

Barnsley Roots

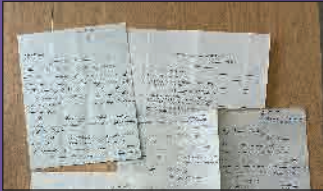
Journal of Barnsley Family History Society



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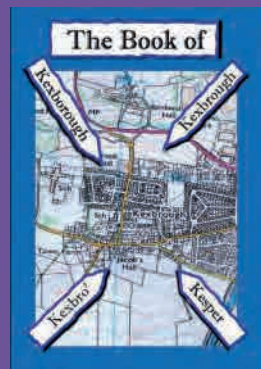
January 2025

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Is it Kexbrough,
Kexborough or
summat else?
See page 26.



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Front cover images: a guide to the contents.

Back cover images: Roger de Mercado & Shirley Sura

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**The Radio Times,
December 19th 1924.**
Did you know that scanned
issues of the Radio Times
from 1923 to 2009 can be

seen at <https://genome.ch.bbc.co.uk/issues> ?
Broadcasting was new, having begun only in 1922.
Our Barnsley ancestors probably picked up the
Sheffield transmitter, 6FL, on the 301 metres
waveband, or maybe 2LS from Leeds or even 2ZY
from Manchester. There would have been no
argument about channels: the choice was On or
Off.



EDITORIAL

Hello and welcome to Barnsley Roots 2025, our very first edition with colour throughout. It's nearly Christmas again and this could be your first present. As you all probably know, although I don't live in Yorkshire, I was born there and most of my roots are set firmly in Barnsley. I have been up a few times this year and plan to make another journey or two before Christmas. We have already had snow here in Great Barr and it appears we might have more; it is certainly cold enough and as I type my laptop says it's only 2 degrees. What would our ancestors have thought if they were told that in a few years the temperature would pop up in the corner of their typewriters?

In this issue...

As well as all our usuals, for which I would like to thank the authors, in this edition we have the final part of David Allen's 'Transcription Experiences', another very interesting article from Janet Town and an article about a Memento to a Colliery Disaster in 1909 by Roger de Mercado, giving lots of information and which is well worth reading. Look out for other items from our Editor including articles about missing war memorials, a book about Kexbrough, Free to View Newspaper Pages from the British Newspaper Archives and more.

Many thanks to Jane Ainsworth for the first contribution to our family connections to churches. In her article 'My Family Connections to St Andrew's, Hoyland' Jane gives us not only information about her own family connections but the history of the church and information about other Barnsley Churches.

As well as all her usual input, Margaret Williams gives us a lot of useful information about Barnsley Archives and Local Studies. We also have an update from Liz Whitehouse on 'The Stan and Grace Blog', such a lovely story; read it, find out for yourself, and go to the Blog. We have an article about some of our ancestors' Yorkshire recipes and I look forward to hearing about more of our members' recipes and memories. At this point I would just like to say that my cookery teacher was not a Yorkshire lass...

In forthcoming issues...

All the usual plus more old recipes, an update on Ancestral Homes and Birthplaces, from other members as well as mine if anyone feels the urge, any other contributions our members would like to make, a bit of fun and any articles you would like to see in the journal. Let us know even if you don't feel confident to do it yourself.

Janet Haigh has withdrawn from the committee due to family and work commitments but hopes to be able to rejoin at a future time. We thank her for her contribution and we thank Lynn Smith for taking over as Librarian.

All that is left is to wish you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all the Barnsley Roots Team.

Shirley Sura



SECRETARY'S UPDATE – NOVEMBER 2024



Hello to you all from a very chilly Barnsley; I hope that you are all well. We've had over 4cm of snow earlier in the week which is highly unusual before Christmas. I'm afraid that I'm not a fan of cold, dark, dank days although a walk in the countryside and sunshine does lift the spirits.

This isn't much of an update, I'm afraid, as I have been side-lined with a nasty viral infection so I have missed the Members' meetings in September and October.

I have tried to keep up with the search requests, though, as we have new members who have just discovered the Society, usually via the Family History Federation (FHF).

The Society is also in the early stages of planning possibly two trips for members in 2025, so any ideas you may have would really be appreciated. Just contact any Committee member; all details are on the front inside cover of the Journal.

You will notice that we are now publishing "Barnsley Roots" in colour, so all the Committee hope that you find it improves the content. Let us know your thoughts!

The November meeting was a talk by a local lady, Lizzie Jones, entitled The Banning of Mince Pies, followed by a buffet, as it was the last meeting before the Christmas break.

I thought that you may enjoy a review of Lizzie's talk as the emphasis was very seasonal. (It also fills out my rather sparse update!)

The Banning of Mince Pies

Lizzie always speaks about our ancestors without notes or any recourse to PowerPoint presentation or projector and screen.

The talk was planned into three sections: an introduction, a talk in the role of a 17th century Housekeeper then further facts about Christmas Past and its customs.

Lizzie started by saying all the facts in her presentation had come from 17th century manuscripts, Lords Templars as well as records dating back to the arrival of St Augustine on these shores when the pagan winter traditions were adopted by the early Christians. These included huge feasts around the middle of winter, which were necessary as the animals had to be killed for food – no freezers in those days! This custom became Christ's Mass – Christmas.

(In 1955, I received a wonderful book, first published in 1950, imaginatively titled **"The Christmas Book"** by **Enid Blyton**, which chronicled the customs behind some of our traditions. It's now an integral part of our family Christmas. I have read this to the many primary age children I have taught plus my own children and grandchildren and they have all loved it!)



Frieze of Medieval Celebrations

In the 17th century during the reigns of James VI and Charles I, Christmas began on All Saints' Day – November 1st – when preparations began for the Twelve Days of Christmas holiday. As most people worked on the land before the Industrial Revolution, they all had the full twelve as holiday because the land was frozen and no work could be done. Most landowners were happy to allow this. The Christmas period ended on St Distaff's Day with an extra half day holiday on the 13th day – January 7th.

This day marked the end of the Christmas season and the return to work for spinners. Spinning was a woman's primary household task, and the distaff was a symbol of this work. It often coincided with Plough Monday for the men.

Evergreens were cherished, homes were decorated with spruce, bay leaves, pine and any evergreen that gave off a festive aroma. A large Yule Log was brought indoors on Christmas Eve; it burned until Twelfth Night. Mummers went round the villages performing St George's Play, then going round the houses for some payment. Mince Pies and Plum Pudding were made from minced beef with some fruit. There was a different custom every day.

After a 30-second break for a drink of water, Lizzie morphed into a 17th century Housekeeper from the 1620s, through the Puritan rule then into the early years of Charles II. She spoke in local dialect which really lent authenticity to her words.

Lizzie assumed the role of a Housekeeper of a small Hall and estate and was dressed as someone of that status. All clothes were made of wool and linen with a linen shift underneath and, ladies, no knickers! Ordinary working people wore the same type of clothing, dyed with red or blue if necessary as these were cheap dyes. Black dye was extremely expensive, only for the rich



Lizzie in role

as black showed off the lace and pearls. Nobody was seen without their hair covered, the only exception being a bride on her wedding day.

"As Housekeeper, during the Puritan rule of Oliver Cromwell, I could only stand by when the goose roasting in my oven was removed by one of Cromwell's men, as were the mince pies, because they were oval in shape, resembling a crib with a pastry Baby Jesus on top as all ordinary people made them. Cook was far from pleased like me. Our cooking did not fit the Puritan beliefs at all." Heresy!

This comes from the time of Oliver Cromwell in the 1650s, when mince pies were banned at Christmas, along with other tasty treats and joyful customs. With Parliament in power there was no benefit, respite or pleasure for 'ordinary working people' and their families.

Cromwell wanted to tackle gluttony in England. He also argued that Christmas contained too many superstitions of the Roman Catholic Church, which he hated. The Christmas bans in 1657 didn't go down well,

causing outrage known as the Plum Pudding Riots in Canterbury in 1658. In a nutshell, there was no singing, no decorations, very little light, no love or joy.

The Parliamentarians hated the word "mass"; they thought it redolent of a pagan festival – it was! Everywhere was lifeless, it was cold, miserable, people had to use rush lights and make fires for warmth and to give further light. The ban on joy, the ban on Christmas, was only partial according to reports from the time. It was mainly confined to London, the Home Counties and the South East. In the counties like Devon, Cornwall, Yorkshire, Lancashire and the North, the local lord had the say on what was celebrated at Christmas – or not.

When Charles II returned to the throne excess ruled and customs were restored, although they were never quite the same. The big feasts and celebrations of yesteryear were gone. Folk could go to the theatre, if you had the money.

Assuming her usual persona, Lizzie commented that Christmas now is based on the Dickensian/Victorian Christmas traditions with added customs such as Advent Calendars, Santa Claus and Christmas outdoor lighting to brighten up the darkest time of the year. (The lights in the Glass Works in Barnsley are wonderful and free!)

Lizzie concluded on quite a wistful note. She commented that we live in an age now when certain things are banned in some places; if only people could look back they would see that it has all been done before. Her final statement was a wish that we could celebrate Christmas right up until Twelfth Night.

The 22 people present were then treated to a buffet to conclude the evening.

The BFHS is sending you all good wishes however you celebrate the Christmas Season and our hopes for a positive 2025 for you and your family.

Margaret E. Williams, BFHS Secretary and Search Officer

MY FAMILY CONNECTIONS TO ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, HOYLAND

I approve very much of Shirley's suggestion of featuring Barnsley's churches in Barnsley Roots. They are such important places in the lives of our ancestors and most early information comes from Parish Records: baptisms, marriages and burials. I have spent many happy hours on "ancestral tourism", visiting churches and churchyards to see where family members held their key events and where they have lain since with any monumental inscription a bonus.

Barnsley has lost a lot of churches and chapels to demolition or change of use and it can be difficult to find information about these, for example: St John the Baptist, St George's, St Barnabas, Bethel Chapel, Mount Tabor Chapel. Some precious items were not salvaged, i.e. fonts, memorials and stained glass windows. With dwindling congregations more churches are under threat ...

Although I retired to Barnsley town centre and have spent many years on projects for St Mary's Church, I was born in Hoyland and many of my ancestral roots are there and in Elsecar. My father's family, especially the Baileys, were Wesleyan although baptisms and marriages took place at Holy Trinity Church, where I was baptised. My mother's Firth and Booth families mainly used St Peter's although she was baptised at the John Knowle Memorial Church and other events were held at St Andrew's.

I was surprised to learn about the extent of my family connections with St Andrew's in April this year. *Barnsley Chronicle* wrote an article about the closure of this church by the Sheffield Diocese with a date for a consultation meeting to discuss the future use of the building, which I was unable to attend. I was very surprised to read that my great grandfather Charles Firth (1838-1892) had been involved in building St Andrew's. I have researched my family history extensively, but I had not come across mention of this before.

I subsequently arranged to visit St Andrew's with my cousin Anne, whose family church it had been, and we took photos of the impressive interior. There are 13 windows, including the large one above the altar, replaced with stained glass; five smaller windows now have stained glass, three facing the road and two at the back, and one is an Arts & Crafts WW1 Memorial. The



From 'A Church Near You'



Photo from Jane Ainsworth

original "plain" windows have ornate leadwork with two neutral colours in patterns. We did not find any plaque or inscription for Charles Firth.

I discovered some fascinating articles in old newspapers on Findmypast about the laying of the foundation stone and consecration of the new church. A leaden bottle, inscribed with the date by Charles Firth and containing a parchment scroll listing "names of the principal personages", was deposited into a cavity in the foundation stone laid by Countess Fitzwilliam on Easter Tuesday 1889. I have not been able to find this stone; if anyone knows where it is please let me know and email a photograph if possible.

The Lord Bishop of Beverley consecrated St Andrew's in September 1890 in an impressive service accompanied by many clergy, including Rev Canon Kirby from Barnsley St Mary. My great grandfather was listed as the contractor for plumbing and glazing.

The church cost about £1,500 to build, of which £300 was still required; £25 was collected on the day and £15 the following Sunday. Many donations had been made by local people and I was delighted to learn that the family of my great great grandfather Dr William Smith Booth (1809-1880) had donated the font and lectern, which survive but, regrettably, the stone has been painted and is in poor condition.

Dr Booth was an apothecary, chemist and druggist, who married Sarah Vaines and settled in Hoyland, where he practised. He had Netherfield House built at the end of what was called Booth Street after him. After he died, the family sold the house to the Ottleys, printers, whose daughter Sheila Margaret Ottley, Hoyland historian and author, lived there until her death. It was then demolished and two small houses were built on the site.

William and Sarah Booth's eldest daughter Mary married Charles Firth, who was a son of George Firth (1792-1862), a farmer who rented Upper Hoyland Hall, which is on the National Monuments Register. George took over a grocery and provisions shop in Market Street as he grew older. (Out of George's 11 children by three wives, two sons emigrated, George to USA and William to Australia, Thomas remains a mystery, Joseph Beaumont became a chief engineer in the Royal Navy, Henry designed and built shop fronts in Liverpool before mysteriously dying in South Africa, three died in childhood and two died in "lunatic" asylums).

Charles was his only son to remain in Hoyland; he qualified as a painter, plumber and glazier, establishing his own business in Booth Street in 1862. This became C Firth & Sons, his sons William and Arthur taking over and developing the site of the Bethel Chapel between King, Bethel and Booth Streets in 1907 for home, business, rental property and ironmongery shop. William did not marry, but Arthur did; three of four sons worked as master painters, plumbers, decorators and sign writers; the fourth later worked in the shop, which is now Doreen's Wool Shop.



Charles Firth

My Firth family won a lot of contracts for public buildings in the area, especially schools, and they were highly thought of. Charles' work for St Andrew's appears to be the most high profile and largest job of all. Unfortunately, soon after completing this contract, my great grandfather developed Bright's Disease, a chronic condition of the kidneys, and he died on 25th February 1892, aged 53.

I inherited some Firth stained-glass, but the only piece I know Charles made has his initials C F with his name and year 1863 engraved in the centre. It is one of my most treasured possessions.



Jane Ainsworth
janemaa@hotmail.co.uk

SEASONAL ANAGRAMS

Some of these are obvious straight away, others may be a challenge!



- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. mans own | 11. knife scanner |
| 2. motel site | 12. jacks fort |
| 3. my niche | 13. resist rematch |
| 4. dud piggy find | 14. coordinates |
| 5. lent rear downwind | 15. age roughened ribs |
| 6. tiny vita | 16. helm the be |
| 7. he bills legs | 17. help or not |
| 8. see bee zone grocer | 18. gal did sting |
| 9. lens bell jig | 19. chants in a silo |
| 10. cleaning skews | 20. tech stuns |

Answers on page 26

PRISCILLA


For some reason I had always considered 'Priscilla' as a name to be associated with the well-off – certainly no one in my tree – so it was a revelation to discover a 3x Great Gran bearing that name. Having investigated more though, she had anything but a comfortable life. It looks like a constant struggle, a pitiful and sad existence - how different to what we take for granted today.

Priscilla Waters was born in Worksop in September 1843, but by the 1851 census, a short eight years later, she is living with her sister and her family at Monk Bretton – because in Worksop, Priscilla's mother dies when she is five, her father when she is seven. Her sister has taken her in, but what a start for any child!

Exactly what happens next I don't know - I can't find her in the 1861 census – she is no longer with her sister and family; there appears to be no mention of her existence in that census, taken on 7th April 1861. Why, what has happened, where is she? One of those brick walls to keep working on.

However, Priscilla does come to light again in November 1862. Unmarried and in Barnsley Union Workhouse, she gives birth to a girl whom she names Elizabeth Ann. Priscilla is not in the Workhouse records of 1861 – so does she end up there just because she is unmarried and pregnant and has no other choice? No father is recorded on the birth certificate and Priscilla makes her mark on the certificate with a cross. So, at just turned nineteen, she's an illiterate orphan, she has a baby with no named father, and it appears she's no longer welcome at her sister's house. And it's Victorian England, 1862.

FC 442381



CERTIFIED COPY of an ENTRY
Pursuant to the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953

Registration District: Barnsley										
Birth in the Sub-district of Barnsley					in the County of York					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
No.	When and where born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name, age, surname of father.	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother.	Occupation of father.	Signature, occupation, and residence of declarant.	When registered.	Signature of registrar.	Name entered after registration.
119	Fifteenth November 1862 Union Workhouse Barnsley	Elizabeth Ann	Girl	/	Priscilla WATERS	/	X The Mark of Priscilla Waters Mother Union Workhouse Barnsley	Eighteenth December 1862	Jay Fildam Registrar	/

Certified to be a true copy of an entry in a register in my custody.

DR Gearwood Superseded Reg

c/p 103

CAUTION: THERE ARE OFFENCES RELATING TO FALSIFYING OR ALTERING A CERTIFICATE AND USING OR POSSESSING A FALSE CERTIFICATE. *UNKNOWN COPYRIGHT*

WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.

It appears that Priscilla gave up her daughter, as Elizabeth Ann next appears in 1871 living as the adopted daughter of the Hodgsons, an older couple living on John Street in Barnsley. It is probably doubtful that there was a choice in that matter – looking after a child and supporting herself would likely be impossible at that time. In any case Priscilla herself married in 1867, but her life continued its tragic course – a daughter died at 6 months old, the following year. Her husband is Bristol man William Lapworth, his occupation – Coal Miner - what else?

We catch up with them again in 1881, William is now a 'hawker' and they are living on Shambles Street with their four children. As for Priscilla's illegitimate daughter Elizabeth Ann - another 'disappearing act' - no longer with the Hodgsons and nowhere else to be easily found. Do they still have a mother/daughter relationship? I have no way of knowing, but Elizabeth appears again later with problems of the own; her husband proves to be a violent drunk. A report in several newspapers of the time including the Barnsley Chronicle labels him as a 'brutal and foolish fellow' and Elizabeth Ann is seeking separation; she is so frightened of him and is regularly beaten.

I learn more of Priscilla's dreadful living conditions at Shambles Street because of a horrific incident there in 1890 that was again reported in numerous newspapers of the time. The building where they lived had been a linen warehouse and was converted into living accommodation. About 4.30am on a November morning, Priscilla and her husband were woken by a loud noise from above them, coming from the attic space where their five children were sleeping. On rushing upstairs, they found that a section of the roof had collapsed, including a beam falling onto a bed where their 18 year old eldest son Henry had been sleeping. It had struck the back of his head, pinning him to the bed and killing him. Their other son sharing the bed survived. Three other children in another bed also escaped with their lives, crawling out from the roof debris in the dark.

It was reported that the roof had been in an unsatisfactory condition for some time, and the property agent was criticized for failing to put the house in a better state of repair. Despite this the inquest verdict was 'accidental death'.

Deceased son Henry had worked as a grocer's assistant on Market Hill and was a member of the Barnsley detachment of volunteers. Members of the Detachment, including their band, attended the funeral, firing a volley and playing music including the Dead March in Saul.

Heartbreaking for his parents, their despair would be unimaginable and beyond their control – being obliged to live in substandard accommodation and having no recompense for an awful event. Priscilla survived for less than a year after the tragic death of her son, passing away at the age of 47. Husband William, aged 49 then committed suicide two months later, drowning himself in the Barnsley canal. You might think that they simply lost the will to live.... The gravestone commemorating the family (including their surviving children) is in Barnsley cemetery – after names and dates it simply says, 'Thy will be done'.

Janet Town

KEEPING YOU IN THE LOOP NEWS SNIPPETS

BARNSELEY ARCHIVES – TRANSCRIBERS WELCOME

Barnsley Archives and Local Studies are always keen to welcome new transcribers to their team. Most transcribers are volunteers, usually with an interest in Barnsley records.

The Archives ask that you enquire first. There is usually a timetable and spreadsheet of tasks that need addressing. The staff have a variety of records that need transcribing so they try, as far as possible, to match these to the interests of the transcriber.

If you are interested, please contact the Archives. Contact details are included in the article on Barnsley Archives in this issue.

(After transcribing for Calderdale for over eight years, I am going to transfer my allegiance to transcribing for Barnsley now.)

BURIAL GROUNDS AND CREMATION - Possible reform of the law.

The Family History Federation has been sent information about a proposed change in the law regarding Burial Grounds and Cremation. There is currently a consultation at the Law Commission to reform the law of burial and cremation in the U.K. A consultation paper and a summary of the proposals they have produced asks for any comments to be submitted by a **January 9th 2025 deadline**.

The FHF suggests that anyone with an interest view the papers and respond to an online questionnaire, either as an individual or as a society. There is a short video to watch explaining all the details. The link is below.

<https://lawcom.gov.uk/project/burial-and-cremation>.

WHAT WAS YOUR ANCESTOR'S OCCUPATION?

The Family Researcher at **<https://familyresearcher.co.uk>** is the website of Jane Hewitt. I have just logged in for a look around. Jane is a professional family history researcher so there is a charge for her services, usually. The site looks really interesting although I didn't go as far as finding out the charges!

Scroll down to a paragraph entitled **Free resources for family tree researchers** where there is a link to **Free Family Tree Research Information**. That gives a link to her Dictionary of Old Occupations. Have a look to see if there is anything there to help you with your family tree.

ANCESTRY

As ever, Ancestry has continued to add to its ever expanding record database by adding 13,103,450 new records. These include:

- British Army WW2 Medal Cards 1939-1945;
- Updated Scotland Prison Records Index 1791-1937;
- UK Selected Smaller Units Service Records 192-1959
- UK Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers Service Records 1942-1959.

Margaret E. Williams, BFHS Secretary and Search Officer

THE STAN AND GRACE BLOG – update December 2024

Some members are following the blog where I am publishing the letters between my parents, Stan Bristow and Grace Skuse, from when they met in February, 1942, to the point where Stan was eventually demobbed in April, 1946. Each letter is posted on the blog on the equivalent day to the day it was written 82 years ago.

I know that some members looked at the blog when it began, but have not continued to visit (I don't know **who** visits, but I can see the number of visits). The correspondence began slowly and, for much of the first eight or nine months, it has been a mostly one-sided as Grace only occasionally saved Stan's letters.

Although the letters do not have the drama of a soap opera – much everyday life is quite mundane, even in the middle of a war – their romance has been slowly progressing. In August there were a couple of anxious days when the German navy sank the aircraft carrier 'HMS Eagle' in the Mediterranean. Grace's brother, Eric, who was in the Fleet Air Arm, was on board and fortunately survived.

Recently Stan has been working hard, seven days a week, to "prepare a unit for going to war". By the middle of November Stan and Grace were desperately trying to get their week's leave to coincide as Stan is expecting to be sent abroad towards the end of the year. In October, I think with this in mind, Stan asked Grace – by letter – if she would become engaged (annoyingly, this is not one of the saved letters!). It may have surprised readers that she said 'no', which caused Stan to be quite upset.

We are not really clear why Grace said 'no'; from her letters it seems that she was surprised that the suggestion came 'so soon'. However, even during wartime, most hospital matrons did not want married nurses on their staff. Grace was clearly determined to finish her training before she considered marriage.

We continue to find out about life in the 1940s, what films they have been to see, the dances, the 'smoking concerts' in the Sergeants' Mess, the nurses fundraising to buy linen for the wards and the daily challenges of wartime shortages and rationing.

In a letter on 7th November, Grace says: *"Do you like my note-paper? I wish these wards would get some decent paper in, but until they do – I just have to put up with this."* Grace had continual problems finding writing paper and when you look at the paper she was using, she was writing on the back of the ward daily report sheets! The photo on the next page shows some of the variety of paper Grace managed to find to write on. Stan usually used sheets of typewriter paper, which was in plentiful supply in his office.

December finds Grace taking her next batch of exams and Stan was spending time on the rifle range, learning to fire a rifle, a revolver and a 'Tommy gun'. He says *"I don't think I shall be too much of a success at this killing game."* As he is with the Royal Signals, actual fighting is not their usual occupation.

Both Stan and Grace were working over Christmas and there is a letter from each of them describing their Christmas Day. Clearly both the Army and the hospital authorities put a lot of effort into providing a good Christmas dinner.

Stan, writing on Christmas night, said: "I feel tired tonight. I got up at 6.30 this morning & helped to take coffee & rum round to the men in bed. Then I worked in the cookhouse all the morning & helped to serve the dinner.

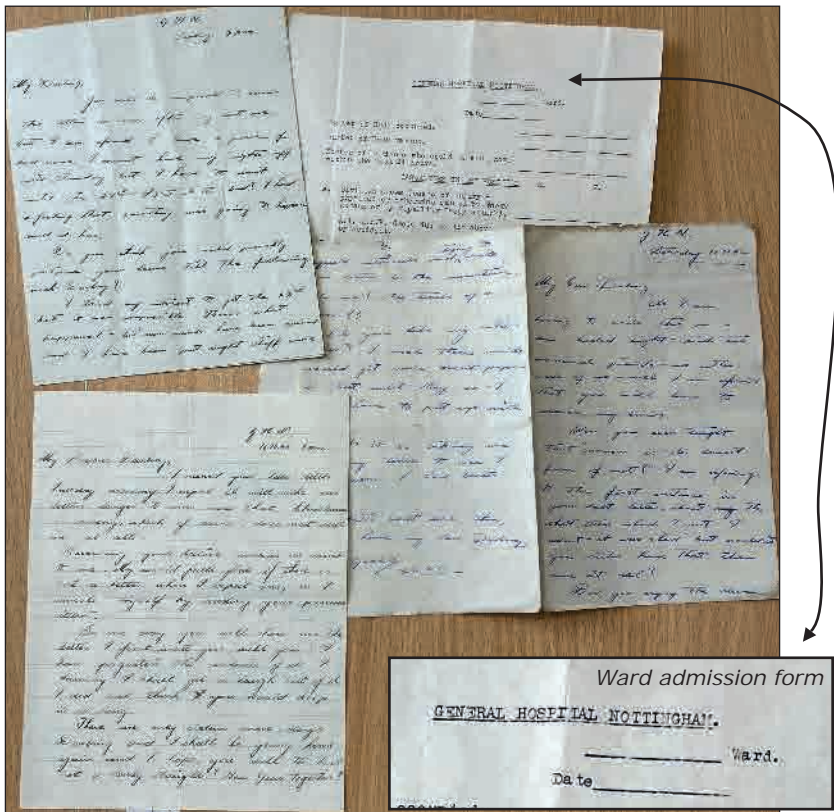
We had a super dinner. The conventional type you know, turkey, pork, apple sauce, stuffing, roast spuds & then pudding & rum sauce. I wondered what sort of a dinner they were giving you at G.H.N. whilst I was eating mine. Did you fare well or badly?"

In a letter on 27th December Grace, who was working nights, says: "Christmas Day, Kit and myself actually went to church. When we came back we had port wine and then spent the rest of the day in bed.

We had our Christmas dinner this morning. We had soup followed by turkey and its accessories, Christmas pudding and fruit salad. It was cooked and served very nicely and everybody enjoyed themselves."

Will they get to see each other again before Stan is sent abroad? Why not give the blog another try at <https://stan-and-grace.blogspot.com/> ?

Liz Whitehouse



BARNSELEY ARCHIVES AND LOCAL STUDIES

How can they help you?

As Search Officer for the BFHS, I often suggest members who live locally should visit the Archives, which are based in Experience Barnsley in the Town Hall, as one of their first ports of call after trawling through the generic sites such as Ancestry and Findmypast in a search for their local-based ancestors. I am also happy to do this for members who live away from the area and overseas, if they wish.

Barnsley Archives and Local Studies are housed in the Town Hall now, where they have been since 2013.



The Town Hall



After a chat with the esteemed editors of “Barnsley Roots”, we thought an article on the history and functions of the Archives and Local Studies may be useful for all of us, so here it is!

If you live in the Barnsley area, are new to South Yorkshire, or just visiting this part of the country, the Town Hall is a prominent white landmark you can't miss! The best entrance is at the **left side door** (next to the fountains), turn right by the Gift Shop and follow the corridor round three sides of a square, a ground floor tour where you are wondering if it has an end! You do eventually get to the **Discovery Centre** door on your right; this is the entrance to the Barnsley Archives and Local Studies Department. There is good access for visitors with mobility issues.

Pre-booking for Archives Research is essential.

The Barnsley Archives and Local Studies, part of Barnsley Museums, are open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday as follows:

- **Tuesday:** 9:30 AM–12:45 PM and 1:30 PM–6 PM
- **Wednesday:** 9:30 AM–12:45 PM and 1:30 PM–4:30 PM
- **Thursday:** 9:30 AM–12:45 PM and 1:30 PM–4:30 PM

The archives are closed on Monday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Telephone number: 01226 773950

It is a very simple, free process to become a research member of the Archives. The staff are so welcoming and helpful, taking great care to have the documents you wish to research ready for you. You need pencils and paper to record your findings. There are lockers for you to store your bags and coats, as these are not allowed in the research area. It is also possible to obtain photocopies of some documents (subject to Copyright Law.)

Paul Stebbing, Archives and Local Studies Manager for Barnsley MBC, heads a staff team who are all knowledgeable and helpful; nothing is too much trouble. They are endlessly patient, especially with yours truly when I could not get to grips with a newly installed, state of the art, microfiche reader!

Brief History. Before the Barnsley Archives were even founded, there were local people who set up a group, in 1890, to purchase publications on local history which were housed in the Library premises on Eldon Street in the town centre. Gradually, interest grew so, in 1916 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the library, an exhibition of local literature was held, together with an appeal for more material for the collection. It was not until the Central Library on Shambles Street was built, however, that the era of obtaining local records that people could research began to grow at pace.

Barnsley Archives was founded in 1986, finding a new home in the 1970s concrete building of the Central Library on Shambles Street. In April 1987, the Archives were opened to the public on the first floor, next to the Music Library! Possibly, more detailed planning may have been useful as the lifts were 'spasmodic' and the room was cramped. It may be that the Archives had to go wherever there was space?

If you had mobility issues, or just needed a calm place to research, this location was not ideal.

In 1998, the Archives merged with the Local Studies Library to form the **Barnsley Archives and Local Studies**. (Why this was a good fit will be made clear...)*******



Barnsley Central Library
February 1975 – March 2014.

When the Central Library building was scheduled for demolition, as part of yet another regeneration scheme, a change of location was a necessity. In 2013, the whole service relocated to Barnsley Town Hall (ground floor) as it became part of the **Experience Barnsley Museum and Discovery Centre**. Anyone who has occasion to visit this oasis of calm cannot fail to be welcomed and find data to help their research. It was no surprise to 'us regulars' when the Archives and Local Studies won the **ARA Recordkeeping Service of the Year in 2022** which was chosen by many BFHS members' votes as well as a national public vote.

"The service collects, preserves and makes available the documentary heritage of the Metropolitan Borough of Barnsley. Contained in secure and environmentally-controlled storage are thousands of boxes of archives donated by individuals, families and organisations charting the history of the borough from the 12th to the 21st century." (Archives Website)

There are intriguing documents, photographs, maps and films plus shelves and files of fascinating books.

ACCESSING THE RECORDS



Records stored in the Archives

It was not until I did my Open University degree in the early 1980s that I realised that there are two types of historical records available for researchers. These are **Primary Sources** and **Secondary Sources**.

PRIMARY SOURCES are unique and irreplaceable records saved at the Archives because of their historical value, the valuable raw material for researchers consisting of all shapes and sizes; there are individual documents, files, tapes, microfilms, maps, plans, electronic documents which all help a researcher understand how the area developed and how our ancestors lived.

- Poll Books and Electoral records
- School and Education Records
- Police Records
- Methodist and Non-Conformist records
- Cemetery Records
- Police Records
- Motor Licensing records
- Family and Estate Records
- Parish Council Records
- Local Authority Records
- Business Records
- Hospital and Healthcare records
- Maps and Plans
- Sound and Film recording

SECONDARY SOURCES are published material that, in this case, relates to the Barnsley area and has been collected over 120 years. These published materials are held by the Local Studies Collections which complement the Archive Collection above. They all relate to the borough and are available on an open access basis the Search room.

- Copies of Church of England Parish Records (microfiche)
- Parish Magazines
- Indexes of Births, Marriage and Deaths
- Cemetery and Crematorium Indexes
- Copies of Census Returns
- Newspapers and news cuttings
- Books and pamphlets
- Maps and plans
- Street, trade and telephone directories
- Journals, periodicals and magazines
- Aerial photography

I am so grateful to Hannah and Katy for their help and support at the Archives when I visited to gain some information for this article. Hannah found me a file entitled "Ephemera" which was such a valuable (secondary) source for me. I will repeat, yet again, how helpful the staff are.

What a fantastic place the Archives are!

Barnsley is so fortunate to have an easily accessible, award-winning location. When I receive search requests from members, I still get asked where the Archives are and what they can offer. More people need to know about them. See www.experience-barnsley.com/our-archives

The Archives are always keen to have transcribers for their records, subject, of course, to the usual rules and regulations. Look in the "**Keeping You in the Loop**" section of this issue for further information.

Margaret E. Williams, BFHS Secretary and Search Officer

Your Editor adds: Barnsley Archives and Local Studies add to their Facebook pages pretty well daily. Even if you are not a Facebook addict (which I certainly am not!), there is a lot of interest there. Go to www.facebook.com/BarnsleyArchives

Do have a browse through and see what you think might have been a talking point for our Barnsley ancestors, e.g. the aqueduct collapse on 20th November 1911.

On 20th November 2024 two images were shown, one reproduced opposite, captioned "On this day in 1911 subsidence made Barnsley aqueduct burst its banks. Repairs were not completed until July the following year meaning a lot of revenue was lost due the canal's closure."



COLLIERY DISASTER MEMENTO

On 16th February 1909 there was a massive explosion at the West Stanley Colliery, Durham. Many mementos of the disaster were produced as part of fundraising for the widows and children of the 168 men and boys who perished. Items included miniature miners' lamps, postcards, serviettes, printed verses, brochures and commemorative glasses. Paddy, a pit pony that survived the explosion, took part and pulled a cart through the streets for donations to the fund. The Northumberland and Durham Permanent Relief Fund gave the widows five shillings per week and two shillings for each dependent child. The fund raised £17,919 for the 238 dependants.

Two Barnsley men, the late John Beard and his close friend and fellow former miner John Greaves, started 'Mining Memorabilia To Lend' with the aim of 'Keeping Mining Alive' by taking relics from mines to local schools and care homes. In September 2023 they took a worn example of one of the West



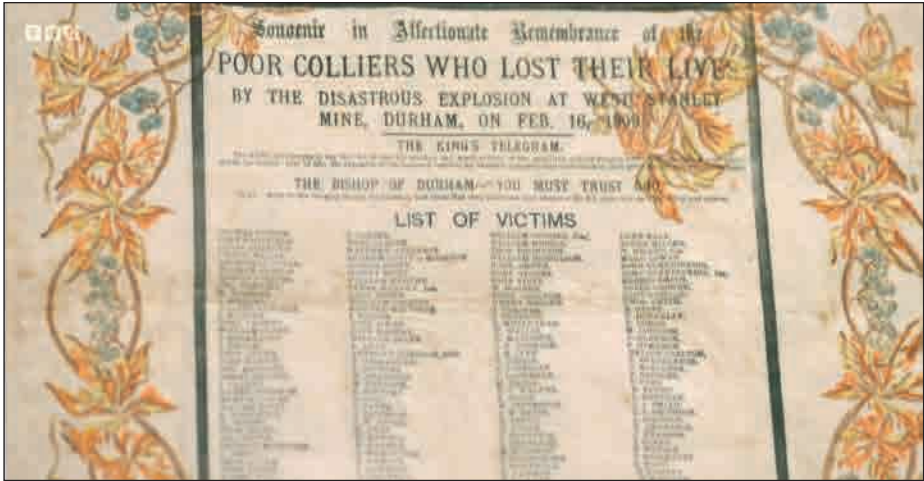
Stanley commemorative serviettes to the BBC Repair Shop for restoration. The episode was broadcast in October 2024. Sadly, John Beard died in March at the age of 64. His daughter, Laura Cook, said "They did the filming just as my dad started to become unwell, but he was determined to do it. It was a very difficult and emotional watch for us, however it was a beautiful testament to the man he was, the strength and courage he had and his lasting legacy of always helping others. I thought they did a wonderful job of restoring the serviette and giving it a new lease of life".



Roger de Mercado

with acknowledgments to the Barnsley Chronicle and the BBC

Above left and right, the tattered edges of the serviette; below, the restored artefact.



BARNSELY PAL'S POSTCARD COLLECTION

This headline in the Chronicle in October and the article by Josh Timlin beneath it caught our eye.

BARNSELY
CHRONICLE

Local historian brings Barnsley Pal's postcards home to town

A FORMER Barnsley Pal who collected postcards while serving in the First World War has had his extensive collection acquired by a local historian.

Jane Ainsworth became aware of a special collection of postcards and decided to buy Private Tom Bradbury's haul 'for Barnsley'.

Private Tom, of D Company of the 13th Battalion of the York and Lancaster Regiment, acquired more than 200 postcards. Born in 1881 and dying in 1956 at the age of 75, he wrote on some but sent them all home to his family at 6 South Street, Barnsley, to keep for him.

They were purchased at auction in 2023 by Neville Ashby of Otley, who split them into separate lots to sell on eBay, before Jane stepped in. She told the Chronicle: "Unfortunately I missed some special postcards early on of individual soldiers and rare groups because I was unaware of the collection and these commanded high prices. Neville was very helpful when I explained my interest and I succeeded in buying the rest of the collection."

"I was intrigued when I discovered that the collection was from a Barnsley Pal and I organised the postcards into chronological order: camps in England, scenes in Egypt and many places in France and Belgium, putting them into protective sleeves in two card index boxes. Unfortunately, there were no photos of Tom or his family, but I researched their story."

The two Barnsley battalions trained locally before going to various camps. They were posted to Egypt at the end of 1915 but then transferred to the Western Front in March 1916 and notably took part in the infamous Battle of the Somme. The Sheffield City Battalion and Accrington Pals in the lead had suffered most severely, but of the 1,442 men of the two Barnsley battalions that had gone over the top in their support, 175 officers and men had been killed outright and 392 wounded, of whom 35 later died of their wounds.

Despite their catastrophic losses, they continued to serve on the Western Front, including the Battle of Arras a year later before being combined into a single battalion in early in 1918.

The Barnsley Pals were reduced to a remnant during the German spring offensive, but the battalion was rebuilt to participate in the final victorious 'Hundred Days Offensive'.

"Unfortunately, Tom's service records have not survived for any personal



details, including whether he was granted any leave to return home to see his family," Jane added.

"He would have been traumatised by his experiences on the battlefield and devastated by the injuries suffered by his comrades or their slaughter. We have recently passed the 110th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War and creation of the Barnsley Pals battalions plus the 108th anniversary of the notorious Battle of the Somme. I intend to donate the collection with my research to Barnsley Archives soon."

We asked Jane to tell us more. She replied:

"I purchased 15 WW1 postcards for £26 on eBay from seller aurora-lunae (Neville Ashby) in August 2023. They were from the same soldier called Tom Bradbury, who was a Barnsley Pal; 10 had his writing on with one written by another member of his family. Tom's complete collection of 200+ postcards was purchased at auction by Nev and split to sell on eBay.

"I wanted to research Tom and, fortunately, Nev had kept some details from postcards purchased by another buyer. 'Tom' was Thomas Bradbury, D Company, 13th York & Lancaster Regiment. His home address was 6 South Street, Barnsley. He had three children, Edith, May and Clara. Some cards were sent to Bertha, who might be his wife.

"I had missed some excellent postcards before knowing about Tom's collection because they commanded high prices. Nev had taken a couple of photos of groups of cards so that I could see what was missing and obtain photos, even if not great quality. (See example below.)



Example of photographed card.

"Tom was posted to Egypt before going to France. Nev said 'I still have a postcard showing the Y&L colours, and he's written on the back that it's the regiment he is in. The other postcards are just cards showing French towns, some with bomb damage, and they all date to the Great War era. They were clearly sent home regularly (in an envelope, they don't contain an address), and some have a few words

pencilled on the back relating the scene to the soldiers' movements'.

"Nev listed a large number of Tom's postcards, mainly of views without messages, and I won these. When I went to collect my purchases from Otley, he gave me some extras. This second batch comprised 181 postcards plus booklet of 8 photos for £11." Two of her cards are opposite.

Jane has researched Tom Bradbury. If you want to know more about the collection, you can contact her at **45 Victoria Road, Barnsley, S70 2BU** and at **janemaa@hotmail.co.uk**

Roger de Mercado

VICTORIAN RECIPES - AND MORE

Some of us at the Barnsley Family History Society have been talking about old family recipes, food our grandmas and mothers used to cook. (I only mention female cooks because most grandfathers and fathers were 'down 't pit' or 'in 't pub').

This started me thinking about my own and my ancestors' cooking and recipes and my own memories, the smell of a coal fire in the range and home-made bread in my beloved grandma Elsie's kitchen, which I recalled as if it were yesterday when I visited a living museum kitchen.

My mother was a very 'plain' cook and as many people in those days did, boiled every vegetable (and liver) to within an inch of its life. What she did do very well though, was Yorkshire puddings (even though she wasn't a Yorkshire lass); they were large enough to cover our plates and she poured a beautiful onion sauce over them. She also made lovely Christmas cakes, one large round one and several smaller loaf cakes to enjoy on Christmas Eve with a chunk of cheese.

A less pleasant memory was of school cookery lessons with a massive and ferocious 'Domestic Science' teacher whose name I do not recall but whom I can still picture, wiry red hair always contained under her hat, pebble glasses and a booming voice, along with whatever kitchen item was to hand being flung at any individual (along with a very un-PC comment) who touched their mouth or hair after scrubbing their hands in readiness to cook. More importantly, she was an amazing cook and I remember every single thing she taught me. I still knead my bread for ten minutes, even though many recipe books and TV chefs/bakers say you only need to do it for five minutes – I wouldn't dare!!

I still use a 'Be-Ro' recipe book and some Yorkshire cookery books, old and new. Sadly, I have no recipes to share but it would be interesting to see how many of our members use or know of recipes handed down from their ancestors. We could make this a regular item in Barnsley Roots. We already have the promise of recipes from some members and here are two from our Secretary and Search Officer, Margaret Williams whose recipes 'will range from 1500s to the 1900s'.

Shirley Sura

The vast majority of accessible recipes were made by home cooks in the villages and towns. These usually came without quantities stated. Housewives just used the senses to work out the quantities: sight, smell and taste were the key to success. The other style of recipe came from the aristocracy and wealthy households in the grand homes such as Castle Howard and Wentworth Woodhouse.

All the dishes were made and tested by my Year 6 classes. Some were loved, like the Brown Betty, others, like the Brown Windsor Soup, not so much! (We didn't use the Madeira wine in class, though. Didn't think the parents would be too pleased.)

The Brown Windsor Soup was a great favourite of royalty; it was regularly served in the homes of the aristocracy as well as being a staple on the menus

of the National Railways until the 1960s. My version is from great, great aunt Dora Wadsworth.

Brown Betty was a precursor to the much-loved Apple Crumble we eat today. This was made and loved in cottages throughout the land.

Brown Windsor Soup - Queen Victoria's Favourite



INGREDIENTS

- 2 tablespoons butter.
- ¼lb stewing beef.
- ¼lb lamb steak (or mutton if available).
- 4 cups good beef stock.
- 1 medium onion, peeled and sliced.
- 1 carrot, peeled and sliced.
- 1 parsnip, peeled and sliced.
- 2 tablespoons flour.
- 1 bouquet garni.
- salt and pepper.
- ¼ teaspoon chilli powder.
- ½ cup cooked rice (optional).
- ¼ cup madeira wine (optional).

DIRECTIONS

1. Cut the lamb and beef into 1-inch cubes and roll in the flour.
2. Place the butter in a large saucepan over a low to medium heat. (It is important not to turn the heat up too high since the butter burns easily. It wants it to go brown, but not black!) Fry the meat off for 3 minutes and then add the rest of the flour and fry for a minute longer until the butter/flour is a golden brown.
3. Now add the sliced vegetables and stir in the stock. Throw in the bouquet garni, partially cover the saucepan, and simmer for 2 hours.
4. Puree the soup before adding the cooked rice if using; serve the soup piping hot with assorted breads and rolls. Traditionally a tablespoon of Madeira would be stirred into the soup at the table.

Brown Betty



This recipe, from 1866, makes a pretty standard Apple Betty. The distinguishing feature of a 'Betty' is the alternating layers of breadcrumbs and fruit. Betties are part of the group of baked-fruit-with-topping dishes (along with cobblers, crisps, crumbles, etc.) (I can never seem to tell one apart from another.)

The original instructions for making an Apple Betty

There was never any information on the quantities needed for each ingredient as for most of our ancestors home cooking was look, smell and taste. I eventually found this –plus a picture:

INGREDIENTS

Brown Betty (for a 1.5 quart baking dish).

- 5 – 6 apples, peeled and sliced.
 - about 3 tablespoons butter.
 - about ½ cup brown sugar.
 - about 1 tsp cinnamon.
 - about 1 and a half cups of breadcrumbs.
1. Butter the baking dish, then put a layer of sliced apples in the bottom of the dish.
 2. Dot the apples with butter and top with brown sugar, cinnamon and breadcrumbs.
 3. Continue alternating layers until the dish is full, ending with a layer of breadcrumbs.
 4. Bake at 350 degrees F for about 45 minutes until the apples are cooked through and the breadcrumbs are starting to brown.
 5. Cover the dish if the breadcrumbs are browning too much before the apples are cooked.
 6. Leave to cool slightly, then serve.

Margaret E Williams, BFHS Secretary and Search Officer

The editor of the FHF REALLY USEFUL Bulletin No 51 November 2024 recalls in his article 'Creating Memories' that 'On Stir-up Sunday my great-grandmother's Christmas pudding recipe comes out. I think of the women who have used this including those with whom I have shared it over the decades. I only knew great-gran (known as Poor Nana due to her bad legs!) when I was a child and she was in her eighties. However, some of her recipes live on'. You can find this article in the Family History Federation archive at www.exploreyourgenealogy.co.uk/bulletins. There is also a recipe there.

Shirley Sura

CUDWORTH WAR MEMORIALS AUCTIONED

Two WW1 Memorials that were at Cudworth Wesleyan Methodist Chapel were auctioned on 9th September – Remembrance weekend, of all times. It seems that when the chapel closed, the memorials which had been in place for 103 years were sold, mounted on a wooden board, in 2022 by a charity shop that had been set up on the premises. They have now been sold at auction for £420 and the whereabouts are, at present, unknown. One memorial is to ten named scholars of the chapel:

ARTHUR BROOKS
SIDNEY CLARE
FRED DOUGHTY
WILLIAM HORTON
HERBERT E JACKSON
EDWARD JOBBURNS
WILLIAM JOBBURNS
THOMAS DIXON LOFT
HAROLD PORTER
JOSEPH A STAINROD

Are any of these names “yours”?



Images from the auctioneers website.

The other memorial is to the above Harold Porter, RAMC, 108th Field Ambulance.

Andy Jones saw the advertised auction and alerted Jane Ainsworth. They jointly bid for the memorials, but were out bid.

Sadly, too many war memorials are being lost due to sale or destruction. Jane asks that if you become aware of a War Memorial under threat, please encourage those involved to save it. If the premises are going to be demolished, please find another home where the public can view it. If you are uncertain what to do, please contact *Barnsley Chronicle*, Barnsley Museums or Dan Jarvis MP so that they can involve other interested parties to come up with a solution.

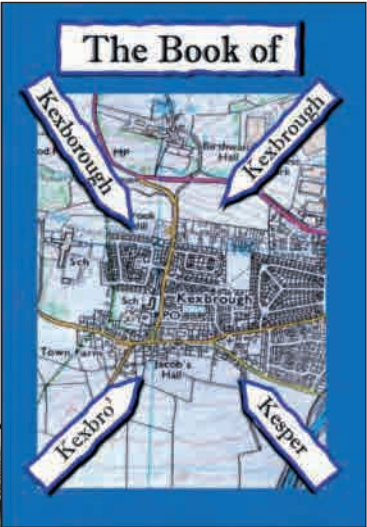


The memorials were on the left of the doors when the chapel was in use.

Roger de Mercado

THE BOOK OF KEXBROUGH

A few miles north-west of Barnsley is the village known generally as Kexbrough. Local historian Bryan Danforth (who was our journal editor from Jan 2013 to Jan 2016) grew up in the village. When he began researching family history, he found dissension as to how the name should be spelt. He has now put together a book all about the area. It was launched at a meeting of the Kexbrough Local History Group in October. The fifty pages are packed with photos, maps and information. Copies are £5 plus p&p from Bryan; contact him at bryandanforth1411@gmail.com



This photograph is of COLLIER'S FOLD taken around 1910. The small cottages bunched around a courtyard with a pump for water, typified the houses in the village at that time when most of the dwellings were grouped in folds or yards.



A page from the book.

Roger de Mercado

SEASONAL ANAGRAMS – ANSWERS

1. Snowman
2. Mistletoe
3. Chimney
4. Figgy Pudding
5. Winter Wonderland
6. Nativity
7. Sleigh bells
8. Ebenezer Scrooge
9. Jingle bells
10. King Wenceslas



11. Frankincense
12. Jack Frost
13. Christmas Tree
14. Decorations
15. Gingerbread House
16. Bethlehem
17. North Pole
18. Glad Tidings
19. Saint Nicholas
20. Chestnuts

TRANSCRIPTION EXPERIENCES

David concluded the second part of his article in the October issue of Barnsley Roots by having tracked down the Lord family named on the memorial inscription he was researching. He ended by writing that it was time to move onto the cryptic inscriptions on the grave memorial and to try to answer the questions detailed at the start of his article, plus more which arose while he was writing it.

To start, let's begin in the order in which they appear on the stone: In (...) Memory of Jane Duke Infant Mistress of Elland Edge. Who or what is an 'Infant Mistress'?

Reading some genealogy textbooks, it appears that the word 'Mistress' back in the day, could be used to describe a mother. However, in the more modern terms of use, the term is used more commonly in relation to that of someone engaged in today's role and description of School Teacher.

Bearing in mind David's position as a schoolmaster, his and first Ellen, and then (daughter) Jane's residence showing as a School house, I would suggest that Jane was fulfilling a pastoral role towards the children attending Davids school and was residing there as a 'lodger'. But then, going to the second line of the inscription, it shows Jane as I originally transcribed it, 'In (...) memory of Jane Duke, Infant Mistress Elland Upper Edge, The Devoted Wife of David Lord. This suggests that Jane and David were married following Ellens death, but I've been unable to find a record of a marriage having taken place. Perhaps the first and major heading on the memorial were acknowledgement to David's first wife, and the following inscriptions were descriptions and attributions intended to be directed at daughter Jane.

I suspected when doing the original transcription, that the first missing word was 'Pious' but with Peter's help four or five weeks later after starting to write this article I was able to have another look at the original file and confirm that my initial suspicion was correct.

I hadn't transcribed it as such initially, because this was only about the second file I had transcribed and hadn't picked up the experience and confidence I now have in interpreting inscriptions and personally speaking, the word Pious is somewhat of a critical term, and didn't seem to me a word that would be used in such a setting or context.

However, having satisfied myself that the missing word was indeed Pious, I thought that I'd better look up the dictionary definition.

The New Little Oxford Dictionary provides the following: -Pious- (adjective) devout / religious / sanctimonious / dutiful. The first two and fourth words seem applicable in a memorial setting, but Sanctimonious? Again, I have always seen this as a word of criticism, and so, back to the same source, and find a definition of 'ostentatiously pious'.

I don't think I've ever used a dictionary as much. What is the exact meaning of 'ostentatious. The same source describes (noun) – pretentious display of wealth, showing off.

And so, the first lines of the inscription leave a bit of an enigma. Were they intended as a compliment to daughter Jane, or a veiled criticism of her conduct and manner, inscribed on her and the Lord family headstone for evermore when she died in 1977. Or, were they really directed at wife Jane, as already questioned, for reasons as previously mentioned. I've got my own thoughts but leave it to the reader to draw their own conclusions.

Moving further down the inscription, we find 'Her friendship (...) See I have accepted thee'. Despite Peter's help, I've been unable to decipher the missing word. Unfortunately, even though I'm more or less certain that I've managed to ascertain the correct records to 'our David', the grave inscription doesn't at first reading make sense, and indeed I would suggest is not possible. The first two lines suggest that Jane was 'the devoted wife 'of David. However, I've been unable find a marriage record of David to a Jane Duke, or, a marriage of a David Lord to anyone in the timeframe necessary, and indeed, the age gap between them as suggested by their respective birth and death dates, would be hardly credible even by today's happenings, as suggested by the reaction to the marriages of celebrities such as Mick Jagger, Bernie Ecclestone and Rupert Murdoch to women far younger than themselves.

But, the Census records show a Jane D as one of David's children, born in 1885. This accords with the Jane Duke as shown on the memorial.

Therefore, after a lot of downtime, and much head scratching whilst trying to put this article together, the only logical explanation I can come up with is that the first Jane Duke depicted on the memorial was David's wife, and in fact the following inscriptions were not scripted very well, and referred to daughter Jane and has led to the confusion which has caused me much heartache in trying to sort out the right interpretation of this family's heritage.

However, I think that the wording seems to suggest that there was some sort of conflict between David and daughter Jane before her death in 1906 and perhaps led to the above cryptic inscription 'See I Have Accepted Thee', on the headstone, being placed there on David's death.

Perhaps David was mistakenly construed by Jane to believe that he blamed her for her mother Jane's death, or David believed that to be the case, and had failed to convince his daughter that that wasn't the case,

The above inscription being his last and flailing attempt in death to try and convince his daughter that he didn't blame her for her mother and his wife's death.

The fact that the other 'daughter' Jane doesn't appear listed with David in the 1921 census, is not necessarily significant, as she could quite easily have been away from their home on the night of the census being taken, or even lived separately and only visited David on a caring basis, to assist her sister Elizabeth Mary, who is shown on the 1921 census as being on 'Home Duties', and on previous censuses as one of David's children.

The conclusion therefore is that David didn't remarry after Ellen's death, and 'daughter' Jane had remained single all her life, and helped? To look after her father until his death. But, this theory doesn't seem to hold water either, as further down the inscription, appears: - 'Jane Duke their daughter died June 27th 1906. Aged 28 years' and therefore, obviously can't be the Jane Duke referred to earlier in the inscription.

This means a birth year of 1878. This obviously doesn't tie in with the first inscription for a Jane Duke, who was born in 1885, and died in 1977. But, her age and death date tie in exactly with the possible death date of mother Jane, whereas the second Jane's dates don't.

So just who were these Jane Dukes, and how did they fit in with David?

I've been unable to find any record on either FMP or Ancestry for either a Jane Duke, or a Jane Lord, in any of the usual records, i.e. Census's, Births, Marriage or Deaths, despite using quite generous perimeters of +/- 10 years of any relevant dates. Therefore, I can only conclude that the Jane who died in 1977, was indeed David and Jane's daughter who is shown in the 1891 and 1901 censuses as Jane D. with a birth year of 1885 which ties in with the other information which I've been able to uncover. The first and main Heading on the memorial is I would suggest an acknowledgement by David to his first wife Jane. The cryptic comment, 'See I have accepted thee', suggests that there had been ongoing conflict between daughter Jane and father David as regards to the death of mother Jane from one side or the other, and David was trying to make peace or set the record straight,.

But that then leaves the question as to who the Jane Duke who died in 1906 at 28 was, and who was her mother. Her age at death means a birth year of 1878, and would tie in nicely with my earlier theory that David's wife Jane, had died giving birth to daughter Jane.

Or conversely, who then was the Jane Duke who was born in 1885 who died in 1977, and who was her mother. It obviously can't have been wife Jane, as it is more or less certain that she died prior to the 1881 census.

But, on reflection, perhaps a more logical explanation is that the Jane which I transcribed as having a birth year of 1885, was in fact born in 1835, and the death date as I transcribed of 1977, was in fact 1877. This would make far more sense as regards to deciphering the family's heritage. However, despite rechecking my original transcription with Peters file, I can't be sure that my original transcription was wrong. I think that only a visit to the gravestone could possibly see with any certainty whether this hypothesis is right.

I don't know and am baffled as to how these two apparently separate Jane Dukes tie in, unless the above is correct.

Whilst doing my research for this article, the reader will remember that there appeared to be a gap in the census records for David and (wife) Jane between 1841 and 1871. However, the 1871 census shows David and his wife Jane living in the School House at Elland with their children Elizabeth M., Margaret A., David W., and Jemima with ages ranging from 10 to 5 showing a birthplace of Scotland. Two further children, Alexander and Edward with ages of 3 and 1 show a birthplace of Yorkshire.

Alexander's age suggests a return 'home' of 1868 at least, if not before. The 1881 Census shows the same address, with the addition of further children, John H. B.1872, Jane D. B.1878., but David's status is shown as Widower. Jane's age is shown as 3. This would suggest that David's wife Jane had died in 1877/8. A lack of record finding means that I'm unable to be sure of this fact.

Be that as it may, the fact that the records show a birthplace of Scotland for 4 of their children means that David and Jane had obviously married at some time between 1841 and 1861, as their eldest child Elizabeth M. is shown as being aged 20 in the 1881 Census, with a birth date of 1861, and birthplace of Scotland.

Rising to the status of National Schoolmaster, (Headmaster?) obviously means that David was someone of knowledge and ability. Could therefore his and Jane's move to Scotland have meant that it was in an effort to enhance David's education and qualifications (the reputation of Scottish Universities at this time being at least on a par with Oxford and Cambridge, e.g St Andrews) whilst also at the same time perhaps undertaking a role as a schoolteacher at a school in Scotland? in order to be able to fund his family's support. If it wasn't to further his education, then surely, he could have filled a similar teaching role in one of our local schools. Or perhaps there was some internal family conflict to do with David and Jane's union, which meant that they wanted to 'get away', only returning home when the cause of that conflict had deceased or faded from memory. But, the 1871 census shows 'wife' Jane's birthplace as Scotland. Had they moved back to Scotland for Jane to be closer to her parents, or was it a combination of all of the above? How had they met and fallen in love? Or perhaps they weren't in love and had only married because of Jane falling pregnant perhaps after a one night fling, and the 'See I Have Accepted Thee' comment wasn't directed at their daughter after all, but at his wife Jane, who perhaps believed that her husband didn't love or accept her, and blamed him for making her pregnant, and had only married her out of a sense of duty, responsibility or respectability. Who knows. We can only wonder.

The final initial query.

J W Taylor Aberdeen. You will remember that I initially transcribed this inscription believing that it was possibly a reference to a remote member of the Lord family, but that Peter believed it to be the Stonemason and had deleted it. So, back to FMP and Ancestry again. Initial enquiries using Census records produced nothing. More head scratching. Then, someone flicked on the light switch, and I wondered if it could be the name of a company. More head scratching about how I could check this thought out, and then I remembered reading an article in one of Chris Helmes Newseum magazines, about how useful old Trade Directories can be when trying to research local history. So, to Google this time, and I found a web site listing various Aberdeen trade directories for years such as 1912, 1870, and 1880. Searching them, I found several entries for different 'Taylor' companies trading as e.g.- Monumental Granite Worker, Stoneware Dealer, Granite Merchant, British Granite & Marble Co., Sculptor & Stonecutter. Etc., but none with the initials J.W. in their title. This doesn't matter however, as J.W. could easily have been a relation to the founder or proprietor or a descendant of the founder who was merely working in their company and was the stonemason who inscribed the Lord's monumental headstone, perhaps serving their time to learn the trade. Or even the company description inscribed on all headstones supplied by them.

What it does show however, is that my original suspicion that the Lord family had sourced their headstone from Aberdeen, and Peter's belief that J W Taylor was the stonemason/supplier is more or less assured. Only far more detailed and time-consuming research could possibly prove otherwise.

The connection to and decision to source their Memorial Headstone from Scotland is more or less certain to have come about because of Jane's birthplace, and the time that she and David appear to have spent living there whilst they were having their first children and building their family. The reason for their decision to return to Elland in c1868 will probably never be known. Perhaps Janes parents/family had all deceased, or David had finished his possible University education, and achieved the necessary qualifications he needed to be able to progress his career. Who knows. We can only wonder.

My final thought.

My first thought when looking at the file before starting transcription was that because the headstone material appeared to be Granite/Marble, then the family must have been 'Well To Do'.

So, was my thought reasonable? Well, as per the Probate records, David's Estate on his death as already mentioned, was £2870-13s- 9d. Looking at a value conversion table, this converts to around £148,000 in today's values. Obviously, even today, this is not a sum to be sneezed at, so back then, it would have seemed to be a huge amount.

Bear in mind, that in 1921, people didn't have the things around to spend their money on which we have today.

No Mobile phones, no I pads or PCs, no cars or motorbikes, no telly's or radios, or any of the other modern conveniences and gadgets which we today have come to take of as granted and essential. Also, no or only minimal bills to pay for electricity or gas or water. Even 'basics' such as plumbed in water supplies, electricity, gas, or even private family sanitary provision was only available to the upper echelons of society, with fresh water only being available to the majority from a pump halfway down the street or situated in the middle of the square contained within the inner surroundings of back-to-back houses, or even as in Brighouse, being situated in the centre of what was then a village in the centre of what is now known as Thornton Square, and was only done away with c1910. Toilets being shared by goodness knows how many people, again situated halfway down the street. Anyone who had their own situated across their backyard (if they had their own backyard), considered themselves lucky. There are many other comparisons or examples which I could provide, but I think you will have got the picture.

I can't close without a final mention of the second David. In the Probate records, he is shown as leaving an estate worth £2150. The same value comparison website shows a value today of £114,220, again, an amount not to be sneezed at. When you consider that 'our David' was born as the son of a Butcher, and the second David's occupation was Stonemason, I think you can safely say that both of them did very well for themselves and their families and all credit to both of them for achieving what they did at a very hard time for people to be able to improve their lives.

Therefore, I can say with some certainty, that both Davids families, by the standards of the time, were, 'WELL TO DO'.

CONCLUSION

My research into trying to unravel the vagaries of this family's history has only raised more questions than it has answered, and only more time and in-depth research may possibly unearth the answers. e.g. 'Thomas Lord, brother of David Lord died aged 75 years 1964'. David Lord died aged 87 in 1921, Thomas Lord dying in 1964 aged 75 years, therefore giving a birth year of c1889. David's birth year being 1834, therefore surely it cannot be possible for him to be the brother of 'our David'. However, could he be the brother of 'son David' as described in the censuses? I could spend more time trying to unravel these mysteries for this article, but it is already far too long for our magazine, and perhaps leaving some loose ends may pique one of my fellow members interests to take up the cudgels and try to answer the loose ends.

However, I can't end without stating my full thanks and appreciation to Peter Lord, Project Co-ordinator at CFHS not only for his initial suggestion and encouragement that I write a 'short' article for the Scrivener, but also for his help and encouragement since I started this work, and also since I started to 'work' for him as a member of his Transcribing Team. It has been/is continuing to be second to none, and a joy

He has helped me to become far more confident and knowledgeable in using computers, and although I'm still far from being computer literate, this has nevertheless helped me in my private life. I give him my thanks.

To the members of the Society who perhaps don't get involved in helping in the running of the Society, or perhaps don't help in a background activity such as transcribing, because perhaps of a fear or reticence towards modern technology, then I can only encourage you to grasp the nettle and give it a go. I did, and I have benefited from it, learning a lot as I did so. Therefore, can I ask that you consider offering your services to the Society in whatever capacity you feel comfortable with. If you come across something which you're not sure about or don't know the answer to, there will be someone somewhere in the Society who will be only too willing and able to help you.

Societies and clubs such as ours only exist through the work of volunteers, who are unpaid, and willingly give up their own time, and indeed, the above article, which I hope all of you have enjoyed reading has only come about by me volunteering initially to be the Membership Secretary (*of Calderdale FHS*) but being too late, then to help Peter in his transcribing endeavours, and therefore help to secure some income for the Society from FMP, which will help to secure the financial security of CFHS.

If we don't all help each other, then societies such as ours will cease to exist, and we will all suffer. Just this year, Ripon and Rotherham FHSs have folded, not necessarily for a want of members, but because there were not enough members willing to help run them. We don't want ours to go the same way.

David Allen

Davids's work was first published by the Calderdale FHS, who have kindly allowed us to use it. – Ed.

MEMBERS' SECTION

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the following members who have recently joined the Society. I hope that you will find your membership useful, enjoyable, rewarding and above all productive.

1994 Ms Mary Walters

1997 Mr James Fletcher

1995 Mr Tim Avery

1998 Mrs Judy Booth

1996 Mr Kevin Langley

1999 Mrs Karen Saunders

Elaine Jackson

MEMBERS' INTERESTS JANUARY 2025

Mem. No.	1995	Tim Avery		
Surname	Location	County	Country	Period
Cusworth	Rotherham	WRY	ENG	1800-2024
Haigh	All	YKS	ENG	1800-2024
Lawrence	Bolton-upon-Dearne	WRY	ENG	1800-2024
Lawrence	Leeds	WRY	ENG	1800-2024
Purcell	All	SAL	ENG	1700-2024
Purcell	Jump	WRY	ENG	1700-2024
Purcell	Rotherham	WRY	ENG	1700-2024
Purcell	Swinton	WRY	ENG	1700-2024
Purcell	Wombwell	WRY	ENG	1700-2024
Venables	All	CHS	ENG	1600-2024
Venables	All	STS	ENG	1600-2024
Venables	Bolton-upon-Dearne	WRY	ENG	1600-2024
Venables	Doncaster	WRY	ENG	1600-2024
Venables	High Melton	WRY	ENG	1600-2024

Mem. No.	1996	Kevin Langley		
Surname	Location	County	Country	Period
Dunigan	All	Any	IRL	1830-1910
Dunnigan	All	Any	IRL	1830-1910
Dunigan	York	WRY	ENG	1830-1911
Dunnigan	York	WRY	ENG	1830-1911
Holdstock	York	WRY	ENG	1850-1911
Langley	Stairfoot	WRY	ENG	1840-1881
Prest	York	WRY	ENG	1861-1909
Taylor	Leicester	LEI	ENG	1830-1911
Taylor	Stairfoot	WRY	ENG	1840-1911

Notes:

Needing help on:

1) The marriage (if they ever did marry) and parents of my 3rd great grandparents **John and Mary Dunnigan (Dunigan)** living in York after 1850. Up until their deaths in around 1890 + in Walmgate, York (I have the info for their deaths) all censuses just had 'Ireland' as birthplaces. **Bridget Dunnigan** seems to be the first child of theirs born in York, and christened 26th January 1849 in York. Their daughter Ann is my 2nd g. grandmother.

2) The death of my 4th g. grandmother **Ann Prest**, widowed **Thackray (Thackwray)** born **Woollons** in 1809 in York and baptised 25th of June 1809. We have her parents and others going back.... and forwards but no death for her. She married **William Prest** 25th June 1855 in Castlegate, York, and is already widowed on the 1861 census where she is living with her daughter and family, **Sarah Woollons** who married g g. Grandfather, **Henry Holdstock**.

Did she re-marry after 1861 as she was still only 52 years of age on that census? We have never found another marriage that fits (although a few possibilities) nor a death of an Ann Prest. Did she leave the country and her family in York... it wouldn't seem so.

I have more info for these families including all the children, but the above is what we are up against. So besides **William Taylor's** parents, the above is what I'd really be pleased to get help on.

Mem. No.	1997	James Fletcher		
Surname	Location	County	Country	Period
Hamer	Staincross	WRY	ENG	1800-2000
Hamer	Ward Green	WRY	ENG	1800-2000
Hamer	Worsbrough	WRY	ENG	1800-2000
Lee	Staincross	WRY	ENG	1800-2000
Lee	Ward Green	WRY	ENG	1800-2000
Lee	Worsbrough	WRY	ENG	1800-2000

Jeff Chambers

SURNAME SEARCH INDEX

Surnames uploaded to the Barnsley FHS 'Surname Search Index' between October, 2024, and January, 2025.

Cusworth; Dunigan; Dunnigan; Haigh; Hamer; Holdstock; Langley; Lawrence; Lee; Prest; Purcell; Taylor; Venables.

Jeff Chambers

THE BRITISH NEWSPAPER ARCHIVE

From the British Newspaper Archive blog, 19th September 2024:

A Complete List of Our Free to View Newspaper Pages

Since August 2021, the Archive has been working in partnership with the British Library to build a collection of free to view newspaper pages. This collection enables enhanced access to the diverse newspaper holdings of the British Library, with the titles, which have carefully curated by the British Library, spanning four centuries of news and covering not just Britain and Ireland, but the Caribbean, India, and beyond.

You can search our free to view pages by creating a free account with us, and selecting 'free to view' access in either our advanced search form or on our results page. Meanwhile, following on from our latest release, we wanted to create a place where all of our free to view newspaper pages are listed. Here, we've collated all of our free to view titles and the year ranges they cover, so they are all in one place.

Happy browsing, and we hope you enjoy searching through our collection of free to view pages, which now number over 4 million in total.

For the full text, including the list of publications, go to <https://blog.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/2024/09/19/a-complete-list-of-our-free-to-view-newspaper-pages>

Recent Releases. In addition to the many local papers recently added, in October the **Daily Express** and **Sunday Express** were made available, from their respective starts in 1900 and 1918 all the way to 1999. Although less likely than local papers to have details of our ancestors, national newspapers are a good source of what was going on at the time.

Remember that the latest releases are published every Monday on the BNA blog pages.

Roger de Mercado



SEARCH SERVICES

The Society offers its members free searches – there is now no limit (within reason, of course!). Our fees for search services for non-members are at www.barnsleyfhs.co.uk/Searches.html?sid=2

Margaret E Williams

Baptisms

Barnsley Ebenezer	
Methodist New Connexion	1862-1973
Barnsley St. George	1832-1844
Barnsley St. Mary	1813-1837
Barnsley Wesleyan	1839-1910
Bretton Chapelry	1813-1841
Cawthorne All Saints	1800-1844
Darton All Saints	1813-1822
Royston St. John	1813-1831
Silkstone All Saints	1813-1840
Wentworth Wesleyan	1849-1980
Wortley St. Leonard	1813-1856

National Probate Calendars / Wills Index 1858 to 1943

Please give full name and year of death. Because wills were not always proved immediately, we will search up to three years after the death.

National Burial Index; Third Edition

England & Wales. Please give full name, year-range and county if known.

Soldiers who died in the Great War

Please give full name and age if known.

1851 Census, Barnsley Area

Please give surname and forename(s) if known and age. Or request all occurrences of a given surname.

1891 Census, Barnsley

Please give surname and approximate age. 1891 Search results supplied as copy of enumeration page.

Marriages

Barnsley St. George	1832-1837
Barnsley St. Mary	1800-1837
Cawthorne All Saints	1800-1837
Darton All Saints	1813-1822
Penistone St. John	1800-1837
Royston St. John	1799-1837
Silkstone All Saints	1800-1837

Burials

Barnsley St. George	1832-1850
Barnsley St. Mary	1800-1840
Bretton Chapelry	1800-1840
Cawthorne All Saints	1800-1845
Darton All Saints	1800-1845
Denby Chapelry	1800-1856
Dodworth St. John	1848-1934
Hoyland Nether St. Peter	1813-1861
Penistone St. John	1800-1856
Royston St. John	1800-1837
Silkstone All Saints	1800-1840
Tankersley St. Peter	1813-1858
Worsbrough St. Thomas	1859-1903
Wortley St. Leonard	1800-1854

For searches or enquiries please contact:

Margaret E Williams

5 Summer Road, Royston, Barnsley,
S71 4HY

Email: search@barnsleyfhs.co.uk

If applying by post please
enclose a large SAE

**If applicable, please include your
membership number.**

DIARY DATES

Please check our website for updates or call Doreen on 01226 383606 or mobile 07963 243 538

January 2025	New Year Break
20 th February	AGM , plus Lizzie Jones , Nell Gwyn - from selling oranges to King's mistress.
20 th March	Eric Jackson , The ten most famous monuments in the World. (Note: postponed from October)
17 th April	Elaine Perkins , Agnes Peterkin, The Cunning Woman, is the answer to all your problems. Have you had a run of bad luck? Do you suffer from unexplained pains? She can offer you Protection from Serpents, Thieves and even Fairies with a variety of found and made objects which are displayed and explained. (Written charms and curses are her speciality).
15 th May	To be announced
19 th June	Tony Perkins , Everyday clothing in the medieval period.

Barnsley Roots is the official journal of the Barnsley Family History Society, published in January, April, July and October of each year. Please send material for the April 2025 edition by 1st March 2025 to:

Email: subeditor@barnsleyfhs.co.uk, or

Shirley Sura, 254 Appleton Ave., Great Barr, West Midlands, B43 5QD

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Meetings of the Society are held at the Buckley Methodist Church Hall, Union Court, Barnsley, S70 1JN on the 3rd **Thursday** of each month from 7.30 to 9.30pm. There are no meetings in July, August and December. Free parking is available and there is full wheelchair access. The venue is within easy reach of Barnsley town centre.

For more information visit the website at: **www.barnsleyfhs.co.uk**

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Old recipe books

Barnsley
Family History
Society