

THE DONCASTER ANCESTOR



Doncaster Railway Station

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

ISSN 0144-459X & ISSN 2633-8440

Volume 34 No 2 Summer 2024

Doncaster Ancestor— Summer 2024

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Journal of the Doncaster and District Family History Society

Free to Members

Volume 34 No 2

ISSN 0144-459X

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

Chair's Report

I am writing this whilst sitting in my son and family's new home in Elgin, Moray, Scotland. He has been posted to RAF Lossiemouth and we found how far away from Doncaster Elgin is, on Good Friday, when we drove the 415 miles to their new home. It doesn't sound so far, but the Highlands are not blessed with lots of dual carriageways, but the journey does go through some spectacular scenery. Family history is being made every day, and we do consider ourselves very lucky to be in the United Kingdom and having a loving family willing to dedicate their lives to both the NHS and the security of our country.

Next year is the 45th Anniversary of our Society and we will be celebrating that achievement with you. We will be announcing more about this in later issues so watch this space.

We held our first Archive Research Help Day on the 19th March 2024. The day was a success and more dates have been arranged to repeat the event. The aim is to develop a close relationship with the Archives, and they have asked us to assist them with some of their own events as well as offering more dates for ours. The Sprotbrough Research Help Day on the 27th of March was so good that every one of the ten computers were in full use and 3 people joined the Society

As I have said before we will soon be asking you to complete a questionnaire seeking your views about the Society and what you want as members. The balance Family History Societies constantly face isn't easy and other Societies are closing due to falling membership and volunteers. Your answers will provide us with some guidance on where we need to develop.

Dates for your diaries include the Lindholme Summer Fair at Lindholme Hall or Gomde, the home of Tibetan Buddhists, on the 10th of August. The Fair has been a good event for us to be at in the past two years, and we will be there again this year. It is always popular and the venue is an interesting one.

Also, our own Fair is booked, and planning is well under way. It takes place on Saturday the 12th of October this year and we have chosen to re-use the old Art College venue on Church Walk, as it such a great building and next to the wonderful Minster. There will be more space and we have already had quite a few bookings from exhibitors. We would be very grateful for your support for our fair either as visitors or

through publicity.

Finally, you will see that I have written an article about my impressions from the Plant Work registers. If you have any ancestors who worked there and have stories about their experiences then please get in touch, as we want to start to document their experiences in future articles for the journal and for a Plant Works section of the website.

**Andy
Chair
doncasterfhs.co.uk**

From the Editor

Hello & welcome to the summer Ancestor.

Thank you to everyone who has sent in articles this time. If you enjoy reading the Ancestor, then please let me know, if you don't like what you see, then also let me know.

If you are reading this, then you have renewed your membership, for which the Society is very grateful. Without the members, there is no Society.

I hope you like the front cover picture of Doncaster Station, which I love. The bright colour is to represent the sunshine for people's holidays. (If only it was that easy). I thought we needed cheering up after the ridiculous amount of rain that we have had this year.

Have you read a really good book that other members might enjoy? Any new websites, that you found interesting? Then let me know.

The 6th June, 2024, marks the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy, France. Do you have any stories about your ancestors that you would like to share? Or will you attend any of the events?

Also August 2025, will be the 80th Anniversary of the end of the war in the Far East, after the Japanese surrendered. Do you have stories that you would like to share with other members? I appreciate this can be difficult for people. My Dad was a Japanese POW for three and a half years, and I know how I felt when the story of his incarceration was unravelling.

Next year will be the 45th Anniversary of the Society, so perhaps you would like to share your memories of the Society over the years you have been a member. We couldn't organise anything for the 40th Anniversary due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, so we need to celebrate this one. Start practising your cake designs and perhaps we will have a competition.

We hope to see some members on **Saturday 10th August 10.30 am – 4pm at Lindholme Hall Summer Open Day**. Let's hope the weather stays fine this year!

Check out their website for more information. **Gomde UK**.

Jenny Ellis, Editor
doncasterancestor@doncasterfh.co.uk

Deadline for the next edition is 1st July 2024 at the latest.

Please send in any articles, preferably as a Word Document.
You can send articles in at anytime.

The Doncaster Ancestor is published in February, May, August and November each year

Vol 34 No 3 Edition will be published in August 2024

Disclaimer

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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.

May 29th 2024 **The Sand House by Richard Bell**

With his latest talk about The Sand House, 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

August 28th 2024

Publican, Labourer, Porter or Soldier? How Our Ancestors Earned A Living by Karen Walker

How discovering the cause of death of an ancestor led to re-writing his life story.

Via Zoom

September 25th 2024

Old Doncaster by Philip Langford & Malcolm Barnsdale

We take a trip around old Doncaster with their old photos & much banter between the pair and a great deal of knowledge. See the Doncaster of our younger days and those of our ancestors

Philip & Malcolm will be in the room

October 30th 2024

The Trolley Bus Museum, Sandtoft by David Chick

A volunteer tells us more about this fascinating place. He is also hoping to have some recordings of people with memories of their ancestors.

David will be in the Room

November 27th 2024

The Victoria Cross by Paul Grimley

Former Soldier & ex prison officer Paul tells us about the Victoria Cross holders from around our area. Did you know for example how many are actually buried here in Hyde Park Cemetery, hear about the medal and those who were awarded it.

Paul 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
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 April 2024

Hatfield Woodhouse Cemetery Burials 1886 – 1998

We are currently checking work already done on this cemetery, there are over four thousand records, and we hope to have this completed in the next couple of months.

The records cover the local area of Hatfield, Dunscroft, Thorne, Stainforth and other surrounding areas, but there are also burials from other Parishes around Doncaster as well as other parts of the country.

Below are just a few of the entries we have found so far:

Conisbrough, Barnburgh, Walkeringham, and Hayton near Retford, also Brinsworth and Sheffield.

Pontefract, Wakefield, Featherstone, Leeds, Levenshulme and Toxteth Park Liverpool, Hanley, Bristol, and Mildenhall.

Only goes to show that not everyone was buried locally.

Margaret Jackson, Projects Co-ordinator

From the Postbag / via email

Hi Jenny,

I have just received the latest copy of the Ancestor. In the help column Pauline Stainton is asking about the Congregational Church in Thorne. The photo is correct. The church was in Orchard Street in Thorne. The photo was taken from the end of Orchard Street near Plantation Road. The church and the next building are gone but the buildings in the distance are still there. Orchard Street then enters the Green.

The church was there in the 1960s. They had a youth club and had a football team.

Take care.

David Rayner, Member 2231

I recently came across a very old article about Somerset House in the Doncaster Ancestor Winter Edition 2008 Volume 18.

I found it extremely interesting, and had it in mind to write to Jenny. I know she is always on the lookout for articles and thought this may be of interest to newer members, and many like myself would enjoy reading it again.

Would you be so kind as to pass my idea on to her on my behalf.

Many thanks once again and I wish you all another very successful, and happy year.

Best wishes Barbara Wood, Member 4253

The above message was sent to Philip Langford, when Barbara renewed her membership. I didn't have space for the article this time, but will include it in the next Ancestor.

Editor

Help Wanted

William Luther LAWRENCE was born 13 Feb 1929 in Thorne.

He attended Thorne Grammar School, did National Service in the Royal Air Force 1946-1948 and then attended Loughborough College 1948 – 1951.

He was a teacher living in Thorne to 1960, when he emigrated to Southern Rhodesia.

Does anyone know which school he taught at?

Any information to Trevor Betterton

researchenquiries@doncasterfhs.co.uk

Doncaster and District Family History Society Local Family History Fair

**Saturday 12th October 2024 at the Old Art College (opposite the
Minster) Doncaster
10.00 – 4.00**

We are delighted to announce that we will be having a Local Family History Fair. We are hoping that it will be as successful as our last one.

We already have tables booked for our event. The Sand House, Doncaster Civic Trust, Sandtoft Trolley Bus Association, Mexborough Heritage Society, Doncaster Archives, our Help Desk, Victoria Cross Trust, Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery, Doncaster Waites, just to name a few.

Speakers this year will be Helen Slade in the morning giving an updated talk on the History of Hyde Park Cemetery and in the afternoon Chris Tapster giving a talk on the Falklands War.

Refreshments will be available, so please do come along and support your Society if you can.

Marion Baxter, Secretary

Inflation

In September 1320 a feast was held in Conisbrough and a document survived (until at least 1804*) which gave details of the provisions bought to feed and water everybody. This was the expenses of Sir Ralph de Beeston and Sir Simon de Baldriston. The feast took place over 2 days as follows:

Monday 15th September

"In bread bought	18d	=	1s 6d
In four gallons of wine bought	2s	=	2s 0d
In twelve gallons of ale bought at Doncaster	18d	=	1s 6d
In sixteen gallons of ale bought at Conisbrough	14d	=	1s 4d
In shambles meat bought	2s	=	2s 0d
In eight fowls bought	12d	=	1s 0d
In two geese bought	8d	=	0s 8d
In eggs bought	3d	=	0s 3d
In two pounds candles bought	3½d	=	0s 3½d
In a woman's wages for fetching the ale	1d	=	0s 1d
In provender for the horses bought	15d	=	1s 3d

Tuesday 16th September

In bread bought	8d	=	0s 8d
In one gallon of wine bought	6d	=	0s 6d
In four gallons of wine bought in Doncaster	6d	=	0s 6d
In shambles meat bought	8d	=	0s 8d
In two geese bought	8d	=	0s 8d
In one fowl bought	1½d	=	0s 1½d
In ten pigeons bought	4d	=	0s 4d'

The feast was the exaltation of the holy cross.

Apparently this account used to hang in one of the pubs in Conisbrough in the early 19th century.

Perhaps you might like to calculate how much the prices have increased in the intervening seven hundred and four years!

Pattie Birch, Member 3232

Source: Edward Miller, History and Antiquities of Doncaster and its Vicinity. 1804

Doctors and Nurses Doncaster Infirmary Hospital

Hello Andy and Jenny,

Thank you once again for all your interest in the old, faded photograph I sent you below.



I am also attaching a brief description of family forebears from Yorkshire.

My grandfather was born in Yorkshire and came to Australia aged 12. He died when I was 5 years old, but I felt that I knew him through the stories told by my mother. He spent his youth in Heath Village, nr. Wakefield, and re-visited relatives during periods of leave from army service in WW1.

It was only the discovery of the photograph of doctors and nurses from

Doncaster Infirmary Hospital which led to the discovery that my family roots stretched back to Doncaster.

The photo was amongst the effects of my great-grandparents, brought to Australia when they migrated in 1911, and was obviously of some family importance. Although I was able to find Doncaster forebears, I have been unable to discover anyone who may have been a nurse at the Infirmary. I sent a copy of the photo to Doncaster Family History Society believing it may be of historical interest and was absolutely delighted to receive the information discovered by Clive. (photos and info below)

This dated the photo to c.1900, and as Matron **Florence Longrigg** was at the Infirmary from 1896-1907 the photo pre-dated the **Field** family migration. It also meant that my previous supposition of a connection with WW1 was totally wrong.

I may never discover the link to the Doncaster Infirmary, but it will remain a fascinating research puzzle.

Just a note about me - I spent my early years in Melbourne and surrounds, working as a teacher. As retirement approached, I moved to Bendigo and began to pursue an interest in Military History. **William Henry Field** volunteered for service in WW1 (Australian Army Medical Corps) and **Herbert Booker Field** served in both WW1 and WW2.

With many thanks for your interest and support, and every best wish for the continuing success of Doncaster Family History Society.

Larna Malone

Bendigo, Vic., Australia.

The above information was shared by Andy at the weekly self-help natter group zoom meeting held on Thursday mornings.

This caused quite some interest and discussion.

Clive produced a booklet entitled 'Good Health – A Pictorial Celebration of Doncaster & Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals, that he had bought following a presentation by the author at an earlier DDFHS meeting.

(Link to the original web page when it was published in 2018 <https://www.dbth.nhs.uk/goodhealth/>

Clive shared the photo below, which had the same photograph along with some information about the people, and where and when it was taken.

This was quite a find and although unfortunately names of some of the nurses is unknown, as stated on the 1st image, it does help clarify the photograph.



The entire medical and nursing staff in the garden of Wood Street Infirmary, about 1900.

From left to right: Back row: Dr Battersby, Dr Christy Wilson, Dr Whaley, Dr Selby, Dr Reginald Wilson (Christy Wilson's son). Front row: Seated Left, Head Nurse Annie Wheller, Matron Florence Longrigg in centre, with Nurse Jegger on her left. The names of the other nurses are not known.

The photo is still on display in the corridors of Doncaster Royal Infirmary.



The Old Infirmary, Whitaker Street

Sadly, the old Infirmary was demolished by the then Doncaster Council and replaced by an office block.

Clive Damms, Member 4142

Book Review by Angela Hartley

The Mahler Five by Jean Renwick

I was fortunate enough to meet Jean Renwick at Doncaster and District Family History Society's Fayre last year. I had seen her presentation about her book "The Mourning Brooch" Part One which I found fascinating. Whilst chatting to her I bought both books about "The Mourning Brooch" and then I noticed she was also selling her first book "The Mahler Five". As Gustav Mahler is my favourite composer I asked her about this. I just had to purchase it and I was not disappointed as it was compulsive reading.

Five people are sitting in different places in the concert hall and are listening to the orchestra performing Mahler's Fifth Symphony. (You will be familiar with a movement from the symphony as it is played during the film "Death in Venice".) The five characters are all linked in different ways which we do not realise to begin with and each chapter is one of the five character's thoughts about the past and the present as the music progresses. There is a married couple, a son, a violinist and a young woman. As the music progresses and we read each person's thoughts we gradually discover how they are all linked. The ending is quite a shock and is life-changing for all the individuals and leaves you wondering what the future will be like for some of them.

ISBN 9781526205261

Angela Hartley, Member 4221

Angela said that she attended Jean Renwick's presentation about "The Mourning Brooch" part two in January, which she thoroughly enjoyed.

Editor

Book Review by Keith Crouter

High Speed Trains to The North of England by David Mather

The year is 1975: the age of the steam-hauled passenger trains has gone and the age of the diesel is upon us. The route from Kings Cross to Edinburgh via Peterborough, Doncaster and York holds the reputation for speed unmatched by any other in the UK.

The Class 55 Deltic, (22 in total) built by English Electric, the most powerful single unit diesel locomotive in the world, had now displaced the steam traction on the East Coast Main Line. They entered service in 1961 and were expected to run for ten years but ran until December 1981. The locomotives with their 1650 hp Napier Engines regularly reach speeds of 100 mph.

Electrification of the railways had been considered since 1930s - the West Coast Route (Euston to Glasgow) was preferred until 1970 then the Kings Cross to Hitchin and then from 1984 the route to Edinburgh via York.

The stage is now set for the modernisation plan with the introduction of the Class 125 (High Speed Train). T. C. B. Miller, Chief Engineer for traction, was entrusted with the design - having worked under Sir Nigel Gresley and had overseen the introduction of the Deltics.

The train consisted of two 2250 hp power cars with Paxman engines and seven coaches, and the Western Region received the first 27 sets for working 'The Bristol Route' - Paddington, Bristol and South Wales, with the sets being maintained at Old Oak Common (London) and St Philips Marsh (Bristol).

By 1977 a further 32 sets (2 Power cars x 8 coaches) had been built for use on the Kings Cross to Scotland (Glasgow/Aberdeen/Edinburgh) services with the sets being maintained at Bounds Green (London), Neville Hill (Leeds), Heaton (Newcastle) and Craightinny (Edinburgh). The extra vehicle being a buffet/restaurant car. Neville Hill and Bounds Green depots also supplied sets for the Sheffield to St Pancras services.

More than 230 engines were supplied for use in the new fleet and were

so robust, they were able to operate for 20,000 hours between major overhauls, with each power car travelling more than 1,000 miles in an average sixteen-hour day.

Electrification of the East Coast Main Line was completed by 1991, and some of the 125 sets were cascaded to the cross-country services. The Class 91 locos were utilised with mark 4 coaches, in addition the class 91 between 1987 and 1991 on the Kings Cross to Leeds services ran with coaches and a class 43 HST power car.

The book contains 144 pages and more than 150 colour and black and white photographs together with information on the Power Car Liveries, changes in ownership, privatisation of the railways and the repercussions in the Yorkshire area, as well as final services, storage, withdrawal and preservation,

The author suggests that as well as interesting historical details there are valuable resources for modellers.

Pen and Sword, ISBN 1399042653

K.Crouter, Member 1623

Transcribing

Since transcribing old wills etc I have been interested in old words and their meaning. The Times has regular articles on words with their old & new usage. This appeared in the Saturday edition.

As part of a 15th century marriage vow, a woman was asked 'wilt thou have this man to thy husband and to be buxom to him'. Interesting but not what you think!

It turns out that 'buxom' comes from the Old English 'bugan', to bow down, bend or kneel in submission. A bit beyond 'to obey' then. Have you ever thought where the term 'car boot' comes from? I haven't, but I've just been transcribing an Indenture of 1699 and came across 'Allow sufficient House boot Plow (plough) boot & cart boot to be spent upon the premises.' I have no idea what it means in this context but according to my book 'Word Origins', 'Boot' appeared in the 17th century as a storage box for luggage on a coach or carriage.

Philip Langford, Member 1702

Joseph Beaumont Firth (1834 – 1919)

Joseph was my great, great uncle and he is THE ancestor I would most like to meet because he shared my interest in family history as well as leading a fascinating life. I cannot tell all here.

Joseph was born in Darrington as the eldest child of **George Firth**, farmer, and his second wife, **Bethia** nee **Beaumont**. The family moved to a farm at Upper Hoyland Hall, where the sons worked before qualifying for other careers. In 1851, Joseph began two apprenticeships with Great Northern Railway: 5 years at Doncaster Plant Works (General Repairing Shop) then 3½ years as a journeyman. I obtained this information from his Naval Records but would love to know more if anyone can advise me how to find out.

Joseph joined the Royal Navy on 28 November 1859, aged 25, and worked his way up from Engineer to Chief Engineer. He completed 20 years and retired on 3 February 1880. His Service Record lists the ships he served on, ranks and qualifications, embellished by his letters to half-brothers, who emigrated to Australia and the USA, plus two censuses.

Joseph (43) got married on 8 August 1878 at Normanton All Saints to **Jane Elizabeth Herring** (35) of Altofts; her mother was his godmother, and he was Jane's godfather. Jane's father **George Herring** was a farmer, her brother Edward emigrated to New Zealand, where her niece Ida May remained, but her nephew **Percy Theodore Herring** returned to the UK, graduated MB from the University of Edinburgh and remained in Scotland for an auspicious medical career, visiting his uncle Joseph.

Joseph was tragically granted only a few years' happiness with his own family. Their first son **George Herring Firth** was born in 1880 in Southsea followed by **John Beaumont Firth** in 1881 in Altofts, as they relocated there when Joseph retired from the Royal Navy. Jane died on 23 April 1881, aged 38, of Puerperal Septicaemia; John died on 5 September 1881, aged 5 months, of *Tabes Mesenterica* (*Tuberculosis of lymph glands inside the abdomen; it was a childhood illness, a wasting disease, caused by drinking milk from cows that had been infected by TB*).

Joseph wrote to his nephew in USA:

“For the more convenient and better education of my son [George] I moved to Doncaster in the Spring of 1890. My boy

was entered at the Grammar School and at the first Exam although he was the youngest boy but one in his form (the 5th) he carried off the prize for Mathematics". "He came out a principal winner, over boys 2 years his senior". "In September last year the school commenced again and in October my boy got cold which brought on inflammation of the lungs (Pneumonia) of which he died on 15 November last"; "as you may imagine it was a most terrible time to me - my greatest trouble in life ...".

The Headmaster of Doncaster Grammar School wrote to Joseph on 16 November 1890:

Dear Mr Firth, I cannot tell you how grieved I have been to hear of your great loss in the death of my dear little pupil, leaving you almost alone in the world, both wife and child taken from you within such a short space of time. I know very well how your dear little man was the very light of your life and how dark all must seem to you.



George Herring Firth

I can only pray that God Himself may be your comforter, reminding you that in Christ Jesus our Lord we have one who has Himself passed through human life and shared in human sorrows. With regard to your dear boy all your recollections will be happy as of a sweet and innocent child: and far far better lose him now than have seen him grow up to be contaminated by evil. The Lord knows what temptations were before him and has taken him away from the evils which might have been before him.

As for yourself you will, I trust, be glad? to remember that those who are really Christ's will meet after but a brief space on the day of the Resurrection, when the Lord shall come again to awaken His sleeping ones. You will, I am sure, learn the severe lesson which God is teaching you that every human love and happiness is disappointing and will yield yourself up afresh to live for that which endures forever. May you have grace to rise up under this almost overwhelming sorrow and brace yourself up to live the rest of his short life to the glory of God, and the good and happiness of your fellow men. In self-forgetfulness is our truest happiness. May God bless you. With very kind

regards, I am, yours sincerely, Townsend Storrs. Please do not take the trouble to answer this.

Townsend Storrs (1837 - 1918) was born in Doncaster and he obtained his BA degree at St Catherine's College, Cambridge University. He carried out missionary work in India between 1861 – 1871. Townsend got married in 1869 and they had four sons. He was a Church of England clergyman and school master at the Grammar School, living at Hall Cross House in South Parade and 24 South Parade in Doncaster – probably the same house and used for the headmaster. Townsend Storrs retired to the Isle of Man where he died in 1918, aged 80.

Joseph moved by 1891 to King's Road, Wheatley, where he employed a housekeeper and a general servant. He had moved by 1901 to seven rooms at Bleak House, Burton Salmon, where he remained until his death on 18 September 1919, aged 85.



Joseph's younger brother Charles – my great grandfather - established C Firth & Sons Plumbers, Decorators etc in Hoyland. He died young leaving four children; his widow Mary managed the family business and her two sons aged 21 and 18 worked as plumber and painter and decorator. Joseph maintained a close relationship with them in a paternal role. Charles' four children and Jane's niece and nephew were the beneficiaries of his Will, which included some cottages in Tanshelf (demolished many years ago).

Joseph Beaumont Firth with a large group of school children (he was a governor at his niece's school – she stands next but one to him at the back).

I enjoyed reading the Spring 2024 "Ancestor" as always and felt that I ought to contribute something. I tend to focus on articles for Barnsley FHS because most of my closest ancestors lived in this area although

many relations lived across the West Riding of Yorkshire. I now live in Barnsley, where I was born, and the heritage projects I'm involved with, and my published books are based locally.

This is also an opportunity for me to formally thank all committee members for the tree-mendous (sic!) work they do on behalf of the Society. Your voluntary efforts are greatly appreciated, and the cost of membership is a real bargain! (We don't get many of these today other than via Family History Societies).

The trigger for this article was Pauline Stainton's feature about the Public Benefit Boot Company, even if the connection is tenuous. My relation below owned some shares (number unknown) and had some other links to Doncaster

Jane Ainsworth, Member 3911

Were any of your Ancestors Musicians?

Two very different groups of musicians played in Yorkshire in the first half of the 20th century. Could any of your ancestors have been part of



the groups or attended their performances? The earliest of these two groups was Miller's Mandoline troupe.

The versatile youngsters not only played mandolines but sang and danced too at some of their concerts. The British Newspaper Archive has accounts of them entertaining soldiers in Hull, for example, in 1915. I found this postcard in my Doncaster-based grandmother's postcard album and wonder if she went to one of their concerts.

The second group, known as the Continentals performed dance music in the 1930s and 1940s in local hotels. I think the musicians all had other day jobs in the Doncaster area. My father, a railway signalman, was one of the accordionists.



Both groups look very well presented. Their appearance and type of music they performed are quite a contrast with today's range of popular music.

Hazel Moffat, Member 1790

Barnsley Pals
13th and 14th Battalions
York and Lancaster Regiment

Ernest Ives Born, 1883 Died 1st July 1916 in France.

During my research of the **Ives** family tree, I noted that members of the **Ives** family had died in the years 1910 to 1920.

One of these was **Ernest Ives**, my dad's cousin, who had died in 1916. As this was in the middle of the First World War I decided to look bit further.

Ernest was the son of Joseph and **Emma Ives**, nee **Fretwell**, and he was born in 1883 at Barugh, Barnsley.

The 1891 census shows he was a student aged 7.

By the 1901 census he was aged 17yrs, and a Banksman in a colliery. A Banksman was a colliery worker who dealt with the movement of the coal tubs as they were sent down the mine empty and returned full.

The 1911 census shows he was aged 27 yrs, a Trammer in a colliery. Trammers work as assistant miners in all the work a miner does. They load the broken mineral onto shaker or belt conveyors, fill and haul the mine cars, bring in the mine timber and other materials to support and equip the mine workings. They also served the mining and transport machines and worked also as auxiliary mine timbermen.

During this period the family resided in Low Barugh, Barnsley, but unfortunately his mother Emma died in 1907.

On the 4th August 1914, Britain and Germany were at war, and by the 6th October 1914, Ernest was enrolled in the 13th, Battalion of the York and Lancaster Regiment, as Private.13/517. 'The Barnsley Pals'.

Ernest appeared to become a bit of a rogue early in the new year of 1915, being charged with drunkenness and being confined to Barracks and fined two shillings and six pence. (Twelve and a half p). The Battalion stayed and trained in the Barnsley area with a camp at Silkstone, before moving to Cannock Chase in Staffordshire, in May 1915.

The Battalion was taken over by the War Office in October 1915 and they then went to Salisbury Plain until December 1915 when they were

sent to Egypt.

In March 1916 the Battalion were at Kankara in Egypt when they were ordered to Port Said, with instructions to board H.M.T. Mecantic to be transported to France. They arrived at Marseilles on 16th March, and went ashore on the 17th, where they boarded a train for Pontremy, and on to Fontaine Sur Somme.

There, some of the men were employed in the mining of the front lines in Redan until being moved to Mailley Maillet from 1st April 1916, until the 24th to 29 June when they went to Warnimont Woods, close to the front lines.

During this period the battalions took casualties from snipers in the German lines,

On the 30th of June 1916 they went to the Battle Front near SERRE. On 1st of July 1916 the two Battalions, in company with other Allied troops, attacked the German trench lines and over the next two days suffered heavy casualties from machine gun fire and heavy artillery bombardment. "The First Battle of the Somme".

On days three and four the attempts were made to recover casualties from the ground in front of the German lines. These casualties were made up as follows.

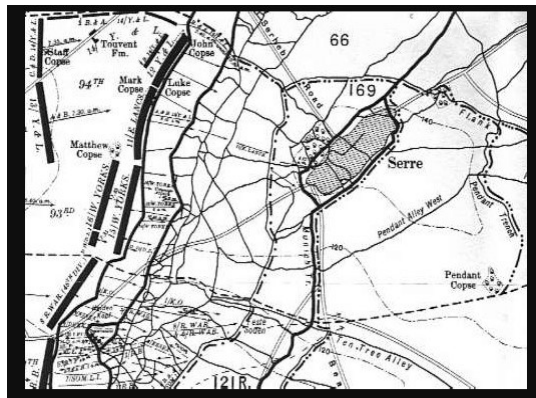
Officers: Killed 6, wounded 6.

Other ranks: 40 killed, 183, wounded and 51 were recorded as missing.

Total casualties. 286.

Unfortunately, **Ernest Ives** was one of the missing soldiers and was formally recorded as killed on 3rd July. 1916. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.

**The front line at Serre
British on the left
Germans on the right**



Some time later, after Ernest's family had been informed of his death, they had an enquiry placed in the notice section of the Barnsley Chronicle, asking if any of the Barnsley Pals had any information about Ernest. I don't believe that there were any responses about what had happened to Ernest.

Eddie Ives, Member 1685

Eliza Hornsby versus Henry Isaac Raines

Eliza Hornsby, a nineteen-year-old single woman, gave birth to her son **William Henry Hornsby**, on 3rd March 1857 in Goole Union Workhouse. He was baptised two weeks later in St. John's Church, Goole.

On the 16th December that year, Eliza made application before **Robert Cornelius Lister** Esquire, one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace, acting for the Petty Sessional Division of Lower Osgoldcross, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, where she alleges that **Henry Isaac Raines**, was the father of her male Bastard Child.

It was signed with her mark Eliza X Hornsby.

Eliza's mother, Sarah **Hornsby**, also received a summons to attend Snaith Petty Sessions as a witness to this case.

Eliza was charged the following:

	£	s	d
Information and Summons	“	3	“
Summons for Witness	“	2	“
Service and Attendances	“	13	“

Henry Isaac Raines, surgeon, of River Bridge, was summoned to appear at Snaith Petty Sessions, on Thursday Thirty First of December as the putative father of a bastard child of **Eliza Hornsby** of Hook.

Details of the summons follow.

Bastards, (after birth,) D 7 & 8 Vict. C 101.) Summons of putative father of a bastard child, under s. 3.

WEST RIDING To *Henry Isaac Raines* of the Township of
OF THE *River Bridge* in the West Riding of the County
COUNTY OF YORK. of York, *Surgeon*
TO WIT.

Whereas application hath been this day made to me the undersigned, one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the West Riding of the County of York, by *Eliza Hornsby*, single Woman, residing at *Hook* in the Petty Sessional Division of Lower Osgoldcross, in the said Riding, for which I act, who hath been delivered of a male Bastard Child since the passing of the Act of the Eighth year of the Reign of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act for the further Amendment of the Laws relating to the Poor in England," and within Twelve Calendar Months from the date, to wit, on the *third day* of March *last* and of which Bastard Child she alleges you to be the Father, for a Summons to be served upon you to appear at a Petty Sessions of the Peace, according to the Form of the Statute in such case made and provided.

THESE are therefore to require you to appear at the Petty Sessions of the Justices, holden at *Snaith* being the Petty Sessions for the Division of Lower Osgoldcross aforesaid, in which I usually act, on (a) *Thursday* the *Thirty First* day of *December* at *Eleven* o'clock in the forenoon, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty *seven* to answer any complaint which she shall then and there make against you touching the Premises.

Herein fail you not.

GIVEN under my Hand and Seal at *Goole* in the said West Riding, this *Sixteenth* day of *December* in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty *Seven*.

R C Lister (his stamp)

Note - if you neglect to appear at the Petty Sessions as above stated, the Justices, upon proof that this Summons has been duly served upon you, or left at your last place of abode, may proceed, if they think fit, to make an order upon you, or as the putative father of the Child above referred to, to pay a weekly sum to the said mother for its maintenance, and other sums for costs and expenses.

(a) Insert some day, at least six days after the date of the summons, and the day when the same can be served upon the man, or at his place of abode.

The Evidence

Eliza Hornsby, a nineteen-year-old single woman, gave birth to her son **William Henry Hornsby**, on 3rd March 1857 in Goole Union Workhouse. William Henry was baptised two weeks later in St. John's Church, Goole.

Later that year, Henry Isaac **Raines**, surgeon, of River Bridge, was summoned to appear at Snaith Petty Sessions, on Thursday Thirty First of December as the putative father of a bastard child of **Eliza Hornsby** of Hook.

Eliza's mother, Sarah, was also summoned to Snaith Petty Sessions as a witness to this case.

Eliza Hornsby married **George Ellis** in 1859 and they both signed with their mark. Eliza had been working as a servant.

The 1861 census, shows that **William Henry Hornsby** is now **William Hornsby Ellis**, and on the following census, he is William H **Ellis**.

When William married **Harriet Wilson** in May 1877, he was **William Henry Hornsby, which was the name on his birth certificate**.

Father's name on his marriage certificate, **Ralph Rianes Hornsby** who is deceased.

Henry Isaac **Raines** died in 1872.

By 1881 William is back to calling himself William H **Ellis** and his wife Harriet is also called **Ellis**, not **Hornsby**. On all the following census, William is again **William Henry Ellis**.

Henry Isaac Raines was born in Whitby in 1804 to **Isaac Raines, surgeon** and **Ann Robertson**. He married **Mary Ann Wrigglesworth**, daughter of **Ralph Wrigglesworth** in Yorkshire in 1829.

Mary Ann Raines died in 1847. of Typhus Fever, two years after her eleventh child was born.

In 1851 **Henry Isaac Raines** is living with his eight surviving children and he has a housemaid to help. The children were described as either surgeon's son or daughter, or scholar.

By 1861, Henry Isaac Raines has three children and his grandson at home, and also has a housemaid and a stable boy. Again the children are surgeon's son or daughter, regardless of their age. His grandson is a clergyman's son.

The Raines family were very well respected members of society with several members becoming surgeons and doctors and also entering into Holy Orders and three of them were Canons.

To be accused of fathering an illegitimate child with a servant would bring great shame to the family name. Or is it possible that one of Henry Isaac's sons, who were nearer to Eliza's age at the time, was the father?

Unfortunately, there are no records for the outcome of the Bastardy case at Snaith Petty Session in December 1857. You will notice that **Ralph** was the name of **Henry Isaac Raines** late wife's father.

Ladies and Gentlemen...what is your verdict?

Please note that the summons was the copyright of East Yorkshire Archives, permission was given to take the information from the document but copying was not allowed.

Jenny Ellis, Editor

The Plant Works Registers and the Secrets they Hold

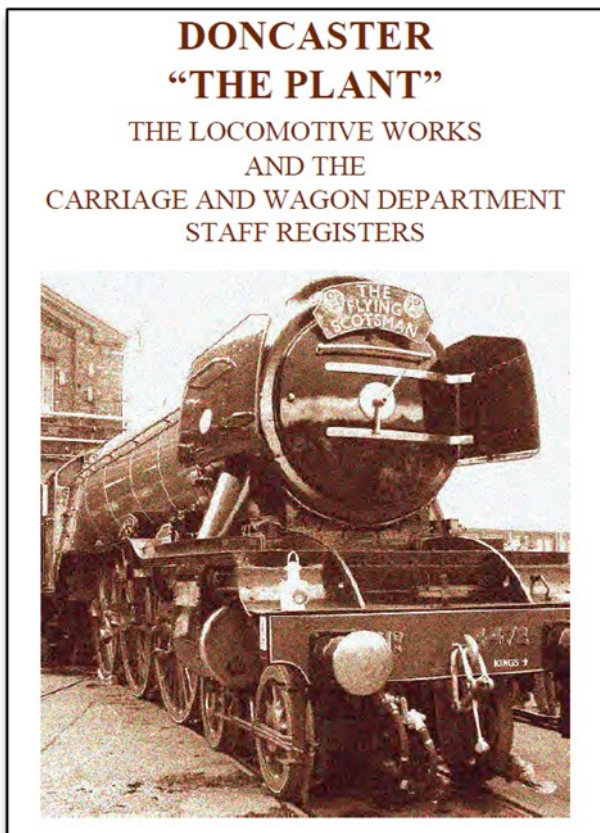
Introduction

There has been a lot of work carried out by DDFHS volunteers over the past 44 years to collect a wide variety of information supporting family history research across the world for members and non-members alike. Our sales of downloads of this information, via the online shop, GenFair, is still healthy.

The Plant employment registers are one of these data sets and recently I started to look at how that information could be added to our website's online database.

What I wasn't expecting to find was how varied and completely fascinating this data is. From thieves and fraudsters to victims of accidents; from marriages to murders and from discipline issues and promotions, all of this can be found in these records, and much more.

You wouldn't naturally be able to see this, quite so easily, in the format in which it is available to you. The data we have of the Plant's employment records (Plant Staff Registers) is in the form of a portable document file, or pdf, which is available at the incredible price of £6 per download. The photographs alone are worth every penny, and the data is a 481-page gold mine of social history information from 1857 to



1935.

The pdf file format is a good way to add documents to an online web page, as they tend to be smaller in size than word or excel files, and they provide some protection of the data contained in the file.

However, they are an absolute nightmare to extract that information from.

I am reliably informed that the data was originally compiled by the society using Microsoft Works! This software went to the software scrapyard in 2009, starting life in 1987, and was brilliantly superseded by Microsoft Excel and Word.

The Plant pdf appears to have been published on CD in 2006, and Margaret Frost's preface from that year and Brian Barber's introduction pave the way into a fascinating document.

This article is not a history of the Plant Works, but simply a tale of some of the amazing pieces of information that have been revealed by extracting the data.

My Family Links to the Plant

I do have an interest in the Plant registers as my maternal Grandfather, Frank Curtis, joined the works on the 31st of January 1921, at the tender age of 15 years, as a Wagon Fitter's Apprentice. This is the page recording his first day at work at the Plant run in those days by the GNR, the Great Northern Railway.

He went on to join the design side of the works as a Draughtsman in the Carriage and Wagon Works, which he subsequently ended up managing, before he left to help

Register No.	NAME	Trade	Date of Birth	Date of Appointment	Age at Appointment	Rate
4140	Clarke Edward	Wagon Fitter	7-8-1895	23-1-23	22	2/6
4141	Whann William	Wagon Fitter	11-11-1896	24-1-23	23	2/6
4142	Sale Albert Edward	Wagon Fitter	28-1-1894	25-1-23	29	2/6
4143	Ramm Horace Evelyn	Wagon Fitter	6-11-1892	24-1-23	29	2/6
4144	Elbbs Ernest	Wagon Fitter	9-2-1897	24-1-23	25	2/6
4145	Gary Leslie Walter	Body Maker	28-9-1907	24-1-23	15	1/6
4146	Penherton Fred	Wagon Fitter	1-2-1910	24-1-23	13	1/6
4147	Carle Joseph Harold	Wagon Fitter	15-12-1908	24-1-23	14	1/6
4148	Lewis Samuel Thomas	Wagon Fitter	6-4-1896	24-1-23	26	2/6
4149	Blanchard Henry	Wagon Fitter	24-6-1899	24-1-23	23	2/6
4150	Carle Frank	Wagon Fitter	29-10-1907	24-1-23	15	1/6
4151	Machin Arthur	Wagon Fitter	11-10-1893	1-2-23	29	2/6
4152	Meredith Harry	Wagon Fitter	21-10-1905	5-2-23	17	1/6
4153	Greenough Leonard	Wagon Fitter	1-8-1896	2-2-23	22	2/6

manage the Carriage and Wagon works in Gorton near Manchester. He moved to York in a management role where my Mum grew up, but he was killed on Christmas Day in 1952 after visiting his own mother in Balby on his motorbike.

The Registers

Returning to the Plant registers and the format they are saved in, it only allows pages to be displayed in a fixed way, which can be searched through using a simplistic search method, easy to use and of course only provides results from the words you enter. You need Adobe Acrobat to edit these documents with any degree of ease and it is expensive and it's not Microsoft!

However, transferring the data into Excel provides a whole different level of manipulation and allows a user to sort the information in many different ways.

I have now completed this and reformatted the data, so the first task I then took was to extract the information as to why people left.

Before I reveal some of the very interesting information, a bit more about the registers themselves and the pdf. The registers were rescued from a skip when the Plant closed and given to the Archives.

The registers transcribed by volunteers from our Society consist of four volumes:

The Locomotive Works Employment Register 1902 to 1934
The Carriage and Wagon Department Registers: 1857 to 1908
1908 to 1915 & 1915 to 1935

Clearly the pdf isn't a complete record and work is needed to find and transcribe the missing information from when the plant opened in 1853, and the registers post 1934/1935.

Andy Harbon, Chair

Part Two of this Story will be in the Autumn Ancestor

Editor

Exchange Journals

We have started to compile journals from other Societies that we are starting to receive electronically, and these are available for you to read from a link in the members area of the Website.

Doncaster Archives Events

Details of specific times and how to book places on workshops will be released via our social media and website.

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 3 and 17 May | Archives Basic Skills Workshop |
| 13 May | Palaeography Workshop |
| 31 May | Family History Workshop |
| 6 Sep | Heritage Open Days:
Family History Workshop
Heritage Open Days:
Palaeography Workshop |
| 9 Sep | Heritage Open Days:
'Horsing Around'
Exhibition of documents relating to
horse racing in the borough |

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
4581	Mr	J	Heaton Gray
4582	Mr & Mrs	R & V	Coleman
4583		S	Matthews
4584	Mr	G	Heath
4585	Miss	J	Hizzett
4586	Mr	K	Halifax
4587	Mrs	G	Gilham
4588	Mrs	L	Mitchell
4589	Mrs	J	Appleyard
4590	Mr	D	Allan
4591	Mrs	F	Usher
4592	Mr	R	Beard
4593	Mr & Mrs	R & L	Cotterhill
4594	Mrs	K	Cresswell
4595	Dr	J	Ledger
4596	Mrs	A	O'Sullivan
4597	Mrs	J	Close
4598	Mrs	L	Coleman
4599	Mr	W	Brinkley
4600	Mrs	I	Winterburn

Members' Surname Interests

Surname	Code	Place	Dates	Mem ID
Hill	YKS	Doncaster	1906-1984	4598
Vaux	YKS	Doncaster	1910-1977	4598
Cross	YKS	Doncaster	1910-1952	4598
Weaver	GLS	Cirencester	1750-1950	4597
Boxwell	GLS	Cirencester	1750-1950	4597
Walker	GLS	Old Sodbury	1750-1950	4597
Close	YKS	Stockton on Tees	1750-1950	4597
Schofield	WRY	Doncaster	1850-1960	4513
Gray	WRY	Doncaster	1750-1960	4513
Bladworth	YKS	England	1700-1900	4588
Coulman	YKS	England	1700-1900	4590
Hizzett	YKS	Doncaster	1780-2024	4585
Taylor	YKS	Doncaster	1901-1960	4499
Walker	YKS	Doncaster	1880-1970	4499

Obituaries

The Society has been informed that **Jenny Lowe**, Member 3761 has sadly passed away. Jenny had been with the Society since 2012.

One of the Society's long-term members, **Jean Jones**, sadly passed away on 3 April 2024. Jean had been a member since 2000 and was a regular attender of the monthly meetings and Society trips. Jean often submitted articles to the Ancestor, and made a substantial contribution to the Society book commemorating the centenary of the start of WW1. Jean enjoyed researching her own family history and helped others when she could. Jean was a great friend and will be sadly missed.

Karen Walker, Member 2062

DDFHS Family History Research Days

**Armthorpe Community Library
Armthorpe
DN3 3AL**

**Please note these days are the 2nd Monday of every month
throughout the year, except Bank Holidays
10.00 - 13.45
Entrance free, Tea & Coffee 50p**

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

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

**Please note these are the 4th Wednesday of every month
throughout the year, excluding December
10.00 - 2.00
Entrance free, Tea & Coffee free**

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

**Doncaster Archives
Chequer Road
Doncaster
DN4 0NA**

**Please note these are on the 3rd Tuesday of every month
throughout the year, excluding December
10.00 - 2.00,
Entrance Free, no refreshments available**

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

doncasterfhs.co.uk for further details

Dates For Your Diary 2024

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**

Saturday August 10th 2024

**Lindholme Hall Summer Open Day
Lindholme Bank Rd,
Hatfield, Doncaster DN7 6DT
10.30 - 4.00**

Saturday 12th October 2024

**Doncaster and District Family History Society
Local Family History Fair**

**at the Old Art College (opposite the Minster)
Doncaster, DN1 1AL
10.00 – 4.00**

D&DFHS Subscription Rates

01 Apr 2024 - 31 Mar 2025

Paper Journal / e-Journal

Individuals	£10.00
Family in same house	£12.00
Institutions UK	£12.00
Overseas via Air Mail	£15.00

Please make cheques etc.
payable to:

**Doncaster & District
Family History Society**

and send to Membership
Secretary: see back page
or 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

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.

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



**If undelivered please return to:
Mr Keith Crouter
21 Sandal Park Drive
Wheatley Hills
Doncaster DN2 5RP**