

# THE DONCASTER ANCESTOR



**Doncaster Market Place early 1900s**

**The Journal of Doncaster  
and District Family History  
Society 1980 - 2023**

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# DONCASTER AND DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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

Registered Charity No 516226 Formed January 1980

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- John A Humberston
- Tony Staniforth
- Keith Crouter
- Margaret Jackson

*continued on the back cover*

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# THE DONCASTER ANCESTOR

Journal of the Doncaster and District Family History Society

Free to Members

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Editor: Jenny Ellis  
Assistant Editor: Keith Crouter  
Editorial Team: Karen Walker, Richard Cuell

# Chair's Report

Welcome to the first Ancestor for 2024.

The society is now 44 years old and is still going, which is a remarkable achievement.

We have a very interesting programme of talks for 2024 and I am also very pleased that our volunteers have agreed to continue the monthly community library help day projects at Armthorpe and Sprotbrough, throughout this year. We are going to be sending out a questionnaire to our members, as it is very important to us that we understand what you want from the Society. I encourage you all to engage with this when you receive it and have your say on the future direction of DDFHS.

Trevor has now stood down from the Projects Co-ordinator role, and I thank Trevor for the work he has put in, over many years, to produce the huge number of data entries from Parish and other records. It has been a truly monumental task and Trevor has played a very key part in achieving this. I am delighted to welcome Margaret Jackson as our new Projects Co-ordinator. She has been a volunteer transcriber for a few years and is a very welcome addition to our Committee. We will be adding the new Hyde Park Cemetery data to our database records in the coming weeks.

On a very sad note we lost our dear friend and Committee colleague Carol Ackroyd. She passed away peacefully on the 5<sup>th</sup> December, and we were able to attend her funeral on the 5<sup>th</sup> January at Rose Hill. Carol was ill and had suffered from many complaints over the years, but she simply got on with it, and I never heard her complain. Family research was very important to her and she is a big loss to the Society.

Finally, I welcome all the new members who have joined recently and wish you well in your family history searching. If you need any help please ask.

Best wishes to you all for 2024.

Andy

**Mr A Harbon**

Chair & Web Admin

Doncaster & District Family History Society

<https://doncasterfhs.co.uk>

## **From the Editor**

Hello & welcome to the spring Ancestor.

Thank you to everyone who has sent in articles this time. Your mission, should you wish to accept it, will be to write a small article for the Doncaster Ancestor. As we have over 400 members, I expect my inbox to be overflowing. Just day dreaming, but form an orderly queue please.

On the cover of the Ancestor this time is a photo of Doncaster Market Place, as it was over 100 years ago. Some of the names at that time were: W Nuttall, Shaw & Co Chemist, Waterton & Sons Café, Doddy's Wool Shop, Vickers and in the foreground is W E Cox, Fruit & Potato Merchants. According to the 1921 census, my grandfather was working for W E Cox, so perhaps he was on the market at sometime.

I have had a few comments about the colour of the front page, so feel free to let me know what colour you would like to see. Might regret that!

It is that time of year again, when we ask you to renew your Membership and help to keep the Society going. You will find the renewal form wrapped around this Doncaster Ancestor. I must inform you that if you choose not to renew your Membership, then this will be the last Ancestor that you will receive. Also, if you wish to join the Executive Committee ( you can always have my job) then we need to know by 14th February. The AGM notice should have been in the last Ancestor, so apologies for that. (now you know why my job is available).

For rail enthusiasts turn to page 13 to see an exhibition which is on in Doncaster Museum.

**Jenny Ellis**

**Editor**

**[doncasterancestor@doncasterfhs.co.uk](mailto:doncasterancestor@doncasterfhs.co.uk)**

## Monthly Meetings via Zoom / Hybrid

### Roomers and Zoomers Unite Hybrid Members Meetings 2024

You are invited to join us at the Ripon Suite, **Earl of Doncaster, Bennetthorpe, Doncaster DN2 6AD** 7pm for 7.30pm start. ZOOM link open from 7.15pm via email. **Please note new Venue**

This will be a Hybrid meeting where members can also join us on Zoom, so why not join us at this excellent venue. There is plenty of well lit parking and the venue has a lift to the first floor. Refreshments will be available from the bar downstairs.

**Feb 28th 2024**

#### **The Doncaster Waites by Roger & Andrea Offord**

Roger is the historian of the group and has spent many days in the Doncaster Archives researching the history of the Waites.

His research has opened up a new area of Doncaster history which has links to many local families and so far he has found at least 56 names associated with the Waites.

In his talk Roger will explain what and who were “The Waites”, what they did and how they formed part of the everyday life of Doncaster for nearly 400 years. This will be followed by a short demonstration of some of the musical instruments used by Waites in the past, many of which have been found described in wills discovered in the Borthwick collection at York.

**March 27th 2024**

#### **The Glasshouse: 90 Years of Pilkington in Doncaster by Mandy Keating**

Visual Artist Mandy Keating will be talking about a subject that she has come to know as part of an arts and heritage project she worked on over the course of a year. She is still learning but is fascinated by the social history of one of the giants of industry and innovation in the UK and internationally.

**April 24th 2024**

**Peter Rudd, the speaker claims its an “Epic Tale of Peace, Love and War”.**

Peter’s talk is based on the Rudd family who lived for 70 years at The Don Bridge Gate House, Barnby Dun. But is it FACT or FICTION? It includes hints and tips researching WW1 and WW2 family history. You will never look at a family photo again in the same light!

**Peter will be in the room**

**May 29th 2024**

**The Sand House by Richard Bell**

With his latest talk about and yet more interviews with people who remember this famous lost landmark.

**Via Zoom**

**June 26th 2024 The Women in Your Tree can be More Important than the Men by Karen Walker.**

A brief look at the speaker's project to turn her family history research into a book and how tracing the women in her family tree unearthed an amazing discovery.

**Via Zoom**

**July 31st 2024 Heroes & Ghosts by Michael Hallett**

The story of his grandfather Harold Blackburn, a pioneer aviator before WW1 & war hero. After the war, scandal struck the family affecting several generations and plunging it into shame for three generations

**Michael will be in the room**

If you are interested in attending the venue in person (Roomer), then you can do this via the email link that you will receive, or contact June Staniforth either by telephone: 07901 523529 or email: **events@doncasterfhs.co.uk**

## Recent Publications by D&DFHS

**Society publications can be purchased by post (see inside back cover or our website for full details) or through GenFair at [www.genfair.com](http://www.genfair.com)  
Please allow 21 days for delivery.**

**Goods can be returned within 14 days of receipt of order only if found to be faulty, or if you have been sent a different item from that requested.**

## Projects Report January 2024

### Project Team Report November 2023

Hyde Park cemetery download is now complete, with over 54,000 burials. Section and Grave numbers have been added to the MIs. Section diagrams have been added to the download to assist researchers to locate a particular grave.

**Trevor Betterton**

### New Project Co-ordinator

I would like to introduce myself, as I have agreed to help the Society as Project Co-ordinator, with help from Trevor and Philip. I haven't any experience with this position but hope to learn more about it in the next few weeks.

I have been transcribing with the Society since I joined around 5 years ago (and with other organisations since 2012) and enjoy helping to preserve and discover records and make them available to our Members and other Organisations that we may be able to help.

Thank you to Trevor Betterton and Philip Langford for the completion of Hyde Park Burials. DDFHS and I would like to thank all Transcribers for your help and support with the project. We are hoping to find more projects to work on in the near future.

We are hoping to be able to access Fiches that have been in storage,



and also contact Doncaster Archives and Heritage Doncaster to offer our help with projects that they need help with, that may also help our Society.

Also, if anyone has any ideas for projects, please let me know.

**Margaret Jackson**

**Projects Co-ordinator**  
**works@doncasterfhs.co.uk**

<b>From the Postbag / via email</b>
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Just to say how much we enjoyed the open day last Saturday. We are sure it was a great success in spite of being in a very small room. It was good to see so many people we have not seen for a long time too. Well done to you and all who made it possible.

**Stella & John Vessey, Member 38**

Hi Jenny,

The winter Journal arrived this morning at the same time as I was making a cup of coffee after my mornings walk. So a good excuse to sit down and have a read. It is the first time I have heard of the Doncaster National School and it's a really good picture. I enjoyed your piece linked to the bottle of wine. Also good reads from Jean and Keith. Still need to read Pauline's article about Danum House.

**Sheila Cave, Member 4018**

Hello Jenny,

I found resonance with two things particularly in the last (excellent) issue.

"When" by Gary Rowley and the mention somewhere that it seems likely that quite a few members may have an interest in railways. My trainspotting days were from 1948 to 1953, ages 11 to 16, a time when society/culture was quite different to the present day.

If you would like me to pen a piece about those halcyon, carefree (at least from this distance) days I would be happy to oblige.

Best regards

**Dave Booth, Member 4068**

## Help Wanted

Hello Jenny,

I'm on with the book review for your Spares and Fillers box but a postcard mystery has turned up. It's driving me bonkers and I'm not even going to buy it, but I think it's worth a mention on your Letter page. Here's the story...



This week I found an unusual Thorne postcard on eBay. The title is the Congregational Church. My instant reaction was - what? where? I don't pretend to be an expert on Thorne because we moved a few miles away when I was small but family was still there and so we were regular visitors. And, as family and

local history became a hobby in later life, Thorne and Moorends have always been of interest. The postcard seller doesn't usually add the reverse view of the card on his web page but when I emailed him and asked if it was Thorne near Doncaster, he added two views that were very clear to read. So the search began.

I soon realised that an internet search was a waste of time so it was a case of using what I had at hand. Some years ago I bought from either Dave or Alec, when they came to Goole library, a CD of Doncaster Churches. It includes photos and info of Anglican, Non-Conformists and other Churches in the Archdeaconry of Doncaster. I felt sure it would be in there. No, DDFHS hadn't heard of the church either. The only proof I have is a Wrigley's Thorne Almanac 1939. It gives an address as Orchard Street and the minister Rev. D Smith.

A Congregational Church is marked on various old maps, in various locations, so not much help. And, just one mention on the newspaper site of a minister resigning from the church, the date 1950. That date brings the church into living memory so please ask the Ancestor readers to do some detective work .I don't like mysteries. They are like an itch you can't scratch.  
Best wishes,

**Pauline Stainton, Member 4573**

The Society has Baptisms for Thorne Congregational Church on the download 1805 – 1931

## **D&DFHS Annual General Meeting 2024**

The 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Doncaster and District Family History Society will take place at the Earl of Doncaster, Doncaster on **Wednesday, 28 February 2024 at 7.30 pm**. Members will also have the option to attend via Zoom as it will be a hybrid meeting.

### **Agenda**

The main business of the meeting will be to receive the Annual Reports and Accounts for 2023 and to elect the members of the Society's Executive Committee.

### **Nominations**

Nominations for any of the Executive Committee posts should be sent to the Secretary by **Wednesday 14 February 2024**.

A Nomination Form is available in the members' area of the Society's website or from the Secretary.

***See the inside front cover for the Secretary's contact details.***

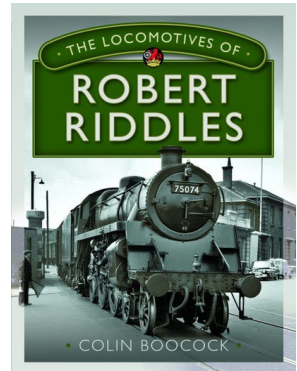
## Book Review by Keith Cruter

### The Locomotives of Robert Riddles by Colin Boocock

Robert Riddles was a British Locomotive engineer born 23rd May 1892 in Sussex, and died 18th June 1983. Amongst many of the locomotives he designed was a class 9F 2-10-0 (wheel arrangement) number 92220 called, 'Evening Star', which was built at Swindon works in 1960 and withdrawn in 1965. Historically it was the 999th British Rail Standard Locomotive and the last steam locomotive to be built by British Rail.

Since its British Rail working days, Evening Star operated on the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway from 1973 - 1975; then York Railway History Museum until 1986 and then loaned to North York Moors Railway.

The book guides the reader through the career of Robert Riddles on the London Midland & Scottish Railway together with his war time service. In the early 1950s he was the British Railways Executive to Mechanical & Electrical Engineering and was responsible for the introduction of a range of 2 cylinder standardised steam locomotives intended for service until the 1970s.



Aided by logs, the author provides class by class comments on the locomotives designed by Robert Riddles. Colin Boocock was an apprentice at Eastleigh Works when the locomotives arrived at Eastleigh for their first overhaul, and later worked on British Railways as a chartered mechanical engineer.

**ISBN:9781399099967 £30.00 [www.pen-and-sword.co.uk](http://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk).**

**K.Cruter, Member 1623**

## **Book Review by Jenny Ellis**

### **The Morning Brooch Book Two - Moving On by Jean Renwick**

Jean was left the Mourning Brooch by her godmother, who was the great granddaughter of Elizabeth Addy. Jean completed extensive research about the family, both in the UK and abroad, and decided to write a book about the story.

Elizabeth and Joseph Addy had two children, Mary - Ann who changed her name to Marian as she got older and her sister Frannie. When Elizabeth died Mary - Ann was five and Frannie was six months old, so could not remember her mother. They lived on a farm in Bentley, near Doncaster. Joseph had the mourning brooch made after Elizabeth died but his eldest daughter didn't want it. To his other daughter Frannie it was a keepsake of the mother that she never knew.

The story of the Addy family continues as Joseph marries his 3rd wife, and his two daughters, Marian and Frannie, continue with totally different lives. Their lives expand, as does their families and there is a helpful guide to the list of characters at the front of the book, as more family and people are introduced into the story. The story moves with the different families, around the UK, and also America.

The story which is described very well, is intertwined with historical facts, and takes us from 1876-1913. I found the ending very sad but will not spoil it for people that have still to read the book.

I look forward to reading the final book in the trilogy.

**ISBN 978-1-7399425-3-3**

**Jenny Ellis, Member 2901**

## Getting Started on your Family Tree

What prompted you to start your family tree? Mine was out of necessity. How many pitfalls were there along the way? With a name like Jones I had quite a few.

In 1988 I needed to renew my passport and this was never straight forward as I was not born in the UK. Although both my parents were born in Yorkshire, having been born in India made me a second class citizen, which meant that I had to jump through extra hoops. I collected the form from the Post Office but realised that I did not know where my paternal grandfather was born. (This was an extra question from the last time I had completed the form). My mother had no idea where her father-in-law was born but like me assumed it was in Leeds where he had lived.

At that time my father had already passed away as had his brother and one sister. I rang his remaining sister to confirm that my grandfather had been born in Leeds. (All my grandparents were dead before I was born.) 'Oh no,' she said, 'he was born at sea off St Helena and registered there.' My heart sank! Was that a British colony in 1867 when he was born? I did not know. I also wondered how I was going to fit that into the tiny space on the passport form which only really had space for 'Yes', 'No' or 'Leeds'.

I did discover that St Helena had been a British Overseas colony at that time and was a stopping off place for ships sailing round the Cape of Good Hope, prior to the construction of the Suez Canal. Water and provisions were taken aboard before ships sailed on either east or west. It was also of course where Napoleon was incarcerated after his defeat at the Battle of Waterloo.

At this time I had not got involved with sorting out my family tree and knew very little about my father's family except my immediate family; aunts, uncles and cousins. I did know that my great grandfather was **William Jones** and my grandfather was **John Jones** (known as **Jack**). I had learned this from the family medal collection which my father had, as the early medals had the names around the edges.

It was some years later that I really got involved with trying to find out more about the Jones family.

This was not an easy task. I remember the first time I tried to find the family on the 1881 census, living in Leeds. The message came back that you could only pull up 3000 entries! Not easy when I was looking for **John Jones** in Leeds. My great grandfather was **William Jones**, with no middle name, but eventually I found a family with a son born off St Helena. Surely this had to be the right family! I checked with my oldest cousin but she wasn't a great deal of help. Indeed she intimated that perhaps I shouldn't be delving as I might find something I wasn't meant to know. What did she mean? I said that I had found that my grandfather had a sister, who like me, had been born in India. She knew that but hadn't told me.

I decided to follow up on the scrap of information that I had received from my aunt regarding my grandfather's birth at sea off St Helena. I made contact with St Helena and after a long time I had a response. It was very disappointing but quite amazing really. The lady who replied said that she had gone through all the birth records in St Helena over a ten year period from 1860-1870 and had only found one Jones and that was a female! I wasn't asked to pay for this search. So, I knew he was born at sea, but I didn't know when. I also discovered from army records, that when he first enlisted as a soldier in 1888 he claimed that he was born in the parish of Portsmouth, Hampshire. I thought about getting a birth certificate, but presumably this was where the ship docked after he was born at sea. I only discovered his date of birth when the 1939 register became available. I have since discovered his baptism in Bristol which confirmed his date of birth.

I went to London several times to check the registers of British overseas births, marriage and burials which were held at the British Library. There I found that my great grandparents, **William and Laura Jones** had several children in quick succession, after Laura was allowed to join her husband, who was a soldier. (**Laura and William** were married in Bristol shortly before William sailed for the Crimea.) Sadly at least two of their children died of diarrhoea and were buried the same day that they died. I suppose this was necessary in a hot

climate. However their eldest daughter **Mary** survived and accompanied them on the long sea voyage back to Britain, Laura giving birth to **John** along the way.

The family must have stayed in Bristol for some time as Laura gave birth to twins, a boy **Thomas** and a girl **Laura**, who were baptized in Bristol, but again the boy died whilst still an infant and then the army moved the family to Kent . Here they had another son who died, but when they moved to Northern Ireland they finally had a daughter who survived. When I first found that daughter I could not work out her name. It had been transcribed as Ada Inaucle. Much later I found that her name was actually **Ada Maude**. Beware of transcriptions that don't seem right. I asked my cousin about her but she didn't seem to know anything.

I was still left wondering about whatever it was that I was not meant to know!

Whilst entering some people on to my family tree I was contacted via Ancestry by someone about one of my father's cousins, whom I did know when I was small. He was the son of my paternal grandmother's eldest sister **Hannah Harriet Brook**. She was born in Altofts in 1861, the eldest daughter of **George Brook** and **Mary Levick**. **Hannah** married **David Hossack** in 1883 and they had four children. However in 1892 David 'married' again in church in Leeds, to **Sarah Jane Storey**. He changed his name slightly, taking the first name of a brother **Joseph**, who had died, and changing his surname to **Howsack**. They moved to London where I suppose it was easy to hide. He continued to call himself Joseph but resorted to his original surname. They had three children but only the son **Alexander** survived. Shortly after their third child died Sarah returned to Leeds alone and on the 1911 census she was living with a married niece in Leeds. Apparently Alexander was told that his mother had died and as he was only small when she left I suppose he had no recollection of his mother. I do not know what happened to Sarah Jane, as to complicate matters further one of David's brothers married someone called Sarah Jane so there were two people called Sarah Jane Hossack. I cannot find a death for the one who married David.



Was bigamy the secret my cousin hinted at when I asked her questions about my father's family? I don't know as she had passed away before I discovered this secret. Who knows how many secrets are still to be uncovered? Not just in my family but in yours too.

**Pattie Birch, Member 3232**

## **Rail Heritage Centre, Doncaster**

### **Horse Power, until 4 March**

An exhibition celebrating the historical links between railways and horses in Doncaster and across the United Kingdom. Track the rise and fall of the railway's use of horses over nearly 150 years. Bringing together objects from the Doncaster Grammar School Railway Collection, Heritage Doncaster's own collection and other objects on loan, the exhibition brings an unsung part of railway history into the limelight.

**Rail Heritage Centre, Danum Gallery, Waterdale ,**

**Doncaster DN1 3BZ;**

**website: [www.dglam.org.uk/event/horsepower](http://www.dglam.org.uk/event/horsepower)**

## **General Register Office**

GRO have now extended digital death certificates up to 1957 which cost £2.50. I have been told that these arrive in your inbox very quickly.

Births are covered by the 100 year rule.

## Face to Face with Bill

It always amazes me how the simplest of contacts can lead to a meeting and a friendship, and that is despite the distance between the two parties, which at the time of initial contact was in excess of 10,500 miles.

This is Bill's story, and how he became interested in his own family history from the UK even though he had emigrated to Australia many years ago, and how I came to get to know him. His family name is Newton, and there is an interesting coincidence, which is described later in this account.

We became destined to meet when he emailed a grave finder enquiry to the Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery (FoHPC) in 2019, which flashed up in my inbox. I had joined that group mainly due to the fact that I had three sets of relatives buried in the cemetery; and it was a grave finder enquiry I had submitted myself that had started it all, and the help I received from Richard Bell (The Sand House), who was then a part of FoHPC and persuaded me to join.

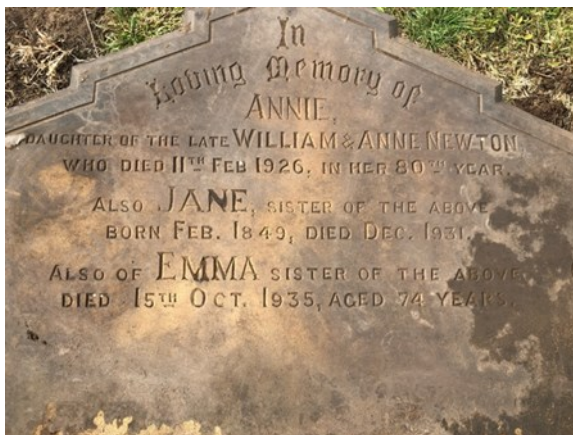
In 2019, I was one of FoHPC's small group of dedicated volunteers, and my responsibilities included the management of the grave finder service, which was available via FoHPC's website and still is. For a relatively small fee of £15, an applicant would get a full report with burial and grave register information, a map showing the grave location and four photographs of the grave, taken from North, South, East and West. If there was a gravestone, that would be included in the photographs, and the gravestone inscription was always noted. If the grave inscription couldn't be read, or wasn't clear, we would turn to the work that DDFHS had carried out in the 1980s to see if it had been included back then. It more than often was.

The report was duly completed and emailed back to Bill, much to his delight, and it was essentially left that if he came back to the UK for a future visit, then he would make contact.

However, it didn't end there. FoHPC are continually looking to improve the cemetery and restoring graves is a great way to achieve that. They have an annual grave restoration project, which may seem a drop in the ocean to some, and **Joseph Duddington's** grave restoration is a very good example of that, and the worldwide response to fund that was truly outstanding. He was the driver of the Mallard locomotive when it broke the speed record in July 1938, if you don't know who he was.

Following the completion of the grave finder enquiry, Bill then asked my advice with regards to arranging the restoration of the two graves he enquired about, both in section L. Each of the two gravestones were down, one a much smaller stone face down, and immediately behind it the gravestone much taller but at least it was face up. So, one Saturday work morning (gardening/litter picking etc), another FoHPC volunteer and I decided to see if we could turn it face up. We managed to achieve that, safely, and despite some colour staining, the gravestone face was as pristine as the day it was carved.

Of course, the photograph I had taken on my phone and sent to Australia, was a real boost for Bill, and his thanks came buzzing back in an email reply. It was the least we could do, and with permission of the grave owner (Bill) it made the task much less complex.



Time moved on, a pandemic hit the world and I subsequently left FoHPC joining Doncaster & District Family History Society. The memories of contact with Bill in 2019 were filed away in the long-term memory filing cabinet, believing that I wouldn't have any future contact with him.

Then came 2023. It was full on with the Society and we had launched the new website. Springtime emerged, I was web-admin, and an email was sent from Australia to that email address. "Hi, it's Bill, I've done some digging and I think Andy Harbon is part of your Society now? ...."

So, I emailed back, Bill was coming back to the UK soon, and wanted to visit Hyde Park Cemetery, could I show him around?

Bill's life story is fascinating, and I would now learn of some of the journeys he had been on and how he had developed an interest in researching his family. We would eventually meet face to face, after all this time.

It all started for Bill, when in 1962 straight out of university (whilst living

in London), he took the opportunity to successfully apply for a job; a 12-month contract with the Colonial Office, located in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony in the Pacific Ocean. Bill had completed his education, which included Marlborough College and finally a degree in the Classics at Cambridge.

If you look for the Ellice Islands now, you may not find them on a modern map, as on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1976, both the Ellice islands and the Gilbert Islands, (following a democratic vote) went from British rule to independence, not just from the UK but from each other as well.

If you were revising for the daily 'Pointless' game show, you would find them now as Tuvalu (previously Ellice Islands) and the Gilbert Islands, which are part of Kiribati, both going their own ways and eventually reforming into what they are today.

The islands are situated Northeast of Australia and due North of New Zealand. In that region there exists a mass of Pacific islands, stretching from New Zealand to Japan, which includes other islands you will be familiar with, such as Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Fiji, Samoa and Christmas Island to name a few.

Bill's life had changed forever, following his decision to apply for the Colonial Office job and the move for 12 months stretched into 4 years, and in fact Bill wouldn't return to the UK until 1986. During this time Bill met his wife to be, and they married and moved to Auckland in New Zealand, where they lived for a further 3 years.

Not one for settling down, Bill sailed a yacht to Fiji, built a concrete fishing boat there, which he used to for commercial fishing.

In 1975, Bill and his wife moved to Melbourne in Australia, where he still lives to this day. Up until retirement Bill found employment as a manager in the Victoria State Health system.

In the 1990s Bill developed an interest in researching his family history following the discovery of his mother's papers and photographs. This gave him an added motivation on his visits to the UK. Bill would regularly make time to go to the Family Record Office in Islington and the Latter-Day Saints Centre in Kensington to carry out his research.

Bill actually hailed from Derby, where his father worked for Barclays Bank, and didn't discover the Doncaster link until he started his own family history research. His Grandfather, **Alfred Lamb Newton**, had worked for the London North Eastern Railway company, as a District Engineer in the Nottingham area, and he would soon discover that

railways linked his family roots to the home of the Mallard and Flying Scotsman locomotives, Doncaster.

In 2019, Bill was back in the UK, visiting relatives. He had also developed a passion that many family historians have, and that was to photograph the places and buildings, (when he could find them) where his family had lived or worked.

Bill's research helped him discover that his great Grandfather, **William Newton**, who was born in Gainsborough in 1820, had subsequently joined the Great Northern Railway company and moved to Doncaster with his family in 1862.

William had married **Ann Johnson** in 1844, who was the daughter of a ship's Master and a pillar of the Freemasons, **William Johnson**, also from Gainsborough.

William and Ann went on to have 12 children, and tragically lost 4 of them, 2 daughters in infancy, one daughter at the age of 8 years and a son when he was 22 years old.

In 1871 William had become a Railway Traffic Manager, and lived at Mineral Cottage on Hexthorpe Road, Doncaster, very close to the Union Workhouse and the Rising Sun Inn. The Rising Sun Inn, is still there today, albeit in a different guise, and is now called The Junction, which is a community hub used by the King's Cross Church, as a meeting place and community centre, but the building is essentially still the same as it was.

It is very likely that Mineral Cottage was very close to the Rising Sun Inn, although it's exact location cannot be determined.

The Rising Sun Inn was first built as an ale house for agricultural workers in 1839. There existed a large number of nurseries and orchards in and around the Hexthorpe area, one being called Australia Gardens. I found an 1854 map, which showed the location of these gardens, across the river from the village of Newton! How much of a coincidence is that. Bill



Newton from Australia was looking for his family called Newton, who lived near Australia Gardens and Newton village.

In the 1890s the Rising Sun Inn was rebuilt. As William subsequently died in 1887, he would only have known the Inn as it was before it was rebuilt, but he would have no doubt enjoyed a drink in the inn.

William's life ended in February 1887, and he was buried in grave L134 in Doncaster Cemetery, which became Hyde Park Cemetery in the 1930s. He was buried with 2 of his daughters, Elizabeth aged 8, Kate Millicent only 1 month old, and his 22-year-old son, Henry. His wife and the children's mother Ann would join them in 1909.



**Rising Sun Hexthorpe**

This was one of three graves in Hyde Park Cemetery that Bill discovered he had relatives buried in, two in section L and a third grave in section C. The two graves in section L are in the picture on the next page in line to Kate's right, and the 1<sup>st</sup> grave you will recognise from the previous picture I took in 2019.

Bill's Grandmother's maiden name was **Crouch**. Her brother, **Bernard Crouch** was an Auctioneer and Estate Agent from Doncaster, working with his own father until he took over the business in 1907. The company was called JH Crouch & Son of 6 Hallgate, Doncaster. The company eventually amalgamated with Stanilands of 3 Hallgate, and moved to larger premises. Bernard was buried in grave C399, in February 1917.

The big day came and on the morning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 2023, Heather I met Bill and his sister Kate (from London), at Doncaster Railway Station, pictured here on that day.

They travelled up from London and would have gone back the same day, were it not for industrial disputes.

I was informed to look out for white hair and a white beard, he was told to look for a white Sportage, my car!

There followed lunch, and a grand tour of Hyde Park Cemetery, to see their family graves, Bowie's Grandma's grave (my favourite as many of





you know), several others and a real treat to be allowed into the Chapels to see the restoration works.

Family history brought us together and firm friendships were made, the weather forecast was poor, but the day was filled with sunshine, and Bill and Kate had at last seen where some of their family members were from and their final resting places.

Bill is keen to see the two graves in section L, repaired, and I certainly look forward to hearing and seeing the results of that. At the very least, the gravestones are now both facing the right way (face up), and the occupant's names are clearly visible, which was a minor but rewarding achievement.

**Andy Harbon, Member 4461**

## My TWO Thorne Families

It was about 15 years ago that I found that my paternal 3x great grandparents, **George Kendall** and **Elizabeth Barrett**, lived in Thorne in South Yorkshire. In the ensuing years, I have attempted to further the Kendall line and have struggled to get more than two more generations back, to my 5x great grandparents **John Kendall** and **Frances Jackson**. (Ironically enough, I am now married to a Jackson, no known connection.) I have, however, been able to prove the Jackson line in Thorne back to at least 1567, not long after parish records were mandated in 1538.

The Kendall family – George, Elizabeth and their children (3 unmarried sons, 2 married daughters and spouses, and 2 unmarried daughters) travelled from Hull to New York in June of 1842 and settled in Reach, Ontario, just outside of Port Perry.

Recently, while working away at my maternal line, I noticed that my maternal 10x great grandfather **Lawrence Decow** was buried in Fishlake, just a few miles from Thorne, in 1663. Naturally this started me on a new road to discover how and when the **Decew** family (as they are named in North America) came to be in Thorne. Their story follows.

First, a bit of historical background: The late 1500s to 1600s in France were a time of upheaval for the Huguenots (Protestants). While the 1598 Edict of Nantes gave the Huguenots a large degree of autonomy and self-rule, the assassination of Henry IV of France in 1610 and the subsequent outbreak of the Thirty Years War resulted in King Louis XIII re-establishing Catholicism in the formerly Huguenot regions. (By the end of 1685, Louis XIV abolished the Edit of Nantes altogether, outlawing the practice of the Protestant religion and forbidding any migration of the Huguenots. However, many had left France by that time.)

**Lawrence Decow** was born Lauren Des Coux in France about 1615. While unsure whether his surname was actually **Des Coux**, the name would suggest that he was born in Coux, a town in the Ardèche Department, and a stronghold for the Huguenots.

### Coux





It is unknown where and when Lauren married his wife, **Jacquemine Du Plessis de Grenedan**. As her name implies, she was born in Grenedan, Ille-et-Vilaine and baptised in Rennes, both quite a distance from Coux. It is possible that they met and married in Holland, a jumping-off place used by a number of Huguenots before their emigration to England or America. What is clear is that Lauren and Jacquemine were in Yorkshire by about 1635. Lauren signed up with Dutch engineer Cornelius Vermuyden, who had been engaged by King James I to drain Hatfield Chase, a controversial and only partially successful project. Lauren and family eventually settled in Tudworth, farming some of the land.

The family joined the Society of Friends (Quakers) who had monthly meetings in Balby (just outside the centre of Doncaster) and also in Thorne. It is not believed that the Decows, being Quakers, and the Kendalls/Jacksons (Church of England/Anglican) ever socialised, being that they attended different churches, but in my imagination I like to think that they both attended the Doncaster Market at the same time once or twice and politely nodded at each other in passing.

About twenty years after Lauren's death in 1663 in Yorkshire, my 9x great grandfather **Isaac Decow** (now Decew), his brother Jacob, and their respective families, once again made a move, this time to America. Two sisters and one brother remained in the Thorne area. **Isaac Decew** purchased land from **William Penn**, who received land through a grant from Charles II of England in 1681. The lands were originally named the Province of Pennsylvania. The first Quaker meeting in America was held at the Decew home.

Unfortunately, **Isaac Decew** died within a few years of his arrival in America, but the family line continued with Isaac's son Jacob (who was born in Tudworth before the family's departure from England) in the eastern colonies until just after the American Revolutionary War. Little is currently known of their experiences, but I suspect that their Quaker beliefs prompted them to leave the area, especially after the Proclamation of 1763 resulted in the ouster of the Penn family and other colonist settlers from the area (and the eventual restructuring of the area to become one of the thirteen original United States).

The Decews were in the Niagara area of Canada by about 1788. My 5x great grandmother, **Margaret Decew** married **Lewis Anguish**, son of **Henry Anguish**, who was a United Empire Loyalist, about 1820.

This family line continued until my mother and father married in 1950, finally uniting the Decows of Yorkshire with the Kendalls. The Decew name lives on in southern Ontario in Decew Falls, Decewsville, and in multiple businesses and families.

Quite amazing that, after being in the same town in South Yorkshire in the 1630s, the lines converged 320 years later in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.



## Postscript

I forwarded my information for **Lauren Des Coux** and **Jacquemine Du Plessis de Grenedan** to my 4<sup>th</sup> cousin (on my father's side) who was born in Alsace, France and now lives in Paris. While she could not find any more information on the Des Coux family, she instantly recognized the Du Plessis name as a noble family from Brittany with a long, documented history. After she made inquiries on my behalf, she was able to confirm and receive documentation (from the Association Bretonne de Généalogie Histoire) that Jacquemine was born in Grenedan and baptised November 29, 1614. Her parents were **Sebastien Du Plessis** (Lord of Grenedan and King Louis XIII's Advisor in Parliament) and **Jeanne Morel du Bretonnières**.

Jacquemine's ancestors can be traced back to **Guillaume Du Plessis**, born in the 1100s, who was a medieval knight banneret, part of the bannerets in 1204 which seized Mont-Saint-Michel in Normandy. He also fought at the Battle of Bouvines (Anglo-French War) in 1214 for King Philip Augustus of France. (A knight banneret is a medieval knight who leads a company of troops under his own banner.)

**Robyn Kendall, Member 4230**



**The Family Crest of Jacquemine Du Plessis**

## The Gallipoli Campaign 1915

I assume that like many who undertake family history, trawling through documents brings surprises and heartaches. I had noticed when travelling to London Kings Cross railway station the War Memorial panels had the names of railway employees who had lost their lives during the first world war and two persons had my surname.

**Frank Crouter** was a private in “C” Company, 6th Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment, his parents lived in Barnack Road, Stamford, and Frank was a shunter at Stamford.

He sailed on 1st July 1915 on the Empress Britain from the UK, arriving in Malta 10th July and sailed for Egypt on 12th July. Thence forward to Gallipoli and landed at Suvla V Beach on 19th July.

He was killed in action on 9th August, aged 25, when taking part in the attack on ‘Ismail Oglu Tepe’. The site of the battle was a low ridge 112 metres high, a mile north of hill 60. Better known to the Anzac troops as the “W” hills, when looking from Russell’s Top, the spurs of the feature formed the line ‘W’, while the entrants formed the shadows. Frank’s name is on the Helles Memorial.

Recently I have returned from the Gallipoli Peninsular having been on a battlefield tour of the 31 Commonwealth War Grave Sites.

By early 1915, the war on the Western Front had reached a stalemate. In the spring, allied warships bombarded the coastal forts and attempted to force their way through the narrow Dardanelles Straits, controlled by the Ottoman Empire. On the 18th March, three allied battleships were mined and the naval attack was abandoned.

The 70,000 expeditionary force, consisted of British, Canadian, Indian and French troops together with the ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps); their mission was to seize the peninsular, open the straights for allied warships that could attack Constantinople (now Istanbul), taking the Ottoman Empire out of the war, and open up a route to provide Russia with much needed supplies.

On the morning of 25th April, British forces landed around the southern tip of the peninsular at Cape Helles, the Anzacs came ashore further north, in an area later called Anzac cove.

Over the next eight months, Turkish resistance prevented both forces from advancing and the campaign degenerated into trench warfare. Despite a major offensive in August 1915,

Allies were unable to break through the deadlock. An evacuation began in December, and by 9th January 1916 the last commonwealth soldiers had left the peninsular.

The Lancashire Fusiliers landed at W beach, they fought their way under heavy fire and took the surrounding cliffs - the Allied base was renamed in their honour and six Victoria Crosses were awarded - hailed by the press as 6 VCs before breakfast.

Converging on the peninsular from the uttermost ends of the earth those who fell represented a diversity of culture, held several faiths and spoke many languages. During the eight months of fighting, the dead of both sides were buried under battlefield conditions, their final resting place marked by wooden crosses. Commonwealth forces were unable to revisit until after the Armistice. Once a Graves Registration unit had discovered, marked and mapped the burial sites the Imperial (now Commonwealth) War Graves Commission began the task of constructing permanent cemeteries and memorials.

A total of 31 sites were built containing the remains of the 19,000 servicemen of whom only 6,000 were identified. A further 2,500 who were believed to be buried among them are commemorated in the cemeteries by special memorials.

The remainder of those buried in unknown graves or whose remains were never found make up the 27,000 names on six memorials to the missing. Most of the cemeteries and memorials were designed by Scottish Architect Sir John Burnet. Due to extreme climate and landscape they look very different from those on the Western Front. To prevent masonry sinking into soggy ground, stone faced grave markers instead of headstones, and a wall cross feature rather than the free standing cross of sacrifice. Rubble walled channels surround the cemeteries to protect them from flood water.

The high percentage of unmarked casualties gives the cemeteries a unique character. Their burial places are marked on cemetery plans but their graves are not marked on the ground - many cemeteries have wide expanses of open ground with just a few grave markers.

Azmak and Hill 10 cemeteries are resting places for unidentified men of the 114 members of the Sandringham Battalion of the Norfolk

regiment, mostly employees of the Royal Estate who died on 12th August 1915.

Many of the commands were allocated to officers who had come out of retirement with no experience of commanding troops in battle. Inaction and complacency led to sackings as early as August.

By October 1915, the Commanding Officer General Sir Ian Hamilton was relieved of his duties. The campaign had lost the lives of 36,000 Commonwealth troops and 10,000 French and at least 86,000 Turkish troops.

**K.Crouter, Member 1623**

## Obituaries

### Remembering Carol Ackroyd

We were all very sad to hear the passing of Carol. June and I would like to share our memories of her as we had known Carol for a long time.

It's very hard until you have to write a Eulogy to know what to say about someone. Do you start by how long you have known that person? We can't believe Carol had been with the Society for twenty years.

At the Palgrave Research room on a Wednesday morning, I used to volunteer with Carol along with Alec Graves, and I remember she went out of her way to help people with their family research, nothing was too much trouble. Definitely on a Wednesday morning it was known as a noisy but busy day, with folks getting excited when they found something.



When the Palgrave Research room closed Carol arranged for the Wednesday morning gang (as we were called) to meet up once a month at the Red Lion for coffee so we could all keep in touch and if we had any queries with our family research we could chat about it and

help each other. We all enjoyed meeting up and we had a good laugh. I know Carol missed that very much and so did I.

Carol was not just a member of our society she had been a member of the Executive Committee for a number of years. Always willing to fit in any vacancy for a job whilst still working in the early days of joining. She attended the monthly meetings at which as most of you know, Carol used to sign people in.

Family History Fairs she really enjoyed, and we are all really pleased that she could attend our first Fair after covid. We knew she was not well but, Carol never complained. That is how she was. She never wanted to let anyone down.

Family history was a big part of Carol's life, and she was passionate about it.

Carol & her husband Jim did his Family Tree and have their own web site, it was surprising how many of our members turned out to be related. In fact, just prior to Carol's death she was going to find a photo of one of Jim's ancestors who was related to my husband Tony Staniforth.

Carol was a good friend to all of us, kind hearted, and always had a smile. She will be sadly missed by everyone.

## **Marion Baxter and June Staniforth**

### **Peter Norman Townend: Locomotive Engineer**

Peter Townend has died aged 98, he contributed to the last great days of steam hauled trains on the East Coast Main Line as shed master of Kings Cross Top Shed, in charge of locomotives (4-6-2) wheel arrangement known as Pacific Engines mostly designed by Sir Nigel Gresley.

He was born August 13th, 1925, in Doncaster and lived on The Grove, Wheatley Hills. He attended Beechfield Infants school, later a pupil at Doncaster Grammar School. Both his parents were schoolteachers.

In 1941 Peter Townend commenced working at the Plant Works Doncaster as a Premium apprentice shortly after the death of Sir Nigel

Gresley. He learnt the essentials of locomotive engineering, the condition of many engines during the wartime did not impress him. He worked in the drawing office at Doncaster where he met his future wife Daphne Joy Matthewman Dean.

He later transferred to Liverpool Street, London to the motive power department designing locomotive headboards for the East Coast Express trains. He was then sent out as a relief to manage loco sheds across East Anglia.

He worked at the following locations as shed master - Melton Constable, Yarmouth Beach, Bury St Edmunds, March, King's Lynn, Plaistow, Hatfield, Boston and finally at the age of 31 he became the Shed Master at "Top Shed" at Kings Cross. He worked at two sites from strong willed drivers and staff who kept the engines in immaculate conditions.

In 1961, for the wedding of the Duke of Kent and Katharine Worsley in York Minster a steam engine hauled "Royal Train" plus two specials for VIP's and a reserve standby in case of loco failures. All these services were worked by A4 loco (Mallard Class).

In 1961 Diesel locos took over from steam, but Peter Townend remained at Kings Cross until it closed in 1963. He was in Management posts operating from Kings Cross, but he was a steam man at heart, and he retired in 1984 to Torquay.

As early as 1959 he was involved with steam locomotive preservation, and he helped to secure from British Railways former LNER J52 tank engine which is now in the National Railway Museum at York.

He was a keen railway photographer learning his craft from Eric Treacy, Bishop of Wakefield and he wrote and edited books including Top Shed in 1977 and LNER Pacifics at work in 2014.

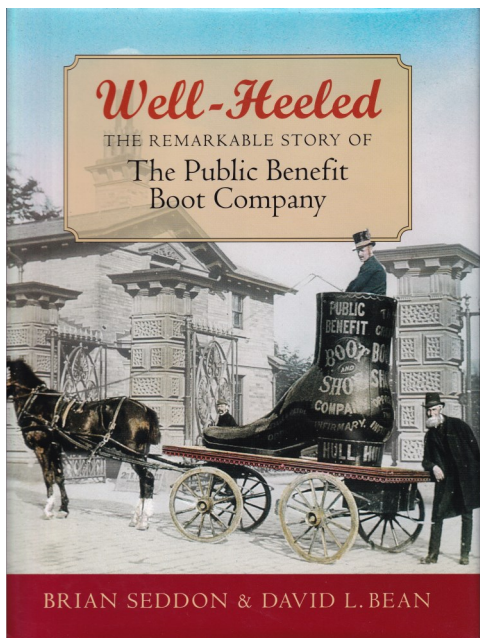
Peter died October 2023 the day after the funeral of his wife Daphne. She too attended Beechfield Infants School and lived in Ravensworth Road, Doncaster.

Obituary column of the Daily Telegraph, Tuesday 14th November 2023

**Keith Crouter, Member 1623**



# Well-Heeled The Remarkable Story of The Public Benefit Boot Company



When Dave Fordham and friends published “Doncaster & District” a couple of years ago, I remember thinking that all local history books should look like that – pictures on every page. It’s pictures, not facts and figures, that bring long-forgotten memories back to life. And so it is with this book about the Benefit shoe shops. Inside the dust-cover it says, “richly illustrated” and it most certainly is!

It is the story of William Franklin of Hull who opened his first shop in 1875 and built an empire that stretched from the North of England to Cornwall. And the retail story isn’t just about making boots and shoes. It’s about putting the

profits back into the new business and building factories and building their own shops.

(Doncaster is lucky to still have one of their first purpose-built shops and it’s 125 years old. Ancestor readers, too young to remember when there were shoe-shops in all of the town’s main streets, should take time to look at the Public Benefit building on the corner of St Sepulchre Gate and Printing Office Street opened in 1898. The company arrived in Doncaster in the early 1890s and occupied 41-45 St Sepulchre Gate until their new shop was built and opened in 1898. In the book, at the side of a picture, it says, “Illustration of the company’s new Doncaster premises – published in the *Doncaster Gazette* March 1898”.)

For those readers who perhaps might think the subject is of no interest to them, let me explain. The history of retailing and how the High Street changed over the decades covers every item that the housewife put on her shopping list and all those Brand names that my mother and grand-



mother looked for, all used the same tactics to grow their business. For example, the siting of new shops. It was important to attract as many passing customers as possible so a busy main road seems the right choice, but siting the new branch close to M & S or opposite Woolworths was a better one. But, if the Public Benefit planned to move into a town or city that was a well-known tourist attraction, you would be more likely to find the shop close to the cathedral, the castle walls or some other ancient landmark.



There are also interesting views on Franklin's priority customers, the aptly named "industrial classes". The following paragraph caught my eye;-

"In the coal-mining regions, houses and shops were usually built around the collieries and Public Benefit saw these communities as fertile ground to open branches".

(The village of Moorends which was built for Thorne Colliery's workforce was just one example. The branch was opened in the late 1920s. The address was 147 Marshland Road, close to the chemist and the Post Office. It closed in 1967).

The history of advertising through the decades is another subject and well illustrated throughout the text with adverts from local papers, trade directories and local almanacs. Also illustrated are the Public Benefit tins of polish, brush and buffer given away at the opening of new branches. And, of course, for the followers of fashion, there are drawings of boots and shoes on almost every page.

The book was published almost twenty years ago but there are copies available on ebay, Abe Books, etc. Watch the price. Some dealers want the original price. My very clean copy cost less than my Saturday newspaper.

**Pauline Stainton, Member 4573**

## New Members

Listed below are the names, and membership numbers of members who have recently joined the Society. We extend a warm welcome to them and wish them good luck in their personal research.

Mem ID	Title	Initial	Last Name
4559	Mr & Mrs	J & J	Panczak
4560	Mr	C	Coxon-Smith
4561	Mrs	S	Jones
4562	Mrs	A	Charlesworth
4563	Mr	J	Grundy
4564	Mrs	J	Taylor
4565	Mr	K	Casson
4566	Mr	R	Webster
4567	Mrs	J	Furze
4568	Mrs	S	Hillier
4569	Mr	T	Gardner
4570	Mr	D	Jones
4571	Mrs	S	Shaw
4572	Mrs	A	Cavanagh
4573	Mrs	P	Stainton
4574	Mr	P M	Dumville
4575	Mrs	L	Hadley
4576	Mr	A	Haigh
4577	Miss	S	Hoggart
4578	Mrs	M	Cromack
4579	Ms	A	Richardson
4580	Mrs	D	Krebs

## Members' Surname Interests

Name	County	Place	Date	Mem ID
Dumville	WRY	Stainforth	600-2024	4574
Hutton	YKS	Goole	1920-1989	4569
Barber	NRY	Womersley	1700-1800	4571
Carr	BDF	Biggleswade	1700-1900	4571

## Subscription Renewal

The Society relies on membership subscriptions to fund our work throughout the year.

It made me smile when I looked back at previous Ancestors and saw the subscription rates then.

In 1980 subscriptions were £4 single, £6 family & £3 OAP

In 1988 due to the cost of living the prices increased to £6 single, £10 family and £5 for OAP.

As we only charge £10 single and £12 for a family in the UK in 2024, I think you will agree that it is still very good value for money, so please continue to support us.

### Editor

Deadline for the next edition is 8th April 2024 at the latest.

Please send in any articles, preferably as a Word Document.

You can send articles in at anytime.

The journal is published in February, May, August and November.

Vol 34 No2 Edition will be published in May 2024

# **DDFHS Family History Research Days**

**Armthorpe Community Library  
Armthorpe  
DN3 3AL**

**Entrance free, Tea & Coffee 50p**

**Please note these days are the 2nd Monday of every month  
throughout the year, except Bank Holidays**

**10.00 - 13.45**

**Experienced volunteers will be on hand to help with your  
research and it is free.**

**Sprotbrough Library  
Sprotbrough Rd  
Doncaster DN5 8BA**

**Entrance free, Tea & Coffee free**

**Wednesdays 28th Feb 2024, 27th March 2024, 24th April  
then the 4th Wednesday throughout the year, excluding  
December**

**10.00 - 2.00**

**Experienced volunteers will be on hand to help with your  
research and it is free.**

## Dates For Your Diary 2024

**Sat 16th March 2024**

**The Family History Show  
Severn Hall, Three Counties Showground Malvern,  
Worcestershire WR13 6NW  
10:00 - 16:00**

**Saturday May 18th 2024**

**Chesterfield and District Family History Society  
Our Very Own "Who Do You Think You are" Exhibition, /  
Fair / Event  
18th of May 2024 10am - 16.00  
Arkwright Centre  
Hardwick Dr, Arkwright Town,  
Chesterfield S44 5BS**

**Sat 22nd June 2024  
York Family History Fair  
The Knavesmire Exhibition Centre,  
The Racecourse, York, YO23 1EX  
10:00 - 16:00**

### **Disclaimer**

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**01 Apr 2024 - 31 Mar 2025**

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Institutions UK	£12.00
Overseas via Air Mail	£15.00

Please make cheques etc.  
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**Doncaster & District  
Family History Society**

and send to Membership  
Secretary: see back page

or **[www.genfair.com](http://www.genfair.com)**

**New Members who join the Society between  
January - March will receive up to 3 months  
membership free**

## **DDFHS Research Enquiry Service**

The Research Service is primarily a “look-up” service and is limited to one surname search of the Society’s over 1.6 million transcriptions database. Any additional research will be at the discretion of the Society’s Research Enquiries Coordinator, Trevor Betterton:

**[researchenquiries@doncasterfhs.co.uk](mailto:researchenquiries@doncasterfhs.co.uk)**

If you are not a member we will endeavour to assist, but ask you to consider joining the Society as an appreciation of the time spent by our volunteers.

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***Please only contact Committee  
Members and Volunteers between  
office hours***

**Parishes and Townships in the  
Archdeaconry of Doncaster 1914**



**if undelivered please return to:**  
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