

Chesterfield

And

District

Family

History

Society



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NEW MEMBERS WELCOME TO THE SOCIETY

No 878, Mrs A Clarkson, 75, Farm View Road, Rotherham, S Yorkshire, S61 2AW

e.mail abob@blueyonder.co.uk

CHAPMAN	Alfred	Brampton	DBY	1862-1922
CHAPMAN	Miriam	Brampton	DBY	1862-1920
HORSEMAN	Richard	Brampton	DBY	1840+
HORSEMAN	Rosa	Brampton	DBY	1840+

No 879, Mrs W Powner, 1 Poplar Grove, Warmsworth, Doncaster, Yorkshire. DN4 9NA

e.mail Pvirgo@aol.com

CUTTS	Rebecca	Bolsover	DBY	1800+
LIMB	Any	Bolsover	DBY	
LIMB	Any	Whaley	DBY	
MACHIN	Any	Bolsover	DBY	1800+
SPRAY	John	Scarcliffe	DBY	1800+
SPRAY	John	Bolsover	DBY	1800+

No 880, Ms K M Hastings, PO Box 2277, Tingalpa, Brisbane, Q 4173, Australia

e.mail kath.hastings@optusnet.com.au

DEGNAN	Michael	Chesterfield	DBY	1800+
DEGNAN	Rosanna	Chesterfield	DBY	1900+
DEGNAN	Thomas	Chesterfield	DBY	1900+
DEGNAN	Frances	Chesterfield	DBY	1900+
DEGNAN	Herbert	Chesterfield	DBY	1900+

No 881, Mrs N Maxwell, 29 Banks Crescent, Golcar, Huddersfield, West Yorks, HD7 4RQ

e.mail nor.max@9mx.co.uk

WIDDOWSON		Killamarsh	DBY	1700-1850
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No 882, Mr K G Chaplin, 232 Whitechapel Road, Cleckheaton, West Yorkshire. BD19 6HR

e.mail ken@cleckheaton.net

CHAPLIN	George	Langwith	DBY	Any
CHAPLIN	Thomas	Shirebrooke	DBY	Any

CHAPLIN	Mary	Shirebrooke	DBY	Any
WALLS	Ernest	Langwith	DBY	1940+
WALLS	Margaret	Langwith	DBY	1970+

No 883, Mrs E Mooney, 18 Heather Rise, Beeston, Nottingham, NG9 3AG,
e.mail elliemooney@msn.com

GLOVER	Thomas	? Hartshorn	DBY	b 1811
GLOVER			DBY	pre 1811
MOAKES	Edwd	Tibshelf	DBY	b 1796
MOAKES			DBY	pre 1811

No 884, Mr T R Hayes, The Osiers, Clay Lane, Chichester, West Sussex.
PO18 8DJ

e.mail oakydokey@vodafoneemail.co.uk

FENTON	Benjamin	Clarborough	NTT	b1829-d 1886
FENTON	Mary Harriot	Palterton	DBY	b.1866
FENTON	Mary Harriot	Scarcliffe	DBY	b 1866
HAYS	Richard	Heath	DBY	b 1863
HAYS	Richard	Heath	DBY	b1816-d 1844
HAYS	William	Heath	DBY	b 1773
HAYS	Eliza	Heath	DBY	b 1843
HAYES	Tom	Palterton	DBY	b Feb 1901
HEWES	Joseph	Barlborough	DBY	b 1771
HUGHES	Emma	Barlborough	DBY	b 1887
HUGHES	John	Barlborough	DBY	b 1858
HUGHES	William	Barlborough	DBY	b 1831
HOULDSWORTH	John	Sutton in Ashfield	NTT	b 1791
MAXFIELD	Charles	Warsop	DBY/NTT	b 1842
MAXFIELD	John	Warsop	NTT	b 1814
PEMBERTON	Phoebe	Astwith	DBY	b 1814
PEMBERTON	Thomas	Ault Hucknall	DBY	c 1785
PEMBERTON	Thomas	Scarcliffe	DBY	c 1785

No 885, Mr S Barnett, 7 Western Avenue, Swanwick, Alfreton. DE55 1DA

e.mail marybarnett@talktalk.net

BARNETT	Sara Jane	Chesterfield	DBY	1890+
BARNETT	Samuel	Chesterfield	DBY	1890+
GIBBS	Harry	Markeaton	DBY	1900+
GIBBS	Tom	Markeaton	DBY	1800+
TWELVES	Joseph	Chesterfield	DBY	1860
TWELVES	Mabel	Chesterfield	DBY	1900

No 886, Mrs J Watson, "Primrose Bank" Audishaw Lane, Boylestone, Ashbourne. Derbyshire. DE6 5AE

e.mail janepwatson@hotmail.com

BARLOW		Chesterfield	DBY	Pre 1900
BRUNT	Various	Clay Cross/Pilsley	DBY	Pre 1830-1890
EDENSOR		Old Brampton	DBY	Pre1760
FARNSWORTH		Ashover	DBY	Pre1730
FOX		North Wingfield	DBY	Pre 1760
GOODALE		Ashover	DBY	Pre1760
HARRISON		North Wingfield	DBY	Pre 1730
HEATHCOTE		South Wingfield	DBY	Pre 1700
HEATS		Tibshelf	DBY	Before 1740
JEPSON		South Normanton	DBY	Before 1740
JOHNSON		Crich/Bakewell	DBY	Pre 1830
LONGTON		Woolley Moor	DBY	Pre 1750
MOTTERSHAW		North Wingfield	DBY	Pre 1770
PURSGLOVE		Ashover	DBY	Pre 1770
STOCKS		Tibshelf	DBY	Pre 1800
WESSON		Ashover	DBY	Pre 1770

No 887, Ms C Renshaw, 3 Bradbury Close, School Board Lane, Chesterfield. S40 1EU

e.mail celia@morganhold.com

BONHAM		N Bucks	BKM	1730-
DANFORTH		Hoyland Nether	WRY	All
FRANKLIN		Sulgrave	NTH	All
LOVESY		N Bucks+ Nth	BKM/NTH	All
REANEY		Dronfield + Norton	DBY	All
RENSHAW		Ridgeway	DBY	All
RIDGWAY		Walton on Trent	DBY	All
TYLER		West Ham	ESS	1890 to present
TYLER		Worcs	WOR	Pre 1890

No 888, Mrs M Turner, 17 Pinefield Avenue, Barnby Dun, Doncaster DN3 1JN

TURNER	Percy	Chesterfield	DBY	born 1907-1918
TURNER	Cyril	Chesterfield	DBY	
TURNER	Josiah(Joe)	Chesterfield	DBY	
TURNER	Josiah	Chesterfield	DBY	m 24/12/1906 to
WRIGHT	Mary	Wingerworth	DBY	



Cadfs Programme 2008

St Hugh's R C Church Littlemoor:

7th Oct	Who was Mrs Williamson? An 18th and 19th century genealogical detective story	John Titford
4th Nov	Christmas at Chatsworth	Christine Robinson
2nd Dec	Christmas Party	

FICHE COPIES FOR SALE Sept 2008

These are hand written and are not indexed

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
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Holy Trinity CHESTERFIELD

MARRIAGES	1854 1933	(6 fiche)	£4.50
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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

St Mary & All Saints CHESTERFIELD

BURIALS	1761-1801	(4 fiche)	£3.25
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St Laurence (BARLOW)

MARRIAGES	1754-1942	(3 Fiche)	£2.50
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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
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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.



FAMILY HISTORY EVENTS

CADFHS had a stand at the Sheffield and District Family History Fair held at Norfolk Park on Saturday 26 April 2008. The fair was extremely busy and CADFHS dealt with many enquiries from people researching their Chesterfield roots.

CADFHS were invited to hold Family History Open Days at Chesterfield Museum on 3 and 5 May 2008. The event was well attended and attracted people not only from the Chesterfield area but also from far and wide. One visitor was Kath Hastings from Australia. She is researching Kathleen or Catherine DEGNAN who appears on the Chesterfield census for 1881. Kath decided to join CADFHS in the hope that she can trace her Chesterfield ancestors. Two other visitors were from Salt Lake City in the USA. They were delighted to find ancestors in the records that they had been unable to find in the Mormon records back home!



DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL British Newspapers 1800-1900

A million fully searchable newspaper pages are waiting for you !

People, politics, marriages, murders, inquests, accidents, chapels, criminals, schools and sports, all human life is here.

Countrywide access from the Ipswich Journal to the Northern Echo, the Liverpool Mercury to the Western Mail. Best of all the **Derby Mercury**, the nearest thing to a county newspaper we have ever had. Although published in Derby this paper was sold as far north as Sheffield, so even a small town as distant from Derby as Killamarsh gets over 350 "hits"

You can search a single paper, useful, for example, to find a prisoner appearing at the Derby Quarter sessions or search them all. The search "Chesterfield and murder" produces 27 results from the Derby Mercury but 112 countrywide, including lurid pictures in the illustrated Police News!

This treasure chest for family and local historians is now available free of charge on library computers and at home to anyone with a Derbyshire library ticket. To use it at home go to www.derbyshire.gov.uk and select **Libraries**.

Click **Online information** from the menu on the left then, from the databases listed, choose **Infotrac newspapers**.

In the borrower ID box enter the letters DCC followed by your ticket number.

Click on **proceed** and away you go.



Chesterfield Library are once again hosting various interesting events over the coming months,

Why not come along and hear the Duke of Devonshire talk about "**Chatsworth in the 21st Century**"

Chatsworth has been in the Cavendish family for almost 400 years, during which time it has seen many changes.

The Duke of Devonshire will talk about how he is enabling the estate to face the challenges of the future.

This lecture will take place on Friday 31st October in the Lecture Theatre at 8pm. Tickets are £5, concessions £4.

This event is being run by Chesterfield Borough Council as part of the Chesterfield Market Festival.

On the evening of Tuesday 14th October, Brian Davis of Chesterfield Photographic Society will present a magic lantern show entitled “**Grandma’s Picture Show**”

He will use glass plates from the collection held at Chesterfield Library. These images of Chesterfield and the surrounding area date from the early 1900s.

For more details please contact Chesterfield Library

Tel 01246 209292.



MEMBERS MEETING May 6 2008

“Family History Records at Chesterfield Library”

Talk by Lesley Phillips using a Power Point presentation.

Lesley began by telling members that the Local Studies at Chesterfield Library has many records relating to the Chesterfield area that are useful for family historians.

She recommends that before people get started with their family history research that they write down everything they know about their family; talk to other members of the family; gather photos and papers and organise their records. Also she recommends that when they visit the Library it helps if they have written down details of the people and places they are researching.

The Ancestry web-site (www.ancestry.co.uk) is available in all Derbyshire Libraries and is free. The site includes the censuses for England and Wales and the GRO Indexes. All the information is free, researchers only pay for a printout or alternatively they may put the information on a floppy disc or memory stick.

Lesley explained that the GRO Index began on 1 July 1837 when the government took over responsibility for registering births, marriages and deaths. Before this date the church had recorded the events. GRO stands for General Register Office and these records are sometimes referred to as the “St Catherine’s Index” as this is where the records were originally held. Copies of Birth, Marriage and Death certificates are issued by the local Register Offices, The General Register Office at Southport or they can be obtained on line. These indexes can be a starting point in family history research and they also give useful clues, for example on death certificates the age or (from June

1969) the date of birth of the deceased is given. On birth certificates the maiden name of the mother is stated and on marriage certificates the name of the spouse can be found.

The web-site www.freebmd.org.uk is a site that gives an index to civil registrations. It is an index of all registrations compiled by volunteers and is free to use, however, it is not yet complete (i.e. only indexed to 1915).

Local Studies have the censuses for 1841-1901 on microfilm and on CDROM. In addition on Ancestry the census for England and Wales are on line and indexed. Generally census records before 1841 only contained a head count but Chesterfield is fortunate in that it has the 1811 census for Hasland (in the Barnes collection) which gives the head of household, this is a rarity.

The latest census available for inspection is the one for 1901. This is because they are only released for public scrutiny after 100 years to protect people's privacy. The 1901 census contains more information than the previous ones as it gives the number of rooms in each house and states whether the individual was an employer or a worker.

The 1841 census can be difficult to read. It does not state relationships between individuals, doesn't give information as to where people were born and only gives approximate ages.

Monumental Inscriptions or MI's as they are sometimes called are details of gravestones drawn up by dedicated family historians. They are useful because they often give extra information about the deceased. For example the gravestone of Ernest Barnett at Christ Church states that he was age 14 when he died in a colliery accident. A search of local newspapers would give more information about him and the accident.

Local Studies have cemetery records on microfilm for the following:

Spital	1857-1997
Brimington	1878-1932
Staveley	1884-1997
Hasland	1883-1998
Boythorpe	1919-1997

These records can provide additional information. For example in the Spital records for 1864 there is a description of one person as a "wandering beggar". The records also show that there was an Irish presence in the town and there was a high incidence of infant mortality.

In 1937 many of the gravestones in Chesterfield Parish Church were taken up and stacked around the church. However, the Library does have a copy of a list of the monuments and a plan of the layout.

Military records for deaths in WWI are available on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission web site (www.cwgc.org). Chesterfield's Roll of Honour has been compiled by volunteers and contains details of the name, rank, service and regiment of the individuals who died in the conflict. The Sherwood Foresters have a War Office publication (disc database) of 700,000 names by surname, where enlisted, where lived, rank and where killed. As this is special software it is necessary to book in advance to use it.

Records show that in 1803 French officers were imprisoned in Chesterfield as prisoners of war. They dined at Wingerworth Hall and they had a significant impact on the town.

Coal mining played a significant role in Chesterfield and the reports of the Inspector of Mines for the Midland District are available for the period 1850-1914. These contain a list of all those killed in each year and make sad reading. For example in 1876, 11 people were killed and the ages range from 14 to 70.

Local newspapers are useful sources of information as they contain announcements of births, marriages and deaths and war-time casualties. These are on microfilm and include the Derby Courier 1828-1927, the Derbyshire Times 1900-onwards (there is also an index for 1900-1919). Microfilm of the papers is readable but copies taken include scratches. It is hoped that in the future these may be digitally scanned.

T. P. Woods Almanac of Chesterfield and Derbyshire gives information of major events that occurred in the area. This is indexed from 1970.

Maps are useful in family history. Local Studies have complete coverage on microfilm of the Ordnance Survey maps 25" and 6". The Derbyshire County Council site Historic Mapping has a series of 6" maps but no tithe maps. There are also paper maps, these are easier to use than those on microfilm. The 6" map gives an overview of the area but only shows big buildings. The 1876 25" map for example is much more detailed. The 50" map of 1876 from the Town Hall shows the Theatre Hall that was knocked down to build the police station. It also shows the "Three Tuns" Inn.

There is a selection of tithe maps available on microfilm. For example there is a tithe map of Newbold and Dunstan dated 1847. Historically tithes were a levy where the church took a tenth of the produce of land and stock. In the

early 19c plans were made to abolish tithes and townships were surveyed. Each survey produced a map and these are useful as the fields were numbered and valued and the names of owners and occupiers given. The maps are available on microfilm at the County Record Office or at Lichfield.

A variety of other maps are available. These are generally more artistic and lovely to look at. For example W. E. Godfrey's map of 1930, "Potters Plan" which was a survey done for the Duke of Devonshire. It is enormous and includes a book with named tenants. One particularly useful map is of the Shambles buildings in the 1930's and shows the occupants of individual shops.

There is a collection of property sales brochures relating to significant properties in the early 20c. For example in 1905 "Fern House" and "Fern Villas" at Stonegravels.

Local Studies have Trade Directories on microfiche. These include Kelly's 1790-1941 and telephone directories from 1949. There is also a run of Chesterfield year- books from 1913-1922 these list the heads of households.

There are sets of Electoral Registers and Burgess Rolls from 1830. These give a list of people registered to vote. After 1918 the records show how people qualified for the vote. Not many women occur on the lists. There is also a full set of poll books which show how people voted before the vote became secret.

Parish records are held at the County Office but transcripts may be available at Local Studies.

The IGI or International Genealogical Index is available on microfiche but it is the 1992 version. After finding an individual it is possible to do a batch search and locate all the other children of the family. Lesley did warn members the information on the IGI was not 100% reliable.

There is a parish register record on CDROM for Old Brampton burials from 1658- the end of 19c. However it is advisable to check the original entry. Bestall's Chesterfield Parish Register is a name index from 1558-1812.

Lesley paid tribute to Ray Batteson's parish transcripts. These are available in Local Studies and have been put on microfiche for the benefit of researchers. Praise was also given for the CADFHS Name Index. This was previously a name index on paper slips. It is now available on the DCC web site and is used all over the world.

Other useful records include Non-Conformists on microfilm up to 1837 with a name index. Quaker records are available on microfilm and include burials. There is also a census of child population for 1892 with 8 books for Chesterfield. Chesterfield School log books are available on microfilm, names and dates of local historical events and Borough Council Minutes.

Photographs play an important part in family history. Picture the Past features photographs from Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire archives. The project was set up to conserve the photographs and to make them available to researchers. It is possible to take a copy from the web-site or to buy one.

There are innumerable good sites on the Internet which are useful for family history research for example Portraits Photographs and Clergy Database. The Internet changes so quickly it is difficult to keep up to date but subjects entered in "Google" can usually help.

The Times Digital Archives 1785-1985 is available and is useful to find notable people.

It is now possible to use the Library Database from home using your Library card number.

Lesley concluded by showing examples of family history research featuring the Sanforth family:

Newbold Poor Rates 1829 show Widow Sanforth
Newbold Vestry minutes 1817-1870 feature the family
The daybooks show Samuel Sanforth maintaining the roads.

Keith Feltham gave the vote of thanks.



MEMBERS MEETING 1st JULY 2008

"Snapshots of 1895 Dronfield"

Talk by Ann Brown illustrated with slides

Ann explained that she had been the Chairman of the Old Dronfield Society for over 40 years – hence her interest in Dronfield. She began her talk by stressing the value of directories as a source of information to family historians when used in conjunction with the census returns. The directories were produced by firms like Glover's or White's for the earlier part of the 19c or

Kelly's for the latter part of the 19c and 20c. These directories have been superseded by the Yellow Pages or Thompson's telephone directories but these do not give information about the political, social, educational and religious structures that directories did.

The directories were produced on the basis of counties or large cities and their environs like Sheffield. They were regularly updated and bought by businesses as reference books in their dealings with each other. County libraries have a good selection of them and in 1895 Bulmer's Directory for Derbyshire (N.E. Section) was reprinted. In its introduction, Dronfield is described as an extensive parish comprising the township of Dronfield, Coal Aston and Unstone in the Hundred of Scarsdale with a population of 4166 from the census of 1891.

Two maps of Dronfield illustrate where it is. An 18c map shows it as 6 miles from Chesterfield and Sheffield. A later map shows its position in the valley before the coming of the railway. The opening of the Midland railway in 1870 was a vital stage in the transition of the town from a mixed farming and small industrial community to a more substantial town.

The monument in the High Street was put up by the townspeople in 1894 to commemorate the life and work of Sir Robert Peel whose government repealed the hated Corn Laws in 1846.

The Manor House, a Queen Anne building, was constructed at the turn of the 17c. It was built for the Burton family and occupied by the recently deceased Rotherham Cecil Esq. The 1895 directory shows his widow, Henrietta Jarvis Cecil, residing at the Manor House. The building is now the library. Two old photos of staff at the Manor House show the gardener, housekeeper and maids etc.

A view down the High Street shows the main route through the town. This became a turnpike in 1797. A farmer travelling to Sheffield would have paid 4d for his horse and cart at the toll bar situated near the Coach and Horses Inn. Stage-coaches travelled along the turnpike and there were various coaching inns like the Greyhound and Swan. Some public houses from the 16c, the Green Dragon and the Blue Stoops, survive to this day.

The Hall is a building across the street from the Blue Stoops. It was built about the same time as the library and is similar in style. The doorways are in the centre of the frontage and their windows have mullions and transoms.

After 1870 when the railway opened through the Drone Valley a great many people came to work in Dronfield. New houses were built for them and some

old buildings were pulled down to make way for buildings intended for community use. Part of the range was the Town Hall whose name is over the door. It served as a meeting place for the Mechanics Institute, town meetings and dances. It is not known why these were called Taylor's Buildings but it could be that Thomas Taylor's blacksmith's shop once stood there.

Round the corner from Taylor's Buildings is Church Street. Here "Red House" and the old vicarage, now the parish-church office, were the first houses in the town to be built in brick and date from the 1730's. Red House was erected in 1731 for the usher or second master of the grammar school. An inscription over the door in Latin translates as "for the perpetual use of the Assistant Master of the Grammar School of Henry Fanshawe, Esq., the inhabitants of Dronfield built this house by voluntary subscription in the year of our Lord 1731". The former Tudor grammar school opened in 1579, and now no.18 Church Street, is next door to Red House.

The Green Dragon was not built as a public house. The canons of Beauchief built it and it was probably where the priests of the church lived in the Middle Ages. It became an inn in the middle of the 16c.

A picture of the church shows that it can be seen over the tops of the houses. It is the church of St. John the Baptist. There was a church here in 1135 and it has been altered and increased in size many times. It is described in Bulmer's as having the tomb of the 15c knight Sir Richard Barley who lived in Dronfield Woodhouse Hall.

The railway brought prosperity to Dronfield and an increase in population particularly when Wilson Cammell came in 1873 to Callywhite Lane. Sadly this did not last and Bulmer's directory commented that Dronfield lost much of its prosperity with the removal of the gigantic steel and rail making business to Workington in 1883. However, Messers Edward Lucas and Son, manufacturers of cast steel spindles and flyers for the textile industry and malleable iron castings, gave employment to a considerable number of hands. Other employment was provided by Dronfield forge and shovel works (which also belonged to Lucas) and Locock and Co's sickle and pruning works. The Lucas Arch is all that remains of the iron foundry owned by Edward Lucas and Son. The plaque on the upright gives some information on the firm's history.

The Fire Brigade, under its captain Samuel Lucas, had a horse drawn fire engine. This was housed at the bottom of Snape Hill. The alarm would summon the volunteers and they could fill the water tank at the town pump at the Monument on the High Street.

Chesterfield Road was the main shopping centre after the railway came. To the left of the shops is a fine stone house called "Chiverton" and to the right is a house named "Rosehill". Both were the homes of lead merchants during the 17 and 18 centuries.

"Princess Buildings" was the Meadow-Hall of its day. The building was named after Princess Alexandra the wife of Edward VII. She was very popular in Dronfield after her visit there and the shopping area and a road were named after her. The buildings housed a printer, stationers, iron- mongers, furniture dealers, dressmakers and a milliner.

The Grammar School was given a paragraph of its own in the directories. These mention its ancient foundation by Henry Fanshawe in 1579. By 1895 it is in handsome new premises, built in 1867, in the Elizabethan style.

Because of the expansion of the town its residential commercial and industrial development required improved communications. There was a Post Office, money order, telegraph, savings bank and insurance and annuity office in Mill Lane run by Mrs. Harriet Penistone.

Farming in 1895 was still an important part of the economy with 42 farmers listed in the directory. This position lasted until the Second World War but there are hardly any left now.

So Dronfield in 1895 was largely a self- sufficient urban community providing for most of their needs. It seems to be recovering from the trauma of the removal of a large slice of its population when Wilson Cammell's left for Workington 12 years earlier. Apart from the occasional excursion to Chesterfield, Sheffield or the Peak district most Dronfeldians lived within the frame outlined so meticulously by Bulmer's Directory.

A vote of thanks was given by Vera Rose.



Hector Feltham's account of his journey from Paris 1940 (contd)

We shared out our bread and prunes between the fifteen of us, and shortly afterwards the traffic began to move, thanks to the military who were getting some sort of order at the bottom of the hill, and our little caravan finally got into Etampes at about one a.m.

We were right at the bottom of the hill with another steep one in front of us, when our engine jammed from overheating, for want of water in the radiator, and the lorry was stuck nearly broadside across the road. We were nearly underneath a railway bridge, and a large military convoy was coming along the road behind us. We all jumped out and managed to push the lorry to the side of the road, and set out in search of water for the radiator.

At that moment we heard a German plane overhead, and none of us were feeling too chirpy about it, for there is an important aerodrome at Etampes. Anyhow, no bombs were dropped, and having found some water, we decided to get clear of the town so as to be out of danger zone and then pull up for the night.

We got outside the town, and found a roadside with surprisingly few cars on it, so we pulled in and settled down to spend our second night in the van, having covered about thirty miles since starting out at four a.m. the preceding morning.

We were astir again at four a.m., and as daylight came on we discovered the reason why there were so few cars on our little roadside :- we had parked right alongside the aerodrome!!! Needless to say, we lost no time in getting on the road again and we subsequently heard that the aerodrome was severely bombed at eleven o'clock that same morning.

We found some food at Vierzon, and after many traffic jams, finally passed through Orleans in the afternoon. The streets of the town were being barricaded, and guns were being put in position about every two hundred yards along the pavements, and the inhabitants were clearing out. We crossed the bridge over the river Loire in the middle of Orleans, and saw the military were busy mining the bridge ready for blowing it up if necessary.

On the farther side of the bridge things were somewhat calmer in the town, and we found a grocer's shop fairly well stocked, so we made a provision of eatables, though bread was unobtainable. We also found a small branch post office still working, and I mailed two letters, but the officials could give no guarantee of either despatch or delivery. We finally left Orleans behind us, and that evening, Friday, we pulled up on the roadside by a small stream, and had our first wash since leaving Paris, and my word, it was good.

Parallel to our road ran the main line of the railway from Paris to the southwest, and all the time we were pulled up there, we saw train after train go by made up of open goods trucks packed full of refugees. It was indeed a pitiful sight. After "supper" two of our chaps went for a walk along the road to stretch their legs, and came back with the news that they had found a

peasant's hut a short way off where we could get some hot coffee – we had had nothing hot since leaving Paris.

So off we went and parked the lorry outside the hut and all went inside. It was a typical peasants hut, comprising one big room only with the bed curtained off in one corner, with a floor of beaten earth. The peasant's wife made us coffee which was excellent, and promised us some more in the morning. We went back to our lorry to sleep, or rather, to endeavour to do so, and next morning after our coffee we set off on what we thought at the time was the last leg of our journey.

We stopped for lunch down a little country lane beside a meadow at the bottom of which ran a stream where we had another good wash and a shave, and then set off for Chateaunau-sur-Cher, where the bank had rented part of a chateau to carry on business, and arrived there about five o'clock in the afternoon.

Chateaunau is a small town about 28 kilometres south of Bourges. The streets are narrow and winding and the chateau is perched up on the top of a hill and overlooks the town on all sides. We found the town filled to overflowing with troops, either stationed there or passing through, and it was difficult to move through the streets. The Chateau de Matile is a beautiful place, ancient but modernised by the installation of electric light, central heating and bathrooms.

Some of our staff had proper bedrooms with big four-poster beds, and some of us had camp beds rigged up in the library, at any rate it seemed like heaven to have a bed with sheets and to be able to stretch out full length. That night we needed no rocking.

Arrangements had been made with a restaurant in the town to feed us, and we were just beginning to consider ourselves in clover, when we were advised by the restaurant that after the Sunday evening they could no longer undertake to provide meals for us on account of the acute food shortage in the town. So once again we had to fend for ourselves, and began the old, old search for tinned foods, gingerbread, biscuits, chocolate, etc., which by this time were becoming scarcer and scarcer.

On the Sunday evening during a stroll round the grounds after dinner two or three of us met the Duke and Duchess of the chateau, and they invited us in to hear the news, which was non too good. Afterwards I was detailed to assist in guarding our strong room, which consisted of a cupboard in a room in the basement of the chateau, and I was to report there for duty on the following morning. So we arranged between the Custodian, another Englishman and

myself to form a little “food club” of our own and to have our meals in the room adjoining the “strong room”, and we were joined by two of the ladies.

During the Monday morning we were dutifully mounting guard over the treasures, when we saw through the little window of our room that armed sentries, French, were mounting guard round the parapet of the grounds, and we heard that there was also an armed guard on the gates and that no one was being allowed in or out. It subsequently developed that there was supposed to be a spy in the chateau, as on the preceding night people in the village had seen “signals” being made from one of the windows. This was naturally the cause of considerable excitement and speculation, and the expression “fifth-columnist” was freely used. Excitement reached it’s pitch when it was learnt that the window from which the signals had been seen coming was that of he room occupied by our vice-president!!!

The explanation was that when he retired on Sunday evening, his blind fell down and he pushed it up with a stick, when it fell down again, this procedure was repeated two or three times before the blind was successfully fixed up, thus causing the “signals” referred to. The military, having thoroughly searched his belongings and found nothing compromising, withdrew the guard.

The next excitement was a little later on the same morning. Our telephonist was arrested and marched off to the local police station and locked up for having made signals from the parapet of the chateau grounds, and was formally recognised by one of the local inhabitants as a spy. (She had never set foot in the village before the preceding Saturday afternoon.)

The explanation of this episode was that her eldest daughter, a girl about fifteen who accompanied her as well as a younger daughter and her mother, an old lady of about seventy, had decided that she would wash out some of the baby’s clothes, and she spread them out on the parapet to dry. This drying washing had been taken as signals by the villagers. It was 6.30 in the evening before the release of our telephonist was finally obtained. We had been warned that on no account were any of us to show our heads over the parapet, as if we did, we should probably be fired on from the village below.

To be continued.

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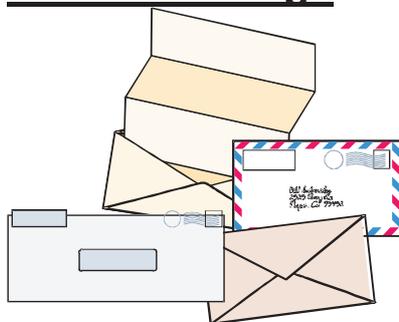
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Editors Jottings



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Carol