

**Chesterfield**

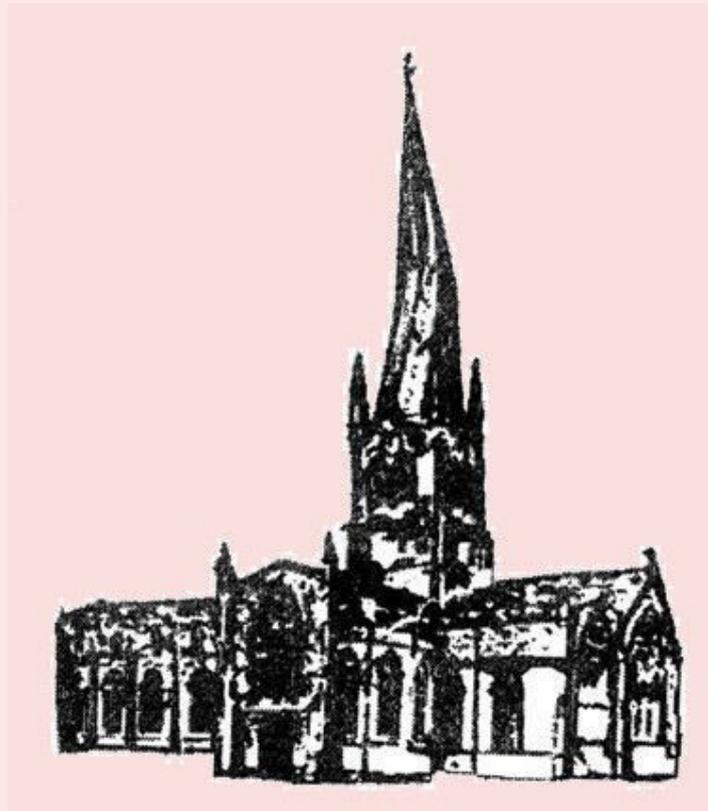
**And**

**District**

**Family**

**History**

**Society**



Magazine Number 87 June 2011

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## NEW MEMBERS WELCOME TO THE SOCIETY

No 947. Mrs S Wilson, The Pines, Warrs Hill Road, North Chailey, East Sussex  
BN8 4JE

e.mail sjw342@aol.com

DUNCAN	William	Chesterfield	DBY	
LIEVESLEY	Mabel	Chesterfield	DBY	m 24/4/1911
NEWTON	George	Chesterfield	DBY	m 24/4/1911
NEWTON	Doris	Chesterfield	DBY	b 12/6/1912
NEWTON	Mabel	Chesterfield	DBY	b 14/2/1914

No 948. Mrs P Davies, 271 Woodlands Road, Gillingham, Kent ME7 25Y

e.mail b.pdavies@talktalk.net

BRADLEY*	Emma	New Whittington	DBY	b 16/10/1875
BRADLEY	Jesse	New Whittington	DBY	1862
BRADLEY	Eliza A	New Whittington	DBY	1867
BRADLEY	Hannah	New Whittington	DBY	1867
BRADLEY	Amelia	New Whittington	DBY	1872
BRADLEY	T William	New Whittington	DBY	1879

- Lived at London Street, New Whittington

No 949. Mr C R Siddall, 14 Broadcroft Drive, Tingley, Wakefield, W Yorks WF3 1TX

e.mail crsiddall@hotmail.co.uk

SIDDALL	George	Staveley	DBY	b 1845-1846
SIDDALL	Edward	Staveley	DBY	b 1841-1842
CLARKE	Ellen (nee SIDDALL)			b 1851

Seeking current Descendents.

No 950+951. Mr+Mrs J+P Stevenson, Pudding Pie Farm, Eastmoor, Chesterfield,  
S42 7DH

e.mail johnstevo@tiscali.co.uk

O'BRIEN	Annie	Whittington	DBY	?
STEVENSON	George	Newbold	DBY	m 1814
WESTON	George	Whittington	DBY	?

No 952 Mr P Lander, 1 High Hazel Close, Clay Cross, Chesterfield.S45 9LW

e.mail rednalretep@yahoo.co.uk

ABLETT		Ashover	DBY	
ANDERTON	Fred	Merseyside		
BARKER	Dorothy	Hugglescote	LEI	1910
BARKER		Brandon		
BARKER	William	Temple Normanton	DBY	1902
BILLINSLEY	Job	Apperknowle	DBY	1876



**Correction to email      Apologies**

No 184, Mr R P Kay, 3 Greyfriars Road, Daventry, Northamptonshire. NN11 4RS  
e.mail    r.p.kay@btinternet.com

BAGSHAW	William	Farnsfield	NTT	1825
BARKE	William	Kirkby in Ashfield	NTT	1773
BENNETT	George	Brampton	DBY	1811
DAVIDSON	Joshua	Sutton cum Duckmanton	DBY	1772
ELSE	John	Ashover	DBY	1780
KAY	John	Brampton	DBY	1806
KNIGHT	George	Inveresk	MLN	1741
LIEVESLEY	Samuel	Sutton cum Duckmanton	DBY	1744
MARSDEN	Thomas	Almondbury	YKS	1571
MESSAM	Richard	Hoby	LEI	1567
NEALE	Joseph	Morley	DBY	1806
QUIBELL	Richard	East Markham	NTT	1540
SANDERSON	Jonathan	Blyth	NTT	1700
TAYLOR	Samuel	Arnold	NTT	1789
WALLER	William	Swanwick	DBY	1794
YATES	Francis	Bolsover	DBY	1814

**CADFHS Programme for 2011**

<b>5<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>The history of Queen's Park</b>	<b>Janet Murphy</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	<b>AGM followed by: Your Family History in Photographs- Presentation.</b>	<b>Preservation and Debbie Whitehead</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	<b>An 18<sup>th</sup> century School in crisis</b>	<b>Maureen Taylor</b>
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	<b>History of Surnames</b>	<b>Roy Yates</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>Christmas party</b>	

**FICHE COPIES FOR SALE June 2011**

**(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.

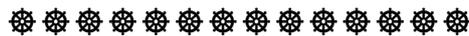
MARRIAGES	1868-1919	(1 fiche)	£1.25
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All Saints HEATH

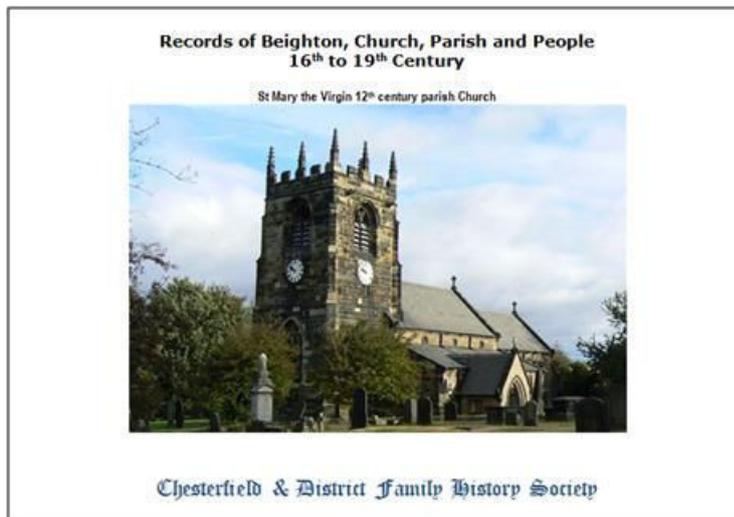
MARRIAGES	1760-1929	(3 fiche)	£2.50
St. Thomas' Brampton,			
BAPTISMS	1832-1944	(7 fiche)	£4.00
MARRIAGES	1832-1972	(11 fiche)	£6.00
BURIALS	1832-1974	(6 fiche)	£3.50
St Peter & Paul Old Brampton			
MARRIAGES	1756-1928	(7 fiche)	£3.50
MEMORIAL INSCRIPTIONS		(3 fiche)	£2.75
St. John's NEWBOLD			
MARRIAGES	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 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.



## CD For Sale



The CD contains amongst others:

- Beighton baptisms.
- Beighton burials.
- Beighton grave register.
- Earlier than Registers –
- Inhabitants of Beighton mentioned in Eckington Manor Court Rolls,
- Names from Beighton Manor Court Rolls 1586 to 1590,
- Scales Terrier – Beighton.
- Rating Assessments.

The information on the CD is the result of research done by a group of friends who all have an interest in Beighton, historically an ancient Derbyshire village with a written history going back to 1022 but now annexed by the City of Sheffield. Those involved were Doreen Coyle, Sheila Rigby, Rosemary Richards who wrote the book on the Church of St.Mary, the late Dorothy Buxton, Eileen Beech and three unknown pupils of Westfield School.

The information was collated and the CD produced by Neil Wilson Produced in PDF format (Adobe Reader or similar required) and are available for £8.00 each, to order a copy contact Neil Wilson. [mail@cadfhs.org.uk](mailto:mail@cadfhs.org.uk)

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## MEMBERS MEETING 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011

As the scheduled speaker was unable to attend Maeve and Peter Hawkins stepped in a short notice to fill the gap. Their talk was intriguingly entitled "The interesting story of Lowca Works in Whitehaven and how we discovered its past". The talk was given using a power point presentation.

Peter began by explaining that he had been interested in the Lowca Works, especially their production of railway engines, since he was a boy of 12. That interest continued as his career took him into engineering. When he retired he and Maeve had more time to research the history of the works.

His first picture was of a railway engine on the Rheilfford Talyllyn Railway. This engine was built at the Lowca Works in Whitehaven. A map of Cumbria shows Whitehaven on the coast south of Workington. The area of Lowca is about 2 miles north of Whitehaven.

Peter discovered that there have been various iron works at Lowca since the 17/18 century but that production of railway engines began in 1865 and these works were operational for over 85 years.

One of the railway engines manufactured at the Lowca Works was named "Nellie" and was immortalised by Roland Emmett the famous cartoonist at the Festival of Britain in 1951.

Pictures of Whitehaven taken in 1973 show it as a bustling town that had industries like coal mining and fishing. It had its own gas works and railway lines. Peter feels that the town is now spoilt as his recent picture shows it is now a yacht marina without any trace of its industrial past.

The area north of Lowca is Harrington Bay known for its iron works, blast furnaces and coal mining. Coal mining here was carried out under the sea and accidents frequently occurred. One such disaster was at the William Pitt colliery in the 1800's when 133 men lost their lives

An early map of Lowca shows that there were iron works there in 1822 and an 1875 map shows a foundry.

The Heslops were involved at Lowca making various engines in the 1790's and records indicate that they lived at Lowca or Moresby Hall in the 1800's.

Lowca Works produced iron sailing ships and railway engines of seven feet and four feet eight and a half inch (standard) gauges. Very little is left of the Lowca Works now. One photo Peter took shows that the only trace is of a small brick shed and he thinks this too may now have gone due to road widening in the area.

One piece of engineering history that Peter was pleased to find at Keswick was an old cast iron bridge bearing the name of the manufacturer, Fletcher & Jennings of Whitehaven.

In 1895 there was a fire at the Lowca Works that destroyed all the patterns. New Lowca Works were built but they never recovered the slump, closing in the 1950's and now sadly there is nothing left.

Maeve's part of the talk was about putting "flesh on the Lowca bones". She explained that Peter retired in the 1990's and that gave them the opportunity to go to Whitehaven on holiday and visit the Record Office and library there to investigate the people who lived and worked at Lowca.

They were helped in their research by an article written by Ron Smith about Lowca. Ron was a teacher at William Rhodes School and he was born in Workington.

Maeve and Peter love Cumbria and they particularly like the area of Buttermere and Ennerdale. They started their research at Whitehaven Record Office by looking at the census records and the IGI for the people involved in the Lowca Works, i.e. the Speddings, Hicks, Steads, the Heslop brothers, the Fletchers and the Tulks.

The Fletchers were the easiest to trace as they lived in Cumbria for several centuries and records show that they had been Lords of the Manor at Moresby Hall. Moresby Hall is now a hotel where marriages take place in the appropriately named "Fletcher Suite".

Inside Moresby church she found a memorial to Henry Allason Fletcher, 1834-1884, a JP and Quaker. He lived at Croft Hill a high point with views of the Lowca Works.

Peter and Maeve went to the house to take photos of the outside but were invited in by the present owners who gave them a tour of the Georgian house.

Other names connected with the Lowca Works were Daniel Jennings and Edward Warr. Daniel was the son of a family connected with brewing in Cockermouth and Warr was a solicitor. On the 1861 census Daniel is shown as an engineer but on the 1871 census he is shown as a landowner so he may have only been an investor in the works.

One of the other names Maeve researched was that of Tulk. By sheer coincidence there was an article in the Swedenborg Magazine about Charles Augustus Tulk. She found his son John Augustus Tulk on the 1841 census at the Seaton Ironworks. In 1851 he was at Moresby with 2 sons and in 1861 he was at Addlestone in Surrey where he died in 1873.

His sons were civil engineers and in 1881 they were living on investment income. In order to prove that Charles and John Tulk were related Maeve looked at the Google site "British History on Line". This site did confirm that John Augustus Tulk was the son of Charles Augustus Tulk.

In 2009 Maeve and Peter went on holiday to Cumbria and they went to the Record Office at Whitehaven. Here they looked at the "Cuttings File", Trade Directories and the Victoria County History for Cumberland. From these they found that John Augustus Tulk was a sleeping partner at Lowca and that he lived at a house called "Lythmore" previously called "Croft Hill"

Maeve and Peter visited the address and were invited in by the next door neighbour who had some old documents and photos of the area. They were able to tell Maeve that John Augustus Tulk was a friend of such famous people as William Blake, Samuel Coleridge Taylor and John Flaxman the sculptor.

From Wikipedia Maeve established that John Augustus had studied abroad and graduated as an engineer in 1834 and went to live in Paris. In 1837 at the age of 23 he became the owner of Lowca Works. On the site "British History on Line" Maeve found that Charles Augustus Tulk had a mortgage of £22,000 (equal to one million now) to fund the business. There were problems between the Tulks and Lays and an announcement in "The Times" and "The London Gazette" show that disagreements led to a case in Chancery resulting in the sale of the Lowca Works.

Maeve ended her part of the talk by pointing out some of the sites she used for her research:

The census available on Ancestry.co.uk

Find My Past has the 1911 census at extra cost  
IGI, Google, Wikipedia, London Gazette, National Register of  
Archives & Documents on line  
UK BMD (not all counties available)  
1858-1943 Wills & Probate on microfiche

Derbyshire County Council have a useful Newspaper Collection including The Derbyshire Times, Derby Mercury, The Times 1785-1985, "Whos Who" and "Who Was Who".

She concluded by saying how important it is to visit the places that the people you are researching lived in. Often the people now living there can tell you more. She and Peter have still got loose ends to tie up and mysteries to solve regarding the Lowca Works so their research will continue.

A vote of thanks was given by Andy Parsons.



#### MEMBERS MEETING 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011

Talk by John Simmonds, a retired Methodist minister, entitled "Remarkable Lives" based on his reminiscences from 40 years conducting funeral services.

(At John's request the names of individuals have been omitted from this report)

John began his talk by explaining that he had retired 4 years ago. He had worked in various places from the Shetland Isles, Sheffield, Cannock, Leek, Birmingham, and West London. During his career he had met people from all walks of life. As a minister it was part of his job to conduct funeral services. He feels that there are two ways to approach this task.

One is to be detached from the event, to be the person at the front of the assembled people when they are distressed and just give some formal stories about the deceased.

Or to try and celebrate the life of the person concerned at the service so that people are touched by the event. John thinks that a eulogy is best given by the people who knew the deceased, but often they feel unable

to do it and ask him to perform this task. In taking on this role he often uncovers a story.

His first such story concerned a thriving market trader who was quite a character. He died and John was asked to conduct the service. When he went to see the widow she was not in mourning but “dressed to the nines”. She said she would attend the funeral in the “black gear” but asked him not to say anything good about her late husband. She explained that her husband had been a “swine” to her. He made her get up at 4.00am every day to scrub his counters until her hands were red raw. She laundered his working clothes but he never thanked her, never took her on holiday, never bought her presents for her birthday or wedding anniversary and on Christmas day he just slept all day. They had no children so now she had “bags of money” and intended to go on a world cruise. She duly turned up at the funeral in black but John respected her wishes.

Sometimes John has conducted a funeral when he knows nothing about the deceased and it is unnerving when there is no one at the service apart from the undertaker and the body. On a few occasions two or three people turn up because they have seen the notice in the local paper. These people say something moving, for example, that the deceased did them a good turn, or “I’ll never forget when....” These are beautiful “nuggets”.

On one occasion John was asked to stand in at the last minute when a minister broke his leg. He only had two hours to prepare for the service. He decided to ask the congregation to tell their story about the deceased and from their anecdotes his character emerged.

One service that John conducted made a lasting impression on him. It concerned a man who lived alone with his dog in a small village. As he had no relatives the local authority were responsible for the funeral. John visited the terraced row where the man lived. He spoke to a woman neighbour who had helped him with his shopping and cleaning but knew nothing about his life. However, she did know that he went to the local pub every night. John spoke to the landlord of the pub who confirmed that the man came in every night, drank two halves and always sat near the door. He also said that there was one man who talked to him and it turned out that he was a comrade who had served with him in the war. John tracked down this man who told him that the deceased had been awarded the George Cross for his bravery in the North African Campaign. His experiences in the war had left him with bad nerves and

he could only get a menial job in a local factory. He also suffered from claustrophobia and this was why he sat near the door in the pub. The comrade at the pub was an active member of the local British Legion and informed members of the man's death. At his funeral over 100 people attended. They came from the British Legion, his local chip shop, the pub and the Post Office. Someone even brought along his dog to the funeral and offered to give it a home. His life was celebrated. John mentioned a famous quote from Ecclesiastes "Now let us praise famous men...", but John points out that famous men are not just Prime Ministers and Kings!

John was asked to conduct the funeral of a "camp gay man" – picture someone like John Inman. He had died in the early days of AIDS. The funeral was a fantastic occasion everything was decorated in pink, including pink balloons.

On one occasion John was asked to conduct the funeral of a Muslim. At that time the town in question was like Chesterfield in that it didn't have many migrants so John was surprised to be asked. The young man was in poor health when he was brought to this country from Iran by his sister and brother-in-law. He got a job in a local factory but as he was a gifted electrician he mended washing machines and lawnmowers by pirating parts from other machines. He also got involved with the local football team by cheering them on and raising money for the team. Sadly he died when he was only 37. His sister and brother-in-law invited John to meet friends and relations to say why they wanted him to conduct the funeral. They explained that the town was where he had lived and died and they wanted to show their appreciation of the way he had been welcomed. Hundreds of people came to the service from the council estate where he lived. In the church John discreetly hid the crucifix. There were flowers, candles and incense. The Imams sat on the back row and gave their incantations and a farewell poem. John usually produces a leaflet of the story he uncovers and incorporates the hymns, prayers and tributes given at the service. He gives copies of the leaflet to the family to keep as a memento of the event and for them to send to people who are unable to attend.

Sometimes it is not possible to ascertain everything about a person. John recounts the case of a young man who burned himself to death in a car. He could only give matter of fact information about his school and his job but why the tragic end remained a secret leaving the family confused and heartbroken.

On a brighter note John recounts the time when he lived in London and was asked to conduct the funeral of a celebrity's mother by her son and his brother. John asked them to tell him about their mother. She came from the Welsh Valleys when times were bad in the coal industry. She had lost her husband and there was no work so she took the children (three sons and a daughter) to London where she had a tiny flat. She scrubbed floors, cleaned windows and swept up at a local hospital. In her youth she was an excellent singer and pianist but her father would not let her play in pubs. In London she played piano at the Sunday school, for the choir, the Glee Club and the local pub. She became a telephonist working her way up to Senior Superintendent and retired with a long service award. She had remarried for money but sadly the marriage floundered after three years. One of her sons went to a prestigious school where he showed promise as a graphic designer and actor. She put every effort into getting him into RADA. He became a successful Shakespearean actor and film star. The funeral was held in the local church which was decked out in primary colours – mainly daffodils and a suite of rooms were taken at Kew Gardens for the wake where classical music was played. The family said how lovely it was to hear about her love and dedication but they were grief stricken at losing her.

John's final anecdote concerned a man who worked as a winder in the pit in the 1920's. He was a talented fiddler and harmonium player who played in working men's clubs. He was a rough man, uncouth but generous to others. He was a surface worker and was able to help his fellow miners by acting as a bookies runner, an illegal activity, but he was able to collect the bets and pay out the winnings for men on shift work. There was an accident at the pit and it was his job to wind up the dead and injured. One of the victims had a wife and two children. Wages were poor in those days and there was no social security, so he took the widow under his wing. At Christmas he was anxious about her and the children and said to his wife that they must give half of their chicken, ham, pudding and mince pies to them. His wife was not happy with this decision as they had saved all year for these provisions, however, she couldn't argue and a basket was filled and taken to the family. When he delivered the food the children asked him to play a tune on the harmonium. He played "Yes God is Good" and they had a good Christmas. After this he got religion in a big way, sadly this had dire consequences as he was unable to take bets and was black-balled. He walked miles looking for work but no one would give him a job. The only work he could get was shaving the faces of men who had died so that they looked presentable when people filed by the coffin. Before he died

he asked John not to say anything about him at his funeral, no eulogies, no tributes, just songs. His funeral was attended by 300 people in the church and a further 200 stood outside. John told the congregation that he had been asked not to say anything by the deceased but if they wanted to say something about his life they could. One and a half hours later the people in the church were acquainted with his good deeds. It was a celebration of his life!

A vote of thanks was given by John Young.



ADVANCE NOTICE OF A.G.M Tuesday September 6<sup>th</sup> 2011

7.30pm at St Hugh's Roman Catholic Church Chesterfield.

Nominations are requested for the Election of the Executive Committee. Please could you submit any nominations for Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary and Editor in writing two weeks before the AGM. Permission must be obtained from the nominee before any names are put forward. Nominations should be sent to:

Correspondence Secretary Doreen Rodgers,  
2 Highlow Close, Loundsley Green, Chesterfield, S40 4PG



### SADDLED WITH ANCESTORS-BENNETT'S OF CHESTERFIELD

Our story begins, on July 10<sup>th</sup> 1748/9 with the baptism in Chesterfield Parish Church of THOMAS BENNETT, a son of WILLIAM.

THOMAS had three elder 'brothers, JOHN, JOSEPH and GEORGE. A Deed, an Indenture dated 24th July 1742, between BRAILSFORD HILL, saddler of Chesterfield and BERNARD LUCAS, Esq., Mayor of the Borough of Chesterfield, describes a messuage, dwelling house or tenement wherein WILLIAM BENNETT dwells together with a shop and warehouse adjoining in the possession of GEORGE Gill.

In. the Constables Assessment for 1755 BRAILSFORD HILL is assessed for a house and shop - 4d.

The adjoining entry is in respect of Mr. BERNARD LUCAS for two houses in the possession of SAMUEL BOWER and FRANCIS MELLOR. These would be the properties noted in the Indenture of 1742, one of which is occupied by WILLIAM BENNETT. The properties were at the

bottom of the Shambles. WILLIAM BENNETT is assessed on a house in Beetwell Street - 2d. .He was buried in the Parish Church Yard on May 24th 1756.

### THOMAS BENNETT

THOMAS' early years would be spent in one of the Chesterfield academies receiving a commercial and business education. I doubt if he attended the Grammar School as this was a "Classical Establishment" sending many pupils to Cambridge. I wonder if THOMAS served his apprenticeship with. BRAILSFORD HILL after the death of his father, BRAILSFORD was buried in March. 1787.

On April 12th 1773 THOMAS married MARY RENSHAW at Chesterfield Parish Church. By 1794 seven children had been baptised at the Parish, Church.

The details of his trading activities are scant, but in the records of the Chesterfield Manor Court Leet for October 5<sup>th</sup> 1787 is an entry which tells us he was amerced for leaving rubbish in the street before his house and for permitting the rubbish to lay for upwards of six days. He was amerced in the sum of 3s 0d (15p) in 1797 he is again appearing before the Manor Court for not removing a dunghill belonging to him opposite his house. This time the sum is 3s. 4d.(17p) In this amercement he is described as a collar maker.

The. location of his premises has not been specified in any documents I have examined, but as will be seen later I have good reason for believing they were at the bottom of the Shambles, as were BRAILSFORD HILL's.

Between 1777 and 1807 he was paid for items provided to the Churchwardens of the Parish Church amounts varied between 2s. 6d and 18s.1d.

Since Roman times Chesterfield has been a cross roads for trade and commerce. There has been a market place since the 13th century. There were seven annual fairs held in the Market Place, all for horses and cattle, with the November Fair also for the hiring of servants. The Market Place was about 100 yards from the premises of THOMAS to the west. Coaching Inns provided services for coaches to London, Leeds, Halifax, Birmingham, Sheffield and Manchester. One of these Inns was the "Old Angel" in Packers Row, easily reached by turning left out of the shop door and walking 50 yards. Another, the "Falcon" was opposite the

shop. Others were around the Market Place. In addition there were the local carriers who ranged within 10 miles of Chesterfield. The Markets, Fairs and Coaches were all sources of potential business. In addition he would have the custom of local traders and townspeople.

During his life he would have witnessed several unusual events in the town.

- 1776 and 1777 John Wesley preached in the Market Place.
- During the first four months of 1779 not one days rain or snow fell. On the 25<sup>th</sup> March, we can read, cherry, plum and pear trees are in full blossom.
- A new Town Hall was built on the northern side of the Market Place, at the bottom of Glumangate. This replaced the earlier one which stood in the Market Place.
- The February Fair held in 1785 lasted three days. A report of the event noted by two French travellers, says the Market Place was crowded with men and animals, and that there were more than 300 horses and 1000 cattle which would be sold. Dealers had come from London and many of the horses would be exported.
- In 1788 there was great rejoicing in the town. The Centenary of "The Glorious Revolution" which began at Whittington, near Chesterfield, was celebrated. This Revolution resulted in WILLIAM 111 receiving the throne of England. We can read reports that a "gigantic procession made it's way from Whittington to Chesterfield led by the Duke of Devonshire in his coach with six horses" There were speeches and toasts, and what can best be described as a large dinner. We are told that the route was lined all the way, about 3 miles, by cheering people with the largest crowd gathering in the Market Place.
- December 23<sup>rd</sup> 1790 witnessed a "Fearful Storm" In records published in 1838 it was recalled as the most severe winter that could be remembered by anyone living. Storms of wind, hail, rain, thunder and lightening eventually ended with a heavy fall of snow on June 12<sup>th</sup> 1791. This resulted in very poor crops and a shortage of wheat and oats.
- One annual event which would have boosted trade in the town was the Annual Race meeting. I have already mentioned that the "Old Angel" was a Coaching Inn, it was also the meeting place for those interested in the Races. Who can say how much business THOMAS obtained from the race going fraternity, meeting so close to his premises.

- The Derby Mercury of August 23<sup>rd</sup> 1798 printed lists of contributions made to offset the National cost of the Napoleonic wars. These lists were made on a “township” basis. The Chesterfield Voluntary Contributions includes one for THOMAS BENNETT showing he gave 7s 6d to the cause out of a total of £1316.16.0d raised in Chesterfield.
- Trade in Chesterfield would have been disrupted on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1798. Celebrations were taking place following Nelson’s victory. Two sheep were roasted in the Market Place and distributed among the populace, several bonfires were made in different parts of the Town. The Mail Coach was drawn into the Town and out again by teams of men.
- Further celebrations took place on the following Thursday when the anniversary of “His Majesties Accession” was honoured. An ox and two sheep were roasted whole, divided into eight parts and distributed to the principal Inns, and upwards of 1000 persons partook in the feast. They were also treated with several barrels of ale. A Ball took place in the “Angel Inn” and there were fireworks in the Market Place. In the surrounding hamlets six sheep were roasted. We are told that not a single accident happened or the least tumult or disorder committed.

On January 5<sup>th</sup> 1806 THOMAS signed his Will being described as THOMAS BENNETT the Elder, saddler. Bequests were;

All and every Household goods and furniture in his dwelling house to MARY his wife, all his dwelling house and premises in Chesterfield together with Stock in Trade both Quick and Dead to his wife MARY and his son WILLIAM during the natural life of MARY and to WILLIAM after MARY’s death, subject to the payment of the following legacies:

to son THOMAS £100 sterling,  
 to daughter HANNAH £70 sterling,  
 to daughter ANN £70,  
 to daughter ELIZABETH £70.

Provision was made for eventualities should any of his issue die before the legacies could be paid or if they died before reaching the age of twenty-one.

He appointed as his Executors two well known business men.. JOHN BUNTING, mercer, and JOHN FRITH, grocer. Both had business premises within 50 yards of THOMAS and would obviously know each other well.

The Will was signed in the presence of ADAM MITCHELL, WILLIAM RENSHAW and GEORGE GOSLING, Junior.

JOHN FRITH and JOHN BUNTING made application for the Probate at the Archdeaconry Court in Chesterfield on October 16th 1806. They appeared before the Rev'd. CHARLES BUCKERIDGE, Principal Surrogate for the Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry. A declaration attached to the Will declares that as "the said JOHN FRITH being one of those people called Quakers having affirmed and the said JOHN BUNTING having made Oath that he had not intermeddled in the effects of THOMAS BENNETT the Elder they renounced their right to Title and Interest in the Probate". The outcome of this action was that MARY BENNETT, widow, and her son WILLIAM were granted Letters of Administration Annexed to the Will. The value of THOMAS' personal Estate was "not to the value of £100".

Ecclesiastic Laws overruled the bonds of friendship. Both the families of FRITH and BUNTING had been in Chesterfield since the early 16th century, they were trusted business men who inherited business from their parents. JOHN FRITH's father was involved with the early meetings with BRINDLEY when plans were considered to build the Chesterfield to Stockwith Canal. JOHN FRITH inherited his father shares in Chesterfield Canal and maintained the connection with the running of the canal.

The action of the Court did not affect the relationships between the families. We will see in later generations that the families inter-married.

Maureen Pearce Member no 9

(To be continued)



### A SINGULAR SURNAME

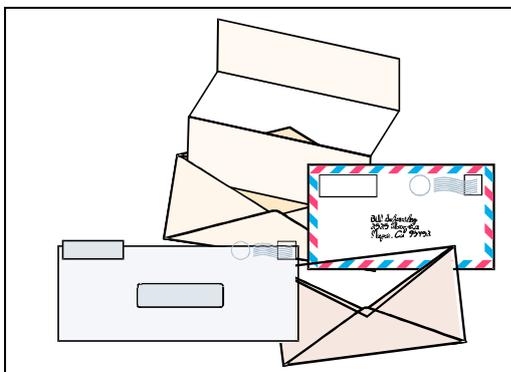
Should you search for someone with the surname of Poolsmith on the FreeBMD website, you'll find just the one entry in the century between 1838 and 1938, that for the death of Christopher Poolsmith, registered in the Chesterfield district in the June quarter of 1847. No births, marriages and just the one death in one hundred years? But wait, according to the burial registers for Sutton cum Duckmanton, on 12 August 1841 an old lady called Martha Pool Smith was laid to rest - the GRO register has the surname as Poulsmith – surely there must be a connection, as Christopher was buried in Duckmanton on 25 April 1847. She was aged 80 and he was 59 when he died; could they have been mother and son? A look at the 1841 census confirms that they were, with Martha's occupation listed as "farmer" whilst her son's is shown as the generic "Ag. Lab.": there were just the two of them living in the little farmhouse on Duckmanton Moor. No mention of a Mr. Poolsmith snr. though, presumably he died before 1838 as his name doesn't appear in

the GRO registers. But who was his father? A visit to the FamilySearch site tells us that Christopher Poolsmith was christened in Chesterfield on 23 January 1788 and that his father was one John Poolsmith, but so far, history remains silent as to John's provenance.

In the early 1800s, many Englishmen were under arms as Britain was at war with Napoleon's France and Christopher was no exception, volunteering to serve with the local Scarsdale militia, commanded by Lieut - Colonel Jebb; however, the military life doesn't seem to have been his cup of tea as he soon found himself a wanted man; he should apparently have reported for duty on the 14 May 1810, but failed to turn up, so along with five other absentees, was declared a deserter. Anyone who returned him to Regimental Head Quarters or one of His Majesty's Goals could claim a reward of Twenty shillings, though whether in fact anyone did so is not known. From the advertisement announcing the reward, which appeared in the "Derby Mercury" of Thursday 7 June 1810, we get an idea of Christopher's appearance as he is described as being 21 years old, 5ft 5 ½ inches tall with a fair complexion; he was a miller working at Calow Mill, which stood on a hilltop halfway between the village and Calow Green.

As yet, no records have been found to indicate that Christopher either married or fathered any children, but the Poolsmith gene pool may not have disappeared entirely; in 1812, Bridget Poolsmith of Sutton cum Duckmanton - surely Christopher's sister – married a James Gregory, a name not uncommon in North Derbyshire. If this couple raised a family then it is quite possible that any descendants will have traces of Poolsmith blood in them.

Chris Pyrah Member 698



### Editors Jottings

If all goes according to plan the Members who requested it should find the latest Members Surname Index fiche inside their copy of the magazine. Otherwise those with access to the internet can access it via .our website

Carol [mail@cadfhs.org.uk](mailto:mail@cadfhs.org.uk)

## **REMINDERS**

One of the benefits of joining a Family History society is that you can make contact with other members who are researching your family names. Most Societies produce a list of Members Interest and the Chesterfield and District Family History Society produce theirs on microfiche each year. This is updated and distributed annually with the June magazine

Other versions available are, printed, or emailed, for members who prefer it.

Members Interests are listed alphabetically by surname, relevant dates and County using the Chapman County Codes. These were introduced by Colin Chapman and are a set of County Codes universally used by Family Historians to show the counties of the UK in an index without reproducing the full name. Eg DBY-Derbyshire NTT-Nottinghamshire. A full list of Chapman County Codes is reproduced on the back page of this magazine.

If you find another member is researching the same family name(s) as you, you can share your research and problems, and if you are lucky you may trace that elusive ancestor.

**Meetings will be on the first Tuesday of each month except August, when there is no meeting. They will be held at 7.30pm at St Hugh's Roman Catholic Church, Littlemoor. Chesterfield.**

**C.A.D.F.H.S. membership and Renewal is from September 1st to August 31st.** This includes free magazines in December, March, June and September for the coming year. New Members joining at any other times of the year will be entitled to back copies of these magazines for that year as compensation.

Committee members, the Library and limited research material is available to assist you in your search for ancestors and to answer any questions you may have from 7pm onwards.

A readers query column ( Help Wanted ) is available so that readers can publish their queries in the Magazine. This column is free to members, but non-members will have to make a remittance with their query on the basis of £2 (minimum) for 50 words maximum.(or donation). Dates count as one word.

Typed queries should be sent to either the Editor, Chairman or the Secretary at the addresses inside the front cover or via the web site [mail@cadfhs.org.uk](mailto:mail@cadfhs.org.uk)

**Please remember to show your name, address, and where appropriate your membership number. Readers are reminded that correspondence requiring either a reply or a receipt should be accompanied by a stamped self-addressed envelope. Overseas readers should send appropriate British Stamps or International Reply Coupons.**

The Chapman Codes for County and Country (pre 1974 countries)

England	ENG	London	LND	<b>SCOTLAND</b>		<b>IRELAND</b>	
Ireland	IRL	Middlesex	MDX	Aberdenshire	ABD	Antrim	ANT
Scotland	SCT	Norfolk	NFK	Angus	ANS	Amargh	ARM
Wales	WLS	Northamptonshire	NTH	Argyllshire	ARL	Carlow	CAR
All Counties	ALL	Northumberland	NBL	Ayrshire	AYR	Cavan	CAV
		Nottinghamshire	NTT	Banffshire	BAN	Clare	CLA
<b>ISLANDS</b>		Oxfordshire	OXF	Berwickshire	BEW	Cork	COR
Channel Islands	CHI	Rutland	RUT	Bute	BUT	Donegal	DON
Alderney	ALD	Shropshire	SAL	Caithness-shire	CAI	Down	DOW
Guernsey	GSY	Somerset	SOM	Clackmannanshire	CLK	Dublin	DUB
Jersey	JSY	Staffordshire	STS	Dumfriesshire	DFS	Fermanagh	FER
Sark	SRK	Suffolk	SFK	Dunbartonshire	DNB	Galway	GAL
Isle of Man	IOM	Surrey	SRY	East Lothian	ELN	Kerry	KER
Isle of Wright	IOW	Sussex	SSX	Fifeshire	FIF	Kildare	KID
		Warwickshire	WAR	Forfarshire	ANS	Kilkenny	KIK
<b>ENGLAND</b>		Westmorland	WES	Inverness-shire	INV	Leitrim	LET
All Counties	ALL	Wiltshire	WIL	Kincardineshire	KCD	Leix	LEX
						(Queens)	
Bedfordshire	BDF	Worcestershire	WOR	Kinross-shire	KRS	Limerick	LIM
Berkshire	BRK	Yorkshire	YKS	Kirkcudbrightshire	KKD	Londonderry	LDY
Buckinghamshire	BKM	YRS East Riding	ERY	Lanarkshire	LKS	Longford	LOG
Cambridgeshire	CAM	YKS North Riding	NRY	Midlothian	MLN	Louth	LOU
Cheshire	CHS	YKS West Riding	WRY	Moray	MOR	Mayo	MAY
Cornwall	CON			Nairnshire	NAI	Meath	MEA
Cumberland	CUL	<b>WALES</b>		Orkney Isles	OKI	Monaghan	MOG
Derbyshire	DBY	Anglesey	AGY	Peeblesshire	PEE	Offaly	OFF
						(Kings)	
Devonshire	DEV	Brecknockshire	BRE	Perthshire	PER	Roscommon	ROS
Dorestshire	DOR	Caernarvonshire	CAE	Renfrewshire	RFW	Sligo	SLI
Durham	DUR	Cardiganshire	CGN	Ross & Cromarty	ROC	Tipperary	TIP
Essex	ESS	Carmarthenshire	CMN	Roxburghshire	ROX	Tyrone	TYR
Gloucestershire	GLS	Denbighshire	DEN	Selkirkshire	SEL	Waterford	WAT
Hampshire	HAM	Flintshire	FLN	Shetland Isles	SHI	Westmeath	WEM
Herefordshire	HEF	Glamorgan	GLA	Stirlingshire	STI	Wexford	WEX
Hertfordshire	HRT	Merionethshire	MER	Sunderland	SUT	Wicklow	WIC
Huntingdonshire	HUN	Monmouthshire	MON	West Lothian	WLN		
Kent	KEN	Montgomeryshire	MGY	Wigtownshire	WIG		
Lancashire	LAN	Pembrokeshire	PEM				
Leicestershire	LEI	Radnorshire	RAD				
Lincolnshire	LIN						

The society will meet on the first Tuesday of the month, except August  
at

St Hughs Roman Catholic Church, Littlemoor Chesterfield  
located on the B 6150 at the corner of Littlemoor and Duke's Drive in Newbold village

The venue can be accessed from Chesterfield town centre via Newbold Road B6051 or from Chesterfield by-pass A61 (Whittington Moor roundabout) via St Johns Road, B6150

