



STOCKSBRIDGE & DISTRICT  
HISTORY SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER

Number 12 Winter 1994



Merry Christmas



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Seasonal surnames:- Christmas, Noel, Nowell, Newell, Nowill, Yule and Youle.

These were originally nicknames bestowed on someone born on Christmas Day, one who had a feudal duty to supply a Yule-log to the Lord of the Manor, or even a man who had given a memorable performance as Lord of Misrule in the pre-Christian days when Yule-tide was a pagan festival.

The *Oxford Dictionary of Surnames* states that **Christmas** seems to have originated in East Anglia, and all the concentrations today are in the south of England, with one in Ireland.

**Noel** is both English and French. **Yule** is Scots and English. None of these surnames were found locally in 1672 - the nearest was a **Youle** in Sheffield and a **Nowell** at Hatfield Woodhouse. I have found none in the local Census returns for 1841-1891, but now, listed in the *Sheffield Telephone Directory* there are 6 **Yules**, 1 **Noel**, 6 **Nowills**, and in Stocksbridge 1 **Nowell**.

Brenda Duffield.

FOX GLEN

I have lived most of my life near Fox Glen so it has always played a part - mostly now in memory as it has deteriorated sadly and also become more of a "no-go" area.

I attended Deepcar Infant and Junior Schools from September 1936 to July 1942. No school dinners in those days, though I remember the envy when the older sister of one of my friends arrived from an out-

lying farm with a hot dinner. We walked, or ran, to school down Clough (pronounced CLOO) Lane twice each day and back. Each Thursday I was met at midday by the lady who lived in our farm cottage. She went to her parents' home, Clifton House, each week to help with the family baking day. I was given a basket containing a large, hot meat and potato pie to take to her husband for his dinner - quite a load for a small girl. One day while walking home balancing the basket, I was stung quite badly by a bee underneath my outflung arm. Grandma stepped in and I don't remember having to bring this pie any more after that.

We were not allowed to take the short cut along the path over the 'Brow' as it lead through the brickworks and past the glowing kilns; we were allowed to watch these from the road near the "big chimney". I wonder - did all small children believe, for the first few weeks, that this chimney would fall on them and so hurry past? We were forbidden to climb on the wall here up Carr Road, very sensibly, as there was a deep drop into the works - but I know of one now highly-respected retired teacher of Stocksbridge, who regularly walked along the top of this wall from the works' entrance to its junction with Clough Lane: and, obviously, she never fell off.

Just down Clough Lane from Wood Royd there was always a wild rose bush near to the stile where the stone had been worn smooth and was comfortable to sit on - possibly while we made sure no grown-ups were watching as we slid over to play in the Brow or paddle in the stream which flowed from the Glen.

TURN OF THE CENTURY  
CHRISTMAS

When you'd been ill, one of your first outings to test your legs, was always to the first seat on the top path in the Glen, where you could rest and gather forces for the walk home. This grew to be my Grandmother's favourite trip - no steps, no slopes to climb and always, in those days, a seat to rest on for a while. I'm told that it was my resting place one day during the war when I had decided to run away from home; but I returned quite soon when I found I'd forgotten to take my "sweet coupons".

I remember little about the bathing pool as I was not old enough to go when it was fit to swim in, although I recall being taken there by my aunts for picnics and had to guard the food while they swam. In Spring, the grass banks would be covered with daffodils but these gradually disappeared, probably into gardens. There were tennis courts too in the field at the top of the Glen but children were not encouraged. They were allowed to paddle in the small concrete and stone pools below the bathing pool. If you were wise you wore paddling shoes!

One of our 'forbidden' activities was climbing the waterfall facing the sandpit, quite a difficult feat. It has, apparently, always been forbidden, for only last week my elder daughter recalled one of her friends falling down this waterfall; the group were very frightened as they thought she was seriously injured, even dead, but no one dared to go for help as all had been told not to go there!

I remember playing on the swings and in the sandpit and taking my own small children to do the same eventually. We also played on the bandstand but I cannot remember any concerts there.

Mostly good memories then - spoiled only by the filling-in of the valley to provide a "speed track" for motorists who were, seemingly, unable to cope with the narrow Clough Lane and its hairpin bend.

J.M.Brown

*"I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

*A pocket full of money and a cellar full of beer*

*A good fat pig to last you all next year*

*Hole in my stocking, hole in my shoe*

*Please can you spare me a copper or two?*

*If you haven't got a penny a half-penny will do*

*If you haven't got a half-penny God Bless you !!"*

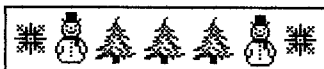
Christmas morning began with the brass band playing "Christians Awake", this was at around 8am. Christmas dinner was always ready when the Church-goers returned. It consisted of a seasoned Yorkshire pudding, followed by roast rabbit with stuffing. Pork and chicken were alternatives on the menu, leaving goose and turkey to the farmers and the better off villagers. Rabbits were cheap, a couple costing around 2/6d. We had parsnips, sprouts and potatoes - all home grown, served with white sauce and delicious brown gravy. Then followed the Christmas pudding, weighing about 10lbs and served with brandy sauce.

After a quiet afternoon it would be time for tea. We could still find room for bread and butter, fruit and custard, followed by mince pies and Christmas cake.

We used to spend the evening singing songs and carols to a piano accompaniment. The younger members were not forgotten, games were played and crackers were pulled. Crackers were very popular, as they contained party hats and printed mottoes that caused great fun.

The children of those days really believed in Father Christmas. It was a wonderful world of make-believe. Toys and gifts for children were simple, but nonetheless welcome, an apple, an orange and a bag of sweets, plus a new penny. Games that could be played by the whole family were popular but even these were simple, old favourites like ludo, snakes and ladders, and tiddley winks. Mechanical toys were scarce.

Try to imagine the delight of children whose sole wealth was a half-penny every Saturday - if they were lucky!!



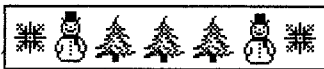
I came to live in Stocksbridge in 1940, so this is as far back as I can go with my local memories. The thing I recall most of all, and take note, this was in wartime, was the carol singers from the West End Methodist Church who toured the district on Christmas Eve. Most pleasing of all was that they always stood at the bottom of Mrs. Amy Firth's pathway in Horner House, so we could hear them really well and didn't mind at all being roused from our slumbers.

Christmas morning we had the added treat of the work's band standing in the same place and entertaining us with their selection of carols. I do believe I am correct in saying that the Salvation Army also played and sang in our area.

I used to break off from my lunch preparations to stand at the door and listen and contribute to the collection boxes which were brought round.

These happy events went on for many years, but unfortunately nothing stays the same for ever. Oh for the old times occasionally.

Muriel Harrison.



BREWING

In the 17th & 18th Century  
Final part

Engrossment

In the 1630's, magistrates found it necessary to issue instructions that markets be watched against 'badgers' buying up the corn, cornering the market and forcing up prices.

From the Wakefield Report

"...I found that the best wheat was the fourth daie of this instant March and for the space of one moneth before hath been at 21 shillings the load. Masslegen (wheat and rye mixed) under 19 shillings the load. clean rye about 18 shillings the load. Oatmeale about 22 shillings the load and the best beans above 17 shillings the load. . And that the 11th day of this present moneth was at 21 shillings the load...and at two of these markets I found it

necessarie that the poore people should be provided for by pecke and stroaks before the Badger who bought whole loads together.

Jo Kaye

Denby Grange ye 17th daie of March Anno Dom 1630/1"

It seems that maltsters were also active forestallers. A letter from the Council at Whitehall to Sir Francis Wortley

"After our hearty comendacions & whereas of late tymes great inconvenience and damage have arisen to this Kingdom by the excessive number of Maultsters now growne throughout the Realme by means whereof much waste & consumption of grain hath been occasioned & scarcity of Bred Corne hath happened besides sundry abuses are found to be practised by maultsters as well in buying of Barley on the ground before it be cutt whereby the Marketts are forestalled and unserved as by maulting it at unseasonable tymes of the Yeare whereby it becometh unwholesome in the use...his Majestie is now resolved of a Reformation therein as well as to lessen their number and to reduce them under government by incorporating in every County some able and meet p'sons for that Trade such as shall be allowed of & to take care to restraine & suppress the rest who if they shall continue the Trade after their suppression they must expect the severity of the Law.

Wee therefore by his Majestie's speciall directions doe require & authorise you to send for all the Maultsters as well within Corporations & Liberties as without in the divisions of North Clay and South Clay and Wapentake of Bassetlawe and let them know his Majestie's intention herein.

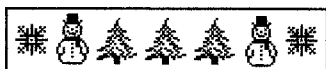
And for better information we have sent you here inclosed some of the articles wherewith you are to acquaint the said parties. And you are to certifie unto us the names of such who are desirous to be Conformable & live under government. And they are to address themselves unto us for our further directions betwixt the first of February and the first day of the Month of August next comeing. And here of you are not to faile as you tender his Majesties Service and so we bid you farewell from

*the Council at Whitehall the 3rd of  
February 1636 (1636/7)"*

Sir Robert Sutton replied April 1637, saying that he had received the above letter to himself and to Sir Francis Wortley, that Sir Francis Wortley was not at home either in his houses at Yorkshire or Nottinghamshire, and that he had left letters to be conveyed unto him. For his part (Robert Sutton) he will be ready upon all occasions

*"...to obey your Lordshipp's Commands as  
your Lordshipp's' most humble servant."*

(Acknowledgements and thanks to the Wharncliffe Estates and to Sheffield Archives for extracts from their deposits)  
W.E. Spencer.



**AND FINALLY !!**

If you were at the Annual General Meeting last February, you will be aware that the present committee was re-elected en bloc. Brenda Duffield and Mary Hepworth will definitely stand down at the next AGM in February 1995, and all members should heartily thank them both for the hard work they have undertaken *on your behalf!* Christine Herbert will become the new secretary and Del Carr will be the treasurer.

Now is the time to think about what happens next. The committee needs an infusion of new blood and ideas if it is not to become stale. **Ideally two members are needed to 'understudy' the posts of treasurer and secretary.** New members bring new ideas. The Society doesn't run itself - someone has to book the room, and collect the keys, somebody has to arrange for speakers - contrary to popular belief they don't just turn up out of thin air! Membership records have to be kept and the money doesn't take care of itself.

Think **NOW** how you might help the Society and your fellow members, After all, what would happen if there wasn't a committee? - **COME AND JOIN US!!!**

The Committee.

**PROGRAMME**

1995

JANUARY 12TH  
[VACANT]

FEBRUARY 9TH  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MARCH 9TH  
[VACANT]

APRIL 13TH  
HOWARD SMITH  
MORTIMER ROAD

MAY 11TH  
[VACANT]

JUNE 8TH  
MRS. J. McDONALD  
THE CUTLERS' HALL

**STOCKSBRIDGE & DISTRICT HISTORY  
SOCIETY**



**- CHAIRMAN -**

**BASIL SPOONER. TEL.288 4456**

**- DEPUTY CHAIRMAN -**

**PHILLIP SCOTT. TEL.288 2370**

**- SECRETARY -**

**BRENDA DUFFIELD TEL.288 2349**

**- TREASURER -**

**MARY HEPWORTH TEL.288 5295**

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

**NEXT NEWSLETTER  
MARCH 1995**

**PUBLICATION DEADLINE  
THURSDAY 9TH FEBRUARY  
ALL ARTICLES AND LETTERS FOR  
PUBLICATION SHOULD BE CLEARLY  
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SENT TO:- MIKE SPICK, % THE LIBRARY,  
MANCHESTER ROAD, STOCKSBRIDGE.**