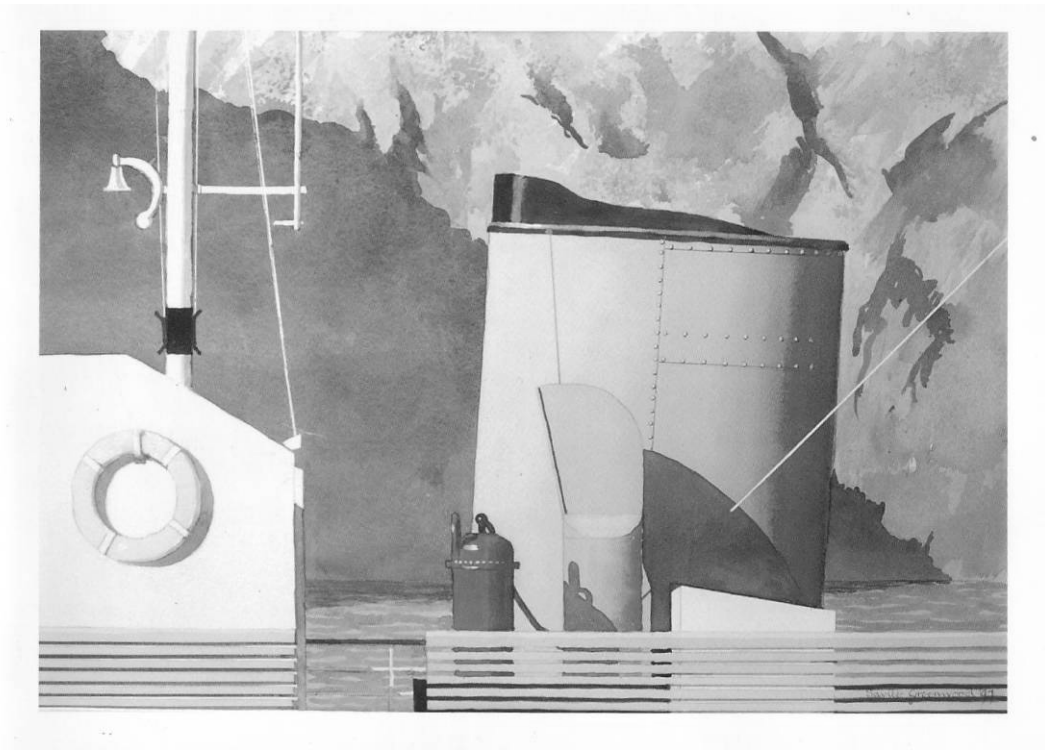


THE SCRIVENER



*The Journal of Calderdale Family History Society
Incorporating Halifax & District*

Number 130

SPRING

MARCH 2010

CALDERDALE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Incorporating HALIFAX and DISTRICT

Foundation

Calderdale Family History Society was founded on the 7th March 1985. Calderdale Council came into being in 1974 with local government reorganisation. The area covered approximates to that covered by the Ancient Parish of Halifax, with the addition of the township of Todmorden and Walsden. The Ancient Parish covered 124 sq. miles and is reputed to have been the largest in England. It stretched from the Lancashire border in the west, to Brighouse in the east, and was divided into 23 townships. These are shown on the map of the parish on the back cover of *The Scrivener*.

Aims

The Society exists for the purpose of encouraging interest in, and assisting with, the furtherance of all matters relative to the study of genealogy and family history research, and to record and preserve genealogical material for future generations. The Society meets on the fourth Thursday of each month and its journal, *The Scrivener*, is produced and distributed quarterly. The Society also hosts a website (www.cfhsweb.co.uk) and has a members' webgroup for the exchange of information.

Membership

Membership is open to all family historians who have an interest in the area. Annual subscriptions are £10.00 for UK individuals (£12.00 for family membership), £13/£15 for Overseas & £5.50/£7.50 for Internet membership. Internet membership provides the quarterly journal on the Internet, but not on paper. Subscriptions are due in April at the time of the AGM (cheques made payable to C.F.H.S.) and should be sent to the Treasurer. Overseas payments must be made in sterling, drawn on a bank with a branch in the UK, by Sterling Money Order, by Credit Card or through Ruesch International. Credit Card payments for subscriptions may be made over the Internet via Genfair (www.genfair.co.uk).

Publications & Search & Enquiry Services

The Society has an ongoing publications programme producing books, fiche and CDs. All enquiries regarding publications should be sent to our Publications Officer. The Society operates a limited Parish Register and Census enquiry service through our Enquiry and Search Co-ordinator. An up to date list of what is available is included in each edition of the *Scrivener*, on the Society's website or on the Genfair website if making payment by Credit Card.

Members' Interests

There is a bi-annual revision of the Members' Interests Book in which members can publish their interests by surname, showing research done, and information required, by date. A quarterly update is included in each issue of *The Scrivener*.

Research Room

For personal research the Society has a Research Room at Brighouse Library, open two half days a week.

Strays

The Society maintains an index of people born in the area who appear in records elsewhere ~ "Strays". Send details to our Strays Co-ordinator stating the name, type of event, place of source and place from where they strayed in capital letters, preferably on card 5"x 3", and in duplicate. Members who require a search of the Strays Index should enclose a minimum donation of £1 per name along with SAE.

Contacting the Society

All correspondence requiring a reply must be accompanied by a S.A.E. or 2 I.R.C.'s [International Reply Coupons]. The names & addresses (and email contact if available) of the Society's officers and co-ordinators appear in *The Scrivener* and on the Society's website.

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THE SCRIVENER

Publication Dates

Deadline Dates for Copy

SPRING (March)
SUMMER (June)
AUTUMN (September)
WINTER (December)

FEBRUARY 14TH
MAY 17TH
AUGUST 17TH
NOVEMBER 1ST

Data Protection Act.

As a “Not for Profit” organisation, we are not required to “notify” the Data Protection Authorities in the UK regarding the holding of personal data. However, you should know that we hold on the Society’s computer the personal data that you provide us. Furthermore, we make this information available to other members for the purposes of following up “Members’ Interests”. As part of this, those details are posted on our “Members Only” website, which, under certain circumstances, can be accessed by non-members. If you either do not want us to hold your details on our computer and/or you do not want your details made available to other members as described above, please contact our Membership Secretary by letter or by e-mail at membsec@cfhsweb.co.uk

Insurance Exclusions.

The Insurance which we hold for certain activities undertaken by Members is limited to cover for members under 75 years of age. Consequently, any member over 75 who is concerned about taking part in specific Society activities should contact the Secretary for clarification.

COVER PICTURE

“Commodore Queen arriving at Sark” ~ watercolour by Savile Greenwood, 1997.

This quarter’s edition of the Scrivener has a nautical theme, with a compilation of travellers’ observations on their journeys from Halifax to North America, between 1794 and 1907.

The January meeting had a talk about a convict’s transportation from England to Van Dieman’s land in 1833 ~ not a voyage made from choice, but perhaps a better option than the death sentence that was first meted out.

Savile Greenwood (1914-2008) was the son of George Greenwood and Annie Ellis, who lived at 3 Savile Row, Halifax. Savile trained as an architect and was an accomplished artist.

Editorial

Another year with nearly a quarter of it gone already and, hopefully, winter with it. In the south of England, where I live, there are signs of Spring, with early bulbs flowering and buds on the shrubs beginning to swell. I am glad to have proper heating, cooking and washing facilities, something for which many of our Halifax ancestors might have yearned.

Do you ask yourself “what have I achieved with my family history in the last year?”? I suspect that most of us are better at making the effort to find out little details, rather than write up what we have already researched. Of course, there is always more to learn about our families, but documents can be up-dated as we find out more.

I am indebted to those members who have submerged me with articles for publication this month. So many, indeed, that I have a few articles left over for our next issue. But please keep them coming, perhaps by writing up some of that research.

This issue includes details on Membership Renewal. You can find the appropriate form in the centre supplement (or the end supplement if you read this online). This may be done at the meeting, with a cheque to our treasurer by post, or on-line through Genfair.

Happy hunting to all family historians!

Rosie Burgess: editor@cfhswseb.co.uk

SPRING MEETINGS OF CALDERDALE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

**22nd April 2010
Annual General Meeting**

**27th May 2010
Kate Taylor ~ “How the Assizes came to Leeds”**

**24th June 2010
Kathleen Fishwick ~ “Henry Hargreaves’ Diary”**

All meetings are held on Thursdays, at 7:30 p.m. at the Shibden Room, North Bridge Leisure Centre, Halifax.

MEETING — THURSDAY, 22ND OCTOBER, 2009
MARY TWENTYMAN “SECRETS AND LIES”

Mary Twentyman's talk concerned her husband, Geoff's family history which was illustrated with slides showing family trees, birth, death and marriage certificates and excerpts from census records.

Geoff's grandfather, Thomas Jackson, on his death bed in 1932 wanted to tell his son, Edward, known as Ted, a secret but before he could do this he passed away.

Thomas and Margaret Jackson were Geoff's grandparents. His father, Ted, lived in the early 1900s at Hazelhurst Farm in Bradford. Thomas and Margaret had 14 children and Edward, together with his siblings, was called by the surname Jackson.

In 1931 Edward changed his surname to Twentyman. The family had always understood that the reason for this was something to do with gambling. Ted and his wife, Elsie, had 3 children. He was a gardener at Peel Park. Ted had a happy life but when World War II broke out he joined an infantry regiment and went out to the Far East. He was an anti-tank gunner but was injured. Whilst he was in hospital having an amputation on his leg, Singapore fell and he was taken by the Japanese. His family thought he was missing or dead and Ted himself did not know his situation. Eventually, whilst he was in hospital in India his memory came back and he was able to get news to his family as to his whereabouts.

Basically, the family came from Colbeck. They knew John Peel (of the well-known song). The family was very wealthy and Ted had been educated at Eton. Grandma had been a maid and had worked for the family who were not very happy when the young couple got married. One member of the family owned the largest leather manufacturing business in Cumberland, another ran a public house and someone else had been to Australia.

Geoff's dad survived the war. He obtained a job as a registrar at a cemetery where Geoff grew up. Ted never talked about his experiences or about the surname change of the family. Was he a Jackson or a Twentyman? Was this a secret? Margaret Jackson died in 1960 when Geoff was 13. She was not a lovable grannie. Two photographs of her have been found but there were none of grandad.

In the 1980s the speaker got interested in family history and started to research. She decided to investigate her husband's side of the family. Geoff and Mary went to Colbeck in Cumbria and looked in the churchyard where they found the grave of Lewis Twentyman and in front of this was one for the aforesaid John Peel.

Mary then joined Bradford FHS. She decided to look for her Clayton ancestors. This was done in the old way before the days of the internet and she managed to trace them back to Lincolnshire. She continued to research the Twentymans and wrote to Cumberland FHS but nobody was researching the family.

In 1988 whilst clearing her husband's parents' house she found Geoff's dad's birth certificate which gave the location as Cleasby, county Durham. Cleasby is in very low-lying country and is near Darlington. She found the family farm called "The Wild Duck" but the only buildings remaining were the outhouses and these were derelict. She met an old gentleman outside the local church who had access to the church registers where, much to her delight, they found details of Ted's baptism. Geoff's parents both died in 1989. His aunts had also passed away and his uncle was very frail so no information could be obtained from this source. Mary sent away for certificates and obtained one for Thomas Jackson's death at the age of 68 and another for Margaret Jane Jackson, who died aged 83. She was the widow of Thomas Jackson, farmer. She also received birth certificates for Geoff's aunts and uncles. She visited Huddersfield library and went through the indexes looking for the marriage of Thomas and Margaret Jane Jackson but could not find them anywhere which made her wonder if they had not been married. Was this another secret?

Through the 1881 census project at Bradford FHS the speaker found Edward Jackson (Geoff's father Ted). She started looking through her husband's mother's birthday book which was started in 1961. This gave four men each named Thomas Twentyman, located at Wigton, Cockermouth and Whitehaven. She went to examine the census and obtained the index for 1881. This gave Thomas Twentyman, born at Harrington in the Cockermouth area and another Thomas Twentyman, draper, in the Wigton area.

There are many Twentymans, some with different variations of the name, such as Swentynan. She employed a record agent to search for all the men of this name and then eliminated them all except one, Thomas Twentyman of Dockray, but he turned out to be of no connection to her. One relative had died in Australia in the Gold Rush. In the 1981 census was a Thomas Twentyman married to a Sarah Little and they had a son called Henry.

Thomas' father's will of 1901 was found. It stated that he left £4,000 to his son, Thomas, but if Thomas became bankrupt or "did sell or mortgage his estate" his father would declare him dead. Mary looked in the trade directories. In 1903 the mother died. It is thought that son Thomas either got the money and spent it, or disappeared, because he had no money.

Mary wrote to the Cumberland Times, asking if anyone knew a Thomas Twentyman and his wife Sarah. A lady wrote and said she was related to the family. She suggested that grandfather might have had another family and gone away because she had never heard from him. This letter said there were two brothers

called Norman and Charles who lived in Carlisle. The writer said she had a connection with a Thomas Twentyman who married Evelyn Ellis at Prestwich and they had two boys Norman and Charles. Geoff's granny was Sarah Little. She had children named Henry, Sarah, Elizabeth and Margaret. Nobody knows where the family bibles are or portraits. Mary visited Cawthorne where the family once lived. One of the residents knew the family by both names Twentyman and Jackson.

What about Margaret Jane Jackson? In the 1920 Cumberland News, Carlisle, there was a story about the sudden death of a woman 50 years old. She was the wife of a farmer named Thomas. They had been separated for 20 years. The woman was named Margaret Jane Noddle or Noble. Granny had 5 illegitimate children - Isabelle Twentyman Noddle, Margaret Jane Noddle, William, Florence and Alfred. Alfred Noddle had a grand-daughter called Belinda, who was from County Durham. All Twentyman families go back to one man born in 1400 at Great Horton in Cumberland.

In the West Cumberland Times there was a case concerning a Thomas Twentyman, labourer, who was in the workhouse, summoned for neglecting his children - Isabelle and Nellie Noddle. This was also mentioned in the Wigton Advertiser dated 29th August 1903. The family had lived in Abbeytown, Cleasby, Cawthorne and then Bradford. Today Bradford is full of people with the surname Noddle. There were a lot of secrets in this story and a lot of lies!

Margaret Walker

Putting the Sowerby Bridge Chronicle online

I knew that most of my maternal grandfather's relatives had been in Sowerby Bridge from the late 1870s onwards. Several months ago I decided to look through the local newspaper, the Sowerby Bridge Chronicle, for any mention of them. I knew that there were copies in the Sowerby Bridge Library but umpteen trips there would take a huge amount of time, not to mention money. I decided the only way to peruse it in detail in my odd bits of free time was to have copies of it at home.

I found out that the British Library also held the newspaper. I contacted them and was informed that they could supply reels of microfilm for £75 each, with three years worth of the newspaper on most of the reels. I didn't have a microfilm reader but was pretty confident I could rig something up so I ordered the years 1899 to 1901.

When it arrived, I bought myself a scanner which theoretically had adequate resolution but the images were rather poor. Eventually I found a method using lenses and my digital camera that would work but would be very time consuming.

I contacted the British Library again and asked if they had the facility to scan the microfilm images and put them on DVD. They could. Although this was good news, I was quite annoyed that I'd wasted so much time and money. I didn't have another £75 spare so the project went on the back burner.

Several weeks later I sent off for the DVD. I decided to concentrate on the back page to start with as it had almost all of the local news. There were stories from the whole Halifax area with emphasis on Sowerby Bridge, Ripponden, Mill Bank, Triangle, Sowerby, Warley, Friendly, Luddenden Foot and Norland.

I decided to make a searchable version of the back pages using an optical character recognition programme that could create pdf files.

Within a month or so I'd finished the back pages for 1899 and was feeling rather pleased with myself. I decided to upload it to the files section of the society's Yahoo group but found it was far too large. I looked for other ways to put it online but didn't find anywhere suitable. Annoyed, I put the project on the back burner again.

A few weeks later I came back to it and had the idea of making a web page containing the headings of local stories on the back page and the names of anyone mentioned in them. This could be searched by an internet browser then anything interesting could be clicked on and the relevant back page would be displayed. I knew this was possible but there was just one slight problem - I didn't know how to do it.

After some time teaching myself some basic HTML (web page coding language) I made a start.

To date, I've found a few brief mentions of my great grandfather, Herbert Ambler SUTCLIFFE, and the announcement of the death of his young son, Ambler.

I've also found a letter in the paper from Nimrod HOWARTH, a close friend of the Sutcliffe family, who my Mum knew as "Grandpa Howarth".

Oddly enough I've also found some information about my other half's great grandfather who was in the Navy, based in Devon. His ship was mentioned a few times on page two (which has the national and international stories).

As I write (early February), the back pages for 1899 and 1900 are online.

Here's the address: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~sowerbybridgenews/>

Good hunting
Roger Beasley (3104)
golon_beasley@btinternet.com