

**Chesterfield**

**And**

**District**

**Family**

**History**

**Society**



Magazine Number 73 Dec 2007

## **C.A.D.F.H.S. OFFICERS and COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**E MAIL ADDRESS [mail@cadfhs.org.uk](mailto:mail@cadfhs.org.uk)**

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<b>Vice Chairman Members Interest Co-Ordinator</b>	<b>Marion Yeldham</b>
<b>Correspondence Secretary</b>	<b>Doreen Rodgers 2 Highlow Close Loundsley Green Chesterfield S40 4PG</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Keith Feltham 88 Top Road Calow Chesterfield S44 5SY</b>
<b>Library Co-Ordinator and Exchange Magazine Co Ordinator</b>	<b>Wendy Roberts 209 Walton Back Lane Walton Chesterfield S42 7LP</b>
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	<b>Ray Batteson 17 Orchards Way Walton Road Chesterfield S40 3DA</b>
<b>Programme Secretary</b>	<b>Jo Gott 130 Station Road Brimington Chesterfield S43 1LU</b>
<b>Editor/ Magazine Co-Ordinator Members Interest Co-Ordinator</b>	<b>Carol Morris 26 Tunstall Green Walton Chesterfield S40 2DY</b>
<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Terry Cocking Pamela Kemp Roy Pidcock Neil Wilson</b>

## CONTENTS

## Page

New Members	847-862	1
Help wanted		2
CADFHS Programme 2008		4
Fiche copies for sale		5
Minutes of AGM held 4 Sep 07		6
<u>Members Meetings</u>		
5 <sup>th</sup> Jun	An Edwardian Childhood (Part 2) Miss Ruth Barber	9
3 <sup>rd</sup> Jul	Tapton Grove, Brimington and some of the people who lived there Philip Cousins	12
Shire Brook Valley		17
Editors Jottings		18
Where to find us	St Hugh's RC Church Littlemoor	20
Chapman Codes		Outside Cover



## NEW MEMBERS WELCOME TO THE SOCIETY

No 847, Mr P R Cupit, 13 Brach Close, Redbourn, St Albans. Herts.,AL3 7HX

Email [cupit@btinternet.com](mailto:cupit@btinternet.com)

CUPIT	Henry	Oakerthorpe/Alfreton/Belper	DBY	c 1831
CUPIT (nee)	Mary	Blackwell/ Alfreton	DBY	c 1840
CUPIT	Charles	Newthorpe/Alfreton	NTT	c 1855
CUPIT	Charlie	Pilsley/Nth Wingfield	DBY	c 1884
CUPIT	Ernest	Pilsley/Nth Wingfield	DBY	c 1888
CUPIT	Frank	Pilsley/Nth Wingfield	DBY	c 1888
CUPIT	Harold Robert	Pilsley/Nth Wingfield	DBY	bn15/6/1889
CUPIT	Wilfred/Wilford	Pilsley/Nth Wingfield	DBY	c 1886
CUPIT	John Henry	Pilsley/ Nth Wingfield	DBY	c 1882
CUPIT	Minnie Annie	Pilsley/Nth Wingfield	DBY	c1883/91
OAKLEY	Ellen Jane	Pilsley/ Nth Wingfield	DBY	c 1861
OAKLEY	John	Melbourne/ Pilsley/ Nth Wingfield	DBY	c 1813
OAKLEY	Robert	Pilsley/ Nth Wingfield	DBY	c 1858

No 848+849 Mr+Mrs J+R Dance,6 Hill Street, Chasetown, Burntwood, Staffs, WS7 3XU

Email [june.dance@tesco.net](mailto:june.dance@tesco.net)

DANCE	John George	Chesterfield	DBY	1910-1925
SILCOCK	Elsie or Elsie	Chesterfield	DBY	1910-1925

No 850, Mrs B Millward, 198 High Street, Old Whittington, Derbyshire, S41 9LL

Email [b\\_millward@hotmail.com](mailto:b_millward@hotmail.com)

BARBER	Mary	?	?	?
BOLDOCK	Stuart	Sheffield		1932-2006
BOOTH	Harriet	?	?	?
CARTER	Ernest	?	?	?
CARTER	Miriam	Chesterfield	DBY	1911
COCKING	Elizabeth	?	?	?
GREEN	Albert	Chesterfield	DBY	1903-1923
GREEN	George	?	?	?
HALL	Edith	?	?	?
HOUGH	Ann	?	?	?
KING	Emily	?	?	1865
KNIGHT	Joseph	?	?	?
KNIGHT	Kate	Chesterfield	DBY	1903
MILLWARD	John	?	?	1886?
MILLWARD	John	Chesterfield	DBY	1905-1932
RAWLINS	Nora	?	?	1884

No 851, Ms J Davies, 8 Upper Bathville, Armadale, West Lothian, FH 48 3JX

Email [metfet@hotmail.com](mailto:metfet@hotmail.com)

DAVIES	James			
ELLIOTT	Annie	Clay Cross	DBY	b 1882
ELLIOTT	Thomas	Clay Cross	DBY	b.Sept 1878
ELLIOTT	Ellen	Clay Cross	DBY	b 1852
ELLIOTT	Sarah	Clay Cross	DBY	Dec 1871

ELLIOTT	Walter	Clay Cross	DBY	b 1854
ELLIOTT	Walter	Clay Cross	DBY	b Dec 1879 d 26/6/1915

No 852, Mrs S Francis, 125 Borough Road, Loughor, Swansea, South Wales SA4 6RY

Email [tammybont@yahoo.com](mailto:tammybont@yahoo.com)

ADDY		? Ecclesfield		
BOND		Derby	DBY	c 1851
HAMMOND	Joseph	Killamarsh/Eckington		
HAMMOND	Henry	Killamarsh/Eckington		
HARRIS		Killamarsh		
RENSHAW		Ridgeway		
SARGISSON				
WHEELHOUSE		Killamarsh		

No 853, Mr+Mrs M Hinds, Stoneleigh, Rotherham Road, Halfway, Sheffield S20 8GL

Email [maureenandmarcel@mac.com](mailto:maureenandmarcel@mac.com)

HINDE	Ann		DBY	1774-1866
HINDE	John	Barlborough	DBY	1779-1869
HINDE	Sarah	Barlborough	DBY	1785-1819
RIVINGTON	Sarah	Barlborough	DBY	1785-1814
MOORE	Jemima		DBY	1822-1871

No 854, Miss M Marsden, 15 Dunston Lane, Newbold, Chesterfield S41 8EY

BAMFORD	Thomas	North Wingfield	DBY	1805-1874
BELL	George	Grassmoor	DBY	1832-1901
MARSDEN	Charles	Brampton	DBY	1826-1893
MARSDEN	Thomas	Hathersage	DBY	1775-1848

No 855, Mrs M Kennard, 13 Cherry Tree Ave, Leabrooks, Alfreton, Derbys. DE55 1LP

NEEDHAM	William	Barlow	DBY	1920s
WALKER	John	Newbold	DBY	1980s
WOOD	Lily Amelia	Barlow	DBY	1950s

No 856, Mr G Limb, 7 Orchid Drive, Sutton in Ashfield, Notts, NG17 5GT

Email [gp.limb@ntlworld.com](mailto:gp.limb@ntlworld.com)

LIMBS		Shirebrook	DBY	1897+
YATES		Shirebrook	DBY	1800

No 857, Mrs P M Ward, 8 Orange Hill, Lutterworth, Leicestershire, LE17 4BT

Email [tward@talktalk.net](mailto:tward@talktalk.net)

HART	James	Chesterfield	DBY	1920
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No 858, Mrs S Willison, 155 Rykneld Road, Littleover, Derby, DE23 4AL

WILCOCKSON	Tom Smeaton	Chesterfield	DBY	
WILCOCKSON	Gordon	Chesterfield	DBY	

No 859, Mrs P A Lowe, 16 Dan Yr Eppynt, Tirabad, LLangammarch Wells, Powys, LD4 4DR

Email [pauline\\_lowe@btinternet.com](mailto:pauline_lowe@btinternet.com)

DAMM (family)		Chesterfield	DBY	18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> Century
SAUNDERSON	George	Chesterfield/Sheffield	DBY	died abt 1813

SAUNDERSON	William	Clay Cross	DBY	1850s to c 1840
SAUNDERSON Descendants		Clay Cross	DBY	1850s to c 1840
SWINDELL	George	Cutthorpe	DBY	born abt 1799
WILDSMITH	Mary	Oakerthorpe	DBY	born abt 1801
WILKINSON	Charles Henry	Clay Cross	DBY	1797-

No 860, Mrs G Cox, 30 Barholme Close, Upper Newbold, Chesterfield, S41 8AB

e.mail [gillcox60@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gillcox60@yahoo.co.uk)

WARD	George	Whittington/Chesterfield	DBY	d 1924
WARD		wife of above		
WARD		2 <sup>nd</sup> wife of above		

No 862, Miss J M Norton, 3 Lansdowne Avenue, Newbold, Chesterfield S41 8QD

Email [juliemarynorton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:juliemarynorton@yahoo.co.uk)

BARRY	John	Bandon	COR	1800
CARROLL	Richard	Queenstown	COR	1830-1910
DAVISON	John	Corbridge	NBL	1740
FOREMAN	Thomas	Blyth	NBL	1750-
FORSTER	Hannah	Newburn	NBL	1730-
GLOVER	Henry	Liverpool	LAN	1780-
HENDERSON	George	Musselfburgh	MLN	1795-1855
HOLLAND	John	Bandon	COR	1800
MURRAY	Patrick	Newcestown	COR	1836-1922
NORTON	George	Gomersall	YKS	1786-1850
OWEN	Owen	Denbigh	DEN	1811-1875
ROBSON	Thomas	Hartburn	NBL	1750-
RICHARDSON	Thomas	Rothbury	NBL	1730-1811
ROLLETT	Susannah	Dewbury	YKS	1760-
SHEEDY	Bridget	Queenstown	COR	1857-1949
TAYLOR	Mary	Blyth	NBL	1840-1879



### **HELP WANTED**

My father, JOSEPH JEPSON, was born in Leeds in 1897, and his father Joe in 1856, also in Leeds. Joe's father, my great grandfather-also called Joseph-married in Leeds but was born in Sutton cum Duckmanton in 1819, (sometimes given as Sutton Scarsdale on census entries) as confirmed on the IGI and parish records for SCD. His occupation is always entered as iron moulder.

I know great grandfather Joseph's father was called JOHN JEPSON, and his mother's name was Mary. I contacted someone who volunteers to look in the SCD parish register and it seems that Mary's maiden name was SPRAY ( this was in the record of Joseph's baptism and that of his siblings) John Jepson's occupation is given as "moulder"

I am now looking for the marriage record for JOHN JEPSON and MARY SPRAY, but SCD parish records show no such event. I understand the

marriage may have taken place in a nearby parish, which may indeed also have been the birth parish of John Jepson. I would much appreciate advice as to where to start searching next, and how- Bolsover perhaps?

If anyone has an idea of where John might have plied the trade of "moulder" I should be most interested.

Thank you. Jo McDonough (membership 844)

[Jo.mcdonough@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:Jo.mcdonough@tiscali.co.uk)

### Cadfh's Programme 2008

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

<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</b>	<b>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</b>	<b>Kill or Cure.</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Mrs L Phillips</b>	<b>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</b>	<b>Snapshots of 1895 Dronfield</b>

### FICHE COPIES FOR SALE Dec 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
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#### St James the Apostle TEMPLE NORMANTON.

MARRIAGES	1868-1919	(1 fiche)	£1.25
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#### All Saints HEATH

MARRIAGES	1760-1929	(3 fiche)	£2.50
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#### 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
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

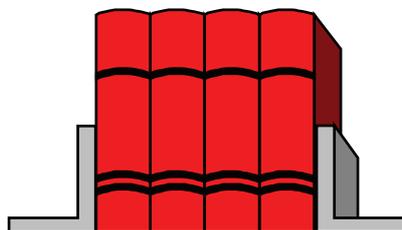
Copies of the Microfiche can be obtained at the prices shown from

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.**



#### **SHIRE BROOK (The Forgotten Valley)**

The Shire Brook and its valley lie in the South Eastern area of Sheffield. The book tells some of the stories of the industry, people and places in and around the valley. It draws together aspects of the history and the changing wildlife and landscape over the past 250 years.

#### **HASLAND JUNIOR SCHOOL. (The end of an Era)**

Written and compiled by Margaret Lily Hartshorn.



## **Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at St.Hugh's R.C.Church, Littlemoor.on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

### **Agenda**

1. Apologies for absence            Neil Wilson
2. Minutes of last AGM            Duly signed by the Chairman  
Proposed Y .Mason    Seconded R. Pidcock
3. Matters arising                    None
4. Chairman's Report 2007

Thirteen years ago I was elected to this post as Chairman of CADFHS.. How times have changed especially with regard to family history. In those days 'silver surfers' did not exist, there were no 'free' or 'pay per view' websites dedicated to helping solve genealogical problems at home. A visit to the county record office and local studies libraries was necessary to 'thumb through' parish registers and Census Returns had to be searched on microfilm. Today, the whole process has been speeded up with the transcription of records and their corresponding indexes. No wonder this pastime is popular.

The annual CADFHS membership closed at 166, a similar total to last year but still a 20% decrease on previous years. Why is that? Is it the choice of venue, lack of car parking, the programme of speakers or maybe even the Internet.

Does our program of events have the right mix? Do members want more 'research evenings' or are they happy with the current content. Since moving in May to our new venue here at Littlemoor the committee has given much thought to this problem and how the expense of room hire and good speakers, that do not come cheap, can be balanced. The much larger room now allows CADFHS to spread out, to be able to give a better service to members who wish to carry out research at monthly meetings as well as to those that borrow or exchange magazines and reference books from the library. Catering facilities are also much improved. With everything now in place, all that is required is a good attendance from the membership. Do make every effort to come along and see for yourselves.

A proposal from the committee has been suggested; i.e. to increase the admission charge at monthly meetings to £1 for members and £2 guests. This will allow the annual membership fees to remain at their current rate. To reduce expenditure further, in particular our postage costs, the committee is currently looking at producing both the quarterly magazine and the Members Interests by e-mail to members that prefer this more environmentally-friendly method to the postal service already provided. Please let us know which method you prefer.

As from today I also have pleasure in announcing that a 'Forum' page has been added and is now available on our re-designed website, [www.cadfhs.org.uk](http://www.cadfhs.org.uk) . This will enable members to place their research enquiries on our website and hopefully receive feedback from other family historians. Many thanks go to our IT co-ordinator, Neil Wilson, for all his hard work in completing this project.

Correspondence, mainly e-mail nowadays, continues to be received from both members and non-members at home and abroad and the general consensus is that they are very satisfied for the help done on their behalf. I hope that all members have benefited in some way from any assistance that has been provided by the Society in their quest for their ancestors.

Liaison continues to flourish with Derbyshire Record Office and in particular with Chesterfield Local Studies library. After their recent re-organisation within the Library Service the new librarian, Lesley Phillips, will be one of our speakers in the new seasons programme and will be able to give first hand the latest information of what the library can offer to the family historian.

Our Reference Library continues to purchase reference books and CDs, publications from the FFHS and exchanges magazines with other family history societies to enable our members to track down that elusive ancestor. Several indexes to Census Returns and Bishops Transcripts for Bolsover are recent additions. The latest 'Members Interest' on microfiche has been produced and is enclosed with the September 2007 issue of the magazine.

CADFHS was represented by the Chairman and vice-chairman at three local events during the last twelve months. Last October along with other societies our display stand was busy at the Scarsdale Local History Fair and during the summer our profile was enhanced at Chesterfield Borough Council's 'Fun Day' at Queens Park, Chesterfield and the book launch of 'The Forgotten Valley' held at Woodhouse by Shire Brook Historical Society .The society was further promoted by the Chairman's talk for beginners to family history to Eckington U3A.

Before closing, a 'thank you' to each committee member, who have all played their part to ensure that the needs of our members had been catered for. A special mention must go to Jo Gott, our Programme Secretary, for all her time and effort in providing a variety of speakers to entertain us on local and family history topics at our monthly meetings throughout the year.

The Chairman then addressed the meeting on the following points: - the content of the programme, admission charges and magazine distribution.

The members were very happy with the content and balance of the programme.

An amendment by Mike Burnett, to keep the admission charges for guests to £1.50, rather than the committee's proposal was defeated by 22 votes to 5.

Finally, the Chairman put the onus on each member to inform the Editor, IT Co-ordinator or Membership Secretary if they wished to receive their magazine by e-mail.

#### 5. Treasurer's Report

I will start the report on last year's finances by thanking all your Committee for playing their part in keeping expenses to a minimum. With special thanks to Ray Batteson for his roll as Membership Secretary, in addition to transcribing records from various sources, then producing and selling microfiche; Marion Yeldham for donating tickets to a talk by Nick Barratt at the Winding Wheel, which were raffled and the proceeds added to the Society's funds; Carol Morris for all the hours she spends editing and producing the quarterly magazine; and Mike Sims who in addition to spending many hours fulfilling his duties as your Chairman, donated money to the Society that he received for giving a talk on family history to a U3A group. I would also like to thank Michael Sharratt for, once again, freely giving his time to audit the accounts.

You will see from the balance sheets that have been circulated that included for the first time is the value of the stock of microfiche that is held. This was on the advice of the Auditor who thought that they should be displayed as assets because their proceeds, when sold, increase the Society's funds. They showed a profit of £19.00 last year.

The final balance is distorted a little by the addition of the microfiche stock. Ignoring this for a moment, there is an increase of £8.33 in the funds over the previous year, despite a reduction in subscriptions, meeting donations and microfiche sales, which of course, are bound to fluctuate each year.

I do not feel the necessity to comment on all the individual items, but would like to highlight the biggest loss makers, which were the monthly meetings. With an income of £202.56 and expenses of £ 531.83 they lost £329.27.

That concludes the report on last year's balance sheet and if anyone has any questions I will be happy to answer them to the best of my ability. After which can I ask that the accounts be accepted as shown.

Proposed R.Pidcock    Seconded T.Cocking

6. Election of Officers	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
(a) Chairman Mike Sims	C.Morris	Y.Mason
(b) Vice- Chairman.Marion Yeldham	W.Rogers	E. Gilthorpe
(c) Correspondence Secretary		

Doreen Rodgers  
(d) Treasurer Keith Feltham  
(e) Committee elected 'en bloc'

R.Batteson  
P.Kemp

T. Cocking  
M.Sims

Ray Batteson, Terry Cocking, Pamela Kemp, Carol Morris,  
Roy Pidcock, Wendy Roberts, Neil Wilson

## 7.Any Other Business

Two members with the service provider 'aol' were experiencing difficulties when trying to access the 'Surname Search' option within the Name Index on the newly designed CADFHS website. In the absence of the societies IT co-ordinator, the Chairman would investigate the problem and report back at the October monthly meeting.



## MEMBERS MEETINGS

### 5th-June 2007 Miss Ruth Barber-An Edwardian Childhood (Part 2)

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.

Boddo had taught herself to read and her favourite authors were Robert Louis Stevenson, Jack London and Arthur Ransome. The children had a series of

governesses. They had to be C of E and able to teach the catechism. Some were resident and some came daily. As Mins was often ill with bronchial asthma his mother coddled him. His father (who had experienced the character building rigours of Rugby school) could not face sending his son to such a place. One of their governesses was a Miss Thompson, a favourite, known as "Doozy". Ruth became bored, she was bright and wanted to learn. When she was 12 she was sent away to school at Buxton. The school was The Grange run by Miss Irene Dodd the headmistress, feared by all and Miss Lena Dodd who taught music and scripture.

For the first 2 years Ruth boarded at The Grange. As she had had little contact with other children she had a rough time. She was a tomboy who liked climbing trees, fighting and getting into mischief. Still a keen photographer she took her camera to school and recorded the school day in detail. Although the school was strict Ruth soon settled down and found an ability to write. She won a prize for a religious doggerel.

Her best friend at The Grange was Peggy Penny who also had a camera. They took pictures of the nicer Mistresses, Miss Pymm, Miss Neill, Miss Firkin and the French Mistress Mademoiselle Elene, but they never took pictures of the Misses Dodd.

Boddo forged another friendship at The Grange with a girl whose surname was Italian. Her parents were "in trade". Miss Irene Dodd said that Boddo's parents would not approve as being "in trade" was frowned on. Boddo ignored her. Her friend's surname was Ferranti and they were in the electronics industry and probably very wealthy.

The Grange kept a donkey to pull the lawnmower and roller on the grass tennis courts. The girls hated to see the donkey made to work and they teamed up in its place.

Ruth's report for 1913 placed her 8<sup>th</sup> out of a class of 12. Most of her subjects were assessed as "fair" and the headmistress' comment was "good and obedient, must try to obtain more than 'fair' for her reports next term".

Mins was now aged 9 and it was decided that he should go to a boarding school, Holme Lea, in Buxton. He was not keen on education. He had difficulty with spelling (probably dyslexic) and was thoroughly spoiled. His main talent, apart from drawing and art, was absconding which he did regularly and when he wasn't disappearing he was fighting. The headmaster hit on an idea to stop him. There were 3 Brazilian brothers Lisbore Major, Minor and Minimus. Lisbore Major was 14 years old and like a man, with a moustache and muscles. The headmaster told Mins that if he persisted in brawling he would be made to fight Lisbore Major. This stopped him.

In 1913 Ruth was informed that as her youngest brother had an infectious illness she would be unable to go home for Christmas. Instead she was to spend Christmas with distant cousins in Derby. She was 14, shy and gauche and didn't want to go. However, she had a good time at Eastwood Hall with her cousins Mark and Molly Fryer. They were her age and had horses and dogs.

Back at home Ant age 4 developed diphtheria. Instead of going to hospital a mobile unit came to the house to perform a tracheotomy. His mother felt unable to nurse him so an ex matron from a diphtheria hospital in India nursed him for 3 weeks and saved his life.

By 1914 Boddo had left school as a boarder and the family had taken a lease on a house at 8 Duke Street, Burbage, near Buxton so that Mins could go to school daily at Holme Lea.

In August 1914 the Great War started and life changed a lot for the Christian family.

When Boddo was away at The Grange Reggie gave away her much loved puppy to Squirrel the gardener. The dog died of distemper and Boddo was furious.

Ant , who was now age 5 and still recovering from diphtheria did not go to school. He was confined to a bath chair for a year after his operation.

The house at Burbage was near to The Hall and as Mr Christian was a friend of Mr and Mrs Hubbersty (Mr Hubbersty was a magistrate) the family were often invited to Sunday tea. The footman handed round sandwiches and cups of tea. This impressed Boddo.

Mins still persisted in running away from school and on one occasion was bound into his brother's bath chair and wheeled back to school kicking and screaming.

The Great War was in full swing and Buxton was heaving with soldiers. The family made friends with a local couple whose son, John Duncan Macbean (known as Smiler) was in the King's Own Borderers. Boddo then age 16 developed a schoolgirl crush on him.

By June 1915 Boddo decided that she had suffered the rigours of The Grange long enough. She packed up her things and walked out. Her school report indicated that she could achieve greater things if only she made the effort. Realistically as a female her horizons were limited. She wanted to be a

barrister but her step-father informed her that “girls don’t become barristers”. So the family returned to Manor Cottage and Mins and Ant went to Derby school as “day boys”.

In the summer of 1915 a small convalescent home was set up in South Wingfield for the walking wounded from France. The Manor Cottage youngsters helped to wash the dirty linen but Dr Sidney Bingham expressed his concerns to Dr Christian that the soldiers could be suffering from TB or Syphilis and the children were no longer allowed to help.

There were also events like whist drives, dances and concerts in which doctors, nurses and local gentry took part. The hospital catered for 12 walking wounded. They received full medical attention, a good table and they went back to larger institutions after a month fitter and happier.

Ruth’s childhood ended in 1915 when her mother had a heart attack and she took on the task of running the household. Her brothers made their careers, Mins in the army and Anthony in brewing. Tragically “Smiler” died of shrapnel wounds in 1917. Ruth married William Haslam whom she had known since childhood when she was age 30 and she had a baby daughter. Sadly the marriage failed and she didn’t marry again.

It is thanks to her grandson Richard that Ruth’s life story can be told in such detail. He preserved her writings, photos and belongings when she died. One of her possessions was a silver napkin ring bearing the hallmark of 1892 and the initials AGB – Alice Georgiana Barber. This may have been given to Alice when she married Robert Barber in 1894.

Ruth’s story is a bridge between the past and the modern world.

A vote of thanks on behalf of members was given by Vera Rose.



MEMBERS MEETING 3JULY 2007

“Tapton Grove, Brimington and some of the people who lived there” - A talk by Philip Cousins illustrated with slides.

Philip kindly stood in to give the talk at short notice when the scheduled talk “Family History Sources Before 1837” was cancelled.

Before he commenced his talk Philip explained that he was not a family historian but because of his interest in buildings he had discovered various families that had lived in Tapton Grove, some famous, some now forgotten.

Many people don't know where Tapton Grove is. An aerial photograph taken in 1945 by the RAF shows its position. It was isolated in 1945 but there has been some development in the area since. Despite its name "Tapton Grove" it is actually in Brimington. It is one of a group of Georgian houses that were built in the area when some of the gentry moved out of Chesterfield.

The house is an imposing north facing building. It is listed Grade II \*and has a Grade 2 stable block and a large fishpond. The main entrance to the house is via Balmoak Lane at Tapton. It has a pair of imposing stone gateposts (also listed) near Tapton Hall Farm. This would have been the carriage road entrance for the gentlemen and ladies. There is another entrance from Grove Road off Brimington Common. The road branches to the right with impressive fishponds forming the boundary to the left.

The house stands at the rise on the hill of a winding road in a secluded spot created so that it looks out on the valley with views of Brimington. The house is now a nursing home and there is no public access to it, however, the present owners tolerate people coming to look at it. Enlargement of the air photograph taken in 1945 shows the stable block/coach house, rear portion of the main house, Swiss Cottage and Tapton Grove Farm (off Grove Road).

It is thought that the influential and wealthy family of Jebbs built the house but as history has generally ignored this family it is not known whether Avery or Joshua Jebb built Tapton Grove in the late 18c.

Joshua Jebb senior who was born in 1698 and died in 1797 was a man of property, an alderman and owner of Beetwell Hall. He was one of a number of the gentry who developed land and country seats like Highfield Hall. Old Joshua was interviewed by the "Swan of Lichfield", Anna Seward when he was 98. The coat of arms of the Jebb family is quartered with a hawk and a hawk's bell.

A 1966 photograph of a sale catalogue of Tapton Grove shows the stable block/coach house, possible two sections to the house and a smaller house which became the "Gardener's Cottage" during or just after the last war.

Joshua Jebb junior was a merchant who went into in lead and moved into banking and made a lot of money. He had two sons, Samuel born in 1720 and Avery in 1732. Samuel purchased an estate in Walton in 1768 on which a house was later built known as Walton Lodge.

On the death of his father in 1797 Avery inherited Tapton Grove. Joshua paid for the tower at Brimington Chapel to be rebuilt in 1796. It is not known why the Jebbs chose the Tapton area to build their house when they lived at Walton. It is possible that they used the same architect Joseph Badger who

was working at Renishaw but there is scope for more research as to when it was built. However, the words "A JEBB 1799" do appear over one of the doorways of the stable block.

Sadly the stable, although Grade 2 listed, is now in a state of some disrepair.

In 1811 Avery Jebb died and there was an auction of his estate over five days which included 1200 books, silver plate and Staffordshire tableware. The Jebbs were a family of some standing who married into gentry. Avery had a son Richard and a daughter Marianne. She married Godfrey Meynell of Meynell Langley in 1803.

The property was let to a Charles Wake in 1821. It was advertised in 1824 as being for let in 1825 but Wake was still there in 1829. He moved away in the 1830's. In 1833 Bernard Maynard Lucas, a Chesterfield solicitor, was living at Tapton Grove but he was more associated with Highfield Hall and later Hasland Hall.

By 1841 John Meynell was back at Tapton Grove with a pack of hounds. However, he predeceased his father in 1851 as a result of a railway accident.

The next owner of the property was John Firth. The Firths were steel makers. The 1861 census shows John as an architect. However, in 1856 he extended and expanded his business in Whittington and he was placed in control of Firth's puddle steel. The company manufactured rail carriages for India but in 1877 they closed.

In 1862, Richard George Coke a civil and mining engineer moved to Tapton Grove. The family interests were in the Pinxton collieries. At the age of 21 he went to Australia. He became an accomplished engineer and geologist and was a fellow of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers. In 1878 Tapton Grove was offered for sale by auction. The 1871 census shows that the family consisted of mother, father, six daughters, three sons, a governess, cook and four other servants.

Mansfeldt Foster Mills became the next owner, a name now forgotten. He purchased the house in 1878. He was born in Durham and was a director of the Sheffield Banking Company from 1870-1886 and was also a partner in the Chesterfield Brewery Company and the second largest shareholder. He was also involved in the preservation of Revolution House.

There is a grave at Brimington of Mill's and his wife Frances. It is in sight of Tapton Grove, obviously a chosen spot. Mills knew George Stephenson and it is fair to say that Mills was part of the community that would have entertained

George at Tapton Grove. In return, Mills would have been entertained at Tapton House by George.

When Mr Mills died he had a simple funeral with a brewery dray for a hearse and an earth grave. £10 was given for the relief of the poor instead of an expensive funeral. The 1881 census shows Mills, his wife, three sons, a daughter, seven servants and a groom. The three sons had different careers.

The second son Mansfeldt H Mills formed a partnership with R. G. Coke.

The third son William F. Mills was a solicitor.

The first son, Robert Fenwick Mills was at Tapton Grove in 1881 but not in 1891. In 1895 Tapton Grove was described as the seat of R. F. Mills. His first wife Frances died in 1893. There is a memorial window to her in Brimington Parish Church. They had five children and both sons were killed in WW1.

R. F. Mills was a successful business man and the Chairman and Managing Director of Chesterfield Brewery Company. He was involved in many building schemes including the Spital Hotel, Gardener's Arms, Duckmanton Hotel and the Hollingwood.

Mills remarried, his second wife was named Alice. He died on 10 January 1928 and he too is buried within sight of Tapton Grove. His widow returned to Cirencester after his death and she died in 1943.

Mills became a director of Mansfield Brewery until it closed. He was a conservative county councillor and served as a school governor. He experimented with bacterial sewage treatment beds together with Dr. Barwise, the minister of health, who has a ward named after him at Chesterfield Royal Hospital. He was an enthusiastic sportsman and meteorologist. He was also a trustee of the Revolution House.

The 1966 house catalogue shows a picture of the house. The principal elevation has two storeys with five bays, the west front is longer of eight bays. It has a shallow hipped roof and a centre door with Doric columns and a pediment. Inside the hall is a corner fireplace with an Ashford black marble floor. There is now a massive extension at the rear to accommodate the nursing home. There are obvious similarities in design between Tapton Grove and Tapton House, particularly the top lit staircase and the door treatment.

The dining room has some nice plasterwork and a fireplace. Important decisions must have been made over the years in this room. For example when R. G. Coke and the Mills sons joined to form Coke & Mills, the mining engineering company. There are also pictures of the two formal panelled bedrooms.

In 1928 the contents of the house were sold and the house put up for auction. However, no bid was received for the house and in 1930 it was bought privately by J. C. Shentall.

A photograph of the rugby football club 1927-8 shows John Charles Shentall member of another well- known Chesterfield Business family.

One of the other Shentall's, Captain Jack Shentall, is remembered because his daughter, Susan, became famous when she was plucked from obscurity to play the role of Juliet in the 1950's film of Romeo and Juliet.

In 1936 the Shentalls purchased Crewe Cottage as a wedding present for their daughter and extended it. They also built nearby Tapton Grange.

John Charles (Charlie to distinguish him from his father) became the secretary and director of Shentall Ltd. When he died in 1942 there were 50 grocery shops in Sheffield, Rotherham, Nottingham and Chesterfield. These shops were eventually bought by Allied Bakeries who in turn became Fine Fare. John had two brothers Sir Ernest Shentall and Arthur Shentall. They each formed their own successful business.

On 20 February 1943 Tapton Grove was sold by auction. The man known locally as "Pink-eye Sharp" wanted to buy it, knock it down and sell the ground. Alternatively he proposed to cut all the timber down, sell it and then sell the house. Fortunately the house was saved when it was bought by F S. Short the owner of Pearson's.

Theo Pearson 3rd had married a Violet Mary Short. Her brother, Frederick Stanton Short, a qualified solicitor, became Pearson's Company Secretary. F. S. Short was married to Bessie the youngest of John Charles Shentall's daughters.

The pair lived at Crew Cottage from 1936 when they married. The Shentalls had bought Crew Cottage as a wedding present for their daughter and son in law. The Shorts modernised Tapton Grove and often Pearson's builders used to do work there. A swimming pool was added in 1956.

In 1966 the Shorts decided to sell up. The auction catalogue shows the house with 139 acres of land. At this time F. S. Short had bought another house at North Aston. The property was withdrawn from sale after no bid was made at auction. The Shorts moved to the Isle of Man in 1973 and the business passed to his son. F. S. Short died in 1979 and his wife died in 1983

Pearsons went into receivership in 1982 and their son Stephen died in 1990. The family ashes are interred next to the family plot of John Charles and Alice Mary Shentall in Brimington Cemetery.

In 1976 the fine contents of the house were sold. The house was sold to a "Chesterfield business man". It was opened as a nursing home in 1984 and in 1990 a 57-bed extension was added. It is still open as a residential home. This change ended its long association with the business community.

The former head gardener's cottage in 1910 was for many years the home of W. R. Bloxham and his wife Pheobe. The cottage is over the border in Tapton and is now known as "Swiss Cottage"

Pictures of Tapton Grove taken in the spring of 1910 show banks of daffodils. The grounds of the house used to be thrown open on what was known locally as "Daffodil Sunday" for fund raising events. Red Cross days were also held there in the 1960's. Current pictures of the fishpond in springtime show that the daffodils survive.

Unfortunately Tapton Grove has had its tragedies, as a number of people have drowned and suicides have occurred in the fish -ponds.

Various descriptions of Tapton Grove from 1878-2003 show how the house and grounds have changed over the years under the tenure of its owners.

Philip concluded his talk by saying that Georgian houses like Tapton Grove with its succession of landed gentry and Chesterfield business owners are in danger of being forgotten. It is a worthy survivor for future generations. The talk illustrates that the number of occupants is not unique but that they tell a unique story.

A vote of thanks was given by Mick Llewellynn..



### SHIRE BROOK VALLEY

On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July, CADFHS attended the "Past and Present Summer Festival " at Shire Brook Valley.

The Shire Brook and its Valley (not to be confused with Shirebrook in Derbyshire) lies to the Eastern area of Sheffield and was noted in the past for its scythe and sickle manufacture and for coal mining.

Other exhibitors at the festival included: Beighton History Group, Derbyshire Victoria County History Society, South Yorkshire Industrial History Society,

Shireoaks History Group, Kiverton Park History, SCC Archaeology Unit, Friends of Abbeydale Picture House, Friends of Manor Lodge and many more. In addition there were demonstrations of various crafts including a blacksmith, wood turning, bee keeping and scything.

The festival saw the launch by the Shire Brook Valley Heritage Group of their new book “Shire Brook, The Forgotten Valley” which explores the landscape, landmarks, traditions and culture of Shire Brook Valley. A copy of the book has been kindly donated to the CADFHS library.

The event, which was held outside in the valley ,was affected by the recent wet weather. This meant that some of the exhibitors were unable to attend. However, the weather failed to dampen the spirits of the visitors. The CADFHS stand dealt with a number of people interested in researching their family history and their Chesterfield roots.

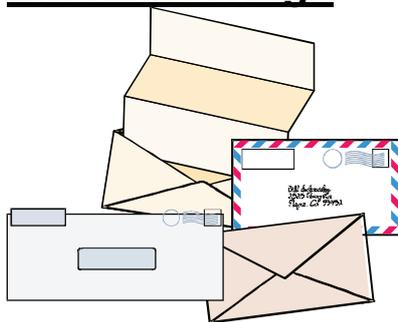


Condolences have been sent to the family of one of our long time members, Mr Ernest Hopkinson of Measham who had been ill for a long while and died on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2007. Not long before his death, his daughter had brought him to Chesterfield to visit all the places he knew as a boy and young man. He had written a book about his life entitled “ Ernest’s story (An Adventurous Life) and donated one to our Society.

He also gave us a fiche reader and a collection of fiche. He always attended our Open Days and we will miss seeing him.



## **Editors Jottings**



The CADFHS magazine will be available as an electronic copy , as an environmentally friendly alternative. to reduce our carbon foot print.

Please email [mail@cadfhs.org.uk](mailto:mail@cadfhs.org.uk) if you would prefer this as an alternative to your paper copy.

Carol Morris