

WELCOME TO THE E-NEWSLETTER
FOR THE
NORTHUMBERLAND & DURHAM
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
ISSUE: 23 – JANUARY 2022

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Hello everyone,

Here we are at the beginning of another year, life is still not normal but hopefully, 2022 will bring a better year for everyone. Hopefully, by the time this letter arrives the launch of the 1921 census will have settled down. **Please** note that there is information about access to the 1921 census on the preceding note to this news letter and also, there is information on the front page of our website.

The Chairman is stepping down at the end of April 2022 after nearly eight years in the role. Again, another appeal is being made for people to come forward and fill the vacant roles, Vice Chairman, Sales Officer, Publicity Officer, e-Newsletter Editor, Events Co-ordinator and Volunteer Co-ordinator.

There is an excellent article in the January 2022 edition of the Family Tree Magazine by Nick Barratt, the title of which is: **The Future of Genealogy**. It is a worthwhile read.

News from Durham Record Office, the Principal Archivist has sent an e-mail to inform our society that from January 2022, the DRO search room will be temporarily closed to visitors to allow staff to begin packing its extensive collections of records in anticipation of the move to the new History Centre at Mount Oswald. The service will be conducted by email and the processing of online requests. The digitisation projects are ongoing.

At this present time we are all waiting to see how the latest Corona variant will affect the holding of meetings.

BRANCHES

ALNWICK

Bailiffgate Museum, 1st Tuesday in month 7.30 pm- All meetings are being held on Zoom

Contact: Dudley George alswickbranch@ndfhs.org.uk- no meetings in January and February.

1 March 2022, The Danny Dyer Fallacy and other Genealogical Gems, Speaker: Dudley George.

BELMONT BRANCH(DURHAM) Belmont Community Centre, Sunderland Road, Gilesgate, Durham DH1 2LL

3rd Wednesday in month 1 pm. Contact: John Heckles durham-belmontbranch@ndfhs.org.uk

19 January 2022, AGM and Presentation by member Dave Shotton

16 February 2022, New Durham History Centre, Presentation by D.C.C

17 March 2022, DNA in Family History, Speaker: Prof. John Heckles

BLYTH BRANCH, St Mary's Church Hall, Wanley Street, Blyth NE24 1DP,

3rd Tuesday in the month, 7 pm. Contact: blythbranch@ndfhs.org.uk

18 January 2022, AGM and Memories of Schooldays

15 February 2022, Great North Road, Speaker: George Nairn

15 March 2022, History of Blyth Fire Brigade. Part.2. Speaker: Colin White

LONDON BRANCH awaiting re-location, in the meantime, members meeting online.

NEWCASTLE BRANCH, Room 3, Brunswick Methodist Church, Northumberland Court, Newcastle NE1 7BJ

1st Wednesday in the month 1.30pm. Contact: newcastlebranch@ndfhs.org.uk

5 January 2022, George Stephenson, family life 1781-1848, Speaker: Margaret Starkey

2 February 2022, Drunken Midwives and Common Strumpets, Speaker: David Butler

2 March 2022, Hitler- The Bohemian Corporal, Speaker: Prof. John Derry

NORTH TYNESIDE BRANCH 1ST Floor, North Shields Library, Northumberland Square, North Shields NE30 1QU

1st Tuesday in the month, 1.30 pm. Contact: northtynesidebranch@ndfhsd.org.uk

4 January 2022, AGM & Members Forum

SOUTH TYNESIDE BRANCH, St Hilda's Visitors Centre. Market Place, South Shields NE33 1AN

3rd Wednesday in the month. 1.30 pm. Contact: southtynesidebranch@ndfhs.org.uk

19 January 2022, The Hunting of the Whale, Speaker: Susan Lynn

16 February 2022 Oh! I do like to be beside the seaside. Speaker: Anthea Lang.

16 March 2022, Wooden Ships & Iron Men (RNLI), Speaker, David Hastings

TYNEDALE BRANCH. Community Centre Gilesgate, Hexham NE46 3NP

2nd Thursday in the month, 7 pm. Contact: tynedalebranch@ndfhs.org.uk

13 January 2022, The Mayflower Society, Speaker: Gregg Geissler

10 February 2022, Northumberland Name Book Project, Speaker: Diana Whaley

10 March 2022, AGM & Members' Forum

WANSBECK BRANCH, Pegswood Community Hub, Longhirst Road, Pegswood, Morpeth NE61 6XG

1st Wednesday in month, Contact: wansbeckbranch@ndfhs.org.uk

12 January 2022, AGM

2 February 2022, Bedlington Remembered, Speaker: Barry Mead

2 March 2022, Estate Papers, a workshop with Joyce Jackman

The purpose of including the Know Your Parish in the news letter is that nearly all have been transcribed from the early Journals and the information included may be of assistance to newer members of our society.

KNOW YOUR PARISH - CHOLLERTON, VOL 1V D.W. SMITH

Chollerton is a large parish to the north of Hexham, comprising the townships of Chollerton, Barrasford, Great Swinburne and Colwell, Little Swinburne, White Sidelaw, Gunnerton, Birtley, Buteland and Broomhope. It is bounded by the parishes of Corsenside, Thockrington and St John Lee. It is an agricultural area with the church that is possibly pre-Conquest. St Giles was rebuilt in Victorian days but still retains its pillars of Roman monoliths.

The registers date from 1643 – the earliest (1643-1723) remaining only in the form of a copy “taken as far as possible by Mathew Wilkinson, clerk in ye year of 1766”. The commonest surnames are Dinning, Robson, Urwin, Hutchinson, Kell, Macdowell, Colson, Cant, Shipley and Wilkinson, but a tremendous amount of intermarriage took place in this isolated area. Indeed all attempts to disentangle the Robson clan proved fruitless to date.

This was the old country of the Errington clan whose town of Cocklaw still stands, and of the Riddells and Swinburnes. It was also, as witness an inscription “orate pre eis” as late as 1633, and area where the old Catholic faith continued to hold out. Several recusants seem only to have partly conformed even to the mid-eighteenth century. Fr Bonaventure Hutchinson, a Franciscan, (1690-1750, came from Colwell and was active in the area (see CRS XXV1). The remains of skeletons found under the chancel of the ruined chapel at Colwell have been thought by some to suggest a priest active in the seventeenth century. Indeed, the main families were then both Catholic and Jacobite -Riddells of Swinburne Castle, Charlton of Reedsmouth and Bower and the Hodgsons of Tone, who maintained a domestic chaplain until 1812. Hence, it is worth checking for possible entries in the registers of Swinburne Castle (1828) and Stonecroft (1737) and Cockshaw in the CRS volumes.

Chollerton registers at Northumberland Record Office contain baptisms 1643-1933, marriages 1664-1925 and burials 1664-1891. The Bishops’ Transcripts date from 1769- 1868. The marriages have been included in Boyd and the MIs recorded.

The chapelry of Birtley after being in ruins for many years was restored in 1765 and served by a curate from Chollerton. The registers contain baptisms 1730-1867 marriages 1730-1837 and burials 1728-1908. The Bishops’ Transcripts run from 1769-1834.

There was also a domestic chapel for the Reeds at Chipchase Castle though (in 1774) “ye owner will allow no one jurisdiction”. It was evidently on the site of an earlier one as four services a year were recorded in 1723.

The Visitation returns for Chollerton in 1774 show the vicar determined “to reside in the parsonage during ye winter months but living at Brampton 27 miles away, the curate lives in the vicarage for the 6 months absence”. The Sacrament was celebrated six times a year and services held every Sunday. Of 172 families (excluding Birtley) six were papist, twelve Presbyterian but no meeting house of any description was there.

Chollerton parish is covered in detail in Northumberland County Volume 1V, part 2. The copy of the parish register in Newcastle Central Library was compiled from the North Tyne Magazine and edited by the Rev. E Forbes in c1866-1910. It covers the years 1643-1814 and contains *inter alia* entries and parish news from Greystead, Humshaugh, Falstone, Corsenside, Wark and Simonburn, which give a flavour of parish events at the turn of the century.

The Rev. Forbes bravely attempted to disentangle each family and his humorous comments are indeed useful, and, as far as I have found, quite accurate.

His successor said of him:

Mr Forbes during his tenure of office has built his own monument by his painstaking rewriting and editing of the Parish Registers. This constitutes a permanent gift to the parish and the archaeological world. He may be said to

have constituted himself wholesale purveyor of ancestors to many of us who hitherto had been content only with the dim consciousness of having a grandfather; but now we rejoice in a pedigree as long as the longest. He has made us all brush ourselves up and whisper to one another Noblesse oblige.

WILLS PROJECT

All the Wards of Durham and Northumberland have now been completed, however, there are still some strays to collate.

Our thanks go out to the project Co-ordinator and those volunteers who have extracted the information from the wills.

The latest Probate index to be published on CD is as follows:

PL_15 Stockton Ward covering the parishes of Billingham, Bishopton, Egglecliffe, Etlon, Elwick Hall, Great Stainton, Greatham, Grindon, Hart, Hartlepool, Long Newton, Middleton St George, Norton, Redmarshall, Sedgfield, Stockton, Stranton and Wolviston. 36,367 names £10.00

Will of Delilah Shipley of Monkwearmouth Shore. Proved 27 August 1802

Cuthbert Hutchinson of Whitburn, Fisherman, **Edward Hutchinson** of Whitburn, Mariner, **Mary Purry** wife of William Purry of Whitburn, Fisherman, **Delilah Hall**, of Monkwearmouth Shore, Spinster. The sum of Ten pounds each. Unto **Margaret Grey** wife of Edward Grey of Monkwearmouth, Coalfitter, whatever part of my wearing apparel as she thinks fit and proper to wear. The remaining I give and bequeath to my poor relations. All my Copyhold and Real Estate to **Edward Grey** and his heirs and assigns.

Website news.

www.familysearch.org 11.5 billion individuals digitised, the last film was completed this year. The end of an 83 year old project has been completed.

FMP 32 million names have been added to the Electoral Register collection.

MyHeritage have placed 463 million family history records for France on their website. <https://familytr.ee/france>

Quaker Family History Society - new website <https://newtrial.qfhs.co.uk>

The Genealogist. 1.5m parish records have been uploaded on to the website in association with Norfolk Record Office. Quality images and good transcripts. Lloyd George Domesday Survey, now released 60,200 records relating to Edmonton, Enfield and Southgate.

Records of baptisms, marriages and burials from Wexford Catholic Parish Records, and new Dublin Will and Grant Books, comprising of almost 1 million records. There is a link to view the registers on the National Library of Ireland's website.

A new version of Roots Magic has been released with new features added.

SOG new premises announcement <https://familytr.ee/no8>