

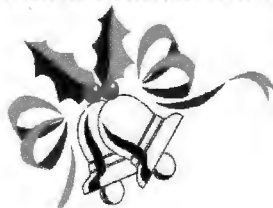
THE PARAGON

Journal of Stocksbridge & District History Society

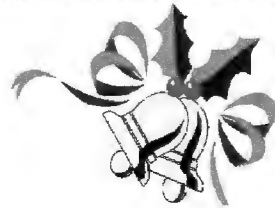


Issue Number 42

Winter 2005



Merry Christmas



Laws Of Genealogy

1. The document containing evidence of the missing link in your research will have been lost in fire, flood or robbery.
2. The keeper of the vital records you need will just have been insulted by another genealogist.
3. Your great-grandfather's obituary states that he died "leaving no issue".
4. The town clerk you wrote to, and finally persuaded to give you information, cannot write legibly and has no copier.
5. The will you need is in the safe aboard the Titanic.
6. Copies of old newspapers have holes which occur only on last names.
7. Great Aunt Mary's executor has just sold her collection of family records to a flea-market holder somewhere in London.
8. Yours is the only surname not among the 3 billion recorded in Salt Lake City.
9. The 37 volume, 16,000 page history of your county of origin is not indexed.
10. The critical link in your family tree is named Smith.

The Siege of Sheffield Castle

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STORY

History has often been written by the victors in a conflict.

HE SENT TO LORD FAIRFAX
FOR THE "QUEEN'S POCKET
PISTOL"

This is an account which includes a factor which was omitted by the official report. The Illustrated Guide to Sheffield, produced by publishers and journalists Pawson & Brailsford in 1862, gives this version:

Finding no chance of a surrender, Crawford proceeded to offensive operations. He constructed two batteries sixty yards from the outworks of the Castle, and from these he battered the walls with such guns as he possessed. He had but three, however, and these not large. After plying them for about twenty-four hours, he sent to Lord Fairfax for the "Queen's pocket pistol" and a whole culverin. When this ordnance arrived, a practical breach was soon made in the Castle

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walls, and the General prepared to enter by storm. However, he first tried the efficacy of another summons to surrender, and this time it was successful. It was agreed that the garrison should march out with all the honours of war, and without any of them becoming prisoners. A special provision was made for the protection of the Lady Saville, widow of the former Governor of the Castle.

This lady, who was within the Castle during the siege, behaved with great heroism. Though the attacking party refused to allow a midwife, whom she had sent for, to pass into the Castle, she was far from begging the Commander to surrender on her account. On the contrary, she declared she would rather perish than be the cause of the Castle being given up. It is said, however, that the soldiers, moved with pity for her, mutinied and compelled the governor to surrender. This noble-minded lady, in the midst of her sorrow and peril, had a child born to her the night after the Castle was given up.

WILLIS BURGIN'S DIARY - THORNE COLLIERY

After meeting these people with whom I was to stay, I knew that I would be alright. I used my cycle to and from the colliery.

On that first Monday morning I felt a bit nervous as I presented myself at the colliery yard office. The clerk asked my name and gave me a small board three inches square; the face of it was clay brown and had a number. On this board went details of the kind of work to be done that day, also my name, the day and date. Each morning the board had to be cleaned by using on it a piece of wet clay and leaving it to dry in front of the store fire in the snap cabin.



Transport in trouble at 'Flouch' corner
Taken some years ago—perhaps in the 1930s, any
ideas about a date?

My first job in the colliery was as a fitter's mate and I was able to see what was going on. Both No.1 and No.2 shafts were in process of being sunk and had reached a depth of 200 yards. The two shafts by this time were half-full of water, and to try to stop the inrush of water in No.2 shaft, wagon-loads of cement in bags and heavy chains were dropped down the shaft. My work was near this shaft and I

saw the sinkers come up No.2 in a large hopper; as they came out at the pit-top they were dripping with water from head to foot. Each man was clothed for the job, with oilskins and gloves; he would first take off the gloves and put his hands in a bucket of oily liquid to ease his red and aching hands and arms.

Under these conditions, only four-hour shifts could be worked by the sinkers.

Then the foreman of the yard asked me if I knew anything about "rope-running". Thinking about my rope-running at Deepcar I said "Yes". "Good!" said the foreman, and into my hand he put a six-foot pole with a piece of metal on the top like a pig's tail. I was told to report to the Loco shed and the driver would give me my orders.

So, here I was, standing on the footplate of the loco, pole in hand, waiting to be told what to do. I had a feeling that I had not done this before, although I had said Yes. The loco took full wagons of coal to the boilers and fetched the empties away; it was my job to couple and uncouple the wagons with the pole. It took me two weeks to learn to handle this pole correctly, but like other things, it was easy once you learned how. Onlookers were worried, watching me doing this job (I was worried myself!), but after three weeks, the regular man turned up, who had been off ill. Both the foreman and I were glad to see him back, and others too.

My wages were 19s/4d a week, hours 6 am till 5 pm, my board and lodging 10s/6d. a week. Each month I cycled home to Deepcar to take home

what money I had left.

The next time I did this journey, I took the news that Mrs. Faulkner had found a semi-detached house that we could rent for 12s/6d a week, rates paid.

The following week the furniture was on the move by rail. My brother Sydney soon got a job in the town of Thorne, the school was at hand for the younger ones and the colliery was only half a mile away. Mrs. Faulkner's shop was across the road, and here Mother did her shopping.

CHANGED TIMES

In the year 1910, to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Band of Hope Cooperative Society in Stocksbridge, Mr. Joseph Kenworthy was asked to produce a booklet to commemorate the Jubilee. Here he gives a brief description of the area in 1910 to show the marked improvement since 1860.

The present Urban District had over 1,400 houses and a population of about 7,000, good, well-lighted streets, five public schools, six churches capable of seating all who seek to worship there, two workmen's institutes, a well-used library, the cooperative society with its central stores and branch shops, together with dozens of shops, marshalled alongside the road from Deepcar Station to Horner House.

In 1860, comparatively speaking, there were only a few farm-houses and sundry groups of cottages, scattered here and there on hillside and roadside.

White's Post Office Directory of the West Riding of Yorkshire for 1861 includes the villages of Deepcar and Stocksbridge in the description of Bolsterstone. The information contained in this return of the Waldershelf side of the valley discloses the everyday aspect of our community in a way that cannot fail to help the reader in forming a fairly accurate estimate of the conditions prevailing at that time, and to that end justifies its reproduction.

BOLSTERSTONE is an ancient chapelry and ecclesiastical district and village situated on the summit of a lofty hill, 960 feet above sea-level, in the Parish of Ecclesfield, distant three and a half miles northwest from it, one and a quarter southwest from Deepcar Station, eight and a half northwest from Sheffield, and five south-southeast from Penistone.

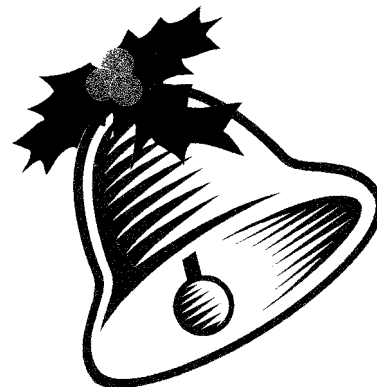
It is in the township of Bradfield, Wortley Union, in the diocese and archdeaconry of York and deanery of Rotherham. The church, or chapel of ease, (St. Mary) is a very plain, stone edifice, with low, square tower and one bell, and has a nave and aisles. The living is a perpetual curacy, valued at £128, in the gift of the lords of the manor, James W. Rimington Wilson, Esq., and others. The Rev. John Bell, M.A. is incumbent. Here is also a Roman Catholic chapel, erected in 1860 by public subscription. At Stocks Bridge is a chapel belonging to the Independents. Here is a National school, also a Free school, for the education of the children of the district born and residing therein, founded by Ralph Ellis, Esq.

in 1622, and further endowed by a devise of John Hodgkinson in 1780 with £40 per annum, and three acres of land with house and garden for the master. Coal abounds here. There are many coke-burners here who supply the Sheffield market. The population in 1861 was 1,904.

DEEPCAR is a thriving and populous hamlet and railway station, on the Manchester and Sheffield line. Here are chemical works and a large corn mill. A National mixed girls' school is erected.

ROYD, half a mile east, and Stocks Bridge, one mile north, are hamlets. Green one and three-quarter miles northwest, Townend one and a quarter miles east, and Yewden one and a half southwest, are places here.

C. R. Mallinson



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MEETINGS ARE NORMALLY HELD ON THE SECOND
THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH, AT THE LIBRARY,
MANCHESTER ROAD, STOCKSBRIDGE AT 7.00 PM.

THE PARAGON

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PROGRAMME 2006

THURSDAY JANUARY 12TH.

BETTY MCKAY WILL CONTINUE HER REPORT
ON RESEARCH INTO THE BACKGROUNDS OF
THOSE NAMED ON OUR WAR MEMORIALS.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WE APPEAL FOR NOMINATIONS TO THE COM-
MITTEE. IT IS HARDLY AN ARDUOUS JOB -
PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL ONE OF US DROPS
OFF THE END OF THE PERCH BEFORE YOU WILL
VOLUNTEER.



Thickett's Shop Manchester Road on a snowy
January 13th 1987

Society News

We have *two* items of wonderful news !

Bolsterstone Community Group,
headed by Frances Tivey, has secured funding for
the archaeological investigation of the Castle site.

The future of the Glasshouse is also assured now
that owners Mr. & Mrs. Skene have been given a
starting date for commencement of restoration
work and completion of investigation of the
interior. Throughout long and frustrating
negotiations the interests of our Society have been
represented by Robin and Gill Dow, owners of
adjoining Pot House Farm. Congratulations to all
concerned for their commitment and
perseverance !

