

Peterborough and District Family History Society Newsletter

January 2021

From the chairman...

My last remarks ended on a note of warning – a forecast of possible gloom. This time, as we move into 2021, I want to emphasise the POSITIVES.

ZOOM! ZOOM! ZOOM! We have each discovered the benefits of technology in our communications. If we can't meet people in person, at least we can meet on-line, as so many of us discovered during Christmastide. It was good to see our families on the screen and to feel that the world has not yet come to an end! Of the first five Society meetings in 2021, at least four will be by courtesy of Zoom. One benefit of this, as I have mentioned before, is that more people can share in the life of PDFHS.

The other positive is the increase in the number of news-letters and journals sent electronically. This gives a greater opportunity for you to share your thoughts, concerns, triumphs of research and to learn what others of our members are doing. Do keep up the good work and let us know what is happening..

Best wishes to you all in 2021. A Happy New Year!

Michael Kennelly

First talk of the New Year. (By zoom)

January 6th Claire Moores 'The Art of Criminal Conversation'



From the editor...



As soon as the Christmas wrappings are discarded the next question we ask each other is 'What is your New Year Resolution?'. The usual culprits will rear their heads: eat healthier, exercise more regularly, indulge a little less, tidy out the under stairs cupboard , shed or loft!!

But let me add another one to your list; send a contribution to the editor for the e-newsletter or e-journal.

Your contribution need not be long. A snippet about an interesting ancestor, a paragraph about their occupation, a fact from a birth, marriage or death certificate. These all make fascinating reading and you can be assured of an appreciative audience in what can sometimes be a lonely occupation.

We have 130 members and if everyone made one contribution my inbox, newsletter and journal, will be full for several years. Thankyou

Although the area which the PDFHS covers is on the back of each journal we may know very little about the villages in that area. Each newsletter we will focus on a village.

This month it is Walton



Walton Infant School Photo © [Kate Jewell \(cc-by-sa/2.0\)](#)



Local goods on Down Midland line at Walton, near Peterborough

Photo © [Ben Brooksbank \(cc-by-sa/2.0\)](#)

PROFILE OF WALTON

by Jan Johnson

WALTON is now a suburb of PETERBOROUGH, being approx 3 miles north of the city centre. It is in PASTON parish, Paston itself being to the east. To the south is NEW ENGLAND, to the west the new township of BRETTON and to the north WERRINGTON.

The name Walton is of Saxon origin and it was shown as belonging to Paston in the charter of King Wulfhere to Peterborough Abbey in 664. One genuine pre-conquest reference to Walton is that EDMUND AETHELING gave "three poles in the vill called Wealton" and some land in PEAKIRK to the new monastery of the Holy Trinity, the Mother of Our Lord and All Saints.

Walton is not in the Doomsday Book, probably being included with WERRINGTON but in 1125 2 hides and 1 virgate of land in Walton of the Fee of Peterborough Abbey paid geld (tax) to the king. In 1146 Pope Eugenius I confirmed Walton as belonged to Peterborough Abbey and this was reaffirmed by both King Richard I and King Henry III.

In the 13th century the tenant was HENRY PUTTOCK and his family continued to hold land in WERRINGTON for many years. The "profits of court and stock" were £7-9-0 in 1291, rising to £12-16-11 in 1315.

Land in Walton which was held of Peterborough Abbey by Knights Service can be traced back several centuries.

1189 1/2 Knights Fee in Walton and WOODCROFT
HERBERT and ROGER of WOODCROFT

c 1210 JOHN son of HERBERT holding land in Walton

1245 WILLIAM son of JOHN held 1/4 Fee of Peterborough Abbey

1276 JOHN of WALTON did homage to the Abbot.

This John was probably the grandson of 1245 William for shortly before that date WILLIAM son of WILLIAM son of JOHN of WALTON gave the Abbey a place in the Marketstede of Peterborough. John was apparently the last of his line to hold the land in Walton.

1348 ALICE, widow of RICHARD CROWLAND, son of BENEDICT of EYE held the land which Abbot Godfrey had granted to her husband.

1396 JOHN of WAKERLE held the land.

His family continued to hold the land until the end of the 15th century and were probably succeeded by the STYLES of BAINTON. They certainly held land in Walton from the 16th to 18th centuries and several members of the family were buried in Paston Church.

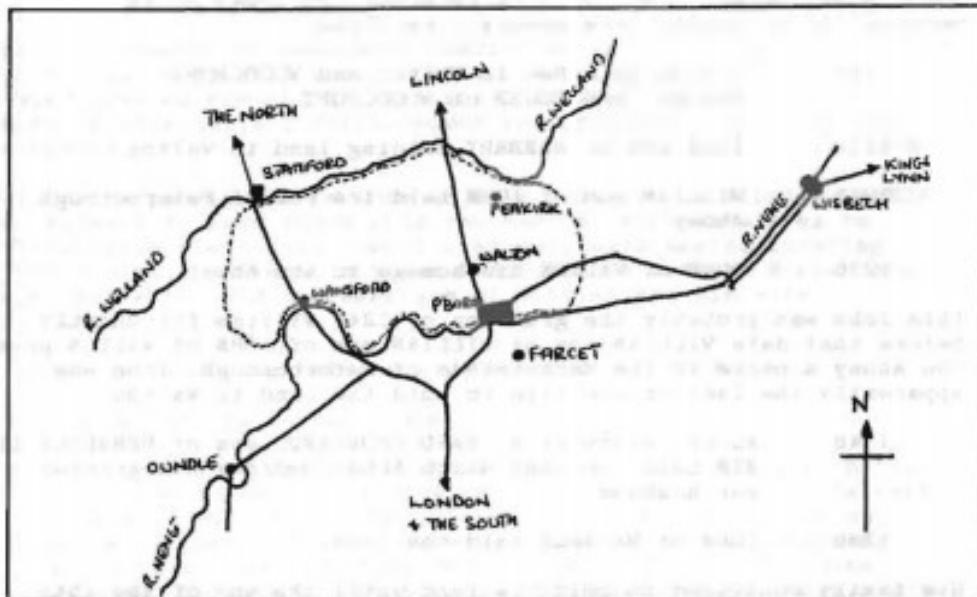
After the dissolution of the monasteries in 1541 Walton was granted to the Bishop of Peterborough. During the Civil War (1648) the Commissioners for the Sale of Bishops' Land sold Walton to SIR WILLIAM ROBERTS but this was rescinded at the Restoration in 1660.

Along with almost all church land Walton was vested in the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in 1860 and they granted it to the Dean and Chapter of Peterborough Cathedral in 1863.

One of the major roads in Walton today is MOUNTSTEVEN AVENUE. This was called GUNTHORPE LANE but was renamed to honour EDMUND MOUNTSTEVEN of PASTON. His will of 1655 required all his possessions and land to be sold and the proceeds used to build almshouses "on Paston Green for 6 poor persons of the parish".

Those who are interested in learning more about Walton, especially its development from 1800, should obtain a copy of The Story of Walton by our member, Joy Cowland at Walton Infants School, Mountsteven Avenue, Walton, Peterborough PE4 6HX. It costs £3 inc. p&p and the money goes to school funds.

LOCATION of WALTON, FARCET and PEAKIRK



ELIZA JOHNSON of WALTON 1831 - 1931

by Mrs S Stone, Cottage 9, The Guild,
Box 651624, Benmore 2010, Johannesburg, S.Africa

In 1841 there were three farmers in Walton, EDWARD COTTERILL, HENRY JOHNSON and WILLIAM ODAM and we can safely assume that they were the three main employers in 1831, the year that ELIZA COTTERILL was born at The Grove. Eliza had a brother, GEORGE, of whom more in a moment.

Also in 1831 HENRY JOHNSON and his wife SUSAN (nee PARKER) had a son THOMAS at Manor Farm. In 1836 they also had a daughter, JANE SUSAN.

As was the way of things local girl married local boy and at Paston Church on 27 October 1859 Miss Eliza Cotterill became Mrs Thomas Johnson. Something must have been in the air because again at Paston Church on 8 November 1860 Miss Jane Susan Johnson became Mrs George Cotterill.

Eliza and Thomas lived at Manor Farm until his death on 25 April 1865. Eliza then moved to the house opposite which is the oldest house in Walton. It has a date stone 1688 with the initials LHE. It was obviously a substantial house in its day but by 1800 needed to be enlarged. The house is now 1103 Lincoln Road but when Eliza lived there it was called Berry House.

The photograph on the front cover shows Eliza outside Berry House and was taken in 1920 when she was 89. She continued to live there until she died on 17 March 1931 at the age of 100.

Thomas Johnson, Eliza's husband was 1st cousin to my Great Grandfather, JOB JOHNSON of Dogsthorpe. He was one of many JOBS in my family, hence the request re strays referred to in Mary Baxter's article on Page 5.....but that's another story.

VALTON MILITIA LIST - 1762

"A list of the inhabitants of Walton to be return'd to His Majesty's deputy lieutenants and justices of the peace at their subdivision militia meeting."

Thos BARNET *	Labourer	Robt MANTON	Labourer
Thos BENTON - lame *	Servant	George RUDD jun *	Labourer
Willm BRIGHTMAN	Labourer	Hen RUFF	Constable
Willm CROWSON	Servant		(signed return)
Frans GAMBOLE	Servant	John SHARP	Farmer
Frans GREEFIN *	Labourer	Sam STOCK *	Cordwainer
Edward HARE	Servant	John WARD - lame *	Servant
Willm HOOPER	Servant	Hen WILLSWORTH	Parish Clerk
Mark KING *	Labourer	Richd YEATS	Servant
Mr John LANDON	Farmer	Joseph YORK	Blacksmith
Frans LOVE	Farmer	Peter YORK *	Carpenter

Useful Websites

If, like most family historians, you are fascinated by cemeteries and the stories they contain, then look no further than the Cemetery Club website. To gain access click [here](#).

If you have traced your family back to the Regency period then the Austin blog has a wealth of articles about life in the Regency period. To gain access click [here](#).

Brickwall

I would like to try and find out more about a family story I was told many years ago by an aunt, my father's sister.

It was about cousin Tommy and his 4 sons who were William, Alexander, Lindsey and John.

The problem is that I do not know their surname. I am not sure if Tommy was my aunt's cousin or more likely the cousin of one of my grandparents.

They could be a Scottish family.

Is it possible on either Ancestry or Family Search, to find the surname knowing the 5 Christian names?

Dorothy Harbron

This is a very interesting question. If members have found searches that any family history site will do, that others may not know about, then please let members know so that we can all benefit. This also is relevant for any new data sets that you may have come across. Information is being released so quickly at the moment it is difficult to keep abreast of it all.

'You're Never Too Old'

As reported in the *Peterborough Standard*
on Friday 12th march 1937

CENTENARIAN'S CHILDREN

Boy aged 5 and girl aged 3

A centenarian, who was the father of a five year old boy and three year old girl, died in his chair in his cottage home at Burnham Market on Sunday.

He was Mr. George Skeet, who would have celebrated his 104th birthday if he had lived until April 17th.

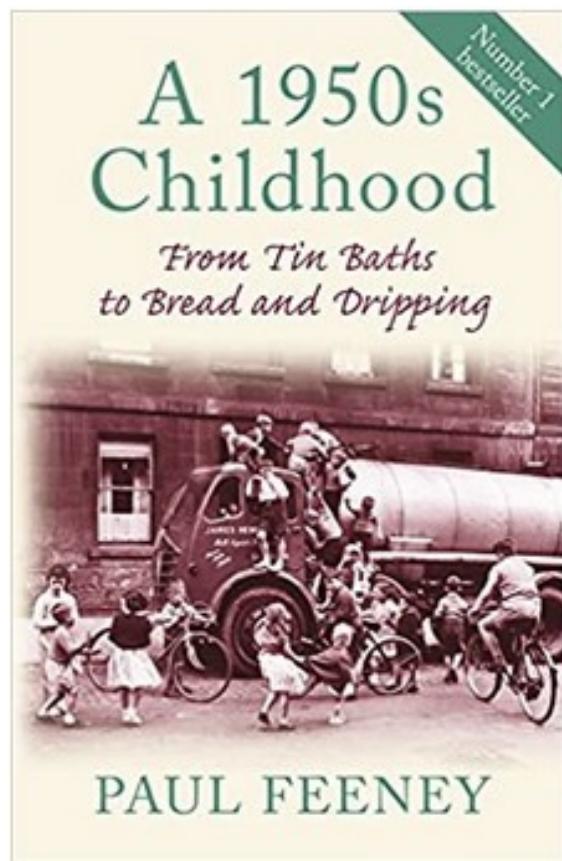
Mr. Skeet, had been twice married. By his first wife he had two sons, who are now aged 70 and 57 years respectively.

Thirteen years ago Mr. Skeet married Miss Annie Elizabeth Leathersich, of Burnham Market. His bride was about 19 years old and she had known her husband throughout her life. When they had been married about eight years a son was born and two years later Mrs. Skeet presented her husband with a daughter.

Have you changed your e-mail or snail mail address recently?

Please let the secretary know.
secretarypdfhs@gmail.com

Book Review



A 1950s Childhood by Paul Feeney (Pub: The History Press)

My dad was born in 1944 and for Christmas I bought him Paul Feeney's excellent book *A 1950s Childhood*. The book brought back so many memories and prompted him to talk about his many childhood experiences. It was a really valuable prompt.

Paul has also written a book *A 1960s Childhood* and James Marsh has re-visited *A 1940s Childhood*.

These books are highly recommended as an aid to start a discussion or to take a trip down memory lane.

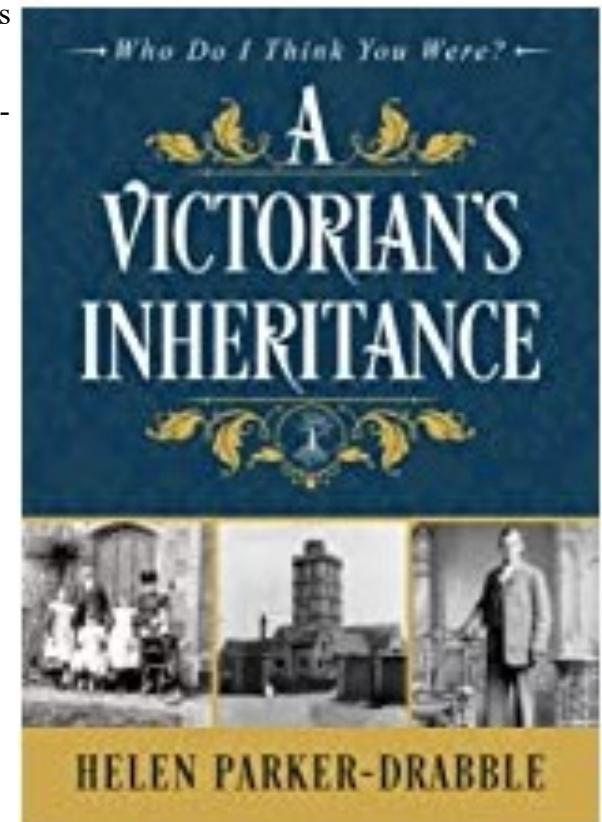
Who Do I Think You Were: A Victorian's Inheritance by Helen Parker-Drabble (Pub: Animi Press)

We are always looking for new ways to interpret our ancestor's lives.

Helen does this by combining her twin passions of counselling and genealogy to not only explore what her grandfather Walter, and his family, did but why they may have acted the way they did.

This approach gives a unique insight not only into their world but into the world our own ancestors may have inhabited.

This book has an added interest in that Walter and his family lived, for a time, in Thorne.



If you have read any interesting books recently then do please share them with our members, send details to the editor.