



### The Tribe Which Didn't Wander

At the time of Edward 1st. (1272-1307) Adam was granted lands at Onesacre in Bradfield Parish by the Abbey of Wandrille. He was described as Adam de Creswick, so it is probable that he lived in a small settlement of that name in Ecclesfield parish, which is now remembered only by the names of several streets on the western edge of town.

Though the Creswicks originated at Creswick Greave, they do not seem to have stayed in Ecclesfield for very long. The surname became progressively well known in Sheffield though, as most of the family drifted there to work. Many became cutlers and three were Master Cutler in the 1600s. It is likely that Adam de Creswick was an early forbear of all these Creswicks and his name is at the top of most of their family trees, many of which centre round Sheffield. By the early 1400s, however there was at least one Creswick, a William, in London doing well enough to be a freeman of the city. He made a detailed will for all his extensive property. Much of it he left to his cousin John of Sheffield. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century some of the family emigrated to work in Australia and became founders the modern town of Creswick in Victoria.

There was one family of Creswicks that didn't wander and I believe that modern descendants are still to be found in or near Stocksbridge. They are the '*Branch that didn't wander*'. Perhaps they were less adventurous, but probably they were quite content to farm the land and put up with the rigours of Bradfield Moor for the sake of its beauties.

About 1620 a Richard Creswick was living at Ewden Lodge Farm, where he was gamekeeper of the Bradfield Estate's woods and moors. The farm is still to be found on the northern moor between Bolsterstone and Midhope. Richard died in 1649 and is buried at Bradfield.

Mr Wilson the Bradfield historian recorded that Richard's son William, had a copyhold lease on the farm and cut his initials "WC 1672" in a door lintel of the farmhouse. It the stone was removed many years ago. William's descendants stayed at the farm for nearly 300 years. The last Creswick tenant was another William who left to farm at Whitwell sometime about 1880.

And what is my interest in all this? This latest

William who died at Whitwell, was my great grandfather. One of his sons was Isaac, known to me only as a rather crusty old man. He lived with his daughter Edith Rusby at Bank View, Hole House Lane. Edith's sister was my mother Mary who married my father Sidney Froggatt in 1923 at St Mary's Church, Bolsterstone. I am the result, so I have always had a keen interest in Stocksbridge and everything round about. From my earliest years I spent many happy holiday weeks in Stocksbridge. So my early memories can perhaps be ranked with those of you who write for the *Paragon*! I still visit the area when I can, but it's not so easy from Cornwall as from Sheffield. I cannot now find the Creswick surname in Stocksbridge area, though there are a few in Sheffield.

My researches into the Creswick name and the places where they lived and loved have rekindled my interest in the history of the area and last year I was able to visit Ewden Lodge Farm. The present occupant was very welcoming and delighted to learn about the family who lived there for so long. He is the gamekeeper on the estate and it is fascinating to know that the wheel has turned from Richard Creswick, gamekeeper in 1620 to David Beaumont, gamekeeper again in 2000.

Recently I extended my research into a World-wide One Name Study of every person and every place called Creswick. I am compiling every scrap of information that could be useful to historical researchers. I have agreed to answer any letter that is sent to me and give any help I can.

The Creswick name may have left Stocksbridge, but there must be some of my distant cousins still alive and living nearby who have valuable knowledge that they could

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share. In return I will gladly pass on whatever I know, so that we can extend our knowledge. I know for example that the Creswicks married into families called Hey, Helliwell, Haigh (Hague), Crossley, Marsden, and Fretwell, Hanwell—all well-known names in the district - and that some of them lived at Whitwell Farm and at Green Farm.

Mr Wilson recorded that my great grandfather William Creswick had a pile of papers recording the tenancy of Ewden Lodge through the centuries, but I have been unable to trace anything about them. It would be wonderful if somebody did know and could tell me about them.

I promise that any letter, phone call or email will get a reply!

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## Remembering Stocksbridge Market - And 'Maggie'

**M**y late parents, Abe and Lena Ballin, were I believe, the longest attending stallholders in Stocksbridge market. At first my mother stood alone, before they were married, as my father worked in 'Vickers' East Gun Shop' on essential war work, that was in 1916. They continued their business as drapers until 1980, a total of 63 years.

The market was owned by Mr. Hoyland who was also landlord of the 'Friendship Hotel' just across the road. When he died, his son Dick inherited the market and collected the rents every Friday.

He also owned an engineering business and garage at the Flouch. The land on which the thirty or so stalls stood was an inclined field only suitable for grazing. There was a field gate on the Manchester Road, another gate at the top left hand corner, leading to allotments and yet another gate at the top right hand corner that led to a footpath across another un-arable field. The first line of stalls on the left were simply corrugated sheets nailed onto four supporting posts. At the top of the line stood an old garage used as a store for the traders, a block of primitive toilets and a one-roomed cottage. The room had a stone sink with cold water only, an open fire, a table and three benches. The market caretaker was a Mr. Mitchell. His wife would come into the cottage on Friday nights and provide hot pie and pea suppers and mugs of tea for stallholders and shoppers and in winter roast chestnuts were available. The fire was fed by an inex-

haustible supply of orange boxes from the fruiterer. The market was open until nine o' clock and the stalls were lit by 'Tilley Lamps'.

At the top of the market, facing the road, were the better stalls. They had corrugated sheeting at the back to give protection from the weather. A similar line of stalls stood at right angles and an isolated row of six stalls stood in the middle of the square. Any casual trader coming along had to use the ground to display his stock.

I remember some of the traders from the post war (1945) era. Many of them like my parents had been going many years. 'Dixon's Mint Rock' stall was one of the first as one came through the gate. They specialised in their own boiled sweets such as 'fish', 'fruits', 'marry-me-quick' and of course flavoured rocks. Their paper bags displayed a cart being pushed along by a horse, underneath which was written, "Don't put the cart before the horse, always buy Dixon's mint rock" There was a large hardware stall and a butchers stall with joints hung up in the open on hooks!

The top row of stalls was occupied by Jack Capps, shoes, menswear and boyswear, my parents' three drapery stalls, Bill Bates, footwear and last but not least, Nat Freeman, general dealer, but more about Nat later.

The top stalls of the vertical line were occupied by Joe Kay, his wife and their son Leslie, friendly rivals but good friends of my parents. They also sold drapery, but specialised in curtaining which eventually became their sole trade. 'Wards' the famous fruiterers from Wath occupied the few isolated central stalls. One stall at the end was used by a man called Irvin, who sold plants and bulbs.

Often casual traders would appear and if they couldn't get a stall they would sell from the back of the van or use a groundsheet. Many of these were

not regular market men; they were businessmen who needed some quick cash or who had bought some special stock at a low price. At least two of them ended up by becoming Sheffield millionaires and others certainly became very prosperous.

Shortly after the war the first line of rickety primitive stalls were taken down and a row of wooden huts was erected. These had electric light and fronts which let down and could be locked up. The other tenants were asked if they would like similar stalls but they all refused, they preferred their traditional method of trading.

They did agree to electric lights of course. The large bulbs were especially stocked by the Co-op who did a good trade, as they constantly had to be replaced. Stallholders were constantly taking them out red-hot and dropping them. By now, trading finished around four o' clock. The



Left to Right—Abe Ballin, Joe Thompson, Bill Bates,  
Jack Capps

Photo taken in the late 1960s

winters were terrible for the market men; the cold winds blowing down the valley often brought sweeping rain and of course snow. My father bought a paraffin heater and kept a saucepan of hot, home made soup or hot water boiling all day. Another problem was shovelling the drifting snow.

By the time that the market had moved to the site at the side of the cinema, all the old-timers such as Nat Freeman, Jack Capps and Bill Bates had either retired or died. My parents and 'Wards' fruiterers were the only original tenants left. No longer did traders shout (pitch) their wares, selling became more sedate and of course less interesting. The casual trader with a clearing line or job lot had disappeared. The final blow came with the advent of Sunday trading and car-boot sales.

In the old days, markets traditionally produced characters and Stocksbridge had its share. Jack Capps was a big, bluff Yorkshireman and an ardent 'Unitedite' to boot. He always wore a blue serge suit and dressed as if he was going to the office. His driver-salesman, Charlie was a tall lean man, as crafty as a cart-load of monkeys. If ever there was a chance of making a few extra pounds, Charlie was in on it.

Bill Bates was a dull miserable looking character. He always wore a trilby hat and a smock coat. He threw his shoes in heaps on his stall and served customers with a long-suffering air.

For years, 'Wards' the fruiterers employed a one-armed man, who weighed and wrapped fruit as fast as any two-handed person; but without a doubt, the greatest character of all, not only in Stocksbridge, but possibly in the country was 'Maggie'.

'Maggie' was the name by which the legendary Nat Freeman was known. Son of a Russian Jewish emigrant, he started life as a tailor, working at one time for the famous Sheffield tailor 'Barney Goodman'. Nat always wanted to work for himself and he started going to markets selling smallwares such as cottons, combs, razor blades and eventually threw in his lot with a similar minded lad, Louis Davison, who ended up owning one of Sheffield's premier warehouses. The partnership split up, Nat didn't fancy being confined to a warehouse. He started markets on his own. After a few years he cut down his workload and attended only the markets at Gainsborough, Wombwell and Stocksbridge. He learned to drive but after a terrible accident, he vowed never to take the wheel again and employed a regular taxi driver.

Nat acquired his nickname from his habit of calling every woman, irrespective of age, 'Maggie'. The 'punters' worshipped him. In each of his markets they would sit on his stall for hours, awaiting his arrival and they stood for hours afterwards, listening to his insulting banter, which they loved. The more he insulted them the more they bought. His remarks were often very near the knuckle but never cruel, degrading or obscene.

His generosity was boundless, if a woman looked hard up he would throw the item to her and would tell her to keep it. He also gave money to those he heard were in need. Everything he sold was at a knockdown price from blankets to suits, from toothpaste to watches. He never sold rubbish

and he never sold seconds. The procedure was always the same. He would arrive at eleven o' clock in the taxi. He left all the carrying to the driver while he stood smoking a 'Mannikin' cigar, exchanging smalltalk with the crowd. The goods would be placed on the stall but no one was allowed to touch anything. His daughter Connie stood behind the adjoining stall with similar goods but conducted business in a quiet and normal manner. By three o' clock he would have practically sold out, then the taxi would arrive and take him back to Sheffield. From where he bought his stock, which enabled him to sell so cheaply was always a mystery to the other traders. It was known that he had a close friendship with Louis Davison and he also bought in other Sheffield warehouses, but no one else could sell at his prices.

I met him in town a couple of years before he died. We spoke about the old days. I asked him, how did he manage to sell so cheaply yet make a good living? He put his hand into his inside pocket and drew out a bankbook. There was a very large amount of money in it.

"I didn't do so badly did I?" he asked, but he wouldn't disclose his secret.

My final words to him were, "Nat, how old are you now?"

"I'm ninety-two Sonny" he replied, he always called me Sonny.

"Then" I began "In eight years time you will get a telegram from the Queen."

Nat smiled, "If I last another eight years, I'll send the Queen a telegram!"

*N. D. Ballin*

## Troubled Times at Midhope and Bolsterstone 1630-1650

**A**t a period of English history when Church attendance was compulsory, the inhabitants of this Parish of Ecclesfield - the largest in the country - knew the hardship of having to travel to the Parish Church to worship, baptise their children, bury their dead and solemnise their marriages. Even after Bradfield Parochial Chapel was designated a "chapel of ease", they found the journey over the hill too arduous.

So in 1630 the people of Midhope petitioned the Lord of the Manor, Thomas, Earl of Arundel and Surrey, Lord Marshall of England, begging him to renew a grant of ten pounds a year, which had been granted by his predecessor, William Pembroke, for the maintenance of a Minister at the Chapel of St. James. This had been taken out of the tithes collected by the Lord's bailiff. The petition document is overwritten "am content that it be allowed for the present" and is signed Arundell Surry

Half-yearly receipts survive which show that Samuel Newman, preacher, benefited from this grant. But in 1634, when his place was taken by curate Matthew Booth, the petition to the Lord of the Manor, now Philip, Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery, had to be renewed The grant

## STOCKSBRIDGE & DISTRICT

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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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JULY 12<sup>TH</sup>

MR F COUPLAND

ROMAN BRITAIN

### AUGUST—NO MEETING

SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>

MRS E HOLLOWAY

THE HISTORY OF THE BRITISH RED CROSS

OCTOBER 11<sup>TH</sup>

MR P H PROCTOR

AUCTIONEERING

NOVEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>

MR A YORK

NELSON & HIS WOMEN

DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>

SATURDAY

CAROL SUPPER

### SOCIETY NEWS

The computer is now up and running at 574, Manchester Road, and we are busy putting in data. The 1851 Census for Stocksbridge is completed - that is Bolsterstone, Deepcar, and the hamlet of Green, which included the nine households comprising Stocks Bridge. The Hunshelf area will soon be added. To have a look at the system, please contact Albert or Betty McKay, tel. 288 2269.

The scanner will be used to copy photographs from the Library collection, hitherto kept in albums in the Reference section of Stocksbridge Library, and add them to Picture Sheffield, which is currently accessible in Sheffield Local Studies Library. Within the next three years Picture Sheffield will be available for public use at all Sheffield's libraries. The system allows you to browse through the collection, select any photograph and order a print, which would be produced while you wait. They are available in three sizes but only in black and white. To book a browser terminal, ring Local Studies on 273 4753

was confirmed and the document overwritten "until my pleasure be declared to the contrary", Pembroke.

Receipts signed by Matthew Booth show that the Earl's bailiff maintained the payments until 1638, but it is evident that the incumbent had not given total satisfaction throughout his career. Church records show that a Bishop's Visitation of 1632 had found that he did not always wear his surplice, that he had neglected to read services and administer sacraments, and eventually he resigned.

The Civil War undoubtedly would put an end to the benevolence of those who had taken up the King's cause, and after his execution, in 1650, a Parliamentary Commission was set up to tackle the problems arising. The recommendations were that Ecclesfield, Rotherham and Sheffield Parishes should be subdivided into eleven separate parishes: Bolsterstone, Bradfield, Ecclesfield, Midhope, Stan-nington, Greasborough, Rotherham, Tinsley, Attercliffe, Ecclesall and Sheffield.

But nearly two hundred years later, these recommendations had still not been implemented. An 1842 Commission reported:

**Bolsterstone No maintenance for a Minister. About 90 families.**

**To be made a parish church.**

**NOTE** There is a manor court at Town End in Bolsterstone which claims the right of proving wills and granting letters of administration.

**Bradfield.** A parochial chapel in the parish of Ecclesfield, the Vicar whereof hath third part of the tithes and the four other impropriators have all the rest. The vicar gives what he pleaseth to the Curates of Bradfield

**NOTE** There is a modus (tradition) in this parish to pay a halfpenny for every lamb fallen and sold after lambing time and before clipping time in lieu of all tithes thereof.

**Middup St. James.** Three miles from Ecclesfield. Maintenance £6.6s.8d per annum. To be made a parish, and Langside (Langsett) in the parish of Penistone being within a mile of it and two miles from Penistone, to be divided from Penistone and annexed to Middup.

There is no mention of HUNSHELF in the Commissioners' report, but of WORTLEY it recommended: Wortley, parish of Tankersley. Chapel £20 per annum. Thurgoland town to be dissolved from Silkstone, from which it is distant three miles, and annexed to Wortley, one mile and a half distant. The whole to be made into a separate parish.

HUNSHELF has never had a Church of England and until OXSPRING obtained its own church Hunshelf and Oxspring were served by the parish of Penistone, paying one quarter of the churchwardens' expenses, of which Hunshelf paid two thirds and Oxspring one third.

*W. E. Spencer*