

Chesterfield

And

District

Family

History

Society



Magazine Number 72 Sept 2007



NEW MEMBERS WELCOME TO THE SOCIETY

No 844, Mr J McDonough, 14 Elmwood Drive, West Mersea, Essex, C05 8RD  
e.mail [jo.mcdonough@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jo.mcdonough@tiscali.co.uk)

JEPSON	Joseph Sutton cum Duckmanton	DBY	1819-1840
JEPSON	John Sutton cum Duckmanton	DBY	c 1800
SPRAY	Mary Sutton cum Duckmanton	DBY	c 1800

No 845, Mr J Bown, 10 Old School Lane, Pleasley, Mansfield, Notts. NG19 7PW

BATTERHANE	Clemen Eckington	DBY	1895
HALE	Elsie May Killamarsh	DBY	1900
TAYLOR	Jesse Shirebrook	DBY	1911?

No 846, Mrs V A Ainge, 70 Laycock Avenue, Melton Mowbray, Leics. LE13 1UL  
e.mail [veronicaainge@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:veronicaainge@hotmail.co.uk)

BERRESFORD	Caroline Brampton	DBY	1870-1944
BERRESFORD	Henry Brampton	DBY	1866-1928
BERRESFORD	John Henry Cooper Brampton	DBY	1886-
BERRESFORD	Kate Brampton	DBY	1894-1959
BERRESFORD	Sue Brampton	DBY	1891-1935
TAYLOR	Albert Hasland	DBY	1892
TAYLOR	Bertha Hasland	DBY	1862-1928
TAYLOR	Charles Hasland	DBY	1858-1926
TAYLOR	Herbert Hasland	DBY	1887-
TAYLOR	Walter Hasland	DBY	1891



**Cadffs Programme 2007-2008**

**St Hugh's R C Church Littlemoor:**

<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Oct</b>	<b>Danny Wells-Florence Nightingale</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	<b>Patrick Harding-Christmas and it's customs</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>Christmas Party</b>
<b><u>2008</u></b>	
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	<b>Members Evening (Please note this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday)</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>John Taylor-Bolsover Castle-Past and Present</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Clive Holliday-The Golden Age of the Picture Postcard</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<b>Mrs Joan Ward-Kill or Cure.</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Mrs L Phillips-Family History in the Library</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> June</b>	<b>Members Evening</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> July</b>	<b>Anne Browne-Snapshots of 1895 Dronfield</b>

## FICHE COPIES FOR SALE Sept 2007

St Bartholemew (Whittington) (some gaps)			
BAPTISMS	1650-1902	(13 fiche)	£8.00
	1902 -1912	(3 fiche)	£2.50
	1912-1922	(3 fiche)	£3.00
Brampton Methodist			
BAPTISMS (some gaps)		(4 fiche)	£3.00
St James the Apostle TEMPLE NORMANTON.			
MARRIAGES	1868-1919	(1 fiche)	£1.25
All Saints HEATH			
MARRIAGES	1760-1929	(3 fiche)	£2.50
St. Thomas' Brampton,			
BAPTISMS	1832-1944	(7 fiche)	£4.00
MARRIAGES	1832-1972	(11 fiche)	£6.00
BURIALS	1832-1974	(6 fiche)	£3.50
St Peter & Paul Old Brampton			
MARRIAGES	1756-1928	(7 fiche)	£3.50
MEMORIAL INSCRIPTIONS		(3 fiche)	£2.75
St. John's NEWBOLD			
MARRIAGES	1861-1920	(7 fiche)	£3.75
	1920-1937	(4 fiche)	£3.00
Christ Church STONEGRAVELS			
MARRIAGES	1914-1953	(3 fiche)	£2.00
Holy Trinity CHESTERFIELD			
MARRIAGES	1854 1933	(6 fiche)	£4.50
St. Paul's HASLAND/GRASSMOOR			
MARRIAGES	1851-1923	(3 fiche)	£2.00
St Mary & All Saints CHESTERFIELD			
BAPTISMS	1761-1801	(4 fiche)	£3.00
BAPTISMS	1908-1934	(7 fiche)	£4.50
MARRIAGES	1761-1822	(6 fiche)	£4.00

St Mary & All Saints CHESTERFIELD (continued)			
MARRIAGES	1822-1844	(4 fiche)	£3.25
MARRIAGES	1844-1858	(4 fiche)	£3.25
MARRIAGES	1858-1871	(4 fiche)	£3.25
MARRIAGES	1871-1885	(5 fiche)	£4.00
MARRIAGES	1885-1901	(4 fiche)	£3.25
MARRIAGES	1901-1916	(4 fiche)	£3.50
MARRIAGES	1916-1933	(6 fiche)	£4.50
MARRIAGES	1933-1967	(7 fiche)	£5.00
BURIALS	1761-1801	(4 fiche)	£3.25

St Laurence (BARLOW)			
MARRIAGES	1754-1942	(3 Fiche)	£2.50

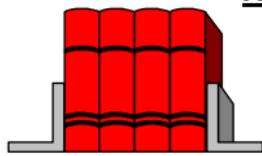
Derbyshire Times Extracts			
MARRIAGES	1880-1894	(3 fiche)	£2.00
DEATHS	1880-1894	(12 fiche)	£8.00

1851 Chesterfield Town Residents Name Index			
		(2 fiche)	£2.00

Copies of the Microfiche can be obtained at the prices shown from Mr R Batteson, 17 Orchards Way, Walton Road, Chesterfield, S40 3DA Please make all payments to C.D.F.H.S. Prices include UK postage, Overseas orders must be paid in Sterling and should include 2 IRC's to cover postage.



### **Additions to our Library.**



Passage to Matlock by Godfrey H Holmes.

In this entirely original booklet, local writer, rambler and train enthusiast Godfrey Holmes presents a rewarding alternative: staying within the Matlocks to explore miles of largely-forgotten passages and alleyways. These ancient and modern pedestrian routes are amazing survivors into the Twenty-first Century. Each one has its own remarkable story to tell and every worn stone step is worth counting.

### Passage to Wirksworth by Godfrey Holmes

Explore the hidden byways of Wirksworth and Cromford. Celebrate centuries of footfall at this very special gateway to the Peak District. Here discover broad paving slabs, narrow gutters, hewn pillars, worn stairs.....and beautiful buildings.

Wirksworth the town of festival, market and well-dressing can justly claim to be the Capital of Stone. Whilst Cromford is prime embodiment of the Industrial Revolution. Where better for the oldest and newest leisure pursuit: the urban "hike"?

### Basic Facts about :

Family History Research in Yorkshire by Pauline M Litton

Quarter Session Records by Richard Ratcliffe



### MEMBERS MEETING –3<sup>rd</sup> April 2007

"History in a tin - what's it worth?" Talk by Phil Coward illustrated with a power-point presentation and display of photos, post cards and ephemera.

Phil obtained his history degree at Nottingham University in his early forties and is now a history tutor with the WEA. Five years ago he attended a public history workshop at Ruskin College where there was discussion about the different ways academics and the general public treated history.

Phil found the tin mentioned in the title in a junk shop 20 years ago. It contained a variety of items including personal letters and a WW11 ration book but over the 20 years Phil never looked at them. He was not a "nosey parker". Most people have a box of some sort where they store love letters, official communications, photos etc. Sometimes it is a chocolate box or a tin.

When he was doing his masters degree in history Phil used the contents of the tin (which cover a three year period in World War 11and a little beyond) in his research. He then drew up the Barnes family tree.

It is not known who owned the tin. It was found in Phil's father-in-law's "antique/junk shop" after a house clearance. The tin may have been disposed of by the couple's children or the local council. As the couple, Charles James Samuel Barnes, known as Sam and his wife Mary Agnes, known as Mollie, had no children it is likely that it was the council.

It is known that Mollie went into a mental institution in Taunton where the tin was found and the couple both died there.

The tin itself was easily dated and pre dates the items that were in it. It is marked on the bottom "Huntley & Palmer, London, Christmas series". A search on the Internet revealed that 25,000 of these tins (which featured a morocco/crocodile skin design) were produced in 1897. In 1899 they produced 60,000 of another design called the "Viennese". These tins were sold to grocers to market their biscuits. It is possible that Mollie and Sam got the tin from Sam's great grandfather Samuel Barnes who died in 1898. Maybe the biscuits were served at the funeral wake.

What was in the tin? There were 45 letters. Some were between Mollie and Sam and others from their mothers and fathers. There were letters from Mollie to her mother and replies from Mollie's mother. This is unusual as generally only one side of a correspondence survives. There are 36 photos, 8 post cards and various pieces of ephemera including an Insurance policy and a baptismal certificate.

Looking at the photos and their place in family history experts are divided as to whether these pictures are evidence or not. Today when we look at old photos we often do not know why they were taken and most photos have no names so we are only guessing as to who they are and where and why they were taken. One of the photos shows a typical 19c family group with several ladies wearing "Queen Victoria" type lace hats. There are three separate photos of different women. They are not annotated so it is not known whether they are of Mollie or Winifred (also known as Jo), the nurse who trained in Scotland and India and who enclosed a picture of herself in one of the letters. Family historians should always annotate their photos where possible.

One of the letters in the tin addressed to "Miss Mollie" and dated 23 April 1946 tells her that "Win" was killed in a motor crash in Madras. There are pictures of soldiers. One is of Charles, Sam's father taken in 1941 at Weobley in Herefordshire. Phil has visited Weobley. It is a picturesque "black and white" Herefordshire village. He was able to go up the hill to the searchlight base mentioned in the correspondence. Charles' brother Walter was also a soldier but extracts from one of the letters shows that he went AWOL/deserted, was arrested and put in prison.

One of the letters refers to Sam "not being well". This may be connected to a further letter that a Mrs Barnes wrote to the John Bull magazine. In it

she quotes an article by the right hon Ernest Bevan. As the letter was dated 23 January 1943 Phil was able to obtain a copy of the article which referred to doctors passing people who were not fit for service. Was this what happened to Sam Barnes?

It appears from the pictures that Sam and Mollie were agricultural labourers or involved in farming. There are pictures of geese and their letters talk of hunger and that the dog was "sent to catch a rabbit". One of the pictures is of a dog. Could this be "Pish" mentioned in letters as Walter's dog?

There are four photos of Dunster in Somerset where there was an army cadet camp for the Pioneer Corps. There is also a postcard of Trentham Gardens. These may both be places where the soldiers were stationed.

Looking at the ephemera these are also linking documents. There is a life policy dated 24 December 1934 with a 6d per week payment and a sum assured of £12.18.0d for Charles Barnes, labourer at age 60. A ration book in the name of Mary Agnes Barnes (Mollie) with the address of a guest-house and a pass to enter the barracks. A letter dated 1943 from a doctor states "Private Barnes is now fit to travel". The death certificate for Charles James Samuel Barnes (Sam) states he was living at Myrtle Villa. Phil visited the area and found and photographed the building. It is now called "Myrtle Cottage".

Research about Mollie's life has revealed that she was born at the workhouse in White Hill, Weobley. No father's name was given on her birth certificate and unfortunately there are no birth records for the workhouse.

Letters of the period appear very abrupt when read now. A letter dated 22 April 1946 from Mollie's mother to Mollie states almost in passing as a closing sentence, "our Jo has been killed in a motor crash". One letter addressed to Sam as "Dear Sambo" tells him that they have been to see "The Road to Morocco" with Bing Crosby, Bob Hope and Dorothy Lamour. From the date of the letter Phil was able to find which cinema this was shown at and obtain a poster of the film.

It would appear from the documents that Mollie Barnes worked in the ordnance factory (under the essential work act) in Hereford. Unfortunately there are no records of this employment but there is evidence of the factory as there is still a bunker there and because of its previous use the site cannot now be built on.

The census shows that Sam's great grandfather Samuel who died in 1898 was a farmer and publican at Morehampton. There is a photo of a pony and trap at Morehampton station. The hotel is now a house. In a directory of 1890 it stated that the hotel had "well aired beds".

On the 1891 census of Ecclesgreen Samuel Barnes (Sam's great grandfather) is shown living with his grandson Charles. Charles' father, also a Samuel, was living next door with his second wife Louisa. There is a picture in the tin of the barn at Ecclesgreen. On a visit to the farm Phil found the same barn but it is now known as Green Farm.

The will of Samuel Barnes, who died in 1898, shows that he left £305. However, he left nothing to his eldest son. Whether this is because they had had a disagreement or he had already received his inheritance before 1898 is not known. Phil found a record of the gravestone of Samuel Barnes who died in 1898 on the Internet. The gravestone (which Phil photographed) at Norton Cannon Church shows that Samuel was aged 80 and that Elizabeth, his wife, was also buried there in 1903.

The baptism certificate in the tin shows that the Rudges were sponsors (Godparents) at Sam's christening. The Rudges were closely related to the Barnes family. James Rudge married Mary Ellen, Samuel senior's daughter and their daughter Flora Annie Mary Rudge married her first cousin Charles Martin Barnes, Sam's father. One of the pictures in the tin is of a young girl. On the reverse there is an illegible written entry. Phil put it under the scanner and found that it said "Rosie Rudge died age 15". She was the daughter of Mary Ellen and James Rudge.

One of the letters in the tin dated July 1944 shows that Mollie had a course of ten "electric treatments" at a cost of £5.15.6d and that these were paid for by the Ministry of Defence. Why this was; is not known, it may be connected to her employment in the ordnance factory.

By coincidence Phil also acquired from the same junk shop the Barnes family bible. This also gave details of the Barnes family deaths.

So what is the tin's value? In 2001 a Huntley & Palmer biscuit tin like it at Buxton was valued at £300 - £500! Somewhere in most homes there is a box/tin/container like it that houses family papers and photos. Recently the question was raised as to what was the most valuable exhibit in the British Museum. The answer surprisingly was the Vindolanda tablets found at Hadrian's Wall. These were early versions of postcards sent by

Romans about their everyday life. The general consensus is that to anyone researching their family history the contents of such a box are priceless.

A vote of thanks was given by Mr.J. Bradley.



MEMBERS MEETING 1<sup>st</sup> MAY 2007

“PORTRAIT OF A LADY” by Mrs Loebel

Mrs Loebel began her talk by telling members that she and they had something in common - an interest in history and family history. She never knew one set of her grandparents on her father's side but was interested to learn from her mother about her maternal grandmother's family. Initially the most she knew was that her grandfather had an unusual name —BOULLEMIER. He was born in England but his parents were French and very exotic. How did they come to England? She determined to find out.

Mrs Loebel showed members an oval portrait of a lady, the subject of her talk. She said she was lucky in that she had a primary source of information about her – her memoirs.

The lady's name was LEONIE JULIE MICHEL and she was born in 1848. Historically 1848 was an important date in Europe as it was the “Year of Revolutions”, particularly the French Revolution. Revolutions are the favourite sport of the French (Mrs Loebel feels she can say this because she is part French).

Having got rid of the French monarchy the Bourbons came back after Napoleon reputedly “forgot nothing and learnt nothing”. In 1848 the French decided they were sick of monarchy. Waiting in the wings was Prince Louis Napoleon Bonaparte who had been in exile for 20 years in Clapham, an unromantic part of England.

After the revolution in 1848 he was invited to be President of the Republic for 4 years. He took a leaf out of Napoleon's book and proclaimed himself Napoleon 111 (Napoleon 11 son of Napoleon 1 had died young). The Prince took the title and restored the glory days. Great grandmother Leonie's childhood was spent in the reign of Napoleon 111 when all sorts of things happened.

Paris needed rebuilding after the revolution and Napoleon 111 decided he must get married to get an heir to pass on his heritage. Great swathes of Paris were demolished and grand buildings erected in their place. Napoleon paid court to the ruling heads of Europe in his search for a bride but they all regarded him as an upstart and would have no truck with him. He decided to come down an echelon to the aristocracy to look for a young woman with impeccable ancestry who was charming, religious and well brought up. One such woman was EUGENIE de MONTIJO and when the emperor saw her he said yes! At this time Bonaparte was small, middle aged with a paunch, receding hair and a goatee beard. He was no oil painting but he had great charm. Eugenie was to become Empress of France, mother of the next Emperor and they had a happy marriage.

At this point Mrs Loebel showed her second picture, a portrait by Winterhalter of a lady in a crinoline dress surrounded by her ladies in waiting. These were the women that little Leonie looked up to, the stars of the day. She would have seen them in their carriages in Paris.

Leonie's father was a doctor from Lorraine. His father and grandfather were doctors too. He came to Paris to train and had a very good practice that was doing well. The family were well to do and happy, but sadly 3 years after Leonie's brother George was born her mother became ill with breast cancer and died age 30. Leonie and George were brought up by their grandmother and by a nanny. When Leonie was 7 she went to board at a Dominican Convent and her memoirs record that she was happy there. She had a very good education but not as we know one now. Education for women then was to make them an accomplished ornament for their father or if they married to their husband's household. She played the piano, was taught watercolour flower painting, learnt English, dancing, the art of conversation, flower arranging and studied French history and literature. When she was 17 she returned home to her father's house "finished and polished" and became his hostess. The housekeeper showed her how to run the house and she became typically "upper middle class". People like Florence Nightingale found this way of life stultifying and had a nervous breakdown because of it but Leonie enjoyed being the daughter of a good family.

At this time one of Emperor Napoleon's soldiers, Colonel Trotter and his wife, who had a daughter the same age as Leonie, visited Paris. Mrs Trotter became ill and they didn't know what was wrong with her. Doctor Michel was consulted, found out what was wrong and cured her. Colonel Trotter and his daughter were delighted to pay his fee of 400 guineas which in the 1860's was a substantial sum. As Leonie had no mother

Lady Trotter offered to “bring her out” in society. She was taken to the opera, ballet, went riding and attended soirees. She played the piano for Saint-Saens and met Alexandre Dumas.

The Emperor became ill with a cyst behind his ear. Colonel Trotter recommended that he consult Dr. Michel. The doctor successfully removed the cyst and the Emperor recovered. This meant that the doctor could have a brass plate saying he was George Michel, Imperial Physician. He began to move in higher circles. He received a personal invitation from the Emperor for Leonie who was 18 and George to attend a ball for young people including the young prince who was then 14.

For Leonie and her brother George, who was a cadet in the Imperial Guard, it was a wonderful occasion. Leonie’s ball gown was made for her at a couture house. It had yards and yards of blue silk decorated with real forget-me-nots. Here Mrs Loebel showed her third picture. This featured the opulent ball. At the ball Leonie was invited to join the Trotter’s at the imperial dais and to lead the first waltz. Many of the mothers there were certain to look upon her as a nice wife for their son. This was the apogee of Leonie’s social life. Sadly when Leonie was only 20 her father died suddenly.

She and her brother George thought they would inherit but as they were both under age there was not much money left and what money there was had to go to pay for George’s career in the Royal Guard. Leonie went to live with her uncle. There was to be no great marriage as all of a sudden there was no dowry. What could she do? There was only one thing that women in these circumstances could do, like the Brontes, she decided to become a governess.

During the first 12-18 months of mourning she was not able to go out. Her cousin Blanche, who was like a sister to her, helped her polish her accomplishments. Her uncle was a ceramic artist at Sevres. He had a young colleague ANTONIN BOULLEMIER. He was an up and coming skilled man who was making a name for himself in ceramics. He was a friend of the family and often visited the house. He had a beautiful voice and he and Leonie used to sing duets. Antonin asked Leonie’s uncle if he could propose to her. Her uncle said that as she would soon be 21 she could make up her own mind. Leonie had fallen in love with Antonin (who was 9 years older) and in July 1871 they were married.

Whilst they were on honeymoon the Franco Prussian war broke out and Paris was besieged by the Prussian army. There was no food or fuel and

Leonie and Antonin lived through a terrible time. The Prussian army marched through Paris and Kaiser Wilhelm was at Versailles. Things went from bad to worse. The government tried to make peace but the populace said no, they wanted revolution. It was dangerous for Leonie and Antonin. The Empress escaped, the prince went to Queen Victoria and the Emperor was a prisoner. Any supporter of Bonaparte was in danger. Leonie, Antonin and George were told by friends to get out of Paris as their names were on a death list. They managed to get on the first train to Lille where they had friends. George went to Verdun. It was at this time that Leonie discovered that she was pregnant with her first child.

Antonin did not know what to do or where to go. He received a letter from a friend Leon Solon who had a proposition to put to him. As there was no call for art in Paris he had left France and gone to a place in England called Stoke where they manufactured fine porcelain. They needed men who had trained at Sevres, so in 1872 Antonin came to Stoke. He went to work at Minton which was run by Colin Minton Campbell who was delighted to employ him. He worked for two years in Stoke but found it very dull and dirty. He visited Paris but spent the rest of his life here. He fell out with Campbell and became a freelance art director working for Crown Derby, Royal Worcester and received commissions from Queen Victoria.

Leonie was busy as well. She had 10 children, 5 boys and 5 girls. Looking at their birth certificates Mrs Loebel has noted that she spent most of her life recovering from a birth or just expecting another. One of the boys was a sportsman. He was a cricket spin bowler. Her great uncle was a professional footballer who swam, played water polo and entered into the life of the potteries. Antonin sang in choral works and had his own orchestra. He lived the good life but died in 1900.

Leonie was left with 4 young children and no pension. Antonin's American agent advised her not to sell anything and keep the house. All her sons fought in WW1. One was killed and another son (his father's pride and joy who was chief artist at Minton) was gassed and shell shocked and never fulfilled his promise. Three daughters went to France and became teachers or a governess. As an old lady Leonie went to live in a rest home in the Ardennes where she died in 1929 age 82.

She was remembered in Stoke as "Madame Boulemier" and was well loved by her grand daughters and great grand daughters who were also taught by the Dominican Nuns. They recalled that if you spoke to her she was "a real lady"

And that is why Mrs Loebel calls her talk "Portrait of a Lady".  
Asked if Leonie's memoirs had been produced as a book Mrs Loebel said they were in the form of a hand written pamphlet. The original memoirs are now with Mintons but they have given her a photocopy.

A vote of thanks was given by Andy Parsons.



MEMBERS MEETING 5th-June 2007

"Miss Ruth Barber – An Edwardian Childhood" a talk by Jill Sparrow illustrated with 200 photographs and various artefacts.

Before Jill started her talk she explained that her partner Richard was Ruth's grandson. Ruth raised Richard when his own mother died when he was very young. It is due to Richard that Ruth's photographs, memoirs and artefacts have been preserved and they form the basis of the talk.

The story begins on 19 March 1995 with the death of Mrs Ruth Haslam who was almost 96. She was until the last few weeks of her life a sprightly character with a razor sharp memory and wit. Ruth was laid to rest in the churchyard of All Saints in South Wingfield. Everyone knew her. She was the longest serving member of the W.I. who presented her with a wooden spoon for her 60 years service (1934-1994) and a champion of dumb animals. She left behind a record of her life in words and pictures of a world that has now vanished.

Ruth was born at Ivy Cottage, Church Street, Eastwood on 8 May 1899 when Queen Victoria was in the 62<sup>nd</sup> year of her reign, roads were cobbled and lamplighters did their rounds. Elsewhere in Eastwood lived David Herbert Lawrence (age 14) who was to become famous in the literary world.

Eastwood was a mining area. Ruth's father was Dr Robert David Barber a surgeon, the son of Samuel John Barber, a chartered surveyor and architect and his wife Ann Margaret. Dr Barber grew up in Church Street with his brothers; John Stenson (a veterinary surgeon); Percy Eaglesham; Reginald Bradshaw; and sisters; Mary Ann; Susannah Margaret; Frances Eliza and Cassandra who was his housekeeper until she married a police constable, Mr Lumley.

Robert attended the Collegiate School in Belper. One of his books "Flowers of the Field" was awarded to him, age 14 in 1878 "for diligence". He qualified as a doctor at St Bartholomew's in London.

In the early 1890's Robert met Alice Georgiana de Seilan, widow of Count Charles Louis Isidore de Seilan. He had died from consumption in 1893. They had married by special licence in 1892 at a cost of £32.6s.8d.

Alice came from an aristocratic background. The family was the Strelleys of Strelley Hall in Nottingham. Their motto was "Honor Virtutis Praemium" – Honour is recompense for valour.

Alice never lived at Strelley Hall, her ancestors had drunk and gambled away their wealth. They lived at Holly Bank House in Oakerthorpe (now a nursing home). Alice was born here in 1864 the daughter of Richard Clayton Strelley and Frances Johanna Moore. She married Dr Barber on 29 March 1894 at All Saints Church, South Wingfield. Ruth Barber was their only child and sadly her mother was widowed again in 1901 when Ruth was almost two. Dr Barber had had a severe drink problem. Ironically he was presented with a Royal Doulton whisky jug by the grateful parents of a child he successfully treated (one of the artefacts). His was not an easy profession. Often he could not alleviate suffering and death was commonplace. Surgery was grim and perhaps alcohol helped. Alice recalled paying respects to deceased patients. The first was an elderly lady who had lived a very hard life. She was clad in a beautiful nightdress, yet the hands were gnarled. She had saved the best finery for death. The second, a child laid out on a meat platter decorated with flowers, looked like a suckling pig.

Ruth was taken back to Oakerthorpe under the care of her unmarried uncle Clayton Somerville Strelley known as "Clatie" and his spinster sister Maria, whilst her mother went to Bournemouth to stay with her sister Maud.

Ruth's memories of this period include helping her uncle fill cartridges and her aunt roll pastry. She searched the fields for guinea fowl eggs and formed a love of animals and birds. She used to free sparrows from the traps her uncle set. Her aunt Maria was not used to children and Ruth was strong willed. She hated new starched clothes and one day was sent to the Anchor Inn with a parcel. The landlady Mrs Eales read the enclosed note and redressed Ruth in the clean clothes. In a rage Ruth lay down in a pool of slurry. For this Ruth received a thrashing with a hairbrush.

At this time, long before telephones, telegrams were delivered by a man riding a pony. If anyone needed a doctor someone cycled the 3 miles and

gave the doctor the message. The doctor then arrived at the patient's home by horse and trap.

Ruth experienced how less wealthy people lived. At the Peacock in Oakerthorpe she was taken into the kitchen. Here a baby was sucking a dummy. From time to time it dropped it. The dummy was picked up and returned by various people who first put it in their mouth. After this she always had her own cup and glass. In 1902 the coronation of Edward V11 was celebrated in Oakerthorpe in a massive tent with trestles spread with food. Ruth got a thrill from being able to drop crumbs – unthinkable at home.

Although only 3 Ruth explored the land around Holly Bank House but there were dangers. There were mantraps in the wood to deter poachers and unfenced mine shafts. Oakerthorpe colliery was nearby to which the Strelleys owned the mineral rights.

Alice's search for a new husband ended close to home. In 1902 she married her childhood sweetheart Reginald Arthur Christian the son of the vicar of Wingfield.

Ruth was retrieved and taken to live with the couple in a house they leased on the corner of Mansfield Road and Meadow Lane in Alfreton. For the first time she was allowed to play with local children. However, one little girl had an infectious disease and she was banished and replaced by a large black retriever dog. Sadly the dog was poisoned, an act of revenge as her stepfather was the Registrar of County Courts. Reggie a solicitor was fond of animals and kept dogs. He proved to be a wonderful stepfather to Ruth and always treated her as his own child.

In July 1903 Ruth returned to Holly Bank House for a week when Alice gave birth to her first son, Richard Frederick, known as "Mins". Later that year the family moved to Manor Cottage in South Wingfield. Ruth was then 4 years old and their staff of servants included a nurse.

Later the family rented a large old house in South Wingfield. Ruth whose nickname was "Boddo" after her love of birds, acquired a menagerie of animals. She had a pet hen, a tame jackdaw and lots of chickens. The family also kept a donkey but this was sold after Boddo fell off it.

Reggie bought the children toys from Hamleys in London, trains for Mins and dolls for Boddo, however, she was more interested in boyish pursuits.

For one of her birthdays at Manor cottage Reggie arranged for a barrel organ (her favourite) to be played under her bedroom window.

Ruth played in the fields at the back of Manor Cottages. She hid in one of the stooks of hay to surprise the farmer but was struck by the pitchfork when the stook was being loaded. This resulted in a nasty wound to her arm.

She incurred the displeasure of the Manor Cottage gardener Willy Slater by springing the mousetraps he had set in the pea rows and leaving notes in them "best wishes from Mr Mouse".

Reggie felt sorry for local man Mr Collishaw who had many children. He told him he was welcome to take some vegetables to feed them. When Reggie asked Slater to bring a cabbage he was told there were none left as "Mr Collishaw has a great many children sir".

Gifts of pheasants, chickens or duck were left at the back door of Manor Cottage. As Reggie was the County Court Registrar he had to return them as they were often bribes.

One visitor to Manor Cottage was a farmer obsessed with buying any piece of land or cottage that came up for sale. He was clad in farm overalls, coated with cow muck and sour milk and he smelt. As soon as he had left Reggie would shout, "get the coffee on". The spent coffee grounds were then spread everywhere the farmer had been as an air freshener.

A developing tank and dark room were housed in the cellar at Manor Cottage. Photography was a novel hobby and Boddo never lost her fascination for it.

Boddo and Mins were often involved in pranks. Once they were in a room away from the grown-ups. They devised a game throwing balls of plasticine at the ceiling to see how long they would stay. The room had been newly decorated and the plasticine left yellow stains. Sore bottoms for that misdemeanour.

As Reggie was the vicar's son the family were expected to attend church on Sunday. The children didn't attend Sunday school as they were kept away from the village children. On one occasion the children set off for church but were followed by their dog Patrick. He was sent home but ran away and joined them in church. He sat quietly until the organ was played

when he howled like a wolf. He and the children were taken to the door and shut out.

One of the treats that the children enjoyed at the vicarage was to be given glasses of warm cow's milk. They liked to visit the lavatory because the bowl had a willow pattern. There was an outdoor privy with two large holes and two smaller ones but these revolted them.

The children enjoyed their visits to Grandma and Grandpa Christian because they had a swing, a pony called Poppy and cows. Ruth also remembers being taken to Alfreton in the dog-cart driven by her Grandma who was a real martinet. Her husband could only smoke in the garden and his sermons were kept short. They had a volatile relationship and once the vicar's wife threw her husband's breakfast through the window. The vicar was famous for his dinner parties where the wine flowed freely. Sometimes the guests were too intoxicated to stagger home. Things were very different at the Zion Methodist church where Boddo watched the congregation beat a wooden beer barrel to show their aversion to the demon drink. The Reverend Christian died in 1909 age 74.

In 1908 the Strelley family were declared bankrupt and Holly Bank House had to be sold. Aunt Maria emigrated to Canada and uncle Clatie died the next year.

Antony Hugh (or Ant as he was known), Ruth's youngest brother was born in 1909. By this time Boddo and Mins age 10 and 7 had forged a firm bond. They resented the new baby and decided to do away with him by letting his pram run down a steep hill, the pram turned over but as he was strapped in he came to no harm but they were never allowed to wheel him again.

Boddo and Mins had little contact with other children because their mother would not expose them to diseases like measles and scarlet fever so there was no school for them. However, they observed the local children of their own age; the little Maycock boy who fell over the rocks and lost a leg; Poor Violet Haycock whose sight was impaired from birth, cruelly stoned by boys and taunts of "blind eyes"; Jonty Cramp who accidentally hit his father on the head with a pitched rock and Liza Bowler who was bedridden with a swollen leg (elephantiasis) contracted from mosquito bites in the river Amber.

Ruth and her family took holidays in Scarborough (where Molly Christian lived) or Sheringham. The whole family went for a month at a time to a rented house and Reggie would join them at weekends.

At home Boddo, Mins and Ant were quite happy amusing themselves in the 8 acres of fields and gardens of Manor Cottage. However, education was an issue that had to be addressed.

(to be continued in next magazine)



### FUN DAY- QUEEN'S PARK

CADFHS were invited by Chesterfield Borough Council and Friends of Queen's Park to participate at the Fun Day in Queen's Park on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2007.

The event was almost cancelled because of the torrential rain the day before. However the British bulldog spirit prevailed and the event took place despite the grounds resembling Glastonbury (which coincidentally commenced on 22<sup>nd</sup> June.)

Other organisations taking part were St Helen's Local History Society, Friends of Queen's Park, BBC Radio Sheffield, Towns Women's Guild, Kenstead Pony Rescue, WEA, Guide Dogs for the Blind and many more.

The CADFHS display featured the research carried out by Carol Morris, a member of the society, on the statue of Lalla the little girl in the park. Carol's great grandfather HERBERT LEE had sculptured the statue using his daughter as the model. This proved to be of great interest as the statue was on display in it's new home in the park's conservatory. In addition the daughter of the little girl Dianna Bell and some of her descendants were also there to answer questions.

The CADFHS stand dealt with many enquiries from people interesting their Chesterfield roots.

Marian Yeldham



### MEMBERS MONTHLY MEETINGS

There have now been three meetings at the new venue, which seems to satisfy all our requirements. The meeting room is of sufficient size to allow the contents of the library, our collection of family history records and relevant notices to be displayed, while still leaving enough room for chairs to be laid out for listening to a speaker. There is a large kitchen with

facilities for making hot drinks. The car park has space for 16 cars, with parking also allowed on the road outside and adjacent streets.

The meetings start at 7 o'clock to allow members to consult the records, which are kept on microfiche and hand written in files. Also to browse through reference books and 'exchange' magazines that are held in the library, most of which are available for members to borrow. At the majority of meetings a speaker, often with the help of slides, commences at 7.30 and usually talks for about an hour. Jo Gott has arranged a varied programme for the coming year which hopefully will appeal to most tastes.

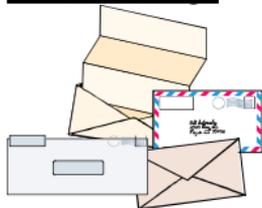
Members' evenings, twice a year, are meetings when there is no speaker. All the Society's records are made available for researching family history. Usually at least one committee member brings along a laptop to allow records of CDs to be accessed, although there is no internet connection.

All members and guests are welcome, if anyone is attending for the first time and they make themselves known to any of the committee members – who all wear badges – every effort will be made to assist with their research enquiries and to show them just what CADFHS can offer. Why not come along and see the new venue for yourself.

Keith Feltham



### **Editors Jottings**



Subscription time is here again. Please return your completed form (both sides) and payment to Membership Secretary (address inside front cover)

Members should also find enclosed a renewal form and a copy of the latest Members Surnames Index in the form of a fiche.

This is compiled each year from the information submitted by members which has been agreed by them for distribution.

Carol Morris