pals during WW1. The College moved out of the hall in 1932, with a restaurant and museum opening during the 1940s. After major restorations, the Civic Theatre opened in 1962, offering a variety of performances from pop shows and opera to snooker and wrestling. It closed to the public completely in 1998 following a period of decline. It reopened in 2009 following alterations to accommodate the Assembly Room auditorium and art gallery currently in place. Further changes were planned to the upper floors but were put on hold by the recession.

There are now plans to revitalise the Civic and bring all of its internal space fully back into use. Full planning and listed building applications were submitted to Barnsley Council earlier this year for the refurbishment of the grade II-listed building. (The Civic Hall, including Nos 44a, 46, 48, 52, 54 and 56, Eldon Street, was first listed in 1986.) Work would include the creation of new multi-purpose units on the ground and first floor available for retail, consumption of food or drinking establishment uses. The existing office space on the second floor would be refurbished and a 'creation space' formed on third floor. The plans include external alterations, with new shop fronts and theatre access on Eldon Street frontage (see back cover, with an old view for comparison), also the reconfiguration of lift and toilet facilities. See <https://barnsleycivic.co.uk/capital-project>. The 'Civic Barnsley Design And Access Statement' prepared by HLM Architects of Sheffield is on the Barnsley Council website at <https://tinyurl.com/bdhba353> (the full address has over 300 characters!) It includes a lot of history and many old plans, maps and photos – well worth looking at if you are interested in that sort of thing, as indeed I am.

Mechanics' Institutes were primarily the product of the Industrial Revolution, because there was a need for the workforce to understand and manage all the new machinery and processes. The movement began in

Scotland in 1821; the concept was successful and by mid-century there were several hundred Mechanics Institutes in the nation's towns and cities. A significant proportion were purpose-built, showing an investment in the nation's workforce and the priority given to the initiative. There was also general reform of education during the 1800s, leading to an emphasis on both social betterment and cultural enlightenment. The Institutes provided education for the working man through lending libraries, lecture theatres, class rooms and laboratories. Around 75 remaining buildings are listed, at least one third of which have found a compatible re-use. There is a useful article on the subject on the Historic England website at <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/iha-mechanics-institutes/heag187-mechanics-institutes-iha/>

A DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW PUBLIC HALL

The Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer of Saturday 26th January 1878 reported "Opening of a New Public Hall at Barnsley". After detailing the financing of the hall, the building was described at great length; part of the description is reproduced below:

The building is in the Italian style of architecture; it comprises three storeys, exclusive of the ground floor, and reaches a height of 80ft, measuring from the floor to the ridge. The entrance is surmounted by a slated tower or lantern, which rises to a height of 136ft from the floor to the top of the balcony. It is surmounted by a flagstaff. (*The tower was removed in the early 20th century.*) The spacious main entrance, which is placed in the centre of the building, is surmounted by carved stone figures representing Science and Art. There are also two carved busts, one of them being a faithful representation of Mr Henry Harvey, one of the principal promoters, and among the largest non-preferential shareholders.

The entrance is circular-headed, as are also the whole of the windows in the first and second storeys. The stone, which has been supplied from the Matlock quarries, is hard and durable, and the general aspect of the building externally indicates massive solidity. The building is covered by what is technically termed a mansard-roof. The School of Art and offices take up the front portion of the building over the shops.

Entering by the main door-way, we pass into the entrance hall which is 24 feet high and 14 feet wide, and is paved with rows of encaustic tiles. From here we proceed up a broad flight of stone steps to a spacious vestibule, measuring 41 feet by 14 feet. Thence we may enter the large newsroom appropriated to the Mechanics Institute, but we at present proceed up one of the broad flights of staircases on our right and left. The first landing brings us on a level with the floor of the large hall, but as we intend working our way backwards from the street to the rear of the building, we ascend the next two flights of stairs. This lands us at the School of Science and Art rooms. The large room measures 72 feet by 27ft and immediately adjoining there is a ladies class-room, measuring 46ft 6in by 20ft. Each of the two class-rooms is reached by a separate staircase, and each is provided with lavatories. The large room is lighted with bull's-eye windows. On the second floor, immediately underneath,

are seven offices, all well lighted from the front, together with ladies' cloak room and hall-keeper's bedroom. On the first floor over the shops there are six offices, together with the hall-keepers kitchen, lavatories, etc.

The large hall, as we have indicated, is approached by two spacious staircases branching out on each side from the vestibule. This spacious room is not only three times greater than that of any of the public halls which Barnsley has hitherto possessed but will bear comparison with the majority of public halls in Yorkshire. Its extreme length is 144 feet, including the stage – without the stage about 118 – and its width 57 feet 6 inches. The height from the floor to the tie beam is 40 feet. The stage measures 38 feet 5 inches by 33 feet. The hall is fitted with a large end gallery together with side galleries, each of the latter being provided with two rows of seats. The end gallery is 57 feet 6 inches long by 20 feet deep, and the side galleries are each 200 feet long by 6 feet deep. The iron brackets supporting the side galleries pass right through the walls, and connected with these are 20 projecting trusses of elegant design. The fronts of the galleries are surmounted by iron balustrades, panelled, gilded and decorated.

The hall is provided with 1200 chairs and there are also forms which will seat 800 individuals, making a total sitting accommodation for 2000. The reserved chairs, which are placed immediately in front of the stage, are all numbered and are fastened together in rows of six. Chairs are also provided for the end and side galleries as second seats, the third-class ticket holders being accommodated on substantial-backed forms on the main floor immediately to the rear of the reserved, or first seats. The hall is lighted by eighteen circular-headed windows – nine of each side – with three of a similar design in the end. Each is fitted with stained glass margins, and from the springing of each arch the windows are groined. The ceiling is divided into 27 panels, and is adorned with 24 large burners, these being supplied by Messrs Smith & son, of Deritend Bridge Works, Birmingham. Provision has been made for rescuing the building from damage by fire. Hydrants are provided, which will command the whole building. The entire building is heated, as we have already indicated, with Hayden's hot air apparatus, and ample provision is made for ventilation through the perforations in the ceiling. The peculiarity of this apparatus is that while in winter it provides the room with hot air, it serves as a cooler in summer by carrying off such foul vapours as might otherwise be apt to accumulate in the building. The roof is supported in eleven beams 62ft 6in long, each weighing five tons. The hall floor is supported on massive wrought-iron girders, and the floor itself is constructed of the best red wood. There are three outlets to George Yard, from which the floor of the hall is approached by some steps, and from these branching out on either side, are pitch pine staircases leading to the side galleries.

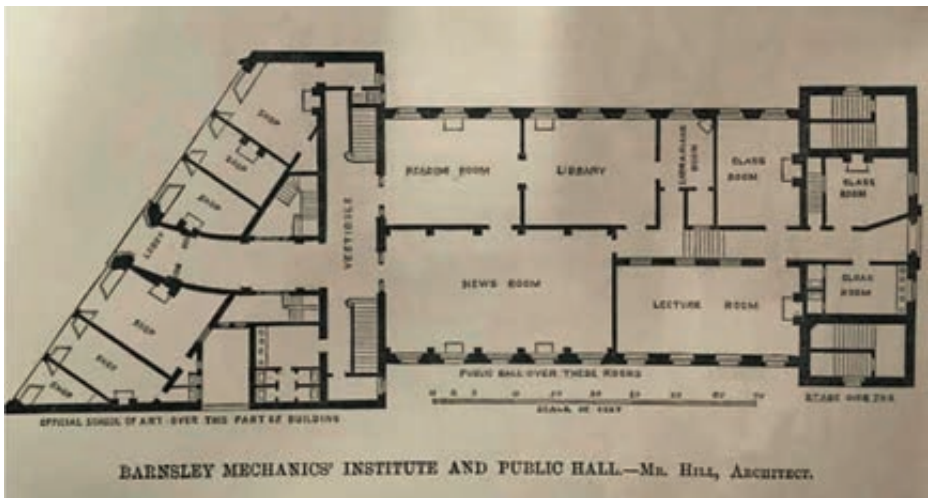
After describing in detail the stage facilities, it then goes on to describe the ground floor rooms which made up the Mechanics' Institute as follows:

Returning to the vestibule, we meet with the rooms devoted to the use of the Mechanics' Institute. These are four in number, and are reached from the vestibule on the level. The large reading-room measures 57ft 6

in long, by 31 broad, and 20ft high. It is lighted with large side windows, and is at once a spacious and commodious apartment. From there, there is an entrance to the magazine room, which though not quite so well provided in the matter of light, is a comfortable and cheerful looking apartment. It measures 36ft 6 in long by 36 broad. Immediately to the rear is the library room, which is so arranged that it may be entered



either from the magazine-room, from the large news-room, or by independent passage leading to the George Yard. It is of exactly the same superficial area as the magazine-room, and considering its position is tolerably lightsome. To the rear there is a librarian's-room, measuring 26ft by 13ft 6 in, which will probably also be used for the meetings of the committee. These rooms, together with the use of the large hall on not more than 26 nights every year, are secured to the Mechanics' Institute Committee for an annual rental of £50.



From 'The Builder' 9th March 1878, via HLM Architects

The report concluded with:

The opening ceremony took place at two o'clock in the afternoon, and was followed by a concert in the evening. A grand morning concert was also given, the artistes being Madame Nouver, Madame Patey, Madame Norman Neruda, Mr Charles Hallé, and a full orchestra. The music was admirably selected. The same artists, with the exception of Madame Nouver, appeared at the evening concert. The opening ceremony, which was performed by the Mayor, was witnessed by a large number of persons.

Roger de Mercado

THE WILKINSON FAMILY HISTORY

Our first identified ancestor was Joseph Wilkinson, born in 1720 in Bradford and baptised at St James Church, Bradford (Bradford Cathedral). He was the son of Abraham Wilkinson of the same place. There was a large contingent of Wilkinsons inhabiting the then rural market town of Bradford at that time which necessitated quite a bit of elimination – with little variety of names – usually Abraham or Joseph!

An Abraham Wilkinson is mentioned in the Hearth Tax assessments of Lady Day 1672 in Bradford (Agbrigg and Morley wapentake), but we have not yet found a definite link to Joseph. We do believe, however, that Joseph's father (also called Abraham) was born in the 1680s and was married in September 1709 to a Mary Priestley. Their son Joseph was the youngest of five children.

In December 1750 Joseph, a widower, married Sarah Riley from Luddenden at the Chapel there; he had to seek permission to be married in Luddenden and paid a bond to the Church officers in York, as Luddenden was not their resident parish. Sarah's father, like Sarah, was baptised in Luddenden, but by the time of Sarah's birth was resident in the nearby village of Warley, which is east of Luddenden. Joseph and Sarah's child Abraham was born in February 1756 and was also baptised in St Peters Church Bradford.



Luddenden Chapel in the 18th Century

For whatever reason, Abraham moved to Mapplewell, a small village near Barnsley. He became a nail maker in a village of nail makers and miners. We know Abraham's wife Ann was born about 1748 and is buried in the local churchyard at Darton All Saints. She died in November 1824. They had five children. It is likely that Abraham would have lived on Towngate, Mapplewell, since most nail makers were located around that point, close to Spark Lane. John Spark was the first known supplier of iron rods for nail making.

We know that in the 1760s John Wesley, founder of the Methodist Movement, actually preached in Mapplewell. It is highly likely that the young Abraham would have witnessed the Preacher in action.

Their son Joseph was born in 1779 and baptised at All Saints Church, Darton. Their second son John was born in 1780, Ann in 1790, Christopher in 1797 and Elizabeth, the youngest, was born in 1798. On



Darton vicarage and church



Nailshops off Towngate, Mapplewell, now demolished. From a photo taken in 1945.

3rd May 1804 Joseph married Elizabeth Hepworth, who was then 18, at All Saints Church Darton. He, like his father and brothers, was a nail maker. Elizabeth would have joined him in the trade when she was not giving birth. Between 1804 and 1826 Elizabeth gave birth to at least eight children, the last when she was aged 40.

Life was certainly not easy for Joseph and we know he volunteered for the Staincross Militia; his name was registered on the files for 1806.

His reason for joining was 'poverty' – he had by that time two sons, Abraham and John. We know that the previous year the Militia had been involved in a scare over possible invasion by Napoleon. It may be that Joseph was involved in that too along with his brother John.

Joseph and John were listed as nail makers. It seems likely that the brothers were involved in an incident the previous year, 1805. A detailed report in the Wakefield Star & West Riding Advertiser of 23rd August 1805 describes the various marches made on the 15th August from different areas by several detachments of the Army, Militia units and Local Volunteers.

"The Staincross Volunteers, both Infantry and Cavalry, were assembled, and the Cavalry actually marched to Pontefract . . . the infantry were detained on their march to Pontefract, at Hemsworth, till more particular information could be had."

The village of Mapplewell was in the Wapentake of Staincross, so the Staincross Volunteers would include our "gallant little company" from Mapplewell. But what had caused the alarm, and why was the march halted? To alert the country and recognise a call to arms, at a time when fast communication was difficult, warning beacons built of combustible materials had been prepared on hilltops throughout Britain – the same method of raising an alarm as was used at the time of the Spanish Armada, more than 200 years before.

Apparently, as was discovered later, the alarm was raised accidentally by the burning of a farmer's 'close' near Woolley Edge, Wakefield. The column of oily smoke given off by a crop of oil-seed rape in an enclosed field was mistaken for that of a warning beacon and the entire county was raised. As soon as the alarm was discovered to be false the march was halted and the Militia Volunteers were ordered back to their home towns and villages. On the return march, however, they were hailed as heroes by the local inhabitants all along their route and there were many free toasts to His Majesty's health and a downfall to his enemies!



Yorkshire Militia Uniform of the Napoleonic period 1795-1810

Although the march was fruitless, the brave volunteers from Mapplewell could feel proud that they had answered the call of patriotic duty, regardless of the outcome. The next day they would go back to their nail making, secure in the knowledge that they would not be called upon to serve again.

1806 – 1843 The Wilkinsons in York

Joseph's son John was baptised in Darton in 1806. It was to be John who left Mapplewell to make his home in York with his wife Mary (née Skelton), who was probably pregnant at the time. They probably travelled by carrier wagon, embarking on their long journey at Barnsley market place and travelling slowly up through Wakefield, Leeds and Tadcaster reaching York a day later.

From looking at trade directories it can be worked out that John Wilkinson probably departed from Mapplewell with two brothers, James and Jonathan Rolling, in the late 1820s. Initially they set up business in Clementhorpe and appear as 'Rolling and Wilkinson Clementhorpe' (Parsons and White Directory 1830). It appears that a William Hirst also left Mapplewell to move to York at the same time.

The reason for the exodus from Mapplewell would be to search for employment after experiencing poverty in their home village. It mirrored the move of Samuel Barrett with his family from the village of Little Fransham in Norfolk to Sutton Bridge in Lincolnshire at about the same time. The reason was almost always a search for work and to avoid destitution.

By 1840, John Wilkinson's name appeared separately in White's 1840 Trade Directory for York. A copy of this is in York Library.

Nail makers:

- 1 Rolling James, Clementhorpe
- 2 Wilkinson Benjamin Jackson, 58 Skeldergate
- 3 Wilkinson John, White Swan yard; h St. Clement's Place

The name of Benjamin Jackson Wilkinson of Skeldergate may be the vital clue as to why John travelled to York. He may have been a relative of John's, though we have no evidence of a link.

There were three nail makers in the 1838 York Trade Directory. Two were called Wilkinson. Since there were no nail makers mentioned in York prior to that date, it is possible that our Wilkinson ancestors brought the trade from Mapplewell, seeing a good market for their skills. They certainly set up a mini 'nail making district' in Clementhorpe close to Baille Hill, on the edge of the town at that time.

Jonathan Rolling, who travelled with John Wilkinson, became a blacksmith and ran the Slip Inn, close to the river in Clementhorpe (which still stands). It was so-called as it lay close to the slipway leading into the river as there was no bridge at that time.

Although John and Mary Wilkinson moved to York, where his first child Joseph was born, they had the child baptised at All Saints Darton, requiring two further trips back and forth in 1830. It was a journey of 37 miles each way. This may have been because of the Settlement Acts which tried to prevent new arrivals becoming a burden on the Parish or in this case the City.

By 1840 John appears to have set himself up at a workshop in White Swan yard close to Piccadilly. We know from a Court report of 1843 that Benjamin

Jackson Wilkinson had a nail forge in Lady Peckitt's yard. (Yorkshire Gazette 1843)

By 1848 we know that John Wilkinson had moved with his family to 178 Walmgate, probably working in a courtyard near to his home. It was at this time that there were frequent outbreaks of typhus in parts of the City. It was also a period of high immigration by starving Irish families into the City that tended to congregate around Walmgate, Bedern and Hungate.

The living standards of the nail makers were to plummet by 1850 due to the industrial revolution and new machinery. John had his own business and probably employed people in his workshop. The nail makers were paid by weight and in some places were paid in tokens which could only be exchanged for goods in a truck shop owned by the paymasters. We don't know if he used this method but it is unlikely since the business was probably a small family enterprise.



White Swan yard Piccadilly, where John probably had a nail making workshop.

By 1851 John lived nearer to Foss Bridge at Nelson Inn Yard and Calvert Place. Later he moved to 33 Walmgate where he lived his life out, continuing his nail making trade, presumably in the workshop attached to the house. The house and workshop still stand. John died of jaundice in 1878, his wife Mary carrying on the trade as a dealer in nails. He is buried in the family plot in York Cemetery (grave 5825).

John and Mary had seven children, six boys and one girl, Elizabeth. Joseph, the eldest son, born in York but baptised in Darton in 1830, carried on his father's trade as a nail maker in York. Sadly Joseph was to die in 1864 at the young age of 34. He is buried in York Cemetery in the family grave. He has a gravestone which sadly other members of the family did not. John Wilkinson Junior born in 1833 was a blacksmith.

Charles, the third son born in 1839, was a labourer working variously in the local Walmgate Iron works near the Foss, then in a local laundry and then becoming a Corporation labourer living on Fulford Road. Charles married Jane Ann and had five sons: John, who in the 1891 census was a railway engine cleaner, Harry, a glass blower, Charles Jr. a wood planer and Richard a 'smith striker'. George aged 10 in 1891 was still a scholar.

Charles Sr. was to die in 1900 aged 62 and is also buried in York cemetery. He had lived with his family variously in Gillygate, Stone Bow Lane, at 6 Bootham Row and finally at 31 Heslington Hill in Walmgate. His wife had worked as a shop girl and then a cocoa packer in a local chocolate factory, presumably Rowntree's, located near Lendal Bridge where the Aviva Offices are now.

William Henry was their fourth son. He is our direct ancestor.

James Wilkinson, the fifth son, was a grocery warehouseman for much of his life and never married. He lived with his mother until she died in the 1890s. Elihu Wilkinson, their youngest and sixth son born in 1849, worked in the local iron works. Their mother Mary later moved from Nelsons Yard in



Rowntree's old factory

Walmgate to 7 Tower Place in Castlegate, close to where Benjamin Wilkinson had lived since the 1850's at number 1 Tower Place. The buildings still exist. Mary died in November 1896 aged 88. She was buried in the family plot alongside John, Joseph and Elihu.

1843 – 1871 York to Easingwold

It was John's fourth son William Henry, born in York in 1843, who was our great-great grandfather. He rejected the nail making business and moved from York to Easingwold where he became a rag merchant. He lived in Long Lane, Easingwold, interestingly enough close to another John Wilkinson, a woodturner. There is no evidence that they were related.

One of the principal products of nail makers since 1850 had been steel teeth for rag shredding. It may be that William Henry decided to become a rag trader after initially manufacturing the steel teeth for supply to that trade. Whatever the reason, rag merchants thrived during the Industrial Revolution. There was so much demand for cloth and not enough raw materials that an invention by Ben Law of Batley which recycled old rags into usable material called 'shoddy' and 'mungo' revitalised the textile industry. Rag merchants collected and provided these materials to recycling factories. The sorting of rags was mainly done by teams of women in well-lit rooms using 'riddles'. Wool and worsted was turned into shoddy. Cotton rags were sold to paper mills for paper manufacture. The process was described as 'wonderful regeneration' by Sir George Head.

William Henry sadly died of a lung disease (phthisis pulmonalis – consumption) at the young age of 29 in 1872 at Easingwold. I hold his death certificate. He was brought back to York and buried alongside his family at York Cemetery. He had been ill for six months before succumbing to the disease. They had three children: Mary born in York in 1866, Annie born in 1870 and George William born in 1871.

1872 – Back to York

George William Wilkinson was born in Easingwold just after the death of his father. It is not known how Mary coped with the long lingering death of her husband at the same time as the birth of her son. However, Mary married her second husband, Aaron Bilton, a joiner from Easingwold soon after. For

some reason they decided to move to York. By 1881 Aaron and Mary Bilton were living at 11 North Street, a tenement in the Castlegate District of York, with George William. It may be that the place was too small for them all to live in; whatever the reason, the family were split up.

George Williams's sister Mary, who was born lame, moved to live with her maternal grandmother Jane Crosbie at 11 Lowther Street, effectively working as her servant. His sister Anne moved in with her paternal grandmother Mary Wilkinson living at 7 Tower Place as a housekeeper. Both girls were to see their grandmothers through their old age.

By the age of 19 in 1891 George William was working as a coal hawker; we would call him a 'coalman'. He was working for the Oglesby family of Hungate. The history of the Oglesbys is no less interesting.

The Oglesbys

The earliest direct descendant we know with certainty is Richard Oglesby, born possibly in 1792. According to Ron and Pat Hurst, living in Queensland Australia in 2000, Richard's father may have been called John, born in York in 1746, and married about 1767. John would have been 46 when Richard was born.

Richard certainly lived in St. Saviourgate at one time and had at least three children: Martha, born in 1813 and baptised at St. Saviours, Abraham and Isaac [1] born 1816. The names suggest that Richard was a deeply religious man, since all his children were baptised with names directly from the Old Testament.

Abraham was a coal dealer living in Aldwark, and we know he christened his son Isaac [2] in 1832 probably naming him after his brother. Abraham was still alive in 1856 and that year attended the wedding of his son Isaac (2) at St. Crux Church at the bottom of the Shambles. Isaac [2] and his wife Mary Ann Jennings already had a son, Isaac [3], born in 1854.

Isaac [2] married Mary Ann Jennings (b. 1834) in 1856 when he was 24 and she was 22. Mary Ann was the daughter of William Jennings, a butcher from Topcliffe. They were living in 1856 off Hungate at Black Horse Passage. The street name still exists. In 1851 aged 17 she had been working as a servant in Boltby.

Isaac [2], a labourer, was illiterate and marked his wedding certificate with his cross. Mary Ann was able to sign the form. Their witnesses were William and Eliza Clovitt. Isaac [2] and Mary Ann had at least eight children, including Isaac [3] born in 1854, Mary Eliza born in 1865 and Ada Maria born in 1873 and named after their daughter of the same name born in 1868 who died as a child. Ada Maria was the last child born to this couple, possibly because of what happened in 1874.

By 1874 Isaac [2] was the landlord of the Britannia Inn in Walmgate, one of the worst areas in the town. The land on which it was situated was once known as Britannia Yard, part of the Britannia Inn which was situated where 17 Walmgate is now. It was first mentioned in 1818 and again in 1820 when it had changed its name to Britannia Coffee House.

In the 19th century Walmgate was one of the worst disease ridden slums in the city. The area had become increasingly overcrowded and unhealthy

when hundreds of Irish families emigrated to York, after the devastating Irish potato famine which took place between the years 1846 and 1851. It is recorded that sixteen cottages in Britannia Yard housed fifteen Irish families and one English family; in total there were over one hundred and seventy one Irish people in this one yard.

In April 1874, an extraordinary incident occurred involving Isaac [2] and Mary Ann which was recorded in detail in the York Gazette.

It was described as 'A Remarkable Elopement Case in York'. It read as follows:

In our last, we briefly intimated that a married woman the wife of an innkeeper in this city had eloped with two young men and we now have detailed particulars of his extraordinary case which possesses features in connection with it quite out of the ordinary range of facts associated with transactions of this description.

The frail one who so suddenly and unexpectedly left her home is Mrs Oglesby about forty years of age and the mother of no less than eight children, the youngest only eight or nine months old being at the breast.

She is the wife of Isaac Oglesby, landlord of the Britannia Inn, Walmgate in this city and early last week she eloped with two men named Steward and Plews much younger than herself, taking with her the infant she was suckling.

The fugitives took with them the sum of £680 which was obtained by Mrs Oglesby from the bank of Messrs Swann, Clough and Co at York, the frail one forging the name of her husband in a document that the money had been deposited by Mr and Mrs Oglesby in their joint names.

The runaways went in the first instance to a village a few miles from York and thence proceeded by train to Doncaster where they remained a short time and then travelled on to Sheffield where they took lodgings. At the Sheffield and Rotherham Bank the sum of £630 was deposited in the name of Plews leaving £50 for the party to go on with as spending money.

The police however were soon on their track and after two or three towns including Liverpool had been visited it being supposed not unlikely that the fugitives would take a voyage to America, reliable information was obtained that that the quartet (the infant making the fourth) were at Sheffield.

In the first instance after a diligent search and enquiry in the town Steward was apprehended and brought back to York with a knife he had with him belonging to Mr Oglesby. Steward now made a clean breast of it and gave some important information as to the whereabouts of Mrs Oglesby and Plews.

Police Officer Verity accordingly took Steward with him to Sheffield for the purpose of pointing out the exact house in which Plews and his lady love had taken up their abode and Detective Officer Worcester from York had also received some information as to the address. Worcester and Verity together with some of the Sheffield Police went to the house indicated and apprehended Mrs Ogleby and Plews on Monday afternoon. They, with Steward were brought to York at night and on arriving at the station house a large crowd was in waiting to give them a hearty reception the news of their capture having been received by telegraph.

Yells, groans, hisses and other tokens of disapprobation greeted their ears as they entered the lock up and then gradually the crowd dispersed.

On Tuesday, Mrs Oglesby Plews and Steward were brought up in custody to the Guildhall where they appeared before the Lord Mayor Edwin Wade Esq. and Ralph Weatherley Esq. the court being crowded.

Before the opening of the case, the prisoners were accommodated with seats and on the prosecutor Mr Oglesby making his appearance his wife grossly insulted him. He had to pass by her and as he did so the heartless woman with the utmost audacity and impudence literally spit in her husband's face to the surprise and disgust of all who witnessed the indignity.

She had her infant at her breast, it was tedious and caused her some trouble, and annoyance nevertheless she maintained a levity and indifference to her position quite remarkable amounting to bravado.

The precise charge preferred against her was that she on the 7th April 1874 feloniously did forge a certain endorsement on a certain deposit note for money with intent to defraud Messrs Swann, Clough and Co.

Mr R Young appeared for the prosecution and Mr Watson defended the three prisoners. Mr Swann of the firm said he had reason to believe that on the 7th April Mary Ann Oglesby obtained fraudulently from his firm the sum of £680 by wilfully forging the name of Isaac Oglesby.

A remand for one week was asked for when Mr Watson submitted that as regarded Mrs Oglesby there could not be any grounds whatever for a remand. Although she might have signed her husbands name yet she could not in law be liable for that particular forgery. She could not commit the crime alleged in this case apart from her husband the twain being one flesh. He remembered a similar case some time ago when a woman was charged with stealing money belonging to her husband and the case was dismissed.

There was no just reason for Mrs Oglesby being remanded and he applied that she had been discharged at once.

The Justices however after consulting together decided to remand Mrs Oglesby until Monday next and refused to grant bail. Steward was also remanded until that date on the charge of stealing the penknife found in his possession and Plews stood remanded to the same day for stealing an umbrella from the house of Mr Oglesby before going to Sheffield he having been seen to take it away.

The trial ended with a not guilty verdict, but we know that in 1875 the couple were divorced. Isaac later remarried to a Mary Hall.

Mary Ann died in November 1878. She is buried in the same plot as her son Isaac [3] and his wife. It appears that the infant in the elopement scandal, Ada Maria, was being looked after by her Uncle Isaac, the son of Abraham Oglesby. Ada Maria was born in Malton, probably due to the fact that there had been an epidemic in York at that time. Ada Maria and Mary Slater Hall (step sisters) were described as scholars in 1881, whilst Mary Eliza was a servant.

By the time of the 1901 census, Ada Maria's brother Isaac [3], now aged 47, was a joiner living at 38 Aldwark (now demolished) married to Mary and

had four children. Two of their daughters, Edith (b.1882) and Rose (b.1886) were both employed as 'chocolate confectionary packers.'

Ada Maria had married George Wilkinson by 1892 and by 1901 they had five children, Charles aged 7, Mary Alice aged 5, Florence aged 4, George Isaac, (Isaac after Ada Maria's father) aged 2 and James (3 weeks old). They lived in Layerthorpe and then moved to Swales Yard in Navigation Street, close to Walmgate Bar, St.Margarets Parish.

The Wilkinsons...continued

George William did not stay long as a coal hawker. In 1894, after he married Ada Maria Oglesby, he was working as a bricklayer's labourer. They lived at 10 Layerthorpe. By 1901 they were living in Swales Yard, next to Red Tower Cottages, a dingy court off Navigation Street, which bordered the Foss. George William was now employed as a 'furniture remover's labourer'. He may have been working for the Ushers of High Ousegate (Furniture Removals). They had five children, two sons, and three daughters.-. Charles born 1894, Mary Alice born 1896, Florence 1897, George Isaac 1899 (named after Ada Maria's father) and James born 1901. It was that same year, 1901, tragically that Ada Maria died only a few days before the death in infancy of her son, James.

After Ada Maria's death it appears that the family fell apart. George Isaac was on the roll of St Cuthberts National School, but did not attend and on 13th April 1910 was moved to North London Truant School in Walthamstow aged 12. He was to stay there for two years.

The history of the Walthamstow School is online. Looking at the birthplaces of the inmates of the Truant School, as they were called, most were from the London area. It was very unusual for boys to be moved so far and indeed there was an industrial school in York on Marygate - but this was not chosen for George Isaac. There was an expectation that parents would pay 2/- a week for living expenses, but for whatever reason George William did not pay this. By 1912, when George Isaac was due to leave the school, his father was arrested and sentenced to a month in Wakefield Prison for non payment of fees. He owed £2.12/-.

By 1911, with George Isaac in Walthamstow, the other children were now living with their relatives Richard and Annie Oglesby at 37 Wellington Street New Fulford part of Walmgate district, or in lodgings. Richard Oglesby who took the children in was employed as a printer/compositor. Charles, the oldest brother of George Isaac was a glassblower and was in lodgings with other glassblowers. Florence was in service.

Thereafter George William was alone, a widower, renting a room at 6 Brunswick Place in the Haymarket, close to the Leeds Arms Public House. He was employed as a greengrocer/dealer.

The Great War

With the outbreak of the Great War George William joined the 62nd West Riding Engineers (Territorial) as a reservist being now 43 years old. It is believed he died in 1917. His sons George Isaac and Charles both fought in the Great War in the West Yorkshire Regiment. George Isaac was gassed, but survived the war as did Charles.

Sadly their sister Florence did not survive 1918. After marrying William Faulding and moving to Redeness Street, Florence had a son, George William Faulding, in 1918. Tragically she was a victim of the pandemic of influenza in that year and died five weeks after the birth of George William. His grandmother Betsy Faulding took him to Sheffield to live with her. A postcard of Florence and her baby was due to be sent to her brother Charley at the front, but sadly was never posted.

By 1922, George Isaac was living at 5 Brunswick Row, in St.Cuthberts parish, near Hungate. It was in this year that George Isaac, described as a 'general dealer', married Alice Usher, whose family ran a furniture removal business at 13a High Ousegate. It may be that they met through George William's work as a furniture van man.

In 1901 Alice's father Arthur and his family had lived in Milton Street in the district of

'New Fulford' in Walmgate, off Layerthorpe. He had been described then as a 'furniture van man'. Later he moved to High Ousegate – still a removals man.

George Isaac and Alice moved to the Groves area, and lived in Newbiggin Street. George Isaac was to die in September 1942 and is buried in York Cemetery in a grave (5251B) now shared with Annie Usher, who died in 1956 aged 74. Alice remarried to Harry Gossop and they ran a shop for many years.

George Isaac and Alice Wilkinson had five daughters: Florence named after George's sister, Dorothy, Joan, Marjorie Alice in 1934 and Patricia in 1938, and a son who died early, again called George.

In 1953, Marjorie Alice married Peter Raphael Barrett (d 2020) at St.Maurice's in Monkgate, which has now been demolished although the site is still not built on. They had two sons, Stephen Geoffrey born in July 1954 and Roger born in 1956.

NOTE

The photos above of George Isaac and of Florence are mine. The others are taken from websites.

Sources are basically from York Borthwick archives and parish records including registers.



George Isaac Wilkinson, my grandfather.



George Isaac's sister Florence.

Stephen Barrett

BARNSELY ST MARY'S BICENTENARY 2022

THE SUN SHONE!

St Mary's Civic Church hosted a bicentenary celebration of the current building on Saturday 22 October. The small Friends group – just six dedicated people plus the Rector – had worked hard to organise this significant event in Barnsley's history and it was a great success.

Jane Ainsworth said: "The celebration was the culmination of a series of events we have hosted this year and which *the Barnsley Chronicle* has promoted for us. The building was consecrated on 22 October 1822 (the same day as the old St George's) and the War Memorial Chapel was dedicated on 22 October 1922.

"As it happens, it was also the swan song for Rev Canon Stephen Race before he takes up his well-deserved new appointment as Bishop of Beverley. He will be missed greatly in Barnsley.

"St Mary's has been a successful nurturing ground for clergy with several



past ones becoming Bishops and one being promoted to Dean of Westminster. More details of all Incumbents can be found in one of my five new booklets launched at the celebration; the others are about the Wall Memorials, Stained Glass Window Donations, War Memorials and the Architects of the 1822 Building.

"I was relieved to wake up to sunshine after the downpours on Friday and it was a perfect day for assembling in St Mary's Gate for Mayor Counsellor Sarah Jane Tattershall's unveiling of the new Blue Plaque which she generously purchased to support us. The autumnal trees in the churchyard looked golden and the stonework of the church glowed as it must have done when new, the stains of coal

dust subdued by sunlight.

"We processed into church for the thanksgiving service at which the Bishop of Wakefield The Right Reverend Tony Robinson assisted. He had kindly lent us the Trebles of Wakefield Cathedral Choir and their voices filled the vaulted space with lots of wonderful music.



“At the end of the service, HM Lord-Lieutenant of South Yorkshire Professor Dame Hilary Chapman DBE unveiled the two beautiful felt and embroidery panels commissioned from Helen Riddle. These will be a lasting memorial of this special year.

“Attendees then enjoyed refreshments and the opportunity to look round St Mary’s, learn about her history and share their memories. There was a display which focussed on the Doncaster Architects John Woodhead and

William Hurst, who had demolished the Medieval Church and rebuilt it keeping the tower in 1822.

“The War Memorial Chapel looked magnificent with the framed Barnsley Pals Colours on their stands back where they belong, the replicas and the conserved Pillar with 200 names. It was satisfying for Father Stephen and I to see, having worked on this project together since 2016.

“We are grateful for the support of Dan Jarvis MP MBE, the previous HM Lord Lieutenant Andrew Coomb, former clergy and representatives of the Royal British Legion, Barnsley Family History Society and Barnsley Civic Trust plus everyone who joined us for this special joyous and memorable occasion.”

Jane Ainsworth

I was so pleased that I was able to attend this bicentenary service at St Mary’s and was made welcome by everyone I met, including our own BFHS committee members, Doreen Piper and Lynn Smith, the Reverend Stephen Race, Jane Ainsworth and many members of the congregation.

At the time, I was unaware that some of my great grandparents had attended before me, something I will tell you about in a future copy of our journal.

It was a moving and thought-provoking service that not only made me think about the history of the church and the people who had attended in the past, but also of those who fought and lost their lives so we could live and worship as freely as we do today. Seeing the memorial pillar with all those names and looking at the restored Colours of the 13th (First Barnsley) and 14th York and Lancaster Regiments brought tears to my eyes.

‘We will remember them’.

Shirley Sura

CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH 2022



H	O	L	L	Y	F	P	Y	R	U	E	D	C	H	E	G	T	D	K	Q
M	D	W	E	R	T	X	E	T	W	N	H	W	I	N	X	D	R	Z	F
Y	Q	K	B	F	R	E	W	S	J	R	M	L	Z	A	S	J	D	F	N
B	D	D	I	B	D	C	N	L	I	T	X	M	W	C	H	L	W	H	N
B	X	P	S	N	P	O	K	S	L	C	H	X	R	Y	U	T	X	E	H
B	L	S	I	Q	W	T	T	E	H	H	P	L	O	D	U	R	T	C	H
Y	P	E	O	M	U	M	G	A	S	X	G	B	I	N	B	E	T	A	T
G	R	V	A	Y	A	N	J	D	A	Z	I	A	I	A	E	E	R	E	P
E	I	N	D	S	A	O	J	W	N	O	P	L	P	C	W	R	O	P	N
S	R	N	X	C	Y	N	U	G	T	F	V	I	S	D	M	F	R	R	P
F	Y	B	G	A	N	L	H	D	A	E	S	B	K	H	T	T	N	D	P
N	Z	I	P	E	Z	K	T	U	C	J	K	T	R	C	T	P	A	T	L
G	V	Y	J	D	R	M	I	L	L	O	Q	A	O	Y	O	A	M	N	S
F	L	E	X	L	X	B	V	B	A	N	O	Z	L	C	Q	X	E	O	P
D	Q	W	J	Z	R	K	R	H	U	X	O	C	T	F	K	J	N	R	J
U	N	S	Q	K	V	U	V	E	S	U	C	E	Z	M	W	I	T	P	W
E	O	T	E	L	T	S	I	M	A	J	E	G	L	J	H	O	N	C	T
J	Y	G	X	F	R	Q	I	K	Z	D	L	A	F	Z	B	I	N	G	Z
B	K	E	E	K	I	L	L	N	M	U	F	E	H	N	V	C	F	S	U
P	R	E	S	E	N	T	S	E	Y	H	B	C	E	W	W	K	M	Q	R

Angel
Holly
Peace
Snowflake

Candycane
Joy
Presents
Snowman

Christmas
Mistletoe
Reindeer
Stocking

Elf
Noel
Rudolph
Tree

Gingerbread
Ornament
Santa Claus
Wreath

Created by PuzzleMaker at DiscoveryEducation.com

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.

1958 Ms Kerry Cooper

1959 Mrs Joan Pilkington

1960 Mrs Jackie Boyes

1961 Ms Marisa Pollett

Elaine Jackson

MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Mem. No.	1958	Kerry Cooper		
Surname	Location	County	Country	Period
Beckett	Thurnscoe	WRY	ENG	1600 - c.1800
Beckett	Thurnscoe	WRY	ENG	1600 - c.1800
Deplage	Thurnscoe	WRY	ENG	1600 - c.1800
Depledge	Thurnscoe	WRY	ENG	1600 - c.1800
Deplidge	Thurnscoe	WRY	ENG	1600 - c.1800
Tricket	Thurnscoe	WRY	ENG	1600 - c.1800
Trickett	Thurnscoe	WRY	ENG	1600 - c.1800

Mem. No.	1959	Joan Pilkington		
Surname	Location	County	Country	Period
Garlick	Darton	WRY	ENG	Pre. 1708
Garlick	Silkstone	WRY	ENG	Pre. 1708
Rhodes	Baurgh	WRY	ENG	Pre. 1750
Rhodes	Darton	WRY	ENG	Pre. 1750

Mem. No.	1960	Jackie Boyes		
Surname	Location	County	Country	Period
Cocker	Sheffield	WRY	ENG	Any
Hawksworth	Sheffield	WRY	ENG	Any
Marshall	Barnsley	WRY	ENG	1871-1952
Marshall	South Kirkby	WRY	ENG	Any
Thurston	Ely	CAM	ENG	1871-1939

Notes:

I am particularly interested to find out why my paternal grandfather, **John Matthew Thurston**, was described on his marriage certificate (to **Edith Augusta Marshall**) as living at St James Workhouse, despite being employed as a Certificate Master. Also, I have been unable to discover the whereabouts of St James Workhouse, so I would be interested in any information about that.

The Marshall family seems to be quite extensive in Barnsley (specifically Castlereagh Street) and I'd like to find out more about this branch of the family.

Mem. No.	1961	Marisa Pollett		
Surname	Location	County	Country	Period
Conolly	Barnsley	WRY	ENG	1810-1860
Connolly	Barnsley	WRY	ENG	1810-1860
McQuillan	Barnsley	WRY	ENG	1810-1860
McQuillan	Worsbrough	WRY	ENG	1820-1900
Irving	Any	YKS	ENG	1843-1900

Notes:

Patrick McQuillan b. c1816, Ireland, lived in Barnsley c1820-1860, d. Leeds, 1873, linen weaver. Married Elizabeth (née **Conolly**) McQuillan b. Ireland, c1816, lived in Barnsley c1820 until her death in 1852. Their children: **Ann** b. 1841, Barnsley; **Agnes** b. 1843, Barnsley; **Bridget** b.1847, Barnsley; **John** b. 1851, Barnsley.

John Conolly b. Ireland, c1790, possibly in Barnsley after 1820.

Thomas McQuillan and family, living in Worsbro, Jarratts buildings (possibly related to Patrick). In Barnsley/Worsbro 1820 onwards.

Joseph Irving b. 1843, unsure if he has a Barnsley connection, he is very elusive but later married **Agnes McQuillan** in Osmotherley, 1863, but he wasn't from there.

An area of particular interest is Wilson's Piece. Wilson's Piece was the set of Streets including John Street, Joseph Street, Heelis Street, Union Street, Thomas Street etc. It was land originally owned by Wilson who brought linen weaving to Barnsley. He built houses for the weavers there with cellars for the loom shops. It became a very poor overcrowded area of town with the fluctuations in the linen trade. Many who lived there were Irish weavers who had come over pre famine and it was also an area where many Chartists lived.

My particular main branch of the family left before 1861 to try their luck with linen weaving in Osmotherley (without much success); the other potential branch moved to Worsbro and diversified into mining.

I'm also interested in the Irish in Barnsley, Linen weaving and Chartism as they all are relevant to the family and area they lived in.

Jeff Chambers

SURNAME SEARCH INDEX

Surnames uploaded to the Barnsley FHS 'Surname Search Index' between 1st October, 2022 and 30th November, 2022.

Beckett; Beckitt; Cocker; Conolly; Connolly; Deplage; Depledge; Deplidge; Garlick; Hawksworth; McQuillan; Marshall; Rhodes; Thurston; Tricket; Trickett.

Jeff Chambers

SEARCH SERVICES

**The Society offers its members six free searches during the year. You don't have to use them all at once, they can be spread out over the year. Our fees for search services are at 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

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

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.

For searches or enquiries please contact:

Margaret E Williams
5 Summer Road, Royston, Barnsley,
S71 4HY

Email: 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

January	No meeting
16 th February	AGM , followed by Mike Pease , My Family History – World War 1.
16 th March	Susan Whitwam , of the Colne Valley Museum. A Visit from Mrs Pearson.
20 th April	Eric Jackson Model Villages – The beginnings of the Philanthropic movement. The society for improving the conditions of the Labouring Classes, the Peabody Trust and others.
18 th May	Members' Research Evening
15 th June	Richard Axe Wills and Probate, with focus on BFHS families.
July and August	Summer Break

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 April 2023 edition by 28th February 2023 to:

Email: 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 3rd **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**

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Above: the Harvey Institute, as it was then known, in a post card of the early 1900s.
Below: the architect's impression of the proposed renovation of the frontage, from
Civic Hall website <https://barnsleycivic.co.uk/capital-project/>

See story at page 16



Barnsley
Family History
Society