



Newsletter #20
April 2008

Adelaide Northern Districts Family History Group

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Meetings are held on the third Thursday
of each month at 7pm at
The Old Police Station, Ann Street, Salisbury.

\$2 entry fee for non-members

YOUR COMMITTEE

President:	Peter Applebee
Vice President:	Bev Burke
Secretary:	Margaret Flaiban
Treasurer:	Tammy Martin
Membership Coordinator:	Helen Stein
Publicity Officer:	Barb Such
General Committee:	Sandie Francis Colin Withall Ivan Randall

Thank you to Barb Such who has volunteered to serve on the Committee as Publicity and Promotions Officer. We wish her well in this new position.

RAFFLE

Congratulations to Barb Such who won our last raffle.
Thank you to all who supported us.

MEETINGS

At tonight's meeting Tammy Martin and Helen Stein will be talking about Cemeteries – they are really not the morbid places people often believe them to be, and they can be an invaluable source for family details.

OPEN DAYS

We will be continuing our twice monthly Saturday afternoon open days.
The next dates will be 26th April and 10th May from 1-4pm.
Volunteers and Committee members will be on hand to assist you.

*The group will not be held responsible for any statements or opinions expressed in this Newsletter.
All submitted articles and advertised offers of services are printed in good faith of accuracy.
The Editor reserves the right to edit articles for grammatical purposes if necessary.*

NEW MEMBERS

We wish to welcome the following new members to our Group:

Peter LUNN

Researching: LUNN, FENBY, THOMPSON, STEPHENSON and BEMROSE

James HOOD

Researching: HOOD

CAN YOU HELP?

This column a free service to all members. Send your "Brick Walls" to stein00@iprimus.com.au with the subject title "Can You Help" to have them published. Remember that this newsletter is also posted on the Internet, therefore reaches a much wider audience than just members of our Group!

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Can anyone help me? I am trying to find out if there is a report on a fire or death in a newspaper from 1837 in Yorkshire.

Elizabeth SCOTT died on 9<sup>th</sup> February 1837 in Keld, Muker, Yorkshire. Her burial records state she was found burnt to death

I would like to follow this up if I can. Any clues please??

*Tammy Martin*

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Linda Allery at the Playford Council is looking for someone to transcribe a film for her at the LDS.

If you are interested please advise Tammy who will give you Linda's contact details

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# English Parish Registers

At our last meeting Colin gave a very entertaining and informative talk on Parish Registers, Parish Law, and how they can be utilised by Family Historians.

Your start point is the IGI (International Genealogical Index) at [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org). Once you have located your person of interest, note down the film number and go the LDS Church (Church of the Latter-Day Saints) where you can order in the film (the present cost is \$5 for one month). The film may take a few weeks to arrive, as it may be in use somewhere in Australia, or may have to be brought in from the USA.

Some entries appearing in the IGI have the name of the person shown only as Mr X, without any other information, or the date of an event as "abt." These are usually entries recorded from information given by a member of the Mormon Church. Be aware that these dates are not necessarily correct as some Family Historians, when they hit a brick wall, may sometimes invent an event or date to bring information together. Get the entry concerning your ancestor and then book the relevant film to explore more fully. The IGI should be used as a quick indexing tool, the Registers are more valuable and reliable.

The use of Parish Registers are more reliable and much more informative than the IGI, which only record Baptisms and Marriages – burials are rarely recorded. The Parish Registers contain a vast array of information not located elsewhere as Clerks and Vicars often recorded their own thoughts or acid comments in the registers. The following information is courtesy of the Minister of Spilsby parish located in Lincoln:

| Date Registered | Quality  | Parish Name |          | Abode   | Quality, Trade, or Profession | By whom the Ceremony was performed |
|-----------------|----------|-------------|----------|---------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                 |          | Matrimony   | Baptism  |         |                               |                                    |
| 1613            | Thomas   | Dymoke      | Ward     | Spilsby | Joiner                        | Rev. Froloffe                      |
| Jan 10          | Baptized | &           |          |         |                               |                                    |
| Jan 8           | Son of   | Liddy       | Dawp     | Spilsby | Whore                         | Off. Minst                         |
| Jan 10          | Lucy     | John        | Goodrich | Wheat   | Shepherd                      | Rev. Froloffe                      |
|                 | Baptized | &           |          | Coats   |                               |                                    |
| Jan 2           | Daughter | Liddy       | Dawp     | Spilsby | Whore                         | Off. Minst                         |

Colin discussed the law of consent, explaining that the age of consent in the middle ages was fixed at 7 years; puberty was fixed at 12 for girls and 14 for boys. Prince David Henry 8<sup>th</sup>'s elder brother, and heir to the English throne, was married at the age of 2 to Catherine of Aragon who was 7, although they didn't meet until much later. He died before consummation of the marriage. . In 1653 the age was fixed at 14 for females and 16 for males. In 1660 the age of consent reverted to 12 for a bride and 14 for a groom.

The introduction of Hardwick's marriage act in 1753 made it illegal to marry before the age of 21 years, and without the consent of the parents. It also made clandestine marriages such as Fleet Street marriages illegal, and for a marriage to be legal it had to be solemnised in the Anglican Church. In 1822 the regulatory consent was repealed and once again it was legal for a boy and a girl aged 12 to marry without parents consent. In 1929 all marriages were made void if the marrying couples were under 16 years from 1922.

**What are parish registers?** These are the Books or Journals containing the recording of every happening within the Parish, They were kept by the elected Parish Clerk, who was to make entries every Sunday after the Church service. They began in 1538 when Cromwell, the Vicar General to King Henry VIII, ordered that every parish must keep a register. The order stated that every Sunday, the Parson, in the presence of the wardens, must enter all the baptisms, marriages and burials of the previous week. The register was to be kept in a coffer with two locks. Failure to comply imposed a fine of 3s 4d, which was to be spent on the upkeep of the church. The order was received with much suspicion – most people believed it was the forerunner for some new tax. Many parishes ignored it. The order was repeated in 1547 during the reign of Edward VI but this time the fine was to go towards poor relief.

In the main, the only information acknowledging a death was the recording of the burial, but in some Parish Registers the Parish Clerk did record the death date. It is noted that some burials took place at 10 o'clock at night, especially during the hot summer months. In those days refrigeration was unknown and ice was a commodity not readily available, so it understandable that it was more efficient to bury in the cool of the night. Most burials were conducted within 2 days of death.

The Burial in Wool Act was introduced in 1666, which was intended to lessen the importation of linen from abroad, and to encourage of the wool and paper manufacture in England. The Act required that the dead should be buried in shirts made of pure wool; furthermore an affidavit had to be sworn before a Justice of the Peace, confirming that the deceased had been buried in wool. This was extended to include the linings of any coffin. A penalty of Five Pounds was levied if other material was used. Many poor families could not afford the woollen shirts, and those burials were noted in the Register as "*naked*." Most burials did not involve a coffin, the corpse was wrapped in a shroud of wool. Plague victims were not buried in shrouds or wool – they were hastily buried in communal graves.

Because no national welfare system existed in England at the time, it fell to the Parish to care for its own members. Parish Law was introduced in 1610 which laid out penalties for any breach of the Parish and Church peace. To enforce these laws Parish overseers were elected to office, these consisted of the Church Warden, Parish Constables, and Overseers of the Poor.

The duties of the Church Warden mainly involved the activities within the Church and its churchyard; he was to keep order in the Church, and to ensure that everyone within the Parish boundary attended Church every Sunday. Church attendance was compulsory, and the names of Sabbath Day breakers or non attendees were submitted to the minister and the offenders were fined 1 shilling for every offence. When a person was deemed to be an habitual Sabbath Breaker, he would be excommunicated from the Church, meaning that he was unable to enjoy any of the privileges of the Parish, such as protection under the Poor Law which supplied welfare to the Parish members. He would also receive no help from the Parish if he suffered a misfortune such as a fire, which was common considering the roofing of the houses was thatch. In addition to this The Church Warden was to search alehouses on Sundays – any person therein during divine service were made to pay 3 shillings and 4 pence plus the 1 shilling for being absent from Church. The master of the alehouse was fined 10 shillings.

Under parish Law it was an offence to draw a weapon or strike a blow in church, and the offender would have one of his ears cut off.

Collections were made under issued briefs from the Archbishop. Orders were given to the Parish to compulsorily collect money from the parishioners for such things as relief of Poor Protestants suffering in Europe or France, or to rebuild a Church after a fire. One collection was especially to assist in the rebuilding of Churches of London after the Great Fire of 1666. Other collections were made in the Parish to redeem people taken by Sallee Pirates operating out of Tangiers. These Pirates regularly raided the coastlines and sea lanes off Devon and Cornwall and other coats line counties, capturing Mariners and their families, some they held for ransom, many other sold for slaves in the Muslim Slave Markets. Many of the Seamen that were captured had their tongues cut out and were sold in the Moroccan and various other countries as Galley Slaves. Removing the tongues from their slaves ensured that if they were ever rescued, they could not identify themselves as Englishmen.

Because the Church, through the local Parishes, took care of the wellbeing of the parishioners with its boundary, it was essential that transients, in the form of illegal settlers, beggars and vagabonds, were kept out of the Parish because they depleted the Parish Chest without ever making any contribution to it. To combat these offenders, dire laws were introduced to keep them out of the area, the punishment for any vagabond was to be removed from the village and parish – if they returned, they were branded on the face with a "V" and forcibly removed with a whipping. The third offence meant hanging on the Parish Gibbet.

To ensure the safe security of the Parish Registers, the clerks were ordered to keep them in an iron chest. One parish Clerk in Yorkshire created a wonderful strong box made up of slate with heavy iron doors. The church burned down and all the records sealed in this Strong Box were cremated so unfortunately there are no records for that parish until they were began again after the fire.

There are many reasons why you may not find your family members listed. Destruction or loss of the records could happen in several ways;

- ? Accidental Fire
- ? The Warden may have died and the family disposed of the records.
- ? The Priest may have moved on, taking the records with him.

One has to remember that at the time of the Parish Registers 1538-1752, they were dated under the Julian calendar system, when the year ended on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March and the New Year commenced on Lady Day the 25<sup>th</sup> of March. In 1752 the present day or Gregorian calendar was introduced to England with the New Year starting on 1<sup>st</sup> Of January. To overcome this anomaly when writing down your research one must record events occurring between 1<sup>st</sup> January and the 24<sup>th</sup> March using the double dating system e.g. 1751/52 the former being the Julian calendar date and the latter the Gregorian calendar date. This keeps the records in perspective.

After 1837 all BDM's were recorded by the Government Office.

#### **Relevant websites**

- ? <http://www.Familysearch.org> (IGI search, some entries not reliable avoid entries with Mr So and So with date shown as about or abt.)
- ? [A2a.org.uk](http://A2a.org.uk) (English Archival search historical events in your research county, enter name or village for information and hits e.g. Pirates, or removal orders, among many other subjects)
- ? <http://www.uk-genealogy.org.uk/Registers/index.html>
- ? <http://freereg.rootsweb.com/> (Free register search site)
- ? <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/>(Wills and other family history)
- ? [www.ozgenonline.com](http://www.ozgenonline.com) (A highly organised website containing quick links to a multitude of genealogy search assists)
- ? <http://www.genuki.org.uk/> (visit the county of interest)

**Mormon Church:** 3 Uley Road, Craigmere , Phone 8284 2713 for opening times.

## **Do not believe everything you read**

An amateur genealogist researcher discovered that his great-great uncle, Remus Starr, a fellow lacking in character was hung for horse stealing and train robbery in Montana in 1889. The only photo of Remus showed him on the scaffold on the reverse was the inscription: *"Remus Starr, horse thief, stn to Montana Territorial Prison 1885, escaped 1887 and robbed the Montana Flyer six times. Caught by Pinkerton detectives, convicted and hanged 1889.*

In the family history subsequently written by the researcher, the picture of Remus is a cropped scan edited with image processing software so that all that is seen is the head shot. The accompanying biographical sketch is as follows:

*Remus Starr was a famous cowboy in the Montana Territory. His business empire grew to include acquisition of valuable equestrian assets and intimate dealings with the Montana railroad. Beginning in 1883, he devoted several years with the railroad. In 1887, he was a key player in a vital investigation run by the renowned Pinkerton Detective Agency, in 1889, Remus passed away during an important civic function held in his honour when the platform upon which he was standing collapsed.*

This appeared in the Devon Family Historian Magazine, but well worth a mention here as it illustrated the importance of not taking someone else work for granted and incorporated it into you own without checking their research first. In other words "don't accept on first appearance as being gospel what you get from someone else".

## In the News this month.....

### Dead man late for own funeral

*From correspondents in Ottawa; April 09, 2008*

A CANADIAN family's grief turned to outrage when their deceased relative missed his own funeral because his coffin was bumped from a flight home to make room for luggage.

Dennis Hamilton died suddenly last week while working in western Canada's oil-rich Alberta province.

His sister-in-law Judy Hamilton told public broadcaster CBC the family was aghast when his remains did not arrive home in Newfoundland province on time for his funeral.

"You just don't bump a loved one in Montreal and keep him there for a whole night and say, 'They can wait'," she said on CBC. "And let luggage go on? It's not acceptable."

Air Canada spokesman Peter Fitzpatrick explained that airline staff had tried to expedite the coffin to Newfoundland, but its flight from Edmonton was delayed and it then missed a connecting flight in Montreal.

He also denied it was bumped from any flights.

"It unfortunately just took longer than we'd all hoped," he said.

### Pay-per-view funerals go online

*From correspondents in London; April 02, 2008*

PAY-per-view funerals go live online in Britain today, allowing mourners who cannot attend services in person to pay their last respects via the internet.

Despite criticism of the scheme as macabre, the company who launched the service, Wesley Music, is planning to offer it to crematoria across the country who will charge a one-off payment of about £75 (\$163) for access to a funeral webcast.

Mourners use the password to access a live online broadcast of the funeral service captured by a small camera mounted in the chapel.

"Families are dispersed across the world these days and sometimes it's the case that someone cannot get home in time for a funeral," said Alan Jeffrey, director of Wesley Music.

"For those who need it, this is a very important service. It means that rather than being excluded, they can at least witness and be a part of a funeral as it happens. In a time of stress this is something that can ease the pain."

David Powell, of funeral directors Henry Powell and Son in Southampton, southern England said he had already tested the service during three funerals.

He said they remained private, intimate affairs despite being broadcast on the web.

"It's a personal thing. It doesn't go out for all and sundry to gawk at," he said.

"There is a password for the family to send to people who want to watch online."

He said mourners as far away as Australia and Canada had already used the system.

"The families have been absolutely delighted to be able to share in the proceedings when it wasn't possible for them to get over here and attend."

## Vicar offers stress relief in grave

*From correspondents in Berlin; March 28, 2008*

A VICAR in Germany who had the novel idea of helping parishioners escape the stresses and strains of daily life by letting them lie in an open grave was upset when intrusive journalists spoiled the atmosphere.

"I meant it as a meditative exercise," pastor Thorsten Nolting said.

"I wanted people to think about what weighs on them down in the darkness and gather the energy to resist it."

Nolting, from the German city of Duesseldorf, said his plan went "horribly wrong" when journalists' persistent questioning as parishioners were "laid to rest" earlier this week ruined the serenity of the occasion.

"It wasn't silent, as it should have been. They ruined it. (They) would not go away, even when I asked them," he said.

Extroverts who could cope with the incessant questioning were happy to climb down into the two metre long hole, and then rave about their "resurrection".

But a local newspaper said one man was still shaking 20 minutes after his seven-minute spell in the dank grave ended.





## [9 million Irish Church, Census, and Gravestone records now online](#)

*This is a pay to view site, but for anyone searching their Irish ancestry it is invaluable.*

The Irish Family History Foundation, a network of county-based genealogical research centres on the island of Ireland, is now making their records available via an online research system (ORS). These centres have computerised just under 9 million Irish genealogical records, including church records, census returns and gravestone inscriptions.

At present 16 of the 32 county genealogy centres have their details on-line, with a further 5 centres coming online in the coming months, and the remaining 11 centres hoping to follow suit in the not-too-distant future. The Irish Roots website (<http://www.Irish-roots.net/>) will eventually hold details of all church records, which in some cases go back over 400 years to 1600. The site contains the largest online, searchable collection of Parish records for the island of Ireland. The complete indexes, which list surname, first name, year and county of ALL records is freely searchable. To view a detailed record you can purchase credit online for instant access for a small fee.

The current status of each county's records (shown here by province) is as follows:

### **In Connacht:**

County Galway - Currently Available  
County Leitrim - Currently Available  
County Mayo - Currently Available  
County Roscommon - Currently Available  
County Sligo - Not Yet Available

### **In Leinster:**

County Carlow - Not Yet Available  
County Dublin - Currently Available  
County Kildare - Currently Available  
County Kilkenny - Currently Available  
County Laois (formerly known as Laoighis or Leix) - Not Yet Available  
County Longford - Available Soon  
County Louth - Currently Available  
County Meath - Not Yet Available  
County Offaly (formerly known as King's County) - Not Yet Available  
County Westmeath - Currently Available  
County Wexford - Not Yet Available  
County Wicklow - Available Soon

### **In Munster:**

County Clare - Not Yet Available  
County Cork (north) - Currently Available  
County Cork (south) - Not Yet Available  
County Kerry - Not Yet Available  
County Limerick - Currently Available  
County Tipperary - Currently Available  
County Waterford - Not Yet Available

### **In Ulster:**

County Antrim - Available Soon  
County Armagh - Currently Available  
County Cavan - Currently Available  
County Derry - Not Yet Available  
County Donegal - Available Soon  
County Down - Available Soon  
County Fermanagh - Currently Available  
County Monaghan - Not Yet Available  
County Tyrone - Currently Available