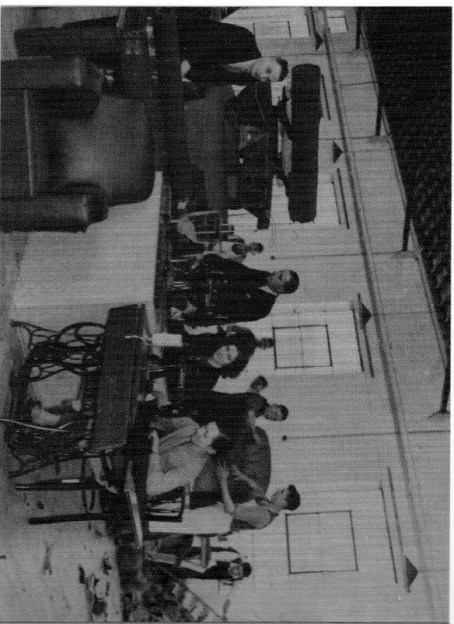


Derbyshire Family History Society

June Quarter 2013



This picture is from our library at Bridge Chapel House and shows workers at T. Greaves & Co Ltd, Modern Upholstery Factory at Clay Cross. The factory was opened in November 1936 but we have no idea when this picture was taken or who anyone is. Is one of your family in the picture?

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Society subscription is due on joining and thereafter on 1st January each year and renewal notices will be sent out at the beginning of December with that quarter's magazine. At the moment rates are as follows:-

BRITISH ISLES per family [at one address] £15

Please pay either in person at Bridge Chapel House, by cheque or postal order addressed to the Membership Secretary, or by using PayPal via our website.

OVERSEAS—EUROPE £16 [magazines sent by air mail]

OVERSEAS—OTHER COUNTRIES £19 [magazines sent by air mail]

For both the above payment in dollars or currency other than sterling please add the equivalent of £4 to cover the exchange charge. Alternatively payment may be made by PayPal with no extra charge incurred.

Please Note! Our website now offers the facility to renew your membership online, using PayPal [an account or debit/credit card needed]. If you are unsure of your membership number please look at the address label on the bag in which your magazine arrived and you will find it the top corner. It would be helpful to quote this in any correspondence with the Society.

Please renew your subscriptions promptly. Due to the steep rising rates of postage no magazines will be sent out unless your payment is with us by the end of February. Sorry for the inconvenience but, as you can appreciate, the Society cannot stand the cost of posting magazines that may not be wanted. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR SOCIETY INFORMED!

Any changes in your postal or email address etc., please let us know so that we can keep our records up to date. Many magazines come back to us as the intended recipient has moved house without letting us know.

FROM THE EDITOR

I am glad to see that the new format magazine has gone down well with our members; thank you for all the kind emails and letters saying how much you enjoy it and prefer the new look. It was a hassle to get it going, but I am also very pleased with the end result. Not least the fact that I have no longer got to beg and plead with members to give us a hand in packing. I can just sit back and let the printer do the lot. And cheaper overall into the bargain!!

Our membership secretary has had a pleasing response to her letters asking for members to top up their subscription to the current rate. Many have also sent a donation with their underpayment and that is most welcome, so thank you all very much. The Society gets no funding from anywhere and relies on members to keep us going so any help we get is most appreciated. Along with money we are also very grateful for those volunteers beavering away at projects at home. We hope eventually that all these projects will be able to go onto our website and be of help to our members in tracing their family histories.

Talking of projects we have an enormous one going at the moment, putting all Derbyshire serving men from World War One into a database. Not just those that died but those that served. Several thousand and counting and I'm only up to 1915. A while ago I asked members for any information and/or photographs that might be of interest and was snowed under, so very bravely I am asking again. Each submission will be acknowledged very gratefully indeed.

Finally we are hoping to run an open day later this year. Is there anyone in the Derby area who would undertake to organise it for us? We are here to help, but we all have so much to do that it would be nice to have a bit of the burden taken off our shoulders. Contact Bridge Chapel House if you are interested [address and email on the inside front cover].

See you next time.

Helena

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KEW TRIP

Our next trip to the National Archives will take place on Saturday 7th September by popular demand. Places are limited so please book as soon as possible. We have held the cost at £15.00 and we will be leaving Derby at 7.30 a.m., returning around half seven. The form is available on the website or simply send your payment to Helena Coney [address on inside front cover]. Payment can also be made by paypal, again see the website.

Come and join us, we usually have a very good day out and there is always plenty to research.

MEETINGS 2013

DERBY—ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL, DARLEY LANE,

DERBY—Tuesday at 7.30 p.m.

- 11th Jun Customs and Traditions of Old Derbyshire
Keith Blood
9th Jul Quarter Sessions
Richard Radford
10th Sep Struts of Belper
Ruth Jordan
8th Oct Marry 'em off, Kill 'em off
John Tifford

GLOSSOP—BRADBURY COMMUNITY HOUSE, MARKET

STREET, GLOSSOP—Friday at 7.30 p.m.

- 7th Jun The Golden Age of Coaches from Humble Beginnings
Arnie Manifold
5th Jul The Boys who Smashed the Van
Alan Hayhurst
7th Sep Title to be announced
Jennie Ainsworth
4th Oct A Story from the Newspapers
Victoria Rowe

SOUTH NORMANTON—POST MILL COMMUNITY CENTRE

SOUTH NORMANTON—Friday at 7.30 p.m.

- 21st Jun From Rent Collector to The Priesthood
Ray Bridden
19th Jul Mining in the Ashfield Area
David Amos
20th Sep Thomas Cook
Danny Wells
18th Oct Tudor and Stuart Food
Mark Dawson

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DERBY MEETINGS

January 2013

Midland's Outlaws—Gareth King

I don't know if people were just glad to be back or if Gareth King with his "Midland Outlaws" drew them there but there was a great turnout. As usual Gareth was entertaining involving his audience in his re-enactments. Did "Robin Hood" exist was the question of the night. There were lots of stories and ballads written after his supposed death but no documentary evidence to back these stories up. There were possible candidates that the stories could have been based on.

In the 14th century, during the reign of Edward II, there was a considerable amount of lawless activity going on but no one did anything to stop it. Children from lower gentry families found that unless they were the oldest son, who would inherit from his father or a daughter who could be married off, they would have to enter the army or the clergy but if neither of these was an option, they were at a loss as to how they were to live.

Two such families as this were the Cotrells and the Fovilles. The Cotrells, James, John, Nicholas and Laurence operated in North Derbyshire and Lincolnshire while the Fovilles were in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire. Mostly robbing traders on the way back from market. Finally the Earl of Lancaster complained that someone had been attacked on his land and Roger de Wennesley was sent to arrest the Cotrells. Laurence was cornered and killed. Roger received a £10 reward but he obviously decided being an outlaw was more profitable as he joined up with them.

The idea of stealing from the rich and giving it to the poor would seem a little unlikely but as the poor were the ones chosen to be on a jury, it paid to offer them money for food and shelter just in case you were arrested and in need of a not guilty verdict. At one point the Cotrells and the Fovilles joined forces and kidnapped Sir Richard Willoughby and held him for a ransom of 1300marks, which was paid. The idea that monks and clergy could be involved in these lawless activities (Friar Tuck) again seems unlikely but Richard Foville, rector of Teigh was part of the gang and he was the only one to pay for his crimes. He was captured and beheaded. When the pope heard of this he insisted that those that were involved in his killing should be whipped by way of penance at every church in the area. Eventually, whether it was

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down to a change in the ruling body or the war with Scotland, pardons were handed out. Some fought against the Scots and then went on to hold offices of some importance.

The second outlaw was one Bold Nevinson or Swift Nick during the reign of Charles II. Pistols had arrived on the scene and although not very accurate at hitting a target, they were good for frightening people. He was reputed to have robbed a sailor firing a shot at him but missing. He then escaped and made a journey on horseback from London to York in order to set up an alibi. This was later attributed to Dick Turpin (another person with no documentary evidence to prove his existence) He was found not guilty on this occasion but later when in prison, he feigned death and was declared dead, supposedly of the plague, by an accomplice posing as a doctor. He was eventually found guilty of a charge and transported but later returned only to continue with his previous crimes. He was then caught again and this time he was hanged.

Although someone with family links to the Cotterells was at the meeting, we all escaped with our lives.

February 2013

The Curious World of Old Time Punishment—Ian Morgan

Ian Morgan gave an excellent talk on this subject. He started by asking what the audience considered was "just punishment" for crimes in today's society. Should hanging, birching, slogging be brought back?, and it was thought, in certain circumstances, this might be appropriate. In the past these punishments and others like them were handed out for the slightest misdemeanours and it was obvious that things needed to change.

The "Bread and Ale Act" of the 13th century was passed to ensure correct weights and measures were sold. Anyone who short changed could be fined, flogged and pilloried. The "Baker's Dozen" originates around this time, giving one over the dozen to ensure no mistake was made. Cart-tailing was a punishment that involved being tied naked to the back of a horse and cart and dragged through the village or villages where the crime was committed. It was used mostly for vagrants, who had strayed into the wrong parish or prostitutes. Another punishment, reserved for women, was the ducking stool. It was used again for prostitutes and women accused of nagging their husbands or causing disruptive behaviour against their neighbours or in medieval times for being suspected of being a witch. Another one for the ladies was the

Scold's Bridle, again for being a nagging wife. It was like a metal helmet with a bracket that fitted over the tongue, sometimes with a spike on it, to keep her quiet.

Every village had a set of "stocks and pillory" to inflict public humiliation on the guilty person. The stocks were for the feet and the pillory for heads and hands. They were used mostly for petty crime, being pelted by eggs and rotten fruit, but occasionally someone would die having been hit by stones or left too long and dying from heatstroke. Criminals were kept in the stocks or the village lock-up whilst awaiting transport to prison or the hulk ships before being transferred to the convict ships bound for Australia. Those that were sent to prison were given monotonous, repetitive jobs that had no outcome. Use of the crank handle, treadmill, breaking stones or cleaning rope were some of the arduous tasks. Isolation was also a punishment that drove many insane.

The executioner would have dealt with all death sentences whatever way was required, depending on the type of crime and the person's status in life. It could be by sword, axe, guillotine or hanging. William Marwood invented the "Long drop hanging" in 1872, which broke the neck and was considered more humane than the "short drop", which strangled. It was a job that passed from father to son as in the case of Henry Pierpoint of Nottingham, his brother Thomas and son Albert. There was also punishment for the dead. Gibbeting and left to rot as a reminder to others not to commit crimes. People who committed suicide were buried at crossroads so their spirit didn't know which way to go. Then there were the Resurrectionists or body snatchers, who stole bodies from churchyards. Watch towers were set up to guard over new graves.

Ian showed us pictures of some TV detectives. Dixon and Sherlock Holmes we all knew, but only a couple knew Fabian of Scotland Yard. Ian said he was a titled gentleman, but couldn't remember it. It was Major Sir Bruce Lovat Seton of Abercorn, 11th Baronet. Isn't Google wonderful sometimes?

March 2013

Heraldic Detective Work from Scratch—John Tiford

Our introduction to Heraldry by John Tiford was, as usual, very interesting and informative and at a level we could all understand. He showed us the brilliant colours, visual beauty and complicated designs that made up coats of

arms. He explained the reasons for having them, individual identification on the battlefield and also a visual mean of authentication, a bit like an ID card.

There was no such thing as a family coat of arms. It was granted by the Herald's Office to an individual and it could then be passed on to the eldest son and so on. The individual's wife or unmarried daughter could use it, but they could not pass it on. They are made up of specific colours, textures and patterns with rules as to how they should be presented on the shield. They are made up of three main classes. "Metals" were Or-gold and Argent-silver, often portrayed as yellow and white. "Colours" were red, blue, black, green and "Furs" had ermine as the most common. Red, blue and black, with some gold and silver, are mainly used for the background with horizontal, vertical and hatching lines used. Some shields are divided into halves or quarters to represent their wife's family. The right hand side or Dexter side contains the husband's arms. The shield has something that represents the family. One John showed us had swords and cutlasses, another a watering can and rake, and another a urinal in a basket. Someone obviously had a sense of humour when it came to designing these. Some have helmets, facing or turned to the side, and one had a negro's head on top of the helmet. There were beasts and monsters with attitude appearing on some. The family motto, often in Latin, can appear blazoned across the shield in some way. There is meaning and a reason for everything that appears in the coat of arms.

Heraldry for the Kings and Queens of England has changed over the years, being added to and taken away from. There are always the lions on it with sometimes a fleur-de-lis for France and a harp for Ireland. John gave us some examples to try and work out who they belonged to and obviously with more experience it would become easier. He explained that quite often looking from a distance was as advantageous as examining close up. John also explained how crowns and coronets work in the same way. It is possible to ascertain their status by design. The only time a peer's coronet is worn will be at a coronation. A duke's coronet has strawberry leaves round it, a marquis has strawberry leaves and silver balls, an earl also has strawberry leaves and silver balls that are on spikes, a viscount has a series of silver balls and a baronet has larger sized silver balls, but less in number.

I don't know whether or not I have done justice to John's talk, but the PowerPoint presentation needed to be seen to appreciate the colours and designs.

RUTH BARBER

GLOSSOP MEETINGS

FEBRUARY 2013

Manchester Ship Canal—Glynn Atkinson

Fortunately the Arctic conditions of the previous Friday did not coincide with our February meeting which thus enabled 18 members and friends to enjoy a most enlightening and interesting presentation given by Glen Atkinson on "Building the Big Ditch", better known as the Manchester Ship Canal.

All the superb images shown were derived and digitised from a series of Victorian glass slides, which were made for the Ship Canal Company by the photographer Edward Ward, together with a local photographer's glass negatives, which all narrowly escaped the proverbial skip. The sequence of the presentation ran from Pomona Docks [the only part of the works actually in Manchester, as its main docks were in Salford], passing through Barton under the famous Bridgewater Canal, then virtually bisecting Warrington, Runcom and on to Eastham on the Mersey, a distance of 36 miles.

Why was the MSC built when transport between the Port of Liverpool and the manufacturing towns surrounding Manchester was not a particular problem? The Mersey and Irwell Navigation partial canalisation of the two rivers had been in operation from about 1730 allowing cargo boats of 50 tons to reach Manchester. By 1778 the Bridgewater Canal had likewise linked Manchester with the Mersey estuary and the world's first Intercity Railway opened in 1830 between Liverpool and Manchester. The reason was that the Mancunians felt that the Scousers were ripping them off! The largest proportion [approx 55%] of the cost of a bale of cotton arriving at a Lancashire Mill was in part dues to the Port of Liverpool. Costs of growing the cotton in America, crossing the Atlantic and from Liverpool to the mills were the least of the expense and, of course, export goods had the same disadvantage. In 1822 a scheme was proposed to build a canal to Manchester bypassing Liverpool altogether. This would have started on the Dee estuary, but the snag was that by the time it had reached Manchester it would be in an eighty foot cutting. Various other proposals ensued, but it was not until 1885 that the Royal Assent was given to construct the Ship Canal as we know it, with work beginning in November 1887 and Edward Leader Williams being appointed as the Chief Engineer. He was a hands on type of person who looked after his workforce.

Steam powered cranes, navvies, concrete machines and locomotive hauled works trains together with horse and carts was the equipment of the day, with considerable manpower being drawn from local labour and navvies who earned approximately 2s.6d a day. The gangs of navvies beavered away with machines to help them. These men, with picks and shovels, moved the earth into huge buckets, which the steam cranes then lifted. Other quarried usable stone with sledgehammers and a series of wedges, cement was carried in Zwett hessian sacks with excavated spoil being washed down, leaving gravel which would be used in the concrete of the dock walls, whilst others constructed embankments and cuttings, bridges, piers and pillars, the latter by a technique known as the "Lancashire" system of bricklaying, developed to build mill chimneys with all work being done from inside the structure. All of these duties were carried out without a single hard hat or builders bum in sight!

Apart from all the manual labour, the 50 steam navvies were each moving an average of 750 cubic yards of spoil per day. Although the working practices fully complied with all known Health and Safety procedures then in force, the many ramshackle piles of timber and tressles that supported planks on which the navvies had to make death-defying crossings with fully laden wheelbarrows left a lot to be desired compared by today's standards. Whilst the visitors viewing the construction of the Canal may have found these crossings exciting, it is little wonder that the 9 prefabricated Ship Canal Accident Hospitals helped to minimise the death toll from the 6,500 serious accidents to about 120. These hospitals were planned as part of the infrastructure and not an afterthought. One of the provisions which set the canal works apart from any other major engineering projects is it being the first employer provided accident cover. Accommodation for the more skilled or senior workers was in prefabricated building settlements, whereas the more itinerant workforce lived on converted floating Mersey Flats, which were commonly referred to as Noah's Arks!

The Canal has a series of five pairs of locks 600 feet by 65 feet, had 15 new crossing structures built, nine of them swing bridges of which seven carry roads, one is the famous Bridgewater Aqueduct and the other takes one of the dock railways. In addition, four high level railway and two high level road deviation bridges were required. It took six years to build, which was far quicker than 21st century technology could build the new Wembley Stadium or the timescale proposed for the new HS2 rail link. The first commercial

craft sailed up the canal on New Years Day 1894.

Civil Engineering often exceeds budgets, but from a proposed £6.3 million the cost escalated to £14.3 million, with a lot of the money being provided by the City of Manchester and the Co-op. Unfortunately as the size of cargo ships increased they were too large to be accommodated in the locks and so the canal went into demise with much of the area now being the Lowry Village and the New Media City.

GORDON MOORCROFT

MARCH 2013

The Torrs Mills and the Hydro System—Derek Brumhead

The Torrs Gorge was formed by eroding of the rocks and boulders by the scouring of the Ice Age ice sheets and the pressures of the glacial meltwaters seeking additional routes under the ice for run offs as temperatures rose. This exploited faults and crevices in the underlying rocks as the late Irish Sea Ice Sheet pushed ice up the Pennine and Goyt Valleys. Water under the ice and later on the combined rivers Goyt and Sett carved a new channel into the strate of the Woodhead Hill sandstone, which now forms the spectacular Torrs Gorge and the centre of New Mills.

The climate, good construction stone and the availability of stable land by fast flowing soft water was ideal for cotton spinning, therefore a series of water powered cotton mills and print works were built in the Torrs Gorge from 1780s onwards. These were Torr Vale Mill, Rock Mill and Torr Mill. By 1846 most of the mills had stopped spinning and had moved into finishing with Torr Vale Mill producing towelling. Steam power was also introduced to supplement the water powered mills.

Until the 19th century New Mills was virtually cut in two by the deep gorge and the only crossing involved a tortuous descent down to a bridge just above the river level, with an equally hard descent the other side. In 1835, at about the same time as Torr Vale Mill was extended, Church Road Bridge was constructed to carry the turnpike road from Newtown to Thornssett across the river, but this only partially solved the problem, so in 1884 the 94 foot high Union Road Bridge was constructed across the centre of the gorge, built out of rock from the Torrs itself.

In the great storm of 1872 two blocks of buildings were destroyed at Rock Mill, which was then being used to make paper, and the weir at Torr Vale was also destroyed. The eight storey Torr Mill, which was situated at the confluences of the River Sett and Goyt was destroyed by fire in December 1912 and Torr Vale Mill closed in December 2000.

As concern over global warming grew, it was felt that action was necessary before climate change moved beyond man's control, therefore, in September 2007, Torr Hydro New Mills Ltd was founded, which was the UK's first voluntary community run and funded micro hydro-electric power scheme. The scheme is an interesting case of the modern re-use of the eighteenth century water powered site of the old barn sized Torr Mill, which was built at the confluence of the River Goyt and River Sett in the 1790s. At that time this mill took water from directly above the large weir and the excavations for the new scheme, which started in March 2008, not only exposed the arched entry of this water into the mill and the tailrace tunnel under Union Road Bridge, but also part of the original wheel with its iron rim and wooden spokes. In the spring of 2008 "Archie", which is a reverse Archimedes screw turbine, was born at the Ritz Atro Works in Nuremberg, which is 9 metres long and weighs 10 tonnes. It arrived in New Mills by low loader and as there was no road access to the gorge it was winched over the Union Road Bridge onto a cradle and then moved by hand to the site of the original water wheel and where the fall of the original weir now powers the inclined screw and should generate about 240,000 KWh of electricity a year.

Commissioning started in August 2008 and the scheme was handed over to Torr Hydro New Mills Ltd in September 2008. The scheme cost over £300,000 and was funded partially by a grant and a loan, but more interestingly the rest was raised by £500 share offers.

The contours of the north west, with its climate, countless streams, rivers and mill sites is ideal for future scheme and recently a similar scheme has been set up on the River Goyt at Otterspool Bridge, Chadkirk, where there are two short reversible Archimedes screws.

At the end of the evening Keith Holford presented Derek with an aerial picture of New Mills and a mug commemorating New Mills Oddfellows 1831-1931, which he felt would be appreciated by the Heritage Centre.

GORDON MOORCROFT

SOUTH NORMANTON

FEBRUARY 2013

Georgians, jitties and Gingerbread—Keith Blood

Keith Blood had lived in Ashbourne until he was thirteen and then the family moved to Derby. The three items in the title of his talk were all to be found in Ashbourne. We began our tour by looking at many of the Georgian buildings, some of which were built by members of the Gentry. They spent the winters in town rather than be snowed in on their country estates.

Jitties are the narrow paths which run between the back gardens of parallel rows of terrace houses. They were built with the gable end facing the main road, a street between the house fronts and the jitties, much narrower, serviced the back doors. Though the roadside entry is now usually closed off by a door many are still in use and were led along them. Keith drew our attention to one building, which had three different layers of brick and stone to increase the height of the building.

We were shown a 15th century timber framed house, whose windows were added in Georgian times. It was owned by the Spencer family who made the gingerbread to a secret recipe. A captive French Captain, living in Ashbourne on parole was accompanied by his chef. The chef stayed in England and it was his recipe that the Spencers acquired and kept secret. The shop is now owned by Birds.

A gentle stroll through the recreation grounds to inspect the bandstand and look at a bronze bust of a local lady, Catherine, wife of William Booth, was followed by a look at Madge House. This was built by Erasmus Darwin as a school to provide a home and occupation for his illegitimate daughter. Then we moved on to the church. In 1087 King William Rufus gave the church to the Bishop of Lichfield. The present church was dedicated in 1241, the tower and Norman door added in 1280 and clerestory in 1520. After looking at the pulpit, the reredos and the Carrera marble tomb of Penelope Boothby, we ended the evening with the Shrovetide Football Match. There seemed to be more interest in the number of casualties rather than going scored, but we all enjoyed our evening.

MARCH 2013
Shirewood—Mr Munford

On a cold winter night it was good to ramble around the Mansfield, Blidworth, Farnsfield area whilst staying warm and comfortable indoors. A keen cyclist Mr Munford travelled with his camera and took photographs of whatever caught his interest. We began with a visit to the Druid Stone near Blidworth. At the base of the stone is a hole. Passing sick children through the hole was a reputed cure for whooping cough. Other stones in the area were glacial remains.

There are several personal stones in memory of local people. The first one shown was to Tom Leeks, a forester. He fell in love with the daughter of the landlord of the Archer Inn and Colonel Salmon, a rival suitor, picked a fight with Tom and killed him.

Next we saw the Slaney Stone, in memory of J. Slaney, found dead 24 January 1893. On his way home from a public house he must have fallen out of his cart as the horse and cart arrived home without him. We also saw several boundary stones, one of which was registered as a listed building. The Lindhurst Stone marked the site where the Moot Court met. A Duke of Portland built a sluice to divert water to irrigate a poor area of land. Nearby is all that remains of Friar Tuck's Well. Mr Munford wondered whether some of the dressed stones had originally been part of the sluice.

Joseph Whitaker roamed through the woods near to Harlow Wood. A keen naturalist he trapped birds and animals in order to study them. A night jar that he caught is on display in Mansfield Museum. Also in this area is the roadside memorial stone to Bessie Shepherd. She had been to Mansfield in search of work and was murdered at this spot as she was walking home.

Near Peatfield Lane was a trough given by a Duchess of Portland for all animals. A waist high water holder was for horses and one at ground level below was for dogs, etc. We also saw one of the sheds formerly used by the Army at Clipstone Camp and now used as the village hall. From there we went to King John's Castle at Blidworth and ended our tour with a look at the communal oven at Averham.

AVERIL HIGGINSON

Harriet Bridget Moore

Researching old newspapers for this, that and the other occasionally brings out both the unexpected and the bizarre and so it was when I entered the pages of "The Derbyshire Times" March 1930. In successive editions of "The Derbyshire Times" I found two separate stories, both going back to the early 1800's but with one theme --- Two Derbyshire females masquerading as males. I have edited their stories and begin with the story of Harriet Moore.

Harriet Bridget Moore was one of those curious characters who now and again startles the propriety of the world by being discovered to be a woman, whilst passing herself, by her dress, occupation and manners, as one of the opposite sex. An Irish girl, the discovery of her long and successful masquerade caused considerable sensation around Shardlow, Derbyshire in 1826. Losing her mother in 1816, she went to service for a short time. On leaving her situation and setting out to seek a different employment, fearing that if she travelled alone and unprotected in so rough an age that she might be subjected to insult or injury, she dressed as a youth, and assumed the name of John Murphy, this being her mother's maiden name.

Her first employment was as a cabin boy on board ship. In the course of her duties in this capacity, she had the misfortune to fall into the water, being fearful of discovery, she made her escape to the shore and ran away. Subsequently she became a foot-boy to the Rev. Mr. Duke, in whose service she remained quite happily and satisfactorily for a year. Misfortune still dogged Harriet's endeavours to live a peaceful male life, for one of Mr Duke's maids promptly fell in love with her, on the reasonable assumption that she was a highly presentable young man. Faced with this situation she decided to leave her situation.

Meanwhile, the lovesick maiden had, either by accident or stratagem, discovered the real nature of Harriet's sex, and urged on by her righteous virtue and the indignant chagrin of her error, informed the reverend gentleman of her discovery. Mr Duke, however, seems not to have given absolute credence to what appeared to be a wild story, probably based on domestic jealousy. He sent for Harriet, gave her a good character, saying--- "Here take this reference John and now tell me are you a man or a woman?" Harriet promptly answered "A man" and she departed.

She then sailed for Liverpool in a cattle boat, and engaged herself on board with a Mr. Lowther to assist with driving cattle to Leicester. Having travelled as far as Shardlow, Derbyshire, she was prevailed by Mr. Clarke, the landlord of the "Navagation Inn," (sic) to remain in Shardlow employed as his servant. Two or three months later she was savagely set upon, severely beaten, and almost killed, by another servant at the inn, who was annoyed at an "Irishman" being employed by Mr. Clarke. It must be pointed out that her assailant was honestly ignorant that his victim was indeed a woman. This attack made Harriet decide to leave Shardlow and the Navagation Inn. But her ill-fortune at Shardlow was to pursue her to the end.

Whilst returning from the church in company with her master's son, she met a young woman from the village, Matilda Lacy, who also appears to have fallen in love with the attractive young "Irishman" and pursued him with amorous intent. Pursued by both Matilda and her mother, to put an end to the matter Harriet disclosed her true sex to the mother, thus hoping to prove the impracticability of her marrying Matilda.

This normally should have ended the situation, but it seems to have increased the determination of Mrs. Lacy. Matilda had become entangled with a married man in the neighbourhood, and she had a very pressing reason for desiring such a marriage. The two, by threats of public disclosure, so played on the young girl's fears that they obtained a promise from Harriet to go through a form of marriage with Matilda.

At this juncture Harriet, under the guise of John Murphy, was employed by a Mr. Sutton of Shardlow, and she now left and obtained employment in Nottingham, and at other places, always followed by her persecutors. At Derby she became a bricklayers labourer, but was so persecuted by the Lacey's, in sheer desperation she gave in their importunes and went through a wedding ceremony at Aston Church. The officiating clergyman was the Rev. Mr. Murphy, he thinking that Harriet was a genuine countryman of his own, he remitted his usual fees and handed them over to the "bride."

A day or two later, Harriet returned to Derby, and worked as a bricklayer's assistant again for Mr. McConnell and a Mr. Hall, also she subsequently found work at the leadworks owned by Messrs Cox and Co's. This state of affairs went on for about 3 years, Harriet being constantly drained of her earnings in order to support both the Lacey's and Matilda's child by the

Shardlow married man.

Ultimately, driven almost insane by threats and unable to sustain the burden any longer, Harriet did what she might well have done long before, she made a confession to a Mrs Dawson with whom she lodged. This kind woman on learning the true sex of John Murphy, and the troubles that the deception had brought in its train very quickly routed the Lacey's, procured the right clothes for her, and with the aid of friends gave Harriet the assistance she needed. Money was subscribed and presented to her, and she was thus kept from the immediate want which the sudden change in her sex had automatically produced. She was at this time only just in her 20th year.

Soon afterwards she was happily married to a Mr. Gardiner, John Murphy vanished for ever. A long ballad was written about her adventures, together with a published sketch" The Life and Adventures of Harriet Bridget Moore, otherwise John Murphy."

KEITH HOLFORD

FATAL FALL DOWNSTAIRS

The tragic death of Charlotte Hamlet [58], wife of an iron moulder, of 92 Russell Street, Derby, who died as a result of injuries sustained through falling downstairs at her home on Monday evening, was the subject of an inquest held by the Borough Coroner, Mr J. Close, on Wednesday.

Arthur Elliott, son-in-law, living with deceased, said the accident happened when deceased was going to bed. She fell to the bottom of the stairs and struck her head. At the time deceased was wearing a pair of newly soled boots, and this, witness believed, might have been the cause of her fall. She was picked up and placed on the sofa, and died on the following morning.

Dr R. Laurie, who was called, stated that death was due to shock, following the injuries sustained. Deceased had sustained a very severe scalp wound. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death".

Derby Mercury, 26 Mar 1915

OLD AND NEW NEWS FROM THE NORTH

Have your tin helmets ready there are war reports running through my latest offering to the masses, more personal family history is uncovered through scanning the columns of the High Peak Reporter. I have now hit circa 1936 on the laborious legacy trail left by the High Peak Isolation Hospital. The monthly meetings are now becoming more concise, due no doubt, to the ever increasing medical knowledge in the treatment of infectious diseases. A 3 hour session on a library microfilm reader now spans 8 months of a newspaper issue, including the daily detected delectable distractions and dalliances. Bugsworth Hall, my former matrimonial home, literally comes to the front again with a chance in a million meeting in Sainsbury's, Macclesfield, historical links are not the usual items picked up in supermarket offers. Another age related survey for your considered consumption, William Wain pops up in new situation and a little more tripe for you to consume.

Among the latest happenings here among the hills of High Peak, I have been left wondering whether the dopamine receptors of regular readers are still searching or seeking an answer to the poser that I left at the end of my mttings in the September issue. More taxing than my basic conundrum was the coded Second World War message declared "indecipherable" by GCHQ, now claimed to have been cracked by amateurs in Canada. The message, headed "Pigeon Service" was in small red canister attached to the leg of a carrier pigeon whose skeletal remains were found in a chimney under renovation in Blechingly, Surrey, in November 2012. Here my Canadian local history contacts proved a life saver. Gord Young of a local history group in Ontario, using a First World War artillery codebook that belonged to his great uncle, helped to decode the 27 five letter code group message sent by paratrooper Sergeant William Stott dropped in Normandy, France during 1944.

AOAKN	HYPKD	FNFUJ	YLDDC
RQXSR	DJHFP	FOVFN	MLAPX
PABUZ	WYVND	CMPIB	HRZH
NLXKG	NEMKK	ONOIB	AKEEQ
UAOTA	RBORH	DJOFM	TPZEH
LKXGH	RGGHT	JRZCQ	FNKTQ
KLDTS	AQIRH	AOAKN	1525/6

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The decode reads in part --- "Hit Jerry's Right and Reserve Battery. Here. Already know electrical engineers headquarters troops, panzers, batteries. Here. Counter measures against panzers not working." Until the pigeon hit the chimney it was obviously flying on a higher plane than GCHQ.

You have most likely heard of the "Dambusters" but do the any bells ring for the "Jambusters?" An account of how the Women's Institute fought to defeat Hitler during WW2. Sugar was rationed to 1lb per month, enough for three cups of tea at one spoonful per day. It is estimated that during WW2 Women's Institute members made 5.5 million kilos of home made jam. When fruit was scarce the WI used marrows. All these facts and many more mor-dant memories can be sourced in "The Story of the Women's Institute in the Second World War" by author Julie Summers.

8 September 1943. Aircrash in Lincolnshire. Several boys from Chapel-en-le-Frith serving with the 1180 Squadron Air Training Corps, based in Buxton, were attending a weeks course at Elsham Woods, Lincolnshire. Elsham was the home of 103 Squadron RAF, the Squadron that had been recently engaged in bombing the German V1 weapons site at Peenemunde on the Baltic coast. Cadets Desmond Fox, 17, Leslie Hall, 17 and Peter Bond, 15, all worked together in the toolroom at Ferodo Brake Linings, Chapel-en-le-Frith and were amongst the keenest boys in their flight, inseparable in work and at pleasure.

Flight Sergeant Alfred William Buxton, R.A.A.F., with a usual crew took off on a training flight, the 3 boys accompanied the flight with their parents written consent, this was a normal part of the course. The aircraft flew to Lynes-wold, a short distance away. Landed, and took off again almost at once, turned to port and dived into the ground, hitting a tree about 2 miles from the airfield. All on board were killed immediately. A Court of inquiry was unable to find a cause for the crash. Over 800 people attended the boy's joint full military honours funeral at Chapel-en-le-Frith.

7 April 1935. Ma and Pat's abridged wedding report. Miss Maves Platts, of Mosley Fields, Buxworth to Mr Harry Holford, Junior, of Brierley Green, Buxworth. Exceptional interest was shown in this popular nuptial. The bride was attired in a pretty dress of parchment satin, with a Juliet cap and shoes to tone, and carried a shower bouquet of pink roses and smilax. Principal bridesmaids were Miss Marian Ford, cousin of the bride, and Miss Elsie

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Holford, sister of the bridegroom, they wore dresses of turquoise blue satin with crinoline picture hats to tone and carried bouquets of cream roses. Little Miss Jacqueline Prior, cousin of bride, was also in attendance. She wore an ankle length of primrose parcord (?), with a Dutch posy cap to match. She carried a posy of primroses and lilies of the valley. When mum died aged 74, her original wedding dress and hat were found in a wardrobe together with the original bill of sale. The wedding dress and wedding photographs were on display during the first "Bygone Bugsworth" in 1996.

1 June 1935. Ambulance Man's Honour. Sgt Warren Winterbottom, late of the RAMC, Whaley Bridge Ambulance Brigade, has had conferred upon him the highest honour of Honorary Serving Brother of the Order of St John of Jerusalem in England. He has served in the Whaley division for over 30 years and has had special charge of matters concerning the Brigade in Bugsworth. He served throughout the 1914-18 War and has rendered much service to Bugsworth people in times of sickness. Warren was Nan's brother, he was last recorded in August 1918 serving in Egypt.

17 August 1935. Dad's sister's wedding (abridged). The marriage of Winnie Holford to James Lewis Milner of Dove Holes, the well known Bugsworth footballer. Given away by her brother Harry Holford, the bride wore a pretty dress of blue floral georgette with hat and shoes to tone, she carried a python skin handbag. She was accompanied by Miss Elsie Holford, her sister, whose attire was a dress of turquoise blue marocain with a white hat and spray of white carnations, she carried a lizard skin handbag. [Python and Lizard handbags would not be the considered wise choices for today's animal conservationists, something other than confetti might be thrown].

In July 2012 my involvement with the Nick Knowles B.B.C programme "Original Features" involving Carrington House, Bugsworth reactivated my research into the Carrington family of Bugsworth and Bugsworth Hall. At a talk I gave in July 2012 to the Glossop and High Peak Group [see September 2102 magazine], the current families residing in the three way partitioned Bugsworth Hall turned up in force together with a flock of friends and family. The result was that the new owners of our former part of the Hall, were keener than a Colman's mustard butty to learn more about their new abode.

In the mid 1990's Tameside Borough Council signed up with the Manchester University Archaeological Unit for the Unit to develop both local and family

history links within Tameside. "A Local History Forum" was formed and the Glossop and High Peak Group of the D. F. H. Society were invited to join the Tameside Forum. For those not acquainted with north Derbyshire, Glossop and the High Peak have much stronger links with the conurbation made up of Ashton under Lyne, Audenshaw, Denton, Droylsden, Hyde, Stalybridge et al, rather with Matlock and the Derby end of Derbyshire.

I was on first name terms with Sue Mitchell the administrator of the Manchester Archaeological Unit. The Unit were preparing to launch their involvement in Tameside Borough with a "History Weekend" at the former Lakes School, Dukinfield. Sue asked me whether I would take a session on "Mapping / Ordnance Survey." Tongue in cheek, I jokingly asked "What's in for Me?" Sue asked "What do you want?" --- Off the top of my head I replied "An Archaeological Survey of Bugsworth Hall." never in my wildest dreams, thinking in biblical terms, that it would "come to pass." So in mid 1996 the survey did indeed come to pass. Dr Mike Nevell, Director of the Archaeological Unit started what promised to be the "B & End [H] all history of Bugsworth Hall." The survey went swimmingly, the west end was completed, the central section was all but completed, before a 'family domestic' between the occupiers of our former home, at the east end, called a "time out." So the survey was left hanging like "piffy on a rock bun."

Mike Nevell, after just 2 days on site, saliently sorted several significant signs. The stylised decoration on the central beams in the main hall was not used after 1583. The front central porch, displaying the datestone 1627, was a later construction to give egress to the first floor stairwell. It also displays the initials of James and Mary Carrington. A section of an earlier 'wattle and daub' construction was discovered. With the "relative rumblings" next door, the planned drilling of dendrochronology samples from the beams in the main hall had alas, to be kissed goodbye. So the full survey came to an abrupt and agonising end. Over the next 16 years I frequently saw Mike Nevell on "Time Team" programmes and wistfully wondered what might have been discovered within the walls of Bugsworth Hall. Subsequently the entire Manchester University Archaeological Unit, to a man (and woman), seceded to Salford University and that has they say was "that." Epic exciting eye-opener ended.

In February 2013, and almost 17 years later, with my now well worn hospital season ticket to hand, and on first name status with a collection of consult-

ants, I donated yet more blood to the "Vampire Department" within the oncology branch of Macclesfield General Hospital. Red blood cell count climbing rapidly, exploding white blood count still in remission, come back in 3 months. A large pot of "Red Label Tea and Toasted Teacake" was then on the agenda at the nearby Sainsbury's cafeteria.

There was just one gentleman waiting to be served, the fussy hussy behind the counter, rattled on about Nectar cards, to which my new neighbour remarked --- "That her at home would have words to say if she discovered that he had patronised Sainsbury's without "flashing his Nectar card." I added my pennyworth by remarking "That I don't believe that for one moment." At this remark, the gentleman turned towards me and I now had a full frontal view of his face rather than a profile. My memory bank registered familiarity, but who and why was still flickering through my remaining brain cells as I sat down to the welcome cup of rosy-lee. Then came the "Eureka" moment --- it's Mike Nevell !!!! I sidled over to his table and the accompanying "big breakfast" and boldly stated "I think we have some unfinished business." Thank you Mr Micawber. So it is all systems go once more at Bugsworth Hall.

I draw your attention to another ageist agenda for you to argue against. If you are aged 59 years, 2 months and a week, I'm afraid I have to impart some rather sad news. The Department for Work and Pensions has reached "A Dawn of Old Age" conclusion after conducting interviews with more than 2,100 people. Should this claim be taken seriously when some Government members give the impression that "Triple and Double Dips" are ice-cream cones and that "Château Austerity" is the drink of the day, Westminster City Council, where else, has revealed some oddities at their Registry Offices. A couple had the theme tune for "Match of the Day" played on a harp. Another bride and groom arrived wearing dressing gowns only, and a groom dressed in a lion suit requested that the registrar emphasised the words: "It is with great pride that I now pronounce you man and wife."

I am not lion with this true alternative family shaggy dog story, same breed, different dog. When my father died at the early age of 44 years, mother had to go out to work to survive, her brother Henry landed her with a cocker spaniel for company. The spaniel answered, when he thought fit, to the name "Roxy." Don't ask! Mother called in the local "Jack-of-all-Trades" to undertake some repair work within the house. Jack also doubled up as the local undertaker. He arrived to find the house unoccupied apart from the pooch.

However, he espied that the catch on a down floor kitchen sash window was not locked and he decided the only option was to climb in and out of the house via the aforesaid window, thus substituting undertaking for a spot of overtaking. Roxy apparently welcomed this unusual day time diversion with open paws.

Jack eventually thought "blow this for a game of soldiers" thinking that he could avoid this awkward climbing manoeuvre by the simple expediency of opening the back door from inside. All went well until he attempted to re-enter the house via the back door, when Roxy went ballistic, displaying a fine set of canine teeth, these he usually kept in reserve for visits to the vet. The outcome, according to Roxy and Jack was not negotiable, --- you can come in through the window --- go out through the back door --- you can come in through the window --- go out through the back door.

I end with two old favourites --- Delilah and Cowheel. **14 December 1912.** Rabbit and Cowheel Pie Supper. The Peak Lodge of the Royal Ancient Order of Buffaloes held a rabbit and cowheel pie supper at the Red Cow, Whitehough last Friday evening. There was an excellent programme of songs etc. provided by visiting brethren from Peak Dale, Chapel-en-le-Frith and elsewhere.

8 December 1934. The High Peak Reporter stated that William Wain, whose solitary, but significant, claim to fame was to introduce the "Delightful Double D Delilah" to Bugsworth / Buxworth, is reported in the High Peak Reporter, to have been appointed chargineman at the Bridgcholme Green Sewage Works, Chinley, at a wage of £2 15s per week. To the adage "Where's there's muck there's brass" --- can now be added --- "and occasionally a pretty face"

KEITH HOLFORD

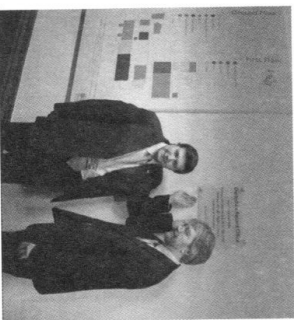
William Cotton of Spordon was summoned by his wife, Esther Annie Cotton, for not providing reasonable maintenance. The wife explained how she had had to work for several years because the money her husband gave her was not sufficient and she was now dependent on her two children. A separation order at 5s a week was made.

Derby Daily Telegraph 16 Sep 1914

Derbyshire Record Office celebrates its official opening!

On Tuesday 19 March 2013 record office staff were joined by County Council colleagues and guests from the local community and heritage organisations to attend the opening ceremony of the recently renovated and extended Derbyshire Record Office.

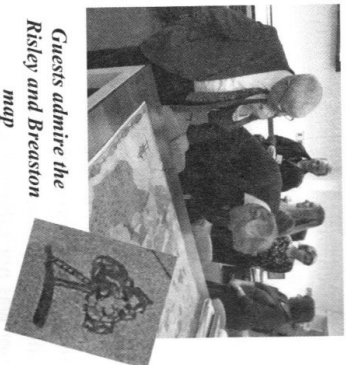
The opening was performed by Professor John Beckett, Professor of English Regional History at Nottingham University, and Council Leader Andrew Lewer.



**Councillor John Beckett
and
Professor John Beckett**

Following the entertaining speeches, guests were given the opportunity to tour the extensively renovated building, visit the new state of the art storage areas and much improved visitor facilities and view a selection of original documents taken from the archive and local studies collections including a map of Risley and Breaston dated 1722. Even the buffet had an historical twist – Nun's Biscakes and Bolslover Cake were just two of the treats on offer, baked by staff using historical recipes found in our collections.

One of the most memorable parts of the afternoon came courtesy of Derbyshire Poet Laureate Matt Black who read his specially commissioned poem entitled, 'Somewhere in this building'. This wonderful poem was inspired by a very small and rather difficult to find feature on the Risley and Breaston map, a ladder propped up against an apple tree.



**Guests admire the
Risley and Breaston
map**

The poem struck a chord with one particular guest 'This poem encompasses everything that the DRO stands for and I enjoyed a memorable afternoon that also gave us all the opportunity to say hello to some old friends'.

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*Somewhere in this building
on an old map, a ladder climbs quietly
into the arms of an apple-tree.*

*Once a man stood on that ladder. Where is he?
I want to know him, he comes from Then
but must still live Here, among these records,
frayed books and letters writ in goose quill.*

*Somewhere in this building you might find
his mother, rummaging through last month's bills.
We're all here, amongst the litter of our lives,
our marks, traces, footprints on these shelves,
like a new layer in a town of strata
where sea-lily feathers once washed the lagoon.*

*He is our data, our DNA, on yellow paper.
Somewhere in this building, he is real,
he walks the fields, you can find his children.
I can almost smell him, that hot afternoon,
four centuries back, on the Breaston breeze,
golden scent-of-earth in apple-sun.*

Matt Black © 2013

Derbyshire Poet Laureate 2011-2013

www.matt-black.co.uk

For more details on the new look Derbyshire Record Office, our collections and information on visiting us, please see our website www.derbyshire.gov.uk/recordoffice or contact us at:
Derbyshire Record Office

County Hall
Matlock
Derbyshire
DE4 3QA
Tel: 01629 538347
Email: record.office@derbyshire.gov.uk

We look forward to seeing you!

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DID MY ANCESTOR GO TO SCHOOL?

In medieval times education was strictly for the children of the upper classes. In Tudor times it was well known that Princess Elizabeth and Lady Jane Grey were educated to a very high standard, higher in fact than most well born boys of the era. But less fortunate [and less wealthy] girls were provided with little education and what they had was focused solely on life in the home.

Middle class girls were educated in non-academic subjects. They would learn how to write their own name, but otherwise such lessons as sewing, dancing, music and riding would be at the fore while the lower classes would not receive any formal type of education at all. There was only one real career option for a girl and that was marriage.

For boys the most elementary level of education was conducted at what was called a "Petty School" and was only available to those of the middle class. These schools were run by a local, well educated housewife, and were also referred to as Dame Schools. Lessons consisted of being taught to read and write English, learn the catechism and how to behave properly. After the age of seven middle class boys would be educated at a Grammar School, learning the alphabet and the rudiments of Latin. It was at this time that spelling began to be consistent. Between 10 and 14 lessons would include translation of Latin to English, classical literature such as Horace and Virgil, religious education, arithmetic and sometimes a study of astrology and Greek. At 14 any education would be continued at the universities of either Oxford or Cambridge.

If you were truly born with a silver spoon in your mouth the final part of your education would possibly be a tour of the major cities of Europe. Apart from the cost of such travel, only the nobly born would be in a position to ask permission of the monarch to actually leave the country.

By the time of the eighteenth century, things had changed a little, but there was still no kind of education for the lower classes who had neither the money nor the opportunity for learning. Girls had even less of a chance than boys. One type of new school was the Charity School; these were established at the beginning of the 1700s for boys and girls of the working class. The main idea was to teach these children religion and how to read and write, but

also to fit them for their particular class, such as cobbling shoes, carpentry and straw plaiting. On occasions their finished products would be sold to help the school. By the mid 18th century there were close to 2000 charity schools in England alone.

In Summer school would be from five or six in the morning to eight or nine at night, in winter from six or seven until seven or eight at night. It was not compulsory, which meant children from the country would often miss out as their parents would have them working at home in the fields.

Around 1780 Sunday schools came into being and like the Charity schools they taught religion. Another type of school were the private schools for more well off families, while private and dissenting academies existed for those who were excluded from other schools due to their religious belief.

By the late 1700s, early 1800s the promoters of the Sunday schools also became involved in the provision of regular day schools and the National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor was formed in 1811 to try to develop schooling in the industrial towns, which by this time were growing immensely. This was followed in 1814 by the British and Foreign School Society which was founded to try and cater for the children of nonconformist parents. The two societies worked closely with factory reformers to limit hours of work for children while they attended school on a part time basis. New legislation was enacted in 1833, which restricted the employment of children in factories. In 1834 the report on the Poor Law made it clear to parliamentarians that there was a duty to 'promote the religious and moral education of the labouring classes'.

By the time Queen Victoria came to the throne in 1837 education was still mainly for the privileged. Rich children would have a governess to teach them at home and boys would go on to a Public School, such as Rugby. Most poor children did not go to day school, but would learn basics at Sunday School hence the census returns describing children as 'scholars'. A number of day schools had also come into being known as Ragged Schools, because of the tattered clothes worn by poor pupils.

In 1870 a law was passed saying that children aged between 5 and 10 years had to attend school during the week and created the first local school boards to compel attendance. In spite of all these efforts many children were kept

away from school by the parents who would rather have them helping out at home or getting a job. Many schools were grim places, with windows high up so that children weren't tempted to stare out. Boys and girls were usually separated, having their own entrance and playground, and though they may be taught in the same classroom they would still sit separately. Some classes were very big with up to 300 children, while village schools would have smaller classes but with a very wide age range.

Teaching would be done by regimental methods and the teachers would be very strict using a rap across the knuckles or a clip around the ears to get their point across. No bad behaviour in those days! Teachers tended to be unmarried ladies [married ladies had to give up their job when they married]. Fewer men would teach because of the poor pay. There was no qualification at that time, the teacher would learn the job in a sort of apprenticeship, staying on as a pupil teacher when the time came to leave.

Lessons would concentrate on the 3 Rs, reading writing and arithmetic, while most schools also included religion. Another regular activity was drill, which was the Victorian equivalent of what is now called PE. This might involve jumping, stretching, running and lifting weights, usually accompanied by music. Each day would start with an assembly of the whole school where there would be prayers, a Bible reading and the singing of a hymn. Eventually additional subjects, such as carpentry, needlework and drawing, were added.

The 1880 Education Act made attendance compulsory for children aged between 5 and 10 and also compulsory up to the age of 14 unless an exemption certificate was granted. These could be obtained if the child had met a required number of attendances [250 per year for 10-12 year olds and 150 per year for those over 12] or if the child had obtained a labour certificate, which was proof that he or she had reached the required educational standard or had a paid job to go to. The same problem remained in that schooling had to be paid for and many poor families just did not have the money. In local newspapers it is reported how parents were brought before the courts having failed to ensure their children had attended school.

In 1891 elementary education was made free and two years later another act raised the minimum leaving age to 11, and in 1899 extended the leaving age again, this time to 12 years of age. In 1902 the Education Act abolished the

school boards and created the Local Educational Authorities which would organise funding, employ teachers and allocate school places. The Act provided funds for denominational religious instruction in schools owned primarily by the Church of England and Roman Catholics and promptly outraged all non-conformists as it subsidised religions they rejected.

In 1918 an Education Act raised the school leaving age to fourteen and provided services such as nursery schools, centres for pupils with special needs and medical inspections for those children attending school.

So how do you go about finding what school your ancestor went to? This isn't easy. Children from wealthy families can possibly be found at a public school of some sort, not necessarily from the county they were born in. At Repton School, for example, the pupils came from all over the country. For your average family, it is highly possible—as can be seen from above—that the only schooling available was that of a local 'Dame School' or the Sunday School, which nearly every child would attend each week. School registers have survived in patches. Some schools will have deposited all of them at the local Record Office, others may well have destroyed them or very possibly kept them at the school itself. If at the record office they can be ordered out and looked through, but beware that these will have a 100 year closure due to the privacy laws. Most record offices will tell you what it says for your ancestor, but you will not be able to look for yourself. If these records are still at the school then survival is questionable. If the school still exists in its original form then the headmistress might allow you to look. If the school has been taken over or amalgamated then the records could be anywhere.

Log Books are great to read through, but very few names will be mentioned just the day to day running of the school. There are exceptions, of course, and an accident to a particular child or an outbreak of disease will be noted. Again there is often a note of many children not being at school owing to 'haymaking' or 'bad weather'. In country districts these excuses will be looked on favourably, after all the harvest is far more important than any child being taught to read.

Other school records are the punishment books, usually not available to look at, and the governors minutes, which, again, do not usually mention any particular child by name. All in all not an easy task to find your scholar, but very rewarding when you do.

The Problem of Two Jacob Birks (Part 2)

I wrote to the D.F.H.S. magazine asking for help, my letter appeared in the March 2010, Issue 132. Since then I have carried out further investigation and received a lot of help. I will be repeating some of the information from my first letter but with a little more padding.

I need to start with Jacob Birks. Born 8 September 1734, died 26 July 1811, who was married on the 23 February 1762 to Mary Maher, born 19 January 1743, died 1820. They had twelve children but a number did not survive. The two children that are of interest are Jacob Birks born the 4 February 1770, died 1844 and John Birks born 27 October 1765 and died 1825.

Jacob Birks is my family line, Jacob married Hannah Buckley (1774 to 1844) on the 5 March 1793 and lived for some time in Spancar and then moved to Ravensnest Farm. They had twelve children, some I have not been able to trace. Both Jacob and Hannah died on the 9 January 1844, their death certificates show dropsy. I have asked a medical friend about the same date and he thinks dropsy for both is very unlikely. They are buried in Ashover parish church, the head stone is heavily engraved and shows Ravensnest House.

The children I have been able to trace are, 1] John (1793 to 1850), who lived in Ravensnest Farm. Jacob left John the eldest all his property in his Will. John died without a wife or issue and is buried in the same grave as his parents and left most of his property to his sister Elizabeth making her a wealthy lady but refers to the house as being Ravensnest House as on his parents gravestones; 2] Jacob (1795 to 1852) I will give more details later; 3] Hannah (1799 to 1814); 4] Mary (1801 to 1862) first married Joseph Worrell and then John Coats in 1841. They lived in the Ashover area and had four children, Sarah, Rachel, Joseph and Hannah. 5] Rachel (1803 to 1859) married Joseph Gaunt (1804 to 1860). 6] George (1805 to 1825). 7] William Birks (1807 to 1874) married Eliza Brassington (1811 to 1857) on the 24 March 1834, they had two children John and Eliza Ann. William's second marriage was to Mary Sterland, there were no children. 8] Isaac (1809 to 1874) married in 1845 to Elizabeth Mellor (1809 to 1899). They lived in Shustoke by Coventry, he was a domestic Coachman. They had Henry 1842, the dates are correct and William 1846. On the 1871 census Henry is in Liverpool as a shop man/drapier and then disappears until March 4 1910 where he is in the David

Lewis Hotel in Liverpool, a home for sailors. William, with his family and his mother moved to Winstanly, Lancashire as a joiner on an estate. 9] Elizabeth Birks (1815 to 1874), in 1843 she fell pregnant by John Riggott from Woolly who appears to be married at the time to another Elizabeth who died in 1848. Elizabeth Birks daughter is Hannah Birks who died in 1915. In 1849 John Riggott married Sarah Lowe who died in 1850. John Riggott made Elizabeth Birks an honest woman and married her in September 1851, her daughter Hannah married John Dracott. I cannot find any children.

Back to Jacob Birks (1795 to 1852). Jacob married Ann Moor (1791 to 1862), in 1818 at Heanor parish church. Ann was from Normanton. In the 1841 census they are living at Sommer Cotes now called Somercotes. They had Mary 1823, Hannah 1825, William (1830 to 1884), Charles (1835 to 1892) and John (1837 to 1895).

Mary 1823 married Richard Daws on 9 September 1841.

Hannah has disappeared by 1851, unfortunately there are a large number of Hannah Birks.

On January 20 1844 Jacob is discharged from the workhouse. The next time Jacob appears is Saturday January 4 1851, he is admitted to Trinity workhouse and is "subject to firs class 2 for a diet"; a number is attached to the paupers cloth 35". Jacob runs away June 2 1851. He joins his wife and three sons in West Bromwich and died on the 13 November 1852 with pneumonia and is buried in All Saints Church, West Bromwich. Unfortunately we cannot find his grave as it may be under the car park.

The 1851 census show Ann with her three sons William, Charles and John in West Bromwich, Ann died in 1862 at the age of 73 years.

William (1830 to 1884), his birth was registered as the Overton Estate. He married Elizabeth Powell on the 3 October 1859. As a miner he was involved in maintenance at the mine, which was known to be gas free. In September 1884 William was in the maintenance team who went down the mine with lamps and candles, unfortunately there was a blast and seven men were killed, William took six days to die. Elizabeth died in 1908.

Charles (1835 to 1892) his birth is registered as Normanton, he married Mary

Holding (1840 to 1923) in September 1872. Charles was also a miner at the same pit as William.

John (1838 to 1895) is my great granddad, his birth is registered as Overton Estate, at the age of thirteen he is shown as a miner. John was married in 1864 to Eliza Phillips (1838 to 1921) who's family originated from Shropshire, they had five children, I am pleased to say I knew three of them including my grandfather.

John Birks (1765 to 1825) son of Jacob Birks and Mary Birks (nee Mather). John married in 1791 to Mary Marsh (1772 to 1853) they had nine children, again the two that are part of this report are Jacob born February 15 1795 and Job. In some reports and on Ancestry they have shown Jacob died in 1795. I do not think this is correct, research by DHFS at Bridge Chapel House, have found in the births and death Parish records of Ashover the following: Job Birks son of John and Mary; baptised 15 February 1795 with no birth date, Jacob son of John and Mary born 15 February 1795 baptised 8 March 1795, it has been assumed that Job and Jacob are twins and Job was not expected to live hence the baptism on the 15 February. My family line, Jacob son of Jacob and Hannah Birks of Spancar baptised 12 April 1795. There is only one child that dies in 1795 'a child of John Birks of Hay' on the 15 September.

Unfortunately I cannot find the 1841 census for this Jacob but in the 1851 census Jacob is married to Ellen Slack born 1791, the marriage took place in Crich on 22 May 1820 and they are living in Wessington, Ashover. Jacob died on 17 July 1855 aged 60 years, his death was reported by John Lilly. No children have been found.

The 1861 census shows Ellen aged 70 yrs as a charlady in Wessington.

The above is the bare bones of the two Birks families, it is obvious that my Jacob somehow upset the family as he is not mentioned in any wills, as a labourer could he not find any work?

Why did Ann and her three sons, all miners, move to West Bromwich for work, and leave Hannah behind when there are mines in Derbyshire? My biggest question, when did they move and how can I find out?

And the final one, where was Trinity Parish work house??

I would like to thank everyone for their help including: Derbyshire Ancestral Research Group, who helped start me off in Derbyshire, Derbyshire Family History Society, Cathy in Nottinghamshire, John in Sutton Coldfield and Doug in Yorkshire.

Tony Birks.

Membership number: 7336

HELP WANTED

MAY

My mother and sister went to school in Derbyshire, namely Muriel Jessie May [about 1900] and Gladys Janet May. It was a girls boarding school, as I have a letter written to them by their father from Leicestershire. We think the school was in Belper and it would only be a small school. Could anyone help with the dates that the school would be in existence, whether there are any records and why two Leicestershire girls were sent to board in Belper.

Stella Woolter, Cobblers Cottage, Chapel St

Sharnford, Leics LE10 3PF

CLAY

David Clay has been researching the "Clays of Derbyshire" for the last thirty years and has substantial information on that surname from all the parishes where they were located in the county dating back as far as the 1200s and he would like to know if anyone of that particular surname is interested in comparing DNA results. David can be contacted by:

E-mail: dmclay@bhinternet.com

Mail: David Clay, 30 Mill Street, Mansfield, Notts NG18 2PQ

VALENTINE

Is anyone researching the Valentine family? Jack Valentine [1895-1986] was born in Derby, worked at Rolls Royce and just before the Second World War moved to Crewe to organise the setting up of the new R.R. Factory there. I have in my possession a number of photographs and a portrait in oils of Jack's father. These are of no direct interest to me and I would be happy to pass them on to anyone researching the family.

David Owen, Ravensmoor House, Marsh Lane, Ravensmoor,

Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 8PN

The Wilkinsons of Crich 1734 – 1915

Introduction

The earliest record found of Wilkinsons in Crich is the marriage of Edward Wilkinson in 1614, but a continuous line of Wilkinsons in Crich can only be traced with a high degree of certainty back to the birth of James Wilkinson in 1734. James was the son of John and Elizabeth Wilkinson (nee Storer) who were both living in Heage at the time of their marriage in 1718 in South Wingfield parish church. He married Ann Spratt, also from Crich, in the Parish Church of St Mary's, Crich, in 1761.

James and Ann were my four-x-great grandparents, and this is an account of their descendants and families in Crich until 1915, when the last remaining family members moved to Ripley and thus ended a direct association with the Parish of almost 200 years. I have focused primarily on the direct line which led down to myself and my sister, Joyce, but also touched on other family members who had lives which were closely linked with this direct line, or were interesting in some way (to me anyway!), and for whom I was able to obtain information other than just dates of birth, marriage and death. Aspects of day-to-day life, such as employment, education and religion, are covered, and build up a picture of a hard-working, devout family who would have played their part in community life.

The County Context - Wilkinsons in Derbyshire up to 1841

Without time-consuming research of Parish Registers (not yet carried out) it is not possible to get an overall picture of where in Derbyshire there were Wilkinsons before 1841 (this being the first year in which a national census provided a list of all the people living in each household and for which detailed records still exist).

The Hearth Tax Returns of 1670 listed a total of seven Wilkinson households in Derbyshire, none of whom were in Crich. These Returns only related to property-owners, but the majority of people at that time rented their homes or lived in tied accommodation and so would not have been included.

The 1841 England and Wales census provides the first comprehensive data about the number and distribution of people. These records reveal that over 300 people with the surname Wilkinson were living in Derbyshire (including Derby), of whom 288 had been born in the county. They were found in four

main geographic / administrative areas:

- Derby (as might be expected of the county's largest town);
 - the south of the county principally around Repton and Ticknall;
 - Chesterfield and adjacent parishes;
 - a central belt which included Crich, stretching from Wirksworth in the west to Heanor in the east.
- Compared to other parishes in these four areas, Crich did not have an exceptionally high concentration of Wilkinson families.

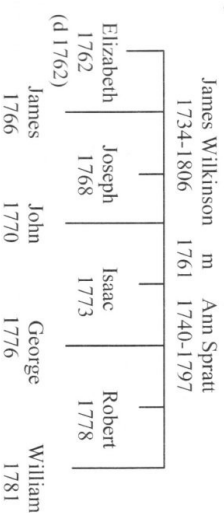
Wilkinsons in Crich in the 1600's and 1700's

Edward Wilkinson married Ellen Whyld of Wessington in the Crich Parish Church in 1614. Ellen died only five years later in 1619, and there are no records of any children. Two children, William and Rosamund, were born to Henry and Rosamund Wilkinson in 1671 and 1674 respectively. The parish register records from 1600-57 are difficult to read, although a transcript has been produced; there may be records which have been missed.

The next parish register entry is the baptism of James Wilkinson in 1724. Another baptism of a James Wilkinson took place in 1734. Both were the sons of John Wilkinson and Elizabeth (nee Storer) of Heage, indicating that the first-born son had died. John and Elizabeth had been married in South Wingfield church in 1718, and their first child was a daughter, Elizabeth, born in 1719. John could have been the son (born 1681 in Heage) of James Wilkinson and Ellen (nee Selby).

James and Ann's family

James and Ann (nee Spratt) married in 1761 and had eight children between 1762 and 1781, as shown below.



Joseph, Robert and William can be traced with confidence through subsequent marriage, baptism and census records. James and Isaac have not subse-

quently been traced (yet!). George has also not been traced under his baptised name – but see section ‘The early 1800s’ below.

There was a Wilkinson family – Edward and Ann (nee Spencer) and their seven children – living in South Wingfield in the second half of the 18th century, possibly (but not conclusively) linked to the Crich family.

The early 1800’s

In 1811 there were four Wilkinson families in the parish, the families of Robert, Josh (Joseph), William and David Wilkinson, all depending on agricultural labour for their income. Robert, Joseph and William were most probably the sons of James and Ann. David may have also been their son but not baptised with this name, but this is currently speculation; subsequent records for David suggest he was born around 1776 in Crich, the same year as their son George was born and for whom no other records have yet been found. Josh’s and Robert’s households each comprised four people, with seven people in both David’s and William’s households, a total of 22 people (who might not all be Wilkinsons, as only the numbers of males and females were recorded, not the names).

We have this much information for 1811 because, exceptionally, the census records for Crich for both 1811 and 1821 have survived, and are kept in the County Records Office.

In 1821, there were still four Wilkinson families in the parish, all relying on agriculture, but not quite the same four as in 1811. William’s family had moved to Lancashire, and had been replaced by that of John Wilkinson, whose origin is uncertain (but who could have been one of the children of Edward and Ann Wilkinson, of South Wingfield). Robert’s and Joseph’s households now contained eight people each, there were six in David’s household and nine in John’s – a total of 31 people. This was the largest number of Wilkinsons recorded in Crich at any one time. Again, they may not all have been Wilkinsons – some could have been lodgers.

The families would have been aware of the problems besetting the framework knitting trade in this period but their reliance on agricultural work, although not well paid, may have cushioned them from the extreme suffering experienced at times by those directly involved in framework knitting. This cottage industry had become established in Crich in the late 18th century, in

association with the rapidly developing textile mills in the East Midlands and in the nearby Derwent Valley in particular. Local people would have been suffering as low pay and the introduction of machines which produced inferior quality goods made it hard to earn a decent living, and Crich suffered from a number of incidents of stocking frame breaking.

Local protests culminated in the Pentrich Revolution of 1817, which began with a march from South Wingfield and ended disastrously at Kimberley near Nottingham when the protesters were intercepted by the 15th Regiment of Light Dragoons. A William Wilkinson of Swanwick was one of the marchers, but I have found no evidence yet to prove that the William Wilkinson living at Crich in 1811 was the person concerned. However, as mentioned above, he had left the area by 1821, with the last record for him in Derbyshire being the baptism of his son David in 1816.

Robert and Hannah’s family

Robert – my three-x-great-grandfather – was the seventh child of James and Ann, born in 1778. He married Hannah Bennett at Horsley Woodhouse in 1798 and they had ten children, of whom only five survived into adulthood – Betty (1809), Robert (1811), David (1816), Maria (1818) and William (1821). Described in the parish register entries for his children’s baptisms as an ‘agricultural labourer’, by 1836 he was, nevertheless, the owner of his house and garden on Sun Lane (near the Market Place in the Torts area) and of a separate nearby garden, and was included on the 1836/37 Register of Electors as the owner of freehold property. Although he may not have been wealthy, he was clearly relatively better off than many people in those days.

Property ownership gave Robert the right to vote (possibly under the limited extension of franchise given by the 1832 Reform Act), but also brought the obligation to pay taxes. He is listed in the 1839 Poor Relief Assessment as paying 8^{1/2}d for his house and garden and 3^{1/4}d for the separate garden, and in the 1839 Church Rate Records as paying 15 shillings.

Robert and Hannah, along with Robert’s brother William and his wife Mary, are the first generation of the family with a known link to the Methodist movement. Three of Robert and Hannah’s children were baptised in the Cromford Wesleyan Church, commencing with John in 1813, then Maria in 1818 and William in 1821. In between these dates their other children were baptised in Crich Parish Church, reflecting the common practice in those

days of people attending both Anglican and Methodist churches. However, it is puzzling why they chose to go to the Cromford Church (built in 1808) when there was already a Wesleyan Chapel (built in 1765), on Chapel Lane, just a short distance away from their house. Perhaps it was to do with the quality of the sermons or the personality of the preachers – certainly it was a long walk they chose to take to attend chapel.

Robert and Hannah both died in 1850, and the house on Sun Lane then became the home of their son David (born in 1816) and his wife Ellen and their children.

1841 - 1871

From a high point of 31 in 1821, the number of Wilkinsons in Crich gradually declined throughout the 19th century as people moved to neighbouring parishes or further afield, or died. By 1841 – the first year in which the census provided a list of all the people living in each household and for which complete records still exist – there were only 13 Wilkinsons living in Crich parish, of whom at least eight were descendants (or their spouses) of James Wilkinson and Ann Spratt, and the other five were possibly related. The eight were:

- Robert, aged 63 (James' son), and his wife Hannah;
- Robert, aged 30 (Robert and Hannah's son), and his wife Ann;
- David, aged 25 (Robert and Hannah's son), his wife Ellen, and their first two children William and Emma.

The other five Wilkinsons in Crich comprised:

- David Wilkinson and his wife Sarah (both now aged about 65).
- David Wilkinson (born 1804) and his wife Margaret (probably the son and daughter-in-law of David and Sarah). (This David was less fortunate than the rest of the family. He and his brother, William, were each apprenticed to local tradesmen at a young age and his two sons, David and Joseph (by his second wife Milliecent) were in the Union Workhouse in Belper in 1871, following the death of both their parents).
- John Wilkinson, aged 45 (who could have been the eldest son of the John Wilkinson whose family was listed in the 1821 census).

By 1841 the occupation of the men was not exclusively in agriculture. Although Robert Wilkinson sr was still an agricultural labourer, his sons

Robert and David were railway labourers (the North Midland Railway line from Derby to Leeds, which passed through part of the Parish at Bullbridge, had opened in 1840), and John was a framework knitter. Robert jun's wife Ann was listed in the census as a framework knitter (they had no children).

David and Ellen's family

My great-great-grandfather David Wilkinson (1816 – 1897) was born and spent most of his life in Crich although, at the time he married Ellen Thawley at Alfreton Parish Church in November 1838, both he and Ellen were living in Riddings. Ellen was originally from Stretton in the Parish of North Wingfield, the daughter of tailor William Thawley and his wife Docea, but she was orphaned by the age of nine. After David and Ellen were married, they moved to Crich and brought up seven children. There were five boys - William (1839), James (1844), twins George and Henry (1846), and David (1850); and two girls - Emma (1841) and Hannah (1853). Another daughter Eliza (born 1843) died before her first birthday.

(Surprisingly, although the 1836 Civil Registration Act required that from 1st July 1837 all births in England and Wales should be civilly registered in addition to any church baptism record, the births of the first three children and the seventh (my gr grandfather David Jun) were never registered. Was this to do with the fact that in the early days of Registration it was the Registrar who went to the parents, rather than the other way round, and bad weather may have prevented or discouraged a journey to Crich? Certainly two of the un-registered births took place in winter, but the other two were in October. Or did they just not get round to it?)

David's occupation in the early years of his marriage was given as labourer, but by 1845 he was described as a stone-getter and by the 1851 census he had progressed to become a stone mason. During the 1850's and 1860's David and Ellen's children were growing up, and the household income increased as their sons one by one began working in the local quarries. In 1844 the Butterley Company had opened a new quarry, Hilt's Quarry, and in 1846 George Stephenson's Clay Cross Company had begun to transport limestone from Cliff Quarry down the tramway to Ambergate, developments which increased employment for stone workers. E J Varty writes that 'there was a tendency for sons of quarrymen to take up similar work as soon as they were old enough'. This was certainly true for the Crich Wilkinsons, with three generations employed in quarrying during the course of the nineteenth century.

In 1854 David was one of the original trustees who established the Moorwood Moor Methodist church, along with his brother Robert, who was by then a framework knitter living at Plaistow Green. Thus they continued the involvement of the family in the Methodist movement which had begun a generation earlier. (It is possible that David used his masonry skills in the building of this church, or the Primitive Methodist Chapel which opened in Sun Lane Crich, in 1855, just a short distance from the house the family lived in at that time). At least two of David's sons, Henry and James, and two of his grandsons, Albert and Frederick, became lay preachers and were closely involved with Methodist churches in Crich and later Ripley.

Sadly, David and his family suffered a major blow when Ellen died in 1870, aged 56. Some time between 1861 and 1871 the house on Sun Lane appears to have been sold, as by 1871 David was no longer on the electoral register, and the family – much smaller now – had moved into a house on The Common. William, the eldest son, was married but still living in his father's home, together with his wife Alice, and David junior (my great-grandfather), the youngest son. David's grandson, James Henry Shillito, the eldest son of his daughter Emma, was also living with them.

A number of other changes within the family had also taken place: the elder daughter, Emma, was also married but living in Nottingham; the younger daughter, Hannah, was working as a servant in Nottingham; George was married and living with his in-laws in Cromford, working as a stone mason; Henry was in lodgings nearby, working as a framework knitter; and James – the only one who apparently had an urge to see the world – was in the Royal Marines, part way through a twelve-year service period which would see him travel to the Middle East several times on HMS *Arethusa*.

Other Wilkinson families at that time

The only other Wilkinsons still living in Crich in 1871 comprised David's brother, Robert, and his wife Ann, both working as framework knitters at Crich Green; and David's sister, now Maria Pykett, living at Crich Carr with her husband and only child Rebecca.

1871 – 1915 David Wilkinson continued

In 1872, David married again, this time to a widow from Cromford, Mary Walters. They lived in Crich to start with, and in 1881 were still looking after James Shillito, his mother Emma having died of cancer in 1877. This was an

example of how families looked after each other, and especially the children, in times of hardship.

At some time towards the end of the 19th century, David switched his occupation from stone masonry to herbalism (or medical botany, as it was sometimes described), and by 1881 had moved to Ripley and established an herbal medicine practice there. This was a surprising change, because it was an unusual occupation, and not one linked with his previous employment. Had he (and possibly other family members) been engaged in herbalism in a small way for many years before deciding to set up in business? Had the additional garden plot which David's father had owned back in the 1830's been used for growing herbs?

David Wilkinson junior and Mary's family

David Wilkinson junior (1850 – 1890) was my great-grandfather. In 1873, at the age of 23, he married Mary Broadhurst, the daughter of local farmer Daniel Broadhurst. Daniel had been farming at Coddington since at least 1841, when the census records him as being a farm labourer living at the farm with his wife Ann. On the 1851 census he was described as a farmer of 24 acres and the head of the household, so probably he had been able to take over the farm tenancy after the previous farmer had died.

David and Mary would probably have known each other as children in the village. They had six children: five boys - Albert Edward (the eldest, born in 1874, was my grandfather), Noah James, Frederick Herbert, Daniel Broadhurst, and David Harold - and one girl, Ann Elizabeth Ellen, and continued to live in Crich until David's relatively early death in 1891 from emphysema, a lung condition no doubt aggravated by the dust associated with his work as a stone mason. He had followed his father into the quarrying industry, as had two of his brothers, although he is listed in Kelly's Directory for 1881 as both a stone mason and a shop-keeper.

This was the first generation of the family known to have received a formal education. All six children of David and Mary's children attended the British School, which from 1885 was in a building which still exists today as Crich Junior School (known locally as the Bottom School). This choice of school was probably deliberate, yet another indication of the family association with Methodism. The British School was a 'voluntary' school run by the non-conformist churches, whereas the other village school further up the hill,

known as the National School, was run by the Church of England. For many years there was bitter rivalry between the two schools, which is well documented². The early registers for the British School are in the Derbyshire County Record office, and the attendance is recorded of all six of David and Mary's children, starting with Albert Edward in 1883.

When David died, Mary was left with four children under 12 to support, the youngest only a few months old. Mary's occupation on the school register entry for her son David Harold in 1893 was given as 'grocer' so there was obviously still a family shop to provide income. The two eldest sons were at work by then, one as an apprentice stone mason, the other as a framework knitter and their wages would have helped a little.

Henry and Mary's family

Henry Wilkinson (1846 – 1930) was one of David Wilkinson junior's older brothers. By 1892 he had been widowed twice - the first time, tragically, only six months after his marriage to Elizabeth Allsop in 1874. In 1877 he married Margaret Massey of Bonsall, and they had two daughters, Emma Jane and Mary Ellen, and lived in Crich until Margaret's death in 1892.

It would not seem surprising then that, in the very least as a practical arrangement so that their respective children had two parents to care for them, Mary and Henry should marry, and so they did, in 1894. They would have known each other very well, being related by marriage for many years in a close-knit family. They continued to live in Crich, and had a child of their own, William Percy, in 1896. By 1901 they had moved to Crich Carr and were living with four of Mary's children by her first husband David. The two younger ones, Ann and David, were still at school and the two older ones, Albert and Daniel, were working as stone masons. Another of her sons – Noah – was already married and living next door with his wife Mary and two young children.

The two families lived near to Crich Carr Methodist Church and were closely involved in church life. Henry was the Superintendent of the Church, and Noah's wife, Mary (nee Kirkland) was a Sunday School teacher, as was her sister, Bertha Kirkland, who married Noah's elder brother, Albert, in 1903. Both couples married in Belper Primitive Methodist Church (the church at Crich Carr not being licensed for marriages). Albert was a Sunday School teacher, a trustee, and also a lay preacher.

By 1911 Henry and Mary's family home was very crowded, containing five of Mary's grown-up children (all of them except Albert, who was now married and living in Darley Dale), their son Percy aged 14, and three grandchildren. One of the grandchildren was Noah's son, Harold, Noah's wife Mary having tragically died following the birth of their third child (named Mary after her mother). Noah's two daughters, Mary and the eldest child Edith, were being looked after in the house next door by their maternal grandmother, Ann Kirkland.

In his early life Henry had mainly been employed in framework knitting, but by 1881 he had joined his father, David Wilkinson senior, as an herbalist in the business at Ripley, whilst continuing to live in Crich. However, in 1915 Henry and Mary moved to live over the business in Chapel Street in Ripley, thus ending an unbroken period of Wilkinsons living in Crich going back to at least 1734. (One of Henry's brothers, James, who had served in the Royal Marines from 1863 to 1875 and then gone back to his original occupation as a stone mason, had by 1895 also become an herbalist and joined the family business).

Post script: After the First World War

Henry continued his Methodist association, this time with the Ebenezer Church in Ripley, until he died in 1930, Mary having passed away three years earlier. Two of Mary's sons – Daniel and David - who served in the army in World War One are listed on the Roll of Honour in St Mary's Church. The business continued trading in Chapel Street, Ripley, as D. Wilkinson & Sons until the 1960s.

Although there were no Wilkinsons living in the parish after 1915, Henry and Mary's families still maintained links with relatives and friends in the area. My grandfather Albert Edward, and subsequently my grandmother Bertha (nee Kirkland), chose to be buried at Crich, despite not having lived there for over forty years. I recollect that my grandmother used to walk from Ripley to Crich every week until she was in her eighties.

Trene Wilkinson (Mem 7148)

43 Central Drive, Wingernorth, Derbyshire S42 6QV

Acknowledgements

- [1] Varty E. J. (1977) *Stoneworkers and Lead Miners in Crich Parish*.
- [2] Dawes J. G. (2003) *A History of Crich*. Landmark Publishing Ltd p 83