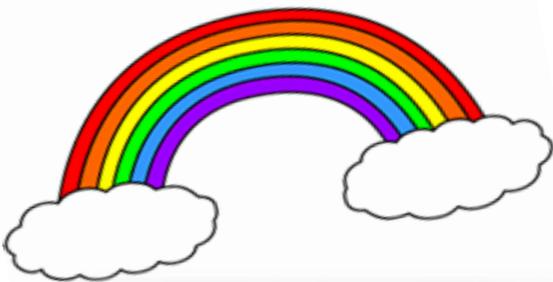


In-spire-ation

*The Chesterfield & District Family History Society
Magazine*



Happy 72nd birthday



August 2020 Iss. No. 123

Price £2

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CADFHS and the new GDPR regarding your Privacy

No action is needed on your part if you are happy with the status quo.

As you are a member of the Chesterfield & District Family History Society we have a legitimate reason for holding your information. For our part we undertake that we hold your information securely and that any information we hold will not be shared with any third parties but only used for membership purposes, notices of events and also member surveys.

These help us to help you. If you wish to be removed from the mailing list please let us know.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2019 – 2020

Chair & Assist. Web	-	Neil Wilson
Vice Chair/Events Coordinator/Assist. Web	-	Dena Fanshawe
Treasurer	-	David Wheatcroft
Correspondence Coordinator	-	Andie Davies
Joint Editor	-	Mary Bullas
Membership or joint membership Secretary	-	To be confirmed
Committee	-	Margaret Marsden
Archive Coordinator	-	Janet Ashley
Refreshments/Exchange Mag. Coordinator	-	Cathy Sims
Committee	-	Valerie Bladon
Assist. Web/Members Wiki Co-ord. and printing	-	David Hall
Committee and printing	-	Terry Cocking
Committee	-	Keith Fanshawe

Mission Statement

Chesterfield & District Family History Society aims to be one of the country's leading and most forward thinking 'Family History Societies' providing a strong base to enable our members to develop and grow.

We aim to foster a positive experience through creative and innovative and related services to our members.

Editors Bit



Welcome to the August edition of your magazine. Lyn and I hope to find you all well during these testing times. Our magazine looks a little different this issue as we have not been able to have our usual monthly meetings. However our vice chairman Dena has been working very hard to keep us all engaged with weekly zoom meetings and even better than that we had our first on line talk via zoom in July given by Dena, which you can read about in this edition and also find out about our next online monthly meeting. We would also like to give a big thank you to our members who have responded to our plea for articles and who have sent some very interesting contributions for the magazine as I am sure you will agree . We also have some of our regular features like Dastardly Deeds, and the Teatime quiz. Our cover picture this time is of Chesterfield Royal Hospital where I trained as a nurse many moons ago. It was replaced by a new hospital in 1984 and is now converted into offices. Anyway hope you find the magazine a good read and stay safe.

Mary

COVER PICTURE

The Chesterfield Royal Hospital

It seems appropriate to celebrate the 160th anniversary of Chesterfield Royal Hospital, originally on Holywell Street, opening its doors to patients for the first time. It is also the 72nd anniversary of the NHS!

In June 1860 the new Chesterfield Royal Hospital opened to its first patients. During the first eleven months in-patients numbered 38 and outpatients 560. The Holywell Street site was purchased from the Duke of Devonshire for £100.

After the demolition of Durrant Hall, which had previously stood on the site, architects were invited to submit plans and drawings for a new hospital. The residents of Chesterfield raised £1,500 toward the cost of the building and plans from Messrs. Davies and Tew (designers of the Market Hall) were accepted. The total cost of the building came to £2,461. See Chesterfield and District Local History Society: <http://www.cadlhs.org.uk/a-brief-history-of-hospital-services-in-chesterfield-1197-1920> for more information about the old site of CRH.



Welcome new members!

To add (or change) your surname to our 'Members' Surname Interests' please visit: <https://membermojo.co.uk/cadfhs> and download a 'Surname Interest' form to complete. Once completed please email it to membership_assistant@cadfhs.org

1190 Denise Elliott

1191 Alan Beresford

1192 Anne Payne

1193 Barbara Bullas

1194 Hayden Bullas

1195 Carolyne Edson

1196 Richard Edson

1197 Diane Hemsley

1198 Phillis Donoghue

From the tired eyes of the Chair.

COVID-19 - Strange times we are in, lock down unless you can't work from home, families unable to meet and socialise, queuing to enter a shop. We haven't lived through anything like this before, but those who have records going back to the plague at Eyam know what isolating a community can do to halt the spread of a disease.



I'm currently working from home. Feel like I'm actually doing more than I would normally, that is because I am not travelling the country, going around saying hello to folks. Conference calls, whether Skype or Zoom, Webinars about the situation we are in and how to proceed with the return to work. I have got to a stage where I don't know whether if I am coming or going. My days off are in order to recharge the batteries. At least now I can leave the house.

Being lock down as been described as cabin fever, but what is it? My friend Mr Google says

“Cabin fever refers to the distressing claustrophobic irritability or restlessness experienced when a person, or group, is stuck at an isolated location or in confined quarters for an extended period of time. A person may be referred to as stir-crazy, derived from the use of stir to mean ‘prison’.”

How will you write up this period in your family history?

As a society we have not been able to hold our regular meetings. The committee has looked at trying to keep in touch with the members, Dena is doing a sterling job with her coffee morning/afternoons. As for webinars, the technology is there, but the costs are unreal for a small society like ours. Those speakers who have this facility expect payment which far exceeds what we pay out for a speaker and the hall rent. This is why there was a survey to gauge the feeling whether you would be willing to pay to watch.

I suppose that once we are allowed to have meetings again, the room will have to be laid out differently to take in some form of social distancing. As we have Zoom, we could broadcast the meetings in real time. This would mean those who live too far to travel can still join in although you have to supply your own tea and biscuits. We will cross that bridge when we get there.

As for the AGM which is normally held in September; I have read the Constitution, it does not say where the meeting has to be held, so if still in ‘Lock Down restrictions’, there is no reason why the AGM cannot be held virtually (constitution available from committee).

I look forward to seeing most of you at the AGM, as by September I don’t think we would be back to the ‘new’ normal, and it will be via video conference.

Neil

MEET THE COMMITTEE

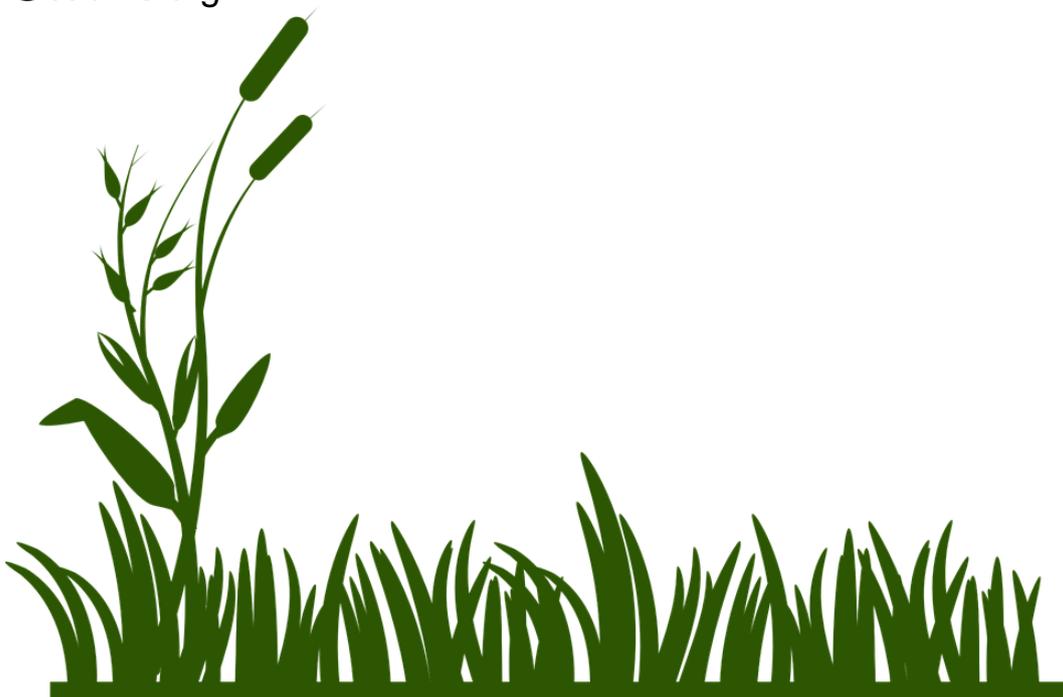
Margaret Linacre – Membership Secretary

I was born in Chesterfield and my working life has always involved records. I started work as a clerk in the Subsidence Registry at the National Coal Board offices in Duckmanton. Then I went to work in the Patient Records Library at Chesterfield Royal Hospital where I undertook a range of duties, including extracting and recording data from the records. Not surprisingly, having spent many years working with indexes, microfilms and data, it was an easy step on retirement to begin researching our family history.



I joined CADFHS soon after retiring, and a few years ago volunteered to help in any way I could, doing some proof-reading and assisting the Membership Secretary, who unfortunately had to relinquish the post. Now, along with Andie, I man the Membership Desk at meetings, answer questions regarding membership and keep the Mojo membership platform and the Surname Interests List updated.

If you opted-in to our mailing list, you may receive occasional emails on important updates or service information. You have the right to opt-out or and have any personal details removed at any time, please email Dena Fanshawe: secretary@cadfhs.org



CADFHS and New Project 2020 -2021

Pauper Research Project

Family Histories; lives of Chesterfield (Union Area) Paupers and 'including their burials'.

The society's members have been invited to take part in a Chesterfield Family History Project.

Many of our members whilst researching will have found people in the workhouse already. But even if not, you can still take part in the project!

(If you have stories of the poor and not in the workhouse that is fine too. Go ahead).

The Bigger Picture 'The Chesterfield Union Pauper Project' is in conjunction with a much larger project of Chesterfield's St Helens & District Local History Society (with Christ Church). This larger project encompasses many parts but one very important part is the family history of paupers', their lives 'Family' and deaths. This is open to all of our members and you can do as many stories as you wish.

Members may have done this kind of thing before but many have not, so there will be support and help to get you started.

Ways to Register for the Project

To avoid duplication we will need the paupers' names registering. (Might have several and that is ok too.)

- Email - Fill in a form on line to register the names, one form for each person, this will be sent to you all with an email. (The forms are simple and the same that you may have filled out before.
- By phone - (if no email address) a form can be filled in on your behalf.

More information about the project and taking part to follow.



Dastardly Deeds'

"It's A Bad Job"

Story based on archive newspaper reports

On Wednesday the 8th November 1871 there took place, in the heart of Chesterfield, a most horrific and shocking murder.

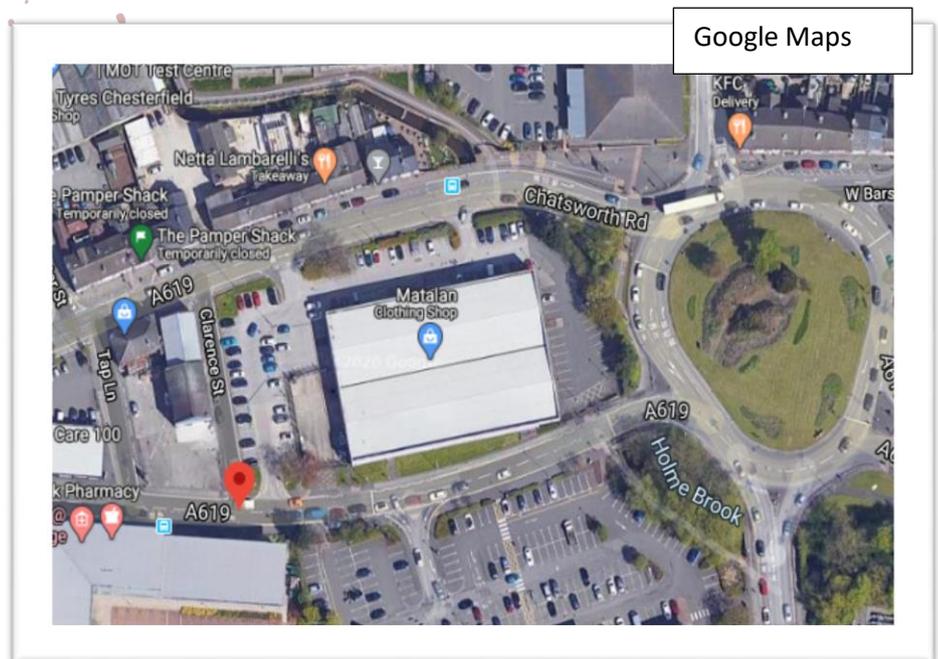
Samuel Wallis was a reliable, hardworking and pleasant man who earned his living as a shoemaker. He was, by all accounts, a loving and kind husband to his wife Sarah (Nee Hopkinson). They had married in June 1864 at the Trinity Church, Chesterfield. Sarah had married late in life and at 37 years of age at the time of her marriage she was 9 years her husband's senior.

Sarah was a dressmaker and in 1871 they lived at Wheatbridge Place, near Boythorpe Road (then Boythorpe Lane) and West Bars. Sarah and Samuel had two children in the 7 years since their marriage. George Wallis was 6 years old and his little brother, William, just 18 months.

The family had enjoyed a day out in Birmingham on the Monday of that week and had returned home "pleasant and happy" according to Mary Hopkinson, Samuel's mother in law.

The family home had just one bedroom in which the whole family slept together in one bed. The bedroom also served as Samuel's workshop and all his tools and stock were kept in this room.

In the early hours of Wednesday 8th November 1871 their eldest child George, who slept at the foot of the bed, was woken by something pushed onto his legs. He sat up to find his mother lying across the bed, blood oozing from her mouth and chest. George screamed in terror. In the semi darkness he made out the figure of his father who stood holding a knife. Before George had time to fully comprehend what had happened he saw his father, dressed in just his trousers and shirt, leave the room and go downstairs; not a word was spoken between father and son.



George, whose head was splattered with the blood of his mother, picked up his baby brother who lay at the top of the bed. In their nightclothes George took William and made his way to his uncle's house nearby on West Bars.

George's grandmother, Mary Hopkinson, had stayed at his uncle's home the night previous and it was to her that he took William, recounting the horrors that had woke him that morning. Just after 7 a.m. Mary quickly made her way over to her daughter's home to find her lying dead across the bed, her feet on the floor.

The police soon attended the scene along with the surgeon, Mr Bluett (or Blewitt). Mr Bluett first examined Sarah's hands and found an incised wound between her index and middle finger of the left hand consistent with that of a stab or a thrust of a sharp implement. Today, that wound would probably be described as a 'defence wound'. On examining the rest of the body he found a small but gaping incised wound midway between the end of the shoulder and the back of the breast bone and around an inch below the collar bone. Sarah's nightclothes and the bed were saturated with her blood.

It would be interesting to speculate what a modern Scenes of Crime officer would make of the evidence that Mr Bluett provides concerning the splatter made by Sarah's blood:

"It appeared as though the husband had been working in the room, there was some leather and another knife. I think the first blow was given while she was lying in bed.... I discovered a patch of blood at the head of the bed on the bolster.... There was blood on the pillow... the blood had evidently spurted from the mother to the boy and got there that way"

Bluett goes on to describe his finding in the post mortem which took place that afternoon. He describes how the windpipe was partially severed, along with carotid artery vessels.

Inspector of County Police, Edward Brady, attended the scene of the murder that morning after the incident had been reported to him by a woman named Ward. Upon searching the premises he discovered a knife that had been wrapped in piece of carpet at the head of the bed that had blood on the shaft. Brady went in search of Samuel but did not find the suspect's whereabouts until the early hours of the following morning.

Brady found Samuel in a pit cabin in the 'parish of Walton'. Brady describes Samuel condition upon discovery:

"He was black as if he had been in the coal pit or up a chimney, I asked him if his name was Samuel Wallis. I had known him previously, but I could hardly recognise him, he was so black. He replied, "Yes". I then charged him and he said, "Well, it is a bad job". I told him I was going to apprehend him on charge of murdering his wife... On the way to the lock-up, when in Boythorpe Lane (Road),

prisoner asked, "Is she dead?" and I said, "Yes, I should think before you got out of the house". He then said "She must have put me about very much"

Samuel was charged with the murder of his wife. At his trial in Derby, which was reported on in the Derbyshire Advertiser & Journal that December of the same year, Samuel pleaded 'Not guilty'.

Samuel appeared before Justice Lush, Mr Blackburn and Mr Lawrence acted for the defence and Mr Kennedy for the prosecution.

Mr Lawrence called upon the assembled jury to decide on two matters; a) was it the prisoner Samuel Wallis who committed the murder and b) if so, was he "in such a state of mind as to make him responsible for his acts?"

There was little doubt that Samuel had indeed committed the murder such was the evidence and the words of Samuel himself upon arrest. Witnesses were to be called who would give evidence concerning Samuel's state of mind, namely Samuel's medical doctor and P.C. Brady who had apprehended him the day after the murder.

Mary Hopkinson was also a witness and she stated at the trial that Samuel had been "in very low spirits" and had experienced poor physical health in the months leading up to the murder and that consequently he had been unable to work. Sarah had worked as a dressmaker in order to save enough money to send Samuel away to enjoy a "change of air" as suggested by the doctor. Mary had seen the couple the day before the murder and stated that Samuel had appeared "quite kind" to Sarah.

Further evidence revealed that Samuel had up to £30 in the Post Office Savings Bank and had 60 to 70 pairs of boots completed in his possession. Mr Richard Jeffreys, surgeon of Chesterfield who had attended Samuel in the August of that year and had known the prisoner for a long time, gave evidence concerning Samuel's health. He stated that Samuel had been treated for a "derangement of the stomach and liver, accompanied by dejection of spirits, indisposition to activity and general debility". Jeffreys diagnosed hypochondriasis; this was believed to have acted on the brain and nervous system. Samuel was convinced he would never recover from this. Jeffreys described this conviction as 'delusional'. He commented upon his impression of Samuel and Sarah's relationship as being "loving and affectionate".

Samuel and Sarah had last visited Jeffreys on the 7th November, the day before the murder. Samuel had promised Jeffreys that he would go away for a change of air the following day. Jeffreys stated to the Judge,

"I am of the opinion that the prisoner was labouring under homicidal mania at the time he committed the murder. I do not think he was insane at the time I was attending him".

Mr H. F. Gisborne, the surgeon of the jail in Derby reported to the jury that he had attended the prisoner "many times" since his arrival and his conclusion

was that Samuel was “weak in body and feeble in mind”, a “likely subject for homicidal mania”.

Mr Lawrence informed the court that Samuel had spoken to him about the murder and had said that he had not been aware of what he was doing at the time of the murder. He had said that he had been walking around the bedroom and that Sarah had asked him to come to bed. He said he had got into bed and at this point had killed her.

Mr Blackburn called upon the jury to find the prisoner not responsible for his actions at the time of the murder or at the very least find that what he did “was done in a fit of passion, caused by some quarrel or other, so that their verdict might be reduced below that of wilful murder”. He pointed out that the couple’s relationship had been described by the victim’s mother and the doctor that regularly attended Samuel as a happy and loving one. There was no motive for the crime and that if anything it would have been in Samuel’s best interest and that of his family’s *not* to murder Sarah as she was the only breadwinner for the family. No motive arose from poverty as their savings and the stock of boots kept in the house prove. The only motive had to be that of “depressing spirits”.

The jury were also asked to consider Samuel’s conduct upon apprehension by Brady. All of these things, argued Blackburn, were indicative of Samuel’s plea, that he was not guilty of wilful murder and had not been responsible for his actions. The Justice Lush, in summing up, expressed the opinion that the evidence had failed to establish any case for insanity.

The jury took 2 hours to reach their verdict. Upon their return to the court the foreman of the jury was asked to give the verdict.

“Not guilty”, he declared, then immediately corrected himself and said “*Guilty!*”

The judge assumed the black cap to announce the sentence. At this point the foreman of the jury asked the judge if he could say a few words. He told the court that the jury wished to recommend the prisoner to “our lordship’s kindness on account of his previous weakness”. “Weakness of mind?” asked the judge. “Yes my lord” replied the foreman. Lush then announced a sentence to death.

Samuel appeared unmoved by the sentence and showed no signs of agitation save for some nervous twitching of the hands. Throughout the trial he appeared weak, pale and ill. He showed no interest in the proceedings and it would appear that it was impossible to say whether he was aware of what was going on.

Saturday 30 December 1871 – Derbyshire Courier

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE ORPHANED CHILDREN of Samuel and Sarah Wallis.

	£	s.	d.
Donations previously acknowledged	18	9	0
Mr. P. Wood, Esq.	10	0	0
Mr. Mc Lanchan	10	0	0
Mr. Crompton, Esq.	10	0	0
Friend	10	0	0
Mr. Crompton	5	0	0
Mr. Booker	5	0	0
Mr. John Parker	5	0	0
Mr. Carrington, Esq.	5	0	0
Mr. W. Glossop	5	0	0
Mr. Thompson	2	6	0
Mr. Barrowcliffe	2	6	0
Mr. J. Marriott	2	6	0
Mr. B. Dixon	2	6	0
Mr. J. W. Rooth	2	6	0
Mr. R. P. Jeffreys	2	6	0
Mr. T. Ward	2	6	0
Mr. J. Robinson	2	6	0
Mr. W. Britt	2	6	0
Mr. W. Mc Nae	2	6	0
Mr. D. Brown	2	6	0
Mr. T. Hopkinson	2	6	0
Mr. E. Madin	2	6	0
Mr. H. Morley	2	6	0
Mr. W. Swift	2	6	0
Mr. G. Dawes	2	6	0
Mr. T. Sulbon	2	6	0
Mr. T. Holhouse	2	6	0
Mr. F. Cooper	2	6	0
Mr. G. Broomhead	2	6	0
Mr. Seaton	2	6	0
Mr. Drennan	2	6	0
Donations of One Shilling from various friends	18	0	0
Total	25	2	0

R. PARKER, Treasurer

Saturday 3 August 1872 – Derbyshire Courier

“£25 and 2d via subscriptions for the orphaned children of Samuel and Sarah Wallis.

Subscription coming from business owners, friends etc.” (Subscriptions given included E.G. Maynard who convened the inquest).

Respite of the Chesterfield Murder

....The jury found the prisoner guilty of murder, but with a recommendation to mercy on the ground of ‘weakness of mind’. Mr Justice Lush went with this recommendation, along with other facts, to the Home Secretary and the result has been respited during her Majesty’s pleasure.....

When the respite was communicated to Wallis, he manifest no particular feeling”.

Samuel Wallis served as life sentence, but what happened to little George and William Wallis?

An 1881 census entry for Scarsdale Road in Chesterfield shows a 15 year old George Wallis living with William and Elizabeth Hopkinson, relationship to head is ‘nephew’ and both George and William are listed as miners. I can find little else except for an interesting registration record.

(Source Citation: Class: RG11; Piece: 3433; Folio: 113; Page: 29; GSU roll: 1341821. Source Information Ancestry.com and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. 1881 England Census)

U. S. No. 8 15M	4-10-87	Original Record for State Registrar	State File No.
DEPT. OF COMMERCE	CERTIFICATE OF DELAYED BIRTH REGISTRATION		Cal. 3238
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS	Registrar's No. 367	STATE OF MONTANA	Bureau of V. S.
Name at Birth	William Henry Wallis		Date of Birth Jan. 29, 1897
Birthplace	Chestnut	Callatin	Montana
	(City or Town)	(County)	(State)
			Sex Male
FATHER		MOTHER	
Full Name	George Wallis Sr.		Maiden Name Elizabeth Jane Martin
Color or race	white	Birth year	1865
Birthplace	Chesterfield	England	Birth year 1874
	(City or Town)	(State or Country)	(City or Town) (State or Country)
SIGNATURE OF PERSON REGISTERED		William H. Wallis	
		(Exactly as used at present time)	
*If married woman sign maiden name here also			
STATE OF	Montana	ABSTRACT OF EVIDENCE	
		(If additional space is needed, use reverse side)	

(Source Citation: Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services; Helena, Montana; Montana, Birth Records, 1919-1986. Source Information: Ancestry.com. Montana, Birth Records, 1897-1988)

This is the certificate of 'delayed birth registration' of William Henry Wallis, born in Montana 1897. His father is George Wallis born in 1865 in Chesterfield.

In another 1881 census record we find an 11 year old William HOPKINSON living with Matthew and Charlotte Hopkinson. On this census entry William's relationship to Matthew, the head of the household, is 'adopted son'.

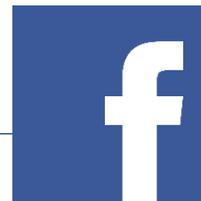
(Source Citation: Class: RG11; Piece: 3433; Folio: 6; Page: 8; GSU roll: 1341821. Source Information: Ancestry.com and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. 1881 England Census)

So, it appears that both boys were taken in by relatives on their mother's side. This awful story involves topics we hear much about today, domestic abuse, mental health issues and the impacts on families and communities in which these things happen. We know that the friends, residents and business owners of Chesterfield took the orphans to their hearts and raised a great deal of money for their welfare.

Whether George *did* go on to emigrate to the United States requires further research. If anyone would like to carry out that research it would be great to hear about the results!

Lyn McNair

Newspaper references: Derbyshire Times and Chesterfield Herald, Saturday 11 November 1871; Derbyshire Advertiser & Journal, Friday 22 December 1871; Derbyshire Courier, Saturday 30 December 1871; Derbyshire Courier, Saturday 3 August 1872. Ancestry.com



Facebook Page?

We do hope that you are all ok and coping up to a point in these very anxious times. I say “to a point” as I think it is far from perfect for many of us. One of the things we have done to help is to have set up a **'CADFHS Members Only Forum'** page on Facebook.

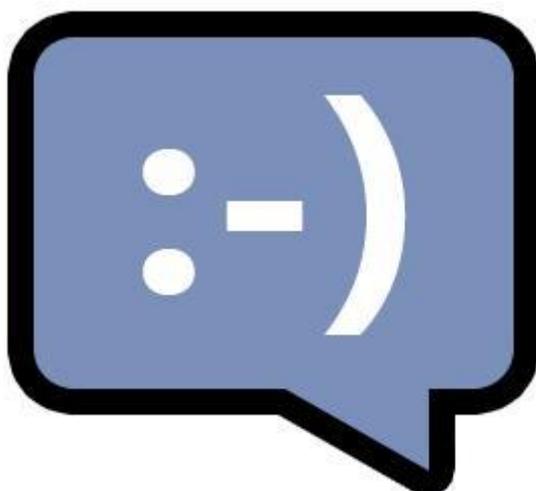
We want to make sure all of our members are aware of this and help them to join the forum if they would like to?

Please read on and reply as mentioned below.

If you are already in the Forum there is nothing for you to do

If not please just reply to Dena at cadfhs.eventscordinator@gmail.com indicating your answers with 1, 2 or 3.

1. I am on Facebook already but not in the forum
2. I am not on Facebook yet but would like to be in the Forum.
3. I am not interested at the moment



JULY TALK 2020

Dena Fanshawe



Chesterfield Union Workhouse
By Dena Fanshawe

In July we had our first 'Virtual Meeting' via Zoom which was presented by Dena Fanshawe. CADFHS has been invited to contribute to a very exciting project (see page 7) concerning the Chesterfield Union Workhouse. Dena gave us an insight to the history of this institution.

In 1834 an amendment was made to the Poor Law, which had existed since the 14th century (1388), in an attempt to control vagrancy. This 'New' Poor Law resulted in the building of the 'New' Chesterfield Union Workhouse on Scarsdale Road. Chesterfield already had a workhouse on South Street.

The amendment created a system of poor relief that replaced the former system by amalgamating parishes into groupings called 'unions'. This meant larger centralised workhouses were required to replace the smaller institutions, such as the workhouse on South Street. A 'Board of Guardians' were to be appointed to oversee the management of the new larger workhouses. The new workhouses required all those who came to the Board for parish relief now had to be admitted into the workhouse.

The government's aim was to discourage 'idlers' and so the Unions Workhouses were deliberately created to instil fear. Initially however the New Poor Law was

welcomed as it was believed that such a system would reduce the cost of looking after the poor, reduce vagrancy and encourage those able to work to do so.

In return for a place in the workhouse people could be assured that they would be fed, clothed and children would also receive an education.



The former workhouse of Chesterfield was in the Yards known as the Dog Kennels

South Street to the side



However people soon began to see the workhouse as a 'Prison for the poor'. They were so hated that it their introduction triggered riots in many northern towns.

Upon admission into the workhouse the new residents were indignantly required to strip off all of their clothes and take a bath in the bathwater that had been used many times already that day, even if they were scabby or had open sores. Dirty towels were used and these were washed once a week. New residents were then given a 'uniform' to wear and bed clothes that had been used many times before, they were usually stained and dirty.

Your own clothes were 'sanitised' ready for when you were discharged from the care of the workhouse, but in many cases this simply wasn't done.

Residents were not allowed to leave the workhouse once admitted unless it was to work; their diet consisted of mainly bread and porridge with some water to drink. Separate wings for men, women and children meant that families would be split up.

Many died in the workhouse and many were sick. If you were sick in those days and without money then the workhouse offered the only free care available; so

many people went to the workhouse to die. When someone died in the workhouse the 'Master' would update his records and contact the family of the deceased to come and take the body away.

Christ Church

Built as a Church of Ease to The Holy Trinity on Newbold Road.

The Church was consecrated on 20 September 1870 having taken about a year to build and at a cost of £700.00.

The land was gifted by the late J. Robinson, Esq.



They would then add to the discharge register. If the body was not claimed they would be removed to the nearest church to be buried in the graveyard.

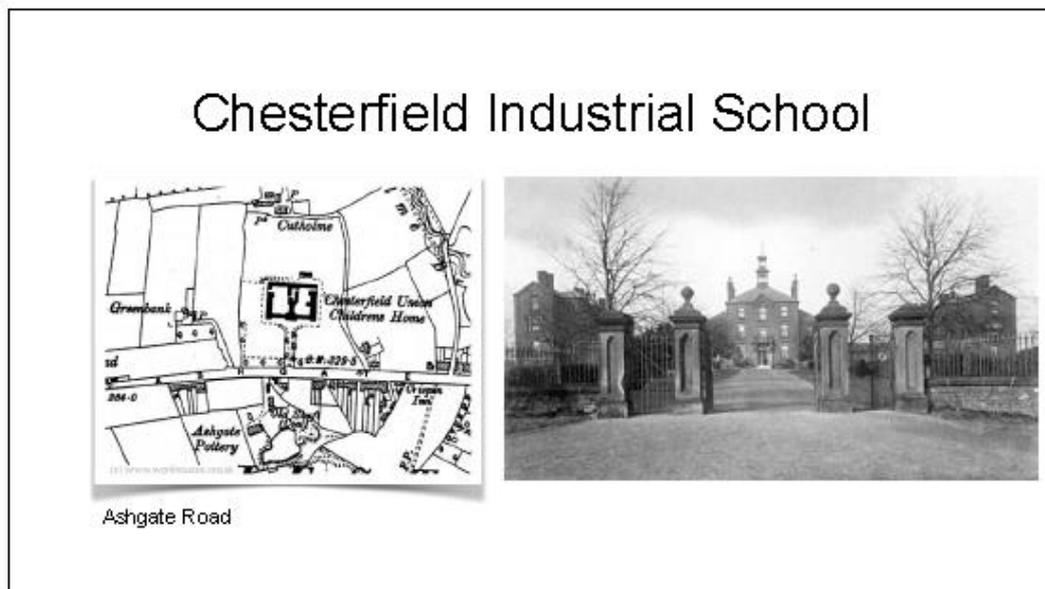
In Chesterfield the nearest churches to the workhouse was Holy Trinity and Christ Church. Originally people were buried at Holy Trinity but space there was a premium so a 'Church of Ease' was built and named Christ Church, on Newbold Road. The church was consecrated on 20th September 1870 having taken a year to build at a cost of £700. The land was gifted by the late J. Robinson Esq.

Industrial Schools (sometimes known as the Poor Law schools) began in the earth 19th century following the new Act of 1834. They were formerly known as 'Ragged School's. Not only the children of the sick and poor when to these schools; children could also be admitted if they were considered to be of 'poor temperament' or had potential for criminality.

The schools were strict and had a rigid routine. Children learned trades; boys would be taught farming, gardening and other manual work while girls would learn good housekeeping skills such as cleaning, sewing, cooking etc.

Girls would often be prepared to go into 'Service'. Those guilty of a crime would go to a Reformatory (Reform School) although by the end of the 19th century the difference between the reformatory and industrial schools began to disappear.

In 1933 they were all renamed 'Approved Schools'.



Searching Records for Family History

The National Archives hold many records including:

- Poor Law correspondence
- Workhouse Staff Registers
- Administrative records of the central authorities.

You can search 'Discovery' (TNA catalogue) for key words such as:

- Personal names
- Union names and numbers
- Relevant subjects e.g. 'medical', 'unemployment', 'wages' etc.

Restrict your search to MH (Ministry of Health) or HM (Home office) with the appropriate date range

Abolition: Poor Law Unions were abolished by the Local Government Act 1929, which transferred the administration of poor relief to county borough councils leaving the Poor Law system largely redundant. The demise of the Poor Law system can be mainly attributed to the availability of alternative sources of assistance, including membership of 'Friendly' Societies and trade unions.

The National Assistance Act of 1948 repealed all Poor Law legislation.

Adapted from Dena Fanshawe's presentation

SERENDIPITY AND JOHN GILDING'S TALE

By Louis Gilding

For many years I could be found winding microfilm in the dusty bowels of the Public Records Office at Chancery Lane or fighting for elbow room with the heavy BMD registers at St Catherine's House in the Strand; both located near my then workplace. Since the 1990s Ancestry has become a greater information source including DNA matching. However, it has been the odd comment made by a relative, usually contradicted by another, or fate lending a hand which provides the most satisfaction.

My dad told the story of a distant uncle who sought a new life in Australia. On the long sea voyage he met a young lady and courted her by playing his violin. Such was his charms that she married him and settled down, no doubt as a wealthy sheep farmer or gold miner. Unfortunately when we delve into our family trees, or usually the grimy by-ways of life, we find the truth may differ.

My three times great grandfather Henry Gilding, a coal miner, first appears in Chesterfield records when he married a farmer's daughter Amy, from Churchside Farm, Hasland in 1845. The Hall family had been tenants on the 20 acre farm for many years. Henry and Amy had ten children of which only six survived infancy, and all the sons would become coal miners and help out at the farm. The surviving family members were William b.1846, Mary Ann b.1849, John b.1853, George b.1856, Alfred b.1863 and Eliza b.1870. William would take over the tenancy of Churchside farm when his uncle William Hall and his wife Ann died in 1899 *{the Hall headstone including Henry's wife Amy Gilding lies by the porch of Hasland Church}*. My grandfather Frank Gilding was the son of Alfred Gilding and his wife Amy was the daughter of William Gilding – a "close" family.

Having set the family background we can focus on Henry's son John who was employed tending the winding gear at the local colliery. On 10th March 1878 John Gilding, aged 24, married Eliza Ann Greenan, aged 20, at Holy Trinity Church. Eliza was the daughter of Irish parents from County Monaghan. Her father Michael was an army pensioner and his wife Alice had lived at the depots of the 31st regiment of foot at Winchester (*where Eliza was born*) and Chatham, Kent. After Michael's death in 1875, the family moved to Wallsend Cottages, on Newbold Road, where Alice was a washerwoman. Alice died in 1904 living near Wharf Lane. John and Eliza lived at Grasshill, Hasland.

On the 30th August 1880 Eliza gave birth to William Frederick Gilding. Sadly he lived for only twenty days suffering from diarrhoea and enteritis. Within two years Eliza had died on 14th March 1882 after suffering from TB for nine months aged only 24. John's mother Amy died the following month aged 54.

Perhaps these tragic events led John, to take an assisted passage from Plymouth to Australia, in September the following year on the three mast iron vessel the Sydenham. He met fellow passenger Jane Pringle, a cook/ housekeeper. The passenger lists show John from Derbyshire and Jane from Midlothian, Scotland. Whether John did “woo” her with his violin we do not know. The vessel arrived in Sydney on Christmas Day 1883.

John (*aged 30*) and Jane (*aged 27*) married shortly afterwards on 19 January 1884 at the Congregational Parsonage, Balmain. Balmain had a reputation of a rough working class area of Sydney. Their home in Granville, to the west of Sydney, was heavily involved with the development of the railways and John worked as an engine driver in the Clyde goods yard. Their only child was Amy Jane Gilding born in 1885. Sadly John died aged only 53 on 12th December 1906 after a long illness. Their daughter Amy was married in 1912 (*aged 27*) to Fred Terry (*aged 37*) a house painter who had emigrated with his parents from Bradford in 1883. They had a child named John Gilding Terry born the following year. No rags to riches in this tale. This line of research appeared closed.

Fate began to play a part about eight years ago when I received a message out of the blue on Ancestry from a lady named Sue from Tampa, Florida. She and her husband had been researching their Irish roots prior to a visit there. She wrote *“One night while trying to sleep something said to me you need to look at that old letter you have My dad's mother died when he was young so he didn't have her guidance in finding out where he was from. I think it bothered him all his life so anytime he found a family member he held on to it.”* Her dad was packed off to his grandmother Mary aged four to be brought up.

Mary always kept in touch with her sister’s family in Australia. As you have guessed the sisters were Mary and Jane Pringle. Their parents Robert and Agnes had emigrated from Scotland to Melbourne in 1854 where they were born. The death of Agnes in child birth in 1860, Robert’s bronchitis arising from his work as a stonemason and starting a second family with his housekeeper led to the Pringles return to Leith in 1867. The family dispersed with Mary marrying in 1881 and emigrating to Pennsylvania and Jane heading for a better climate in Sydney and meeting John Gilding.

To help Sue with a high school family project her dad gave her “the letter” which she had kept. The three page letter was written to her dad in 1955 by John and Jane’s daughter Amy, now a widow. Amy wrote about her life in New South Wales, family relationships and the weather. A later letter was received from Amy’s son John Gilding Terry informing him of his mother’s death aged seventy-six on 29th September 1961. The letters put a heartbeat into sterile facts as they

narrated a living snapshot of the past. I helped Sue with her Pringle research in the UK and filled in the Gilding blanks.

But, the tale was not quite ended!

Grasshill Row Hasland



William Gilding at Churchside Farm in 1900s



The Sydenham



Granville Station in 1890s



We tend to concentrate on the “4th cousin or closer” DNA matches on Ancestry rather than focus on the hundreds of more dubious DNA suggestions. It is the exception when we happen upon a match we can validate. I currently have some thirty “proven” matches out of over two hundred in this category which mainly relate to my mum not dad. However two years ago for no particular reason I followed up a “close match” with a lady called Lorraine from New South Wales who was at the start of her family research. To my surprise she replied to my message about my Australian connection. I had found a daughter of John Gilding Terry and his wife Dorothy - John Gilding’s great granddaughter. She knew nothing about her dad’s cousins or her family origins. Sue was happy for me to share the old letters between the two families with Lorraine. The distant Pringle cousins were reconnected and a circle had been closed.

For my part the bonus was twofold: a clean DNA link from me to old Henry Gilding, via his son my great uncle John; and the musical genes in the Gildings continue to flow.

John's daughter became a piano teacher and her descendants still play. An irony is my late brother and his wife took an assisted passage to Queensland in the early seventies and created their own dynasty.

The Family History Show Online 20th June 2020 By Valerie Bladon

The planned Family History Show should have been held at York but was cancelled due to the Covid pandemic. The event was held online instead. Dena and I both attended and it was a thoroughly enjoyable and informative day. I personally learnt a lot from the talks.

It was very easy to sign up and pay the fee of £5.50 via PayPal. They then sent an email with the password and log in details.

There were six online talks, three in the morning and three in the afternoon, all were extremely well presented. These were followed by a live question and answer session featuring various experts in fields of census research, DNA research, social history, military history etc.

Throughout the day there was an exhibitors "hall" where you could ask questions via messaging or have a one to one consultation via zoom. There were over 80 exhibitors consisting of family history societies, local history societies, one name studies, and historical book companies etc.

Morning:

Breaking Down Brick Walls in Your Family History Research **10:00**
Mark Bayley - Online Genealogy Expert

The Genetic Genealogy Revolution: how DNA testing is transforming family history research **11:00**
Debbie Kennett - DNA Expert & Writer

An Introduction to Jewish Genealogy **11:45**
Jeanette Rosenberg OBE, Produced by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain

Afternoon:

Tracing your Military Ancestors **12:30**
Chris Baker - Military Expert & Professional Researcher

Tips & Tricks for Online Research **13:30**
Keith Gregson - Social and Family Historian

Tracing Your House History **14:30**
Gill Blanchard - Professional genealogist, house historian, tutor and author

Ask The Experts Live Q&A Panel **15:30**
Ask your research questions to our team of experts who will be answering them on our live stream.

There is another Family History Show Online coming up on Saturday 26th September 2020 from 10.00 – 16.30. The cost will be £6 in advance or £8 on the day.

Behind The Scenes Dave Hall - Web Team

I live in Worksop, and have lived there most of my life. I am 68, I am married to my wife Bev, and have 2 grown up sons. I have had a variety of 'jobs' over the years including Supermarket Management, Learning Disabilities Nurse and latterly a Computer engineer and College Lecturer.

I have been fascinated with family and social history for many years. My paternal family hail from North Norfolk and my maternal family comes from 'round here' - Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire borders.



I had a stroke in 2011 which curtailed my career as a computer engineer but still maintain an interest in computing. I lost the use of my right arm/hand and have since become a purely digital family historian - 'using virtually no paper'.

I have a particular interest in The Chesterfield Canal and 'bargees' being related to many of the bargee families on the canal. I am currently attempting to database all those bargees running the cuckoos down/up the canal.

I am a member of The Guild of One Name Studies with the registered name of VERTIGAN, a name that originates from one man in Norwich in about 1580. The family was originally came from the Dutch/French borders. They were Walloons (early Huguenots). I am also a member of the Huguenot Society, Norfolk Family History Society and Nottinghamshire Family History Society.

I find the history of ordinary folks fascinating and love reading about how they lived through the ages.

Useful Websites

National Archives of Australia: <http://naa.gov.au>

British Red Cross Museum and Archives: www.redcross.org.uk/about-us/our-history

Royal College of Nursing Library & Archives: www.rcn.org.uk/library

British Movietone Collection: www.aparchive.com/partner/British%20Movietone

Latin Genealogy Glossary: www.thoughtco.com/latin-genealogical-word-list-1422735

Newspaper Obituaries (U.S.): www.newspaperobituaries.net/

How to Obtain a Copy of a Will

Post 1858 Calendars of the Grants of Probate (Wills) and Letters of Administration (Admins) made in the Probate Registries of the High Court of Justice - *Janet E Ashley 17.04.2020.*

Introduction

Post 1858 Registered English and Welsh Wills and Administrations are public records and are deposited at The Principal Registry of the Family Division (PPR) at First Avenue House, 42-49 High Holborn, WC1V 6NP.

From 12th January 1858, the Civil Court of Probate proved wills and granted administrations in England and Wales in the probate registry in London and at local offices around the country. Copies of all wills and administrations recorded by local registries are sent to the Principal Probate Registry (PPR) where indexes or calendars of wills for England and Wales are published in annual volumes of Red Books.

The indexes are arranged annually for the year when probate was granted which is not necessarily the same year as the death. After 1870 both wills and admins are listed together alphabetically under the name of the testator. Before 1870 there are two alphabetical sequences each year, one for wills and one for admins.

The indexes from 1858 are quite full, giving the name and address of the testator; dates of death and grant of probate; the name of the executor and the value of the estate. Before 1892 the relationship of the executor to the testator is often stated. Between 1968 and 1995, the name of the executor(s) is not included in the indexes.

Technology has advanced and scanned pages of the indexes are on-line on the government website **GOV.UK** and can be searched for free. Copies of the original document can then be purchased on-line at **£1.50** each.



WARNING: There are many commercial or scam web sites operating under 'probate' who will ask for your bank details.

How to search safely in four steps.

[1] Use Google and search and select [GOV.UK] >

[2] The gov.uk site opens with a search panel. Type in one word [probate] >

When the page opens up you must navigate down the page until you see 'search probate records England and Wales.'

For 'Scotland', or 'Northern Ireland' [the PRONI site] navigate further down the same page – their services are pay-to-view.

[3] Click 'search probate records England and Wales' >

[4] Open this page and click on [Start Now] >

When the new page opens look, and select one of three tabs above the search box. For example, one tab will take you directly to search soldiers Wills.

Select the preferred tab and enter your specific search criteria etc.

When you have found your final selection the web-site will tell you how to order the document.

With the appropriate permissions it is possible for local researchers to access the Red Book indexes at Sheffield Probate Sub-Registry, The Law Courts, 50 West Bar, Sheffield, S3 8PH. The office is small and it is recommended to book a visit in advance, and visitors must carry photo identity documents. Telephone 0114-281-2596. There are strict security checks. Staff are not able to perform searches for you. Forms are provided for ordering documents, but expect a higher charge for the service of c£10 per item.

The gov.uk website states that new probate records are placed on-line approximately 14 days after probate has been issued.

See the table on the following page for a guide to understanding the post 1858 will.

Further reading: Jeremy Gibson 'A simplified guide to probate jurisdiction', Federation of Family History Societies, 1985.

Janet Ashley

Understanding the Post-1858 Will – J E Ashley 17.04.2020

Stages of a Post-1858 Will	Key words	Comments	More comments
The will is written by the person or drawn up by a solicitor	Testator (male) or Testatrix (female)	Solicitors were paid by the page!	The Will may have been written years before death. Reflects conditions and sentiments at time of writing.
If things change a later amendment is possible A Will may have been spoken	Called a Codicil Nuncupative Will	Separate dated and witnessed document. Three Witnesses to the words were required to make statements.	Attached to the original Will The victim suffers a sudden fatal occurrence and utters last words to assembled onlookers.
The Will names those who are to carry out the instructions	The Executors (male), Executrix (female)	Often the principal Beneficiaries	Usually relatives, spouse, or trusted friends.
The Testator must sign or makes a mark		In the presence of two Witnesses	An original Will (not a copy) gives the real-time signature or mark of the deceased.
The Witnesses cannot be beneficiaries		May sign or make a mark	Friends, neighbours or people from the street. One is often a clerk/cleric or solicitor.
Supervisors may be named by the Testator		Their role is to supervise the Executor in carrying out their duties	Often appointed when a female or young person is the main Executor.
After death the Executor takes Will to a District or Principal Probate Registry .	After due examination and 'non-contentious' business a Grant of Probate is issued.	Since 1926 executors could use any Probate Registry in a county.	1) sent to HM Courts & Tribunals Service, First Avenue House 2) Will retained as a copy
Death when there is no Will. Letters of Administration (Admin) are applied for by Next of Kin.	Legal Authority to administer an Intestate estate follows a strict formula	Children, parents, siblings, nephews + nieces, grandparents, aunts + uncles, 1st cousins.	Where there is no relative all property goes to the Crown
Executors execute the terms	The widow may be called Relict 'remnant of a pre-existing formation'	A copy is used by the Executors.	The copy may survive in family papers
Death Duty registers are Indexed.		Details of death duty payments are carefully recorded.	DD was always deducted first from an estate. Searching indexes may help overcome a 'brick wall.'

A Remarkable Story of Unhappiness at the Rectory

John James McNair was born in 1859 to Spencer and Agnes McNair, in Fylde, Lancashire. He was the 4th of 11 children, only 6 of whom survived into adulthood. Spencer had served in the Merchant Navy, and later started a career working at the docks at Barrow-In-Furness. The census details from around this time show a number of house moves, presumably to accommodate his growing family, and a steady progression from Dock Gateman to a Contractor's Clerk. John James lived with the family until he was around 20 years old.

At some point, he attended St. Bee's (?) in Cumbria, which was the start of his religious career.

In 1884, Spencer McNair was baptised (as an adult). It is likely that this was performed by his son, John James.

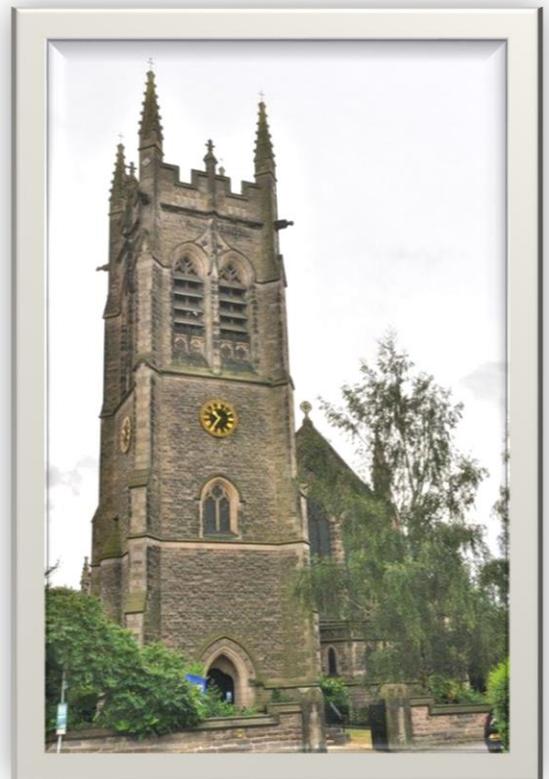
In 1891 John James married Mary Ellen Stoddart at Walton-On-The-Hill, Liverpool. By this time, he was working as a clerk in holy orders, lodging at an address in Burton adjacent to All Saint's Church. His wife was a 'photographic stippler' (the creation of images using varying degrees of dots).

Following the death in infancy of their first child, Mary Agnes Alexander McNair, John James's ecclesiastical work took him around the country, and in 1895 he was curate at St. Mary's in Sheffield, before taking the same position at St. Andrew's in Hull.

After taking up the position of Clerical Secretary of the Diocese of Exeter and Truro, a second daughter, Monica McNair was born in 1900.

From information gleaned from religious publications of the day, John was at various times Rector at Derby, and Retford, before arriving in Odell, Buckinghamshire in the early 1920's.

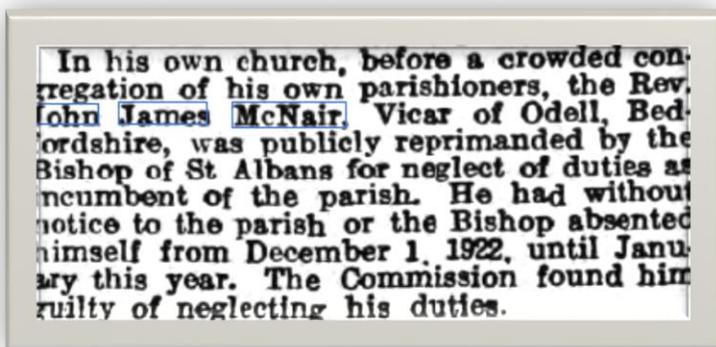
The 'scandal' that brought my ancestor to my attention then began to unfold. The information below has been pieced together from a variety of newspaper articles, as the story travelled around the world. I am indebted to the 'Australian Sunday Times', and 'Bedford Times' among others. The style of reporting at the time allowed transcripts from the court case to be printed, which I have repeated verbatim in the paragraphs below. I invite the reader to make up their own mind.



All Saints – Burton

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com>

First of all, I shall deal with the facts. In December 1922, the Reverend John James McNair, Rector of Odell, left the parish, his wife and child, and did not return until January 1924. On his return, he was summoned at Bedford for deserting his wife, but the case was dismissed. The Reverend claimed that his wife had asked him to leave her, and that he had worked as a gardener in the Bournemouth area until his return.



Southern Reporter - Thursday 22 May 1924
(<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>)

There then followed a further court case in February 1924 dealing with cross-summons for threats by the Rector and his wife. The 'Northampton Mercury's account is particularly interesting, featuring the two protagonists and Mr. Charles Negus, a builder and undertaker, answering a summons for wilfully committing damage at the Rectory on January 27th.

It appears that upon his return to Odell, John James notified his wife that he would now be occupying the West Wing of the Rectory, and would secure the connecting door to the rest of the property to maintain his privacy. When challenged about this in court, he said it was to prevent any allegation that he was molesting his wife. Mr Farr, for the defence, protested that these were 'extraneous matters', and 'most improper'. On Sunday, whilst conducting a service, the 'door to the West Wing was forced open, certain china knobs broken, a bolt at the window had been forced, and a padlock had been wrenched off the study door'. The Rector estimated the damage at a £1.

Mr Negus claimed that he had been asked to come to the rectory by Mrs McNair to open a door and would not have undertaken the work if he had known about the conditions there. There was nothing to suggest that they were not living together as a normal man and wife. After some discussion about the authority of a woman with regard to dealing with tradesmen (this was 1924, remember!) this part of the case was dismissed by the magistrates.

The Reverend then described the circumstances of his claim of threats against him. "On 27th January he secured his study door at 7.00 am. Around 9.00 am, his wife appeared at the window and enquired 'Are you going to open that door?'

After hearing the Reverend reply in the negative, Mrs McNair smashed the pane of glass several times with a hammer. She then passed the hammer from her right hand to her left, and produced a revolver from her girdle, presenting it through the window. "I'll kill you, and don't make any mistake. You may think these are blank

cartridges, but you will find they are not. I have friends in Bedford who supply me with them.”

After describing the Rector as ‘in deadly fear of suffering some mortal injury’, and his life as ‘an abject and endless misery’ the prosecution revealed that he has asked Mrs McNair previously for a private separation, but she had turned the offer down with scorn. The object of the prosecution was for the protection of the Rector, who had been ordered by his bishop to return to the rectory.

The Reverend commented “I cannot possibly live there when my life is threatened every day.” Mrs McNair was then asked if she would like to question him, and replied “No, I should not believe him.”

Mrs McNair then took the stand and holding up the testament, said dramatically “I say most emphatically, and with the bible in my hand, that I had not the revolver with me. I smashed the window on Monday.” Proceeding to speak at a rapid rate, she went on to say that she told her husband she would not interfere with his part of the house, if he did not interfere with hers. She admitted having a revolver, but had it before her husband came back to Odell, as protection against the lonely road, and that she only had blank cartridges. “I am generally believed wherever I go, and he isn’t!”

She went on, “I told the Bishop that Mr McNair tried to strangle me. He had done it so many times, and he would do it once too often. He has threatened my daughter’s life.”

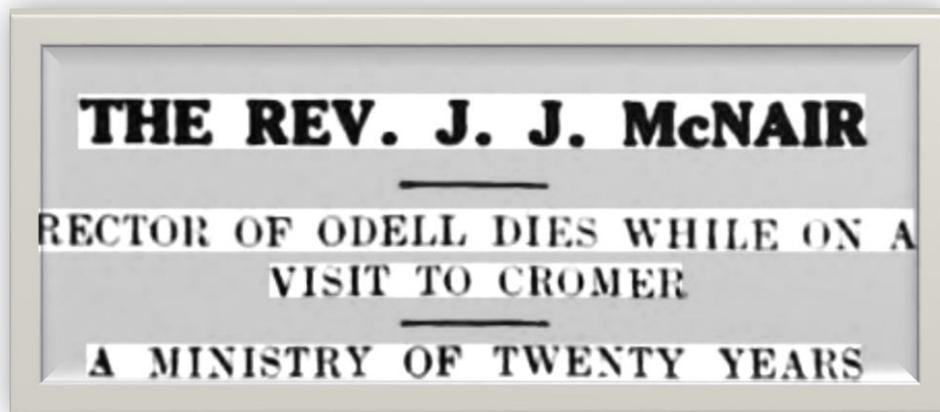
The Chairman then asked Mr McNair, “At any time did you threaten to strangle her?” and he replied “Never. I have perhaps at times put my hand out to protect myself.” A question was then asked if he had threatened to strangle his daughter and Mrs McNair intervened with the remark “Not strangle her, kill her; we must be accurate!” eliciting some laughter from the court. Mrs McNair then accused her husband of following her round the room spitting in her face, which he denied, before she exclaimed “Cannot I say what sort of a life I had with Mr McNair? Cannot I say that he is the fourth member of his family to have deserted his wife, and that there is only one left? He has knocked me down many times.”

She went on to claim that the Reverend had told her “I’m going to make havoc with you before the weeks out. There is a way to get rid of you, there is a way.” After Monica said that she didn’t think it safe to stay in the house, the two of them went to stay at friends, but due to the lateness of the hour, ended up at the Bell Hotel in Bedford.

To conclude, prosecution asked Mr McNair if it was his wish, if Mrs McNair agreed, that he should have a private deed of separation. Mrs McNair interjected “I most emphatically decline to have it.”

The Magistrates retired, and on their return the Chairman told the Bench that the two cases had been considered together. They regretted exceedingly there should be an exhibition such as the evidence had disclosed. They regretted it as a sad example to everyone in the neighbourhood. The decision of the Bench was that both parties were bound over in the sum of £10, to be of good behaviour and keep the peace for 12 months.

Following the case, and the Reverend's subsequent attempt to take Matins, the Bishop of St. Albans publicly rebuked him before his congregation.



Bedfordshire Times and Independent - Friday 08 July 1932
(<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>)

John James McNair carried on his work in the church, and died in Cromer in 1932. An obituary published in the (?) recounts that he was loved by all his parishioners, even in Odell after the events of 1924.

Unfortunately, I can find no evidence of his wife after this date. I prefer to think that this is due to a name change, or lack of records, rather than anything sinister. Despite her claims about John James's brothers, all the information I have for the extended family seem to show them married until well after 1924.

By 1939 Monica was living in Malvern, working as a junior clerk for the Miss Smallwood's Society (a charity for Ladies in Reduced Circumstances). She died a spinster in the Egarley Nursing Home, Clevedon in 1965.

Ian McNair (member)

Members Questions

We love to hear from our members! If you have any questions OR answers for our magazine please email us at cadfhs.editors@gmail.com

From a member Liz Lockwood

Wills/probate entry:

Lawrence Simpson of Bargh Lane, Littlemoor Chesterfield Derbyshire died 10 Dec 1949 at British Houston Company Works Chesterfield Administration London 13 Feb to Florence Marjorie Simpson Widow.

Q. Lawrence Simpson was my Great grandfathers' nephew and worked as a shopkeeper/ delivery manager for my Great grandfather's grocery business R. Hicks and Sons. Did Lawrence die in an accident or was he just visiting when he collapsed. I have searched the newspapers but cannot find any incident or death notice Can anyone help with this mystery?

A. My Aunt lived on Bargh Lane, Littlemoor and lived across the road from the Simpsons she remembers they had a shop she knew the family very well. She thought that Lawrence died of a Heart Attack. She was surprised that there was nothing in the Derbyshire Times as they were well known. I have had another check and as you said there is nothing. Perhaps there might be more detail given on the death certificate

Valerie

Q from Rosie

"I am one of your more distant members (living in Hertfordshire) and would like to ask members if anyone has any memories or photos of visiting the Malt Shovel Public House in Alton near Ashover? On a research visit last year, joy of joys, I managed to stumble on what is now called the 'Malt Shovel Farm' - my TURNER ancestors ran the farm cum pub in the 1800s and I believe the pub side of things that was set up in the farm house (with a sign on front wall, since removed) was possibly still in existence up until the 1960s. Memories or any photos much appreciated with thanks"





Rosemary enclosed a photograph of Malt Shovel Farm. She believes the bar of the public house was to the left of the front door and the sign was on the facing wall to the right of the front door. If you do have any pictures or memories of Malt Shovel Farm please email us at editors.cadfhs@gmail.com so that we can pass on your information to Rosemary.

*Rosemary Russell,
Hertfordshire*

A.I have found two references to the Malt Shovel one by Leonard Wheatcroft written June 5th, 1699 (who) spent 6d at Alton on the way home -taken as stopping off for a drink on the way home.

Chesterfield local Studies used to save and hold a collection of For Sale brochures for old properties in the local area including the photos of interiors etc. I have searched them in the past for a Tupton property. The collection was indexed. Since the removal of the post of Local Studies Librarian I do not know whether the collection is still in Chesterfield or moved to Matlock. If the property has been for sale in the last fifty years or so, then the collection is the best place to search and obtain photocopy. Unfortunately, as the Librarians at both Chesterfield and Matlock are currently off limits perhaps you could try emailing the respective Archivist / librarian.

Janet



Many thanks to two of our members for the following contributions to this edition of our magazine!

Barghs Lane, Windermere Road, Littlemoor, Chesterfield

"I always look forward to the Society's magazine arriving each quarter. I make a cup of coffee and sit down to catch up on the news and read the various interesting articles. No matter how long you have been researching your family history there is always something new to learn. So on turning to page 24 of the April magazine I found that a familiar address leapt of the page; Barghs Lane, Littlemore. Wow! What's this? Have you ever considered that the very names of the places where your forebears lived could add information and colour to your family's story. Let me explain.

My father in law, Sidney Martin (1902 – 1993) grew up with his parents in a house in California Row, Littlemoor. The house actually belonged to his grandmother, Alice Martin nee Berry (1857 – 1935) who in turn had inherited both houses from her mother, Mary Berry nee Silcock. A major industry at the time was coal mining which as well as being a very hazardous occupation was also, for the families, a very uncertain financial support. So, miners were always looking for a way to improve their lot. In 1849 gold was discovered in California and in the subsequent Gold Rush many tried their luck. Mary Silcock had a brother called Robert Silcock who with his brother Vincent travelled to the Gold Fields. They were successful and returned to Chesterfield with their gold.

Robert Silcock turned his gold into bricks and mortar. He built a row of five houses that he called California Row. Also he built a shop and a public house, the original Gold Miners Arms. Two years later they returned to California and again returned home with more gold. This time Robert Silcock added six more house to California Row and behind them another row of houses that is still there today and is called South View. The lane that runs between these two rows of houses is Barghs Lane.

Barghs Lane is so called because at the end of the lane was a stone built workshop where a Mr. Bargh made and repaired boots and clogs for the local miners. Sidney Martin's father George Henry Martin (1877 – 1955) also was a coal miner. Sidney told me that his father forbade him and his two brothers to ever wear clogs! In 1901 he became the Sexton (grave digger) and Verger of St. John's Church. The job also included being a caretaker of the St. John's School

and his wife, Fanny Martin, nee Whitworth, was the school cleaner. By 1917 when World War 1 was at its height George Henry Martin was conscripted. He was judged not fit enough for the army so he was sent to work with the Timber Gangs who felled trees and collected timber for the coal mines.

In the 1920's he was employed as a Fitters Labourer at Sheepbridge Coal and Iron Co. He was a qualified First-aider with St. John's Ambulance and during World War 2 served in the Ambulance Room at Sheepbridge. Sidney Martin at the age of 13 started as an Engineering Apprentice at Sheepbridge. He worked there his entire working life and was a Foreman Toolmaker.

Robert Silcock when he died was buried in St. Johns Churchyard somewhere near the front gate. A memorial was erected in his memory. However at a later date this was demolished much to the anguish of the family at the time. A small piece of the memorial was saved and made into a small memorial plaque but this too has now disappeared. Sidney Martin's ashes were interred alongside those of his wife, Frances Maggie Martin, nee Outram, (1910 -1984) in St. John's Churchyard I would very much like to discover where other members of the family are buried and in the fullness of time record any inscriptions on any surviving headstones. If anyone reading this can in any way help me in this project I would be most grateful, my e-mail address is shown below.

Sidney Martin also had an uncle who was a coal miner and at the aged of 21 decided to try his luck elsewhere. The story goes that he cycled from Chesterfield to Liverpool and there took passage aboard a ship to the USA. There he met an English lady with two children who had been widowed. They married and immigrated to Argentina. Sidney Martin told me that he remembers the Argentinian family visiting Chesterfield in the late 1920's or early 1930's. Sadly today we have no contact with the Argentinian family. Again I say no matter how long we have been researching our family history there is always something new to discover. I think that is why our hobby is so addictive!"

Tony Daniell
West Sussex

Teatime Quiz

1. In the Middle Ages Chesterfield had a leper hospital. What was it called?
2. When did Chesterfield receive its first market charter?
3. What was the occupation of an 'Accoucheus'?
4. The study of ancient handwriting essential to master if you must read old documents is called?
5. In the Name of God Amen are often the first words in what kind of document?
6. The start of the Victorian era is usually taken as the basis for denoting the ancient parishes of England. Roughly how many parishes were there in England at the time?
7. In the 18th/19th centuries if a person became destitute in a parish, he didn't belong to what document amongst the parish records might tell you something about him and his family?
8. What was a Will called that was not written down but spoken by the testator on his death bed?
9. In what year did the Railway reach Chesterfield?
10. In what year did the workhouse on Newbold Road receive its first inmates?

Researching Manorial records? The National Archives have a free online guide at <https://familytr./manorial guide>

Photographs of ancestors wearing a seaman's jersey with a yacht name embroidered on it can be useful for tracing the vessels on which they served

Find free records online when you search your ancestors' names on these useful websites
Familysearch.org
FreeCen.org.uk and
FreeBMD.ORG.UK

THE STORY OF PADSTOW'S UNKNOWN MARINE

William Whitmore 21 May 1875 – 23 July 1918

Taken from the publication by Isabel Nora Pope and Alan Godhard

In the April issue we began the interesting voyage of discovery regarding the 'Unknown Marine'. To recap; Isabel had been contacted by a niece in Florida regarding information about her great grandfather William Whitmore. Isabel and Alan did some research and began to reconstruct William's family.

"...then out of the blue I noticed that one brother (of William's), Josiah, had a son; Wilfred Guy who was born in Wellingborough in Northamptonshire. Bells started to ring; suddenly I recalled my Aunt Nora was born in Wellingborough. Was this a coincidence? Wellingborough is about one hundred miles from Stoke-on-Trent; we decided to follow this lead and sent for both birth certificates and found that they were born at 20 Salisbury Road, Wellingborough, and Northamptonshire. My Aunt Nora and Wilfred were born about six months apart. Then we sent for the military records; both William and Josiah had given the same home address as 68 Boothan Road, Stock-on-Trent on their military records. Now everyone is totally convinced that we have the right history".



William's Family

William Henry Whitmore was born on May 21, 1875, in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, his father, William, and his mother, Mary. We are unsure whether he was a file maker or a tile maker. He joined the Army as musician in 1887 at 11/12 years old, possibly with the North Staffordshire, Regiment, where his father was a sergeant, in 1895 he joined the Royal Marine Light Infantry. He was batman to Colonel Albert Farrer Gatliff, He was 29 when he married Margaret Bessie Cook in January 1904 in Eastry, Kent, Margaret was on the staff at the Gatliff household, I remember my grandma telling a little story, she was told to take this letter which was addressed to the Colonel to his office as it was thought to be urgent, she did not know it was actually from William telling the Colonel not to try to interfere with his intention to marry Margaret until the Colonel opened it, read it and

then showed it to her. William and Margaret had two children during their marriage, Kathleen Louise; my mother and Nora Eleanor. It appears that after his service in the RMLI he was in the Naval

Reserve, for which he would be paid, but a requirement was that he could be recalled in any future conflict. We have found information that suggest he

was working in the steel industry on blast furnaces. On the outbreak of WW1, he was recalled, he wanted to join as

submariner but Margaret said it was too dangerous. He served on naval ships and then

was transferred to be a gunner on merchant ships which were equipped with guns for protection. It was on July 23, 1918, when the ship he was on, the

Anna-Sophie was hit by a torpedo from a German submarine, he was assumed to lost at sea at the age of 43.



S.S Anna Sophia, William's ship that was torpedoed

It was on July 23, 1918, when the ship he was on, the Anna-Sophie was hit by a torpedo from a German submarine, he was assumed to lost at sea at the age of 43.

Henry Frederick Whitmore, William's father, was born about 1814 in Staffordshire. His father was Henry, his mother was Martha Rhodes; she was eighteen and had a son, John Rhodes. Henry married in January 1840 in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire to Mary Ann Cotton Smith. He died in April 1876 in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, at the age of 62. From the census of the day he was listed as a sergeant in the North Staffordshire regiment for many years but as yet we have not found that he was involved directly in any military conflict. We have not bought his military records.

Mary Ann Cotton Smith - William's mother

Mary was born about 1841 in Hanley, Staffordshire; her father, Levi, was 22 and her mother, Ann, was 33. She had five sons and three daughters with William Frederick Whitmore between 1860 and 1879. We believe she died in October 1907 in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, at the age of 66. Her sister was Martha who married a Joseph Litherland, Martha was a witness at Ann's marriage

Levi Whitmore - Brother

was born about 1860, in Hanley, Staffordshire he died in the Boer War in Green Point, Western Cape, South Africa, on June 21, 1900, he was serving with North Staffordshire Regiment. We have not bought his military records.

Alfred Whitmore – Brother

Alfred was born about 1862, in Hanley, Staffordshire, he was in the Royal Staffordshire Regiment, then the Royal Marine Light Infantry, fought in the Second Boer War, we have not bought his military records, Alfred died Mar 1932 in Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire, England, he never married but he may have had a long-term partner; there seems to be a connection to Ann Shotten.

Lucy Emma Whitmore - Sister

Lucy was born in July 1864 in Stoke-on-Trent, sadly only lived eighteen months and died in October 1865.

Julia Whitmore - Sister

Julia was born in April 1867 in Hartshill, Staffordshire, England, she married Sampson Bagnall Clowes; he appears to have been a boatman. They do not appear to have had any children and she died in April 1908 in Wolstanton, Staffordshire.

Mark Whitmore – Brother

Mark was born in October 1870 in Hartshill, Staffordshire, England, he married Annie Ridgway, they had two children who died very young, Mark served in the North Staffordshire Regiment from 1891 in Malta, the Sudan and died in Mar 1902 in Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire of wounds receive in the Boer War, Annie remarried and had a child who also died very young.

Eliza Hannah Whitmore - Sister

Eliza is recorded as been born in about 1873 in Stoke, Staffordshire, despite much searching we cannot trace any more of her history.

Josiah Whitmore,

Josiah was born_2 Dec 1879 in Stoke Upon Trent, he married Ellen May Daniels from Castle Combe and they had three children, Wilfred Guy Whitmore, Ella May Whitmore, Hector Josiah George Whitmore, he was also in the North Staffordshire Regiment before joining the Royal Marine Light Infantry, he was in the Grenadier Guards when he lost his life in Flanders in 1918, this suggests he chose not to serve in the reserve after he left the RMLI. After Josiah death Ellen remarried and had a son Albert T R Lidstone.

Josiah's children have all had families which are scattered throughout the world, some of who attended the rededication service of Williams's final resting place.





Wilfred Guy Whitmore

Wilfred Guy Whitmore

Wilfred married twice, first to Doris Nesbit Stratton with whom he had a son, David Guy, daughters Mary Elizabeth and Christine Stella. Wilfred and Doris divorced. He then married Doris M. Waters and had two more sons, Malcolm and Ian. Wilfred's first wife Doris Nesbit remarried a Henry Thwaites and had a daughter Patricia; I do not know the exact split in the family but know Elizabeth Mary changed her surname to Thwaites by deed pole.

Ella May Whitmore

Ella married Jack Herbert Floyd and had two sons, William and Philip.

Hector J G Whitmore

Hector married Doris E Bedford who already had a daughter Yvonne, Hector and Doris had four more children, Christopher, Josephine, Robert and Lynda.

Alan and I have now met many of Josiah's family and it seems to have survived as a family despite divorces and remarriages, hopefully we will all meet up again.

Margaret Bessie Cook - William's Wife

Margaret was born in 1887 in Carhampton, Somerset which is near Minehead, her father was Thomas Cook, and her Mother was Sarah Ann Tarr. Margaret was in Service with Colonel Albert Farrer Gatliff who was an important member of the military, William was his batman, they met and Married in 1904, she was seventeen but put 21 on her banns, their first child Kathleen Louisa Maud, my Mother was born seven months later, second child Nora Eleanor was born in 1910. Margaret



had one brother and four sisters, of these four immigrated to America, we wonder where her future would have lead if William had not met such a tragic end. Her mother died quite young and father remarried and had six more children. Albert James one half-brother joined the Army at the outbreak of WW1 at the age of thirteen and died in France at the age of seventeen.

William and Margaret were living in Chesterfield when he was recalled, after Williams's death Margaret trained to be midwife in Birmingham, this split the family.



Kathleen Louisa Maud Whitmore

After mother went to train as a midwife Kathleen lived with the Edmunds family; who owned the Derbyshire Times, we do not know her exact roll, she was only fourteen, she looked after the son; Morton.

Kathleen my Mother married Thomas W Greet and had my brother Ewart William and then me, Nora Isabella. Ewart married Margaret Briton and immigrated to America, he had four children, Karen, Deborah, Ewart and Erica. Deborah came to the rededication ceremony. Sadly, Ewart died five years ago.

I have one son; Patrick who has no offspring, but now Grandma and Great Grandma to Alan's lot keeps me busy.

Nora Eleanor Whitmore

Nora was sent to Aunt Rosina's in Wales.

In 1924 Margaret married Fred Mitchell, a business man from Chesterfield. She was 93 when she died. Aunt Nora married Victor Southby and had two children, David who married Josephine and had three children, Paul, Angela and Josephine; his sister Judith who married Peter and had two children, Fiona and Francis. Judith attended the rededication Many mentioned above have each added a little more to enable us to delve deeper.



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‘Legacies of British Slave Ownership Database’

On BBC iPlayer there is currently an excellent series called ‘Black and British’ presented by David Olusoga (British historian, broadcaster, author - better known as the presenter of ‘House Through Time’).

In the first episode of the series David introduces us to a recently finished research project undertaken by a team of historians at the University College London (UCL). This team undertook a new study of government archives from the 1830s regarding compensation claims from slave owners. The team were astonished to find in these archives that British slave ownership was not restricted to the wealthy and British elite, but that thousands of British middle class subjects, living all over Britain, were absentee owners (not living in the West Indies) of slaves whose numbers range from anything between one to hundreds working on the plantations in the West Indies ¹.

Slave owners demanded and successfully claimed their right to compensation for ‘loss of property’ which amounted to the equivalent of 17 billion pounds in today’s money. The Abolition Act was introduced in 1833; the Slave Compensation Act was introduced in 1837. It was the largest pay-out by the British government at that time (superseded only by the bail outs of the banks in 2008 financial crisis) ².

UCL have created an online database; a result of their research into the compensation claims of British slave owners. You can access this database, free of charge, to search for any ancestor who may have owned a slave/s.

The screenshot shows the 'Legacies of British Slave-ownership' website. The header includes the title and the UCL logo. A navigation bar contains links for HOME, SEARCH THE DATABASE (highlighted), LEGACIES, ESTATES, INVENTORIES, MAPS, CENTRE, and CONTRIBUTE. Below the navigation bar is an 'Advanced Search' section with a search guidance notes link. The main search area is titled 'SEARCH OPTIONS' and contains a form for 'Individual's Details'. The form includes fields for Surname (with 'Tipping' entered), First Name(s), Sex (dropdown menu set to 'All'), Individual Type (dropdown menu set to 'All'), and Notes Search. Below these are fields for Education, Occupation, Religion, and Absentee/Resident? (dropdown menu set to 'Please choose a value' with a checkbox for 'Select all Absentees'). At the bottom, there are fields for Sources, Birth/Death (with sub-fields for Birth and Death), and Wealth at Death (with sub-fields for 'Between £' and 'and £').

[See https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/search/ for further information](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/search/)

I decided to do a search in the database for my maiden name, Tipping. The search came back with a biography for Thomas Tipping which included the sources for that information. Thomas took out a mortgage with Arnold and Albert Nesbitt of London with land held in Barbados and Tobago as security in 1770. Thomas did not submit a claim for compensation; he could have died before the Act was passed, or he could have lost his property due to bankruptcy.

I looked up my married name of McNair and I found an Eliza McNair who was awarded £92, 2d (around £10, 635 today) for the loss of 4 slaves.

We may, or may not, be related to these people, but it does make for some fascinating insights into the history of and the contemporary attitudes towards the abolition of slavery.

Lyn McNair

1. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b063db18/britains-forgotten-slave-owners>.
Accessed 26.06.20

2. "Natives: Race and class in the ruins of empire" – Akala, 2018. Hodder & Stoughton, London.

WHAT'S ON?

(Online meetings)

5th August Wednesday 7pm - Penny Walters

2nd September Wednesday 7pm – David Templeman 'Mary Queen of Scots: her time in Derbyshire & South Yorkshire

7th October Wednesday 7pm – AGM (online – see below)

In the light of the very exceptional circumstances it is not possible to hold "physical" meetings for the foreseeable future. The Committee decided that the only way to sustain, survive and keep the society serving its members was to hold all future meetings, be they informal, formal, committee, EGMs and AGMs using social media and 'Zoom'. This position will continue until such time as we can hold a "physical" EGM or AGM to ratify this decision and adjust the constitution accordingly. Therefore we have come to the decision to hold a virtual (Zoom) AGM until such time we are allowed to meet.

The AGM will be held on the 7th October at 7.30pm. The meeting will be open from 7pm to access entry to the room and the link will be send prior to the meeting.

Please send any nominations to the secretary 28 days beforehand.

The 2020 event has now cancelled.

Sadly the time came when we had to make a decision around the 2020 event which had been rescheduled to September.

The last three months prior are always the busiest.

We had heard nothing from the government or the stadium re plans to allow opening.

Plus we think many of our visitors would be reluctant to support the event so early in the grand scheme of things!

It will now take place in May 2021. The Theme of Old & Curious Occupation will be carried over.

The new date in place and our deposit is secured.

Notice: Members who have already offered to take part in the theme, please continue working on your boards in readiness for next year.

Quiz Answers

1. St. Leonards
2. 1204 from King John
3. Midwife
4. Palaeography
5. A will
6. 12,000
7. Settlement examination
8. Nuncupative
9. 1841
- 10 Dec 9th 1839



She was a keen sportswoman and a pioneer of women's health and fitness and in the 1950s helped to raise funds for the World Youth Festival by leading her sisters and fellow YCL members in learning East European folk dances which they performed in Chesterfield town centre. Betty eventually went on to train fitness professionals and was a choreographer of fashion shows.

It was through her love of sport that she met her husband Peter Heathfield in 1953, a keen cyclist and a miner. Peter was a left-wing member of the Labour Party and activist in the NUM, thirteen years later he became a full time official and would go on to be General Secretary of the union. Peter and Betty had four children and although her main occupation during this time was spent in bringing up her children, she continued to show great commitment in her political beliefs. She also co-founded Chesterfields Woodcraft Folk and was active in assisting with North East Derbyshire Youth Theatre.

When in 1984-5 the cataclysmic miners' strike broke out Betty rose to the challenge with her usual energy and insight. She chaired and led the Women against Pit Closures gathering the women of Chesterfield together. Along with Ann Scargill the wife of Arthur Scargill who was the president of the NUM they

mobilised thousands of miner's wives, partners and families into a fighting force which virtually sustained the strike for a whole year. Their national campaign helped miners' families throughout the country, they organised school holiday breaks for the children and, with financial help from other unions along with house to house collections, they managed to keep a flame of hope burning. At the end of the strike she still managed to organise more than 2,000 miners' wives to rally at Chesterfield football ground in order to demand help for the thousands of families left deprived and some penniless, by the dispute.

The Miners' Strike 1984-85

The miners' strike of 1984-85 was an attempt by miners to stop the NCB and the government of P.M, Margaret Thatcher shutting down collieries. On the 6th of March 1984 it was announced that 20 pits would close thus causing many pit villages to lose their main source of employment. Strikes in 1972 and 1974 had successfully stopped closures. Thatcher was determined to break the power of the unions

A secret plan – denied during the strike – but later admitted by Thatcher in her memoirs – Ian McGregor imported from the U.S. and appointed NCB chairman in 1983, had been to cut 75,000 jobs over 3 years.

The government had stockpiled enough coal for six months before the strike. The strike was the longest and bitterest known since the General strike of 1921.

At the end many villages whose only source of employment was the collieries were left suffering from great privation and in some cases destitution. The strike caused bitter division between friends and families some which have continued until the present day.

Sadly, her marriage to Peter ended in separation and divorce in 1986 after thirty-six years. Betty began a politics degree at the University of Lancaster but fell ill in her last years and died aged 78 in 2006.

Mary Bullas

References: Mary Smith 2013; Graham Stevenson 2008; Joe Clarke tribute The Guardian 2006
How the Miners' Strike of 1984-1985 changed Britain forever Donald Macintyre; Personal Knowledge George Carter (cousin); My learning police, Protests, Public Disorder

CADFHS Archives: Removal Orders

The Society hold a collection of various documents deposited by past Members with the hope that these family names would one day be of use to others researching family history.

The following list is taken from a handwritten sheet of paper found in a box. It appears to refer to Removal Orders. In days gone by the Parish Justice had the power to remove anyone from the Parish who did not belong. This may seem harsh in our modern society but was often the case when a poor person or family needed financial help from a parish poor fund. The people would be physically removed back to their birth parish to claim the support they needed. This often happened with pregnant women because the parish where the child was born would become liable to support that child for many years into adulthood.

These handwritten notes were found in the archives and tell their own story.

12 July, 11 Geo II [1737] – William **Hadfield**, wife Hannah, children Mary, Tabatha, Hannah, Ann, Martha and Elizabeth; Removed from Staveley to Chesterfield.

2 Jan, 20 Geo II [1746] – William and Mary **Webster**; Removed from Staveley to Eckington.

1748, 10 Oct – William **Hadfield** being dead, widow Hannah, children Tabatha, Hannah, Elizabeth and Ann removed from Staveley to Chesterfield.

1748 – Godfrey **Siddall**; Stoney Middleton to Wadsley YKS.

1774, 30 Nov – Jonathan **Guest** and wife Sarah; Removed from Staveley to Sheffield.

1788 – William **Siddall** and wife Mary; Staveley to Kimberworth YKS.

1811, 26 Oct – Ellen **Siddall** removed from Staveley to Brimington.

1814 – Christian **Siddall** pregnant; Chesterfield to North Wingfield.

1814 – Thomas **Siddall**; Chesterfield to Shirland.

1816 – John **Siddall** and wife Elizabeth; Chesterfield to Brampton.

1819 – William **Siddall** and wife Ann, [children] Sarah 6, Francis 3, Charlotte 6 mo; Heage to Calow.

1826 – Richard **Siddall** from Muggington to 1) Hilton, 2) Tutbury STS.

1832 – Joseph **Siddall** and wife Ann, Frederick 9, Charlotte 5 1/2, Alice 2 1/2, Elizabeth 5 mo; Chesterfield to North Wingfield.

History of the Chesterfield Canal

Dave Hall

The Chesterfield Canal was a bold and imaginative project of the early years of the industrial Revolution. The original surveys were undertaken by the celebrated engineer James Brindley and the site engineer was John Varley. The canal was opened throughout on June 4th 1777. It was a magnificent engineering achievement for its time, including the 2880 yard Norwood Tunnel, the longest tunnel in the world at the time, and some of the earliest examples of staircase locks.



The prime purpose was to take Derbyshire's coal to new markets but stone, corn, lime, lead timber and iron were also carries. The most famous cargo was the stone, from North Anston Quarries, to rebuild the Houses of Parliament after the fire in 1834.

The canal became a successful artery of trade through Derbyshire, Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire. After nearly a century in operation, the railways developed and boat traffic began to decline. The canal gradually deteriorated and, in 1907, the final collapse of part of the Norwood Tunnel isolated the Derbyshire Section. Small cargoes of purely local traffic, horse-drawn until the end struggled on for many years. The last commercial carrying in Nottinghamshire finished in the 1950s.

At that time, the 26 miles between West Stockwith and Worksop were barely navigable. As a result of strenuous campaigning by the members of the Retford and Worksop Boat Club this section was saved for leisure use.

Of the original derelict 20 miles, 36 locks, 11 major bridges and 2 marinas have been put in place. Between 1996 and 2003, the navigable section in British Waterways' ownership was extended by 6 miles into Rotherham as far as the eastern portal of the Norwood Tunnel.

In Derbyshire, the isolated section between Chesterfield and Mill Green was opened in 2002, with an extension to the new Staveley Town Basin in 2012. There are detailed plans for the full restoration of the remaining eight miles.

Derbyshire Police Archives

During 'Lockdown' I was able to dedicate most of March and April to family history research. There was one ancestor in particular that I focussed on and he has made a few appearances in our Dastardly Deeds series. My great, great grandfather Sergeant Thomas Moorcroft.

In the Dastardly Deeds he is mentioned as the constable attending some of the scenes of the horrific crimes the series covers. I wanted to find out a little bit more about him and come to some understanding of the historical context of a Derbyshire 'Bobby' in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

I was delighted to find a website that provided a wealth of information.

www.derbyshirepolicehistory.co.uk is a fantastic resource for anyone with ancestors who were in the Derbyshire Constabulary. Mike Baker created



P.C. Baker; Mike was able to identify the subject of the photographic by his collar number, style of uniform and the medal he is wearing. Photograph by kind permission of Mike Baker

Mike is a retired police officer who has a passion for history. Over a number of years Mike has collected a large archive containing records, information and photographs of local Victorian and Edwardian policemen up to 1930. Mike is currently writing a book about the Force's history.

the site and is responsible for its content.

I noticed an email address on the site for

enquiries and I decided to get in touch to see if I could obtain any information to help me with my research.

Mike provided over and above what I asked for! He replied to my email and provided me with Thomas Moorcroft's service record and a great deal more besides, including a photograph. I asked Mike for his permission to share his work in our magazine and he was more than happy for me to do this; however he asked me to stress that, although he is happy to answer questions and search his archives for information free of charge, **this is his hobby** and his time is limited.

[\(<http://www.derbyshirepolicehistory.co.uk>\)](http://www.derbyshirepolicehistory.co.uk)



CADFHS meet at 7pm (talks commence at 7.30pm) every first Wednesday of each month at Whittington Moor Methodist Church, Scarsdale Road, Whittington Moor, Chesterfield S41 8NA