

WELCOME TO THE E-NEWSLETTER
OF THE
NORTHUMBERLAND & DURHAM
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
Issue 15 - January 2020

Hello everyone,

You are all wished a very prosperous and healthy 2020.

To our Australian members, many people over here are watching the dreadful images of the fires raging in your country and now in some places floods, our thoughts are with you all.

The enrolment for the Beyond the Basics Course, commencing in March is going well. There are going to be a few changes to our website, amongst others, information has been moved to other places on the website to facilitate smoother access, please look at Resources. As promised, a form for members' research interests has been revamped, also data for members only will be easier to locate.

The Library and Research continues to operate with volunteers, however, the numbers of people coming in to research their family history is still declining. Our lease for Percy House ends at the beginning of March 2021, last year a Re-location Sub Committee was established and the search for new premises is already underway.

Role Vacancies. Sales Officer, please contact: chairman@ndfhs.org.uk

Publicity Officer, please contact: chairman@ndfhs.org.uk

Membership Secretary, please contact: chairman@ndfhs.org.uk

NAMES IN DURHAM WILLS PROJECT

The latest addition Morpeth Ward

PL_13 **Morpeth Ward**, covering the parishes of Bedlington, Bolam, Bothal, Hartburn, Hebburn, Longhorsely, Meldon, Mitford, Morpeth, Netherwitton, Newbiggin, Ulgham, Whalton and Woodhorn.

23,190 names: £10.00

I thought that you would like an up to date list of all those Wards that have now been covered.

FOR SALE

UNIQUE PROBATE INDEXES 1701 - 1858

ALL NAMES IN WILLS

Requires Windows XP or later, and Probate Index Viewer (PIV_v1.2) which is provided free with orders.

PL_01. **Chester West Ward**, covering parishes of Whickham, Ryton, Medomsley, Ebchester, Satley, Lanchester, Edmondbyers, Hunstanworth and Muggleswick, 18,471 names: £5.00.

PL_02. **Chester Middle Ward**, covering the parishes of Chester-le-Street, Lamesley and Tanfield. 14, 545 names: £5.00

PL_03. **Chester East Ward**, covering the parishes of Boldon, Heworth, Gateshead, Jarrow, South Shields and Washington. 37,035 names: £10.00

PL_04. **Castle East Ward**, covering the parishes of Tynemouth, Cramlington, Earsdon, Horton, Longbenton and Wallsend. 31,304 names: £10.00

PL_05. **Newcastle Ward**, covering the Newcastle parishes of All Saints, St Andrew, St John and St Nicholas. 79, 282 names: £15.00

PL_06. **Castle West Ward**, covering the parishes of Gosforth, Heddon on the Wall, Newburn, Ponteland and Stannington. 8,318 names: £5.00

PL_07. **Chester Wards**, comprising Chester West Ward, Chester Middle Ward and Chester East Ward. 70,051 names: £15.00

PL_08. **Castle Wards**, comprising Newcastle Ward, Castle East Ward and Castle West Ward. 118,411 names: £20.00

PL_09. **Coquetdale Ward**, covering the parishes of Alnham, Alnick, Alwinton, Edlingham, Elsdon, Felton, Holystone, Howick, Ilderton, Ingram, Lesbury, Longframlington, Longhoughton, Rothbury, Shilbottle, Warkworth and Whittingham. 36,130 names: £10.00

PL_10. **Darlington Ward**, covering the parishes of Auckland St Andrew, Auckland St Helen, Barnard Castle, Cockfield, Coniscliffe, Darlington, Denton, Dinsdale, Eggleston, Escomb, Gainford, Great Aycliffe, Hamsterley, Haughton-le-Skerne, Heathery Cleugh, Heighington, Hurworth,, Merrington, Middleton, Teesdale, Sadberge, Sockburn, St John's Chapel, Staindrop, Stanhope, Whitworth, Whorlton, Winston, Witton-le-Wear, Wolsingham. 77,915 names: £15.00

PL_11. **Tynedale Ward**, covering the parishes of Allendale, Alston, Bellingham, Birtley, Blanchland, Bywell St Andrew & St Peter, Chollerton, Corbridge, Corsenside, Featherstone, Halton, Haltwhistle, Hexham, Humshaugh, Kirk Harle, Kirkhaugh, Kirk Whelpington, Knarsdale, Lambley, Newbrough, Ninebanks, Ovingham, Shotley, Simonburn, Slaley, Stamfordham, St John Lee, Thockrington, Warde, Wark, Whitfield, and Whittonstall. 46,804 names: £10.00

PL_12 **Durham Ward**, covering the Durham parishes of St Cuthbert, St Giles, St Margaret, St Mary le Bow, St Mary the Less, St Nicholas and St Oswald, and the parishes of Bishop Middleham, Brancepeth, Croxdale, Esh, Pittington, Sherburn, Shincliffe and Witton Gilbert, 44,603names: £10.00

PL_13 **Morpeth Ward**, covering the parishes of Bedlington, Bolam, Bothal, Hartburn, Hebburn, Longhorsley, Meldon, Mitford, Morpeth, Netherwitton, Newbiggin, Ulgham, Whalton and Woodhorn. 23,190 names: £10.00

Order from sales@ndfhs.org.uk

Will

Robert Widderington Camden Street, North Shields, Master Mariner. Proved 3 January 1833

Ann Robson, wife, half sister **Margaret Stephenson**, **Robert Widderington Stephenson**, son of Margaret Stephenson, Brothers in law **James Douglas** and **Thomas Harling**

Wife's Mother and Father **Mathew Robert & Margaret Douglas**, **Mary Ann Douglas** daughter of said **James Douglas**.

Humour in Wills

A rich old bachelor, exasperated by the pressure from his family to find a bride, grew to hate women and he gave the following instruction in his Will.

"I beg that my executors will see that I am buried where there is no woman interred whether it be to the right or to the left of me. Should this not be practicable in the ordinary course of things, I direct that they purchase three graves, and bury me in the middle one of the three, leaving the others unoccupied".

Branch Meetings

Bailiff Gate Museum, Alnwick, 1st Tuesday in month, 7.30 pm

3 March 2020, Emily Davison, a family perspective, Speaker: Margaret Scott

Belmont Branch (Durham), Belmont Community Centre, Sunderland Road, Gilesgate, Durham DH1 2LL

3rd Wednesday in month, 1 pm.

January 2020. TBA

Blyth Branch, St Mary's Hall, Wanley Street, Blyth, 3rd Tuesday in month, 7 pm.

18 February 2020, Tyne & Tweed, speaker: George Nairn

London Branch, Society of Genealogists, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA, Saturdays at 2pm. Secretary: Moira Shaw

7 March 2020, Guests of Queen Victoria 1851, Durham Gaol, Speaker: David Butler

11 July 2020, Communities of Dissent in North-East England, speaker, Dr Christine Seal

7 November 2020. TBA

Newcastle Branch, Room 3, Brunswick Methodist Church, Northumberland Court, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7BJ, 1st Wednesday in the month, 2 pm

5 February 2020, Disappearance of old West Gateshead, Speaker: John Boothroyd

North Tyneside Branch, 1st Floor North Shields Library, Northumberland Square, North Shields NE30 1QU

1st Wednesday in month, 2pm

4 February 2020, Heritology Project, Speaker: Dave Young

South Tyneside Branch, St Hilda's Visitor Centre, Market Place, South Shields NE33 1AN, 3rd Wednesday in month, 1.30pm

19 February 2020, Members Forum

Tynedale Branch, Community Centre, Gilesgate, Hexham, NE46 3NP, 2nd Thursday in month 7pm

13 February 2020, Women Warriors, Speaker: Ann Knight

**Wansbeck Branch, Pegswood Community Hub, Longhirst Road, Pegswood, Morpeth NE61 1XG, 1st
Wednesday in month 1.30pm**

5 February 2020, Manorial Records/workshop, Speaker: Joyce Jackman

Know Your Parish - Ovingham Volume 7 no 3 May 1982

Like so many parishes in North-East England, Ovingham developed as a large parish that included not only the village of Ovingham itself, but also a considerable number of lesser villages and hamlets, known as townships.

Lying twelve miles or so west of Newcastle, Ovingham was a rural parish of some 15,000 acres, and stretched roughly seven miles from North to South, and five from East to West. Bisected by the Tyne, it was bounded on the South and East by Ryton (County Durham), on the West by the twin parishes of Bywell St Andrew and Bywell St Peter, on the North by Stamfordham and on the North-east by Heddon-on-the-Wall. Its seventeen townships ranged in size from large villages to single farmsteads.

Although the suburbs of Newcastle have long since penetrated into the confines of the ancient parish, the area was generally one of tranquillity and rural beauty up to the late nineteenth century, and much is still so. Most of the inhabitants were agricultural workers, but there was also a flourishing dyeing industry in the thirteenth century. The rise of the coal industry in the nineteenth century led to the rapid growth of townships as Mickley, Wylam and Prudhoe, but there are no collieries working now. Wylam colliery earned a place in history when William Hedley's "Puffing Billy" became the first locomotive to operate successfully without the use of a cog and rack system. It hauled coal trains along a line that went right past the humble cottage where another great name in railway history, George Stephenson, had been born. Across the river in Eltringham is the birthplace of another famous Ovingham native, Thomas Bewick, the illustrator and engraver, whose autobiography paints a pleasant picture of Ovingham as it was in the peaceful days of his childhood, in the late eighteenth century.

Most of the land was owned by the Duke of Northumberland and there must be much of interest to genealogists among the archives at Alnwick Castle, which is not easy to access. Any researches should start at Northumberland County Record Office, where the parish registers are kept. The originals start from 1679, and copies exist at the Society of Genealogists and Newcastle City Library, as well as in the Computer File Index microfiche. All these copies end in 1812. The Bishops' Transcripts at Durham University date from 1726 to 1869. There was a strong Independent movement in the parish, mainly at Horsley township where existed the earliest independent congregation in Northumberland. The rector of Ovingham kept a record of births of independents from 1750-1803, and their own baptismal registers from 1785-1836 are at the Public Record Office, with a microfilm copy at the N.R.O. Wesleyan Methodists were also strong in the area. Ovingham is split between two circuits – Gateshead (for Hedley Mickley, and Prudhoe Hall Chapels), and Newcastle West, (for Wylam and Rudchester Chapel). The records for both circuits prior to 1837 are at the P.R.O. The monumental inscriptions have been copied in their entirety by a Miss Mandy Higgith who made a complete survey of the churchyard, a description of which forms the bulk of 'Tyne and Tweed' no.6. (Spring 1982), the official Journal of the Association of Northumberland Local History Societies. This article does not include any lists of monumental inscriptions, but it is to be hoped that these will become available at the N.R.O, also the Newcastle Central Library and the Society of Genealogists. The Churchwarden's Accounts have survived since the 1760's and these provide valuable extra information, although they are not indexed. Finally, the list below shows the populations of the townships as given by the Censuses of 1801 and 1921, whether the township was North or South of the Tyne, and any family pedigrees that exist in the Victoria County History of Northumberland – a most valuable source for further research.

Township	1801 Pn.	1921 Pn.	Families
Dukershagg (S)	-	5	
Eltringham (S)	24	466	
Harlow Hill (N)	115	67	Bell (18-20c)
Hedley (S)	166	354	Surtees (15c-19c)
Hedley Woodside (S)	88	Merged with Hedley	
Horsley (N)	200	388	
Mickley	186	2365	
Nafferton(N)	41	70	Felton (medieval)
Ovingham (N)	253	526	
Ovington (N)	344	660	
Prudhoe (S)	318	5424	Umfraville (medieval)
Prudhoe Castle (S)	67	679	
Rudchester (N)	28	10	Rudchester (medieval) Rutherford (15c. – 17c)
Spital	9	5	
Welton (N)	90	47	
Whittle	31	22	
Wylam	673	1487	Blackett (17c- 19c)

NOTICE

The society is disposing of the following items, free to a good home, must be collected from Percy House.

Minolta MS 6000 Microfiche and film reader.

Kodak 2400DSV Microfiche and film reader.

Websites

The Free India Office FH Search on the British Library website, explore by name, 300,000 births, baptisms and marriages. 1600-1949

<https://indiafamily.bl.uk/U1>

British Association for Cemeteries in South India, thousands of soldiers killed during conflicts by the British in India (outside the world wars)

www.bacsa-org.uk

A unified index of people buried in European cemeteries in India, South Asia and elsewhere

<https://bacsa.frontis.co/bm/>

freeonline databases of Chinese surnames, villages and clans

www.mychinaroots.com

Online index, historical records about 70,000 names of people who were in Queensland, other parts of Australia and overseas. Features, hospital admissions, registers, old age pension records, police gazettes, prison records, dentists and dental apprentices, nurses, masseurs and school registers.

www.judywebster.com.au/other.html

The Bletchley Park roll of honour includes every members of the Foreign Office (civilians) who subsequently advised Bletchley Park that they had worked there.

<https://bletchleypark.org.uk/roll-of-honour>

‘Bombing Britain’ a WW11 air raid map

www.warstateandsociety.com/Bombing-Britain

The General Register office online index now covers all deaths registered in England and Wales from 1984-2019, as well as 1837-1957

www.gro.uk/gro/content/certificate

I hope that you have enjoyed reading this letter.

Joyce Jackman, e-Newsletter Editor.

Feedback is welcomed.

A reminder:

The deadline for submission of items for inclusion in the newsletter will be the 1st day of January, April July and October.

Items must be in the form of WORD, RTF or ODT file, to be attached to an e-mail and sent to:

ndfhsnews@ndfhs.org.uk Photographs and other images should be attached separately as JPG files