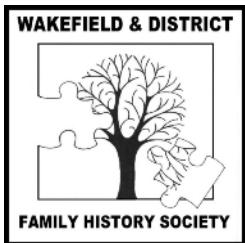


# THE WAKEFIELD



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Winter Edition  
2025

Volume 29 No. 2

# **WAKEFIELD & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

(Registered Charity 1104393)

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# The Wakefield Kinsman

## Volume 29 Number 2 Winter 2025

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While the Society always uses its best endeavours to ensure that the information in its publications is complete, errors may from time to time occur. The Society will not be held responsible for the consequence for such errors but will make corrections in future editions.

Opinions and comments expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Society.

Cover image – Part of the outfit Joseph Cox wore when he went to London – see Reports from our Meetings.



## Chairman's Letter

Welcome to our Winter edition of the Kinsman. It is a dark and gloomy day and so I hope receipt of this journal will brighten your day. Not so long ago we were enjoying sweltering temperatures and drought conditions and now we have no shortage of rain so it is a very good time to get on with your family history research.

Since the last edition of the journal we have continued our programme of Saturday meetings and there have been memorable sessions and particularly for those who could not attend, please see the excellent reports on those meetings from **Lorraine Simpson** in the following pages. These meetings are the high spots in our calendar and are put together by willing volunteers for your benefit as members and we like to welcome as many as possible of you to hear the talk. Importantly these sessions provide an opportunity to create connections with other people who share an interest in the area and are searching for information relating to their ancestors. It would be much appreciated if you would consider inviting friends to come with you to learn about us and what the society can offer. We do offer connection by Zoom to the meetings for the convenience of members who live at a distance and this does give them a chance to play a bigger part in the society than would otherwise be possible but sadly we cannot offer all of the benefits of belonging over the internet. I am very conscious of the need to improve the quality of our Zoom broadcasts and this remains a priority for us.

Like other Societies we face the challenge of identifying volunteers for key roles to ensure the future of the organisation. I think in almost every edition in recent times I have highlighted the need for additional help in production of the journal and this can range from people submitting one-off articles to those who may choose to become regular contributors and of course we are interested to hear from people who are keen to become a part of the production team. In particular I would like to suggest to members who have joined the society in recent times that they would find significant benefits in providing us all with some of their family history and perhaps details of brick walls they face in their research. A success story relating to overcoming difficult obstacles may provide inspiration to others whilst an account of a challenge still facing you may result in some helpful suggestions from other members.

I am sorry to end this message with a sombre note but the future of the society depends upon the willingness of our members to become involved in the organisation. Please do consider carefully what help you can offer and make contact.

Paul Gaywood

## Editor's Ramblings

Hello again. What kind of year has 2025 been for you? My year has been good as far as research goes, but in other ways I will be hoping that 2026 will be better.

Anyway, another Kinsman and another set of member articles, which I hope you will find interesting. I'm looking forward to receiving more, but could I ask you to help me by reading the 'Articles for Inclusion' section.

This is your Kinsman and there is a core group of members who send in articles on a regular basis, and a set of members who just like to read – I know, I am one of those members for a couple of groups. Could I change your mind and ask you for the odd snippet. Or the relative you have a problem with, a photograph that you would like to know more about, a website or repository you have visited. All these questions go towards helping another researcher find an answer. Plus, it helps fill the odd line or two, or more in OUR Kinsman.

Over the summer I've been sent two enquiries that came from the Family History Federation. These enquiries, although not from members, came from the Federation, and as part of our Charity status, this came under the subject of education.

The first request came from a friend of a 90 year old, who due to a death, knew very little of his mother's family. The 90 year old wanted to buy certificates of which only some were in the cheaper download section of the GRO. Within an afternoon, I'd done a three generation family tree, found baptism, marriage and burial records for both England and Wales. I'd gone through census records, including the 1939 Register. He now had information that filled in the gaps and didn't need to buy any certificates.

The second was from the relative of a soldier who had been at the time in WWII when Dunkerque was surrounded. The soldier had been awarded the DCM. The email included a great deal of information but I was still able to add more and add a few suggestions, including how to get WWII Service Records. I've had a reply and been able to add even more information for the family as new records have become available.

During the dark winter nights will you be doing some family history research, finding new or missing relatives? Or, will you spend time sorting and tidying your computer or paper family history files ready for a refreshed start in 2026?

While I was in France, I was editing and writing for the Kinsman. What did you do on your holidays this year? Did you venture away for any family history research? If you did, and found something, would tell our members of your findings or pitfalls?

Two days following my return from France I had a little bit of an accident and I ended up in hospital for two weeks. I'm not allowed to drive, so I won't be able to attend meetings for a while but I will be thinking of you all, so see you either in person or via Zoom.

## Reports from our Meeting

**Eric Jackson** was our speaker on **2nd August 2025**, giving us a talk on '**The Pontefract Murder**'.

He told us how he had worked as a magistrate in Wakefield and Pontefract but that this murder, committed in 1918 was still remembered in the 1940s, partly because it was noteworthy but also because it was violent and it had become part of Pontefract folklore. His grandmother could remember it actually happening and Eric gave us a rendition of the song that was sung about it.

Eric went on to tell us that just before the end of the First World War, two soldiers, **Cardwell** and **Barrett**, were arrested for murdering middle aged shopkeeper Mrs Walker. **Rhoda Walker**, born in Beverley, was the widow of Ackworth Quaker **Robert Gibson Walker** and they had been married for 34 years and consequently at the time of the murder, she was running the jewellery shop by herself. Her body was found by her shop assistant, badly injured and covered in blood on the floor of the shop. Mrs Walker was taken to hospital but died the next day. The following inquest found the cause of death to be shock followed by massive blood loss.

We were then given details of the murder; how Barrett and Cardwell were seen walking from Ackworth to Pontefract, how a soldier was seen selling trinkets with blood stained labels attached to them and how one of the soldiers was identified by the wound stripes on their uniform; Cardwell had been gassed and wounded several times. Both were deserters who had obtained work at a local colliery.

Barrett admitted going into Walker's shop and it seems Cardwell was looking out but over time they changed their stories and tried to incriminate each other. They did not have legal representation until later. They were remanded in custody and found guilty of wilful murder; their appeals failed and they were executed together by hanging on 8 January 1919. It was only a little over five months between the walk from Ackworth and the walk to the gallows.

Eric pointed out the differences in committal proceedings in 1918 compared to now and felt, rightly or wrongly, that it wouldn't have been the cut and dried event today that it was then but warned us about judging crime then through a modern lens.

Mrs Walker was buried alongside her husband in the Friends' Burial Ground in Southgate, Pontefract.

Lorraine Simpson

The speaker at our **6 September** meeting was **Jude Rhodes** whose talk was entitled **Mental Health and Stanley Royd - Stories of our Generations**.

Jude introduced herself by telling us she was a Professor in Genealogy and interested in family and local history and in the history of health; she informed us that the talk would include terminology unacceptable today.

We were told that way back in history it was monasteries who cared for people who were unwell either physically or mentally but when **Henry VIII** dissolved the monasteries, that care disappeared and this was the case for almost 300 years. Bethlam (Bedlam) was the only hospital for the mentally ill and Henry VIII seized this too and control was transferred to the Corporation of London.

People were looked after by their families and villages. From the 15th to the 19th century, the Old Poor Law dealt with pauper lunatics but there were many mentally ill people in workhouses and prisons; the wealthy could pay for relatives to go into private lunatic asylums and these were known as madhouses. The 1845 Lunacy Act instructed Poor Law Unions to build asylums.

Jude went through what was considered mental illness in the 1600s which included intriguingly 'refusal to pray and an inability to feel pious' and 'hatred of spouse'! She also shared the categories - idiot, imbecile and lunatic. She showed us some admission registers from Stanley Royd and told us that epilepsy was considered a mental illness and how subjective and open to interpretation some of the causes of insanity were considered. Jude shared where we could see records online but these did not contain a great deal of detail; about The Retreat in York founded by the Quakers and the Wellcome Library website for information about asylums.

Other categories of insanity were shared with us and Jude shared their modern day interpretations including the fact that dementia was not linked to old age and epilepsy was completely misunderstood.

She told us when the different asylums were built and that they were more often built outside of towns because they were huge. She then shared some

images with us and told us that Stanley Royd was one of the most forward thinking asylums in the country and included Turkish baths.

Jude went on to share her own story of her grandfather with us. He was in Stanley Royd for most of his life, from 1926 until he died in 1972; he was there as a result of his WW1 experiences. Once she accessed his records she learned a great deal more about him. She told us how to access records for ourselves and the process she had gone through to do this. West Yorkshire Archives were brilliant and supportive.

The talk came to a close by Jude urging us to look at those gaps in our family tree - if someone wasn't where you expected them to be and you had exhausted all other possibilities, to look at asylum records. She told us that people who lived in asylums should never be forgotten.

Lorraine Simpson

Our speaker on the **4th October** was **Deborah Scriven** who gave us a talk entitled '**Joseph Cox: A Valued Servant of the Public**'.

Deborah used a variety of sources, including Ancestry, newspapers and websites to tell Joseph's story; she also used school log books and urged us to use them for our own research when we could. They provide a rich source of information.

Joseph was born in November 1833 at Holme-upon-Spalding Moor, the son of an agricultural labourer, **John Cox** and his wife Jane and had several siblings. He was educated at the National School in the village with possibly a period studying at a private academy; at the time teacher training was mainly carried out on the job but at some point he did become a certified teacher. His first appointment was Head of a village school near Selby, then a school at Eastrington, near Howden where he met his wife Sarah, the daughter of the local blacksmith. They married in August 1857.

Deborah informed us that in the summer of 1859, the Cox family (Joseph and Sarah and two children) left the East Riding for Ossett, where a further 12 children were born, 11 surviving into adulthood. Apart from a short break they lived in Ossett for the rest of their lives. At the time of the move Joseph was 25 and took up the post of headmaster of the newly built South Ossett Church of England School. He was to remain in this post for nearly 40 years and Deborah was able to use the log books to illustrate what life was like in the school and how they demonstrated Joseph's care for his pupils. They also give us an insight into his long days, having to teach not only the children but the pupil teachers, complaining in 1870 about them cheating in exams and not studying sufficiently.

In 1864 there was a serious outbreak of scarletina in the school and by the end of the outbreak several children had died, including two of his own.

A number of Joseph and Sarah's children became pupil teachers in the school and later fully fledged teachers; Sarah taught needlework to the girls. There was a close relationship between the church who ran the school and the incumbents of South Ossett Church, one of whom described Joseph as a 'most valuable and trustworthy servant and friend' and a right hand man, assisting with administration and accounts.

Joseph retired in 1899; his certificate from the Education Department having expired. He was able to take a pension of £40 per annum. In 1879 he had been elected to the Local Board, eventually became chairman and continued to be re-elected until he retired in 1902, having served 23 years. On the incorporation of the Borough in 1890 he was one of the elected auditors but resigned in 1892 in order to stand for election to the Town Council for the East Ward. Subsequently he became a magistrate and Alderman, being nominated and adopted as Mayor unanimously. He regarded this as the high point of his public career and on 24 June 1897 he was one of around 500 Mayors and Chairmen of County Councils who attended a reception held by **The Queen** at Buckingham Palace in her Diamond Jubilee year. He retired in 1897.

Deborah showed us an image of Joseph in court dress but **Roger Hepworth**, a descendant of Joseph's had brought in the real thing for us all to have a look at.

Joseph died in September 1906 aged 72, his cause of death was apparently old age! Sarah died almost exactly one year later and they are both buried in Holy Trinity Churchyard. The talk came to a close with Deborah saying it was difficult to sum up the life and character of a man only encountered in documents and images but she did get a strong impression of a kindhearted but hard working and dedicated man, who wanted the best for his pupils and the public he served.

Lorraine Simpson



## Membership News

Thank you to all our members that have renewed promptly for 2025-2026.

### A Welcome to New Members

Andrea Kaye 1592  
Jan Samuel 1593

## Members' Articles

# Mapping History: Exploring Tithe Records for Family and Local Research

### **Tithe records may be helpful if:**

- You're researching a specific person or family in a parish in the mid-1800s.
- You're looking into the history of a property or land.
- You want to learn more about the local area.
- You're interested in large-scale maps from the mid-1800s.

### **Background**

At the heart of village life, both socially and religiously, stood the parish church. Whether the village and parish were one and the same, or the parish encompassed several scattered communities, the church served as a central point. Historically, the burden of funding and supporting the parish's daily operations and its clergyman fell upon the local community through the payment of tithes.

A tithe, derived from the Anglo-Saxon word 'tithing,' literally means a tenth. Traditionally, this was a tax amounting to one-tenth of a parishioner's agricultural output, paid annually. This system provided food and income for the incumbent priest at a time when physical currency was scarce and the church did not offer a regular salary. There were two distinct types of tithes.

- 'great' or 'rectorial' tithes consisted of major crops like, corn, wheat and hay.
- 'small' or 'vicarial' tithes consisted of a wider range of produce, including, vegetables, fruits, milk, eggs, wool and other minor produce.

Following the dissolution of the monasteries during the Reformation, much of the land and the right to receive tithes was granted to private landholders. Over time, monetary payments began to replace produce and this was known as commutation. Alongside the changing tithe system, some areas were also subject to enclosure, where open fields were divided and consolidated into individually owned plots, further altering land ownership and usage. By the late eighteenth century, the tithe system had become increasingly complex due to conflicts with religious dissenters, as well as industrialisation and agricultural depression.

The Tithe Commutation Act of 1836 replaced annual tithes with monetary payments known as the tithe rent charge. This act led to a standardised

system, eliminating regional variations, with charges fixed according to the national average price of corn calculated over the previous seven years.

Tithe Commissioners conducted surveys in every parish or township listed in the Census records of England and Wales, which began in 1801, and then every ten years. They investigated how much commutation had occurred, determined if tithes were still paid in kind and surveyed and valued the land to determine each landowner's tithe liability. Assistant commissioners visited parishes to discuss valuations with parishioners and agree commutation terms.

Between 1836 and 1852, the Tithe Commission redistributed property in England and Wales. They apportioned 11,395 districts (parishes or smaller townships), with 63% reaching voluntary agreements. The process continued in some cases until the 1880s. Although the tithe system underwent some amendments, payments continued into the twentieth century. It wasn't until 1936 that the system shifted to redemption annuities, payable for 60 years. However, due to high administrative costs, these annuities were abolished in 1977.

## The records

Surveyors created large-scale maps and schedules in triplicate; The National Archives (TNA) holds the tithe office copy, and the records are found under references IR29, IR30, and IR18. Local archives or diocesan record offices usually keep the parish clerk and bishop copies.

Three main record sets were created:

- **Tithe apportionments:** These include the names of landowners and occupiers, land usage, and tithe amounts payable. (TNA:IR29)
- **Tithe maps:** These show numbered plots that link each plot of land to its description in the apportionments. (TNA:IR30)
- **Tithe files:** These include the records created during the survey. (TNA:IR18)

The tithe apportionments are linked to the tithe maps. These maps, often the earliest large-scale maps of the areas, are generally regarded as high quality. However, recorded land quantities may not be entirely accurate, and the maps may not be to scale.

The preamble in the apportionment records details arable land subject to tithe, alongside the names of tithe owners and any customary payment arrangements. Tithe owners included parish rectors or ecclesiastical bodies (appropriators), institutions like colleges or schools (impropriators), and private individuals. These surveys list landowners, tenants, fields, and their land use making them invaluable for studying land ownership, field names,

and even the history of individual houses. Though some inaccuracies and incomplete coverage exist due to earlier tithe abolitions in certain parishes, tithe maps still cover approximately 79% of England and Wales.

The apportionment record itself outlined how the district's rent charge was distributed among landowners based on their land. Each numbered tithe plot carried a fixed rent charge, clarifying the specific payment obligations of each tithe payer. A summary schedule at the end of the document lists landowners alphabetically, detailing occupiers and holdings, and consolidated individual rent charges into the total owed by each landowner to the tithe owner.

### The Records In Practice

The digitised records are available on The Genealogist subscription website. You can search by name or place. For instance, William Bennett, a coach proprietor and farmer from Wakefield whose family ran coaches from the Stafford Arms, was known to have been living in the Agbrigg/Heath Common area of Wakefield in 1841.

To find the tithe record by place, you first need to click on the search drop-down link and choose 'Map Explorer'. In the search box, type 'Agbrigg,' and a pop-up suggestion will show 'Agbrigg Wakefield Yorkshire and Humber.' Click on this, and the map will zoom into the area. This will be a default map, in this case, the 1893-1900s (Ordnance Survey 1:10,560).

In the Map Layers link on the left, click on the drop down list 'Record Set –

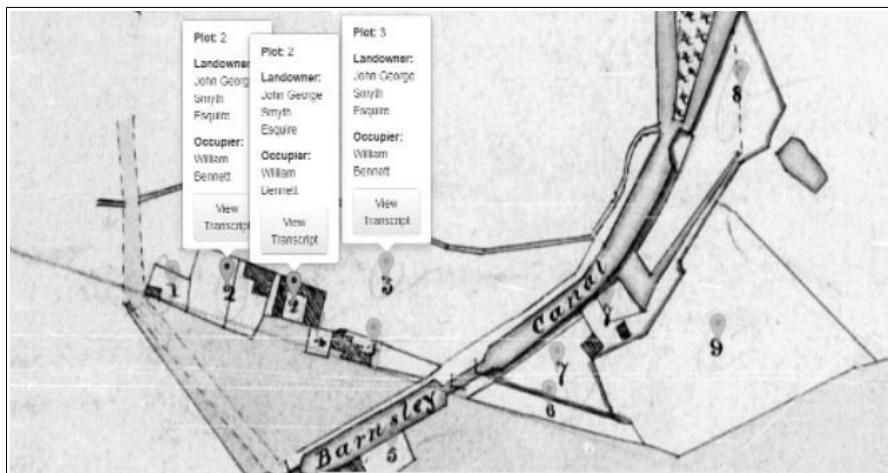
Top Layer' and choose '1836-1929 Tithe Apportionments'. The map will change and you should see coloured circles with numbers. Moving the map around to show the area of Heath Common, click on the green circle numbered 22. The map will zoom in to an area and 22 small drop pins can then be seen scattered



over the screen. By clicking on the pins, a pop up screen provides brief details of the record, which then provides a link to the original apportionment record and tithe map.

By choosing 'View Map', the original tithe map and plot numbers can be seen in more detail. Here it shows plots 2 and 3 and the landowner is John George Smyth, Esquire and the occupier is William Bennett.

The opacity sliders in the 'Map Layers' link allows you to choose map overlays, helping to locate specific spots on a modern map. This is useful if the land has changed significantly. The map below shows the new road layout of City Fields from Doncaster Road. It indicates that William's land was near the former entrance to Wakefield power station, likely around where the Jolly Sailor public house once stood and where the Starbucks coffee shop now stands thus providing a modern day reference.



Using the drop down pin again, clicking on 'View Transcript' shows the original survey entry:

This document records plot 2 (a house, outbuildings, and garden) and plot 3 (Ing). It also shows William occupied plot 13, and plots 145-153, including Seven Acres Close, Doncaster Lane Close, Staincross Close, and In Race End

William Bennett	2 House Outbuildings & Garden	Grass	2 30	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	3 Ing	Grass	3 20	16	9	3	2	1	1	1	1	1
	13 Seven Acre Close	Grass	2 22	1	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	148 Doncaster Lane Close	Grass	2 37	9	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	149	Arable	5 122	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	150 Part of L	Arable	2 19	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	151 Staincross Close	Arable	1 30	4	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	152	Arable	2 122	8	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	147	Arable	3 12	10	11	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	148	Arable	2 420	12	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	149 In Race end Field	Arable	1	1	6	5	1	1	1	1	1	1
	150	Arable	2 31	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
			31 124	6	8	7	3	10	5	1	1	1

Field. These lands were both grass and arable. The first three columns on the right show the statute measure totals: 31 acres, 1 rood, and 24 perches. The next three columns display the amount payable to the Vicar of Warmfield (£6,

8s 7d). The last three columns show the totals payable to the Impropriator: Clare College, Cambridge (£3, 10s 5d).

William Bennett's records reveal he also occupied adjacent land belonging to Lady William Gordon. To find such additional holdings through a name search, it is best to use a parish or township name, rather than a broader town or village name in your search. In this case it is Warmfield cum Heath, rather than Agbrigg.



The apportionments begin with a preamble, outlining agreements between landowners and tithe owners, the extent and cultivation of lands in the district, and any exempt lands. This can be valuable information because it confirms the tithe owners, who would receive the tithes, and any customary arrangements that were previously in place. At Warmfield cum Heath, a meeting was held on 18th January 1839 and the records detail the division of tithe ownership: Clare College, Cambridge, held one undivided moiety (half) of the 'great tithes' (corn, grain, hay), while the Reverend John Pullein, Vicar of Warmfield, held the other moiety and all 'small tithes' (vegetables, fruit, milk, eggs). The township, comprising approximately 1,492 acres, was subject to both 'great' and 'small' tithes, with various land uses recorded, including arable, meadow, woodland, and glebe. In place of tithes in kind, it was agreed that the total fixed annual rent charges of £380 18s for the township of Warmfield cum Heath, would be paid to the tithe owners as follows:

- The amount of £252 for the "great tithes" is divided into two equal shares one share paid to Rev. William Webb, Doctor in Divinity, and the Fellows of Clare Hall, University of Cambridge and the other share to the Rev. John Pullein, Vicar of Warmfield.

- They would also receive equal shares of £2 10s for the great tithes of the glebe land (church owned land).
- The Vicar of Warmfield will also get £125 a year for all the "small tithes" and other church fees.
- The Vicar also receives £1 8s for the vicarial (small) tithes from the glebe land.

However, if the vicar farms the church's own land (the glebe land) himself, he doesn't have to pay tithes on what he grows there. Tithe payments were to commence on the first January or July following confirmation of the apportionment, payable half-yearly. This agreement, signed by all parties, effectively transitioned the tithe system from payments in kind to monetary rent charges

For both local historians and family researchers, tithe records offer a wealth of information. They provide detailed insights into property ownership and reveal how neighbourhoods developed over time. The mid-19th century maps are particularly valuable, showing precise geographical features like boundaries, roads, and waterways. For genealogists, these maps establish crucial links between our ancestors and the places where they lived and worked and the neighbours who lived and worked alongside them. We often focus on direct lineage, but it is important to remember that our ancestors' lives were shaped by the people around them – their friends, associates, and neighbours. These records not only confirm our ancestors' presence in a specific time and place but can be used to corroborate information found in other records.

Digitised images of the original records used in this article can be found at: The Genealogist: Tithe Apportionments, 1836-1929 [database online]. TheGenealogist.co.uk 2025. Original data: "IR29 Tithe Commission and successors: Tithe Apportionments" The National Archives.

The original records are held at The National Archives:

- IR 29/43/422 : Tithe apportionment of Warmfield cum Heath (township in the parish of Warmfield), West Riding of Yorkshire. Valuation: Christopher Paver, Peckfield, Sherburn, Yorkshire
- IR 30/43/422 : Tithe map of Warmfield cum Heath (township in the parish of Warmfield), West Riding of Yorkshire. Shows church, village green, open fields, commons, waste land, woods, waterbodies, bridges, canal with towpath and locks, railway, footpath and/or bridleway. Colouring used. Scale: 1 inch to 6 chains
- IR 18/12927 : Tithe file for Warmfield-cum-Heath (township in Warmfield parish), West Riding of Yorkshire. An agreement and apportionment were made for this tithe district

## Glossary:

- **Apportionment:** The process of dividing and assigning tithe payments.
- **Appropriator:** The religious house, or corporation, that owns the fees and endowments of a benefice.
- **Glebe Land:** Land assigned to the incumbent of a parish (usually the parish priest) as part of his benefice (income).
- **Impropriator:** One who has something appropriated to them: A layperson who holds the right to ecclesiastical tithes.
- **Incumbent:** The current holder of an ecclesiastical office, such as a vicar.
- **Ing:** A term that refers to a meadow, or pasture, often one that is low lying.
- **Moiety:** A portion of something, typically half.
- **Perch:** A unit of land measurement, a square perch is 1/160th of an acre, and 40 square perches equals a rood.
- **Rectorial:** Great tithes (corn, wheat, hay) that were traditionally due to the rector of a parish or, after the dissolution of the monasteries, to a lay impropriator. Essentially, it signifies the tithes associated with the rector's income.
- **Rood:** A quarter of an acre.
- **Vicarial:** Small tithes (vegetables, fruits, wool, eggs, livestock products) that were traditionally due to the vicar of a parish. It signifies the tithes associated with the vicar's income.

## Sources and further reading:

- The Tithe Surveys of England and Wales. Roger Kain & Hugh Prince (1985). (Digitised and available free of charge on Internet Archive [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org)).
- An Atlas and Index of the Tithe Files of Mid-Nineteenth Century England and Wales. Roger Kain (1986).
- Tithes and the Tithe Commutation Act 1836. Eric J. Evans (1978). (Digitised and available free of charge on Internet Archive [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org)).
- Maps for Family and Local History: The records of the Tithe, Valuation Office and National Farm Surveys of England and Wales, 1836-1943. Geraldine Beech and Rose Mitchell (2004).
- Our Village Ancestors A Genealogist's Guide to Understanding the English Rural Past. Helen Osborn (2021).
- The National Archives Research Guide: Tithes

Frances Richardson Mem 1533

## Another Walk Around Sugar Lane



In the 'Old Section' of Sugar Lane Cemetery stands the headstone of the Brown family. The dark granite headstone is topped off by a decorative flourish and decorative shoulders that support slender columns. All mounted on a solid base.

Who rests beneath this memorial? In Loving Memory of Mary the beloved wife of **William Brown** of Warmfield, who departed this life June 25<sup>th</sup> 1902, aged 46 years. Also **Moses Southall**, father of the above **Mary Brown** who departed this life July 30<sup>th</sup> 1901, aged 70 years. Also the above named William, the beloved husband of **Mary Jane Brown**, who departed this life April 3<sup>rd</sup> 1914 aged 62 years. "Peace Perfect Peace".

And at the very base in small writing, I nearly missed "Not my will but thine O lord be done". The base also has words again nearly missed by a shadow – BROWN.

Who were the Brown's? I'll start with the unusual name – Moses Southall. Moses, according to Ancestry is connected to 77 family trees. Some of those trees have 50 sources!

To start with what is known – his age at death, and that gives a birth year of around 1831. The 1901 census includes Moses, living with his daughter and son-in-law at the Pineapple Inn, where William was the landlord. This census gives his place of birth as Dunnington, Shropshire. Going back in time to 1881 Moses, a coal miner, is a lodger in the home of **Thomas Johnson**, also a miner. Where the Johnson's put all the people living in their house – seven Johnsons and three boarders, I'd like to know.

In 1871 Moses is a widow living with his daughter Mary in Longton, Stoke-upon-Trent. It's not until the 1861 census that Moses' wife is found – another Mary. With being born around 1831, Moses should be included in the census for that year. Well, there is a Moses Southall born in Shropshire but he was eight years old. We know that the 1841 census was not accurate with the

rounding up and down of ages. If this is 'our' Moses he seems to have been rounded down to an unusual number.

The online family tree with 50 sources has mismatched second wife and first wife's children. And the census has no mention of a second wife – he's either unmarried or a widow. It looks like this tree has merged a great deal of information from other Ancestry trees, hence the multiple, duplicate and triple documents. While some of the trees have one of the wives – either one! Another discrepancy was that the second wife also had another husband, the wedding taking place in 1870. So, following a source on the tree, Moses married in 1866 – in 1871 he's a widow. But his supposed second wife is living with her husband in Shropshire. Now, we either have a bigamist, exciting, or the tree compiler has got it all wrong.

**Mary Southall** married William Brown when she was 21 and he was 24. Mary was a domestic servant living in Northgate, while William was a Square worker at Beverley (?), living on Westgate. William's father, Robert was an innkeeper. Could this have been at the Pineapple Inn? The nuptials took place on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 1866 at the West Parade Chapel, Wakefield, with **Thomas S Clark** and **Hannah Clark** as witnesses.

The Browns went on to have at least three children. One of their sons, Claude went on to run an Ale House at 101 Leeds Road, Newton in the early 1900's. It looks like being a licensee was in their blood.

## **Lest We Forget Those Who Served in the Far East in World War II**

The 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day (VE Day) was remembered on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025. It is also important to remember Victory over Japan (VJ Day), 15<sup>th</sup> August, the day in 1945 that Imperial Japan surrendered. It marked the end of the Second World War and the end of bitter fighting suffered by allied troops in the Far East.

There have been several excellent programmes on television, both documentaries and dramas, setting out the wartime events in the Far East and the unimaginable suffering of servicemen posted there, both in fighting and as prisoners of the Japanese.

One man who was sent to help defend Singapore was my grandfather **Frederick Edwins**, known as Eddie. He was working as a nurse at Caterham Mental Hospital before he enlisted in the Army Supplementary Reserve on 1 March 1938 and subsequently the Royal Army Medical Corps. He was mobilised on 2 September 1939, the day after Germany invaded Poland and the day before Britain joined the War.

Eddie served three periods with the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) in Europe and was rescued from the beaches of Dunkirk in 1941. A family story tells of Eddie having to share a pair of boots with a friend while they waited for rescue. He was sent to Malaya in October 1941 and was noted as missing on 15 February 1942, having been taken prisoner by the Japanese the previous day. It is believed he was incarcerated in Changi prison. As he was a nurse before the war it is likely he acted as a medical orderly in the prison camps. He was himself a patient some 8 times between December 1942 and May 1945, including 2 operations. He was recovered from Thailand and released by allied forces on 27 October 1945. Eddie was discharged from the Army on 16 April 1946, when it was noted that he was 'permanently unfit for any form of military service'.

After a period running a café in London and playing piano in his band 'Eddie and the Elevators', Eddie took a job at a sanatorium in Guernsey. It is believed that in 1952 he secured a job as a psychiatric nurse in the United States. The US Government's background checks threw up his political leanings as a communist and peace campaigner and he was refused entry on the grounds of 'unamerican behaviour'. After suffering ill health since the war Eddie died at home in Gravesend, Kent on 4 November 1979. He is commemorated, along with many others who served in the Far East, in the Far East Prisoners of War pavilion in the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

Jacqueline Ryder Mem 1475

## The Origins of the Healds of Wakefield

**Thomas Heald** may have been a very wealthy Wakefield merchant but he wasn't born in Wakefield. Thomas was born in Royston in 1761 but his family had only just moved there. His two elder siblings were born in different places – Mirfield and Wakefield! The family was mobile!

The Healds were a mercantile family and they pursued business interests wherever they might lead. I have traced the line back to the start of parish records around 1600 (records exist for some parishes back to 1538 but that is very rare and there are many gaps in the records). The Heald line leads back to Whitkirk, a village four miles to the east of Leeds city centre.

So four hundred years ago, with parish registers in their infancy, the records show that the Heald family were firmly established in West Yorkshire. The period up to 1650 makes for interesting reading with the Healds overwhelmingly concentrated in the one village, Whitkirk..

The following table shows the places with the most instances of Healds in Yorkshire parish registers before 1650.

Town	Births	Marriages	Deaths	From (year)	To
Whitkirk	42	14	20	1603	1722
Leeds	1	5	1	1576	present
Wakefield	4	3	6	1633	present
Oswaldkirk	7	-	1	1594	1604
Barnby Dun	4	-	8	1599	1614

Whitkirk therefore had 59% of the births, 38% of the marriages and 36% of the deaths of all the Healds in Yorkshire before 1650. It should be noted that the figures may not be absolutely accurate. Parish registers survive from different dates – Whitkirk from 1600 – and many burials are missing for this village. But the overall pattern is significant and shows how the Healds spread from an identifiable base (Whitkirk). The numbers in the other places like Leeds and Wakefield probably relate to a single family who may have been temporary residents before moving on.

What is more surprising is that by the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century the entire Heald clan had left Whitkirk. Apart from an isolated one in 1704, the last marriage was in 1691 - there were twenty-four Heald marriages in total in Whitkirk in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The last Heald baptism was in 1687 – the last of seventy-one – except for a solitary one in 1759. And the recorded burials totalled thirty-three with three of those coming in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century; presumably as some of the old residents who didn't move died off.



Whitkirk was an agricultural village in a rich farming area but the mobility of the Healds tells us that they were not agricultural labourers tied to the land. The location of Whitkirk gives the answer.

Nowadays it is a just a typical suburban area in one of Britain's biggest cities. But it wasn't always an anonymous part of that urban sprawl as the designation of a conservation area within it shows. Whitkirk church is the only

medieval church in the whole of the Leeds City area and there is a nucleus of buildings that date back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century and earlier.

On maps of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Whitkirk is a village well beyond the boundary of the built-up area of Leeds. At that time Leeds was barely a town! One mile to the south of Whitkirk is the stately home of Temple Newsam. The house stands in its own grounds with the gatehouse just half a mile from Whitkirk.

The estate of Temple Newsam would have dominated the life and economy of this area. People in the village would have derived their livelihood from providing services and goods to it. An example of just that sort of arrangement is written about by another ancestor of mine, **Jesse Pound**. In his memoir he described his father's life in rural Somerset in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.



**John Pound** (my 3x great-grandfather) was a tailor from the town of Ilminster. He found work on the Burton Pynsent estate, home of **Lord Chatham** (brother of **William Pitt the Elder**), as a tailor making uniforms for the staff of the house while living in the adjacent village of Curry Rivel. There were many such services that could be provided to a large estate.

In the 1620s **Robert Heald** lived in Whitkirk and was the father of **Robert Heald**. And that is all I know about him. I don't know who his wife was because the mother isn't recorded in the baptism of the younger Robert. But it's not very surprising that I don't know any more than that because the older Robert is my nine x great-grandfather – eleven generations before me. But he is unusual because I can name very few of my other 2,048 direct ancestors from that generation. And the odds of having inherited any of his DNA are quite remote; very few of our ancestors pass their DNA down so many generations – on average we would inherit 0.049% of our DNA from each of them. We don't inherit DNA in equal proportions beyond our parents!

The date of the younger Robert's baptism was 1628 when Britain had an agricultural economy. The monasteries had been dissolved about eighty years previously and the countryside of lowland England was dominated by huge estates with great houses, many of them derived from the lands of the

dissolved ecclesiastical lands, and owned by aristocratic families. With the exception of London (pop. 350,000 and Norwich, 60,000) there were no cities that had an effect beyond their immediate area on an economy that still had many features of the Feudal System. Most people worked in the countryside, many lived on the estates while the villages were a part of this economy. Much of the workforce was tied to the estates.

The parish records of Whitkirk survive from the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The extensive number of Heald records have a certain monotony to them. There are numerous baptisms with fathers called Roger, Robert and William. Unfortunately, in common with most other Yorkshire parishes, the priest didn't record the mother when a child was baptised. This makes it impossible to decipher many of the individual families. The number of baptisms diminishes during the second half of the century and, as previously stated, the last one was in 1687. The Healds left en masse. So where did they go?

The 17<sup>th</sup> century was one of great upheaval with the Civil War (1642 – 1651) disrupting society and the economy. Many great country estates suffered, especially those where the family espoused the Royalist and/or Catholic causes. A large number of estates were sequestrated causing major upheaval. It was also a time when the first stirrings of the Industrial Revolution were taking place.

Leeds, the nearest town to Whitkirk, was a very small place at this time; its population didn't reach 10,000 until about 1700. This map of 1725 is the first proper map of the town and shows that Leeds extended from the River Aire in the south, north along Briggate to The Headrow with Kirkgate forking off to St Peter's Church on the right (east). Therefore Leeds was less than ½ mile across its built up area in any direction and, as can be seen on the map, not densely developed. It was so insignificant that it didn't even have a castle and therefore didn't see much action in the Civil War.

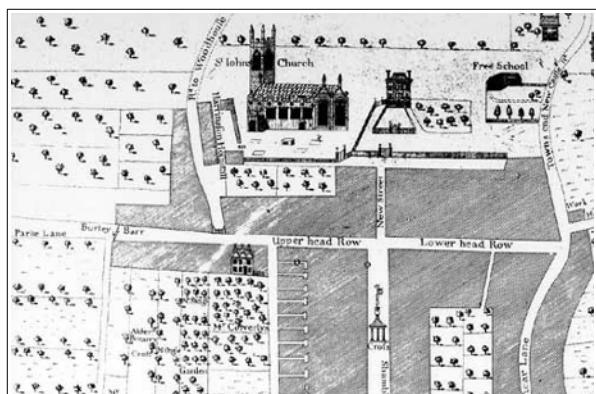
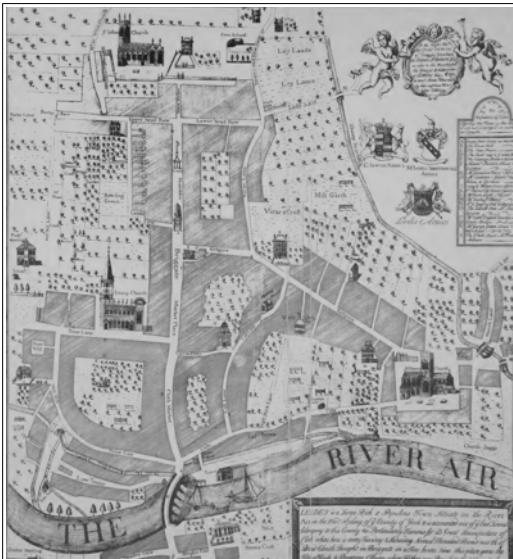
But, in the new economy, Leeds was beginning to grow as a trading centre with cloth coming from the weavers in the upland areas to the west and agricultural produce from the farms to the east. With the cloth coming into the town, Leeds developed as a centre of clothing manufacture and a place to trade. It was also sucking in people from the surrounding area looking for work. Leeds was mainly a merchant town, manufacturing woollen cloths and trading with Europe via the Humber estuary and the population grew from 10,000 in 1700 to 30,000 in a hundred years.

By 1684 the cloth market had outgrown its original situation on Leeds Bridge, and was moved to the lower end of Briggate. Although cloth manufacture was the principal industry in Leeds, there were also many other trades and professions. The court books of the corporation gives us the

following list: doctors, lawyers, innkeepers, booksellers, butchers, bakers, shopkeepers (drapers, mercers, and grocers), millwrights, carpenters, joiners, cordwainers (shoemakers) tailors, haberdashers, hairdressers, leather workers (curriers, saddlers, upholsterers) whitesmiths, blacksmiths, ironmongers, coopers (barrel makers), building workers (plasterers, joiners, glaziers)<sup>1</sup>. Robert, the son of the younger Roger mentioned above, was baptised in Whitkirk in 1628.

He probably moved to Leeds as a young man and married **Ann Asby** in the parish church of Leeds (now Leeds Minster) in 1654. His residence was recorded as Kirkgait [sic]. In 1655 Robert and Ann lived on Vicar Lane but by 1657 they had moved with their growing family to Kirkgate again. Ann died in 1667 after having given birth to six children. Robert remarried a year after Ann's death and with his new wife, **Jane Nulty**, another six children were born.

The family moved to Upper Headrow. This is significant in determining what type of activity he was involved in. Headrow was on the northern edge of town, well away from the river with its growing industries. Houses were built at both ends of the Head Rows in the eighteenth century, but development was very different at the west end (Upper Headrow) from that at the east end (Lower Headrow). The West End of Leeds began with the building of large and elegant houses on the Park estate. They were intended for the rich merchants and professional people of Leeds, and the estate was laid out accordingly, with wide streets, and gardens<sup>2</sup>.



Proof that it was a desirable area to live in, is supported by the fact that **King Charles I** stayed at the Red Hall on Upper Headrow in 1646 when he was being escorted as a prisoner from Newark to Newcastle.

So Robert was almost certainly a merchant with a high standard of living. Having come from the rich agricultural area to the east of Leeds, he traded in food and agricultural produce whereas the merchants dealing in cloth came from the western areas towards the Pennines which were agriculturally deficient. There is evidence that supports this in the apprenticeships in grocery that the subsequent generations of Healds were trained in. In this era being a grocer meant providing foodstuffs in quantity rather than being the owner of a corner shop.

The family may have been wealthy but it didn't mean they were immune to the high rate of infant mortality that blighted towns and cities before the development of sanitation and clean water. At least five of Robert's twelve children died in infancy and, if all the burials could be found, it is probably more. One child who lived beyond infancy was William, the sixth born and the great-grandfather of **Thomas Heald**, merchant of Wakefield.

I will follow William in the next part as he leaves Leeds to pursue his business interests.

<sup>1</sup> [discoveringleeds.wordpress.com/iundustrial-leeds-1300-1700/](http://discoveringleeds.wordpress.com/iundustrial-leeds-1300-1700/) Website of the Local and Family History

Department at Leeds Central Library

<sup>2</sup> [https://discoveringleeds.wordpress.com/the-headrow-1600-1800/](http://discoveringleeds.wordpress.com/the-headrow-1600-1800/)

<sup>3</sup> [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Husbandman#cite\\_note-1](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Husbandman#cite_note-1)

Peter Holford mem 1568

Editor: I must apologise to Peter Holford for not checking in the final 'once over' that his name was missing from the articles he kindly submitted to the last Kinsman.

## From the Papers

### **Yorkshire Evening Post 27 February 1915.**

**A Wakefield Nonagenarian Dead. Mr William Hirst**, a well-known maltster, has died at The Old Hall, Crofton, near Wakefield, in his 91<sup>st</sup> year. He took an active interest in the Conservative party, and in his younger days was a frequent speaker on its behalf. He was a Churchman.

Mr Hirst was a widower. He leaves no children.

Since the beginning of the war, **Mr R Watson**, one of the Wakefield magistrates, has attested over 2,000 recruits for the New Army.

**Airship Said to Have Been Carried to Sea By Violent Wind.** A despatch from Rome announces that one of the two Zeppelins stationed at Poia was carried away by a violent gust of wind while making an ascent. The crew were drowned in the Adriatic.

**German Aviators Captured.** Paris, Saturday. The Nancy correspondent of the 'Matin' learns from Baccarat that a German aeroplane, which was flying over the Luneville district on Thursday, was brought down by the French artillery. The aviators, who were obliged to alight hurriedly, were made prisoners.

### **Wakefield Express 25 May 1918**

(includes nearly two columns of Wakefield and District War Casualties and prisoners plus awards)

**Stephen Cannon**, brother of **Mrs Jaques**, Legh (sic) Street, Wakefield, has died in Italy as a result of an accident whilst on active service. Although above military age – he was 54 – he enlisted at the outbreak of the war. He had seen much service in France, and recently he was sent to Italy. He will be remembered as a member of the old Cathedral Band, and later the Belle Vue and Ossett Bands.

**Pvte Ernest Bramwell Bennett**, KOYLI, son of **Mr and Mrs John Bennett**, Buxton Crescent, Leeds Road, Outwood, has died of wounds received in France on April 14<sup>th</sup>. He was 24 years of age, and enlisted early in October 1914. Before going to France he served in Egypt. His mother (who is also blind) has received a sympathetic letter from **Company Sergt-Major Brittlebank**, who says that Bennett 'was a brave and fearless soldier, and a great favourite with all who knew him. We have lost one of our best lads.' Mr and Mrs Bennett have another son, **Pvte Ezra Bennett**, serving with the West Yorkshire Regiment. He was wounded on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Private Albert Morris**, KOYLI, son of **Mr and Mrs Sam Morris**, of 21 Cemetery Road, Normanton, has been reported killed in action on April 25<sup>th</sup>. When war broke out he was working at **Messrs. Pope and Pearson's**, Alton's Colliery, but in company with many more gallant lads from the district he enlisted in the 'King's Own' in November, 1914, and he was in training in Normanton for some time with the local company, going to France with the rest of the battalion. Last August he was invalided home with trench fever and rheumatism, and he had only been back in France for some nine weeks when he fell. A brother was killed about ten months ago, and there is another brother still in France. The deceased soldier, who was only 23 years of age, was held in much esteem by those who knew him. He was particularly popular amongst the bowlers of the town and it was he who, as a member of the Haw Hill Park Bowling Club, carried off the shield and gold medal in 1914, on its first being put up for competition.

**Second Lieutenant F Norman Davis**, KOYLI, who had been reported missing since October 4<sup>th</sup>, is now officially reported to have been killed on that date. He was on the clerical staff at the Wakefield offices of the Leeds and Wakefield Breweries when he joined the Forces in the first month of the war. After training in this country he went to France, where he was wounded, but he did not return to England. He soon proved himself a fine soldier, and was promoted to sergeant. In August, 1916, he was wounded a second time, and for his gallantry and devotion to duty he was awarded the DCM and recommended for a commission. He returned to England for a short leave, and then went to Cambridge to join the Officers' Training Corps. Subsequently he received his commission, and had been back in France for only a month when he was wounded for the third time. The gallant officer was the son of **Mrs Davis**, Grove Terrace, Wakefield, and of the late **Mr A J Davis**, who served 25 years in the Army, and who retired with the rank of sergeant-major.

**Pte John H Firth**, Duke of Wellington's Rgt., has been wounded in the body and thigh. He is now in hospital in Sunderland. He is the youngest son of **Mr J H Firth**, of 1 Carlton Street, Lawefield (sic) Lane, Wakefield. This is the second time he has been wounded. Before enlisting he worked at Harrison's Foundry. There are four sons serving in His Majesty's Forces.

**Pvte Albert Severn**, East Yorkshire Regiment, whose wife lives at Hunslet Carr, has been wounded for the third time. He married the youngest daughter of the late Mr Robert Frost, of Outwood, and they had previously lived in Coach Road, Outwood. He enlisted on August 30<sup>th</sup> 1914, and he has served in Salonica and France. He is now in a military hospital in Manchester, and marking satisfactory progress.

**Private James Ishmael Chadwick** (28), KOYLI, who lived with his mother in Union Square, Kirkgate, Wakefield, is officially reported as missing since March 27<sup>th</sup>. Prior to enlisting in November, 1914, he worked at **Messrs. E Green and Son's** foundry.

Yesterday we received information from France that **Corpl. J H Easingwood**, of the Royal Engineers' Signal Services, and who comes from Altofts, has been awarded the Military Medal for gallantry in the field during operations of 9<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> April.

**Mrs Chambers**, Kirkdale Grove, Leeds Road, Outwood, has received a letter from her son, **Temporary Captain (Acting Major) John Chambers**, Royal Field Artillery, that he has been awarded the Order of the Crown of Italy (Cavaliere). Some time ago Major Chambers was awarded the Military Cross. He has just returned to France after having been gassed.



**Company Quartermaster-Sergeant W C Holdway, KOYLI**, son-in-law of **Sergt., Major Linwood**, Glingarry, Leeds Road, Outwood, formerly of the Drill Hall, Wakefield,, has been awarded the DCM: 'For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during a counter-attack. During the advance through a heavy barrage he moved about from section to section of his platoon, guiding them through the wire and inspiring them by his cheerfulness and utter disregard of danger. When the company, after capturing its objective, was much troubled by an enemy sniper he worked his way out to a flank and succeeded in putting him out of action. He set a splendid example to his men throughout the operation'.

**Private Charles F Watson**, the youngest son of **Major L J F Watson**, Leeds Road, Wakefield has been awarded a Bar to his Military Medal.

The gallant young soldier enlisted the day after war was declared in his father's old corps, the Royal Field Artillery, as a signaller, etc., and was awarded the Military Medal in 1916. The Bar was awarded him last month for devotion to duty whilst at an observation post during a heavy bombardment.

The Major's eldest son, **Ernest Charles Watson**, is an officer in the King's Royal Rifles, and another son (**Robert**) joined the Royal Navy (submarine section) as an engineer.

All the three brothers were educated at the Wakefield St John's and Wakefield Grammar Schools.

## Facts about Stephen Cannon

Some facts about Stephen Cannon who is mentioned on page 23.

He was born in May 1866. The son of **Thomas Cannon** and **Susan Page**. In 1871 he was living on Commercial street, Wakefield with his parents, two siblings and a niece and nephew. His nephew was only one year younger than Stephen.

1881 - home was Kirkgate. His father was a grocer and there was one sibling living with the family plus three lodgers and one visitor.

1888 – he married **Mary Blatherwick** in Richmond. The couple had five children.

1891 – Now married. Stephen, a confectioner, and Mary are living at Spring Garden's, Soothill, with their one year old son, **Frederick**.

1901 – Now a retailer of Baby Linen (own account), living with his family in Dale Street, Ossett.

1911 – A change of circumstances? Stephen is now an Ironstone Miner. All his older children are working (youngest only five) and home is 18 Bank Street, Guisborough.

1914-1918 – Stephen enlisted in Richmond, North Yorkshire and served as 3/8998. His wife was awarded a Grant of £6 and a pension for their youngest daughter until she reached 16 (1920), following Stephen's death. She also received monies owing from the army of £10 4s and a £20 War Grant. He was eligible for the 1914-15 Star and the Victory and British Medals. He rests in Dueville Communal Cemetery, Veneto, Italy.

Question? Why was it Stephen's sister Mrs Jaques (Caroline) that put the notice in the local paper? Are you related to the Cannon or Jaques family and know the answer please let me know?



## A Heald at College

I was bought a book many years ago, in error, they thought it was Eton College Register. In fact it was the Epsom College Register 1855-1905. It was bought thinking it would help my WWI research into the young men from Eton College who were casualties of war. I never told them I had bought the Eton College Book in a wonderful bookshop in Ypres called the Shell Hole, nor did I tell them how much I paid for my book. Some ladies keep secrets about shoes and handbags, I kept secrets about how many books I had and how much they were worth. I've told the kids not to 'bin' certain books!

Sometime ago I inserted snippets of acid free paper to highlight names of scholars who might be interesting. The young men were mainly from the south of England but some were from the north, while a few had ventured from Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The young Heald man for some reason had not been highlighted.

Extract from Epsom College Register 1855-1905: **Heald, George Henry** [**Mrs Heald**, 39, Coburg Street, Leeds]; b 1848, l1867.

Gymnasium, Sports Prs., MO to NSPCC., Police Surg. Leeds City Police, and Ambulance Lecturer to Police Force, MRCS Eng., LRCP Edin., LSA London., 1872.

14 Hanover Square, Leeds

Is there a link to the Heald family mentioned in this and previous Kinsman?

Well, it looks like Mr Heald was known throughout the country, including the Channel Islands, I'll come to that later.

George Henry was born in 1848, the youngest of five children of **Samuel Heald** and his wife **Priscilla**. In 1851, the family were living at 52 Kirkgate, Leeds. Samuel aged 48 was an LAC General Practitioner, his wife was 36 and the children ranged in ages from 19 to George who is recorded as one in the census. Mr Heald was making enough money through his work to keep his family from going out for employment.

The next decade began and again the enumerator knocked on the door. This census showed a possible change in circumstances for the family. Number 39 Coburg Street, was home for the four members of the family still living together. Priscilla was now a widow following her husband, Samuel's death in the December Qtr., of 1854. George and his younger sister, another Priscilla, were both at school, while an older brother, Benjamin was now apprenticed to a cloth merchant.

Another census, another knock on the door and now George Henry a visitor in the home of **Philip Ely**, rag dealer in Ossett and his rank, profession or occupation is medical profession. Where had he been in the last ten years?

My book answers the question – he'd been a student in Epsom.

What the book doesn't answer is why he was not educated locally and why other young men travelled half way across the world while in their teens.

A Google search for the school and there are all the answers. Epsom College, previously the Royal Medical Benevolent College was built in 1853 and was set up by **Dr John Probert**. He created a foundation for the benefit of members of the medical profession and their families if or when they fell on hard times. The 1861 census did hint to their family income being lowered.



George Henry would have known the college with its original name, only becoming Epsom College in 1910 according to the school's website. Another question – the book was published in 1905. Epsom College name change in 1910. Why is my book not the Medical Benevolent College Register?

Probert did not only educate children, he also provided financial support to widows and family and older members of the medical profession. He set up and organised a national fundraising campaign

– one of the first in Britain, followed by Queen Victoria giving the college her Royal Approval. Prince Albert opened the college in 1855, with Queen Victoria as Patron. Every reigning monarch since has acted as the College's Patron. In 1980, it was estimated that a third of its 10,000 alumni had entered into the medical profession. One thing you may remember from the news is that in 2023 the headteacher, the first female head, and her family were found dead in their residence, the Head's House, in the grounds.

George Henry married **Ellen Mair** in the summer of 1878. In 1881 the family home was 1 Tramway Street, Leeds. By 1891 they had a family of five – their eldest child, aged 11 was named after his grandfather, Samuel. George now classed himself as a surgeon and living in Hanover Square. In 1901 the family were still living at 14 Hanover Square, just out of the city centre and surrounding a park. The area now does not have the same status as it did. But number 14, does have a Blue Plaque remembering **Charles Barker Howdill** architect of Primitive Methodist chapels and travel photographer. In 1901 Charles exhibited some of the first colour images seen at the Royal Photographic Society.

George has a new wife – Ellen died in the summer of 1904. **Annie Josephine** who is 30 years his junior and had been married seven years in 1911 – December Qtr., 1904. The newly weds had one child, a daughter. George, 61 gave his occupation as General Practitioner and Police Surgeon. This was a mixed household – sons, daughters and Annie's sisters and brother, plus 2 servants. The 10-roomed house in Hanover Square must have been quite full

A Mason, of Fidelity Lodge, Leeds, Dr George H Heald died in Leeds in 1915 aged 66. His Probate, Proven in Wakefield, had effects of £3491 6s 5d, to William Gordon Heald, typewriter company's manager and Millicent Ellen Heald, (wife of Jerome Reunart Heald).

This now leads me to why George Henry Heald was known the width and breadth of the country, even in islands just off the French coast. In September of 1885 he was committed for trial. The Wexford Constitution; Jersey Express and Channel Islands Advertiser; Bath Herald; Dundee Courier; South Wales Daily News and the Brighton Gazette to name just a few. They all report the same or similar event.

'Serious Charge Against Medical Man' Dr George Henry Heald, Police, surgeon, Leeds, was charged yesterday afternoon, before the Borough Magistrates, with having assaulted **Ada Hodgson**, under the age of 16, in surgery last Saturday, when the girl attended as a patient. The prisoner was remanded until Thursday on bail'. Another newspaper 'Bail was allowed, himself £500 and two sureties of £400 each'. In today's money £400 is worth

£65,685 – a sum not to be offered if you weren't sure of them not 'running'. Another newspaper said that bail was £500 with sureties of the same amount.

Ada was a pupil-teacher. George, after a long hearing would appear at the Assizes.

The November newspapers have an update to the case 'York Assizes. Saturday – Before **Mr Justice Hawkins**. Serious Charges Against Leeds Surgeon. George Henry Heald, surgeon, was charged with having attempted to commit a criminal assault upon Ada Jane Hodgson, above 13 and under 16 years of age, at Leeds, on the 12<sup>th</sup> September last. **Mr Waddy, QC**, and **Mr Kershaw** were for the prosecution; **Mr Digby Seymour, QC**, and **Mr Tindal Atkinson** appeared for the defence. The prosecutrix was a pupil teacher at the Leeds Board School, and resided in Leeds with her parents. The offence was alleged to have been committed at the prisoner's surgery. After the examination and cross-examination of the prosecutrix, the court was adjourned until this (Monday) morning'. The 24<sup>th</sup> November newspapers go into detail of the event and called witnesses. The case was again adjourned until the following morning.

George Henry appeared at the assizes yet again. Justice Hawkins summed up the proceedings saying that if George Henry 'had been guilty of that which had been imputed to him, it was difficult to conceive any more disgraceful conduct than that which he was charged with'. The jury, after 15 minutes consultation, returned into Court with a verdict of 'Not Guilty'. George Henry was at once discharged.

From the census entries we know that George Henry carried on work as a doctor and worked with the police. But I wonder, was his reputation damaged? How was his wife coping, she had a toddler and another born or about to be born (1885).

What happened to the children? - Samuel and Harry M, George Farnville, William Gordon and Jerome Reunert. Samuel and Harry may have followed their father and grandfather into the medical profession, George Farnville became an organ builder. William Gordon and Jerome Reunert both served in The Great War – a L/Cpl in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and Staff Sgt in the Royal Garrison Artillery.

Abbreviations used in the extract taken from the book:

MRCS – Member Royal College of Surgeons.

LRCP – Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians.

LSA – Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries of London.

Prs – Prize

MO – Medical Officer

NSPCC – National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

b – born

I – left

## Dad's Letters

Letter Dated 21<sup>st</sup> September 1942

219433 2/LT T Staynes  
No. 1 Group  
A A P C (WA)  
West African Forces  
21/9/42

My dear Vi,

I think yesterday was the first Sunday since I came to this benighted hole that I failed to set pen to paper and write something to you. There was, of course, a perfectly good reason – there always is – in fact a better reason than usual. Sunday was a terrific day; and a dramatic end to the week which started uneventfully and gradually worked up to a crescendo. The fun really began on Wednesday when one of my lorries went into H Q for inspection taking with it my lance-corporal orderly room clerk with sundry documents. Coasters' memory, however, must have attacked him pretty badly for he left two behind. I ran around & eventually found a messenger to take the missing documents into H Q – 26 miles away. After which one of my drivers came trudging in – my second lorry was seven miles away and 'no agree for go'. I jumped a passing vehicle & made my way to the scene of the tragedy and spent the odd hour watching the driver-mechanic take the thing to pieces & put it together again; after that I got tired and hungry so we intercepted the ration lorry and got ourselves towed in. I was late for lunch; and whilst sitting over my cup of tea a runner came in. I was wanted on the phone. I spent two or three seconds gulping hot tea and describing the exact nature of a telephone to the runner – who, being African, merely kept springing to attention and saying 'Yes sir'; then I got to the phone and said 'Hello'. I kept on saying 'Hello' for quite a time; and eventually the operator said 'Number Please' I explained that I was not the caller but the called, but that the runner hadn't bothered to ask who was calling me. The operator said there were no calls through at the moment; he had however, just rung off Military Exchange. The next ten minutes were spent trying to get Military, who, of course, couldn't help much. However, I reckoned that the mystery call must have come from my L/C at H Q, so I asked for L--- Exchange. Military were very obliging, but just as L--- answered, my operator said 'have you finished' and cut me off. I rang him again and said 'Get me L---, you --- He tried very hard and I got into communication with the brigade major at W - . I apologised for mistaking him for the operator at L – and tried to get back to my own exchange. I was put through in rapid succession to the R.A.S.C. depot, the Docks Operating

Company, the Brigade Major (who was trying to get Area), Area (who thought I was the Brigade Major), the Brigade Major again and an Ack Ack unit; finally, I was connected to **Comrade Boase** sitting at the other side of the pasteboard wall. 'Ordnance, L—' says he, 'Signals I—' says I, 'how do you do **Mr Boase**; is your phone working all right?' "Yes" says he, "but I'm very busy, do you mind not ringing me up" It sounded very funny to hear the normal voice coming through the partition and the squeaky voice coming through the telephone. Ordnance were in fact, becoming quite interested by this time and downed pens just to sit and listen. I got back to the exchange and spoke to my operator. **SQMS Waterman** sent the ordnance runner in with a dictionary and a message that, if it wasn't too late, I might still find one or two words in it. Meanwhile my operator had pushed the speak key over to something strange and I couldn't speak to him; I could only writhe impotently and listen-in to a free for all between my operator and four subscribers who were all being connected up wrongly. Shortly after this the three o'clock goods arrived in the siding outside my window and started shunting and blowing off steam. I rang, off and walked across the depot to the billet and dragged a European night duty man out of bed. He was quite annoyed but one glance from me showed him that discretion was the better part of valour. I took him to the exchange and forcibly ejected the luckless African operator. "Now" I said "get me Military" He did. "Military" I said "if you cut me off before I tell you I'll bloody well murder you." "Yes Sir" said he "Give me L—" says I. I got L--. "Operator" says I grimly "this is O.C. Detachment L--. Unless you want 28 days detention, you'll keep this line open until you get me on to extension 10." "Yes sir" said he and promptly rang off. "Military" said I, gently but firmly "get me L—again" "L---" said I "bring Sgt. --- (the supervisor)" I got the Sgt after about 10 minutes. I described to the Sgt. the folly of employing congenital idiots as operators. He apologised, saying that he thought our exchange had a monopoly of idiots and that if any of them escaped we ought to warn people. I pointed out that we hadn't sufficient accommodation for all the native imbeciles and consequently the really dangerous lunatics perforce went elsewhere. He was quite sympathetic and asked me if I wanted to put a call through. I said that, that had been my original intention, but that at the moment I should very much like to hang draw and quarter all the native operators in the colony. The Sgt. agreed in principle but thought there were insuperable difficulties; and so I abandoned the project and asked for extension 10. No one replied. So I rang off and went away to **Corporal Alger**. I sketched briefly what I wanted and gave him instructions to ring L—at fifteen-minute intervals until he got the information I required. Then I went out in the lorry to look at the cable trench. About six o'clock the corporal tottered in, haggard, weary, but victorious. The mystery call had been from H.Q. My truck and L/Cpl. were being detained over-night. Thursday dawned blue and pitilessly hot. One truck out of action here; one detained in L--; no clerk; only one three ton lorry. The truck at L—should have brought back the week's

petrol. By mid-day my lorry was out of petrol. The afternoon was one succession of calls – faults for immediate repair. My men were hitch-hiking about in the blazing sun. Last of all H.Q. rang up again. My truck was still unfit for the road and would not be back before Friday night.

I borrowed petrol from Boase for my big lorry; told my Sgt. that subscribers wanting jobs done would either provide transport or wait indefinitely; closed the office, and drove off to town to draw the men's pay; then I went to H.Q. and saw the colonel and had a little chat. I got petrol & spare transport from him and the advice to take a day off on Sunday & go for a bathe (H.Q. is right by the beach near where we bathed when we were at the transit camp) Then I interviewed Wednesday's operator and felt a lot better. Then the M.T.O. told me my other truck was ready; so, I collected my L/Cpl & returned home. Saturday was uneventful. I paid my labourers and went early to bed. There was a terrific thunderstorm. Sunday I was up at seven and off at eight. I visited two hospitals to pay sick men; chased some mail and lunched with Parker at the new Pioneer training depot. It was very hot and I never enjoyed an afternoon bathe so much in my life. The colonel & **Adcock** and the M.T.O. formed the party. This bit of beach is beautiful, hard and free from rock. It slopes very gently and has no currents or under tow. The sea was smooth and almost waveless. The sand was hot and the sea like a feather bed on a winter's night – cold when you first jump in, and just right when you've been in it a minute or two. I lay back flopping my hands small, small, with the sun scorching my nose and cheeks and the warm sea splashing over my forehead, and my body just under the water where the sun's rays were tempered just a little, but I could feel the warmth of them through the sea. We spent about an hour like that, swimming and floating around; and as the afternoon passed a thin haze came up and the sun wasn't quite so unbearable so we all took off our costumes and walked ourselves dry on the beach and then stretched out on the hot dry sand and fell asleep with towels around our heads like turbans. I must have been very tired because Adcock had to waken me about half-past five to drink some tea the boys had brought down. My brown skin was tawny red again and I wondered if I had over done it, but Adcock assured me that it was quite all right. Once you've been sun burnt out here your skin ceases to protest; it may peel and blister but it won't hurt. To-day, in fact, I'm quite all right and if possible browner than ever. Looking back on the afternoon I wish you had been there. Can you imagine staying in the sea for an hour and not feeling chilly? Or lying on firm hot sand in a little quiet bay with nothing but sea and sun and a fringe of palm-trees? If only you had been there – I don't suppose you would have left me in peace to sleep for hour.

We went back into camp and I spent the next hour on various jobs. About half-past six I was ready to collect my three-tonner and return to the depot. By

this time the haze had turned to a cloud and the road home lead right into the heart of the storm. Darkness falls very quickly here, but we were denied even the last half-hour of daylight; within two or three minutes we ran out of the sun's last red rays into inky darkness. Thunder was rumbling and muttering and lightning flickering tentatively over the hills. In the town native women were gathering up their skirts and trotting for shelter. We hooted through the emptying streets and out into the open; a few drops of rain came through the open window; the driver pulled down the windscreen – I remember thanking the fates that ordained the three-tonner with its closed cab to come in on Sundays and not the open 15cwt – I put up the side window; the storm rushed to meet us and then the rains came and a short shriek of wind. We seemed to be the only things out in the storm; **Tommy Kaigbo**, my driver, crouched black and rigid over the wheel; the engine growled and screamed in bottom gear as we felt our way along, the spouting rain thrashed on the windscreen and hammered the metal roof, the lorry bumped and blundered along the pot-holed road – there was no hope of avoiding the bumps, nothing to do but crash blindly forward with all the rattles and bangs a big empty lorry is capable of, bouncing and jolting without a heavy load to hold down the springs, and all the time the thunder echoed and the lightning swept the sky in unending sheets which give a faint light in the shadows of the road; and now and then a vicious dazzling whiplash of blue fork lightning coming from the left towards the hills. Inside the cab it was stifling and the engine warmed up under the incessant bottom gear work until the iron floor burnt my feet through the soles of my shoes. The single head light blazed with its solitary beam through the cascading streams of rain, the wipers swished and clicked on the windscreen and we crashed through the uproar so that our bare fifteen miles an hour gave the exhilaration of fifty and we answered the challenge of the storm with a relentless advance and rattled defiantly back at the thunder, a mechanical ride of Valkyries.

Just beyond the straggling village of W--- the road swings half left on to a very narrow bridge over a mountain torrent; the approach is black with encroaching trees. We dropped to walking pace. Peering out for the dim grey concrete that shows the edges of the bridge, as we saw the bend of the road there was a hissing crackle; on went the brakes and we lurched forward in our seats blinded by the terrific slash of lightning which momentarily silhouetted every black tree and left us dazzled and helpless. "Plenty dam bad sir" says Tommy Kaigbo. (I could imagine his white teeth in their usual grin) "We no go softly, softly, we be in river one-time; wheels no agree to stop" I agreed we certainly should have skidded into the river if we had been going more than walking pace, and philosophically lit a cigarette. We crept forward again and climbed from the black valley to the more open hillside. Away from the trees the road gleamed faintly and we picked up the speed a little, climbing steadily towards the top of the mountain spur. The storm eased off and the road

began to steam, as sometimes it does in England after a summer storm, only much more, the steam coming in waves over the radiator like white mist. One storm lay behind us now and was moving away to the right. Far ahead another storm was flickering. I wondered if we should make our destination or whether it would rush forward to interrupt us.

Then we came to the top of G – Hill and the long drop down to the river gorge. We stopped whilst Kaigbo brought in the auxiliary gear so that we could crawl down. It started to rain fiercely again, the road steamed, the thunder rolled perpetually, the engine was so hot that its metal casing was too hot to touch and the cab was an inferno, Sweat poured out of us; and the road crept by. The first steep stretch was very bad; I could see the driver had his work cut out to hold the road. He murmured something about "Plenty dam bad road" and seemed as though he was going to flatten his face on the windscreen. We approached the bend onto the last and most vicious stretch; there was a gleam of approaching lights and we pulled into the side of the road and stopped to let the other car pass us. Only it didn't. We got out to investigate, and luckily the rain had almost stopped again. Half way round the corner a car had stuck, plumb in the middle of the road. There was no passing it. Two lumps of rock were behind the back wheels; the driver sat by the side of the road quite wet and hopelessly unnerved. It was no use talking to him. He was resigned to the fact that she no agree for to go and would in all probability run back, if you tried to start her, and kill everybody. I sent him into the neighbouring huts to bring out a few inhabitants, Kaigbo jumped into the cab and started up the engine, the locals pushed behind just in case and off she went without mishap. We parked her up the road a bit and left the driver to find it for himself. I told Tommy Kaigbo to open up our doors and windscreen to ventilate the cab a bit and gave him a cigarette to smoke whilst the engine cooled off. Then we tackled the last vicious piece. We knew it was bad but that didn't stop us starting off with a pendulum like skid on the first bend. Tommy Kaigbo held her magnificently and stopped; he pleasantly remarked that the back wheels no agree to come last. Then he tried again and we went down feet at a time. He tried coaxing her down and holding with his engine but it was no good. Either she threatened to go too fast or else the engine stopped entirely. He just couldn't get the right touch on the brake. We stopped and started about twelve time in fifty yards. Then we had a rest and a little talk about roads and their surfaces – quite friendly and amicably as if we were clubmen lounging in easy chairs with nothing to do and all day to do it in instead of two hot and weary travellers benighted on the worse hill in the colony. Then we decided to try the last stretch with the engine free and relying solely on the brakes. We made it and the rest of the run was comparatively child's play. Kaigbo was in high glee and it certainly was a triumph for him. Long after he had parked his lorry and was trotting at my heels whilst I routed out a cook and the quartermaster to get him his chop he was chattering

happily about navigating that last stretch with a free engine – perhaps to convince himself that he really had done it. It had taken us close on three hours to do twenty-six miles. A sudden swish of rain suddenly reminded me of the distant storm I had seen coming up. I scurried into the mess and had a pint of necessary. I felt rather tired.

There were two letters waiting for me – one from Aunt C & one from Lillie. I thought Lillie's letter showed signs of strain – whether from the war or Lakeland weather or work I didn't know. Possibly mother's adventures had disturbed her a bit, but she certainly was not her usual happy self. There was also a short letter from Uncle B. Today I got three parcels of literature; your papers up to August 21 and some Readers Digests and some John o Londons. They say there is more mail in the harbour.

You've got another long letter this time – there doesn't seem to be much in it. Still, you'll gather that I'm enjoying life as much as I can and even riding through tropical storms appeals to me. I think my present job is the best I've had in the army so far; I have to move about a lot both on foot and by lorry and there's not too much office work. Of course, I'm my own master too, so I am making the best of it whilst it lasts. It's now close on four months since I landed here – and in another twelve we'll both be getting excited about boats departing and arriving. That will be the day, oh best beloved. Will you really torment me when you get me back? Or will you be too busy with your coupons? I think you've been in one place long enough now. Shall we get the bicycles out and go by way of Langcott and Ashpton and Chatsworth and Hadden Hall into Cheshire and through Ellesmere Forest to Shrewsbury and Church Stretton & the Long Mynd & Ludlow and Clunton, Clunbury, Clungunford & Clun, and read the Shropshire Lad and Precious Bane, and come back through the Worcester fruit farms and the Wye Forest and Bewdley and the Lickeys (to pay homage to halcyon Whit Mondays and the memory of Christine & Daphne) and on to Leicester to see Nell again and home through the Dukeries and Doncaster – or would you sooner wait until Christmas and go to Carlton Husthwaite and sing carols? I wonder if there is barbed wire in the primrose beds at Runswick and in the dunes at Bamburgh. I wonder who brushes my Vi's hair, and who meets her when she finishes work and takes her home. I wonder when my Vi will come to sleep in my arms again, all smooth and silky and wanting to be loved. I wonder when I'll get more paper for another letter.

Your own Tommy

Debbie Staynes

## Do you know where The Editor has been?

In the previous edition of Kinsman I asked if you knew where I'd been? Well, did you know from the clues I left.

This house, once the home of the Park Superintendent, is in the Rose Garden in Thornes Park.

The Park Superintendent in the



late 1960's used to breed and show West Highland White Terriers. He was well known in the 'Westie' world and bred champions, from champion stock.

Where have I been now? I've not been here for a few months and the area has changed dramatically. Would you still recognise this street if you walked past today? Image taken from

Twixt Aire and Calder website.

## Allerton Bywater Man

**Matthew Bullough** was an Allerton Bywater man. He was the son of **Joe Bullough** and **Sarah**, and one of seven children at the time of the 1881 census. The family lived in Mitchell's Buildings. Joe worked as an Earthenware Printer.

Ten years later, Sarah was a widow and now lived in Pickergills Buildings with her children. All the boys who were old enough worked at the local pits.

By 1901, Matthew was married. Matthew, his wife Albina, and four children, the youngest one month old, lived in Pickersgills Cottages.

Also in 1901, The Pontefract and Castleford Express of 19th October had the following article: 'Danger and Obstruction - Two miners, named **Smith Sunderland** and Matthew Bullough, did not appear to answer a charge of obstructing the highway, but their wives came instead. On the 5<sup>th</sup> **PC Brooks** found them stripped and fighting in Victoria Street, Allerton Bywater, and so persistent were they in their business that the officer had to forcibly separate them. Of course a big crowd had gathered. To pay 7s each'.

Another ten years, and it is 1911. Matthew and Albina have been married for 16 years and have raised eight children—the eldest two work with their

father in a local mine. The large family's home was still Pickersgill Cottages, but the census records indicate that the cottage had four rooms.

Matthew enlisted in Pontefract and became Sapper Bullough (121756), serving in the 7th Prov. Coy. Royal Engineers.

Matthew was 45 years old when he died on the 13th July 1917 at Chatham Barracks.

The source, the UK Army Register of Soldiers' Effects, shows that Albina was given £12 7s 2d. Four children were listed by name, and each received £1 6s. Plus a War Gratuity of £8 for Albina

There is one source that contradicts a book compiled in 2000 and gives information on over 100 men who died in WWI—I have found a lot more. The source is the Pension Card for Matthew, available on Fold3, a sub-site of Ancestry for non-members of the Western Front Association.

A great deal of the information on the card is already known, such as his wife, children (names and dates of birth), regiment, service number, and Date of death. Albina and the children are now living at 43 Main Street, Allerton Bywater.

The local book says that Matthew was severely wounded while on active service, the possible reason why he is in Chatham Barracks. It goes on to say that he died of his wounds, possibly a mild version of events. The pension card is a little more explicit, 'Date and cause of death - 13.7.17, Wounds self-inflicted whilst in a state of temp. insanity due to strain of A S (active service)'. Or were the wounds inflicted while he was in France? There is no service record or other online record that can confirm or deny where Matthew inflicted his wounds.

He was brought home from Chatham to Allerton Bywater

## **Tracing Our Roots: The Importance of Family History**

Exploring the Tapestry of Ancestry for Future Generations

### **Introduction**

Family history is more than a pursuit of names and dates; it is the unravelling of stories, traditions, and values that shape who we are today. In recent years, there has been a resurgence of interest in genealogy, with people across the British Isles and beyond seeking to connect with their ancestors. This article explores the significance of delving into our family past, the methods available for research, and the impact that such discoveries can have on our sense of identity and belonging.

## **The Value of Knowing Our Origins**

Understanding where we come from can offer profound insights into our present lives. Family stories passed down through generations provide context for our traditions, beliefs, and even our quirks. Knowledge of our ancestors' struggles, triumphs, and migrations helps us appreciate the resilience and adaptability in our own families. For many, uncovering the past is a way to pay homage to those who came before, ensuring their memories are not lost to time.

## **Starting Your Family History Journey**

Embarking on a family history project can seem daunting, but it often begins with simple conversations. Older relatives are invaluable sources of information, recalling anecdotes, names, and events that may not be recorded elsewhere. Recording oral histories, collecting old photographs, and preserving family documents are essential first steps.

Once these initial resources are gathered, modern technology offers a wealth of tools to aid your research. Websites such as the General Register Office, National Archives, and local family history societies provide access to birth, marriage, and death records, as well as census data. DNA testing services have also become increasingly popular, offering the chance to connect with distant relatives and uncover ethnic origins. However, it is always important to approach such findings with sensitivity and respect for privacy.

## **Challenges and Rewards**

Researching family history is not without its difficulties. Records may be incomplete, lost, or difficult to decipher, especially when dealing with faded handwriting or unfamiliar languages. Sometimes, family myths may not align with official documentation, prompting further investigation. Despite these challenges, the rewards are considerable. Discovering a long-lost relative, piecing together a forgotten story, or connecting with living family members across the globe brings a deep sense of achievement and belonging.

## **Preserving Family History for the Future**

Once uncovered, it is vital to ensure that family history is preserved for future generations. Creating digital archives, writing memoirs, or organising regular family reunions are all effective ways to keep the past alive. Schools and community groups increasingly recognise the value of such projects, encouraging young people to take an interest in their heritage.

Family history is a living tapestry, continually added to by each generation. By sharing our discoveries and stories, we foster a sense of continuity and community that transcends time and place.

## Conclusion

In a fast-paced, ever-changing world, understanding our roots can anchor us and provide a sense of perspective. Family history research is both an act of remembrance and a gift to those who come after us. Whether you are just starting out or have been researching for years, each thread you uncover adds richness to your family's unique story. As the old adage goes, "We stand on the shoulders of giants." By honouring our ancestors, we ensure their legacy endures, guiding and inspiring generations yet to come.

Editor: Who do you think wrote this article? Well, although Chris Welch was the instigator and initially typed into his browser's search bar a request for information on family history, it was Copilot, an AI powered assistant who wrote the article. Who or What is Copilot? Copilot helps users with tasks by providing contextual assistance and automatic actions.

I'm not a great fan of AI – it has many faults including the fact that many people believe that an image or moving image is real, when in fact if you look closer the altered image can be clearly seen. But, saying that AI in the correct hands can be a wonderful tool.

## More From the Papers

**The Yorkshire Observer**, 25 June 1938 – From River Calder (an extract). It is interesting to note that in a brochure which is being prepared for the jubilee celebration, mention is made of the fact that until 100 years ago the inhabitants of Wakefield drew their water from the River Calder, its tributary streams, from wells and springs in various parts of the town, while at present time the undertaking is supplying water to an area of 50 square miles, and a population of 100,000.

The first public water supply to the town was provided by the Wakefield Waterworks Company. Water was pumped from the River Calder at Stanley Ferry, below Wakefield to reservoirs at Field Head.

At that time the river would be comparatively clear and the water was used without treatment, but filters were afterwards added. Owing to industrialisation the river became grossly polluted and in 1877 the works were taken over by the Corporation.

In 1880 the Corporation was empowered by Act of Parliament to obtain water from Rishworth moors as a new source of supply was imperative. The first instalment of the scheme comprised the Spa Clough Intake, the Moss Moor Catchwater, Ringstone Reservoir, the pipe line to Ardsley and Wakefield and the Ardsley Reservoir, and 50 years ago the water was turned on officially by Alderman Henry Lee, Mayor and chairman of the Waterworks Committee, who had played a prominent part in the inception and carrying out of the undertaking.

While the works were still in course of construction Wakefield undertook to furnish supplies in bulk to eight neighbouring authorities, and by the year 1890 the population supplied had grown from 30,000 to 100,000 persons.

Increasing Needs – The increasing needs were met by the completion in 1898 of the Green Withens reservoir and its two catch waters and in 1902 the open sand filters at Kirkhamgate and Lindale Hill service reservoirs were brought into operation. The two Booth Dean dams and gauge basins were constructed during 1919-22, and the enlargement of the Green Withens reservoir in 1923-24.

In 1924 powers were obtained to take water from the Ryburn Valley, and the huge Ryburn scheme, which included the construction of a curved concrete dam over 100ft high, was completed in 1933, with the exception of the Baitings reservoir.

The principal provisions in the Waterworks section of the Wakefield Bill, now before Parliament, included an extension of the time for the completion of the Ryburn Svhée, revival of powers for the Oxygrains reservoir and to construct a service reservoir on Newton Hill, to the north of the city.

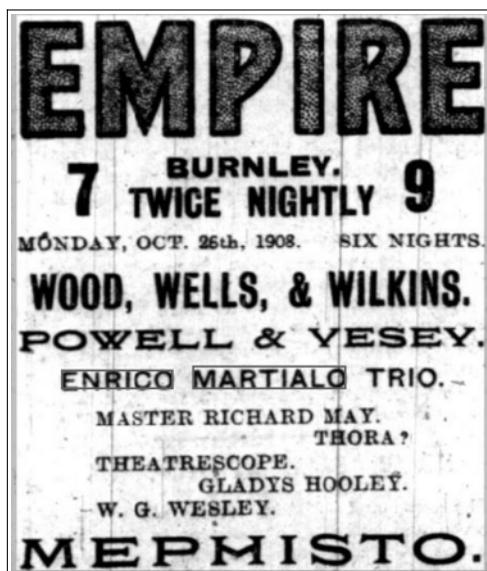
**Wakefield Journal and Examiner, 24 February 1854**

**T**o be LET, with immediate possession, 'the  
**WAKEFIELD SOKE MILLS**, situate  
on the **river Calder**, at **Wakefield**, in the West  
Riding of the County of York, containing 26 pairs  
of stones, driven by 5 water wheels, 9 feet fall, and a  
condensing steam engine of 30-horse power, with  
warehouse, drying kiln, flour shop, and stables, with  
about 10 acres of land, together with bone mill and  
cloth fulling mills, containing 9 pairs of stocks and  
two cottages.

## **Did You Know?**

Did you know that in the 1911 census if you enter Germany in place of birth and Wakefield in 'where living' you get 49 results. These results obviously, include German nationals, for example the Hoffman and Andrassy families well known pork butchers. Another pork butcher family were the Retz' But also include people born Germany just because that's where their mother was at the time of birth. Many British people, especially miners, engineers and those working in the wool trades did venture to Europe to work or train local workers.

One such man was **Enrico Martiale**, who had been born in Germany in 1862 and in 1911 he was one of 14 people living in the home of **Henry Popplewell**, a jobbing gardener, whose home was 6 Frederick Street. Henry and his wife had six children aged between two and eighteen years of age. The visitors were tailors, herbalists, grocers drayman, an assistant and two Artiste (*Hipperdrome*), one from Berlin and the other from Wein, Austria.



**The London Observer** 13 April 1907 – Enrico Martiale provides the chief item in the programme at **Hengler's Circus**, Argyll-street, W., this week. He is a juggler and equilibrist of wide continental fame who now makes his appearance in London for the first time; and he challenges anyone to the extent of ten pounds who can perform his premier feat of balancing a pony and trap weighing 500lbs upon his forehead.

**The Lady's Pictorial** 23 March 1907, gives a very good description of Enrico's stage act. 'The Easter programme will, in addition, include a very strong circus performance, one of the features of which will be

an amazing juggler, Enrico Martiale, a newcomer to London who seemingly can balance anything on his forehead. Among his feats is the balancing of four independent billiard cues on which is placed a sentry-box with a real Lifeguardsman in.'

## DARLINGTON.

New Hippodrome and Palace Theatre of Varieties (Proprietors, The Hippodrome Theatre, Limited; Managing Director, Signor Pepi; Resident Manager, Mr. C. Hersee; Musical Director, Mr. M. Mendoza; Stage Manager, Mr. R. W. Plows). — Boswell's circus of ponies, dogs and donkey provide a very enjoyable entertainment. Eva Colton, Russell Brandow, the Great Northern Troupe, Dolly Harmer, Sisters Petram, Enrico Martiale Trio, and the Pepiscope complete the bill.

# Notices

## Wills in England and Wales

The fee for purchasing copies of a Will or Grant of Representation in England and Wales after 1858 rose on 17<sup>th</sup> November from £1.50 to £16.00.

There is an exemption for some companies by special agreement but this will not apply to individuals.

## Speakers at our Meetings

Have you any suggestions for speakers?

What subjects would you like hear about at our Saturday meetings?

Do you want to hear about family history resources, local people or business, local history in general or DNA? All subjects that can add to your research.

If you have any suggestions for a speaker or subject contact a member of the committee at a meeting or via email.

## Articles for Inclusion in your Kinsman

I look forward to receiving articles for inclusion in Kinsman and I, during my stints as Editor, have regularly had a supply of articles – thank you.

But like other committee members, I am a volunteer, so I would therefore ask the following when sending in articles.

1. Could I ask you to **not to include footnotes or other linked notes**. Add sources and other information, unlinked, at the end of the article.
2. **Please send photographs and/or images as a separate file and include where you wish the photograph or image to be in your article along with source.**
3. Please email as a Word or similar document and **NOT** as a read only document or pdf as I need to be able to edit the font and size, line spacing, and margins etc easily. Also if you can remember – don't use the return or end line key as your end of lines may be smaller or larger than the Kinsman page.
4. Although an emailed article is preferred, a type written or handwritten

article is still very, very welcome. [editor@wdfhs.co.uk](mailto:editor@wdfhs.co.uk)

5. And don't forget to include your name and membership number

I look forward to receiving snippets, articles, help wanted, and other bits that, you, our members will find interesting or help with their family history.

**Thank you**

Dear Members,

We have Moved to online bank and our new details are as follows:-

**Virgin Money 6-10 Northgate Wakefield**  
**Sort Code 82-12-08**  
**Account 00199074**

Please feel free to use our Nat West bank for your membership fees this time, but we would very much appreciate it, if you could use our Virgin Money account for future renewals. Please amend any standing orders.

If you require any assistance please ask a member of the Committee or a Key Volunteer who will help or point you in the right direction.

Sheelagh Jackson,  
Treasurer

#### **Distant Search for WDFHS Members:**

We now have offers of help from members who are willing to undertake specific research in the following areas: Bristol area, Keighley, TNA, The Society of Genealogists, Metropolitan Archives, Glasgow, Central Scotland Members wishing to use this service or who are willing to help, please email [joyjoseph105@gmail.com](mailto:joyjoseph105@gmail.com) or contact her at Joy Joseph, 105 Bartholomew Square, Bristol, BS7 0QB.

**What would you like our speakers to tell you about?** The Committee is asking what subjects you would like to have speakers for. The Society is yours, and the Committee would like you to become more involved in choosing speakers at our Saturday morning meetings. Please pass on your suggestions to either a committee member or email: [editor@wdfhs.co.uk](mailto:editor@wdfhs.co.uk). Please let us know if you would like to recommend someone, know of a speaker or volunteer yourself – or indeed if there is a subject that you would like to be covered in one of our meetings.

## Principal Wakefield Information Centres

**West Yorkshire History Centre**, 127 Kirkgate, Wakefield, WF1 1JG.

The Archive has a unique collection of original documents but you must book an appointment to consult them. Be warned at the moment that the earliest available appointment is usually several weeks after you make contact. You can examine their website online to discover documents relevant to your research and they will normally ask you to confirm the documents you want to examine shortly before your visit.

Opening hours:

Mondays 10:00am – 4:00pm

Tuesdays 10:00am -- 4:00pm

Thursdays 10:00am – 4:00pm

On Fridays the Exhibition space is open (but not the search room to view originals) 10:00am – 4:00pm

Please email [wakefield@wyjs.org.uk](mailto:wakefield@wyjs.org.uk) or call 0113 535 3040 to book

### **Wakefield Library**

Local Archives and Family History

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9am – 7pm

Tuesday, Friday 9am – 5pm

Saturday 9am - 4pm

## Speaker Diary for 2026

Date	Speaker	Title of Talk
3 <sup>rd</sup> January	<b>No Meeting</b>	
7 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Jane Ellis</b>	The Walmsley's of Robin Hood's Bay.
7 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Ann Parkinson</b>	The History of the Yorkshire School for the Blind 1833 – 1956
4 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Joanne Harrison</b>	180 Years of Eastmoor – It's People and Their Houses
2 <sup>nd</sup> May	<b>Tim Lynch</b>	The Enemy Within
6 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Jane Roberts</b>	St Mary's Batley: A One Place Study

## KEY VOLUNTEERS

**Membership Secretary:**

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**Exchange Journals & Library Assistant:**

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**Help Desk:**

Stella Robinson, Carol Sklinar, Dave Bradley,  
Tony Banks & Debbie Staynes

**Meeting Reporter:**

Lorraine Simpson

**Minutes Recorder & Assistant Librarian:**

Jacqueline Ryder

**Publications Stall:**

Ros Bartle

**Publications Stall Assistant:**

Deborah Scriven

**Refreshments Organiser:**

Sue Vasis

**Refreshments Assistant:**

Mary Buttigieg

# Wakefield & District Family History Society



## Programme to June 2026

SATURDAY MEETINGS

at Outwood Memorial Hall

Doors open 9.30am - Talks begin 10.30am

Jan 3rd NO MEETING

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Feb 7th THE WALMSLEYS OF ROBIN HOOD'S BAY  
Jane Ellis

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Mar 7th THE HISTORY OF THE YORKSHIRE SCHOOL  
FOR THE BLIND 1833 – 1956  
Anne Parkinson

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Apr 4th 180 YEARS OF EASTMOOR –  
ITS PEOPLE AND THEIR HOUSES  
Joanne Harrison

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May 2nd THE ENEMY WITHIN  
Tim Lynch

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Jun 6th ST MARYS BATLEY: A ONE PLACE STUDY  
Jane Roberts

For further information about this event, please scan the QR code



[wdfhs.co.uk](http://wdfhs.co.uk)

