

Barnsley Roots

Journal of Barnsley Family History Society



A modern view of Nottingham General Hospital, above, and nurse Grace Scuse at the same viewpoint in 1942.

See page 12 for Liz Whitehouse's update on the 'Stan and Grace' story.

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EXCURSION TO EYAM, DERBYSHIRE: 'THE PLAGUE VILLAGE' Thursday 25th July

There are still some places left on the coach. To book a seat or for more information please contact Elaine Jackson, membership@barnsleyfhs.co.uk

Tickets are £20.00 per person. Non-members will be most welcome.

Pick-up: 9am at the bus stop on Regent Street, Barnsley.

Return: 6pm to the bus stop on Regent Street, Barnsley (approximately)

Places to visit include The Plague Cottages, Eyam Museum, the Graveyard, Craft Centre, Boundary Stone, Eyam Tea Rooms and The Miner's Arms.

EDITORIAL

Hello all members of Barnsley Family History Society and hello summer. It's a funny one again this year where I live, sometimes hot and sometimes too cold at night for my tender seedlings and small plants. It has also been very windy so I haven't been able to have my garden umbrella up and sit out in the scorching sun. Still, I'm not complaining, just sit wondering what the weather is like in Barnsley and how it was for our ancestors. I've watched some of the past weather issues on television, winter and summer, as well as the 'The Great Stink' and the one about Eyam, the plague village (hope to see you there), then think how fortunate we really are. Our ancestors have had some pretty rough times, winter and summer.

I have also been looking at Liz Whitehouse's blog. What a lovely story and especially poignant around the 80th anniversary of D-Day. If you haven't had a look yet, I would recommend you do, you will want to read to the end and on to the next one.

I'm coming to Barnsley in July for our excursion to Eyam and hope to visit the archives, also look at the gravestones in our St Mary's and Christ Church Ardsley, where I believe I also have ancestors.

I mentioned my 3rd great grandparents John and Sarah Bingham and my 2nd great grandaunt Eliza in a previous Journal. I have been looking at where they lived for my 'Ancestral Homes and Birthplaces' article, not yet complete due to the amount of information that keeps coming from various sources (I keep an eye on Margaret Williams' 'Keeping You In the Loop' and get a lot of hints and tips from her. Thank you Margaret, I really would not have much of the information without your assistance). There is a taster on pages 27 and 28 of this journal.

In this issue we have more about breaking down those brick walls, some 'Witches', 'A Talk by Lizzie Jones' from Margaret, Important Dates in civil registration provided by our editor Roger de Mercado, David Allen's experiences of transcribing and all our regulars.

In forthcoming issues...

All the usual plus more of Ancestral Homes and Birthplaces, further information about BFHS library, a bit of fun and any of your articles you would like to see in the journal. It really is inspiring when we get articles from other members of BFHS. Barnsley Roots would not be the same without you.

Shirley Sura

LETTER TO BFHS

Dear Editors, I am writing to congratulate Liz Whitehouse on her brilliant blog, "*The Stan and Grace Story*". What a treasure their parents' love letters are for Liz and Susan and what a treat for other people to savour. I will definitely dip into the digital versions.

It got me thinking about younger generations and what they are missing by only communicating via email and text – to say nothing of depriving future family historians. Admittedly Royal Mail was much more reliable – and cheaper – in my day.

Personal letters were, unfortunately, often destroyed. My parents also exchanged letters during WW2 before they got married, but they decided not to keep them. How I would love to have been able to read about their experiences – dad was in communications in the Royal Navy (based in England) and mum was a nursery schoolteacher in Sheffield.

I remember how entertaining their correspondence was with me after leaving home for university then marriage and work. It was so prolific I had to be selective about what I kept. They tried using email later on, but it worried them and cramped their style. We, as others, used to devote time and effort to writing to our loved ones, to explain how we felt, to tell stories to amuse and to feel them close as we put pen to paper with an occasional drawing – not an anonymous emoji.

When I wrote "*Keeping Their Beacons Alight*" based around 50 letters written by Frank Potter during WW1, I couldn't believe my luck that they had survived to flesh out his story. Sadly, his younger brother Eddie's were destroyed later by his fiancée's sister except two that showed what skill he had. (Both young men were killed in action).

My mother's family kept various letters from relations and it has been a real joy and privilege to make use of them while writing up my research. Not only the details you don't obtain from formal records but the sound of their voices echoing through the words. A few are heartbreaking – my great great uncle writing about the death of his son, aged 10, after losing his wife and second son 8 years earlier; my grandmother writing to her mother about her eldest daughter dying of TB aged 16 (not posted because she died the next day).

Thank you, Liz and Susan, for sharing your precious letters for others to enjoy. A special thank you to Stan and Grace for being such fascinating correspondents and for preserving your letters.

Here is to a revival of purple, blue, red and green prose!

Jane Ainsworth, 5th April 2024

WANTED: MEMORIES OF BARNSELY

I have duplicates of a number of issues of Memories of Barnsley. I am happy to pass these on to anyone who needs them to complete their collection, or to swap for two issues that I am missing. I need issues 21 and 39, no longer available from the Memories of Barnsley web site. Our duplicate copies are: 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 15, 16 and 29. I am happy to send them for the cost of postage. Please email me at lizj.whitehouse@gmail.com, letting me know which edition/s you would like.

Liz Whitehouse

SECRETARY'S UPDATE – JUNE 2024



Where has our Summer warmth and sunshine gone to?

Wherever you are in the world, hello to you all. I hope that all is well with all our members. As I talk to people in our village, however, all they talk about is our unseasonal weather, it just makes you feel a little sad. It was 8.6C when I got up last Friday, June 4th, for goodness sake!

Yes, we are all seeing the results of our worldwide changing climate, with increasing amounts of high winds, storms, rainfall, extreme heat and drought, no matter where you are on the planet. The meteorological 'experts' in the UK have just informed us that April 2024 was the warmest April on record, not in this area, I'm afraid. At the time of writing this update, every day for the last few weeks, we have had relentless showers and heavy rain, grey skies and winds from the North (Arctic), bringing very cool, below average temperatures. There have been brief spells of sunshine to bring some joy, you always feel better with some warmth and sunshine, don't you?

The BFHS has continued as normal, which is good news, with the monthly meetings being held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at Buckley Street. It is still a source of some frustration that we cannot transmit these via Zoom. Unfortunately, Buckley Street Methodist Church Hall does not have a WiFi connection at present. The BFHS remains at Buckley Street as they provide storage for our library and records which is a huge plus for us. We have looked at various options to improve access to the meeting talks for our wider membership with little progress at the moment.

BFHS MONTHLY MEETINGS

I always attempt to give some information about the talks and the content of our monthly meetings for those of you who are unable to attend so that you can feel part of the Society, even if it is remotely.

The talk by Lizzie Jones in April is reviewed elsewhere in this issue. I was unable to attend the meeting in May, which was a shame as Richard Axe is always good to listen to.

BFHS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Since the April Journal, we have not been able to get together as a Committee for various reasons. Elaine Jackson has been busy beavering away organising one of our annual trips, this time to Eyam in Derbyshire on Thursday July 25th 2024.

VISIT TO EYAM

Thursday July 25th is the date for your diary. The coach leaves Regent Street at 9.00am, returning by 6.00pm. The cost is £20 per person. There are seats available if you fancy a day out that is not too far away from Barnsley. Just contact Elaine, whose details are written on the inside cover of the 'Barnsley Roots' journal.

I have written a short article about the history of Eyam in Derbyshire so people can familiarise themselves with the history of this 'Plague Village'.

The proposed visit to The People's Museum and Salford Quays in Manchester, pencilled in for September 2024, will not take place because of lack of interest.

MEMBERSHIP

Elaine Jackson has given an update on new members joining the BFHS; this is to be found in the Membership Section towards the back of the journal. New members keep coming from all over the world.

SUMMER BREAK

The BFHS always takes a Summer Break for the months of July and August. Attendance for meetings has been low previously in these Summer months as holidays, childcare and family commitments take priority, hence, we have this two month break. This does not mean that we at the BFHS go 'awol'. You can contact any Society Officers/Committee Members if you have a query. Again, contact details are on the front inside cover of the journal.

The BFHS resumes again on Thursday September 19th 2024 with a meeting commencing at 7.30pm, doors and car park open at 7.00pm. If you live reasonably locally, it will be so good to see you there.

Keep smiling! My very best wishes to you all.

Margaret E. Williams, BFHS Secretary and Search Officer

STAND AND DELIVER

A talk by Eric Jackson – Thursday June 20th 2024

It is always a pleasure to welcome Eric Jackson back to a BFHS meeting as his talks combine impeccable information delivered with humour, supported by a Powerpoint presentation of pictures, diagrams and photos that exactly match the content and keep one's interest. This talk was no exception; it lasted about 45 minutes with a presentation which kept everyone entertained throughout.

Eric began by stating that the era for highwaymen was the 17th and 18th centuries with highwaymen coming from all walks of life. As a general rule, the highwayman – or woman - did not need to resort to force as the vision of a threatening individual, usually on horseback and wielding a weapon, was enough for the victims to hand over their valuables. Footpads were robbers who adopted the same techniques as highwaymen, but were never on horseback – they still met the same fate!

Listening to Eric, it was obvious that the future for every highwayman was not going to end well and so it proved, almost without exception. All of them met an almost identical fate and died relatively young.

Eric concentrated on five individuals to make his points.

Dick Turpin is probably the most well known of the highwaymen, with more myths and rumour around him than almost any other. He was baptised in Essex on September 21st 1705 as Richard Turpin; his father was a butcher. The exact date of birth is unknown. He was a butcher like his father, initially, although he became a member of the Essex Gang as this was more lucrative. The gang were all convicted and executed. Dick managed to remain free despite a Royal Warrant reward of £200 on his head. (In today's money it is approximately £200,000.)

Sensing that it was time to move, Dick changed his name to John Palmer and moved to Yorkshire. It is rumoured that he rode from London to York on



Black Bess in one day, but there is no evidence to support this. John Palmer, aka Dick Turpin, had a good life from his ill-gotten gains until on October 7th 1738 when he wrote to his sister, Dorothy, in London. In those days there were no stamps. The recipient paid the postage, somehow the letter was intercepted and Dick Turpin was identified.

Dick Turpin was arrested for the theft of two horses and carrying a weapon so he was tried at York Assizes on March 22nd 1739 where, unsurprisingly, he was found guilty. He was hung from a triangular Tyburn Tree gallows at the Knavesmire and buried at St George's Church, York.

Claude Duval was born sometime in 1643 in Donfront, France. By 1657 there were many Englishmen in France, avoiding the rule of Oliver Cromwell so, when Charles II came to the throne, they all went back to England and Claude was among them. He was known as the 'gentleman highwayman' because of his fashionable clothes and gentlemanly behaviour towards his victims, according to records. His end was as inevitable as those of most highwaymen. Claude had gone back to northern France, but the lure of the proceeds of crime meant he came back to England where he was arrested practically on arrival in January 1670. He was tried and executed on the Tyburn Tree, (which was where Marble Arch is now) on January 21st 1670. He is buried at St Paul's Church, Covent Garden although no gravestone remains. Claude epitomised the nickname given to highwaymen, "Gentlemen of the Road".

William or John Nevison was a relatively notorious man born in Pontefract in 1639, so almost a local highwayman! He went to London, finding that crime did pay, fleeing back to Yorkshire to evade capture. His journey up the Great North Road from London to Yorkshire was attributed to Dick Turpin as most people thought, but it was actually John Nevison. He continued to operate on the road between Wentbridge and Newark, even escaping capture over a culvert which is still known as Nevison's Leap. (There is still a pub in Pontefract named Nevison's Leap!)

His end was predictable. Captured and convicted on May 6th 1684, Nevison, like Turpin, was executed on the Knavesmire (now known as York Racecourse.)

There were also highwaywomen.

Lady Katherine Ferrers was born in May 1634 to a wealthy but troubled family. She was forced into marriage to a relative when she was 16 years old. Known as 'The Wicked Lady' she carried out many robberies before being shot, dying from her wounds in 1660, age 26 years.



Irishman James MaClaine was born in 1734 into wealth and privilege but, by the time he was 20, he had frittered away his inheritance so he was sent to London and married in 1746, while setting up as a grocer. He met another like-minded man named Plunkett and the pair set themselves up as highwaymen. In November 1749 they stole from a relative of Horace Walpole so a reward was issued. Three offences involving a blunderbuss led to their capture on July 26 1750. The ending was inevitable. Eventually found guilty, the duo were hanged at Tyburn in October 1750.

MaClaine and Plunkett were two of the last highwaymen because highway robbery declined as people became better able to defend themselves, also toll gates were installed in all roads.

In the Enclosure Act of 1773 stone walls were built and better policing was encouraged. It created a law that enabled enclosure of land, at the same time removing the right of commoners' access. The Act is still in force in the United Kingdom.

Transport itself was changing, as train networks and canal building were encouraged and developed.

By 1831, the Age of the Highwayman was dead.

All those present said that they will look forward to another of Eric's talks in the not too distant future.

Margaret E. Williams, BFHS Secretary and Search Officer

Your editor adds: Katherine Ferrers lived in Hertfordshire very near where I did in the 1960s. On the way to work I crossed Nomansland, scene of one of Katherine's deeds. On the crossroads there is a pub named after her, The



Wicked Lady. Last time I had a pint in there it probably cost me only a couple of bob, I expect (that's two shillings, or 10p, for the benefit of our younger members.)

Katherine's story is interesting and was well written up in the Watford Observer –see

www.watfordobserver.co.uk/news/nostalgia/crimelibrary/katherineferrers/

HITTING A BRICK WALL? PART 2

Margaret Williams



Those eagle-eyed of you amongst the 'Barnsley Roots' readership may remember the first of an occasional series of articles, in the January 2024 issue of the journal, on the subject of trying to overcome those issues that seem to call a full stop to areas of your research. The catalyst for this article was my search for my Aunties Emma and Hilda which had been ongoing for nigh on three years, so more of this later... (I have found them!)

The first article dealt with basic resources, suggested websites and the crucial need to verify records you find or else you may be going down the completely wrong line.

This article deals with more specific problems you may encounter.

FREQUENTLY USED NAMES

I had a query from a member. Their ancestor, born in 1825, was James Jackson; his wife was an Ann Smith. They had a son also called James who married an Ann Smyth; you couldn't make it up, could you? James Jackson Junior had a son called James who, fortunately, married a lady called Gladys Dawson.

I think this is, probably, one of the most frustrating problems genealogists encounter.

This is why I feel a sense of relief when a search request is regarding ancestors with more unusual surnames as they are far easier to locate and to prove, or disprove.

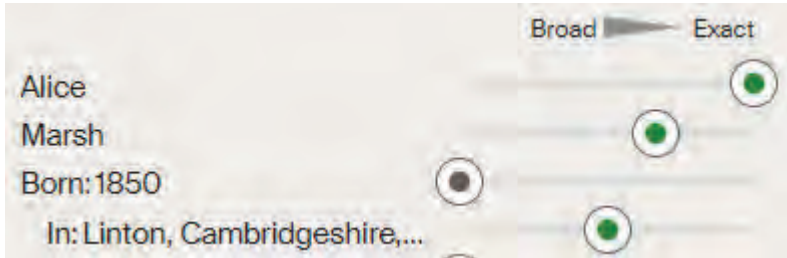
The best way to try to solve this problem, which is not as insurmountable as it appears at first, is to disprove rather than try to prove the facts you find. Searching for a marriage, a death or some other record may give you evidence that you've found the wrong person.

I got a plea recently from a non-member who had gone on to the GRO website. He has spent quite a lot of money purchasing "useless" BMD certificates (his words, not mine) and didn't want to spend any more so he had contacted me (in desperation?). I suggested he join the BFHS or look at the Digital Imaging section on the GRO site.

I found the section "Focus on Disproof and Cross Referencing" from the website www.genealogyexplained.com helpful. The site is quick to access and the articles are easy to understand, if somewhat quirky at times. This is my 'go to' site if I get stuck. Run by Natalie, it is free to join.

SEARCH ALTERNATIVE SPELLINGS

Sometimes you come across a record, or a name, where part of it may be blurred, distorted or missing. This is another frustration you can do without. The easiest route, which is available on all the main search sites such as Ancestry, Family Search and Findmypast, is to use the little tool or square when you input your ancestors details into the Search boxes. Make sure you slide the small icon to the left to expand the areas of your search; the distance one is especially useful.



In the name box always tick the box that offers options to widen your search such as 'sounds like', 'similar to' as well as the one that lengthens the time range you are searching, up to 20 years.

It is also worth considering that, the further back in time you venture, many people could not read or write so they relied on the clergy, doctors, or other educated folk to write the record details for them so details and spellings may be variable. Storage of the records pre 1837 could also be haphazard; it certainly was not the climate-controlled environment and secure storage in use now.

MISSING LETTERS IN A RECORD

This follows on from the above paragraph as you may have encountered a record that is damaged, blurred, distorted and some individual letters are unclear. I am indebted to the Ancestry website for the following information which I didn't have a clue about.

If you do encounter this problem there are special symbols you can use in place of the problematic letters; these are known as **Wild Cards**.

Wild Cards use an asterisk and a question mark. An asterisk (*) represents zero to five characters whereas a question mark (?) represents one character. For example, you may have the name Elise, or Elyse, with the middle letter uncertain so searching for it as E1(?)se may help.

THE MISSING PAGES

It was when I was looking at Irish records pre 1901 for someone that I found records with missing pages or whole sections of research that were not where you would expect to find them. Some had been deliberately erased during the Troubles, others were just not there, pages were awol. You always want the missing page, don't you? In the last twenty years, with increased interest in Ancestry, the situation with Irish Records has improved considerably.

The 1931 Census in the UK was destroyed by fire, so there will not be another National Census available now for a while because of the 100 year rule limit! The latest collection we can view is the 1939 Register, listing all civilians in the UK, their addresses, occupation and possible war role.

War and conflicts have also ravaged records worldwide In the UK, some patchy records from the Civil War have been lost and WW1 records were burnt by bombings in WW2.

FAN - Friends, Associates and Neighbours is one source you may find handy. They may offer an insight into a relative's life and heritage as they will all have interacted with your ancestor at some point. Census records are full of neighbours, Trade Directories offer work associates, even criminal records may be helpful, as I found when looking for a chap who was missing from the 1911 Barnsley Census; he was in Wakefield Prison with his friend, a next door neighbour!

THE CHRISTIAN NAMES USED ARE DIFFERENT

Every family has this problem where a relative does not use their first given name.

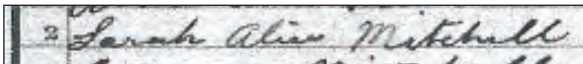
I always give the advice to look at the names on a census record carefully where there is more than one given name. Very often, where there are two Christian names, the person uses their middle name for whatever reason.

This often happens today, as well.

It is just a pity that I did not follow my own advice in searching for Aunties Emma and Hilda whose mother was Alice Marsh, so I was told.

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.											
NAME AND ADDRESS		BIRTH		MARRIAGE		RELIGION		OCCUPATION		RESIDENCE	
1	Thomas Mitchell	Head	38	Married	9	Anglican		Labourer			Halifax Yorkshire
2	Sarah Alice Mitchell	Wife	37	Married	9	Anglican		Washer			Halifax Yorkshire
3	Emma Mitchell	Daughter	8								Halifax Yorkshire
4	Hilda Mitchell	Daughter	4								Halifax Yorkshire
5	William Pigeon	Boarder	26	Single							Halifax Yorkshire

Image reproduction courtesy of The National Archives



The 1911 Census is quite clear; she is Sarah Alice Mitchell. I had been looking for an Alice Marsh. It did not

help that she had a sister called just Alice! Three years it has taken me.

OFFLINE SOURCES

Those of us who started our Ancestral Family Trees since 2000 (I am certainly one of the millions of us) could be considered the lucky ones. You log on to a computer, link to the internet, put your query, or website details, into a search engine and, lo and behold, there are a huge raft of sites to choose from.

When I first started my ancestral journey in 2015, I was speaking to a very elderly man on the courses I attended, who told me about looking around graveyards for burial details of ancestors; it was his hobby! He found BMD records by 'phoning the Register Office in Stockport, often paying for records that had no relevance to him at all. Researchers today take the ease of using the internet for granted; it was not always so.



I was amazed to learn that the larger quantity of records relating to our ancestors are, as yet, not digitised, as they have yet to be

transcribed. **The majority of existing BMD records, and their related references, are still not available online.** What we do have online at present is a small percentage of what could be available. It may help a researcher to look at offline resources: make use of local Archives, try The Borthwick Institute in York if your ancestors came from Yorkshire, talk to relatives, contact relevant local Family History Societies, browse graveyards for information, even?

Even if you feel that you have completed all your research, you may still have gaps so I really hope that this article may help you fill in any spaces.

Margaret E Williams, BFHS Secretary and Search Officer

Some comments from your editor

Further to Margaret's section on 'Missing Pages', note that the 1939 Register was compiled initially by enumerators, just like censuses, from individual forms that had been handed out beforehand. National Registration remained in force until 1952, so until then it was a requirement for changes of name (primarily when a woman was married) and address to be notified for the issuance of a new identity card. Some of these changes, usually only married names, were entered on to the existing Register pages. They should appear on the transcription, but just as with censuses, do always look at the original. In particular, it's difficult to tell from the transcription which is the maiden name.

A census ruse I find useful - if one is lucky - is that if a family cannot be found in the next census, try searching for the youngest child in the previous census. The age is usually correct and the chances are that they are still at home. I have found families by just looking for a first name, no surname, plus age and of course place of birth. As Margaret says, the other tactic is to look for the most unusual name.

We tend to be told that what we see on the handwritten images of the 1911 and 1921 censuses is the householders handwriting. I bet there were times when an aged, illiterate or poorly head of house said "Eee lass, tha writin's better'n mine, thee fill it in". There would then be a fair chance that Mum lied about her age...

Roger de Mercado

THE STAN AND GRACE BLOG - UPDATE

Liz Whitehouse

It is now just over four months since I launched the Stan and Grace blog (see the April 2024 edition of Barnsley Roots). The blog has certainly kept me out of mischief as I have continued to get to grips with the technical aspects of the site.

I use the analytics provided by Blogger, the host site, plus Google Analytics to measure engagement with the site. While the majority of readers are from the UK, the blog has visitors from Canada, New Zealand and the United States. There are several visitors from European countries and, recently, Algeria, but I'm assuming that these are mostly UK readers on holiday.

People are used to having lots of photographs on the internet. During the Second World War it was difficult to get hold of film and get photographs developed and even those that were taken have not all survived. I have been trying to find other ways of illustrating the letters and have found that ebay is a good source of old postcards to illustrate some of the places mentioned in the letters.

I found a postcard showing the Nottingham General Hospital buildings, probably taken in the 1930s and later, on a visit to Nottingham, I was able to photograph some of the remaining buildings which had since been turned into flats and a pub/restaurant. I used the postcard and the photographs to illustrate a post about the place where Grace was working. *See front cover for a modern view of the hospital and a photo of Grace from the same viewpoint - Ed.*

Things I have learned in the last four months:

The letters get off to a slow start, partly because Stan and Grace are just getting to know each other and partly because Grace did not save Stan's letters until later in the correspondence, so to begin with there is only one side (Grace's). This leaves quite long gaps between the letters. There are also gaps when they are spending time together (so no need to write).

The letters are 'real life' – and not a soap opera. Real life can be mundane and sometimes not a great deal happens, even in the middle of a war.

I think for these two reasons, although the blog is gaining readers it is also losing them as nothing 'exciting' is happening – or what **is** happening is not happening fast enough for modern readers. I am hoping to maintain a small but select group of determined and interested readers!

Here are two excerpts from recent letters to tempt you to give the blog a try – or revisit if you have given up!

As Nottingham is a large city hospital, Grace becomes involved with several new treatments and processes during her time there. In this letter she describes one to Stan:

Grace to Stan, 25 April, 1942

"The ward that I am on at present is very quiet. We have only had about 6 new cases in a week. I had to go to the theatre with a man having a skin graft done this morning. He had his skin taken from his leg and put on his arm. Of course we don't know yet whether it will be successful or not but I hope so. If it is it

will save the man a lot of pain and a few weeks less in hospital. I don't know whether you are interested in this shop that I write sometimes but if you are not just say the word and I will cease writing it."

I found the following, from Stan to Grace, really shocking. What do you think?

Stan to Grace, 13 May, 1942

"Here's a bit that will interest you. My pal & I were walking in the park here on Sunday evening when we stopped to listen to an open air meeting of the local Communist Party talking about a Second Front Policy. Both my pal and I asked the speaker a question or two. After the meeting a lance corporal came to me and asked me my name, saying that he thought he knew me. Imagine my surprise when he turned up at my office next morning and said he was a member of the F.S.P. (army detective).

He asked Major Foot, my boss, if he had ever had any trouble with me as I was getting rather 'bolshy' at a meeting the night before!!

That's just an example of the "free" England in which we live.

And Major Foot hasn't half pulled my leg about it, too!

Apart from that narrow escape from 18B Regulation and deportation to the Isle of Man, nothing very interesting has happened. "

If you would like to read more, you can find the blog at <https://stan-and-grace.blogspot.com/>

Liz Whitehouse

BARNSELY MUSEUMS AND HERITAGE TRUST

The Barnsley Museums & Heritage Trust is a fund-raising charity set up in 2015 to help preserve, enhance and champion Barnsley's heritage for the future. The Trust website is at <https://bmht.org> where you can find out more about their values and how you can get involved in helping to secure the future of Barnsley Museums' five free-entry heritage attractions. The aim is to safeguard Barnsley's heritage and to provide new, exciting exhibitions and learning experiences for people of all ages and backgrounds.



One can sign up for a monthly e-newsletter. The June issue included the news that Barnsley Archives and Local Studies Service, the custodian of the borough's documentary heritage, has been awarded the prestigious Archive Service Accreditation for the second time by the National Archives. See Margaret Williams' 'News Snippets', page 27.

Barnsley Museum's 'What's On' guide for May-September catalogues a huge number of activities around town, many of interest to the likes of us. See www.experience-barnsley.com/whats-on

Roger de Mercado

TRANSCRIBING: AN ENJOYABLE, WORTHWHILE AND LEARNING EXPERIENCE

David Allen

The following is an article I first wrote for Calderdale Family History Society for inclusion in 'The Scrivener', the society's magazine, and came about through doing transcribing work for them. It has been completed by using the Society's web site and research facilities to check a few details, and for those members who may possibly have connections in Calderdale, or are looking for those 'lost' ones, is worth bearing in mind as a possible resource when researching your forebears. You never know, you may find it worthwhile to join them and get full access to their records.

It also shows that by doing work for Barnsley FHS, if you are lucky, you may find out information which could/will help you in your own research.

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A few years ago, now, back in the days when we had to connect to T'Internet via Dial Up, (remember them?) I tentatively started to try and research my great uncle who had been killed at Passchendaele in November 1917 serving with the Dukes. Being single and in full time employment, coupled with the cost of having a landline telephone and internet connection, neither were conducive to me being able to justify the outlay in time and money, at the time, and so for at least 20 years, I didn't get any further along in my research.

Nearly four years ago, I decided to take 'early' retirement, being 65 ½ years old, having, like a lot of us, been caught up in the Government's decision to raise the state pension age to 66. Just as I packed up full time work, just before Christmas 2019, along came Covid, and so before I could fully sort myself out, we were all locked in, in early 2020.

Like all of us, my plans for what I intended or would like to do, went out of the window, and so at some stage in late 2020 (I think), having managed to sort my affairs out, I decided to try and devote more time to researching my family. The first step was to join the CFHS and initially I was content to sit back and receive the Scrivener every three months, with the occasional dabble online trying to sort out the mysteries and quirks of using first Findmypast, and then Ancestry, until I saw an appeal in the magazine for a new Membership Secretary. Having fulfilled the same role at a Motor Club of which I was a member, too many years ago now to want to remember, I volunteered. The reply I got was that the role had been filled, but would I be interested in helping Peter in his transcribing projects? Having always taken the view that you only get out of something what you are prepared to put into it, and Societies and clubs such as ours only existing through the work of volunteers, I offered my services to Peter. He was more than happy to take me on board.

My only worry was that my computer confidence, knowledge and skills were nil. I had never had to use a PC in my work, only minimally in my private life, and had never had any formal teaching in the use of them, and consequently any minimal knowledge I had, had been self-taught, and not

always for the better. I needn't have worried too much though, as Peter's patience with me is only to be commended and has helped me so much to not only learn how to use computers, but also to gain confidence in using them, which has also helped me in life in general.

The first project I was involved in was the transcription of the School Admissions for Lightcliffe C.of E. School. Getting started on this journey was initially hard. I had to get used to the way the photographs had been taken, the constraints the photographer had to work to when taking the photos, lighting, background etc. This taught me to use the computer tools available to enlarge, shrink, lighten or darken images etc., in order to better read/decipher them, how to use the cursor to move the image around the screen, all tools which help to make images more readable and decipherable. I also started to learn how to decipher the different styles of handwriting, and soon began to see and perhaps decide who were good teachers and the perhaps not so good, with the different standards of handwriting.

My first project (the schools project) was a very sobering and shocking one to me. Seeing entries against children of perhaps 6,7 or 8 years old describing them as 'Half Time', i.e. school in the morning and work in the afternoon, (or vice versa), or even worse, seeing the reason for children of similar ages leaving the school as 'Deceased', was to say the least upsetting. It just went to bring home to me how much we as a Society have progressed in around the last 100 years or so.

It was whilst working on this project that I made a personal discovery. My great grandparents and family lived in Broad Oak Cottages at Hove Edge. This I already knew, but this location as far as public records are concerned is somewhat of a 'no man's land'. Bearing in mind the time of this, (C1860-1900), I had doubts as to where they might be recorded in church records etc.

Great Grandpa Walter had been born in Rastrick and Great Gran Margaret is shown as having been born in Brighouse. (? Hipperholme). St John's at Halifax (Parish Church) was still predominant for the whole of our area, being by area the largest parish in the country, with people living in the Brighouse area still having the right to be married etc. at either St. Mary's Elland, or St Johns in Halifax, and the transition of Hipperholme to Brighouse (for council, administration and electoral purposes) was still very much work in progress. Therefore, not living locally, being new to the research game, and the fact that even today, the transcription of old records to T'internet is nowhere near complete, I became stuck and unsure of where to look or even how, as the fact that my searches coming back as 'no results found' didn't necessarily mean that I was looking in the wrong place. I couldn't be sure that it wasn't only the fact that a particular place hadn't yet been transcribed.

Then, whilst transcribing one of the batches Peter had sent me, I found an entry for one of my Gt Aunties, Adeline, Walter and Margaret's eldest child. This then led to further discoveries of entries for another two of their children, one of whom was my Grandpa George Henry. Then, purely by fluke, as a result of these discoveries, I found an entry on Ancestry, for my Gt Auntie and three of her siblings in the Christening records of St Ebenezer's Methodist Church at Hove Edge.

On seeing Adeline's entry, in the school records I could see a couple of details which I knew to be wrong, and so, checking with Peter, who as always with his patience and guidance, advised me to correct them in the transcription but put an advisory comment in the notes column.

The discovery of Adeline's and her siblings christening was a revelation, as my whole family as far as I knew had solely revolved religiously around the Church of England, and indeed Walter and Margaret's religious upbringing and their parents was C of E. Why their children's christening took place at St Ebenezer's Methodist rather than St Mathews C of E at Lightcliffe, where some of their marriages took place, or St Martins C of E at Brighouse I can only wonder about.

Following on from the discovery of the school admissions for my Gt Auntie, and her siblings, further research threw up discoveries for my Gt Uncle John, who I had initially started out to research.

The most important fact I found out was that he had married Mabel Cuckson of Rotherham in St Mathews at Lightcliffe on Boxing Day in 1916. This was a total surprise, as no-one in my family had ever mentioned or indicated to me that he had married before his death at Passchendaele in 1917. So, I had discovered a relation I never knew of, and another branch of my family that I didn't know existed, all through starting to help Peter and the Society.

It seems that Gt Aunt Mabel returned to Rotherham after Gt Uncle's death, and never remarried or had children. It appears from Forces War Records that she was awarded a Death Grant of £5 and was given the princely sum of 13s/9d per week as a War Widows pension.

.....

Having completed the school admissions project, there followed a couple of months break because of, I think, admin and legal reasons before we started on the next project of transcribing the Exley Cemetery Memorial inscriptions, and along with that came another challenge in getting used to the change from handwritten paper records to chiselled inscriptions in stone/marble, and totally different lighting conditions, along with the added difficulties of lichen covering some of the stones, degraded inscriptions due to weathering and grass obscuring some of the inscriptions.

Whilst working on one batch of transcriptions, one grave piqued my curiosity and interest:

In (...) loving memory of Jane Duke, infant mistress Elland Edge. The devoted wife of David Lord Born Nov 16th, 1885. Died Aug 29th, 1977.

Her friendship (...). See I have accepted thee.

David Lord born March 24th 1834. Died Dec 10th 1921 / J W Taylor, Aberdeen.

Also Ellen wife of the above Born March 29th 1832 Died Dec 5th 1915 / David Lord owner.

Also John Herbert died August 11th 1903 Aged 31 Years.

Jane Duke their daughter died June 27th, 1906, Aged 28 years.

Elizabeth Mary their eldest daughter who died Nov 25th, 1935, aged 75 years.

Also Thomas brother of David Lord who died March 2nd 1964 aged 75 years.

Also Alice Lord their sister who died Nov 20th 1910 aged 35 years / In loving memory of Martha Jane (Nane) Lord born July 3rd 187(...) Died July 15 18(...), wife of the late John Herbert Lord.

- 1) Who or what is an 'Infant Mistress'?
- 2) How is the surname Duke connected to the name Lord in that context. Is it a maiden name, or the name of a governess? Or even their daughter who has married, as suggested by one of the following inscriptions.
- 3) 'J W Taylor, Aberdeen'. Who is this individual, or even company?

I queried the Taylor inscription with Peter, as I wasn't sure if it was a remote deceased member of the family, who surviving members of the Lord family wanted to be commemorated on their headstone, the name of the stonemason/engraver, or the name of the company supplying the stone. To be on the safe side, I had included the name on the transcription.

Peter's reply was that it was probably the name of the stonemason, and that such inscriptions for our purposes were usually ignored and had deleted the entry I had made. He also said that he didn't know why or how an inscription attributed to Aberdeen came to be included on an Exley Headstone.

I replied that in view of the fact that the headstone appeared to be of granite or marble, that the family were probably 'well to do' and wanted to make a statement and leave a longer-lasting memorial and so they had 'gone' to Aberdeen as it is a place known as 'The Granite City' and their stonemasons would have the knowledge and tools necessary to be able to work such material, which our local stonemasons as skilled as they were working our local York stone would probably not have possessed. As a result, he suggested that I consider putting together a short article for the magazine, hence this ramble.

Even before starting the transcription, this had piqued my interest, as granite/marble is expensive, and obviously not natural to our area.

Because of the work which I was doing for Peter, my research has been basic and limited, but I'm sure that with more time and more in-depth research, a fuller and more correct understanding of the family's history and past would be available and appreciated.

David Allen

David's account of his research, including 'educational' wrong turnings, will be continued in our next issue. His work was first published by the Calderdale FHS, who kindly have allowed us to use it. - Ed.



The gravestone with multiple memorials that piqued David's curiosity.

IMPORTANT DATES IN CIVIL REGISTRATION

A recent interesting talk at the Sale Group of the Family History Society of Cheshire was on the subject of the many changes to civil registration that have taken place since 1837. The hand-out list is reproduced here by kind permission of Sylvia Dillon.

Date	Event
1 st July 1837	Civil Registration in England and Wales begins.
1852	GRO References change from Roman Numerals (eg XVI) to Arabic numbers and letters (eg 6d).
1866	GRO indexes include age at death.
1875	Births and Deaths Act 1874: a) Compulsory registration of births (parents/guardians responsible for registration), b) Fines for non-registration of births/penalties for late registration (42 days to register), c) For illegitimate births, father must be present at the birth registration for his name to appear on a birth entry in the register, d) Deaths to be registered within 5 days, instead of 8 as previous, e) Medical certification in respect of cause of death required, f) Still births require a death certificate before burial.
1898	Non-Conformist and Catholic Churches can appoint an "Authorised Person" to register marriages, removing the need for a Registrar to be present.
1907	Deceased Wife's Sister's Marriage Act.
Sep Qtr 1911	GRO Indexes include Mother's Maiden Name.
Mar Qtr. 1912	GRO Marriage Indexes include Spouse's Surname.
1 st July 1927	Introduction of the Register of Still Births.
1927	As a result of Legitimacy Act of 1926: a) Introduction of the Adopted Childrens' Register, b) Re-registration of illegitimate births allowed if parents subsequently marry each other, c) Registrars certificate/coroners order required before a burial/cremation of a body 1929.
1927	As a result of Births and Deaths Registration Act 1926, Still Births registered for first time.
1927	Adoption of Children Act 1926.

Date	Event
1929	Legal age for marriage increased from 14 (males) and 12 (females) to 16 for both (parental consent still required up to age 21).
1929	Local Government Act 1929: a) Functions of civil registration transferred to Local Authorities, b) Newly appointed Registration Officers paid salaries.
1946	GRO Volume Numbers re-organised.
1947	Short Birth Certificates introduced.
1953	Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953. An Act to consolidate certain enactments relating to the registration of births and deaths in England and Wales with corrections and improvements made under the Consolidation of Enactments (Procedure) Act, 1949. With subsequent revisions, remains the definitive Act.
1969	a) Format of Birth and Death Certificates changed to portrait instead of landscape, b) Age of majority reduced from 21 to 18, c) Re-registration of births of illegitimate children to include name of father allowed, irrespective of whether the parents marry, d) Birth certificates can be issued at GRO or at the register office for the district where the birth occurred.
June Qtr. 1969	Death Indexes show date of Birth instead of age at Death.
1974	GRO Volume Numbers re-organised.
1975	Adult adopted people allowed access to information on original birth entry.
1984	GRO Indexes changed to annual compilations.
Apr-95	New space made for mother's occupation on birth certificates.
2004	Civil Partnership Act 2004 came into force on 5 th Dec 2005 across the UK. Same sex couples only.
Mar-24	Where birth is in Wales bi-lingual certificates are given. The certificate is double-sided.
Sep-24	Certificates could state 'Parent' in space 4, with associated wording in spaces 9(b) and 11 amended accordingly.
2014	Marriage and Civil Partnership Act 2014 (Scotland) allowed same sex couples choice to marry or CP.
2019	Civil Partnerships, Marriages and Deaths Act 2019.
2021	Marriage Act changes marriage certification completely. Marriage is registered on line.

EYAM

Margaret Williams

EYAM (pronounced 'eem')
(Known as the Plague Village)

Today, Eyam is a beautiful historic village in the Peak District National Park in Derbyshire. It is well worth a visit not just for its historic links. Eyam is also home to coffee shops, craft shops, cafés and galleries as well as being the starting point for strolls round the locality. It was a very different story in the seventeenth century...

In Summer 1665, a bale of damp cloth arrived at the village tailors from London. It was to be made into clothing for religious Wakes Week celebrations. George Vicars, the tailor's apprentice, was unaware that in the bale were fleas carrying the plague when he hung the cloth in front of the hearth to dry thus releasing the diseased fleas into the atmosphere. George became one of the first victims of the plague in the village.

Between September and December 1665, 42 villagers died. The fear was so great that by Spring 1666 most villagers just wanted to flee their homes and village.

Action urgently needed to be taken so William Mompesson, the Vicar, appointed in 1664, decided to act but he needed help as he was not liked or trusted by the villagers.

The previous vicar, the very popular Thomas Stanley, lived in exile on the edge of the village having been unceremoniously ejected by the Church Commissioners as he had refused to accept using the Book of Common Prayer.

Mompesson realised that he had to reach out to Stanley for help. The pair met; the plan that they devised together was remarkable.

In June 1666, Mompesson and Stanley told all the parishioners that the entire village must be quarantined with no-one allowed in or out. Agreement was total as it had the blessing of Thomas Stanley, The Earl of Devonshire, who lived at Chatsworth offering to send regular food and supplies to be left at the edge of the village boundary for collection.

By agreeing to this plan, the villagers were effectively choosing possible death to prevent other close communities being infected.



Rose Cottage where 9 members of the Thorpe family lived. They all died.

Over 14 months, the plague ran its course and over a third of the people died; 260 villagers out of the population of 750, including Mompesson's wife, Catherine. This self-imposed quarantine successfully contained the spread of the disease.

The last person to die, on November 1st 1666, was a farm worker, Abraham Morten, who was in his late 20s. There are 18 members of the Morten family listed as victims on the Parish Register.

Here inscribed are the names of those inhabitants of Eyam who died during the Plague years 1665-1666.

George Wileas Sept 7th 1665	Robert Rowtham January 1 1666	Mary Wallor June 18 1666
Edward Cooper "	Samuel Rowtham "	Ann Coumard "
Peter Rowtham "	Abel Rowland "	Abel Archdals "
Thomas Wapors "	John Thornley "	Edward Thornley "
Barth Spidall "	Isaac Willads "	Anne Goodmore "
Mary Thorpe "		Jane Coumard "
		Emmett Heald "
		John Swanne "
Matheu Bands Oct 1 1665	Peter Morten Feb 4 1666	Elizabeth Heald July 1 1666
Elizabeth Thorpe "	Thomas Rowland "	William Lowe "
Mary Bands "	John Wilson "	Elleanor Lowe (in wife) "
Mary Thorpe "	Deborah Wilson "	Deborah Heald "
Sythe Torre "	Alice Wilson "	George Warby "
William Thorpe "	Adam Hawksworth "	Anne Coyle "
Richard Sydall "	Anthony Blackwall "	Bridget Talbot "
William Torre "	Elizabeth Abell "	Mary Talbot "
Annie Torre (in wife) "		John Danzell "
John Sydall "	John Wilson March 1666	Elizabeth Swanne "
Ellen Sydall "	John Talbot no date	Mary Thornley "
Humphrey Hawksworth "	John Wood given register	John Coumard "
Mertha Bands "	Mary Weston "	Anne Talbot "
Jonathan Ruge "	Annie Blackwall "	Francis Ruge "
Humphrey Torre "	Alice Hawksworth "	Elizabeth Thorpe "
Thomas Cooper "	Thomas Alleyn April 6 1666	Elizabeth Lowe "
Mary Bands "	Joan Blackwall "	Egtha Torre "
Elizabeth Sydall "	Alice Thorpe "	Anne Lowe "
Alice Ruge "	Edward Bartlesley "	Margaret Teylour "
Alice Sydall "	Margaret Blackwell "	Alice Thornley "
George Ruge "	Samuel Hasfield "	Jane Taylour "
Jonathan Cooper "	Margaret Gregory "	Egth Ruchinge "
Humphrey Torre "	Alleyn (in wife) "	Elizabeth Thornley "
	Emmett Sydall "	
Mary Stubbs November 1 1665		

Illuminated record of all the 260 deaths.



St. Lawrence's Church and Graveyard.

The cottages, St Lawrence's Church and graveyard tell a story of such courage and self-sacrifice that it is hard to believe. The site and the surrounding countryside adds an extra dimension to one's understanding.

A visit to Eyam is crucial to understanding the story of this 'Plague Village'. It is a humbling and emotional experience.

Margaret E. Williams
BFHS Secretary and Search Officer

THE DENBY WITCHCRAFT CASE

David Hinchliffe

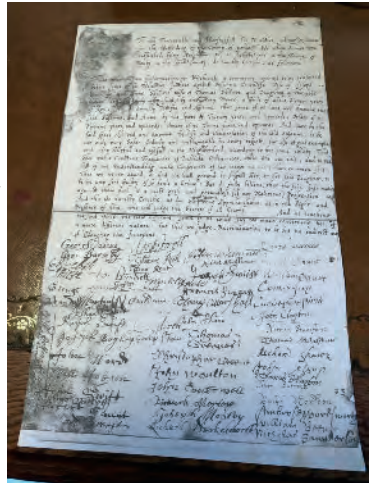
The Denby witchcraft case, which occurred in 1674, first drew my attention because it involved allegations against a couple called Hinchliffe and their married daughter. Joseph and Susannah Hinchliffe and Anne Shillitoe were accused by Mary Moor, a 16-year-old girl from Clayton West, of possessing evil powers and carrying out wicked acts. The case caused great controversy at the time and was hugely divisive in an area which was then part of the wider Penistone parish.

My Hinchliffe ancestors were living at Norcroft, near Cawthorne, in the early years of the 19th century and my book, *Descent into Silence*, which came out in 2021, recorded their involvement in a pit tragedy there two centuries earlier. My Great-grandfather's brother, John Hinchliffe, who was just 8 years old, was killed, along with nine others. His father, Jehoshaphat, had been baptised in Cumberworth in 1791, so my direct male line was the other side of the Dearne Valley from Denby just over a century after the witchcraft case.

With this year being the 350th anniversary of the Denby allegations it seemed the right time to bring out a book about what happened and who was involved, as the events of 1674 have only received passing reference up to now. *A Most Gross and Groundless Prosecution: The Denby witchcraft case of 1674* is based on research I have undertaken which has involved a detailed look at the original documents concerning the case, held in the National Archives. As well as depositions containing Mary Moor's allegations to magistrates, the Archives also hold a copy of a petition of over 50 local residents, signed in support of the Hinchliffes and Shillitoe.

Not long after the restoration of the monarchy in 1660, what is striking about the petitioners is the fact that most were religious dissidents at a time of great tension over the direction of the established church. In addition, several of those supporting it had clearly held quite prominent roles on the Parliamentary side during the English Civil Wars.

I have identified the vast majority of the signatories and many of the surnames will be of interest to Barnsley FHS members. They include William Cotton, the former Wortley Forge ironmaster, who had lived at Dodworth Moor End from 1656 until moving to Denby Hall around 1671. He was typical of the non-conformists who supported the Hinchliffes and Shillitoe and his house was licensed as a meeting place for them under legislation passed in 1672. Cotton had become a Quaker before his death in 1674, not long after he had signed the petition.



The petition.

Credit: The National Archives

A number of others who signed also became Quakers, including members of the local Burdett, Wordsworth and Rich families. The one woman signing it – Elizabeth Shirt of Ingbirchworth – had married into a family with longstanding connections to Cawthorne. Several of her neighbours on the petition were members of the Micklethwaite family originating from the settlement of that name, now known as Banks Hall, between Cawthorne and Hoylandswaine. George Barnby, the second name on it, was descended from the Barnby family of Barnby Hall, near Cawthorne, and he was buried at Cawthorne Church during 1683.

The Joseph Mosley on the petition was most likely related to John Mosley who was occupying Upper Norcroft Farm, near Cawthorne, at the time of his death in 1650. Other local surnames included Marshall, Swift, Pollard, Ward, Hobson, Gaunt, Blackburn, Shaw, Greaves, Green, Morton, Hawksworth, Jessop, Couldwell, Walshaw, Firth, Clayton, and Marsden. The Nicholas Saunderson on it was the grandfather of the blind boy of the same name who became one of Penistone's most famous sons as the Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge University.

He had attended Penistone Grammar School and the master of the school, Nathan Staniforth, would appear to have authored the wording of the petition, proclaiming the prosecution "...most gross and groundless (if not malicious)..." It evidenced the good character of the two women accused and, by the time it was put together, Joseph Hinchliffe would seem to have been dropped from the action, confirming the view that females were the main focus of such allegations.

The main magistrate who referred the case to York Assizes was one of the Woolley Hall Wentworths and my feeling is that Joseph Hinchliffe was likely to have been descended from Hinchliffes who had been residents of Woolley from the 15th century. Ann Shillitoe's husband, Thomas, appears to have been the son of the churchwarden of St Peter's Church, Kirkthorpe, near Wakefield, where he was baptised during February, 1638/9. In what seems to have been an attempt to avoid the sequestration of his assets during the Commonwealth period, the Vicar of Kirkthorpe, William Oley, bequeathed some land at Rowleys, near Cawthorne, to Shillitoe's father, on his death in 1654/5. This land was passed to Oley's brother, Barnabas, shortly after the restoration of the monarchy and avoided the asset being lost as he was a very prominent royalist.

I have found Rowleys on a Cawthorne tithing map from around 1628, held in the Spencer-Stanhope archive at Barnsley (*see back cover*). The land is located between Jowett House and Deffer Woods and my belief is that it is likely to have been worked by the Shillitoes and, possibly, the Hinchliffes from their homes to the east of Lower Denby.

Other than saying that this story has a rather melancholy end, I won't go into the detail of what eventually happened, which is set out in the book. It is now on sale locally at the Utterly Yorkshire Shop, 347b Wakefield Road, Denby Dale, HD8 8RT. It is also available from Amazon, AbeBooks, Ebay, via the publisher's website www.ilpshop.co.uk and can be ordered from other bookshops at £12.95. All royalties from the book will be donated to charity.

David Hinchliffe

**“NOTHING CAN GO WRONG!”
GREAT HISTORICAL BLUNDERS
A Talk by Lizzie Jones – Thursday April 18th 2024**

It is always a pleasure to welcome Lizzie Jones, with her husband, to a BFHS meeting. Lizzie is a local lady with an encyclopaedic knowledge of Elizabethan and Stuart times. Lizzie just speaks to the audience with very little use of notes or pictorial aids; rarely does she even take time for a drink.

All Family History Societies have experienced talks by very knowledgeable people where the subject and delivery of it has been challenging to understand – not so here. At the outset Lizzie opened by saying this was a light-hearted talk and so it proved from the outset. The talk was divided into six categories, (I have attempted to arrange the snippets into some coherent order.)

1. FASHION

Lizzie introduced her subject by stating that every age has its own peculiarities, referencing the Farthingale. A Farthingale is one of several undergarment structures used under Western European women's clothing – especially in the 16th and 17th centuries – to support the skirts in the desired shape and to enlarge the lower half of the body. The fashion originated in Spain in the fifteenth century. It consists of a series of increasingly large hoops, often made of whalebone. This 'fashion' became increasingly ludicrous as ladies such as King James 1's daughter, Princess Elizabeth, followed this trend with her ladies-in-waiting. The skirts were so wide that the ladies became entangled with each other as they could not get through doorways! Servants had to be on hand to try to sort out the tangle. The mind boggles as to how they coped when nature called! The fashion did not last too long.

Outlandish fashions were not just the preserve of the ladies, as the Restoration period brought in petticoats and britches for the lords who wished, like King Charles, to be noticed. When you see the costume it is understandable that this fashion was short-lived! (Look at Charles II's Coronation Robes.



A Farthingale



Petticoat and britches anyone?

Wigs were an extremely popular part of a gentleman's outfit during King Charles' reign. As Lizzie explained, King Charles, physically, was a very different man after his 30 years in exile; he was no longer the young man

who had fled during the Civil War so a wig was an essential. A wig for the nobility was always made of real hair; it was long and flowing so it made a real change to a person's appearance, making him look younger and more important. Poor people would sell their hair to be made into wigs. Samuel Pepys, the diarist, actually wore a wig that set on fire; it was a common occurrence in the candlelit rooms of court. The wearing of wigs lasted for two centuries.

2. ARTISTS

Pre 1640, portraits of family were much valued by the aristocracy; they gained particular value as many of the men later died in the Civil War. Sir Anthony Van Dyck, 1599 - 1641, was a Flemish Baroque artist who became the leading court painter in England after success in the Spanish Netherlands and Italy. Portraits were expensive so he flattered people. He always painted women with very long dresses so that they looked imposing and important. Although his work was much valued, like many notable artists Van Dyck had apprentices who, after a short interview, would paint the main portrait, the artist only contributing to sections of it.

Lady Eleanor Suffolk, persuaded by friends to have a portrait painted by Van Dyck, gave specific instructions to make her look slimmer and more glamorous. She was not happy with the portrait as the finished work did not fulfil the brief the painter was given and the expensive jewellery looked less than perfect. The lady refused to pay when she discovered that much of the finished work had been done by apprentices.

King Charles II fell out with the painter, Rubens, when he, too, discovered the artist had not done all the work himself.

Many painters died young as the paint used contained lead and mercury.

Fashions change and alter over time; in the 17th century it was fashionable for females to be painted with white faces. One Lord asked for a portrait of his new wife to be painted, displaying her with a very white face; the lady died a few weeks later from lead poisoning.

3. BATTLEFIELD MISTAKES

Many mistakes occurred during the Civil War. Friendly fire was very common. Initially, there were no uniforms; soldiers wore their normal clothes, which were mostly red or blue as these were the most common and cheapest dyes; black was the most expensive so only for the better-off fighters. You can only imagine the chaos that ensued in the early battles. The Drum and the Standard were the most important objects on the battlefield as they gave the signals for the soldiers to follow. The Standard had to be raised all the time. The problems occurred when the noise and confusion of battle meant the Drum could not be heard and the Standard was hard to see.

4. ACCIDENTAL FIRE

Battles were fought in fields, gardens and moorland so accidents were inevitable. William Laws, a musician, living in Chester, put his head out of a window to see what was happening and was shot dead. Muskets and pistols were far from accurate. Gunpowder was dangerous so it was carried in a separate baggage cart. The powder had to be lit in a shallow pan, giving rise to the saying "flash in a pan". It is hard to imagine the mistakes and accidents that must have occurred.

5. BATTLES

Lizzie stated that there were two 'accidental' battles but only three crucial ones during the English Civil War. She used two examples of the latter.

The Battle of Marston Moor in 1645 took all day to get the warring troops in place, with one contingent only arriving as dusk was falling. Oliver Cromwell decided to act first with General Fairfax leading the charge; this proactive move resulted in a great victory for the Parliamentarians.

At the Battle of Naseby in 1646, it was only when the scouts for the two sides met at the same Inn that it was realised that both sides had been going on identical parallel routes for over two days! Again, the Royalists were completely unprepared so this again resulted in a victory for Oliver Cromwell.

The Protestant Princess Elizabeth, daughter of King James I, (remember her from earlier?), married Frederick, Elector Palatine, when they were both 16 years old. They lived in Germany for a few years before they were invited to become King and Queen of Roman Catholic Bohemia, a choice which they foolishly accepted. Some Protestants had thought this a good idea, but the rule lasted only a year before Roman Catholic armies rode miles through snow to converge on Prague. No-one supported the King and Queen, not even King James. Elizabeth lived in poverty in The Hague for 30 years afterwards.

This mistake of accepting the invitation to rule Bohemia started the European conflict which became known as the Thirty Years War, 1616 – 1648, in which Germany was decimated.

6. FIRE

Many buildings in Tudor/Stuart times had thatched roofs; the Globe Theatre was one such building. This theatre, with links to William Shakespeare, was dismantled one Winter then re-erected in Spring on the other side of the river in Southwark as the venue for plays and masques. During a battle scene the thatched roof was accidentally set on fire and burned down; the props and scenery were saved by putting out the flames with jugs of ale!

The Great Fire of London in 1666 is a testament to the dangers of thatched roofs, crowded conditions and chaotic fire management. Samuel Pepys' diary has plenty of anecdotes on this subject.

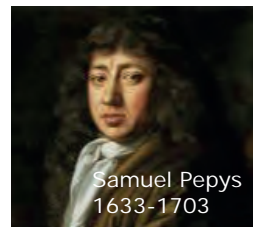
Doreen Piper, (Vice Chair), gave a vote of thanks to Lizzie after a talk which was quite sad in parts, very amusing in others.

Samuel Pepys (FRS) was an English diarist and naval administrator. He served as an administrator of the Royal Navy and Member of Parliament. Pepys is probably better known for his Diaries and the gossip they contain. He was probably a forerunner of some Facebook contributors!

After writing this review of Lizzie's talk, I followed her advice and read several pages of the Pepys diaries. They were very interesting, amusing, sad in places, quite caustic in others. It is worth reading pages relevant to some of the events mentioned here.

Just a thought...

Margaret E Williams
BFHS Secretary and Search Officer



KEEPING YOU IN THE LOOP NEWS SNIPPETS



BARNSELY ARCHIVES

Barnsley Archives and Local Studies has done it again! For the second time they have achieved national accreditation. "The prestigious Archive Service Accreditation recognises the outstanding compliance with national standards and best practices as well as a commitment to continuous development and improvement." (Barnsley Chronicle May 2024)

Barnsley Archive Service, headed by Paul Stebbings, the Senior Archivist is an absolutely fantastic resource for any family historian as it collects, preserves and makes readily accessible the documentary heritage of the Barnsley area with records which date from the 12th century to the present day. As Search Officer, I am a regular visitor to their offices in the Town Hall!

In order to provide researchers with extra time, the opening hours have been extended, especially on Tuesdays. I am mentioning this as people come from all over the UK and worldwide so it is worth being aware of the times, especially the days when the Archives are closed to the public.

New Opening Hours

Monday and Friday – CLOSED.

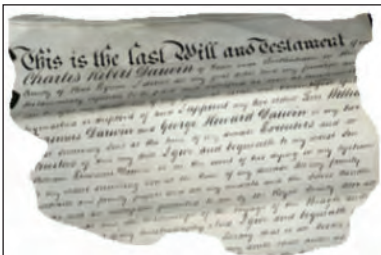
Tuesday Morning 9-30am till 12-30pm. Afternoon 1-30pm to 6-00pm.

Wednesday and Thursday 9-30am till 12-30pm then 1-30pm to 4-30pm.

It's a good idea to ring them before a visit so the files/records you need are waiting for you. Phone number 01226 773950

PROTECTING ORIGINAL WILLS

"Historic wills provide a unique window into the past for amateur and professional historians", according to the current Justice Minister, Mike Freer. Following on from that, a Ministry of Justice proposal, published on December 15th 2023, is planning to digitise and then allow the destruction of original wills after 25 years! The background to these rather confusing mixed messages is worth exploring. You may very well be aware of this information through the various news channels, but I thought it would be interesting to know of the background and response to the Government proposal.



Since 1858, whenever paper wills are submitted for scrutiny, usually as part of the Probate process, the High Court has been required to preserve them permanently. According to Government records, there are 110 million physical documents stored,

costing taxpayers about £4.5 million per year. The consultation, which ended on February 23rd 2024, was seeking opinions on this suggestion of only keeping hard copies for 25 years ‘in recognition of their sentimental value to families’ while preserving them digitally for the longer term.

“Where wills belong to notable individuals, or have historical significance, the physical copies would remain preserved.” As one objector promptly asked, “Who decides what is notable or significant?”

Almost immediately, **Please#SaveOurWills**, a petition against the Government proposal was started. Family History Societies and Federations soon made their members aware of the plans, asking for their members’ support of the petition.

The Government response on March 1st 2024 was that no decisions have yet been taken and a response would be published later in the year.

When the petition stood at 15,793 signatures, a General Election was called and Parliament was dissolved.

On May 30th 2024, the whole proposal and petition stalled and closed. It remains to be seen what happens when a new government is in place.

FAMILY HISTORY FEDERATION

Free Online Records

Increasingly, in our diverse communities, more family history records in Asia, noticeably India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, are being accessed by researchers so the following information has been made available from the FHF.

The websites listed are just some of the records available that may help you with your research the Far East and Asia.

British Association of Cemeteries in South Asia (www.bacsa.org.uk). BACSA is an organisation that seeks to maintain and record European cemeteries in the former Indian subcontinent and South East Asia territories of the East India Company. Their website contains burials indexes, cemetery files, photographs of graves, cemeteries and memorials.

The British Library Archives and Manuscripts Catalogue contains details of the Library’s collection of items including manuscripts and unpublished documents, personal papers, correspondence and diaries, family and estate papers, India Office Records and Private Papers, India Office Prints, Drawings and Paintings, and Photographs.

The Really Useful Family History Shows

The FHF offers the Really Useful FHF Shows throughout the year at various locations in the UK and Northern Ireland. They support talks, discussions and new developments in the field of Family History. Although I know that some members do not have internet access, it is worth looking online as there is much more detail on there. (Try accessing the internet at your local library if you are uncertain; as long as you are a Library Member, this is usually free to use. If not a member, why not join up?)

Northern Ireland. The Really Useful Family History Show will be held in Belfast on Saturday August 10th 2024

Online The Really Useful FH Show Online November 15th – 16th 2024.

Margaret E Williams, BFHS Secretary and Search Officer

FINDING MY ANCESTRAL HOMES AND BIRTHPLACES

Shirley Sura

You may remember my previous articles on this subject, slightly different to this one and hopefully to those to come, which will have more information the more experienced I become.

When I started looking for the places my ancestors were born and lived, I thought it would be a relatively simple process. How wrong I was. You can get information from many sources, including census records, electoral registers, parish records, newspapers, and may be able to find out something about the house, road/street and areas your ancestors lived in, such as in magazines, books and online. However, in my searches I have found missing census records, electoral registers that almost but don't quite add up, very different ages and names for the same person, particularly in public family trees, which must always be verified. The names were not too difficult to solve as the other family members, birth places etc. match in records. Records that are completely missing are another matter. I also found out that house numbers sometimes change.

Following on from my previous articles, (my father Henry, paternal grandfather Alfred and his father John Henry) going back down the paternal Bingham line, is Richard Bingham 1834 – 1886. Records show that he was born in Barnsley but I have found nothing more specific than that, yet.

The 1841 census shows his address as Pinfold Place but gives no house number.

As you can see in the 1851 census below, the information is more specific, showing that Richard lived at 85 Shambles Street with several family members: his parents John and Sarah, five siblings and Sarah's father John Hesle. I haven't yet found out how big the house was but there were often large families living in relatively small homes.

85	Shambles Street	John Hesle	Head	Mar	64	Local Miner	St. Blackburn
		John Bingham	Head	Mar	40	Chimney Sweep	St. Sheffield
		Sarah Bingham	Wife	Mar	40	St. Wife	St. Barnsley
		Richard Bingham	Son	U	11	Apprentice, Blacksmith	St. -
		Samuel Bingham	Son	U	14	at Home	St. -
		Robert Bingham	Son	U	10	St. -	St. -
		Elizabeth Bingham	Son	U	8	St. -	St. -
		Harriet Bingham	Son	U	5	St. -	St. -
		Samuel Bingham	Son	U	1	St. -	St. -

Image reproduction courtesy of The National Archives

In Memories of Barnsley issue 19, Autumn 2011, (only available online as it is out of print) there is an article 'The Barnsley Pinfold' showing photographs of Pinfold and Shambles Street over the years, the photograph on the next page is the Pinfold Steps leading up from Shambles Street. Some famous people lived here over the years, including Missionary James Hudson Taylor and Local Historian Dan Linton, and my ancestors, not quite as famous.

I'm not going to say anymore about the article because I don't want to spoil it for you. Read it for yourself, it's fascinating, sentimental and provides a lot of information.

It seems strange now, that when I first came to Barnsley and knew nothing about where they lived, I walked in their footsteps, how many of our member have done just that, many times. It would be interesting to hear your stories and experiences.



19th century Pinfold Steps courtesy of Gerald Alliot - Memories of Barnsley.

Shirley Sura

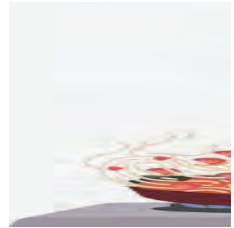
SUMMER QUIZ



FOOD and DRINK ANAGRAMS

Mains, desserts and booze!

1. DRAB GLACIER - anathema to Peter Kay!
2. TOOT HER CHAPLAINS – a northern dish
3. ABSTRACTING HOP AREA - Italian favourite
4. SUGARED AMBULANCES – cylindrical meat product
5. PINCH HIS FADS - a British staple
6. FLEECES SO BARE – a stew
7. TO RITUAL ALE - French vegetable dish
8. TIE COAT PEG – another British classic
9. BEAR BANDANA – lockdown speciality
10. UPBEAT NUTTER – goes on toast?
11. DESKMAN LOOMS – fishy
12. SHOCKER IN ACT – Sunday lunch
13. GREEN FAFF BOOTS – meat dish
14. OR BET NOEL - confection
15. WE BARRISTERS – fruit
16. MEAN TROWEL – refreshing
17. NO HANDY CAR – wine
18. BASH NITE - Swiss drink
19. TROVE HUM – Italian drink
20. HEW I SKY – Irish or Scottish?



Margaret E Williams, BFHS Secretary and Search Officer
Answers on page 35

NEW ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPS ON LINE

The National Library of Scotland makes many Ordnance Survey maps of the UK freely available on their website at <https://maps.nls.uk/os>. Additions in June include some 1/1250 and 1/2500 large scale town plans. From their website additions page at <https://maps.nls.uk/additions> :

We have put online 137,859 OS National Grid maps of England and Wales at 1:1,250/1:2,500 scales. These are the most detailed maps published by Ordnance Survey of England and Wales after the Second World War. All urban areas with more than about 20,000 inhabitants were mapped at 1:1,250 scale, and all other inhabited areas and cultivated land were mapped at 1:2,500. At 1:1,250 scale, most detached features covering 1 square metre or larger are usually shown. Excellent for viewing divisions between houses, house numbers, public and industrial buildings, railways, pavements, streets and street names, parkland and trees, paths, spot heights, and all administrative urban and rural boundaries. These maps were continually revised, with successive editions for areas undergoing more change on the ground.

I think that these maps, spanning 1944-1973, will be invaluable in helping us to illustrate our recent family histories.

Roger de Mercado

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.

1989 Ms Roma Cooper Blower

1990 Ms Leanne Armstrong

3

Elaine Jackson

MEMBERS' INTERESTS JULY 2024

Mem. No.	1989	Roma Cooper Blower		
Surname	Location	County	Country	Period
Addy	Elsecar	WRY	ENG	1801-1930
Bagnall	All	DBY	ENG	Before 1885
Bagnall	All	STS	ENG	Before 1885
Bagnall	All	WAR	ENG	Before 1885
Bagnall	All	WRY	ENG	Before 1885
Bellwood	Ecclesfield	WRY	ENG	1780-1885
Blower	All	STS	ENG	Before 1870
Blower	Jump	WRY	ENG	From 1870
Carr	Silkstone	WRY	ENG	From 1716
Firth	Silkstone	WRY	ENG	From 1863
Firth	Skelmanthorpe	WRY	ENG	Before 1863
Garnett	Silkstone	WRY	ENG	From 1827
Garnett	Worsbrough	WRY	ENG	Before 1827
Hammond	All	NRV	ENG	1750-1900
Hill	All	NTT	ENG	From 1770
Hill	All	WRY	ENG	Before 1880
Mann	Rotherham	WRY	ENG	Before 1814
Mann	Silkstone	WRY	ENG	From 1814
Parkin	Doncaster	WRY	ENG	1815-1900
Rushforth	All	WRY	ENG	1780-1940
Shaw	High Green	WRY	ENG	From 1900
Shaw	Bolsterstone	WRY	ENG	1780-1900
Sowden	Farnley	NRV	ENG	1745-1840
Whitehead	Silkstone	WRY	ENG	From 1760
Whitfield	All	NTT	ENG	From 1780
Whitfield	All	WRY	ENG	From 1840
Wigfield	All	NTT	ENG	From 1780
Wigfield	All	WRY	ENG	From 1840

Notes:

One person I am having particular difficulty finding records for is my husband's great-grandfather; this is the information I have:

George Edward Hill. Born: 1859/60 (from marriage & death records) location unknown. Married: **Frances Kitchen**, 15th July 1883, Chapeltown. Abode: Mortomley. Occupation: Farmer. Father: **Thomas Hill** on certificate. Daughter: **Harriet Ann Hill**, born 10th November 1882, Hoyland Common. Son: **George William Hill**, born 1886, Tankersley. Death: registered at Wortley April, 1886.

Mem. No.	1990	Leanne Armstrong		
Surname	Location	County	Country	Period
Benfell	Barnsley	WRY	ENG	1826 to 1911
Benfell	Dodworth	WRY	ENG	1826 to 1911
Davis	Barnsley	WRY	ENG	1827 to 1911
Davis	Dodworth	WRY	ENG	1827 to 1911
Egley	Barnsley	WRY	ENG	1841 to 1888
Egley	Dodworth	WRY	ENG	1841 to 1888
Tordoff	Barnsley	WRY	ENG	1838 to 1917
Tordoff	Dodworth	WRY	ENG	1838 to 1917

Notes:

I am particularly interested in the descendants of the following family members from the Barnsley and Dodworth area:

Ephraim Benfell (1826 to 1911) and his wife, **Mary Davis** (1827 to 1900).
James Tordoff (1838 to 1917) and his wife, **Ellen Egley** (1841 to 1888).

SURNAME SEARCH INDEX

Surnames uploaded to the Barnsley FHS 'Surname Search Index' between March and July 2024:

Addy; Bagnall; Bellwood; Benfell; Blower; Carr; Davis; Egley; Firth; Garnet; Hammond; Hill; Mann; Parkin; Rushforth; Shaw; Sowden; Tordoff; Whitehead; Whitfield; Wigfield.

Jeff Chambers

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 17th June 2024 it announced the addition of another brand new newspaper title to the collection, Yorkshire's Pudsey & Stanningley News. Pudsey is a bit west of Leeds and only about 20 miles from Barnsley, so there may be something of interest to be found for the likes of us. The News was established in 1872.



Over 200,000 pages have been added to existing titles, including more than 70,000 to the Hartlepool Northern Daily Mail. A full list of what's new is at the Blog tab at the top of the BNA home page, at www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

SUMMER QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Garlic Bread
2. Lancashire Hotpot
3. Spaghetti Carbonara
4. Cumberland Sausage
5. Fish and Chips
6. Beef Casserole
7. Ratatouille
8. Cottage Pie
9. Banana Bread
10. Peanut Butter
11. Smoked Salmon
12. Roast Chicken
13. Beef Stroganoff
14. Toblerone
15. Strawberries
16. Watermelon
17. Chardonnay
18. Absinthe
19. Vermouth
20. Whiskey (*Irish, of course! - Ed.*)

Genealogy is a mug's game...



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

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

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

July & August	Summer Recess.
19 th September	Christine and Michael Goodwin , The Yorkshire Dialect.
17 th October	Eric Jackson , The 10 Most Famous Monuments in the World.
21 st November	Lizzie Jones , The Banning of Mince Pies, followed by Christmas Social (mince pies allowed!).
December	Christmas break.
January	New Year 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 October 2024 edition by 31st August 2024 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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A Most Gross and Groundless Prosecution

The Denby witchcraft case of 1674



David Hinchliffe

David Hinchliffe's article about the Denby Witchcraft Case begins on page 22. His book (cover image at left) was published earlier this year. His study included a Cawthorne Tithing map from around 1628, ref SpSt 143, reproduced below with the permission of Barnsley Archives and Local Studies.

