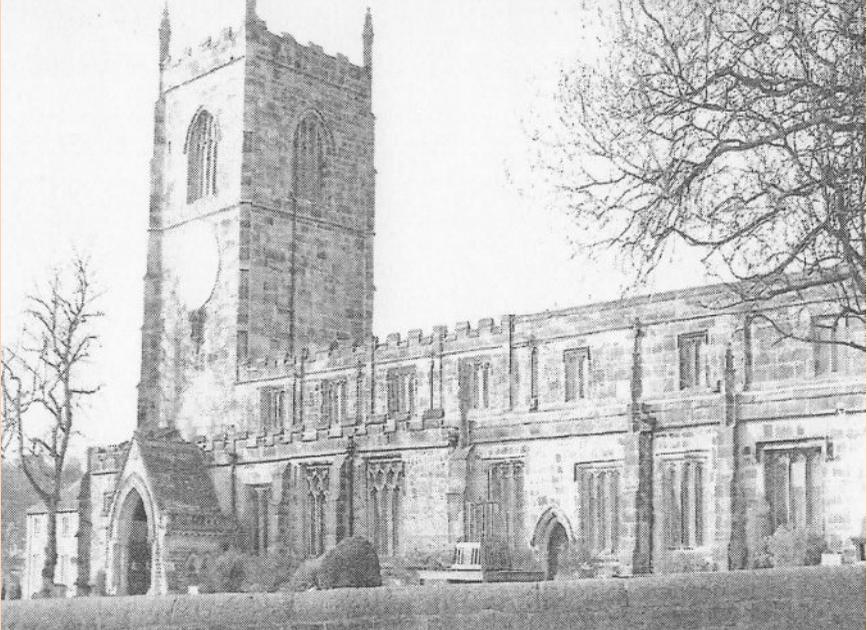


AIREDALE & WHARFEDALE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



AIREDALE & WHARFEDALE JOURNAL

June 2019

Issue 2

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Deadline for articles for the Journal are 5th of the month of February; May; August and November.

Please send to either Betty Hardaker or Graham Firth:-
editor@awfhs.org.uk

The cover picture is of Skipton Holy Trinity Church.

Programme

Burley in Wharfedale meetings:

7.30pm Salem Hall 1st Thursday of each month

6 June	Eric Jackson	Remembrance – War memorials and the unknown warrior
4 July	Research Evening	Investigate your own family history
5 Sept	Mary Twentymen	Yorkshire's Jarndyce v Jarndyce
3 Oct	Bob Schofield	Methodist Pioneers in Wharfedale

Keighley Meetings:

7.30pm 1st Monday of each month

3 June	Barbara Mately	Family Myths and Legends
July	No Meeting	
5 August	Summer Dinner at Steeton Hall.	7.00 for 7.30pm
3 Sept	Dave Joy	Liverpool Cow Keepers

Threshfield Meetings:

2.30pm Village Institute - *all on Saturdays*

15 June	Alan Roberts	Raikeswood Prisoner of War Camp
21 Sept	Peter Watson	Elderly Persons guide to Nostalgia
19 Oct	Lynda Balmforth	Putting Meat on the Family Bones
16 Nov	Steve Miller	Grave Concerns

This is me! - Stan Merridew - Our President



I was born in Chelmsford and have lived in Yorkshire since 1966, still an “incomer” you might say. I have one son, two daughters who have produced five granddaughters and one grandson and have been married to the long suffering Judith for almost thirty one years. I spent most of my working career in sales and marketing, retiring six years ago. My passion for family history started in 1972, brought about by an unusual surname. At that time the only way to progress was to get on your bike and visit record offices and

libraries. As virtually all my lineage is in counties below the Wash I always tried to make best use of my time in a record office, rooting through the catalogues whilst waiting for registers to be produced. In that way I learnt a lot about other less obvious sources. I have traced all lines which complicates things somewhat.

Around 1978 Ilkley College advertised their intention to run a family history course for which I applied and ended up as the tutor! I ran several more locally for a few years. The result was the founding of the Wharfedale FHG in 1980. I organised the Yorkshire Family History Fair from its inception in 1996 for twenty one years.

The internet has been a tremendous boon for our hobby although it does have its drawbacks. It tends to encourage research without knowledge of what is being viewed. I have often heard, “It’s all on the net.” It never will be. The commercial companies interest is in the money spinners, civil registration, census, parish registers etc. Some family historians are happy to collect names and dates. I have always believed in attempting to research my ancestor’s lives. There is still a place, and always will be, for progressive family history societies who can offer their members something more – local knowledge of local sources.

This is my aim for the Airedale & Wharfedale Family History Society.

Stan-aged 10yrs



Introducing Susanne Young

At Betty's request I am writing to briefly introduce myself to former Keighley members.

I grew up with family history as both my parents were and still are keen family historians. I remember spending sunny afternoons not on the beach (I grew up in Scarborough) but eating picnics in graveyards. Naturally when I began to take a serious interest in family history I felt that most of the 'good stuff' had already been done with my family (how wrong I was), so I embarked on researching my husband's ancestry instead. That has been a rewarding journey so far, especially learning about his serial bigamist ancestor who lived in Beverley where we also lived before we came to Wharfedale. My favourite research sites are FindmyPast and Scotland's People.

I have learned a great deal about family history from my parents and more since becoming a member of Wharfedale Family History Group 8 years ago. My chief occupations within the group are: providing refreshments at the Burley meetings, publicising meetings in local press/journals, distributing programmes to local libraries, making regular contributions to the journal and more recently management of Members Interests.



My ancestors are not actually from Wharfedale, it just happens to be where I live. However I was delighted to learn that my 4x great grandparents lived in the same village as I do around 1818. This is a picture of them in later years

Atkinson and Booth families at Low Hill, Baildon

Adapted from the J.P. Davey Archive by Susanne Young

Past member Peter Davey's paternal grandmother **Mary Ellen Booth** was born Baildon 1869 the daughter of **John Stephen Booth** shoemaker born 1836 and **Susannah (nee Walker)**. The 1881 census records Mary Ellen and her maiden aunt **Ann Booth** born 1839 at 44 Northgate, Baildon (daughter of **Jeremiah Booth** cordwainer born 1808 and **Mary (nee Atkinson)**). In 1891 the ladies are still together at a different address, 12/13 Low Hill, Baildon and Ann's brother **Atkinson Booth** a maltster age 47 is at number 2.

Ann Booth's grandfather **Stephen Atkinson** born 1771 purchased a number of the cottages at Low Hill in the early 1800s which subsequently were bequeathed to his children: **Stephen, Thomas and Martha Atkinson** and his two sons in law: **Peter Horner** and **Jeremiah Booth**. The 1841 census records Stephen Atkinson (junior) a joiner age 35, his wife Mary, his sister Martha and her baby **Ann Atkinson** at Low Hill. Mary Ellen became the eventual owner of numbers 1 – 8 and 14 Low Hill cottages who then passed them on to two of her sons who gradually sold them off.

Low Hill, Baildon was a tiny hamlet not far from Sconce on the old Otley road. 15 cottages were arranged almost in a circle with 2 areas of grass/garden in the centre, known as the Croft and the Garth. The cottages are originally thought to have been occupied by miners working the coal on Baildon Moor and in C19th they were mainly occupied by textile workers. For many years there was no mains water or sewerage and electricity was installed as late as 1953. During the 1960s there was a fierce battle to save the cottages from demolition under a compulsory clearance order but many of them were demolished together with houses at Moorside, Baildon which were not deemed fit for habitation. Today the hamlet can be identified by the former primitive Methodist chapel and a small cluster of houses near to the road.

Peter had obtained a copy of records kept by Baildon Moravian Church which contain marvellous descriptions of two of the ladies mentioned above: **Mary Booth** and her spinster sister **Martha Atkinson**. The following are excerpts from the church diary (the full versions contain lengthy and descriptive testaments to their Christian faith as their deaths approached):

4 December 1879

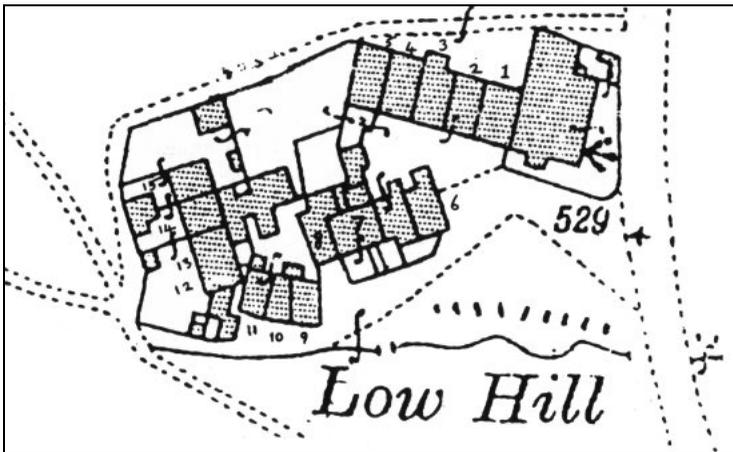
Sister **Martha Atkinson** of Low Hill, Baildon Moor departed this life aged 65 years. Having spent nearly all her days in the quietude of the little hamlet of Low Hill on the moor. Her occupation in her younger days was handloom weaver. In course of time the steam loom took the place of the hand loom and then her employ became purely domestic. Her dwelling was always neat and clean and everything about herself and those under her care betokened cleanliness and thrift. Everything seemed to be done quietly, systematically and in order. This is doubtless woman's proper sphere, her God appointed life work. Let no man despise the quiet home worker.

In person she was very strongly built and was a stranger to sickness until her last ailment began. Breathing the pure air of the fine old moor, drinking the delicious water that springs up from it, living on plain and wholesome food and engaged in a healthy occupation she enjoyed sound, robust health year after year. She was naturally of a quiet, reserved disposition having very little to say in conversation and a keeper at home. These are highly valuable qualifications and deserve honourable mention though we cannot speak of great intellectual gifts. Her patience under great suffering was very edifying but she desired to depart and to be with Christ which is far better. We interred her remains in our burial ground 9th December.

16 December 1879

Our sister **Mary Booth** widow of our late brother **Jeremiah Booth** departed this life. She was an older sister of Martha Atkinson. Like Martha, sister Booth was born in the old house on the moor and enjoyed the same parental care and religious privileges. She must be one of the first who attended our Sunday school and probably she was present at its opening in November 1823. In or about the year 1834 she was married to our late brother Jeremiah Booth and became a communicant member of this congregation in 1837 or 8. About 10 years ago her beloved husband departed this life. Their marriage was blessed with 3 children all of whom survive. Throughout the 45 years of her marriage sister Booth lived in the village of Baildon and up to the time of her marriage she dwelt in her parents' house at Low Hill. In early life her health was delicate. Like others she had her maternal cares and her house-hold duties but these were diligently and cheerfully attended to. Her house always did her credit. Cleanliness, order and comfort were found there and thrifty management made,

under God's blessing, her circumstances easy. She remained till her death an attached and consistent member of the congregation. The illness of her sister Martha caused her no small uneasiness and she perhaps over exerted herself to pay her kindly attentions. The severity of the weather also no doubt affected her health. Her age was 67 years. On Saturday her remains were interred in our burial ground.



EYEWITNESSES

Notes From An Exile by Rod Moulding

Recently, my eldest surviving paternal first cousin died (he was actually found dead in his armchair) at the age of almost 90. Fortunately I had visited David for the first time in many years only a short time previously and I had discovered that he had been an eyewitness to much that I had only heard about.

I knew that David was the only living person who could remember my late sister, whom he had encountered in Australia in 1942 but who had sadly died during the voyage back to England with my mother and me later that year. He duly passed on his memories, which went some way to fill the gaps in my knowledge. As we talked over lunch that day I discovered some other surprising facts. It just so happened that a few days earlier I had spent several hours trailing round a rain-swept cemetery trying vainly to track down my grandparents' grave, of which I'd only just discovered the location. Telling David about my failure to locate a headstone, he laughed. It turned out that he had met my/our grandfather, Thomas, prior to his death in 1933 and remembered the encounter well. The four-year-old David did not like Thomas at all, and commented to me that he was not all surprised that I had been unable to find a headstone to mark the grave of Thomas and our grandmother Helen who had died in 1924. "He was just too mean", David felt. "He didn't want to spend money on a headstone for Helen." So that accounted for that. Without an eyewitness I would never have known, and would have gone on thinking that Thomas was a benign old gentleman and that the failure to locate a gravestone was my fault.

Perhaps this kind of story is not uncommon in other families, and I should not find it surprising. In mine it is; we don't meet often (not that there are many of us left now), and don't habitually exchange opinions and feelings. Maybe this is one reason why I took up genealogy - to try to put some warm flesh on the bare cold bones of my otherwise obscure descent.

Learning from another cousin (still alive, fortunately) about the foibles of her family was a revelation - they had always seemed so strait-laced and, well, normal. The contents of one or two of the century-old letters from my Bingley relations to my relations in the USA are just as personal and just as surprising. And another set of relations in Canada have provided some distinctly lurid stories.

The eyewitness tale is so valuable. We cannot readily incorporate it in a cold, dry, impersonal family tree, but we can include it in an accompanying narrative. I certainly intend to quote David's comments about my/our grandfather in my writings about my immediate family, while giving Thomas full credit for his achievements - we all have our human side, too, and a rounded picture is more complete and ultimately more convincing.

Burley March Meeting History of Ilkley's Jewish Community by Nigel Gizzard

The Airedale & Wharfedale Family History Society met at the Salem Church Hall on Thursday 7 March. Chairman Lynda Balmforth opened the meeting and welcomed speaker Nigel Grizzard who came to tell us the story of the Jews in Ilkley. Nigel is an expert on local Jewish heritage and leads guided walks around Leeds, Bradford & Ilkley & is co-founder of Heritage Project 'Making their Mark' a Bradford Jewish Heritage Trail.

It is thought that Jews may well have been in the Ilkley area during Roman times as soldiers, traders & slaves. A Jewish coin of Herod Agrippa was found on Bingley Moor near to the site of the Roman road. Many Jewish emigrants came to the UK during the 1890s as a result of pogroms in the Russian empire. Between 1881 & 1914 2.5 million plus Jews migrated from Eastern Europe. Little Germany in Bradford is the site of one of the largest collections of historic warehouses in Britain. Many were built for German Jewish merchants who helped establish Bradford as the Wool Capital of the World. During C19th many Jewish merchants came out of the city to Ilkley for respite as it grew into a spa town.

Well known Jews connected to Ilkley include Charles Semon 1814 – 1877 textile merchant who became Lord Mayor of Bradford in 1864. He built Semon House in Ilkley as a convalescent home in 1874. This stood at the top of White Wells Road and has since been demolished. Victor Edelstein 1842 – 1921 partner of Jacob Moser, Bradford textile entrepreneurs was a member of the Ilkley Bridge Committee and his name can be found on a plaque on the road bridge over the Wharfe in the town. Victor changed anglicised his name to Elston in 1915 as did many German Jewish immigrants during WW1.

In the late 1930s Kindertransport arranged the evacuation of thousands of Jewish children to the UK. Ilkley's Jewish Refugee Committee 1939 was chaired by Mr F. Sugden who explained how they were 'taking boys out of Vienna to save them from the concentration camps and were educating them in English and getting them onto farms'. These boys lived in a house called Loxleigh on Mount Pleasant Road, Ilkley.

Jewish religious services were held at the Ilkley Masonic Hall on Cunliffe Road.

President Stanley Merridew gave a vote of thanks following questions and comments from the audience. The Group's next meeting will take place 7.30 pm on Thursday 4 April at the Salem Church Hall, Main Street, Burley when Gillian Waters will present her talk, To New York, Chicago, Wakefield & Otley. Members and non-members all welcome, refreshments provided.

**Burley Branch April Meeting
New York, Chicago, Wakefield & Otley
by Gillian Waters**

The Airedale & Wharfedale Family History Society met at the Salem Church Hall on Thursday 4 April. Chairman Lynda Balmforth opened the meeting and welcomed speaker Gillian Waters who gave an illustrated talk 'To New York, Chicago, Wakefield or Otley'.

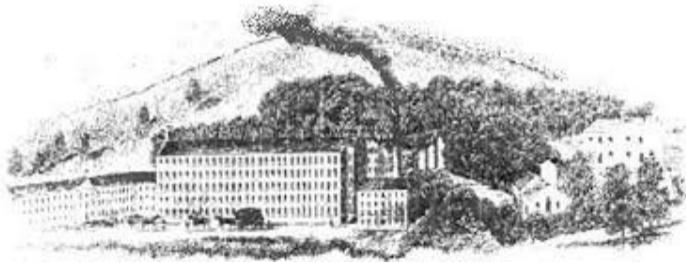
Gillian is the archivist for the Washburn Heritage Centre at Fewston and her association with the Fewston Assembly was the inspiration for her talk. The Fewston Assembly was a project undertaken to identify and research people whose graves were removed from the Fewston churchyard to make way for the heritage centre. The title of her talk refers to destinations of former Washburn Valley residents.

The Washburn Valley was a prominent location in Roman times as a Roman road ran through the valley to Ilkley. One of John Ogilby's C17th strip maps depicts a coach route with directions through the valley featuring places such as Fewston, Blubberhouses, Keskin Moor and Swinsty Hall. Alan Godfrey's C18th maps illustrate the turnpike roads enabling faster stage coach journeys through the valley. The Hopper Inn at Blubberhouses was a coaching inn at this time. In addition to coach travel many also travelled by horse or on foot. Joseph Holmes of Timble was a long-distance runner who successfully raced a coach from the valley to Wakefield.

As industrialisation came to the valley late C18th horses and wagons transported equipment and building supplies to aid the construction of a number of cotton and flax mills and the local population increased significantly to include a new workforce and associated trades people. By mid C19th many of the mills had failed and the workforce dispersed. The population of Fewston fell from c.900 to c.3/400 within a decade or so around this time. West House Mills at Fewston was the largest in the area using cheap female and child labour. Many orphan apprentices were brought from places such as London and Hull often travelling by river and canal to live in apprentice houses in the area. Robert Colyer spent his early life working at West House Mills. In 1850s he became a blacksmith and walked to Ilkley where he married. The couple subsequently travelled by packet ship from Liverpool to America where Robert eventually became a very successful Methodist preacher in Chicago. In 1892 he returned to Timble for the opening of the Robinson Gill Library. Robinson Gill was a former Timble resident who made his fortune in New York and provided the funds for the library.

During C19th the valley once known as England's Little Switzerland took on a very different appearance as reservoirs were constructed to provide water for the industrial centres of Bradford and Leeds. Many navvies lived in the area during this time at Lindley Wood Navvy Camp. The coming of the railways into the region mid C19th opened up opportunities for travel and tourism with links to the local towns of Otley, Ilkley and Skipton. John Dickinson describes in his Timble diaries various journeys from the valley as far as London.

President Stanley Merridew gave a vote of thanks at the close. The Society's next meeting will take place 7.30 pm on Thursday 2nd May at the Salem Church Hall, Main Street, Burley when Jackie Depelle will present 'Which Website & Why?'. Members and non-members all welcome, refreshments provided.



Burley Meeting Report 2 May by Susanne Young

The Airedale & Wharfedale Family History Society met at the Salem Church Hall on Thursday 2 May. Following a brief AGM for the newly formed Society Chairman Lynda Balmforth welcomed popular speaker Jackie Depelle who presented an illustrated talk 'Which Website and Why?'

Inspired by Sunny Morton from a RootsTech conference, Jackie led us through the pros and cons of various popular family history websites. RootsTech is an annual family history conference held in Salt Lake City and will also be held in London in October 2019. Helpful videos and other downloads are available on their website.

Some basic things to consider when using the internet websites for family history research are cost, ease of use (can you download to your iPad or mobile?), the amount and quality of available data and coverage (place and time) and the availability of family tree building tools. An essential starting point for family historians is information on births, marriages and deaths and these are available from the following free websites¹: freebmd.org.uk; gro.gov.uk; ukbmd; familysearch.org; irishgenealogy.ie and scotlandspeople.gov.uk. They are also available on the main two subscription websites findmypast.co.uk and ancestry.co.uk (which can be accessed for free in some libraries). Freebmd provides a reliable dual input transcription by volunteers for births, marriages and deaths in England & Wales for the years 1837 to 1983. It should be borne in mind that

transcriptions of original records can differ between websites and it can be helpful to view an image of the original record where this is available. GRO provides births 1837 to 1917 & deaths 1837 to 1957 but not marriages. Importantly this site also provides mothers' maiden surnames as well as age at death. Ukbmd.org.uk is an umbrella site and areas of coverage are explained; where parish records (England & Wales) are available these are original records and not transcriptions so can prove very useful.

Findmypast and ancestry have much overlapping information but some information such as parish records is unique to each site so you can select that which is most useful to you (check Findmypast A-Z index & ancestry card catalogue).

Findmypast regularly adds new data which it informs users about on a weekly basis. Scotlandspeople provides valuable information for Scottish ancestry but is only available on a pay per view basis rather than subscription. Irish genealogy has limited coverage due to the loss of many records.

Census information from 1841 to 1911 is another main tool for family historians and transcriptions plus original images are available on the main subscription sites findmypast & ancestry plus scotlandspeople and nationalarchives.gov.uk (which has some 2500 archives available to be searched).

Thegenealogist.co.uk provides unique access to the tithe collection & the 1910 valuation office survey; britishlibrary(bl.uk) can be used to identify British newspapers that may not have been digitised; and myheritage.com is useful for European & Jewish ancestry.

Lynda Balmforth gave a vote of thanks at the close. The Society's next meeting will take place 7.30 pm on Thursday 6 June at the Salem Church Hall, Main Street, Burley when Eric Jackson will present 'Remembrance – War Memorials & the Unknown Warrior'. Members and non-members all welcome, refreshments provided.

Report of Keighley March Meeting Murder In the Victorian Family By Martin Baggoley

This talk was originally scheduled for April 2017 but unfortunately the speaker was ill and wasn't sure when he would be able to come to Keighley. He very kindly sent me the transcript of the talk and we were going to do it ourselves at the 2018 AGM but we didn't get round to it. Tonight Julia Wood and I took it in turns to read a section out and it went down very well for which we were very relieved!! This was followed by a genealogy quiz which also went down very well. There were 5 sections; Infanticide; Concealment of a birth; Women Poisoners; Husbands who murdered their wives; The Christmas Day Murder in Keighley.

Infanticide;

Quote from the Leeds Mercury 18th August 1865

In dealing with the subject of Infanticide it maybe generally assumed that illegitimacy is its one great cause. Married mothers do sometimes murder their infants, we believe, and more often neglect them to death; but the great murderers of infants are unmarried mothers who desire to escape the shame or burden of unwedded maternity.

The Leeds Times of April 1862 included an account of an incident at Keighley the previous week.

On the 6th a parcel wrapped in paper and tied with string, from which the baby's head was protruding, was discovered in a field near Mr. Clapham's Mill. When unwrapped, the body of a female baby was found inside. An inquest was held a few days later and the post mortem revealed that the baby had been dead for several days. There was an abrasion to the chest and a patch of skin missing from the right shoulder. The internal organs were healthy the baby had been born alive and death was due to severe damage to the brain. The jury returned a verdict "That the child had been born alive and had died of injuries wilfully inflicted upon it, but by whom or in what manner, no evidence appears and we find that the said child was murdered by some person or persons unknown."

Many observers, though not all, believed that the introduction of the New Poor Law reforms in the 1830's contributed greatly to the increase in the rates of infanticide and in particularly the Bastardy Clause, which viewed a pregnant, unsupported single women's predicament as

essentially being the result of her promiscuity. Henceforth, the putative father would no longer have legal responsibility to support his illegitimate child and the parish was not required to provide relief!!!! Women had little or no options; a dangerous abortion, the dreaded workhouse; a baby farmer or murder!!

Concealment of Birth.

Despite the very serious nature of the crime of infanticide, except in the most appalling cases, there was often a great deal of sympathy for the mothers, as the full impact of the reforms were becoming clearer. This led to juries being reluctant to return a verdict of wilful murder, as this meant a young woman standing on the gallows so not guilty decisions were commonplace. As a result of this, the government introduced a new offence "Concealment of Birth" a non-capital offence carrying far less serious penalties. The Offences Against the Person Act of 1861 *meant that anyone who concealed a birth before or after the event was guilty of a misdemeanour, the sentence for which was imprisonment for a period not exceeding two years with or without hard labour.* Henceforth, in a case where the defendant was accused of murder, it was open for the jury to convict of a lesser charge.

Women Poisoners

Writing in his memoirs, Sir William Nott-Bowers, the Chief Constable of Liverpool in the closing years of the 19th century, wrote;

Probably the most repulsive crimes with which the police had to deal with are those of slow and secret poisoning. It seems strange that crimes so odious are frequently perpetrated by women, who "when pain and anguish wring the brow are almost without exception ministering angels, but who, when abjure the love and tenderness of their sex, seem to become the nearest approach to devils that the human mind can conceive, and kill with prolonged and aggravated torture, those who are nearest and should be dearest to them, motives for these crimes are always the same, either illicit gain or illicit love."

Mary Ann Britland lived with her husband Thomas and daughter Elizabeth in Ashton-under-Lyme and she was having an affair with neighbour Thomas Dixon!! In March 1886 the daughter went to bed in good health but during the night became violently ill with convulsions and was dead within 24hrs. The Doctor felt there were no suspicious circumstances as premature deaths in the young were commonplace. The following Saturday the bereaved mother collected the £10 insurance money which she had recently insured her daughter's life!!!!

At the end of April Mrs Britland paid insurance premiums on her husband. Then later that day she went to the local chemist and purchased one packet of rat poison, which contained Strychnine and arsenic. She told a woman friend that the house was overrun with rats. That same night Thomas Britland was taken ill exhibiting symptoms similar to those of Elizabeth. However the next morning he woke and had recovered to full health. Within an hour Mrs Britland was back at the chemist and bought 3pkts of the rat poison, by noon her husband was taken violently ill and died later that afternoon!!! The woman friend who she had spoken to in the chemist offered to clean her house in preparation for the wake. She was not suspicious at first but would later tell the police that there was no sign of rats on the premises. A death certificate was issued without a post mortem or police investigation and the grieving widow collected £20 insurance money!!!!

Mary Dixon, the wife of the lover Thomas Dixon, invited Mrs Britland to stay with them to recover from her recent misfortunes. All was going well until mid-May when Mrs Britland offered to prepare supper!! Later that night Mrs Dixon fell ill with the same symptoms as Elizabeth and her father and died soon afterwards. Mrs Britland had foolishly asked a neighbour if rat poison could be detected in the human body after the person had been dead for a few days!!! The police were contacted and all 3 victims' bodies were exhumed and PM's revealed the presence of arsenic and strychnine!!

Mrs Britland and her lover were arrested on suspicion of committing 3 murders but her lover was cleared of any involvement. Mary Britland was found guilty but only of one murder that of Mary Dixon as it was common to try an accused of one crime despite there being other victims. She was sentenced to death with no reprieve. She was hanged at Strangeways Gaol and was in great distress as assisted to the gallows and held upright by warders as she stood on the drop waiting for the lever to be pulled. She died instantly unlike her victims. All for £30 insurance money!!!

Husbands Who Murder Their Wives

The difficulties facing single woman in the Victorian era have been touched on and now to look at how vulnerable married woman could be in this patriarchal society in which women had few rights and how the defence based on notion of provocation often saved brutal men from the gallows!

In May 1868 Thomas Donoghue was living with his wife Mary and children in an unhappy marriage. He was a known wife beater. Mary turned more and more to alcohol. She left him and the children but returned in May. 2 days later he stabbed Mary to death then tried to kill himself but survived. He was charged with his wife's murder and his counsel urged the jury to convict him of manslaughter. The judge in his summing up "Nothing could be more touching than the spectacle of that of a deserted home, the wife gone away, leaving her children to be cared for she knew not how. It was little wonder that the prisoner was a shattered and wrecked man and it was no wonder that his whole moral being had been shaken and that such disastrous consequences had followed" No such sympathy for his poor wife!!!! Thomas was sentenced to 10years penal servitude.

Nothing more was heard of Donoghue for 18 years but on the 11 May 1886 he stabbed his second wife Matilda to death in their home before stabbing himself in another suicide bid. He died 2 days later of his wounds. At the inquest the coroner asked the jury if they were prepared to find a verdict of wilful murder by Donoghue in the case of Matilda. Without hesitation they called out "YES".

By this time society was changing and the defence of provocation in domestic murders was rapidly losing credibility and there seems little doubt that had he survived Donoghue would have hanged!

The Christmas Day Murder at Keighley

In 1880 and James McGowan was living with his wife Mary in a cellar dwelling in Rodney Yard. It was an unhappy marriage, she was an alcoholic and he often used excessive violence against her. He had been imprisoned for 6 weeks 2 years earlier for beating her half to death!!

On Christmas Eve Mary went to the Lord Rodney public house (still in existence today rebuilt some years ago) situated next to Keighley Parish Church. Later that night she had to be carried home in a drunken state by 2 men who were thanked by her husband. An hour later there was a scream of "Murder" by Mary, heard by a neighbour who went to investigate and found James holding Mary with one hand and a hammer in the other about to strike her!! The neighbour left after James saying he was glad she had come to stop him. The following morning a friend called to wish Mary well but found her sprawled on the floor her husband sobbing nearby. Mary was dead and her friend went to the police station. Officers were soon on the scene and McGowan

told them he didn't know how it happened. Not being responsible for ones actions was often used successfully as mitigation. A post mortem revealed that her death was due to severe haemorrhage as a result of so many injuries. At his trial at West Riding Assizes he pleaded not guilty to Mary's Christmas day Murder telling the court "I know nothing about it, no more than a child unborn." He was convicted of her manslaughter and sentenced to penal servitude for life.

Susan Daynes

Report of the Keighley April Meeting Old Person's Guide to Nostalgia Peter Watson

Peter is from Bacup in Lancashire he was asked if he had to show his passport to come "over t'border!!!! (Over the Border into Yorkshire to those unfamiliar with the Yorkshire dialect!!) There is a shop in Bacup which sells all kinds of articles from a bygone age but would be remembered by most of those present. Much of the material is provided for mock ups of old shops for TV and particularly for Beamish Museum in the North East of England. The first item Peter showed us was a;

Liberty Bodice; almost everyone was familiar with this garment having worn one as a child but this was a very "posh" one as it was embroidered and had proper buttons whereas what most of us had worn were plain and had rubber buttons which sometimes got mangled in the wash!! These replaced the corsets that women had to wear which were restricting to say the least when working etc. In 1908 they could cost 1 shilling and 9 pence (1/9) quite expensive for the time.

Zam Buck; A cure all ointment made in Leeds in 1902 and was still used in most of our childhood used for anything from Toothache to piles(hope hand washing was included in the instructions!!!) Peter had bought a tin from the Apothecary in Haworth recently!! The first 2 adverts on Radio Luxembourg were for Zam Buck and Bile Beans this was a laxative or slimming beansif taken in high quantities weight loss was a certainty!!!

Oxydol washing powder; From the 1930's made by Proctor and Gamble in 1927 first soap powder to appear as a sponsor hence the term soap opera.

Pumice Stone or Donkey stone; used to decorate the edge of front steps of houses well remembered by most present. You were considered down market if you didn't have your step decorated. The stone steps in the Mills were also donkey stoned as a safety measure.

Newspaper squares on a string; Before the advent of toilet paper this was what was used in most toilets (usually an outside toilet and not a flushing one....that's another story!) Some newspapers were not suitable such as Farmers Weekly which was too shiny!! The Telegraph and The times were more efficient!!!! People of a certain age will remember Izal Toilet paper popular in the 50's and 60's it had printed on it "Now Wash Your Hands!!" In WW2 Cartoons of Hitler were printed on the toilet paper!!! Not quite British but very relevant for the time. In 1870 the year Charles Dickens died, perforated sheets of toilet paper became available for the upper classes. Now quilted toilet tissue is the norm and is one commodity that everyone needs and is on every shopping list.

Pontefract Cakes; Made from Liquorice juice from the root into the famous sweet. The root was chewed by the ancient Egyptians and Romans, a natural sugar medicinal, anti viral, anti inflammatory and a good laxative!!!!

Jelly Babies; In 1918 these were called peace babies and have been around a long time. They were the Beatles favourite sweet so fans used to throw them on the stage when they were performing!!! A very entertaining evening of fun and nostalgia and there could be a part 2 in the pipeline!!!

Susan Daynes

Genealogists:
never die they just lose their roots

Bentham's Conscientious Objectors

by David Johnson and Trevor Blackwell

The subject of Conscientious Objectors, even a century later, can still rouse strong emotions. My problem is that I can always see both sides of an argument and this sometimes makes it difficult for me to make decisions. The Conscientious Objectors of WW1 had no such qualms and stood against the state and overwhelming prejudices to defend their principles. Most of Britain's population at that time stood firmly behind the war effort and Conscientious Objectors had a very difficult time often resulting in abuse and even ostracism.

Considering the size of the population Bentham had an unusually large number of objectors. There are 31 listed below. Trevor Blackwell provided me with an extensive list based on the work of Cyril Pearce and one or two names have been added since then. If you know of others please contact me on 61905. The information Trevor provided gave me cause to look into the subject.

The Bentham movement was strong because of the influence of the Quakers and particularly the support provided by Charles Ford, the owner of Low Bentham Silk Mill. A surprising number of Quakers (or Friends) of Calf Cop Meeting House in Low Bentham were employed at the mill and several were exempted from military service because the work of the mill was deemed to be of national importance. Charles Ford held 'classes' for those seeking exemption. Some exemptions were made to 'non-combatants' who worked in agriculture but apart from that all others were expected to contribute to the war effort, often serving in military hospitals, the Friends Ambulance Unit or on hospital ships.

An example of this was Wilcock Bryan Whittaker (see photograph). He worked on Quaker Hospital Train 17 carrying the wounded from the front line to hospitals in northern France. Other organisations, usually staffed by women, provided support for those who refused military service notably the No-Conscription Fellowship.

Applications for exemption seem to have been dealt with by a Tribunal

in Settle. Most Conscientious Objectors accepted some form of alternative service, but refused to do anything which supported the war effort. These 'absolutists' as they were called caused the authorities a lot of trouble by ignoring the directive of the Tribunal if their application for exemption was rejected. On having been sent to barracks they often refused to comply with commands.

Richard Marsden Hodgson, a farmer from Mewith Head Hall, was arrested in June 1916 and tried at Hornby. He was court-martialled four times and eventually served 18 months hard labour at Winchester Prison. Frank Havergill Whittaker of Ebenezer Mount was arrested after his appeal was dismissed. He was court-martialled at Richmond Castle and was punished with a sentence of 112 days in Durham Prison. Thomas Ernest Whitfield of Collingwood House was court-martialled and sentenced to one year in Wormwood Scrubs. Finally it is worth mentioning the case of William Towler of Moulterbeck who obviously defied the authorities at every turn and was court-martialled at Richmond Castle, Leicester and Durham with a sentence of hard labour.

So far the list of Bentham's Conscientious Objectors comprises:
Edward E. Bibby, William Bruce, Sam Bruce, James Stanley Carr, Fred Crossley, George Cumberland, Stephen Cumberland, William Cumberland, Thomas Davey (Davies), Charles Rawlinson Ford, Joseph Grime, Philip Harvey, Richard Marsden Hodgson, Bernard Holmes, Edward Holmes, William Hutchinson, Richard Jackson, Charles Edward Knowles, Thomas Knowles, Robert Marshall, Norman Swain, James Towler, John Towler, Stephen Towler, William Towler, Frank (Francis) Whitfield, Thomas Ernest Whitfield, Frank Havergill Whittaker, Wilcock Bryan Whittaker, John T Wilshaw and Howard Wilson.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2019

Now, this report is the Baker's Dozen! Number 13 and counting.....
When I compiled last year's report I little thought that I would be extending Thank you's to the committee members that have joined us from Keighley Family History Society in my next report! So our area has been extended and I'm sure the merger will be beneficial to both

groups....now as one with the title Airedale and Wharfedale Family History Society and we will now be one of the first in the alphabet when partaking societies are listed for an event and not near the end! This merger has meant a lot of extra work for our President and our Webmaster to name just two so I extend special thanks to them as well as all our committee members and anyone who helps with the successful running of the group. Thank you is such a small word for all they do.

We had quite a successful day at The York Family History Fair last June and will be there again this year on the 22 June but before that we will be attending a new family history event at the NEC in Birmingham, 'The Genealogy Show, on the 7th and 8th June. At the time of writing there are more than 50 exhibitors attending so we look forward to a busy two days!

Next Saturday, the 11th May, will be our open day in Addingham at the village hall....back by popular demand! We hope to see you all there and we will be open from 9.30am with a busy day planned but plenty of time for help with your research in between listening to our excellent speakers and tea and coffee breaks! A lot depends on a good attendance to ensure we can repeat this special day.

So as I close this somewhat briefer Chairman's report heartfelt thanks go out to everyone who works so hard to make our new Airedale and Wharfedale Family History Group a success.

Sheila Johnson 1929-2019

Sheila Johnson, one of the founder members of the Wharfedale Family History Group in 1980, died on 13th March. Sheila was our first treasurer, holding the post for many years. Along with her husband Ken they provided an important role in the formative years of the group. Their home in Station Road, Burley in Wharfedale was the



“group headquarters”, housing projects, research material and the venue for committee meetings.

Sheila was an avid and knowledgeable family historian.

Their annual holidays were often spent towing their caravan around the Midland counties tracing their forebears.

Her cremation service was held at Rawdon on 1st April.

Stan

THE KILDWICK PARISH ALMANAC AND LOCAL DIRECTORY 1868

ICKORNSHAW MILL

Among the many striking facts, which the annals of history disclose to the inquirer, it is interesting to note the changes, which have followed the introduction of labour-saving machinery, in remote villages especially.

The township of Cowling, in the parish of Kildwick, furnishes an excellent illustration of the improvement which has taken place in the habits, customs and social comforts of the neighbourhood, since the desultory habits attendant upon hand-loom weaving have been in a great measure, remedied by the regular system of working, which the employment of steam- power has rendered necessary.

The hand-loom weavers being paid fortnightly-the time for commencing and leaving off being mostly at their own option-it became quite the rule to spend the first week idling about, playing of practical jokes upon one another, or even in worse ways.

When the cash became scarce, which was mostly the case after a week spent in this manner, the few days preceding the next “pay” were spent in an incessant race with time, the weavers often working all night to make up for past lost time. Things, however, as was stated before, are much altered for the better, since those days. Instead of three or four looms filling the house with unsightliness, there is a little more space to be devoted to domestic comforts. Moreover, ventilation, cleanliness, and health have benefited by their removal.

The advantages which the young possess for acquiring a rudimentary education at school, under the half-time system, and for continuing the same by a course of self-education, or by attending the night-schools

after working hours, are very much greater than the old hand-loom weavers possessed.

Ickornshaw mill was the first place in Cowling where water or steam-power was used. It was built in 1791 by the Rev. John de Haynes, at that time the vicar of Kildwick. It was at first intended for candlewick making, which business was for some time carried on in it, under the management of Mr de Haynes's nephew.

In 1811, the mill was rented by Mr Abram Binns, who carried on the business of cotton-spinning there, until his death, which took place in 1812. Mr Abram Binns was much esteemed during his lifetime, and his name is still remembered in connection with the Wesleyan Sunday School, in Ickornshaw, which he founded and supported at his own expense till his death. A tablet bearing an inscription to this effect is erected to his memory in Ickornshaw Chapel.

In 1816, the Rev. John de Haynes sold the mill to Mr John Halstead, of Colne, whose son, Joseph, met with such an untimely and barbarous death at the hands of a riotous mob in 1840. This riot took place at Colne. It appears that the bad trade caused much suffering at that time. The operatives thinking that the new invented machinery for spinning and weaving had caused a too great a production for the demand, tried to compel the masters to stop running for a short time. For this purpose armed mobs travelled from place to place, drawing the plugs from the boiler, and by thus letting off the water, caused a temporary cessation of work.

In 1842, a large number of rioters, after having been busily engaged in this kind of lawless intimidation, were encamped in a field near Skipton, when a company of cavalry galloped into their midst, and soon succeeded in dispersing the mob. One of the malcontents lost a leg in the fray; it was fair to state however that it was only a wooden one.

The machinery at Ickornshaw mill was turned at first by water-power, and for the maintenance of a continual supply of water, a large reservoir was made on the moor, a few miles away, so that when the water in the lodge adjoining the mill ran short, it could be replenished from the reservoir. The 'moor dam' as it was called burst its banks in 1849, but, happily, no human lives were lost, though much damage was done to the property.

Concerning one of those dams there is a tradition, which being generally known, does not need narrating here; suffice is to say that the mournful issue of the adventure which the tradition describes, touch

the heroes of it (if the parody be allowed) that “All that glitters is not cheese.”

The mill continued in the possession of the Halstead family till 1868, when Mr William Watson of Cowling bought it. He has since then built a weaving shed and warehouse, on the (apparently) very unlikely piece of ground adjoining the mill.

In 1790, the probable number of hand-loom employed in Cowling may be set down at 150. At the present time there are now running in the neighbourhood altogether from 900-1000 power-loom.

So completely has the power-loom, since 1700, displaced the hand-loom, that one of the latter is very rarely seen now-a-day; and it would not be very wonderful if some modern “Pickwick” in search of antiquities, were to offer an handsome sum for a complete specimen of the article, to present to the British Museum.

This hint is presented gratis to anyone who having the rude machine, has also the shrewdness to keep it till the opportunity for disposing of it for a small fortune offers itself, the writer merely requesting that honour of having made the suggestion be conferred upon the proper person

Timmy Feather

Following that piece about the Cowling mill I found this story about Timmy Feather.

Timmy lived in Stanbury near to Haworth and was a hand loom weaver all his life. In Victorian times there were said to be about 1200 hand loom weavers in the Haworth area. This was about the time when the Bronte sisters were writing. Timmy was the last one and he died in 1910 at his cottage at Buckley Green.



He lived very frugally it seems as the cottage only had:- 2 oak chests, a chest of drawers, 4 empty birdcages, 2 cases of stuffed animals, assorted clocks – of which only one, a cuckoo clock worked and pots, pans, plates, jugs pictures and even treacle tins.

It was estimated that during his long working life Owd Timmy wove an estimated 234,780 yards of cotton cloth, his thumb and fingers wearing a deep imprint in the wooden sleyboard of his loom. This is now in Cliffe Castle Museum in Keighley

COME & MEET US!

We will be exhibiting as follows:

The Genealogy Show 7/8th June at the NEC
The Yorkshire Family History Fair 22nd June
at York Racecourse

Exchange Journals Library

Liz Penny

Airedale & Wharfedale Family History Society exchange journals with other Family History Societies, both in the UK, Australia and Canada.

The three most recent journals of each society in the exchange journals scheme are kept in boxes on the publications table at the Burley-in-Wharfedale meetings. Members may browse or borrow journals for up to a month, at meetings or by post. Those borrowing by post are asked to reimburse the small postal charges.

The journals are very interesting and contain articles about the area they cover, articles of general interest to family historians, book reviews, contact addresses, websites and much more.

Some Family History Societies now issue electronic versions of their journals to reduce costs. These journals will now be available on the 'Members Only' section of Airedale & Wharfedale Family History Group website <https://awfhs.org.uk>

Family History Societies currently exchanging journals are as follows:- Bedford; Bradford; Buckingham; Chesterfield & District; Cleveland; Doncaster; Hertfordshire; Huddersfield; Institute of Heraldic & Genealogical Studies; Lancaster; Morley; Pontefract; Sheffield; The Society of Genealogists; Wakefield; West Surrey; York.

Journals exchanged electronically are as follows:- Calderdale; Barnsley; Cheshire; Waltham Forest; Yorkshire Archaeological & Historical Society; Bundaberg, Queensland, Australia; Gladstone, Australia; Liverpool, NSW, Australia; Manning Wallamba, NSW, Australia; Richmond & Tweed, NSW, Australia; Milton-Ulladulla, NSW, Australia; Prince George, British Columbia, Canada; Waterdown & East Flamborough, Ontario, Canada; South Okanagan, British Columbia, Canada.

To borrow journals by post contact Liz Penny, 23 Belmont Avenue, Baildon, Shipley, West Yorkshire, BD17 5AJ.

E-mail: Exchange.Journals@awfhs.org.uk

Lives of the First World War

www.livesofthefirstworldwar.org

This project, organised by the Imperial War Museum, was launched in 2014. It forms a free permanent digital memorial to those who served in WW1. The original basis was using medal cards. An individual record of every man and woman who served was created. A researcher can search by surname or service number.

You can then add information about the individual, including birth marriage death certificates and photographs. Also links to other websites can be created.

The project will cease taking additional information at the end of March this year although the site will continue as a permanent memorial. So, don't miss out, add in your family heroes.

Useful Addresses

Local Studies Libraries

Leeds	0113 2478290	localandfamilyhistory@leeds.gov.uk
Ilkley	01943 436275	ilkley.library@bradford.gov.uk
Skipton	01756 792926	skipton.library@northyorks.gov.uk
Keighley	01535 618215	keighleylocalstudies@bradford.gov.uk

Local Record Offices (Appointments always necessary)

North Yorkshire	01609 777078	archives@northyorks.gov.uk
Wakefield	01924 305980	wakefield@wyjs.org.uk
Leeds	0113 3939788	leeds@wyjs.org.uk
Bradford	01274 435099	bradford@wyjs.org.uk
Preston	01772 533039	record.office@lancashire.gov.uk

National

Society of Genealogists 020 7251 8799 website www.sog.org.uk

Guild of One-Name Studies website www.one-name.org.uk

The National Archives website www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

Airedale and Wharfedale Family History Group Website: <https://awfhs.org.uk>

AIREDALE & WHARFEDALE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY AREA OF INTEREST

