

THE

*City of York & District*

FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

October 2020

# Newsletter

October 2020

– Membership Renewal Form included–

	<u>Page</u>
Update: .....	2
Research Room etc.	
Coverham Burials .....	<i>Jeanne Baxter</i> 3
Bolton Percy Terriers 1764–1825 .....	<i>Borthwick Institute</i> 4
Borthcat .....	<i>Borthwick Institute for Archives</i> 6
Gleanings from Exchange Journals .....	<i>Jeanne Baxter</i> 7
<b>Shipleys of Maryland</b> .....	<i>Thomas R. Shipley</i> 8
Membership News .....	<i>Roz Gray</i> 10
Members' Interests .....	<i>Roy Evans</i> 10
<b>Tim Owston 1957–2020: A Tribute</b> .....	<i>James M. Owston</i> 11
Tips from the Federation .....	<i>Family History Federation</i> 14
Free copies of Historic Wills .....	<i>The National Archives</i> 16
Bookshelf:	
The Better Half .....	<i>Geoff King, Ryedale FHS</i> 17
Things to do .....	<i>FHF FamilySearch</i> 18
Bedale PR Extract .....	18
Really Useful Family History Show .....	<i>Family History Federation</i> 19
Committee Members .....	20
The Research Room .....	back cover

THE

# City of York & District

FAMILY- HISTORY- SOCIETY  
Registered Charity No.1085228

## Application for Membership Renewal

Please complete the following in CAPITAL LETTERS and return to the Membership Secretary:

Mrs. E. R. Gray, 6 Loxley Close, York YO30 4XQ

Title: ..... Membership No: .....

First Name/s: .....

Surname: .....

Address: .....

.....

.....

Postcode: ..... Tel. Number .....

Email: .....

Additional name if Family Membership .....

<input type="checkbox"/>	Single membership	£15
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family membership	£20
<input type="checkbox"/>	Overseas	£15

### PAYMENT IS ONLY ACCEPTED IN BRITISH £ STERLING

Standing Order form available is available on the website or from Membership Secretary.

<b>NB:</b>	
<b>I wish to download the Journal from the website</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>I wish to receive a postal copy</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

THE

# City of York & District

FAMILY- HISTORY- SOCIETY  
Registered Charity No.1085228

## GIFT AID REGISTRATION

Membership No. ....

Title ..... Forename(s) .....

Surname .....

Address .....

.....

.....

..... Post Code .....

I wish the Charity to treat as Gift Aid donations all subscriptions donations I make from the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2000, or as the date of this declaration, until I notify you otherwise.

Signature ..... Date .....

1. You may cancel this declaration at any time by notifying the Society.
2. You must pay an account Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the Tax Year (currently 25p for each £1 that you give).
3. If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and/or Capital Gains Tax equal to the amount reclaimed by the charity, you may cancel the declaration (see Note 1.)
4. If you pay tax at a higher rate you can reclaim further tax relief in your Self Assessment Tax Return.
5. This form applies to UK taxpayers only.
6. Please notify the Society if you change your name or address.

In accordance with The Data Protection Act 2018, members are advised that names & addresses are held on computer for the purpose of compiling labels for mailing journals. If members do not wish their details to be stored in this way, they should please notify the Society.

## UPDATE

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### RESEARCH ROOM

*See back cover for details*

We are pleased to announce that the Research Room will reopen to members on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

Unfortunately there will be no 'turning up at the door' as this has to be a strict booking only system. Advance bookings can be taken from 8<sup>th</sup> September via email on our website 'contact us' or telephone 01904 412204.

It will be open as usual on Tuesdays and Thursdays but restricted to two-hourly sessions between 10am-12am & 1p.m-3p.m, allowing one hour for cleaning.

Hand sanitisers and wipes will be available but we must ask that visitors provide their own face masks, stationery and refreshments (cups, coffee/teas, biscuits will not be supplied)

Visitors must be computer literate as we will not be able to ignore social distancing.

Government guidelines and track & trace will be in place therefore spaces will be strictly limited to TWO visitors in at any one time.

Looking forward to seeing you all again soon.

Take care.

*Pam Elliott  
Research Room Manager & Archivist*

### DATA PROTECTION

All articles submitted will be published under the contributor's name and membership number, enabling interested readers to identify the source.

Contributors who wish their contact details to be published alongside must state this in writing. Readers may otherwise make contact with the contributor via the Editor or the Membership Secretary (see inner front cover).

For as long as their Kew site is closed to visitors, The National Archives are allowing free access to digital records: details on p.16

[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/news/digital-downloads/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/news/digital-downloads/)

Many thanks as ever to all those who have contributed to this Newsletter. Without your contributions at this time of no meetings it will become very limited!

*Ed.*

## COVERHAM, COVERDALE

*Jeanne Baxter (member no.3)*

**W**hile checking the Coverham burials register which covers 1813 to 11<sup>th</sup> June 1925, and appears on *FindMyPast*, I found the following notes, added by the Vicar, which puts a little flesh on the bones.

**John Vale**, a jockey killed by lightning on Middleham Moor, of Brecongill, aged 19, buried 25 April 1847

**Mary Ann Render**, aged 2 years, of Melmerby, killed by drinking water hot from the teapot. Buried 16 May 1847.

**Mary Ann Laycock**, aged 13, buried 21 August 1864. Killed in a threshing machine at Tup Gill.

**James Fieldhouse**, aged 16, of Tup Gill, buried 23 June 1868. This boy and his horse were killed by lightning when on the road from Middleham High Moor on Saturday, June 20, 1868.

**Alkelda Barbara Dawson de Coverdale Dawson–Duffield**, aged 9 years and **Roger Dawson Dawson-Duffield** (Count Dawson-Duffield) aged 55 Years, both of Sephton Rectory, both buried on 27 August 1870.

**Joseph Stubbs**, aged 42, of Swineside, buried 7 May 1874. Found dead on Swineside Moor a short time after he had left his home early in the morning of Monday, May 4.

**John Morrell**, aged 27, of West Scafton, buried 28 August 1874. Found dead on the footpath at Scafton Bridge.

**John Simpson**, aged 43, of Ilton, Masham, buried 10 September 1874. Died suddenly when shepherding on a moor. One man (named **Constantine**) was with him.

**Christopher Yeoman**, aged 6 years, of The Ashes, Caldbergh, buried 15 February 1879. Killed by drinking part of a pint of gin on his way home from “Lady Bab”; an older brother having been sent for it.

## BOLTON PERCY TERRIERS 1764–1825

These extracts from the accounts on film held at the Borthwick Institute [B/P 9-14 film MF.1769] give names in the village and an opportunity to see signatures, though some are difficult to read and perhaps not 100% accurate in transcription.

Details of payments to bellringers, commune wine, church repairs, registers, etc. are shown. The villages of Appleton, Bolton, Colton and Steeton are named

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1729–30: accounts were examin'd & allowe'd by us:

**Jonathan Dryden** - Curate

Old Church-Wardens (*all signed*)

**Stephen Hodgson**

**Thomas Scot**

**Robert Dalby**

**Thomas Camfrey (?)**

**Chris Bigwell**

**Richard Sanderson**

**Richard Wade (?)**

**Joseph Fletcher**

1734: **Jonathan Dryden** - Curate

Old Church-Wardens

**John Savage**

**Miles M Leaks'** mark

**Thomas Marshall**

**Robt. R Doughtys'** mark

**Matthew Huntar**

**Stephen Hodgson**

**Ben X jamin Rennalds'** mark

**John Killby**

**Joseph Fletcher**

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Churchwardens (the years are not in chronological order in the film of the book)

1679 **Thomas Myers**  
**Alexander X Baghlay** mark  
**Willm. > Nelson** mark

1684 **Thomas Myers**  
**Matthew Hanson**  
**Robert Hawley**  
**Philip Mason**

1688 **Hen. Scott**  
**Roger Clarkson**  
**Robart Stephenson**

1695 **Joseph Houseman**  
**Richard P Suttell** mark  
**Robert H Hill** mark  
**John Rennison**

1698 **W. Pearson R<sup>v</sup>.**  
**Robert Savage**  
**Robert Scatcherd**

1680 **John Jackson**

1686 **John Wife**  
**Thomas T Robason** mark  
**Will I Hay** mark  
**George Richmond**

1673 **Henry H Howsman** mark

1696 **Robert Wharton**  
**Roger X Clarkson** mark  
**Robert R Couper** mark  
**John +-+Thomlinson** mark

1699 **Chra: Day** Curate  
**William Tate**  
**William Bell**  
**Francis Beckwith**  
**Robert Savage**

1720	<b>John Walker</b> Curate <b>Stephen Hodgson</b> <b>Henry Tate</b> <b>Thomas Scott</b> <b>John Rennison</b>	+ Old Churchwardens: <b>Christopher Brigwell</b> <b>Richard Thompson</b> <b>Richard Sanderson</b> <b>Henry Thomson</b> <b>Joseph Carrack</b>
1725	<b>Jonathan Dryden</b> Curate <b>Will: Stephenson</b> <b>Thomas Cawood</b> <b>James Smith</b> <b>William Robinson</b>	+ Old Churchwardens: <b>Henry Housman</b> <b>Robert Denton</b> <b>Henry Thomson</b> <b>Matthew Huntay</b> <b>Christopher Brigwell</b> <b>William Fletcher</b>
[1730 & 1734 shown above]		
1740	<b>John Wise</b> Curate <b>Stephen Hodgson</b> <b>Christopher Denton</b> <b>Robert Bouth</b> <b>Robert Hullay</b>	+ Old Churchwardens: <b>Matthew Hawlay</b> <b>Thomas Scot</b> <b>John Bentlay</b> <b>Joseph Fletcher</b>
1745	<b>J. Wise</b> Curate <b>T. Marshall</b> <b>Wm. Mollett</b> <b>R. Jeff</b> <b>Ric. Savage</b>	+ Old Churchwardens: <b>Matthew Hawlay</b> <b>John X Walls</b> mark <b>Joseph Fletcher</b>
[1750 not legible on the microfilm. 1751 see below]		
1756	Old Churchwardens: <b>Edward Hodgson</b> <b>Charles Scott</b> <b>Thomas X Sissons</b> mark	<b>Jos. Campey</b> <b>Thomas Robinson</b> <b>Richard Savage</b> <b>Richard Hicks</b> (?) <b>Joseph Fletcher</b>
1751	<b>John Wise</b> Curate <b>John Atkinson</b> <b>Thos Pickering</b>	Old Churchwardens: <b>Richd. Kettlewell</b> <b>Robert Jeff</b> <b>Richard Cartwright</b> <b>Joseph Fletcher</b>
1761	<b>J. Wise</b> Curate <b>John Appleyard</b> <b>John Rhodes</b>	Old Churchwardens: <b>Jonathan Robinson</b> <b>Henry Housman</b> <b>John Atkinson</b> <b>Josh. Fletcher</b>

1767	<b>Thomas Wilson</b> <b>Robertt Savage</b> <b>Willm. Mollett</b> <b>Joseph Taylor</b>	<b>Benjamin Reynolds</b> <b>Charles Scott</b> <b>George Longley</b> <b>John Rhodes</b>
1771	<b>Wm. Herring</b> Rectr. <b>John Kilby</b> <b>William Whitehead</b> <b>Charles Mawson</b> X mark	+ present Churchwardens: <b>Willm. Mollett</b> <b>Charles Scott</b>
1775	<b>J. Marsden</b> Rectr. <b>Thomas Wilkinson</b> <b>W. Hudson's</b> mark X	

After this signatures to the accounts become fewer and the film returns to 1690 and earlier before returning to the 1720s and listing collections, then moving on to accounts in the 1780s onwards through the 1800s.

1879	<b>Henry Kilby, James Myers, Robert Copley</b>	Churchwardens
1880	<b>Henry Houseman, Robert Penty, Frederick Copley</b>	“

The latter part of the film goes on to Terriers, or landholdings, introduced as:

*Copy of a True & Perfect Terrier of the Glebe Lands - - - belonging to the Rectory of Bolton Percy in the County of the City of York given in at the Primary Visitation of the most Revd. Robert Lord Archbishop of York, May y<sup>e</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> 1764.*

Unfortunately somewhat difficult to read, it lists who lives where, has what holding and at what value; sections end with:

*The Clerk is Appointed by the Free Gift of the Rector and paid by Easter Dues from Every Householder in the Parish.*

Signed:	<b>Willm Herring</b> Rector Churchwardens: <b>Charles Scott</b> <b>Francis Ben</b> <b>John Yates</b>	Principal Inhabitants: <b>Richd. Kettlewell</b> <b>Henry Housman</b> <b>John Kilby</b> <b>John Appleyard</b> <b>Cornelius Wise</b>
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## BORTHCAT

During the coronavirus restrictions, staff at the Borthwick have been entering details of their holdings into their own online catalogue, Borthcat. These include the patient records of The Retreat and Clifton Hospital – which were indexed by our Society members.

I googled BORTHCAT and found a long list of material. I tried both The Retreat patients and Clifton Hospital, where I found female patients, but no males.

Obviously ongoing, but worth a try.

*Jeanne Baxter*

## GLEANINGS FROM EXCHANGE JOURNALS

*Jeanne Baxter*

These journals from other societies will be retained for 12 months, after which they may be taken in return for a donation. The following is a selection of material from recent arrivals:

Initiatives for the improvement of parish registers during the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century

and

Events that changed thousands of children's lives (evacuation in World War 2)

Genealogists' Magazine, Vol. 33, No.6, June 2020

Looking for a Fleet marriage

West Surrey F.H.S. Root and Branch, June 2020

Husbands who have eloped (left their families chargeable to the parish of Manchester in February 1804)

and

Research guides at the National Archives

and

Research into Jewish ancestry

The Manchester Genealogist, Vol. 56, No.2, (June) 2020

Dating old photographs

and

WW2 codebreakers (at Bletchley Park and in North Herefordshire)

Hertfordshire People, No.153, June 2020

From the industrial North East to the remote upper dales – some WW11 evacuees

Northumberland and Durham F.H.S. Journal, Vol. 45, No.2, Summer 2020

Genealogical research corner: Marriages

and

Early Baptists

and

Seeing but not believing (without checking)

Cleveland F.H.S. Journal, Vol. 14, No.7, July 2020

Spanish flu pandemic, 1918–1919

and

The Black Death, 1347–1353

and

A history of pandemics

The Yorkshire Family Historian, Vol. 46, No.1, Summer 2020

Sheffield blitz: lost eyewitness account from Marples Hotel survivor comes to light (on 12 Dec. 1940)

and

To wed or not to wed . . .

Sheffield & District F.H.S., Autumn 2020

Discovering English ancestors website and new databases on Dade registers and pre-1841 British Censuses

Brigham Young University's Center for Family History & Genealogy website (<https://cfhg.byu.edu>)

Old occupations

Bradford F.H.S. Bodkin, Vol. 13, No.7, September 2020

**SHIPLEYS OF MARYLAND**  
**ADAM'S FAMILY IN THE COLONIES**  
*Thomas R. Shipley, President, Shipleys of Maryland*

**A**fter stepping off the ship in Annapolis in February 1668, one theory is that **Adam Shipley** worked out his seven years of indentured service. The 26-year-old Adam was granted his promised fifty acres of land on January 10, 1675 and became a free man of property. The record reads as follows:

"Before **Charles Calvert**, came Adam Shipley of Anne Arundel Co. Maryland, and proved his right to Eoden du fifty (50) acres for his time of service performed in the Province. Warrant then granted to Adam Shipley for fifty acres of land due him as above." Certificate Ret. 10 Jan 1675 (LG A B II B:300).

Adam<sup>1</sup> Shipley's wife was named **Lois** but there is no *definitive* proof as to her family name. Some believed that she was Lois **Howard**, whose family lived on Howard and Porter's Range on the south side of the Severn River, which was eventually transferred to Adam<sup>1</sup> Shipley in 1679. (Emison and Thompson).

We know Adam<sup>1</sup> and Lois had six children. There has been speculation that there were other children, too, but all evidence of this is lacking.

<b>Richard</b> <sup>2</sup> Shipley	b. about 1677	d. before 1725
<b>Adam</b> <sup>2</sup> Shipley		
<b>Robert</b> <sup>2</sup> Shipley	b. about 1678	d. 1761/1763
<b>Peter</b> <sup>2</sup> Shipley	b. about 1687	d. 9 May 1764
<b>Keturah</b> <sup>2</sup> Shipley		d. after Aug 1730
<b>Lois</b> <sup>2</sup> Shipley		d. before Sep 1746

Adam<sup>1</sup> died sometime before 1698 and we do not know where he was buried. Lois, who was born about 1655, continued to live at Howard and Porter's Range after Adam<sup>1</sup> died until her death in 1725. He left six children under legal age. His eldest son Richard<sup>2</sup> was heir-at-law by the English custom of primogeniture. Thanks to him, after the death of their father, all of the other children of Adam<sup>1</sup> received shares of their father's land. They later moved to Queen Caroline Parish in what is now Howard County, Maryland, where some of their names and those of their families are to be found in the Christ Church Register. From these meagre records we have a picture of one of the early members of the Shipley family in America, the one whom we know as our ancestor, designated as Adam<sup>1</sup>.

There is a record of Adam<sup>1</sup> being one of "twelve Good and Lawfull men" chosen as a jury in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, in an inquisition of **John Vennall**'s lands at Chancery Court, held October 16, 1679. He was among a number of Anne Arundel planters who, early in November, 1681, received tobacco due them from the provincial government, he receiving 1,050 pounds.

During his life, Adam<sup>1</sup> must have been a focused man because by 1687 he had acquired 850 acres of land as he moved northward.

The following transactions are recorded:

April 5, 1679, one hundred acres, called **Howard's and Porter's Range**, on the south side of the Severn River was transferred to Adam<sup>1</sup>. This land was patented from **Cornelius Howard** and **Peter Porter** 1st. (AACLR IH 1:76).

It is believed that their son, Adam<sup>2</sup>, remained there with Lois and 100 acres of this land passed to Adam<sup>2</sup> upon Lois' death. (Peter Porter 1<sup>st</sup> left England and arrived in Virginia in 1622. Peter Porter 3<sup>rd</sup> married Adam's daughter Lois.)

March 30, 1681, Adam acquired **Shipley's Choice**, two hundred acres on the south side of the Severn River (LOP CB 2:461-64) in what is now Anne Arundel County. During our 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of his arrival, an historical marker was placed on the headwaters of the Severn River to commemorate this land grant. Upon Adam and Lois's death, this land was passed on to his daughters, Keturah and Lois.

March 1687, Adam acquired five hundred acres known as **Adam the First**, on Elk Ridge (LOP NS 2:571-572). Adam's first-born son, Richard<sup>2</sup> inherited the land but graciously shared 100 acres to each of his brothers Robert<sup>2</sup> and Peter<sup>2</sup>. Richard<sup>2</sup> retained 300 acres and acquired **The Addition to Adam the First** to expand his holdings. This tract of land stayed in the family for several generations and was farmed. The house and cemetery both remain. The house is currently operated as offices by a real estate firm

In the Assembly Proceedings of 12 Nov 1681, there is this entry:

“To Adam Shipley, one thousand fifty pounds and assessment of the Publick charge of the Province.”

#### **Sources:**

Shipleys of Maryland 2002, A Study of the Descendants of Adam Shipley of Yorkshire, England, Who Came to Annapolis, Maryland in 1668, Gateway Press, Inc., copyright 2002 by The Shipleys of Maryland.

“*Adam the First*,” Presentation by Isabel Cunningham at Shipley Annual Luncheon in the late 1970s.

“*English Researches*,” Pamphlet by Emily and Parks Shipley, November 1979.

“*How I Researched Adam Shipley in England*,” Handout by Connie Sparrow, June 27, 2018.

“*Research on Shipley Family Roots in England*,” Presentation at October 30, 1993 Shipley Annual Luncheon by Neal R. Shipley, Department of History, University of Massachusetts.

“*The Transported Settlers*,” Chapter X, Sidelights of Maryland History by Hester Dorsey Richardson, Tidewater Publishers, copyright 1967 (expired).

We Shipleys – Memories and Memoirs, by Linwood Parks Shipley, self-published, copyright 1980.

See also **ADAM'S STORY** on p.5 of the February 2020 Journal

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

*Roz Gray*

### Data Protection Law

Under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) any member who does not wish their personal details to be held by the Society should please inform the Membership Secretary. We use this information to record payments and send out the Journals.

Please remember to update your email addresses and changes to telephone numbers with the Membership Secretary (see inner front cover).

### New Members:

3351	Mr. James Gibson	3355	Mr. Richard Purcell
3352	Mr. Ron Norton	3356	Ms Fiona Gray
3353	Mr. Ken Whitney	3357	Ms Nicola Pratt
3354	Mrs. P. Edison	3358	Mrs Sandie Tanner-Smith
		3359	Mrs Susan Hill

### Rejoin:

1442	Mrs. Lesley Sinton
2917	Mrs. Sarah Derry

### Deaths:

2157 Ray Ironmonger died 2<sup>nd</sup> April

953 Tim Owston passed away on June 24<sup>th</sup> aged 63 after a short illness. A private funeral will later be followed by a celebration of his life. A tribute from a fellow family historian is given on the following pages.

## MEMBERS' INTERESTS

*Roy Evans*

As we can no longer give out members' contact details without their written permission, contact with the contributing member may be made via the Members' Interests Secretary (see inner back cover).

**Contributing Member:** 1442 Mrs L. Sinton

Interest	Place	County Code	From	To	Member
Boys	Appleton Wiske	NRV	1700	1770	1442
Hainsworth	Overton	NRV	1700	1870	1442
Hardcastle	Hessay/ Acomb	YKS	1750	1850	1442
Hoyle	Walmersley/ Bury	LAN	1780	1850	1442
Midgely	Bardsey/Rigton	WRY	1750	1862	1442
Midgely	Hessay/ Moor Monkton	YKS	1850	1880	1442
Morrill	Oulston/Coxwold	NRV	1700	1889	1442
Stamper	Norton/Malton	ERY	1750	1850	1442
Vincent	Rufforth	YKS	1780	1830	1442

**Timothy John Owston**  
**7 February 1957 – 24 June 2020**

Tribute to a Genealogist and Historian Extraordinaire  
*James M. Owston; owston@one-name.org*

Tim was born in Rillington in North Yorkshire (formerly part of the original East Riding) on February 7, 1957 and was the son of the late **Charles Owston** (1917-1992) and his wife, the late **Agnes Stockill** (1925-1997). He is survived by a sister, two brothers (**Terry, Jean, Tim**, and **Colin** “Chuck”), a sister-in-law, two nephews, and two nieces.

Tim attended Norton School in Norton-on-Derwent near Malton. In 1983, he earned a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from the Open University in history, literature, and social science. During 1990 and 1991, he attended Lancashire Polytechnic (now the University of Central Lancashire) where he earned a Master of Science in Technology with a concentration in information technology.

In 1997, Tim became certified to teach adults by earning a Postgraduate Certificate of Education in Further Education from the University of Huddersfield. In 2018, he also earned a European Computer Driving License, Level 2 Certificate in Information Technology Qualification (ECDL ITQ Level 2). Additionally, Tim was a champion of social causes. However, first and foremost, he was a meticulous genealogist and historian.

When I awakened on May 30, 2020, I found a message from Tim’s youngest brother, Colin “Chuck” Owston. It said:

“He [Tim] has asked me to message you. Sadly, he has terminal pancreatic cancer and has been moved into a hospice. I spoke with him this morning but with the pandemic we are not allowed to visit him. His organs are closing down, and he said he wants to go with dignity and not drugged so much he can’t communicate. I will let you know what’s happening.”

Chuck told me that Tim had only known for a week prior to this message, as a friend said he was looking jaundiced and he should see a doctor. He passed tonight at 9:40 p.m. local time at St. Leonard’s Hospice, York.

### **The OWSTON/OUSTON One-Name Study**

Tim was my seventh cousin, once removed. We never met – we never spoke on the phone; however, we knew each other well enough to be good friends. It is difficult to say goodbye to someone you have grown close to over 30 years. Although Tim was 14 months my junior, he served as my genealogical mentor.

This is the story of my acquaintance and friendship with Tim Owston. It is also how he, **Roger Ouston**, and I worked together for thirty years in putting our combined knowledge into the Owston/Ouston one-name study. We all met in the summer of 1990 – quite accidentally because we were researching the same names. At that time, Tim was in Preston, Lancashire, and Roger was in Kingston upon Hull, East Riding of Yorkshire. I lived in Southern West Virginia, USA. **David Graham Linley** (1955-2019), also of Preston, Lancashire, was an early contributor of information regarding the Thornholme Owstons.

After explaining who we were and what we knew about our common surname with two variations, Tim, Roger, and I began sending packages to each other every month.

We shared our findings and commented on conclusions that were drawn by the others. We did this for several years until email became our primary communication medium in the late 1990s.

The first package I received from Tim was a large envelope containing photostats and transcripts of wills of our ancestors: **Peter Owston** (d. 1568), **William Owston** (d. 1602), **Peter Owston** (1598-1669), and **George Owston** (1636-1676). Our common ancestors ended there, and ours with Roger were a generation earlier. Additionally, Tim included a meticulously drawn chart of the Sherburn Owston family to which all three of us belonged.

I primarily worked on Owstons in North America, Japan, and Western Australia; Tim continued to research older documents, as he later moved to York near where our surname ramified in the Ryedale District; and Roger continued making inroads with Oustons as well as Owstons in other lands. We all managed to cross these boundaries and supplement what the others had found. Immediately, Roger began creating a directory elaborating our research. By 2010, I became the genetic genealogist of the group.

Our correspondence during the early 1990s was expansive. I enjoyed getting these large packages from Tim and Roger and would pore over them for hours. I hope they did the same with mine. Email made the exchanges shorter, more frequent, and free. Postage across the Atlantic was expensive.

In providing a synopsis of our one-name study, I even quoted Tim in my chapter on Y-DNA in *Advanced Genetic Genealogy: Techniques and Case Studies*. In 1991, I made an assertion that perhaps all the Owston/Ouston groups (we had thought we found three) were all related. He replied on April 8, 1991 with a bit of scepticism, “*Yes, it is possible that the families do connect, but on the other hand why should they . . . apart from reasons of geography? There could have been other connections between them, perhaps untraced female ones? Name patterns are not present.*” While Roger and I shared optimism concerning a connection, Tim rightfully so wanted proof.

Through DNA research conducted in 2010 and 2011, I was able to ascertain all three Owston groups (Sherburn, Ganton, and Thornholme) descended from a common ancestor, as we shared markers that aligned. Later in 2017, Next Generation Y-DNA testing placed the Ganton family close in relationship to Tim and to a lesser extent to me in what I termed the **George Owston** Überbranch. This was a bit of a shock and took some convincing, but recently digitized records corroborated the DNA evidence – this narrowed the extant families to two: Sherburn and the much smaller Thornholme family.

### **New Media**

Having a background in IT, Tim was the first in our family to maximize his use of the Internet. In 1999, he created *Timothy Owston’s Family History and Home Pages*, where he provided information to novice family historians in England. As early as May 2000, Tim built a website dealing with the “Owston Family of Sherburn, East Riding, Yorkshire.” He primarily looked at his direct ancestry with a few of the other Owston lines (including mine) scattered throughout. Due to changes in the hosting service, both sites went dark mid-2016.

Many people researching our surname contacted Tim during the 16 years the site was operational. It opened doors to their research as well as ours.

Recently, Tim enrolled in a class on how to use WordPress with the goal of recreating and updating his older sites. Before his illness, he had the opportunity to get much if not all the older Owston family site completed. You can find it at:

<http://timowston.co.uk/>.

If something happens to this newer site, I have downloaded all the Owston files so his research can be recreated.

### **Inspiration and Friendship**

Tim was an inspiration to me. He taught me so many things about genealogical research in England and gave me a basic understanding of the various records that had been kept over the centuries. Under his direction, we completed my ancestry back to Peter Owston (d. 1568). From him, I learnt bits of the dialect of my Yorkshire ancestors and kin. Besides that, he was a great friend and colleague. His dry wit was invigorating. He constantly chided me for not smiling in photos, which was his greatest social attribute and is obviously notable in his own portraits.

I will really miss Tim. In recent years, we corresponded on Facebook, Messenger, and through email often. I will miss his yearly Christmas letters that documented everything he did during the past year. It was a travelogue and a diary, as he provided a detailed account of the places he visited around Europe. Because his letters and packages were rich with information, I have saved every one that he sent. His Christmas cards, which were generally not focused on the holiday, were uniquely historical in nature. The first card he sent for Christmas 1990 was of the Bayeux Tapestry – which details the Battle of Hastings and the Norman Conquest of England. It was a photo of the tapestry's depiction of Halley's Comet.

Most of all, Tim had a heart for all humankind. I remember one poignant email he sent me on September 11, 2001 after the attack on the US. Not only did he desire to know how I fared, Tim expressed both sympathy for the victims' families and empathy for America, as the UK had also experienced numerous terrorist attacks during his lifetime.

Timothy John Owston (1957-2020), a true Yorkshireman from birth to death, was a gentleman and a scholar. He passed entirely too early to join the choir invisible. He will be remembered as one of the architects of the Owston/Ouston One-Name Study; for without Tim's dedication, we may have never known from whence we came and from whom we descended.

May you be remembered for generations to come and that your work be appreciated forever. Au revoir, my friend.

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Footnote:

Tim's membership number was 953. Members may remember his larger than life presence at meetings, which he had eventually stopped attending in order to pursue political interests.

Perhaps others have a connection with this family, as does our member Lily Catterick, to whom Tim was 3rd cousin.

## TIPS FROM THE FEDERATION'S 'REALLY USEFUL' NEWSLETTER

### 1. Memorial/Monumental Inscriptions

Most Family History Societies have recorded some graveyards in their local area and might have published a CD, booklet or download containing the Monumental Inscriptions. You can purchase these either through [www.parishchest.com](http://www.parishchest.com) or the Societies' own websites.

If you know the area your ancestors may be buried, you could contact the local authority as some do have a searchable database on their website. Alternatively, you would need to contact them directly, but they may ask for a fee to do a search; the price varies depending on the local authority. Some cemeteries, however, do have a free searchable database and are quite happy to undertake a search for you.

In London you may find that your ancestors were buried in one of the seven large cemeteries built due to overcrowding in London's churchyards. These are:

Abney Park Cemetery  
Brompton Cemetery  
Nunhead Cemetery  
Highgate Cemetery

Kensal Green Cemetery  
Tower Hamlets Cemetery  
West Norwood Cemetery

However, in some cases, graveyards have not been transcribed at all and it is possible you will be unable to find the location of the burial of your ancestor. But information is becoming available all the time, so don't give up! There may come a time when you just might find them.

There is also some useful information on the Family History Federation website at:

<https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/education-gravestone>

When you are searching for the burial record of your ancestor, unlike the birth, marriage and death records are not recorded in any central database. You may find some information in the parish records, but graves can sometimes be difficult to find, so here are some hints and tips to help you locate them. Some burial records are listed on subscription sites such as:

[www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)  
[www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)  
[www.thegenealogist.co.uk](http://www.thegenealogist.co.uk)  
[www.deceasedonline.com](http://www.deceasedonline.com)

You may locate them on these sites but you will need to take out a subscription to view these records.

### 2. War Memorials

If your ancestors served in World War I or World War II, their names may appear on a war memorial in the area where they lived. A Google search may reveal if there is a war memorial in the town or village where they lived or you could search the Commonwealth War Grave Commission website at [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org) and see if their names appear on a national monument or a local one. This site may also give you information about their family too. Their names may even be on a memorial in their places of work or old school.

Some villages and towns traced the names on the war memorials as part of the centenary in 2014 so you may find some more information from the local family history society there.

A useful website to look at is <http://www.roll-of-honour.com> as this site has included many war memorials and transcribed the names; and this is another good website – <https://www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk> - as they will let you know precisely where your ancestors may be listed in the area they were living at the time of the war.

### **3. Manorial Records**

Ian Waller has recently launched a new book to help you research which is called *Introducing Manorial Records*:

“This introductory guide to manorial documents will unlock the mysteries of the manor and all its records leading you through the process, explaining what you need to know and when you need to know it; where the documents can be found and how to interpret them so that you can use manorial documents to develop the history of your family. With a little patience and this book by your side, you will be pleasantly surprised at what you can do and what you do find!”

This new book is available to purchase at:

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

### **4. Organising Photographs**

Traditionally, it is when you are on your summer holiday that you take ‘holiday snaps’ and process them upon your return and look at them occasionally to remind yourself of the fond memories of the wonderful time that you had. Now could be the perfect time to put these in an album if you have not already done so - or even have them printed out from the SD card of your camera or from your phone.

A lot of photographs now may be lost as more photographs than ever are being taken but they are never printed so it is important to keep the tradition alive of keeping these and recording these times. Now could be a good time to reminisce and think about who was in the photographs and label them for future generations.

Many of our local archives at the moment are also asking for people to send in their pictures of their ‘lockdown’ during the recent pandemic, so if you have been keeping a photographic record or diary, they would be delighted to receive copies of these. So ask if your Local Record Office/Archive or Family History Society or Local History Society are looking for these and help be part of history. You can even download free photo-enhancing software to help you remove creases, cracks and blemishes on your old photos once digitised.

Why not upload your photographs and include them on your tree in your ancestor’s media pages in your family history software? This can be easily printed off and you can really bring your family history story to life, but do think about who owns the copyright of the photograph before publishing these online. If you are placing them in an album, think about labelling them as so many people inherit albums and are not sure who the people are as the names and dates have not been included.

When you are talking to relatives, ask them if they have any photos or your ancestors that they would be willing to share with you and they may have a picture of an ancestor that you don’t.

If you are having problems dating old photographs there are plenty of books to assist you with this. Go to: [familyhistorybooksonline.co.uk](http://familyhistorybooksonline.co.uk) to see the books available on Dating Old Photographs by Robert Pols.

There are lots of website that have photographic libraries that can provide you with pictures of villages or towns your ancestors lived in and how they worked, and you may even be lucky and find a picture of your own ancestor.

[https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/  
archive/collections/photographs/  
https://www.nls.uk/collections/photographs](https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/collections/photographs/)

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### **THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES FREE COPIES OF HISTORICAL WILLS**

The National Archives (TNA) at Kew is currently closed to the public. While this continues, it is allowing people to download up to 50 digitised items per 30-day period free of charge. Usually the price is £3.50 per will. Only 10 items can be downloaded at a time, but when you have done so you can go back and collect some more (subject to the above limit).

Scanned PDF images of the office copies of wills proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury are available on this basis from the TNA site. There are over a million wills to choose from – you can search for those of interest on this page:

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/wills-1384-1858/>

In order to use the service, you have to sign up for a free TNA account (or use your existing one). Setting up an account is easy. The link to do so is:

<https://secure.nationalarchives.gov.uk/login/Register>

The Prerogative Court of Canterbury was the senior probate court for England and Wales until 1858.



## THE BETTER HALF

by Sharon Moalem

*Review previously printed in Ryedale Roots*

The subtitle of this book is **On the Genetic Superiority of Women** and you could be forgiven for assuming it to be a feminist offering, but Dr. Sharon Moalem is a male physician and genetics researcher. It is not a book about genetics, but it is the genetic difference between the sexes that forms the basis for this book and that is explained clearly. We all have 23 pairs of chromosomes which contain the information that makes us function and gives us our characteristics. The useful information is contained on about twenty thousand genes spread across the chromosomes.

Each of the 23 chromosome pairs share versions of the same genes, except if you are a male when you will have a 'Y' chromosome instead of a second X. I had always thought this gave men an advantage in that they were the only sex to have whichever genes lay on Y while having copies of all the genes on the X. But it turns out that the Y chromosome has only about 70 genes while the X has almost a thousand. Most of the genes on Y are involved in making sperm and excess hair!! And the advantages of having two X chromosomes are considerable. Females inherit an X chromosome from both parents and, for those functions which are controlled by genes on the X chromosome, women have the availability of two possibly different copies of those genes.

At the start of life, premature babies are vulnerable to infections with their under-developed immunity, but girl babies are more likely to survive any infection because genes on the X chromosome are involved with the immune system, and baby girls have two different histories of immunity to call on. The immune system reacts to infections and builds up resistance so that it can respond quickly to a second infection of the same bacteria or virus. This greater capability to fight infection continues through our lives and is a factor in the current different susceptibility of men and women to covid-19. In fact, this is the reason why women usually live longer than men, they have effectively a better immune system. And of course, it's probably why women don't suffer from man-flu.

Over 100 genes on the X chromosome are involved with the development of the brain and more boys than girls develop ASD and more boys have a slower than normal brain development. An interesting effect is that most women have much greater sensitivity to colour and can see a wider variation of colours than men. Colour-blindness is a very rare condition in women. About 5-10% of women have 'supercharged' colour vision, and are apparently able to see 100 million colours instead of the usual one million. (Both these figures quoted in the book are well beyond my comprehension of colour variation). No male can have this type of vision which results from having specific differences in the genes of the two X chromosomes.

I am not sure I would be convinced by the author's claim that:

*Almost everything that's biologically difficult to do in life, from survival to development, is done better by females. Men's brains are at a disadvantage.*

Of course, ladies, you always knew, but hopefully you will continue to accept us for what we are as we struggle to keep up.

An interesting book, full of examples and quite convincing especially with the example that confronts us at this time.

*Geoff King  
Ryedale Family History Society*

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**FAMILY SEARCH**  
**<http://www.familysearch.org/indexing/>**

So . . . what have you been doing during lockdown and these following weeks?

The records and indexes on the above website are free of charge to search. The Family History Federation hosts FamilySearch transcription volunteering on the site. A range of different projects is currently in progress. The site gives a guided tour to choose one that fits your interests, as well as giving more details about the project.

You might also take the opportunity to write up all those years of research for your family to read, sorting through old family photographs to scan and include in the story.

It could also be a good idea to go over old research through Ancestry or FindMyPast to see what records have been added to fill in those gaps.

And don't forget to send in your findings for the Newsletter!

Hope to see you all soon.

*Ed*

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Seen in Bedale Parish Register (on *FindMyPast*):

**Matthew Tomlinson**, of the City of York, bachelor, married  
**Elizabeth Hunton**, of this parish, spinster, by licence, on 26  
May 1755.

He marks, she signs.

Witnesses:

**William Sadler, Thomas Clark**

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## **RESEARCH ROOM**

All Society resources available for use, including  
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1 printer

**The Research Room presently has special arrangements  
for the coronavirus, as outlined on p.2**

Telephone: 01904 412204

Email: [yorkfamilyhistory@btopenworld.com](mailto:yorkfamilyhistory@btopenworld.com)

Catalogue of resources including  
Parish Registers, Census and Society publications and  
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[www.yorkfamilyhistory.org.uk](http://www.yorkfamilyhistory.org.uk)

under the drop down link "Services" and click on "Research Room

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