

Chesterfield

And

District

Family

History

Society



Magazine Number 77 Dec 2008

ISSN 1467-2693

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Committee Members	Terry Cocking Pamela Kemp Roy Pidcock Neil Wilson



NEW MEMBERS WELCOME TO THE SOCIETY

No 889, Mr P Stevenson, Flat 2, Sunset Flats, Trejquet IL-Gilju, Zurrieq ZRQ 2270 Malta

e.mail patrick2@onvol.net

LOWE	George	Chesterfield	DBY	c 1811
LOWE	William	Chesterfield	DBY	c 1840
LOWE	Walter	Chesterfield	DBY	c 1871
STEVENSON	George	Chesterfield	DBY	c 1789
STEVENSON	George	Chesterfield	DBY	c 1815

No 890+891, Mr + Mrs K+ E Chetwynd, 22 Riggotts Way, Cutthorpe, Chesterfield. S42 7AW

e.mail Jknchetwynd@aol.com

CHETWYND	Edwin	Wilncote	WAR	b 1842
DAVIS	Ann	Tipton	STS	b 1844
RUDGE	Florence	Sheffield	YKS	b c 1894

No 892, Mrs A C Harvey, 57 Cantle Avenue, Downs Barn, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. MK14 7QU

e.mail trevorharvey@tiscali.co.uk

TINGAY		Chesterfield	DBY	1873+
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No 893, Mrs K Y Cowans, 135 Fennycroft Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. HP1 3NS

e.mail Kim.Cowans@ntlworld.com

GEESON	Elizabeth			m July 1908
HENSON	Albert			b 1879

No 894, Mrs C Barlow, 15 St Chads Way, Chesterfield, S41 8RN

e.mail cherbarl@tesco.net

ALDRED	Various	Chesterfield	DBY	1800-Present
HARDY	Various	Chesterfield	DBY	1800-Present
WHARTON	Hannah	Chesterfield	DBY	1800-Present

No 895, Mrs B B Calladine, Woodend, Knabb Rd, Two Dales, Matlock, DE4 2FJ

e.mail berylcalladine@btinternet.com

BILTON	John	Chesterfield	DBY	1806
MARGERISON		Chesterfield	DBY	Any
MARGERISON	James	Chesterfield	DBY	1708
MARGERISON	Johannis		DBY	>1708
KING	John Walton,	Chesterfield	DBY	1930-50

No 896, Mr M Pindar, 11 Loads Road, Holymoorside, Chesterfield. S42 7EF

e.mail Mike@pindar-design.co.uk

BLANKSBY	Grace	Chesterfield	DBY	1800
LINGARD	Frederick	Chelmsford	ESS	1853
LINGARD	Frederick	Hereford	GLS	1853

NASH	Sarah Ann	Chesterfield	DBY	1850+
NASH	Thomas	Chesterfield	DBY	1850+
WILSON	George	Chesterfield	DBY	1850+
WILSON	George	Newbold	DBY	1821
WILSON	Ann	Chesterfield	DBY	1863
WRAGG	George	Chesterfield	DBY	1850+

No 897, Mrs D Kelly, 47 Cutthorpe Road, Cutthorpe, Chesterfield. S42 7AD

EVERLEIGH	Elizabeth	Broadwood	DEV	1822
EVERLEIGH	John	Widger	DEV	1851
EVERLEIGH	Rebecca	Northlew	DEV	1799

No 898, Miss P Neal, 20 Hamlet Lane, South Normanton, Alfreton, Derby
DE55 2JB

e.mail pat@nealtec.org

ALSOP	Isaac	b Ashover	DBY	1797-c1860
ALSOP	Rebecca	b Breadsall	DBY	1797-1867*
ALLSOP	Samuel	b Walton	DBY	1839-1901*
ALLSOPP	William Henry	b Walton	DBY	1858-c 1930
BURTON(nee ALLSOP)	Elizabeth	b Walton	DBY	1829-c 1902
MELLOWSHIP(nee ALLSOP)	Mary	b Walton	DBY	1836-1896*
MELLOWSHIP	Samuel	b Newthorpe	NTT	1840-1877*

* buried at St Thomas's Church, Brampton



HELP WANTED

I am looking for anyone who may be researching the surnames of DANCE, SILCOCK and PRICE in the Chesterfield area of Derbyshire, in the latter part of the 19th Century and early 1900s.

John DANCE born 1860

Henry SILCOCK born 1888

Elsy PRICE born 1893

Thank you. Member no 848, Mrs J Dance, 6 Hill St, Chasetown, Burntwood, Staffs WS7 3XU

e.mail june.dance@tesco.net

MORE HELP WANTED

Is there anyone in the Club with similar interests

I haven't progressed much in my search for the GAUNT family. I'm pretty sure they originated from Ghent in Flanders and probably raised sheep for the wool trade but there is no way of proving this.

My brother found Richard and Betty (Bacon) GAUNT's grave in Old Brampton churchyard. They were born c 1764 and c 1770 but no clue as to where. Betty can be found in both Brampton and Belper but which one is correct?

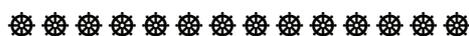
I have decided to concentrate on Newbold and Goldmining this year. R SILCOCK was listed as a retired gold-miner in the 1881 census. The chances are that he did not go alone to California, but who went with him?

George ORWIN b 1847 went to Utah and 3 sons were born there one of them . Albert in 1875.

On return to Newbold George had a daughter Lucy who was born 1877 in Orwins Row.

George did not have time to build a row of houses before the birth of Lucy Did George ORWIN b 1831 also go overseas ?. Then there is William ORWIN b 1825 who went to the Cariboo goldfields and didn't come back

Member 825 Margery Cooper, 59B Clarkin Road, Hamilton 3214 New Zealand. e.mail margeryc@xtra.co.uk



Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at St.Hugh's R.C.Church, Littlemoor on Tuesday 2nd September 2008

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence Clyde and Pam Anderson
2. Minutes of last AGM Duly signed by the Chairman
 Proposed N.Wilson Seconded T.Cocking
3. Matters arising None

4. Chairman's Report 2008

Last year's membership of 178 was slightly higher than the previous year and despite increased costs in room hire and postal charges our finances are in good order. Monthly meetings are well attended and once again a big 'thank you' to Jo Gott, for producing another interesting annual programme of speakers on talks of a local or family history nature.

During the last year the Chairman and Vice-chairman have represented the society at two events at Chesterfield Museum. In February along with other local organisations the society discussed the role of the Museum and Heritage Services and over the May Bank holiday weekend the bi-annual Family History Event took place. Between these events CADFHS was also promoted at the much bigger Sheffield and District FHS Fair where some 'out of town' members were met in person.

Links with the Derbyshire Record Office continue to prosper along with Chesterfield Local Studies library and at a recent monthly meeting their librarian Lesley Philips gave a very informative talk on what resource material the family historian could expect to find 'in-house' along with news of all the latest internet websites.

Our own Reference Library continues to purchase books and CDs to assist members with their research and during the year it has received further donations of microfiche records, wills and inventories from member Eileen Beech and a biography from the late Ernest Hopkinson.

Further additions from fellow family history societies to our 'exchange magazines' section have been accepted and publications previously from FFHS are now received from the SOG who have taken over the responsibility.

Correspondence, mainly e-mails from members and non members alike to our own website, www.cadfhs.org.uk, continues to keep the committee busy and members can now receive electronic copy of the quarterly magazine, committee meeting Minutes and Members Interests on request from IT co-ordinator, Neil Wilson, thanks to his latest website improvements.

Earlier this year Wendy Roberts, our CADFHS librarian for the last six years resigned due to family commitments but I am happy to report that member Pat Bennett has come forward to take on this post so that this vital service can continue. Once again, I make my annual appeal to the membership for new faces to come forward and fill the committee vacancies. I should like to think that someone here tonight is willing to take on that role.

My 'thanks' go to each member of the committee for their loyal support and hard work, each has contributed in their own way to ensure that the aims and objectives of the Society have been fulfilled.

Next year CADFHS will be twenty years old and I invite past and present members to join in a birthday celebration here at St.Hugh's on Saturday 4th July 2009.

I would like members to be involved by including displays of their own family history or memorabilia. Please put this date in your diary now and support this event.

5. Treasurer's Report		Proposed E.Gilthorpe	Seconded M.Calow
6. Election of Officers			
(a) Chairman	Mike Sims	M.Yeldham	P. Bennett
(b) Vice- chairman	Marion Yeldham	P.Kemp	N.Wilson
(c) Correspondence Secretary	Doreen Rogers	R.Batteson	C.Morris
(d) Treasurer	Keith Feltham	M.Sims	J.Bradley
(e) Committee	elected 'en bloc'		

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

At this point the Chairman re-iterated the need for a full committee and hope that the two vacancies would be filled by co-option in the following months.

7. Any Other Business

Mr Calow asked if the problem with the 'aol' server mentioned at the last AGM had been resolved. The Chairman had passed the problem on to Neil Wilson, CADFHS

I.T co-ordinator who reported back with a successful conclusion at the October 2007 monthly meeting.

TREASURERS REPORT

Before commenting on the balance sheet I would like to sincerely thank Michael Sharratt for giving his time freely to audit our accounts. After serving as auditor for five years Michael has decided that he no longer wishes to continue. That being the case we are hoping to find another volunteer for the future.

You will see from the copies of the balance sheet that has been made available to you that the Society has had a good year financially, with an increase in the funds of over 15%.

It is encouraging to see that the income from subscriptions has increased for the first time in three years, reflecting a rise in membership.

Meeting donations have risen considerably due to larger attendances and the increase in entrance fees that were agreed at last years AGM. The result has been a reduction of more than half in the costs of holding monthly meetings and providing speakers.

The increases in miscellaneous donations have been made by members who do not live locally, in payment for research of their family history; though these donations have to be offset by the 'expenses for research' in the expenditure column.

It appears that one of the extra costs since last year is the equipment insurance, but that is not the case, as it was previously included in the FFHS subs and now, due to a change in their rules, has to be taken out separately.

There are a number of other expenses that are extra to last year, all of which were considered to be necessary by your committee and have been kept to a minimum.

The cost of sending the annual microfiche of members' interests and quarterly magazine is £3.44 – almost half the individual membership fee – and one way that members can help reduce the Society's expenses is to receive them in electronic form. This can easily be achieved, either by indicating their wish to do so on the form when renewing membership, or by sending an email to mail@cadfhs.org.uk with their details and membership number. After receiving electronic copies anyone who wishes to revert back to having them by post can simply send an email indicating their desire.

If there are any questions on items that I have not commented on I will be happy to answer them. After which may I ask that the accounts be accepted as presented.

Keith Feltham.

Chesterfield and District Family History Society
 Income and Expenditure
 1st August 2007 to 31st July 2008

Income	2007/08	2006/07	Expenditure	2007/08	2006/07
Subscriptions	1,390.00	1,167.00	Postage	340.92	220.53
Building Soc. Interest	45.53	35.36	Printing	445.50	447.50
Microfiche Sales	264.50	268.25	Photocopying	44.86	14.95
Meeting Donations	461.26	202.56	Microfiche Printing	132.05	249.25
Misc. Donations	308.00	33.10	Room Hire	385.00	300.50
Raffle	38.00	64.50	Stationery	27.22	3.50
			Refreshments	4.71	6.33
Total	2,507.29	1,770.77	Speakers Fees	235.00	225.00
			FFHS Subs	49.64	88.10
			Equipment Insurance	25.10	0.00
			Web Site	44.06	35.25
			Printer Cartridges	31.92	47.97
			Gifts	20.00	0.00
			Research CD's	63.00	0.00
			Library Purchases	0.00	23.50
			Family History Fair	30.00	0.00
			Expenses for Research	200.00	0.00
			P.A.T. Testing	22.50	0.00
			Mobile Internet Connection	20.00	0.00
			Keys	0.00	91.06
			Extension Cable	0.00	9.00
			Total	2,121.48	1,762.44

Opening Balance	2,306.09	2,297.76
Income	2,507.29	1,770.77
Expenditure	2,121.48	1,762.44
Closing Balance	2,691.90	2,306.09

of which

Cash at Bank	328.72	191.99
Cash in Hand	68.50	44.95
Building Society	2,294.68	2,069.15
Total	2,691.90	2,306.09

Assets

	2007/08	2006/07
Microfiche	112.80	182.25

TREASURER

K. Litchman

Audited and found correct in accordance with books, vouchers and information received.

AUDITOR

MAS

THE 2009 PROGRAMME

For quite a few years, more than I really care to remember, I have been arranging the programme for the society. I have recently finished putting the 2009 programme together and I hope that you will find something of interest in it.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to book speakers, as there are more and more Societies springing up, and therefore I have to start arranging the programme earlier each year!

I have been concerned in the past few years as to whether I am getting the "mix" right. I realise that some speakers will appeal more to certain members than others and therefore I have tried to arrange different topics, and as far as possible, speakers who have not been "doing the rounds" of other local Societies. The exception to this is, of course, when I hear of a very good speaker who I am sure you will enjoy.

Another problem I have is that I book speakers, sometimes eighteen months in advance, so that we can get a programme into print. Although the speakers may be "new" when I book them, by the time they actually visit us they may have been to other local societies who have booked them after me for an earlier visit.

I thought I would try to give you an insight into the programme I have arranged for next year to whet your appetite and enable you to bring friends along if you think that particular speaker might appeal to them. However, I am always open to suggestions for speakers and if you don't think I have covered an area of interest that appeals to you please get in touch with me and I will see what I can do for 2010.

At the suggestion of the Committee I have made 13th January (please note this meeting is one week later than normal) a Members Evening. I think this is a good idea because speakers are not too keen to visit so soon after Christmas and I am also finding older speakers don't like to drive on dark nights.

On 3rd February the subject is Queen Mary's Dolls House by Mrs. Marjorie Dunn. When I spoke to her she assured me that the men as well as women would enjoy this talk and I have never heard the talk being given to local groups.

On 3rd March I have returned to local history and the railway in a talk by Philip Cousins entitled John Knowles – a forgotten North Derbyshire Railway Contractor. Although Philip has visited the Society before to talk about other subjects I am sure you will enjoy this talk – maybe your ancestors worked on the railway!

On 14th April (another month when the meeting has been put back a week) we have a visit from Ms. M. Taylor who brings a lot of luggage with her! She is going to show us how an Elizabethan lady's wardrobe worked – I understand it was a time consuming job getting dressed! This is a chance to gain a glimpse of what your ancestors in the Elizabethan era were wearing.

On 5th May we have a visit from Roy Smith, who is a professional genealogist. You may recognise his name – he writes numerous articles for the Reflections magazine. He is going to talk to us about his own family history research which covers one thousand years! (beat that). When I was speaking to Roy I told him that I had come up against several “dead ends”. He told me he specialises in “dead ends”. I have never heard this talk but it sounds as if it is going to be very interesting.

On 2nd June we have a return visit by David Templeman. His new talk covers Mary Queen of Scots, Elizabeth 1 and Bess of Hardwick. David specialises in Tudor history and in this talk tells of the intense rivalry and blazing ambitions between these three women. There is jealousy, envy and lust for power. His talk does not relate to their individual life stories but concentrates solely on the struggle between them.

On 14th July (yet another month that we have had to put the meeting back a week) we are having a Members Evening. This is a good opportunity for you to catch up on the contents of the Society library and to request help with any problems you are experiencing. (However, there is, of course, no guarantee that problems can be solved).

As you know, there is no meeting in August.

The meeting on 1st September will be the AGM followed by a talk by Tony Hallam on the Markham family. Tony has visited us before to talk about the Crooked Spire and of course the Markham family will be well known to all of you, but do you know the story of the Markham family? Here's your chance to find out.

On the 6th October we have a return visit from Danny Wells to talk to us about the Victorian Way of Death. This seems a rather macabre subject but after seeing some of the very ornate grave stones in the church yard there must be a story here – how did the Victorians deal with death?

On 3rd November, on a completely different theme we hear about the story of Hulley's buses from Andy Firth. There can't be anyone local who hasn't travelled on Hulley's buses at some time.

We then finish off the year on 1st December with a Members Evening, lots of lovely food and a quiz. This is a chance to sit and have a chat with other members and of course use the library.

By May 2009 I will be doing my best to arrange the programme for 2010, so if you have any requests please let me know, I will do my best to cover the subject you want. Lastly, however, I would just like to say that the cost of speakers is increasing every year. Probably the two main reasons are the cost of travel for the speakers, bearing in mind the increase in the price of petrol and the fact that I am having to go further afield for speakers in an effort to find new subjects.

<u>Cadffs Programme 2009 St Hugh's R C Church Littlemoor:</u>		
Jan 13th	Members Evening	
Feb 3rd	Queen Mary's Dolls House	Marjorie Dunn
March 3rd	John Knowles---A Forgotten North Derbyshire Railway Contractor	Philip Cousins
April 14th	An Elizabethan Lady's Wardrobe	Ms M Taylor
May 5th	A 1000 years of the Broughton Family	Roy Smith
June 2nd	Two Queens and a Countess	David Templeman
July 14th	Members Evening	
Aug	No Meeting	
Sept 1st	The Family Markham	Tony Hallam
Oct 6th	Victorian Way of Death	Danny Wells
Nov 3rd	Hulley's Buses	Andy Firth
Dec 1st	Members Evening	

FICHE COPIES FOR SALE Dec 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
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
St Mary & All Saints CHESTERFIELD			
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.



Chesterfield Local Studies

Remembrance 90- We owe them all a debt of honour.

This year is the 90th anniversary of the end of World War 1. and the BBC is marking the occasion with a series of programmes and an interactive web site called "Remembrance" where people can share their memories and family stories. You can find the we site at www.bbc.co.uk/religion/remembrance

The Imperial War Museum is also marking the anniversary with a special online exhibition at www.iwm.org.uk

There is a great deal of interest in the First World War, both from those searching for ancestors and from historians who collect information about the soldiers recorded on their local war memorials. At Chesterfield Library, we are often asked to kook through old newspapers for obituaries of soldiers for those who are unable to visit the library. Our two Chesterfield papers, the Derbyshire Times and the Derbyshire Courier are testimony to the absolute horror and waste of young lives that was the "Great War" Two issues of the Derbyshire Courier, for the 15th and 22nd July 1916, bear the photographs of more than 120 young men who were reported wounded, missing or killed, probably at the Battle of the Somme.

To mark the anniversary of the end of the First World War we will have our own small display in the Local Studies area at Chesterfield Library. The purpose of the display is to highlight the resources now available to those researching soldiers who were killed in the First World War. As well as online databases such as Ancestry (for census returns and some service records) and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's web site www.cwgc.org we have "Soldiers Died in the Great War" on CD which contains over 700,000 names, the Chesterfield Roll of Honour (valuables collection) photographs and lists of local war memorials (which was donated by Chesterfield Family History Society in 2002) and of course our local newspapers.

Our display uses as an example eight soldiers selected at random from Chesterfield Roll of Honour. We chose men with surnames from the beginning of the alphabet, as the complete set of surviving service records (sometime called the “burnt records”) is not yet available on Ancestry. We selected soldiers that we were able to find the records for. Sadly, there were plenty to choose from. Incidentally, many of these records were destroyed in a bombing raid in World War 11, so there is no guarantee that you will be able to find the service record of every soldier who served in the First World War.

By a strange coincidence, a recent donation to Chesterfield Library also has a connection with the First World War. Amongst a variety of books which have come to us from the Parish Church is a scrapbook kept by a vicar of Chesterfield, Canon Francis L Shaw. It starts in 1919 and ends in 1924 when Canon Shaw moved to Ashbourne, and includes programmes of church services and newspaper cuttings marking the peace celebrations and the

Lesley Phillips

Local Studies Librarian. Chesterfield Library.



MEMBERS MEETING 2nd SEPTEMBER 2008

“Pestilence, Intrigue and Murder” talk by Ian Morgan illustrated with slides

Before his talk Ian introduced himself as a professor of history who has worked for the BBC, ITV, Independent TV and English Heritage. The principal part of Ian’s talk was about the plague, a deadly epidemic or pestilence that was feared by all. It was feared because there was no cure. People knew that if they got the plague they would die and that no one would be able to help them. If a neighbour had the plague people wouldn’t help them for fear of getting the illness themselves. Anyone who had the plague was therefore isolated and merely waiting for the “grim reaper”.

Evidence of the “Black Death” in Derbyshire was uncovered in 1960 in Blackwell when the road was being widened. The excavations revealed 500 bodies. The unusual feature of this discovery was the fact that the bodies had been buried vertically. This was because there was a shortage of consecrated ground to bury a large number of plague victims. Burying the bodies vertically was an answer to the problem.

In the 1580’s in Brimington near Chesterfield one-fifth of the population died of the plague in a two- week period. No one could help them as there was no cure.

In Charles 11's reign there was plague in London and in Elizabeth 1's time she left London and went to Windsor to avoid it. Any refugees trying to escape the plague were hanged because there was no cure and no hope for them.

In 1665 the plague spread from the docks in London and Bristol to the suburbs of the cities and then on to the north. The plague was spread by rats that were infested with fleas.

Eyam was particularly badly hit by the plague but purely by chance. In 1665 it was an isolated dormitory town. It is now a pretty village and a popular tourist spot. People now flock to the village to see the cottages where the plague started. They want to see how many people died and are interested in the biggest number of people who died in one place.

Old pictures of the cottages show that they originally had thatch roofs whereas they now have tiled roofs. This may have contributed to the plague problem as thatch roofs are warm and provide an ideal home for fleas carrying the disease.

The plague started in Eyam in August/September 1665 when Mary Hadfield received a package for George Vicars who was a tailor servant. The package was from London and Canterbury and contained either cloth or clothing. It may not have been clean as people often sold clothing after someone's death. As the cloth was damp Vicars put it in front of the fire to dry. He sustained a nip on the skin, a flea-bite, which must have been quite common in those days. In 14 to 21 days he started to have symptoms of the plague. Firstly he had a cold or chill then he developed a fever and took to his bed. The next day he had lesions of the skin, sores, growths in his groin and then he developed pneumonia. He would have died in agony.

By September there were 6 dead and people began to panic and leave the village. In all 74 families were visited by the plague. Various theories were given for the plague occurring in Eyam. These varied from "God giving retribution", a local sighting of a comet and the fact that in 1580 two Roman Catholic priests passing through Eyam to Sheffield were ridiculed and they put a curse on the village.

By October there were 23 dead in the village and those that could afford to move left. Those that couldn't remained and tried to save lives. The Old Hall was demolished and the owners, the local squire, went to live in their farm 5 miles away. They even took the ducks from the village pond. John Bradshaw of Bradshaw Hall, the local manor house, who was a trial judge for King Charles 1, left the village and never came back.

Winter came to Eyam and the locals hoped that the cold weather would kill the germs of the plague which they believed were carried on people's breath. Sadly this was not the case as the bacillus lives in the gut of the flea.

In the village of Eyam lived Humphrey Merrill, the local herbalist. He came up with various cures for the plague. One method was to mix various herbs and spices with human body waste. Another method was to lay a mastiff puppy on the chest "for as long as it could be borne" a third way was to put a chicken's mouth next to the bubo. Needless to say none of these cures worked.

All the victims of the plague had to be buried and one man who volunteered for the job was Marshall Howe a local lead miner. He had encountered gruesome deaths in his job and miraculously although he handled the bodies he survived the plague.

Winter came and the plague should have died out within 21 days, it would have then been safe but there was no cure. One woman tried to leave the village. Nearby villages employed guards to prevent anyone from Eyam entering their villages. The guards in Tideswell recognised the woman but they let her in. She was, however, not accepted by the locals who threw fruit at her until she left in a terrified state. .

The plague continued. In April there were 73 dead and in June 78. The local vicar William Mompesson and Thomas Stanley the previous incumbent decided they had got to do something. They closed the church, no more burials were permitted here and services were held outside in Cucklet Delph. People built shacks there and during services stood no closer than 12 feet to each other. Catherine Mompesson tended the sick and dying and people were buried in their own gardens instead of the churchyard.

The village was now isolated but the inhabitants still required feeding and clothing. . Mompesson wrote to the Earl of Devonshire saying that the villagers would not leave Eyam if he would feed and clothe them. This was achieved by the villagers leaving money, sterilised in vinegar, at the wells on Eyam Moor and Mompesson Well in return for food and clothes.

In December Mompesson remarked to his wife that the air had a sweet smell. This sadly was a sign of the presence of the plague and within 3 days Catherine Mompesson had died. The Reverend Mompesson obtained special permission to bury his wife in the churchyard and her impressive grave can still be seen there. The local herbalist also died but he is not buried in the churchyard.

In October only 23 people died of the plague and in November just one and then it was gone.

There are various graves of some of the plague victims in and around Eyam. The most well known grave is the one that commemorates the Riley family. Perhaps the most poignant is that of the Hancock family. Mrs Hancock buried 8 out of her family of nine. She ran away from the village with her surviving baby. Jane Hawksworth lost 25 members of her family. The Reverend Mompesson re-married a Mrs Catherine Newby. She inherited a house on the Rufford estate and they had 2 more children.

In total 259 people died of the plague in Eyam. It is now believed that those who survived had immunity to the disease through a mutant gene.

The next subject of Ian's talk was of "Intrigue". The Revolution Plot occurred in 1685. The new King James 11 was a catholic and he introduced pro-catholic measures which incensed the protestants. . In 1688 four protestant aristocrats, the Duke of Devonshire, the Earl of Danby, John D'Arcy and Lord Delamere were out riding in Derbyshire. Legend has it that there was a storm and they sought shelter in a local hostelry, the Cock and Pynot (Magpie) in Whittington near Chesterfield now known as the Revolution House. Here the four sat and plotted the downfall of the king. They had limited resources so they wrote to William King of Orange suggesting that he should overthrow king James and take the throne for himself. In 1688 William landed at Torbay and James found he could not rely on his army so he fled the country. William of Orange took his place and the rest is history.

The final part of Ian's talk concerned the subject of murder. In 1815 there was a murder at the Devonshire Arms in the Wardlow area. This was a toll road and when the gates were locked an argument ensued. Hannah Oliver found the body of a woman but her red shoes were missing. Ann Lingard, who was pregnant and destitute was offered the shoes by her husband Antony Lingard who said they were from a travelling salesman. She said she didn't want them. Her husband hid them but the local constable found them and arrested him for murder. He was put in jail at Derby and tried at the assizes in March and found guilty. He was hanged and his body dissected, gibbeted and displayed at Wardlow Mires. William Newton the local poet subsequently wrote a poem urging the abolition of such punishment.

Ian concluded his talk by saying that he hoped that all the subjects of his talk who had suffered were now at peace.

A vote of thanks was given by Marion Yeldham.



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

All this goes to show the extent to which everybody's nerves were keyed up. The least event was unduly exaggerated and taken to indicate the activities of the "fifth column".

On the Monday afternoon four of us were busy in our "strong room" listing the numbers of our banknotes in preparation for any possible eventuality, and we were cheered in our work by the rumour (which proved to be untrue) that France had capitulated unconditionally, so our state of mind can readily be imagined. In the evening rumour said that things were getting worse and that the Germans were approaching rapidly, and we were told to stand by to rise early on the following morning for a hurried departure, though we did not see how this could be affected, for although we had four or five lorries, besides several private cars and a big coach, we had practically no petrol, and it was impossible to purchase any in the neighbourhood.

The vice-president came round at 5 a.m. and roused us and told us that rumour had it that the Germans were now at Bourges and were still advancing, but still no definite decision was reached about our departure. About 7.30 my co-guardian went down to the village to buy some cigarettes, and there he saw the town crier going round with his drum announcing that the Germans were expected to arrive in the town at any minute and advising the population to keep calm and remain where they were.

Curiously enough, all the military which had been overcrowding the village had departed during the night, and the place appeared quite deserted without them. When we heard this news, we immediately advised our vice-president who said we would have to get away. It was decided to empty the petrol out of the tanks of the lorries, and put it all into the tank of the big coach, but as this was not large enough to accommodate all the staff, we were told that it would probably necessary to draw straws to ascertain who would be taken and who would be left behind,- quite a nice proposition between colleagues of fifteen or twenty years acquaintanceship!!

Three of us, britishers, decided that we would not participate in this draw, should it take place, and as nothing definite was still being done about departure, advised the vice-president that we were setting out immediately on foot for Bordeaux, where there remainder intended making for, a distance of about four hundred kilometres. My co-guardian and I accordingly changed our clothes, and put a few things in a small attaché case, as it was out of the question to attempt to take our large suitcases with us on our tramp, and the three of us set out, accompanied by the two ladies who had joined our "food

club” who had also decided that they would have nothing to do with the drawing of straws.

It was without much hope of success that we set out, and at every cross road we fully expected to see German motorised troops appear on the scene. We had done about four miles on the road, when the big coach went flying past us, and our vice-president waved his hand to us as they passed. This naturally did not cheer our spirits, and after another mile, an open lorry went by, but it suddenly pulled up a few hundred yards further down the road, and we saw people waving to us to come on. We hurried along and found that it was one of our lorries, the driver of which had fifteen litres of petrol left and had decided that he would go as far as he could on that and then trust to providence.

He had taken with him some of the female staff who had been left behind and had come across a French army lorry that had broken down. It was carrying soldiers and had plenty of petrol. So our lorry took over the petrol and the soldiers and carried on. The soldiers were on their way to a point in the south of France, to which point they had been told to get as best they could in order to re-form their unit. They had been evacuated from Dunkerque and had returned to France after a short stay in England, during which they said they had received wonderful treatment. A few miles further on we picked up one of their officers, and it was thanks to him and his men that we were able to procure sufficient petrol to see us through.

That night we slept on our open lorry in an open space in the town of Bourgueuf, where we again had great difficulty in obtaining food. We were off early the following morning and had some lunch at Tulle. The roads by this time were clearer, and in the late afternoon we arrived at Brives, which was the destination of our soldiers. So we parted company with them, and two of our girls intended a train from there to their home some considerable distance away. The railway station was crowded, and no one knew when a train would be passing through, if one came along at all. However, they managed to find a taxi willing to do the journey, and they left us seated outside the station café having a drink before we started out again.

They were back with us ten minutes later with the news that their taxi had been turned back, for no cars were being allowed to leave Brives. They had tried to get out by the Route de Toulouse. They decided to stay on, and to try their luck with the trains.

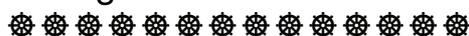
The rest of us wasted no time in jumping on our lorry, and we went off like the wind down the Route de Bordeaux. We got clear of the town without being pulled up and heaved a sigh of relief, but when we reached the border line between the departments of the Correze and the Dordogne, we were halted by

the military who informed us that we could not leave the department of the Correze. Fortunately we managed to persuade them, with the help of a letter from the bank which each of us carried combined with the lucky fact that the name of the bank appeared on the lorry, that we really wanted to join our offices at Bordeaux, and they let us pass, and we then made for Perigeux where our driver had a friend where we would be able to get some food and a roof under which to sleep.

The country-side was beautiful, and had been ever since we left Bourgeneuf. Under different circumstances we would have been able to appreciate it as it deserved, but as it was, other thoughts filled our minds. When we were about six miles from Perigeux, we were again pulled up by the military and turned down a side road, as only army cars were allowed to enter Perigeux. As the lorry turned of the side, I caught sight of a sign-post pointing to a town called Le Bugue, some twenty kilometres away. This stirred memories, for I recollected that my landlady had a niece at Le Bugue who ran a restaurant. So I knew where we should be able to get breakfast next morning.

It was now about 11 p.m. so we began keeping our eyes open for a place to pas the night. The owner of a farm in the next village let us sleep in barn, or rather a shed without any doors, but at any rate we had a roof over our heads. He would have liked to have taken us in his house, but he had no room. We found a stream next morning, so were able to have a shave and a wash. We then set out and found the restaurant at Le Bugue. I introduced myself, and asked if we could have breakfast. All the lady could give us was coffee and a very little bread and butter, for food was scarce there also. I then learnt that my landlady's daughter, who had been evacuated from Paris with her office two days before I myself had left, had passed through Le Bugue on the preceding Saturday, (we were then Thursday), and had spent a night at her cousin's.
(to be continued)

Keith Feltham. (copyright belongs with the Feltham Family)



The Elusive Catherine/Kate/Kathleen Degnan/Dagnall/Degnann/Degnall

By Kath Hastings, Brisbane, Australia. Member no 880

Catherine Degnan was my great grandmother and I bear the name under which she died, Kathleen Hastings. I had come to Chesterfield in May 2008 in search of memories of her in the land of her birth. I had her address from the 1861 English census, Church Lane, Chesterfield. Her father, according to the census, was a coal miner, originally from Roscommon, Ireland.

I had had great trouble tracing Catherine to even being a "Degnan" by surname. She had given her name on her marriage certificate as Degnall. She kept

Degnull on several birth certificates. Then, once she became Degmann; once she reverted to Degnan; never Dagnall where I was to find her in Lancashire long after my return to Australia. Her maiden name is still given as Degnull on her death certificate. I had never thought there could be such confusion over one's own name.

She had married at 19, or so she thought, and had therefore left England at the grand old age of 17, a single girl, migrating on her lonesome, to Australia in 1875. I had given myself two days to walk in her footsteps, hear the accent she may have spoken, and, with any luck, see if any traces of her family remained.

I wanted to feel a presence of my great grandmother; to try to find any remnants of an older Chesterfield that might have been known to the young Catherine Degnan; to walk the streets that she may have known in her youth; to see what she may have seen, a life so different from that which she was to experience in Australia. So, day one, a rainy Sunday morning in early May saw me en route to Chesterfield's market place. Things may have changed greatly in Chesterfield since the 1860's, but I am sure she would have recognized the market.

A tree overwhelmed with pink flowers; the first day of spring in England. A grey stone building, grey as the skies above with an engraved plaque telling me that this was once the Independent Chapel, 1822, and inside, a service was in progress. Comfortingly familiar hymns from my youth where I grew up in Queensland drew me to the front pillars. Should I enter in mid service? Catherine had been married in the primitive Methodist Church in Rockhampton, Australia in 1876; so I presumed she was protestant in spite of her Irish father. Had she once stood where I now stood, contemplating the warmth of inside? The singing? Stories she told, repeated by her grandsons to me, were of her making a little cash by her singing at the captain's dinner parties on the long voyage to Australia.

The previous week, I had been in India with temperatures reaching 50 degrees C. Taking refuge in a church on a wet English day even in mid service was not that difficult a decision to make. Besides, my curiosity was overwhelming.

The interior was well preserved, familiar and friendly. The church was full; the congregation, of an age, my age. An age when family history counts and becomes a passionate, never ending voyage of detective work and discovery. I sang along happily imagining myself to be the young Catherine and awaited my chance to "make enquiries" at the end of the service. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. One has to be courageous when doing local research abroad even if introspective by nature.

Not much luck. The people I spoke to were kind, and interested in this damp Australian of a certain age who had just walked in off the street. John, the church historian, suggested the local historical society. But, then, I had forgotten about the first of May and knew nothing of bank Holidays. The museum did not open on a Monday, the only day I had allocated to Chesterfield in a very tightly scheduled European trip. Drat! Nothing worse than bad timing especially when trying to peel back the layers of time itself. I would have to content myself with soaking up whatever remnants of Chesterfield of the late nineteenth century I could find. What more could I expect from a stay of only two days, both of which were holidays.

I found the market place, a couple of beautifully renovated buildings from the sixteenth century, and zealously photographed the bizarre spire of the church that the devil's tail was supposed to have twisted; the land of Catherine's childhood. No Church Lane remained. I could see that it had gone the way of urban development. The way of the world.

I had remembered looking up the White Pages on the web before leaving Oz where I had found one Degnan still living in Chesterfield. Sunday evening and I made the phone call. A long shot. But one that paid off. That one Degnan had returned to Chesterfield some years previously resuming her maiden name! And her name? Katherine Degnan!

-Had anyone done any family research?

-Yes, an unknown relative had turned up one day with a family history. It was somewhere....She searched....-There is a Thomas Hastings here, she said.

I couldn't believe it then and still have difficulty believing it all now. How could there be a Thomas Hastings, my great grandfather, Catherine's husband, Australian born and bred, a Thomas Hastings in the Degnan family tree of the 1890's? A visit was absolutely necessary. Had I solidified my Chesterfield connection?

Monday morning. I trailed the May Day procession, bands and performers dressed in odd costumes and walked about the town, the church, wherever. Most shops were closed. By chance, I walked past the library. A sign caught my eye. A special Family History Day!! I couldn't believe my luck. Another huge coincidence. A special day on a bank holiday.

The society members with whom I spoke were most kind even though there were no Deganans in their records. But I knew they **were** there. So, to the 1861 census. After this date, the name Catherine Degnan no longer exists in any English records, something I was already aware of in Australia. I had hoped the Chesterfield locals would be more expert...or lucky. No go.

Catherine seemed to have disappeared without trace after 1861 although her family were still thriving and increasing in Church Lane in the 1871 census. As she was only 3 years old in 1861 I wondered just what fate had befallen her. Had she run away? Been adopted? Very young for the former; did the latter explain her name change?

One more avenue to investigate; so, with sun now shining, I took the bus out to visit the holder of the Degnan family tree.

The family was wonderful. I recognized a spiritual connection. These were my people. Out came the recorded family history. Amongst various family names there he was, one Thomas Hastings Degnan. I must admit I had been quite perplexed on the phone regarding who on earth my newly found relative was talking about. I thought she had misunderstood and was simply repeating my surname and I must have inadvertently mentioned the name of Catherine's husband, Thomas Hastings, my great grandfather, the man whom Catherine Degnan had married in far off Rockhampton, Australia, in 1876.

But, there he was: Thomas Hastings Degnan, born in 1894 to a Charles Degnan, who turned out to be Catherine's younger brother. The child lived only into his first year. The Katherine Degnan who supplied me with this link was a descendant of my Catherine's uncle. But they were my Chesterfield kin. Of that, there was no longer any doubt.

Just how had Catherine reconnected with her family? Her parents were still at their old address in the 1891 census. Perhaps she just wrote a letter but, with all of her surname changes, she didn't seem very literate to me. She lived most of her life in outback Queensland. She never returned to England even though she had still craved adventure, wanting to take her family with her to far off Patagonia in an experiment to create a socialist Utopia. She didn't, and so I exist.

Maryborough, where she lived in her old age, was a port of entry for over 20,000 immigrants from 1860. Perhaps she met someone from her past when walking the streets doing her shopping, going to church; someone newly arrived from Chesterfield, en route to a new life in Australia as she had done in 1876. Coincidence? Destiny? Fate? Or just pure luck?

Who am I to argue with coincidence? Somehow she reached her brother, Charles who had some knowledge of his never seen brother-in-law, Thomas Hastings, her husband, so that, in 1894, Charles paid tribute to Thomas's existence by naming one of his sons in his honour. I still find it hard to believe. If this was not registered in black and white, I would doubt my connection with

the wonderful Katherine Degnan and her family and Joe Clark who had provided her with his invaluable family research.

Even though she must have left home as a young girl, before she was 13, there must have been a very strong bond between the brother, Charles, and his sister, Catherine. She, in turn, had named one of her sons Charles, in 1880, well before any reconnection had been made. Or had there?

I finally found her, under yet a different name, Kate Degnall, in the Lancashire census of 1871, aged 14, domestic servant, born Chesterfield, c. 1857. She always thought she was one year older than she actually was, as given in the 1861 census at any rate. Either that or her parent completing the census was confused with her date of birth. Dads can sometimes do this, I suppose.

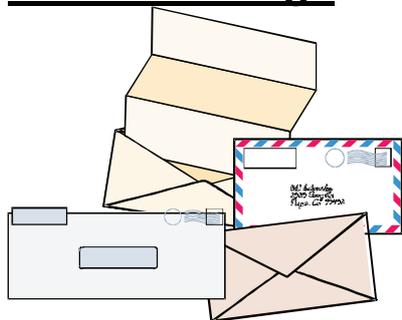
But, I had never been able to find her in the shipping lists. I imagined that the records had been destroyed by flood or fire. Until I decided to look for "Kate" rather than any of her several aliases; and there she was: Kate **Dignall**, possibly a mis transcription from the records; an "i" confused for an "e". She had now morphed into Kate Degnall until her final emergence into Kathleen Hastings after her marriage. One certainly has to be a lateral thinker in this game. She had left from London on February 2, arriving June 18, 1875 in Rockhampton.

But I am grateful for the two days I spent in Chesterfield where I left with not only confirmation of **my** Chesterfield connection but also a little more historical flesh to clothe the memory of the elusive Catherine Degnan/Kathleen Hastings whose name I bear.

Kath Hastings



Editors Jottings



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Many of you have requested your magazine by electronic copy, as an environmentally friendly alternative which will help to reduce our carbon foot print and we thank you.

This present magazine is slightly larger than normal due to the necessary content I am sure there are Members amongst you who can tell interesting stories about their research. If so please send them to me

Thank You Carol