



Huddersfield & District Family History Society



Volume 37, Number 3

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Huddersfield & District Family History Society

The Society was formed in 1987 and its aims are to promote and encourage mutual help between people interested in family history and genealogy. It caters particularly for those with interests in the Kirklees Council area which comprises the towns and districts of Batley, Colne Valley, Denby Dale, Dewsbury, Huddersfield, Holme Valley, Kirkburton, Meltham and the Spen Valley. It covers an area of nearly 160 square miles and within its boundaries are the ancient parishes of Almondbury, Batley, Birstall, Dewsbury, Huddersfield, Emley, Hartshead, Kirkburton, Kirkheaton, Mirfield and Thornhill.

Membership of the Society is an annual payment which for new members now runs from the date the subscription is taken out. Subscription rates, per year, are as follows:

Student Membership (age 16-25 in full-time education)	£6.00
Electronic Membership (including overseas)	£12.00
Standard Membership (up to two people at the same address)	£15.00
Overseas Membership (posted journal)	£25.00

Subscriptions can be paid through our website by PayPal or credit/debit card, this is the preferred method. They may also be paid at the Root Cellar by cash, card or cheque, or by Bank Transfer (please email secretary@hdfhs.org.uk for our bank details). Cheques may also be sent by post. Existing members should quote their membership number. If you are a UK taxpayer you may wish to consider paying your subscription by Gift Aid, this will increase the value of your payment to the Society at no extra cost to yourself.

Meetings are held at regular intervals throughout the year, usually online by Zoom, starting at various times and on different days. Please refer to the programme in this journal, and our website for up to date details on how to join our meetings online. Members will receive an email invitation a few weeks before a meeting online, and then, **if they sign up**, they will receive a further email with the link to the Zoom meeting a few days before the event.

Publications: Our journal is published and distributed to members four times a year in January, April, July and October. The Society's **Project Group** has produced complete indexes of both the 1841 and 1851 censuses for the whole of our area (more than 200,000 names and 1/90th of the population of England and Wales for 1851). These are available in booklet form. The group is currently transcribing Memorial Inscriptions and continuing to index parish registers (baptisms, marriages and burials) for most Churches. This information is available in printed form with many as downloadable files, as is information from our ever growing databases. Most of these works are listed on and can be purchased through the Society website (www.hdfhs.org.uk), or a full publications list can be obtained from the Secretary.

Sales of Goods Act: UK postal customers may change their mind within seven days of receipt of the goods, returning them at their own cost. There will be a charge of 50p per booklet plus 50p per order to cover our costs.

Data Protection: Our Privacy Policy is available on our website. As a 'not for profit' organisation, we are not required to 'notify' the Data Protection authorities in the UK regarding the holding of personal data. However, you should know that we hold securely the personal data that you give to us and that will be provided to the printer of your journal if you receive your journal by post. If you do not wish to make any of your details available without your further authority, please contact the Secretary.



Quaker Meeting House, Wooldale, Holmfirth

Photo by Richard Hutson

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Please note that queries regarding non-arrival of Journals should be sent by email to membership@hdfhs.org.uk, or by post to the Root Cellar at Meltham.

Journal Submissions: Please send items for publication to the Editor by email or post, and include your **membership number, name and postal address**. Items sent by post can only be returned or acknowledged if a **SAE** is included. Please state if an article has been printed in or submitted to another publication. **Items should be clearly hand-written, typed in Microsoft Word with a file name ending in .doc or .docx.** Please do not send any attachments in Word formats which are pre-1997. The Editor welcomes letters and articles on any aspect of family or local history. Items with relevance to the Kirklees area are of particular interest; as are cuttings, hints and tips. Editing of articles may be necessary, depending on available space. Please confirm how much personal information you would like us to include e.g. address and/or email details.

Deadline for inclusion in the next Journal: 20 May 2024

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Editorial

Thankfully spring is here at last and hopefully we can say goodbye to the appalling wind and rain we have suffered here in the UK over the winter.

You will notice that we have a new 'look' to the journal with new branding and a change of colour. The logo printed to the right here is part of that branding, although there are several versions. It will be a gradual process to modernise and update everything – we hope you like it.



I have also decided to update the font I use for the text within the journal to *Aptos* which was released by Microsoft in 2023.

As I write I am personally looking forward to accompanying my sister to Windsor Castle as one of her three guests to receive her MBE for services to libraries. Surely I can find a family history article to write about that! I am sure it will be a special day for us all.

We will not be holding our Fair at Cathedral House this year, the cost of the hire has become prohibitive, but we have been able to secure a lovely new venue, just a short walk out of the Town Centre – Greenhead Masonic Hall. It has the full range of facilities we need and with an impressively large exhibition hall. We are sure you will enjoy this new historical venue. Take a look at Page 5 for more information.

We are very pleased with the progress made by our volunteers in the MI transcription team who go out in all weathers transcribing and photographing gravestones for the benefit of those researching their family history. Many more of our various records are continually being submitted to FindmyPast so do keep renewing your searches for your Huddersfield & District ancestors – you never know when something might appear that breaks down that brick wall – there is more information about our transcriptions on Page 12.

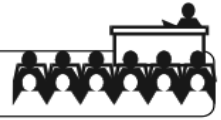
We have a new event planned for one of the Heritage Open Weekends in September so if you can come along do put the dates in your diary – details are given on the following page.

As ever, do try to join us at our Zoom talks; as Margaret reports on Page 27, we had a very interesting one in February about the history of Huddersfield Fire Brigade. It was something I knew little about and so I was riveted throughout.

Finally, can I urge you to consider writing an article for the journal, I am sure there are so many stories out there just waiting to be written. My maternal great grandfather moved from Herefordshire to Manchester to work on the railways, perhaps one of yours did something similar and this is why your family settled in the North of England? That is just one idea, over to you. You never know you might also win the Roger Gill prize for the best article in the January, April or July journals. There is still plenty of time to put pen to paper for July!

Susan Hutson
Editor

Speaker and Event Programme 2024



Tuesday 14 May 2024 – Searching for Irish Ancestors, with Linda Hammond – 7.30 pm by Zoom (open to non-members £5.00)

Tuesday 10 September 2024 – The Mourning Brooch (Part 2), with Jean Renwick – 7.30 pm by Zoom (open to non-members £5.00)

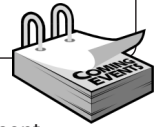
Saturday and Sunday 14 & 15 September 2024 – Heritage Open Weekend at St David's Church, Holmbridge – more details in the July journal – an 'in person' event

Saturday 26 October 2024 – Our Family & Local History Fair at Greenhead Masonic Hall, Greenhead Road, Huddersfield – 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Members will receive an email a few weeks before an online meeting with a request to register their interest. The Zoom invitation will be sent out a few days before the talk. Non-members should look for details nearer the time on our website.

We expect to plan other meetings throughout the year which will be for Members only.

Other Forthcoming Events



Thursday 18 April 2024 – 7.30 pm – Holme Valley Civic Society present 'Rushbearing' with Gary Stringfellow – an illustrated talk on the ancient history of Rushbearing. Holmfirth Civic Hall, pay on the door £4.00, free to members

Monday 29 April 2024 – Batley History Group present Early Freemasonry in Batley with Alan Farrar, Batley Town Hall, 7.00 for 7.30 pm - £2 Members, £4 Others

Monday 29 April 2024 – 7.30 pm - Huddersfield Local History Society present a Luddite Lecture: Drawing on History with Paul 'Polyp' Fitzgerald and Robert Poole at University of Huddersfield, Oastler Building (OA4/01) – Free for members, £2 non-members

Thursday 16 May 2024 – 7.30 pm - Holme Valley Civic Society present 'The Denby Dale Pie' with Christine Leveridge, Holmfirth Civic Hall, pay on the door £4.00, free to members

Monday 20 May 2024 – 7.30 pm - Huddersfield Local History Society present 'Florence Lockwood (1861-1937) – the extraordinary life of a Colne Valley suffragist with Janette Martin and Rebecca Gill at University of Huddersfield, Oastler Building (OA4/01) – Free for members, £2 non-members

Monday 20 May 2024 – Batley History Group present 'Crowning Glory' with Jackie Depelle, Batley Town Hall, 7.00 for 7.30 pm - £2 Members, £4 Others

Please also take a look at the Discover Huddersfield Walks programme for 2024 – www.bit.ly/DiscoverHuddersfield

For more details of family history fairs and events see: www.geneva.weald.org.uk



Family and Local History Fair 2024

A new venue for our popular event

Greenhead Masonic Hall, Greenhead Road, Huddersfield

We are delighted to announce that we can now give you the date of our Fair this year – **Saturday 26 October**. We have an interesting new venue at the Masonic Hall, Greenhead Road, Huddersfield, HD1 4EN - <https://www.greenheadfreemasonshall.co.uk/> There is a fully accessible entrance to the rear.

As usual we will have an extensive range of exhibitors, local and family history themed talks, refreshment facilities, our own researchers to help break down your brick walls, and much more.



The Main Exhibition Room

The venue is just ten minutes' walk from the railway station and less from the bus station. There is a car park, and adjacent on street parking.

The building has a rich history and the room where the lectures will be held is fascinating in itself.

There is a large 'ballroom' where the main exhibition will take place, and a comfortable bar area where lunch and tea and coffee can be taken.

We are pleased that we have been able to secure an events venue with all the facilities we have become used to.

Please put the date in your diary and there will be more information in the next Journal.

Ancestral Tourism – Australian Style

Introduction

In November 2023, I made a 'short' three-hour flight from my home in Auckland, New Zealand to Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

We had booked an apartment in the Melbourne suburb of Fitzroy.

In my previous article about the Wood family from Denby Dale (Journal Vol 37, No. 2), I identified the suburb of Fitzroy as an important 'location of interest'. Fitzroy is adjacent to Collingwood, and these were two of the early suburbs of Melbourne. They played a vital role in the early history of Melbourne – and in the lives of various members of the Wood family.

We decided to stay in Fitzroy so that we would be 'walking in the footsteps' of my ancestors.

In this article, I want to share some of the experiences I had in Melbourne and Victoria and how being 'on the ground' really helped me to understand more about the lives which the family members lived.

David and Ellen Wood

David and Ellen arrived in Melbourne on 25 July 1853 with their first child, Frederick (aged 1), after a voyage of 86 days from Liverpool. Also on the voyage was David's younger brother, William, with his wife and two young children.

What sort of place did they come to? And what sort of life did they have?

I used my visit to Melbourne to find some answers to these questions.

The first record I have found links them to the hotel industry. In 1859, David was the licensee for the Royal Sovereign Hotel in Fitzroy. It appears that he did not own the hotel, managing it for the owner. But importantly, he held the licence in his own name.

He remained at the Royal Sovereign Hotel until 1873 when he purchased the land and buildings comprising the Shepherd's Arms Hotel. This was one block (about 100m) away from the Royal Sovereign; it seems to have been a good move. David remained as the licensee of the Shepherd's Arms until his death in 1886. After his death, the licence was transferred to Ellen, although it seems from the licensing records that Ellen did not remain as the licensee for very long.

In 1886, Ellen was 51 years old and was the mother of 10 children, the oldest being 34 and youngest only 12. Two of the children had died in childhood, so there were eight surviving members of her family.

After nearly thirty years in the hotel industry – which was home to the family, as well as the family business, it is not surprising that Ellen sought a change.

By this time, the Woods owned other property in Collingwood, and it enabled Ellen to retire, and spend more time with her family.

Based on the information from David's will, she was able to support herself – clearly the hotel business had been good for the Wood family.

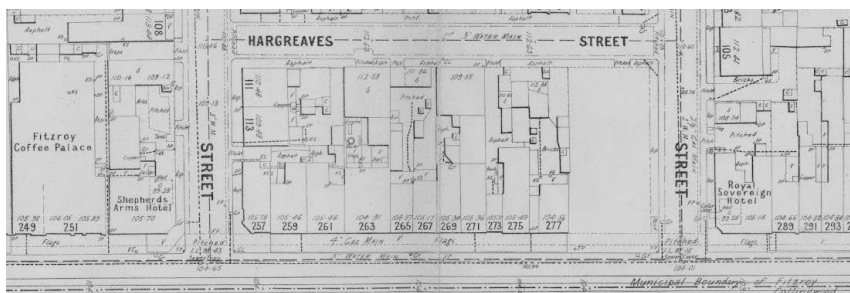
So, what did I find when I visited Fitzroy and Collingwood?

Neither of the hotels are still in existence. Both were closed in the early 1900s and the buildings demolished. The streets still exist, so the sites of the buildings are easy to identify.

The Shepherd's Arms was closed as a hotel in 1915 by the Licensing Reduction Board. This was a three-man committee established by the Licensing Act in 1910.

Compensation of £450 (£58,000 in today's money) was paid to the licensee at the time. This was funded by contributions from the liquor trade.

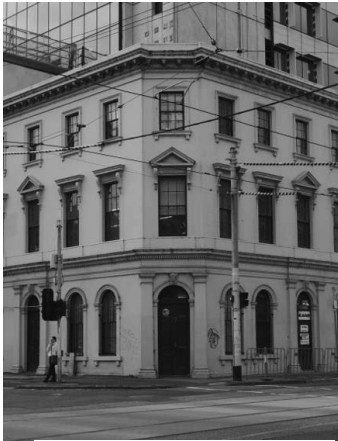
For many years, there was a rising feeling that Melbourne had too many hotels. In 1861, Fitzroy had one hotel for every 240 people. By 1891, this had become 420 people, but there was still a strong view that hotel licences should fill the needs of the community rather than merely line the pockets of the licensees! There was also an increase in the Temperance movement which saw the rise in such establishments as coffee shops. Indeed, in a 1900 plan of the area, the neighbouring business to the Shepherd's Arms Hotel is the Fitzroy Coffee Palace.



Today, there is still much evidence of the old hotel sites which were most often strategically located on street corners. Some of the hotels have survived as hotels. For others, the buildings have survived, but they are no longer hotels. Some have converted to other businesses; some are derelict.



The New Bendigo Hotel in Fitzroy c1890



The former New Bendigo Hotel today

The New Bendigo Hotel occupied a prominent corner site in Fitzroy. This style of corner pub is very distinctive. Compare the photos from the 1890s and 2023.

This hotel was run for many years by Joseph Brownhill, who was a nephew of the Woods, the son of the second daughter, Elizabeth Wood. She had married into the Brownhill family in England, Joseph travelled to Melbourne in 1858 with Eli Wood and his wife, Ellen. Joseph Brownhill kept a diary of his voyage which can be found on Ancestry.

Originally Fitzroy (and Collingwood) were home to a lot of the factories and industrial sites which contributed to the rapid growth of Melbourne as a city. And close by the factories was the workers' housing – narrow streets and small terraced houses and cottages.

Many of the old streets and buildings remain, but today the area has become gentrified.

In 2024, Fitzroy is a lively inner-city suburb. It is very funky – and very cosmopolitan. It is a cultural hub and noted for its live music scene and its street art. Personally, I found the street art to detract from the appearance of the area – when is street art graffiti?

John and Elizabeth Wood

John Wood was the ninth Wood child and the younger brother of David. He travelled to Melbourne with his wife, Elizabeth, in 1848.

The first record I have of John Wood is again in the hotel industry in 1853. He is noted as the first licensee of the Yorkshire Hotel, located in Collingwood. This was actually very close to where David and Ellen settled in 1853 – and may have been influential for them in deciding where to start their Melbourne life.

John was clearly a proud Yorkshireman! After establishing the Yorkshire Hotel, he opened a wine and spirit store in 1856, and then founded the Yorkshire Brewery in 1861. This business was a great success, which led to him expanding the premises in 1877.



His son, James, who by then was a noted architect, designed a spectacular tower which was described at the time as 'the most prominent feature of the Collingwood streetscape, and a conspicuous object for many miles around'. The tower was the tallest building on the Melbourne skyline for over ten years.

The tower is still standing today and has heritage significance. The complex has now been converted into luxury apartments. We visited the site and saw ample evidence of the old brewery – via buildings and clever signage.



***Hilton Wood, Riversdale Road, Hawthorn, Melbourne –
An engraving by Albert Charles Cooke, c1887***

By the time the brewery had been expanded, John and Elizabeth had moved from Collingwood to a new home in the more upmarket suburb of Hawthorn.

This home was named ‘Hilton Wood’ – Elizabeth’s maiden name was Hilton. The house remained in the family for many years. It is not standing today. John Wood died tragically in 1878 at the age of 53 while on a return trip to Yorkshire. Elizabeth died in 1894 and is buried in Melbourne General Cemetery.

Other members of the Wood family

So, we have solid evidence that two of the Woods made good in Melbourne. What happened to other family members? Three of the Wood children - William, Eliza and Eli - chose to settle in Bendigo, about 150km north west of Melbourne.

In late 1851, gold was discovered in Bendigo Creek. Within a year, a small stream on a sheep station in the country had been transformed into a scene which “beggared description”. By the end of 1852, tens of thousands of people were crammed into tents and temporary shelters as the hunt for gold gained pace.

Initially called Sandhurst, a survey of the area was commissioned by the governor, and a town was laid out. Gradually over time, the settlement became more permanent and more substantial. Today, Bendigo is the third largest city in Victoria.

Imagine arriving in Bendigo in the mid -1850s. Life might have been tough in Yorkshire, but at least there were no poisonous snakes and spiders! Clearly William, Eliza and Eli (and their families) saw Bendigo as a place of considerable opportunity. From the information I have gathered, it appears that none of the family were involved directly in mining. Yet Bendigo boomed in the late 1850s and 1860s as more and more gold was found.

It does appear that the canny Yorkshire folk saw more opportunity in ‘mining the miners’ and so set up various businesses including a hotel (the Yorkshire Hotel) and a store (the Yorkshire Store).

William arrived first with his family, the youngest of the ten Wood children and he had travelled to Australia with his older brother David – who is mentioned earlier. I first find information about William in a newspaper item on 25 December 1855 (Bendigo Advertiser). It notes that his application for a hotel licence for the Yorkshire Hotel was refused because ‘the house was not completed!’ He was given leave to put in a fresh application. Clearly he did just that. In the Bendigo Rate books in 1856, the property (‘Public House and Appurtenances’) has a rateable value of £275 (£35,000 in today’s money). William died in 1865 at the age of 36. We know that the licence for the Yorkshire Hotel was taken over by a new licensee on William’s death.

Eliza arrived in Melbourne in 1857. She was the fourth of the Wood children – and the oldest child who made the journey. She went to Australia relatively late in her life. She was 45 when she made the voyage on the Almora.

The passenger lists show them as heading for Collingwood in Melbourne, where other family members had already settled. Eliza had married Jonathan Goddard in Yorkshire in 1830 at All Hallows Church in Kirkburton. They had at least eight children, all born in Yorkshire. The shipping record shows that they travelled with eight children, ranging in ages from 6 to 26. Of these, it was their oldest son, Job, who is of particular interest to this story.

In the 1851 UK census, Jonathan Goddard is noted as a rail labourer. It must have been a tough job – this was about the time when railways were being built all over the United Kingdom. Maybe he worked on the line from Huddersfield to Sheffield. Clearly, he wanted a change of life. On arriving in Australia and settling in Bendigo, he became a storekeeper, setting up the Yorkshire Store in High Street, Bendigo – in the delightfully named locality of Kangaroo Flat.

Their eldest son, Job, must have been involved in the business from a relatively early stage – by 1866, advertisements were appearing in the Bendigo Advertiser in his name.

Eliza died in 1867, the same year that Job married Ann Gibson (from Durham).

Jonathan Goddard lived for many years with Job and his family. There is a lovely obituary in the Bendigo Advertiser (3 July 1888) which refers to Jonathan as a “very amiable and kind-hearted old man, greatly attached to his family”. It goes on – “He was of a past generation, now unfortunately rapidly becoming fewer, and will be long and kindly remembered for his many sterling qualities, both as a husband, a father and a friend.”

He outlived his son, Job. I do not have any information about what happened to the store after Job’s death.

One other perspective to note. I was able to obtain information about who owned gold mining shares in Bendigo in the early 1870s. Job Goddard features prominently in this register. It shows 38 different shareholdings that he held in various mines. Many of these would have been worthless – but there must have been some that yielded a profit to him. We can speculate that he obtained these shares from some of his mining customers who were not able to pay him cash. I have no proof of this but it is not an unreasonable hypothesis.

A note on sources

We allocated about ten days for the visit, inspecting records and meeting people who could help us. Of course, there is never enough time – and you find out when you get home, what you forgot to ask! We had fabulous help from genealogists (Melbourne and Bendigo), librarians (Melbourne and Fitzroy) and other people whom we approached. The information in this article comes from a wide variety of sources, both accessed during our trip and available online. The Australian on-line newspaper archive, Trove, is brilliant – and it’s free! One final thought – if you plan to do any ancestral tourism don’t think you can do it in a day. It needs careful planning – and enough time to get the feel of the places you are interested in. I am planning to visit Yorkshire later this year, so I will have to make sure that I practice what I preach!

Tony Walker (W435)

New Zealand

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Memorial Inscriptions for Cleckheaton and Liversedge

As part of the ongoing programme to digitise memorial inscriptions for our area, inscriptions for Liversedge Christ Church, Cleckheaton St John and Cleckheaton Whitcliffe Road (East and West sides), have recently been added to our database.

Liversedge Christ Church lists 718 entries. There are no images for these.

There are 198 entries for Cleckheaton St John from 78 headstones. The remaining headstones were removed in 1967, and according to information supplied by our transcriber, their whereabouts is unknown. Unfortunately, the Society does not hold images of the remaining headstones, making the memorial inscriptions of these stones even more valuable.

There are 3472 entries for Whitcliffe Road burial grounds with images.

Attempts are being made to try to locate graveyard plans for these churches. If anyone has any information that could help us, we would be very grateful.

Graves can be very difficult to photograph and our team take a lot of time and effort to choose the time of year, light levels and direction of the sun to enhance the image.

Our transcribers come from all over the world, so can't just pop down the road to check an inscription. It is very much a team effort. Transcribers get very involved with the task and often go on to research the background of the person who has been commemorated. There have been several articles published in previous journals from such a project.

Transcribers are also able to observe traits in graveyards as they record the information. Families who share adjacent plots, those who list members of their family who died in war and their whereabouts, the high rate of infant mortality in the nineteenth century are some of the traits they have discovered.

The image below is a good example of the harsh reality of the lives of our ancestors.



Memorial inscriptions (and images where available) can be viewed at the Root Cellar and will be available on Findmypast and on the members' area of the website in the near future.

If you are unable to get to the Root Cellar to view the inscriptions, please contact the Research Coordinator who will be able to help you. If you would like to join the MI team please get in touch with the MI Coordinator. You do not have to live in the Kirklees area, as quite a lot of the work can be done remotely.

Memorial Inscriptions are available to search online at the Root Cellar, and by request to the Research Co-ordinator via the website, for the following graveyards and cemeteries. There are no hard copies of these Memorial Inscriptions.

Armitage Bridge St Paul

Edgerton Cemetery Huddersfield

Farnley Tyas St Lucius

Helme Christ Church

Holmbridge St David

Huddersfield Holy Trinity

Linthwaite Methodist

Lockwood Cemetery

Longwood St Mark

Marsden St Bartholomew and Calmlands (additional cemetery in Meltham)

Meltham Mean Lane Baptist

Meltham Methodist and Calmlands

Meltham Mills St James

New Mill Christ Church

Shepley Methodist

Shepley St Paul

South Crosland Holy Trinity

Wilshaw St Mary

The following Memorial Inscriptions are also available in hard copy in the shop on the website.

Hepworth Holy Trinity

Huddersfield St Peter

Jackson Bridge Wesleyan

Milnsbridge St Luke

Salendine Nook Baptist

Thurstonland St Thomas

If you are not sure where these churches are located there is a map of the area covered by the Society on our website. Edgerton is the largest municipal cemetery.

Maureen Wheeler
Chair

Sheila – Through the Voice of her Brother’s Memory

Family history starts at home. An overlooked source of information is oral remembrance and it was through eavesdropping on conversation and banter between my Mother and Uncle that I realised the extent of information being discussed. Coming from New Zealand my perspective and knowledge of my mother’s Northern English upbringing is shrouded in distinctive words and phrases and of childhood activities capturing clues to the social mores of the 1950s that evoke a landscape distinctively born through life in a village dominated by the woollen mills.

That village was Marsden, near Huddersfield. These memories provide a distinctive location, a sense of place, activities and personalities and created a connection to my mother’s past. What follows is a glimpse of the past from Marsden through a series of anecdotes from the perspective of my Uncle, Frank Breen.

“I shall attempt to avoid the obvious clichés in describing our relationship, that of brother and sister. Frank, that’s me, and Sheila my sister. I recognise it’s never pleasant to display a relative in a negative light, like I am going to now, but Sheila was always breaking into the solid and consuming happiness of my boyhood gang, dogging my heels and desperate to be a part. A gang of which it was said police, cowboys, Indians and all adults fled in fear.



Isabella, Frank, Sheila and Frank (Jnr) Breen

Let me tell you about Sheila, from almost every angle, from whichever way you look at it, like all Breens, Sheila was strikingly handsome and elegant. I use the word handsome because it’s a more important attribute than beautiful, well that’s my view, to say, it’s that of a man. I am two years, eleven months and sixteen days older. I don’t see why Sheila has the curly dark brown hair, as the male I feel curly hair would look better on me, it should be my gene, but at least I have the olive skin and black eyes, Sheila is pale skinned and blue eyed. We operate as a team mostly, and particularly, when it comes to school dinner; a double helping of meat and no vegetables for me and a plateful of vegetables for Sheila. We have it worked out; Sheila would casual like, wander around the classroom with her plate, on the second or third circuit the vegetables from my plate would have been replaced by some meat. Sheila has never eaten meat, “it’s dead and bleeding” she’d say.

“Cast ne’r a clout ‘till May is out”, our mother Isa would quote, autumn, winter and spring (that is from September until June); Sheila would be seamed up in her underwear. I have rarely seen Sheila without her thick fleecy lined white flannel liberty bodice, vest and navy blue bloomers with a small pocket fashionably placed on the right leg. That’s the thing about fashion; it’s not very practical because I don’t ever recall Sheila using the pocket. I mean, not even for the wild blackberries we would pick with our Dad

Frank on the way home from our Sunday stroll. Instead, Dad's white handkerchief would be used.

It was easy to assemble the gang, we'd run along the terrace of houses knocking on various doors and shout through the letterbox, "can Danny come out to play", "can Clive come out to play", "can Robert come out to play". Our usual activities involved speed: sledging, carting, or running from Sheila. With reliable regularity, and competitive spirit, the race for the penultimate position in the School House end of year sports day was between Sheila and Sylvia. With this in mind, we knew that speed was the answer that was the only way the gang could escape from my little sister.

Sheila was sharp; she knew how to gather the gang around her. With the offer of the wheels from her doll's pram, our vegetable box was transformed into a cart. We'd climb the hill between the mill and the tenter grounds, it was a super run. From summer through winter, carting or sledging, watch out adults, they would have to leap out of the way as we zipped past, either that or fall over and slide in an untidy heap. We earned many a bob taking on fares during the winter. I of course stayed at the helm steering the cart, this I learnt was judicious, Sheila at the helm usually consigned the intrepid fare at the bottom of the hill in an untidy mess. Not that the passengers were fussy but understandably, there was prejudice among the drivers. Sheila had no skill in driving, any distance of twenty yards and she'd run into a snow bank, the lamp post, or woollen cloth hanging drying and stretching in the tenter grounds. With Sheila at the helm, all the adults would gather round ready with the first aid box and arms outstretched for hugs of condolence.



Frank and Sheila at the seaside

Sheila loved to dance; she had lessons in tap, ballet and acrobatic dancing. The highlight of the year for Sheila was visiting the dressmaker for costume fittings in preparation for the dance shows held at the Parochial Hall. But I really think that it was the first night tradition of receiving gifts that Sheila enjoyed; curtsying to the audience and thanking them for the bouquets of flowers, boxes of chocolates and sweets, for the lace ankle socks and handkerchiefs, the books and games. Sheila's pile would naturally represent gifts from the gang. Though it was hard to contain some of the gang from letting Sheila know of our gifts, particularly when Robert and Danny would, with unabated excitement, yell across the theatre, "we've got Sheila a present, we've got Sheila a present, Sheila we've got you a present."

Weekends were Sheila and my favourite days. On Saturday afternoons the gang and Sheila would go to the afternoon matinee at 3d, it would have to be a cowboy film. On our way home we were the cowboys! We'd gallop and canter up the street slap our rear ends, crack the whip and pull in the reins, whilst identifying who we were, "I'm Roy Rogers", "I'm Gene Autry", "I'm John Wayne." It did take Sheila some convincing that she was not playing some soppy girl: Gene Autry really was a cowboy. "Whoa there boy, watch out for the posse ahead."

The movies had some great scenes like the bank robbers blowing up the safe with sticks of dynamite. Sheila and I couldn't decide whether this was a proper method for the blowing up of a safe. There was only one way to find out. When we got home we acquired Dad's metal lock-up money box, a firework banger, a box of matches, and quickly hopped into the cellar. After stuffing the firework in the lock, we lit it and retired to a safe distance, like all bank robbers do. It was rather good and realistic, as we had seen in the movies. The firework went off with a very satisfying noise but, although the box was dented, no impression was actually made on the lock of the box. Mum raged at us and threatened to tell Dad. Thankfully Dad said we showed initiative; we sided with him.

"By Timothy", Sheila's catchword was from the BBC radio series Paul Temple. We'd speak in Temple code: "Where's Charlie fishing?", "In the Thames". Much to our Aunt's bemusement and the public librarian's disconcertment, Sheila read things like Greek and Roman mythology. Though I hasten to add, Sheila was quite willing to read anything, so much so we would swap comics; I had "Rover" and "Hotspur" whilst Sheila read "School Friends" and "Girls Own". We would then fight for first read of "Dandy" and "Beano".

Well, when Sheila passed the 11 plus exam and moved from the Junior School to the Grammar School, that was a rite of passage. A uniform, a velour hat for winter and straw boater for summer, a blazer and a satchel. From there Sheila enlisted in the Royal Woman Navy Service and I undertook training as a train driver."

In delving into my family history, I have found that the richest source of information lies within the walls of home and the memories shared amongst loved ones. The remembrances exchanged between my Mother and Uncle unveiled layers of the past that might otherwise have remained concealed. This journey into the annals of my family's narrative began with the casual banter between my Mother and Uncle, revealing a tapestry of experiences that have created a vivid sense of place and glimpses into the lives, activities, and personalities that defined my Mother's childhood. Recounting, through the lens of my Uncle Frank Breen, these tales have captured, not only moments of levity and mischief, but also the bonds that tied them as siblings together through shared adventures.

Karla Breen Rickerby (B714)
Bramham Gardens
London

k.breenrickerby@gmail.com

England Roman Catholic Baptisms

FindmyPast have recently announced that they have uploaded 1,379 baptism records for Batley St Mary of the Angels Church. This is excellent news for those researching their Catholic ancestors, let's hope we can look forward to more for our area very soon.

Unwanted Certificates

The following certificates have kindly been donated to the Society. If you would like any of these we can send them to you for £2.00 each, plus postage. Please contact Margaret Woodcock – publicity@hdfhs.org.uk

Name	Type	Date	District
Crowther, Fred	Birth	1856	Huddersfield
Crowther, Jane	Birth	1865	Paddock, Huddersfield
Crowther, Lydia	Birth	1861	Paddock, Huddersfield
Crowthet, James Franklin	Birth	1890	Almondbury Bank, Dalton
Crowther, Stanley	Birth	1897	Lowerhouses, Almondbury
Crowther, Benjamin F	Birth	1853	Huddersfield
Crowther, Anne	Birth	1859	Gledholt Bank, Huddersfield
Crowther, Emma	Birth	1854	Huddersfield
Crowther, Edith	Birth	1900	Huddersfield
Crowther, James	Birth	1867	Paddock, Huddersfield
Dixon, John William	Birth	1870	Dalton, Huddersfield.
Dixon, Betsy Ann	Birth	1866	Dalton, Huddersfield
Dixon, Hannah, E	Birth	1883	Dalton, Huddersfield.
Dixon, Elizabeth.	Birth	1851	Kirkheaton, Huddersfield
Dixon James	Birth	1843	Kirkheaton, Huddersfield
Dixon Mary Ellen	Birth	1847	Kirkheaton, Huddersfield
Dixon Agnes	Birth	1852	Kirkheaton, Huddersfield
Dixon John Joseph	Birth	1886	Kilner Bank, Dalton
Dixon Jerry	Birth	1857	Moldgreen, Huddersfield
Walshaw Ben	Birth	1853	Huddersfield
Walshaw Eliza	Birth	1857	Huddersfield
Walshaw John Henry	Birth	1859	Huddersfield
Walshaw George	Birth	1841	Huddersfield
Dixon, Evelyn	Birth	1912	Linthwaite
Whiteley, Hannah L.	Birth	1863	Dalton, Huddersfield
Wright, Mary Ann	Birth	1860	Kirbymoorside
Crowther Tom B. & Dixon Hannah E.	Marriage	1903	Dalton, Huddersfield
Cairns John & Crowther Mary	Marriage	1938	Lepton, Huddersfield
Crowther Albert & Richards Annie	Marriage	1943	Huddersfield
Davies Gareth & Crowther Annie	Marriage	1925	Lepton, Huddersfield
Dixon Jerry & Wright Mary Ann	Marriage	1882	Kirkheaton
Dixon John & Chapman Elizabeth	Marriage	1843	Lockwood

Parfitt Lloyd H. & Cairns Mary	Marriage	1964	Newsome, Huddersfield
Gibson Thomas & Dixon Mary Ellen	Marriage	1871	Huddersfield
Berry Clarence	Death	1983	Kirkheaton
Berry Edna	Death	1985	Kirkheaton
Crowther Tom Brook	Death	1955	Lepton
Crowther Annie	Death	1902	Dalton, Huddersfield
Crowther Lydia	Death	1863	Paddock, Huddersfield
Davies Annie	Death	1971	Lepton
Dixon Elizabeth	Death	1852	Moldgreen, Huddersfield.
Dixon Jerry	Death	1914	Lepton
Maples Rhoda A	Death	1975	Almondbury
			At Sea - usual abode
Yull Walter William	Death	1953	Kirkheaton
Yull Walter	Death	1970	Kirkheaton

Our Ancestors lived in Different Times

Whilst searching for some historical news reports of a violent death of an ancestor I came across this advert on the front page of the newspaper I was reading. Of course it is of its time and like 'The Elephant Man' we would not today make a sideshow of such 'accidents of birth'. But it does reflect what our ancestors regarded as entertainment and I suppose today we could accuse 'rubberneckers' at the scene of a motorway accident, or the crowds at the aftermath of Grenfell Tower, of the same morbid fascination. At least back in 1856 pictures of the conjoined twins could not be put onto social media. You simply had to be there to witness the 'spectacle' of such a one-day wonder.

The Huddersfield Chronicle August 9th 1956

THE GREATEST LIVING WONDER IN HISTORY

PATRONISED BY THE ROYAL FAMILY

The Gentry and Faculty of Huddersfield and the Neighbourhood are respectfully informed that the AFRICAN TWINS, united by nature, will be EXHIBITED in the Shop lately occupied by Messrs. Beazley and Son, Westgate, under the Chamber of Commerce, for a short time only, commencing on Monday, August 11th.

Open from One o'clock in the afternoon until Five; Evening, Six until Nine.

Admission, 6d.; Working People, 3d; Children, half-price; Schools, according to agreement.

Christine Aspinall (A078)

Writing my Livesey Family History

I believe that I last wrote in the journal in 2021 about my ongoing project to write my paternal family history into a story. I am very pleased to say that I have completed the work and have now printed and published several bound copies to share with my family. My brother calls it my 'Magnus Opus', certainly a lot of heart has gone into it.

This was never going to be an academic work, more a series of stories of the lives of my ancestors, as far as I could determine. In those stories I touched on their education, their occupations and wherever possible the lives of my grandmother and great grandmothers. It was particularly important to me that they were integral parts of my story because so little is known about ordinary women in history.

Looking back, it appears that I first started my family history story in 2017, strangely it feels much longer ago than that. Well, that was certainly when I took an online course tutored by the wonderful Gill Blanchard, and to whom I am very grateful for all the hints and tips I learned in her tutorials and through her book – *Writing Your Family History*.

I chose to start my story in c1700 which was when my 6x great grandfather James Livesey was born. I decided to write a chapter on each generation of Livesey ancestors moving forward into the 21st century to the deaths of my parents in 2010 and 2013.

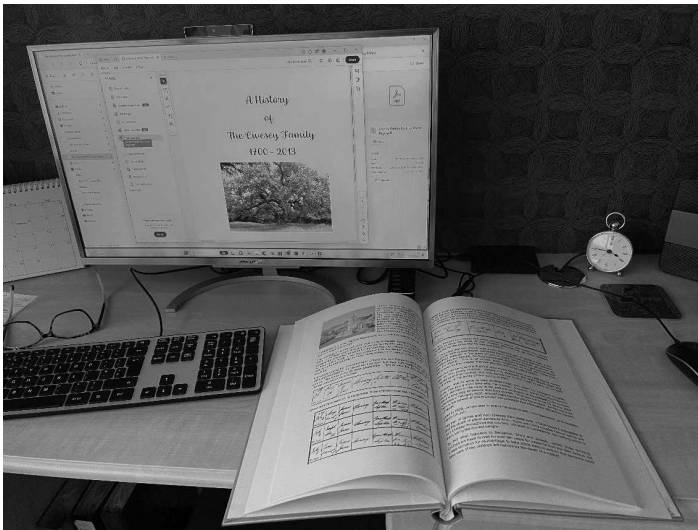
The unusual aspect of my paternal family history was that from back in 1700 to the present day they have lived continuously in districts in and around Huddersfield. Slaithwaite in the Colne Valley, to Lepton on the Wakefield side of our town, was as far as they ever travelled in over 300 years, with several other districts of Huddersfield in between and afterwards. Myself and my sister, and her children and grandchildren all still live in the Huddersfield and Holmfirth areas, but the Livesey name will hopefully continue in Wiltshire where my brother settled many years ago and where he has two sons to continue the name.

The difficulty you encounter when writing your family history is the ongoing temptation to keep picking up your research and looking for more information; as we all know family history research is never 'finished', especially in this internet age when more and more records come online so regularly. You have to be firm with yourself and so I tried my best to confirm my research as I went along, rather than pick up new aspects – it wasn't easy!

The first two chapters were quite difficult to write because frankly my research had not found that much about my early ancestors and there was very little to work on. Parish records of course provided baptism, marriage and burial information in most cases, and later the censuses provided more precise detail about where exactly they lived and their occupations. It was therefore necessary to 'fill out' the verified information for those earlier ancestors with local historical information or bring in world and UK events of the time and consider how they may have been affected by them.

It was a diversion to find that my 3x great grandfather James Livesey's wife was born in Crosthwaite in the Lake District and that they were married in Kendal. He brought her back after their marriage to settle in the Lepton area where James himself had been born. Sadly, my 3x great grandmother, his wife, Jane, died at only 28 years old, their story was to prove intriguing but then what happened to James after his second marriage has always been my 'brick wall'.

However, Jane's family has provided for one or two 'ancestral tourism' visits for myself and my husband in recent years to the beautiful area where Jane was born around Crosthwaite which is a short distance from Lake Windermere.



The later chapters in my Livesey history were easier to write because of the wealth of information available in later records. I have spent several happy hours researching the Royal Flying Corps/RAF history of my paternal grandfather, Albert, who was a chauffeur to a local doctor on the 1911 and 1921 censuses, and also later on the 1939 national register. He continued in this occupation after WW1 ended and until 1942 when he passed away. The more I have written about him, the more I have wished that I had known him. I was also lucky to hear stories about him from my father. Perhaps you too have a favourite ancestor?

The final chapter on the lives of my parents was more difficult to write from one perspective in that I knew it would be read by people who had also known them. Would, for example, my siblings see our parents' lives in the same way as I did, would their memories be the same, would they approve of what I had written?

My book is completely self-published. I purchased professional looking binders from 'My History' along with a ream of archive quality paper. If you are competent in Microsoft Word there is no reason why you cannot do it yourself, but otherwise there are many companies who will be willing to set it out and print it for you.

I do hope that this article will inspire you to write about your own family history. After all, you have spent so much time researching it, it would be a great pity if not much more than a mountain of files, cuttings and certificates were to be passed on to future generations.

Susan Hutson (nee Livesey)
Journal Editor

New Members

Once again we are very grateful that so many new members have recently joined our Society or rejoined after a short gap in membership. We welcome you all and trust that you benefit from your membership wherever you are in the World. We hope that from time to time we can meet with you either locally at our research room and events, or via Zoom at our talks and get together. This list covers those new members who joined up to the end of February, and since the last journal went to print.

B711	Steven Bruce	York	North Yorkshire
B712	Paul Boothroyd	Huddersfield	West Yorkshire
B713	David Broadbent	Huddersfield	West Yorkshire
B714	Karla Breen Rickerby	London	
B715	Louis Bickle	Palm Beach	Australia
C316	Mary Cotmore	Holmfirth	West Yorkshire
E203	Angus Exley	Huddersfield	West Yorkshire
G201	Helen Gunton	Jersey	Channel Islands
G202	Ruth Gallagher	Pinellas	USA
H612	Janette Henighan	Huddersfield	West Yorkshire
H613	Michael Hawkes	Christchurch	Dorset
H614	Mary Haigh	Holmfirth	West Yorkshire
H616	Jayne Hill	Thirsk	North Yorkshire
H615	Greg Hampson	Mulhouse	France
J202	Paul Jones	Huddersfield	West Yorkshire

K207	Sophie Kaye	Huddersfield	West Yorkshire
L305	Jill Leece	Penistone	South Yorkshire
L306	April Lambourne	Maidstone	Kent
M405	Jason Middleton	Huddersfield	West Yorkshire
P205	Michael Pearson	Huddersfield	West Yorkshire
R206	Jacky Rawlins	Huddersfield	West Yorkshire
S510	Richard Stevens	Cherington	Warwickshire
S511	Irene Schofield	Edinburgh	Scotland
T206	Rebecca Thompson	Huddersfield	West Yorkshire
W503	Jean Wrathall	Holmfirth	West Yorkshire
W504	Karen Walker	Pryor	USA
W506	John Wood	Huddersfield	West Yorkshire
W507	Susan White	Herne Bay	Kent
W508	Victoria Wood	Jedburgh	Scotland

All our new members should have received a 'Welcome Pack' which will have arrived electronically to your email address, soon after you joined. If you have not received this please contact Jane Harris, our Membership Secretary, membership@hdfhs.org.uk

Woven In Kirklees

Amongst our Society's many family and house history research projects we have also, since June last year, been able to research and advise on something very different.

'Woven' is a National Heritage Lottery funded project within Kirklees and its aim is to celebrate the importance of creative sewing and repair in various textile materials. A repair roadshow in Meltham Church Hall in June 2023 and then a repeat in January 2024, followed by one at Golcar Library on January 20th this year were community celebrations of creative textiles called 'Mission To Mend'.

As many of our members know when researching our local ancestors there is very often a very strong textile connection covering the history of the mills and, in the even earlier production of cloth by hand loom weaving. With wool, cotton and silk all being produced at various times and in various areas around Huddersfield we have a very rich history of our textile industry to work on.

We were very pleased to be asked by Julia Roebuck (from Woven's Mission To Mend) to provide some research information on the history of our local textile industry and particularly in the Meltham and Golcar areas for the two community events and to give a brief presentation.



Ian giving his talk at Golcar Library

The Meltham presentation included the story of the Brook family of Meltham Mills and their link with many of the local Churches and important buildings including housing for the workers. The Colne Valley and Golcar story is very similar with a strong link to the Crowther family which also provided a wealth of interesting detail about their local involvement in the community.

As a result of what was considered to have been a successful input from HDFHS, we have also been asked to put together two Textile Heritage Trails, one for the Meltham area and one in Mirfield. These will be around a one hour walk identifying at least five mill sites with their history researched. Obviously these may well be former locations or converted buildings or may even now be demolished! This is an ongoing project. For this work and the earlier presentations we have received a generous donation.

Here are a selection of short, interesting textile stories found as research was done for the textile talks.

1) In 1931 at the Crowther Union Mill in Milnsbridge a world record was achieved when a complete man's suit was made from sheep to wearer. This was done with the help of Prices Taylor of Leeds in 2 hours 10 minutes.

2) Around 1875 a new factory was built in Shelley by Henry Fitton on Penistone Road (no 150) This was for the production of his Dreadnought Corset. This was woven on large and complicated looms with 10 foot treadles and five hand thrown shuttles. The result was a seamless corset. The company went into liquidation in 1899 when the mill was sold. His son Albert tried to carry on the business but that also failed in 1917.

3) The employment of children in the textile factories was widespread. A Royal Commission in 1833 investigated many of the mills including the local ones. The Brook family at Meltham Mills gave evidence which is well recorded on line. In that year they employed 167 girls and 76 boys under the age of 16 of which five of the girls and eight of the boys were actually under 10 years of age.

4) Huddersfield is well known for its worsted wool production, which is a high quality weave and yarn, but surprisingly the name originates from a small village called Worstead in Norfolk about 12 miles from Norwich, where Flemish weavers had settled in the middle ages and started to produce the cloth.

5) William Horsfall who was shot and killed by the Luddite gang on April 28th 1812 was on his way home from Huddersfield market to his home in Marsden. He owned and ran Ottiwells Mill in Marsden. He was following the old pack horse route which is today the line of Blackmoorfoot Road and not the Manchester Road line in the valley bottom. There is now a street called William Horsfall Street named after him at the point he was shot.

6) One of the first fatal car accidents in the Colne Valley (or possibly even Huddersfield) resulted in the death of Joseph Crowther who was head of the Crowther textile business. In 1905 he was being driven together with two friends (his accountant and his bank manager), when his chauffeur lost control of the car as they were driving down from Pole Moor. The car crashed by Wilberlee School.

For a more general history of the local textile industry, please see my next article in this journal.

Ian Stevenson, Vice Chairman

For more information about the Woven project:

julia@upcycle-fasion.co.uk

www.woveninkirklees.co.uk

A Brief History of Huddersfield Textiles

In the 14th century, in the reign of Edward III, it was decided that the woollen industry was so important that the Lord Chancellor should sit on a sack of wool in the House of Lords, and this sack is still there! However, when it recently needed repair it was found that it was actually filled with horse hair. In the mid seventeenth century the sheep farmers were over producing and so in 1666 there was an Act of Parliament to decree that every burial required a signed affidavit to confirm that the deceased had been buried in wool. Plague victims and the destitute were exempt. Failure to do so resulted in a £5 fine.

In the earliest days of the industry it was predominantly found in the south of west of England. However, it wasn't long before the West Riding of Yorkshire became the centre of this growing 'cottage industry'. Often, in farming areas, the families were looking to increase their income by weaving cloth. They would buy raw wool or their own sheep, then the process started – cleaning the wool, spinning, weaving, fulling (washing and scouring).

The pieces were then dried on tenters in the adjacent fields. The tenters can often be seen marked on the OS maps of the period. Hence the phrase 'being on tenter hooks'.

The spinning process was often done by the younger women of the family which gave the name of 'spinster' to unmarried women. The cleaning of the pieces after weaving required them to be soaked in ammonia and so family urine was collected and used. There was also a method of 'spin drying' which involved putting the pieces into an open basket which was then quickly swung round on a long stick with one end in a 'wuzzing' hole in an outside wall.

Finally, the finished cloth was taken to the local church wall (Almondbury or Huddersfield) to sell. Later the Cloth Hall was built in Huddersfield in 1766, and the Piece Hall in Halifax in 1779, specifically for the buying and selling of cloth.

Evidence of this early local woollen industry can be seen by the many weavers' cottages still existing, particularly in the areas of the Holme Valley, Colne Valley and Dearne Valley. They



can be identified by the long mullion windows at the upper levels to give the extra light needed for the looms and for weaving. These were often located in the bedroom or on the third floor where, in some situations, the cottage roof had been raised to accommodate the looms. Many of these cottages date from around 1750 to 1830.

Around the end of the 18th century the cottage industry was beginning to move into small mills built for the more efficient and convenient production. These were built in the valleys and adjacent to the rivers which were able to provide water power.

Mill dams or reservoirs were constructed to maintain continuity of water flow. Mills became steam powered, or a mix of water and steam as progress made. The local water is soft and so perfect for the cleaning process. Also as steam power required coal, this was also locally available.

Power looms were first recorded in Yorkshire in 1831 but in 1850 only 4000 were in use when at the same time an estimated 8000 hand looms were in use.

Elements of the cottage industry survived well into the twentieth century with special and fancy cloth weaving being done on such as the Jacquard looms which had been operating in some areas from around 1840.

Huddersfield is well known of course around the world for the manufacture of worsted wool. Sadly many of the Huddersfield and District textile mills which were operating to full capacity 70 years ago are no longer producing woollen or worsted cloth.

Ian Stevenson
Vice Chairman

Sources:

Yorkshire Textile Mills 1770-1930 – West Yorkshire Archive Service

Colne Valley Cloth from the Earliest Time, Bentley, P. Curwen Press, 1947

Colne Valley Museum, Golcar



If you would like to find out more about hand loom weaving in the nineteenth century we recommend you make time to visit the excellent museum in converted cottages in Cliffe Ash, Golcar.

You will find a fully operational loom being demonstrated, a clogger's shop, a Victorian bedroom and kitchen, and much more.

The volunteers are often to be found baking bread, making parkin or Christmas puddings, depending on the time of year, all of which can be purchased. There is also a lovely café

selling homemade cakes, with coffee and tea in traditional bone china tea cups.

They also have a small book and gift shop.

Take a look at their website for their opening times and the dates of various exhibitions which are held throughout the year.

<https://www.colnevalleymuseum.org.uk/>

Help Wanted



Can any member out there help the following to make progress in their personal quest?

An enquiry from more than 200 years ago - with connections to Farnley Tyas

A publication, dated 7 July 1812, (No. 28, Vol. III, Vol 26) had the following notice:

'A public notice to John Shaw, widower, who left London for Nesbitt & Co. in Alexandria, Virginia, about 1784, accompanied by his son, John. He married a second time in Virginia and moved to Kentucky, near Lexington, where he had four or five more children. He or his heirs should write to Joseph Shaw, Farnley Tyas, near Huddersfield, Yorkshire, England.'

I copied this page (without the name of the publication) about 30 years ago in case I found a connection. At the time I did not have enough information to make a connection. I now have much more detail which is still consistent with this as a valid link to the ancestry of my 4 x great grandfather, John Shaw, who came to the Alexandria, Virginia, area in 1784 with a son, John Shaw, who died in Loudon County, VA in 1826.

John Shaw, the emigrant, married the widow, Fanny Cleveland, in 1785. They had four children, Benjamin, Joseph, Elizabeth, and Jesse Shaw. They purchased land in North Carolina (Tennessee), then moved to the Lexington area of Kentucky. John Shaw, died in Tennessee in 1808.

His wife in 1820 signed an affidavit relating that her husband, John, was born in England, married Jane Jones, had five children, four of whom died, the last was John Shaw of Loudon Co. Virginia. John Shaw and his son, John, left England in 1784 and came to Alexandria, Virginia.

This recently found affidavit is more evidence of the possible connection of my family across the Atlantic to Farnley Tyas. Records of Christ Church, Spitalfields, London shows the marriage of a John Shaw and Jane Jones and the christening of their son, John Shaw.

I would like to know if anyone thinks they might be connected or researching the Shaw family of Farnley Tyas. I'd love to see if we are connected to this family.

Thank you for your interest in my family history.

Biggs and Rose Tree on Ancestry
B21797 FTDNA Family Finder

Marilyn Brien
brienrm@gmail.com

Fighting the Flames - A History of Huddersfield Fire Brigades

A Zoom Talk by Chris Smith - 13 February 2024

Chris' presentation, illustrated by old postcards, traced the history of fire brigades and the Huddersfield Fire Brigade in particular. An Act of 1708 said that every town had to provide a water pump to extinguish fire: the Parish Pump.

In 1818 there was a disastrous fire in Colne Bridge, at Thomas Atkinson's cotton mill; of the twenty-eight workers only nine survived. The workers were mainly female, many of them children, and they were locked in the mill.

The early water mains were hollowed out tree trunks and were prone to leaks. There was a large tank at Springwood, but it was shut down at night! Low water pressure was not unusual. The local mills began to have their own fire brigades and Insurance Companies had fire brigades, funded by subscriptions.

Early firefighters were policemen - "fire bobbies". The fire station was located next to the police station in Bull and Mouth Street. The first Fire Brigade was formed in 1849, horses were used to draw the carts, but not the engines - they were pulled/pushed manually. Motorised engines came into being, as did longer ladders and turntables and the firemen were also expected to clean windows in council buildings, putting their ladders to good use! In 1915 the horses were finally disbanded, and the following years saw the 100ft turntable ladder, a first aid van, all designed to make firefighting more efficient and safer.

Chris showed photographs of local fires; a Longwood mill fire in 1922, Booth's fire in 1941, where 49 people lost their lives; they are commemorated at Edgerton Cemetery. LB Holliday's tip in 1955 and Heywood's department store fire in Market Street (1967). Many of us will remember the last two fires.

This interesting and informative presentation, encompassing both social and family history, also illustrated how dangerous the occupation was, and still is.

There were fifty-seven attendees.

Margaret Woodcock (W030)

Library Update

The latest edition of the Library List is now available on the website. New additions are highlighted in orange and the previous set in green. Please take a look. Books can be loaned in person for up to four weeks, postal loans for up to six weeks.

Thank you to members who donate books to the library, they are much appreciated. Please get in touch if you are thinking of donating material for the library, to check that items fit our donations criteria. Unfortunately, we do not accept older journals due to lack of storage space.

We are particularly interested in collecting information about non-conformist churches and chapels. Our MI team are focussing on transcribing inscriptions from some of the smaller non-conformist churches and chapels this year. There is often very little background information about these buildings and their burial grounds, many of which have now been turned into private residences.

Maureen Wheeler, Librarian

‘A Wett Whey & the Gray Freers’

What happened to Sykes after Flockton?

Visitors to last October's HDFHS Fair had the opportunity to view a collection of the late Dr George Redmonds' hitherto unpublished notes which have been transcribed and collated by Ian Stevenson and HDFHS volunteers. This is a great addition to our research resources and I should like to express my appreciation of the work they've done. I understand the collection can be made available at the Root Cellar for members to study. In addition to the detailed documentary references they have also included George's own footnotes in which he speculates about possible interpretations of the data. These notes provided a breakthrough moment for me because in the period before George's death I had several conversations with him about the origins and distribution of the Sykes name. I questioned some aspects of the theory he developed and which is now widely accepted as definitive but has always seemed to me problematic (1). George generously encouraged my approach and invited me to view his unpublished notes, sadly I never fulfilled that invitation but the work of Ian and colleagues has re-opened the door. It is clear that in certain respects my own research answers some of the questions George posed to himself. In this short paper I wish to summarise one such thorny question – what happened to the Flockton DNA?

The DNA, Slaithwaite and Flockton – A recap

Redmonds' documentary research and analysis concluded Sykes originated in thirteenth century Flockton but migrated via the Holme Valley (1386) to Slaithwaite, where by 1491 they had become the dominant family in the upper Colne Valley. His collaboration with DNA researchers claimed all Sykes males alive today can trace their roots to a single Mr Sykes, alive in fifteenth century Slaithwaite. There have since been many refinements in genetics that modify this theory but some questions remain unanswered, if Slaithwaite Sykes derived from Flockton why can DNA only trace the earliest common ancestor as far back as Slaithwaite? What happened to the earlier Sykes DNA from Flockton? Does this theory presume Flockton Sykes withered away without trace and made no further contribution to Sykes DNA whilst Slaithwaite blossomed? There is some superficial evidence to support this assumption because no Sykes were recorded in Flockton at the 1379 Hearth Tax. However, my own research using detailed family reconstruction techniques shows definitively this was not the case, not only did Sykes continue in Flockton for another two centuries, but they also spread into surrounding townships and beyond. Redmonds' unpublished notes and comments acknowledge this and show he was posing the same question to himself:-

“There are frequent references to the surname Sykes, in the latter part of this period [16th century], in other parts of the parish of Sandal and in neighbouring townships, e.g. Ossett, Chevet, Clayton West and, particularly, Wakefield. It must be suspected that these were branches of the Flockton and West Bretton families, but no attempt to demonstrate that genealogically has yet been made.”

The remainder of this article attempts to demonstrate some of those genealogical links.

Flockton after 1379 and the move to Sandal

Between c.1270 and 1378 we have 14 references to Sykes farming land in the open fields of Flockton, courtesy of a remarkable set of deeds surviving in the Allendale (Wentworth) Papers supplemented by occasional mentions in Wakefield Manor Court Rolls.

There is only ever one Sykes family head recorded at any given time, which suggests either younger adult sons moved out of the township or that the family lived in multi-generation holdings where sons did not hold property in their own right. Either way, in the absence of more comprehensive records, we have no evidence of Sykes spreading into neighbouring townships at this time. The line may have been temporarily withering by 1379 however Henry del Syke and his wife Alicia were taxed just a mile away in the neighbouring township of Emley. Allendale deeds show in 1378 Henry had taken possession of a property called *Eddyngrode*, almost certainly a clearing at the head of the common moor separating Flockton and Emley. Subsequently this hamlet became known as Moor Head in Emley.

Almost two hundred years later in 1570 *John Syckes of Mor Hed* baptised Christopher in the neighbouring parish of Kirkburton, indicating Sykes had sustained a presence there longer than they had in Flockton. Between 1540 and 1660 there were over 150 Sykes entries in the Kirkburton registers and 30 in Emley (registers start later). At least three Sykes were baptising in parallel throughout this period. In addition Sykes settlements are mentioned at *High Burton*, *Riley*, *Thurstonland*, *Lepton*, and *High Hoyland*.

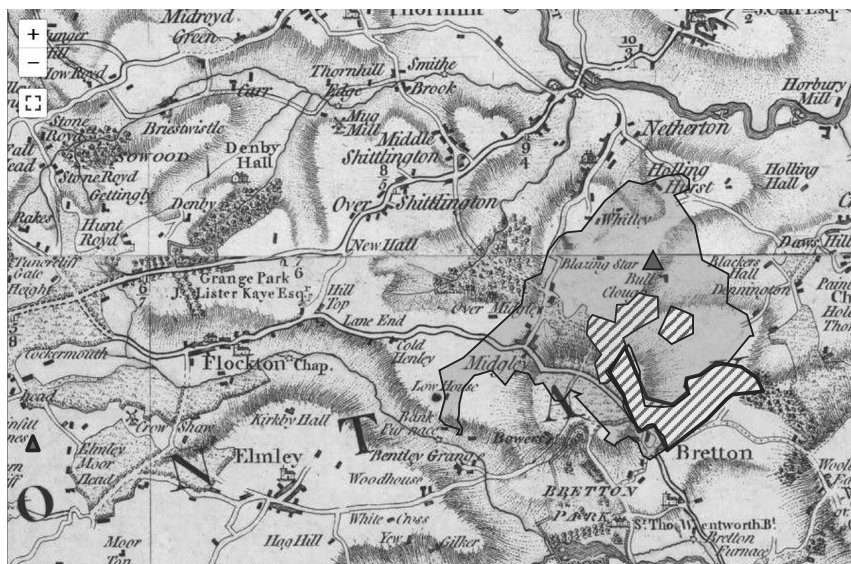
It is clear some Sykes may have left Flockton but didn't move very far. It also seems that far from dying out, Henry's line continued to farm land at both *Over and Nether Flockton*. The evidence shows John Syke constable of Flockton in 1433, William Syke occupied lands there in 1440, Richard Sykes was constable in 1446 and Henry del Syke held land in Over Flockton in 1482. Did none of these contribute DNA to the modern Sykes profile?

Sykes fortunes were undoubtedly influenced by the Wentworth family who had bought the neighbouring estate of West Bretton in 1407 and then proceeded to purchase other land in the vicinity, including Sandal and Flockton. One of the most important developments came in 1457 when Wentworth's leased to John of the Syke and his wife Jennett, the former manor of Bulcliffe, in the nearby parish of Sandal. This was the most prestigious farm in Wentworth's portfolio and John became the largest payer on their rent roll and was looking beyond farming for an income. In 1460 he acquired land in Hickleton some eighteen miles east in the Dearne Valley, almost certainly with Wentworth's assistance (2). This appears to have been purely an investment rather than being farmed in-hand. John died in 1468, unfortunately his will is mostly illegible but he clearly left descendants, *John Sike of Bulklyfe* had succeeded him by 1471 when he leased out the Hickleton land.

Bulcliffe belonged to West Bretton township, the majority of which came within Sandal parish, it is often referred to as "Sandal", but within the Sandal parish there were also several detached parcels of Silkstone parish, one of them very close to Bulcliffe. Some later Sykes are baptised or buried at Silkstone, so either a portion of their land came within the Silkstone parcel or they expanded into another nearby farm which did, the two farms were then known as "Sandal" and "West Bretton". This complex arrangement is illustrated in Map1(3).

By 1524 *William Sykys* was described as "*the late tenant of Sandal*", he appears to have four sons who split the expanding estate between them, William (bur 1531) followed on at Bulcliffe. A second William had a separate holding in West Bretton. He was buried in 1536 at Silkstone, even though this may actually have been just across the farmyard!. Robert and Thomas were both mentioned on West Bretton estate rent roll in 1524 but both also had other holdings. Robert was still on the estate rent roll in 1529 but at his death in 1548 he was "of Nether Flockton", almost certainly the family's heritage farm.

Map 1: Bulcliffe, Sandal and West Bretton



Shaded area shows West Bretton township in Sandal parish. Hatched areas show detached portions (approximately) of Silkstone parish. Note misnamed “Bull Clough”, see also Emley Moor Head

Base map extract from Thomas Jeffries 1771, courtesy of: <https://huddersfield.exposed/p/7051>

Thomas was not on the 1529 rent roll but at his death in 1539/40 he was “of Ossett” on a holding which included “Burdett Close”, land Wentworth had recently acquired from the Burdett’s of Birthwaite Hall, Darton. This appears to have been part of the royal manor of Wakefield and probably had a tenurial tie to the ancient manor of Bulcliffe. Thomas excluded it from the possessions he divided amongst his own children, instead it descended to his nephew and next heir of Sandal, another “William of Boulcliffe”, whose 1578 will bequeaths “one close of land and pasture with thappurtenences called Burhnade Rode according to the custom of the manor lyeinge and beinge within the townshipp of Horburie which I have and holde of the queen”. It clearly had significance and became part of the Sykes heritage.

Robert had married Jane, a younger Wentworth daughter and was “a retainer” to Sir John Neville, of Chevet in Sandal, for whom he witnessed several deeds. The extent of his estate is shown in his will where he left separate houses and land to each of his three sons (including two Johns, Sykes had a tradition of giving the same name to both the eldest son and another younger one). His eldest grandson, Charles, was bequeathed “a cuppe called a master and it to remayne to Siks heres for ever”. Ironically within thirty years Charles had sold off his inherited lands and moved to Cawthorne, the family home of his wife Christiana Slack. With that the continuous line of Flockton Sykes was broken, although Charles’s son Nicholas made some attempt to recover the former heritage lands Sykes had effectively ended their association with Flockton. Their centre of influence had now shifted to Sandal and West Bretton.

Sixteenth Century Expansion

Sykes fortunes were literally on the up. They had multiple properties and began to style themselves as “yeoman” rather than “husbandman”, but partible inheritance limited how many times the estate could be sub-divided before it became unviable. Several younger sons moved into the town of Wakefield where they pursued more urban occupations, such as John the carpenter of Alverthorpe (1551). However as early as 1496 Richard Sykes (buried 1514) had entered the clergy, a sure sign Sykes had joined the realm of those who could afford to educate their younger sons and send them on a professional career path. “*John Sykes Master of Arts*”, was almost certainly another son taking the cloth (3). In 1591 he was executor of the will of his uncle, William of Bulcliffe in Great Sandal, the last of three successive William’s of Sandal (buried 1531, 1578, 1591) who were not just farmers but also long serving attorneys administering Wentworth’s property portfolio. Between them Sykes of Sandal and West Bretton had land interests stretching across the Wakefield district, including Horbury, Newton, Durkar, and Pledwyke, most of which they leased out for money rather than farming directly.

The persistent use of a small number of given names, John, William, Thomas and Robert makes untangling specific lines difficult, all the more so because of a Sykes family tradition of giving both the eldest and a younger son the same names. However analysis of wills and parish registers enables some degree of family reconstruction demonstrating Sykes offspring utilised their Wentworth and Neville connections to push out into neighbouring parishes and beyond.

In 1506, a William Sykes was buried in Barnburgh (adjacent to Hickleton where John held land). William left bequests to his family including “*Alison my doghtr of Barnsley one milk cow*”; and to several religious houses, i.e. “*a wett whey to ye gray freers in Doncaster* (4) and “*a stroke of whe[a]t to freers of Pomfrett*” as well as money to high altars in Barnburgh, “*Hoton*” (Hooton Pagnell) and York. Sykes had some wealth but Wentworth’s were patrons of the parish church in Barnburgh, their hand is evident in many Sykes dealings.

The 1588 will of Brian Sikes of Sandal (grandson of William of Boultoncliffe) refers to property investments at Temple Hirst, a former Knight’s Templar monastic establishment near Selby which offered rich pickings post-dissolution. Brian’s uncle, William of Great Sandal, (buried 1591) left a legacy to the children of his brother William “*now of Wombwell*”, a small town fifteen miles south in the Dearne Valley. It was almost certainly this same William of Wombwell who in 1604 took a joint lease with George Wentworth and Mary his wife for “*lands and common pasture in Bolton upon Dearne*”. Bolton parish shares boundaries with both Hickleton and Barnburgh. It is unlikely there was no connection between these neighbours.

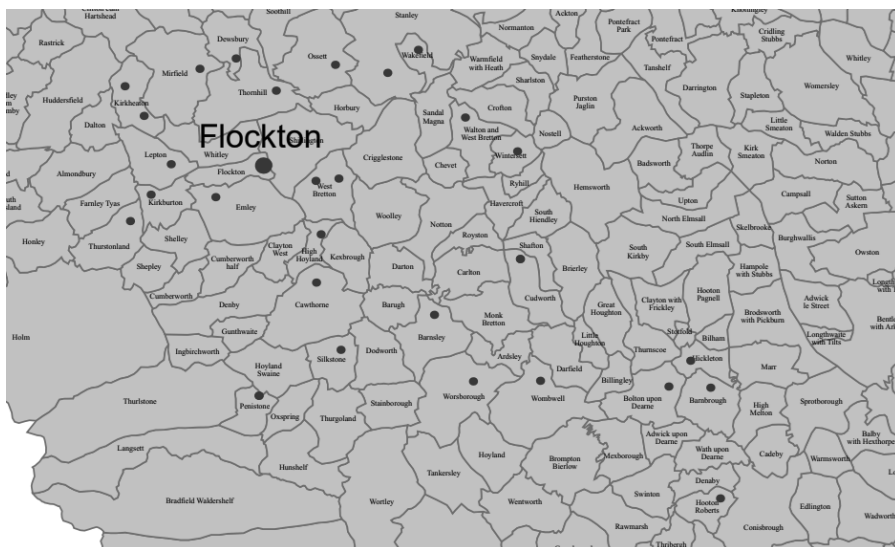
Other Sykes baptisms were recorded in the earliest parish registers of Mirfield, Royston, Barnsley, Silkstone, Cawthorne, Penistone, Worsborough and Tankersley, a sure sign they were settled there prior to the first dated registers. All of these show at least circumstantial links to Flockton, many like Matthew of West Bretton who married *Elisabeth Thurgaland* at Mirfield in 1574 are unquestionable. Further afield at Tickhill on Yorkshire’s southern boundary, William Sykes’ 1558 will makes a bequest to “*Ellen Newton my grandmother*”, subsequent wills of John of West Bretton (1572) and William of Boultoncliffe (1578) are witnessed respectively by *Jeffrey* and *Umfrey Newton*, a tenuous connection perhaps but indicative of a potential link between Flockton and Sykes settlements on Yorkshire’s southern border.

It is clear that by the mid-sixteenth century the heirs of Flockton Sykes were alive, breeding and at a very different level of social operation to those earlier farmers of the open field. Their high profile is in stark contrast to the idea that Flockton’s star faded as Slaithwaite’s shone. There

is sufficient evidence to make a definitive claim that Flockton Sykes did not decline but were the progenitors of Sykes families in much of South-West Yorkshire (5).

This clearly has implications for the single source theory where all lines lead back to Slaithwaite. There is little doubt Slaithwaite was the root of most Sykes in central West Yorkshire from the Colne Valley to Leeds, but Flockton is definitely the origin of those communities south of the Colne. Modern DNA analysis should allow us to determine whether the Flockton cluster is a variant of Slaithwaite or an independent line, and if they are linked, how far back we can trace the earliest common ancestor. I welcome contributions from those undertaking Sykes DNA research and am interested in a collaboration to investigate these lines.

Map 2: Townships with links to Flockton Sykes in South West Yorkshire c.1500-1600



Sam Sykes (S430)

southviewfarm@gmail.com

- (1) See my article in HDFHS Journal July 2021
- (2) Wentworth are later shown to be patrons of Hickleton Church
- (3) A John Sykes attended Jesus College, Cambridge between 1571-1578. He was awarded an MA and ordained as a Deacon at York. He subsequently became a priest at Ely, vicar of West Wrating, Cambs and Rector of Kirkton, Notts, where he died in 1622
- (4) A heifer in milk after her first calf
- (5) See Map 2. Townships with links to Flockton Sykes

The Story of James Whitehead

On January 7, 2023, a tombstone was found in the grounds of the Oude Begraafplaats, now the 'Gedenkpark De Oude Begraafplaats van 1829', of one James Whitehead who, according to the tombstone, was born on February 12, 1834 and died on December 24, 1889. The company ATKB, which specialises in, among other things, soil research, had mapped the cemetery free of charge via radar and indicated places that might contain hidden graves or tombstones. The tombstone was discovered on that particular Saturday by volunteers Gerard Zomers and Gerard Muller of the 'Vrienden van het Gedenkpark', that belong to the working group 'Gedenkpark De Oude Begraafplaats van 1829' and are part of the 'Historical Association Oud Veenendaal'. Nothing else was known about James Whitehead and it turned out that he was buried alone in the grave. According to available burial records, James was laid to rest in the grave on December 30, 1889. The grave was located in row 9 with grave number No 185.



Digging up the gravestone of James Whitehead

(accountant). According to the marriage certificates of both they were a weaver and factory worker respectively. This is important because both persons most likely worked at the same factory as James Whitehead.

The death certificate also showed that James was married to Mary Ann Peet and was the son of Daniel Whitehead and Betty Cruthan. Two censuses of his parents are known from 1841 and 1851. They show that the family lived on Lower Moor Street in Oldham and consisted of at least seven children in 1851 and that James was eighteen years old at the time and was the eldest of the children. However, the 1841 census shows that James must have had a brother, two years older, who has already left the household in 1851.

The headstone stated that James was born in 1834, but that is incorrect. Several documents show that he was born on February 12, 1833 in Oldham, Middleton, and was baptised there on February 17, 1833. The latter is from a baptismal register of the Presbyterian Church of Oldham. His date of birth is mentioned, amongst other things, in the personal register of the municipality of Ede when James lived there. More on that later.

Finding James's gravestone was a special event and further investigation was carried out in the available registers in the Netherlands and England. Information was also obtained from employees of municipal and church authorities in both countries. The following is a result of this search.

Because James was buried in Veenendaal, there was a good chance that he also died there. That turned out to be the case and a certificate was drawn up of his death. This deed showed that he was a blacksmith by profession and had died in house B 8, which was at 8 Achterkerk at the time. The data also showed that the declaration was made by sixty-year-old Abram Anbeek (factory worker) and forty-three-year-old Frans van Burken

According to the 1851 census, James was an iron turner by profession, so he must have had something to do with metalworking. This may also explain the profession of blacksmith mentioned in his death certificate. However, according to other data, he had many other professions and that may explain his stay in Veenendaal.

When James was twenty-two years old, he married Mary Ann Peet on October 21, 1855 in St Mary the Virgin Church in Prestwich, near Oldham. Mary Ann was born on February 7, 1835 in Kings Town in Dublin (Northern Ireland) and was baptised on May 17, 1835. Her father was Richard Peet and he was a grocer. At the time of their marriage, both lived in Oldham on respectively Shore Street (James) and Side of Moor (Mary Ann). James was then a mechanic by profession and Mary Ann a reeler.

1855. Marriage solemnized at _____ in the Parish of <u>Prestwich</u> in the County of <u>Lancashire</u>									
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.	
153	October 21.	James Whitehead Mary Ann Peet	23 21	Single Single	Mechanic Reeler	Shore Street Oldham Side of Moor Oldham	Samuel Whitehead Richard Peet	Painter Grocer	

Married in the Episcopal Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by _____ or after Ann by me, Samuel Ansell

This Marriage was solemnized between us, { James Whitehead } In the Presence of us, { Elizabeth Parrish }
 { Mary Ann Peet } { her name }

Marriage Certificate of James Whitehead and Mary Ann Peet in 1855

After their marriage, James and Mary Ann went to live at 32 Town Head in the Upper Banks area of Honley. Industrialisation in



The houses in the background of this photograph are Upper Banks in Honley

England had already taken place from the middle of the eighteenth century. Machines had already been invented that made the work easier for the workers. In the Netherlands, industrialisation started about halfway through the nineteenth century, so a hundred years later. Machines and manpower were sent from England to European countries, including the Netherlands, to shape industrialisation there and to steer it in the right direction.

The censuses have already shown that the Whitehead family was fully active in the textile industry. James's father was a dyer and James's children also did all kinds of work within this industry. In total, James and Mary Ann probably had fifteen children. There is a strange phenomenon with the name of the son Charles. A population map of the municipality of Ede shows that he was born on December 4, 1858 and was married on November 18, 1877 in Oldham to a certain Caroline May. He would have been eighteen years old then. However, a marriage certificate of him is available which states that he was twenty-one years old. If the latter is the case, then he should have been born in 1855.

That's not the only strange thing, because according to the data from the 1881 census, there should be a Charles who was born in 1861.

Name	Born	Baptised	Marriage	Death	Grave
1 James Whitehead	12-02-1833	17-02-1833	21-10-1855 met 2	24-12-1889	Veenendaal
2 Mary Ann Peet	07-02-1835	17-05-1835	21-10-1855 met 1	03-05-1902	Honley Grave 1551, section 38
3 Sarah Whitehead	1857			29-04-1897	Honley Grave 62, section 80
4 Charles Whitehead	04-12-1858 (or 1855?)		18-11-1877		
<i>4a Charles Whitehead</i>	<i>1861?</i>				
5 James Whitehead	1859			05-01-1876	Honley Grave 822, section 57
6 Betty Whitehead	16-01-1860				
7 Lena Whitehead	1863		1888		
8 Mary Whitehead	1865				
9 Alice Whitehead	04-1866			18-06-1866	Honley Grave 822, section 57
10 Jane Whitehead	1867			23-10-1886	Honley Grave 62, section 80
11 Thomas Whitehead	1869			11-06-1870	Honley Grave 822, section 57
12 Judith Whitehead	1871			27-07-1892	Honley Grave 62, section 80

13 Thomas Whitehead	1873			28-11-1875	Honley Grave 822, section 57
14 William Whitehead	1876				
15 Edwin Whitehead	1878		1900		
16 Hannah Whitehead	1880				
17 John Whitehead	1881		02-07-1904		

Schematic overview of the backdated data of James Whitehead's family

One of the factories in Veenendaal was the Veenendaalsche Stoomspinnerij en Weverij (VSW) on the Zandstraat. This factory was founded in 1861 by the Mijnsen and Bottenheim brothers. Most likely James worked at this factory. It can be seen below that this suspicion is almost certain! The factory was also known for the fact that three Englishmen were appointed as technical directors within the board, from which the English influence clearly emerged, so it was not surprising that workers from England also came to Veenendaal. The houses that are on the current Oranjestraat and were built by order of the management of the VSW, also point to the English influences because of the name: 'English City'. It is not entirely clear when exactly James came to Veenendaal, but it was probably close to the establishment of the VSW. As indicated earlier, he was an iron turner by profession and later a mechanic so he may have helped to install and operate the machines. In later documents, such as the censuses, it is also mentioned that he was a silk dye' (1881) and factory master (1883). So probably that he has held several positions within the factory.

When James came to the Netherlands, he first lived at B73 near the Nieuwe Molen (New Mill). It is unclear exactly where that was, but the house must have been on the 'Stichts' part. Presumably there was only one house because no other houses were indicated with this address. He was registered there with his wife Mary Ann and his children Charles and Betty. It is unclear where the two other children Sarah and James were staying at that time, but it is possible that they stayed behind in England. In any case, it is a bit unclear how things went with regard to the births of the children. According to the data, they were all born in England, so presumably the family members regularly made the crossing to England or possibly at least Mary Ann to give birth in England. The residents' registers of the municipality of Veenendaal show that Mary Ann was still registered in Veenendaal until 1889. The children Charles and Betty were also registered for a long time. When they moved to the municipality of Ede, they got their own population map. At a certain point, both were no longer mentioned and they probably left for England again, because no data can be retrieved for either of them in the Netherlands.

James continues to live in Veenendaal until his death. As already indicated, all the children were born in England and it is therefore quite possible that they regularly returned to England. From the address at the Nieuwe Molen (New Mill) they moved on June 7, 1872 to the address Gelders Veenendaal 31. Reconstruction tables of house numbers in Gelders Veenendaal show that there was a number 31 at the Nieuweweg. It would therefore be quite possible that this was the same house that stood near the Nieuwe Molen (New Mill).

On April 26, 1883, they returned to Stichts Veenendaal and went to live at 69 Hoofdstraat. Son, Charles, and his family are no longer mentioned, but instead a certain Johannes van Tuil who

was born on June 3, 1874 and was the son of a single mother. It is possible that the Whitehead family took this boy in to raise him. In the Hoofdstraat they moved a few more times. First to number A 246 and then to number A 61a. At a certain point they leave Hoofdstraat and move to Verlaat D10 and shortly afterwards to Achterkerk B 8. Johannes van Tuil and daughter Betty are no longer registered at those last two addresses. James died on December 24, 1889 at the Achterkerk address.

As we know James almost certainly worked at the VSW. On the death certificate, Frans van Burken was mentioned as one of those who had registered the death, he was a bookkeeper. Coincidentally, it appears that in the year of James's death in 1889, this Frans placed an advertisement in the *Algemeen Handelsblad* of 17 March 1889 in which he thanked the management for the gifts he had received for his twenty-five years of service. It was very common for colleagues of a deceased person to report the death and judging by the advertisement in the newspaper, it cannot be any other way than that James worked as an employee at the VSW. After the death of James, Mary Ann probably left permanently for England. In the census of 1901 she is still listed as a widow with a number of children. Shortly afterwards she died in Honley on May 3, 1902 and was buried in Honley Church graveyard in grave 1551 section 38. She was buried alone in the grave. Today the graveyard is dilapidated and no headstone is present on her grave. She is not the only one buried in the cemetery. In any case, seven children preceded her who were buried in the graves with the numbers grave 62 section 80 and grave 822 section 57. (Shown in the table above).



The derelict graveyard of Honley Church Cemetery

From the family line of James and Mary Ann Whitehead and their children, a number of details of descendants are known, but it has not proved possible to get in touch with descendants. It seems unlikely that there are still photos of the family, but because there are no further details of descendants, this remains unknown.

Jan Bos

The Netherlands

eenvoudlaan@msn.com

Jan works at an old cemetery in his retirement to keep it clean and tidy and found, under the black earth, the tombstone of James. He wanted to find more information about his life and the life of his family members. Born in the Netherlands, he grew up at Veenendaal. If you can add more to this story please contact Jan by email – Ed.

Gordon Donaldson, Bradley Wood Sanatorium and a Jazz Band



Our member, Jan Green, has contacted us seeking help with some research she is doing on Gordon Donaldson, who may have spent some time in Bradley Wood Sanatorium. The photograph shown here could have been taken there.

Initially Jan wondered if we had any records in our library about Bradley Wood or where she might find patient records. We don't and initial thoughts were West Yorkshire Archives but the records they do have are property based, rather than relevant to people. We also thought that perhaps the records would be inherited by the National Health Service when Bradley Wood closed down.

On the reverse of the photo it mentions a Jazz Band – this could be either Beckett's or Bechett's and gives the leader as Gordon Donaldson. Could the band have been local to Huddersfield?

Gordon was born in 1898 and died in 1929 of tuberculosis. He lived in Spring Street, Huddersfield, for many years.

His Army pension record says he was discharged on 28 March 1919 and he served in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry (KOYLI). Jan has also sent for possible information from the KOYLI museum in Doncaster.

She also has photographs of him in a hospital bed, but they may have been taken abroad.

Jan found a jazz musician called Sidney Bechet or Bechett (1897-1959). Could the band have been named after him?

Maybe you could help with further information about KOYLI records or perhaps you have an interest in jazz music history? If you can help in any way please email Jan Green – littleknightowlz@madasafish.com

Susan Hutson
Editor

Searching for Hoyles from Holmfirth and Halls from Quarmby - update

What a fantastic result! I was contacted almost immediately after the journals were posted out by someone who had these families in their tree. They were delighted to become the new custodians of a wonderful set of photographs to add to their family story.

Don't worry if you have these families in your tree but didn't get the chance to contact me.

We have a set of scanned photos that can be sent out electronically.

The power of our Journal!

Maureen Wheeler
Librarian

Useful Websites for Maps and Locations

<https://huddersfield.exposed/wiki/Welcome> - this is probably my most used site when searching for information about Huddersfield and District in the past. Most searches for places or buildings result in a bird's eye view map of the area with places of historical interest marked, and below that is a historic map for comparison. Many searches result in extensive information about the history of the place

<https://maps.nls.uk/> - the National Library of Scotland has an extensive range of maps of every description, covering the whole of the British Isles – the repository just happens to be in Scotland, so don't be put off by its location. Once you become accustomed to using it, you can spend many hours looking at the locations of your ancestors. The Ordnance Survey maps are particularly useful.

<https://www.instantstreetview.com/> - Google Street View is wonderful for walking the streets where your ancestors lived and is very simple to use.

<https://www.genuki.org.uk/> - Genuki is a mine of information about county and parish name changes over the years and can help you place those parish areas, often shown on census records, which are not always familiar to us. The Gazetteer and Church drop down menus are particularly useful. – Ed.

Back Cover Photograph

The article on Page 13 details the reminiscences of Frank Breen, elder brother of Sheila Breen, who in her childhood, was a member of the Renee Lewis Dancing School. This photograph is of a Dancing Troupe who were part of the school which Sheila attended.

Renee Lewis' father owned a fruit and vegetable shop in Marsden and the dance studio was above that shop.

The photo was taken around 1950 (Sheila was born in 1941). She is standing to the left of the young boy in the middle whose name she thinks was Keith, but he wasn't from Marsden.

Sheila remembers Nancy Hale and Annette Dobson on the back row, and Rosemary Grace is the first person kneeling on the left of the photograph. She is not able to remember the names of anyone else in this wonderful group of dancers, but maybe you do, or you may know someone who might. Do let me know and I will print the new information in the next journal – Ed.

THE ROOT CELLAR
33A Greens End Road, Meltham, Holmfirth HD9 5NW
(Adjacent to Greens End Garage)



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Saturday 2.00 pm to 4.30 pm

Carry out your research independently, or with help
Speak to people with similar interests
Work on our computers including using Ancestry Worldwide and
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Seek advice from our team of volunteers and explore our resources
Purchase our publications and other local interest books
Use our library to further your research

Ring 01484 859229 for further information

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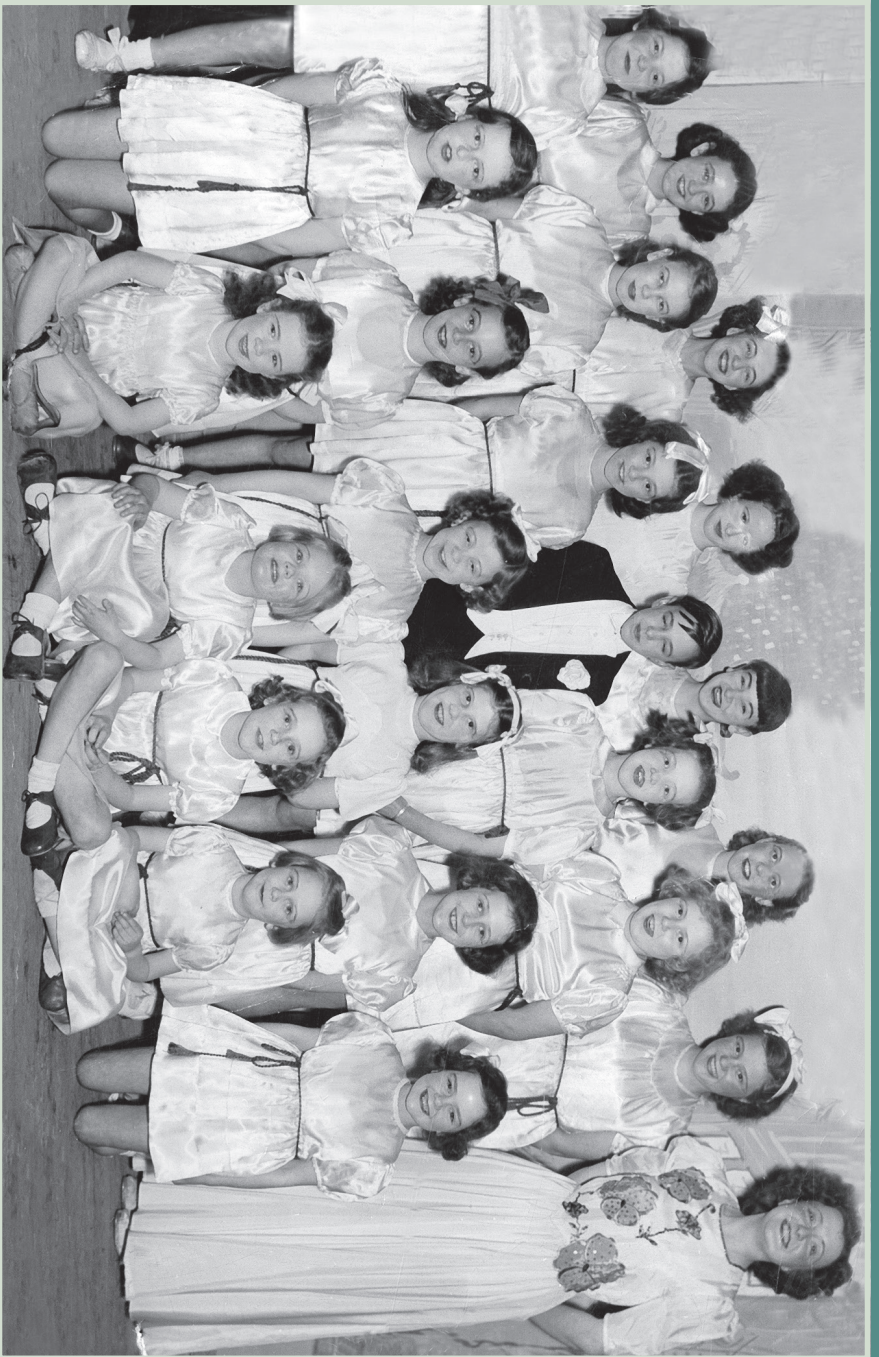
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The Renee Lewis Dance Troupe, Marsden, c1950
Submitted by Karla Breen Rickerby (B714)