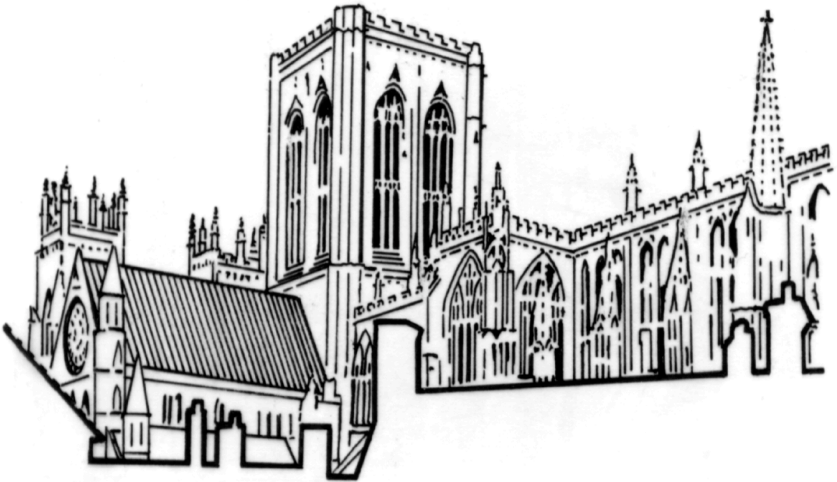


THE

*City of York & District*

FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



JOURNAL

June 2023

Vol.24 No.2

THE *City of York & District* FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No.1085228 - Founded 1975

*Affiliated to the Family History Federation*

*President: Dame Judi Dench CH DBE*

- Chairman:** **Mr. John Neale**  
email: jfneale69@yahoo.co.uk
- Vice-Chairman:** **Mr. Alan Powell**  
email: alan.powell36@yahoo.co.uk
- Secretary:** **Mrs. Carol Mennell**  
email: secretary@yorkfamilyhistory.org.uk
- Minutes Secretary:** **Mrs. Bobbie Bateman**  
email: bobbie.bateman@ntlworld.com
- Postal Sales:** **Mrs. Carol Mennell** (as above)  
email: sales@yorkfamilyhistory.org.uk
- Membership Secretary:** **Mrs. Carol Mennell** (as above)  
email: membershipsecretary@yorkfamilyhistory.org.uk
- Treasurer:** **Miss Catherine Richardson**  
email: c.richardson830@btinternet.com
- Research Room & Archivist:** **Mrs. Pam Elliott**  
22 Welton Avenue, Boroughbridge Road, York YO26 5SL  
email: yorkfamilyhistory@btopenworld.com
- Programme Secretary:** **Mr. Stephen Barrett**  
email: stephengbarrett@gmail.com
- Publicity Officer:** **Mr. Stephen Barrett** (as above)
- M.I Co-ordinator:** **vacancy**
- Journal Editor:** **Mrs. Margaret Tadman**  
55 Bramley Garth, Appletree Village, York YO31 ONQ  
Tel: 01904-416116; email: margaret.tadman@gmail.com
- Publications Officer:** **Mrs. Yvonne Clarke**  
email: yvonne.clarke23@btinternet.com
- Acting Project Co-ordinator:** **Mrs. Pam Elliott**  
(address above)
- Webmaster** **Mrs. Jo Barnett**  
email: webmaster@yorkfamilyhistory.org.uk
- Committee Members:** **Neal Clarke**; email: enclarke9@btinternet.com  
**Judy Clarkson**; email: judyclarkson96@gmail.com
- \* \* \* \* \*
- Bookstall** **vacancy**
- Members' Interests:** **Mr. Roy Evans**  
8 Kirkdale Road, Osbaldwick, York YO10 3NQ;  
email: members@yorkfamilyhistory.org.uk

**Web site address: [www.yorkfamilyhistory.org.uk](http://www.yorkfamilyhistory.org.uk)  
Email: [yorkfamilyhistory@btopenworld.com](mailto:yorkfamilyhistory@btopenworld.com)**

# Journal

June 2023

Volume 24 No.2

## CONTENTS

	Page
Fairs: York Race Course; Thornton le Clay Village Hall .....	34
Deadlines; Date Protection; Journal Editor .....	35
AGM Reports .....	36
Annual Accounts .....	37
<b>Augustus Mahalski</b> (1831-1900): Photographic Artist of York:	
Part 4. Final Years .....	<i>Julian Holland</i> 38
Lost Villages 2: Wilstrop .....	<i>Susan Gough</i> 42
The Groves in the Regency Period 1811-1820 .....	<i>Steve Barrett</i> 43
A Yorkshire Connection to My North East Roots .....	<i>Jo Boutflower</i> 46
<b>Judi Dench</b> : Louis Theroux interviews .....	<i>Editor</i> 47
Membership News .....	<i>Carol Mennell</i> 49
Finding the <b>Trus(t)loves/Trovesloves</b> .....	<i>Clare Pilkington</i> 50
Research Room Update .....	<i>Pam Elliott</i> 51
A Family History Journey:	
Part 2. Researching Family History .....	<i>Alan Powell</i> 52
Certificate in History of Family & Genealogical Methods .....	<i>University of Limerick</i> 53
Indexing at the Borthwick .....	<i>Editor</i> 53
Help Wanted:	
<b>Wadkin</b> .....	<i>Helen Critchley</i> 54
<b>Holdfield</b> .....	<i>John Brodie</i> 55
Meeting Talks Reported:	
True Life Stories of Tudor York .....	<i>Tony Morgan</i> 59
The Borthwick Archives & Family History .....	<i>Laura Yeomans</i> 60
Investigating Your Ancestors' Communities .....	<i>Joe Saunders</i> 62
Healthcare in York through the ages .....	<i>Dr. Neil Moran</i> 63
Programme Summer 2023; Society Copyright .....	inner back cover
The Research Room .....	outer back cover

*Coffers, Clysters, Comfrey and Coifs:  
The lives of our seventeenth century ancestors*

Dr. Janet Few and Mr. Christopher Braund of “Swords and Spindles” will entertain us at Thornton le Clay Village Hall

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June, 6.45 for 7 p.m.**  
Cost £7.50

Tickets limited, please email <shields\_h\_f@hotmail.com>  
(Any profit to Foston and Thornton le Clay Village Hall)

**DISCOVER YOUR ANCESTORS  
FAMILY HISTORY SHOW, YORK  
SATURDAY 24<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023  
10am to 4.30pm**

*THE KNAVESMIRE EXHIBITION CENTRE  
THE RACECOURSE YORK YO23 1EX*

**Entrance £8.00**

**Free gift on entry worth £7.99**

Buy your tickets early and get two for £8 via the website:  
[TheFamilyHistoryShow.com](http://TheFamilyHistoryShow.com)

With exhibitors from all over the UK and Ireland, this is probably the largest event of its kind in England.

Free talks will be held throughout the day.

Plenty of parking and refreshments are available all day.

There are several lifts to take you to the upper levels, and the whole place is wheelchair friendly

Sad news that Alex Sampson, who was heavily involved with starting the York Family History Fair at the Knavesmire many years ago, passed away on 2<sup>nd</sup> May aged 88. Many will remember Alex manning bookstalls at fairs and organising for so many years, in his colourful shirts.

Please note we have unfortunately found it necessary to increase admission to meetings: members £2.00 and non-members £4.

---

### **JOURNAL DEADLINES**

The Journal is published in February, June and October each year and is issued at meetings or posted to those members who are unable to attend. For those members viewing the Journal on-line, it is now available in pdf format. Guiding deadlines for the three issues are the end of December, the end of April, and the end of August, and but material is welcome at any time.

An index of last year's Journal is published on the Society website; members wishing for a printed copy should contact the Research Room. The cost of back copies of journals to a UK address is £1.25 per issue, including p&p. For overseas orders, a single copy is £4.00 including p&p. For cost of multiple copies to be sent overseas please contact the Membership Secretary.

#### **DATA PROTECTION**

All articles submitted will be published under the contributor's name and membership number, enabling interested readers to identify the source.

Contributors who wish their contact details to be published alongside must state this in writing. Readers may otherwise make contact with the contributor via the Editor or the Membership Secretary (see inner front cover).

### **NEW JOURNAL EDITOR REQUIRED!**

Would you like to edit the Journal? Here is a summary of what is entailed:

The Journal is published three times a year, in February, June and October, for distribution at the relevant monthly meeting. The printer's deadline needs to be met in the middle of the month preceding publication and distribution, the Journal being put together in the first half of that month.

In the intervening months, articles written by members and others are collected along with items of interest and typed ready for printing, the lay-out and other details being checked with those submitting. Regular submitters such as the Research Room manager, membership and members' interests secretaries should be reminded of deadlines where necessary.

Articles have to be organised and set up in journal lay-out, the final version read through and checked before transmitting to the printers in pdf format, along with a covering letter stating the number of copies and date required for delivery (to the Membership Secretary). A copy is also sent to the society webmaster to be forwarded to members electing to receive an on-line rather than a printed version.

In addition, speaker's talk at meetings have to be recorded and written up for the next issue, and surnames appearing are to be indexed annually to go on our website.

Of course this need not all be done by one person! Two or more could get together.

## AGM 1<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2023

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Well, I think we have had a very interesting year! We started off with approximately 150 members and now have over 200, which is down to a big publicity push we had.

We had some very interesting talks, ranging from Margaret Clitherow to The Cocoa Works and finishing off with a talk entitled Dumfries to Ypres by Brian Jardine.

Sadly, we have had to say farewell to three of our members all of whom gave fantastic service to the Society:

Mike Smith, Mary Clarke and Diane Boldison

*John Neale*

### TREASURER'S REPORT

The situation was getting back to normal in 2022, but our membership numbers have continued to drop. In 2019 our income from subscriptions was just over £5,000. You will see from the Accounts for last year that it was down to £3,718. It is many years since we increased our subscription rates and reluctantly it has been decided that we need to propose a resolution to increase them from next year. This is covered under AOB on the agenda.

The Raylor Centre kindly reduced our rent for six months during the Covid emergency, but we are back to paying the full rate as per our lease and it has been further increased in this current year. The basic fact is that we cannot afford to keep the Research Room going and attempts are at present being made to find other premises, but it is a major problem.

We felt it was necessary to upgrade some of our old machines in the Research Room and purchased two reconditioned computers at a cost of £762. We were grateful to receive a donation of £100 specifically towards this cost.

We attended the Knavesmire Fair in 2022 after a break of two years, but again our sales of books, publications and downloads overall continue to fall.

We ended the year with a deficit of £3,096, bringing our reserves down to £9,253.

I thank our Independent Examiner, Martyn Webster, for his examination & approval of the Accounts and I am grateful that he is prepared to stand for re-appointment.

To finish, I am giving notice of my intention to stand down from the position of Treasurer with effect from the 2024 AGM. I was appointed in 2012 and age is catching up on me! I hope someone among you will consider taking on the job and I will be pleased to discuss the responsibilities at any time. Don't leave it until the last moment.

*Catherine Richardson*

**YORK AND DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

<b>INCOME &amp; EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ended 31st Dec.</b>			<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Membership	Payments	Receipts		
Subscriptions & Gift Aid	282	3718	3436	3317
Printing of journals & leaflets	855		-855	-473
Monthly meetings	765	631	-134	-51
Research Room	6267	708	<u>-5559</u>	<u>-4424</u>
Net expenditure re Membership			-3112	-1631
Other Income/Expenses				
Publications & Downloads	262	440	178	688
Bookstall incl. Knavesmire Fair	240	701	461	55
Royalties		317	317	360
Bank Interest		32	32	150
Donations		61	61	0
Purchase of S/H Computers	762	100	-662	
General Adm. Expenses	371		-371	-578
<b>DEFICIT FOR YEAR</b>			<u>-£3,096</u>	<u>-£956</u>

<b>BALANCE SHEET AT 31st DECEMBER</b>			<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
General Fund				
Balance at beginning of year			12349	13305
Less Deficit for year			3096	956
Balance at end of year			<u>£9,253</u>	<u>£12,349</u>
Represented by:				
Bank balances			9068	11601
Research Room bond			1150	1150
Prepayments			<u>35</u>	<u>328</u>
			10253	13079
Less Creditors		0		
Subscriptions paid in advance		<u>1000</u>	<u>1000</u>	<u>730</u>
			<u>£9,253</u>	<u>£12,349</u>

**NOTES**

1. The Society owns various items of equipment for the Research Room, projects, etc. the cost being written off in the year of purchase. In 2022, S/H computers were purchased to replace older ones at a cost of £762. There were no purchases in 2021.
2. No account is taken of the value of the stock of books, publication, library, etc., which are in hand.

*C. Robinson*

Hon Treasurer

25th Jan 2023

*m Webster*

Independent Examiner

*10th Feb 2023*

## **Augustus Mahalski (1831-1900): Photographic Artist of York**

*This article, being published in four parts, is reproduced with permission, in a slightly reduced version, from the original fully referenced article by Julian Holland in:*

The PhotoHistorian, Journal of the Royal Photographic Society's Historical Group,  
No. 190, Summer 2021, pp. 5-17.

### **Part 4: Final Years**

**J**ust as Mahalski was among those to photograph the special decorations mounted for the visit of the Prince of Wales in 1866, he recorded another visit by the Prince in 1883.

Mahalski photographed 'four different views of the recent decorations'. These were available from his studio for 6d. each or 7d. by post. There is a little puzzle as to his circumstances in 1884 when he advertised 'Coupons, Coupons, Price One Shilling', entitling the coupon holder to one cabinet and one carte-de-visite portrait, taken at the American Gem and Victoria Portrait Studio at 44 Petergate, with Mahalski describing himself as 'Manager'. Was he again operating with some control by creditors?

*Mahalski issued this carte de visite of the temporary triumphal arch erected on Ouse Bridge for the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales in August 1866, preserved as a glass copy negative in the Evelyn Collection.*

In the late 1880s, a new large lock was built on the River Ouse at Naburn, south of York, next to the one built in the 1740s. This was to improve the carriage of goods between York and the coast. On several occasions Mahalski was present to record important events in connection with the new lock. On the afternoon Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June 1887 the Lord Mayor of York, Sir **Joseph Terry**, and an extensive party travelled on the steamer *Wild Rose* to Naburn. In the course of the proceedings Sir Joseph, with a ceremonial spade and barrow, cut the first sod and placed it in the barrow to commence the work on the new lock. The proceedings were then 'for a few moments suspended in order that Mr. Mahalski might take a photograph of the Lord Mayor'.

The photograph was an early example of news reportage, before newspapers carried photographs, and Mahalski registered it under the Copyright Act.



A few weeks later the citizens of York could purchase a 14x12 inch photograph of the mayor performing this 'interesting and important' ceremony for 3s. 6d. or two for 6s. 6d. A year later Mahalski recorded the opening of Naburn Lock, with Prince Albert Victor, the Lord Mayor, now **J. Sykes Rymer**, the sheriff, aldermen and other dignitaries. The photograph was 'a pleasing memento of the important occasion', the *York Herald's* report stated. The next year, in June 1889, when the Lord Mayor and many others made a trip to Naburn and a cricket match was specially organised, Mahalski was again on hand to photograph the gathering.

Some years later Mahalski offered views of Cober Hill with portraits of the local M.P. **Frank Lockwood**, his wife and daughter and many other ladies and gentlemen. Cober Hill, Cloughton, near Scarborough, was Lockwood's home. The photographs were 2s. 6d. each, postage included. 'Pronounced very nice groups', Mahalski's advertisement claimed.

Mahalski's last years were clouded by an unfortunate incident with lasting effects. On the evening of 13<sup>th</sup> June 1892, Mahalski entered the *Royal Oak Inn*, Goodramgate. There he encountered **Thomas Dennison**, a builder, in a state of intoxication. Dennison 'at once set upon him with the vilest sneers, calling him a "d—d Radical," a "Jewish foreigner," and afterwards a "bankrupt".' Mahalski knew Dennison to have been bankrupt himself and remarked about people in glass houses not throwing stones.

Then Dennison rose, 'steadying himself against a table', took his stick and gave Mahalski 'a terrific blow' on the head, somewhat moderated by his felt hat which was broken. Even so he was stunned, leading to months of medical attention after which he was 'still suffering from his head, and likewise from vertigo and diabetes'. As a result he was unable to carry out his business, including his usual attendance at the military camp at Strensall for photographic purposes, from which he generally made £30 to £50 a season.

This led to a court case before a jury in the York Court of Record the following year in which Mahalski claimed damages of £50. Witnesses corroborated Mahalski's evidence but the medical witnesses could not confirm the diabetes was a result of the blow. After 'some consideration' the jury found for Mahalski and the Recorder, **Edwin Price, Q.C.**, awarded him £8 damages.

It was the diabetes that was eventually the cause of Mahalski's death. He went into a coma in early October 1900. Sarah, his wife of nearly 44 years, while holding vigil at his bedside, died on 6<sup>th</sup> October and Augustus himself died two days later. The double funeral took place on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 'and the departure of the cortege for the place of burial was witnessed by a goodly number of citizens'. They were buried together in York Cemetery.

In March 1907 **Amelia Mahalski** registered a photograph taken in 1859 by her father of the south entrance of York minster. It features a large clock face that was removed in 1873. As copyright only endured for seven years after the photographer's death, Amelia only secured six months' protection, but this was evidently sufficient. The photograph was issued as a postcard. Family tradition has it that the seated figure is Mahalski himself, in which case the child on his leg is the young Amelia.

Sarah and Augustus's only surviving son, **William Henry**, married in 1890. He suffered from a long and debilitating illness, dying in May 1901, leaving four small children.

Amelia continued the employment registry, perhaps the main source of income for the household in the later 1890s, and also continued or resumed the business of tobacconist at 78 Petergate. At some point Amelia and Cecilia became antique dealers, having shops at 36 Stonegate and 78 Petergate. When Amelia died in 1931, Cecilia continued the business until her own death in 1953.

### Augustus Mahalski, man and photographer

Displaced from the country of his birth, and finding himself as a young man in a foreign country with an unfamiliar language, Mahalski was faced with many challenges. The opportunity arose for him to become a commercial photographer just at the time when the technology and infrastructure had developed to a point where photography was beginning to form the basis for an established business in English provincial cities and towns. How successful was Mahalski as a photographer?

**John Ward Knowles** (1838-1931), who knew many of York's early photographers and might have taken up photography himself commercially but became an artist and stained glass painter instead, considered that as a photographer 'Mahalski does not even rise above the level of the most ordinary practitioner being quite content to pass the work out as quickly as possible and obtain the money'.

While the details of Knowles's notes on 'Yorkshire Artists' are not always accurate, his personal knowledge of the men and times makes him an invaluable witness. He recorded that Mahalski commenced 'in a small shop near to Cooper's Spirit Vaults and did nothing else but small glass pictures and on tin in a cheap way'. This may be the case. In his early years, and with a wife and growing family to support, income could not be sacrificed to artistic perfection.

From the surviving evidence, Mahalski achieved a measure of proficiency. He claimed on his business card in the 1890s that he was patronised by 'the late Duke of Clarence and Avondale, the late General Daniel and other Officers stationed in the District, also by the principal families in the neighbourhood'. Over a career of more than forty years, Mahalski's photographic skills undoubtedly developed considerably. We have seen that he had the skill to remove an unwanted figure from a negative – when Nicholson 'was shown the negative by the plaintiff he could not observe the figure of his friend'.

Knowles bolsters the view that Mahalski abandoned photography with his move to Davygate: 'Ultimately he gave up photography and carried on a Registry Office with the aid of his daughter'. At least twice Mahalski found himself in financial difficulties. This was not uncommon among small business people at the time. **John Draffin**, for example, despite his excellence as an architectural photographer, went bankrupt in 1862. **William Rodell**, pianoforte dealer and Mahalski's neighbour in Petergate, faced liquidation in 1880, and eventually his creditors settled for a first and final dividend of 2s. 11d. in the pound in 1883. By comparison Mahalski seems to have managed fairly well.

Mahalski thought well enough of his own photographic merits that he copyrighted three of his photographs and in 1892 sent one of his photographs to Queen Victoria, receiving the acknowledgement 'Sir **Henry Ponsonby** has duly received Mr. Mahalski's letter and accompanying Photograph which he has laid before the Queen'. And he was engaged by public figures and other notable residents of the vicinity of York, civilian and military, to take their portraits and record civic events. In his 1877 travel diary Mahalski sheds some light on his aesthetic sensibilities.

He noted the architecture and monuments of the places he visited, especially churches and cathedrals. He was particularly alive to the music he encountered. At St. Paul's Cathedral in London, the singing and organ playing were 'excellent', while at Westminster Abbey he did 'not consider the singing so good as at York'. At the cathedral in Munich he noted that trumpets and violins were the principal instruments in the musical accompaniment and that there were several female singers 'as is the case in Catholic churches'. In Vienna a military band that passed his hotel 'played splendidly'. All Austrian bands, he noted, are 'excellent and also numerous'. At the Institute for the Blind there he encountered a string and wind band in rehearsal that 'played very well'. In Krakow four military bands struck up lively tunes to welcome the first of May.

Membership of the York Volunteer Rifle Corps strengthened Mahalski's ties and reputation in his adopted city and brought him photographic work. Initially a private, he was a regular participant in the York Volunteer Rifle prize meetings. He was promoted to corporal in 1865 and by 1878 was Sergeant Mahalski. He had probably retired from the Volunteers by 1884 when his son, Private W. H. Mahalski, was recorded as participating in a Volunteers' shooting competition.

On one occasion Mahalski nearly suffered a serious bullet wound. It was at the Christmas prize shoot in December 1871. With the air thick and foggy, the usual disk indicators of the result were indistinguishable, and Mahalski and a colleague, **William Simpson**, were standing to one side to convey the results. As the shooter was raising his rifle to his shoulder it went off accidentally. The bullet grazed the front of Mahalski's leg, 'taking away part of his trousers and stocking' and then struck Simpson's lower calf, producing an 'ugly and jagged wound'. Bleeding profusely, Simpson was carted off to hospital while 'Mr. Mahalski's escape was remarkable, for a divergence of the ball from the line it took to but the extent of a quarter of an inch must have smashed his leg'.

Mahalski's practice of combining photography with other commercial activities, initially as a tobacconist and later the servants' registry, was not uncommon among photographers. **Robert Place** of Micklegate in York, who described himself as 'Photographic Artist & Tobacconist' in the 1861 census, also extended his photographic practice by selling apparatus, materials and chemicals. **Joseph Duncan** seems to have considered himself primarily a cabinet maker for some years after he took up commercial photography, not giving his occupation as 'Photographer' until the 1881 census.

Augustus Mahalski was not a photographer of distinction and enduring reputation, but he was a man of intelligence, drive and adaptability who contributed to the great burgeoning of commercial photography across Britain in the second half of the nineteenth century.

#### Acknowledgements:

The author's several debts in the preparation of the article are recorded in the original version. Here he would like to emphasise his particular appreciation of Bruce Mahalski in sending a copy of the family history compiled by his mother, *Augustus Mahalski and his Descendants* edited by Pauline Mahalski (privately printed, Dunedin, New Zealand, 2002). Without this book the scope of the article would have been considerably more limited.

*Author's details:* Julian Holland, a former museum curator specialising in historic scientific instruments, sometimes strays into photographic history.

**LOST VILLAGES 2**  
*Susan Gough (member 2205);*  
*purpleangel68@yahoo.com*

**W**ilstrop, near Skipbridge on the A59 was in the Domesday Book. **Miles Willesthorp** was Esquire of Wilstrop in the 15<sup>th</sup> century when sheep became more important than people.

The site of the mediaeval village is shown on the University of Cambridge's website:

[www.cambridgeairphotos.com/location/aqs96/](http://www.cambridgeairphotos.com/location/aqs96/)  
and [www.geograph.org.uk/photo/2431842](http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/2431842)  
and [www.geograph.org.uk/photo/543647](http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/543647).

The agricultural buildings have now being transformed into Wilstrop Lodge.

Photos of Wilstrop Hall can be seen here:

[www.geograph.org.uk/photo/5128500](http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/5128500)  
and [www.geograph.org.uk/photo/5680636](http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/5680636)  
and on this map from 1848:

<https://maps.nls.uk/view/102344743>

There is information about Wilstrop on the Tockwith with Wilstrop Parish Council website:

[www.tockwith.gov.uk/History\\_41541.aspx](http://www.tockwith.gov.uk/History_41541.aspx)

On the 1841 census, the farmer at Wilsthorp Hall was **Ambrose Gray** (born Tockwith 1772), who came from a long line of Ambrose's in the Nun Monkton area.

Wilstrop Siding railway station on the York to Harrogate line is included on Wikipedia:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilstrop\\_Siding\\_railway\\_station](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilstrop_Siding_railway_station)

I was a Morgetroyd before I was married. **George Morgetroyd**, my 5<sup>th</sup> great grandfather, married **Elizabeth Daniel** in Moor Monkton in 1774. Their third child, **William** (christened in Nun Monkton 5<sup>th</sup> August 1781) married **Elizabeth Wade** on 4<sup>th</sup> January 1813 in Adel. Their first child, **Sarah**, was baptised at Adel a few months later and at this time they were living in Arthington, where he was a husbandman. They had moved to Wilstrop by 1815 and he was a labourer. All their other children were baptised at Kirk Hammerton. By the time of the 1841 census, they were living in Nun Monkton and he was an agricultural labourer.

## THE GROVES IN THE REGENCY PERIOD 1811-1820; Part 1.

Steve Barrett (member 3006);  
stephengbarrett@gmail.com

This study has been based around three key documents found in the library at York Family History Society Research Room. The first – a printed transcript of the 1811 census of the parish which is a rarity. Most online censuses don't feature until 1841. More than this, however, the enumerator went beyond his brief and took specific information about the occupations of the men living there. All he was actually asked to do was to note if they were in trade or Gentlemen. The second document was the printed results of the 1820 General Election with the names of all the voters, and since there was no secret ballot the voters' preferences were clearly indicated. The third document was the 1823 Baines Commercial Directory for Yorkshire also in the YFHS Library. It detailed the inhabitants of the Groves' traders and other professions – even for those described in the 1811 census as simply 'Gentlemen'.

I have since additionally made use of the List of York Freemen to help with the study and Parish Registers.

The Regency period is the name given to the last part of George III's reign, who because he was suffering from a disease known as porphyria, was mentally unable to govern his kingdom.

That task was given to his son also called George but known as 'Prinny' to his friends:

The Prince Regent

<http://www.historyhome.co.uk/c-eight/constitu/regent.htm>

In 1811 the country was still fighting the French on land and at sea in the Napoleonic wars.

Slavery had not been abolished in the colonies.

It was the height of the industrial revolution – a time of child exploitation in factories and coal mines, yet also a time of Jane Austen, who published '*Sense and Sensibility*' in 1811.

For the old, there was the poorhouse – voting was restricted to a small group of men – with the masses excluded from political involvement.

Travel, for those who could afford it, was often by coaches, and a plethora of coaching inns had developed along the main roads, which were often owned by turnpike trusts – charging for use of the road. For the poor who wished to travel – it would be usually on foot or slow moving wagons and sometimes by boat.

The area of our study – The Groves – was undeveloped – with just a scattering of houses along the fashionable promenade of The Lord Mayor's Walk. Only Monkgate was more developed with houses running along the road as far as Monk Bridge. (See Prudence Webb, YFHS Library)

Behind, there were still green fields, farms and market gardens. Open land behind Monkgate was used for drill practice during the Napoleonic war.

The cultivated land outside the Walls and Monk Bar was mainly for market gardening, and several large holdings were devoted to the production of food that could be sold to the citizens inside the walls. Researching this, it became apparent that the area would have looked picturesque but would have smelt appallingly. The City's 'night soil' would be deposited outside the walls by the cartload and onto the adjacent fields and allotments. This would have greatly increased the fertility of the soil to enable the town to be supplied with fruit, vegetables, milk and butter.

*'The production of vegetables, fertilised by waste material collected from thousands of privies, street gutters, cow stalls, stables and farmyards . . . was big business'* so writes Cottingham Local History Society in its article 'The Sweet Smell of Roses'.

We are going to look in more detail about those few inhabitants of The Groves (St. Maurice's Parish) between 1811 and 1820's.

In his Visitation of 1743, some seventy years earlier, Archbishop Herring's report detailed the state of the Parish. The area had some 57 families dwelling there in 1743 but by 1811 this figure had increased to 114 families, effectively doubling in population over those years since 1747.

Although the parish church was there – it had no meeting house nor school. It did have an Alms house for six women but also by this time the County Hospital had been newly built in 1740 and then rebuilt due to increased demand only five years later, funded by benefactions, and charities for the poor. The chief physicians there were **Francis Drake** (not the Elizabethan sailor) – who was the writer of one of the first histories of York entitled '*Eboracum*' and **John Burton** physician and 'man mid-wife' who lived at the Red House near the Minster. The history and records of York County Hospital are held at the Borthwick Institute for Archives at York University Library.

<https://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/search/archives/1f29f5cc-6d6f-3c5b-947d-b7befead81f7>

By 1795 water was being piped to the suburb and some 40 houses in the district were fee paying customers of the York Waterworks company.

There was no residence in the parish for the Vicar of St. Maurice; he had to live in the parish of St. John Del Pike, close to St. Trinity's Goodramgate of which he was also Minister.

In 1743, services at St. Maurice were only conducted monthly and '*had not been performed more often than this for many years*' – with many of the parishioners walking to Goodramgate Church. (see Archbishop Herring's Visitation reports of 1743, YFHS Library). It had been agreed around that time to use St. Maurice's parish churchyard for burials from the newly set up York County Hospital.

Although by 1811 there was some 114 families living in the Groves area, there were not 114 habitations. There were a number of families or individuals living in the same house – the greatest number being **Robert Rigby's** abode, which had five families and individuals living there, consisting of some 16 people, including two widows – **Mary White** and **Mary Gray**. The men living there were all described in the 1811 census as 'labourers'.

**Robert Rigby** or **Rigby** had a great story – a labourer who could vote in General and Local elections at a time when it was thought only rich landowners could be trusted to do so. This was because he was a Freeman. Baptised at St. Crux Church in 1763, he was the son of another Freeman, **George Rigby** – a labourer who was the illegitimate son of **Margaret Lund** from a local farming family. The family had formerly been bakers on Girdlergate (now Church Street) in York. At the time of the census, Robert and his wife **Ellen** were sharing a house with five families in it. He was elsewhere in the parish register described as a ‘brickmaker’.

Similarly **Thomas Jackson**, also described as a labourer though previously apprenticed to a bricklayer, in 1785 shared with two families, including the ‘**Widow Cuss**’ who lived there after the death of her shoemaker husband.

Five other women are named in the 1811 census as ‘Widows’ all living in close proximity – they probably resided in what was known as Thomas Agars Hospital – three cottages built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century to house poor widows. They were so dilapidated by 1879 that they were demolished.

The widows are named as **Mary Crampton**, **Ann Abbey**, **Mary Gowland**, **Elizabeth Garman** and **Susan Lund**.

One of the inhabitants noted in the 1811 census was **Robert Bearpark** – usually known as **Robert Young Bearpark** who was described as a ‘Gardener’ and living on Lord Mayor’s Walk near the Church. He could have only arrived there recently as in 1807 he was on the electoral register for Huntington.

Most of his family were market gardeners – though they resided in the Bootham area. They had not always been prosperous it seems for one **Jane Bearpark**, born in 1701 died in 1788 aged 87 ‘a pauper’.

Providing food for the city required many hothouses, greenhouses and propagating frames spread over a large area behind Lord Mayors walk almost up to Monk Gate, and Robert Bearpark was a substantial market gardener in the area. After his death in 1827, his son, also called **Robert Bearpark**, sold much of the old market garden lands to speculative house builders who erected the first poor quality dwellings for sale – on Newbiggin Street and Groves Lane, often with very poor sanitation and with no outside access to yards.

Another prominent inhabitant of the Groves in Regency times was **Joseph Buckle** who lived on Monkgate (number 55 now). In the 1807 election he too, like Bearpark, was on the electoral roll for Huntington. He was Proctor and deputy Registrar of the Arch-bishop’s Court in the Minster yard. Churchwarden accounts for the area indicate that Joseph was seated in one of the gallery pews in St. Maurice’s Church – the best seats in the house! (See Churchwardens accounts for St. Maurice).

## A YORKSHIRE CONNECTION TO MY NORTH EAST ROOTS

*Jo Boutflower (member 3448); [jlboutflower@gmail.com](mailto:jlboutflower@gmail.com)*

**M**y paternal grandmother was born **Mildred Branfoot** in Sunderland in 1900, the daughter of a fruit and potato dealer, **George Wright Branfoot**. Mildred sadly died before I was born and I knew little of the history of her family, although I had assumed their origins were in the North East. It was a pleasant surprise to find that my grandmother's roots, in part at least, lay in my own home county of North Yorkshire.

George was the son of **Richard Sturdy Branfoot**, a ship carver and gilder, and Richard's second wife, **Margaret Wright**. Richard and Margaret's marriage does not seem to have been a happy one; they married in 1865 but were living apart by the time of the 1881 census. George was to be found with his mother in Sunderland, and Richard was living with **Benjamin**, his son from his first marriage, in the intriguingly named Curly Crooks Cottage, Boldon, South Shields. There is a photograph of Curly Crooks House at Boldon on the *Sunderland Antiquarian Society* Facebook page, and although I had hopes that the Branfoots might have lived in a cruck framed cottage, it seems the house and cottage names were simply associated with the house owner, Mr **Crooks**.

There can be no doubt that the fracture in the Branfoot marriage was a final one for when Richard died in 1909 he was buried with his first wife, **Kezia**, and their son, **Joseph**. Kezia had died aged 29 in December 1861, 13 days after giving birth to Joseph, who himself had died 2 days later.

Richard's parents were **John** and **Hannah Branfoot**. Hannah was born in 1797 at Easington near Staithes and her maiden name, unsurprisingly, was **Sturdy**. The Branfoots married in 1821 at Lofthouse (now Loftus). John was from much closer to home though. He was born in 1795, with the baptismal entry in the parish register for Kirkby Malzeard, near Ripon, recording him as the illegitimate son of **Elizabeth Branfoot**.

Elizabeth's parents were **John Branfoot** and **Dorothy Walker**. The parish register provides a pleasing amount of detail in the record of their marriage on 24 October 1761. Both were living at Foulgate Nooke, Kirkby Malzeard, and John was a charcoal burner. Foulgate Nook Lane still exists and is a leafy but isolated road north west of Kirkby Malzeard and west of Grewelthorpe. It now sits within North Yorkshire but was formerly part of the West Riding.

In an attempt to find out how John went from Kirkby Malzeard to Lofthouse to the North East, I typed his name into a search engine. I almost immediately found more detail about his life and death than I could have hoped for. John was a primitive Methodist preacher, and the short biography I found reported his untimely death at the age of 36, leaving a widow, **Hannah**, and five children, aged from 8 years to 8 weeks old.

John's obituary, and references to him found in late 19<sup>th</sup> century histories of primitive Methodism, add detail and colour to his earlier life. Although the parish records show the connection to Kirkby Malzeard, John is said to have come from 'Gofa' near Ripon. Whilst initially there appeared to be no such place, a resident of Grewelthorpe told me that the village of Galphay was originally known as 'Gofa' or 'Gawfaw' by its inhabitants.



This is borne out by *The Place-names of the West Riding of Yorkshire* (Smith, 1961), which notes the traditional pronunciation as '[g :f\_] GAW-f\_'. Galphay is around 2 miles south east of the village of Kirkby Malzeard, and was in the ancient parish of the same name.

John underwent his religious awakening aged nineteen, before then having been: '*... somewhat given to intemperance in drinking, and lavishing his time and money in public houses, with company as thoughtless and carnal as himself*'. Following his conversion, John became part of the Hull circuit of primitive Methodists. He preached in Sheffield, Robin Hood's Bay, Lofthouse and Guisborough in 1821, before heading to Newcastle and Gateshead on 1 and 2 August that year. He was the first primitive Methodist to preach in both Newcastle and Sunderland, and travelled all over the North of England as well as returning to Hull in 1822 and Ripon in 1827.

John died on 26 February 1831, having been struck by a wagon on the Hetton Colliery wagon way at Warden Law. He was walking with another preacher, **John Hewson**, when they crossed a stretch of the wagon way where compensating wagons passed each other on a steep incline. As a loaded wagon descended, it powered the ascent of an unloaded wagon. The men stepped out of the way of a loaded wagon not realising that they had walked into the path of an unloaded wagon. John Hewson was killed instantly whilst John Branfoot died later that evening in Sunderland Infirmary.

John remained sensible to the end, although in great pain, and his faith apparently enabled him to accept his imminent death with equanimity, with him reportedly saying of Hewson; "He is gone to glory, and I shall soon be with him." The men's funerals took place on 2 March 1831 at Holy Trinity church in the East End of Sunderland, a few streets away from the primitive Methodist chapel on Flag Lane where the burial record shows they also both lived. Contemporary newspapers reported that the funerals '*excited great interest and sympathy and their remains were followed to the grave by some thousands of persons, comprised dissenters of every grade and connexion*'. Quite an ending for the formerly dissolute grandson of a charcoal burner from the rural West Riding.

---

### – JUDI DENCH – Louis Theroux interviews

Originally aired in November on BBC2, this interview was repeated on BBC4 in the late evening of 11<sup>th</sup> March.

To quote from the *Daily Mail* TV programme of 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022:

*At her Surrey home, the grande dame of British acting opens up to Louis about her long life – she'll 88 in a few weeks – and a career that began in the 1950s and shows no signs of slowing. In fact, she was nominated for three Oscars while in her 70s and earned another nod just last year. She talks about her relationship with her late husband, actor Michael Williams, while Louis later joins Judi on stage at a West End theatre, and learns how she charmed a whole new generation on TikTok with her grandson Sam.*

Meantime, the *Daily Express* of November 3<sup>rd</sup> had advertised the interview:

*Dame Judi Dench fondly remembers her late husband Michael Williams and his sense of humour in an interview with Louis Theroux.*

*The actress discusses Michael's death from lung cancer in 2001 as she looks back on her life and career with the documentarian.*

*Emotional Dame Judi, 87, said of her husband of 30 years: "Michael used to laugh and when he used to laugh he used to cry". She added that she immersed herself in work after his death to "use up energy instead of thinking about it".*

*The stage and screen legend is in the second episode of Louis Theroux Interviews.*

---

Louis Theroux and our Society President Dame Judi walked round the garden of the house where she has lived for 38 years, and sat outside enjoying a drink of champagne which Louis had taken. He appreciated Judi's sense of humour, and said his parents were very impressed that he was interviewing her. Post reaches her home with little direction given other than her name. Her appearance on the BBC's Desert Island Discs programme was mentioned.

Judi attributed her happy marriage to Michael Williams to their shared sense of humour. They were together from 1971 until his death from lung cancer in 2001, at which time Judi had returned from New York to be with him.

Louis and Judi enjoyed a meal together at a nearby celebrity chef's restaurant together with Judi's daughter Vinty and grandson Sam. Now aged 25, Sam had lived with Judi for ten months, being a family who enjoy being together: Judi hates being on her own, deriving her energy from being in company.

The doormat to the house reads "*I've been expecting you Mr. Bond: 007*". Dame Judi played M in the Bond films from 1995, with Piers Brosnan as James Bond. Louis discussed the films she has made, particularly mentioning *Shakespeare in Love*. US film directors thought she did not have the 'classic face' for films and was therefore inappropriate for casting!

Walking round her garden Judi showed trees dedicated as memorials to late actors and actresses, each bearing the name with, of course, a special one for Michael Williams. Also there is a statue of Queen Victoria from the film of that name

Raised as a Quaker, Dame Judi still attends meetings. Since Michael's passing she has been together with a new 'chap', David Mills, who lives not far away. She is not planning retirement but, having macular degeneration as did her mother, finds difficulty with lines despite having a photographic memory.

The pair went to the Gielgud Theatre in London's West End where they met with Dame Judi's friend Giles Brandreth and together put on an ad lib comedy performance which attracted a large crowd. Judi loves a live audience. The label 'national treasure' annoys her as she wants to move forward, especially in Shakespeare (whilst refusing to discuss the show 'Cats').

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

*Carol Mennell*

### Data Protection Law

Under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) any member who does not wish their personal details to be held by the Society should please inform the Membership Secretary. We use this information to record payments and send out the Journals.

Please remember to update your email addresses and changes to telephone numbers with the Membership Secretary (see inner front cover).

### New Members:

3442	Ms Jackie Wood	3450	Mrs. Helen Critchley
3443	Mrs. Sandra Wood	3451	Mrs. Susan Bowles
3444/	Mrs. Nicky Proctor	3452	Mrs Hazel Coates
3445	Dr. Stephen Proctor	3453	Mr. Douglas Nickels
3446	Mrs. Marleen Gholdston	3454	Mrs. Julie Fletcher
3447	Mrs. Judith Roberts	3455/	Ms Kathy Thomas
3448	Ms. Jo Boutflower	3456	Ms Jayne Rudge
3449	Mr. Steven Maude	3457	Ms Frances Richardson
		3458	Mr Mike Coates

### In Memoriam:

- 331 Mrs. Mary Clarke  
Mary lived in Beckfield Lane during WW11, close to the home in Melander Close where she lived during her marriage to Neal. She and Neal had spent time in Northumberland, returning to York for Neal's work, with children David and Jane. Mary was Chairman of Acomb Local History Group, and always supportive of Neal as Vice Chairman of our own Society. For many years she oversaw the Society's exchange journals programme, as well as working with the Borthwick transcription group at the university. Mary died in hospital on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2023 aged 88 years. She was a lovely, caring lady and will be greatly missed.
- 1029 Mrs Iris Pearson. Vice Chairman from 2000 to 2003 and remained a member until quite recently in 2018
- 1431 Patricia (Patsie) Hirstwood (née Thornill)  
Patsie died on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023 aged 96. Loved wife of the late Rob, mother of Robie, Angus and the late Derek. Loved aunt, grandmother and great-grandmother. Her funeral service was held at York Minster on Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> May, followed by Committal at York Crematorium.
- 1175 Don Boldison's wife Diane aged 72 has died (for those who don't know him, he is a long standing member and donated all the heavy Debrett's and Burke's peerage books to the Research Room).  
*Pam Elliott*

## MEMBERS' INTERESTS

*Roy Evans*

Contact with the contributing member may be made via the Members' Interests Secretary (see inner front cover).

Contributing Member 3436 Mrs. J.Porter

Interest	Place	County Code	From	To	Member
Camidge	York	YKS	1800	-	3436
Cooper	Yorkshire	YKS	1800	-	3436
Scargill	Oakworth	WRY	1800	-	3436

---

## FINDING THE TRUS(T)LOVES / TROVESLOVES

*Clare Pilkington (member 3426); clare@ladysteps.co.uk*

**H**aving only recently found York ancestors on my family tree, I am struggling with making sense of it all and wonder if fellow members might be able to help.

I began with the marriage licence of **Robert Arton** and **Sarah Watson** in 1733 who then married at York St. Michael Spurriergate on 5<sup>th</sup> Nov 1733. Sarah was given as aged 21 from York St. Michael Spurriergate, Robert was a farmer also aged 21 from Wilberfoss. I found a baptism for her on 30<sup>th</sup> December 1716, daughter of **William Watson**, at York St. Michael Spurriergate; although she would have been only 17 at marriage, not 21, it is still feasible that this was the correct baptism.

There seemed to be several William Watsons living in York at that time but I decided it was most likely that 'my' William was a waterman/mariner who had several children, alternating between York St. Mary Castlegate and York St. Michael for his children's baptisms and burials. There were also a joiner, a weaver, a labourer and entries with no trade given for the years 1701–1729. William the waterman's wife Sarah died in 1729. Looking for a marriage for William, I found William Waitson married **Sarrah Troveslove**, York St. Michael Spurriergate, on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1716. As we all know, surnames could be given various spellings historically so I investigated what Troveslove might be and found **Trus(t)love**.

**Josiah Truslove** married in 1675 to **Elizabeth Conningsby**, by licence, at York St. Mary Castlegate. He was said to be from Elloughton. They had nine children, six of whom died young, but I was particularly interested in the two Sarahs. The first was baptised 19<sup>th</sup> February 1691/2 and buried 20<sup>th</sup> March 1691/2, and the second was baptised 26<sup>th</sup> November 1692 and buried 27<sup>th</sup> November 1692 (premature?). Neither therefore could be the Sarah who married William Watson. No other Sarah Trusloves could be found although I tried searching the register entries further rather than relying on search engines. Elizabeth died in 1704 and Josiah in 1724/5, Clerk of the Parish, both being buried in York St. Mary Castlegate. Josiah was the only Truslove in York at that time.

I am left with various questions:

Is it reasonable/likely that a waterman and a mariner are the same person? I assume a waterman was a ferryman on the river and a mariner sailed further, even to sea

Who was Sarah Troveslove?

How much movement was there between York parishes at this time? Is it likely that a baby baptised in one parish was buried in another? Were churchyards even then overcrowded?

Hopefully someone with more York knowledge than me can help.

## THE CITY OF YORK & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

### Research Room

The Raylor Centre

James Street

YORK YO10 3DW

Telephone : 01904 412204

Email : [yorkfamilyhistory@btopenworld.com](mailto:yorkfamilyhistory@btopenworld.com)

Website : [www.yorkfamilyhistory.org.uk](http://www.yorkfamilyhistory.org.uk)

### Latest Additions to the Research Room Library

#### Books

Acaster Malbis – History of

East of York – Photographic Memories of Tang Hall, Heworth & Lawrence Street.

Remember, Remember the 6<sup>th</sup> November by Tony Morgan

The Pearl of York by Tony Morgan

These were Earth's Best: Voices of the WW1 by Van Wilson

#### CD's

Easingwold. History & Antiquities

Egton Parish Register 1622-1812

Glaisdale. St. Thomas baptisms.

### 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Research Room

To celebrate the Research Room 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary we held an Open Day on the 25<sup>th</sup> April with cakes and refreshments enjoyed by quite a crowd of members and visitors, singing Happy Birthday!!

The long-held ambition to open a research room to be known as the Study Centre, was realised on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2002 at 25 Bootham, unfortunately up 3 flights of stairs! Well, it was a start even if visitors did need oxygen when they reached us. Over the months, we accumulated quite a library of family history books, microfiche including the 1881 census and were awaiting access to the 1901 Census, also at that time, we were busy indexing the 1851 & 1891 census available to go CD as well as fiche. The York Marriage Index formerly available on fiche was now on CD Rom and Memorial Inscriptions were being recorded. It was a busy and exciting time for the Society.

By 2003 we had to find new premises so moved the Study Centre to somewhere totally different – the basement in an office building in 10 Priory Street. With volunteers all helping in the move (there was a lot of shelving to put up to accommodate all the books etc.) we finally settled in making the Study Centre to be well-known to researchers world-wide who visited from as far afield as America, Australia and New Zealand and still do to this present day. Continuing to grow in popularity as well as the collection of resources, a move to bigger premises was called for and by 2005 we moved to The Raylor Centre where we have enjoyed the past 18 years, only this time with a name change from Study Centre to The Research Room, and to everyone's relief it is not up 3 flights of stairs or down stairs in the basement, so why not come along, the kettle is always on.

*Pam Elliott*

*Research Room Manager & Archivist for*

*The City of York & District Family History Society*

**A FAMILY HISTORY JOURNEY:**  
**Part 2: Researching Family History**  
*Alan Powell (member 2503)*

Part of my research showed that two of my ancestors originated in Norfolk: on my mother's side, my 2xgreat grandfather, **Robert Shearing**, baptised 18<sup>th</sup> June 1812 at Wreningham; and on my father's side, my great grandfather **James Cann**, born 1833 at Forncett St. Mary, Norfolk. Both these villages are near each of other, south of Norwich.

In October 2022, I received a 'phone call from my granddaughter, **Izzy**, who is in her final year at the University of East Anglia (Y.E.A., not to be confused with U.A.E. about which more later), based in Norwich: "*Grandad, I'm on a 'reading week' in November. Would you like to come down and stay with us and we can go to the Archives?*" There is an excellent archive for Norfolk based in Norwich, which I had visited about 10 years ago.

So on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November, after attending the meeting of Acomb Local History Group, I set off, by train, for Norwich.

I was to stay for three nights in a students' 'shared' house, with Izzy, Matt, her boy friend, and another student, Simon.

I was to sleep in the downstairs bedroom, Matt's room (don't ask), which was just as well as the stairs looked awfully steep.

I had visited student accommodation in the past as all my four had gone to Uni, but apart from tennis racquets and trainers in one corner (Matt and Simon are keen tennis players) the downstairs was clean and tidy: 'Well done' to the students.

As mentioned earlier, I had been to the Norfolk Archives previously, but, as so often happens, there were a few Norfolk ancestors that had 'turned up' when I had sorted out my notes later.

There were three 'dead ends' that I had reached, even with on-line research:

1. 'James Cann son of **Ann Cann**' was one of them. No father's name mentioned on the baptismal records.
2. Also on the Cann line, my 3xgreat-grandmother **Elizabeth Hunt** married **Armine Reeve** in 1795 at Wymondham.
3. **Frances Scillett/Skillet**, 4xgreat grandmother, married **Valentine Shearing** in 1772 at Wreningham.

So on the Thursday morning, three students (Izzy, Matt and a friend Ellie) and myself, suitably armed with pencils and note paper, climbed into a taxi at 10 a.m. to go to the Archives. (Ellie is studying Mediaeval English, and had asked if she could join us).

Having had our photos taken and being issued with passes, we four entered the large modernish rooms containing the records, accessible on film. After a brief refresher course for me – a new experience for the others – we were away on our quest

Between us we amassed a quantity of information (some of which I have still to write up). We did, Ellie and Izzy working together, manage to locate one of our (Izzy's and mine) ancestors, Elizabeth Hunt, the daughter of **Henry** and **Frances**, baptised 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1767 at Wymondham, so at last some success.

I was thanked by one of the students for giving her a chance to acquire a 'new lifeskill'.

We were joined later by an archaeologist, Phil, originally from Wales but had been working in Norwich. This was his last night here before moving on. He was obviously an acquaintance of Matt and Izzy, a frequent visitor to the Students Union during his stay in Norwich. With a surname like mine there was speculation about me having Welsh ancestry (I have traced them back to the 1690s and they seem to have settled in the Bramham and Clifford area).

At 9 p.m. it was decided that it was about time to have something to eat!!

A bus back to the 'student house' and Izzy started cooking 'sausage pie', a recipe from 'The Student' Cookbook'.

Another 'first for me, starting to eat my evening meal at eleven o'clock at night.

Who said that family history research is 'all dusty books and computers'?

---

## UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK/IARC

<[info@irisharc.org](mailto:info@irisharc.org)>

### Certificate in History of Family and Genealogical Methods

We are the Irish Ancestry Research Centre and we are a leading provider of services designed to help people understand their past and save it for future generations. With this in mind, we offer a Certificate in History of the Family & Genealogical Methods, which is available by distance learning online and accredited by the University of Limerick.

The Certificate is now open for enrolment for the 2023-24 academic year and more information is available on our website <[www.irisharc.org](http://www.irisharc.org)>. Past experience has indicated that this course has been of interest to those living outside Ireland who have Irish heritage.

We would be grateful if you could circulate information on the Certificate to your members.

---

## INDEXING AT THE BORTHWICK

Presently working on indexing the records of patients in York County Hospital – subject to 100 year closure – this group now meets at the Borthwick Institute around 2 o'clock in the afternoon, on a Thursday, rather than Tuesday as previously shown.

All are welcome to join us.

*Margaret Tadman*

   **HELP WANTED**     
[AND GIVEN]

*Below are two enquiries recently received at our Research Room together with information as already known, below*

**The Wadkin Family, Fossgate, York**

*Helen Critchley (member 3450); <helenjcritchley@yahoo.co.uk>*

I am researching my family tree and wondered if you could offer any assistance in the search for my York ancestors. This is the extent of my research so far, with some help from The Borthwick Institute and York Library Archive:-

My ancestors **John** and **Elizabeth Wadkin** lived in Fossgate (I know they were definitely resident there approx. September 1816 – 1831). John's occupation was carrier/porter. I believe they had at least 3 sons who were all apprenticed to different employers in the City of York. See below:-

- \***Thomas Wadkin** (baptised at St Crux 1816)  
Apprentice to **Frederic Musham**, Cabinet Maker of 6 Blake Street (currently *The Imaginarium* shop) and later 100 Blake Street (from 1838) from 9<sup>th</sup> May 1831 and gaining freedom 30<sup>th</sup> July 1838, Son of John Wadkin, Carrier
- **John Wadkin (Junior)** of Fossgate (Y/COU/3/5)  
Apprentice to **William Dibb**, Planemaker  
Freedom 31st October 1844

I also found this reference in *The Coney Street Heritage Project*:

- **Joseph Wadkin**  
Apprentice to **Barber & North** of York, Jewellers and Watchmakers  
7 years from 5th November 1839.  
Son of John Wadkin, Porter

\*Thomas Wadkin was my G,G,G Grandfather. Thomas Wadkin and **Mary** (née **Wilson**, a farmer's daughter, born in Wothersome) married at St. Olave's on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1851 and the marriage certificate states their abode was just 'Bootham'. He was working as a Keeper at York Asylum at the time of the marriage. They were living in Little Blake Street (now demolished) on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1851 when their daughter **Elizabeth** was born. I don't know why he was working as a keeper at the asylum in 1851, when he served a 7-year apprenticeship and gained his freedom as a Cabinet Maker. The family left York, moving to Gorton, Lancs., then eventually to Wakefield in approximately 1855.

I assume John and Elizabeth Wadkin continued to live in York and perhaps some of their other sons too.

The family's surname has various different spelling variations over the decades from **Wadkin, Wadkins, Watkin** and **Watkins**.

I would love to progress another generation back from John and Elizabeth Wadkin and find out more details about them. Does anyone else in the society have any links with this family? Any help or suggestions would be gratefully received.

---

This was explored by the Society's Research Room helpers, particularly Yvonne who found the following:



What I found was that John, who she knew had married **Elizabeth Bowser** in 1816 at St. Crux, had died in 1847 aged 57. His baptism was in 1790 at St. Crux, son of Thomas and Rachel. **Thomas Wadkin** married **Rachel Dean** at St. Crux in 1788 by Licence. He was aged 22 and of Cawood. Thomas was baptised in Cawood on 12<sup>th</sup> May 1765, son of **Robert Wadkin** and **Ann Benson** who married in Cawood in 1753. Robert **Watkin** (with a 't') married Ann Benson by Licence, he aged 22 and of Aughton.

Helen had her family back to John Wadkin and Elizabeth who lived in Fossgate with three known sons. The sons all served apprenticeships. I found that John died in 1847 aged 57 and was buried on 25<sup>th</sup> April at Skelton. He married Elizabeth Bowser on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1816 at St Crux, York.

The first child, Thomas, was baptised at St. Crux on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1816. He was Helen's 3xgt grandfather.

John, the father, was born on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1790 and baptised 26<sup>th</sup> August at St. Crux, son of **Thomas Wadkin**, pannier man, by **Rachel** his wife. He was the second child of Thomas and Rachel, the first being a girl, **Elizabeth**, in 1789, also baptised at St. Crux. Thomas Wadkin married Rachel Dean on 8<sup>th</sup> March 1788 at St. Crux, by Licence. He was 22 and of Cawood, and she was 26 and of York.

There's a baptism in Cawood on 12<sup>th</sup> May 1765 of Thomas Watkin (with a 't'), son of Robert.

Robert Watkin married Ann Benson by Licence in Cawood on 21<sup>st</sup> January 1753. He was 25 and of Aughton and she was 22 of Cawood. Robert was buried in Cawood on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1803 and Ann in 1821 aged 91.

*Yvonne Clarke*

---

### **John Holdfield of York**

*John Brodie; <brodiejb@shaw.ca>*

**John Holdfield** was born 1806 or 1807; the Army muster which records his death says he was born in "York" (possibly this means "Yorkshire"?). His enlistment attestation is not available but he enlisted at Leeds in the 83<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Foot in 1829 and died at the age of 37 on 10<sup>th</sup> February 1844 when the regiment was stationed in Northamptonshire.

While in the Army, he spent time in Ireland and Canada. He had two daughters, **Anne/Anna** born in England 1831/32 and **Mary** in Dublin 1834.

The name of his wife (if he had one) is unknown but she was most likely Irish. Army records show that before he enlisted in the Army he was a "weaver".

Note: The **John Holdfield** who married **Jane Crabtree** in Otley on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1833 is NOT this person.

A more complete picture of John Holdfield follows.

Thankyou for any help you can provide.

## **Family of Mary Oldfield & Related History of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Foot**

The 83<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Foot was also known as the County of Dublin Regiment of Foot or, more popularly, “Fitches Grenadiers”.

According to the inscription on her Leicester tombstone, our Greatgrandmother **Mary Oldfield** was born in Ireland on 13<sup>th</sup> January 1834, which is consistent with her 1871 and 1881 Leicester census declarations.

### Mary in India

On 27<sup>th</sup> February 1850 at the age of 16, Mary **Holdfield** “minor” married **John Wise**, a Sergeant in the 83<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Foot at Poona, near Bombay. In the marriage record, her father is identified as **John Holdfield** but her mother is not named.

Mary gave birth to a son named **William** on 19<sup>th</sup> March 1851 but he died soon after in Kurrachee on 21 Aug 1851. The baptism register identifies the child as **William Hold Wise** but in the burial register he is **William Holdford Wise**. Then on 11<sup>th</sup> July 1855, John Wise died in Deesa, Bombay. It was the following year that **Mary Oldfield** was remarried, to our Greatgrandfather **William John Brodie**, also in the 83<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Foot.

It is reasonable to assume that Mary, as a girl of 16 present with the regiment in 1850 when she first married John Wise, was a child of a soldier, so we look to Army records and find a Private John Holdfield, service number 672, of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Regiment in 1841. At that time, the regiment was stationed in London, Ontario, but between 1850 and 1862 it was in India.

This is almost certainly Mary’s father, as the 83<sup>rd</sup> is the same regiment as William John Brodie’s in 1856 when he married Mary Oldfield. And – importantly – the history of the 83<sup>rd</sup> regiment and regimental musters confirm that John Holdfield was stationed in Ireland between 1830 and 1834, the period when Mary was born, as noted below.

### Abbreviated History of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Foot

After 11 years in Ceylon, the 83<sup>rd</sup> arrived in England in April 1829, and in May landed in Gosport, England, where it was quartered at the Forton Barracks until August 1829 at which time it sailed for Scotland, landing in Leith and marching to Glasgow.

The regiment was stationed at Glasgow until August 1830 when it sailed to Belfast and thence to Enniskillen where it furnished detachments to Omagh, Lifford, Sligo and Ballyshannon in the north of Ireland. In 1831 the regiment was quartered at Castlebar in Western Ireland providing detachments to Drunmore, Westport, Foxford, Ballinrobe and Tuam. In October 1832 the regiment moved on to Limerick with detachments at Newcastle, Bruff, Galbally, Kilfinnan, Tipperary, and Killaloe.

Cholera made its appearance in 1832 causing the 5 companies and staff to temporarily move out of town to Ballinew. Then in August 1833, the regiment relocated to Dublin where it remained until receiving orders in February 1834 to embark from Cork to Halifax, whence it arrived in May/June 1834.

In June 1837, the 83<sup>rd</sup> left Halifax and embarked for Montreal, Quebec, where it was engaged in dispersing “American brigands” in Gross Isle, St. Eustache, Benoit, St. Thomas and Amherstburg. In late 1837, the regiment proceeded from Montreal to Kingston where it remained until May 1840, thence embarking for London (Ontario) and St. Thomas, Nova Scotia. By July 1842 the regiment was in Toronto, and in 1843, Three Rivers, Quebec.

In June 1843 the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> division of the regiment (in two ships, including a total of 70 women and 130 children) sailed for England where they were quartered in various locations throughout the country, and remained there until their departure in 1845 for Dublin, Ireland. Detachments were furnished to numerous places throughout the country. From Cork, Ireland, in May 1849, the regiment proceeded to Bombay, Kurrachee and Poona and later to other locations within India. Between November 1850 and December 1852, the regiment, which was stationed at Kurachee, lost 5 officers, 6 sergeants, 3 drummers and 135 rank and file members to cholera, fever and dysentery.

In February 1853, the regiment was restationed to Hyderabad and in 1854 to Deesa. While there, the regiment lost through disease a further 5 officers, 6 sergeants, 4 drummers and 142 rank and file. The reference deals in great detail with events during the Mutiny of 1857 and thereafter, not included here.

In 1862, the 83<sup>rd</sup> embarked for England, and many of the non-commissioned officers and men remained behind as volunteers to other regiments (as did William John Brodie who joined the 95<sup>th</sup>). After reaching England, the regiment in 1864 departed Liverpool for Dublin.

### Mary's Early Life and Family

The foregoing, in conjunction with regimental musters, confirm that the 83<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, including John Holdfield, was in Dublin, Ireland, in 1833 and 1834, the latter being the year that Mary was born. We rely on this fact to state with some confidence that Mary's place of birth was Dublin, rather than some other location in Ireland.

It would appear that Mary was an orphan at the age of 16 in 1850 when she married **John Wise** as her father died in 1844 while stationed in Northamptonshire after the regiment had returned to England. John Holdfield apparently was a chronically-unwell man, as the musters show him in and out of hospital frequently throughout his entire 15-year Army career.

Mary's mother has never been identified. It is reasonable to suggest that she was Irish, married, or at least gave birth to Mary in Dublin and died between 1834 and 1844, possibly during the cholera epidemic of 1832 which killed off a large number of officers, enlisted men and their family members.

John Holdfield's "discharge" (death) muster provides the following information:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • Born: York                           | Trade on enlistment: Weaver                           |
| • Date of Enlistment: 3 September 1829 | Died: 10 February 1844                                |
| • Next of Kin: Anne, daughter          | Last known residence of next of kin:<br>With Regiment |

So in 1844, Mary Holdfield's mother was either not alive or not in the picture, because otherwise – presumably – she would have been named as "next of kin". It is also significant that John Holdfield had a daughter named Anne, because it is consistent with autosomal DNA testing genetically linking us to an Anne/Anna Oldfield and her husband **John Townsend Chambers**; the couple was married in 1861 in Elgin Co., Yarmouth Twp, Ontario, but they and their first two children relocated to Michigan in 1865. If Anne Oldfield was born 1831/32 in accordance with the Michigan census of 1870 and 1880, then we have strong evidence that Anne/Anna and Mary Oldfield were sisters, professing birth in England and Ireland respectively.

In the 1880 Michigan census for Anna Chambers (Oldfield), her father's country of birth is stated to be England and her unnamed mother's, Ireland, which fits with the genealogy.

Since the 83<sup>rd</sup> Regiment was not in England in 1831/32, it is noteworthy that John Holdfield was on furlough from Ireland between 1 December 1831 and 14 January 1832, which suggests the likelihood that he returned home to England briefly with his wife and that Anne was born there. Note that the regimental musters confirm he was in both Enniskellen, County Fermanagh, in the north and Castlebar, County Mayo, in the west of Ireland serving with the regiment in 1831. It is likely that in one of those places he found his Irish mate, who the following year gave birth to Anne.

As noted above, in 1861 an Anna Oldfield was married to John Townsend Chambers in Elgin County, Yarmouth Twp, Ontario which is on the north shore of Lake Erie, and only 20 miles from London, Ontario. John Holdfield and the 83<sup>rd</sup> regiment were stationed in London in 1841/42. Possibly, Anna at the age of 10 remained behind as an adoptee rather than relocating with her father, sister Mary, and the regiment to England, Ireland and later to India. As also noted above, we find the death of John Holdfield, age 37 recorded at the barracks of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, and his burial in St. Sepulchre, Northampton, on 12 February 1844 making his year of birth 1806 or 1807.

Mary apparently stayed with the regiment when it left for India in 1849 and it follows that she must have been an orphan under the care of another family within the regiment. We wonder about the circumstances of her presence in India in 1850 when she married John Wise.

In summary, John Holdfield was born 1806 or 1807 in York, enlisted at Leeds in the 83<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Foot in 1829 and died at the age of 37 in 1844 when the regiment was back in England. We surmise from the evidence that he had two daughters, Anne/Anna born in England 1831/32 and Mary in Dublin 1834. DNA confirms our relationship to both.

A church record of John's birth or baptism in Yorkshire has not been traced, although the name Holdfield, and more especially Oldfield, is prominent in parts of that county where many were employed in the weaving industry. Possibly the many bouts of cholera recorded in the regimental history that killed off large numbers of officers, enlisted men and their families finally took its toll on John Holdfield. We speculate that his wife may have suffered the same fate pre-1844.

The possibilities that John Holdfield was not actually married, or that Mary and Anne had different mothers must also be considered. Might Anne have been baptized in a Catholic church in England, considering that her mother, being Irish, was likely of that faith? Perhaps that would explain why we cannot find her birth/baptism in the Episcopalian church records.

Many questions about this family are left unanswered . . . .

---

#### References:

1. WO 12/8701. Also Parish Register Transcripts from the Presidency of Bombay 1709-1748. FindMyPast Archive N-3-24 Folio 49 British India Office Marriages.
2. Burials at Kurrachee . . . , LDS Film #528777.
3. LDS Library Film #462966. Family lore says that John Wise died during the Mutiny, but that cannot be correct as the Mutiny did not commence until 1857.
4. WO 12/8/8701
5. *Memoirs and Services of the Eighty-Third Regiment, County of Dublin, from 1793 to 1907.* Internet Archive.

## MEETING TALKS REPORTED

### February – Tony Morgan True Life Stories of Tudor York

Our speaker has written several books on the Tudor period which lasted from 1485 to 1603. York still has a number of buildings which were there then, including the Minster and Micklegate Bar amongst others, whilst the city centre as shown in maps of the time is recognisable still.

Henry VII, the first Tudor monarch, came to York on three occasions and was given a lavish welcome by the Lord Mayor, **William Todd**, who was knighted for his loyalty to the crown. Rebels, however, burnt down the city's Bars (or gateways). York was in decline after the Wars of the Roses as well as disease and changing industry, as work was moving over the West Riding.

Henry VIII ascended the throne in 1509. Focus was on wars at that time. The city then had 38 Parish Churches as well as the Minster, plus St. Mary's Abbey, St. Leonard's Hospital, and several priories: a huge number of churches! The Church was the richest body in the country. Henry became head of the Church of England after his divorce from Catherine of Aragon and the break from the Catholic church, and in 1536 the dissolution of the religious houses began. This was very unpopular, and **Robert Aske**, a perpetrator, was hanged at Cliffords Tower. The Pilgrimage of Grace, a rebellion against the Reformation and Henry, began in Beverley in 1536 and came through York before these rebels marched south. The dissolution was an economic disaster for York: buildings including many houses were sold and the contents seized by the monarchy. In 1541 Henry, with his seventh wife **Catherine Howard** (Castle Howard being not far from York), brought an army to York. The city's mayor and aldermen apologised for their Catholic-leaning behaviour and gave the king cups filled with gold. Henry stayed here for nine days.

In 1547 Edward VI, a Protestant, became king. This was followed by the plague when half the population of York died, poor harvests and storms leading to further decline.

Mary I took the throne in 1553; York returned to Catholicism and churches were repaired following their earlier damage. Three hundred Protestants were executed during Mary's reign, but none in York. There was high inflation and rising prices at the time, and the Lord Mayor, **William Beckwith**, ordered a reduction in meat prices. Mary died in 1558.

Elizabeth I followed; she being Protestant there were muted celebrations in York as the Catholic church was abolished. The city remained free of disease during this time and as the population recovered the economy strengthened. The Council of the North, Protestant and loyal to Elizabeth, was permanently in York, in Kings Manor. A great flood in 1564 led to deaths and destruction of houses, with no way across the river. Repairs were completed by 1566, **Lady Jane**, widow of **Robert Hill**, leaving £100 towards the work in her will. Catholics rebelled in 1569, in the "Rising of the North". The Lord Mayor and Corporation sided with the Council of the North in expectation of a siege, but the rebel leaders fled north to Scotland. In 1572 the Earl of Northumberland was beheaded in York, his head displayed on Micklegate Bar. York took to Queen Elizabeth, though not her religion, Catholics being arrested and imprisoned for going to church in the 1580s and Catholic priests arrested and executed. Elizabeth herself never came to York.

This was the time of **Margaret Clitherow**, put to death for her beliefs as in Tony's earlier talk which was reported in the June 2022 Journal.

**Guy Fawkes** was born in 1570 and attended St. Peter's School with **John** and **Christopher Wright**, the 'gunpowder plotters'.

Elizabethan York saw increased prosperity, trade and 'immigration' – from the rest of England – and by 1596 there were more nuns in York than churches. Money-lending at high rates was illegal and Archbishop **Sandys** forced forty rich merchants to forfeit their interest. Others were executed, including **Thomas Conrad**, **George Foster** and **Andrew Turner** (for illegal coining).

The Tudor Poor Laws in 1574 saw work and lodging provided for 88 "poor and lame". Strangers from elsewhere were sent back to their home towns, one instance being **Margaret Sheles** who was whipped, burned and expelled for being a '*notorious vagabond, loytered in York*'.

In 1603 the Stuart era began and the plague came back to the city.

### **March – Laura Yeomans The Borthwick Archives and Family History – What's New?**

Having previously worked with the City Archives, Laura, a mediaeval specialist and local historian, is now Access & Digital Engagement Archivist at the Borthwick Institute, which reaches its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, being 10 years older than the University, its present host.

Holding archives dating from the 11<sup>th</sup> Century to the present day, the Institute has a partnership with the Minster Library and is still acquiring collections. The microform room is open seven days a week, the archives themselves open to the public three days a week. The Institute is taking on more staff to cope with the expanding holdings: detailing user numbers, enquiry numbers, orders for copies and digital archives, and attendance at events both on site and on line, and they are working on the collection of wills so that they can be more easily copied. Church records include parish registers and church courts, covering domestic matters, with indexes of York wills. Feedback is welcomed.

The biggest growth in researchers is from South Africa and India, and the Borthwick has recently been putting a lot of work into the archives of the old Centre for South African Studies and 20<sup>th</sup> century papers from the Earl of Halifax and his Yorkshire estate. The Halifax family archives include papers, from colonial days, of two Viceroy's of India and a Foreign Secretary. **Edward Wood**, first Earl of Halifax, was Foreign Secretary in Chamberlain's government of the 1930s, and then became US Ambassador under Churchill in the Second World War. His diaries in particular reveal the political situation of the time, including meeting with Hitler in 1938 to try and stop the potential war, and the aftermath of Pearl Harbour in 1941.

With roots in the Diocesan Record Office, church records held include all the parish registers for the Diocese of York (baptisms, marriages and burials covering the City of York and roughly 20 miles around), and others such as vestry minutes, churchwarden's accounts and Poor Law, as well as Bishop's Transcripts for the Archdiocese of York covering about 800 parishes. There are also Church Court papers from the mediaeval period up to 1858 and administration of probate with around half a million wills. Also held are records of the local Methodist Circuits.

Their indexes to the York wills are available through Find My Past, being indexed only by the name of the deceased (not by any beneficiaries) and currently have to be consulted onsite, or copies can be requested.

Documents from natural and optical sciences include everything from Vickers instruments through to Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and the personal papers of a number of naturalists. Business and management records, including in particular **Rowntrees'** Cocoa Works Magazines, **Terrys** and **Cravens**, ( and **Vickers** Instruments fits this category as well) and are starting to take in more records for other York businesses.

Arts and performance is an area that is growing rapidly in the archives, with a huge number of collections including those of Sir **Alan Ayckbourn**, **David Storey**, **Charles Wood**, **Yvonne Mitchell**, **Julia Pascal**, **Barry Took** and **Ernest Maxin**. They acquired papers left by comedian and actor **Frankie Howerd** who was born in York to a local mother and whose father worked at Rowntrees.

Education records particularly relate to the independent schools in York, such as The Mount, and church and charity schools.

Yorkshire Estate management records include some of the big landed estates such as **Yarburgh** and **Deramore**, as well as the Halifax Estates. There are also those relating to the development of health services, in particular mental health, through the York NHS archives: Bootham Hospital, York County Hospital, The Retreat and Clifton Hospital, amongst others; as well as Holy Trinity Kings Court poor rate books. Other rate books are those of York Waterworks Company, the Northeast Federation of Women's Institutes, Diocese of York clergy ordinations, Women's Land Armies, Wesleyan Chapel forces canteen books.

For family historians, the church records in particular are most useful with baptisms, marriages, burials, court cases and wills up to 1858. Cause papers held for church court cases, all available online and searchable, start in the mediaeval period and are name indexed by plaintiff, defendant and witnesses, covering everything from domestic matters, cruelty and defamation cases, through to the occasional witchcraft case!

New archives and additions to collections have been significantly higher than usual, partly due to the impact of the pandemic as people have been holding on to records for longer and some have used the period to sort out attics and garages. There was also a recent change to the marriage register forms, which meant churches had order new marriage registers, and the closed ones for the York parishes went to the Borthwick.

Amongst the 99 new accessions are the Joseph Rowntree Theatre archive; the Frederick and Mary Sayers archive of Second World War memorabilia; the archive of Hillards Supermarkets; the Ann and John Feldberg Harpsichords archive; York Spiritualist Centre; and Extinction Rebellion York. Projects in hand include archives of: British Orthopaedic Association; Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain; Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust (which includes grant files and records of the administration from the early 20th century); and the Figtree Register, from Figtree Parish on the island of Nevis covering late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19th centuries including baptisms and burials of slaves under Lord Nelson.

With business records, relatives who worked at Rowntrees in particular, may well be found in staff records.

For family historians the biggest thing is the partnership with Ancestry and the launch of their parish register collection for parishes in the Diocese of York, where they also hold the original parish registers. A lot of the content has been available on Find My Past for a while, and will continue to be there, but as they chose to digitise from microfilms there were gaps. Ancestry have created a new index to the content, and the Borthwick can now provide free access to Ancestry onsite, as well as Find My Past, content also to be available through other existing subscriptions, such as Explore Libraries. The record sets launched last summer include:

- Baptisms, Marriages and Burials 1538 to 1812,
- Baptisms 1813-1920, Marriages 1754-1930
- Burials 1813-1995: over 2 million names.

Bishop's Transcripts, covering over 800 parishes across the north, are currently being digitised (which may take until December this year).

If you have medieval clerics in the family, the Northern Way project completed last year saw the Archbishops Registers for 1304-1405 indexed on the website. Copies of York Clergy Ordinations are also there, covering the period 1342 through to 1849:

They are working on cataloguing papers relating to the Women's Land Army with records containing information about hundreds who joined the Land Army in the Second World War.

Also, offered through the University's Centre for Lifelong Learning website is an upcoming half-day Saturday online course entitled 'Beyond the Register' looking at parish and probate records (other than parish registers) and how they can be used, primarily for local history but also for family history. They are happy to answer questions about their resources, or archives which could support family history either by telephone or email.

<https://www.york.ac.uk/borthwick/publications/lists-and-indexes/>.

Appreciation was voiced for the Thursday afternoon volunteers from our Society who are indexing hospital and other records. At the end of last year a further five Clifton case books were offered, saved from a skip in the 1980s and sitting in a former employee's house, and these will be transcribed by our group.

Google will pick up Borthwick entries online.

#### **April – Joe Saunders:**

[<joseph6.saunders@hotmail.com>](mailto:joseph6.saunders@hotmail.com)

#### **Investigating your Ancestors' Communities**

Vice President of the British Society for Local History as well as having a great interest in family history, our speaker is working for a Ph.D in the subject of his talk.

We were told that local history goes back to mediaeval times, through the Reformation and onwards. The 15<sup>th</sup> Century saw the invention of printing, including of local and family history. The 19<sup>th</sup> Century brought publications on the subject, particularly through *The Victoria Histories*. This took off between the two World Wars, and after WWII came evening classes and the setting up of archives. Most recently, of course, there have been TV programmes. Quoted were:

*"Local history is primarily about the origin and growth of community, about how and why and when local communities changed"* (Kate Tiller, 1994).

*"Family history and local history are inextricably intertwined"* (David Hey 1987).



Joe also spoke about Richard Gough, who in 1700 wrote a reflection on his life and the history of his village of Marton; also about the construction of family trusts.

Books now out of copyright may be found on-line via a Google search, there usually being something to be found. Societies and groups have much to offer.

“Ancestral Tourism” can be useful, i.e. visiting scenes of ancestors in villages which may not have changed a great deal over the years, giving context to how ancestors lived, through visiting graveyards, etc. Again, these may be looked up on-line, particularly the National Library of Scotland collection.

Community history, e.g. of the Quakers, is a recognised form of history and how they fitted into a community, and can cover centuries of time, giving an understanding of ways of life and the context of existence.

Socio-economic histories of workplaces and occupations were mentioned by a member in discussion after the talk, and it was noted that the coming of the railways caused an exodus of people from countryside areas.

### **May – Dr. Neil Moran In Sickness and in Health Healthcare in York through the ages**

Dr. Moran’s talk focussed on public health – cleanliness of water, air and sanitation – rather than personal wellbeing.

In 400 B.C. Hippocrates became known as the father of medicine. Greeks were not allowed to cut up the human body so ‘rubbish’ was made up and for 2000 years formed the basis of medical cure around the world. Then came the Romans who ‘pinched’ the Greek gods and gave them new names, enslaved Greek physicians, one of whom wrote a pharmacopoeia of herbal medicines which have been found to be effective today.

#### Roman Times

Sickness was mostly due to injury, when some 10,000 people were living in York. Arthritis was quite common and life expectancy short. Medicus, the healer of the time, used methods still employed today, such as needles, forceps and scalpels. Maternal death rate was very high, the Caesarian section being named after the manner of Caesar’s birth.

There were five Roman baths in York, one still to be seen in the pub of that name, and a network of sewers, it being 1677 before anything like the Roman system was reintroduced. The Romans left York in 410 A.D. and it was the end of 19<sup>th</sup> Century before we caught up with their standards of hygiene.

#### Anglo Scandinavians

Cess pits, containing fleas, worms, etc. were used as toilets during this period, the plague being spread by human fleas. They cremated their dead.

#### Mediaeval period

Fifty diseases are recorded in the Guild Book of Barber-Surgeons in York, including how to avoid and treat bubonic plague which had an 85% death rate. Bladder stones were very common but stopped suddenly at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, probably due to changed methods of feeding babies. Cess pits were used as in the Anglo-Scandinavian period. Only one case of leprosy was uncovered amongst archaeological remains, though it was a much feared disease.

Malnutrition caused a lack of menstrual periods in women, as well as eye socket problems. The infant mortality was very high. Monks and canons were early healers but in 1215 the Pope passed a canon law forbidding any kind of incision of human bodies by priests, which had a drastic effect on healing and led to barbers taking over and becoming known as barber-surgeons, the first such being in York. England's first medical graduates from Oxbridge in 1300 had to be priests, and a strict hierarchy existed in the medical professions.

### Guild of Barber-Surgeons

The Guild had 20-odd members, including St. Anthony's Hall, and produced their book in 1486. Membership entailed a 7-year apprenticeship and inspections upheld standards. Bodies of condemned criminals were dissected, the barber-surgeons often having another trade, particularly as chandlers.

Miraculous healings were said to happen and it was always believed that the king's touch would cure illness. Herbal remedies were available from apothecaries. Blood-letting was a prominent form of treatment which involved consulting Zodiac signs for different parts of the body, taking bowlfuls of blood; the red and white barber's pole of today representing a bloody arm with a white bandage. Amputations were carried out without anaesthetic. Hospitals were originally for overall spiritual health care rather than for cures, there being twenty-three in York with 500 beds. There were also four leper hospitals here, St. Leonard's being the largest the remains of which are close to today's central library. The church was very important in England at the time. Fourteen hospitals were closed by Henry VIII during the dissolution of the monasteries due to their association with the church. Syphilis arrived in 1497 along with sweating sickness from 1485–1551, which killed Henry VII's eldest son leading to Henry VIII becoming king.

### Modern Times: 19<sup>th</sup> Century York

Victims of a cholera epidemic in 1832 had to be buried outside the city to limit the spread of infection, though typhus killed many more people along with tuberculosis, pneumonia and dysentery, the average age at death being less than 20. Far more disease was due to overcrowding and poor sanitation, such as privies being emptied by the night soil man and open sewers emptied into the river from where people got their water: York was the worst place in the country for water-borne disease.

**Dr. Clifton Winteringham** lived in what is now the Judges' Lodging.

In 1745 barbers separated from the surgeons, and in 1832 York Medical Society was established, medical schools opening from 1834–1862. 1846 saw the introduction of ether and in 1847 came chloroform. In 1867 **Joseph Lister** brought in hygienic practices for surgeons and the 1858 Medical Act introduced proper training. In 1890 sewage works were built. A **Seebohm Rowntree** study found a 25% infant mortality rate amongst the poor.

York County Hospital is now converted into flats. Asylums were built to keep the mentally ill out of prison; the Retreat, built in 1796 by the Quakers, closed in 2018.

In 1788 a Dispensary for the Poor opened, treating 9,000 patients a year: the establishment of the National Health Service in 1948 meant these places were no longer necessary. City Hospital was open from 1930–1977, there being 11 hospitals in York by the 1970s.

---

*Members now have access to recorded talks via the Society website*

# City of York & District

FAMILY- HISTORY- SOCIETY

## PROGRAMME Summer 2023

Meetings take place on the first Wednesday of the month at

**New Earswick Quaker Friends Meeting House**

**White Rose Avenue, New Earswick, York YO32 4AD**

**- doors open at 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. start until 9.30 p.m. -**

Prospective new members and visitors are welcome.

Advice and help from other members.

Bookstall. Library. Disabled access. Free car park.

\* \* \* \* \*

<b>July 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>The Ancient Walls of York and how they were saved</b>	<b>Jonathan French</b>
<b>August 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>The Origins of York: The Ouse and Foss crossings in early history</b>	<b>Louise Wheatley</b>
<b>September 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Olaf the Viking: fun night on the three battles of 1066</b>	<b>Chris Cade</b>
<b>October 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>The Darker Side of York</b>	<b>Tee Bylo</b>

\* \* \* \* \*

<b>Subscriptions</b>	Annual membership (home) . . . . .	£ 15.00
	Annual joint membership (two) . . . . .	£ 20.00
	(one copy of Journal only)	
	Annual membership (overseas) . . . . .	£ 15.00

A renewal form is sent. Payment, preferably by standing order,  
otherwise by cheque, should be made to the Membership Secretary.

<b>Monthly Meetings</b>	Members . . . . .	£ 2.00
	Non-members . . . . .	£ 4.00

\* \* \* \* \*

The work done by members over the years for the Society has made it what it is today, a thriving and energetic Society. We are extremely grateful for all their hard work and dedication, and hope that members will continue to support the Society in the future. It should, however, be noted that all work carried out on Society Projects by members is the property of the City of York & District Family History Society. The Society owns the copyright so that we are able to use, publish and display that material in any way that the Society feels appropriate.

# *City of York & District*

—FAMILY - HISTORY - SOCIETY—

**Family History Research Room  
The Raylor Centre, James Street  
Lawrence Street  
York  
YO10 3DW**

## **Research Room**

All Society resources available for use, including  
6 computers with Internet access, 2 microfiche readers,  
1 printer

Open  
Tuesday and Thursday 10 a.m - 4 p.m  
(except the month of January)  
Booking essential

Telephone: 01904 412204

Email: [yorkfamilyhistory@bopenworld.com](mailto:yorkfamilyhistory@bopenworld.com)

Catalogue of resources including  
Parish Registers, Census and Society publications and  
our extensive Library can be viewed on-line at website:

[www.yorkfamilyhistory.org.uk](http://www.yorkfamilyhistory.org.uk)

under the drop down link "Services" and click on "Research Room

Refreshments. Free car parking. Wheelchair user-friendly.

Printed by Inc Dot Design & Print  
Inc Dot House, Seafire Close, Clifton Moor, York YO30 4UU  
Telephone: (01904) 477944

IF UNDELIVERED PLEASE RETURN TO  
York FHS, The Raylor Centre, James Street, York YO10 3DW