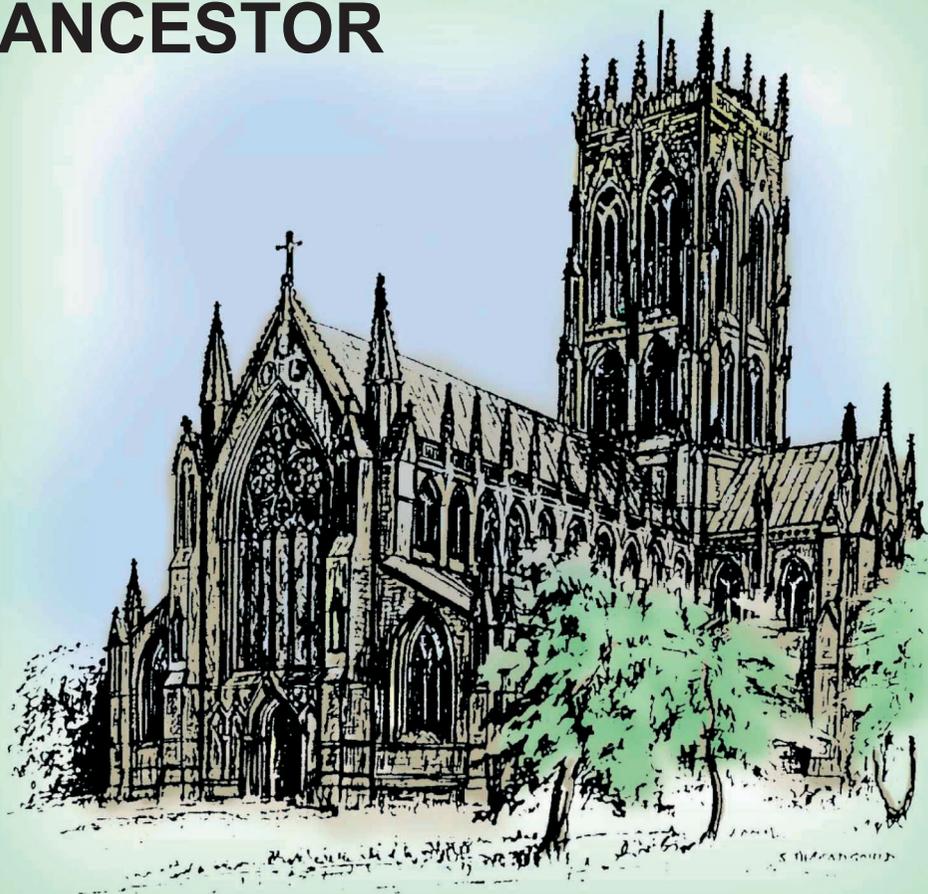


# THE DONCASTER ANCESTOR

ISSN 0144-459X print

ISSN 2633-8440 online



Doncaster Minster

S Threadgould

The Journal of the Doncaster and District  
Family History Society 1980 - 2020  
**40th Anniversary Edition**

VOLUME 30 No 3 AUTUMN 2020

# DONCASTER AND DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

[www.doncasterfhs.co.uk](http://www.doncasterfhs.co.uk)

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# THE DONCASTER ANCESTOR

Journal of the Doncaster and District Family History Society

Free to Members

Volume 30 No 3

ISSN 0144-459X

## CONTENTS

### Regular Features

From the Chair	2
From the Editor	3
Programme of Talks 2020	35
New Members	32
Members' Interests	33
Recent Publications by D&DFHS	5

### Articles

From the Postbag	6
Book Review	8
School Records	9
Doncaster Grammar School & The Railway Society	10
They Think its all Over; it is for Now November 1918	15
The Angel, Doncaster	17
If Only We Knew	20
Even if it Feels Like It, It's Never Over	22
V J Day Before & After	24
Massey Brothers on the Railways	25
Lucy Arabella Stocks Walker	30
Obituaries	32
V J Day 75 Years Ago	35

### Notices

Dates For Your Diary	35
D&DFHS Subscription Rates	36
D&DFHS Research Service	36
Transcription Service	36

Editor: Jenny Ellis  
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# From the Chairman



Thank you for renewing your membership and a warm welcome to our new members. Despite the coronavirus the Society's volunteers are keeping the majority of our services operating. I am sure you will have noticed that the Transcription Team are having another busy year judging by the number of new and revised publications they have produced.

## Announcements

- We have launched a limited free Research Enquiry Service. Trevor Betterton has taken on the role of Research Enquiries Co-ordinator.
- All the Society's events, including the AGM 30 September 2020 and the Annual Fair 3 October 2020, due to be held this year at the Doncaster Deaf Trust have been cancelled.
- The Society is investigating using Zoom for online meetings. More information will be in the next email Newsletter.

Finally, another skill I have learnt recently is baking. The results of my first bake, a chocolate cake, can be seen on the right.

Unfortunately, I am unable to share the cake with you so I am inviting you to bake and decorate your own cake to celebrate the Society's 40th Anniversary.

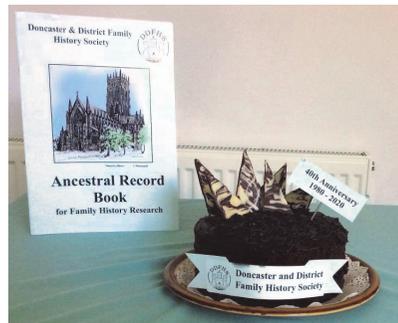
Please send me your selfies.

Take care.

**George W Hiley**

**chairman@doncasterfhs.co.uk**

24 August 2020



## Links:

<https://doncasterfhs.co.uk/society-publications-august-2020>

<https://doncasterfhs.co.uk/research-enquiry-service>

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/easy-chocolate-cake>

**Deadline for the next edition is 8th Oct 2020 at the latest.**

Please send in any articles, preferably as a Word Document.

The journal is published in February, May, August and November.

**Vol 30 No 4 Edition will be published in Nov 2020.**

# From the Editor

Hello and welcome to the autumn edition of Doncaster Ancestor.

Thank you once again to the people that have sent me their articles, which I hope you will enjoy reading. We don't have any articles about the start of the Society in this Ancestor but will feature one next time.

I previously asked for information about your railway ancestors and also stories about VE or VJ day and we feature both of those this time. Along with the rest of the country, all celebrations are on hold this year. I am a member of Children of Far East Prisoners of War (COFEPOW) and they have decided to celebrate 75 years + 1 next year. I have included a letter that was sent to me by someone whose dad was in the same Japanese POW camp as my dad. For me, "that was the icing on the cake", but I am sure there are other stories out there. Please share them.

I would like to know what you the members would like to see in the Ancestor, as I appreciate it has changed considerably over the years. I understand that we are all limited in what we are able to do at present, some more than others, but I like to think of us as a family with the same goal in mind. We are there to help you if we can. Life as we knew it is on hold, so this is our opportunity to embrace what we have and find those elusive ancestors.

Please note that we have resumed our Research Enquiry Service. Details are on page 36.

**Jenny Ellis**

**[doncasterancestor@doncasterfhs.co.uk](mailto:doncasterancestor@doncasterfhs.co.uk)**

## **Disclaimer**

The Editor reserves the right to edit and defer items sent for inclusion in this journal. It is the contributor's responsibility to ensure that items submitted do not breach copyright laws. Opinions expressed in this publication are those of their author and not necessarily those of the Society.

## Recent Publications by D&DFHS

Society publications can be purchased by post (see inside back cover or our website for full details) or through GenFair at [www.genfair.com](http://www.genfair.com)  
Please allow 21 days for delivery.

Goods can be returned within 14 days of receipt of order only if unopened, or found to be faulty, or if you have been sent a different item from that requested.

### New and Updated Publications

Whilst on lockdown, **Doncaster & District Family History Society** (DDFHS) Project team has, wherever possible, continued to transcribe and check records to enable us to add information to existing Parish downloads or produce information for areas that have previously not had a Parish download.

**Owston All Saints ref 1118 has been updated and now contains:**

**Owston All Saints Records Information, Owston Historical notes, Archdeaconry Map,**

**Owston All Saints: Baptisms 1600 to 1920**

**Dade Baptism Register 1777 to 1779**

**Marriages 1600 to 1940**

**Burials 1600 to 1956**

**Monumental Inscriptions, Cemetery map for MIs, War Memorials, and Directories extracts. Endowed Charities.**

**Airmyn St David ref 1145 is a new Parish download which contains:**

**Airmyn Historical notes,**

**Baptisms 1726 to 1926**

**Dade Register 1783 to 1812**

**Marriages 1726 to 1940**

**Burials 1726 to 1978**

**Cemetery map, Monumental Inscriptions, War Memorials, Directories extracts.**

**Thorne Cemetery 1921-1993 has been transcribed and added to the Thorne St Nicholas download, ref 1082**

**Wombwell, St Mary's Church and St George's Church (Jump) including Wombwell Historical notes, & War Memorial.**

**Wombwell St Mary: Baptisms 1864 to 1926**

**Marriages 1864 to 1940**

**Wombwell St George (Jump):**

**Jump notes & War Memorial**

**Baptisms 1880 to 1919**

**Marriages 1884 to 1940**

**Wombwell United Methodist Free Chapel Baptisms 1888 to 1899**

**Wombwell Primitive Methodists Chapel (Barnsley Road) Marriages 1907 to 1940**

**Wombwell Wesleyan Methodist Chapel (Park Street) Marriages 1917 to 1940 & Trade Directory extracts.**

**Hook St Mary**

**Baptisms 1688 to 1923**

**Marriages 1681 to 1941**

**Burials 1678 to 1945**

**Church History, Monumental Inscriptions, War Memorial, Baines' Directory 1822, White's Directory 1838, Kelly's Directory 1857, 1893 & 1927**

The Society has sold more than 100 downloads during April, May & June, thank you to our customers for supporting the Society and many thanks to all our Project team who continue to work hard to enable this information to be made available.

All our sales are available from **[www.genfair.co.uk](http://www.genfair.co.uk)** CD's and downloads are also available by completing the order form in the **Publication List** on our website. Please be aware that CD's are not being updated therefore some of the recent transcribed data will be missing on them. Contact sales at: **[postalsales@doncasterfhs.co.uk](mailto:postalsales@doncasterfhs.co.uk)** for further information.

Stay safe.

**Lynn Snowden, Project Co-ordinator**

## From the postbag /via e-mail

Dear George,

Thank you so much for sending out my query. I have been simply amazed by the wonderful help I have already received from your members, especially from Trevor Betterton, Philip Langford and Pattie Birch.

The information and primary source documents I have received from Trevor have clarified Lucy's parents' background and established that her family came to Australia in the 1860s. Philip also found the link between Frederick Bayley Walker and Crookhill Hall.

I will definitely contact Doncaster Archives and Local Studies although I suspect your Society's excellent researchers may have pre-empted anything they might tell me.

With gratitude,

Josephine

The above letter came about after Josephine contacted the Society and asked if we could give her any information about Lucy Arabella Stocks Garvin nee **Wheatley Walker** (born 1851 on the isle of Man and died at Moels, Wirral in Cheshire. She also mentioned that Lucy's father Frederick Bayley **Wheatley Walker** (born circa 1820) was residing at Crookhill Hall, Yorkshire.

Originally I was going to put this under "Help Wanted" but happened to mention it to Philip Langford and asked if he knew anything about Crookhill Hall, which I had guessed was Conisbrough area. Philp thought he had some information, and as they say "the rest is history".

**See page 30 for the full story of our research**

Hi Jenny,

I'm more than happy for you to put my thanks in the next journal.

I'm Doncaster born and bred, but moved to Gloucester fifteen years ago. I have family in Doncaster still, and friends, and pre-Coronavirus I used to visit regularly. I spent many, many hours at the Archives on King Edward Road, but with the availability of the downloads I didn't need to visit as much - it made it much more easy for me to research!

Aside from the fact that I live so far away, the publications make researching easier in other ways. The way in which the data is organised is excellent, particularly because it's in alphabetical order and especially because it's on a

computer application which allows for the searching of specific words. I've found family members that I previously didn't know about, because I hadn't come across them in census records or in the records at the Archives, and I've found the search feature incredibly useful when searching the Hyde Park Cemetery graves.

For example, I've done quite extensive research into my 3 x great grandmother's family; she came to Doncaster from Leeds sometime between 1868-1870. I couldn't find what happened to her son after the 1881 census, but when I purchased a copy of the Hyde Park Cemetery register and put into the search bar the plot number of his grandmother's grave (my 4x great grandmother - I was simply 'playing around', I wasn't expecting to actually find anything so valuable!), I found him - he'd died in 1887, aged 20 years. This then led me to his death certificate, which told me that he'd drowned in the Don. My next step is to look up his inquest - at the time I found all of this out, the Archives was closed because of the damage to the building. It's still on my to do list!

The point I'm making is that without your very modern and efficient publications and general service, I would likely never have located the ancestor. Alfred **Marshall** is not an uncommon name...

Another example is my Batty ancestor, Jonathan **Batty**. I knew he was born in c1737, but not in Doncaster. I suspected Kirk Smeaton, but had no proof. I purchased The Poor and the Law publication, which includes information about Settlement, and found that he'd moved to Doncaster with his parents from Kirk Smeaton when he was a baby. As an amateur genealogist, I'd never even heard of Settlement Certificates / Examinations, and so I would never have considered these documents and would most likely not have been able to trace Jonathan Batty's lineage further back.

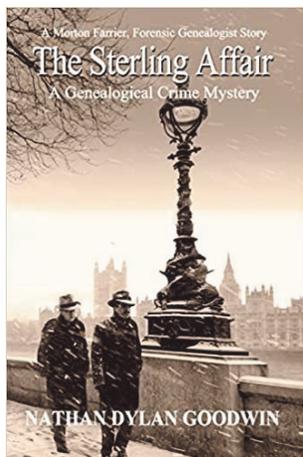
To date, I've purchased 28 of the parish registers. I've recently purchased the Schools Admissions Registers, which has proven very helpful, and the Canal Boat Registers, which unfortunately hasn't proven useful - my ancestors (Batty / Battie, watermen) - didn't own boats and weren't masters... but at least I now know this!

I have ancestors in Hull and Sculcoates, North Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, the Isle of Axholme and various other areas / counties, but none of the Family History Societies, or Archives, that I have come across have been as helpful and as organised, and as modern, as DDFHS.

Kindest regards,

**Samm Taylor, Member 4427**

## Book Review by Jenny Ellis



### **A Morton Farrier, Forensic Genealogist Story**

### **The Sterling Affair**

### **A Genealogical Crime Mystery**

**Nathan Dylan Goodwin**

When I was asked if I would like to review it, I was excited as I love reading Nathan's books. This is the eighth book in the series but can also be read alone.

Morton finds himself faced with the most intriguing and fascinating case of his career as a forensic genealogist, when he is asked to identify a man who has been secretly living under the name of a previously deceased person.

The story is very complex, with espionage and surveillance intermingled with Morton's own genealogical search after he sent off his own DNA sample, which indicates a disturbingly close DNA match.

When he is tracing his own family history, the storyline takes you there along with him, but not sure about the flavour of some of the scones he tried! You will have to read the book to get the answer to that one.

I really enjoyed reading this book, but then I have enjoyed all of Nathan's books in this series and look forward to his next one.

ISBN 9781696700252

**Editor**

# School Records

The first port of call for people researching their ancestors is usually Parish or other Church records. Baptism, Marriage and Burial information tends to be recorded before researchers begin to look deeper and put “meat on the bones” of their ancestor’s lives. Another source of information which is not researched as often is the school record. School records are not always available, not all have been saved, but the School registers also have a wealth of information besides admission and leaving information.

On a typical register each child will have the following information recorded:

Month & Year of entry (readmission if applicable)

Full name/change of name (if applicable)

Date of Birth

Father/ Mother/ Guardian’s name

Occupation of parent (sometimes)

Address (though this may not have a street number)

Previous school (if applicable)

Leaving date

Reason for leaving (this can be age, death or illness, transfer to another school)

Doncaster FHS have produced a download containing information from many schools in our area.

For further information on individual schools go to **[Genfair.co.uk](http://Genfair.co.uk)**

**Lynn Snowden, Project Coordinator**

# Doncaster Grammar School & the Railway Society

Doncaster Ancestor, Volume 3, Number 6 1988, contained an article on the above written by the editor Mr T.E. **Bowman**. The cover of the magazine depicted the school and had been drawn by Mr Stan **Threadgold**, as have been subsequent front covers ever since.

“Known as Hall Cross Comprehensive School, the school can trace its origins back to 1350, over six hundred years.

During this period the school was used in 1745 by General Wade’s army who camped here ready to resist Charles Stuart. Earlier in 1530 the school was closed for thirty years. The current building had its foundation stone laid in 186 and on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1869 the building was first occupied.

Older members will recall the previous ‘new’ school, later the Juvenile Library, prior to being demolished in 1970 when the widening of the road took place in St George Gate. To those who regret the change of name, we should recall the original school house was Old Hall Cross House at the junction of Waterdale and Chequer Road.

In 1814, the Mayor granted the Grammar School permission to wear the Borough Coat-of-Arms, Crest and Motto upon caps and jerseys worn for games.

In 1983 British Rail named a 125 locomotive power car ‘The Grammar School Doncaster 1350.’”

The recommended reading to accompany the article was Doncaster Grammar School (1350–1983), published by Countryside Publications, also the ‘Changing Face of Doncaster’ by Colin Walton, and Doncaster Yesterday and Today No 1 ‘About the Town’ by T.G.Manby.

The Homeland Handbooks Series, Volume 94 written by Ernest Philips states “The Corporation built a School in the Market Place about 1570, and utilised, part of St Mary Magdalene’s Church for the purpose. It was largely administered and financed by the Corporation, and their records contain items showing the varying salaries they paid the master. In 1649 it was £30 a year. In 1805 it had grown to £80, with a house. After many years it was pulled down, and it was then that the relics of St Mary’s Church came to light. The new school on Thorne road was designed by Sir Gilbert Scott and was started in 1864, and cost £6496, towards which the Corporation contributed £2000. It is thought that the roof of the principal hall is fashioned on the lines of that of

Westminster Hall.

Since 1936 the school had a Railway Society, and its president was the headmaster, with Messrs H.C.**Milner**, W.J.**Ball**, and W.E. **Mounsey** as vice presidents and A.F.**Cook** the secretary. (Danesis School magazine, Vol.37 No.1 December 1937)

Over the subsequent years the society acquired a large number of 'Railway Items' which was stored in the tower. (Did you see Michael Portillio's visit there on his television Railway programme?).

These railway items are now being moved into the former Museum on Chequer Road and into the new Museum, once the former home of Doncaster Girls High School in Waterdale.

Chris **Baron**, a former Old Danesian and Railway Manager, has been the project manager for the removal of the items from the school and their move to their new home. He has kindly provided the following information.

### **One of Doncaster's best secrets**

Hidden away in the heights of the clock tower at Hall Cross Academy on Thorne Road, is a truly remarkable collection of railway-related museum items. Very few people have seen this treasure trove as it can only be accessed by prior arrangement and involves a climb up a spiral stair that is not for the faint-hearted. Nonetheless, the Doncaster Grammar School Railway Collection is judged to be one of the largest and finest private collections in the country. So how did this fascinating state of affairs come about?

Going back to 1936 and the formation of a Railway Society at Doncaster Grammar School, which was then for boys only, this was a time of great public interest in the streamlined express trains being introduced by the London and North Eastern Railway under Nigel **Gresley**. These famous A4 locomotives were built at the Plant Works in Doncaster. New school buildings opened in 1939 complete with clock tower intended to house water tanks. However, insufficient pressure could be obtained to allow this use and the tank room became effectively redundant. The Railway Society took it over to construct an 'O' gauge model railway and initially this, together with a programme of talks and visits, was the main focus of the society. During the Second World War the tower was taken over as a fire-watching post for the town.

### **The Growth of the Collection**

After the war, the Society started to make many more visits to railway installations. In 1945-50 its secretary, David Anthony (Tony) **Pear**t of the fifth

form, persuaded members that activities should also include acquisition of railway artefacts. This was originally intended to be only a modest collection and almost certainly did not envisage the major collection it is today. After leaving school Tony went into teaching at Keighley and Chesterfield but carried on his growing passion for collecting railway items, often cycling back to his home town at weekends. He was supported in his endeavours by **H. Wilton Jones**, head of geography at the School, who later became deputy headmaster.

The two men expanded their collection at a time when the railways were undergoing great changes from the 1955 Modernisation Plan, in which diesels and electric locomotives were replacing steam, and from the line and station closures instigated by Dr Beeching during the early sixties. It was possible to acquire an increasing number of items long before a market in railway heritage had properly developed and much of it was seen by British Railways as no more than scrap. Sometimes they were entirely fortuitous – being in the right place at the right time. For example, nameplates were acquired from two locomotives destroyed in the Harrow and Wealdstone collision in 1952, the worst- ever peace- time accident on the British network. Although early items were funded by the Society or were donated, later ones were funded by Tony and Wilton from their own means.

I was fortunate to make a visit during November 2018, and took many photographs of the collection.



At an early stage, Tony and Wilton decided they wanted to create a resource

reference of all the “Big Four” pre-nationalisation railway companies, LNER, LMSR, GWR and SR. The collection therefore is representative of the whole country, though naturally there is a slant towards the rich inheritance of Doncaster as the location of a major engineering workshop and an important junction’s station on the East Coast Main Line. The items are small exhibits, encompassing locomotive nameplates, locomotive builders’ plates, train headboards, station name-boards and signs, lamps, block instruments and other signalling equipment and permanent way items.

Tony was fortunate that there was just one headmaster of the school between 1945 and 1964, Dr S.E.J. **Best** who allowed the growing collection to remain in situ. Writing in a booklet produced to mark the Society’s 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary in 1957, Dr **Best** coined the term “ferro-equinoloist” to describe a railway enthusiast. Successive head teachers, right up to present day, have been content to permit the continued use of the tower room. The Railway Society remained in being and flourished right through the sixties into the seventies, at one time one in six pupils were members.

### **An Uncertain Future and the Origins of The Collector’s Trust**

Things began to change in the seventies. The Grammar School firstly became co-educational and then a comprehensive and was renamed Hall Cross School. These changes, together with the diminishing interest of modernised railways, led to the eventual demise of the Railway Society. Without the Society the collection no longer had a true purpose, nor a recognisable owner, yet was too important not to be maintained and cherished.

Tony and Wilton decided in 1976 to create a trust to take ownership and to care for the collection into the future. They became two of the four initial trustees, along with two Old Danensians, Grahame **Boyes** and Fred **Curtis**. After the deaths of Tony and Wilton two new trustees were added, David **Rogerson**, a former teacher at Hall cross and Peter **Sargieson**, who had worked with Tony and Wilton for a number of years looking after the collection.

Over the years the Trustees have wrestled with the problem of how best to provide a new purpose for the collection. It was, and still is today, highly inaccessible. Throughout, the Trustees have always been clear that the collection is too important to be indiscriminately dispersed, and have sought solutions that would make it more accessible to the public and kept intact to honour the memory of the two men who created it.

### **The Long Term Future Solution for the Collection**

Various options considered over the years in conjunction with the local authority and National Railway Museum came to nought. But in about 2014 opinion started to form that Doncaster should honour its railway heritage better than it had in the past and, thanks to the work of the Head of Museums Service at Doncaster Council, the idea of a Rail Heritage Centre in the town took hold. The idea became a reality in July 2018 when the Council approved a scheme to fund and build a brand new Culture and Heritage Centre on the site of the former Girls' High school in Waterdale. The new building, now nearing completion will house the existing Museum and Art Gallery and the Central Library services of the Council.

Space has been allocated in the design of the Rail Heritage Centre, including tracks to house two full-size locomotives on loan from the N.R.M. York, and to display the Doncaster Grammar School Collection. The Trustees are now working actively to transfer the collection to the custody of the Council and to advice on its presentation to the public. A partnership arrangement with the Council is now in place to manage the considerable work required to make the collection ready for movement out of the school tower; a significant logistical challenge, and into the museum's custody, including, for the first time, the cataloguing of the several thousand artefacts. This was planned to occur at Easter but has had to be postponed due to the current pandemic.

The collection is too large to be displayed in its entirety, even in the new building, so it is envisaged selected items will be shown in rotation, usually on a themed basis. Items not on display will be kept in a new resource centre housed in the old Museum on Chequer Road that will allow specialist public access for research purposes by arrangement.

Once it does open finally, after seventy years since its inception, this remarkable collection will have a new purpose and, for the first time ever, will be freely available to be enjoyed by railway enthusiasts and the general public alike. The Trustees intend that, in due course, and subject to legal agreement that safeguards the future integrity of the collection in honour of the two men who created it, ownership will be passed to Doncaster Borough Council. They also intend to donate the nameplate as mentioned above to Hall Cross Academy in recognition of the support received over those seventy years. The name plate was carried on an Intercity 125 high-speed train locomotive no.43045 between 1984 and 2002.

If you would like to know more about the project to put the collection into public domain, or would like to be involved, please contact Chris Baron, himself a former secretary of the Railway Society at [cw.baron@sky.com.hj](mailto:cw.baron@sky.com.hj)

**Keith Crouter, Member 1623**

## They think it's all over; it is for now- November 1918

When Mayor **Jackson** got out of bed on the morning of Monday 11 November 1918, his first thoughts were no doubt about what lay ahead that day. He was new to the office of Mayor of Doncaster (only two days in post) and on this Monday morning he was to spend his first day on the bench in the court. He might have been confident; he might have been apprehensive, but it is almost certain that he didn't know what the day had in store for him.

He was nicely settled in court when his day was interrupted by a piece of terrific news: the Armistice had been announced. Although the recent successes of the armies engaged against the German enemy were widely known, after four years of terrible warfare people could only hope for an end to the bloodshed.

The news first reached Doncaster at the Gazette offices and after posting a quick news bulletin outside their premises, a messenger was sent pell-mell to the court to give the glad tidings. A hush descended on the court as Doncaster's leading citizen read out the message. It was impossible to continue with the proceedings amidst the spontaneous cheering and the news spread like wild fire as Mayor **Jackson** hurried to the Mansion House. A crowd gathered outside the building and before long the Mayor appeared to announce the news of the Armistice from the steps of the Mansion House.

Bunting and flags quickly appeared, the bells of St George's rang out and the town crier was sent out to ring the news wherever he found people assembled. As the news quickly spread in offices, in shops and on street corners, another reading took place from the Mansion House steps at 1:15p.m. before an impromptu procession was organised.

The Volunteers' band led the Corporation in parade along High Street, Cleveland Street, Printing Office Street, St Sepulchre Gate, Baxter Gate and into the Market Place. There the procession ended and there were speeches from Mayor **Jackson** and his predecessor, **Abner Carr**, as well as prayers from the Rev **Sandford**, vicar of St George's, and other religious leaders. After the hymn "O God our help in ages past", there followed three cheers for the King, the Mayor and for **Lloyd George**.

A tiring and yet exciting day. Would the peace hold or would negotiations collapse. The people could only hope and pray and be patient.

## "DONCASTER HAS DONE ITS PART."

The report that the news of the settlement had been received, spread like magic, and within a few minutes from the announcement being posted at the "Gazette" Office, there was a big crowd in the High Street, which greeted the Mayor and his brother magistrates with cheers as they made their way from the Police Court to the Mansion House steps. A few minutes later the Mayor (Councillor Jackson) stood at the head of the steps, accompanied by the ex-Mayor (Alderman Carr), and other members of the Council and the magisterial bench, public men and officials, and made a capital impromptu speech.

"I think we may well rejoice," said His Worship. "The very sky seems brighter this morning than it has been for many a long month." The Mayor went on to read the announcement of the armistice from a copy supplied by the "Gazette" Office, and this was received with enthusiastic cheers. "This is not yet peace," added His Worship, "but it is a long stride towards it." After the long, anxious months of war, the terrible destruction that had ensued, the awful misery, and anxiety and loss that had done to the homes of thousands in our land, it was with feelings of intense gratitude to God that we and our brave Allies had been able to hold on when the clouds had been black and everything had seemed to go against us—when there was only a "thin red line" between our enemies and the Channel ports. As our men held on, many a brave man had gone under and died for a noble cause, and to-day we rejoiced that truth and righteousness had triumphed again.

One or two events held in Doncaster suggested that the mood was optimistic. The 5<sup>th</sup> KOYLI had previously lodged their colours at the Mansion House before going off to fight, but in December 1918, in front of the Mansion House, they paraded to accept the colours back into their care. There were speeches on the steps of the Mansion House before the officers and members of the Colour Party entered the building for dinner with the Corporation.

**Doncaster Gazette**

**15 November 1918**

A few months later, one hundred and twenty-five returning British POWs were entertained in the Mansion House and a concert took place there immediately after the meal and the usual speeches by the current and past mayors and the Rev **Sandford**. A little while afterwards, there was a repeat welcoming entertainment for a further fifty POWs, who had been unable to attend the previous event.

There was still no news of a peace settlement after five months of the Armistice arrangements; there was still some time to wait.

**This article originally appeared in the Doncaster Times in November 2019**

**Richard Cuell, Member 2751**

# The Angel Inn, Doncaster

I have recently come across a letter dated 1699 and addressed to Mr. Turner at the Angell (sic) Inn in Donkaster (sic) via London.

I wondered whether any of your members might be interested in researching this name and address. I could also send a photocopy of the letter, which is very hard to decipher with very quaint spelling - although written in beautiful copperplate!

Looking forward to hearing from you - a project, perhaps in these dark times!

**Jean Rudge**

Trevar Betterton & Philip Langford deciphered it from the original and Eunice translated it in to modern English.

This is a copy of the letter and as Jean said, it is very hard to decipher. She is unsure where the letter came from.

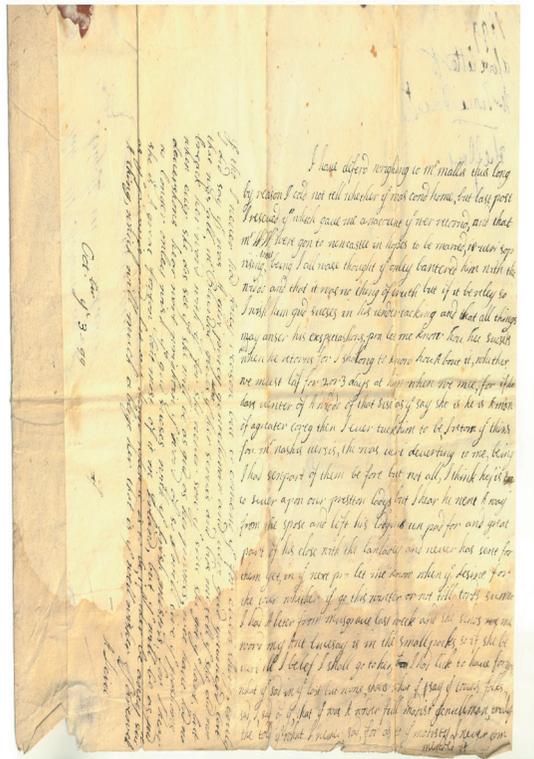
1699

Above letter to  
Mr Turner Doncaster  
Spelling charming

Mall

For

Mr Turner To be Left  
With Mr Twhaits att ye  
Angell in Doncaster  
Yorkshire  
By way of London



I have deferd wrighing to Mr Mallis this long  
by reason I cold not tell whether yo [you] was cond [comed] home, but last post  
I reseved yr which gave me anacount yo wer retornd, and that  
Mr W.W. were gon to newcastle in hopes to be maried, is veri sop-  
rising, to mie being I all wase thought yo onley bantered him with the  
widdo and that it was no thing of truth but if it be reley so  
I wish him gud suces in his undertacking and that all things  
may anser his exspectashons, pra let me know how hee succeds  
and when he returns For I shallong to know hou A bout it, whether  
we must laf for 2 or 3 days at him when we mee, for if he  
dars venter of a widdo of that sise as yo say she is he is A man  
of agreater coreg then I ever tuck him to be, I return ye thins  
for Mr Nashes versis, the was veri diverting to me, being  
I had senpart of them be fore but not all, I think he is  
to sever apon our prestton ladys, but I hear he went A way  
from the spose and left his lodgings un pad for and great  
part of his close with the lanlady and never has sent for  
them yet, in ye next pra let me know when yo desire for  
the toun whither yo go this winter or not till tords sumer  
I had A leter from Musgrave last week and she sends me  
word my Ant livesay is in the smallpocks, so if she be  
veri ill I belef I shall go to her, I had lick to have for got  
what yo sad in yo last but wone, that is what yo say if touns folks,  
sad I, sad of yo, that yo was A wonder full modist gentellman, truly  
the told yo what I never sad, for as to yr modisty I never com mended it

yo tho I never had Aney reason but to comend yo for everi thing, truly  
I did say yo was A veri pritey gentellman and veri gud yournerd but  
that was all, Mr Blundal gives yo her servis and bids me tell yo she did not  
breack her word with yo for she never sow yo sinc she got yo hart, but  
when ever she dos see yo she will be as gud as her promes, wee have had no  
devershons hear wort wrightin yo word of so I will tire yo pashons  
no longer onley wish yo gud suces with yo Irish mistris, for I hear  
she is A great forton but most of is in Irland, but yo will be as gud  
as yo promis mad let me know when it is to be, if ther be aney such  
A thing, which will much a blige her that is yo well wisher Farewell  
A Deiu

October the 3 = 99

**Translated by Trevor Betterton Member 1209  
and Philip Langford Member, 1702**

1699

Above letter to  
Mr Turner Doncaster  
Spelling charming

Mail

For

Mr Turner.

To be left

with Mr Thwaites at the

Angel Inn,

Doncaster, Yorkshire

By way of London.



I have deferred writing to Mr Mallis this long by reason I could not tell whether you was come home, but last post I received yours which gave me an account you were returned, and that Mr W.W. was gone to Newcastle in the hopes to be married, is very surprising to me being I always thought you only bantered him with the widow and that it was nothing of truth but if it be really so I wish him good success in his undertaking and that all things may answer his expectations, pray let me know how he succeeds and when he returns for I shall long to know all about it whether we must laugh for 2 or 3 days at him when we meet, for if he dares venture of a widow of that size as you say she is he is a man of greater courage than I ever took him to be. I return the things for Mr Nashes verses, they were very diverting to me being I had seen part of them before but not all. I think he is too severe upon our pressed on Ladies but I hear he went away from the Spa and left his lodging unpaid for and great part of his clothes with the landlady and never has sent for them yet, in your next pray let me know when you desire for the town whither you go this winter or not till towards summer. I had a letter from Musgrave last week and she sends me word my Aunt Livesay is in the Smallpox, so if she very ill I believe I shall go to her. I had like to have forgot what you said in your last but one, that is what you say your townfolk said I said of you that you was a wonderful modest gentleman, truly they told you what I never said for as to your modesty I never commended it. You thought I never had any reason but to commend you for everything, truly

I did say you was a very pretty gentleman and very good journeyed but that was all. Mrs Blundal gives you her service and bids me tell you she did not break her word with you for she never saw you since she got your heart but whenever she does she will be as good as her promise. We have had no diversions here worth writing you word of so I will tire your patience no longer only wish you good success with your Irish Mistress, for I hear she has a great fortune but most of it in Ireland, but you will be as good as your promise made. Let me know when it is to be if there be any success. A thing which will much oblige her that is you well-wisher. Farewell  
A Deiu  
October the 3rd 1699

**This version translated by Eunice**

## **The Angel Inn, Doncaster**

The town of Doncaster was developed around the Roman fort of Danum, served by the highway which followed the line of today's Hallgate and High Street. The Roman road later became the coaching route known as the Great North Road. The Old Angel, on Frenchgate, was one of the town's best-known coaching inns, and was previously called The Angel and also The Bear in medieval times. James I stayed there in 1603, followed, in 1778, by the Duke of York and the Prince of Wales. The Prince of Wales returned in 1795. In between the royal visits, the famous traveller Celia Fiennes stayed at the Old Angel, on one of her well-documented journeys around the country. The Old Angel was demolished in 1846, with the Guild Hall built on the site the following year and is now the site of Marks and Spencer's.

In a 1735 Rate Book, there is mention of Mr Whitaker at The Angel & Mr Mallin at 30 French Gate, perhaps this Mr Mallin could be the Mr Mallis shown in the letter from 1699.

## **If Only We Knew**

We are living in unprecedented times, today's actions and discoveries in dealing with the Covid 19 virus will shape and inform how Global Disease is dealt with by Governments and Medical Experts in the future. From identification of the disease to the response, management and eventual control of this major event there is coverage, debate and a variety of

conflicting advice dealt out in the media daily. Things will never be the same.

Media Archives will always be available to inform future generations of speeches made by Her Majesty the Queen and our Prime Minister. School children will learn how the virus spread, how cities then countries were locked down and businesses closed. How busy streets became virtually empty, how planes were grounded and cruise ships stranded.

The work of the NHS, care workers, food shop workers and other vital services will be recalled for years to come, there may even be a Commemoration day, who knows?

Future generations will also learn how the World returned to normality, slowly but surely, and how medical interventions, drugs and vaccines saved the lives of millions of people around the world.

But will they know the part you played in history? Did you stay at home and busy yourself with gardening, learn how to shop online. Did you shop for the neighbour who could not go out because of their failing health or did you have to rely on someone to shop for you? Did you queue at two metres distance outside the supermarket, maybe you were a panic buyer or found the supermarket shelves empty when you tried to shop? (Hope you are not stuck with 100 toilet rolls).

Many people continued to work in essential services, were you one of those who worked in the NHS with acutely ill patients, frightened to return home and take Covid 19 back to your family?

Did you have a street party, separated by your garden fence to celebrate VE day or wish relatives a happy birthday from the safety of your car?

These are the memories that only you will have, future generations of family historians will look back as we do and ask “why didn’t our ancestor write all this down? Why didn’t I think to ask when I was younger? When was that photo taken of the empty supermarket and who is that person?” Sound familiar?

**This is your story.**

**WRITE IT.**

**Lynn Snowden, Member 3909**

## Even If It Feels Like It, It's Never Over

Hi Jenny,

I don't know which of these encouraged me to send you an article for the Doncaster Ancestor: boredom re enforced isolation re the virus; your request for an article; or, perhaps, my excitement re my recent "discovery."

I thought that I had finished all I could do re the compilation of my family tree. Having done all the usual things : searched the census entries; consulted parish registers; examined probate records; looked at military records, electoral register entries and cemetery records, I thought I had done all I could do. Mission accomplished-or so I thought.

I spent time updating the family history in appropriate prose and filed everything away in the hope that the next generation would enjoy the read. In my mind I thought that it was all over. However, over a period of about three or four years several things happened that proved me to be mistaken.

The first surprise related to my paternal great grandfather. I had census entries, birth, marriage and death certificates, cemetery records relating to his burial, details from the electoral registers, a copy of his will, and I knew he had been an engine driver in London in the late Victorian period. Then, suddenly, his full employment record (three pages of it) became available on Ancestry; it had not been on when I had carried out previous searches. I now learned that he had driven steam trains on the early underground most of his working life, advancing from engine cleaner to fireman and on to being a fully-fledged engine driver on a rate of pay of 8/- a day - that is eight shillings (40p today) in 1879.

So, it was back to re-wording the prose. Moral-keep rechecking for additional sources.

The second find came about by accident. I was looking in back copies of the Doncaster Gazette for information on another matter. As I moved through the pages, a photograph caught my eye, a photograph I recognised; it was a picture of my maternal great grandfather. Why was that photograph there, I wondered.

Amazingly, the photograph accompanied several columns in which his life story was set out. I had previously found the same basic information as I had for my other great grandfather, but I had now stumbled on a more detailed version of his life, which helped considerably. I knew he had been employed as a gas inspector for Doncaster Corporation and that he had been born in a

little village near Towcester, in Northamptonshire, but there was a big gap in his story of about twenty years-apart from the census entries. The Gazette entry related how, after working as an ostler in the coaching inns in Towcester, he had walked from there to London seeking adventure and working in the fields to help support himself. He then took a boat from London to Hull and from there decided to walk to Sheffield. He had just reached the outskirts of Balby, on his way out of Doncaster, when he had a chance meeting with a stranger who informed him of job opportunities at the Great Northern Railway Works in Doncaster. To cut a long story short: he stayed in Doncaster all his life.

So, it was back to re-writing the prose. Moral-chance encounters can add to our knowledge.

The final discovery (at least the final find to date) is not only the most recent find (March 2020) and most certainly the one I value the most, but it has also been the inspiration for this entry in the Doncaster Ancestor.

My father was orphaned in the early years of the twentieth century and although he knew the names of his parents, that was it. I did what I could from all the usual sources in tracing his/my line, but was limited to the usual finds of census and register entries. For years I had accepted that the story would have to come to terms with these limitations. Then I was rescued by science; by DNA in fact.

My DNA entry on Ancestry provided me with possible links to others. I had not put my tree on the site, only my DNA and, of course, my name. The results showed connections with various others, those with the closest link being second cousins. I contacted nobody and, to be frank, had no great interest in it. This all changed when I was contacted via Ancestry by someone whose surname I didn't recognise at all, who provided sufficient information for me to believe that we must be connected.

He invited me to contact him directly as he claimed to have photographs that might be of interest to me. Oh, I was still suspicious, but decided to make contact and it has proved to be absolutely fantastic. It appears that a suitcase of old photographs, each carefully annotated and dated on the back, had survived from the first decade of the twentieth century and moved through three generations before being scrutinised by interested family members. The photographs, or rather the electronic versions of them, were sent to me and now I have for the first time, amongst other photographs and documents (over twenty in all), photographs of my paternal grandparents and even one great

grandfather (the underground train driver). Absolutely terrific.

So back now to adjusting the family history record. Moral-never give up hope.

**Richard Cuell, Member 2751**

## V J Day Before & After

In June 1944, just after D Day, I was called up a month after my 18<sup>th</sup> birthday into the Royal Air Force "For the Duration of the Present Emergency". After six weeks basic drilling etc. I spent a year training as a Radar Mechanic to be able to service the secret radar equipment carried in our aircraft and for which I had to sign the Official Secrets Act. I was training at Yatesbury in Wiltshire on V. E. Day. We were excused duties for the day and had a merry time celebrating with a big bonfire and lots of singing & gaiety. The Commanding Officer almost lost his Avro Anson plane on the bonfire because several airmen thought he wouldn't be needing it any more. In July 1945 I passed out successfully as a Radar Mechanic qualified to service & repair airborne radar equipment and was posted to Blackpool to await a troopship to the Far East as part of Tiger Force for the invasion of Japan.

In April and May of that same year the Americans had invaded Okinawa, an island three hundred and fifty miles from Japan and eventually captured it after extremely fierce fighting with the deaths of 12,500 Army Navy & Marines & 22,000 wounded. Japanese troops usually fought to the end & although some of them eventually surrendered, 110,000 died. It can be imagined that we thought our chances of surviving an invasion were rather slim so it was a great relief when the news came through in early August, whilst I was still at Blackpool, that atomic bombs had been dropped on Hiroshima & Nagasaki and had ended the war.

There weren't the same incredible celebrations as for V. E. Day because for a lot of people this was something quite remote, on the other side of the world, but for troops out there, prisoners of war, families & others involved it was an incredible ending to the conflict.

With hindsight, some people maintain that these bombs should never have been used, but although the people of these two cities paid a very high price, the casualties on both sides would have been many, many times higher and would probably have run into millions if they hadn't been dropped & an invasion had been attempted.

I imagined that the Present Emergency would now be over and that I would be demobbed but in fact I was retained by the RAF for another three years. In September 1945 I travelled on the SS Orbita to India, stayed a while in transit,

then sailed on SS Largs Bay from Calcutta to Rangoon in Burma & joined 194 Squadron of Transport Command, which flew twin engine Douglas Dakota aircraft from Mingaladon airfield near Rangoon. When that squadron was disbanded I was posted to 96 Squadron a few miles further up the Prome road to Hmawbi airfield flying the same kind of aircraft and after I had been five months in Burma 96 Squadron was posted to Kai Tak on the mainland of China, opposite Hong Kong Island.

In September 1946 I was transferred to 88 Squadron using four engine Sunderland Flying Boats, still at Kai Tak but now in the bay. In March 1947 I flew in one of our Sunderlands to Iwakuni in Japan for a short leave and visited Hiroshima, eighteen months after the bomb was dropped. The city had been completely wiped out, nothing but rubble, a network of roads, streets, leaning lamp posts and a few gutted concrete buildings as far as the eye could see. There were no people about, walking or living in the town but there were a few wooden buildings appearing on the outer boundaries. It was mind numbing to think that one bomb could cause such a vast amount of damage.

In April 1947 I was posted home on the SS Alcantara, & sent to the Empire Air Navigation School at Shawbury airfield in Shropshire and then in September 1947 was transferred to the Empire Air Bombing School airfield at Manby in Lincolnshire, where I stayed until my final leave in April 1948. My final official release was on June 16<sup>th</sup> 1948 by which time I had completed four years in the Royal Air Force.

**John George Laycock, Member 4256**

## **Massey Brothers on the Railways**

I have several ancestral families which lived in Doncaster town throughout the late 1700s, the 1800s, and the 1900s, and more who lived in the outlying villages. All migrated to Doncaster, a couple before the industrial revolution but most at the start of it or when it was in full swing. As well as the railway, my ancestors moved simply for work in the town; all moved from small, rural villages where the primary work was agricultural labouring, and where the demand for trades would have been much less than what could be found in a busy town. I also have Watermen/Boatmen ancestors. I know very little about these occupations, or whether my ancestors worked the canals or the rivers or both, but the Gardiner and Battie/y families in my ancestry worked on the waterways in Doncaster for over a century.

The main ancestral family I have who worked on the railways were The **Massey** Family. To date I have researched their lineage to Wisbeck,

Cambridgeshire in the mid-1700s. Massey is my paternal grandmother's maiden name.

### **The Massey Brothers of Wigtoft**

William **Massey** married Mary **Hare** in Wyberton, Lincolnshire on 6 Aug 1833. In essence William was the first of his line, having been born in 1799 out-of-wedlock to Eleanor **Massey**. He and Mary had five sons: William 1834, John Hare 1836, Joseph 1841, Edward 1846 and George 1849. The family were raised in Wigtoft, Lincolnshire.

The eldest three sons moved to Doncaster in the 1860s and began a lifetime working for the railways, a lifetime that continued through their descendants to the present day.

There were three William **Masseys** in consecutive generations, and so to avoid confusion I have 'renamed' them William I, William II, and William III. William I is the William **Massey** mentioned first, who married Mary Hare. William II is his son, the first of the family to move to Doncaster, and William III is William II's son.

William **Massey** II and John Hare **Massey** moved to Doncaster in the early 1860s, William in 1860 and John in either the same year or the following year. Their younger brother, Joseph, followed them some time later, probably in either 1867 or 1868.

#### William **Massey** II:

William **Massey** II moved to Doncaster in 1860. He had married Eleanor **Jessop** that year in Lincolnshire and their first child, George, was born there some time afterwards. By the end of August they had moved to Doncaster; George was baptised on 26 Aug 1860 at St James Church – The Railway Church. This is the earliest known date that the **Massey** Family were in Doncaster.

In the 1861 census William, Eleanor, and George were living on Low Street in Balby-with-Hexthorpe. William was working as an agricultural labourer. Eleanor would have been pregnant; their second child, William III, was born a few months after the census was taken. He was baptised on 29 Sep 1861 at St James Church. William II's occupation on the baptism entry is 'Railway Porter'. This is the earliest known date that William **Massey** II was working on the railways.

By 1864 the family were in the district of Newark, Nottinghamshire; their next child, Elizabeth, was born there. Then by 1866 they were in Great Ponton, Lincolnshire. Their next two children were born there, Eleanor in 1866 and Edward in 1868. Edward was actually born in a railway tunnel at Great Ponton! By the following year the family had moved back to Boston; their son Alfred was born there in 1869 and they were living there in the 1871 Census, when William II was a Railway Signaller. Three further children were born in the 1870s, all in Boston: John in 1872, Abraham in 1875, and Alice in 1877.

Eleanor died in 1879. She was 43. Her nine children, all of whom had survived infancy and childhood, were 19, 18, 15, 13, 11, 10, 7, 4, and 2. William married again nine years later, in Boston in 1888, to Caroline Mary **Hierons**. She was twenty-two years younger than him. They had one child together, Caroline, born in Skirbeck, Lincolnshire in 1889.

It doesn't appear that William II returned to live in Doncaster, but some of his children did. William, Elizabeth, Eleanor, Edward, John, and Abraham all settled in Doncaster, although some moved away in their later years. All the brothers worked on the railways. Edward, my great-great-great-grandfather, eventually became a Railway Station Master.

### **John Hare Massey:**

John possibly began working for the railway in the 1860s. He was certainly living in Doncaster by 1861. His eldest son was born there that year, baptised at St James Church on 20 Oct. Currently, the earliest known date that John was working on the railways is the 1871 census when he was recorded as being a Railway Labourer.

John had nine children born over twenty years, 1861 – 1881, both before and after the 1871 census. All were baptised at St James Church. John's occupation on all the baptism entries was 'labourer'. It's possible that he was a Railway Labourer. His children's birth certificates may provide more details.

However, John definitely worked for the railway from the 1871 Census onwards. He was predominantly a Railway Labourer, but he eventually worked his way up to Locomotive Yard Foreman, describing himself in the 1901 Census as being retired from this job.

### **Joseph Massey:**

Joseph appears to have moved to Doncaster in either 1867 or 1868. He

married Mary in 1867 in Boston. Their eldest child, Charles, was born the following year in Doncaster. He was baptised on 13 Dec 1868 at St James Church. This is currently the earliest known date that Joseph was in Doncaster. He and Mary had three children together in total, born in 1868, 1870, and 1871, but sadly they all died in infancy. Joseph's occupation on their baptism entries and on the 1871 Census was 'labourer' but, as with John, it's possible that he was a Railway Labourer.

Joseph was definitely working as a Railway Labourer by the 1881 Census and had become a Watchman by the following one, retired by April 1911. He died in Doncaster in 1921. His wife, Mary, was the last of the first generation of Massey Brothers. She died in Doncaster in 1930 aged 85. Joseph and Mary are buried together in Hyde Park Cemetery.

### **Massey Brothers / Cousins Second Generation**

William **Massey** II and John Hare **Massey** had numerous children between them, some of whom continued in their footsteps and worked on the railway too. Joseph's children didn't survive infancy.

#### **William Massey II's sons:**

William II's sons William III, Edward, John, and Abraham all worked on the railways. William III was a Blacksmith's Striker; Edward was a Railway Porter, a Railway Ticket Collector, and eventually became Railway Station Master; John was a Railway Porter and a Railway Wagon Painter; and Abraham started as a Carriage Cleaner before becoming an Engine Stoker.

John is recorded in The Plant Staff Registers. He started work at The Plant as a Wagon Painter in Feb 1889; he was almost 17. His starting pay was 4/8 increasing to 41/-. He left on 22 Jun 1929: retired owing to ill health. He had worked at The Plant for forty years.

#### **John Hare Massey's sons:**

John Hare's eldest three sons all worked on the railways. One son, another William, is recorded in The Plant Staff Registers. He started working at The Plant in 1877 as a Clerk. He was 12. He left that position after thirty-six years, on 5 Jul 1913, when he was transferred to the Locomotive Engineers Office. William didn't remain in Doncaster. At some point after 1913 he moved to Potters Bar in Middlesex where he died in 1948.

John's eldest son, George, also worked as a Railway Clerk, but his name

doesn't appear in The Plant Staff Registers. Another son, Charles, was an Engine Fitter then an Engine Shed Foreman, but his name doesn't appear in the Staff Registers either.

#### A Railway Dynasty:

When **William Massey** II moved to Doncaster in 1860, he began a bit of a railway dynasty. Two of his brothers followed him and worked on the railway. His sons and his nephews worked on the railways. And so did further descendants. William was my great-great-great-great-grandfather. His son, Edward, was my great-great-great-grandfather, and his son, Frederick Stanhope Massey, was my great-great-grandfather. Fred was my grandmother's grandfather and she has a vague recollection of him. He too worked on the railways – as did his son, Edward Stanhope **Massey**, and Edward's daughter – my grandmother. And it didn't stop there... another of Edward's daughters did, and her son and his daughter still do, to this day. Seven generations on the railways, beginning in 1860 in Doncaster, and still going strong.

#### Other Railway Ancestors

I have two other 'railway ancestors': William **Posit** and William **Thompson**. Both are my great-great-grandfathers. William **Poskitt** is on my mother's side of the family and William **Thompson** is on my father's side. **Poskitt** was my mother's maternal grandmother's maiden name and **Thompson** is my maiden name. To date I have traced my **Poskitt** lineage back to the mid-1600s in Birkin, North Yorkshire and my **Thompson** lineage to only the early 1800s in Wentbridge, Yorkshire (there's a whole other story there, involving a frequently changing surname!).

#### William Poskitt:

Like The **Masseys**, William **Poskitt** was one of three brothers who moved to Doncaster from elsewhere. He moved from Kirk Sandall in either 1881 or 1882. He was living in Kirk Sandall in the 1881 census, but married his wife, Mary Ann, on 14 Nov 1882 at St George's Church in Doncaster.

William was born in 1859 to George and Elizabeth **Poskitt**. Tragically, Elizabeth died when William was only 6 years old (and she herself was only 29), following complications in childbirth. She died on 29 Dec 1865 in Kirk Sandall and was buried two days later at Armthorpe, her childhood parish. The baby she had just given birth to lived for seventeen weeks before he too died in April 1866. He was buried with her. George remarried a month later, in

May 1866, six months after Elizabeth had died; however, he had three young boys, ages 8, 6, and 2, to care for.

George was a cordwainer. His sons Tom Henry and Arthur followed in his footsteps, but William did not; he trained as a carpenter. When the three brothers moved to Doncaster, Tom Henry and Arthur continued in the cordwainer trade, but William took a job as a wheelwright on the railways. After their marriage, he and Mary Ann lodged first with William's rother Arthur before moving into their own home on Upper Oxford Street. Then in the 1890s they moved to 10 Cooper Street where they remained for life. William and Mary Ann had eleven children over twenty-two years. Two died in childhood. Mary Ann died in 1918 at Doncaster Infirmary age 54. She was buried at Hyde Park Cemetery with the two children who had died young. William did not remarry and continued to live at 10 Cooper Street, with the help of his daughters, until he died in 1940.

### **William Thompson:**

William Thompson moved from Stubbs Walden to Doncaster in either 1899 or 1900 with his wife and children. He started working at The Plant on 28 Sep 1903 as a Gas Stoker. He remained working as a Gas Stoker until he retired on 7 May 1931. The family lived from 1900 – 1911 in Doncaster town, then moved in 1912 to Bentley where they stayed. William's descendants didn't follow him into The Plant or onto the railways; they went down the pit.

**Samantha Taylor, Member 4427**

## **Lucy Arabella Stocks Walker**

Lucy Arabella Stocks **Walker** was born on the Isle of Man on 28 Jan 1851 and baptised 24 Feb 1851 at St. Thomas Braddan, d/o Frederick Bayley **Walker** and Catherine [**Stocks**].

Frederick Bayley was born at Emley in 1818 or 1819 (some discrepancy depending on source), s/o John **Walker** & Mary [**Bayley**].

In the 1841 census (6 Jun) Frederick Bayley was resident at Clifton near Conisbrough, single, farmer employing six servants. His father John had probably been at Crookshill Hall as a tenant farmer at some time, although Crookshill Hall was empty at the time of the 1841 census.

On 10 Jun 1841 Frederick married Catherine **Stocks** at St Mary Kingston upon Hull and they returned to Clifton, where their daughter, Catherine, was

born in 1842 and baptised at Conisbrough 21 Apr 1842. The next two children were born in Tickhill; John Frederick baptised 2 May 1843 and Arthur Greaves **Walker** baptised 18 Apr 1846. Frederick Bayley **Walkers** profession was given as 'Gentleman'.

Sometime later the family moved to the Isle of Man. Catherine **Stocks'** father had been born on the Isle of Man. They were resident at No 1 Victoria, Conchan, with four servants, Frederick's profession was 'Land Proprietor' (Conchan in 1851 could now be Onchan, near Douglas).

By the 1861 census the family (less Arthur Greaves) had moved to 26 Whitehouse Road, Croydon, Frederick Bayley's profession was given as 'Gentleman'. Arthur Greaves appears to be at a boarding school in Merton, Surrey in the 1861 census.

The family (less John Frederick and Arthur Greaves) emigrated to Australia, sailing from London and arriving at Sydney on 7 February 1868 on board 'Canaan', a sailing ship of 840 tons.

According to the Department of Public Instruction, Lucy Arabella Stocks **Walker** was appointed Headmistress at Sydney High School for Girls on 8 Oct 1883. She must have had a good education to be appointed to such a post at the age of thirty two, although she doesn't appear to have attended university.

Lucy's mother, Catherine, died in 1887 and her father, Frederick Bayley, in 1901. Both are buried at Springwood Cemetery, Springwood, New South Wales.

She married William Charles **Garvin** on 23 Jun 1891 at St Jude's Church Randwick New South Wales using the surname **Wheatley-Walker**. Her profession was given as

Headmistress Sydney High School (Girls). One of the witnesses was her brother Arthur G **Walker**. Her father was noted as Frederick **Wheatley-Walker**; profession Gentleman.

William and Lucy had three sons, two survived into adulthood.

Sometime after her husband's death Lucy returned to England as a permanent resident, arriving at Southampton on 12 May 1928. She settled in



Lucy Arabella Stocks with other teachers

Moels in the Wirral, where she died in 1938. She lived with her son Hanson, a Merchant Navy engineer.

### **Trevor Betterton, Member 1209**

## **Obituary**

We have been informed that George Francis, who has been a member since 2001, has sadly passed away.

We have also been informed by his wife Andrea that Malcolm Nicholson of Wombwell died in March. Andrea says that they used to enjoy the monthly talks.

## **New Members**

Listed below are the names, and membership numbers of members who have recently joined the Society. We extend a warm welcome to them and wish them good luck in their personal research.

<b>MemID</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Initial</b>	<b>Last Name</b>
4436	Mr	W	Hornby
4437	Mr & Mrs	M & L	Storey
4438	Mr	J	Peace
4439	Mr	T E	Rowe
4440		L	Storrs
4441	Mrs	C	Watson
4442	Mr	P	Glover
4443	Mrs	A R	Roberts MBE JP

## Members' Interests

Detailed are new or revised "Members' Interests". At the end of each line is the membership number of the person researching that name. The names and contact details for each member are available from:

Members' Interest Enquiries (see inside back page).

Please note that Chapman codes have been used for counties. Full details of the Chapman Codes can be found on our website, If you do not have access to the internet, please contact a committee member to obtain a written copy.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Member</b>
Henthorn	WRY	Doncaster	1750-1800	4348
Henthorn	YKS	Yorkshire	1750-1800	4348
Hurst	WRY	Doncaster	1750-1960	4348
Hirst	YKS	Yorkshire	1750-1960	4348
Nicholson	WRY	Doncaster	1750-1820	4348
Nicholson	YKS	Yorkshire	1750-1820	4348
Postlethwaite	WRY	Doncaster	1850-1985	4348
Stacey	WRY	Doncaster	1750-1960	4348
Stacey	YKS	Doncaster	1750-1960	4348
Blackwell	YKS	Doncaster	1780-1880	4438
Horner	YKS	Doncaster	1800-1890	4438
Sherman	YKS	Doncaster	1800-1860	4438
Davy	WRY	Anywhere	1885-1945	4439
Rowe	WRY	Rossington	1910-1950	4439
Rowe	WRY	Tickhill	1910-1950	4439
Lawrence	WRY	Doncaster	1800-1999	4441
Lawrence	WRY	Mexborough	1800-1999	4441
Lawrence	WRY	Wombwell	1800-1999	4441

## V J Day 75 Years ago

My Dad was captured in Java in February 1942 and was shipped to Ube Japan in October 1942, where he stayed until the end of the war. He worked in a large coal mine called Okinoyama close to the POW camp. The mine was on two levels below the ground and was below the Inland Sea.

During mid July 1945 the prisoners were told that they were to be given a swimming pool but they would have to dig it themselves. They were made to dig a hole 60 feet long by 25 feet wide and 6 foot deep. They were aware of the probable use of the “pool” if the Allies invaded the Japanese mainland and were relieved when the first atomic bomb was dropped on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1945.

It is said that the second atomic bomb was originally planned for Ube, an industrial city and port, which was a short distance from the POW camp, and that it was only due to the poor visibility that it was dropped on Nagasaki instead.

Since joining Children of Far East Prisoners of War (COFEPOW) I was lucky enough to contact someone whose Father, Lieutenant Cecil West, was in the same POW camp as my Dad. Phillip West has given me permission to quote from his Dad's debrief document. The record states:

“I wish to bring to notice the exemplary conduct of Sgt. W Hudson No 1546081 89<sup>th</sup> Battery 35<sup>th</sup> Regt. LAA RA while POW at Ube Camp Japan. Although the Japanese refused to recognise non commissioned officers ranks and placed every obstacle in their way; Sgt. Hudson carried out his duties as an N.C.O. to the benefit of men and officers. His service and good conduct were a fine example to all”.

The above was written in Lieutenant West's own handwriting. The next piece was typed.

“9 AWARD DATA-OTHER PERSONNEL

I would like to recommend Sgt. Hudson 1546081 89 Btn. 35 Regt LAA for his organisation of the work in the mines and his general behaviour toward the men. N.C.O.'s were generally disregarded entirely but he retained the authority and respect of his rank with both the POW's and the Japanese”.

Paragraph 12 also stated that Sgt. Hudson was in charge of the fund with which foodstuffs were purchased for the sick through the Japanese civilian guards. This was under the supervision of Captain A. T. Greenway R.A.O.C.

**Editor**

# **Programme of Talks for 2020**

**Due to the current situation with Coronavirus, the Society has made the decision to cancel all of the talks this year  
Hopefully these will recommence next year**

## **Dates For Your Diary**

### **June 2021**

**The Family History Show, York**

**19 June 10.00 - 16.30**

**The Knavesmire Exhibition Centre,**

**York, YO23 1EX**

**DN2 6AY**

**Remember to check with the organisers before you travel**

## D&DFHS Subscription Rates 01 Apr 2020 - 31 Mar 2021

Please make all cheques/postal orders etc. payable to:	Individuals	£10.00
<b>Doncaster &amp; District Family History Society</b>	Family in same house	£12.00
Send to Membership Secretary	Institutions UK	£12.00
- see back page	<b>Overseas</b>	
or <a href="http://www.genfair.com">www.genfair.com</a>	Electronic journal	£12.00
	Paper journal	£15.00

**New Members who join January - March can receive up to 3 months membership free**

## DDFHS Research Enquiry Service

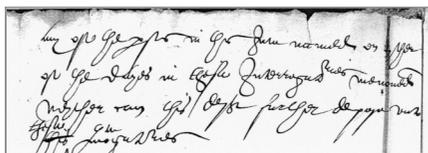
Due to the closure of the **HELP DESK** & to celebrate the Society's 40th Anniversary we are offering a limited free email Research Service.

The Research Service is primarily a "look-up" service and is limited to one surname search of the Society's 1.5 million transcriptions database. Any additional research will be at the discretion of the Society's Research Enquiries Coordinator, Trevor Betterton. **research.enquiries@doncasterfhs.co.uk**

If you are not a member we will endeavour to assist, but ask you to consider joining the Society as an appreciation of the time spent by our volunteers.

## Transcription Service

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Can you read it? We can!**



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**Philip Langford, 45 The Avenue, Bessacarr, Doncaster, DN4 5JZ**  
**Tel: 01302 539194 or email [readolddocs@aol.com](mailto:readolddocs@aol.com)**



