

Chesterfield

And

District

Family

History

Society



Magazine Number 74 Mar 2008

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NEW MEMBERS WELCOME TO THE SOCIETY

No 863, Mrs J D Goucher, Anglers Rest, Grove Crescent, Teignmouth, Devon TQ14 9HP

Email anglers.rest@virgin.net

BUDD	All	Puttanham	SRY	1724+
BUTCHER	All	Wonersh	SRY	1700+
CHARLESWORTH	Hannah	Cuckney	NTT	1774
DAVIES	Sarah	Scarcliffe	DBY	1898
DAVIES	Sarah	Bromyard		1860+
GOODE	Sarah	Bromyard		1860+
GOUCHER	All	Scarcliffe	DBY	1715+
HEATH	All	Scarcliffe	DBY	1674+
JARVIS	Matthew	Scarcliffe	DBY	1800
LIMB	All	Scarcliffe	DBY	1745+
MARSON	Hannah	Staveley	DBY	1851
ORLANDO	One Name study			
WORSHIP	One Name study			
YATES	Emma	Scarcliffe	DBY	1839

No 864, Mrs D Whitehead, 9 Clifford Close, Chesterfield. S40 3PP

Email debbie.whitehead@tiscali.co.uk

CASE	Thomas	Shipton under Wychwood	Oxon	1842-1920
CHAMBERLAIN	Samuel	West Ham	E London	1860?
FAULKNER	Sarah	Shipton under Wychwood	Oxon	1847-1918
LONGSHAW	Albert	Shipton under Wychwood	Oxon	1865-1939
O'BRIEN	John	Woolwich	S London	1865?
PRATLEY	Jane	Shipton under Wychwood	Oxon	1826-1867
WILKS	Mary	Shipton under Wychwood	Oxon	1863-1929

No 865, Mrs C Tozzi, 4 Sterland Street, Brampton, Chesterfield. S401BN

Email cgrattozzi@hotmail.com

GREATOREX	Edward	Brampton	DBY	c 1901
GREATOREX	Henry	Blythe	NTT	c 1858
GREATOREX	Clara	Worksop	NTT	c 1879
SIDDALL	May	Chesterfield	DBY	c 1892

No 867. Mr D J Hall, 5 Elm Drive, Killamarsh, Nr Sheffield S21 1FT

WILD	Grace	Matlock	DBY	
WYLDE	Grace	Ault Hucknall		

No 868. Mrs M Bradshaw, 23 Holymoore Rd, Holymoorside, Chesterfield. S42 7EB

Email jalindab@tiscali.co.uk

BOWER	Thomas	Chesterfield	DBY	1818-1877
BRADSHAW	Joseph	Edale	DBY	1786-1878
BRADSHAW	Isaac	Chesterfield	DBY	1805-1878

No 869 Mr S Mulloy, 14 Kirks Buildings, Carlton, Nottingham, NGH 1GY

BROOMHEAD	William	Calver	DBY	1700-1900
BROOMHEAD		Chesterfield	DBY	1700-1900

HALLIDAY	Thomas+Family	Chesterfield	DBY	1800+
HALLIDAY	John+Family	Newbold	DBY	1800+
HALLIDAY	Joseph+Family	Tapton,Clay Cross	DBY	1800+
HOLEHOUSE				1700-1900
SIMMS	William	Chesterfield	DBY	1700-1800
SIMMS	Mary	Ashover	DBY	1700-1800
TURNER				

No 870. Mr J J Woodhead, 33 Heriotts Court, Droitwich Spa, Worcs WR9 8HJ

Email jack.woodhead@btinternet.com

BOLSOVER	Jeremiah	Eckington	DBY	1800+
BROWN	Joseph	Derby	DBY	1840+
FAIRE	John	Arley	WOR	1770-1790
GREEN	Sarah	Whittington	DBY	1852-1899
NOCK	Sarah	Dudley	WOR	1742-1850
WEBB	John	North Nibley	GLS	1824-1870
WILKINS	Henry	Horton	GLS	1800-1838
WOODHEAD	James	Eckington	DBY	1750-1801

No 871, Mrs E A Walters. 2 Broadway Dunscroft, Doncaster, DN7 4AA

Email ann@walters3955.wanado.co.uk

BACON	Mary	Eckington	DBY	1825-1890
BACON	Stephen	Woodhouse	YKS	1786/?
HARRIS	Samuel	Eckington	DBY	1886
HOPKINSON	Arthur J	Staveley	DBY	1855/?
HOPKINSON	Harriett	Eckington	DBY	1857/?
JONES	Hales	Barlborough	DBY	1901
JONES	John Walker	Renishaw	DBY	1846-1894



HELP WANTED

I am seeking help to try and trace two people who were involved in the Variety Theatre.

They left "Cartes De Visite" under their stage names of RAYMOND AND YORKE/ DOM AND ROMA RAYMOND and it is strongly suggested that their Christian names were Oswald and Lara. Their surnames are unknown to me but it is almost certain that we are related on my fathers side somehow.

They may well be only minor artistes and they were appearing locally in the early 1950's- visiting both my fathers and his brothers house in Chesterfield.

I have tried local resources ie Hippodrome programmes and the Derbyshire Times publications for that time as well as Roy Hudd (President of the British

Music Hall Society) and a variety theatre archivist and historian in Sussex called Max Tyler : drawing a blank on all occasions.

Member no 725. Mr P Lomas. 19 Nightingale Close, Danesmoor, Clay Cross, Nr Chesterfield. S45 9SE.

I have some visual reference copies should anyone wish to see them. Please contact mail@cadfhs.org.uk
Ed.



I am looking for any information regarding JOHN GEORGE DANCE. I believe he was a lodger at 29 Baden Powell Road, Chesterfield between 1920-1925 where he died on 24th July 1925. Was he born in Chesterfield? Or another county?

Other people in the household were WILLIAM HENRY SILCOCK and ELSEY SILCOCK (Maiden name PRICE) They were married on 14th August 1911.

Any information of any of the above would be greatly appreciated.

Member no 848+849 June Dance

Email june.dance@tesco.net



I am trying to find my grandfather WALTER TAYLOR born in Whittington, Derbyshire 1891

Mother BERTHA TAYLOR,

Father CHARLES TAYLOR.

He had 4 brothers:

HERBERT TAYLOR born 1887

CHARLES TAYLOR born 1889

ALBERT TAYLOR born 1892

GRIFFITH TAYLOR born 1897.

They all moved to Hasland in the early 1900s and WALTER married my grandmother KATE BERRESFORD at St Thomas's Brampton in 1912 and they lived in Hasland after that.

My uncle WILLIAM HENRY TAYLOR was born in 1915 and my mother IRIS ALMA was born in 1918. They all moved to Melton Mowbray, Leics after my

mother was born and he worked at The Stanton & Staveley Iron works at Ashfordly.

When my mother was born he was serving in the Notts and Derby Forresters but did not go into the army until after 1915 after my uncle was born.

In 1922 my grandfather and grandmother split and I do not know what happened to him. I would love to know if he moved back to Hasland and had another family.

I do know he did not stop for long in the Melton area but would be grateful for any information.

Thank you.

Member no 846. Veronica Ainge, 70 Laycock Ave, Melton Mowbray, Leics LE13 1UL

Email veronicaainge@hotmail.co.uk



SHORE

Can anyone help me to find information about my great grandfather and great grandfather? . All I know is that they are descendants of a line of SHORE's who was the father of Florence Nightingale. He took over the Nightingale estate.

I cannot find THOMAS SHORE who is the father of my granddad GEORGE WILLIAM, who lived in Clay Cross 1870-1928.

Member no 723. Mr G B Titterton, 105 Ringwood Road, Brimington, Chesterfield. S43 1DF



Cadfh's Programme 2008

St Hugh's R C Church Littlemoor:

1st April

Mrs Joan Ward

Kill or Cure.

6th May

Mrs L Phillips

Family History in the Library

3rd June

Members Evening

1st July

Anne Browne

Snapshots of 1895 Dronfield

FICHE COPIES FOR SALE March 2008

St Bartholemew (Whittington) (some gaps)			
BAPTISMS	1650-1902	(13 fiche)	£8.00
	1902-1912	(3 fiche)	£2.50
	1912-1922	(3 fiche)	£3.00
Brampton Methodist			
BAPTISMS (some gaps)		(4 fiche)	£3.00
St James the Apostle TEMPLE NORMANTON.			
MARRIAGES	1868-1919	(1 fiche)	£1.25
All Saints HEATH			
MARRIAGES	1760-1929	(3 fiche)	£2.50
St. Thomas' Brampton,			
BAPTISMS	1832-1944	(7 fiche)	£4.00
MARRIAGES	1832-1972	(11 fiche)	£6.00
BURIALS	1832-1974	(6 fiche)	£3.50
St Peter & Paul Old Brampton			
MARRIAGES	1756-1928	(7 fiche)	£3.50
MEMORIAL INSCRIPTIONS		(3 fiche)	£2.75
St. John's NEWBOLD			
MARRIAGES	1861-1920	(7 fiche)	£3.75
	1920-1937	(4 fiche)	£3.00
Christ Church STONEGRAVELS			
MARRIAGES	1914-1953	(3 fiche)	£2.00
Holy Trinity CHESTERFIELD			
MARRIAGES	1854 1933	(6 fiche)	£4.50
St. Paul's HASLAND/GRASSMOOR			
MARRIAGES	1851-1923	(3 fiche)	£2.00
St Mary & All Saints CHESTERFIELD			
BAPTISMS	1761-1801	(4 fiche)	£3.00
BAPTISMS	1908-1934	(7 fiche)	£4.50
MARRIAGES	1761-1822	(6 fiche)	£4.00
MARRIAGES	1822-1844	(4 fiche)	£3.25
MARRIAGES	1844-1858	(4 fiche)	£3.25
MARRIAGES	1858-1871	(4 fiche)	£3.25
MARRIAGES	1871-1885	(5 fiche)	£4.00
MARRIAGES	1885-1901	(4 fiche)	£3.25
MARRIAGES	1901-1916	(4 fiche)	£3.50
MARRIAGES	1916-1933	(6 fiche)	£4.50
MARRIAGES	1933-1967	(7 fiche)	£5.00
BURIALS	1761-1801	(4 fiche)	£3.25

St Laurence (BARLOW)			
MARRIAGES	1754-1942	(3 Fiche)	£2.50
Derbyshire Times Extracts			
MARRIAGES	1880-1894	(3 fiche)	£2.00
DEATHS	1880-1894	(12 fiche)	£8.00
1851 Chesterfield Town Residents Name Index		(2 fiche)	£2.00

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



MEMBERS MEETING 4 September 2007

Talk by David Howse originally billed as "Where's Chesterfield gone?" re-titled on the night by David as "Do you remember Chesterfield?"

The talk was illustrated with slides. David showed present day pictures of Chesterfield and asked members if they could remember what used to be there, followed by a picture of the original site.

The first slide showed Chesterfield's library. This was where the old police station, which was built in 1936 and the fire station used to be. The new library was built in 1983.

The Visitor Information Centre was previously the site of the vicarage, built in 1895 and the alpine gardens. The vicarage was demolished when the new Vicar Lane was developed.

Allied Carpets occupies the land which used to be the silk mill, a steam powered mill built in 1870 by Mr Towndrow. In the 1930's there was also a Junior Institute for education here which continued in use until the 1960's.

An Orthodontic Centre is now on the site of the old slipper baths. Prices for using the baths in the 1900's were 1d for a cold bath, 2d/3d for a warm bath, shower 1d, towels were 1d extra. Ladies had a special night on Friday's.

The Car Phone Warehouse is now where the Queen's Park Hotel stood from 1915-1997. It was originally called "The Three Tuns" when it was built in 1912. The Civic Society tried to get a preservation order on the building in 1997 but sadly it was demolished before they were able to.

The new police station on Markham Road used to be the site of a Methodist chapel (1850-1881). It then had various uses by a coach maker, Bakers the shop fitter and in the 1930's there was a gymnasium where members practised club swinging and wrestling.

The Holywell Cross car park, known locally as the "doughnut" used to be the site of a variety of shops and pubs. Dams the fruit shop occupied the corner position from the 1920's. The Shakespeare Inn, Earnshaw's tripe shop, the Victoria Hotel and Glossops the solicitors were all in this area. Montague Burton (later to form Burton's) started out in Chesterfield and lived above Dam's shop. He was a friend of Mr. Marple the local hairdresser.

Vicar Lane is a recently redeveloped area in Chesterfield. Two to three years ago someone was arrested for taking photographs here as they were thought to be terrorists. David was careful to conceal his camera in a carrier bag and managed to take his photographs without being apprehended. This area housed the old bus station, built in 1934 and prior to this it was the site of the Victoria school built in 1843. The pupils here were used as "ball boys" for the local bowling club.

The bottom of Tontine Road now houses a Community Services Centre built in the 1960's but in the 1930's this was where White's garage stood with the cattle market on the opposite side of Markham Road.

The new Vicar Lane was once the site of St James Mission Church built for "poor people" who were not allowed to attend the parish church. They came from areas like the "Dog Kennels" and were often Irish Catholics. The building was extended in the 1930's and used for dances. It was known affectionately as "Jimmies" and was a favourite haunt of "Teddy boys".

Another recent building in Chesterfield is the Coach Station. This is in the area that used to house the fire station used later to store the market stalls. Ervines the flour merchants also had a shop here and the bowling green, one of the oldest in the country, is still here.

The Chesterfield by-pass, built in 1984, occupies the site of the old Great Central Railway Station and its tunnel. It also encompasses Infirmary Road, Brewery Street, Dixon Road and Hollis Lane.

The old Scarsdale Hospital on Newbold Road has been redeveloped into residential flats. The Infirmary was built in 1902 and the nurse's home was built at a cost of £26,000. The Infirmary could house 205 people and the workhouse 410. It had a staff of 22 nurses.

The Rutland Residential home on Sheffield Road was previously the site of a 1920's dance hall called "The Rendevous", it then became a skating rink, was later used by boxers and wrestlers and its last use before redevelopment was as a warehouse for Stylax mattresses.

The area next to the bowling green on Beetwell Street used to be a court-house and council chamber in the 1880's. It was here that town criers were selected. The old house of correction was situated behind the bowling green on Markham Road.

Beetwell Street where the new police station stands used to be the site of many small shops including Haag's the butchers, opened in 1887. The Spread Eagle pub is still there.

The Sun Inn on West Bars built in 1914 is still there and is in an area that once housed "Urtons" the ironmongers, Yeomans, a printer's shop and a pork butchers.

Markham House was built in 1969 and houses a large Chinese restaurant. This is where the Crown Hotel (rebuilt in 1906) stood.

The new courthouse, another recent redevelopment in Chesterfield, is built at the rear of the Winding Wheel. The site previously housed Eyre's cabinet works.

The Saltergate multi-storey car park has a plaque explaining that it was built in 1972 on the site of the Friend's meeting house. The house was built in 1672 and enlarged in 1770 and had connections with the "Fry" family of chocolate fame.

Kenning's car hire now occupies the building on Holywell Cross that backs onto Durrant Road. The building was the old Royal hospital. In 1873 Charles Markham donated £10,000 for a new ward which was named after him.

One of the properties that were demolished to make way for the Chesterfield by-pass in 1983 was the Hippodrome on Corporation Street. It was built in 1895 at a cost of £4,500 and was reputed to have a capacity for 2,500 patrons. It closed in 1950.

Burlington Street now houses a 1960's modern block of shops. It used to have a row of shops known as the "Beehive", built in 1835 by George Short. The first floor of the building became unstable and had to be demolished.

The area opposite the Courthouse on Brimington Road is now an open space cleared for re-development. This used to be where Trebor Sweets were

manufactured. The site was originally where Chesterfield Brewery stood from 1850-1930. Kenning's bought it and sold it to Trebor whose factory in London had been blitzed in the war.

Chesterfield's new courthouse at the rear of the Winding Wheel and adjacent to Durrant Road stands where Eyres transport was housed. This area later became car parks before the courthouse was built.

The Royal Court offices now stands where the maternity and children's hospital was situated. This was opened in 1922 and run by the borough council. In 1948 it was taken over by the National Health Service.

The new Chesterfield coach station opened in 2005 and replaced the old bus station on the same site. This old building was originally the auxiliary fire station during the war.

The Chesterfield Hotel (previously the Station Hotel) car park stands where Bower's taxis operated. Charles Bower started the business in 1890 and was responsible for introducing the first motorised taxi to the town.

The current Nat West bank built in 1969 stands on the site of an earlier Westminster bank built in 1957. Before that it had been the site of another Bank , Compton and Evans. Built in 1893. This block also housed part of the current Post Office, the Star Inn and Hadfields.

Saltergate has a terrace of elegant Georgian houses, these are now used as offices. Here there is still an old arched entrance, this led to a wood yard in the 18c. In addition there used to be a shop in the row, "Kays" which sold models and stamps. The shop is no longer there and the terrace has been skilfully restored.

The Winding Wheel (previously the Odeon cinema) was extended in 1923 when the road was widened. One of the conditions of the development was that Eyres should still have access and that entrance is still there.

Chesterfield's new multi-plex cinema and the home of the children's favourite eatery "Frankie and Bennies" was once the site of the Alma works and the Tube works.

The large roundabout on the approach to Chesterfield from the M1 is currently being enlarged. This area was where the Tube works, Bryan Donkins, the Alma works and Alma mill were situated.

Chesterfield's famous market and market hall once boasted unique underground toilets. These were demolished as part of the market's re-

development. The ornamental top to the market hall clock was blown down in the gales of 1962 and replaced with a fibre glass top in 1980.

The junction of Chatsworth Road and Old Road once housed a building occupied by Brampton Post Master Mr. Margerrison, who was a land agent and surveyor. The house was used variously as stables, Brampton fire station, a doctor's, Police station and finally as flats.

Members of the society greatly enjoyed "remembering Chesterfield" and Mike Burdett gave the vote of thanks.



MEMBERS MEETING 2nd OCTOBER 2007

"Florence Nightingale" a talk by Danny Wells illustrated with slides.

Danny began his talk by explaining that he came from Ashbourne and that he was a historian who was enthusiastic about Victorian history. Florence Nightingale is one of a series of five talks that he does based on famous Victorians with Derbyshire connections.

Florence Nightingale had a battle in her life and struggled with her public duties and family obligations. At the age of sixteen she recorded that "God had called her to his service".

She was aged 90 when she died and during her lifetime she wrote a huge number of letters. Many were destroyed or burnt at Lea Hurst but over 10,000 letters are held at the British Museum and 3,000-4,000 are now in private hands and in libraries.

Florence was born in Florence in Italy on 12 May 1820 when her parents, who were well to do, were on a European tour. Her mother was Frances Smith (known as Fanny). She was the daughter of William Smith a Unitarian. Frances was a beauty and she came from a large family of cousins, aunts and uncles. Florence had an older sister, Parthenope, who was given the classical name of her birthplace in Naples. Fanny was a strong woman who had ambitious plans for Florence that did not include nursing. Her father was William Edward Nightingale, son of William Shore, who was a Sheffield banker. He had inherited Derbyshire estates from his great uncle, Peter Nightingale and had changed his name in order to inherit.

When Florence was a year old she was brought back to the family home at Lea Hurst near Matlock. Her father had designed the house and Florence

loved it. However, her mother said it was too small (it had fifteen bedrooms!) and in 1825 William Nightingale bought Embley Park in the New Forest.

Florence's father took over her schooling when she was aged 12 and she therefore had a wider education than most girls would have received at that time.

Florence's parents expected her to marry and take on the role of a wife. Florence did not wish to do this and became extremely unhappy. One of the ways which she found to help her overcome this unhappiness was to escape into a trance.

In 1842 at a dinner party she met Richard Monkton Mills. He fell in love with her and pursued her for many years. She described him in letters as "the man I adored".

In 1845 she tried to persuade her parents to let her go to nurse but they refused. The family said it was unthinkable for her to become a nurse. They saw "nurses" as old women who were dirty, sordid and generally seen holding a brandy bottle. Florence became melancholy and developed migraines and a bronchial cough, but at Lea Hurst she was happy visiting the sick.

She was rescued from her unhappiness by Charles and Selina Bracebridge who persuaded her parents to let her travel with them to Rome for the winter of 1847/8. There she met Sidney Herbert and his wife Mary. Herbert was the Secretary of State for War, He was rich and a devout Christian.

Richard Monkton Mills proposed marriage to Florence in 1849 but she turned him down. Her parents were furious with her decision. However, despite not accepting his proposal they remained friends for the rest of their lives. She suffered a nervous breakdown and travelled with the Bracebridges to Egypt.

In 1850 during her travels with the Bracebridges she visited the religious community at Kaiserworth-am-Rhein. She thought that the pastor and deaconess here were doing God's work with women of humble birth devoting their lives to the sick and deprived. Here she saw the possibility of changing nursing by training women suitably motivated of any class.

She returned home to rows with Fanny who was furious with her. She wrote to her mother and pleaded for her approval to her nursing but received no reply. Florence was not the only thwarted daughter, her sister, Parthenope (who was still unmarried) became ill and obsessive about Florence. The family doctor, Sir James Clark, advised Florence to leave home and the Herberts suggested she accept the post of unpaid superintendent to the Establishment for Gentlewomen During Illness in Harley Street, London.

Before taking up the post she visited other hospitals and studied, making herself an expert on hospital administration. Once installed she impressed with her skills both as a nurse and an organiser. She demanded improvements and threatened resignation unless Roman Catholics and Jews could be admitted as patients.

In 1854 while she was at Harley Street there was a devastating epidemic of cholera in Soho and Florence, so she went to help with the flood of patients at the Middlesex Hospital.

The Crimean War broke out in March 1854 and in September British and French troops disembarked for the invasion of the Crimea. Dispatches to The Times described the neglect of the wounded and the lack of nurses. Much of the blame fell on the Secretary of State for War, Sidney Herbert. He wrote to Florence asking her to take a party of nurses to Scutari. Within five days a party of thirty-eight nurses were assembled and the party arrived at Scutari on the 4 November. Florence used money from The Times Fund to buy needed equipment locally and to make up beds.

On 25 October 1854 at Balaclava in the famous "Charge of the Light Brigade" 505 men lost their lives. The wounded were taken to the hospital at Scutari where the doctors and nurses were battling against overwhelming odds. Not only were they nursing miles of patients but they were also short of supplies and the feeding arrangements were inadequate. Florence arranged for a chef to come out and reorganise the cooking.

In May 1855 Florence crossed the Crimea to inspect the war hospitals and while there collapsed and was dangerously ill with "Crimea Fever". She made a slow and painful recovery and resisted all efforts to send her home.

Although her duties were mainly administrative Florence made a point of visiting the wards. Descriptions of her midnight vigils and Longfellow's verse about her led to her being called "The Lady of the Lamp".

The Crimean War ended in March 1856. Out of 94,000 men sent to the war area 4,000 died of wounds but 19,000 died of disease and 13,000 became invalids. Florence returned to England in July 1856 a changed woman. She determined that such suffering should never happen again in the Army Medical Service and set about asking for a Royal Commission for its reform.

Her return to England was heralded in the form of military bands, arches, banners and flags but Florence declined any fuss and she made the journey of two miles from Whatstandwell station to the family home at Lea Hurst on foot.

The Duke of Devonshire offered her a silver model of her late pet owl, Athena, but she declined.

Florence was aged 37 when she returned from the Crimea but she was broken in health. Eventually in 1857 a Royal Commission was established on the health of the Army and Sidney Herbert was the chairman. Florence submitted her own report of 830 pages. The reforms that she set in training as a result of the commission marked a turning point in the Army Medical Service.

Florence collapsed with cardiac symptoms so severe it was thought she might die. She recovered but remained depressed. In 1861 she took to her bed for some six years, but this may have been a ruse as she continued to work on her mission to reform the army medical service. She used her illness to free herself from family commitments. She was now living in South Street in London with 5 servants and Dr Sutherland, her literary assistant.

A “Nightingale Fund” had been set up during the Crimean War using contributions from the public. In 1858 Florence excused herself the responsibility of the fund. Instead a nursing school was opened in her name but the organisation was left to the council. Part of the Nightingale Fund was used to finance an experimental training scheme at King’s College.

In 1874 her father died aged 86 and her mother became senile. Her friend Mrs Bracebridge also died and these events depressed Florence. She spent almost the whole of her final 15 years in her room in South Street, London. In 1907 the King made her a member of the Order of Merit, the first woman to be so honoured. Her response to the honour was “too kind, too kind”.

Florence died in her sleep in her room at 10, South Street, Park Lane, London on 13 August 1910. An offer to bury her in Westminster Abbey was declined by her relatives. She was buried next to her father and mother in the churchyard of East Wellow in Hampshire. A small cross is marked FN b 1820 D 1910.

A vote of thanks was given by John Bradley.



MEMBERS MEETINGS 6 November 2007

“Christmas and its Customs” an entertaining talk by Patrick Harding illustrated with slides.

Patrick began his talk by explaining that he was not a historian but a natural historian. He has spent over 20 years as a University lecturer enlightening adults about plants and mushrooms. He is interested in Christmas and its customs and has spent a number of years researching the subject. He wrote an article about it for the Daily Telegraph and this in turn led to an appearance on Radio 4 on Christmas Day. In 2002 he wrote a book "Christmas Unwrapped" which is now in its 4th edition.

Patrick's first slide showed the place name of "Bethlehem", not the biblical one but that of a village in Wales. The village Post Office here used to do a good trade in Christmas cards stamped "Bethlehem" but sadly it has now closed. However, the two gospels of the bible do agree that Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

Our images of Christmas are clouded by the views of parents, school and church. The result is that people are split between those with a dogmatic belief in the "facts" and those who believe in "Christmas, the star, the ox and the ass etc".

Patrick asked the audience what animals are mentioned in the gospels as being present at the birth of Jesus. "Ox, ass, donkey and sheep" were suggested. In fact no animals are mentioned in the gospel. The idea that animals were present may have come from Francis of Assisi 1,000 years after the event.

Most nativity plays refer to Mary and Joseph being unable to get into the "Inn". The translation of the word for Inn has another meaning - "spare room". It is likely that Joseph and Mary were returning to the place where they were born in order to be taxed and would have stayed with friends. If the "guest rooms" were already full they would have stayed in the living room where animals would have been brought in at night to protect them from wolves.

A picture of a fairy on top of a Christmas tree reminds us that this was a Victorian tradition. The fairy was the representation of the angel who brought the good news to the shepherds of Jesus' birth. There is no mention of sheep in the gospels. It is more likely that in the Middle East these were goats.

We are familiar with the three wise men, kings or magi and the gifts they brought Jesus. However the word magi could also be translated as astrologers, men who foretold the future and studied the movements of the planets. The three gifts they bought gold, frankincense and myrrh were probably only the latter two. These are similar to our modern day antiseptic/antibiotics and were used to stop bleeding after childbirth.

The “magi” came from what we now know as Iraq/Iran, not a million miles from Bethlehem. It was assumed that the magi travelled by camel but experts in history tell us that there were no camels in the Middle East 2,000 years ago.

The gospels refer to the “star in the east”. Could this have been a super nova or Halley’s comet? Astrologers have worked out that this would have been visible in 12Bc but even allowing for miscalculations of the AD numbering system this is too early to have coincided with the nativity. The magi were interested in the interpretation of the movements of the planets and signs of the zodiac. Therefore a triple conjunction, which occurred three times in the year 7BC, would have been much more significant to the magi than a comet.

It is unlikely that Jesus was born later than 4BC because this is thought to be when King Herod died. Most scholars believe the birth was no later than 4BC and no earlier than 7BC. What is almost certain is that 1st January 2000 was not 2000 years after the birth of Christ, the celebration should have been 6 or 7 years earlier. So the commonly accepted year of Christ’s birth is probably 6 or 7 years too late.

As for 25th December this is unlikely to be the actual birth date of Christ so why did the western branch of the Christian Church choose to celebrate Christmas on 25 December?

In the 3c different countries choose different dates. The Russian Orthodox Church chose 6th January. Rome chose 25th December (9 months after the incarnation).

The reason for 25th December was a pragmatic one – it slotted neatly into the Roman calendar. The Romans calculated that 25th December (in their Julian calendar) represented the sun at its lowest ebb. The Roman festival of Saturnalia lasted from 17th – 24th December. This was a time of eating, drinking, sex, gambling and cross-dressing. So 25th December, the day after Saturnalia, was the most important day for Roman followers of Mithraism (the worship of the sun god Mithras)

Holly (or holy) and ivy predominate as Christmas greenery in the 21st C. The holly’s evergreen habit symbolises the eternal nature of Jesus, its red berries represent the blood of Christ and the leaves the crown of thorns. Taken together the female ivy and the male holly were seen as emblems of fertility and good luck. An ivy leaf placed on a dish of water on New Year’s Eve was left until 12th night when a green leaf predicted a healthy year, brown leaves forecast problems and a withered leaf was very ominous.

So when is 12th night? Is it the 6th January? Most people get it wrong its 5th January. The first day of Christmas is Boxing Day.

It is only relatively recently that mistletoe has become an accepted part of Christmas decorations in church. It used to be considered too pagan and with its forked stems and berries too sexual. At the beginning of the 19c “mistletoe kissing” was associated with those working “below stairs” but it quickly spread to those “upstairs”.

In many parts of the world specially designed stamps are issued for Christmas. The Post Office first issued British Christmas stamps in 1966. In 1986 the 13p stamp featured the Glastonbury thorn. It is believed that Joseph of Arimathaea came to Britain shortly after the crucifixion to spread the gospel of Christianity.

He arrived at Glastonbury carrying a staff supposedly made from the hawthorns from Christ’s crown of thorns. He stuck this staff in the ground at Wearyall Hill and it took root and produced white blossoms. This miracle is said to have occurred on Christmas day. During the 16/17c it became the custom to send budding branches to the reigning monarch and this tradition continues.

Our traditional Christmas tree is the Norway Spruce. This tree was introduced into Britain some 500 years ago. It was a German custom to set up a fir -tree at Christmas and Prince Albert arranged for a spruce tree to be set up at Windsor Castle in 1841. However, he was not the first to do this and records show that George 1V’s wife Queen Charlotte set up a fir- tree in 1800.

Christmas crackers were introduced in 1847 when Tom Smith a sweetie seller came across sugared almonds wrapped in tissue paper with a twist either side of the sweet. He decided to wrap his sweets in the run up to Christmas. In 1850 he included a motto and in 1860 2 pieces of chemically impregnated paper to make it bang. He replaced the sweet with a gift and later his sons added a paper hat.

Candles were used to lighten the darkest times of the year and pre date Christianity. We all know the joke about “four candles” but in Victorian times on the first Sunday in Advent one of the candles were lit, on the second two until the fourth Sunday when all four were lit.

The first commercially produced Christmas card dates from 1843 and was the idea of Sir Henry Cole. He is better known as the man behind the London exhibition of 1851 and director of the Victoria and Albert Museum. The cards cost 1/= each which is what a labourer earned in a day. The introduction in 1870 of a special halfpenny postage rate for unsealed cards and cheaper printing increased the popularity of sending Christmas cards. Some publishers employed top artists of the day. One of the most popular designs was that of

the robin and it is thought that this is because postmen wore red coats in the days of the penny post and were nick named "Robins".

Overeating has long been associated with Christmas. Wild boar was the food of royalty until it was hunted to extinction. The most traditional of all Christmas birds is the goose. Even the poor were able to keep geese and they served as effective burglar alarms. The turkey is native to Mexico and an early consignment was landed near Bridlington in about 1550. By the 17c it was becoming more popular but only for the wealthy and turkey featured in Dicken's "A Christmas Carol". It was not until the 1960's that Bernard Matthews produced turkey that was cheaper than dog meat.

Other foods we now associate with Christmas are bread sauce, Newberry fruits, stollen cake and cranberries. The latter being promoted by Delia Smith 15 years ago when there was a glut in America.

Mince pies started life as meat pies containing suet as a preservative. The meat was replaced with dried fruit and sugar. During the Civil War Oliver Cromwell banned the pies because he didn't like paganism. They resurfaced with the restoration of Charles 11.

The well -known rhyme about Jack Horner dates from the 16c when the Abbot of Glastonbury, Richard Whiting, tried to curry favour with Henry V111 by sending him Christmas gifts. One gift was a pie sent with Thomas Horner. The pie contained the deeds of the richest manors of the abbey. Thomas helped himself to the "plum" – the manor at Mells.

Father Christmas was a pagan figure – "Allfather". He was a father figure associated with winter and the bearer of gifts. He was depicted with a long white beard and wearing a cloak riding through the skies on an eight legged horse. Saint Nicholas the role model for Santa Claus came from Turkey in the mid 4c. He helped a poor family with dowries for the daughters by dropping a bag of gold down the chimney. This is said to have landed in a stocking. In 1822 an American professor Clement Clarke Moore wrote the poem, "A visit from St Nicholas" which begins "Twas the night before Christmas".

Santa is well known for his red and white clothing, his reindeer transport, affinity with chimneys and his flying. There is an ancient story that explains this. Reindeer herders came from Lapland. They were unable to make alcohol because of the extreme cold but they had another means of inebriation – the use of the red and white mushroom - the fly agaric which produced a hallucinogenic effect and a feeling of flying.

Alice's adventures in wonderland, written by the Reverend Charles Dodgson under the pseudonym Lewis Carroll, featured things or people out of scale, this was a common result of the ingestion of the fly agaric.

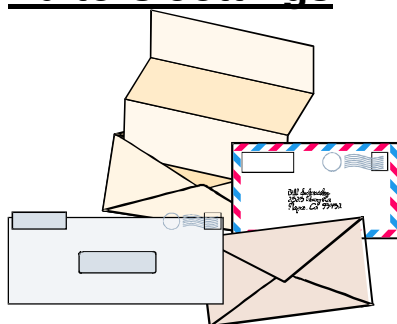
The origins of Pantomime are to be found in a strange mixture of former theatrical events from the Romans who mimed and danced, 13c miracle plays, medieval mummers to David Garrick's pantomimes at Drury Lane.

Finally another Christmas custom is the Christmas day broadcast by the reigning monarch which started on the radio in 1932 and is continued by our present Queen Elizabeth 11 on television.

A vote of thanks was given by Ron Presswood.



Editors Jottings



The Members Interest Edition14 (New and existing members as of 31st August 2007) is now on our web site, www.cadfhs.org.uk/members_area.htm as it is password protected, send an email via the contact link to request the login details.

The committee have decided that Edition 15 will be produced earlier and a microfiche (New and existing members as of April 30th 2008) will be included in the June Magazine) instead of September when Membership is renewable.

If you do not have access to the internet you can take your fiche to any library that has a fiche viewer.

Marion and I are now working on Edition 15 so existing Members have until April 30th if they want to re submit Surnames (Some Members have previously left their Members Interests Surnames blank) or change their existing entries.

You can do this via the website or in writing to

Carol Morris, 26 Tunstall Green, Walton, Chesterfield S40 2DY.

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 (As from 2008.) Other versions available are, printed, file on disc, or emailed, for members who prefer it are also available at extra cost.

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.

Queries in block letters or typed should be sent to either the Editor, Chairman or the Secretary at the addresses inside the front cover.

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.