

NNWFHS



Nuneaton & North Warwickshire Family History Society Quarterly Journal June 2015

NNWFHS
Nuneaton and North Warwickshire Family History Society

The friendly FHS for all those with connections to the northern part of the old County of Warwick



www.nnwfh.org.uk

NNWFHS at Who Do You Think You Are? Live!

In this issue

- Local civil registration unravelled
- Prying eyes of the Church Courts
- Waterloo 200
- Book reviews, new CDs and much more besides



www.nnwfh.org.uk
Price £2 (first copy free to members)

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The Chairman and Editor's little box

I would like to thank all the members who helped man our stand at ***Who Do You Think You Are? Live!*** at the NEC, and especially Jacqui Simkins who arranged it all and negotiated deals with the organisers. Perhaps those who helped out who are not committee members have been given a taste for greater participation in the running of the Society, if so see me or Jacqui and we will arrange for you to sit in on a committee meeting to see what we get up to in the King's Library in the Red Lion at Atherstone.

The Society relies on active help from members in order to function so if you can spare a couple of hours every month or so to join the committee and influence the running of the Society you will be very welcome.

Nuneaton Library needs our help for a display in September (see page 11). It seems that despite the number of sporting activities in Nuneaton there are few photographs, either historical or modern of these events. The library is trying to build up an archive of photographs so if you think you can help please contact Shaun (details on page 11).

Finally, we have a CD in the shop - **Records for Astley & Chilvers Coton 1684 to 1840s**. This contains a unique collection of early records extracted from the Arbury Estate papers and other sources. There are lists of inhabitants, names of those applying for soup and charity, list of poor families and some poor law records. If your ancestors came from this area this is a must! (See also page 4.)

Secretary's Scribbles

What a busy quarter we have had...original and unique speaker presentations [we were the trial for Prof Rebecca Probert's talk **Divorced, Bigamist, Bereaved - Interpreting your Ancestors' Second Marriages** which heralded her latest book – see review elsewhere] and more speakers visiting in the coming months, plus events to attend! Our speakers provide informative presentations that relate to our research whether by period or topic and occasionally they can provide one of those eye-opening moments if not a full Eureka! one.

It is good to get out and about too, as this provides opportunity to meet members unable to attend meetings in Chilvers Coton. OK, it is hard slog for those charged with travelling to venues, setting up displays, getting merchandise ready, manning the stall and all the rest of the palaver that goes with being out and about! The big event this quarter was three full days at *Who Do You Think You Are? Live* at the NEC. Report is elsewhere in this journal. We did meet some members – and more joined our group during the show. In the coming months we are out at one-day events in Shrewsbury, York,

Chesterfield and Doncaster: check the dates and venues to come along to meet the team. While WDYTIA was on, NNWFHS also had a display and representation at the Spring Fair at the Heritage Centre – being in two places at the same time worked, thanks to our great team of helpers.

As I write, we are finalising the programme for 2016. It amazes me how quickly professional speakers on interesting genealogical topics get booked up. When trying to find speakers on suggested topics, I investigate online programmes for other FHS – and noticed how far in advance some publish their programmes! Come September, with a modicum of luck, we shall have our 2016 programme in print [paper and online] for you all: some different topics that relate to how life was in the times of our forebears or to help explain some 'oddities' we might find.

This year sees some major anniversaries: this month it is the 200th Anniversary of Waterloo – and we have a speaker on the subject to do our bit in commemorating the event, plus there is a roll of Midlands men who fought listed on our website. June is also the 800th Anniversary of Magna Carta – some clauses of which are still operational today. And of

course, the War Memorial and WW1 projects continue under the leadership of Celia Parton. Transcription projects also continue with helpers far and wide contributing while Carole Eales co-ordinates it all: baptisms are the current thrust.

Thank you to the handful of members who have responded to the plea for names of coal mines from the past along with any other known information about them. The list is slowly progressing, and next year we hope to publish it along with mapping of the locations. John Parton is currently devising a set of maps to form a research pack: hopefully to be produced on A3. These will show old maps, Church of England parish boundaries, Poor Law Unions/Civil Registration districts and no doubt much more by time all is sorted.

Talking of civil registration – a short article is in this Journal however, the new and revised "What is Where..." booklet now includes a 4-page section on civil registration in the NNWFHS area. Boundaries fluctuate with different governments, Acts, revisions – the use of place names to describe registration districts that cover dozens of places causes much confusion.

In May we had a gathering of those

researching BATES in and around north Warwickshire – a good few were connected but some seemingly are not. There is more to be researched by all involved but it was most interesting to get together. One visitor said afterwards that she was not a Bates descendant: as she has one Joseph BATES as her gtx4 grandfather she certainly does have BATES in her tree...unless, of course,

there is a 'non-paternal event' of which only she is aware! The mind boggles!!!

May sees the inaugural "help desk" at Coleshill Library: this will be held on the 3rd Monday of each month from 10am-12 noon. Help desks continue at Atherstone and Wilnecote libraries. Call in - even if just for a chat!

Come November it will be the AGM and the time we seek members willing to help continue the work of NNWFHS. Why not come along to a committee meeting and see what it is like? Or offer your services – we need younger recruits on the committee who can carry the society forward: is that you? We need **YOU** – come on, give it a try!!

New CDs - in the shop now!



Nearly 39,000 marriage partners - over 19,000 bonds

In 1754 an "Act for the Better Preventing of Clandestine Marriage", familiarly known as Hardwicke's Marriage Act, came into operation. This CD covers twenty-one years prior to the introduction of the Act, plus the first year following: it could break through your brick wall!

Some marriage licence bonds are brief but even these can provide information not otherwise available; they may even include a signature of your forebear. Obtaining a licence to marry does not guarantee a marriage record can be found, or even that it took place. But for some marriages, the place where it was due to happen may have no extant registers.

Many documents have details of ages or occupations; occasionally the name of a father or other possible family member appears. Most give place of residence and where possible this has been "resolved" on the spreadsheets. Some places have not been found, and some could mean one of several places of the same name. Occasionally a place name is given along with county: you may find the place is in an adjoining county rather than that stated. There are some licences issued for marriage in the diocese with both parties from outside the diocese: it is for you, the researcher, to unravel why that might be!

Plus the first four discs of N Works Baptisms 1813-1861

<p>Disc 1</p> <p>Bedworth</p>	<p>Disc 2</p> <p>Ansty Bulkington Burton Hastings Churchover Monks Kirby Shilton Willey Withybrook Wolvey</p>	<p>Disc 3</p> <p>Atherstone Caldecote Mancetter</p>	<p>Disc 4</p> <p>Ansley Arley Astley Attleborough Chilvers Coton Stockingford</p>	<p>A note about the online shop.</p> <p>We are aware that there have been problems ordering via the online shop. These have now been fixed. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.</p>
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**Sir Roger Newdigate,
5th Baronet**
(30 May 1719 – 23
November 1806).



Sir Roger Newdigate in the
Library at Arbury by Arthur
Devis

Sir Roger was an English politician and collector of antiquities. He was born in Arbury, Warwickshire, the son of Sir Richard Newdigate, 3rd Baronet (who died in 1727) and inherited the title 5th Baronet and the estates of Arbury and of Harefield in Middlesex on the early death of his brother in 1734. He was educated at Westminster School and University College, Oxford, and contributed greatly to the university throughout the remainder of his life. He is most remembered as the founder of the Newdigate Prize on his death. The prize for poetry helped make the names of many illustrious writers. The is awarded to students of the University of Oxford for the Best Composition in English verse by an undergraduate who has

been admitted to Oxford within the previous four years. It was founded in 1806 and the winning poem is read at Encaenia. Instructions are published as follows: "The length of the poem is not to exceed 300 lines. The metre is not restricted to heroic couplets, but dramatic form of composition is not allowed." He was also known as a collector of antiques, a number of which he donated to the University. The first winner was John Wilson ("Christopher North"). Notable winners have included Robert Stephen Hawker, John Ruskin, Matthew Arnold, Laurence Binyon, Oscar Wilde, John Buchan, John Addington Symonds, James Fenton and Alan Hollinghurst. From 1742 until 1747, he served as Member of Parliament (MP) for Middlesex, and in 1751, he began a 30-year tenure as an MP for Oxford University. He married, firstly Sophia Conyers in 1743, and secondly Hesther Margaret Munday in 1776. Both marriages were childless. Being the owner of extensive collieries near Bedworth in Warwickshire, he actively promoted the Coventry, Oxford and Grand Junction canal, cutting also a canal from his collieries to Coventry, and interesting himself in the

construction of the turnpike road from Coventry to Leicester. He lavished attention on the Elizabethan Arbury Hall which he rebuilt over a period of thirty years in splendid Gothic Renaissance style, engaging the services of the architect Henry Couchman. He is immortalised in fiction in George Eliot's *Scenes of Clerical Life*, where he appears as Sir Christopher Cheverel in *Mr Gilfil's Love Story*. Further, and more in-depth information regarding his parliamentary career can be found here -

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1754-1790/member/newdigate-sir-roger-1719-1806>

© The sources for this article are Wikipedia.com, information-britain.co.uk and nndb.com

NNWFHS launched a CD in April 2015 which includes a number of interesting items from the time Sir Roger was at Arbury, including a census for Astley and another for Chilvers Coton done in the 1780s by curate Rev. Rennie, and several lists of those seeking help from Arbury when times were "difficult". The estate records for Arbury are now held at Warwick County Record Office.

Who Do You Think You Are? Live *at the National Exhibition Centre Birmingham*

NNWFHS had never attended the *WDYTYA? Live* shows in London – the cost of exhibition space is high, but adding on travel and hotel accommodation for London made it mission unaffordable. When we heard that the 2015 Show was, due to refurbishment of the London venue, to be staged at the NEC the committee agreed that, as it was on our doorstep, we could not afford NOT to attend.

Once the decision was taken, we were able to join the other FHS of the West Midlands Group in a block of ten tables. This proved advantageous: we were adjacent to Coventry FHS, with BMSGH the other side of the block so visitors could easily be referred to the Society where their query lay. Shropshire, Malvern & Herefordshire were also alongside.

The cost to exhibit in the section for Societies is considerable: £240 per single table. OK, you get listed in the programme and your name mounted above your table...plus a smart bright blue carpet down the generously wide aisles! We knew we had to sell plenty of CDs to meet costs. The

surprise was the number of people who signed up as new members during the Show: Carole was kept busy registering and issuing passwords! As ever we picked up a few ideas of things we might do...and we also saw some displays where you learned what NOT to do!! We were impressed by the friendly helpfulness of the NEC staff during build-up and break-down.

Members will have read the various appeals for helpers made in the Journal and it was pleasing to have enough to ensure at least plenty were on duty at all times! We all had chance to mooch at the show and it was great to meet such helpful members keen to support their Society.

We met some lovely people, had some routine as well as unusual queries, but what 'made' the show was the lady who complimented both Coventry and us on our helpfulness and welcoming attitude: she joined! And one of the biggest laughs was a comment heard from along the aisle: "Oh good, Warwickshire is here..." and the lady scurried up to us and said "Edith Weston". The

assumption that she meant the place rather than her name was correct: we explained that the village was not in Warwickshire [let alone north Warwickshire!] but in Rutland. Leicester & Rutland FHS was not at the show, but as the lady's other place of interest was Northamptonshire, we sent her to Northants FHS and trust she was happy. It was very obvious throughout the show that many researchers never, ever look at a map! There were many seeking help with south Warwickshire places who were being sent to us!!

Would we do it again? Not an outright "whoopee yes" but more "it is again at NEC, we gained members, so we will exhibit again" decision. The booking is in for 2016, same spot and hopefully alongside other West Midlands FHS Group members. And by booking early we get 10% discount – secured after my polite email that 2.5% was insufficient inducement.

Come and visit in 2016: 7-9 April [despite what some websites say, it is 7-9 April].

BATES – A Shockingly Sad Case

On 20th December 1929 in Smethurst Yard, Atherstone, 60-year old Arthur Bates bludgeoned to death his 56-year old wife, Alice, crushing her skull with a flat-iron. He then went upstairs and tried to hang himself on the bedrail. His son, George, discovered the gruesome scene. The subsequent happenings are reported in a number of newspapers. This article draws entirely on newspapers for details of the murder with family information drawn from census and published sources.

Arthur William was born at Baxterley in 1869, the son of George Bates and his wife Hannah, nee Smith. George was one of the men killed in the 1882 Baddesley pit explosion when Arthur was about 12 years old. Hannah went on to marry Charles Whitmore so Arthur became part of a larger family with full-, step- and half-siblings.

Arthur worked as a coal miner. In 1892 he married Alice Frost Atkins [daughter of Charlotte Atkins] and by 1901 he was living at Minions Wharf in Atherstone along with Alice and their children Arthur 8 and Elsie 1. His half-sister Kate Whitmore was living with them.

In 1911 the family had grown and was living in 4 rooms in Roger's Yard, Atherstone. Arthur is now working as a miner "stallman". The census confirmed the couple had been married for 19 years and that eight children had been born of whom six were still living. The children at home now included: Arthur Wm 18; Elsie Mary 12; Alice Maud 9; George Herbert 7; Florence 6 and William Thomas 4. Also living with them was Alice's mother, 70-year old Charlotte Frost [she had married in 1892].

The first newspaper report online [in early 2015] was dated 24th December 1929 – the same article appeared in papers from Gloucester to Nottingham and Lancashire. It was Arthur's first court appearance on the charge of murder. He was described as a grey-haired man of average height who appeared to be in a weak state requiring him to be helped into court by two policemen. The report suggests Arthur may have been at best somewhat confused: he is said to have muttered, "Kill. Kill". When cautioned and charged he reputedly replied "oh no, she is not dead is she?". The report noted that when the Inspector went to the house, Alice was dead and Arthur was seemingly upstairs after attempting to hang himself.

The *Herald* on 28th December reported on the inquest. The family was living in Smethurst Yard, Atherstone and son, George Herbert, gave evidence. It appeared that his father, Arthur, had only been released from Hatton Asylum some ten weeks previous.

The *Western Mail* on 1st January 1930 went further and added that in February 1928 Arthur had been involved in an accident resulting in 'concussion of the brain'. In July the same year he had attempted suicide; he had been certified as insane and committed to an asylum.

On 4th January, the local *Herald* carried a much more detailed story. The family are now shown as living at Woodbine Cottage in Smethurst Yard. The first family member to appear was Mrs Florence Hadley, daughter, living in Avins Yard. The ordeal was too much - she collapsed and was helped from court by her husband. She was called later and reported visiting her parents on the morning of the 20th December when both seemed in good spirits. The son, George, appeared: he lived with his parents and advised the court of the accident his father suffered in 1928 and how it had affected him mentally. He told the court of the previous suicide attempt,

and how his father had been committed in 1928 to the asylum but had come home in October 1929. His father was sullen, and sat playing with his fingers all day. The report adds that when the charge was read, Arthur seemed to take no notice. His representative put in a plea of not guilty and applied to the court for a certificate under the Poor Persons Defence Act, which was granted. It was noted that Arthur's mental capacity was 'for a higher court' to determine.

The next report in the *Herald* was 15th March when details of the Warwick Assizes were given. The murder charge against Arthur was outlined. Medical evidence was that Arthur was incapable of understanding the charge or of responding to it. The report ends: "Bates was ordered to be detained during his Majesty's pleasure".

This would suggest that, as prescribed in the Trial of Lunatics Act of 1883, Arthur would have been committed to Broadmoor Hospital; also section 2 of the Criminal Lunatics Act of 1884 provides that a prisoner certified insane could be reprieved and transferred to Broadmoor. Broadmoor was a hospital, not a prison.

Arthur's death has not been positively identified on the GRO index: was he sent to Broadmoor? He would come within scope of the above two Acts. Therefore, he may have died in 1940 and the death registered in the Windsor district [which included Crowthorne and Broadmoor Hospital].

From the reports, particularly the statement of Inspector Horseman, it would seem that Arthur had previously been a pleasant and reliable chap whom he knew from his visits to deliver coal [Arthur had latterly worked as a haulier]. After Arthur's time in

Hatton Asylum, the family were responsible for his care. It would appear from the reports that Arthur's mental state was very disturbed.

In 1929, the county asylum allowed mentally injured Arthur to return to the care of his family and that resulted in the shocking murder of his wife Alice. An unexpected and horrific tragedy.

Notes:

For more information on the **pit disaster** see Celia Parton's book "Parker's Fine Pumping Engine – The Baddesley Pit Explosion 1882" (now out of print, but copies are held in local libraries). Celia also has website about the disaster at www.baddesleypitexplosion.co.uk/

GRO: the **General Register Office** indexes are available on a number of subscription websites. There is a free access site – FreeBMD – which covers many years, but not all.

Online Newspapers are available on subscription at Find My Past, and also at British Newspapers Online.

Broadmoor Hospital: Interesting background history on Berkshire FHS website see www.berksfhs.org.uk/cms/About-Berkshire/broadmoor-hospital.html

Dates for your diary -

- June 27th** Yorkshire Family History Fair – York Racecourse - Come and visit NNWFHS table!
- July 14th** Research & Help Session: computers available alongside **a short talk and demonstration of photo restoration for family historians**. Plus cuppa and a chat!
- August 11th** **Crime & Punishment** - Amanda Williams of Warwick Record Office. Did your forebears end up on wrong side of the law, or as witnesses or as deliverers of law and punishment? Tales of the unexpected?
- August 15th** Chesterfield FHS Fair - Chesterfield S41 8BA - come and visit NNWFHS
- September 8th** **Doreen's Diary: The life of an indomitable woman in Warwickshire during World War II.** - Helen Eldridge will talk about Doreen's life, the story of all the letters to her husband and the project that brought them into print.

The Ancestry of William Chamberlain of Bedworth, born c1811.

Since 1983 I have been searching for the ancestry of my elusive William Chamberlain; throughout his life, he always claimed to have been born in Bedworth, in 1811. In 2011, I wrote an article for the Journal, detailing his life, and asking for help to break down the 'brick wall' in my research. In January this year, my prayers were answered by an e-mail from the antipodes !

Research had shown that William was the son of John Chamberlain and Ann. In 1820 John was buried at All Saints, Bedworth; careful analysis of the 1821 Census showed conclusively that Ann, and their children, were living in the house of her father, John White, of Woodlands, Bedworth. Since William, the eldest child, could be identified within the 10-15 age group, we knew that we were looking for a marriage between a John Chamberlain and an Ann White.

As project manager for the current NNWFHS series of baptismal, marriage and burial CDs, I felt I was in prime position to find any entry related to this family in north Warwickshire, south Warwickshire records having already been exhausted. Sadly, William and his parents remained elusive. A foray into Leicestershire proved to be equally useless. However, at some time in the recent past, Ancestry UK uploaded registers of Staffordshire, and sitting there, waiting to be found in Burton upon Trent was

my missing marriage ! On 9 January 1804, John Chamberlain, a bachelor and Ann White, a spinster, were married, after Banns, at St. Modwen, Burton upon Trent; both were of the parish.

Looking at the road map it makes sense, since the A444 passes between Burton upon Trent and Bedworth; perhaps Ann was employed in one of the hostleries along that road ? She would only have been 16 years old when caught the eye of John Chamberlain, a mature 29 year old labourer.

Where the couple went next is still under consideration. The only possible, but as yet unproven suggestion, is that they moved south to Rotherhithe in Surrey. The registers there show that a John and Ann Chamberlain, labourer arrived, presented three children to the church between 1806 and 1810, and then disappeared again: William, baptised 1806; John, baptised and buried 1809; William baptised 1810. Assuming the first William died, his 'replacement' was born on 6 May 1810, and IF this is my family, they returned to Ann's home town of Bedworth, William believing he had been born there. All this, of course, is assumption; the only concrete evidence I have is the baptism of William's sister Elizabeth at All Saints, Bedworth in 1813, John's burial in 1820, and Ann and her children living with her parents in 1821.

Notwithstanding the actual birthplace of William, the Staffordshire registers provide evidence of his father's origins. Parish records show that John

was baptised at St. Modwen, Burton upon Trent in 1775, son of John and Catherine [Parker]. Once this fact had been established, a visit to the Lichfield Record Office provided all the evidence required to trace the line back to Tutbury and Uttoxeter. In 1708, John's grandfather, Francis, was married to Elizabeth Mallaber in Uttoxeter, and went on to raise their seven children in Tutbury.

Frustratingly, at this point, I hit another 'brick wall'. The name Francis Chamberlin [et vars] is alive and well in Uttoxeter during the 16th & 17th centuries; each line of each family sprouts a Francis, all doing very nicely, 'thank you', if their Wills and Inventories are anything to go by ! The Chamberlin family were fellmongers, tanners, shoemakers and glovers, and all those leaving Wills spread their largesse around the family. After plodding through nearly two dozen Wills, mostly written in 'Secretary hand' and littered with 'I give and bequeath unto..', 'aforesaid' and 'further it is my minde that', sadly I am no nearer to linking the Uttoxeter tree to my tree, although it is without doubt that my Francis is related. Oliver Cromwell has much to answer for, since records of baptisms and marriages remain elusive; just thank goodness for the Wills, the Chamberlin money and their determination to spread it throughout the family ! A map of The Town of Uttoxeter [1658] illustrates the extent of their land holding along the High Street. I feel the urge to go to Kew to see if the Chancery Proceedings might shine a light on any of this, for I'm sure that where there's money there will be disputes,

but the next step is to visit
Uttoxeter and see what I might
find there.

Whether I ever find the link
between these two trees is
doubtful, but one thing is clear
– never give up hope of
knocking down that ‘brick wall’.
Since I began my search for

that elusive marriage, so many
records have become available
on-line and /or have been
catalogued in Record Offices...
they are just waiting to be
found !

And a final thought - long may
Lichfield Record Office remain
open; without the staff and

volunteers there it would have
taken me months, not hours, to
unearth all this information !

Carole A. Eales

Reports on our monthly speaker meetings by Val Lewis

April meeting - Interpreting your Ancestors Second Marriages

Many of us have ancestors who had second marriages and sometimes the details of these marriages on marriage certificates can make us suspicious of the documented status of the bride and groom. Interpreting second marriages through divorce, bigamy and bereavement was the topic when Prof. Rebecca Probert made a welcome return to the society at the March meeting.

Prior to a change in the law in the 1850s, a divorce could only be obtained by means of a private act of parliament. Men only could apply and it was too expensive for all but the wealthy. By 1860 there were only 150 divorces each year, nearly all in London. With further changes in the law and the introduction of local divorce registries, this had increased to 800 by 1914, 8000 by 1939 and 20000 by 1950.

Consequently many separated couples who could not afford to divorce, especially in the latter part of the nineteenth century and early twentieth century, underwent bigamous second marriages

Tell-tale signs on certificates that can arouse suspicion are the bride/groom describing themselves as batchelor/spinster when you know that they have been married previously. Alternatively they may be described as widowed but there is no record of the death of a first spouse. Often they moved to a different part of the country to avoid detection as the punishment for bigamy in the nineteenth century was up to seven years penal servitude, including deportation to Australia!

This was an interesting, and well attended evening. It goes to show that when studying family history not everything may be as it seems!

May meeting - Wills for Family History

A welcome return by guest speaker Andrew George from Lichfield Record Office.

Andrew explained that from 1541 to 1836 the diocese of Lichfield and Coventry covered the entire counties of Staffordshire and Derbyshire along with parts of Shropshire and Warwickshire. The bishop had general jurisdiction over probate in this area through the Lichfield Consistory Court. A few areas, known as peculiar jurisdictions, were exempt from this and were administered by other church officials and a few by lords of manors.

Lichfield Record Office holds many original consistory court and various peculiar court wills from the year 1600 for the extensive area covered by the diocese. There is a free online index that currently covers the period between 1640 and 1760. Information given includes name, gender, residence, occupation, date, court and document reference. Copies of wills can be ordered from the index for a small charge. The record office also provides a research service for wills outside of these dates.

The wills themselves can provide valuable information for family historians. They often give detailed information of family members, not always easily obtained from parish records. Not only do they tell you the value of the estate but often give details and inventories of the residence and of goods and chattels left to the beneficiaries. Sometimes sons or daughters appear to have been unfairly treated, being left only a small or token sum. However, they often benefited financially during the lifetime of the parent and this was just an acknowledgement in the will. Often wills were written in such a way as to protect the family interest in the estate, ensuring that property did not go outside of the family through marriage etc.

Index of Wills: www.staffsnameindexes.org.uk

A letter to the Editor

Dear Mr Parton

As usual there were many interesting articles in the society journal March 2015 which I have recently received - thank you

I don't usually have anything to contribute but I thought I would send the following as a follow on from some of the articles.

Coleshill Hall Hospital (the Coleshill postcards on the back cover)

My brother Barry Leonard Barnett (b.1944 - d. 2008) known to our family as Lennie, had what was then called a mental handicap nowadays Downs Syndrome. He was always hard work for my mother Iris so the authorities, of whom my mother was always wary, told her it would be best if he was 'sent away'. He went to Coleshill Hall when he was about 15 and resident there over 10 years. I can remember visiting on the train and bus and eventually in the car and the long walk/drive down the winding, leafy lane to get to the hospital which was situated in the most beautiful grounds where there was often a cricket or football match going on

Sundays when we visited my brother, we used to sit in the grounds if the weather was nice or go into the communal hall with all the other visiting families, where we could get a cup of tea and a cake or biscuit. There was what I recall as a young child, a 'scary' part of the hospital in a separate block further away in the grounds where the more severely ill patients were



resident. I used to be frightened to go any near.

Nowadays with more advanced knowledge people born with Downs thankfully do not have to be locked away and live and work within our community, a change for the better.

Coleshill Hall Hospital was a Grade 11 listed building founded in 1929 according to the National Archives but they still pulled it down! A terrible waste of a beautiful building. There is information about Coleshill Hall to be found at County Records at Warwick.

The building which was used as a maternity hospital and psychiatric hospital, and then a hotel for a while I believe, was subsequently demolished in the 1990s in favour of a housing estate. My brother was always happy there, but then my brother was always happy anywhere! I do miss his smile and his gentle loving ways now he is no longer with us.

Nuneaton Festival of Arts -
Page 9

I have included a newspaper cutting of a picture of our school band in the 1960s.* We won a cup at the Festival. We were Newtown Road County Infants School in Bedworth, next door to the old ambulance

station. I don't know if it is still a college these days and I think Social Services work out of the ambulance station as was.

I can remember learning country dancing and dancing round the maypole with the coloured ribbons hanging from it to celebrate the arrival of Spring, and the anticipation of sitting in the school hall at Christmas with the lights turned out listening for the sleigh bells to signal the arrival of Santa to give us all an apple and an orange.

I went on to George Street Juniors now flattened in favour of Tesco! I wasn't a very good scholar but I did enjoy dancing, music and the school plays. I was Queen of Hearts in George Street's production of Alice in Wonderland (**orf with her head!**). Then I progressed to reading the part of Lady Bracknell (**a handbag!**) in The Importance of Being Ernest in our English class at Nicholas Chamberlain. I always seemed to get picked to play formidable old ladies; the parts of pretty girls always went to someone else.

Coal Mines - Page 11

I have sent also you a picture I have of a commemorative plate which shows a list of collieries.

I don't know where that came from!

Regards

Margaret Shone



** I cannot reproduce the picture (copyright) but the following people were included - Lynn Tustain, Sadie Turrell, David Harrison, Stephen French, Timothy Hough, Patrick Milliner, Lawrence Evans, Graham Jacques, Susan Rose, Margaret Barnett, Gaye White, Ian Tebbitt, Kay Mallabone, Melanie Johnson, Margaret Ghent, Georgia Jackson, Julie Randle, Keith Gallemore, Wendy Mannion, Martin Winter, Alan Maughan, Steven Kean, Timothy Huffer, Kenneth Holmes, Teresa Peacock, Brian Hammersley, and Susan Hall. **Ed***

Also on the subject of Coal Mines Jacqui received this email -

I've just read the request in the current journal for information about Collieries in North Warwickshire.

My information is rather sketchy as in my life time none

of my family have been employed in the coal industry and it is 40 years since I lived in Tamworth. Since doing family history research it would seem a good number of my ancestors were employed in various collieries around Tamworth and in Nottinghamshire.

I have always known my Great grandfather went to America to work in coal mining but knew very little of the detail until a few years ago when I started researching.

My Great Grandmother Eliza Barker (nee Hopkins) died in 1891 and her death certificate reads "Place of death", **Perrin's Offices Wilnecote.** I had never heard of this address but it would seem to apply to a colliery of some kind. I assume that her husband had worked at the pit before going to America. My Great Grandfather eventually returned to England with a new American wife!

However it's **Perrin's Pit** that interests me as I can find little information about it, it would appear to be owned by a Mr Perrin and Mr Harrison, I have no idea of their first names or where, in fact, the pit was or how long it operated. Could it have been another name for Wilnecote Colliery? I would be very interested to find out more if any reader has any information about the pit or, in fact, if any other miners from Wilnecote went to America

around 1889, with my GGranddad.

*Monica Walker (nee Barker)
Membership no.2013-06*

Jacqui has done some research on this and has found a number of mentions of Perrin's Pit in the Tamworth Herald going back as far as October 1873. In 1910 some allotment land was available to let at the back of Wilnecote Hall near Perrin & Harrison's old pit. In 1913 the newspaper reported on the centenary of Wilnecote Congregational Church and mentioned that "Mr Perrin, owner of Perrin's Pit, ... gave them the use of an iron room in the grounds of Wilnecote Hall, at that time his residence."

In 1948 the Herald reported the death of Walter Haskey of 20 Argyle Street, Glascoate who was in his 83rd year. When he left school at the age of 12 he was employed at Messrs. Perrin & Harrison's colliery, Wilnecote.

*This suggests the pit was certainly operational in the 1860s and was still going in the 1870s as a report of a fatal accident appeared in the Herald in 1875 at the "Colliery owned by Messrs. Perrin & Harrison and called the Watling Street Colliery Wilnecote." It seems to have ceased before 1910 when it was referred to (above) as Perrin & Harrison's old pit. **Ed.***

Sports in Nuneaton - your help is needed.

Nuneaton library is preparing a display for September on **Sports in Nuneaton** both from a historical and a more recent perspective. There are few photographs of sporting groups and the Library would like your help in finding some. For copyright reasons these need to be personal photographs not press or by named photographer. All sports are included - golf, cricket, swimming, rugby. school sports days etc. If possible a description of the event and the names of those pictured would be appreciated. If you think you can help please contact Shaun Albrighton, Senior Library Assistant at Nuneaton Library - email shaunalbrighton@warwickshire.gov.uk

BATES Gathering at St Mary's Atherstone

On the afternoon of Saturday 9 May, a group of individuals with an interest in BATES in and around north Warwickshire gathered in the lounge of St Mary's, Atherstone to share their assorted trees, hopefully meet the occasional cousin...and all the usual things that can occur at such a get-together.

Carole and Jacqui had organised the gathering using a variety of means of advertising to the genealogical world! Celia – who is linked to BATES by marriage – also brought her Baddesley Pit Explosion research which was of interest to many: yes, there is a BATES amongst the men killed! Visitors were also able to view the WW1 Men of Atherstone display in the church.

It was surprising how many seemingly unconnected lines of BATES lived in, or dipped a toe into, north Warwickshire. People came from as far away as Sussex and Yorkshire [other than Carole, that is!], with one couple having landed that morning from their holiday!

We had quite a number who tie in with the BATES in Hartshill/Mancetter. And others scattered around the borders of the NNWFHS area who may prove to tie into the main lines known to stem from the Mancetter parish registers. And one Mary Ann BATES married in 1883 to a SWINFIELD – if you tie to that line, there is a Swinfield gathering in September at Barwell.

Two ladies unable to attend are definitely 'cousins' and are in

touch with each other: they tie into Edward BATES in Monks Kirby – not to be confused with the BATES who went to that parish from Mancetter, well, not the ones who moved in early 1800s!!

It was nice to have chance to chat with individuals about their research and to be able to discuss places/sources that may lead to further evidence. We may even have gained a new member or two!

One thing came out of the gathering: do not accept what you find on mainstream (or

other) websites without proving it for yourself! Several trees stemmed from a BATES who was buried aged about 3 – having taken information from websites believing it to be "proved beyond doubt"!!

Is anyone else planning a Gathering for their surname or "cousins"? Do let us know and, providing time scale permits, John will include details in a Journal.

Carole & Jacqui

Book reviews

The Family Bible: A Priceless Heirloom

– Its History and Evolvement with Inscriptions of Family History Events by Rena King. £6.50. 87pp. The Family History Partnership ISBN 978-1-906-280-39-0.

For many years, Rena King has collected inscriptions from family bibles. It all started, as so many things do, when she realised many irreplaceable and large volumes were finding their way to jumble sales, shops and even the local tip! Family historians found bibles in many places and sent their transcripts to Rena for recording, and so began the Index.

Although Rena still operates a look-up service in the hundreds of inscriptions she has collected (see www.bibleinscriptions.co.uk) she has now written a book, which quotes some of the more helpful, unusual and occasionally utterly fantastic inscriptions.

The book gives quotes in line with the topic being explored in each chapter. We learn about the evolvement of bible production, about how families acquired these often-expensive items including those given by charitable concerns, Sunday schools, etc.

Family bibles frequently had decorative pages to complete with family births, marriages and deaths – and these were not necessarily at front/back of the bible – but many simply had blank front or back pages, which a family used to record critical information. In her book, Rena gives examples of draft wills, of vaccinations, of

shipwreck, of baby weighing, loss of limbs...and much more!

If you are fortunate enough to have inherited a family bible, you are indeed lucky. If not, you may just find a gem has been recorded. Reading this book you will be uplifted by the detail some families recorded for posterity.

The book can be obtained directly from www.thefamilyhistorypartnership.com

Divorced, Bigamist, Bereaved? The family historian's guide to marital breakdown, separation, widowhood and remarriage from 1600 to the 1970s.

Prof Rebecca Probert; Takeaway Publishing; 209pp; £9.99.

Professor Probert is the leading authority on the history of marriage law and practice in England and Wales. She holds a chair in family law at the University of Warwick.

In March, Rebecca Probert gave a presentation to our meeting - it was a trial run for her presentation at *WDYTYA?* *Live* heralding her latest book. The previous book - "Marriage Law for Genealogists" – I consider to be one of the best published for researchers for very many years and this latest book follows in fine style.

We all have 'marriages' in our trees that do not fit the prescribed patterns. This book explains divorce, bigamy, bereavement and remarriage from the 1600s through to the late twentieth century. There is examination of the life span of marriages; the likelihood of loss

of a spouse; and what choice there was on remarriage – or otherwise. The book also explores marital breakdown and what options were available to our ancestors – especially for the majority who were not wealthy.

The book outlines what was legal or not, and how that position varied over time. Chapters deal with the individual topics of the title and give examples. There is discussion on how bigamists were treated if a case came to court – and how the sentencing changed over time. The book has some surprises: it is a mistaken assumption that transportation entitled a convict's wife (or husband) to remarry – though the situation could be used in defence if there was a prosecution for bigamy!

This book will offer you possible explanations for swift remarriage after bereavement through to those probable cases of bigamy that we come across. There are some case studies featured which may just prove to be Eureka! moments or even lead you to demolition of one of your brick walls.

This is definitely a book to have, read, and reach for when you are puzzled by unusual marital affairs found during your research.

Prof. Probert is always keen to hear from family history researchers about unusual findings particularly in relation to marriage; you can contact her via warwick.ac.uk/dbb [just pop that exact phrase into Google].

Local Civil Registration Unravelled

In 1837 civil registration of births, marriages and deaths was introduced in England and Wales. Commonly referred to as GRO [General Register Office], civil registration was based upon Districts – Atherstone, Nuneaton, Foleshill, Meriden, Rugby, Hinckley, Lutterworth, Tamworth and Aston all encompassed various parts of NNWFHS's area.

Initially, the Districts were essentially the same as the Unions for the Poor Law. A handful of places stayed in the same registration district from 1837-1974, but many moved – and some had several moves. In addition there were changes to the presentation of the assembled records. A brief timeline is:

1852 – *alteration to regional areas increasing them from 27 to 34;*

1866 – *introduction of typed GRO index lists; age at death started to appear on the listings;*

1874 – *introduction of penalties for failure to register births;*

1896 - *alteration to some district areas: Wolvey, etc affected;*

1911 – *introduction of maiden name of the mother on the births;*

1912 – *the marriages indexes first show the surname of the spouse;*

1927 - *introduction of registration of still births and adoptions;*

1932 - *alteration to regional areas.*

Remember that births and deaths have to be registered in the District where the event took place – not where the mother or deceased was normally resident.

The key is to not confuse the names of places with Registration Districts bearing the same name – and to appreciate that Parishes are of two types: Civil Parishes, used for censuses and from 1837 for registration of births, marriages and deaths; and the Ecclesiastical Parishes of the Church of England, for baptisms, marriages and burials. Although the two types frequently shared the same names and boundaries, they evolved quite independently from 1840 onwards.

A fuller explanation of local civil registration along with a table of places has been added to the 2015 version of NNWFHS's "What is Where..." booklet.

How registration worked locally

There was considerable resistance to civil registration – some vicars advertised in the press to recommend boycotting the new system! Registrars were responsible for finding births and getting the parents to register them. There was no penalty for not registering a birth until 1874; from then families had a few weeks to get the necessary registration done, even if they changed their minds on given names between registration and baptism!

Registration of deaths does not seem to have so many missing entries – though I have found

burial records for which there is no obvious death registration.

Marriages were a very different affair. By Hardwicke's Act, from 1754 marriages had to be in a Quaker, Jewish or Church of England place of worship. In 1837 these places were enabled to conduct marriage recognised both religiously and civilly – those wanting to marry elsewhere could marry civilly in the presence of the "registrar of marriages" [you occasionally find them listed in local trade directories]. The registrar had his own pair of marriage registers; each registered religious building had a pair of registers and every marriage was recorded in both registers in an "identical" manner. From the 1870s non-conformist places of worship were enabled to register to conduct marriages. We know that not all premises maintained the two registers in 'identical' fashion – Curdworth being one where there was a considerable discrepancy. Some vicars objecting to civil registration chose not to record names of father on marriage records – there is a period at Burton Hastings highlighting this problem.

A word of warning: a "church" may not have been an ecclesiastical parish. The booklet "What is Where..." explains how the parishes in our area developed and when each church became "fully fledged" and therefore able to perform marriages. There was an Act of Parliament to legalise marriages that had been held at Bentley – couples were married in the eyes of God but

not in the eyes of the civil registration service!

So how did the record of marriage get from the place of marriage – generally Church of England – to the registration service? This is where opportunity for error digs in.

Every quarter, each church was responsible for making a return of its marriages to the local registrar. The priest copied the marriage entries onto forms that were delivered to the local officer. The local registration officer then compiled all marriages in his area for the quarter – yet another “copy of” – and sent that to HQ, or as we know it today, GRO. You can see now how names came to vary from the original to the final national lists. As each marriage register became full, the church retained one and the other was handed in at the local registrar’s office where it remains. The church copies are generally now deposited at the local diocesan record office [Warton is the only church in NNWFHS area retaining its historical marriage registers in spring 2015].

When you order a copy marriage certificate from GRO you do NOT get original signatures. If you order a copy from the local registrar, you will if they provide you with a scan from the deposited register.

Ordering Certificates

It became very apparent at our recent attendances at Hobbycrafts and WDYTIA Live that people are being duped by the “big boys” into buying copy certificates through third parties

at much-inflated prices. The GRO and local registrars have an effective service for supplying orders – and set prices starting at £9.25/£10 for standard service. Never pay more than that!

You can order online from GRO and from a number of local registrars – or you can order by post. Check the websites and order locally where you can.

Before ordering a marriage certificate remember that church copies of registers are mostly deposited – and some record offices have many registers online. Again, it is “the big boys” who provide the service for record offices, but check the “card index” or similar on Find My Past, Ancestry and The Genealogist to see what they have. Warwickshire are with Ancestry; Find My Past has Staffordshire, Cheshire, and Shropshire – they have others too, of course. You will be able to view the marriage register entry, with original signatures, and download/print a copy for your records. OK, you need a subscription to use these services, but you are not paying £10 for each copy marriage certificate!

But remember that a CD of marriages transcribed by NNWFHS volunteers will provide your information! Check out what dates are currently available on the NNWFHS website.

New Opportunities

The GRO has recently been enabled to vary its copy certificate production methods. The bizarre current system is that we pay exactly the same

for historical copies as we do for those required for legal identification purposes. Family historians have welcomed the new Act, but it does not require any change and may not result in the hoped-for less-expensive, non-certified electronic downloads. A discussion at WDYTIA Live with staff on the GRO stand produced the comment “don’t hold your breath” for any change. We must lobby our MPs to badger the new minister – after all, if we could buy non-certified downloads for a couple of pounds, we’d be more likely to spend a few pounds to complete our records!

Summary

Until you get accustomed to the registration system, it can be confusing. Registration service officers are not often well-versed in their historical development: there are marriages registered in Atherstone district which are now deposited with Market Bosworth which cause regular confusion. The bottom line is to use all the online indexes to find the record and then to ONLY acquire a copy via the most cost-effective option.

A.Nony. Mouse.

Further Reading:

Baptism, Marriage & Burial: What is Where for the North Warwickshire Church of England Parishes plus Civil Registration Districts. Revised and extended version available June 2015.

Marriage Law for Genealogists by Prof. Rebecca Probert

[both available from NNWFHS online shop]

Websites:

NNWFHS website and online shop: www.nnwfhs.org.uk

FreeBMD – volunteer index to GRO indexes:
www.freebmd.org.uk/

UKBMD – volunteer index to some County Registration Service registers, includes name of church for marriages:
www.ukbmd.org.uk/

Copy certificate ordering for Warwickshire:
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/copy-certificates

GRO online certificate ordering and information:
www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/

Index of places and their GRO district:
www.ukbmd.org.uk/genuki/places/index.html

Main Commercial Sites:

www.ancestry.co.uk:
Warwickshire and other parish register collections – view images of originals.

www.findmypast.co.uk/
Staffordshire, Shopshire and other parish register collections – view originals

www.thegenealogist.co.uk
Non-conformist [BMD Registers] and others – view originals

Prying eyes...of the Church Courts

The records of the church courts are under-used by family historians. This can be down to the complexity of the records, to a frequent lack of indexing or perhaps fear of getting hands on original documents in an archive! With a little help, we hope to give you an idea of what may exist, and entice you to explore.

Since medieval times the church courts – canon law – looked after many aspects of everyday life. Your forebears could be recorded for failing to attend church or for moral misdemeanours: if somebody thought they were up to no good...then the local church courts likely got involved. Prior to the early 1700s all records were kept in a strange language of abbreviated Latin, but names of those hauled up, and those of witnesses, can be easy to spot – the reason for the case may take a little effort to understand.

The records are maintained at diocesan level – and Lichfield Record Office is where you start for those for northern Warwickshire. But our forebears moved around and if they could cross an invisible boundary, they did!

Hierarchy of the Church Courts

England and Wales were divided into two “provinces” – Canterbury for southern England and York for northern counties. Warwickshire was within Canterbury...go to Cheshire and you are in the jurisdiction of York. Wales was within the province of Canterbury.

Each province was divided into dioceses. A bishop headed each diocese and his court was the consistory court.

Each diocese was divided into a number of arch-deaconries, and these were sub-divided into rural deaneries.

CONSISTORY COURTS

The bishops’ or consistory courts dealt mainly, for family

history research purposes, with probate and testamentary matters until these moved to civil law in 1858. Where a will was proved, or administration issued, depended on several factors:

- If a testator died in the archdeaconry where he lived and held property, then that was where his probate would be dealt with.
- If a testator held property in more than one archdeaconry but within one diocese, then probate was a matter for the consistory court.
- If a testator had goods of reasonable value, or in more than one diocese, then the probate was a matter for the provincial courts of Canterbury or York.

Finding the will or administration largely depends on your knowing the circumstances of your ancestor. Most diocesan archives have calendars of wills, sometimes with

“Peculiar” listed separately. A swift look at Phillimore’s Atlas will show you which parishes were peculiar: the jurisdictions for these are independent and you would then need to check with the diocesan archive for further information. That said, some dwellers in Peculiar did have probate handled in the standard manner – some of those for Arley in north Warwickshire are listed in the consistory calendars at Lichfield.

‘BAWDY’ COURTS

Such was the intent on keeping our forebears morals in check that these courts gained the nicknames of Bawdy Courts or Court of Scolds. Causes – or cases as we perhaps would call them today – were brought by churchwardens to maintain both morality and church teaching. There is a very good chance some of your forebears appear in the records.

Causes were split into two groups: official or office cases and instance cases.

Office Cases: these included matters such as drunkenness, not having a child baptised, working on Sunday, gambling, prostitution...and many more “moral” crimes.

Instance Cases: these frequently involved disputes between two or more individuals. These could

involve disagreements over estates or probate, or matrimonial affairs such as breach of promise, bigamy, divorce, and so forth.

The Registers or Act Books

As we would expect from such courts, detailed records were maintained. These include not only the facts of the case, but frequently include witness statements along with questions and responses of defendants and witnesses – more opportunity for your ancestors to be named! The books also record the sentences. You may find papers are filed separately in some repositories.

Matrimonial matters and fornication in particular were so common that some courts produced pre-printed sheets to record names, details and the penances. Perhaps our forebears were not as chaste as we hope for...or did they just have exceptionally nousey neighbours?!

Fines

The system of punishments varied between the courts and between the dioceses but many minor offenders received a reprimand or fine which would be payable to the churchwardens. Serious crimes saw offenders excommunicated from the church and some dioceses

kept registers of those excommunicated.

The courts were suspended during the Protectorate period, but on re-establishment after 1660 there was increased activity, perhaps because the Church wished to impose its influence on the population.

As non-conformity increased, so did those hauled before the courts for non-attendance at church. Non-conformists also objected to payment of tithes, and these cases could end up in the Assize Courts – civil law.

Why not visit the diocesan record office covering the area your forebears lived in and see just what you might find? Check with them first about opening hours, access to the documents and ask if there are any indexes to names cited. Good luck!

Note:

If using the records at Lichfield: the Register Books are filed B/C/1-4 but possibly the most interesting to family historians are the cause papers, filed B/C/5. You may be able to glean more information from the online catalogue by putting B/C/5 into the DocRefNo box and your surname into the AnyText box. See: www.staffordshire.gov.uk/leisure/archives/collections/OnlineCatalogues/GatewaytothePast/home.aspx

Queens Road Infant School, Nuneaton - Marjorie Thorne-Cringle asks -

Does anyone remember going to Queen’s Rd infant school around 1935-7 and being put on little camp beds for a nap every afternoon. I remember we had music and movement in the hall with Betty Driver telling us what to do.

Marjorie (nee) Thorne now living in the Isle-of-Man

midgeart@manx.net

HAMS HALL

When my generation hear the name Hams Hall, we think of a power station. At its height Hams Hall was the largest electricity plant in Europe. The City of Birmingham purchased the land at Hams Hall, which is in Lea Marston in north Warwickshire, in 1919 in order to build a power station for the needs of nearby Birmingham and parts of north Warwickshire. It was an ideal location being close to local coalfields and near to the railway network. There was also a water supply from the river Tame which flowed nearby. The first power station (Hams Hall A) began operating in 1928. There followed two more and by the 1960s it was generating more megawatts than any other power station in Europe.

Following nationalisation in the late 1940s the Central Electricity Generating Board took over the site. But times and technology changed and cleaner ways of generating electricity began to take over from coal-fired power stations and so the three power stations were closed. The last of the 13 cooling towers was demolished in 1993.

During the 1970s a nature trail was built recycling waste products from the power station. This became an Environmental Study Centre. Lea Cottage, a former ford keeper's cottage on the river Tame was moved and restored. This is a 400 year old half timbered black and white cottage. There is also an area of woodland leading down to the river and a wild bird sanctuary. It is well visited by



schools in the area especially inner city Birmingham schools where children can see a variety of wildlife and different native trees. I remember my son went on a school trip there back in the early 1990s and came home with a cardboard model of Lea Cottage.

Following the demolition of the power stations the site, then owned by Powergen, was cleared and it became a distribution park. The Environmental Study Centre still remains.

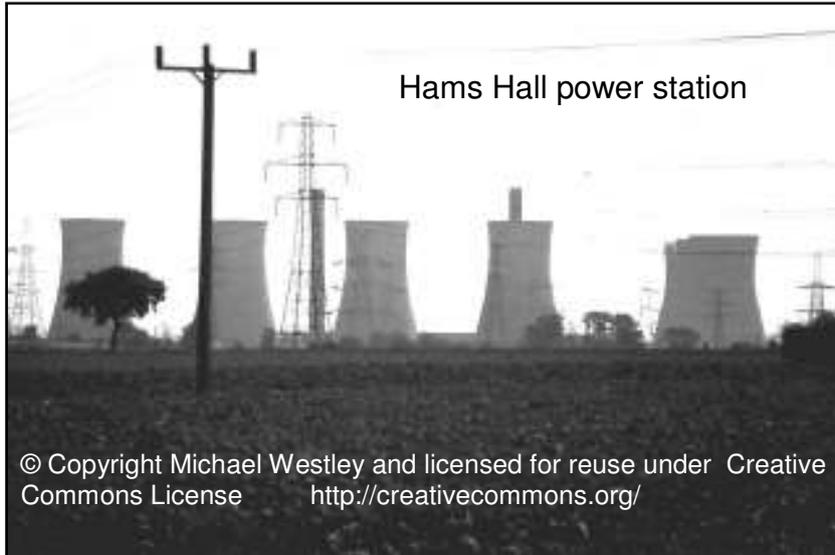
However before all this industrialisation there was actually a hall on the site. The estate was owned for over 250 years by the Adderley family.

The name of the estate was derived from the fact that the land lay in a great hook or ham of the river Tame.

The first Charles Adderley to live at Hams Hall was Equerry to King Charles I. The King was executed at the end of the Civil War and Charles lost his job and his possessions.

However after the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 he was appointed Master of the Horses for King Charles II. He was knighted for his services and acquired the Tudor Mansion of Hams Hall where he lived with his family.

The first Charles Bowyer Adderley was born in 1743 and



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life of crime and introduced the Young Offenders Act of 1856. He retired from parliament in 1878 when he was elevated to the peerage and took the title of Lord Norton of Norton-of-the-Moors, Staffordshire, and returned to live at Hams Hall.

In 1894 there was a fire and the Hall burnt down, but Lord Norton had it rebuilt, within a year, to the same specifications as when it was built 150 years earlier. He died in 1905 when all his estates and title were inherited by his eldest son, Charles Leigh Adderley. Sadly many parts of the estate had to be sold off owing to death duties and the family moved to Fillongley Hall.

was only a young boy when he inherited the estate. After reaching the age of 21 he decided to have the old hall demolished and rebuilt in a more modern style. He employed Joseph Pickford from Derby who designed for him a magnificent three storey stately home.

Charles died in 1826 and as he had no children the estate passed to his great nephew, the second Charles Bowyer Adderley. In 1841 Sir Robert Peel of Tamworth became Prime Minister for a second time and he urged his near neighbour to stand for parliament as a Tory and he was duly elected as MP for north Staffordshire, a seat which he held for 37 years.

In 1842 he married Julia, eldest daughter of Lord Leigh of Stoneleigh and the couple went on to have 10 children. Charles held various positions in government but his main interest was the British Empire. He believed that the countries of the Empire should be self-governing. In 1850 Hams Hall was the place where the new constitution for New Zealand

was drawn up. Fourteen years later the constitution of Canada was drawn up at the same venue. In 1866 he became under-secretary of state for the colonies.

He also disagreed with the transportation of criminals to the colonies and in 1852 these laws were abolished. The people of Cape Town in South Africa were so grateful to him that they named their main thoroughfare Adderley Street.

He was also a generous person and donated part of his estate situated in Saltley in Birmingham to the City Council to be used as a recreation area for the people. It was named Adderley Park in his honour. Saltley was expanding quickly and so Charles also donated a school, a church and designed a housing estate for some of the workers.

He also campaigned on behalf of common criminals especially young offenders as he believed punishments were too harsh. He also believed that education was a more effective way of keeping young people from a



Hams Hall was left to fall into disrepair. In 1920 it was dismantled and transported to Coates in Gloucestershire where two storeys of the Hall were rebuilt and became the hall of residence for students at the Royal Agricultural College and was named Bledisloe Lodge after a governor of New Zealand.

Afterwards Birmingham City Council began building the first power station on the site.

Celia Parton

Waterloo 200

Napoléon Bonaparte, Emperor of the French, rose to prominence during the French Revolution [1789-1799]. The beheading of King Louis XVI in 1793, allowed Napoléon to seize power and to begin his dictatorship, which lasted until his final defeat at Waterloo in 1815.



Throughout this period, Napoléon proved himself to be one of the greatest commanders in history; he dominated European affairs and won the majority of his battles. To his credit, he abolished feudalism, established religious toleration, legal equality and legalised divorce. The Napoléonic Code, established in 1804, forbade privileges based on birth, allowed freedom of religion and specified that government positions must be held by the most qualified. Adopted by nations around the world, the Code has formed the basis of democratic society.

The Waterloo Campaign was the climax of numerous European battles. By 1815 Napoléon's army, composed of 123,000 French soldiers, was considered to be the most

effective fighting force in Europe and was poised to attack the two forces opposing him – the allied army [82,000 men] commanded by Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington and the Prussian army [117,000 men] under Gebhard von Blücher.

Prior to 1815, with the threat of Napoléon ever present, the 73rd Regiment of Foot raised a second Battalion, composed mainly of volunteers from the Militia. Whilst a Highland Regiment, recruiting began in Nottingham and spread to adjacent Counties. Thus the Roll of soldiers includes many men from the NNWFHS area who were born or stationed in the locality at the time. Lagden, A. & Sly, J. [1998] have published the Roll of all those soldiers of the 2nd battalion who fought at Waterloo on the fateful day in June 1815, providing their biographical details.

A searchable index to this Roll is currently placed on the Members' Pages of the NNWFHS website; enquiries to carole.eales@talktalk.net.

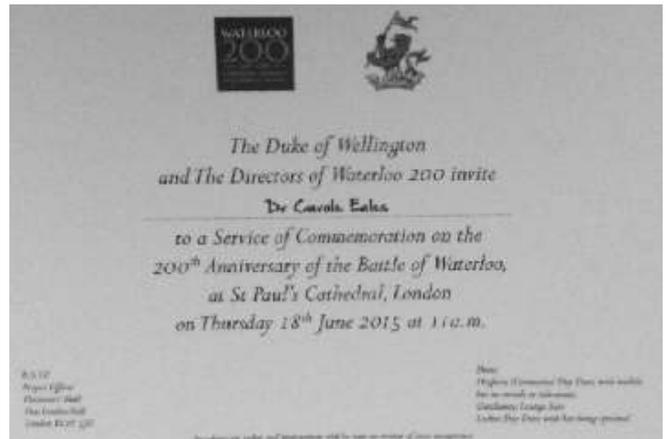
The battle which took place at 2km distance from the town of Waterloo, 15km. south of Brussels, is well documented [wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Waterloo] as is the outcome, the final defeat of Napoléon's army. However, 200 years on, we are soon to commemorate the victory, on 18 June 2015.

Waterloo200.org has been attempting to trace descendants of almost 37,000 soldiers who fought at Waterloo, each of whom received a Waterloo medal, engraved with his name around the rim, thus providing a unique record. My 3 x great grandfather, William ROLLASON [1780 - 1864], a weaver from Foleshill, was amongst those who served; unfortunately his medal is no longer held within the family, but if anyone knows of its whereabouts, I would be delighted to learn of it.

As a descendant, I was invited to enter my name into a ballot for a ticket to the Service of Commemoration at St. Paul's Cathedral on Thursday, 18th June 2015. To my amazement and great pleasure, I was successful and received an invitation:

I have accepted the invitation to attend and am very much looking forwards to it.

Carole A. Eales, 2015.



Ref: LAGDEN, A. & SLY, J. [1998]. The 2/73 At Waterloo. Including a Roll of all ranks present, with biographical notes. Privately Published. East End Green Farm, Brightlingsea, Essex.

NNWFHS JOURNAL June 2015

New members' contact details and (below) their surname interests

No.	Name	Address	Telephone No	e-mail
2014-36	Mr Richard Evans	Barley Mow Cottage, Main Street, Cadeby, Nuneaton, CV13 0AX		rpevans99@gmail.com
2014-38	Ms Elaine Partridge	107 Windemere Avenue, Nuneaton, CV11 6HJ		elaine.partridge@btinternet.com
2014-39	Ms Margaret Ball	108 Milner Road, Selly Park, Birmingham, B29 7RQ		margaretball@yahoo.co.uk
2014-40	Ms Helen Deakin	29 Chatsworth Drive, Nuneaton, CV11 6SA		hsdbrsem53@talktalk.net
2014-41	Ms Julie Winstanley	9 Woodland Green, Upton St. Leonards, GL4 8BD		juliewinstanley@yahoo.co.uk
2014-42	Mrs Patti Tomlinson	~		
2014-43	Mr Jeffrey West	Fosse Bungalow, Fosse Way, Stretton on Dunsmore, CV23 9JF	01926 633074	info@ebsuk.co.uk
2014-44	Mr Ralf Hunt	~		ralf.h@btinternet.com
2014-45	Mr Anders Hanson	Appt. 48 Mill Avenue, 2 Kelham Island, Sheffield, S3 8RD	07909 917195	a.p.hanson@gmail.com
2014-46	Mr Paul Horton	18 Francis Gardens, Warfield, Bracknell, RG42 3SX	07790 568229	p.horton@me.com
2014-47	Ms Sally Harris	~	01202 731574	sally-harris@ntlworld.com
2014-48	Ms Nicola Knight	2 Middlefield Lane, Newbold on Stour, Cv37 8TX	01789 450780	
2014-49	Mrs Helena Bates	86 Dene Road, Wylam, NE41 8HB	01661 852463	helenabates@waitrose.com
2014-50	Ms Trina Palmer	4 Hazles Crossroad, Kingsley, ST10 2AY	07881984271	trina.palmer@virginmedia.com
2014-51	Ms Jayne Sandles	2 Oakfield Gardens, Atherstone, CV9 1SA	07506 809075	jayne.sandles@yahoo.co.uk
2014-52	Mr Mike Pratt	6 Jasmine Way, Bedworth, CV12 0GU	7952403929	umike89@yahoo.co.uk
2014-53	Ms Lynda Latham	17 Arbury Avenue, Bedworth, CV12 8QF		Lynda.Latham@googlemail.com
2014-54	Ms Shona Campbell	51 Hendersons Line, Marton, North Island, New Zealand 4710		eggplants@xtra.co.nz
2014-55	Ms Jill Castellano	55 Viola Crescent, Sacriston, Durham, DH7 6QE		jillycastellanos@aol.co.uk

No.	Interest Name	Parish/ Town	County	Period
2014-36	ANKERS	Baddesley Ensor	WAR	1900 - 2015
2014-46	AUCOTT	Atherstone	WAR	1800s
2014-46	AUCOTT	Hartshill	WAR	1800s
2014-47	BAILEY	Nuneaton	WAR	ALL
2014-39	BALL	Baddesley Ensor	WAR	ALL
2014-39	BALL	Baxterley	WAR	ALL
2014-39	BALL	Grendon	WAR	ALL
2014-36	BLOUNT	Baddesley Ensor	WAR	1800 - 2015
2014-52	BROOKES	Birmingham	WAR	1840 - 1900
2014-47	BUNNEY	Nuneaton	WAR	1700+
2014-47	CHESHIRE	Nuneaton	WAR	1600+
2014-36	CHETWYND	Baddesley Ensor	WAR	1820 - 2015
2014-36	CHETWYND	Grendon	WAR	1850 - 2015
2014-36	CLAMP	ANY	WAR	1750 - 2015
2014-51	DAY	Atherstone	WAR	1800+
2014-36	DAY	Baddesley Ensor	WAR	1800 - 2015
2014-47	DAY	Nuneaton	WAR	1700+
2014-47	DAY	Stockingford	WAR	1700+
2014-47	GOLDBY	Nuneaton	WAR	1700+
2014-44	GRIFFIN	Atherstone	WAR	ALL
2014-47	HARRIS	Nuneaton	WAR	1800+
2014-36	HOLTHAM	Baddesley Ensor	WAR	1850 - 2015
2014-42	LAKE	ALL	WAR	1800 - 1900
2014-36	LYNES	Lea Marston	WAR	1880 - 1950
2014-41	MANSELL	Nuneaton	WAR	19 - 20 Century
2014-52	MILLS	Abingdon	OXF	1880 - 1940

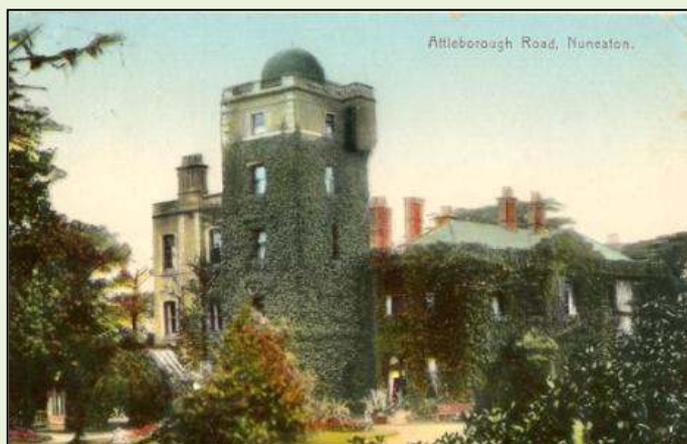
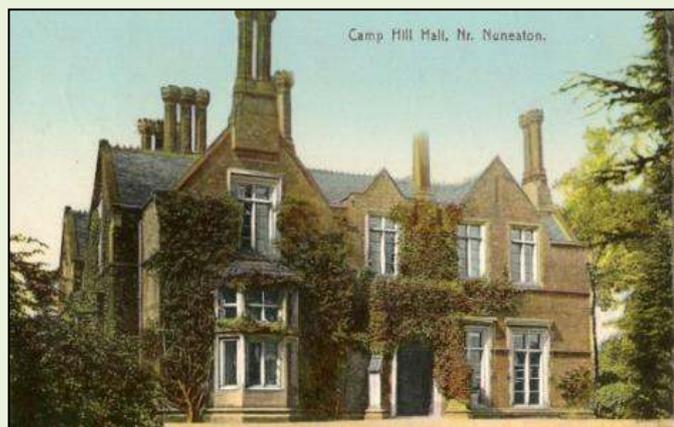
No.	Interest Name	Parish/ Town	County	Period
2014-51	NAYLOR	Birmingham	WAR	1900+
2014-36	NORMAN	ANY	WAR	1800 - 2015
2014-50	PALMER	Nuneaton	WAR	ALL
2014-52	PRATT	Birmingham	WAR	1810 - 1929
2014-36	RADFORD	Polesworth	WAR	1850 - 2015
2014-51	SANDLES	Atherstone	WAR	1800+
2014-51	SANDLES	Bromsgrove	WOR	1800+
2014-36	SOUTHAM	Grendon	WAR	1850 - 2015
2014-36	STRINGER	Mancetter	WAR	1850 - 2015
2014-46	STRINGER	Mancetter	WAR	1800s
2014-46	STRINGER	Nuneaton	WAR	1800s
2014-45	WAKEFIELD	Curdworth	WAR	Pre 1960
2014-45	WAKEFIELD	Kingsbury	WAR	Pre 1960
2014-45	WAKEFIELD	Water Orton	WAR	Pre 1960
2014-52	WEBB	Grendon	WAR	1850 - 1900
2014-36	WEBSTER	Atherstone	WAR	1850 - 2015
2014-43	WEST	Hartshill	WAR	ALL
2014-43	WEST	Mancetter	WAR	ALL
2014-43	WEST	Nottingham	NTT	ALL
2014-49	WHITEHOUSE	Birmingham	WAR	1800s
2015-52	WIGGINS	ALL	STS	1850 - 1900
2014-45	WILLINGTON	Curdworth	WAR	Pre 1960
2014-45	WILLINGTON	Kingsbury	WAR	Pre 1960
2014-45	WILLINGTON	Water Orton	WAR	Pre 1960
2014-36	WILSON	ANY	WAR	1900 - 2015

Change of contact details

2014-25 Mr Mark McGuckin 14D Devonshire Buildings, Buxton Street, Barrow-in-Furness, LA14 2RW

***Nuneaton and North Warwickshire Family History Society Quarterly
Journal June 2015***

Some of the great Halls of north Warwickshire from old postcards



Did one of your ancestors work in any of these halls, or on the surrounding estates?

*Did any of your ancestors **own** one of these halls?*

If you have an "upstairs - downstairs" story in your family please write it up and send it to the editor.