

Alan Wright

Chopwell Township 1851-1911:
Aspects of Residency Using A Microcosmical Approach

Material Abstract

This thesis presents the results of an exploration into aspects of the residency of the inhabitants of four County Durham mining villages over the period 1851-1911. These four villages - Chopwell, High Spen, Blackhall Mill and Victoria Garesfield - were all within a few kilometres of each other and housed the population of a region known, historically, as Chopwell Township. Miners in High Spen and Victoria Garesfield had been working coal from the middle of the nineteenth century but major developments at Chopwell from 1895 created a new colliery village of over 5000 inhabitants by 1911. This large in-migration created some unusual conditions for this inquiry into residency.

The basic data for the analysis was obtained from the on-line versions of seven Censuses (1851-1911), supported by parish registers (1890-1911) and the 1910 Property Valuation Survey. Generally the ten-year Residential Persistence rates determined for three of the villages are comparable to other published figures, while the ten-year rates of Chopwell differ. It is suggested that the low values found for Chopwell, over the decade 1901-1911, were the result of the influx of workers which created a transient period of social 'churning' as the migrants adjusted to their new environment. A study of the inter-censal period, 1901-1911 for Chopwell and High Spen, revealed frequent short-distance migrations with residents moving between streets. Some of these migrations seem to occur for housing reasons, either up-sizing (for larger families) or down-sizing (for smaller families). A limited examination was also made of the conjecture that the presence of large numbers of children in a household restricted mobility but the results were equivocal.

To untangle the web of relationships that develop in communities it was necessary to create Household Histories. This exercise revealed 'hidden' illegitimate children, frequent re-marriages with surname changes, wider kin networks and some doubtful birthplaces.

Chopwell Township 1851-1911:
Aspects of Residency Using A Microcosmical
Approach

by

Alan Wright

DipEE.,MPhil.,MA.,FIEE

A thesis presented for the degree
MSc by research in Anthropology

Department of Anthropology
DURHAM UNIVERSITY
2012

List of Contents	Page No.
List of Tables, Maps and Photographs	5
Preface & Acknowledgements	8
Chapter One.	
Study Introduction and Review	10
1.1. Introduction	11
1.1.1. General	11
1.1.2. Aims and Objectives of this Study	12
1.2. Review of Community History, Migration, Kinship and Residency Patterns	14
1.3. Summary	27
References and Notes	28
Chapter Two	
Historical Background and General Source Material	32
2.1. Chopwell Manor in History	33
2.1.1. Chopwell Wood	35
2.2. Industrial Developments in the Derwent Valley	36
2.3. Early Population	39
2.4. General Source Material	40
2.5. Summary	42
References and Notes	43
Chapter Three	
Housing, Population and Census Data	45
3.1. Settlements in the Township	46
3.1.1. Chopwell	46
3.1.2. Blackhall Mill	51
3.1.3. High Spen	53
3.1.4. Victoria Garesfield	59
3.1.5. Summary Tables of the Populations in the Villages	60
3.2. Preparation of Data for Analysis	60
3.2.1. General	60
3.2.2. Development of the Census Files	61
References and Notes	68
Chapter Four	
Residential Persistence and Household Histories	69
4.1. Introduction	70

4.2. Residential Persistence 1851-1911	74
4.2.1. General Procedure and Results	74
4.3. Residential Persistence 1901-1911	82
4.3.1. General Procedure	82
4.3.2. Chopwell	82
4.3.3. High Spen	85
4.4. Residential Persistence 1910-1911	86
4.5. Summary of Results 1851-1911	90
4.6. Inter-Censal Residential Persistence 1901-1911	91
4.6.1. Introduction	91
4.6.2. Basis for Analysis	91
4.6.3. Discussion	96
4.7. Household Histories	97
4.7.1. Chopwell	98
4.7.2. High Spen	120
4.7.3. Review and Discussion of Results	132
References and Notes	135
Chapter Five	
Conclusions	137
5. Conclusions	138
Appendices.	
Appendix A1. Population Summary Tables 1851-1911.	144
Appendix A2. Street Residence Files	155
Appendix A3. Household Histories	179
Bibliography	252

Copyright

The copyright of this thesis rests with the author. No quotation from it should be published without the prior written consent and information derived from it should be acknowledged.

List of Tables, Maps and Photographs

	Page No.
Chapter One	
Study Introduction and Review	
Fig. 1.1 Chopwell Township and Associated Parishes	13
Chapter Two	
Historical Background and General Source Material	
Fig. 2.1.Chopwell Township Principal Farms and Houses	34
Chapter Three	
Housing, Population and Census Data	
Fig. 3.1. East Chopwell c.1911	48
Fig. 3.2. West Chopwell c.1911	49
Fig. 3.3. Some views of West Chopwell streets	50
Fig. 3.4. Blackhall Mill c.1911	52
Fig. 3.5. High Spen East c.1911	54
Fig. 3.6. High Spen West c.1911	55
Fig. 3.7. Some views of High Spen streets	56
Fig. 3.8. Victoria Garesfield c.1911	57
Fig. 3.9. Some views of Victoria Garesfield streets	58
Table 3.1. Summary of Population Totals 1851-1911	60
Fig. 3.10. File Structure for Chopwell and Blackhall Mill	62
Fig. 3.11. File Structure for High Spen and Victoria Garesfield	63
Table. 3.2. Extract from Alphabetical Names Files for Chopwell	64
Table. 3.3. Street Residence File - Wear Street 1901-11	65
Table. 3.4.Head of House Residence File for High Spen/Victoria Garesfield	66
Chapter Four.	
Residential Persistence and Household Histories	
Table 4.1. File for all Alexander Families in High Spen/Victoria Garesfield	
Table 4.2. Partial File for some AAA families in High Spen/Victoria Garesfield	75 76
Table 4.3. Summation file for High Spen/Victoria Garesfield	
Table 4.4. Summation file for High Spen/Victoria Garesfield including Residential Persistence Results	77 78
Table 4.4a. Summary of Residential Persistence Results for High Spen/Victoria Garesfield	78
Table 4.5. Partial File for some AAA families in Blackhall Mill	
Table 4.6. Summation file for Blackhall Mill	79
Table 4.7. Summation file for Blackhall Mill including Residential Persistence Results	80 81
Table 4.7a. Summary of Residential Persistence Results for Blackhall Mill	81
Table 4.8. Residential Persistence results for Chopwell streets	

Table 4.9. Residential Persistence results for High Spen streets	84
Table 4.10. Residential Persistence results for Glossop St. & Howard Terr.	85
Table 4.11. B Clyde Street showing residential changes 1910-1911	85
Table 4.12. Residential Persistence for Chopwell Streets 1910-11	86
Table 4.13. Residential Persistence for High Spen Streets 1910-11	88
Table 4.14. Summary of Residential Persistence Results 1851-1911	89
Table 4.15. Street Residence File Tyne Street 1901-11	90
Table 4.16. Mean Residential Duration - Tyne Street	92
Table 4.17. Mean Residential Duration - Thames Street	93
Table 4.18. Allocation of Slots for Option 2	93
Table 4.19. Mean Residential Duration - Option 1 (Tyne)	94
Table 4.20. Mean Residential Duration - Option 1 (Thames)	94
Table 4.21. Mean Residential Duration - Option 2 (Tyne)	95
Table 4.22. Mean Residential Duration - Option 2 (Thames)	95
Table 4.23. Mean Residential Duration for Chopwell/High Spen Streets 1901-11	95
Table 4.24. Micro-migration from Tyne Street 1901-1911	96
Table 4.25. Micro-migration from Wear Street 1901-1911	101
Table 4.26. Nominal distances from Chopwell of destinations of those families who moved outside Chopwell	105
Table 4.27. Average number of children for each family category - Blyth Street	110
Table 4.28. Micro-migration from Blyth Street 1901-1911	110
Table 4.29. Micro-migration from Severn Street 1901-1911	111
Table 4.30. Micro-migration from Thames Street 1901-1911	115
Table 4.31. Micro-migration from Glossop Street/Howard Terrace 1901-1911	119
Table 4.32. Average number of children for each family category - West Street	123
Table 4.33. Micro-migration from West Street 1901-1911	127
Table 4.34. Micro-migration from Short Rows East & West 1901-1911	128
Appendix One.	132
Population Summary Tables 1851-1911	
Table A1.1. Population summary - Chopwell 1851	
Table A1.2. Population summary - Chopwell 1861	145
Table A1.3. Population summary - Chopwell 1871	145
Table A1.4. Population summary - Chopwell 1881	145
Table A1.5. Population summary - Chopwell 1891	146
Table A1.6. Population summary - Chopwell 1901	146
Table A1.7. Population summary (Colliery Streets) - Chopwell 1911	146
Table A1.8. Population summary (Private Streets) - Chopwell 1911	147
Table A1.9. Population summary - Blackhall Mill 1851	147
Table A1.10. Population summary - Blackhall Mill 1861	148
Table A1.11. Population summary - Blackhall Mill 1871	148
Table A1.12. Population summary - Blackhall Mill 1881	148

Table A1.13. Population summary - Blackhall Mill 1891	148
Table A1.14. Population summary - Blackhall Mill 1901	149
Table A1.15. Population summary - Blackhall Mill 1911	149
Table A1.16. Population summary - High Spen 1851	149
Table A1.17. Population summary - High Spen 1861	150
Table A1.18. Population summary - High Spen 1871	150
Table A1.19. Population summary - High Spen 1881	150
Table A1.20. Population summary - High Spen 1891	150
Table A1.21. Population summary - High Spen 1901	151
Table A1.22. Population summary - High Spen 1911	151
Table A1.23. Population summary - Victoria Garesfield 1851	152
Table A1.24. Population summary - Victoria Garesfield 1861	153
Table A1.25. Population summary - Victoria Garesfield 1871	153
Table A1.26. Population summary - Victoria Garesfield 1881	153
Table A1.27. Population summary - Victoria Garesfield 1891	153
Table A1.28. Population summary - Victoria Garesfield 1901	153
Table A1.29. Population summary - Victoria Garesfield 1911	154
	154
Appendix Two.	
Street Residence Files	
Fig A2.1. Chopwell Street Plan - Tyne Street	
Table A2.1. Street Residence File - Tyne Street 1901-1911	156
Fig A2.2. Chopwell Street Plan - Wear Street	157
Table A2.2. Street Residence File - Wear Street 1901-1911	158
Fig A2.3. Chopwell Street Plan - Tees Street	159
Table A2.3. Street Residence File - Tees Street 1901-1911	160
Fig A2.4. Chopwell Street Plan - Blyth Street	161
Table A2.4. Street Residence File - Blyth Street 1901-1911	162
Fig A2.5. Chopwell Street Plan - Severn Street	163
Table A2.5. Street Residence File - Severn Street 1901-1911	164
Fig A2.6. Chopwell Street Plan - Thames Street	165
Table A2.6. Street Residence File - Thames Street 1901-1911	166
Fig A2.7. High Spen Street Plan - Glossop Street	167
Table A2.7. Street Residence File - Glossop Street 1901-1911	168
Fig A2.8. High Spen Street Plan - Howard Terrace	169
Table A2.8. Street Residence File - Howard Terrace 1901-1911	170
Fig A2.9. High Spen Street Plan - Clayton Terrace	171
Table A2.9. Street Residence File - Clayton Terrace 1901-1911	172
Fig A2.10. High Spen Street Plan - West Street	173
Table A2.10. Street Residence File - West Street 1901-1911	174
Fig A2.11. High Spen Street Plan - East Street	175
Table A2.11. Street Residence File - East Street 1901-1911	176
Fig A2.12. High Spen Street Plan - South Street	177
Table A2.12. Street Residence File - South Street 1901-1911	178
	179

Preface and Acknowledgements

One of the earliest Open University TV programmes I recall watching featured Michael Anderson who explained his research into the population of Preston in the 19th Century and a new word, 'propinquity', came into my vocabulary.

In 1981 I joined the Local Population Studies Society (LPSS) and a new topic came to my attention - 'family reconstitution'. A few years earlier I had been a founder-member of Whickham and District Local History Society. As Vice-Chairman, I was responsible for reconstructing the historical population of the Parish and I thought family reconstitution could support this project. Unfortunately when my 'team' realised that this research required some dedicated work in Local Record Offices, I soon found myself ploughing a lonely furrow.

Still determined to explore the method of family reconstitution, I began a part-time MA research degree in Economic History at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, intending to apply the technique in Whickham Parish. I quickly discovered that Keith Wrightson and David Levine were already 'trampling' over the fields of Whickham but fortunately their historical interest ended in 1750, the date at which my project began.

Following the completion of my research in 1987 the paths of Malcolm Smith and Alan Wright crossed for the first time. I had noticed his name on the LPSS committee and also that he had published articles in The Local Population Studies journal. Although we knew of each other's existence there was no sustained contact until 2007 when Malcolm rang to ask what, if anything, I was doing in the field of historical demography. At that time I was dabbling with the concept of a 'Perfect Parish' to try and shed some light, in my mind, on the issue of marriage and migration. I was aware that during the 1990s and in the first decade of 2000, there had been great debate among historical demographers

concerning the incompleteness of many life histories produced using family reconstitution. The main problem was considered to be migration to another parish which prevented vital linkages between birth, marriage and death records.

The measurement of migration at the aggregate level has yielded useful data for the historical movement of populations in this country (and abroad) but recent work has focused attention on the migration of families. This has opened a huge field of research at the microcosmical level (or microhistorical level) to which the amateur family historian can make a contribution.

Having identified migration as an important topic and following discussions with Malcolm, I examined several parishes in Northumberland and Durham which might prove suitable for a microcosmical study. Initially I considered a comparison between two parishes - one agricultural and one mining - with differing population histories could illuminate some of the causes that influence residency patterns. However, agricultural villages untouched by mining were not found, so I decided to concentrate on a group of four villages in a County Durham mining Township in the late-19th century. The project depended on extensive access to on-line versions of the Census Returns for 1851-1911 for England and Wales and National BMD registers.

Finally, I wish to record my thanks to Malcolm for his support and encouragement in what turned out, for me, to be an ambitious and challenging, particularly in terms of the quantity of data to be analysed, research programme.

Chapter One

Study Introduction and Review

1.1. Introduction

1.1.1. General

1.1.2. Aims and Objectives of this Study

1.2. Review of Community History, Migration, Kinship and Residency Patterns

1.3. Summary

References and Notes

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1. General

Significant changes to the social fabric of British society occurred during the 19th century and a major element in this transformation was the increase in population: in 1801 the population in England and Wales was just under nine million while in 1901 the total had risen to 35.5 million. The components underlying this simple gross increase have been debated by generations of historians, demographers, sociologists, politicians, etc, and these include changes in fertility, nuptiality, mortality and migration. Perhaps constrained by the type and availability of data sources most of the early work was at the aggregate level, however, it was considered probable that conclusions derived from such studies may not apply at the level of the anonymous individual.

In a brief article commissioned for the 40th anniversary issue of Local Population Studies Society (LPSS), Smith (2008), referred to migration as a '*shadowy variable*', a '*cinderella in the research interests of population historians*'. He considered the topic to be worthy of;

--- *pole position in the future research outputs of local population historians who wish to make microcosmic contributions to their subject. (Smith, 2008, p. 10).*

While his intention may have been to encourage migration studies using documents from the pre-census years, his words still have validity for the 19th century.

He also defined the '*microcosmic*' approach in social history as a particular focus on the measurement of processes at a lower level as this could show how the '*macrocosmic*' patterns originate. There have been some attempts to explore the details underlying aggregate demographic activity but the field is so large many more studies will be necessary before firm connections can be made between the macro-studies and micro-studies.

1.1.2. Aims and Objectives of this Study

As a contribution to this debate I propose to explore residential persistence and aspects of the migration history of the population of Chopwell Township over the period 1851-1911. This Township, of less than 4000 acres, was in the north-west corner of County Durham on the border between Northumberland and Durham. With over a 1000 acres of managed woodland and some 15 - 20 farms carved out of an even larger ancient wood, its economy in the early 1800s was essentially based on agriculture. There were small pockets of industry, some coal mining at various locations and iron production in the only hamlet, Blackhall Mill on the banks of the Derwent River.

The population in the Census for 1801 was 348 but some two decades later in 1821 the population had dropped to 237: it took another 30 years until the 1851 Census before the total number of inhabitants recovered to exceed 400. Over the next 60 years with significant developments in coal working at Garesfield (High Spen) from the 1840s onwards and the creation of a major colliery/village at Chopwell in the late 1890s, the population expanded dramatically to nearly 10,000 by 1911.

The migrants who flooded in to work in the mines in the Township came in two main waves, first to High Spen in the period 1840-60 and the second some 40 years later into Chopwell. This development delay offers an opportunity to investigate possible differences in the residential persistence between these two major villages.

The colliery houses, particularly in Chopwell, were mainly built in well-defined streets which suggested that their residential histories within each village could be followed with some precision. Essentially, the inhabitants of both High Spen and Chopwell and the associated hamlets of Victoria Garesfield and Blackhall Mill, were all engaged in a common industry - coal mining and coke manufacture. The miners were supported by a thin halo of shopkeepers - from grocers to shoemakers, from dairymen to butchers and haberdashers



Fig. 1.1 Chopwell Township and Associated Parishes

- , teachers and doctors. While there is a defined hierarchy in the various occupations in a colliery, in Chopwell Township, to my knowledge, this was not reflected in the housing arrangements, except for a selected range of management positions. Deputies or Overmen, were not segregated from hewers, nor hewers from stonemen and they all lived in the same type of colliery house. Sociologically speaking the workmen were all of the same social class.

In summary, the physical and social developments in Chopwell Township offer an unusual platform from which it is possible to examine, in detail, aspects of migration and residency patterns in the period 1851-1911.

1.2. Review of Community History, Migration, Kinship and Residency Patterns

Community history as a discipline is of recent vintage, for example, the journal Family and Community History (FACH) recently celebrated its tenth birthday and yet it was only in Vol. 7/1, May 2004, when two articles were published which explored differing interpretations of 'community'. Mills (2004) concluded that:

--- authors should be encouraged to state more explicitly how their empirical contributions relate to the question 'what is community history'. (Mills, 2004, p. 11)

While Deacon and Donald (2004), Editors of FACH, rejected an over-tight definition and argued for:

- a methodologically distinct community history, combining a micro-historical approach with a sensitivity to the discursive construction of the term 'community'. (Deacon and Donald, 2004, p. 13)

Mills also contrasted 'local history' and 'community history', suggesting the former is more concerned with 'place' while the latter deals with 'people'. It is not possible, however, to study any population without specifying some socio-political boundary

containing the community, or communities, of interest. This could be a village or town, a parish or county, or it could be a much smaller element of habitation such as a street or a road, see Davies (2003).

In an earlier article Mills (1994), claimed that,

the history of the family is basic to the history of community ---- since a community can readily be treated as a collection of families. (Mills, 1994, p. 282)

Extending this argument, the family can be further broken down into a collection of individuals, so the interaction between individuals can provide a, perhaps more fundamental, layer of explanation into the history of the community.

The exploration of community history (however defined) in the nineteenth century must use two major resources, namely the Anglican Parish Registers and the Census Enumerators' Books (CEBs). The Local Population Studies Society has been at the forefront of this approach in using local records and census data – to derive detailed estimates of fertility, mortality, nuptiality and more recently migration - which can be extrapolated to characterize national patterns. Perhaps the two most important contributions to English historical demography over the last three decades have been 'Population History of England 1541-1871', by Wrigley and Schofield (1981), and 'English Population History from Family Reconstitution 1580-1837', Wrigley, et al (1991a). These two books, the culmination of work by the Cambridge Group for the Study of Population and Social Structure, stimulated a great deal of debate on the representativeness of the data used and the possible distorting effects of migration on the family reconstitution analysis.

The earlier study was based on 404 parishes out of a nominal 10,000 for the whole of England while the later study was only able to use 26 of these for the family reconstitution analysis. For example, the parish of Earsdon in Northumberland was the sole representative

of the counties of Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland and Westmorland in the latter investigation. Essentially the selection of a parish for the study depended upon the quality of the registers and a group of researchers volunteered to, first, assess the suitability of the register and, second, undertake the tedious task of data recording. By the early nineteenth century, the Anglican registers, for various reasons, become less and less comprehensive in their recording of vital events, see Wrigley et al (1991b, p. 27) – and the use of techniques, such as family reconstitution, become impractical.

The Census Returns comprise the other major resource for investigations into historical populations of the 19th century and early 20th century, in particular those for the decades 1851 to 1911. The CEBs from the last census in this period only became available in the latter half of 2009 and have yet to be fully exploited. The CEBs can be used to explore issues of family structure, residential persistence, migration and kinship. The enumerators listed families in groups or households with the first person named as 'Head' and subsequent individuals have a specified relationship to the 'Head'. Both the numbers living in the household and the structure, the categories of individuals - father, mother, son, daughter, etc, their ages and their origins - are of interest. All of these data streams are of relevance to this study of migration and residency patterns in the 1851-1911 period. Regional and national aggregate data can yield useful information but such data are the outcome of millions of individuals making life-choice decisions in thousands of households throughout the country. This reservoir of family details has rarely been exploited in the study of residence patterns and migration: perhaps because it is 'data-heavy' and a great deal of effort is required to marshal and analyse information from even a small parish.

The amateurs working in the fields of local history and family history were often regarded with disdain by some professional historians and demographers, although this attitude has changed over recent decades. The driving force for the digitization of the census

returns and other official documents, has come from the amateurs, to support their perennial genealogical researches. The wide-spread availability of these digitized records on a number of web-sites is a vast accessible resource for both amateurs and professionals in the study of the social characteristics of historical populations from these decades.

In order to circumvent some of the problems associated with data collection and analysis for migration studies, Pooley and Turnbull (1998a), developed a longitudinal study - life history study - which utilized data collected privately by family historians and amateur genealogists. A pilot study demonstrated the feasibility of such an approach and the subsequent full study used information supplied by members of more than 60 family history and genealogy societies throughout the country. The aggregated results did not show any discordant trends or patterns to migration than other kinds of study, however, the life history approach added some valuable insights into the residential history of real individuals. It is noted that while this study recorded over 16000 life histories, the numerous occupation groups did not contain miners, of any kind.

Grigg (1994a), reviewed and restated Ravenstein's 'Laws of Migration' (these were derived by Ravenstein from analyses based on the 1871 and 1881 Censuses and published in the late 19th century). Although some of the laws have only a passing relevance to this specific study it is useful to comment on some of them here:

- 1. The majority of migrants travel only a short distance.*
- 2. Migration proceeds step by step.*
- 3. Long distance migrants travel to large conurbations.*
- 4. Each migration flow produces a compensating counterflow.*
- 5. The natives of towns are less migratory than those of rural areas.*
- 6. Females migrate more than males within their country of birth but outside the reverse holds.*

7. Most migrants are adults as families rarely migrate beyond their birth county.

8. Large towns grow more by migration than by natural increase.

9. As an economy develops and transport improves, migration increases.

10. Migration flows are into conurbations from agricultural areas.

11. The major cause of migration is economics. (Grigg, 1994a, pp.148-149)

Most of the above cry out for more precise definition and clarity. What is a 'short distance'? 'What is a long distance'? Who are the 'natives' of towns? If the major cause of migration is economics, Law 11, why do we need Law 9?

Grigg (1994b, p.150) supports claims that the short-distance migration (Law No. 1) has been demonstrated for a number of areas, counties and towns from South Wales to South Shields. These studies relied on printed Census tables but the availability of the enumerators' schedules allows more precise analyses to be performed.

Law No. 2 proposes that the migrant instead of travelling direct to a final destination chooses to approach by a series of smaller steps. The first question must be why should someone who has decided on a final destination make such an approach? If the individual is moving for employment reasons and the information is that work is available surely a direct journey is necessary. There may be evidence, a posteriori, that a migrant travelled from village A to town Z in several stages, but it is not possible to predict any particular migration path from A to Z, a priori.

The assumption must be that the migrant chooses, rationally - for better working conditions if not a better job, for better housing accommodation, etc - to make the initial move from village A to village B in a migration trail which eventually leads to town Z several decades later. The hypothesis that the migrant began with the original intention to end up in town Z is highly unlikely and unprovable. According to Grigg (1994c, p. 153;

'The few writers who have reconsidered the concept have been sceptical of its validity'.

It is not intended to examine each remaining Law in detail but No. 7 is worthy of comment. There are two observations, first that the migrants are predominantly aged between 15 and 35 years of age and, second, that families rarely migrate out of their country - England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland) - of birth. Grigg (1994d, pp. 154-155) is of the opinion that these have also been confirmed by modern studies, although his reference is to a 1951 publication, which hardly accords with 'modern'. A conflicting observation by Benson (1989a, p. 150) noted, *'There was a much larger movement of population within the country as families travelled about in search of work'.*

This evidence seems insufficient to confirm or deny Law No. 7 but it is easy to see how both models of migration can co-exist;

Type 1. Young unmarried migrants leave home and travel to the nearest large town looking for work or, for example, to another colliery village. If successful they must find lodging or if unsuccessful they can easily return home.

Type 2. A family man wishing to remove to another colliery village would pay a visit to explore the possibility of a move and to make certain that suitable accommodation is available. If the job and house are secured then the whole family moves together.

How potential economic migrants acquired knowledge of available vacancies is of interest. Advertisements placed in local newspapers or in shop windows by colliery owners was one approach, but with low levels of literacy this would require 'word of mouth' support for success. Smith and Smith (2008, p. 3) show an early example of such a advertisement for Washington Colliery in 1832.

White (1988), in his study of Grantham and Scunthorpe considered that:

All else being equal, the links between areas sharing a common form of industrial activity were likely to be stronger than those between other areas.

The network of information which serviced migration was probably better developed; the body of knowledge concerning the conditions at a certain destination all that more comprehensive. A man with a family would be less keen to uproot on the basis of mere hearsay. (White, 1988, p. 49)

In respect of the iron industry in Scunthorpe, White found that approximately 60% of migrant males belonged to family groups.

Pooley and Turnbull (1998b), also examined Ravenstein's 'conjectures', in the light of their longitudinal study, and they found that movement as a family group was by far the most common experience. So they concluded that it was, '*simply not true to say that families rarely moved home*'. (Pooley and Turnbull, 1998b p. 326).

Census returns for the 19th century have been used widely for the study of migration but often have involved aggregate data, looking for the wider picture of net migration from an area. In an article Hinde (2004), stated:

Although rural to urban migration was common, in towns of all sorts natural increase was more important than net migration as a determinant of population growth. This was true of resorts (residential towns) eg. Bournemouth -- --. The same pattern can be observed in colliery districts, where natural increase contributed five times as much to overall population growth as did net migration, though given the high fertility of coal miners this is perhaps less surprising than the results for urban areas. (Hinde, 2004, p. 8)

While there is some general truth in the statement when applied to established communities, for specific new developments it cannot be true as, for example, the large in-migration required to get a colliery working far outweighs any initial natural increase. Similarly where an industry is failing - the colliery seams are nearly exhausted, the younger workers move away - both in-migration and fertility must fall and local

circumstances will determine which factor is more important.

Benson (1989b), perceived that while kinship, neighbourhood and community were important to social historians, he considered that there had been an apparent lack of interest, *'shown by some historians in working-class kinship, neighbourhood and community'* (p. 133).

In part Benson (1989c) attributed this to the problems of definition and from the:

.... very elusiveness of the subject: from the theoretical complexities of defining, and distinguishing, the terms kinship, neighbourhood and community; and the empirical difficulties of finding the evidence that is required to examine them historically. (Benson, 1989c, p. 117)

Kin normally has a specific meaning of 'family' but it can have a more general meaning relating to a 'group' that could include unrelated individuals. Interpreting 'kin' as 'family' allows the census returns to be used to detect the presence of kin groups. This can be a complex exercise as inter-marriage, usually between members of unrelated kin groups, creates a 'super' kin-network with possible numerous 'in-law' connections. This raises the question, "Who is kin?" Where does the relationship through marriage fit in the hierarchy of a kin-network? The bond between genetic kin and non-genetic kin could be weaker than that between unrelated neighbours: in other words, as regards social relationships, such neighbours can become 'pseudo-kin'.

There was a widespread belief that historical populations lived in large complex households, but Anderson (1971a, p. 56), reported that a 2% sample of the 1851 Census for Preston, showed this picture to be false; the nuclear family household was the predominant pattern. Another finding was that while co-resident kin were not present they did not live far away but were in neighbouring streets. Anderson (1971b, pp. 56-62) made an attempt to compare the actual and expected distances between residences

of 137 pairs of individuals, whom he took to be kin. The criteria were that the individuals had the same surname and the same birthplace; it was accepted that this was an approximate measure. The conclusion was that perhaps a majority of people chose to live near other kin and that these kinship-links were, therefore, important. What is not known is when the decision was made to move, was it a 'free' decision? In other words could they have chosen another house or was it the only suitable house available at the time? Perhaps this was beyond Anderson's brief but it would have been of interest to know how many kin decided not to live locally and moved out of the district.

A contrary conclusion to Anderson's was arrived at by Wrightson (1982a), after a study of Terling, Essex for 1671 where less than half of 122 householders had relatives among the other householders. While kinship networks could be discerned they were not 'dense' (undefined) as most were just single connections. He proposed:

Whichever was the case our current working hypothesis must be that kinship ties beyond those of the nuclear family were of limited significance in the social structure of village communities. (Wrightson, 1982b, p. 45).

He suggested that more vital social bonds were established via another social grouping; the neighbourhood. While a kinship group may be determined with some accuracy the term 'neighbourhood' is, like 'community', a rather vague concept. A neighbourhood (a village), could contain several neighbourhoods (specific groups of streets) but it could be smaller than a community. However, in many cases, the terms maybe inter-changeable. Wrightson (1982c, pp. 51-57), wishes to introduce the idea of 'neighbourliness', which, he admits, also lacks a precise definition. While he identifies some characteristics of 'neighbourliness' he doesn't say if these are also present within the kinship communities. If a community comprises numerous kin groups, then between kin group connections must be evident and shown to be preferred to within-kin group social networks, to

demonstrate his 'neighbourliness'. It is not clear that this is what he has done.

There is no doubt that migration can perturb or even break kinship links and that some sociologists, see Coster (2001, pp. 103-105), have argued that industrialization, by stimulating migration, was a major factor in destroying familial life. However, this conclusion is challenged by evidence, reported by Wrightson (1982d, p. 42), that significant migration was already underway in farming communities before industrialization had appeared on the scene. Hareven (1994, pp. 44-47) also argued against this idea and suggested that rather than disrupting kinship networks, migration was often beneficial to them:

Following 'chain migration' routes, villagers who went to work in urban factories spearheaded migration for other relatives by locating houses and jobs. Those who remained in the communities often took care of ageing parents and other relatives who stayed behind. (Hareven, 1994, p. 24)

One simple point which is rarely, if ever, mentioned in discussions of extended family households, is the physical restriction imposed by four walls, ie. the size of the house. As children grow up and leave their parental home there is usually only sufficient room for one extra married couple, perhaps a daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren. A two-roomed house could cope with a household size of five, a three-roomed house with ten and a four-roomed with ten and above. For example, a two-roomed house would be unlikely to contain a married daughter and family in addition to her parents and younger siblings, unless it is a temporary short-term arrangement. The degree of overcrowding that can be tolerated within a household is, however, a personal decision which can vary between households.

Burnett (1986, pp. 144-145), reported that the term 'overcrowding' was first defined in 1891 as:

--- a room containing more than two adults, children under ten counting as

half, and those under one year not counting at all. (Burnett, 1986, p. 144)

Under this definition a three-roomed house could contain four adults, four children and any number of infants without infringing the limit. According to Burnett, 30-35% of housing in Newcastle and Gateshead for 1901 was overcrowded under this definition. It was accepted that this was a crude approximation which did not allow for the size of the room and later specifications were based on sq. ft. per person. While, in principle, housing could be built to eliminate overcrowding usually there was nothing to stop tenants taking in lodgers, for example, and technically breaching the nominal design limit.

Laslett (1983a, pp. 96-99), presented the results for 64 English settlements covering the period 1622-1854 and these showed that the predominant type of household was the nuclear family, although more complex households were present. Ignoring the results for gentry households, the proportion of the households belonging to the lowest social class which contained resident kin was 7.9%. There is, of course, a natural life cycle through which the structure of any household must follow, although not every household necessarily follows the same path to extinction.

There have been a number of different approaches to the study of migration using census returns and parish registers. Dobson and Roberts (1971, pp. 193-208), examined the eighteenth century population movements in four contiguous Northumberland parishes using the origin of marriage partners and surnames as measures. The results showed that movement was very limited, with most partners coming from within the particular parish: only rarely did a partner come from a distance of more than 32 km.

Smith and Fletcher-Jones, (2003, pp. 678-692) studied endogamy in four parishes of the Durham coalfield covering several occupational groups. While the miners had a high rate of endogamy their tendency to marry within the same occupational background was less pronounced than those in professional and agricultural labourer groups.

Benson (1989d, p. 107), claimed that: '*young men and women continued to choose partners from a narrow geographical and social circle*'. While it is easy to accept the generalization that both partners came from the same social class, Benson does not define what he means by 'narrow geographical circle'. Industrial developments, for example, can attract migrants from appreciable distances creating opportunities for a much wider variety of marriage partners. Benson (1989e, pp. 128-129) also refers to the immobile poor whose opportunities for migration were restricted by their economic condition. On the other hand both Laslett (1983b, p. 75), exploring the 17th century and Reay (1996, p. 158), covering the 19th century each concluded that their studies revealed a highly mobile population.

Wrightson (1982e, pp. 43-45), noted from his study of Terling in Essex, that mobility varied between social classes: the middle classes tended to be less mobile than the labouring classes. This conclusion contrasts with that reported by Wojciechowska (1988, pp. 28-40) in a study of Brenchley, a parish lying in the Weald of Kent. She concluded that professional persons had higher rates of mobility than labourers, farmers or tradespeople living in a mid-nineteenth century rural parish.

Sill (1979, pp. 44-50), investigated the labour mobility of coal miners in Hetton-le-Hole, Co. Durham using the 1851 census returns and found that the great majority (85%) of coalminer heads of household had been born in North East England. Unfortunately, he does not explicitly convert his data into a distance parameter. Finally, in their large aggregate study covering the whole country Pooley and Turnbull (1996, p. 55), derived a mean distance of approximately 35 km for the nineteenth century movers.

On the flip-side of the coin to migration is residential persistence and studies in this field have tackled the definition of persistence and have used the available data sources in several ways. Residential Persistence (RP) can be taken at the same house, same

street, same village or same parish over one year, ten years or longer periods. Over periods in excess of 40 years death can affect persistence totals.

Anderson (1971c, p. 42), reported that some 40% of those males over 10 years old were in the same house or within 180 metres of the same house they had occupied ten years earlier. The percentage figure for those actually in the same houses from 1851 to 1861 was 14%. It is noted that females were not in the equation.

Dennis and Daniels (1994, pp. 204-210) in their article on community and the social demography of Victorian cities, published in *Time, Family and Community*. by Drake (1994), reported results from several researchers of RP% = 13 to 41 for ten-year rates and RP% = 60 to 80 for one-year persistence rates. As regards explanations for the various results, they observed that variations in a number of factors - new house-building rates, mixes of house types and sizes, levels of owner occupation, social status and multiple occupancy - did not form part of a single hypothesis to account for the patterns in the results. They suggested that further progress at explaining residential persistence required '*complete coverage at the individual scale*', (p. 207).

French (2008, pp. 18-36), observed that it was no easy task to measure the degree of persistence within the growing town of Kingston-upon-Thames, where, in a large study, he traced persisters over two, three, four and five censuses from 1851 to 1891. For his analysis he chose a cohort of individuals who were present in Kingston over four/five censuses. With this interpretation of persistence, the ten-year persistence rates varied from RP% = 34.7 to 39.7 across four sets of consecutive census years. This analysis used extensive record linkage techniques using census records and parish registers and so included females. In addition to the aggregate totals he looked at the occupational and social class profiles for the persisters. The lack of comparable studies left a number of unanswered questions concerning the typicality or otherwise of the persisters in Kingston.

French ended his article with the indirect invitation to other researchers to conduct similar studies which would allow a clearer characterisation of the persisters group.

1.3. Summary

This survey illustrates the paucity of published 'microcosmic' studies which attempt to combine aspects of migration with the residential histories of individuals, their families and kinship groups.

As far as migration is concerned evidence supporting Ravenstein's general 'conjectures' on migration is not wholly satisfactory and later scholars have disagreed. Further, various studies appear to produce conflicting results, which could be a reflection on the different communities under investigation.

The presence and relevance of kinship groups living in close proximity is another debate which is still alive. Some studies suggest that kin choose to live close to each other and it is then inferred that this means such propinquity is an important factor binding the group together. Other studies downplay the kinship links and point out that it was just one of a number of social bonds, the significance of which could vary with the community context.

Researchers in the field of Residential Persistence still lack a coherent approach in respect of which definition of the term will yield the appropriate statistic for the community of interest. A wide range of social factors which are considered to influence this characteristic have been proposed but a definitive hypothesis has still to emerge from this work.

References and Notes

Chapter One

Anderson, M.
Family Structure in nineteenth century Lancashire, (Cambridge - (1971)),
(1971a, p. 56).

Anderson, M.
ibid, (1971b, pp. 56-62).

Anderson, M.
ibid, (1971c, p. 42).

Benson, J.
The Working Class in Britain, 1850-1939, (Longman - (1989)),
(1989, p. 150).

Benson, J.
ibid. (1989b, p. 133).

Benson, J.
ibid, (1989c, pp. 117).

Benson, J.
ibid. (1989d, p.107).

To illustrate this issue with a personal example, both sets of my grandparents (as yet unmarried) arrived into Chopwell between 1903 and 1908. My maternal grandparents came from Durham via Northumberland (Armstrong) and Leicestershire via Durham (Porter) while my paternal grandparents came from Durham via Scotland/Wales (Wright) and Durham via Yorkshire/Somerset (Sedgewick). The employment backgrounds included: coal-mining, lead-mining, quarrying and farm labouring.

Burnett, John.
A Social History of Housing 1815-1985 (2nd edition, 1986).
(1986, pp. 144-5).

Coster, W.
Family and Kinship in England 1450-1800 (Pearson Education Limited, 2001).
(2001, pp. 103-105).

Davies, L.M.
Faith Street, South Kirkby, - 'That Troublesome Place': Infant Mortality in a Yorkshire Coal-Mining Community, 1894 - 1911
Family & Community History, Vol. 6/2, Nov. 2003.
(2003, pp. 121-127).

Deacon, B. & Donald, M.
In Search of Community History,
Family & Community History, Vol. 7/1, May 2004.
(2004, pp. 13-18).

Dennis, R. and Daniels, S.
Chapter 10. 'Community' and the Social Geography of Victorian Cities, in
Time, Family and Community, Perspectives on Family and Community History by Michael
Drake (ed.), (Open University and Blackwell, Oxford - (1994)).

(1994, pp.204-210).

They suggest the mobility of different groups of residents - renters and home-owners - may have nothing to do with how the groups see themselves as being part of a 'community'. Those who rent stay because they have no information about vacancies further afield. For home-owners information about distant properties could be more accessible and therefore the decision not to move is maybe an expression of real choice; a vote of confidence in the 'community'.

Dobson, T. and Roberts, D.F.

Historical Population Movement and Gene Flow in Northumberland Parishes.

Journal of Biosocial Science, Vol. 3 1971.

(1971, pp. 193-208).

French, C.

Persistence in a Local Community: Kingston upon Thames 1851-1891.

Local Population Studies No. 81, Autumn 2008.

(2008, pp. 18-36).

In an earlier article (The Local Historian, Volume 36, No. 1, February 2006, pp.17-28) French reported on a segment of the population of Kingston upon Thames. 'a micro-historical study' of a single street. The street was not meant to represent a typical street in the town and there was no focus on residential persistence, although he did report some figures. Using his definition of the persistence of individuals present (as opposed to persistence of Heads of Households) over two consecutive Censuses the figures for Residential Persistence (RP) were RP% = 19 (1871-1881) and RP% = 12 (1881-1891), however, only two people stayed from 1871 to 1891. French claimed this low figures were typical of working-class communities in the second half of the 19th century.

Grigg, D.B.

Chapter 7. E.G. Ravenstein and 'The Laws of Migration', in

Time, Family and Community, Perspectives on Family and Community History by Michael Drake (ed.), (Open University and Blackwell, Oxford - (1994)).

(1994a, pp. 147-164).

Grigg, D. B.

ibid. (1994b, p. 150)

Hareven, T. K.

Chapter 1, Recent Research on the History of the Family, in

Time, Family and Community, Perspectives on Family and Community History by Michael Drake (ed.), (Open University and Blackwell, Oxford - (1994)).

(1994, pp. 24-27).

Hinde, A.

The use of nineteenth-century census data to investigate local migration,

Local Population Studies, No. 73, 2004, (2004, pp. 8-28).

Laslett, P.

The World We Have Lost, further explored. Methuen (3rd edition, 1983).

(1983, pp. 96-99).

Laslett, P.

ibid, (1983, p. 75).

Mills, D.

Defining Community: A Critical Review of 'Community',

Family & Community History, Vol. 7/1, (2004, pp. 5-12).

- Mills, D.
Chapter 13. Community and Nation in the Past: perception and reality.
Time, Family and Community, Perspectives on Family and Community History by Michael Drake (ed.), (Open University and Blackwell, Oxford - (1994)).
(1994, pp. 261-285),
- Pooley, C.G and Turnbull, J.
Migration and Mobility in Britain since the eighteenth century, (UCL Press London - (1998))
(1998a).
- Pooley, C.G and Turnbull, J.
ibid. (1998b, p. 326).
- Pooley, C.G and Turnbull, J.
ibid. (1998c, pp. 319-334).
- Pooley, C.G. and Turnbull, J.
Migration and Mobility in Britain from the Eighteenth and Twentieth Centuries
Local Population Studies No. 57, Autumn 1996.
(1996, p. 55).
- Reay, B.
Microhistories: demography, society and culture in rural England 1800-1930, (Cambridge 1996)
(1996, p. 158).
- Sill, M.
Local Population Studies, No. 22, Spring 1979.
(1979, pp. 44-50).
- Smith, K. and Smith, J.
The Great Northern Miners, (Tynebridge Publishing, 2008).
(2008, p. 3).
- Smith, M.T. and Fletcher-Jones, L. J.
'Thus the Colliers and their wives...': migration, mate choice and population structure of some
County Durham parishes in the mid-19th century.
Annals of Human Biology, (November-December 2003, Vol. 30, No. 6, pp. 678-692)
- Smith, R.
Linking the Local and the General in Population History: Prioritising Migration
Local Population Studies, No. 81 Autumn 2008.
(2008, pp. 9-10).
Smith is not the first demographer to advocate the study of societies at the most basic level of the
family although he is the first to introduce the term '*microcosmical*' to describe such studies.
Other investigators, such as French (op.cit. 2006, pp.17-28) and Reay (op.cit. 1996, pp. 257-
262), pursuing similar objectives to those proposed by Smith use the term 'micro-history' or
'microhistory'. Hudson also supported micro-historical studies ('Industrialization in Britain: The
Challenge of Micro-History', Family and Community History, Vol. 2/1, May 1999. pp. 5-16) and
concluded:
*micro-history represents a return to a more accessible, less specialized and less
technical history. A history which can be accessed, practised and enjoyed on many
levels and by a wide catchment of people. (1999, p. 14)*
- White, Martin B.
Family Migration in Victorian Britain: The Case of Grantham and Scunthorpe
Local Population Studies, No. 41, Autumn 1988,
(1988, pp. 41-50).

Wojciechowska, B.
Brenchley: A Study of Migratory Movements in a Mid-Nineteenth Rural Parish,
Local Population Studies No. 41, Autumn 1988.
(1988, pp. 28-40).

Wrightson, Keith.
English Society 1580-1680, (Hutchinson - (1982)),
(1982a. p. 45).

Wrightson, Keith.
ibid. (1982b, p. 45).

Wrightson, Keith.
ibid. (1982c, pp. 51-57).

Wrightson considers some of the characteristics of neighbourliness, including propinquity and reciprocal obligations. In a formal but sterile way he is probably correct concerning his principle of reciprocity but there are many instances where the principle does not apply because the two parties are not equal and there is no expectation of reciprocal action.

A personal anecdote concerns my father and our next-door neighbour, who was a widow. In the 1950s, after she was widowed, my father provided her with a regular supply of chopped wood for her fire. When she moved out of her colliery house and into a retirement bungalow in another part of the village, my father continued to supply her with wood until her death in the 1960s. The unwritten 'social contract' did not involve reciprocity,

Neighbourliness can merge into friendship and 'friends', according to Wrightson (p. 55), was a term applied to kinsfolk: so neighbours can become effectively 'pseudo-kin'.

Wrightson, Keith.
ibid. (1982d, p. 42).

Wrightson, Keith.
ibid. (1982e, pp. 43-45).

He also emphasized that a steady turnover of population was an important structural characteristic of local English society.

Wrigley, E.A. and Schofield, R.S.
Population History of England 1541-1871 - a reconstruction, 1st Edition (Edward Arnold - (1981)).
(1981)

Wrigley, E.A., Davies, R.S., Oeppen, J.E. and Schofield, R.S.
English Population History From Family Reconstitution - 1580-1837, (Cambridge - (1991)).
(1991a)

Wrigley, E.A., Davies, R.S., Oeppen, J.E. and Schofield, R.S.
ibid. (1991b, p. 27).

Chapter Two

Historical Background and General Source Material

2.1. Chopwell Manor in History

2.1.1. Chopwell Wood

2.2. Industrial Developments in the Derwent Valley

2.3. Population

2.4. General Source Material

2.5. Summary

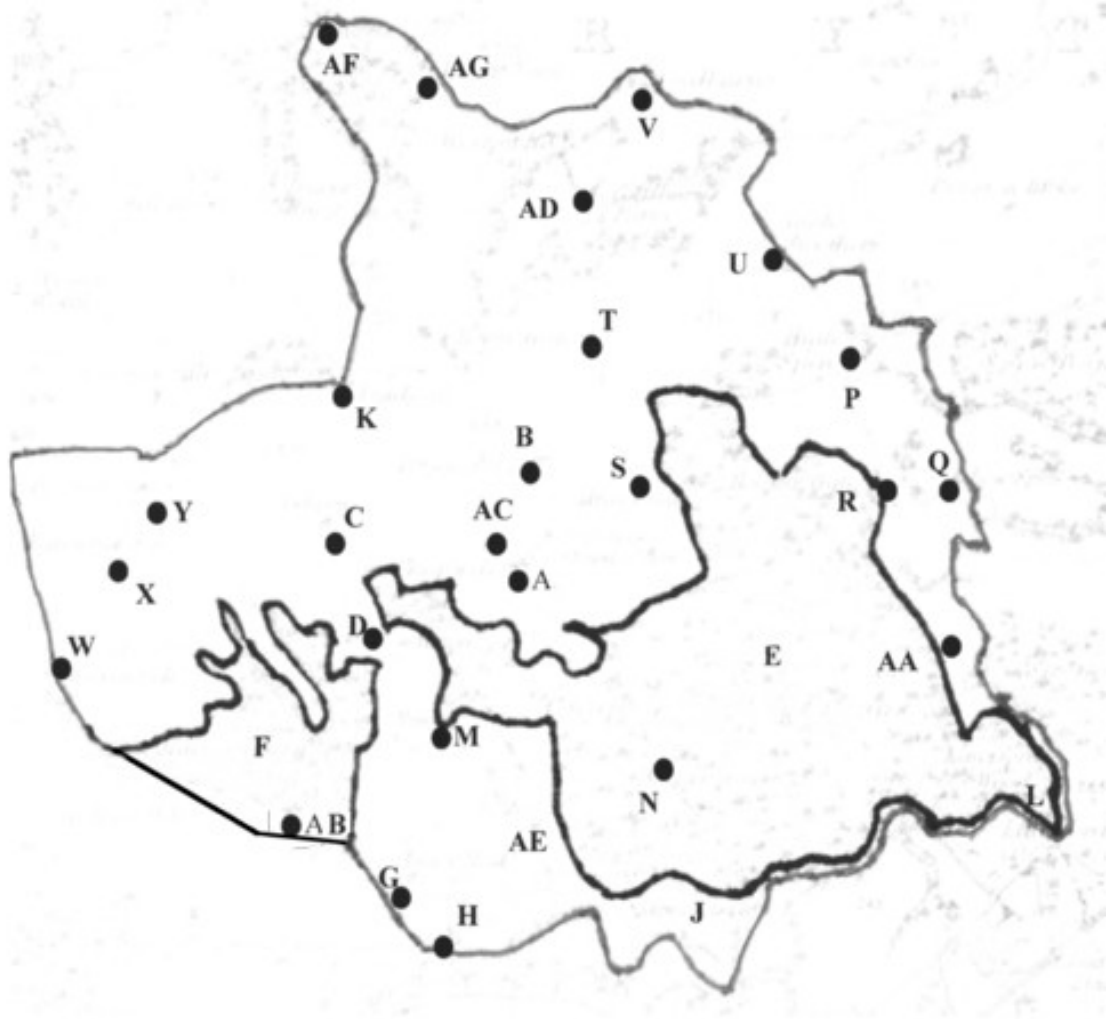
References and Notes

2.1. Chopwell Manor in History

The original manor of Chopwell covered an area of approximately 3850 acres and was at one time part of the parish of Ryton, but in the 19th century it became part of the parish of Winlaton. The name 'Chopwell', is considered to be Anglo-Saxon in origin, although the exact derivation is unclear. Scholars probably arrived at this conclusion by a process of elimination since it is not obviously Norman, Danish, Scandinavian, Roman or Gaelic. It is unlikely that many scholars have lost any sleep debating the issue, Hordon and Wright (1995a).

At the beginning of the 16th century the area must have been very sparsely populated. All the main residences, including Chopwell Hall and Milkwellburn House, were houses of modest proportions and it is likely that at least one water-driven corn mill existed in the bottom of the Derwent valley. There were also a number of farms including Leadgate, Heavygate, Horsegate, Coalburns and Struthers House. Allowing for 15 centres of habitation and an average of ten people per centre, suggests that the population was approximately 150: the Manor, comprising 3850 acres, therefore, had a population density of four per 100 acres. This compares with 15 per 100 acres which is suggested by Wrigley, et al, (1997), for early modern England and 1.5 per 100 acres proposed by Jones and Page (2006) derived from their study of medieval villages.

Human habitation in this area of Northern England had been rather sparse for centuries and there is no physical evidence of any substantive group of dwellings that could be termed a hamlet. It is known that the Romans built a substantial wooden fort at Ebchester (see 'Ebchester - the story of a North Durham village (1977)'), around AD 80, when they extended Dere Street from York to Corbridge; Ebchester was a few kilometres upstream of Blackhall Mill. However, even this breath of civilisation must have made no impact on the area that eventually became Chopwell Manor. If there were other travellers who came



- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| A. Chopwell Hall & West Farm | S. Heavy Gate |
| B. Broomfield | T. Horse Gate |
| C. Ashtree | U. Strothers |
| D. New House | V. Coalburns |
| E. Chopwell Wood | W. Ravenside |
| F. Milkwellburn Wood | X. Labour's Fell |
| G. Black Hall | Y. Bowser's Hole |
| H. Black Hall Mill | Z. Guards |
| J. Armonside | AA. Victoria Garesfield |
| K. Leadgate | AB. Milkwellburn |
| L. Lintzford | AC. Greenhead |
| M. Chopwell Mill | AD. Coalburns Farm |
| N. Carr House | AE. Tongue Burns |
| P. High Spen | AF. The Guards |
| Q. Low Spen | AG. Buck's Nook |
| R. Hooker Gate | |

Fig. 2.1.Chopwell Township Principal Farms and Houses

through the area, they left no lasting memorial of their visit. This seeming reluctance to stay and put down roots in the Chopwell Manor was eventually to change due to the discovery and exploitation of its natural resources - wood, coal and iron ore deposits in the region. Before dealing with the mineral developments I will describe a significant and long-lasting feature of the landscape in the area - Chopwell Wood.

2.1.1. Chopwell Wood

The present wood covers some 900 acres and comprises mainly trees of the coniferous type - larch, Douglas fir and Norway spruce. But this was not always the case as, before the wholesale planting of conifers, the wood contained a wide variety of trees associated with natural English woodland - oak, ash, beech, birch, alder and hazel. While the present wood no doubt constitutes a scenic, economic and recreational asset to the area, it represents, to anyone who has a deeper and more subtle view of the English woodland, a pitiful relic of an ancient and more massive forest - the wildwood. This forest, a blanket of mixed deciduous trees formed some 6000 years ago, once covered the area from Axwell to Allenheads and even today some remnants survive on the steeper valley slopes. An apocryphal story was that a squirrel could travel from Axwell to Allenheads without touching the ground!

The attention of the Admiralty was drawn to Chopwell Wood when large supplies of timber were required for its warship building programme in 1634 and some 1600 trees were marked for felling. The ship, partly built out of Chopwell timber, was called 'Sovereign of The Seas' or 'The Royal Sovereign' - the first three-decker, nearly 232 feet long and 48 feet wide and which cost £41,000 exclusive of guns. There is an excellent description of the ship and its construction by Robinson (1936).

During this period of the seventeenth century there was wholesale felling of trees and in 1640 only 9741 mature trees were recorded as standing. Replanting of the wood was

undertaken in the early nineteenth century when some 900 acres of young oak trees were planted. In addition to the impact of Man, the wood also suffered from the ravages of the weather and from animals. On January 7th, 1839, a day which became known as, 'Windy Monday', it was estimated that 20,000 trees were uprooted, W. W. Tomlinson (1897).

The economics of modern, forestry management dictate intensive tree planting such that in a mature, coniferous wood, with tightly packed trees, little undergrowth exists; there are fewer species of insects and birds. This species reduction in plant and animal life makes for a much less interesting woodland.

2.2. Industrial Developments in the Derwent Valley

The Derwent river rises in the Pennines and after a journey of some 50 km flows into the River Tyne near Swalwell: over part of its course, from Hunstanworth to Blackhall Mill, it forms the county boundary between Northumberland and Durham. At Blackhall Mill the boundary heads north following the Milkwell Burn. The valley is steep-sided, particularly so on the southern bank of the river, as far as Winlaton Mill. The river has cut its way through carboniferous sandstone and shales exposing coal seams that outcrop at various levels up the valley side. With the lower gradients on the north side these exposures offered opportunities for recovering the coal via drift mining, Down (1970a). Commercial exploitation of this coal before the 18th century was limited by mining technology and transport facilities. (Adjacent parishes like Tanfield and Whickham were much closer to the Tyne and admirably placed to exploit their coal deposits, aided by waggonway developments.)

Before the advent of deep-shaft mining, coal was often extracted by shallow bell-pits where the land was suitable: Whickham, for example, situated on the northern edge of an upland plateau, had in excess of 100 of these bell-pits by the 1650s, see Wright (1986). This technique was not practical on the sloping terrain at Chopwell where the outcrops

favoured drift mining. In the 19th century one such outcrop was on the Milkwell Burn just above where it flowed into the Derwent. Originally called Carr's Pit, the name was changed to Milkwellburn Colliery after it had been acquired by the Consett Iron Company. Essentially little coal was mined after 1880 and eventually it became a useful drainage channel for Chopwell Colliery. Further up the hillside was another drift, Taylor's Pit, a small operation which became redundant from a coal production perspective but eventually it was used as an access point into Chopwell No. 3 Pit workings in the early 1900s, Down (1970b).

On top of the hill there was Penny Hill Pit, opened 1803, (see 'Notes on the industrial history the village of High Spen' - Author unknown). which was initially noted for the installation of a steam winding engine. Later with the High Spen (Bute) developments the shaft was converted into a ventilation pathway for the (High Spen) Bute Colliery. Before the advent of electric fans removal of stale air was achieved by furnaces which pulled air through the workings from a remote point. A 30-metre high chimney built at Penny Hill became a significant landmark and was visible from the mouth of the Tyne; the furnace grate was built at the bottom of the shaft.

Although the pits at High Spen and Victoria Garesfield made a contribution to the coal output from the Township, it was the production from the Chopwell Pits which eventually dominated the figures. In addition the drifts at Whittonstall (technically the drifts were in Northumberland but coal was transported through Chopwell) also supported the Chopwell production totals which by 1912 had reached 600,000 tons per year Hordon and Wright (1995b, pp. 106-108).

After coal, iron was the next important mineral present in the Derwent Valley, however, the iron content of this ore, known as 'blackband ironstone', was only 20-30%, Vernon (2003a). Associated with the ironstone were some elements such as silica and alumina that required high temperature and hence high energy inputs to extract the iron. Initially

the fuel for this process was charcoal which was obtained locally from Chopwell Wood and Shotley Woods. While the early developments in smelting are obscure, that such activities were being carried out was evident in the 17th century, in particular when a group of German immigrants arrived with developed skills in the making of swords and settled in Shotley Bridge. Several forges and furnaces were eventually built in the upper reaches of the Derwent Valley but there were also others at Blackhall Mill in Chopwell Manor and at Derwentcote on the south side of the Derwent, overlooking Blackhall Mill.

Although the market for swords collapsed following the end of the Napoleonic Wars, which brought about the demise of the Shotley Bridge swordmakers, Vernon (2003b), reported that there was an increasing demand for iron in the early decades of the 19th century. In 1840 the Derwent Iron Company was formed and then some 28 years later it was transformed into the Consett Iron Company. The strategy pursued by the Company was to use coal from its own collieries to produce supplies of coke for use in the Consett furnaces, before it gradually switched its focus from iron products to steel products. By 1893 Consett Iron Company owned ten collieries, Vernon (2003c) and was about to acquire the mineral rights for the western sector of Chopwell Township. Within a few years the sinking of Chopwell No. 1 Pit began.

While there were now plentiful supplies of coal and coke, the reverse was true of the local iron ore resource and importation of iron ore for the Consett furnaces began sometime in the 1840s. Fortunately, the railways had arrived early - 1830s - into the Consett area, originally to transport limestone from Stanhope in Weardale and coal down to South Shields on the coastal Tyne. The existence of this link was sufficient to persuade the early investors in the Consett venture that the development of a large-scale smelting and iron fabrication plant was a viable investment. Years later the long transport links were to make Consett a high-cost operation; it was a plant in the wrong place. Vernon (2003d)

commented on this view:

the alleged "wrongful siting" of the Derwent Iron Company had a long history extending well into the 20th century. Arising from several areas on Teesside, derogatory comments made to the author about Consett Iron Company being "in the wrong place" included the expression, "Consett, the little blacksmith's shop up in the hills!" (Vernon, 2003d, p. 151)

However, In spite of the high transportation costs Consett Iron Company was initially very successful and made significant profits, in the 1880s and the 1890s, according to Vernon (2003e), these amounted to £1000 per day, enabling the Company to expand its portfolio of collieries by developing Chopwell Colliery, its housing and acquiring High Spen/Garesfield pits from the Marquis of Bute. Within Chopwell Township most of the coal workings were now under control of the Consett Iron Company, leaving only the Victoria Garesfield Colliery, a relatively small operation, that was owned by Messr. Priestman.

2.3. Early Population

It was only in the 19th century, with the industrial developments in coal and iron, that the blank canvas of the Chopwell population can begin to be detailed. Vernon (2003f), in his history of the Consett Iron Company reported on a population sample of the 1851 Census for Consett (or Conside as it was called at the time). Although his study actually surveyed a number of streets, he only reported the results from one street named Furnace Row, and this was some 12 years after the establishment of the Consett Works. From a total of 107 employed males he found nearly 30% had come from Staffordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire, with Northumberland providing 18% and Durham another 15%. For comparison, it was decided to perform a similar exercise for Chopwell (including High Spen, Blackhall Mill, Milkwell Burn and Lintzford) identifying 166 employed males

from the 1851 Census: in this study Durham came out top with 46%, closely followed by Northumberland with 43%. The remainder came from a mixture of other English counties, from Scotland and from Ireland.

Only six miles separate Chopwell and Consett and yet the spectrums of population origins in the two locations for 1851 differ considerably. One could argue with some justification that, although the analysis compared two 1851 populations, in other aspects the populations were completely different, so it is not surprising that there are significant differences. The Consett sample were all iron workers while the Chopwell sample included agricultural workers, farmers and coal miners. Also Consett had only recently experienced a significant influx of migrants while Chopwell had not. For example, in the 1841 Census the Chopwell population was returned as 320, while Consett's was returned as 195, however, in 1851 Chopwell's population had increased to 458 while Consett's had ballooned to 2777. By the late 1850s the Iron Works in Consett was the second largest in the country: it is evident that Consett and Chopwell were on differing developmental cycles.

What this simple exercise demonstrates is the variability that might be expected when comparing selected social characteristics of two populations in the same time frame but experiencing differing socio-economic pressures. During the late 19th century Chopwell Township was in transition from an essentially agricultural economy to one based on coal.

2.4. General source material

The studies that have been made of residential persistency patterns have utilised the Census Enumerators' Books (CEBs) which were available at the time of the studies: usually for the period 1851 to 1891. The 1901 census has been available for some years but the 1911 census has recently arrived into the public domain due to a commercial arrangement between the Crown authorities and a website, 'findmypast.com' (now

'findmypast.co.uk'). However, the access charges to examine the on-line transcripts and CEBs were prohibitive for such a wide-ranging study envisaged for Chopwell Township so, as an alternative, it was proposed to use another document, the 1910 Property Valuation Survey, see Short (1997). While not a true census the survey does list individual addresses and the effective 'Head of House' at the time and thus offered an official list pinning down the main family living at the address at that time. Then in October 2009 the website 'findmypast.co.uk' introduced a more modest subscription which reduced the cost of accessing the 1911 census dramatically, so this census data came into the frame as well.

While comparison of the census data can identify the 'movers' and 'stayers' over a ten-year period there is also interest in what happens between any two signpost years eg. 1901 and 1911. Is it possible to identify annual residency patterns or pin-point when a particular household move took place? To explore this issue use is made of baptism, marriage and burial registers for the Township as a good number of the register entries give the exact house address. While not as extensive as the Church of England registers, Roman Catholic and Methodist registers were also used to support the parish register data.

The following then is a summary of the records (for further details see Bibliography) available for this study:

On-line versions of the Census Returns for the study area were supplemented by those of England and Wales generally.

On-line versions of the National Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths.

1910 Property Valuation Survey Field Books for Blaydon.

Micro-film versions of the registers for the following churches:

- High Spen, St. Patrick Parish Registers (from 1893).

- Chopwell, St. John Parish Registers (from 1900).
- Burnopfield Primitive Methodist Registers (from 1891).
- Chopwell Trinity Wesleyan Methodist Registers (from 1908).
- Our Lady of Lourdes, Chopwell Roman Catholic Registers (from 1899).

Ordnance Survey Maps for 1896 and 1919.

Building Control Plans for Blaydon Urban District Council

The available data make it possible to investigate Residential Persistence over the periods, 1851 to 1911, 1901 to 1911 and 1910 to 1911.

2.5. Summary

The Manor of Chopwell emerged, essentially, into recorded history, c.16th century. For many years the most significant economic asset within the Manor was Chopwell Wood. Later, farming, plus some pockets of industry, with small iron goods from Blackhall Mill forge, paper from nearby Lintzford and coal from various drift workings also made a contribution.

Of these industries only coal was to play a significant role in the socio-economic life in the Township during the late 19th century and into the 20th century; major collieries were established at High Spen in 1838 and at Chopwell in 1895. Hundreds of new houses were built by the coal owners and migrants flooded into the area: creating some unique conditions for the study of a community undergoing rapid growth adjacent to others developing at a much slower pace. Particular topics of interest include aspects of residency in the several villages and migration.

References and Notes

Chapter Two

Down, C. G.

The Whittonstall Railway 1908-1966, *Industrial Railway Record*, No. 33, October 1970. (1970a, pp. 317-320).

Down, C. G.

ibid. (1970b, p. 332).

Ebchester, The Story of a North Durham Village (1984). (Several contributors but no overall Editor).

(1977, pp. 25-33).

Hordon, K. and Wright, A.

Coal, Community and Conflict, a history of Chopwell' (Hickory Tree Press - (1995)).

(1995a, pp. 3-4).

In the 12th century Chopwell Woods occupied the greater part of the Manor when the Newminster Abbey (near Morpeth) obtained the Manor in 'land swop' with the Bishop of Durham. The name was 'Cheppwell' (derived from 'Ceoppa's weile (well)') and the suggestion is that the first element is derived from a personal name. Another theory is that it derives from the Anglo-Saxon word for cattle, in other words it is a place for watering cattle. Documentary evidence of the Manor boundaries never identifies a house, or group of buildings, with the name of Chopwell, so at this stage in its life, Chopwell is an 'area' dominated by woodland rather than a specific 'habitation'.

Hordon, K. and Wright, A.

ibid. (1995b, pp.106-108)

These are official annual figures from the Consett Iron Company for 1912: other data is available for the period 1894-1911, which combines the output from all Chopwell seams and Whittonstall drifts. Note the data does not include the coal output from High Spen pits.

Jones, R. and Page, M.

Medieval Villages in an English Landscape, Beginnings and Ends. (Windgather Press - (2006))

(2006, p. 80).

Notes on the Industrial History of the Village of High Spen. (Anon). (Author's Private Collection).

Robinson, G.

Ships that Made History, (1936).

(1936, pp. 93-103).

Short, B.

Land and Society in Edwardian Britain, (Cambridge University Press - 1997)

This was a Government survey to produce a new rateable assessment of all land and property in England, Wales and Scotland, and it was conducted by the Inland Revenue (it was a tax-raising initiative). The surveyors created a series of hand-written documents, known as 'field books', which identified the house, the occupier and the owner of the property, with other details. The field books were commonly known as 'Domesday Books' and associated with them were Working Plans showing the location of each property on large scale OS maps.

Tomlinson, W. W.

Chopwell Woods, Paper presented to The Surtees Society in 1897 and published in Vol. XXC. (1897, pp. 255-268).

Vernon, D.
Thread of Iron, Iron and Steel Making in Shotley Bridge and Consett. (Able Publishing - (2003)). (2003a, pp. 264-69).

Vernon, D.
ibid. (2003b, p. 114).

Vernon, D.
ibid. (2003c, p. 169).
The ten working collieries in 1893 comprised: Westwood, Medomsley, Derwent, Hunter, Eden, Blackhill, Delves, Garesfield (High Spen), and Langley Park (2) This group was soon to be joined by Chopwell in 1895.

Vernon, D.
ibid. (2003d, p. 151).

Vernon, D.
ibid. (2003e, pp. 283-5).

Vernon, D.
ibid. (2003f, pp. 303-6).

Wright, A.
Whickham Parish 1750-1850, A Demographic, Social and Economic Study
MA Thesis, University of Newcastle upon Tyne. (1987).
(1987, p. 10)

Wrigley, E.A., Davies, R.S., Oeppen, J.E. and Schofield, R.S.
English Population History From Family Reconstitution - 1580-1837, (Cambridge - (1997)).
(1997, p. 202).

Chapter Three

Housing, Population and Census Data

3.1. Settlements in the Township

3.1.1. Chopwell

3.1.2. Blackhall Mill

3.1.3. High Spen

3.1.4. Victoria Garesfield

3.1.5. Summary Tables of the Populations in the Villages

3.2. Preparation of Data for Analysis

3.2.1. General

3.2.2. Development of the Census Files

References and Notes

3.1. Settlements in the Township

3.1.1. Chopwell

The first five colliery streets built at the East end of the village-to-be, were Tyne Street, Wear Street and Tees Street and these houses, numbering 84 in total, were completed by 1895 although it is not known if the streets were fully occupied at the time. The standard pattern for the housing was two facing terraces separated by unmade roadways, the widest roadway, approximately 15-20 metres, was between the backs of the terraces: this gap was to accommodate a line of ash closets down the middle of the roadway. A concrete pavement, 1.5 metres wide encircled each terrace. There was a surface drain gully at the edge of the pavement and each house had one internal cold water tap.

At this stage there were no shops, so while milk was available from local farms, general foodstuffs had to be brought in from either High Spen or Blackhall Mill by horse and cart.

By the 1901 Census another six streets - Blyth Street, Severn Street and Thames Street, a total of 125 houses - had been built parallel to the first group. The building work continued over the next decade when the following streets were added - Wansbeck, Tay, Coquet, Trent, Mersey, Humber, Clyde, Forth, Tweed and East. Of these Trent Street, which contained the largest houses, was still under construction by 1911. These streets added another 388 houses.

The Eastern march of the streets came to an end due to a deep ravine which cut across the site, restricting the final street - East Street - to a single terrace of 16 houses plus a group of eight semi-detached houses - The Villas. The ravine was also the reason why Tay Street was aligned East-West instead of North -South as were the other streets. Another two streets were proposed on the other side of the ravine, close to the mineral line, but these were never built.

Meanwhile at the West Section two streets of private houses - Richardson Terrace and Beaconsfield Terrace had been built by 1901. Another eight private streets - Balfour, Havelock, William, Disraeli, Hilford, Scott, Nelson and Frederick - joined this group by 1911. Although most of the population lived in the East Section, the first school was built between Richardson Terrace and Balfour Terrace, and this was opened in 1901.

Also at the West Section another group of colliery streets were built - Broadoak, Hollin(g)s, Ravenside and Whittonstall - and partially occupied by 1911; named after local farms, the streets were collectively known as Whittonstall, although the village of Whittonstall was several kilometres to the West in Northumberland. The private and colliery streets in the Western development added some 240 houses with others still under construction by 1911.

The Consett Iron Company architects produced a range of house designs from the smallest - living room, galley kitchen and a single bedroom to the largest - small back kitchen, two living rooms and three bedrooms. Tees Street was an example of the former while Trent Street was an example of the latter. Other variations included room size and an off-shot back kitchen. All these variants were designed to cater for the range of sizes expected of mining households. Some houses had attached gardens but for the majority allotments were provided.

The main shopping street - Derwent Street - connected the East and West Sections of the village and by 1901 it housed, mainly at the East Section, a number of small independent grocers, drapers, newsagents, an hotel, a Branch of Blaydon Co-operative Society and a block of two-storey flats.

In only 15 years the agricultural landscape below West Farm had been changed into a thriving urban village of over 5000 inhabitants. However, in spite of the significant provision of housing there was an increasing demand for more, as several hundred of the Chopwell

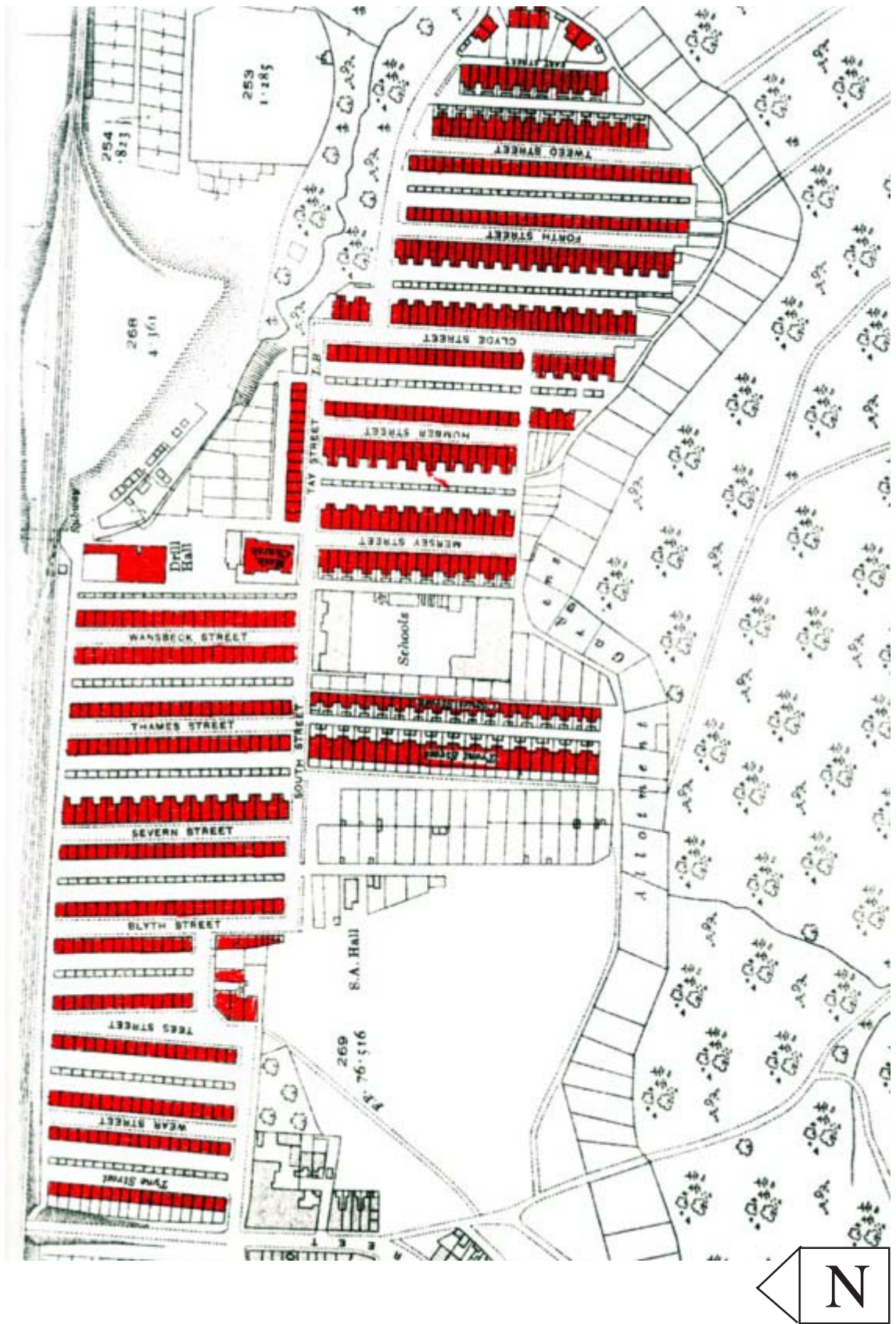


Fig. 3.1. East Chopwell c.1911

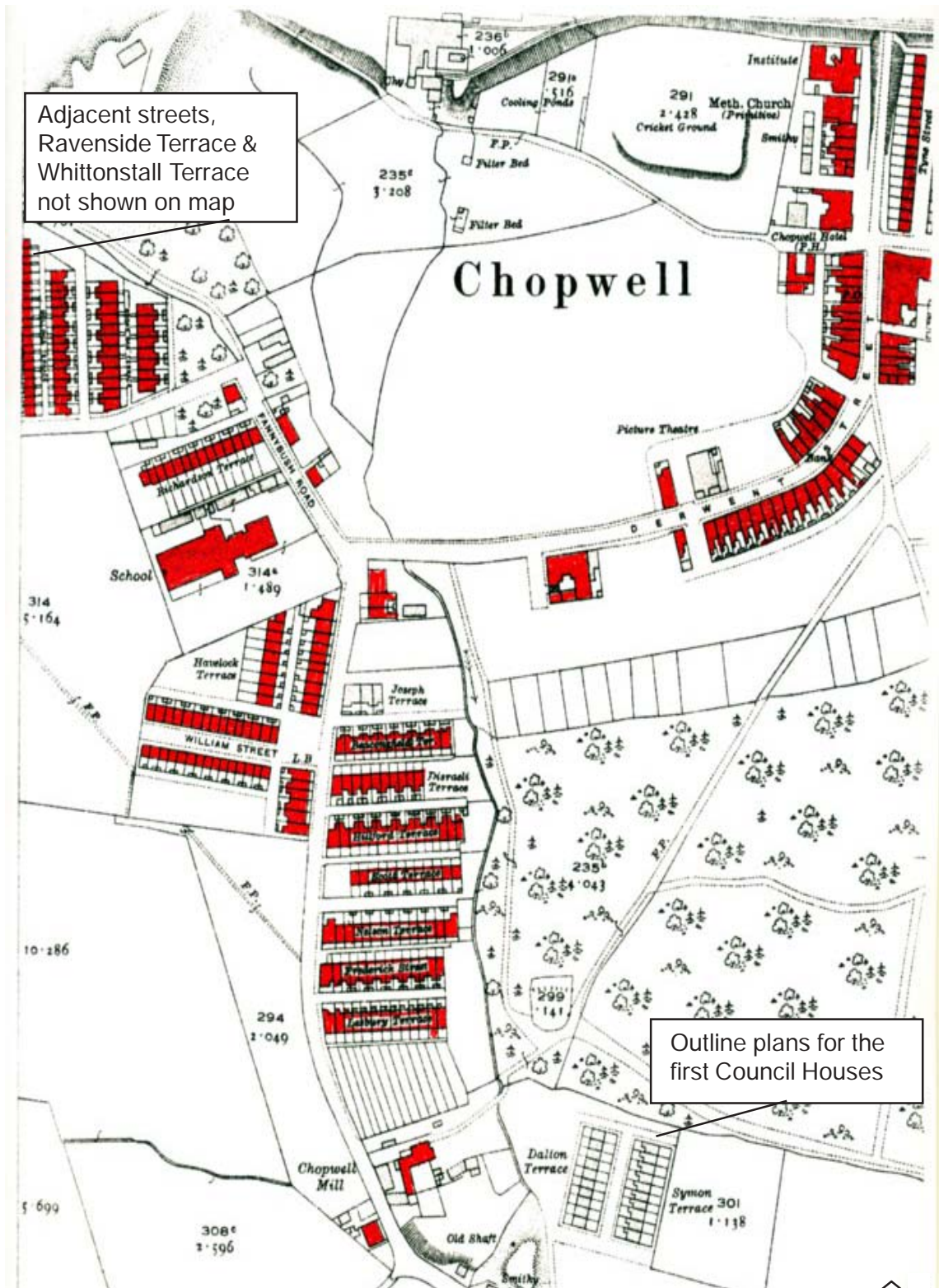


Fig. 3.2. West Chopwell c.1911





Thames Street - Chopwell
View from South Road.
The windows and doors are modern
but the window apertures are
unmodified.
The extensions to the frontage are
modern while the brick outhouse
dates from the mid-1930s.
The roof-line of the street is original.



Trent Street - Chopwell
View from South Road.
The windows and doors are modern.
The roof-line of the street is original.
Later streets, like Trent, had rough-
cast exterior walls, perhaps to hide
inferior bricks.



Trent Street - Chopwell
View looking down the street.
The windows and doors are modern.
The roof-line of the street is original.

Fig. 3.3. Some views of West Chopwell streets

workforce had to live outside the village and walk some miles into work. Those who balked at such journeys resorted to a more basic type of accommodation Hordon and Wright (1995a):

There were a lot of single men without accommodation in the village and some chose to live in the allotments. My brother Jim allowed a Scotsman to live in his garden shed for a while and, I remember, he bathed in an old galvanised bath used to store water for use in the garden. (Taped recollections of Abraham Wright (1891-1978))

Consett Iron Company appeared to have had no desire to continue its house-building programme and other small private developers were of a similar mind. In essence all the housing was 'private', with the major difference being that Consett Iron Company tenants did not pay rent and therein lay the attraction of a 'colliery house', see Daunton (1985, pp. 126-134). The only avenue left to the local Council - Blaydon Urban District Council - was to apply for funding to build Council Houses. This policy was criticised in an irate letter to a local newspaper (Blaydon Courier, January 18th 1913) by Frank McKay, a former checkweighman at Chopwell Colliery, Hordon and Wright (1995b):

I was not surprised to read that Consett Iron Company had offered no opposition to the Blaydon Ratepayers paying for houses for their workmen at Chopwell. This is first-class business for the Chopwell Colliery owners. If we keep on building houses for their convenience, I predict that they never will stop us. ---- colliery owners should pay a rent allowance to their workmen who are not given a colliery house, equal to the value of a colliery house, say five shillings per week. (Frank McKay). (1995b, p. 16)

Apart from some small developments in West Chopwell the future expansion of Chopwell housing lay in the plans of Blaydon Council.

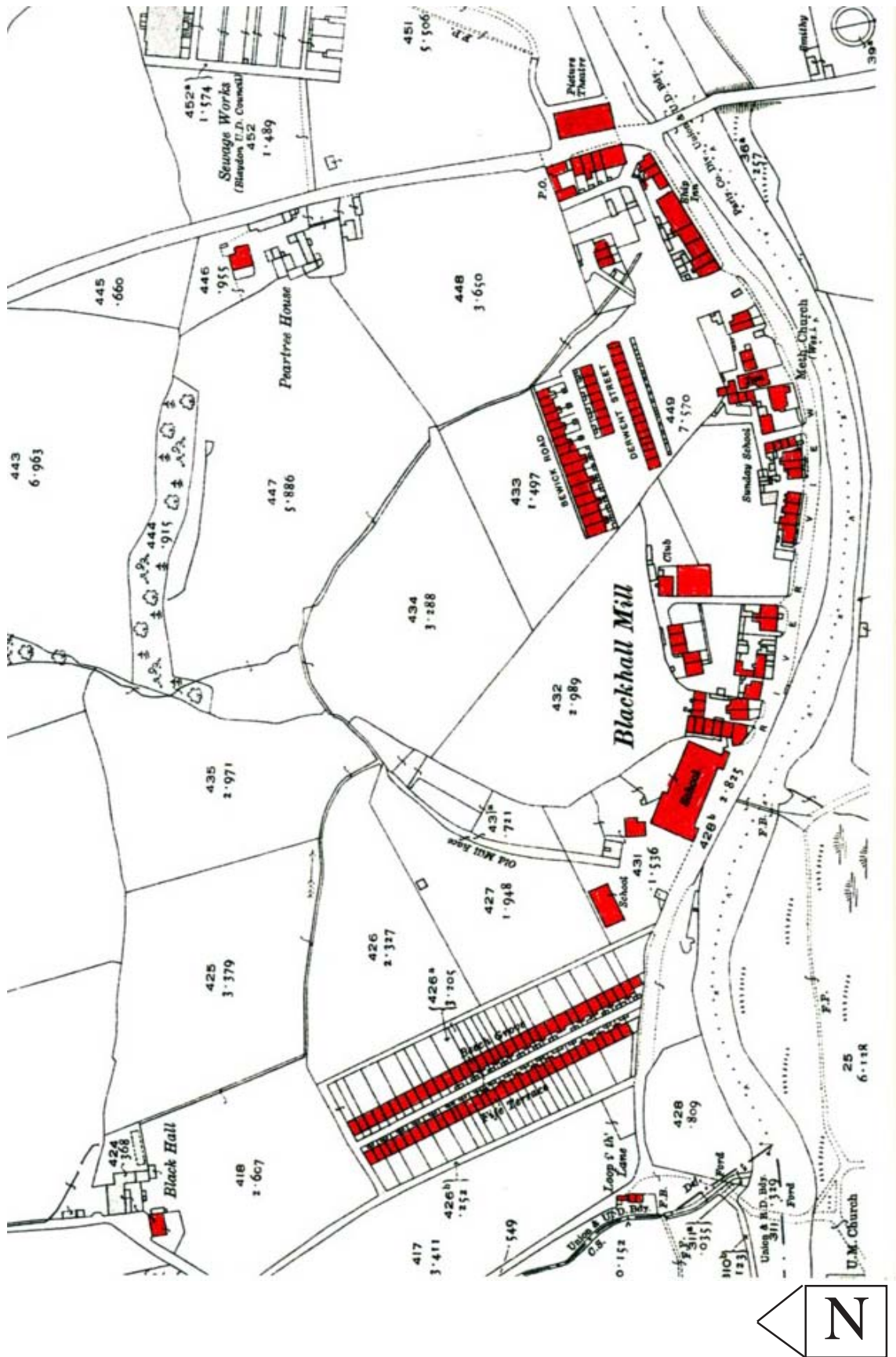


Fig. 3.4. Blackhall Mill c.1911

3.1.2. Blackhall Mill

The older houses in the hamlet were strung out along the northern bank of the River Derwent although there was a group, of probably no more than 12 houses, situated a short distance up the hillside in Milkwellburn. Consett Iron Company played only a small role in the development of Blackhall Mill, however, on the South bank, the Company built a number of streets - Derwentside - but these were in Medomsley Parish.

The valley floor presents a restricted area for house building due to the potential for flooding and the steeply rising land to the north behind the floodplain. Several streets - Bewick Road and Derwent Street - were built in an area where an old mill race used to flow; water was diverted from the River Derwent. Blackhall Mill lacked a logical structure that was characteristic of Chopwell, even the house numbering system was rather eccentric. In 1891 Peartree Terrace comprised Nos. 1 to 24, ten years later there was no Peartree Terrace but in 1911 the Terrace reappeared with houses numbered 23 to 53 odd only.

3.1.3. High Spen

The original village of High Spen comprised a small cluster of housing associated with an inn – Bute Arms – and High Spen Farm just across the road from the inn. Very close to this hamlet colliery workings were developed in the 1840s and these were called Garesfield (Bute) Colliery: housing for the miners was initially grouped around the colliery. At first the streets were not named but in the 1861 Census a rudimentary numbering was used; this had disappeared by the following census. In 1861 one specific street was named – Clayton Terrace – slightly divorced from the other housing and probably was built for workers at a drift mine at the rear of the street. The original numbering of the 1861 Census did have a simple logic to it, although the numbers began at No.14 and ended at No. 55, with some houses just labelled as ‘High Spen’. While it is possible to correlate

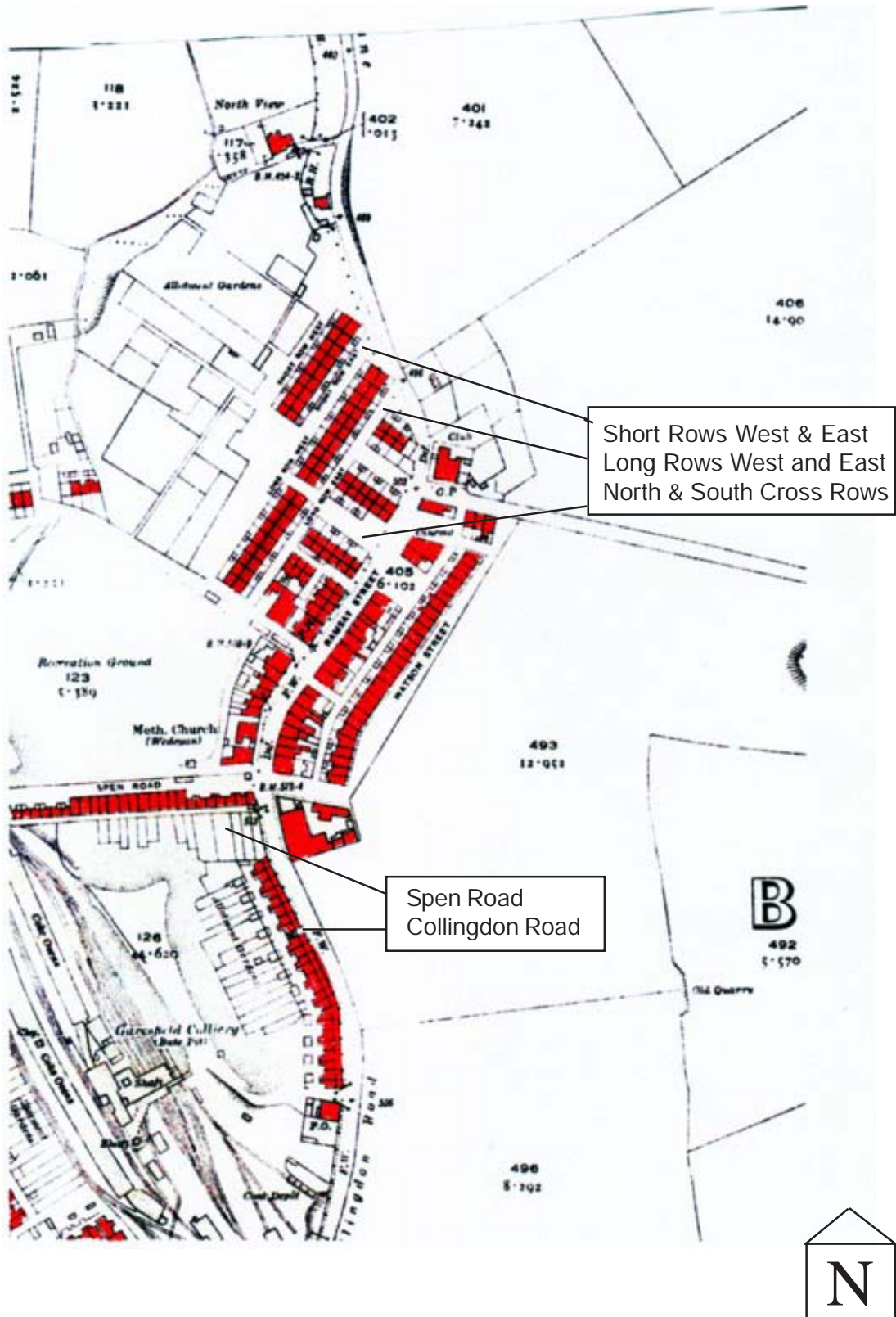


Fig. 3.5. High Spen East c.1911

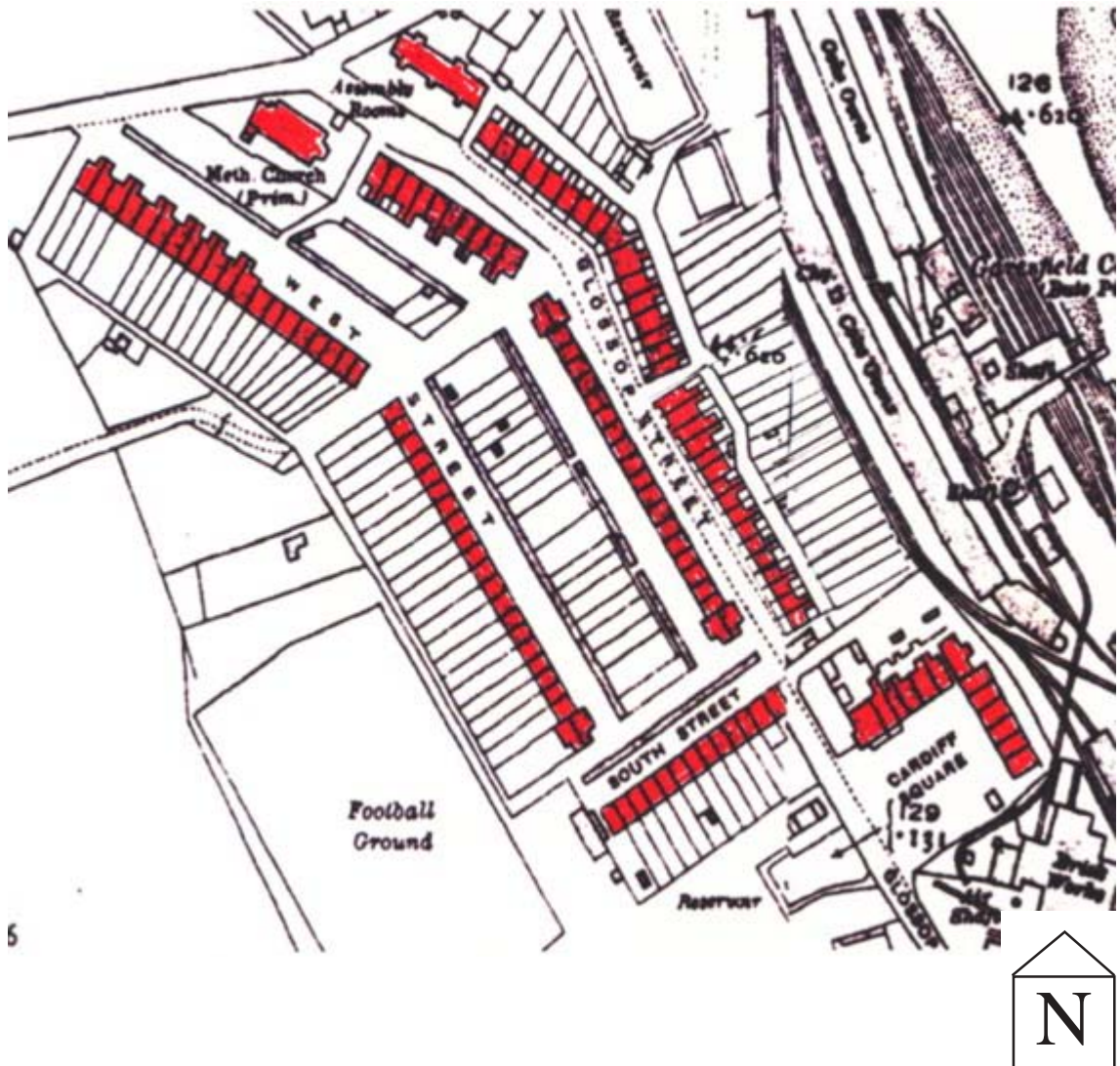


Fig. 3.6. High Spennings West c.1911

some houses with the 1881 streets, this exercise is not considered to be a very accurate or worthwhile procedure.

A more distinct street pattern emerged from the 1881 Census with sections of terraced housing being given specific names – Glossop Street, Howard Terrace, Spennings Road, Collin(g)don Road and Cardiff Square. All these were built by the Marquis of Bute who owned the coal royalty at the time.

In what became the shopping centre of the village there was a large group of houses, mainly of the back-to-back type, built by a private landlord, and these were initially known by the landlord's surname – Ramsey (or Ramsay) - Ramsey Cottages, Ramsey Buildings



East Street - High Spen
View from Howard Terrace
showing the street frontage.
The windows and doors are
modern but the apertures are
unmodified.
The roof-line is original.



Howard Terrace - High Spen
View of Howard Terrace
showing the street frontage.
The porches are modern. The
roof-line is original.



West Street - High Spen
View of end-houses at right-
angles to remainder of street.
The offshot extensions are
original although modified
with small windows.
The roof-line is original.

Fig. 3.7. Some views of High Spen streets

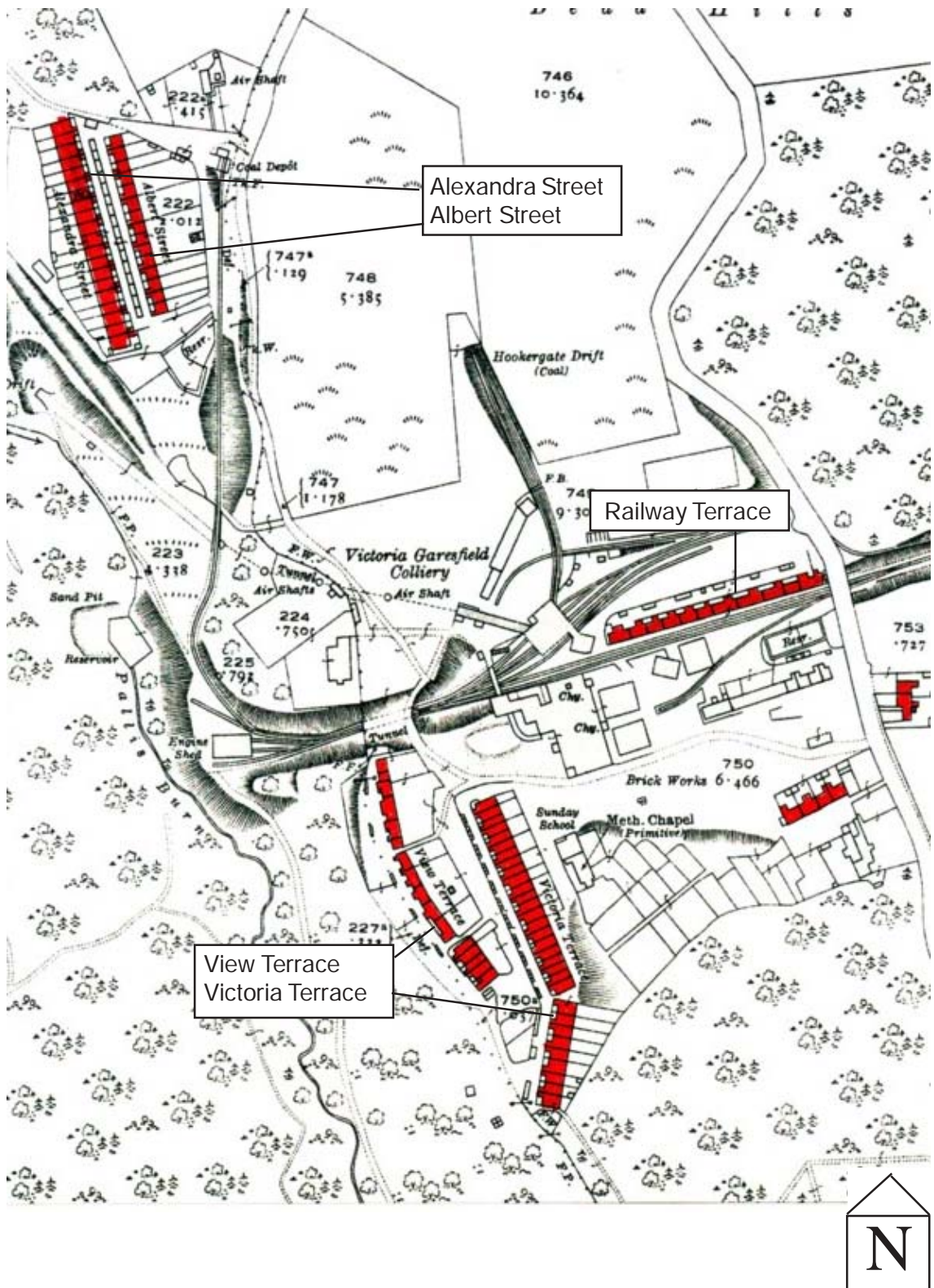


Fig. 3.8. Victoria Garesfield c.1911



Alexandra Street - Victoria Garesfield
View from back-street showing the small yard with brick-built outhouses;
these were not an original feature.
The original roof-line, sky-lights excepted, with slate roof
running over an offshot back-kitchen.



Albert Street - Victoria Garesfield
View of house front. the small offshot extensions are additions.
The French Window on the left was originally a window
The original roof-line with slate roof is intact.

Fig. 3.9. Some views of Victoria Garesfield streets

and so on. These houses constituted nearly 50% of the housing stock in 1881 and catered for a similar proportion of the population. While the colliery housing was strung out in linear rows the Ramseys were crammed into a small area behind Front Street or Ramsey Street. The house design was evidently chosen to maximise rental income.

By 1901 the Ramseys had individual names – Short Rows East and West, Long Rows East and West, North and South Cross Row, King Row and Queen Row. There was still housing called Ramsey Buildings and Ramsey Row, which were associated with shops on Ramsey Street. A further street of 14 houses, Cooperative Terrace, had also been built mainly by individual owners, for example, Edward Stoker owned and lived in No. 8. Another private street – Watson Street – was built behind the shops on the east side of Ramsey Street.

Meanwhile, further colliery terraced houses had been built opposite Howard Terrace – East Street, West Street and South Street by 1901. Between the 1901 and 1911 censuses the last colliery housing was built just below Clayton Terrace, as Townley Terrace (39 houses) and Strothers Terrace (18 houses, later extended to 37).

Apart from farms and some short terraces built on the Hugar Road to Hookergate this was the extent of housing in High Spen.

3.1.4. Victoria Garesfield Colliery

This village was identified as Victoria Garesfield first in the 1881 Census and there were no street names, just Victoria Garesfield. The three previous censuses recorded the population of a 'Garesfield' but it is not clear which 'Garesfield' the entries refer to: it is noted that Victoria Garesfield and 'Garesfield' never co-existed. The presumption is that the addition of Victoria was to distinguish this village from Garesfield (Bute) Colliery around which developed the village of High Spen. To add further confusion, there was another Garesfield about a mile east of High Spen which was Garesfield (No. 1 Pit) and this

VILLAGE	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
CHOPWELL	153	131	159	161	154	1564	5102
BLACKHALL MILL	118	101	141	306	304	435	983
HIGH SPEN	212	313	432	1136	1325	2091	2836
VICTORIA GARESFIELD	145	120	116	425	641	560	514

Table 3.1. Summary of Population Totals 1851-1911

ceased to operate in 1840, just after Garesfield (Bute) began production in 1837.

Two streets appear out of the undifferentiated housing by 1891, Chopwell Cottages and Cowen's Row and the total number of houses had increased from 58 in 1881 to 103 in 1891. Cowen's Row cannot be identified and does not appear in the two later censuses but it could be that some of Cowen's Row had been renamed. Chopwell Cottages, were present in 1901, albeit with a reduced number of houses compared to the earlier census, had also disappeared by 1911.

3.1.5. Summary Tables of the Populations in the Villages

Detailed summary tables listing the populations of the villages were derived from the 1851-1911 Census Returns and these can be found in Appendix One, while Table 3.1 contains the aggregate summary totals.

3.2. Preparation of Data for Analysis

3.2.1. General

An ideal analysis of residential history requires identifiable addresses from census to census, unfortunately the physical development of the four villages reveals, at certain periods some inconsistencies in the naming of streets and in the numbering of houses. This restricts the opportunities for certain types of analysis, eg. Residential Persistence at a particular address, there is still a significant wealth of data to study other characteristics

of the village populations. There was another slight complication as it was discovered that the Township boundaries and the Census boundaries did not always coincide and with the consequence that some houses on the periphery were placed in an adjacent parish. For this reason the hamlet of Lintzford was excluded from the study. The 1911 Census presented several problems and these are discussed briefly in Chapter Five.

3.2.2. Development of the census files

Base Level Files. The first, and most time consuming, phase of the work involved downloading the transcripts of the 1851 to 1911 census returns from the 'findmypast.co.uk' web-site. This was accomplished in two stages, first the transcript was copied to a Star Office document file and second the formatting then allowed the transcripts to be transferred directly into a Star Office spreadsheet with minimal editing. Each of the four villages had its own spreadsheet for each census with appropriate tabs for the various streets as required. These are Base Level Files from which other files were derived to explore the particular characteristics of interest and Figures 3.1 and 3.2 show the hierarchy of files developed from the census data.

Names Files. These are alphabetical files based on the surname of resident identified as the Head of Household for each census. Since the Chopwell population became so dominant for the last two censuses ie. 1901 and 1911 it was decided to separate the Blackhall Mill population from that of Chopwell. In the case of the High Spen and Victoria Garesfield populations it was considered that the data should be grouped together: particularly as there was a perceived stronger social link between the two villages, that was not evident between Chopwell and Blackhall Mill.

An example of a Names File is shown in Table 3.2.

Head of House Street Residence Files. These Files were organised in street order to allow a micro-analysis between the 1901 and 1911 Censuses to be made. The analysis

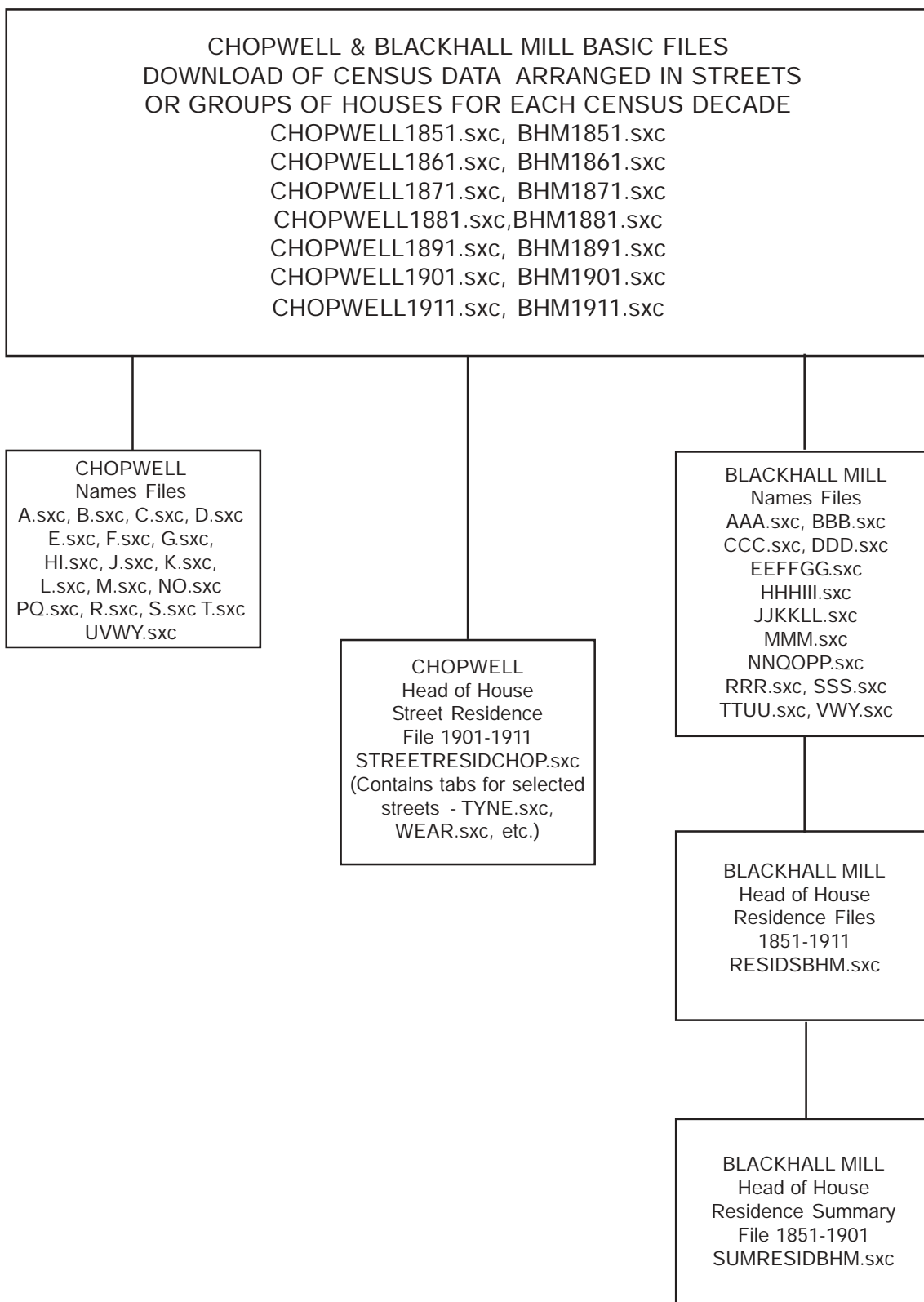


Fig. 3.10. File Structure for Chopwell and Blackhall Mill

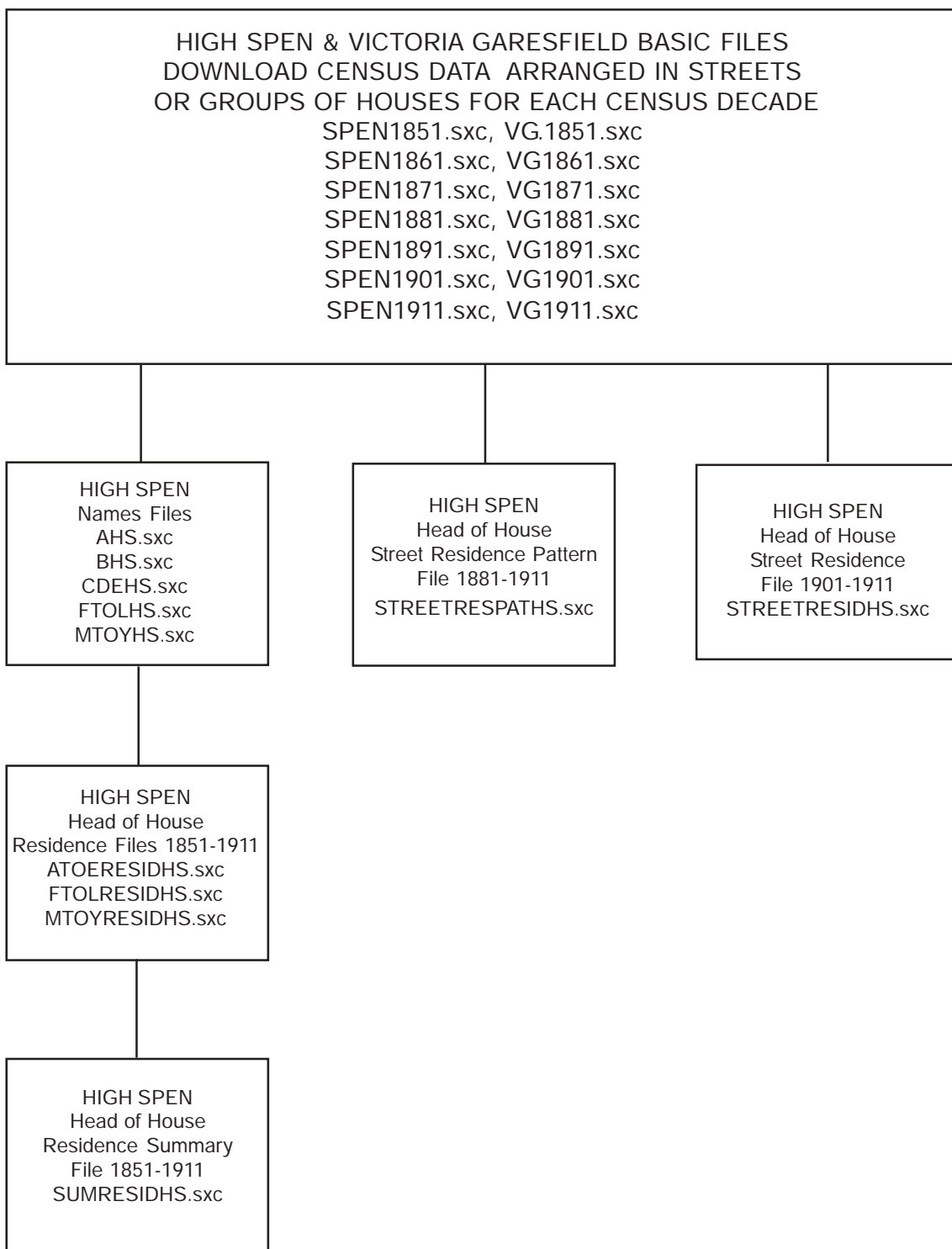


Fig. 3.11. File Structure for High Spen and Victoria Garesfield

Address	Surname	Other Names	Relationship	Condition	Age	Occupation	Birthplace
1911							
16 Blyth St	Newton	Richard	H	Wdr	43	Hewer	Newburn
	Newton	Elizabeth E.	D		10		Gateshead
	Newton	Pattison	S		9		Winlaton
	Newton	Mary J.	S		5		Winlaton
	Cook	Rebecca C.	Rel		22	Servant	Gateshead
	Cook	Eleanor	Rel		0		Winlaton
1911							
25 Humber St.	Newton	Pattison	H	M	41	Hewer	N. Walbottle
	Newton	Margaret	W	11 Yrs	37		Burnopfield
	Newton	John R.	S		10		Winlaton
	Newton	Richard	S		9		Winlaton
	Newton	James R.	S		6		Winlaton
	Newton	Pattison	S		4		Winlaton
1881							
Newburn Lane	Newton	Pattison	H	M	36	Miner	Newburn
Newburn	Newton	Elizabeth	W	M	30		Devon
	Newton	Richard	S		13	Miner	Newburn
	Newton	Patterson	S		11		Newburn
	Newton	James	S		6		Spennithorne
	Newton	Thomas	S		5		Swalwell
	Newton	John	S		3		Gateshead
	Newton	Ann	D		1		Throckley
1911							
12 Tyne St.	Newton	Joseph	H	M	43	Deputy	Swalwell
	Newton	Isabella J.	W	19 Yrs	42		Winlaton
	Newton	Mary A.	D		17		Swalwell
	Newton	Beatrice	D		16		Swalwell
1901							
12 Tyne St.	Newton	Joseph	H	M	33	Deputy	Swalwell
	Newton	Isabella J.	W	M	32		Winlaton
	Newton	Mary A.	D		7		Swalwell
	Newton	Beatrice	D		6		Swalwell
1901							
22 Wear St.	Newton	Andrew	H	M	25	Miner	Talkin
	Newton	Mary W.	W	M	25		Netherton
	Newton	Hilda	D		4		Wylam
	Newton	Robert	S		2		Wylam
	Mason	Charlton	Bil		17	Putter	Wylam
	Mason	William	Bil		14	Driver	Wylam
	Mason	Esther	Sil		11		Wylam
	Mason	Jane	Sil		8		Wylam
1891							
Ravenside Cottage	Newton	John M.	H	M	24	Forester	Hungry Hill House
	Newton	Mary A.	W	M	36		Allendale

Table. 3.2. Extract from Alphabetical Names Files for Chopwell

No.	1901 Census	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1910 PVS	1911 Census
1	Glendinning										Varty	Varty
2	Ward			Wills	Allison	Wills					Wills	Wills
3	Bell			Mills							Bell	Bell
4	Pearson				Clydesdale		Clydesdale		Clydesdale		Clydesdale	Clydesdale
5	Ridley										Ridley	Ridley
6	Watkins										Low	Low
7	Elliott	Nash					Nash				Nash	Nash
8	Henderson										Henderson	Henderson
9	Foster									Stoddart	Stoddart	Stoddart
10	Broad				Watkins	Watkins					Richardson	Richardson
11	Dixon				Dixon						Dixon	Dixon
12	Watts					Hickman			Hickman		Hickman	Hickman
13	Dixon			Suddess							Hopper	Hopper
14	Wilkinson										Broad	Broad
15	Liddle			Walker		Cape	Cape	Cape			Cape	Westgarth
16	Gordon									Ward	Ward	Ward
17	Orr					Fletcher					Fletcher	Fletcher
18	Johnson	Johnson				Slamp			Slamp		Slamp	Slamp
19	Clydesdale		Clydesdale								Matthews	Matthews
20	Wellwork						Adams				Adams	Charlton
21	Little				Brown					Hallcro	Hallcro	Hallcro
22	Newton										Robinson	Robinson
23	Hardy							Simpson		Gordon	Hardy	Gordon
24	Hudsmith		Hudsmith		Briggs					Briggs	Briggs	Briggs
25	Randall										Wright	Wright
26	Spark	Spark		Spark		Spark					Brown	Arthur
27	Iley										Iley	Iley
28	Whealan			Scott	Scott	Scott			Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott
29	Dowson									Allan	Minto	Allan
30	Fletcher	Fletcher					Bell				Bell	Bell
31	Lowery										Peacock	Peacock
32	Duke										Robson	Robson
33	Storey						Charlton				Charlton	Darling
34	Allison			Allison							Robinson	Robinson
35	Glendinning							Allison			Allison	Allison
	1901 Census	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1910 PVS	1911 Census

Table. 3.3. Street Residence File - Wear Street 1901-11

Yellow signifies continuity
Black text is a baptism entry
Red text is a burial register entry

Head of House				Census	Years			
Surname	First Name	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
Abbott	Robert							35 Victoria T.
	Samuel					Chopwell Cott. VG		
Adams on	John					61 Spen Rd.		
Ager	John Henry						4 Kings Row	
Alexander	James							17 Short Row W.
	John					2 Cowens Row	Chopwell Cott. VG	17 Alexandra St.
	John						Railway T.	13 Albert St.
	Joseph							61 Long Row W.
	Robert						4 North Cross Row	
Anderson	Henry	Hokergate						
	John A.						36 Clayton T.	
	Joseph	High Spen						
	Joseph		47 High Spen		(Hamsterley)			
	Lancelot				34 Clayton T.	39 Clayton T.	34 Clayton T.	
	Robert J.							1 Coop T.
	Robert		Low Spen					
	William	Ash Tree	Ash Tree	Ash Tree	Ash Tree			
	(Margaret)					Ash Tree		
	William	High Spen						
	William						Prospect House	

Table. 3.4. Head of House Residence File for High Spen/Victoria Garesfield

Notes.

1. This is only a partial Table for surnames beginning with 'A'.
2. Where the male Head of House dies and the widow remains as a new Head, her Christian name is in brackets, thus '(Margaret)'.

depended upon the use of the parish register data to identify residency of particular houses between the dates. Attention was concentrated on the groups of colliery streets in Chopwell and High Spen.

An example of a Street Residence File is shown in Fig. 3.3.

Head of House Residence Files. The Names Files for Blackhall Mill and High Spen/ Victoria Garesfield were rearranged to enable residential persistence in the same village to be calculated over the period 1851-1911. Practical considerations prevented Chopwell being included in this broad analysis.

A direct comparison between Chopwell and High Spen was only possible for the 1901-11 period when essential data was available for both villages, to enable residential persistence of the same Head in the same House, and in the same Street, to be measured. In addition an extended analysis was made of several streets in High Spen where residents could be followed from 1881 to 1911.

An example of a Head of House Residence File is shown in Fig. 3.4.

References and Notes

Chapter Three

Daunton, M.J.

The Export Coalfields: South Wales and North East England, 1870-1914, in Essays on North East Coalmining in the Nineteenth Century - Pitmen, Viewers & Coalmasters, (ed.), R.W. Sturgess. The North East Labour History Society, (1985). (1985, pp. 126-134).

The Royal Commission on the Coal Industry (1925) reported that in 1913, 96.9% of the houses supplied rent-free by coalowners to their workers were in Northumberland and Durham. By 1914, there were 48,791 company houses in County Durham. The reason for this situation was historical, as the employment conditions in what was the oldest major coalfield, mirrored the terms given to agricultural workers - a yearly hiring and a tied cottage. There was often a rent allowance paid to those not in colliery houses but this was always lower than the market value of the available rented property. It was in the financial interests of a miner to take a free house rather than pay for a private rented house. Although there is no confirmatory evidence it seems probable that any allowance would be paid to men with families and not to single men.

Hordon, K. and Wright, A.

Coal, Community and Conflict, A History of Chopwell. (Hickory Tree Press (1995)). (1995a, p. 16).

Abraham arrived into Chopwell, strictly Leadgate Cottages, in 1908 with his parents, Robert and Mary Jane, plus eight siblings (seven sons and two daughters). The family moved into Broadoak Terrace, Chopwell in 1912. They had moved to Chopwell from Hamsteels, near Lanchester, County Durham, following a dispute with the local colliery manager. After an unsatisfactory interview Robert said they were leaving for Chopwell and the manager's parting words were, "You'll be back within six months!" He was wrong as Robert died in Chopwell in 1929 and his wife in 1947. Abraham retired from Chopwell Colliery in 1956 as a Deputy Overman.

Hordon, K. and Wright, A.

ibid. (1995b, p. 16).

Chapter Four

Residential Persistence and Household Histories

- 4.1. Introduction
- 4.2. Residential Persistence 1851-1911
 - 4.2.1. General Procedure and Results
- 4.3. Residential Persistence 1901-1911
 - 4.3.1. General Procedure
 - 4.3.2. Chopwell
 - 4.3.3. High Spen
- 4.4. Residential Persistence 1910-1911
- 4.5. Summary of Results 1851-1911
- 4.6. Inter-Censal Residential Persistence 1901-1911
 - 4.6.1. Introduction
 - 4.6.2. Basis for Analysis
 - 4.6.3. Discussion
- 4.7. Household Histories
 - 4.7.1. Chopwell
 - 4.7.2. High Spen
 - 4.7.3. Review and Discussion of Results
- References and Notes

4.1. Introduction

In Chapter One, Ravenstein's 'Laws of Migration' were discussed and generally it was concluded that most of the 'Laws', had little relevance to this study: later studies in the 20th century found that some of Ravenstein 'Laws' were not proven. To focus on the aspects of migration of interest the following terms of 'macro-migration' and 'micro-migration' are used: the prefixes - macro and micro - refer to distance and not the size of any population movement. While introducing this distinction this thesis is concerned essentially with micro-migration patterns.

Macro-migration.

- Economic factors predominate in population movements from one area to another – a job or increased job security. It is not proposed to give a specific definition of 'area' or its distance from the defined study area.

If there is buoyant labour market there maybe more than one job offer to consider, so other factors, identified below, could then determine the migration target.

Micro-migration

Movements between houses, adjacent streets and adjacent villages are mainly of interest here and these are determined by local personal decisions which could include:

- Newer housing.
- Housing more appropriate to family size.
- Creation of a new household due to marriage.
- Households merge or break-up due to family bereavement or other life event.
- Better location eg. attached garden/allotment or increased separation from certain operations of the colliery.
- Promotion of the Head of the Household into reserved housing for senior employees.
- Tendency to live next to kin.

Of course the above are not mutually exclusive and any particular move from House A to House B could be based on one or more of the above. For example, a move to newer (or different) housing could be triggered by the close proximity of kin to the new home. It is doubtful that any analysis would be capable of differentiating between the above seven options, so it is proposed to rationalise these into four groups - housing, life event (marriage/death), employment and kin.

Ascribing observed changes in housing tenancy to any of the above without other supporting evidence can give misleading emphasis. Anderson (1971, pp. 56-62), in his study of Preston considered that in moving house, tenants actively sought to live near relatives. His evidence for this observed 'propinquity' is rather sparse, which he acknowledges, based on 137 paired relationships of individuals with the same surname and same birthplace. His admission that the method is insensitive to the task reflects the probability that all such attempts to tease out reasons for residency patterns will fail because of the number of variables involved.

In her study of Brenchley, Wojciechowska (1988a), stated that the size of the family household had an effect on mobility: *'the presence of dependent children encouraged persistency'* (1988a, p. 34). Although she hinted that persistency could vary with the number of children she presented no figures to justify this contention. Some generalisations were, however, supported:

- married persons were the least mobile
- widowed persons were very mobile
- unattached persons of any age were very mobile

In this thesis Residential Persistence is investigated over several periods - 1851 to 1911, 1901 to 1911 and 1910 to 1911 - and uses mainly two definitions - Head of House in same village and Head of House in same house. Since other earlier investigators have

often based Residential Persistence on the number of residents still living in the same street or village, some limited work was done using this definition on street-level data.

Chopwell Township had two features which made it unique among most, if not all, comparable studies, and these are:

- the miners and associated workers did not pay rent
- the mining villages were essentially sociologically homogeneous

The demand for colliery housing always exceeded the supply so some workers were forced, perhaps temporarily, into the private rental sector. Coal hewers were always at a premium so such men were usually top of the house allocation list, see Daunton (1985). Moving to a bigger house because of family size, did not incur any financial penalty, ie. higher rent, as would happen in the private sector. Consett Iron Company also owned other collieries in Medomsley and in Langley Park, mid-Durham, therefore miners could move relatively easily between these collieries. Such housing arrangements could encourage mobility.

To explore some of the above ideas it is proposed to create 'Household Histories' relating to the residents of the Township using the Census Returns and other document sources. These are similar to the 'Migration Life Histories', as presented by Pooley and Turnbull (1998), which in turn were created from data supplied by family historians. From this information the authors were able to identify seven reasons for migration: Work, Marriage, Family, Housing, Crises, Retirement and Others. Some of these are directly comparable to the seven categories proposed earlier.

An individual tracing a family tree normally concentrates on a limited range of surnames and is not interested in other members of the historical community in which his/her ancestors lived. In essence 'Household Histories' represent a limited form of family history for numbers of residents in a population. This should enable particular characteristics of

the Households to be related to their migration history. Because of the need to pursue families throughout the period 1851-1911 it is not practically possible to follow every family in the Township, so it was decided to concentrate on selected streets.

Finally, one aspect of the migration process that is usually not known, is how the decision to move was arrived at and who made the decision. It is possible that the reason for the migration was external to the family, eg. pit closure, and therefore it was essential to find work elsewhere. Given that the family had to move then there could well be a choice of location, in which case there may have been some debate between husband and wife on the various options. However, it is suggested that the Head of the Household would have the final say in the decision: it is highly unlikely that democracy played any role, in the process. White (1988), in his study of family migration of iron workers in the 19th century observed:

Within the confines of the family budget, the only economic consideration was the relative employment prospects of the breadwinner in the present situation compared with those somewhere else. (1988, p. 73).

Therefore, it is considered that, the most relevant statistic for Residential Persistence should be based on the Head of Household and not, for example, on all the individuals comprising the Household.

4.2. Residential Persistence 1851-1911

4.2.1 General Procedure and Results

The structure of the various spreadsheet files has been described in Chapter 3 and for the purpose of analysing Residential Persistence for the period 1851-1911 use was made of the RESIDENCE files. The basic census data was organised in street formation, where possible, then each household block of the census entries was rearranged alphabetically under a surname. All procedures apply equally to both village groups. Table 4.1 is a typical file showing all Alexander families found in the 1851-1911 Censuses for High Spen/Victoria Garesfield.

For the investigation of residency characteristics three pieces of data relating to the Head of House were required - the surname, the first name and the residence for each census. These were compiled, again alphabetically, with the surname in the left-hand column followed by columns for each census. The place of residence found for each Head was entered in the appropriate census column and colour-coded to:

- signify a family surname link.
- signify residence at consecutive censuses.

Those without colour coding are single entries and appear only once in the community. Where the Head of House (usually male) dies but his widow remains in the same house and becomes a new Head of House, she is treated as such and becomes a new entry. Where there is a known familial link to an individual living outside the study area as a Head of House, this is noted in the tables but the household is not included in subsequent summations.

These particular files are difficult to display within a page window so only segments from a file are shown in Table 4.2; this lists only two surname groups which begin with A, - Anderson and Armstrong families. Again in order to make the Table readable, entries for

1901							
4 North Cross Row	Alexander	Robert Isabella John G. Ann Grace C.	H W S D D	M M	29 28 3 1 0	Hewer	Cramlington Gateshead Winlaton Spenn Spenn
1911							
13 Albert Street	Alexander	John Dorothy John G. Peter P. Annie Mary Margaret Thomas	H W S S D D D S	M 17YRS	38 36 18 11 6 3 2 0	Hewer	West Cramlington Newsham, Blyth High Spenn High Spenn V. Garesfield V. Garesfield V. Garesfield V. Garesfield
1901							
Railway Terrace	Alexander	John Dorothy John G. Peter P.	H W S S	M M	28 26 8 1	Hewer	West Cramlington Newsham, Blyth High Spenn High Spenn
1911							
61 Long Row West	Alexander	Joseph E. Ann E. Ann James Isaac	H W D S S	M 8 YRS	34 27 8 5 2	Hewer	Winlaton Winlaton Winlaton Winlaton Winlaton
1911							
17 Alexandra Sreet	Alexander Alexander Yaxley Yaxley Tuddenham	John Ann Ernest Margaret Anthony	H W SIL D BDR	M 44YRS M 1 YR	66 64 28 28 42	Hewer Stoneman Banksman	Rosewood Barlow Norfolk Red Row Norfolk
1901							
Chopwell Cottages	Alexander Alexander Alexander Alexander Alexander Tuddenham Bulmer	John Ann Joseph Margaret James Anthony George	H W S D S BDR BDR	M M	57 55 25 18 16 21 28	Hewer Hewer Hewer Banksman Hewer	Choppington Red Row Dinnington Red Row Spenn Norfolk Blaydon
1891							
2CB Cowen's Row	Alexander Alexander Alexander Alexander Alexander Alexander Alexander Urwin	John Ann R.W. John Joseph Margaret James William Mary J.	H W S D S D S FAT SVT	M M WDR	46 46 20 18 15 8 6 77 15	Miner Miner Miner Miner Mason Servant	Dinnington Barlow Cramlington Cramlington Dinnington Red Row Red Row Warkworth Walbottle
1911							
17 Short Row West	Alexander	James Jane Margaret John J.	H W D S	M 5 YRS	26 27 8 1	Hewer	High Spenn Waterhouses V. Garesfield High Spenn

Table 4.1. File for all Alexander Families in High Spenn/Victoria Garesfield
(All families related)

ANDERSON	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
Henry	<				
John A.				36 Clayton Terr.	
Joseph	<				
Joseph	<				
Lancelot		34 Clayton Terr.	39 Clayton Terr.	39 Clayton Terr.	
Robert J.					1 Co-op Terr.
Robert	<				
William	Ash Tree Farm	Ash Tree Farm			
(Margaret)			Ash Tree Farm		
William	<				
William				Prospect House	
ARMSTRONG	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
Edward	Coalburns	33 Clayton Terr.	40 Clayton Terr.	40 Clayton Terr.	
Matthew			31 Clayton Terr.	3 West St.	3 West St.
Joseph	(Barlow)				
John G.				27 West St.	
James		11 Glossop St.	11 Glossop St.	11 Glossop St.	11 Glossop St.
Thomas	Hookergate				
(Elizabeth)		Chopwell Wood			
Francis			V. Garesfield	V. Garesfield	
John Wm.				46 Long Row East	49 Long Row East
George			29 Howard Terr.	68 Collindon Rd.	61 Spen Rd.
John			(Lintonford)	17 West St.	
Thomas			33 Clayton Terr.	6 East St.	
Thomas		30 Howard Terr.	30 Howard Terr.		
Charles L.					34 Clayton Terr.
Edward	<				
James				3 Co-op Terr.	
John			14 Ramseys		
Joseph					48 Spen Rd.
Richard			26 Ramseys		
Thomas		50 Ramseys			
William				12 Co-op Terr.	
William			Spen		
Robert			52 Spen Rd.		

Table 4.2. Partial File for some AAA families in High Spen/Victoria Garesfield
< signifies an entry in 1851/1861 Censuses

1851 and 1861 are excluded. These files are a convenient way of linking residents and their locations for each census. Summing the entries in vertical columns gives the relevant censal population for these surnames and combining all the surname groups gives the total Heads population. Inspection of the horizontal rows can identify the residence period ie. one, two, three, four or five censuses. A summary for all surnames in the High Spen/Victoria Garesfield community is shown in Table 4.3.

The second Table lists all Heads present for at least two consecutive censuses, 1851-

A l p h a G r o u p	N o . o f H e a d s	1 8 5 1	1 8 6 1	1 8 7 1	1 8 8 1	1 8 9 1	1 9 0 1	1 9 1 1
A A A	5 1	5	7	4	8	19	2 2	1 5
B B B	1 1 3	3	6	8	2 0	3 4	4 6	4 2
C C C	1 2 4	7	5	7	3 1	3 0	4 8	4 2
D D D	4 5	0	1	2	1 1	1 6	2 0	2 0
E E E	3 7	3	8	9	1 2	1 0	1 1	1 4
F F F	4 1	0	0	2	1 0	1 8	1 7	1 6
G G G	7 3	5	2	7	1 9	2 4	2 3	2 4
H H H	1 1 6	1 0	1 8	1 4	3 2	3 0	2 5	4 1
I I I	6	1	1	1	1	2	3	1
J J J	2 7	3	1	0	3	7	1 2	1 1
K K K	1 5	0	0	2	4	4	6	7
L L L	9 6	2	4	6	1 6	2 8	4 1	3 2
M M M	4 8	1	0	1	1 2	1 3	2 3	1 8
N N N	2 7	0	0	0	6	8	1 3	1 1
O O O	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	1
P P P	4 5	2	2	3	1 2	1 0	1 4	1 6
R R R	1 1 2	5	7	1 4	2 6	3 4	3 7	3 5
S S S	1 0 8	6	6	6	2 4	4 3	4 3	3 0
T T T	2 9	1	0	1	3	1 2	1 6	9
U V W Y	1 1 6	1	9	1 1	3 6	4 1	3 1	4 9
T o t a l s	1 2 3 2	5 7	7 7	9 8	2 8 6	3 8 5	4 5 1	4 3 4

Table 4.3. Summation file for High Spen/Victoria Garesfield

Columns 3 to 9 contain the numbers of Heads of Household who appear in a particular Census while the last row contains the the total number of Heads. Note the first column contains the number of individual Heads which usually differs from the sum of Heads along any row as the individual can appear more than once.

Alpha Group	1851-61	1861-71	1871-81	1881-91	1891-1901	1901-11
AAA	1	1	0	2	2	2
BBB	0	0	0	1	0	0
CCC	1	0	0	0	2	3
DDD	0	0	0	0	0	1
EEE	0	0	0	0	0	0
FFF	0	0	0	0	0	0
GGG	0	0	0	0	2	1
HHH	2	2	2	3	0	0
JK	0	0	0	0	0	1
LLL	0	0	0	0	1	1
MMM	1	0	0	0	2	2
NOP	0	0	1	3	3	1
RST	0	0	1	1	1	4
UVWY	2	1	4	3	2	3
Totals	7	4	8	13	15	19
Heads at first decade	18	17	26	55	55	85
Residential Persistence %	39	24	31	24	27	22

Table 4.4. Summation file for High Spen/Victoria Garesfield including Residential Persistence Results

Decade	1851-61	1861-71	1871-81	1881-91	1891-1901	1901-11
Heads	16	35	40	115	180	159
Heads at first decade	57	77	98	286	385	451
Residential Persistence %	28	45	41	41	47	35

Table 4.4a. Summary of Residential Persistence Results for High Spen/Victoria Garesfield

ABBOTT	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
George Ed.				31 Bewick Rd.	
ADAMS	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
David			5 Pearbee Ter.		
David					Park Cott.
John					21 Beech Grove
AREY	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
George		Brick Row			
ALEXANDER	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
Sarah					8 Bear's Cotts.
ALLAN	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
Frances					21 Bewick Road
John					31 Beech Grove
ALLANBY	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
Thomas		Milwellburn	Milwellburn	Milwellburn	
ALLINSON	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
Fred Wm.				27 Bewick Rd.	27 Bewick Rd.
ALMACK	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
Anthony		Brick Row			
ANDERSON	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
John		Brick Row			
Thomas	-Milwellburn				
Thomas		Lay Cottage	Loop Cottage	Loop Cottage	Loop Cottage
ANGUS	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
Joseph		(Benfieldside)			35 Beech Grove
ARMSTRONG	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
John	<				
ARTHUR	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
Robert					Blackhall Mill
ASKEW	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
Thomas D.					15 High Burn
ATKINSON	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
George Wm.					Ship Inn

Table 4.5. Partial File for some AAA families
in Blackhall Mill

< signifies an entry in 1851/1861 Censuses

61, 1861-71, etc. For the decade 1851-61 there are 16 Heads in residence for both censuses, therefore based on the number of Heads in 1851, this gives a percentage figure for 'stayers' of RP% of 28. This procedure is repeated for the other decade groups and Tables 4.4 and 4.4a contain the results. Tables 4.5 to 4.7a. contain comparable data for Blackhall Mill.

Alpha Group	No. of Heads	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
AAA	19	1	2	1	5	3	4	11
BBB	38	2	1	0	6	4	9	17
CCC	46	3	2	1	8	6	8	25
DDD	15	0	0	0	1	0	6	9
EEE	5	1	0	2	0	1	0	1
FFF	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	3
GGG	18	0	0	0	2	3	5	11
HHH	24	3	3	2	6	9	4	8
JK	16	1	0	0	1	1	4	10
LLL	12	0	0	2	4	1	3	4
MMM	31	1	1	1	1	2	5	25
NOP	29	2	0	2	4	8	10	12
RST	74	1	3	5	8	12	15	37
UVWY	47	2	4	10	9	7	12	19
Totals	379	18	17	26	55	57	85	192

Table 4.6. Summation file for Blackhall Mill

Columns 3 to 9 contain the numbers of Heads of Household who appear in a particular Census while the last row contains the the total number of Heads. Note the first column contains the number of individual Heads which usually differs from the sum of Heads along any row as the individual can appear more than once.

Alpha Group	1851-61	1861-71	1871-81	1881-91	1891-1901	1901-11
AAA	1	1	0	2	2	2
BBB	0	0	0	1	0	0
CCC	1	0	0	0	2	3
DDD	0	0	0	0	0	1
EEE	0	0	0	0	0	0
FFF	0	0	0	0	0	0
GGG	0	0	0	0	2	1
HHH	2	2	2	3	0	0
JK	0	0	0	0	0	1
LLL	0	0	0	0	1	1
MMM	1	0	0	0	2	2
NOP	0	0	1	3	3	1
RST	0	0	1	1	1	4
UVWY	2	1	4	3	2	3
Totals	7	4	8	13	15	19
Heads at first decade	18	17	26	55	55	85
Residential Persistence %	39	24	31	24	27	22

Table 4.7. Summation file for Blackhall Mill including Residential Persistence Results

Decade	1851-61	1861-71	1871-81	1881-91	1891-1901	1901-11
Heads	7	4	8	13	15	19
Heads at first decade	18	17	26	55	55	85
Residential Persistence %	39	24	31	24	27	22

Table 4.7a. Summary of Residential Persistence Results for Blackhall Mill

4.3. Residential Persistence 1901-1911

4.3.1 General Procedure

The essential differences between this narrower study and the one previously reported in Section 4.2. (above) are:

- use of street level data
- use of a different definition of Residential Persistence

Both villages had, by this period, some well-defined streets and house numbering patterns which allow for investigation of residential persistence at the house level and street level, as well as village level. Still, not every street was available for this study as, particularly in Chopwell, some streets were not built until after 1901.

The presence of the Head of Household is the reference for Residential Persistence (RP) which was determined for the ten-year period, 1901-1911, specifically the Head living in the same house. Since most published research has used the number of residents, not just Heads, therefore it was also considered of interest to determine RP based on the number of residents living in the same street for 1901 and 1911.

4.3.2 Chopwell

Tyne Street

Out of 17 houses there were only four Heads present for both Censuses giving RP% of 23.5. Looking at the individuals present for both Censuses, there were 13 in a population (1901) of 97 or RP% = 13.4.

Wear Street

By inspection there were five Heads who were in the same house for the full decade, namely: Nos. 3, 5, 8, 11 and 27. With only five out of 35 houses the RP% figure is 14.3.

Using the alternative measure for residential persistence, the total number of residents in 1901 was 234, while the total number who were present in 1911 was 19, giving a RP%

of 8.1.

Tees Street

Only three Heads identified:

No. 2. Robert W. Armstrong

No. 5. George Prosser

No. 20. Robert Whitfield

With 32 houses then the RP% is 9.7. The street population of 111 and with nine residents traced, the alternative RP% is 8.1.

Blyth Street

By inspection there are four households headed by the same person in this period, who were in the same house for the full decade, namely:

No. 15. William Hall

No. 25. Patrick McNestry

No. 27. Edward Brown

No. 31. John Lowes

With only four out of 36 (one empty house in 1901) the RP% is 11. However, there is another household which, it could be argued, should be added to the list and that is No. 34, where John Lamb was Head both in 1901 and also in 1910. His household included his widowed mother, Hannah, and for some reason the enumerator in 1911 has accepted Hannah as Head of House. I consider that John should be re-instated as Head since the change is arbitrary. The logical alternative is to replace John by Hannah for 1901 and also for 1910, but either way this would increase the total above to five and the RP% would increase to 13.9.

Alternatively, the number of residents present for both Censuses was 24 and with a population of 190 the RP% = 12.6.

Severn Street

There were five households with the same Head:

No. 27. William Gibson

No. 40. John Stoddart

No. 42. Thomas Dixon

No. 43. Thomas Sharp

No. 44. Mark Hood

With five out of 42 houses the RP% is 12 while with a street population of 321 the alternative RP% is 6.5.

Thames Street

By inspection there are four households headed by the same person in this period, who were also in the same house for the full decade, namely:

No. 4. John Gray

No. 7. John Temperley

No. 42. George Neasham

No. 44. Joseph McNestry

With only four out of 44 (two empty houses in 1901) the RP% is 9.5. There were 16

Street	No. of Houses	1901-11 Heads in same house RP%	1901 Population	1901-11 Residents in the same street RP%
Tyne St.	17	23.5	97	13.4
Wear St.	35	14.3	234	8.1
Tees St.	32	9.7	111	8.1
Blyth St.	36	13.9	190	12.6
Severn St.	42	12	320	6.6
Thames St.	42	9.5	234	7

Table 4.8. Residential Persistence results for Chopwell streets

residents out of a total of 234 (in 1901) present for both censuses giving a RP% = 7.

4.3.3 High Spen

The above procedures were repeated for ten High Spen streets and the results are displayed in Table 4.9.

Street	No. of Houses	1901-11 Heads in same house RP%	1901 Population	1901-11 Residents in the same street RP%
Long Row East & West	37	24.3	222	21.6
Short Row East & West	17	29.4	120	22.5
Cross Row North & South	18	11	94	19.1
Wood Terrace	16	0	76	10.5
Clayton Terrace	12	50	71	30.9
Glossop St. & Howard Terrace	30	46.7	163	35
South St.	13	30.8	48	25
East St.	32	37.5	227	30.4
West St.	42	38.1	278	30.4

Table 4.9. Residential Persistence results for High Spen streets

Glossop Street and Howard Terrace were structurally unaltered with the same numbering system from 1881 to 1911, so the opportunity was taken to examine these streets over three decades. The results are shown in Table 4.10.

Glossop St. & Howard Terrace	No. of Houses	1901-11 Heads in same house RP%	Population in first year of decade	1901-11 Residents in the same street RP%
1881-1891	30	30	147	27.2
1891-1901	30	20	165	15.8
1901-1911	30	46.7	163	35

Table 4.10. Residential Persistence results for Glossop St. & Howard Terr.

4.4. Residential Persistence 1910-1911

In this analysis the 1910 PVS listings are used in conjunction with the 1911 Census data. The 1910 Survey identified the tenant or occupier of a specific address, the individual is equivalent to the Head of Household in the Census Returns. This is not a precise correlation as the 1910 surveyors' task was spread over several months, while the Census was compiled at a specific date.

As with detected errors made by the enumerators in the Census Returns there is evidence to suggest that the surveyor also made mistakes, for example, placing a tenant in the wrong house or choosing a different Head of Household to that of the enumerator. In some specific streets, B Clyde Street, Chopwell is an example, there are some inexplicable movements between several houses as is illustrated by the following Table 4.11. It should be noted that B Clyde Street is not a continuous street as Nos. 1B to 4B are separated from Nos. 5B to 13B by Clyde Street itself.

House Number	Head of Household in 1910	Heads of Household in 1911
1B	Ridley, Edward	Russell, William Hy.
2B	Pattinson, William	Gibson, William
3B	Russell, William	Ridley, Edward
4B	Parkin, John	Smith, Thomas
5B	Monkhouse, Edward	Pemberton, Nat.
6B	(vacant)	Hume, Arthur
7B	Stanton, Thomas	Foley, John
8B	Fairbairn, James	Spawton, Henry
9B	Ham Francis	Fairbairn, James
10B	Pemberton, Nat.	Ham, Wm. Francis
11B	Robson, Isaac	Holden, Patrick
12B	Ruddick, Thomas	Robson, Isaac
13B	Scott, George	Ruddick, Thomas

Table 4.11. B Clyde Street showing residential changes 1910-1911

From the 1910 PVS Edward Ridley was living in No. 1B while a year later, according to the 1911 Census he was in No. 3B. Edward, wife Dora and seven children arrived in Chopwell 1905/1906 and appear to have moved directly into No. 17 Clyde Street, where they had another two children - in 1906 and 1908. The Parish Registers recorded the death of one of these in 1909 with the home address given as No. 3 Clyde Street (probably No. 3B), however, another child was baptised in April 1910 with the home address of No. 2B. This micro-migration path does not involve No. 1B (1910) as indicated by the 1910 PVS. (The Russell family had lived in No. 29 Thames Street for the 1901 Census but moved out after a few years and, probably, went to Newcastle.) The idea that the Ridleys and the Russells simply swapped houses, for whatever reason, is looking rather doubtful. Any theory about what actually happened in these few houses has to discount the evidence from some of the written records.

Examining the other section of the street, of the five tenants who moved between 1910 and 1911 four migrated to the next house down the street, while the other one moved up five houses to the end house. Another anomaly surfaced with William F. Ham who was living in No. 9B (1910) and No. 10B (1911), as the Parish Register recorded the baptism of a daughter with the address of No. 10B; two years before the 1910 PVS put the family in No. 9B. The other piece of data provided by the Parish Register is that William Ham died immediately after the 1911 Census with the address of No. 10B and was buried on April 6th. Again there is some conflict between the 1910 PVS and the Parish Register.

The presence of Arthur Hume in No. 6B is also worth examination as another surname of Bowman occurred in association with Hume. The 1911 Household of Hume contained a married daughter who was found to have married a Charles Bowman and the couple registered a child in March 1911 at the No. 6B address. There was also the death of an

infant, Charles Bowman, in August 1909 with the address of No. 2B. Charles, the father was not present in the Hume Household for 1911 but was living as a boarder in William Street. Perhaps with the Hume Household consisting of nine, No. 6B was considered too small for ten. Again as with the other examples, it was not possible to confirm that the Hume family were also one-time residents in No. 2B.

Street	No. of Houses	1910-11 No. of Heads in same house	1910-11 Heads in the same house RP%
Tyne St.	17	15	88
Wear St.	35	29	83
Tees St.	32	24	75
Blyth St.	37	26	70
Severn St.	44	33	75
Thames St.	44	29	66
Wansbeck St.	44	37	84
Tay St.	14	10	71
Mersey St.	42	30	71
Humber St.	40	27	67
Clyde St.	48	34	71
A Humber St.	(5)	Not used	
B Clyde St.	(13)	Not used	
Forth St.	62	43	70
Tweed St.	54	46	85
East St.	24	15	62
Totals	537	398	74

Table 4.12. Residential Persistence for Chopwell Streets 1910-11

Street	No. of Houses	1910-11 No. of Heads in same house	1910-11 Heads in the same house RP%
Glossop St.	16	12	75
Howard Terrace	14	12	86
Clayton Terrace	12	7	58
West St.	42	30	71
East St.	32	28	87
South St.	13	10	85
Short Row East & West	17	14	82
Long Row East & West	38	28	74
Cross Row North & South	20	12	60
Totals	204	153	75

Table 4.13. Residential Persistence for High Spen Streets 1910-11

Another possibility with the vacant No. 6B was the problem of the Household of John Folley (Foley) formerly of Thames Street but absent in 1910 only to reappear in No. 7B Clyde Street for 1911. There is a mismatch on the 1910 PVS date with Alex Pennington as tenant for the Folley Thames Street address and Thomas Stanton tenant for the Folley Clyde Street house. So where was John Folley and his nine children? Discarding the idea that the Follies moved out of Chopwell and then returned within the year, it is possible that they were in No. 6B.

The phenomenon present in B Clyde Street was also observed in A Humber which faced B Clyde across a roadway. While some of the changes were actually real movements it was not possible to determine the real from the mistakes which is why these streets were left out of the analysis. It has to be emphasized that, for some reason, this group of houses was unusual compared with the other streets, none of which exhibited similar apparent residential volatility.

4.5. Summary of Results 1851-1911

The results of the analysis are contained in Tables 4.12 and 4.13. A summary of results is contained in Table 4.14 which includes for comparison other published results.

Place	Period	Residential Persistence (RP%)	Residential Persistence (RP%)	Basis for Residential Persistence
High Spen (BHM)	1851-61	28	(39)	Heads in same Village
	1861-71	45	(24)	Heads in same Village
	1871-81	41	(31)	Heads in same Village
	1881-91	41	(24)	Heads in same Village
	1891-1901	47	(27)	Heads in same Village
	1901-11	35	(22)	Heads in same Village
Chopwell (HS)	1901-11	12.2	(34)	Heads in same House
	1901-11	8.6	(27.5)	Residents in same Street
	1910-11	74	(75)	Heads in same House
High Spen (Glossop/Howard)	1881-91	30	-	Heads in same House
	1891-1901	20	-	Heads in same House
	1901-11	46.7	-	Heads in same House
High Spen (Glossop/Howard)	1881-91	27.2	-	Residents in same Street
	1891-1901	15.8	-	Residents in same Street
	1901-11	35	-	Residents in same Street

Table 4.14. Summary of Residential Persistence Results 1851-1911

Notes.

1. Blackhall Mill (BHM) and High Spen (HS) results are listed in parentheses in Column 4.
2. The Chopwell (HS) results are average values over the streets analysed.
3. The last six entries are for the small survey for Glossop Street and Howard Terrace in High Spen.
4. Selected comparisons with other published studies:
 - Brenchley 1851-1861 RP% =36.2 (of workforce) - B. Wojciechowska (1988).
 - Brenchley 1861-1871 RP%=31.4 (of workforce) - B. Wojciechowska (1988).
 - Brenchley 1851-1861 RP%=37.2 (Head of 'simple household) - B. Wojciechowska (1988).
 - Kingston upon Thames 1851-1861 RP%=34.7 (Resident of selected population) - C. French (2008).
 - Kingston upon Thames 1861-1871 RP%=39.7 (Resident of selected population) - C. French (2008).
 - Kingston upon Thames 1871-1881 RP%=36.6 (Resident of selected population) - C. French (2008).
 - Kingston upon Thames 1881-1891 RP%=37.1 (Resident of selected population) - C. French (2008).
 - R. Dennis and S. Daniels], (1994) surveyed results from several sources and gave figures of RP% =12 to 41 for ten-year rates and RP% = 60 to 80 for one-year rates.

4.6. Inter-censal Residential Persistence 1901 and 1911

4.6.1. Introduction

In the previous Sections residential persistence was explored for High Spen/Victoria Garesfield and Blackhall Mill over consecutive ten-year periods for 1851-1911, also for Chopwell and High Spen/Victoria Garesfield for 1901-1911 using Census Returns. In addition, the 1910 Property Valuation Survey and the 1911 Census Returns were similarly utilised to give one-year persistence data.

The inter-censal movements of residents are not usually accessible but in the period 1901-1911, the combination of census and parochial register data, can reveal what was happening: this type of study was carried out for particular streets in Chopwell and High Spen. Such movements can be visually represented, as in Table 4.15, but it was thought possible that a numerical measure of this activity could be derived for streets where there is a good coverage of register data. It is acknowledged at the outset that what follows is an approximate procedure.

4.6.2. Basis for Analysis

The objective is to estimate the number of years a resident – the Head of the Household - remained at a particular address as indicated by the Residential Spreadsheet, such as Table 4.15 for Tyne Street. The yellow bars in the spreadsheet already represent residential continuity so, in principle, it is a simple task to count the number of years for each resident. The arithmetic mean of the residential period can be found for those known residents and this has been done for streets both in Chopwell – Tyne, Wear, Tees, Blyth, Severn and Thames – and in High Spen – Glossop, Howard, Clayton, West, East and South. Residential Spreadsheets for these streets can be found in Appendix Two. For the purposes of this exercise Glossop, Howard and Clayton were considered as one street.

The arithmetic mean is defined as;

No.	1901 Census	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910 PVS	1911 Census
1	Armstrong			Armstrong	Collinson				Collinson	Collinson	Collinson
2	Gibson									Skeen	Skeen
3	Driver					Fairbairn				NE	Fairbairn
4	Hunter							Wills		Wills	Wills
5	Walton									Oughton	Oughton
6	Charlton							Tate		Tate	Rogerson
7	Lawson	Robson			Robson					Robson	Robson
8	Birchnall									Wills	Wills
9	Whitfield									Whitfield	Whitfield
10	Charlton									Graham	Graham
11	Gill	Elliott			Elliott				Elliott	Elliott	Elliott
12	Newton									Newton	Newton
13	Ripon									Burn	Burn
14	Wishart									Robinson	Robinson
15	Harrison									Harrison	Harrison
16	Wilson									Wilson	Wilson
17	Foster		Foster					Oliver		Coulson	Kelly
	1901 Census	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910 PVS	1911 Census

Table. 4.15. Street Residence File
Tyne Street 1901-11

Column 1 – House number.

Column 2 – Surname of resident in 1901 Census.

Columns 3 to 10 – Surname associated with address from parish registers.

Yellow bars reflect continuity. Red text signifies death.

Column 11 – Name of resident from 1910 Property Valuation Survey (PVS)

Column 12 – Surname of resident in 1911 Census

$$Y_m = (f_1Y_1 + f_2Y_2 + \dots + f_kY_k)/(f_1 + f_2 + \dots + f_k)$$

$$\text{or } Y_m = F_n/N$$

$$\text{where } F_n = (f_1Y_1 + f_2Y_2 + \dots + f_kY_k) \text{ and } N = (f_1 + f_2 + \dots + f_k)$$

T Y N E	1 yr	2 yr	3 yr	4 yr	5 yr	6 yr	7 yr	8 yr	9 yr	10 yr	11 yr	N	F _n
f _k	15	7	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	2	4	33	-
f _k Y _k	15	14	3	8	0	6	7	0	0	20	44	-	117

Table 4.16. Mean Residential Duration - Tyne

Therefore, $Y_m = (117/33)$ years or 3.6 years for Tyne Street.

T H A M E S	1 yr	2 yr	3 yr	4 yr	5 yr	6 yr	7 yr	8 yr	9 yr	10 yr	11 yr	N	F _n
f _k	69	17	3	4	4	3	3	2	1	0	4	110	-
f _k Y _k	69	34	9	16	20	18	21	16	9	0	44	-	256

Table 4.17. Mean Residential Duration - Thames

And $Y_m = (256/110)$ years or 2.3 years for Thames Street.

This procedure was repeated for the remaining streets.

For Tyne Street the maximum value of F_n is 187 (or 17 times 11 yearly residential slots) while that for Thames Street is 484 (or 44 times 11 yearly slots). The Tyne Street result is therefore based on 63% of 'filled' slots while in the second case, Thames Street, the comparable figure is some 52%.

As the 'empty' residential slots were, in fact, invariably occupied by an unknown household, It was considered of interest to explore how the mean value is changed by assuming that all slots were filled. There are two simple ways this can be accomplished:

- the empty slots are filled by a new resident.
- the empty slots are shared between the existing residents.

For Option 2, below, no new residents join and the empty slots are shared out in an appropriate way. For example, No. 2 Tyne Street has the known residency pattern, shown below (second line), while the last line shows how the empty slots were reallocated. Since it is not known when the Gibsons moved out and when the Skeens moved in, the eight empty slots were simply shared between the two households.

Tyne	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1909	1909	1910	1911
No. 2	Gibson									Skeen	Skeen
No. 2	Gibson									Skeen	Skeen

Table 4.18. Allocation of Slots for Option 2

The following two Tables illustrate the effects of both options on the mean residential period for Tyne Street.

T Y N E	1 yr	2 yr	3 yr	4 yr	5 yr	6 yr	7 yr	8 yr	9 yr	10 yr	11 yr	N	F _n
f _k	15	7	1	3	0	4	1	6	0	2	4	43	-
f _k Y _k	15	14	3	12	0	24	7	48	0	20	44	-	187

Table 4.19. Mean Residential Duration - Option 1 (Tyne)

Therefore the new mean value under Option 1 gives:

$$Y_m = (187/43) \text{ years or } 4.3 \text{ years for Tyne Street.}$$

There is of course a spectrum of possible values for Y_m depending upon the number of new residents allowed to join the street.

The procedure was repeated for the other streets and the results are tabled below..

T H A M E S	1 yr	2 yr	3 yr	4 yr	5 yr	6 yr	7 yr	8 yr	9 yr	10 yr	11 yr	N	F _n
f _k	70	21	5	9	10	7	8	15	1	0	4	150	-
f _k Y _k	70	42	15	36	50	42	56	120	9	0	44	-	484

Table 4.20. Mean Residential Duration - Option 1 (Thames)

Therefore, $Y_m = (484/150)$ years or 3.2 years for Thames Street.

T Y N E	1 yr	2 yr	3 yr	4 yr	5 yr	6 yr	7 yr	8 yr	9 yr	10 yr	11 yr	N	F _n
f _k	4	1	2	3	7	7	2	1	0	2	4	33	-
f _k Y _k	4	2	6	12	35	42	14	8	0	20	44	-	187

Table 4.21. Mean Residential Duration - Option 2 (Tyne)

Therefore, $Y_m = (187/33)$ years or 5.7 years for Tyne Street.

T H A M E S	1 yr	2 yr	3 yr	4 yr	5 yr	6 yr	7 yr	8 yr	9 yr	10 yr	11 yr	N	F _n
f _k	15	5	24	13	26	10	5	6	2	0	4	110	-
f _k Y _k	15	10	72	52	130	60	35	48	18	0	44	-	484

Table 4.22. Mean Residential Duration - Option 2 (Thames)

And, $Y_m = (484/110)$ years or 4.4 years for Thames Street.

Street	Hses.	MRD Yrs	MRD Yrs Option 1	MRD Yrs Option 2		Street	Hses.	MRD Yrs	MRD Yrs Option 1	MRD Yrs Option 2
Tyne	17	3.6	4.3	5.7		Glossop	16			
Wear	35	3.1	3.8	5.2		Howard	14	4.3	4.9	6.2
Tees	32	2.3	3.5	4.8		Clayton	12			
Blyth	37	3	3.6	4.8		West	42	4.6	5.1	6.3
Severn	44	2.4	3.4	4.6		East	32	3.6	4.5	6
Thames	44	2.3	3.2	4.4		South	13	3.3	4.3	5.5

MRD = Mean Residential Duration

Table 4.23. Mean Residential Duration for Chopwell/High Spen Streets 1901-11

4.6.3. Discussion

At the outset it was stressed that this exercise could only be approximate as the basic unit of Residential Duration is one year, so giving the results to the nearest decimal place is, perhaps, to impute a spurious accuracy to them. Bearing this in mind, it is possible to make some general observations about the two sets of results.

First, the MRDs for the households in the High Spen are longer than those for the Chopwell households. This result could be conjectured without performing the analysis by noting the number of households in each group that stay for the full 11 years: the Chopwell streets had 24 such households out of 209 houses, while High Spen had 53 out of 129 houses. These data indicate an evident tendency for the Spen households to reflect a higher level of Residential Persistence than those in Chopwell. Why? Two colliery villages with the same colliery owner, but separated in development by several decades. From 1895 to 1911 Chopwell's population expanded dramatically compared with High Spen and this relative change brought hundreds of new families into the village. This influx, plus the rapidly changing physical environment - woodland clearance, new housing, new shops, new schools and colliery developments - may have been the unsettling determinants in the social fabric of the village which influenced mobility.

4.7. Household Histories

As referred to above in the Introduction to this Chapter the purpose of the Household Histories is to explore their usefulness in elucidating the possible reasons for the micro-migrations undertaken within the villages. A total of nine streets were chosen, five from Chopwell and four from High Spen and abbreviated versions of the Household Histories can be found in Appendix 3. [For space considerations It was not practical to include all details of the Households identified, particularly all the side branches where these were traced.] Several examples of the Household Histories, elaborated where possible, are included for each of the streets.

The streets used were:

- Chopwell - Tyne, Wear, Blyth, Severn and Thames Streets.
- High Spen - Glossop Street, Howard Terrace, West Street and Short Rows East/West.

The analysis procedure identified the resident Head for the 1901 Census and then attempted to find where the Head was recorded for the 1911 Census. Some Heads were still in the same house, some had moved into adjacent streets, some had moved further afield into other villages, some had died and some were not found at all. Possible reasons for the observed micro-migrations were outlined in Section 4.1, so the object was to determine if any of these suggestions could be linked to the identified residence changes.

In addition it was decided to perform a limited analysis exploring the possible influence of children on mobility. This analysis used two streets - Blyth Street and West Street - and the numbers of children in each Household from the 1901/1911 Census Returns. If children were a restraining influence then this tendency should be reflected in the observed micro-migrations; larger families should stay while smaller families move.

4.7.1. Chopwell

Selected Household Histories - Tyne Street

No. 1. Armstrong, Peter

Peter and Rebecca were no longer resident in Tyne Street by 1905 when the Collinson family moved in and stayed for the 1911 census. However, the Armstrongs were still in Chopwell, as by 1906 they were residents in No. 37 Thames Street: here they stayed until 1910, as Peter was recorded in the 1910 PVS list. By the 1911 Census the family had moved again this time to No. 20 Forth Street. The number of children in the family had increased from five (1901) to eight (1911). It is probable that the moves were related to this increase in the Household size, as Thames Street houses are larger than those in Tyne Street and Forth Street houses are larger than those in Thames Street.

According to the 1901 Census return Peter was born in West Wylam. A search in 1881 census found him in Stocksfield living with his grandmother Ann Flanagan, a widow, born in Ireland and her son, Michael aged 19, who was described as an 'imbecile'. Peter's birthplace had changed to Ovingham, which is adjacent to West Wylam. The 1891 census has this small Household of three living in New Ridley, near Hedley. A wide area search failed to find any other family members related to Peter, or the deaths of his grandmother and his uncle Michael. Also the marriage record for Peter and Rebecca was not found. There is some minor confusion about where Peter's older children were born - Whittonstall (1901 census) or Hedley (1911 census).

A family in No. 9 Tyne Street was Whitfield and it was noted that two of the Whitfield children had been born in Hedley, including a grandchild, John Henry Armstrong. It appears that Rebecca Armstrong was formerly Rebecca Whitfield as both age and birthplace match. There is a strong probability that John H. Armstrong was illegitimate and that the Armstrongs and Whitfields migrated into Tyne Street together.

The confusion over the birth places - Hedley or Whittonstall - of the first three children means that the family could have lived at one, two or three different houses. As far as Chopwell is concerned there are three well-defined addresses - Tyne, Thames and Forth Streets - where the Armstrongs stayed. Overall the lowest estimate is four residences but it could be six, in 19 years of marriage.

No. 3. Driver, John

Here again, apart from the Head whose birthplace was Norfolk, his spouse and children claimed Chopwell for their birthplace. The 1911 census gave a different picture with Clara (b. Durham), Ralph Race (b. Allendale, probably Allendale Cottages, Medomsley), Annie (b. Tudhoe) and Edith (b. Spennymoor). As with the Armstrong family (above) by 1906 the Drivers had moved to a larger house in No. 33 Severn Street.

The earlier 1891 Census found the family in Spennymoor when Ralph Race (adopted son) was revealed as a nephew and John Driver's birthplace was identified as Erpingham in Norfolk. Most unusually John Driver was easily traced through another four censuses and in 1881 the entry for Tudhoe Village has John's wife as Sarah; evidence that Clara was John's second wife. In fact, John married Clara Robinson in Durham in 1889. The other entries gave the following information:

- 1851. John was living with his parents (father was an agricultural labourer) and his sister in Erpingham.
- 1861. John and his sister were living in the Workhouse at Erpingham. No parents were found.
- 1871. John was a Boarder with a family called Watson in Northumberland.

In 10 years John had moved from the Workhouse in rural Norfolk to lodging in rural Northumberland with only speculation to weave the story of his journey.

Prior to arriving in Chopwell it is likely that the Drivers had at least three different

addresses, to which can be added the two Chopwell residences in Tyne and Severn Streets. A total of five in 22 years of marriage. The Household size increased from nine (1901) to twelve (1911) so the suggestion that the move from Tyne to Severn Street based on the wish for larger accommodation is a reasonable one.

No. 8. Birchnall, George

In the 1911 census George and family were living in No. 34 Severn Street and the best evidence is that they moved from Tyne Street around 1905. The 1871 census had George living with his widowed father Simeon, whose birthplace was listed as County Durham, however, in 1881 he had remarried and his birthplace is said to be Lancashire. It is possible that Lancashire is a mis-reading of Lanchester but, on the other hand, Birchnall is a very uncommon surname in Durham/Northumberland: in fact there is only one other Birchnell (sic) in the Northern region in 1881 (according to the census) and he did originate from Lancashire. The probability is that Simeon was born in Farnworth, Lancashire in 1841. There are a number of confounding factors in this story as there is only one Simeon in the 1861 census and he is living with his father, John a widower, in Farnworth, however this Simeon was born in 1852/3 and was therefore some ten years younger than Simeon the father of George.

Examination of the 1891 census showed that George and family were living in Collierley, Dipton, of the two children the elder was born in Evenwood, South-west Durham while the younger was born in Dipton. If this is a real migration path then the family moved to Evenwood and returned to Dipton within two years before going to Chopwell. George's only sibling, his sister Margaret, was living in South Moor as a servant, with an illegitimate child. Simeon and Esther were not found in 1891 and a General Register search revealed that Simeon died in 1887, so with his death, it seems, that the family broke up.

The 1891 census also revealed that John Birchnall was living in Iveston, Leadgate

having remarried, and further that Simeon the younger, was living in Brandon with his wife and six children, who were all born in the vicinity of Brandon. Here the mystery deepens as there is no sign of the family in the 1881 census, not in the Northern region, not in the whole of the country! Having the same first and second names and originating from the same area in Lancashire could be more than a coincidence but as yet there is no confirming evidence that the two Simeons were related.

In 24 years of marriage the George Birchnall could have changed house perhaps five times.

Tyne Street House Number	Tyne Street Resident Year - 1901	Residence Year - 1911	Comment
1	Armstrong	No. 20 Forth Street	Larger/newer house
2	Gibson	Hookergate, Spen	Not known
3	Driver	No. 33 Severn Street	Larger/newer house
4	Hunter	No. 7 Tees Street	Downsizing
5	Walton	Medomsley	Not known
6	Charlton	Not known	
7	Lawson	Greenhead Terrace (?)	Promotion
8	Birchnall	No. 34 Severn Street	Larger/newer house
9	Whitfield	No. 9 Tyne Street	
10	Charlton	Not known	
11	Gill	Greenhead Terrace (?)	Promotion
12	Newton	No. 12 Tyne Street	
13	Ripon	Not known	
14	Wishart	High Spen	Retired
15	Harrison	(No. 15 Tyne Street)	Widow now Head
16	Wilson	No. 16 Tyne Street	
17	Foster	Rainton	Policeman. Moved with appointment.

Table 4.24. Micro-migration from Tyne Street 1901-1911

Selected Household Histories - Wear Street

No. 24. Hudsmith, Joseph

Joseph and Margaret Hutsmith (Hudsmith) arrived into Wear Street, with five children, possibly just before the 1901 Census, had two children registered in Chopwell between 1901 and 1904 and then returned to East Hedley Hope, whence they came. This small colliery village lies approximately 10km east of Durham City. The couple had another three births after they returned making a total of ten live births from twelve pregnancies.

This is the only Hudsmith family in County Durham and it is possibly a corruption of Hudspith, which is a more numerous surname but no connections were found. Only a rather superficial assessment of residency is possible and on this basis the estimate is three houses in 22 years of marriage.

No. 30. Fletcher, Thomas

Thomas, born in Ovingham, headed a large household with seven children in 1901 which was to increase to eight in 1902. There were no other references to the family in the parish registers so it is possible that the family had moved out of Chopwell between 1902 and 1905, as another family, Bell, prior to 1906, took over the tenancy. In 1911 Thomas was in Rowlands Gill where he lived with an even larger household; his house did have four rooms as opposed to three in Wear Street.

In 1906 another Fletcher, Charles, moved into 17 Mersey Street and he was still there in 1911. Charles was also born in Ovingham which suggested a link to Thomas. Search in the 1881 and 1891 Censuses confirmed that Thomas and Charles were brothers: their father was Christopher, born in Ovingham, and Mary, their mother, was said to have been born in Canada. The transcriber obviously had difficulty interpreting the handwriting and Canada was his best guess, however, it is wrong and it should be Canonbie, in Dumfriesshire.

Christopher was resident in Ovingham for the Censuses 1841-1901 and died there in

1905. In 1911 his widow, Mary, was living with Alfred Fletcher in Ovingham. Alfred was described as her son but in fact he was an illegitimate grandson. The same correction must be applied to another 'son', William. A 'bona fide' son, David, moved from mining into metal working and became a machinist in Elswick, Newcastle; he stayed there for three censuses 1891-1911.

Surveying the changes Thomas was probably in Rowlands Gill by 1903/4 so assuming he stayed in the same house then he lived in six different houses in 26 years. Since he moved to a larger house this must be the nominal reason for moving to Rowlands Gill.

No. 32. Duke, Richard

The 1891 Census had Richard Duke in East Hetton, while for the 1901 Census he, as a widower, was in Chopwell probably from before 1899 and for the 1911 Census he was down in Witton Park, South Durham. In the mid-1900s the family had moved to No. 3 Humber Street which had four rooms; perhaps to cope with a Household of ten. Richard's first wife, Mary Ann, had died in 1899, possibly as a consequence of giving birth, and he remarried, this time to Emily Bullock in 1902. Emily died in 1905 shortly after the death of her infant and finally his third marriage, to Eliza Smith, took place in 1910.

Richard was listed as 'married' in the 1911 Census at the Witton Park address but there was no wife present, in fact she was still in Chopwell in No. 3 Humber Street. Before she married Richard Duke she had been a widow and in 1911 she still had six unmarried family members at home: in addition there was an infant, five months old, who was the illegitimate child of an unmarried daughter. Merging these families together would have created a Household of thirteen. No. 3 Humber Street is a four-roomed house while the Witton Park house also had four rooms, so it is unlikely that the move to Witton was because of improved accommodation for the larger family. According to the Census Return all Eliza Smiths' children were born in Byers Green, which is only a few kilometres

away from both Witton Park and Bishop Auckland. Although there is no information that any kin were living in the area, it remains a possibility that the presence of kin was a driver, assuming that Eliza eventually followed her husband.

The blanket recording of Chopwell as the birthplace for all Richard's children is certainly incorrect but this prevents a sensible assessment of the number of residence changes.

Observations

The Richard Duke situation is rather a puzzle as he was, presumably, no longer employed at Chopwell but his wife and step-children occupied a house where he was the named tenant. Perhaps the presence of three of Eliza's sons, who were all miners at Chopwell Colliery, enabled some temporary arrangement to be made. In 1901 the Dukes' next door neighbour was Jonathan Storey, his wife and six children, who a few years later had moved (though not directly) to Byers Green, where they were living in a five-roomed house in 1911. If accommodation for the Duke family was a problem why did he not put his name down for one of the five-roomed houses being built in Trent Street? Perhaps the practical desire for a larger house was not the main driver for the Duke migration.

Jonathan Storey could be described as a 'serial migrant' as all his seven children registered a different birthplace. This does not include other places, like Chopwell and Byers Green, where there were no births, therefore Jonathan could have changed houses in excess of ten times in his 26 years of marriage. Another serial migrant was Christopher Foster in No. 9 Wear Street. His itinerary, with nominal dates, begins with Loftus, Yorkshire (1886), Darwen, Lancashire (1889), Loftus, Yorkshire (1890), South Church, Durham (1891), Durham City (1896), Boosbeck, Yorkshire (1899), Chopwell (1901), Choppington, Northumberland (1904), Pegswood, Northumberland (1909) and Acklington, Northumberland (1911); at least ten changes in 25 years of marriage.

Wear Street House Number	Wear Street Resident Year - 1901	Residence Year - 1911	Comment
1	Gendinning	Newcastle	Wife missing living with father and children
2	Ward	No. 16 Wear Street	Large family but same size house
3	Bell	No. 3, Wear Street	Household size 9 in 1901. Widower in 1908.
4	Pearson	No. 43 Warsbeck Street	Same number of rooms. Newer house.
5	Ridley	No. 5 Wear Street	
6	Watkins	Tanfield	Move to five rooms with eight children
7	Elliott	No. 11 Tyne Street	Promoted to Overman. Same number of rooms.
8	Henderson	No. 8, Wear Street	
9	Foster	Adkington	Serial migrant.
10	Broad	No. 22 Severn Street	Bigger house but family unchanged
11	Dixon	No. 11 Wear Street	
12	Watts	(Elswick)	Deceased
13	Dixon	No. 4 Tay Street	Newer house.
14	Wilkinson	Not known	
15	Liddle	Not known	
16	Gordon	Urpeth	Not known
17	Orr	Not known	
18	Johnson	South Moor	Possible kin link
19	Clydesdale	No. 4 Wear Street	Not known. Same size house.
20	Wellwork	Not known	
21	Little	Ashington	Not known
22	Newton	Ovingham	Possible kin link
23	Hardy	Leadgate	Not known
24	Hudsmith	Tow Law	Very large family?
25	Randall	Annfield Plain	Not known
26	Spark	Not known	
27	Iley	No. 27, Wear Street	
28	Whelan	Not known	
29	Dowson	No. 1 Tees Street	Smaller household
30	Fletcher	Rowlands Gill	Larger house
31	Lowery	Newcastle	Not known
32	Duke	Wilton Park	Large family?
33	Storey	Byers Green	Larger house
34	Allison	No. 2 Forth Street	Death of wife?
35	Gendinning	Newcastle	Possibly job.

Table 4.25. Micro-migration from Wear Street 1901-1911

Selected Household Histories - Blyth Street

No. 1. Clarke, John

John Clarke, Frances and family moved into No. 1. Blyth Street probably from Blackhall Mill and he arrived with three teenage children. Bearing in mind this is a two-roomed house the arrival of more children seemed to trigger a move to Thames Street after 1904. In 1904 there was a Burial Register entry for the death of a boy named Hunter at the address but it is possible that he might have been the child of a lodger.

John married Frances Allen in 1894 in Lanchester District and a search in 1891 found Frances with her family in Hamsterley Colliery; a further search found that the Clarke family were also in Hamsterley Colliery. The Allens were a local family but the Clarkes had migrated from Haltwhistle. The 1901 Census recorded the Clarkes back in Haltwhistle with Joseph Clarke, the father, a widower as his wife had died in 1891 a few months after the Census. It is probable that the death triggered a return to Haltwhistle although the precise time is not known and may have been after the marriage of John. John was the only one of his family to stay in the Chopwell area and most of his siblings were later married in Haltwhistle.

In terms of residence change John and Frances probably moved only twice in the 16 years of marriage.

No. 13. Ruddick, J.J.

There were a number of Ruddick families and, while they all came out of the Farlam/ Brampton area, in the time-frame considered, no kin connection was proven between the two main groups. In 1881 the family group headed by Charles Ruddick was in Farlam but could not be found in 1891, although his Household reappeared in 1911. Joseph Jackson Ruddick was one of his sons who married in 1894 and probably moved out of his parents house to form an independent Household. In 1901 he was in No. 13 Blyth Street

but in 1902 his wife died and he moved back to Farlam where he remarried a year later in 1903 in Brampton to Elizabeth Jane Forrest. Although his new wife was in her late 30s and theoretically still fertile, there were no further children. The timing of the return to Chopwell is not known but he took up residence in No. 32 Wansbeck Street. Another two sons of Charles, Frank and John, took up residence in Nos. 5 and 27 Thames Street respectively. Frank was killed by a fall of stone at Chopwell Colliery in 1906.

Although there was a change of spouse in the decade, the estimate is that from Joseph's first marriage in 1894 to 1911 he changed residence some five times.

No. 29. March, Thomas

Thomas March was born in the village of Addison, near Blaydon, but was not found in 1871 or 1881: however, he was found in Dipton, married with two children. The elder child was two-years old so a search for the marriage between 1888 and 1890 came up with two options; he married either Mary Jane Clark or Mary Jane Robson. At this point it was not possible to confirm which of these two Thomas married.

In 1901 and 1911 Thomas and family were in Chopwell first in Blyth Street and then Tweed Street. Initially, it was considered that the house move was a simple micro-migration to a larger house, however, it was noted that the birthplace of the youngest child was listed as Mid-Craghead ie. not Chopwell. This suggests that the family moved out of Chopwell and returned a few years later to live in Tweed Street. Alternatively, the mother could have stayed with a relative to have her child and then returned to Chopwell after the birth. The latter option is a real possibility because from 1899 to 1903 Thomas and Mary Jane buried four infants during their early years in Chopwell, perhaps by having the child outside of the village, they thought that this would avoid the apparent 'jinx' on the family. The couple in 1911 had recorded eleven pregnancies with only five surviving children.

The 1911 Census also provided the clue to Mary Jane's maiden name as the oldest

boy was known as Ralph Clark March, also on the Census Schedule in miniscule hand-writing against his name were two words, 'before marriage'. Mary Jane was therefore Mary Jane Clark before marriage. This information was potentially useful but she could not be traced to any Clark family.

If the family did move out of Chopwell altogether, before the return into Tweed Street, then in 22 years of marriage the Household changed houses at least five times.

No. 36. Parker, Walter

Walter Parker was present in Medomsley for the 1881 and 1891 Censuses before the move into Chopwell and sometime between 1901 and 1911 he moved out of colliery housing into private accommodation. The driving force for change was evidently a decision to change jobs – he gave up pitwork and became a bus proprietor. In this enterprise he was joined by two of his sons who became drivers. At the same time another Chopwell family - the Clydesdales, living at No. 4 Wear Street in 1911 - also went into the hackney cab business. Although initially these two family businesses were competitors they later merged and were eventually absorbed into the Venture Transport Company of Consett.

Walter originated from Cumberland but in 1871 he was lodging in Mickley Square, Northumberland. The following Census he was married with five children and living in Hamsterley Colliery. Attempting to trace his wife was not successful as there were three options and it was not practical to chase up every lead. Coincidence or not, but one of the options was a Jane Reed of Sunnyside and Reed Bros. of Sunnyside was the founding firm of a bus company, which eventually became Venture Transport.

In 38 years of marriage the Parkers had at least five changes of residence. The final move was the consequence of Walter's change of employment.

Observations

Michael Talbot, of No. 3 Blyth Street, is another serial migrant with a minimum of ten

changes in residence albeit over 41 years of marriage.

It was considered worthwhile to explore the Blyth Street data for indications of Wojciechowska's contentions about the influence of offspring numbers on persistency rates. This involves a simple approach noting the numbers of children present in each household for both Censuses for the two categories - the movers and the stayers. The former can be broken down into two groups - those who cannot be traced in the 1911 Census but leave the village and the remainder who can be traced. Again the latter group can be sub-divided into those who move elsewhere in the same village and those who move outside the village. Note only those identified as sons or daughters were counted all others, including relatives, were regarded as transients and therefore were unlikely to be considered in any migration decision.

There were five families who stayed for both Censuses and they had 17 children (1901) and 25 children (1911) between them; the average number of children was 3.4 (1901) and 5 (1911). One of these Households was headed by a widow, with two children in 1901 and one child in 1911. The conclusion that widowed individuals were 'very mobile', *op. cit.* Wojciechowska (1988a), seems counter-intuitive: rather it might be expected that such residents would 'stick' in the same house, particularly if they had dependant children with them, at least in the short-term. However, Wojciechowska's study of mobility was concerned with migratory movements at the parish level. Someone born in Brenchley and resident in the parish for both Censuses, whether or not they had moved house, would have been categorised as a 'persister'.

Of the other groups, there were nine families who were not traced, twelve who moved to other Chopwell Streets and another nine who moved outside Chopwell. Table 4.26 shows some nominal distances for those villages to which the nine families moved. The distances migrated ranged from 4 to 34 km and only two moved out of County Durham into Northumberland.

Table 4.27 shows the average number of children for each family category. The 'not found' group, whose members must have migrated to somewhere outside the Township boundary, do show a lower family size than the group of 'stayers': this gives a degree of support to the idea that the mobility of families is restricted by the number of children. It is of interest to note that those families who move within the streets give similar results to those of the 'stayers'. This suggests that family size has no influence on such micro-migration.

Migration to	Nominal distance (km)
Highfield	4
Stocksfield	6
Ryton	7
Swalwell	9
Oxhill	9
Throckley	10
Gateshead	13
Haswell	29
Trimdon	34

Table 4.26. Nominal distances from Chopwell of destinations of those families who moved outside Chopwell

Category of family	Average number of children in 1901	Average number of children in 1911
Stayer (1901-11)	3.4	5.0
Not Found in 1911	2.8	-
Moved to another Chopwell Street for 1911	3.2	5.1
Moved outside of Chopwell for 1911	3.3	3.4

Table 4.27. Average number of children for each family category - Blyth Street

Blyth Street House Number	Blyth Street Resident Year - 1901	Residence Year - 1911	Comment
1	Clarke	No. 1, Thames Street	Larger house for larger family
2	Studley	NF	
3	Talbot	Walker Street, Gateshead	Still a miner. Daughters employed in Rope Works.
4	Varty	Stocksfield	Nearer to kin
5	Maddison	Brandon (?)	
6	Fewster	Tarfield	Kin still living in Tarfield.
7	McGeary	Blackhall Mill	Kin in Blackhall Mill
8	Storey	Ryton	Kin in Ryton area
9	Nicholson	No. 18 Blyth Street	Moved from two to three rooms
10	Jones	NF	
11	Folley	NF	
12	(Vacant)		
13	Ruddick	No. 32 Wansbeck Street	Moved from two to three rooms
14	Vibof	No. 28 Wansbeck Street	Moved from two to three rooms
15	Hall	No. 15 Blyth Street	No kin links found
16	Johnston	Highfield	No kin links found
17	Wils	No. 8 Tyne Street	Promotion
18	Phipps	Throckley	Kin living in Throckley
19	Cowper	Timdon	
20	Hewitson	NF	
21	Tessdale	No. 4 Mersey Street	Newer, bigger house
22	Stones	NF	
23	Milburn	NF	
24	Skelton	NF	
25	McNesty	No. 25 Blyth Street	
26	Hutchinson	NF	
27	Brown	No. 27 Blyth Street	
28	Hetherington	No. 3 Ravenside Terrace	Newer house.
29	March	No. 34 Tweed Street	Possible move out and return to different house.
30	Hardwick	Haswell	Widowed 1904. Remarried after moving back home.
31	Loves	No. 31 Blyth Street	
32	Ree	No. 2 Severn Street	Moved from three to four rooms.
33	Telford	Swahell	Moved to inferior accommodation.
34	Lamb	No. 34 Blyth Street	
35	Peart	No. 9 Scott Terrace	Widow moved to private rented street
36	Parker	No. 1 Richardson Terrace	Left pitwork. Became a bus operator.
37	Coates	No. 17 Mersey Street	Newer, bigger house.

Table 4.28. Micro-migration from Blyth Street 1901-1911

Selected Household Histories - Severn Street

No. 3. Howdon, (Hawdon), William

William married Mary (Routledge) in 1884 and in the 1881 Census both the Howdons and the Routledges were living in Lamesley. Mary was born in Morpeth so the co-incidental residence in Lamesley was how William and Mary met.

William Howdon first appeared in Chopwell registers in January 1901 with the baptism of his youngest daughter, Ellen, while the 1901 Census revealed a substantial Household of two parents, eight children and William's 77-year old father. The family had moved from Chopwell by 1903, as the 1911 Census recorded another daughter born in Swalwell c.1903. A year later and the family were back in the area in Blackhall Mill - residence unknown – but later in the decade had moved out to Blaydon.

The 1911 Census revealed that the 27-year old marriage produced ten surviving children out of twelve births. Judging from the varied birthplaces of the children listed in 1901/1911 Censuses, the Howdons could be described as 'serial travellers'. Listing the locations with nominal dates gives: Streetgate or Chester le Street (1884), Gateshead (1886 to 1889), Whickham (1892), Blaydon (1893), Washington (1895), Gateshead (1898), Chopwell (1900), Swalwell (1903) and Blackhall Mill (1904). Most of these places are within 30 km of each other. Bearing in mind the final move to Blaydon (1911), but ignoring the possibility that the couple may have started out married life in a different house, the family stayed in, at least ten residences over the marriage duration.

No. 6. Jamieson, Robert

Robert Jamieson married Frances Furness (Furnass, Furnace) in Gateshead in 1894 but there was little more that was found about either branch from the Census Returns prior to 1901. With children and a large group of visitors, including a probable in-law, the Household in Severn Street comprised nine people. No information was found about the

three Terrys (listed as visitors) or Henry Furness, although Henry was probably a brother of Frances. By 1911 the family had moved into five rooms in Trent Street and the household size had increased to 14, including nine children (another two had died), another two Furness relations and a servant. Catherine Furness was the mother of Frances Jamieson and her husband, Henry, was living in Winlaton with a son, daughter-in-law and a grandchild in 1911.

The short-hand presentation in Table 4.29 conceals the fact that the Jamiesons actually moved out of Chopwell around 1903, perhaps to Winlaton village and then into Highfield around 1908. The final move back to Chopwell coincided with the completion of the house in Trent Street. In a marriage of 17 years the Jamiesons had occupied at least five houses.

No. 32. Eggleston(e), John

John Egglestone, wife and family of eight children, arrived from Brandon in approximately 1900-01 and moved into Severn Street. Later in the decade the family moved into No. 24 Trent Street, with its five rooms, to cater for another three children. There is a possibility that the last child, born when Elizabeth Egglestone was 46, could be an illegitimate child of one of her daughters.

There are another two points of note, first the birthplace of a son, John Alfred, was recorded as Milkwell Burn in the 1911 Census but Medomsley in 1901: the former is possible as John Alfred's mother. Mary Hunter, had lived in Milkwell Burn. Second, the last child but one had been born in Whinfield, Highfield which suggested that the Egglestones, like the Jamiesons, had moved out of Chopwell and then moved back in to live in Trent Street. With 28 years of marriage the Egglestones had occupied six different houses.

No. 40. Stoddart, John

For the 1871 and 1881 Censuses John was living in Ebchester with his parents and in the latter census he was defined as a widower. It was not possible to identify a marriage and with no marriage then there were no clues for a death search. Later evidence showed that John must have remarried to Dorothy but this second marriage was not found either. The next census was silent on John because he and his family were overseas in Australia; the emigration date was probably between 1887-89. The reasons for the original emigration and the subsequent return are essentially unknown. except that John Stoddart's mother died in 1893 and his father in 1895. The last recorded child born in Australia was in 1892 so it was possible that the family decided to return after John's mother had died.

The 1901 Census Household included a young infant less than nine months old, who was claimed to be the daughter of John and Dorothy; this seems rather doubtful in view of Dorothy's age.

Following the death of Dorothy in 1906, John married again, in 1908, this time to Sarah Ann Wilson. She was a widow from Barlow and brought three of her children to the new marriage; the 1911 Census showed that these children quickly assumed the new surname of Stoddart. Two unmarried brothers of Sarah Ann were also present increasing the Household total to ten.

As far as residency is concerned it is difficult to put a firm estimate on the number of house changes in 20 years of marriage, perhaps no less than three but it could be more.

Severn Street House Number	Severn Street Resident Year - 1901	Residence Year - 1911	Comment
1	(Vacant)	-	
2	Coats	Blackhall Mill	Not known
3	Howden	Blaydon	Larger house
4	Hughes	No. 9 Frederick Street	Possibly to make way for key worker.
5	Smith	Not known	
6	Jamieson	No. 16 Trent Street	
7	Ingram	Craghead	Not known
8	Tate	South Shields	Not known
9	Stewart	Not known	
10	Grant	Lanchester	Down-sized
11	Pallister	Not known	
12	Hall	Not known	
13	Lockey	Not known	
14	McNestry	Not known	
15	Raine	Sacriston	Possible bereavement
16	Urwin	Craghead	Possible bereavement
17	Thompson	Not known	
18	Brown	Swallowell	Not known
19	Lowery	No. 6 Tweed Street	Newer house
20	Ridley	Not known	
21	Shiel	Not known	
22	Wishart	High Spen	Kin
23	Mosley	Not known	
24	Malburn	(deceased)	Died in Newburn
25	Hepburn	Newcastle	
26	(vacant)	-	
27	Gibson	No. 27 Severn Street	
28	Varty	Not known	
29	Walker	(deceased)	Widow moved with son
30	Ramshaw	Not known	
31	Armstrong	Not known	
32	Eggleston	No. 24 Trent Street	
33	Eddy	Heddon-on-the-Wall	Kin
34	Armstrong	Blackhill	
35	Frost	No. 35 Humber Street	Newer house
36	Hird	Oshill	Not known
37	Rispin	Not known	
38	Shaw	Consett	Not known
39	Hind	Rowlands Gill	Living with widowed son
40	Stoddart	No. 40 Severn Street	
41	Dickinson	Not known	
42	Dixon	No. 42 Severn Street	
43	Sharp	No. 43 Severn Street	
44	Hood	No. 44 Severn Street	

Table 4.29. Micro-migration from Severn Street 1901-1911

Selected Household Histories - Thames Street

No. 32. Folley (Foley), John.

John arrived in Chopwell with five young children all born in Brampton and proceeded to have another four in Chopwell. With such a household they needed a larger house and they were able to move to No. 7B Clyde Street for 1910/1911. There is a mismatch on the 1910 PVS date with an Alex Pennington as tenant for the Thames Street address and Thomas Stanton tenant for the Clyde Street house. So where was John Folley and his nine children? The residency pattern, in what was initially called New Clyde Street, was rather mixed-up, with tenants, seemingly, exchanging houses between 1910 and 1911. There was no tenant in what became No. 6B Clyde Street, so it is possible that John Folley occupied this house before moving to No. 7B.

Using the 1911 Census it is estimated that the Follleys changed houses six times in 21 years.

No. 36. Garbutt (Abbott), Thomas

It was not clear whether the surname was Garbutt, or Abbott, as in 1901 it was Abbott while in 1911 Abbott was dropped altogether and it was simply Garbutt. Thomas was dead by 1911 and his widow, Mary Abbott, with one son, was living in Burnhope where she kept a Boarding House.

In 1911 two sons Fred and George Garbutt Abbott were living in South Moor. Another brother, William Garbutt, was living in Craghead with wife and family. Both the 1881 and 1891 Censuses identified Thomas (Garbutt) Abbott and family in St. Helen's Auckland.

It seems likely that Thomas and family moved out of Chopwell into the South Moor area where one of his sons was already living: another two sons were also married and lived locally, probably before Thomas died. Precise locations are not available so it is suggested that Thomas moved residence at least four times.

No. 41. Eager, James

Bradford, Yorkshire appeared to be a popular birthplace for the Eager family, according to the 1901 Census, but this uniform picture collapsed when the 1911 Census produced a different group of birthplaces. In the case of James Eager himself, his birthplace shifted several hundred kilometres south to Sussex; his wife was the only one to retain Bradford. The earlier 1891 Census again revised James Eager's birthplace this time to Suffolk.

For the 1881 and 1891 Censuses the Eagers were in the West Riding and in the former James was with his parents and siblings. There was no evidence that any of James' brothers came north - two were found in Bradford and another in East Bierley, Yorkshire.

The uncertainty concerning the birthplaces in Yorkshire means that there is no precision in allocating any particular residence, so the best estimate is three to six changes for James and Lovinia.

No. 43. Beresford, Robert (Prudhoe)

As with the Garbutt-Abbotts the first difficulty faced with Robert Beresford is the use of a double surname for the children in 1901, however, choosing to search for Beresford, rather than Prudhoe-Beresford, it was found that Robert's wife, Annie, had died after 1901. Her death was not traced so it is not known if she died before or after the family moved to Brandon. In 1901 she was only 32 years and had several years of fertility still left but there were no more recorded live births after Annie (b.1900) in Chopwell. Robert was living with his parents, William and Alice, and his four children in 1911.

Examining the background of William and Alice, the couple was traced back to 1871 living in Burnhope. In 1861 the unmarried William was with his parents in South Moor. The spelling of the surname was not consistent with Boresford (1861), Baresford, (1871), Beresford (1881) and Barrasford (1891). The Beresfords were living at the same address

- No. 5 Durham Street, Brandon Colliery - for both the 1891 and 1901 Censuses. It was initially expected that the Beresfords had strong ties in the Brandon area but in 1881 the family were in Hamsterly Colliery, in 1871 in Burnhope, near Lanchester and in 1861 they were in South Moor, near Stanley.

In respect of Robert and family the number of different residences was at least six.

Severn Street House Number	Severn Street Resident Year - 1901	Residence Year - 1911	Comment
1	(Vacant)	-	
2	Coats	Blackhall Mill	Not known
3	Howden	Blaydon	Larger house
4	Hughes	No. 9 Frederick Street	Possibly to make way for key worker.
5	Smith	Not known	
6	Jamieson	No. 16 Trent Street	
7	Ingram	Craghead	Not known
8	Tate	South Shields	Not known
9	Stewart	Not known	
10	Grant	Lanchester	Down-sized
11	Palistre	Not known	
12	Hall	Not known	
13	Lockey	Not known	
14	McNestry	Not known	
15	Raine	Sacriston	Possible bereavement
16	Urwin	Craghead	Possible bereavement
17	Thompson	Not known	
18	Brown	Swalwell	Not known
19	Lowery	No. 6 Tweed Street	Newer house
20	Ridley	Not known	
21	Shiel	Not known	
22	Wishart	High Spenn	Kin
23	Mosley	Not known	
24	Malabum	(deceased)	Died in Newburn
25	Hepburn	Newcastle	
26	(vacant)	-	
27	Gibson	No. 27 Severn Street	
28	Varty	Not known	
29	Walker	(deceased)	Widow moved with son
30	Ramshaw	Not known	
31	Armstrong	Not known	
32	Eggleston	No. 24 Trent Street	
33	Eddy	Heddon-on-the-Wall	Kin
34	Armstrong	Blackhill	
35	Frost	No. 35 Humber Street	Newer house
36	Hird	Oxhill	Not known
37	Rispin	Not known	
38	Shaw	Consett	Not known
39	Hind	Rowlands Gill	Living with widowed son
40	Stoddart	No. 40 Severn Street	
41	Dickinson	Not known	
42	Dixon	No. 42 Severn Street	
43	Sharp	No. 43 Severn Street	
44	Hood	No. 44 Severn Street	

Table 4.30. Micro-migration from Thames Street 1901-1911

4.7.2. High Spen

Selected Household Histories - Glossop Street/Howard Terrace

No. 6. Burnett, Joseph

All the Burnetts in High Spen were related in one way or another. Joseph headed a Household when he married (marriage not found) a widow Margaret Luens (Lewins), who had two children, William and Elizabeth, from her previous marriage. The couple had a further two children who were born in Swalwell before the family arrived into Spen Road (1891). The 1901 Census recorded the family in Glossop Street and, finally, a move to No. 41 West Street (1911). Margaret died in 1904 and Joseph remarried, another widow, Mary Gardner, in 1906 (again not traced). The widow, Mary Gardner, her husband died in 1902, had nine children in the 1901 Census although some would have left home to marry before the remarriage of their mother. The 1911 Census showed that there were five still at home at that time, so the move from No. 6 Glossop Street (two rooms) to No. 41 West Street (four rooms) was probably quite necessary.

William Luens adopted his step-fathers' surname and married as William Burnett. In 1901 William was living in Spen Road with a Household of nine individuals, including a sister-in-law and three Boarders. The 1911 Household in No. 29 East Street had expanded to 14, which included seven of their children, father-in-law, brother-in-law, a servant and two boarders.

John Burnett, brother of Joseph, was married by 1901 and lived in No. 21 East Street where he was for the 1911 Census. The presence of his brother, Thomas, helped swell the Household size to twelve.

Thomas, the father of Joseph, John, Thomas and William, first appeared in High Spen in 1871 and lived in Cardiff Square (1881), New Buildings or East Street (1891) and No. 10 East Street (1901). Thomas died in 1901 and his wife Dorothy in 1907.

No. 16. Eltringham, John

John and Alice (Robinson) were married in 1876 in Gateshead District and the following four Censuses recorded the family at four different addresses in High Spennings:

- 1881 - No. 36 Clayton Terrace
- 1891 - No. 24 Howard Terrace
- 1901 - No. 16 Glossop Street
- 1911 - No. 22 West Street

One of his sons, James, was resident in No. 9 South Street for 1911. Two of John's brothers were also resident in High Spennings:

- Thomas was in No. 100 Cardiff Square for 1901 and 1911
- Robert was in the Ramseys for 1891 and No. 29 West Street for 1901

After 34 years of marriage John and Alice had stayed in at least four different houses.

No. 20. Bell, Thomas

Thomas was born in nearby Greenside so his migration trail to High Spennings was probably only a few kilometres. Although his marriage was identified in 1898 it was not possible to decide if his wife was Isabella Mordue or Isabella Currie. Their first home was probably No. 20 Howard Terrace, which had only two rooms, but so had their 1911 address of No. 5 Strothers Terrace, although it was a newer-build.

His parents James and Mary Bell had at least three different addresses in 20 years, No. 62 Spennings Road (1881), Victoria Garesfield (1891) and No. 32 West Street (1901). James died in 1904 and his widow Mary, with three sons and a widowed sister, Mable Holt, remained in occupation of No. 32 West Street. A match was found for Mabel in Newcastle and her husband had died in 1905. Mabel had two sons and a daughter, the eldest son was working but the other two were dependants: the eldest son and daughter were not found but the younger son was found in Newcastle living with an older married

brother and family.

Thomas and Isabella with only 12 years of marriage stayed in two different houses

No. 28. Robson, Charlotte

Charlotte was the widow of John Robson who died in 1900. John was the youngest son of William and Elizabeth Robson who had been in the Garesfield/High Spen area since 1861. William's Household moved into High Spen village between 1871 and 1881. John married Charlotte Parker in 1880 and the 1881 Census recorded the family living with William and Elizabeth in Ramsey's Buildings. In 1891 William and Elizabeth were living by themselves in Cardiff Square: William was a retired blacksmith and was registered blind. His son John and Charlotte were living nearby in Howard Terrace. Other married sons were also in High Spen, in particular William, the oldest son, had been in the same address for four consecutive Censuses, 1881-1911.

For the 1911 Census Charlotte was living in No. 48 Hugar Road with three unmarried daughters. With no resident family member working at the Colliery it was probable that she had had to move out of the Colliery house and into private rented housing. Her oldest daughter was working as a draper's assistant and she also took in boarders. One of her sons, Robert John, was an electrician, possibly at the colliery, was living in Watson Street.

With a nominal 20 years of marriage before John died the couple probably only lived in one house.

Glossop Street House Number	Glossop Street Resident Year - 1901	Residence Year - 1911	Comment
1	Lowdon	No. 30 Howard Terrace	Head is missing
2	Lowry	No. 2 Glossop Street	
3	Brown	No. 3 Glossop Street	
4	Forsyth	No. 4 Glossop Street	
5	Willoughby	No. 5 Glossop Street	
6	Burnett	No. 41 West Street	Widow remarried.
7	Buttle	No. 7 Glossop Street	
8	Stonebank	Newcastle	Not known
9	Laing	Not known	
10	Carr	No. 6 Glossop Street	
11	Armstrong	No. 11 Glossop Street	
12	Pace	No. 12 Glossop Street	
13	Grossart	No. 13 Glossop Street	
14	Jamieson	No. 23 East Street	
15	Emmerson	No. 15 Glossop Street	
16	Eltingham	No. 22 West Street	
Howard Terrace House Number			
17	Noble	No. 22 Front Street	
18	Raymond	No. 18 Howard Terrace	
19	Patterson	No. 19 Howard Terrace	
20	Bell	No. 5 Silthoers Terrace	Not Known
21	Brougham	No. 25 Howard Terrace	
22	Eltingham	No. 22 Howard Terrace	
23	Robson	No. 23 Howard Terrace	
24	Settrey	No. 24 Howard Terrace	
25	Charlton	Oakershaw	Not Known
26	Lister	-	Both deceased.
27	Robson	Not Known	
28	Robson	No. 48 Hugar Road	Widow.
29	Wishart	No. 29 Howard Terrace	
30	Barker	No. 14 Glossop Street	Bigger house. Household size the same

Table 4.31. Micro-migration from Glossop Street/Howard Terrace 1901-1911

Selected Household Histories - West Street

No. 1. Teasdale, Joseph

There was a large group of related Teasdales all of whom derived from the stem family of John and Jane Teasdale, who were located in Collierley, near Dipton, in 1881. Joseph was one of their nine children - eight boys and one girl. John was traced back to his parents, Ralph and Isabella, who lived in Tanfield from 1841. Apart from the only daughter, all John's sons were traced.

John died in 1904 and a son Ralph in 1902, while Robert married in 1902 and Bartholomew in 1905: the Teasdale tenancy of the family home at No. 27 East Street would have ceased in 1904. Four of the brothers stayed in High Spen while the other three moved out of the village – two into Ryton Parish and the other, Thomas, returned to South Moor where he had been born. Six of the brothers stayed in mining while George left to become, first, a newsagent and then by 1911 he was in-charge of a team of insurance agents – perhaps a District Manager.

Joseph Teasdale married a Jane Murray in 1895 (Lanchester) who appears to have been a widow as Joseph acquired three step-children; Jane died in 1902 after giving birth to two more children. With the death of his wife the Household was reduced by one but the Teasdales still moved out of West Street into a house in Long Row East. Although it did have an extra room, the house was privately owned. A brother of Joseph, Thomas, married a Grace Murray but it was not possible to show that the two Murray families were related. George's wife died in 1903 and George remarried in 1907.

Of interest is a John Teasdale who married Mary Walton in 1887 and the couple, after living in Victoria Garesfield, moved into No. 40 West Street where they were resident for at least the full decade 1901-11. Mary Walton's parents, Isaac and Betsy, also lived in Victoria Garesfield; Betsy was dead before the 1901 Census. In 1901 the residue of the

Walton family were living with John Teasdale and family in No. 40 West Street making a total of 16 people sharing four rooms at this address. By 1911 apart from Isaac, all the other Waltons had moved out, however since the Teasdales had increased the number of children to ten the household still numbered thirteen.

Following his short marriage Joseph Teasdale moved house five times.

No. 23. Richardson, Matthew

There were four Richardson family groups in High Spen all unrelated to each other Matthew and his wife arrived as a young married couple before the 1901 Census and their one-year old child Alice was claimed to have been born in High Spen. Her baptism took place in October 1899 when the family residence was No. 16 Glossop Street; it is probable that the couple were lodging at this time. The couple stayed in No. 23 West Street until at least the latter half of 1910 before they moved to East Street for the 1911 Census by which time the household size had increased to seven. This increase was probably the reason for the move as No. 23 West Street was a two-roomed house while the East Street house had three rooms.

Joseph, father of Matthew, worked in a railway goods yard in Elswick for the 1881 and 1891 Censuses and his father Gilbert had also lived and worked in Elswick.

In eleven years of marriage the Richardsons lived in three houses.

No. 28. Cowman, Harrison

John, the father of Harrison and James, died before the 1901 Census which was not surprising because he was aged 72 years in 1891; he was 23 years older than his wife, Mary. In 1901 Mary was living with three of her children in Cumberland, as was her son James who had married. The 1911 Census revealed that James and family had arrived into the Chopwell area in approximately 1902, as his second child was born in Coalburns in that year. Meanwhile Mary, the widow, was still in Broughton in a Household which

contained, her son Robert and a married daughter, Hannah Cooper, son-in-law, two grandchildren and a brother-in-law. Ten years earlier the future son-in-law was living with the Cowmans as a boarder.

Harrison married Elizabeth Ann Hope in 1894 in Tynemouth which was a surprise venue as there was no obvious reason for their presence in that district. Elizabeth Hope was the step-daughter of Joseph Lister who occupied respectively, No. 18 Howard Terrace in 1891 and No. 28 Howard Terrace in 1901. With Elizabeth's mother living in an adjacent street the return (if that's what it was) to High Spen seems to have been a planned move. As with other house transfers between West and East Streets, the move by Harrison's household increased the number of rooms from two (West Street) to three (East Street) to cater for the Cowman's nine children.

Cowman was not a common surname so an opportunity was taken to determine the prevalence of surname in Cumberland, Northumberland and County Durham. The method used was simply a general search using the surname for the Census Returns 1861-1911; the results confirm that Cowman was not an indigenous surname group in Durham. For the above period the numbers were Cumberland (367), Northumberland (45) and Durham (51). The major migrant route was from Cumberland through Northumberland to Durham: there was little evidence of any south-north migration from Yorkshire into Durham. It can also be concluded that most of the Cowmans stayed in Cumberland.

Apart from noting that Harrison and family occupied at least two different houses in Spen, No. 28 West Street and No. 17 East Street, it is not possible to identify any other changes as all the birthplaces were listed as 'Winlaton', for both Censuses.

No. 35. Waters, George

This was a small family group and apart from noting the presence of two sons, Thomas George, in South Street (1911) and Robert in Barlow, there was very little to add to the

picture. George was traced back to 1881 when the family was in Heworth; George was a labourer in a chemical works. The 1911 Census found George a widower, Mary died in 1909, living in No. 89 Collindon Road with two of his younger children and a grandchild. With some 32 years of marriage there were five or six changes in residence.

Observations

There are ten households involving widowed Heads and of these only one remarried; Mary Gardner (No. 34) married Joseph Burnett (No. 6 Glossop Street) in 1906. Apart from one all were widowed between 1900 and 1911. Some were identified as Heads of Households while others were simply living in the Household where a married son or daughter was Head.

Using the same procedure that was used for Blyth Street the possible effect of family size on mobility was also explored here. There were significant differences between the two streets with the number of Households who were resident for both Censuses increasing from five (Blyth Street) to 21 (West Street). Further in the 'not found' category there were only three, while there were four who moved away from High Spen and twelve who moved between the streets. For those who moved outside of the village it was not possible to derive a value for the average number of children present in 1911 as three of the Heads were widowed and the other Head became a boarder.

The results are similar to those determined for Blyth Street, with the stayers having more children than those who moved outside the village.

Category of family	Average number of children in 1901	Average number of children in 1911
Stayer (1901-11)	4.5	4.1
Not Found in 1911	3.3	-
Moved to another High Spen Street for 1911	4.1	3.9
Moved outside of High Spen for 1911	3.3	-

Table 4.32. Average number of children for each family category - West Street

West Street House Number	West Street Resident Year - 1901	Residence Year - 1911	Comment
1	Teasdale	No. 35 Long Row East	Bigger house but private rented. Widower.
2	Ward	No. 2 West Street	
3	Armstrong	No. 3 West Street	
4	Henderson	No. 4 West Street	
5	Howey	No. 7 South Street	Smaller house for small family
6	Carr	Rowlands Gill	Senior employee in private house
7	Morland	Blackhall Mill	Widower living with son.
8	Summerside	No. 8 West Street	
9	Bell	No. 9 West Street	
10	Stewart	No. 10 West Street	Widower living with son.
11	Carr	No. 97 Cardiff Square	Widow living with married daughter - son-in-law Head
12	Milburn	No. 12 West Street	Widow living with unmarried son
13	Wilkinson	No. 13 West Street	
14	Whitfield	No. 14 West Street	
15	Lee	No. 5 Watson Street	Widow living with unmarried son
16	Harper	No. 16 West Street	
17	Armstrong	No. 36 West Street	Larger house
18	Richardson	No. 18 Strothers Terrace	Smaller house
19	Lee	No. 19 West Street	
20	Paterson	No. 20 West Street	Widow taking lodgers
21	Stephenson	No. 21 West Street	Widow with children and lodgers
22	Walker	Coalburns	
23	Richardson	No. 12 East Street	Larger house
24	Walt	No. 24 West Street	
25	Davies	No. 25 West Street	
26	Leadbitter	No. 26 West Street	
27	Armstrong	No. 15 West Street	Larger house
28	Cowman	No. 17 East Street	Larger house
29	Eltringham	NF	
30	McIntyre	No. 7 East Street	Larger house
31	Short	No. 31 West Street	
32	Bell	No. 32 West Street	Widow with adult children
33	Johnson	No. 33 West Street	
34	Gardner	No. 41 West Street	Widow remarried now Burnett
35	Waters	No. 89 Colindon Road	Household down-sizing
36	Harrison	NF	
37	Dockerty	NF	
38	McDermott	No. 38 West Street	
39	Wilson	No. 42 West Street	
40	Teasdale	No. 40 West Street	
41	Cox	Consett	Widow living with in-laws
42	Charlton	-	Both deceased

Table 4.33. Micro-migration from West Street 1901-1911

Selected Household Histories - Short Rows East and West

No. 8. Mannion, Martin

There were three entries, 1891 (Ramsey Cottages), 1901 (No. 8 Short Row East) and 1911 (No. 22 North Cross Row). Martin was born in Ireland and, although his wife originated from Morpeth, as Bridget is a very common Irish name, she could have been a second generation Irish. On each census there were Irish lodgers staying with the family. The decision to move to North Cross Row would seem to have been made on the increased accommodation provided for a Household of eleven.

Martin married Bridget Duffy in 1882 in Gateshead Registration District and the Duffys were traced to Victoria Garesfield in 1881. In addition to Bridget there were another six children plus four boarders, who were all from Ireland. The Irish connection continued with several of Bridget's brothers marrying into second generation Irish families. A sister of Bridget also married into an Irish family, Byrne, and they were living in Long Row West in 1901.

As far as residency is concerned the Mannion Household only occupied three houses in their marriage of 27 years.

No. 12. Balmer, Israel

Before Israel appeared in the time frame he was found with his parents and siblings living in Victoria Terrace, Benwell in 1871. The death of his mother Eliza seems to have split the family as Thomas (the father), Fenwick and Israel were living in Cardiff Square, High Spen in 1881: meanwhile John (the son) had married and the second of his two children was born in Spen but this family were back in Victoria Terrace, Benwell for 1881. The 1891 Census had John, a widower, back in High Spen in No. 21 New Buildings, or East Street: his youngest son, Fred, was two years old and had been born in Benwell. There are several possible explanations for this but with no further evidence it is not

possible to come to a firm conclusion as to why Fred was born in Benwell; Fred does not appear in any later census.

Ten years later John, still a widower, had moved to No. 2 Brickflatt Cottages and while Fred was missing there was now an adopted son, George Beveridge (born in Blyth) aged 17 years. Meanwhile son Israel had had two changes of address moving first to Ramsey Cottages (1891) and then to Short Row East (1901).

Searching for Fenwick Balmer in 1891 revealed that he was still single and was living with his father, who had remarried, in Ricklees Farm, Greenside; just outside the study area. In addition there was a William Balmer aged 11 years, who was registered as a son of Thomas, however, this is not true. William was the son of John Balmer and was therefore the grandson of Thomas. The 1901 Census had Fenwick married to a former widow so there were two stepsons - Moses and Samuel - in the household together with an adopted daughter, Violet Balmer. The major point is that Fenwick and family had returned to Benwell - No. 45 Blakett Street. Fenwick, Jane and Violet were not traceable in the 1911 Census. The two stepsons Moses and Samuel were both married by 1911 and were living at Nos. 29 and 44 Blakett Street, Benwell respectively.

Finally, Israel Balmer moved out of Spen to live in Throckley for 1911. The reason could have been that most, if not all, of his direct relatives had also left Spen; there were no Balmers left. In 23 years of marriage Israel and his small Household only changed houses twice.

No. 14. Tulip, Robert and Little, Thomas

Two households were sharing the same house, the Tulips had two rooms and the Littles had one room. Dealing with the Tulips first, Robert and family were found in 1881 in Lintz Hall Farm, Tanfield where he was an agricultural labourer. Ten years later the family were in Ramsey Cottages, Robert and his wife have had four children – John

(1865), Elizabeth (1873), Robert (1877) and Mary Ann (1882). John married and moved to Barlow, just outside the study area, while Robert married and lived first in No 1 North Cross Row (1901) and then No 58 Long Row West (1911). Both of these addresses were in close proximity to Short Row East. Mary Ann married, James Harbottle, but was easily identified as in 1911 her aged parents were living with her new household at No 1 Short Row West. The remaining daughter, Elizabeth, proved slightly more difficult to pin down but it was realised that she had married Thomas Little and was, in fact, living at No 14 Short Row East.

This is a plausible explanation for the the two households sharing the same house, however, the arrangement did not last for long, as by 1911 Thomas and Elizabeth Little and children had moved to No 26 River View, BlackHall Mill. This new house had only one room and therefore was apparently the same size as the one room they previously occupied in Short Row East. The Census does describe the Blackhall Mill 'room' as a 'living' room so it probably means that there was, in addition, at least one bedroom. The move to Blackhall Mill would also mean that Thomas moved to work in a different colliery.

It is of interest to identify here the wider in-law households. Edward a brother of Thomas Little was living in No 16 Short Row East, ie. next door, for both the 1901 and 1911 censuses. Another brother Robert occupied No.2 Ramsey Row for 1901 while father Robert was not far away in No. 7 Back Ramsey [The houses variously known as Ramsey Cottages, Back Ramsey, Ramsey Row and Ramsey Street were collectively known as 'The Ramseys'; the precise numbering system is not known.]

A point about the Edward Little entries, of which there were two, one for 1901 Census and the other for the 1911 Census, was that while the census entries suggested residential persistence at the same address, there is contrary evidence from the 1910 PVS. Here a George Farrage was listed at No.16, while Edward was shown at No. 14. As it seems

highly improbable that the Littles moved out of No. 16, into No. 14 and then back again, the explanation must be that the Valuation Surveyor made a mistake; Nos. 14 and 16 were in fact adjacent houses.

Robert Tulip changed addresses at least seven times in 50 years of marriage, while Thomas Little changed three times in 13 years of marriage

Short Row East & West House Number	Short Row Streets Residents Year - 1901	Residence Year - 1911	Comment
1	Guy	Amfield Plain	Widower with married daughter.
2	Davidson	No. 2 Short Row East	
3	Mugrave	No. 3 Short Row West	
4	Best	Greenside	Widow Smaller family.
5	Cox	Highfield	Smaller house.
6	Tunstall	No. 6 Short Row East	
7	Jackson	Highfield	Not Known
8	Mannion	No. 22 North Cross Row	Larger house.
9	Cheriton	Greenside	Not Known
10	Mewes	No. 10 Townley Terrace	Not Known
11	Garland	No. 11 Short Row West	
12	Balmer	Throckley	Not Known
13	Ridley	No. 13 Short Row West	
14	Tulip	No. 1 Short Row West	Living in with married daughter.
14	Little	BHM	Shared house to one room.
15	Stephenson	North View, Spen	Better/bigger house.
16	Little	No. 16 Short Row East	
17	Forster	No. 51 Long Row West	Widower with nephew as Head.

Table 4.34. Micro-migration from Short Rows East & West 1901-1911

4.7.3. Review and Discussion of Results

To recap, the objective was to identify possible reasons for migration and allocate them to four categories, namely - housing, life events, promotion and kin. Using a rather

conservative approach resulted in a total of only 60 (out of 266) Households which could be classified under this scheme. With only just over 22% of the households identified this result can be considered to be disappointing. The respective category totals were 43 (housing), 5 (life events), 7 (promotion) and 5 (kin). The dominance that housing apparently played reflects, to some extent, the relative ease with which such reasons could be identified compared with the other categories, mainly life events and kin: it was not expected that promotion would be a significant reason for moving house.

Approximately the same percentage of moves were not traceable at all and even when they were traced, in most cases there were no firm clues as to why the Household moved. One possibility that must be born in mind is that there may not, in fact, be any external reason at all behind the observed micro-migrations.

Some extreme cases were noted where the Households moved in a regular pattern; every child was born in a different village. The Heads of such Households have been termed 'serial migrants' and two such individuals were noted in Wear Street - Jonathan Storey and Christopher Foster. This restless activity may have been the result of some dissatisfaction with work but could also reflect some deeper cultural attitudes. Hobsbawm (1964, pp. 34-63) in his article he discussed the rise and decline of the tradition of 'The Tramping Artisan' during the 19th century; the skilled journeyman. In respect of mining there was the practice of the 'annual bind', effectively an annual contract between the mine owners and the miners; the practice ended in 1872 in Durham, see Smith and Smith (2008, p. 133). If there is a residual cultural component which influences individual decisions to move or to stay, then a full explanation of micro-migration in terms of external factors will not be possible (see special note in Notes and References).

The limited exploration of the effect of family size on mobility hinted - see Tables 4.27 and 4.32 - that larger families were less mobile than smaller ones. Even this tentative conclusion has to be qualified as it is possible that the selected streets could have influenced

the results, for example, the housing was designed for particular family sizes. Results from a street of two-roomed houses could differ from those in a street of five-roomed houses. A cursory examination of the 1901 and 1911 Censuses does show that there were some large families with more than seven children living in other streets.

In Severn Street, for example, there were eight families with seven or more children in 1901. These were all new families to Chopwell and the birthplaces of the youngest child in each Household ranged from Cumbria, to mid-Durham, to Gosforth in Northumberland. All these families arrived in, and therefore travelled to, Chopwell with virtually completed families and these represented some 20% of all Households in Severn Street. For Blyth Street only one family arrived with more than six children. With some of the other streets, although outside the group selected for this study, - Mersey, Trent, Humber, Clyde, Forth and Tweed - provided another 33 examples (for 1911) where the presence of a large family did not appear to restrict mobility. Finally, of the Severn Street group of families only one remained in the street for both Censuses.

These alternative sets of results present a mixed picture, the first method gave some support to the suggestion that the presence of children was a factor restricting mobility, while the second did not. From a practical viewpoint, it seems unlikely that micro-migration within the village streets would be inhibited by family size. Furniture would be moved using a horse-drawn flat cart and family members would simply walk the relatively short distances involved. Further work would be needed to explore this issue for longer migrations.

A brief comment on the estimates of the residence times derived from the Household Histories ie. the number of moves made in the marriage window. There were 22 estimates which ranged from one move in 20 years to ten moves in 25 years: the average residence period was five years. Although based on a different sampling procedure the result falls within the range for the Mean Residential Durations summarised in Table 4.23.

References and Notes

Chapter Four

Anderson, M.
Family Structure in Nineteenth Century Lancashire, (Cambridge - (1971)).
(1971, pp. 56-62).

Daunton, M.J.
The Export Coalfields: South Wales and North East England, 1870-1914, in Essays on North East Coalmining in the Nineteenth Century - Pitmen, Viewers & Coalmasters, (Ed.), R.W. Sturgess. (The North East Labour History Society, (1985)).
(1985, pp. 133-134).

Daunton reported on an agreement made at Langley Park (a Consett Iron Company colliery) concerning the conditions for filling up of vacant colliery houses. First, the manager has the option to employ a strange family and second, a man with a family of six members has preference for a colliery house over an existing worker with less than six. [An incentive for a miner to have at least four children?] If the family numbers are equal then the old worker has preference. It is likely that a similar agreement applied to Chopwell and other Consett Iron Company collieries.

In 'But the World goes on the same - changing times in Durham pit villages', published by Strong Words, Erdesdun Publications, Tyne & Wear (1979), pp. 20-33, George Alsop (born 1911), a Chopwell miner and Union activist recalled:

.... Priority was given to the collier, the hewers, the men who worked on the coal face. If you were a collier with three sons - "Start tomorrow". There was a colliery house for you. But if you were a putter or a datal worker with two daughters, well you were at the bottom of the list.

He mentioned to a 1911 'Coal and House Agreement' for Chopwell which, he claimed, stated that 'all the workmen' were entitled to free coal and a house. If there was no house available then workmen were entitled to a rent allowance of 4s/3d per week. If such an agreement was in force in 1911 it is surprising that Frank McKay (see Chapter Three) did not refer to it in his letter of 1913.

Dennis, R. and Daniels, S.
'Community' and the Social Geography of Victorian Cities', in Time, Family and Community by Michael Drake (Ed.), (Open University and Blackwell, Oxford, - 1994).
(1994, pp. 204-207).

French, C.
Persistence in a Local Community: Kingston upon Thames 1851-1891,
Local Population Studies No. 81, Autumn 2008.
(2008, pp.18-36).

Hobsbawm, Eric J.
The Tramping Artisan
Labouring, Men: Studies in the History of Labour. (London - (1964)).
(1964, pp. 34-63)

Little is known about the early history of 'tramping' other than it was generally a feature of apprenticed workers who moved away, when their training was finished, to seek employment in another area. There were often restrictions on where newly-qualified workers could take employment. Such tramping could involve significant travel, perhaps hundreds of miles, and was usually undertaken by unmarried men at the beginning of a career.

Miners were not 'artisans' or skilled journeymen, although particular skills were required of those working underground, they were essentially manual labourers. There was a group of specialist workers employed by the colliery owners who did move around mining districts and these were the 'sinkers' - men who constructed the shafts down to the coal levels. Once the shaft had been completed the 'sinkers' moved on to another colliery. The most common journeymen, by the end

of the nineteenth century, were in the building trades - masons and joiners - but there were also journeyman butchers.

McCormick, B.

Northern Mining Roots (Bermac Publications, Aycliffe - 2009, 2nd edition).
(2009, pp. 158-159).

Although not contemporary with this study the following quotation, which was made by a young miner migrating, because of the closure of Staindrop Field House Colliery, Co. Durham in 1967, is of relevance:

Housing was now a big factor I had a young family to consider and I had two interviews for Nottingham and Yorkshire turning down both positions because of housing. Some expected you to live in lodgings, that I did not fancy. One day I saw a notice of miners required for Shropshire; housing was not a problem. I was not aware that collieries existed in this area but the chance of housing was a big incentive and I accepted the challenge. (Ken Robinson)

The move from Durham to Shropshire was therefore based on the father's decision not to allow the family to be split-up, even for a relatively short period.

Pooley, C.G. and Turnbull, J.

Migration and Mobility in Britain since the eighteenth century, (UCL Press London - (1998)).

Smith, Ken and Smith, Jean.

The Great Northern Miners, (Tyne Bridge Publishing, Newcastle - (2008)).
(2008, pp. 60-61).

The 'binding' contract was often unpopular and miners would try to 'escape' the 'bind' before the official end-date. A miner who broke contract and took a job at another colliery could, if found, be arrested and returned to his previous employer. However, when there was a labour surplus it would seem unnecessary for the coal-owner to chase such men as they could readily be replaced. It is difficult to see a family doing a 'moonlight flit' so it is possible that the main bond-breakers were single men.

White, Martin B.

Family Migration in Victorian Britain: The Case of Grantham and Scunthorpe.
Local Population Studies, No. 41 Autumn 1988.
(1988, pp. 48-49).

Wojciechowska, B.

Brenchley: A Study of Migratory Movements in a Mid-Nineteenth Rural Parish.
Local Population Studies No. 41, Autumn 1988.
(1988a, p. 34).

Wojciechowska, B.

ibid. (1988b, p. 33).

Special Note.

While of no direct relevance to this study into micro-migration, it is interesting to note that some current theories about migration suggest that there is a genetic link to such behaviour. Detailed studies of the presence of particular gene alleles in migratory societies in historical populations indicate correlations between macro-migration (> 1500 km) and micro-migration (sedentary v. nomadic settlement). [Population Migration and the Variation of Dopamine D4 Receptor (DRD4) Allele Frequencies Around the Globe, by Chen, et al. Evolution and Human Behavior 20: pp.309-324 (1999)]. The authors suggest the possibility of natural selection for such a 'migration gene'. Later researchers - Matthews, L.J and Butler, Paul M. - support these conclusions in a paper, Novelty-Seeking DRD4 Polymorphisms are Associated with Human Migration Out-of-Africa After Controlling for Neutral Population Gene Structure, published in the American Journal of Physical Anthropology, pp. 382-389, (April 2011).

Chapter Five

Conclusions

5. Conclusions

The objective of this thesis was to explore the residency characteristics of the inhabitants of four County Durham mining villages over the period 1851-1911, using a microcosmical approach. These four villages - Chopwell, High Spen, Blackhall Mill and Victoria Garesfield - were all within a few kilometres of each other and housed the population of a region known as Chopwell Township, which formed part of the Parish of Winlaton. In addition to a personal knowledge of the area, the villages were selected for three main reasons:

- the overwhelming majority of the inhabitants were employed in coal mining.
- the miners did not pay rent for the colliery houses.
- the differential development between the two largest villages Chopwell and High Spen.

The first two reduced the number of variables which could influence residency and the third suggested that the time lag of 30 years in the development of these two villages could yield some interesting comparative data.

Most studies that explore migration and residency in communities quantify residency in terms of persistence: expressed as a percentage of the inhabitants who stay, in a particular house or street or parish, usually for consecutive Censuses but also for shorter periods where other data allow. Written sources are essential for such studies and in the latter half of the 19th century the Census Enumerators' Books (CEBs) have been exploited for this purpose; to the author's knowledge all published work has stopped with the 1891 Census. As well as covering the earlier decades this thesis has extended the analysis to include the 1901 and 1911 Censuses. While it is argued that persistence should be based on the presence of the Head of the Household, results obtained using various definitions of persistence were also determined for comparison with published work.

The largest set of results were derived for High Spen/Victoria Garesfield and Blackhall

Mill using all seven Censuses 1851 to 1911: Chopwell was excluded because of its later development which occurred from 1895 to 1911. The definition for Residential Persistence (RP) was the presence of the Head of the Household in the same village for consecutive Censuses: for the six pairs of Censuses, 1851-61, 1861-71, etc, the results for High Spen varied between RP% = 28 and 47. The two lowest values 1851-61 (RP% = 28) and 1901-11 (RP% = 35) could have been influenced by the housing developments in both periods. In the first decade, for example, the colliery at High Spen had only just started production and houses, both colliery-owned and private, were built for the new workers who moved in and out of the village, before settling down or moving away for good. During the last decade, sections of the older housing were being cleared, displaced tenants may have been attracted away to the dozen or more local collieries within a few kilometres radius of High Spen. The central decades presented a rather settled picture with Residential Persistence figures of RP% = 41 and 47. These figures are higher than Brenchley (RP% = 31.4 to 37.2) and Kingston upon Thames (RP% = 34.7 to 39.7), but are not significantly different from most reported results for the decades 1851-1891.

The data for Blackhall Mill, a much smaller village, however, produced a much lower set of values for Residential Persistence, which ranged from RP% = 22 to 39. The reason for the lower values is not clear but may have something to do with the proximity (a few hundred metres away on the south side of the River Derwent) of Hamsterley Colliery which is where, until Chopwell Colliery opened, most of the Blackhall Mill miners would have worked. In 1910 there were less than 20 houses in Blackhall Mill owned by Hamsterley Colliery Ltd, so most miners would have aspired to live in the Hamsterley Colliery streets rather than rent from private landlords in Blackhall Mill.

The other group of results compared Chopwell and High Spen over one decade, 1901-

11, and over one year, 1910-11. The latter study used the 1910 Property Valuation Survey (PVS) and, again, this is the first time the PVS has been used for this purpose. In the analysis two slightly different definitions of Residential Persistence were used:

- Heads in the same house for both 1901 and 1911.
- Residents in the same street for both 1901 and 1911.

The Residential Persistence results for Chopwell, under both definitions (RP% = 12.2 and 8.6), were significantly lower than those of High Spen (RP% = 34 and 27.5). The Chopwell streets selected for the study were built and occupied between 1895 and 1901 and therefore most of the inhabitants in these streets were recent migrants. The influx of migrants from 1895 boosted the population nearly ten times to 1500 by 1901, which was to nearly quadruple from 1901 to 1911. This must have created significant social disturbance with families moving in, families moving out, families changing houses plus a continuous building programme with new houses, churches, schools and commercial premises under development. The High Spen streets were 20 to 40 years older than the Chopwell streets and the inhabitants exhibited characteristics of a more settled community; their travelling days were done! Although the High Spen population was also growing, the inflow of migrants was much less than that experienced by Chopwell.

Finally, in this section the Residential Persistence of Heads in the same house over one year, 1910-1911, was found to be nominally identical for both Chopwell (RP%=74) and High Spen (RP%=75). The results do not mean that 24-25% of the Heads in both villages stayed only for one year or less, as in many cases they had been residents at the address prior to 1910. It is known that over longer periods the residency patterns of Chopwell and High Spen diverged, so the annual rates of Residential Persistence must have varied. Although not attempted here, where there is a good coverage of annual events from parish registers it should be possible to obtain other one-year persistence

rates, eg. 1909-1910 and hence two-year rates, 1909-1911.

A more detailed analysis of the reason(s) for the mobility of the families in these streets made use of Household Histories. Here the attempt was to collate sociological details about each family, to enable a probable cause to be inferred for any move to a new address, either inside or outside the village. Four major categories - housing, life events, promotion, kin - were proposed for these micro-migrations, and most moves were allocated to the housing category: that is the larger families generally moved up the house scale from small houses to larger houses for obvious reasons. There were also some cases of 'downsizing' where, after children had left home, the parents moved to a smaller house more suited to their changed circumstances. What is not known is whether there was pressure from the Colliery Housing Officials for the sitting tenants to move, perhaps to make way for a new family that needed the extra rooms. Although less than one quarter of all the 1901 Heads was traced, a substantial number of Heads, particularly in High Spen, remained in the same address. For example, 21 of the 42 Heads, present in West Street for 1901, were still in the same house in 1911.

The reasons why some families stay while others move can also be difficult to fathom. A simple answer could be that the Head was content with his work and his wife and children were happy with the house and the social environment in general. So why move? Were there any factors which could distinguish the 'movers' from the stayers? It has been suggested that the presence of a large number of children in a family could inhibit mobility: that the larger families would tend to stay while the smaller families would move. A limited exploration of this idea was made using the 1901 and 1911 residents in Blyth Street, Chopwell and West Street, High Spen. The object was to compare the number of children per stayer family with the number of children per mover family. For Blyth Street the movers averaged 2.8 children and the stayers had 3.4, while for West Street the

comparable figures were 3.3 and 4.5. So these results suggest some support for the proposal that children have a 'drag' on mobility, however, this seemed to apply only if the family migrated out of the village. The family size did not appear to have any effect on short distance migrations eg, moves to a house in the same street or to adjacent streets.

Another approach to this problem was tried and this was based on noting the families that had arrived into Chopwell (not just Blyth Street) with seven or more children in both 1901 and 1911. In 1911, for example, there were 33 such families in six streets. This evidence indicated that the migration of large families was not unusual and contradicts the conclusion derived from the previous assessment. It is possible that both methods are valid but further analysis will be needed to resolve this issue.

A study of the inter-censal period 1901 to 1911, used the Parish Registers to assist in the identification of the residents who were living in particular houses and to estimate how long they stayed. For six Chopwell Streets the Mean Residential Duration (MRD) varied from 2.3 to 3.6 years, while for six High Spen Streets the comparable MRD results were 3.3 to 4.6 years. There were gaps in the data derived from the Registers and two synthetic methods were used to fill-in the gaps: both methods gave synthetic average MRDs in excess of those determined above from the raw data. In all probability the correct range of answers will lie somewhere between these sets of results, eg. 2.3 to 6.3 years. While the following data are not specific to the Township, further information on residency was obtained from the Household Histories where some estimates were made for the minimum number of residential changes made in the period of marriage upto 1911. For example, in Blyth Street, the individuals were married for periods of 16 to 41 years and changed houses between 2 to 10 times: the average residential duration was from 3 to 8 years. Bearing in mind that some families did remain in one house for at least 11 years, it is evident that a great deal of short-term migration took place.

Before summarising, it is important to record some general observations on the documents used and on access to the documents provided by the web-site findmypast.co.uk. University-based studies into aspects of local populations and their characteristics usually involve extensive computer support systems: these are capable of analysing large databases and use algorithms to link individuals between various types of records. While such research programmes are necessary and versatile when set up, they are expensive. It is suggested that studies of the kind presented in this thesis, using commercial on-line resources and manual linkage, could provide useful support to the major academic studies. There are some problems to be aware of with transcribed versions of CEBs, particularly the 1911 Census, where the spelling of surnames and place-names can be very idiosyncratic. Some ingenuity in using the search engine is often necessary, not just to find individuals but often streets. Also in tracing individuals from one census to another, birthplaces have been found to change, creating uncertainties about correct origins. These errors are not connected with transcription.

In summary, this thesis has used resources, both paper and electronic, which are readily accessible and are used by many amateurs who are interested in local history and genealogy. The sources were used to explore aspects of residency in several coal mining villages for the period 1851-1911. The research has expanded the horizons of Residential Persistence to include the 1901 and 1911 Censuses and it represents a rare application of the techniques to mining communities. Another document that has not been used before in this context, the 1910 Property Valuation Survey, proved useful as a pseudo-census. The Household Histories generated by this research constitute an important segment of data, even though only a small proportion is included in the analysis. Generally, the results for Residential Persistence show no discordant values to similar published data, except for the village of Chopwell for the period 1901-1911.

Appendix One

A1. Population Summary Tables 1851-1911

Chopwell

Tables A1.1 - A1.8

Blackhall Mill

Tables A1.9 - A1.15

High Spen

Tables A1.16 - A1.22

Victoria Garesfield

Tables A1.23 - A1.29

APPENDIX 1

CHOPWELL 1851	UNINHABIT.	INHABITED	MALES	FEMALES	INHABITANTS	PER HOUSE
ALL	0	28	76	77	153	5.46
TOTALS	0	28	76	77	153	5.46

Table A1.1. Population summary - Chopwell 1851

CHOPWELL 1861	UNINHABIT.	INHABITED	MALES	FEMALES	INHABITANTS	PER HOUSE
ALL	0	26	70	61	131	5.04
TOTALS	0	26	70	61	131	5.04

Table A1.2. Population summary - Chopwell 1861

CHOPWELL 1871	UNINHABIT.	INHABITED	MALES	FEMALES	INHABITANTS	PER HOUSE
ALL	0	31	79	80	159	5.13
TOTALS	0	31	79	80	159	5.13

Table A1.3. Population summary - Chopwell 1871

CHOPWELL 1881	UNINHABIT.	INHABITED	MALES	FEMALES	INHABITANTS	PER HOUSE
ALL	1	31	77	84	161	5.19
TOTALS	1	31	77	84	161	5.19

Table A1.4. Population summary - Chopwell 1881

CHOPWELL 1891	UNINHABIT.	INHABITED	MALES	FEMALES	INHABITANTS	PER HOUSE
ALL	0	26	72	82	154	5.92
TOTALS	0	26	72	82	154	5.92

Table A1.5. Population summary - Chopwell 1891

CHOPWELL 1901	UNI HAB.	INHAB.	MALES	FEMALES	INHABITANTS	PER HOUSE
COLLIERY STREETS						
TYNE	0	17	50	47	97	5.71
WEAR	0	35	128	106	234	6.69
TEES	0	32	48	63	111	3.47
BLYTH	1	36	99	91	190	5.28
SEVERN	2	42	193	127	320	7.62
THAMES	2	42	130	107	237	5.64
GREENHEAD	0	6	26	20	46	7.67
TOTALS	5	210	674	561	1235	5.9
PRIVATE STREETS						
RICHARDSON	0	14	31	27	58	4.14
BEACONSFIELD	0	10	24	21	45	4.5
FARMS, INNS, SHOPS, ETC.	0	44	109	117	226	5.14
TOTALS	0	68	164	165	329	4.84

Table A1.6. Population summary - Chopwell 1901

CHOPWELL 1911	UNI HAB.	INHAB.	MALES	FEMALES	INHABITANTS	PER HOUSE
COLLIERY STREETS						
TYNE	0	17	42	32	74	4.35
WEAR	0	36	110	98	208	5.8
TEES	0	32	78	64	142	4.44
BLYTH	0	37	106	103	209	5.65
SEVERN	0	45	196	147	343	7.62
THAMES	0	47	147	132	279	5.94
WANSBECK	0	44	129	109	238	5.41
TAY	0	14	50	38	88	6.29
TRENT	19	7	48	30	78	11.14
COQUET	0	32	73	65	138	4.31
MERSEY	0	42	211	140	351	8.36
HUMBER	0	45	184	142	326	7.24
CLYDE	1	60	268	220	488	8.13
FORTH	3	59	246	193	439	7.44
TWEED	1	53	221	164	385	7.26
EAST	1	23	106	64	170	7.39
BROADOAK	NK	7	49	23	72	10.29
HOLLINGS	NK	32	89	70	159	4.97
RAVENSIDE	NK	17	63	54	117	6.88
TOTALS	25	649	2416	1888	4304	6.63

Table A1.7. Population summary(Colliery Streets) - Chopwell 1911

CHOPWELL 1911	UNINHAB.	INHABIT.	MALES	FEMALES	INHABITANTS	PER HOUSE
PRIVATE STREETS						
RICHARDSON	1	12	26	26	52	4.33
BALFOUR	0	12	26	26	52	4.33
HAVELOCK	0	8	15	15	30	3.75
WILLIAM	2	28	62	56	118	4.21
DISRAELI	0	9	17	17	34	3.78
HILFORD	0	15	43	42	85	5.67
BEACONSFIELD	0	14	30	20	50	3.57
FREDERICK	0	15	47	42	89	5.93
NELSON	0	14	29	28	57	4.07
SCOTT	0	12	28	20	48	4
FARMS, INNS, SHOPS, ETC	0	34	86	97	183	5.38
TOTALS	3	173	409	389	798	4.61

Table A1.8. Population summary (Private Streets) - Chopwell 1911

BLACKHALL MILL 1851	UNINHABIT.	INHABITED	MALES	FEMALES	INHABITANTS	PER HOUSE
ALL	0	18	56	62	118	6.56
TOTALS	0	18	56	62	118	6.56

Table A1.9. Population summary - Blackhall Mill 1851

BLACKHALL MILL 1861	UNINHABIT.	INHABITED	MALES	FEMALES	INHABITANTS	PER HOUSE
MWB	0	2	7	4	11	5.5
BHM	0	15	45	45	90	6
TOTALS	0	17	52	49	101	5.94

Table A1.10. Population summary - Blackhall Mill 1861

BLACKHALL MILL 1871	UNINHABIT.	INHABITED	MALES	FEMALES	INHABITANTS	PER HOUSE
MWB	0	10	32	19	51	5.1
BHM	0	16	52	38	90	5.63
TOTALS	0	26	84	57	141	5.42

Table A1.11. Population summary - Blackhall Mill 1871

BLACKHALL MILL 1881	UNINHABIT.	INHABITED	MALES	FEMALES	INHABITANTS	PER HOUSE
MWB	0	11	30	28	58	5.27
BHM	0	12	32	30	62	5.17
BRICK ROW	1	23	66	64	130	5.65
OTHERS	0	10	33	23	56	5.6
TOTALS	1	56	161	145	306	5.46

Table A1.12. Population summary - Blackhall Mill 1881

BLACKHALL MILL 1891	UNINHAB.	INHAB.	MALES	FEMALES	INHABITANTS	PER HOUSE
MWB	0	12	33	33	66	5.5
BHM	0	46	130	108	238	5.17
TOTALS	0	58	163	141	304	5.24

Table A1.13. Population summary - Blackhall Mill 1891

BLACKHALL MILL 1901	UNINHAB.	INHAB.	MALES	FEMALES	INHABITANTS	PER HOUSE
BEECH GROVE (NOS. 1,5,7,11)	0	4	11	8	17	4.25
FIFE TERRACE (NOS. 1,2 & 4 TO 11)	0	10	23	21	44	4.4
BEWICK ROAD (NOS. 7 TO 53 ODD)	0	24	68	55	123	5.13
BEAN'S COTTAGES (NOS. 8,10,12)	0	3	8	4	12	4
MWB	0	12	39	36	75	6.25
OTHERS	0	32	89	75	164	5.13
TOTALS	1	85	238	197	435	5.12

Table A1.14. Population summary - Blackhall Mill 1901

BLACKHALL MILL 1911	UNINHAB.	INHAB.	MALES	FEMALES	INHABITANTS	PER HOUSE
BEECH GROVE (NOS. 1 to 67 odd)	0	34	91	74	165	4.85
FIFE TERRACE (NOS. 1 to 27 & 29 to 35)	0	34	77	70	147	4.32
BEWICK ROAD (NOS. 7 TO 21 odd)	0	8	18	33	41	5.13
BEAN'S COTTAGES (NOS. 8,10,12)	0	3	14	6	20	6.67
PEARTREE TERRACE	0	16	48	44	92	5.75
SUTTON'S YARD	0	7	19	22	41	5.86
HIGH BURN OR MWB (1, 8 to 16)	0	10	40	23	63	6.3
OTHERS	0	82	213	201	414	5.05
TOTALS	0	194	520	463	983	5.07

Table A1.15. Population summary - Blackhall Mill 1911

HIGH SPEN 1851	UNINHAB.	INHAB.	MALES	FEMALES	INHABITANTS	PER HOUSE
ALL	0	36	110	102	212	5.89
TOTALS	0	36	110	102	212	5.89

Table A1.16. Population summary - High Spen 1851

HIGH SPEN 1861	UNINHABIT.	INHABITED	MALES	FEMALES	INHABITANTS	PER HOUSE
HIGH SPEN	0	43	139	102	241	5.6
OTHERS	0	13	39	33	72	5.54
TOTALS	0	56	178	135	313	5.59

Table A1.17. Population summary - High Spen 1861

HIGH SPEN 1871	UNINHABIT.	INHABITED	MALES	FEMALES	INHABITANTS	PER HOUSE
HIGH SPEN	0	52	133	136	269	5.17
CLAYTON TERRACE	0	12	43	25	68	5.67
OTHERS	0	17	47	48	95	5.59
TOTALS	0	81	223	209	432	5.33

Table A1.18. Population summary - High Spen 1871

HIGH SPEN 1881	UNINHABIT.	INHABITED	MALES	FEMALES	INHABITANTS	PER HOUSE
GLOSSOP (1 TO 16)	0	16	30	37	67	4.19
HOWARD (17 TO 30)	0	14	36	44	80	5.71
CLAYTON (31 TO 42)	0	12	50	35	85	7.08
SPEN ROAD (43 TO 71)	1	28	84	66	150	5.36
COLLIN(G)DON ROAD (72 TO 80)	0	9	28	14	42	4.67
SHOP COTTAGES	0	2	4	5	9	4.5
CARDIFF SQUARE (81 TO 102)	0	13	60	50	110	8.46
RAMSEYS	0	92	233	202	435	4.76
OTHERS	0	32	93	65	158	4.94
TOTALS	1	218	618	518	1136	5.21

Table A1.19. Population summary - High Spen 1881

HIGH SPEN 1891	UNINHABIT.	INHABITED	MALES	FEMALES	INHABITANTS	PER HOUSE
GLOSSOP (1 TO 16)	0	16	44	45	89	5.56
HOWARD (17 TO 30)	0	14	39	37	76	5.43
CLAYTON (31 TO 42)	0	12	42	24	66	5.5
SPEN ROAD (43 TO 68)	1	26	84	67	151	5.81
COLLIN(G)DON ROAD (72 TO 80)	0	25	80	161	141	5.64
CO-OP BUILDINGS	0	2	3	2	5	2.5
SHOP COTTAGES	0	2	4	5	9	4.5
CARDIFF SQUARE (81 TO 93)	0	13	37	37	74	5.69
NEW BUILDINGS (EAST ST.) (1 TO 27)	0	27	114	83	197	7.3
RAMSEYS	0	92	264	213	477	5.18
OTHERS	0	8	24	16	40	5
TOTALS	1	237	735	590	1325	5.59

Table A1.20. Population summary - High Spen 1891

HIGH SPEN 1901	UNINHABIT.	INHABITED	MALES	FEMALES	INHABITANTS	PER HOUSE
GLOSSOP (1 TO 16)	0	16	41	45	86	5.38
HOWARD (17 TO 30)	0	14	42	35	77	5.55
CLAYTON (31 TO 42)	0	12	42	30	72	6
WEST (1 TO 42)	0	42	159	119	278	6.62
EAST (1 TO 32)	0	32	137	90	227	7.09
SPEN ROAD (43 TO 68)	0	26	82	79	161	6.19
COLLIN(G)DON ROAD (69 TO 92)	0	25	80	161	141	5.64
CARDIFF SQUARE (93 TO 106)	0	14	43	34	77	5.5
CO-OP TERRACE (1 TO 14)	0	14	34	35	69	4.93
KING ROW	1	3	17	10	27	9
QUEEN ROW	0	6	18	16	34	5.67
LONG ROW EASTWEST	1	37	119	102	221	5.97
SHORT ROW EASTWEST	0	17	69	51	120	7.06
SOUTH CROSS ROW	1	9	25	18	43	4.78
NORTH CROSS ROW	1	9	26	26	52	5.78
SOUTH STREET	0	13	24	24	48	3.69
WOOD TERRACE	0	16	37	39	76	4.75
OTHERS	6	59	143	141	284	4.81
TOTALS	10	364	1131	960	2091	5.74

Table A1.21. Population summary - High Spen 1901

HIGH SPEN 1911	UNINHABIT.	INHABITED	MALES	FEMALES	INHABITANTS	PER HOUSE
GLOSSOP (1 TO 16)	1	15	50	41	91	6.07
HOWARD (17 TO 30)	0	14	48	46	94	6.71
CLAYTON (31 TO 42)	0	12	48	37	85	7.08
TOWNLEY (1 TO 39)	1	38	208	138	346	9.11
STRUTHERS (1 TO 18)	0	18	48	52	100	5.56
WEST (1 TO 42)	0	42	148	115	263	6.26
EAST (1 TO 32)	0	32	139	105	244	7.63
SOUTH STREET	1	12	23	30	53	4.42
SPEN ROAD (43 TO 68)	0	19	75	67	142	7.47
COLLIN(G)DON ROAD (69 TO 92)	0	25	80	73	153	6.12
CARDIFF SQUARE (93 TO 106)	0	14	37	30	67	4.79
CO-OP TERRACE (1 TO 14)	0	14	28	35	63	4.5
KING ROW	0	5	17	9	26	5.2
QUEEN ROW	0	6	20	14	34	5.67
LONG ROW EASTWEST	0	38	138	115	253	6.66
SHORT ROW EASTWEST	0	17	76	54	130	7.65
SOUTH CROSS ROW	0	10	30	29	59	5.9
NORTH CROSS ROW	0	10	28	24	52	5.2
ROBERT STREET	4	6	17	21	38	6.33
JOHNSON STREET	0	7	25	16	41	5.86
SNOWDON TERRACE	0	5	19	25	44	8.8
WOOD/BURNOP	0	23	62	62	124	5.39
WATSON STREET	0	21	48	42	90	4.29
HUGAR ROAD	0	30	79	66	145	4.83
OTHERS	0	21	46	53	99	4.71
TOTALS	7	454	1537	1299	2836	6.25

Table A1.22. Population summary - High Spen 1911

GARESFIELD 1851	UNINHAB.	INHAB.	MALES	FEMALES	INHABITANTS	PER HOUSE
ALL	0	30	66	79	145	4.83
TOTALS	0	30	66	79	145	4.83

Table A1.23. Population summary - Victoria Garesfield 1851

GARESFIELD 1861	UNINHAB.	INHABITED	MALES	FEMALES	INHABITANTS	PER HOUSE
ALL	0	23	60	60	120	5.22
TOTALS	0	23	60	60	120	5.22

Table A1.24. Population summary - Victoria Garesfield 1861

GARESFIELD 1871	UNINHAB.	INHABITANTS	MALES	FEMALES	INHABITANTS	PER HOUSE
ALL	0	21	63	53	116	5.52
TOTALS	0	21	63	53	116	5.52

Table A1.25. Population summary - Victoria Garesfield 1871

VICTORIA GARESFIELD 1881	UNINHAB.	INHAB.	MALES	FEMALES	INHABITANTS	PER HOUSE
ALL	0	58	252	173	425	7.33
TOTALS	0	58	252	173	425	7.33

Table A1.26. Population summary - Victoria Garesfield 1881

VICTORIA GARESFIELD 1891	UNINHAB.	INHAB.	MALES	FEMALES	INHABITANTS	PER HOUSE
CHOPWELL COTTS.	0	38	143	95	238	6.26
CB COWEN'S ROW	0	55	179	160	339	6.16
OTHERS	0	10	33	31	64	6.4
TOTALS	0	103	355	286	641	6.22

Table A1.27. Population summary - Victoria Garesfield 1891

VICTORIA GARESFIELD 1901	UNINHAB.	INHABITED	MALES	FEMALES	INHABITANTS	PER HOUSE
CHOPWELL COTTS.	0	20	80	58	138	6.9
ALBERT STREET	0	15	43	51	94	6.27
VIC. GARESFIELD TERRACE	0	33	100	95	195	5.91
VIEW TERRACE	1	14	37	40	77	5.5
RAILWAY TERRACE	0	10	26	19	45	4.5
OTHERS	0	2	6	5	11	5.5
TOTALS	1	94	292	268	560	5.96

Table A1.28. Population summary - Victoria Garesfield 1901

VICTORIA GARESFIELD 1911	UNINHAB.	INHABITED	MALES	FEMALES	INHABITANTS	PER HOUSE
ALBERT STREET	1	14	48	33	81	5.79
RAILWAY TERRACE	0	10	26	31	57	5.7
VICTORIA TERRACE	1	30	79	71	150	5
VIEW TERRACE	0	14	22	27	49	3.5
ALEXANDRA TERRACE	3	17	72	49	121	7.12
OTHERS	0	11	33	23	56	5.09
TOTALS	5	96	280	234	514	5.35

Table A1.29. Population summary - Victoria Garesfield 1911

Appendix Two

A2. Street Residence Files

Chopwell

Tyne Street (Fig A2.1 and Table A2.1)

Wear Street (Fig A2.2 and Table A2.2)

Tees Street (Fig A2.3 and Table A2.3)

Blyth Street (Fig A2.4 and Table A2.4)

Severn Street (Fig A2.5 and Table A2.5)

Thames Street (Fig A2.6 and Table A2.6)

High Spen

Glossop Street (Fig A2.7 and Table A2.7)

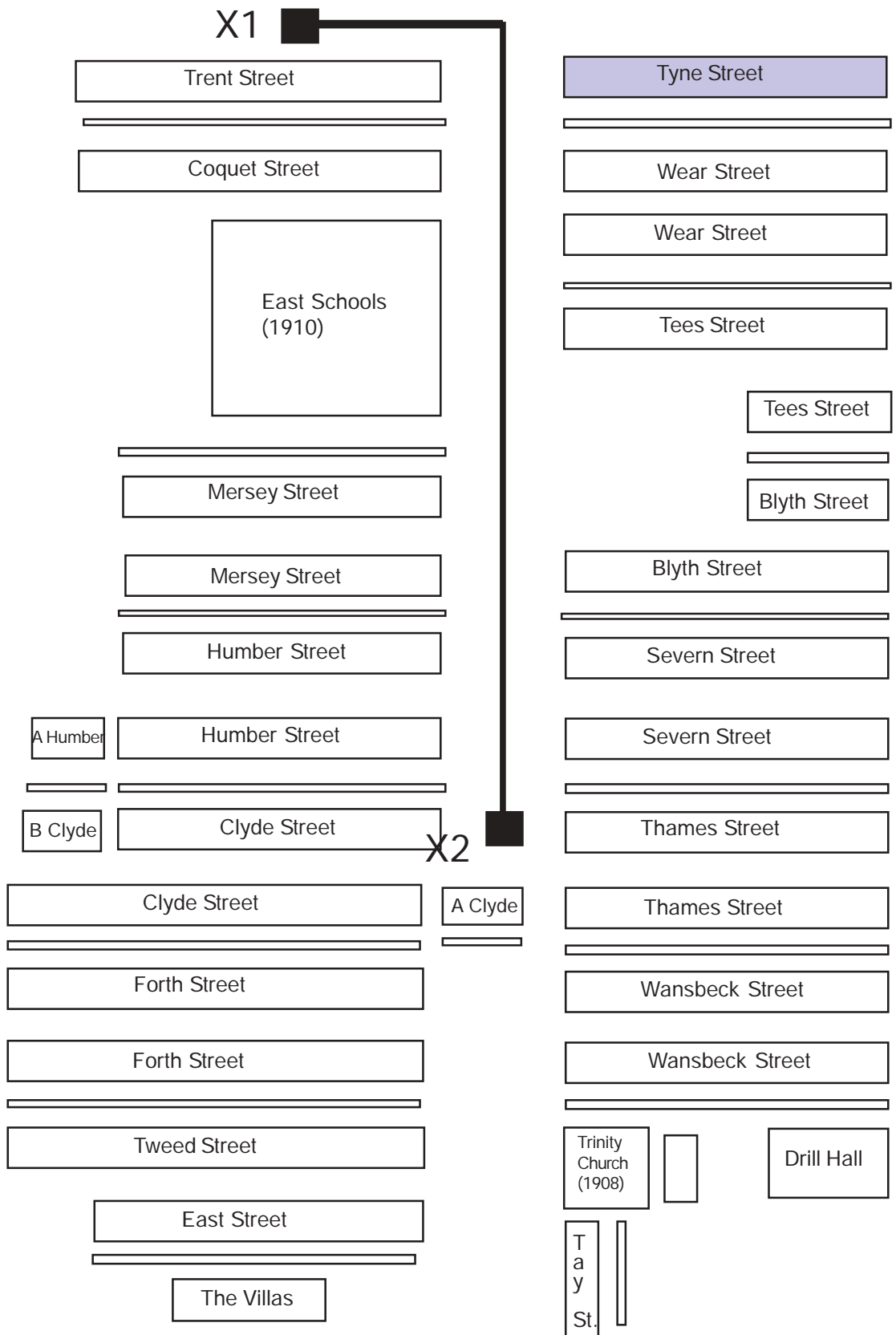
Howard Terrace (Fig A2.8 and Table A2.8)

Clayton Terrace (Fig A2.9 and Table A2.9)

West Street (Fig A2.10 and Table A2.10)

East Street (Fig A2.11 and Table A2.11)

South Street (Fig A2.12 and Table A2.12)



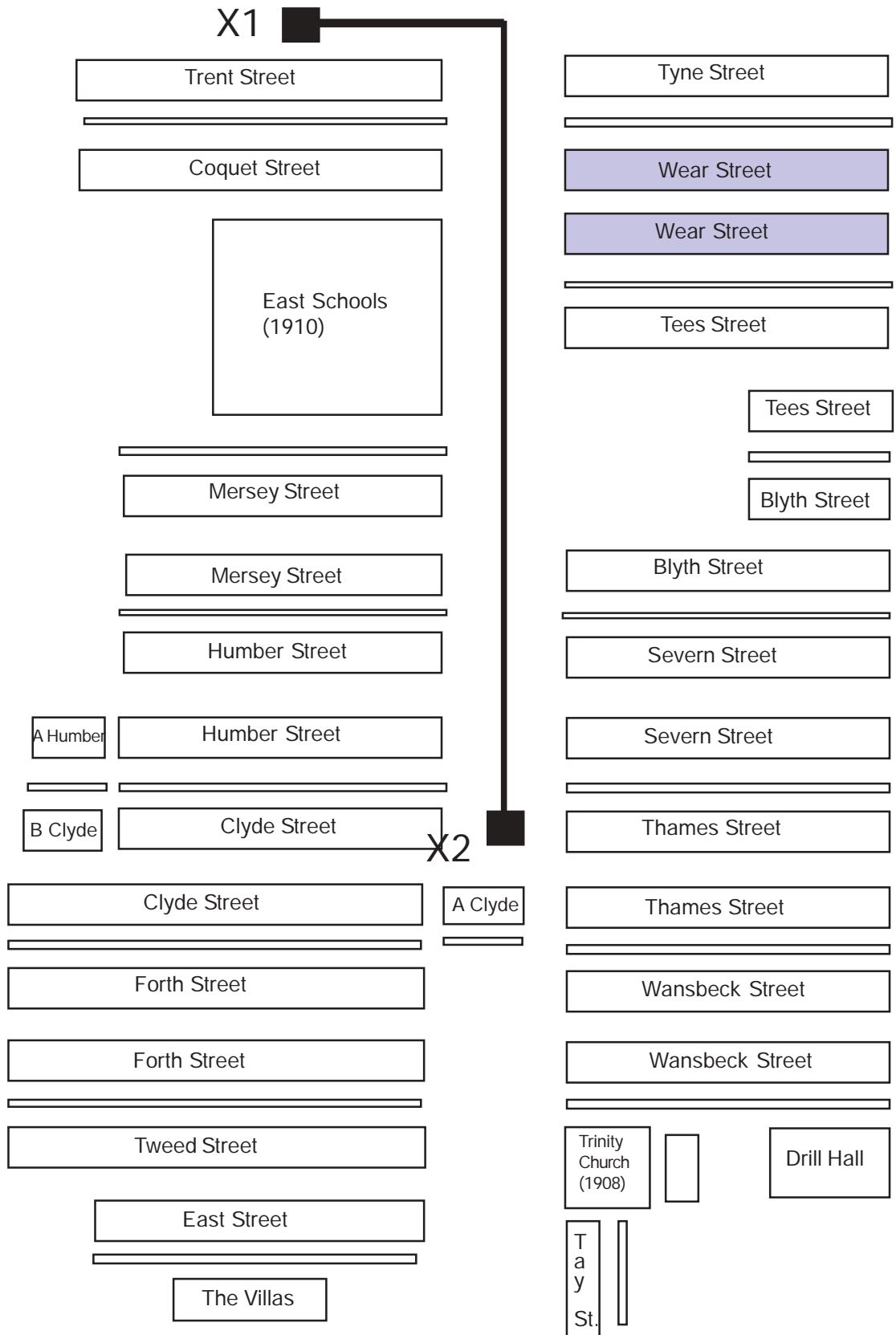
Note. Schematic showing arrangement of streets. The LH group is displaced and the correct physical position, relative to the RH group, is obtained by placing X1 at the level of X2.

Fig. A2.1 - Tyne Street

Nb.	1901 Census	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910 PVS	1911 Census
1	Armstrong			Armstrong	Collinson				Collinson	Collinson	Collinson
2	Gibson									Skeen	Skeen
3	Driver					Fairbairn				NE	Fairbairn
4	Hunter							Wils		Wils	Wils
5	Wilson									Oughton	Oughton
6	Charlton							Tate		Tate	Rogerson
7	Lawson	Robson			Robson					Robson	Robson
8	Birchall									Wils	Wils
9	Whitfield									Whitfield	Whitfield
10	Charlton									Graham	Graham
11	Gill	Elliott			Elliott				Elliott	Elliott	Elliott
12	Newton									Newton	Newton
13	Ripon									Burn	Burn
14	Wishart									Robinson	Robinson
15	Harrison									Harrison	Harrison
16	Wilson									Wilson	Wilson
17	Foster		Foster					Oiver		Coulson	Kelly

Table A2.1 Street Residence File - Tyne Street 1901-11

Yellow signifies continuity
 Black text is a baptism entry
 Red text is a burial register entry



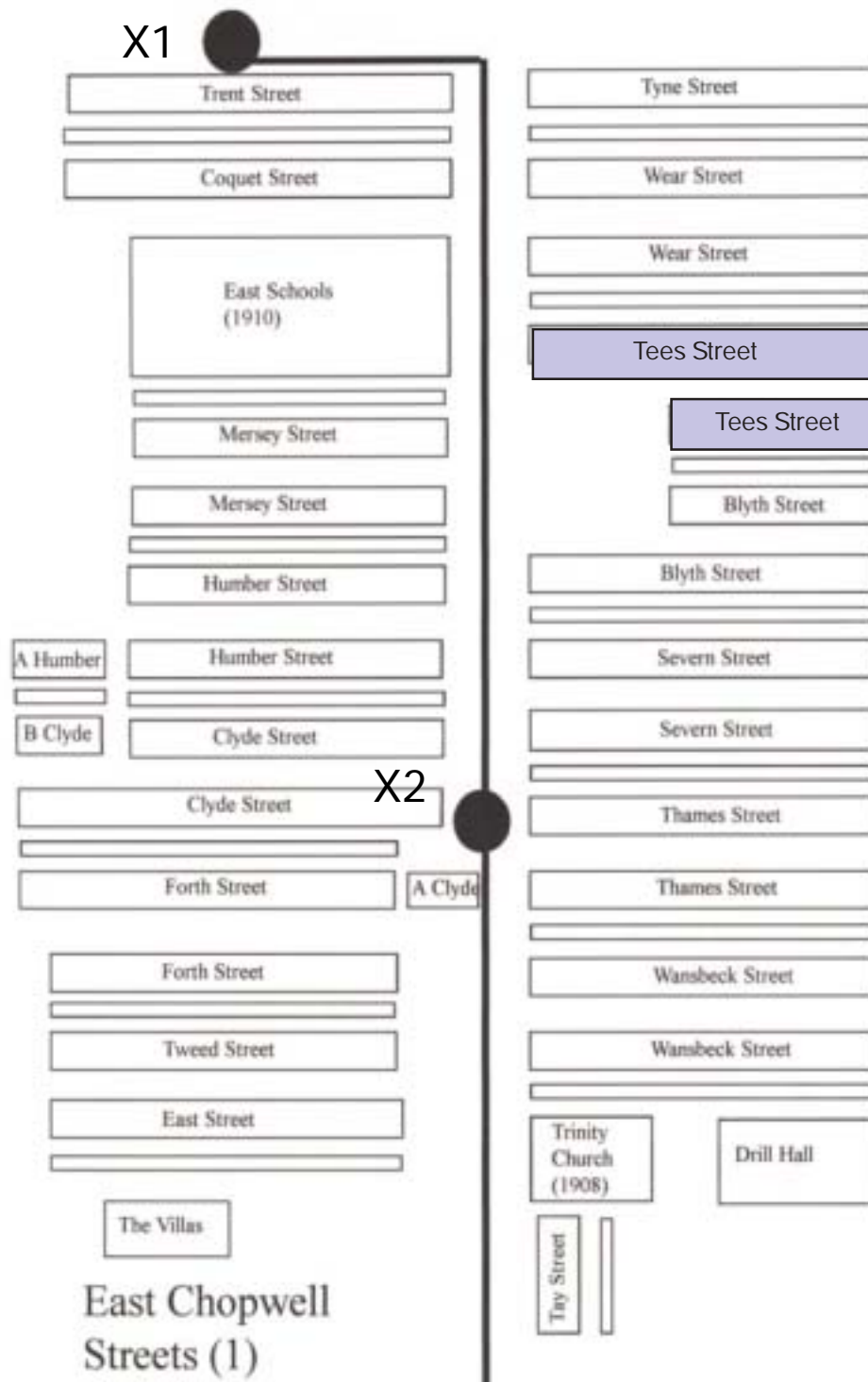
Note. Schematic showing arrangement of streets. The LH group is displaced and the correct physical position, relative to the RH group, is obtained by placing X1 at the level of X2.

Fig. A2.2 - Wear Street

No.	1901 Census	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910 PVS	1911 Census
1	Glendinning									Vary	Vary
2	Ward			Wils	Alison	Wils				Wils	Wils
3	Bell			Milk						Bell	Bell
4	Pearson				Clydesdale		Clydesdale		Clydesdale	Clydesdale	Clydesdale
5	Ridley									Ridley	Ridley
6	Watkins									Low	Lam
7	Elliott	Nash					Nash			Nash	Nash
8	Henderson									Henderson	Henderson
9	Foster									Soddan	Soddan
10	Broad				Watkins	Watkins				Richardson	Richardson
11	Dixon				Dixon					Dixon	Dixon
12	Watts					Hickman				Hickman	Hickman
13	Dixon			Suddes						Hepper	Hooper
14	Wilkinson									Broad	Broad
15	Little			Walker		Cape	Cape	Cape		Cape	Westgarth
16	Gordon									Ward	Ward
17	On					Fletcher				Fletcher	Fletcher
18	Johnson	Johnson				Stamp				Stamp	Stamp
19	Clydesdale		Clydesdale							Mathews	Mathews
20	Wells						Adams			Adams	Charlton
21	Little				Brown					Halko	Halko
22	Newton									Robinson	Robinson
23	Hardy							Simpson		Hardy	Gordon
24	Hadamith		Hadamith		Briggs					Boggs	Briggs
25	Randall									Wright	Wright
26	Spark	Spark		Spark		Spark				Breen	Arthur
27	Iley									Iley	Iley
28	Whelan			Scott	Scott	Scott			Scott	Scott	Scott
29	Dewson									Miras	Allen
30	Fletcher	Fletcher				Bell				Bell	Bell
31	Lewery									Pearcock	Pearcock
32	Duke									Robson	Robson
33	Storey					Charlton				Charlton	Darling
34	Alison			Alison						Robinson	Robinson
35	Glendinning							Alison		Alison	Alison

Table. A2.2 Street Residence File - Wear Street 1901-11

Yellow signifies continuity
Black text is a baptism entry
Red text is a burial register entry



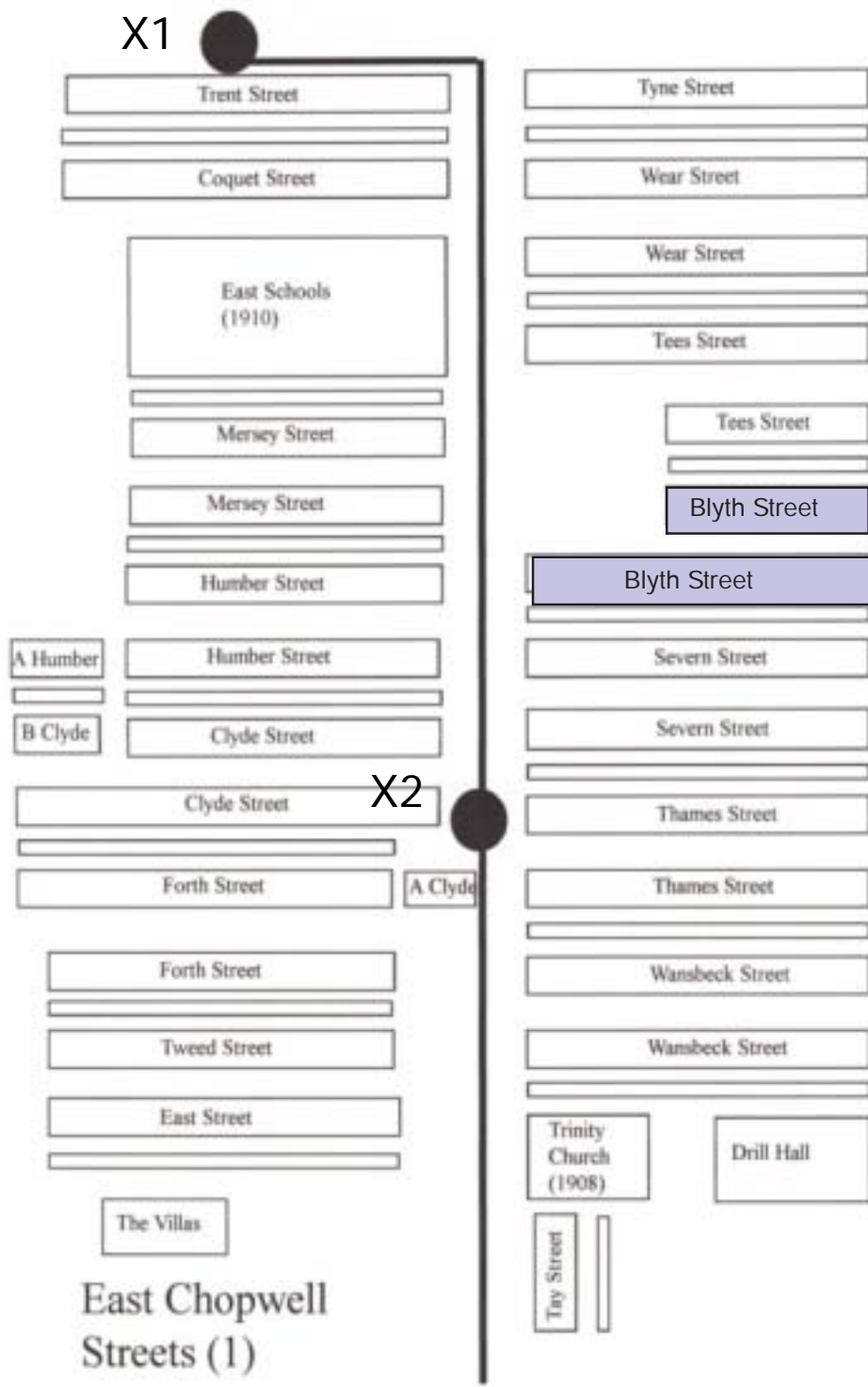
Note. Schematic showing arrangement of streets. The LH group is displaced and the correct physical position, relative to the RH group, is obtained by placing X1 at the level of X2.

Fig. A2.3. Tees Street

No.	1901 Census	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910 PVS	1911 Census
1	Therrell									Dowson	Dowson
2	Armstrong				Armstrong		Armstrong	Armstrong		Armstrong	Armstrong
3	Anderson	Varty		Varty		Varty			Varty	Varty	Anderson
4	Bushby	Bushby		Frost	Frost		Frost			Frost	Spawton
5	Prosser								Prosser	Prosser	Prosser
6	Alison									Pollard	Pollard
7	Dickinson									Hunter	Hunter
8	Woodhall				Woodhall	Askew	Askew	Malabum	Malabum	Malabum	Malabum
9	Bowman								Bird	Bird	Finn
10	Henderson									Sharp	Sharp
11	Barker									Whitfield	Whitfield
12	Lowe								Charlton	Charlton	Charlton
13	Malabum									Alison	Baker
14	Telford				Lowe					Hall	Hall
15	Jamason	Hind		Hind		Hind	Hind			Hind	Hind
16	Armstrong									Charlton	Charlton
17	Nixon									Mason	Gray
18	Pybus									Nicholson	Nicholson
19	Alison					Allen				Craggs	Backhouse
20	Whitfield									Whitfield	Whitfield
21	Pearson			Pearson					Angus	Angus	Angus
22	Cart									Hall	Hall
23	Bowman									Ruddick	Ruddick
24	Cook									Hudson	Hudson
25	Wile									Franks	Franks
26	Belleby	Belleby		Adamson			Adamson			Brown	Brown
27	Collins	Collins					Sellers			Jackson	Jackson
28	Alison									Fowler	Charlton
29	Collins									Hall	Agar
30	Ward							Murphy		Murphy	Murphy
31	Graham									Bowman	Bowman
32	Hunter									Jones	Jones

Table A2.3 Street Residence File - Tees Street 1901-11

Yellow signifies continuity
Black text is a baptism entry
Red text is a burial register entry



Note. Schematic showing arrangement of streets. The LH group is displaced and the correct physical position, relative to the RH group, is obtained by placing X1 at the level of X2.

Fig. A2.4. Blyth Street

No.	1901 Census	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910 PVS	1911 Census
1	Therwolf									Dowson	Dowson
2	Armstrong				Armstrong		Armstrong	Armstrong		Armstrong	Armstrong
3	Anderson	Varty		Varty		Varty			Varty	Varty	Anderson
4	Bushby	Bushby		Frost	Frost		Frost			Frost	Speaton
5	Prosser								Prosser	Prosser	Prosser
6	Allison									Polford	Polford
7	Dickson									Hunter	Hunter
8	Woodhall				Woodhall	Askew	Askew	Malbun	Malbun	Malbun	Malbun
9	Bowman								Bird	Bird	Finn
10	Henderson									Sharp	Sharp
11	Barlier									Whitfield	Whitfield
12	Lowe								Charlton	Charlton	Charlton
13	Malbun									Allison	Baker
14	Telford				Lowe					Hall	Hall
15	Jamison	Hind		Hind		Hind	Hind			Hind	Hind
16	Armstrong									Charlton	Charlton
17	Nixon									Mason	Gray
18	Pybus									Nicholson	Nicholson
19	Allison					Allen				Craggs	Backhouse
20	Whitfield									Whitfield	Whitfield
21	Pearson			Pearson					Angus	Angus	Angus
22	Cart									Hall	Hall
23	Bowman									Ruddick	Ruddick
24	Cook									Hudson	Hudson
25	Wills									Franks	Franks
26	Belferby	Belferby		Adanson			Adanson			Brown	Brown
27	Collins	Collins					Sellers			Jackson	Jackson
28	Allison									Fewster	Charlton
29	Collins									Hall	Agar
30	Ward							Murphy		Murphy	Murphy
31	Graham									Bowman	Bowman
32	Hunter									Jones	Jones

Table A2.4 Street Residence File - Blyth Street 1901-11

Yellow signifies continuity
Black text is a baptism entry
Red text is a burial register entry



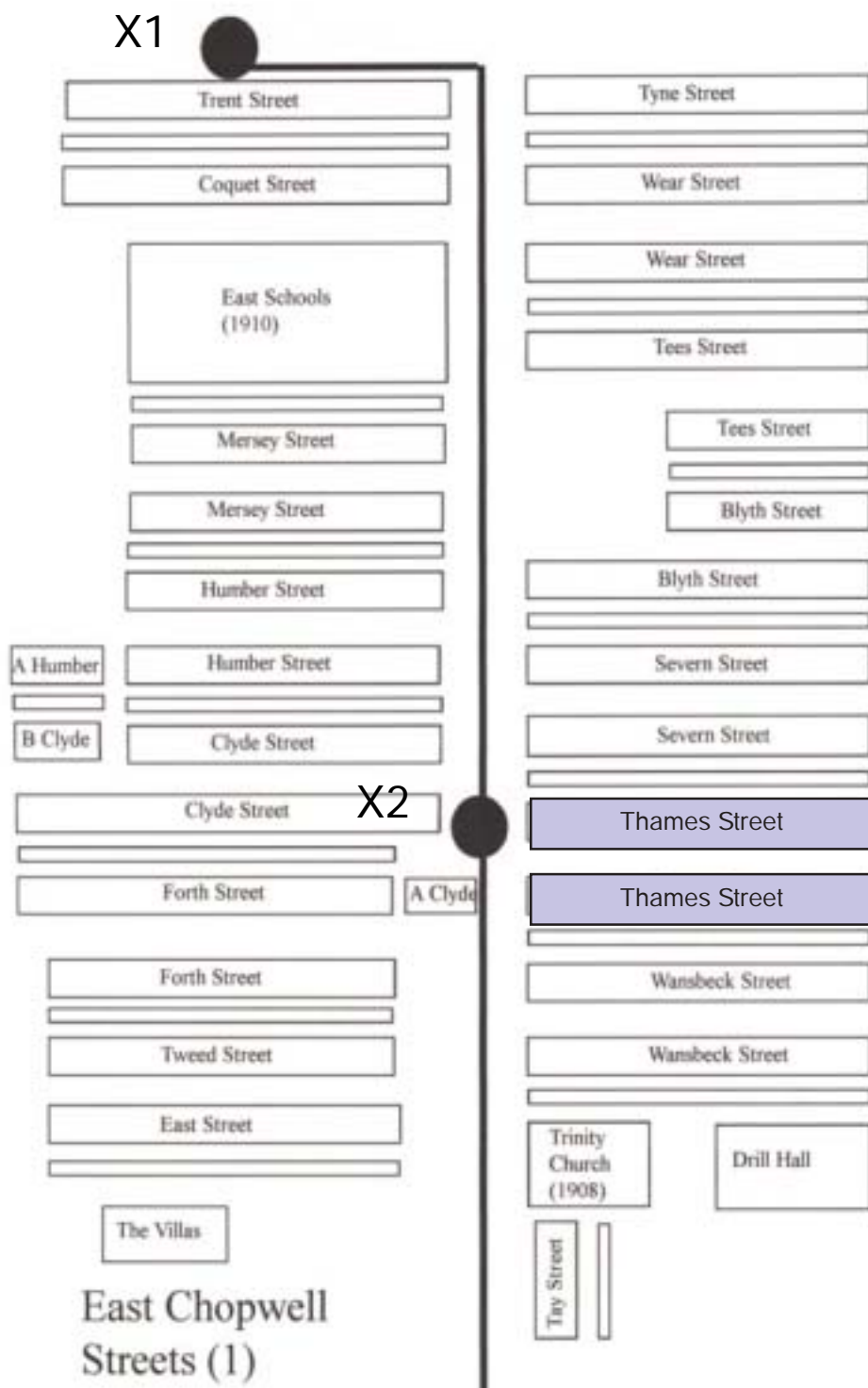
Note. Schematic showing arrangement of streets. The LH group is displaced and the correct physical position, relative to the RH group, is obtained by placing X1 at the level of X2.

Fig. A2.5. Severn Street

S. O.	1881 Census	1882	1901	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910 PVS	1911 Census
1	Dooley									Lowther	Lowther
2	Coates			Ree				Ree		Ree	Ree
3	Hawkes				Tilston				Hartree	Hartree	Hartree
4	Hughes							Lowther		Lowther	Lowther
5	Smith						Beadle		Beadle	Beadle	Beard
6	Jamies						Witchell			Witchell	Wickip
7	Ingram		Dagenbach		Dagenbach					Rehman	Rehman
8	Tate									Sawley	Sawley
9	Stewart									Maritt	Maritt
10	Grant									Cole	Cole
11	Pallister			Dixon	Dixon					Rehman	Rehman
12	Hall				Shree					Callender	Callender
13	Lucky				Worles					Henderson	Henderson
14	McNulty									Cogan	Cogan
15	Halse									Brown	Brown
16	Watts				Stekker					Laycock	Laycock
17	Thomson					Armstrong				Mills	Mills
18	Brown									Hardy	Milman
19	Lowry			Lowry		Cookson				Cookson	Cookson
20	Wiley			Appleton	Appleton			Stees		Stees	Stees
21	Wiel			Wiel		Dee		Longstaff		Longstaff	Longstaff
22	Whit									Broad (F)	Broad (R)
23	Moxley				Mallburn	Mallburn	Mallburn			Stephenson	Stephenson
24	Mallburn									Carell	Carell
25	Hepburn			Marritt	Marritt			Marritt		Marritt	Cape
26	(Hansen)				Barnes				Barnes	Barnes	Barnes (S)
27	Gibson			Gibson						Gibson	Gibson
28	Walt									Whitfield	Whitfield
29	Waller			Larson		Baskin		Lowther		Cape	Cape
30	Ramsden			Marritt	Marritt	Marritt	Marritt			Marritt	Marritt
31	Armstrong						Little	Little		Little	Little
32	Egginton								Wicknell	Foster	Foster
33	Eddy					Diker		Diker		Diker	Diker
34	Armstrong				Blackwell	Blackwell	Blackwell	Blackwell	Blackwell	Blackwell	Blackwell
35	Frost					Radson		Dary		Thompson	Thompson
36	Hill									Grham	Grham
37	Wiggle									Young	Young
38	Skew									Hinds	Hinds
39	Hind							Fairburn		Hinds	Gibson
40	Stoddart					Stoddart				Stoddart	Stoddart
41	Dickson									Miller	Miller
42	Dixon				Mason	Mason		Carroll		Dixon	Dixon
43	Sharp	Sharp								Sharp	Sharp
44	Wood								Wood	Wood	Hazz

Table A2.5 Street Residence File - Severn Street 1901-11

Yellow signifies continuity
Black text is a baptism entry
Red text is a burial register entry



Note. Schematic showing arrangement of streets. The LH group is displaced and the correct physical position, relative to the RH group, is obtained by placing X1 at the level of X2.

Fig. A2.6. Thames Street

No.	1901 Census	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910 PVB	1911 Census
1	Hetherington					Clark		Clark		Clark	Clark
2	Tippley									Dargus	Storey
3	Waltfield					Forster				Laws	Laws
4	Gray									Gray	Gray
5	Heddick									Graham	Grakow
6	Nicholsen							Curry		Curry	Robson
7	Temperley									Temperley	Temperley
8	Wright									Turnball	Turnball
9	Riley			Tyers		Tyers				Tyers	Hymers
10	Branson									Riley	Cape
11	Howe			Howe						Deboon	Deboon
12	Smith			Smith						Baskby	Baskby
13	Hegarty									Gibson	Lockey
14	Branson					Deeds				Gordon	Caskin
15	Wills									Hennah	Hennah
16	Parker									Ridley	Ridley
17	Wales									Ward	Anderson
18	Soyd			Cradda-				Cradda-		Craddace	Craddace
19	Hixey									Hew	Hew
20	Hall									Patrick	Ragman
21	Grimes						Lockey			Lockey	Lockey
22	Fearce					Gray	Gray			Gray	Gray
23	Hving				Sewer-					Hogge	Hopkins
24	Hudgan							Shields		Shield	Shields
25	Philippa				Jacob-	Jacob-				Lockey	Walker
26	Matthew						Jennings-			Jennings	Jennings
27	Robson									Huddie	Heddick
28	Merr				Merritt	Merritt		Merritt	Hind	Hind	Hind
29	Russell		Moore		Moore	Moore			Moore	Moore	Moore
30	Marley				Jones					Charlton	Bell
31	Croshaw					Booth		Booth		Booth	Booth
32	Foley					Foley	Folly			Fannington	Fallen
33	Worsan			Forster						Smith	Smith
34	(Dunn.)				Jones	Jones		Jones		Jones	Jones
35	(Dunn.)									Garland	Wills
36	Garbett									Bell	Bell
37	Rale					Armstrong		Armstrong		Armstrong	Cook
38	Fawcett			Foster	Forster				Beh-	Wiley	Ferguson
39	Swindle			Keat		Keat				Keat	Keat
40	Davies					Worton	Worton			Burns	Wares
41	Eager				Stone-	Stone-		Tienie		Tienie	Tienie
42	Wessham								Luke	Wessham	Wessham
43	Beresford					Gibson			Evans	Evans	Evans
44	McNasty									McNasty	McNasty

Table A2.6 Street Residence File - Thames Street 1901-11

Yellow signifies continuity
Black text is a baptism entry
Red text is a burial register entry

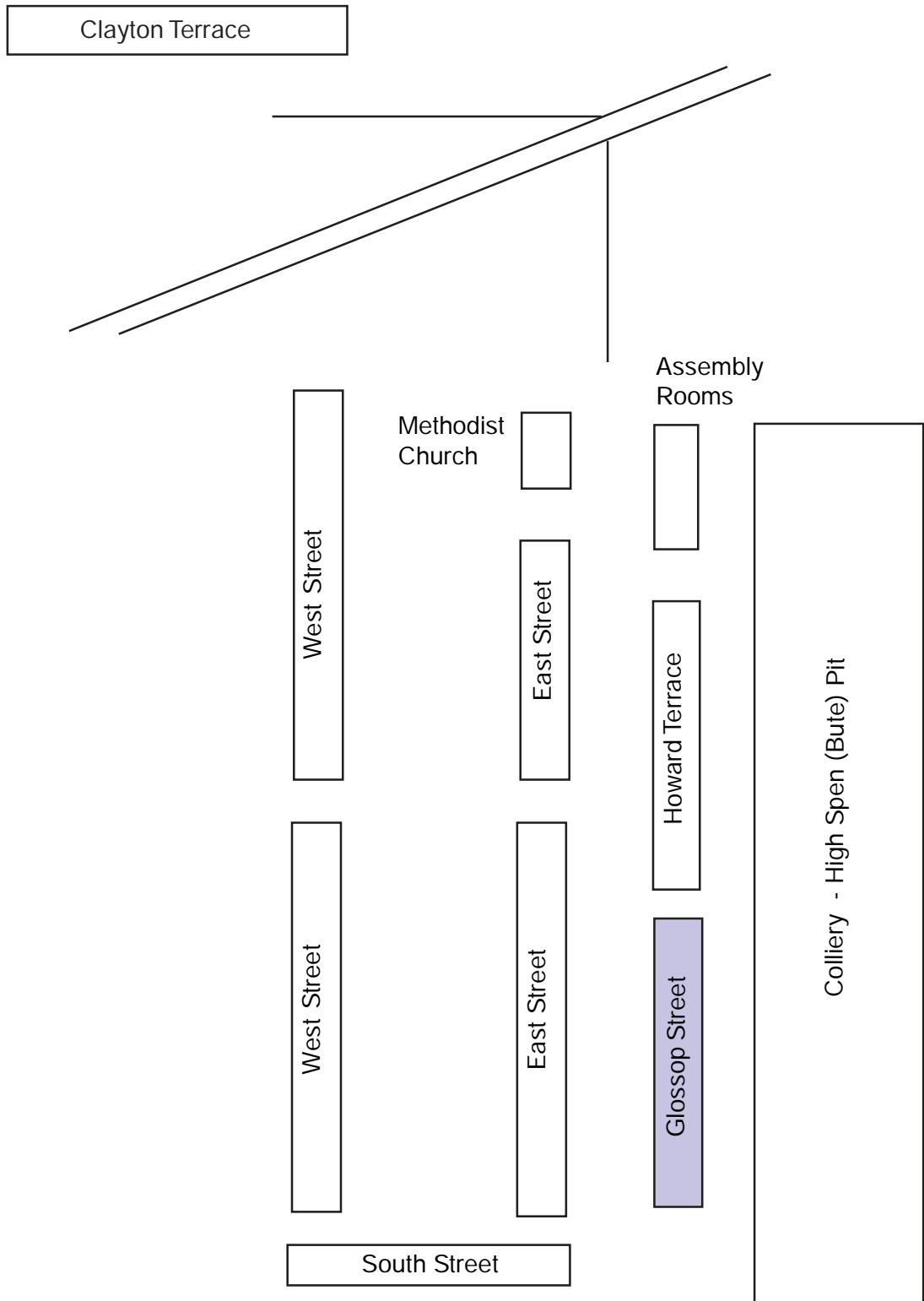


Fig. A2.7. Glossop Street

Nb	1901 Census	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910 PVS	1911 Census
1	Lowden(E)						Lowden(E)			Lowden(E)	Hewison
2	Lowry(J)	Lowry(J)				Over				Lowry(J)	Lowry(J)
3	Brown	Brown								Brown	Brown
4	Forsyth		Forsyth							Forsyth	Forsyth
5	Wlaughty			Johnson						Wlaughty	Wlaughty
6	Burrell					Blingham(J)				Car(L)	Car(L)
7	Bulle									Bulle	Bulle
8	Sandbank									Johnson(W)	Johnson(W)
9	Lairg		Lairg		Lairg					Nicholson(W)	Elliot
10	Car(L)									Lowden(F)	Lowden(F)
11	Amstrong									Amstrong	Amstrong
12	Pace									Pace	Pace
13	Gossat									Gossat	Gossat
14	Jameson									Chilton	Baker
15	Emmerson(L)									Emmerson(L)	Emmerson(A)
16	Blingham			Blingham(L)						Mar	Mar

Table A2.7 Street Residence File - Glossop Street 1901-11

Yellow signifies continuity
 Black text is a baptism entry
 Red text is a burial register entry

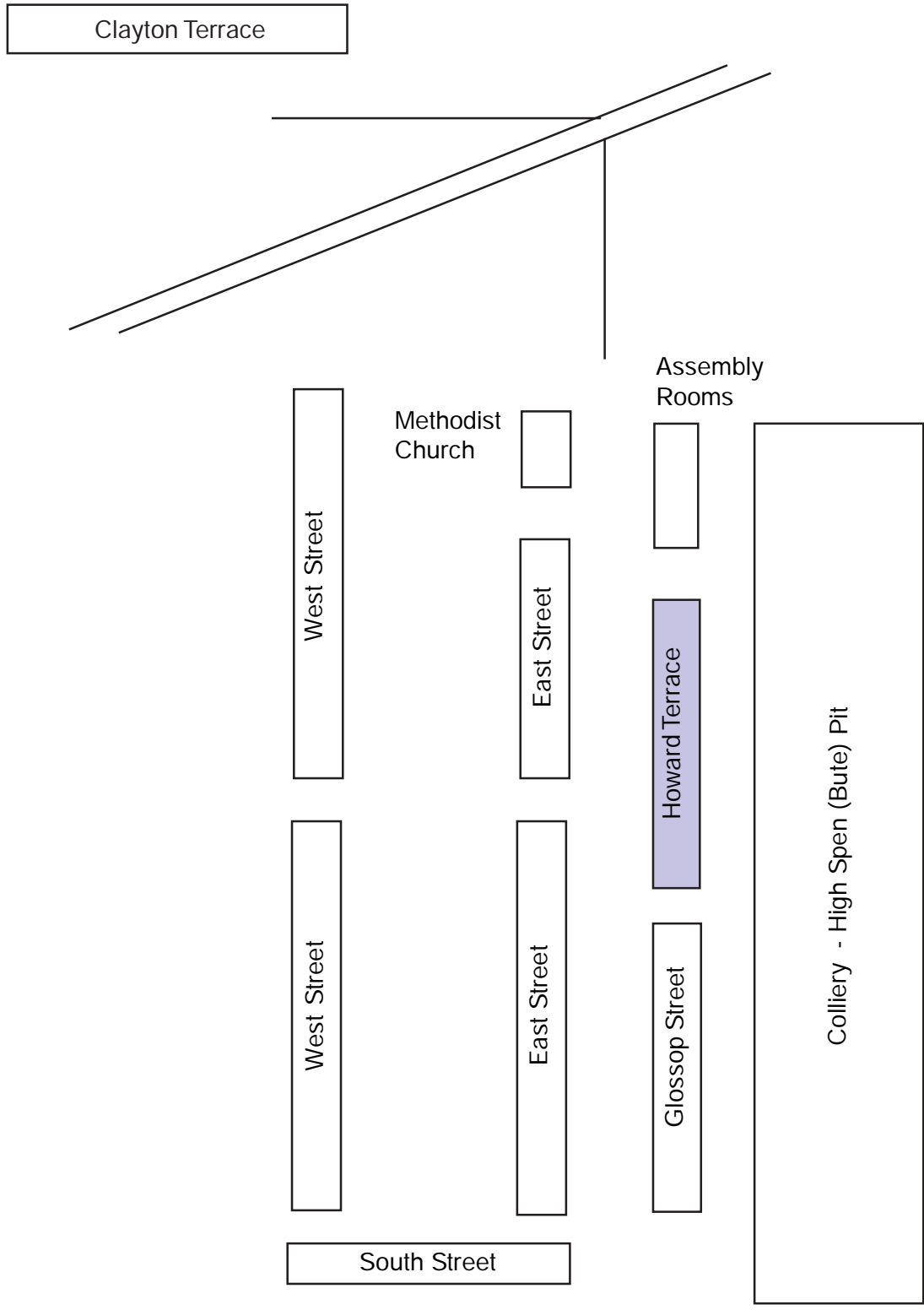


Fig. A2.8. Howard Terrace

No	1901 Census	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910 PVS	1911 Census
17	Nble									Orlton	Wilm
18	Reynard									Reynel	Reynel
19	Ralson									Ralson	Ralson
20	Ed									Seplerson	Seplerson
21	Bugram(J)									Teedle	Teedle
22	Blingham									Blingham	Blingham
23	Rdson						Dum(G)		Dum(G)	Rdson(L)	Rdson(L)
24	Selley(L)									Selley(L)	Selley(L)
25	Orlton									Bugram(L)	Bugram(L)
26	Liser								Selley(G)	Selley(G)	Selley(G)
27	Rdson(W)								Orlton	Dum(L)	Dum(L)
28	Rdson(C)						Rdley		Rdley	Rdley	Rdley
29	What									What	What
30	Baker									Baker	Lowton

Table A2.8 Street Residence File - Howard Terrace 1901-11

Yellow signifies continuity
 Black text is a baptism entry
 Red text is a burial register entry

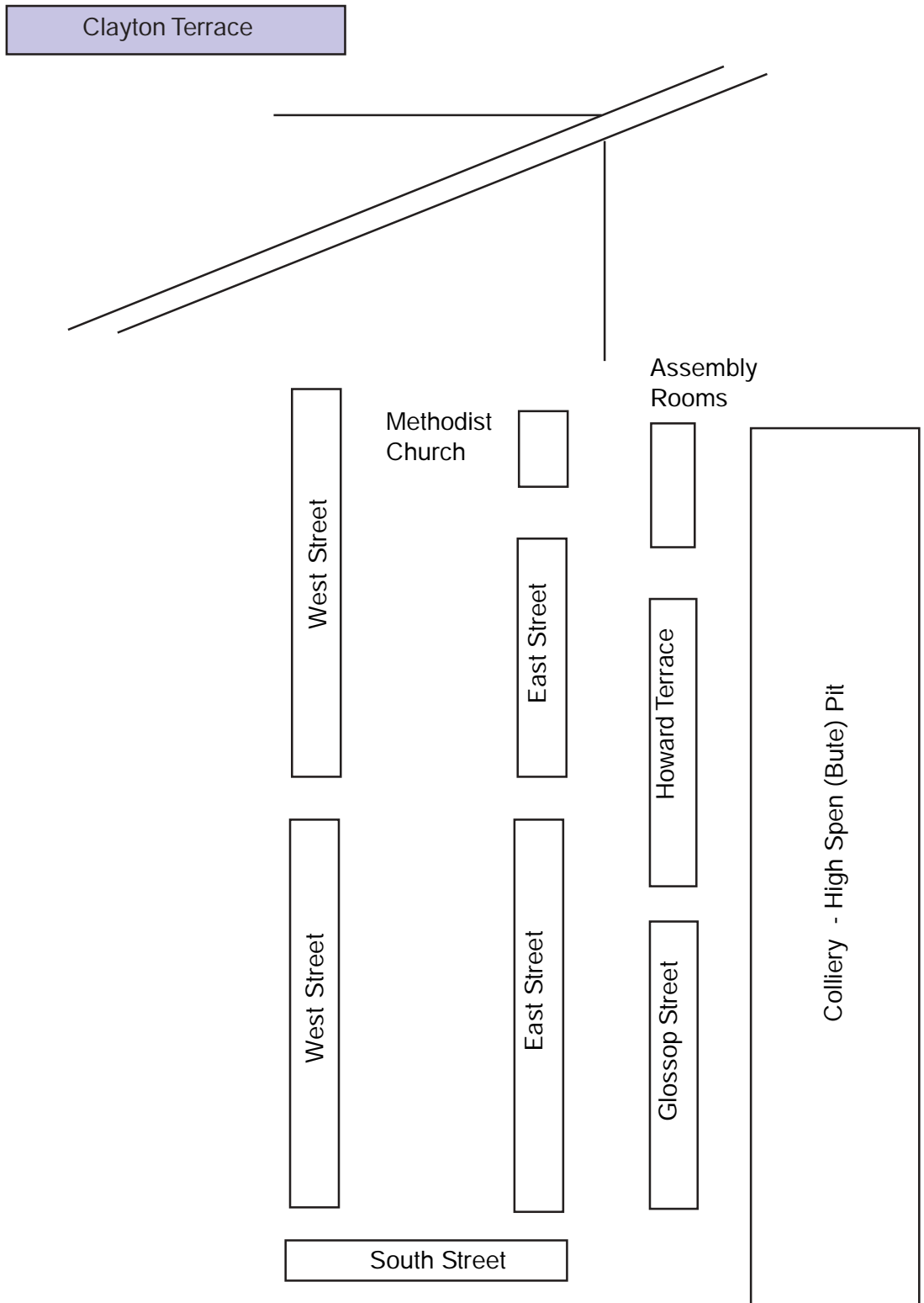


Fig. A2.9. Clayton Terrace

No.	1901 Census	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910 FVS	1911 Census
31	Krotts									Krotts	Krotts
32	Smith									Smith	Smith
33	Brown									Brown	Brown
34	Bell									McGure	Armstrong (C)
35	Carter (J)									Carter (J)	Carter (J)
36	Anderson						Armstrong (C)			Armstrong (C)	McGure
37	Solomon									Solomon	Solomon
38	Carter (R)						Carter (A)			Carter (R)	Murray
39	Anderson									Bell	Clarke
40	Armstrong									Coulford	Chestney
41	Charlton		Charlton		Ross					Hill	Hill
42	Ridley									Ridley	Ridley

Table A2.9 Street Residence File - Clayton Terrace 1901-11

Yellow signifies continuity
 Black text is a baptism entry
 Red text is a burial register entry

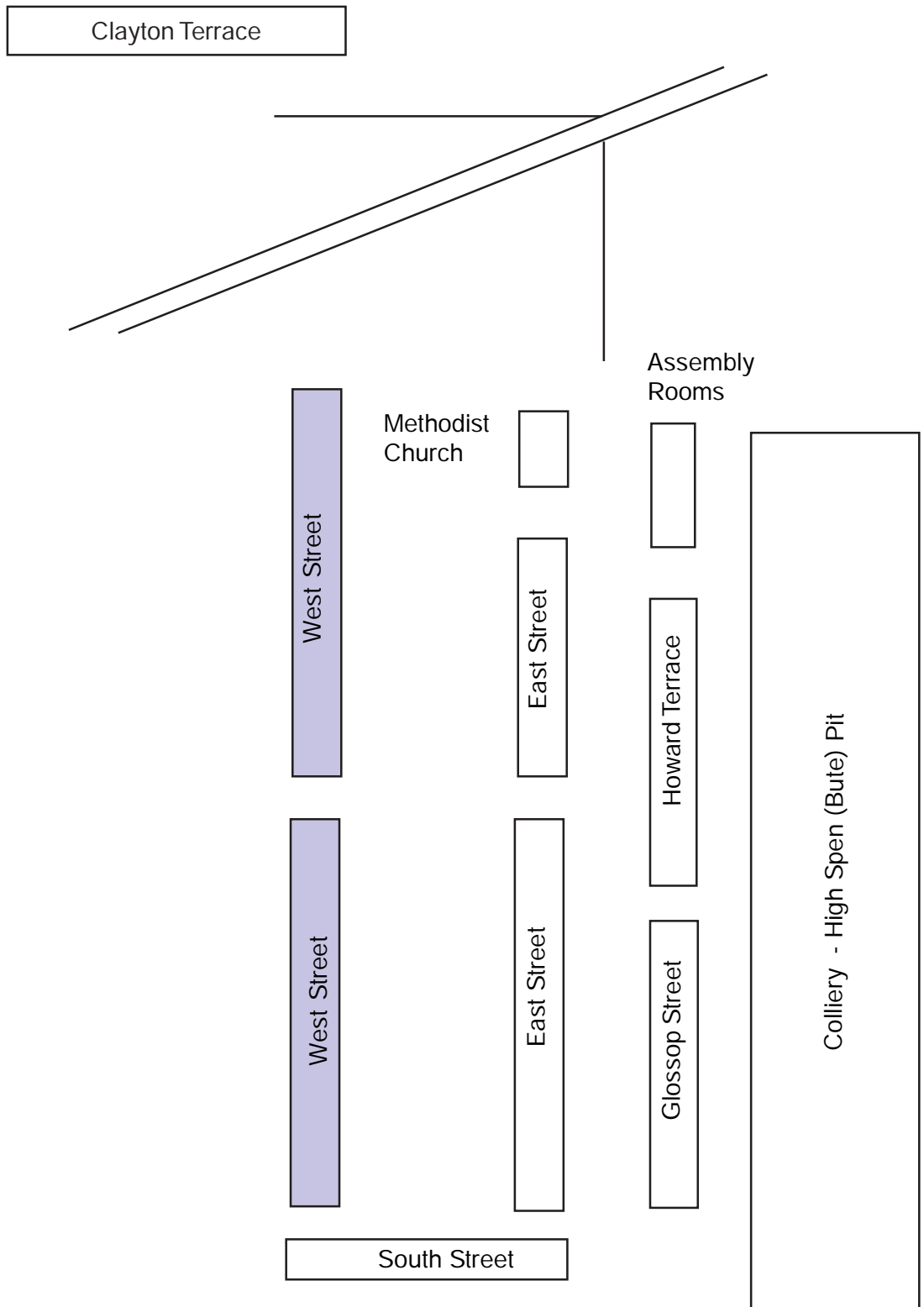


Fig. A2.10. West Street

No.	1881 Census	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910 PVS	1911 Census
1	Stoddole (J)				Robinson		Robinson			Robinson	Robinson
2	Ward			Ward	Ward					Ward	Ward
3	Armstrong (M)									Armstrong (M)	Armstrong (M)
4	Robinson									Robinson	Robinson
5	Honey									Folland	Folland
6	Car (C)									Emmerson	Emmerson
7	Ward									Bliss	Bliss
8	Summerside									Summerside	Summerside
9	Ball (T)									Ball (T)	Ball (T)
10	Stewart (J)									Fenyle	Stewart (J)
11	Cox (K)			Cox (C)	Cox (T)					Cox (K)	Cox (K)
12	Milner (G)									Milner (G)	Milner (J)
13	Wilkinson									Wilkinson	Wilkinson
14	Widdell									Widdell	Widdell
15	Lee (C)									Lee (J)	Armstrong (J)
16	Hager			Hager	Hager					Hager	Hager
17	Armstrong (J)	Armstrong (J)						Armstrong (J)		Armstrong (J)	Wiles
18	Richardson (W)									Horton	Horton
19	Lee (W)									Lee (W)	Lee (W)
20	Palmer (W)									Palmer (W)	Palmer (J)
21	Stephens (R)									Stephens (R)	Stephens (J)
22	Webb									Chingham (J)	Chingham (J)
23	Richardson (M)		Richardson (R)		Richardson (R)			Richardson (M)		Richardson (M)	Forman
24	Wall									Wall	Wall
25	Davies									Davies	Davies
26	Leadbiter									Leadbiter	Leadbiter
27	Armstrong (JG)									Armstrong (JG)	Lee (W)
28	Coyman									Richardson	Richardson
29	Chingham (H)									Hockley	Hockley
30	Widye				Widye					Rabson (P)	Rabson (P)
31	Sherr			Cornish						Sherr	Sherr
32	Ball (J)			Ball (J)						Ball (J)	Ball (M)
33	Johson				Johson		Johson			Johson	Johson
34	Gardner									Hill (A)	Hill (A)
35	Woods		Woods							Woods	Woods
36	Hartley									Hartley	Armstrong (J)
37	Cawthra									Cawthra	Cawthra
38	McDermott									McDermott	McDermott
39	Wiles									Hart	Hart
40	Stoddole (J)		Johson	Stoddole (J)						Stoddole (J)	Stoddole (J)
41	Cox									Ellis	Ellis
42	Chickles						Woods			Wiles	Wiles

Table A2.10 Street Residence File - West Street 1901-11

Yellow signifies continuity
 Black text is a baptism entry
 Red text is a burial register entry

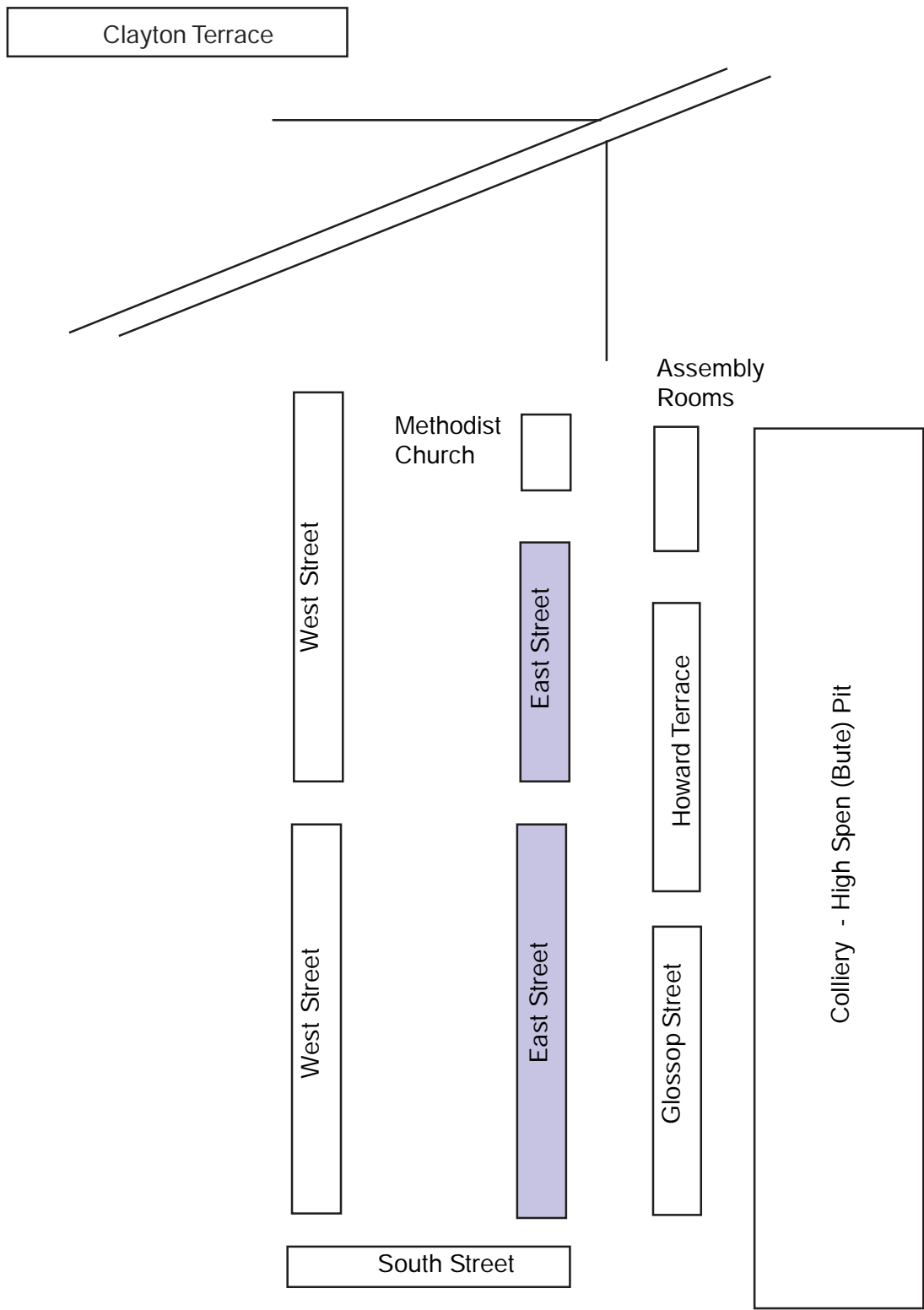


Fig. A2.11. East Street

No.	1901 Census	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910 PVS	1911 Census
1	Mair					Bushby				Bushby	Bushby
2	Neve				Carr			Chapman		Chapman	Chapman
3	Holiday									Holiday	Holiday
4	Hood (J)									Hood	Hood
5	Lille		Lille					Lille		Lille	Lille
6	Armstrong									Armstrong	Armstrong
7	Cawburn		Hemming							McIntyre	McIntyre
8	Charlton									Grant	Grant
9	Rutherford									McNaughton	McNaughton
10	Burnett									Lowden	Lowden
11	Krebs									Kemp	Nicholson (W)
12	Bell							McLellan		Tobey	Richardson
13	Emmerson			Emmerson				Vickers (M)		Henderson	Nicholson (J)
14	Hood (G)									Hood (G)	Hood (G)
15	Riley			Riley						Greenhill	Greenhill
16	Tindal									Tindal	Tindal
17	Nicholson (W)									Cowan	Cowan
18	Weatherby									Collin	Collin
19	Hall (L)									Hall (L)	Hall (L)
20	Nicholson (R)		Nicholson (R)				Nicholson (R)			Nicholson (R)	Nicholson (R)
21	Burnett (J)	Burnett (J)		Burnett (J)						Burnett (J)	Burnett (J)
22	Robinson									Nicholson (J)	Smith (R)
23	Heron				Jamieson					Jamieson	Jamieson
24	Warren		Armstrong							Warren	Warren
25	Ridley									Ridley	Ridley
26	Smith (J)									Smith (J)	Smith (J)
27	Teardale									Forster	Forster
28	Coulhard									Vickers (J)	Vickers (J)
29	Young									Burnett (W)	Burnett (W)
30	Carrollin									Bolton	Bolton
31	Toney									Gibson	Gibson
32	Foster						Blythe			Noble	Noble

Table A2.11 Street Residence File - East Street 1901-11

Yellow signifies continuity
Black text is a baptism entry
Red text is a burial register entry

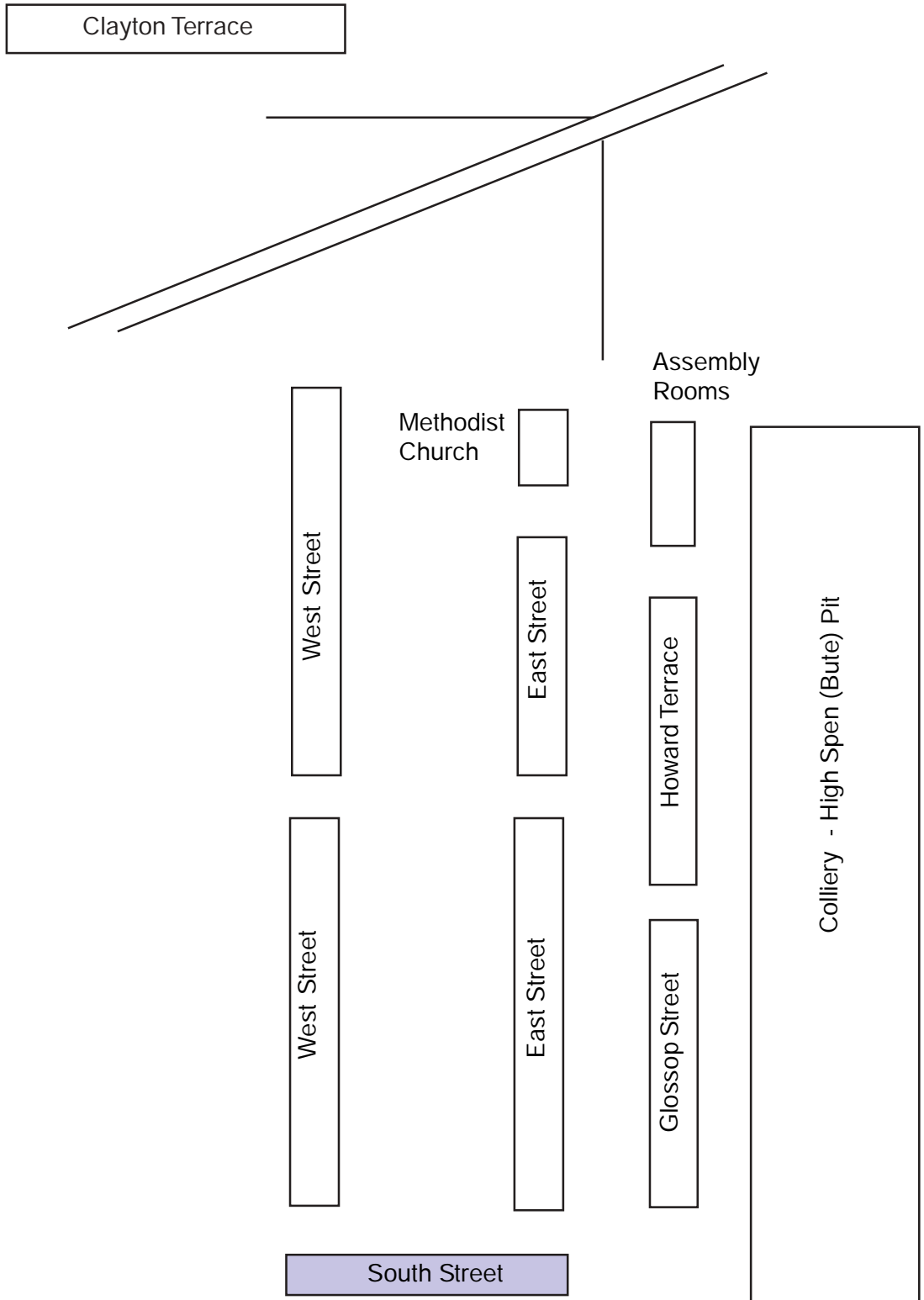


Fig. A2.12. South Street

No.	1901 Census	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910 PVS	1911 Census
1	Setbey		Setbey				Lister			Moreland	Lynn
2	Kemp	Kemp								Holmes	Empty
3	Vary	Ridley								Ridley	Ridley
4	Blackburn							Willoughby		Willoughby	Willoughby
5	Rouledge									Rouledge	(Rouledge E)
6	Wishart									Wishart	Wishart
7	Homaby									Howey	Howey
8	Leybun				Laybome					Leyboun	Leyboun
9	Chapman		Chapman		Chapman					Eltingham	Eltingham
10	Parker				Curwen					Waters	Waters
11	Foster						Hemming			Hemming	Hemming
12	Barker									Barker	Barker
13	Milbum			Milbum						Milbum	Milbum

Table A2.12 Street Residence File - South Street 1901-11

Yellow signifies continuity
Black text is a baptism entry
Red text is a burial register entry

Appendix Three

A3. Household Histories

A3.1. Chopwell Streets

- A3.1.1. Tyne Street
- A3.1.2. Wear Street
- A3.1.3. Blyth Street
- A3.1.4. Severn Street
- A3.1.5. Thames Street

A3.2. High Spen Streets

- A3.2.1. Glossop Street
- A3.2.2. Howard Terrace
- A3.2.3. West Street
- A3.2.4. Short Rows West and East

A3.1. Chopwell Streets

A3.1.1. Tyne Street (1901-11)

No. 1. Armstrong, Peter/Collinson, William.

Peter and Rebecca were no longer resident in Tyne Street by 1905 when the Collinson family moved in and stayed for the 1911 census. However, the Armstrongs were still in Chopwell, as by 1906 they were residents in No. 37 Thames Street: Here they stayed until 1910 as Peter was recorded in the 1910 PVS list. By the 1911 Census the family had moved again this time to No. 20 Forth Street. The number of children in the family had increased from five (1901) to eight (1911): it is probable that the moves were related to this increase in the Household as Thames Street houses are larger than those in Tyne Street and Forth Street houses are larger than those in Thames Street.

According to the 1901 Census return Peter was born in West Wylam. A search in 1881 census found him in Stocksfield with a grandmother Ann Flanagan, a widow, born in Ireland and her son, Michael aged 19, who was described as an 'imbecile'. Peter's birthplace had changed to Ovingham, which is adjacent to West Wylam. The 1891 census has this household of three living in New Ridley, near Hedley. A wide area search failed to find any other family members related to Peter, or the deaths of his grandmother and his uncle Michael. Also a marriage record for Peter and Rebecca was not found. There is some minor confusion about where Peter's older children were born - Whittonstall (1901 census) or Hedley (1911 census).

A family in No. 9 Tyne Street was Whitfield and it was noted that two of Whitfield children were born in Hedley, including a grandchild, John Henry Armstrong. It appears that Rebecca Armstrong was formerly Rebecca Whitfield as both age and birthplace match. There is a strong probability that John H. Armstrong was illegitimate and that the Armstrongs and Whitfields migrated into Tyne Street together.

William and Sarah Jane Collinson claimed Middleton-in-Teesdale area for their birthplaces and in 1881 William was there, as nephew, with his widowed mother Priscilla (husband Joseph) and her married daughter Annie Allinson. He was still with the family in 1891 although his mother was dead by then but in 1901 he had moved to Stanley. The move to Tyne Street can be dated to, approximately, 1905. There were another two families of Collinsons in Chopwell by 1911 and, judging by the birthplaces, all three looked as if they were related. William was born in Eggleston, Joseph (of No. 24 Blyth Street) was born in Barnard Castle and Alfred (of No. 2 Frederick Street) was also born in Eggleston. Initially, it was thought they could be brothers but this simple picture was soon ruled out. The probability is that all three were illegitimate children born to unmarried daughters of Joseph and Priscilla; therefore Priscilla was not William's mother.

In the 1910 PVS, Alfred and Joseph were living at Nos. 2 and 3 Frederick Street, respectively. This seems to imply that both families moved into Chopwell at the same time.

No. 2. Gibson, John/ Skeen, Thomas.

This family immediately excited interest as all members claimed Chopwell as their birthplace: experience with the parish suggested that this was a most unlikely occurrence. The 1911 census showed no sign of the family in Chopwell, or anywhere else, using a general search for the Head or his spouse. As two of the children had distinctive names - Alfred and Joseph Gladstone - the BMD registers were searched for these two: Alfred was registered in Gateshead (1895) while the latter was found in Wigton, Cumberland. This narrowed the search area and the 1891 census revealed the family in Workington. The 1881 census found John Gibson in Carlisle as a stepson to Michael/Sarah O'Brien.

While it is possible that the two youngest children were born in Chopwell the parents and older children were definitely from Cumberland. [NB. The family was eventually traced to Wood Street, Hookergate in 1911 and Cumberland origins were confirmed. No further children except that the presence of oldest son John William was noted.]

Thomas Skeen was born in North Northumberland but occasionally his birth was placed in Scotland where his father, Robert, was born - just over the border near Berwick. The family members all had agricultural occupations as labourers or shepherds who eventually migrated south through Northumberland and by 1891 were in Bywell. Thomas married a local girl and in 1901 they were living in Ovington. The move to Tyne Street was at the latest 1910 as Thomas was listed in the 1910 Property Valuation Survey at the Tyne Street address.

It is of interest to note that one of Thomas' brothers, Oswald, changed his occupation of 'shepherd' to that of 'butler' in 1901 and had moved to London.

No. 3. Driver, John/ Fairbairn, John.

Here again, apart from the Head whose birthplace was Norfolk, his spouse and children claimed Chopwell for their birthplace. The 1911 census gave a different picture with Clara (b. Durham), Ralph Race (b. Allendale, probably Allendale Cottages, Medomsley), Annie (b. Tudhoe) and Edith (b. Spennymoor). As with the Armstrong family (above) by 1906 the Drivers had moved to a larger house in No. 33 Severn Street.

The 1891 Census found the family in Spennymoor when Ralph Race (adopted son) was revealed as a nephew and John Driver's birthplace was identified as Erpingham in Norfolk. Most unusually John Driver was easily traced through another four censuses and in 1881 the entry for Tudhoe Village has John's wife as Sarah; evidence that Clara was John's second wife. In fact, John married Clara Robinson in Durham in 1889. The other entries gave the following information:

1851. John was living with his parents (father was an agricultural labourer) and his sister in Erpingham.

1861. John and his sister were living in the Workhouse at Erpingham. No parents were found.

1871. John was a Boarder with a family called Watson in Northumberland.

In 10 years John had moved from the Workhouse in rural Norfolk to lodging in rural Northumberland with only speculation to weave the story of his journey.

There were three Fairbairn families living in Chopwell and they were all related. John Robert Fairbairn at No. 3 Tyne Street probably arrived 1903-1906: his second youngest daughter was in the Chopwell baptism registers as being born in February 1906. The census entry stating Lanchester as her place of birth is therefore incorrect.

James, his brother, was living in No. 8B Clyde Street in 1910 so it is a surprise to find that the census placed him in No. 9B: the houses are adjacent, in the middle of a short terrace and both were identical, so if it represented a real 'micro-migration' then it seems rather pointless. Either record could be incorrect it is impossible to know.

Fred was a nephew to John and James and was established in No. 5 Frederick Street where he was single and headed a rather mixed household. With him were his widowed mother (sic) Ann, a widowed sister (sic), Mary Jane Irwin, a neice (sic), Lizzie May Irwin and a nephew (sic), Renold Oyston. In the 1891 census Mary Jane was described as 'married' and had the surname Trelease; no husband was present. Ann Wills was not Fred's mother but his grandmother and Mary Jane Irwin was his aunt not his sister. This incorrect relationship surfaced again in the 1901 census and it is most likely that Fred and his 'sister' Mary Jane were illegitimate children.

No. 4. Hunter, John/ Wills, Jonathan.

This is another family where the some of the census information was contradictory. In 1901 and 1911 John Hunter was said to have been born in Hebburn, in 1881 his birthplace was Tanfield while in 1871 it was Croniwell, Medomsley. In the latter case the County of birth was said to be Northumberland when it should have been Durham.

By 1911 John and Jane Hunter had moved to No. 7 Tees Street, in modern parlance they 'down-sized' to a smaller house. Living with them was a grandson - John Hunter Brown - who would appear to have been either an illegitimate son, or a legitimate son, of Mary Brown (formerly Hunter). In the 1901 census she was described as a 'daughter' of John/Jane Hunter and was married but there was no husband present. Again the 1911 Census Mary was a housekeeper to Andrew Eltringham in Howard Terrace at High Spen, she was described as 'niece' but again no husband was present.

In 1901 there was a 'Luke Brown', a son of John/Jane Hunter but the surname is not correct as it should have been 'Luke Hunter' and this was confirmed by the 1881 census. Luke married in 1902 and in 1911 he and his family were living in No. 16 Clyde Street, Chopwell.

There were four Wills' families in Chopwell in 1911 and two of them were living in Tyne Street; Jonathan at No. 4 and James at No. 8. These two were brothers and John was another brother who lived at No. 2 Wear Street. To complete this family group, who all hailed from Farlam, Cumberland, was Thomas Irving Wills who was a cousin, and he lived at No. 35 Thames Street.

John and Jonathan were in Chopwell for the 1901 Census while James could not be found. According to the 1911 census James was in Chopwell by 1902, however, the baptism register

has the child, Ida Marion, baptised in August 1900. So it seems quite likely that the three brothers migrated into the village at the same time before the 1901 census. Thomas Irving Wills came in later, between 1903 and 1906, when he was living in Blackhall Mill.

No. 5. Walton, Esther/ Oughton, Joseph.

The Head of the household was a widow and the surprise is that she arrived a widow as her husband died between 1881 and 1891, and yet she was allocated a colliery house. She did have two adult sons who both worked in the coke ovens, a fact that may have clinched the tenancy. In both the 1881 and 1891 censuses the family was in Consett and this fitted in with the stated birthplace for all the children. In 1911 Esther with two unmarried daughters was living in Park View, Medomsley. Two of the sons were married and at least one, William, was living at No. 21 Ravenside Terrace in 1911. The other, George, was associated with No. 7 Scott Terrace in 1908 and his name is down as tenant for the above house in the 1910 PVS but, for some reason, it was crossed out. In 1911 George, his wife and two children were living in Blackhill.

Joseph and Eleanor Oughton had no children from their nine-year marriage so the first evidence of their presence in Chopwell was in the 1910 PVS. Joseph's family was traced to New Brancepeth Colliery or Sleetburn just west of Durham City. The migration route is some 19 km.

It is of interest to note some characteristics of Joseph Oughton's parents - Thomas and Mary Jane. From 1881 to 1901 they lived in the same area until Thomas retired from mining, he and his wife moved to a miners' retirement house in Birtley for 1911. A daughter Mary, married William Smith, a butcher, and by 1911 their family had also moved to Birtley, where they lived in an adjacent street to Thomas and Mary.

No. 6. Charlton, Thomas/ Tate, Robert/ Rogerson, William

In 1891 Thomas Charlton was living with his brother and wife in East Chevington, some 14 km north of Morpeth. Ten years later he was living in West Carr House, Chopwell as a son-in-law to William/Ann Hunter as he had married their daughter Barbara Ann Hunter in 1890. Ten years later and Thomas/Barbara Ann were in No. 6 Tyne Street but thereafter there is silence with no entries from any of the registers. In 1906 William Hunter, Barbara Ann's father, committed suicide in Chopwell Wood so even if the Charlton's were still around then, it is possible that such an emotional event could trigger migration away from Chopwell.

Most references to birthplace were satisfactory, although Thomas was given three - North Seaton, S. Mile Bridge and Morpeth. The location of the second one is not known but lies probably within the triangle formed by East Chevington, Morpeth and North Seaton. If Thomas travelled direct to Chopwell from East Chevington then his migration trail was some 42 km; this ignores the migration trail from his birthplace to East Chevington.

No further information was discovered about Robert Tate.

William Rogerson had only been married for one year, and arrived into Tyne Street after the 1910 PVS. Although William's father came from Scotland, earlier census returns consistently identified William's birthplace as Consett. His father was, in fact, a Police Constable who had become a 'commission agent' by 1901 and, finally, lived at Burnopfield as a 'police pensioner' in 1911. William did not follow in his father's footsteps and, initially, he became an apprentice joiner before developing his skills as a 'stationary engineman' at Mickley/Chopwell.

No. 7. Lawson, William/ Robson, George.

The Annfield Plain birthplace of William was confirmed from the 1881 and 1891 censuses. The family moved from Tyne Street, probably to Greenhead Terrace, where the 1910 PVS had them living at No. 2 Greenhead. It is possible that the family was still there in 1911 but, unfortunately this is one of a number of streets which are currently 'lost' in the findmypast.co.uk transcriptions. A search for Greenhead Terrace draws a blank as does a search for William Lawson which could mean that they are there, particularly as the general search under his name draws a blank for anywhere in Durham/Northumberland.

One of William's brothers, Robert Henry Lawson, probably after the 1901 census, does arrive in Chopwell as the registers recorded the death of his wife in 1904 when they were living at No. 29 Severn Street. Again he is not found in the 1911 census.

There were nine Robson families living in Chopwell, illustrating the prevalence of the surname in this part of the country. Fortunately, George had a distinctive second name, 'Lisle' and so it was easy to identify him in earlier censuses. Born and raised in Winlaton Parish, his migration path to Chopwell took him first to Mickley in 1901, before arriving in Chopwell a year later. The elder of his

two surviving children, Edward Gordon, was baptised in Chopwell in May 1902 and so he was perhaps a year older than the 1903 date given in the census return.

It was noted that both William Rogerson in No. 6., and George Robson had the same occupation and both lived in Mickley Square in 1901. While they did not arrive in Chopwell together the fact that they ended up living next door to each other seems more than a coincidence. Perhaps William had been 'head-hunted'.

No. 8. Birchnall, George/ Wills, James.

In the 1911 census George and family were living in No. 34 Severn Street and the best evidence is that they moved from Tyne Street around 1905. The 1871 census George was living with his widowed father Simeon, whose birthplace is listed as County Durham, however, in 1881 he had remarried and his birthplace is said to be Lancashire. It is possible that Lancashire is a mis-reading of Lanchester but, on the other hand, Birchnall is a very uncommon surname in Durham/Northumberland: in fact there is only one other Birchnell (sic) in the Northern region in 1881 (according to the census) and he did originate from Lancashire. The probability is that Simeon was born in Farnworth, Lancashire in 1841. There are a number of confounding factors in this story as there is only one Simeon in the 1861 census and he is living with his father, John a widower, in Farnworth, however this Simeon was born in 1852/3 and was therefore some ten years younger than Simeon the father of George.

Examination of the 1891 census showed that George and family were living in Collierley, Dipton, of the two children the elder was born in Evenwood, South-west Durham while the younger was born in Dipton. If this is a real migration path then the family moved to Evenwood and returned to Dipton within two years before going to Chopwell. George's only sibling, his sister Margaret, was living in South Moor as a servant, with an illegitimate child: Simeon and Esther were not found in 1891 and a BMD search revealed that Simeon died in 1887 so with his death, it seems, that the family broke up.

The 1891 census also revealed that John Birchnall was living in Iveston, Leadgate having remarried. Also discovered was Simeon the younger, who was living in Brandon with wife and six children all born in the vicinity of Brandon. Here the mystery deepens as there is no sign of the family in the 1881 census, not in the Northern region, not in the whole of the country! Having the same first and second names and originating from the same area in Lancashire could be more than a coincidence but as yet there is no confirming evidence that the two Simeons were related.

See entry for Jonathan Wills at No. 4.

No. 9. Whitfield, John.

The Whitfield family was present for both censuses in the same house and were related through the marriage of their daughter Rebecca to the Armstrongs at No.1 Tyne Street. John Oxley Whitfield was born in Tanfield and appears to have spent his life in the area until about 1886 when the family moved to Hedley-on-the-Hill where the Armstrongs were already in residence. It is reasonable to assume that both of the above families moved into Chopwell at the same time and this date is estimated to be 1898-1900. What is known with better precision is that Elizabeth Whitfield died in 1911 and John Oxley Whitfield died in 1915, both in Chopwell.

Robert Whitfield, a son of John Oxley, also moved into Chopwell, was married in 1901 and was living in No. 20 Tees Street in 1911.

No. 10. Charlton, Jane/ Graham, George .

This is another case of a widow as Head of House although it is not certain if, like Esther Walton at No. 5 Tyne Street, Jane Charlton was widowed before she arrived in Chopwell. The husband Edward was alive for the 1891 census and the family lived in Wheatbottom, Crook. The 1881 Census recorded that the Charltons were still in Wheatbottom and their neighbour was Richard Bailey, the father of Jane Charlton: a son of the marriage was Richard Bailey Charlton. Pushing back to 1871 both the Charltons and Baileys were still in Wheatbottom and Edward was living with his widowed mother.

The Grahams were another local family from Winlaton Parish and a very small migration trail via Greenside/Ryton and then to Chopwell. The Grahams were living in Chopwell in 1901 although the address has been transcribed incorrectly; No. 31 Chopwell Lees Street, should be No. 31 Tees Street.

No. 11. Gill, George/ Elliott, Matthew.

Prior to his arrival in Chopwell, George Gill was traced to Mickley Square in the 1871, 1881

and 1891 censuses. A search in the 1911 census drew a blank but a manual search of the 1910 PVS found that George Gill was living in Greenhead Terrace. The reason why he was not found using the 1911 Census is because Greenhead Terrace is one of the 'lost' streets and there is no transcription (see Lawson entry above). A younger brother of George, Daniel, lived at No. 35 Blyth Street with his wife and five children. Further observations can be found in the entry for No. 30 Blyth Street.

Yet another family that exhibited a small migration trail as, earlier, Matthew Elliott had worked in the collieries around South Moor and Greencroft in Tanfield Parish. The family, which included four children and Matthew's father George (the entry had George as 'grandfather' but this seems unlikely), moved to Chopwell in 1897 where they took up residence in No. 7 Wear Street. By 1902 the family had moved to No. 11 Tyne Street.

Ten years on and the household had increased in size with another three children, George had disappeared and he was replaced by Rebecca Freek, Matthew's mother-in-law, plus a young nephew.

No. 12. Newton, Joseph.

Although Joseph Newton was born and was married in the adjacent Whickham Parish there is very little further information that can be gleaned using the available documents. The couple arrived with two children but had no more. Earlier In 1881 he lived with his widowed mother in Swalwell but although he had at least three older brothers, none of them follow him to Chopwell.

No. 13. Ripon, Frederick/ Burn, William.

Absolutely nothing has been found about the Ripon family.

William Burn and his wife were in No. 13 Tyne Street, Chopwell by 1910 but with no children they had zero impact on the registration system. William's father had been born in Wooler but he was in the Newcastle area c.1867 before moving to Kelloe - 10 km south-west of Durham City - where William was born. The 1901 Census recorded that William was lodging with a mining family in Esh some 7 km north-west of Durham City; the final 'hop' to Chopwell was 16 km.

No. 14. Wishart, Emmerson/ Robinson, Annie.

With a distinctive first name, Emmerson Wishart was traced readily to 1851 when he lived with his parents and brothers in High Spen. There is, however, some concern with his age, 11 years in 1851, as this implied that his 'mother' would have been aged 45/46 years old when he was born. While not physically impossible it is a rather unusually late age for pregnancy. Another possibility is that his father was his older 'brother' John who was listed as a widower in the same Household.

After a period in the Wylam/Prudhoe area, he married, but was back in High Spen for the 1881 Census. The census returns were consistent in the identification of Emmerson's birthplace as Spital Tongues, Northumberland. By the 1911 census the Wisharts had 'retired' (although Emmerson still listed his employment as an 'engine driver') to the 'idyllic' Rose Cottage, High Spen. All the Wisharts in the High Spen area were related.

Annie Robinson was a widow living with an unmarried son and a married daughter, Jane Carr; the son-in-law and a grandson completed the household. The six-year old grandson was born in Belmont in 1905 which was probably the earliest date of migration into Chopwell. The direct migration trail from Sherburn is c. 25 km.

No. 15. Harrison, Robert.

Robert Harrison and his wife originated from around Evenwood in SW Durham. Robert died in 1909 and according to the 1911 census he and Maria had been married some 12 years. They had three children, one of these died, evidently the first born, and there was a Joseph William who died in Chopwell in 1899 aged 9 months who matched the dates.

No. 16. Wilson, Thomas.

This is another small family with Thomas being born in Leadgate while his wife's birthplace was Netherington (Netherton in Northumberland). Thomas Wilson and Margaret Ann Stewart were married in 1895. Of their two children, one was born in High Spen and the other in Chopwell, which helped to narrow the arrival date into Tyne Street down to 1897. In 1881 Thomas, his parents and siblings were living at East Castle Colliery, Tanfield - a few kilometres from Leadgate.

No. 17. Foster, Thomas/Kelly, Thomas.

Thomas Foster was a special case as he was the village policeman and No. 17 Tyne Street appeared to be have been reserved for police use until a police-station was built. The evidence

is that the family had left Chopwell by 1903 as PC Foster was moved to another appointment. The 1911 Census indicated that between 1903 and 1911 the family appear to have lived in three localities - Darlington, Chester-le-Street and Rainton Gate - and by the last appointment Thomas had been promoted to Sergeant. The 1881 Census showed that Thomas' father was also a policeman in Langley Park. All the censuses consulted agree that Thomas was born in Cockfield, Durham.

Nothing has been found about Thomas Kelly who was a singleton

A3.1.2. Wear Street (1901-11)

No.1. Glendinning, Thomas/ Varty, Thomas

Thomas and Emma were a young couple with three children in 1901 and there is a strong suggestion that he probably was a son of Thomas (widower) living in No. 35. Wear Street. Thomas, the younger, had been born in Spen and he was found, aged ten years, in No. 23 Howard Terrace, Spen, in the 1881 Census. His father, Thomas, headed a Household of six, which included, his wife, Mary, Thomas and a younger sister, plus a mother-in-law, Hellen Parker and another ten-year old, a John Parker. This last youngster was claimed to be a 'son' of the Head which could mean that Thomas had married a widow or that John was the illegitimate child of Mary. In 1911 Thomas the father was living in Newcastle aged 83 and was still a Horse Keeper. The Household include his son Thomas (married but no wife present), his daughter Mary as House Keeper, a lodger and two grandchildren; Thomas' wife was not found nor had she died.

The 1871 Census cleared up the relationship between Thomas and the Parkers as his wife was now Elizabeth (m.s. Tulip) who was the mother of Thomas the younger; Elizabeth had evidently died between the Censuses. It is possible that Elizabeth was not a well-woman as the registered births to the couple indicated a sporadic pattern: for example, there were twelve years between Thomas and his older sister, Mary. Thomas and family were still in High Spen for the 1861 Census.

A search for Mary Parker in the 1871 Census found her living with her parents (Rodger and Hellen) in nearby Garesfield and the Household included three unattached grandchildren, one of these was John Parker. The evidence suggests that all three were illegitimate children to Mary and, after she married Thomas Glendinning, John Parker was absorbed as his son.

The Household History of Thomas Varty is contained in the entry for Varty in No. 28 Severn Street.

No. 2. Ward, John/ Wills, John

All the Wards in Chopwell were related in this period: Thomas and Mary were the parents of Henry, John, William and Thomas. The parents originated from Cumberland but moved out after the 1881 Census and were in Hamsterley for the 1891 Cenus, except for Henry as he was married and lived in Longbenton until they moved into Backworth for the 1901 Census. By this time Thomas and Mary had moved to Chopwell as had his sons John and William and families. The 1911 Census recorded four households headed by the four sons: Thomas the father had died in 1906 and his widow was living with her son William in No. 28 Humber Street.

There were two Wills families and both came from Farlam, Cumberland but no connection was proven, although in 1891 a nephew, Irving Wills, was living with the first family while a Thomas Irving Wills was part of the second family [Ref]. In a similar pattern to that of the Ward families above, three Wills brothers - James, Jonathan and John - were all living in Chopwell. The difference between the Wards and the Wills is that the parents - John and Ann - did not migrate with their sons but stayed in Farlam. In 1911 the unmarried Irving Wills was Head of the Household which included his uncle, aunt and his widowed cousin Elizabeth Jackson.

John and Isabel Wills were in No. 2 Wear Street possibly as early as 1902, apart from their only child, Isabel's widowed father was also living with them. His two brothers arrived before 1901 and both ended up living in the same street - Tyne Street. All three brothers had moved up the career ladder by becoming Deputy Overmen.

No. 3. Bell, Thomas

Thomas Bell and family arrived into Chopwell in the late-1890s and by 1901 had seven children: of these, three died in Jan./Feb. 1904. By this time the couple had had another two children and a final child, a girl, was born in 1906. Two of the children who died were girls - Margaret Phyllis and Florence May - so most unusually the last child was given the name, Margaret Phyllis Florence May. John was a widower by 1908 and remained in the house with four children and a servant, for help with three children under ten years.

The 1891 Census has the Bell family in Shildon, near Bishop Auckland, and in the Household was Elizabeth Gardiner, mother-in-law and widow, plus a grandson six-year old Paul W. Gardiner. The grandson is obviously not the son of mother-in-law Elizabeth, but most likely is the illegitimate son of her daughter, Elizabeth Bell.

No. 4. Pearson, Thomas M./Clydesdale, Joseph

Thomas Millican Pearson, wife and child came from Weardale although they were not traced

in 1891. There is little further to add.

Joseph was in sight from 1871 to 1911 and in the first one he was living with his grandmother, Hannah Irwin, his mother Sarah Clydesdale and two other siblings Elizabeth and Hugh. The status of Sarah - married, unmarried or widow - could not be determined. Of the 1871 Household Hannah died in 1879, Elizabeth died in 1874 and Sarah married John Lishman, a widower, in 1874. Joseph and Hugh moved in with their mother and step-father in Ryton Woodside.

Hugh and Joseph were both listed as married in the 1891 Census but Joseph's marriage was not found at all and the entry for Hugh had him married in 1880. According to the 1881 Census, Hugh was unmarried at this time. Hugh died in 1897 and his widow Jane remarried in 1898 to James Carter and they, with some of her children, lived in High Spen for the next two Censuses.

This left Joseph and family to occupy No. 19 Wear Street in 1901 and then No. 4 Wear Street in 1911. Three of Joseph's sons did not take the usual trail down the pit but took up 'Hackney Work'; later this family formed a small bus Company] and left pitwork for good.

No. 5. Ridley, William

William Ridley and family stayed in No. 5 for both Censuses. According to the 1901 Return, five of the children were born in Medomsley while one was identified as 'adopted': the later Census adds a further detail that the youngster was an 'adopted nephew'. As with the the Clydesdale family in No. 4 the Ridley children appear to have had a wide variety of employment outside the hewing of coal or mere housework. Two of the girls were school teachers and one boy was a butcher's assistant and another was a miming student.

In 1891 William and family were in Medomsley where strangely enough the birthplaces of those children, previously identified as being born in Medomsley, now claimed to have been born in 'Chopwell, Northumberland'. Apart from having the incorrect County, there was no evidence of any contact with Chopwell.

No. 6. Watkins, Edward/ Laws, Joseph

The 1901 Census had Edward married to Elizabeth with a family of nine children and a grandchild, Elizabeth, surnamed Watkins, which suggested that she perhaps was the child of a married son. Further investigation suggested that the child was illegitimate, probably the daughter of Margaret Jane, the oldest child and only daughter, as none of Edward's sons had married at this stage. Margaret Jane married Robert Woods in 1905 in Lanchester and by 1911 were living in Rowlands Gill with Elizabeth as the oldest child. The Chopwell parish registers recorded the baptism (1905) and death (1906) of a child to Edward and Elizabeth which again looks a little suspicious, as according to the 1901 Census Elizabeth would have been 45 years old at conception. By this time (1905 to 1906) the family had removed to No. 10 Wear Street before they left Chopwell for Tanfield Parish.

The Household in 1911 still contained eight children and a young niece. The youngest child, claimed to be a daughter of Edward, was born in 1905 which conflicts with the information from the parish registers, above; the couple can't have two separate children born in the same year. The same argument applies to the daughter, Margaret Jane. The conundrum is resolved by allocating one child to Edward/Elizabeth and one to Margaret Jane.

Researching back to 1881 Edward was living in Tanfield with his widowed mother and a younger brother Albert. By 1891 Albert was also married and was living in Chester-le-Street. The niece mentioned above was, in fact, a daughter of Albert.

These two families appear to be the sole representatives of the Watkins in County Durham. In the 1901 Census the birthplace of Edward was stated to be Stanley (County Durham) but in the earlier, and later, Censuses the birthplace was Gloucestershire. Albert was also born in Gloucestershire while their mother came from Herefordshire.

Joseph Laws was one of three brothers who were resident in Chopwell in 1911: Joseph was in Wear Street, Edward was in No. 3 Wear Street and George was in No. 3 Balfour Terrace. In 1901 all three couples were living in Medomsley.

The earliest reference to the Laws family was 1871 when George and Isabella Laws were living in Walbottle with Edward, Joseph and George. It was noted that George, at the age of 72 years, was some 37 years older than Isabella. George died in 1875 leaving Isabella a widow with three young children. Isabella remarried in 1878 to John Robson and in 1881 the family group were living in Victoria Garesfield. By 1891 Edward and Joseph Laws had married while George was living with his step-father and mother and all three groups were in Hamsterley Colliery,

Medomsley. Isabella died in 1891 so George and his step-father probably continued to live together until George married in 1893. In 1911 John Robson was living with George, his wife and daughter in Chopwell.

No. 7. Elliott, Matthew/ Nash, John.

In 1881 Matthew was living with his father and siblings in Greencroft His father was said to be married but his wife was not present. The following Census had the father in Lanchester where he was a lodger and single, which could mean that he was a widower. Meanwhile, Matthew had married and was living in South Moor prior to moving into Chopwell: the arrival was in 1898 at the latest as there were twin births recorded in the Methodist Registers for November 1898. When the Elliotts move out to Tyne Street to make way for the Nash family is not known precisely, although there are two register entries, one for each family, in August 1901 and October 1901 respectively. Unfortunately, there is no street address in either case but the balance of probabilities favours that the Nash family were in Wear Street by 1901.

The Nash family came from Glamorgan where the eldest child was born in 1897 and the next child was born in Annfield Plain some two years later. While the family must have been local for the 1901 Census it could not be found.

No. 8. Henderson, John.

The Hendersons were present in No. 8 for both the 1901 and 1911 Censuses. John himself died in January 1912 aged 66 years and his oldest son, George, pre-deceased him in 1906. The next son James was married in 1908 to Dorothy Brown, daughter of Edward and Helen Brown who lived in No. 27 Blyth Street: coincidentally the Browns, like the Hendersons, were also in the same house for both Censuses. Perhaps, because space was at a premium for both sets of families, James, his wife and child were living in rented housing in William Street in 1911.

According to the birth dates of her last two children, Ellen Henderson had two children in her early to mid-40s and the elder of the two was born in Crawcrook. Evidently the migration trail to Chopwell from Stanley involved several years in Crawcrook before the arrival in Chopwell for the birth of the younger child in 1897.

John and family could not be found in the 1891 Census but were in Tanfield for 1881.

No. 9. Foster, Christopher/ Stoddart, George

Christopher was traced forward to the 1911 Census when he had removed from Chopwell to Acklington in Northumberland. There was only one child born to the family in Chopwell and the next child was born in Choppington c.1904.

The 1891 Census recorded Christopher with his wife Annie and children living in Shildon, Co. Durham having married around 1886. Of interest was William Cornforth who was living as a 'visitor' but happened to be born at the same place as Christopher. The previous Census had the unmarried Christopher with his parents in Loftus, North Yorkshire, but heading the list of children was William Cornforth who was now identified as 'son'. This suggested that Christopher and William were step-brothers, however, the relationship could not be confirmed.

The travels of the Foster family show that in 25 years of marriage they travelled in North Yorkshire, then in mid-Durham, northwest Durham and finally south Northumberland. Serial travellers!

George Stoddart married Matilda Brown in 1908 and they had two children by the 1911 Census; they were both local, from Medomsley. Matilda was not found in the 1901 Census but the 1891 Census recorded her with her parents, William and Susannah, in Hamsterley Colliery. By 1911 William and Susannah were living in Rowlands Gill.

George Stoddart was the son of John and Dorothy who were living in No. 40 Severn Street in 1901. George was still there in 1911, although Dorothy had died in 1906 and he had remarried to Sarah Ann Wilson, a widow, in 1908; he acquired three step-children in the process. Also there were two brothers of his new wife in the Household. The birthplaces of the 1901 Stoddart family were interesting. George himself was born in Scotland, while his wife and three children recorded Durham City, but the next three were all born in Australia. The last child was born in Chopwell apparently eight years after the previous child and conceived when Dorothy was 44 years old. however, according to Dorothy's age at death she would have been only 41 years old.

No. 10. Broad, Thomas/ Watkins, Edward/ Richardson, John.

In 1911 there were four family groups with the surname Broad, three were from Cornwall and this suggested a family relationship. The fourth, John, was born in Long Benton, and could not

be attached to the Cornwall Broads, but in 1891 he was living in Sunderland with his parents Richard and Dorothy and five siblings. However, this couple are not the couple with the same name who were living in No. 14 Wear Street in the 1911 Census. Everyone in the household of the first couple had been born in Newcastle which includes Long Benton.

Daniel Broad was living as a lodger with another Cornwall family in Cramlington, Northumberland in 1871. His migration history from this date was Monkwearmouth (1881), Monkwearmouth (1891) and Boldon Colliery (1901). A younger brother Thomas, sometimes called Reuben, was living in Shildon in the 1891 Census, in a Household which included his wife and family, his mother, a married sister, her husband and another brother-in-law.

After spending the 1901 Census in No. 10 Wear Street, Reuben Thomas had moved to No. 22 Severn Street for the 1911 Census. The family were definitely in Severn Street by July 1909 as Reuben's daughter Margaret had an illegitimate child baptised at that time and two years later in December 1911 she presented a second illegitimate child for baptism. As was common with this situation the illegitimate child was absorbed into the grandparents family as their own daughter.

Edward Watkins has been covered by the entry for No. 6 Wear Street.

John and Elizabeth Richardson had been married for 35 years when they were in Chopwell for the 1911 Census; John was 58 and Elizabeth was 60. John was a native of Haverhill, Suffolk, while his wife came from Durham. The couple were not found in 1901 but John and two sons were found in Spennymoor; Elizabeth was absent. The only other trace was in 1881 when the couple with two children were living in Framwellgate Moor.

No. 11. Dixon, Matthew Naisby

Another family who decided to stay for both Censuses, Matthew and his wife originated from the Haltwhistle area. In 1871 Matthew was said to be a grandson of John/Ellenor Naisby, the Household also contained Jane Dixon (stepdaughter) and John Dixon another grandson. Ten years later Matthew was in Haltwhistle with the Bell family as a stepson: Jane Dixon had married William Bell. By 1891 Matthew had left the Haltwhistle area and had moved to into Hamsterley Colliery, lodging with a family called Ridley. In 1892 Matthew was back in Haltwhistle where married Frances Keenleyside before returning to Chopwell.

No. 12. Watts, Robert/ Hickman, Edward

Robert Watts, as a house carpenter living in a colliery house, must have been employed by Consett Iron Company, perhaps on repair work or on new housing in Chopwell. His three children were all born in Queensland, Australia so it would appear that the couple, Robert and Hannah, had spent a decade in Australia. It is not known if this was a failed attempt at permanent migration or planned short-term excursion.

There was no record of the individuals in earlier Censuses but Hannah and five children were living in Elswick for 1911; Hannah was a widow by this time. The early death of Robert, ten years after the return from Australia, hints at a possible health problem as a reason for the return to England.

Edward Hickman and family seem to have arrived in 1903 as their third child was nine years old in 1911. The date is not certain as the child was not recorded in the Parish Registers, unlike the last two children (Ref).

In 1901 the Hickman Household were living in Broomside, just outside Durham while in 1891 the newly-married couple were further south in Merrington. It was noted that Edward Hickman was born in Warwickshire but no other connections were found; Edward appeared to be on his own.

No. 13. Dixon, Thomas P./ Hopper, Thomas

There were only two links to the family headed by Thomas Pearson Dixon; the 1901 Wear Street address and 1911 Tay Street address. The Household were definitely in Wear Street by 1900 and could have been resident when the first child was born in 1897. Thomas married Mary Elizabeth Hodgson in Farlamb in 1896 and evidently moved quite quickly eastwards to become tenants in Chopwell by 1897.

Thomas and Isabell were childless after 26 years of marriage and the 1911 Census showed no births/deaths registered to the couple. Thomas himself was an only child born to John and Elizabeth Hopper. Both father and son were railway platelayers.

No. 14. Wilkinson, Henry/ Broad, Richard

Henry Wilkinson was born in Haltwhistle and his wife, Eliza, came from Cornsay, but there

was no evidence how they came to meet. If Ethel Clair was their child then Eliza must have been around 16 when the child was born: then the other conundrum was the fact that the birthplace was America. Unfortunately the family was not found in 1911.

The earlier Censuses, 1871 to 1891, recorded Henry living with his parents.

Richard Broad was one of the Cornwall Broads but his history was elusive. Tracing back to 1901 Richard was in Whickham in a Household that contained a son, John, a daughter, Margaret Stephenson (said to have been single), and a granddaughter, Dorothy Stephenson. No further links were established.

No. 15. Liddle, Alfred T./ Cape, John/ Westgarth, Cuthbert

The Liddle Household was not found in 1911 or 1881 so only two entries are available 1891 and 1901. Alfred and his wife originated from North Yorkshire and in 1901 all six children had been born in Yorkshire: the youngest child was only one-year old which suggested that the family had moved directly to Chopwell between 1900 and 1901. In 1891 the family were living in Lofthouse where Alfred was an ironstone miner.

The John Cape History can be found with related Cape families in No. 25 Severn Street.

All Westgarths were related through Cuthbert who first appeared in 1881 in Shildon. He and his family moved through Ferryhill (1891) and Allendale Cottages (1901) before they arrived in Chopwell. Cuthbert's sons Thomas and George also travelled with the father to Chopwell: in 1911 Thomas and family were in No. 35 Forth Street while George was in No. 41 Wansbeck Street. The only son not to take up residence in Chopwell was the youngest, Cuthbert, who returned to the Spennymoor area and married Beatrice Adams.

No. 16. Gordon, William/ Ward, John

William Gordon was traced back to 1881 living in Castle Ward with his wife and two children. William married Jane Thompson in Castle Ward District in 1876. Before coming to Chopwell the Household, which now included four children, were living in Usworth, County Durham. After an unknown stay in Chopwell the family were finally traced to Urpeth, near Chester-le-Street in 1911.

John Ward is covered by the entry for No. 2 Wear Street.

No. 17. Orr, David/ Fletcher, Charles

David Orr and his wife, both from Whitehaven, only appeared in the 1901 Census and no trace was found either in 1911 or 1891. The 1881 Census for Whitehaven revealed David and his wife with three young children living with his widowed mother. There were two sons, Peter and John, who can both be traced in 1901 and 1911, both with small families living in Whickham. Confusing the identification process there was another family headed by George Orr who in 1891 was living in Newburn. Two of George's sons were also called Peter and John and they moved into the Ryton/Crawcrook area. Since both families originated in Whitehaven it is likely that they were related although this could not be proven.

There was also another family from Whitehaven, John and Jane Orr, who moved into the Craghead/Oxhill area but again the link between the David Orr and John families was not found.

See entry for No. 30 Wear Street.

No.18. Johnson, Christopher/ Stamp, George

The 1901 Household included his wife, Elizabeth Jane, four children under 10 years and a Boarder, Charles Battie. In looking for a marriage for Christopher, the only possibility was to Elizabeth Jane Beattie in 1885, however, this implies that Elizabeth J. was approximately 15 years old - not impossible but unusual. There was also the possibility that Charles Battie could have been Charles Beattie (or vice versa) and therefore a relative of Elizabeth but this was not confirmed.

In 1891 Christopher, his wife and child were living in Walbottle: this first child must have died, as the infant, Christianna, in 1901 Census, was given the same name. Christopher was traced in both the 1871 and 1881 Censuses living in the Stanley/Tanfield area with his widowed father in the latter census. An older brother, Alexander, moved into High Spen probably between 1881-3. and was still there in 1911. Christopher and family moved out of Chopwell by 1905 and were living in South Moor - back to his roots - in 1911. On this occasion his wife's birthplace was not Lintz but Jarrow, an appreciable distance away: the first three children were born in Benwell, not Walbottle, while the birthplace of Gladys changed from Blaydon to Stanley.

George and Mary Jane Stamp arrived into Wear Street in 1905/6 and remained for the 1911 Census. Both parents came from South Durham and moved north into mid-Durham, Byers Green,

but they could not be found in 1891. The 1901 Census recorded the family in Dunston where one of their children was born in 1902; the next child was born in Wear Street in 1906. There was no evidence of a wider kin network in the area.

No. 19. Clydesdale, Joseph/ Matthews, John Wm.

The Clydesdale Household increased from seven to nine but the house move to No. 4 Wear did not alleviate any overcrowding as it was the same size. His brother was living in High Spenn in 1891 but died in 1897: his widow remarried a year later to James Carter and they lived in Clayton Terrace in 1901 and 1911. A daughter, Ellen, married Bart Teasdale and lived in Strothers Terrace and another, Elizabeth, was also married to Anthony Forster and they lived in Chopwell. There was a dense kin network involving the Clydesdales, Teasdales and Forsters.

John William Matthews married Jane Ann Caisley in 1900 (4th quarter) and the young couple were living in Thames Street for the 1901 Census. The birthplace of John was declared to be 'Eston Lane' which should be 'Easington Lane', while that of Jane was 'Allendale' which should be 'Allendale Cottages' in Medomsley. By 1911 John and Jane had three youngsters - all born in Chopwell - under the age of ten.

In 1891 John was in Bedlington with his parents and siblings while ten years earlier the family were in Cowpen near Blyth.

No. 20. Wallwork, William/ Adams, John/ Charlton, William Ed.

William Wallwork (Wallworth) was from Lancashire and his wife and five children all came from Bury. The traces that were found were uncertain: William was a cotton weaver pre-1901 and a scavenger in 1911 in Shuttleworth. The age was right but his wife was not.

The presence of John Adams in No. 20 Wear Street was found through a Parish Register entry for 1907 and later the 1910 PVS entry also recorded John. The family had removed to No. 7 Mersey Street for the 1911 Census. The 1891 and 1901 Censuses had John Adams and family living in North Shields and John, unmarried, lived with his parents and siblings in 1881.

It was probable that William E. Charlton arrived into Chopwell direct from Prudhoe to take up the residency of No. 20. As he had three brothers living in Chopwell, the alternative option was that he stayed with one of his brothers. His brothers - Richard, John and Robert - were all married by 1911 and were living in No. 9 Blyth Street, No. 28 Tees Street and No. 16 Tees Street respectively. All three had been present in No. 10 Tyne Street in 1901 in a household headed by their widowed mother.

No. 21. Little, William/ Hallcro, Nicholas.

In 1911 William and the rest of his Household were living in Ashington while in 1891, with four children and a nephew, they were in Tanfield. With the 1881 Census they were back into Northumberland, in Bedlington. At this stage the Littles had no children so the Household comprised William's mother-in-law, two brothers-in-law, a nephew and an uncle.

The Hallcro Household in 1911 comprised Nicholas, his wife and nine children. With such a large family and a consistent birthplace in North Shields it is surprising that they can't be found in either 1891 and 1901. The 1881 Census added the complication with an alternative spelling (Hallcrow) and this search did find Nicholas with his parents in North Shields but no further progress was made.

No. 22. Newton, Andrew/ Robinson, William

The Newton Household in 1901 comprised Andrew, his wife, two children, two brothers-in-law and two sisters-in-law. The presence of four young relatives hinted at a family crisis, namely, the death of parent(s). Andrew's wife, Mary Wilkinson (Mason) was a live-in servant outside her family home in 1891 and the rest of her family were living in Wylam; her parents were Thomas and Esther. The death of Esther occurred in 1893, coincidentally with the birth of her youngest daughter Jane - she would have 48 years old for this birth, so it could have been an illegitimate child (Mary, herself, was the only available candidate for mother). Thomas, who was left with five children under 13 years, would have required a full-time housekeeper. Thomas died in 1909. Two of his sons were married by 1911; John lived in Newburn while James lived in Heddon.

Returning to the Newtons, Andrew was traced to Ovingham (1911) and Brampton (1891) where he was with parents and siblings. In 1901 Robert, Andrew's father was living in Wylam with his wife and two children. The route to Ovingham was not direct so it was not possible to identify accommodation as an issue. The 1911 Household still contained two unmarried in-laws while Andrew and Mary had seven children so the Household size was eleven. The presence of kin in

the general area may have been the magnet to pull the Newtons into the Ovingham-Wylam-Prudhoe area.

William Robinson headed a mixed Household in 1911 that included a daughter, a grandson and a young family and child. It was readily determined that Frances Backhouse was the daughter of William and Mary Robinson and therefore Ernest was a son-in-law. Robinson is a common surname so it was not practical to search for William in earlier Censuses.

No. 23. Hardy, John/ Gordon, Robert

In 1901 John Hardy was a widower as Head of Household while ten years later, still a widower, he was boarding with a family in Leadgate. Between 1871 and 1891 the family, with wife present, were in Lamesley, Dipton and Dipton respectively. Although John had several brothers none were traceable. In the 1861 Census John was living with his widowed mother and siblings in Crookgate, Burnopfield.

No further details were found about the Gordon link. The 1911 Census indicated that Robert's wife, Margaret was formerly Margaret Waters and her sister Alice was living with them. In the 1901 Census Margaret and Alice were living with their parents and siblings in Crook. The 1911 Census recorded the Waters family in Tow Law in a Household which comprised twelve children: in all there were 16 children born to Thomas and Isabella Waters. In addition to Margaret and Alice Waters a brother John was living in No. 11 Nelson Terrace in 1911.

No. 24. Hudsmith, Joseph/ Briggs, William

Joseph and Margaret Hutsmith (Hudsmith) arrived into Wear Street possibly just before the 1901 Census, had two children between 1901 and 1904 and then returned whence they came to East Hedley Hope. The couple had another five births making a total of ten live births from twelve pregnancies.

William Briggs not found in any other Census but his Household was present in Chopwell before 1905. The grandson Robert was the illegitimate son of the eldest daughter.

No. 25. Randall, John H./ Wright, Robert.

In the 1901 Census it is John Henry while in the 1911 Census it is George Henry; the latter is taken to be correct. For the 1891 Census George was in Dipton, he was newly-married in 1890 to Sarah Brown. In 1881 George was living with his widowed mother and five siblings in Tanfield: only two of his brothers were traced, Joseph to Sunnyside and James to Burnopfield. Their mother came from Norfolk. Sarah Brown was traced in both the 1871 and 1881 Censuses to Collierley: her father Robert Brown had been born in New York, USA.

Robert his wife and child were found in Newburn for 1901 but there is very little further detail that can be extracted from the data about this family.

No. 26. Spark, Charles H./Brown, John/ Arthur, Thomas

The Sparks could not be traced.

John Brown's name only appeared in the 1910 PVS.

Thomas and his wife were a young married couple in 1911 but there were no further entries.

No. 27. Iley, Joseph.

Although present for both 1901 and 1911 Censuses the family was not found in earlier Censuses.

No. 28. Whealan, Michael/ Scott, Thomas

Unable to find the Whealan family.

Thomas Scott was a widower with three young children in 1911. His wife Ann Maria died in Chopwell in 1909 and according to the 1901 Census she had been born in Somerset. No further details.

No. 29. Dowson, Richard/ Allan, Robert

The Dowsons were in their mid-50s in 1901 with an 18-year old daughter Isabella (or Jane Isabella). She was possibly married in 1905 but no spouse was found. A decade later and Richard and his wife were living in a smaller house in Tees Street. The family were not found in 1881 but in 1871 Richard was living with his parents and siblings in Greenside. A search for two of his brothers did not turn up any other family data.

No further information on Robert Allan.

No. 30. Fletcher, Thomas/ Bell, Liel - Nugent, Richard

Thomas, born in Ovingham, headed a large household with seven children in 1901 which was to increase to eight in 1902. There were no other references to the family in the parish registers

so it is possible that the family had moved out of Chopwell between 1902 and 1905, as another family, Bell, prior to 1906, took over the tenancy. In 1911 Thomas was in Rowlands Gill where he lived with an even larger household; his house did have four rooms as opposed to three in Wear Street.

In 1906 another Fletcher, Charles, moved into 17 Mersey Street and he was still there in 1911. Charles was also born in Ovingham which suggested a link to Thomas. Search in the 1881 and 1891 Censuses confirmed that Thomas and Charles were brothers: their father was Christopher, born in Ovingham, and Mary, their mother, was said to have been born in Canada. The transcriber obviously had difficulty interpreting the handwriting and Canada was his best guess, however, it is wrong and it should be Canonbie, in Dumfriesshire.

Christopher was resident in Ovingham for the Censuses 1841-1901 and died there after 1901. In 1911 his widow, Mary, was living with Alfred Fletcher in Ovingham. Alfred was described as her son but in fact he was an illegitimate grandson. The same correction must be applied to another 'son', William. A 'bona fide' son, David, moved from mining into metal working and became a machinist in Elswick, Newcastle; he stayed there for three censuses 1891-1911.

This is the first instance of what appears to have been a shared tenancy. According to the 1910 PVS the registered tenant was Liel Bell, which made sense as he was a colliery worker, while the other tenant was Richard Nugent a Cinema Manager and Operator. No. 30 had two bedrooms and a large living room and the Census Return gave the Bells 'two rooms (shared)'. With the Bell Household of seven and the Nugents adding another three, there was a certain degree of overcrowding.

No. 31. Lowery, Thomas/ Peacock, Richard.

Thomas Lowery was already a widower in 1901 so with two young children he needed a housekeeper, who was a widow. At some time in the next decade Thomas moved into Castle Ward District and there he was remarried to Jane Isabella Stormont in 1908. In the 1911 Census Thomas, Jane and children were living in Newcastle and Thomas was employed at Wallbottle Colliery.

Richard Peacock was born in North Yorkshire and had been married for 17 years when he was identified in the 1911 Census. His youngest child was born in Chopwell but the residence was not known. A decade earlier and the family were living in Rowlands Gill: they were probably recent arrivals, perhaps 1900, as indicated by the age of the youngest child who was only one-year old and born in Witton Park. Also in the Household was William Peacock, a brother, who was deaf and dumb.

The 1911 Census also revealed that two other brothers, Christopher and Mark Ralph, were also in Rowlands Gill. Christopher had arrived, probably, with Richard, while Mark was still in Escomb in 1901 and followed later after getting married.

No. 32. Duke, Richard/ Robson, John.

The 1891 Census had Richard Duke in East Hetton, 1901 Census he, as a widower, was in Chopwell and 1911 Census he was back down in South Durham. In the mid-1900s the family had moved to No. 3 Humber Street which had four rooms. Richard's first wife, Mary Ann, died in 1899 and he remarried to Emily Bullock in 1902: finally his third marriage took place in 1910 to Eliza Smith. Richard was listed as 'married' in 1911 Census but there was no wife present in fact she was still in Chopwell in No. 3 Humber Street. A former widow she still had six unmarried family members still at home: in addition there was an infant, five months old, who was the illegitimate child of an unmarried daughter.

Apart from John Robson and family there were two other related Robson families in Chopwell for the 1911 Census. John's brother William was living in Hollins Terrace and their parents, Isaac and Agnes were No. 12B Clyde Street. They were all recent incomers as in 1901 the group was still in their home territory of Farlam, Cumberland.

John had married Jane Lowther in 1898 and two of her brothers, Robert and Thomas, had also made the journey from Brampton to Chopwell; they were living in Severn Street in 1911.

No. 33. Storey, John./ Charlton, John Geo./ Darling, Harry.

Jonathan (or John) Storey married Catherine Robinson in 1884 and the family were in Walbottle for the 1891 Census. The stay in Chopwell must have only been for a couple of years before they moved on to mid-Durham.

There is the death of Sarah Ann Charlton, aged 24 years, in 1906 in No. 33 Wear Street but

it is not clear who she was. The 1910 tenant was John George Charlton who was married to Mary Ann, however, a check on both of these revealed that John married Sarah Ann in 1905, she died in 1906, and John was remarried to Mary Ann in 1908.

Harry Darling came from Huntingdon and was with his parents and siblings in Somersham, St. Ives for the 1901 Census. He had been a farm worker so it was not surprising to find him looking after the colliery horses but what was surprising that he found his way to Chopwell. In 1908 he married Lottie Frost who was living in Severn Street for the 1901 Census. Allowing a year for the couple to get to know each other Harry must have arrived, with his sister and brother, sometime in 1907. Meanwhile back in Somersham his parents were both alive with some residual family still with them.

No. 34. Allison, Thomas/ Robinson, Joseph

Thomas and his wife Mary were residents in Crook in the 1881 Census; they had five children including Elliott, William and Thomas. A decade later and the family had moved to Shildon before migrating to Chopwell, via Willington, where they were living in No. 34 Wear for the 1901 Census. Thomas and Mary had had another five children making a total of ten: Mary died in 1904 at the age of 52 years. The changed circumstances may have triggered off a move to No. 2 Forth Street. John himself died in 1911 after the Census.

Two of Thomas' sons also moved into Chopwell at the same time as their father: Elliott, plus wife and three children, lived at No. 6. Tees Street, and William, plus wife and three children, lived at No. 28 Tees Street. All Tees Street houses had one bedroom and one living room and were the smallest size colliery houses in Chopwell; with two adults and three young children they could only be considered as temporary for such families. It is not surprising to see both families in larger accommodation with two bedrooms by 1911, particularly as both households had increased in size.

Elliott's wife, Hannah, had died although he remarried in 1907 and by 1908 was living in No. 35. Wear Street.

In 1881 Joseph Robinson was living with his widowed mother and two younger brothers in Stanhope. Searching for his brothers in 1891 revealed them living as stepsons to Nicholas Cawthorne - Joseph's mother had remarried in 1884. Nicholas had been born in Blackhall Mill in 1848 so it is plausible that his stepfather's knowledge of Chopwell/Blackhall Mill was important when Joseph chose Chopwell as a destination.

No. 35. Glendinning, Thomas/ Allison, Elliott

Related to Glendinnings living at No. 1 Wear Street. For details see above.

See Allison entry for No. 34 above.

A3,1,3. Blyth Street (1901-11)

No. 1. Clarke, John/Dodds, William.

John Clarke, Frances and family moved into No. 1. Blyth Street probably from Blackhall Mill and he arrived with three teenage children. Bearing in mind this is a two-roomed house the arrival of more children seemed to trigger a move to Thames Street after 1904. In 1904 there was a reference to the death of a boy named Hunter but it is not clear if he had been part of a family in residence.

The record is silent until William Dodds had a child baptised in 1908; the child died the following year. The 1910 PVS had a Peter Dodds as tenant but this was a mistake as there was no Peter in Chopwell at that time.

No. 2. Studley, Joseph/ Mason, Thomas/ West, Ernest

No further information on Joseph Studley.

There were a number of related Mason Households in Chopwell and some of the Mason story is contained in the entry for No. 42 Severn Street. The father of the related group was James Mason from Ireland and in 1901 he and his family were in Dinnington. Pushing further back to 1881 the family were in Birtley with four children – William, James, John and Thomas – and Ann Sidden from Ireland described as 'mother-in-law'. This latter description is incorrect as she was not the mother of James' wife but was the mother of James himself. In the 1871 Census, Ann Siddon (sic), James, his wife and William, a grandson, were in Elswick, where Ann was James' mother. As she had a different surname she must have been a widow and then remarried.

James died in Chopwell in 1906 and another son, Joseph, died in 1905. Taking the surviving sons in turn, William married Jane Moses in 1896 but she died, possibly giving birth to her son, in 1897, which was why William was back in his father's Household in 1901 as a widower. He was still a widower in 1911 when he headed a Household in No. 3 Tay Street, which contained his son, his widowed mother and his younger brother John with his two children. John married in 1901 and lived in Whickham for the 1901 Census, however, his wife was missing in 1911 and could not be traced. James married Elizabeth Stoddart in 1902 and was living in No. 16 Tweed Street in 1911. Finally, Thomas married Harriett Anderson and their first child was born in Dinnington in 1902 while a year later a second child was born in Chopwell and they occupied No. 35 Hollins Terrace in 1911. These dates suggest that the Masons arrived in Chopwell around 1902-3.

Ernest West only appeared in Chopwell for the 1911 Census and initially it was thought that any searches for past links would not prove fruitful; this pessimism was misplaced. There were four families named West who were all recorded in the 1911 Census: however, a superficial survey did not suggest any links, with one family from Yorkshire, one from Northumberland and another from mid-Durham.

Although West is not an uncommon surname, Joel West, who had moved into No. 31 Forth Street, had a unusual first name and seemed to offer the best chance to start a search, even though he had been born in Yorkshire. The 1901 Census found Joel and family in Byer's Green Colliery, near Willington, Co. Durham with Ernest West as the oldest of six children. The 1891 Census found the family in the Willington area. The earlier migration trail over the 1861-1881 censuses was followed into Pudsey, Yorkshire where, in 1861, Joel's father had married for the second time to a woman 32 years younger than himself. By 1881 Joel had moved out of his family home and was lodging in Pudsey with a family called Rayner, whose daughter Sarah, Joel eventually married.

Returning to Chopwell, Ernest's marriage to Mary Elizabeth was only of two years duration in 1911, but with a six-year old daughter named Jane Wilkinson it was obvious that he had either married a widow with one child or a single woman with an illegitimate child. The latter is the most likely option. Ernest's mother Sarah died in 1912 aged 57 years and a brother, Earl Fitzgeorge (simply George on the 1901 Census Return) died in 1910.

No. 3. Talbot, Michael/ Whitfield, John/ Carroll, John H.

Michael Talbot was present in 1901 but had removed to Gateshead for 1911. Both Michael and his wife were natives of Ireland and, probably, were married before they came to England. The 1891 Census revealed the Talbots living in Hamsterley Colliery with seven children – all girls – each one born in different place. From the oldest to the youngest the list includes – Tanfield (1871), Marley Hill, Shincliffe, Peshaw, Winlaton, Teams and Medomsley (1891). Some of these places changed from census to census, for example, Tanfield becomes Fatfield, which is a

different parish. The four census locations were Harraton (1871), Monkwearmouth (1881), Hamsterley (1891) and Chopwell (1901). As the family were moving very frequently there could be only a loose correspondence between the census location and the birthplaces of the children. Next door to Michael and family in the 1871 Census was a Peter Talbot, also from Ireland and he would appear to have been a relative, quite probably a brother of Michael; later their paths diverged.

Judging from the birthplaces of the three children the Carroll family could have been in Chopwell since 1905 or even earlier as they were married in 1903. There are no clues as to where they might have lived but No. 3 Blyth Street, a two-roomed house, could cope with a small family. If they did occupy No. 3 then it is difficult to explain the presence of John Whitfield in 1910, who moved to No. 20 Ravenside Terrace for 1911. It is not possible to decide which of them was the lodging family.

No. 4. Varty, John/ Watters, John

In 1871 John was living in Prudhoe with his parents and another six siblings. Ten years later the family could not be found but in 1891 John was married and living with his in-laws in Mickley. By 1901 John, his wife and two children were in Blyth Street; both children had been born in Mickley. There were no register entries and in 1911 the family was found in Stocksfield, so they had returned, perhaps, to more familiar territory.

John Robert Wat(t)ers was not the only representative of his family in Chopwell in 1911, a brother, William, was resident in No. 32 Coquet Street, while his widowed mother, Jane, was Head of a Household in No. 12 Wansbeck Street. Register entries for the two brothers suggested that they had been in Chopwell for some eight years and, further, that their father, James, died in 1911 aged 66 years.

In 1891 James and Jane were living in Brampton, the Household included a married daughter, Margaret Dodd, and one grandchild Sarah Dodd but there was no husband registered. A search eventually found the Dodds living in Tay Street, Chopwell in 1911 with six children but no Sarah. It was then realised that Sarah Waters who was living with her grandmother, Jane, was in all probability the missing Sarah Dodd. Who was Arthur? The 1901 Census for Haltwhistle revealed that Arthur's real name was also Dodd. So, for some reason, two of Margaret Dodd's children were permanent residents with their grandparents while their parents lived a few streets away.

No. 5. Maddison, Josiah/ Marshall, Robert

Josiah Maddison headed a small family of his wife, Margaret Jane, and a two-year old son; Josiah married Margaret Jane Harding in 1896. A search in the 1911 Census only turned up Joshua Maddison also married to a Margaret Jane, with two young children, living in Brandon, however the marriage was only seven years old. If Joshua = Josiah then the first Margaret Jane must have died but no matching death was found.

The Marshalls were another single entry for the 1911 Census although the registers show their presence in the village at the latest by 1907. The marriage was only nine years old and neither parent could be traced in any earlier Census.

No. 6. Fewster, Henry/ Hume, Thomas

In 1881 Henry was with his parents and siblings in Barlow – essentially home territory as his parents, George and Isabella, had been born in Greenside and Spen respectively. The Household moved out to Tanfield Parish where it was recorded in 1891. The precise date of the marriage of Henry and his wife, Jane, was not found. The 1911 Census found the family back in Tanfield Parish.

The father of George Fewster was found to be John Fewster of Ryton and he was living with ten children in 1851. A brother of George, Robert, was also in Ryton with another large family for the 1891 Census. Apart from another Fewster family who lived in New House Farm from 1851 to 1881, there were no other Fewsters in Chopwell.

By 1911 the six-year old marriage of Thomas and Elizabeth Ann Hume had produced four children all born in Chopwell. No further information was discovered about this family.

No. 7. McGeary, Patrick/ Nicholson, Ralph

Patrick arrived in Blyth Street with a one-year old child born in 'Allendale' (this is Allendale Cottages in Medomsley), however, the 1911 Census showed that there was an older child who was elsewhere on the 1901 Census night. Kate or Catherine was found living as a niece in a Medomsley household of William Lynop; both he and his wife were Irish. A search for the marriage of Patrick found that his wife had been Mary Lynap (sic), so she was the sister of William Lynop.

The William Lynop Household seems to have broken up during the decade and the only one found was William the son, who was married and lived in Blackhall Mill. William and his wife, Ellen, had no children by 1911 but did have a 'Lodger' who, in fact, was Ellen's brother, Thomas Simpson.

There is one reference to the death of John Thirlwell Nicholson, an infant, in 1906, whose address was No. 7 Blyth Street. This child is thought to be the child of Ralph and Margaret Nicholson who were in occupation of No. 7 in 1911. The marriage was only nine-years old but there was a great disparity in the ages – Ralph was 54 while Margaret was 30.

No. 8. Storey, George/ Ramshaw, Thomas

George married Elizabeth Eltringham of Ryton in 1896 and their first two children were born in Ryton. Their stay in Chopwell was relatively brief, perhaps three/four years, as the next child was also born in Ryton as indicated by the 1911 Census. In addition to Elizabeth's kin connections to Ryton, George also had family living in the Ryton area. His father, two unmarried brothers and a married sister, Hannah Dodd, formed a Household in Crawcrook in 1901. There is doubt about the married status of Hannah, as there was no husband recorded: in 1911 Hannah had reverted to her maiden name and she was single. A grandson listed in the 1911 Household could have been an illegitimate child. Another brother, William, to George was living in Ryton in 1911 with a large family but had been elsewhere in 1901.

John Storey, father of George was an octogenarian in 1911, and he originally had migrated from the Brampton area where he was identified in the 1881 and 1891 Censuses. His wife, Bridget, could have been Irish as in the 1881 Census her birthplace was Ireland, but in a later Census this was replaced by Brampton.

The Ramshaw history is contained in the entry for No. 30 Severn Street.

No. 9. Nicholson, George/ Charlton, Richard

George and Ambrosina Nicholson arrived in Chopwell with two young children probably between 1898 and 1900. By 1911 the family had expanded to five children and had moved to No. 18 Blyth Street. This house had an extra room compared with No. 9 Blyth Street but the move took place probably in 1902 when the headcount was lower.

Edward and Jane Charlton probably arrived in Chopwell before the 1901 Census because Edward died in 1900 (third quarter) in Gateshead Registration District. It is unlikely that Consett Iron Company would allocate a house to a widow so the assumption is that Edward was resident in Tyne Street before his death. Further details are included with the entry for William Edward Charlton in No. 20 Wear Street

No. 10. Jones, Edward/ Harvey, Joseph/ Frost, John Thomas

Only a single entry for Edward Jones, nothing further was found out about him.

The Harvey Household was identified in 1910 at this address but a year later the 1911 Census found him in No. 4 Hollins Terrace. The two youngest children had been born in Chopwell from which it could be inferred that the family had moved into Chopwell in approximately 1909.

The 1901 Census recorded Joseph Harvey with his parents, Thomas and Mary Elizabeth, and siblings in Collierly. Similarly the 1891 Census saw the family in Heworth while in 1911 the parents were living in Annfield Plain.

The Frost family, headed by Richard, was recorded in 1901 Census living in No. 35 Severn Street and among his household was John Thomas, his oldest son. John T. Frost married and moved into No. 10. Blyth Street. Although John Thomas' birth place was stated to be Durham the precise location of a 'Barrow Joss' is not known. Richard Frost and his wife Sarah had both claimed Suffolk to be their County of birth: Hargrave is definitely in Suffolk but there is a question mark over the location of Chevington. There is a Chevington in Northumberland and another in Shropshire but neither of these options seem to fit the bill.

The 1891 Census confused the picture even more as 'Chevington' was replaced by 'Cherrington' again claimed to be in Suffolk: unfortunately the family cannot be found in the 1881 Census to get a third opinion. The favoured assumption is that Suffolk is the correct county, precise village/parish unknown.

Richard with his parents and siblings were present in Hargrave from 1861 to 1871 and Harry Richard Frost, the son of one of his brothers turned up in Chopwell in 1911.

The other person of interest in the Richard Frost 1911 Household is the granddaughter Sarah Elizabeth Woodhall, she was the daughter of, Elizabeth Ann who, in turn, was a daughter of

Richard. Elizabeth married a James Woodhall and, with Sarah, he formed a small household of three in Tees Street, Chopwell in 1901. Sarah was with her grandparents because her mother died in 1905. There was also a brother George, born in October 1901, after the Census, and a search for him found that he was living as a nephew to a widow Cowen in Tow Law. Presuming that his father had remarried, a further investigation found James, with his new wife and two children, also living in Tow Law. Although the 1901 Census has the birthplace of James as being Low Fell, Gateshead, it is apparent that this should be Tow Law, as is stated in the 1911 Census.

A possible explanation for this scenario is that on the death of his wife James returned to his birthplace with one of his children, leaving behind his daughter with his in-laws. James then lodged with a married sister before he remarried and moved out to form a new household, leaving his son from his first marriage in the Cowen Household.

No. 11. Folley, Samuel H./ Griffiths, Henry/ Ridley, John

There is little more to add to the Folley story. No entry was found for the family in the 1911 Census, although there was a trace back to 1891 when Samuel was living with his parents in Merrington.

The 1910 PVS recorded Henry Griffiths as the tenant in No. 11 Blyth Street and a year later he was living in No. 7 Tay Street. The 1911 Census Form did not give the duration of the marriage and the number of children born in the marriage was recorded as 'none'. In view of the fact that two children were listed in the Return this seems contradictory. Assuming the statement was correct then it was possible the children were adopted or their mother had died and Henry had remarried. The 1901 Census had the Griffiths in Escomb and Henry's wife was a Margaret, suggesting that Margaret had died and was replaced by a Kathrine. Unfortunately, matching death and remarriage dates were not found, so it was not possible to resolve the issue.

John Ridley only had the one entry and had no links to other Ridley families. The birthplace of the only child showed a stay in Blackhall Mill.

No. 12. Hird, Frederick

The house was empty for the 1901 Census

Some of the history of the Hird Household is outlined in the entry for his parents in No. 36 Severn Street. Exploring the background of Elizabeth Ellen, Frederick's wife, it was found that the marriage occurred in the last quarter of 1902 and her maiden name was Herdman. This linked the Hirds with an extensive network of farmers and agricultural workers occupying Ash Tree Farm and New House Farm. The Herdmans originated from the North Tyne valley.

No. 13. Ruddick, J.J./ Allen, Robert/ Jobling, James

There were a number of Ruddick families and, while they all came out of the Farlam/Brampton area, in the time-frame considered, no kin connection was proven between the two main groups. In 1881 the family group headed by Charles Ruddick was in Farlam but could not be found in 1891, although his Household reappeared in 1911. Joseph Jackson Ruddick was one of his sons who married in 1894 and probably moved out of his parents house to form an independent Household. In 1901 he was in No. 13 Blyth Street but in 1902 his wife died and he moved back to Farlam where he remarried. Then he returned to Chopwell and took up residence in No. 32 Wansbeck Street. Another two sons of Charles, Frank and John, took up residence in Nos. 5 and 27 Thames Street respectively.

Robert Allen (or Allan) appeared in Blyth Street in 1906 and by 1910 he was in No. 29 Wear Street. The 1901 and 1881 Censuses has Robert living with parents in Medomsley.

James Jobling was present for the 1911 Census but had been present several years earlier living in No. 22 Severn Street which was occupied by Thomas Broad and family. A search for the marriage of James and Harriett revealed that her maiden name was Broad and further that Thomas Broad was her father. The couple were evidently living in with parents until a house became available.

No. 14. Woof, Charles/ Dickinson, James

Charles Woof was living alone and it was thought he was waiting for his wife to join him. In 1901 his wife Maria was a visitor with a family in Farlam, with her was a son Fred. Maria and Fred eventually arrived in Chopwell and probably moved straight into No. 28 Wansbeck Street, before April 1906 which was when Maria died. Charles was remarried by 1910 to Sarah but his unlucky streak continued as Sarah died on November 21st 1911 perhaps due to complications in childbirth; her son was born on October 24th, 1911.

James Dickinson married Sarah Hollen Hudson in 1905 in Gateshead District and the couple were to have two children by the 1911 Census. His parents John and Margaret Dickinson were living in Whickham for the 1901 Census with four children. John's occupation was 'retired miner' and in 1911 his Household were in Chopwell where he was 'caretaker' for Chopwell West Schools. The arrival into Chopwell was before 1905 and may have been as early as September 1901 – the date the school was opened and he could have been the first caretaker. The Registers recorded the deaths of two infants, 1905 and 1908, living in School House and these could have been children born to James and Sarah before they were allocated a colliery house. John Dickinson and family were not found in the 1881 and 1891 Censuses.

Sarah Hudson was traced to her family in Oakenshaw in 1901; her father, Doctor Hudson, had been born in Lancashire, while her mother, Rebecca, came from South West Durham. By 1911 the Hudsons had also moved into Chopwell with Doctor and Rebecca living in No. 5 Clyde Street. Another son, Richard, was in No. 24 Tees Street and an older brother of Doctor lived in No. 8 Tay Street. It would appear that the wider kin network had conveyed the message, 'come to Chopwell, for a new job and a new house'.

No. 15. Hall, William

William Hall and family were present for both the 1901 and 1911 Censuses but neither William nor his wife were traced in earlier Censuses.

No. 16. Johnston, Thomas/ Newton, Richard

Thomas Johnston, his wife and two children appeared to have no kin members in the large number of Johnson/Johnston families in Chopwell. One child died in 1901 and another was born in 1902. By 1911 the Household had moved out of the study area and into Highfield. Attempts to trace back beyond 1901 were unsuccessful although the search for the marriage of Thomas and Ellen did turn up a probable entry for 1900 in Durham: her maiden name was Whitfield but again no further links were found.

In 1881 the Household of Pattison Newton was in Newburn and among the six children was Richard Newton. Ten years later the household size had increased by another four children and the family were in Victoria Garesfield; here Pattison stayed for the next two Censuses. Meanwhile his son Richard married Mary Ann Cook in 1900 and soon took up residence in Blyth Street where the couple stayed until Mary died in February 1910. The Registers detail a sad picture of five births and four deaths in the family of Richard and Mary Ann.

No. 17. Wills, James/ Nixon, Adam/ Manning, Patrick

James was one of three brothers who had settled in Chopwell between 1900-11. In 1881 the three brothers were living with their mother in Farlam, Cumberland but their father, John, was not present; however, he was found living in Brampton. In 1891 John was back with his family still in Farlam and within five years his children had left the family home, moving to Chopwell. The 1901 Census recorded that John and Ann were still in Farlam. James and family were living in Tyne Street in 1911.

Adam Nixon was the son of a farmer in Benfieldside who was present in Chopwell for a few years between the 1901 and 1911 Censuses; he was in Blyth Street by 1905 but had moved to Hamsterley by 1909. For 1911 Adam and family were in Blackhall Mill.

The Mannings arrived into Chopwell late in the decade from the Brandon area. In 1881 he was living with his widowed father, Martin, and other siblings in Helmington Row. The birthplaces of two children suggest that the Mannings had been in Gateshead area with one in Blaydon and the other in Swalwell.

No. 18. Phipps, William/ Nicholson, George

William Phipps was married in 1885 to Fanny Brough and in earlier Censuses, 1871 and 1881, he was living with his parents, Thomas and Elizabeth and siblings. The Censuses, 1871 to 1901, are equally divided in giving William's birthplace as Linton, Cumberland or Linton Cambridgeshire: the latter is assumed to be correct as there is no Linton in Cumberland. Prior to Chopwell, William and Fanny lived in Throckley.

The itinerary of Thomas and family, as indicated by the birthplaces of his children, makes for interesting reading: Plymouth (1858), Falstone (1862), Linton (1865) and Willenhall (1869). By 1871 the Household was in Bellingham, so in the space of some ten years the family has travelled up and down the country not just once but twice. Thomas died between 1881 and 1891 and the latter Census found Elizabeth, his widow, living with son Thomas and his wife in Throckley. Ten

years on in 1901, while still in Throckley, Elizabeth was with her daughter, Sarah and son-in-law Robert Dixon.

See the entry for George Nicholson in No. 9 Blyth Street.

No. 19, Cowper, John/ Robinson, John

John Cowper had the birthplace of Gainsborough in the 1901 Census but in the other Censuses it appeared as Guisborough in Yorkshire. His wife appeared to have come from London and she was also classified as 'Deaf and Dumb'.

For the 1881 Census the Cowper Household was in Normanby, Middlesbrough and John was an iron miner but he moved north into County Durham and changed his occupation to a coal miner. After some time in Chopwell the Cowpers left and moved south to Trimdon where he was employed as a caretaker of the Liberal Club in 1911. The reason for the change in job is not known but perhaps he was unable to continue mining work. Three of his children were married and living in Trimdon.

There were two other surnames linked with this house – Gladden and Cairns. The first was an illegitimate birth in 1905, followed a few months later by the death of the infant; the mother could not be traced. The Carns family baptised an infant in 1910 and was living with the main Householder, John Robinson.

John Robinson was found in both the 1881 and 1891 Censuses living with his parents and siblings in High Spen; his father came from Cumberland. John married Mary Ann Little in 1895 and lived in High Spen until at least 1905

No. 20. Hewetson, John/ Ibbetson, John

Although John Hewetson and his wife Elizabeth could not be found in 1911 two of his children were: A daughter Grace was a house servant in Wylam and a son William was living with grandparents in Throckley. The dispersal is suggestive of bereavement of not just one but both parents but the deaths were not traced.

Apart from the 1901 Census record of John Ibbetson and family living in Rowlands Gill, nothing further was found about the family.

No. 21. Teasdale, James/ Houston, John

James Teasdale was a resident of the USA but it is not clear if he was born in USA or just emigrated and returned. His marriage and all the children were born in County Durham. The Registers show that the family lived in Blyth Street until 1908-09 when they moved to No. 19 Mersey Street: the youngest child was born at the above address but by 1910 the family had moved again to No. 4 Mersey Street. It was not possible to explore the Teasdales any further back than 1901.

James Teasdale married Jane Ann Hepburn in 1895 so it was possible to explore the Hepburn line. Her parents were Suthran (Southern) and Mary Teasdale who lived in mid-Durham area for the 1881 and 1891 Censuses. Pushing back to 1851, 1861 and 1871 began to reveal a few anomalies.

First, in 1851 Thomas and Hannah Hepburn had a Household nine children with the youngest, Salem (probably Southern), aged one year, however, with Hannah aged 46 this does not appear to be likely. By 1861 Southern was identified as 'grandson', in other words he was illegitimate, and his mother was probably Jane Hepburn, the oldest daughter. In the same Census there was Thomas Ramshaw, another grandson, whose identity became clearer in the 1871 Census: here Jane appeared again with the surname Ramshaw, with Thomas and Frederick. Jane was recorded as married but no husband was present. In addition there was another grandson, John Holmes. Southern was also in the Household aged 21 but still a grandson. By 1881 Thomas was a widower, with son Thomas, a tailor, and Jane and Frederick Ramshaw. On this occasion Jane was described as a widow.

John Houston (Howston), his wife and two young children were living in Highfield for the 1901 Census although their one-year old infant had Chopwell as birthplace while the older one was born in Blackhill. While further details on John were not found, his wife, Barbara Temperley was well-documented. Her parents and siblings were in No. 7 Thames Street for both the 1901 and 1911 Censuses: a brother John was living in No. 16 Coquet Street for the 1911 Census. Earlier Censuses found the Temperley family group in Whickham (1891) and Winlaton (1881).

No. 22. Stones, John/ Sedgewick, Robert

John Stones and family were traced to West Auckland in 1881 and in the earlier 1871 Census

John was living with his parents and siblings also in West Auckland. Both his parents originated from Yorkshire. The 1891 Census showed that the Stones had migrated a little further north to Brandon before moving to Chopwell with a mature family. A son of John, James, married Ellen Taylerson (he was a boarder with her family in Brandon in 1901) and took up the residency of No. 20 Severn Street. Ellen's brother, aged 13 years, was living with them in 1911. Apart from her married brother living in Holmside, Durham, no further information - deaths or marriages were found.

By 1911 the Sedgwicks had been in Chopwell for several years but there were no more children to the marriage so there were no register entries. The migration trail for Robert Sedgwick included Crook (1871), Brandon (1881), Sunnyside (1891) and Broom (1901). For the first one Robert was still with his father and siblings while there is some doubt as to the identity of his mother. By 1881 his father had remarried (1876) but this stepmother died just after the Census in 1881; his father died in 1887, although the marriage certificate of Robert, 1888, does not show this. Robert married Sarah Jane Elmes, born in South Wales in 1870, before her parents moved to County Durham via Yorkshire.

No. 23. Milburn, George/Gibson, William/Graham, William/Simpson, Joseph

There is very little more to be added to the Milburn story as the family was not found in the 1911 Census. His wife and children have 'Lingdale' as birthplace, this could be 'Lindale' which is in Lancashire.

William and Margaret Gibson had a number of Parochial Register entries in the mid-Census period. There was baptism in 1906 and a death in 1908 for the Blyth Street address, thereafter there is confusion in the Registers. The family had moved by 1910 as there was a birth registered for March 1910 against an address for 'No. 57 Clyde Street' and later the death (of the same child) at 'No. 51 Clyde Street' in February 1911. Assuming the 'No. 57' should be 'No. 51' or vice versa, rationalises the entries, but, the Clyde Street numbers stopped at 'No. 48', so Nos. 51 and 57 did not exist. However, thirteen new houses had recently been completed and occupied and these houses were eventually numbered Nos. 1B to 13B Clyde Street, so it is possible to see how some confusion could arise. In 1911 the Gibsons were living in No. 2B Clyde Street.

The William Graham entered for the 1910 PVS could not be traced.

Apart from the 1911 entry the Simpsons were only found in Medomsley for 1901. Several of their children had been born in Milkwell Burn and others in Highfield. The move to Chopwell must have been made from Highfield.

No. 24. Skelton, John/ Bruce, ?/ Collinson, Joseph

The 1871 Census listed John with his parents while in the 1861 Census there were another two children, Dorothy and William. In 1881 John was living with his widowed father and his grandmother and then in 1891 he was lodging with his married sister, Dorothy. Meanwhile his father had remarried and was living with his new wife in Byers Green. John's family was not found in 1911.

The reference to a Bruce family in 1905 was for the death of a young boy with no information about his family.

The history of the Collinson family is detailed in the entry for No. 1 Tyne Street.

No. 25. McNestry, Patrick

In 1881 James and Catherine McNestry with their ten children were living in Allendale Cottages, Medomsley: James was from Ireland while Catherine was from Durham. She was only 35 some 14 years younger than her husband so with an oldest son aged 26 Catherine was obviously James' second wife, at least. Although this family was the only McNestry family in England, searches in the period 1861 to 1871 were unable to retrieve any further background information. By 1891 the large family had disintegrated and James, wife and three children were living in Benwell, Newcastle. James died in 1900 but the fate of Catherine over the next decade is not known.

Four of James' sons – William, Patrick, Joseph and John – were all traced to Chopwell for the 1901 and 1911 Censuses. Patrick was present for both censuses in the same house, while Joseph was similarly present in No. 44 Thames Street. William was in No. 14 Severn Street (1901) and John was in No. 11 East Street (1911).

No. 26. Hutchinson, Thomas/ Stewart, William

Thomas Hutchinson, his wife and two step-children were only present for the 1901 Census.

Further searches were fruitless.

William Stewart came to Chopwell with a mature family and there are no Register entries to support an earlier arrival date than the 1910 PVS record. His three children were all born in Medomsley and the 1901 Census found the family in Low Westwood, Medomsley. The 1891 Census has the family, two children, plus his widowed mother living in the same address in Low Westwood.

The 1881 Census has Elizabeth, the mother, Head of House in Bywell: she was a widow then with five children. One of William's brothers, Henry, was married by 1891 and lived in Low Westwood with two children. For the next two Censuses he remained in the Low West wood. Another brother John also married and stayed local in Blackhall Mill for the 1911 Census.

No. 27. Brown, Edward

By the 1891 Census Edward was newly married and was living in Prudhoe, the village of his birth. The move to Chopwell probably took place after 1899 when his youngest daughter was born in Hamsterley. Although Edward was present in the same house for 1901 and 1911 Censuses, his last child (born 1904) had his birthplace recorded as Crawcrook. As with similar cases it is difficult to believe that the Household migrated to Crawcrook for a few years and then was able to return to exactly the same house. There are other more plausible explanations for this entry so the ten year residence period is accepted.

No. 28. Hetherington, William/ Forster, Robert/ Winship, James

The Hetheringtons certainly arrived in Chopwell before the 1901 Census, perhaps a minimum of six months before. According to the transcript Mary, wife of William, was born in 'Seavehill', this should be Seghill, however, the 1911 Census has a different birthplace altogether; Coanwood, nr. Haltwhistle is kilometres away from Seghill. The 1891 Census, when William and Mary were in Pegswood, Northumberland, recorded Mary's birthplace as Seghill. This mini-saga does not end here as in the 1881 Census Mary was a housekeeper to her grandfather in Blenkinsopp with the birthplace of Coanwood.

There were two deaths registered for 1906 and 1907 both for young boys named Gillespie. The family to which they had belonged could not be traced.

Robert John Forster was a temporary resident in Blyth Street before moving to No. 11 Mersey Street after 1910. In 1901 he was living with his parents and siblings in Hamsteels.

James Winship was present in the 1911 Census. James was, however, a serial 'house-mover' as in 1901 he was in Hamsteels, then in 1904 he was in No. 4 Blyth St, in 1908 he was in Richardson Terrace and then in 1911 it was 28 Blyth Street.

Further details are contained in the Severn Street entry for Albert Winship.

No. 29. March, Thomas/ Askew, Andrew

Thomas March was born in the village of Addison, near Blaydon, but was not found in 1871 or 1881: however, he was found in Dipton, married with two children. The elder child was two-years old so a search for the marriage between 1888 and 1890 came up with two options; he married either Mary Jane Clark or Mary Jane Robson. At this point it was not possible to confirm which of these two Thomas married.

In 1901 and 1911 Thomas and family were in Chopwell first in Blyth Street and then Tweed Street. Initially, it was considered that the house move was a simple micro-migration to a larger house, however, it was noted that the birthplace of the youngest child was listed as Mid-Craghead ie. not Chopwell. This suggests that the family moved out of Chopwell and returned a few years later to live in Tweed Street. Alternatively, the mother could have stayed with a relative to have her child and then returned to Chopwell after the birth. The latter option is a real possibility because from 1899 to 1903 Thomas and Mary Jane buried four infants during their early years in Chopwell, perhaps by having the child outside of the village, they thought that this would avoid the apparent 'jinx' on the family. The couple in 1911 had recorded eleven pregnancies with only five surviving children.

The 1911 Census also provided the clue to Mary Jane's maiden name as the oldest boy was known as Ralph Clark March, also on the form in miniscule hand-writing against his name were two words, 'before marriage'. Mary Jane was therefore Mary Jane Clark before marriage. This information was potentially useful but she could be traced to any Clark family.

If the family did move out of Chopwell altogether before the return into Tweed Street then in 22 years of marriage the Household changed houses at least five times.

Andrew Askew did not have a good start in life as in 1891 he was in Hexham Union Workhouse. His situation had improved by 1901 when he was married with two children and living with his in-laws in Prudhoe. The next move to Chopwell had taken place by 1908 at the latest and the 1911 Census showed that Andrew had achieved the status of a hewer. The 1911 Household contained a Robert Hart who was the brother-in-law of Andrew, although he was only classified as a Boarder. A register entry for 1910 was for the baptism of Doris, an illegitimate child of Elizabeth Eleanor Hart, a cousin (probably) of Mary Jane. In 1901 Elizabeth had been a housekeeper in Newcastle and in 1911 she was employed in an upper-middle class household in the east end of Newcastle. This was no place for an illegitimate child and Doris could not be found in 1911.

No. 30. Hardwick, Thomas/ Jackson, John

The Household of Thomas Hardwick appeared only once in Chopwell and this was perhaps due to the death of Thomas in 1904 at the early age of 38. His widow Elizabeth (maiden surname – Brown) moved back to be nearer her kin: she remained a widow until the first quarter of 1911 when she was remarried to Thomas Scurfield. who was 16 years her junior.

In 1871 Thomas Hardwick was living with his parents and three siblings in Coundon, near Bishop Auckland; both his father, William, and mother, Sarah, were born in Yorkshire. Sarah died in 1872 and William was remarried to Annie who was at least ten years younger than he was. The age difference enabled William to add another four children to the family total. Of his children only Thomas ventured into north-west Durham

The Jacksons appeared to have been content to live in Mickley Square for a number of decades before moving out to Chopwell: the arrival date could have been as early as 1905 or as late as 1910. John Jackson married Sarah Gill and they were living with Sarah's parents, Daniel and Sibble, in 1891; the Gills also stayed in Mickley for several decades. There is some uncertainty as to Daniel Gill's birthplace which alternated between Yorkshire and Cumberland. By 1851 the trail gave two choices, Daniel born in Sheffield and the other Daniel born in Lancashire, and it was not possible to differentiate between them.

Two of Sarah's brothers, Daniel and George, also made the trip to Chopwell and in 1911 were living in No. 35 Blyth Street and No. 11 Tyne Street, respectively.

No. 31. Lowes, John

The John Lowes Household was present for both Censuses. Originally from a lead mining area in Middleton Teesdale, John's father and a brother were lead miners, an industry which was in decline, John went into the expanding coal industry in South Durham by 1891 and moved to Chopwell probably before 1901.

No. 32. Ree, James/ Bowman, George

The James Ree history is to be found in the entry for No. 2 Severn Street.

George and Abraham Bowman were living in Stanhope in 1881 but were not found in the next Census. Abraham was the first to marry in 1895 in Weardale while George followed in 1896 in Gateshead District. Abraham left Weardale before the 1891 Census as he was found living in Ryton as a lodger with a family called Waugh. A daughter, Jane Ellen, of this family became the wife of George Bowman. The two brothers moved into Chopwell possibly at the same time and each was there for both the 1901 and 1911 Censuses.

Thomas William Bowman was a single man who had been born in Rookhope and, although the kin connection to Abraham and George was not proven.

No. 33. Telford, Thomas/ Wright, William

The Telfords had moved to Swalwell where they were recorded in 1911. In addition to their own children there were two grandsons surnamed Telford but there was no married son to produce grandchildren so the conclusion is that these were illegitimate children of Martha. They moved from a three-roomed house in Chopwell to two rooms in Swalwell.

In 1891 the family were living in Medomsley Parish with another odd group as lodgers - a single woman with two young infants – with no indication of any relationship to Thomas Telford.

In 1901 John Wright, a widower, was living in Medomsley and his household contained his sons William and Matthew. Between 1901 and 1911 the family moved to Chopwell where it was thought that, because of his presence in the 1910 PVS and his absence from the 1911 Census, that John must have died, however, his death was not found. A search for John in the 1911 census found that he was a patient in a convalescent home in Whitley Bay. The 1911 household presented a rather mixed group with the unmarried son William as 'acting' Head, a younger

brother, a housekeeper born in Scotland and a group of six boarders five of whom have the surname Wright. This group does not have an obvious link to William, the Head of the Household. It is of interest to note that the housekeeper in 1911, Mary Stewart, was also present in the 1901 Household in Medomsley although, on that occasion, her full name was Mary Stuart Ribchester.

No. 34. Lamb, John/ Lamb, Hannah

In 1891 Robert and Hannah Lamb were living in Medomsley with three of their grown-up children but a few months after Robert died. With three adult workers this event may not have triggered the breakup or migration of the family, however, one of the sons, Isaac was married in 1895 and by 1901 Hannah and two sons were in Blyth Street, Chopwell. John was designated Head in 1901 but ten years later his mother was Head. It is considered that Hannah should have been Head for both Censuses.

The granddaughter in the 1911 Household was the daughter of Isaac who lived in Medomsley with his wife and another five children: this could have been a permanent arrangement.

No. 35 Peart, Adam/ Gill, Daniel

According to the 1901 Census Return Adam was born in Chopwell, as were the other members of the household. The surname Peart is normally associated with Weardale and the only other Peart family appeared in the 1911 Census in Tweed Street and the Head of House came from Crook. A backward search traced Adam and family to Stanhope, Weardale for three censuses 1871-1891. Now that the correct birthplace has been identified attention focused on other anomalies in the Peart saga.

Adam's wife Jane, aged 44 years, looks to be too old to have been the mother of Violet A., indeed the baptismal register recorded the parents as Adam and Mary Jane: the latter was of course was the daughter of Adam and Jane. It is extremely doubtful that this was an explicit case of incest but represented a Freudian slip in that Violet was the illegitimate child of Mary Jane. Another aspect of this mystery is that Adam Peart was recorded as dying in January 1907 at the age of 54 years. There was no other Adam Peart in Chopwell Township in this period and the age at death ties in with Adam's age in the 1901 Census Return. Adam was obviously long dead before Violet was born.

Details of Daniel Gill can be found in the entry to No. 30 above.

No. 36. Parker, Walter/ Donald, Joseph G./ Ward, Thomas

Walter Parker was present in Medomsley for the 1881 and 1891 Censuses before the move into Chopwell and sometime between 1901 and 1911 he moved out of colliery housing into private accommodation. The driving force for change was evidently a decision to change jobs – he gave up pitwork and became a bus proprietor. In this enterprise he was joined by two of his sons who became drivers.

Joseph Donald had a single entry from the Parochial Register for 1907 but within a few years, less than four, the family had moved to Craghead where the Household size was ten. The 1911 Census recorded that there were seven surviving children out of ten live births. The house in Craghead had five rooms, two rooms more than the Blyth Street, so in all probability the move was made to secure larger accommodation for the family. The family were not found in 1891 and 1901 but Joseph (unmarried) was living with his widowed mother, Margaret, in Bolam, South Durham, in 1881. The 1871 Census revealed that Margaret Donald had been married before and she originally came from Yorkshire.

There were four related family groups with the surname Ward in 1911 – Henry, John, William and Thomas were brothers. John and William arrived before 1901 and settled in No. 2. Wear Street and No. 30. Tees Street respectively; they arrived with their parents who took up residence in Richardson Terrace. By 1911 John was living in No. 16 Wear Street and was recorded as being the tenant in 1910 and therefore could not have been the John living at No. 36. Blyth Street in 1910. As there are no other candidates there is a possibility that John is a mistake.

No. 37. Coates, John/ Hind, John T.

John and Marie arrived from Cumberland with five children just before the 1901 Census. A sixth child was born in Chopwell and was a one year-old at the 1901 Census date. Ten years later with another three children the Household had moved to Mersey Street, which was a four-roomed house. Also living with them was a widowed sister of Marie Coates, Hannah Ruddick; Hannah's husband had been killed in the pit in 1906. Hannah's name was third in the list on the Census Form and, in an oversight by the transcriber, all the surnames of children following

Hannah were incorrectly entered as Ruddick instead of Coates.

The entry for John Hind in No. 39 Severn Street includes the information about John T. Hind.

A3.1.4. Severn Street

No. 1. Lowther, Robert.

In 1901 the house was unoccupied and there were no Parochial Register entries between 1901 and 1911. Robert Lowther was the Head in 1911 and he was one of three Lowther families present in Chopwell for the 1911 Census and all three originated from Cumberland. The Robert Lowther household comprised Robert, Hannah (his wife), five children and three of his brothers, Edward, Joseph and William.

Of the children the three youngest identified Chopwell as their birthplace. The oldest of the three was a seven-year old while the next oldest child was a nine-year old born in Brampton. This suggests that the family arrived in Chopwell between 1902 and 1904 and, quite possibly, were present in No. 1 Severn Street from the latter date.

The 1901 Census found Robert and his family in Farlam, near Brampton: Edward his brother was also present. A decade earlier and Robert was living with his parents and eight siblings, Thomas and Edward among them, again in Farlam. Further attempts were made to link James Lowther, in No. 10 East Street for 1911, but these drew a blank; James was not related to Robert.

No. 2. Coats, William/ Ree, James

The Coats family were present with eight children none of whom were born in Chopwell but the family did not stay long in Severn Street as another family, Ree, were resident in No. 2 at least by 1904. The next trace of William Coats was the 1911 Census when he was living in Peartree Terrace, Blackhall Mill; he had moved down the hill, probably with his eight children. The three-roomed house in Blackhall Mill did not appear to offer superior accommodation to that in Severn Street.

As stated above, James Ree and family were in the house by 1904 and stayed until the 1911 Census: prior to 1904 the family was in Blyth Street for 1901 and probably for two-three years before that. All the parochial entries refer to deaths as this family was Roman Catholic and while there are baptism entries, the address is only Chopwell in the RC Registers. The migration history included Backworth (1871) when James was a two-year old living with his parents, William and Esther, Holywell (1881) when his father was a widower, and, moving closer to Chopwell, in Stargate, Ryton (1891) by which time his father had remarried.

Later in 1901 all William's children had 'flown the coop', James had gone to Chopwell, while his older brother John William, had also married and was in Sunnybrow, Crook. As John had been born there it might have been thought that this was a nostalgic move back to his roots, however, this is unlikely as, based on the 1911 Census, his migration itinerary was - Forest Hall (1895), Sunnybrow (1901), West Ryton (1901), Earsdon (1903), Blyth (1906) and, finally, Dunston (1911). Probably, it was just one more step in his lifetime excursions in the area and Dunston, the last location, was only a few kilometres from his wife's birthplace of Swalwell.

No. 3. Howdon, (Hawdon), William/ Tinnion, John/ Harrison, George

William Howdon first appeared in January 1901 with a baptism of his youngest daughter, Ellen, while the 1901 Census revealed a substantial Household of two parents, eight children and William's 77-year old father. The family had moved from Chopwell by 1903 as the 1911 Census recorded another daughter born in Swalwell c.1903. A year later and the family were back in the area in Blackhall Mill - residence unknown - but later in the decade had moved out to Blaydon. The 1911 Census revealed a 27-year old marriage with ten surviving children out of twelve births.

William had married Mary (Routledge) in 1884 and in the 1881 Census both the Howdons and the Routledges were living in Lamesley. Mary was born in Morpeth so the co-incidental residence in Lamesley was how William and Mary met.

There is a single entry for the baptism of James Tinnion, son of John and Mary Ann Tinnion in 1904. There is an earlier baptism of Elizabeth Tinnion for 1902 but this is not identified with a particular house or street. A later baptism for 1908 shows the family had, by this time, removed to No. 41 Thames Street, where the family were recorded in the 1911 Census.

The tenant for the 1911 Census was George Harrison and family, all of whom, except for the youngest, came from Northumberland. One of the children, nine-year old Hannah, present on

Census night of April 2nd, died just 17 days later.

From 1881 to 1911 the Harrisons were living in Mickley Square, Adam, the father of George and two brothers William and John stayed with him in the village throughout the period. A third brother James, married, and was living in Benwell in 1901. Adam married Hannah Thowburn in 1870 and George married Mary Ann Batey in 1895. The attractions of Chopwell were therefore not sufficient to persuade other working members of either the Harrison Clan or the Batey Clan to move from Mickley.

No. 4. Hughes, Patrick/ Lowther, Thomas

Another Irish Roman Catholic family with the youngest child, Teresa (Irena on the 1901 transcript), the only one baptised in Our Lady of Lourdes, Chopwell in January 1901. Five years earlier the family had still been in Ireland but there is no way of knowing the migration timetable and route to Chopwell. Also the length of time that the family stayed in Severn Street is not known. By 1911 the Hughes were in Frederick Street with no further changes to the 1901 Household; apart from an Irish lodger. The question is why did the family move from the rent-free house in Severn Street to the private house in Frederick Street? The reason could lie with the fact that Patrick Hughes was only a labourer by 1911 and therefore he may have had to give up his tenancy to a worker with a more important job function eg. a hewer.

Thomas Lowther was the next resident in No. 3 by 1908 and he was a hewer but his brother Robert, another hewer, was also living in No. 1 Severn Street in 1911, so there may be double pressure to move the Hughes out of colliery housing.

No. 5. Smith, George/ Beadle, Henry/ Dorrell, Edward.

George Smith evidently married a widow, Mary Ann Sykes, with two children. Mary Ann Sykes, born in Scotland, must have migrated to South Africa for a period as her youngest child was born there. She was remarried to George Smith in 1895 in Stockton. George Smith was not found in 1891 or in 1911.

The residential histories of Henry Beadle and Edward Dorrell seem to be linked: in 1910 Henry was in No. 5 Severn Street and Edward Dorrell was in No. 33 Forth Street, while the 1911 Census the reverse is the case. Perhaps, a rare instance of a simple house-swap. The reason for the swap is not obvious as both families were small and the houses were much the same size.

According to the Parish Registers Henry Beadle and his wife had three children – John William (1907), Olive (1909) and Henry (July 1911). Olive died in 1910 and Henry was born after the 1911 Census, however, John William was not with his parents in 1911. A search found him as a 'visitor' with a family called Pigg in Catchgate, Annfield Plain in 1911. Initially, there did not appear to be an obvious relationship to the Piggs but it was discovered that Henry Beadle had married Elizabeth Pigg who turned out to be a daughter of John and Barbara Pigg; John William Beadle was therefore staying with his grandparents.

There were two Dorrell families in Chopwell for the 1911 Census, one with Edward as Head in Severn Street and the other with Wilfrid as Head in Coquet Street. With an uncommon surname and with both Heads originating in Rochdale a relationship was predictable; they were confirmed as brothers by the 1891 Census.

Edward and his wife may have concluded early in their marriage that they could not have children and therefore adopted a son, Edward L. (Robinson) Dorrell. Edward Lawrence Robinson was in fact the illegitimate child of Matilda Robinson, daughter of the Robinson family in No. 7 Severn Street. Matilda was not with her parents in 1911 but was a live-in servant with the Cole family at No. 10 Severn Street. The Coles were an elderly couple with three working sons and two boarders and probably required domestic assistance: Jane Cole died in 1914 at the age of 67, so she may not have been in the best of health. Although these Households were not related and had only recently become neighbours, they appear to be co-operating in a 'kin-like' fashion.

No. 6. Jamieson, Robert/ Mitchelson, Walter/ Winship, Albert

Robert Jamieson married Frances Furness (Furnass, Furnace) in Gateshead in 1894 but there was little more that was found about either branch from the Census Returns prior to 1901. With children and a large group of visitors including a probable in-law the Household in Severn Street comprised nine people. No information was found about the three Terrys or Henry Furness. By 1911 the family had moved into five rooms in Trent Street and the household size had increased to 14, including nine children (another two had died), another two Furness relations and a servant.. Catherine Furness was the mother of Frances Jamieson and her husband, Henry, was living in

Winlton with a son, daughter-in-law and a grandchild in 1911.

The 1910 Survey identified a Walter Mitchison as the tenant but the evidence from the parochial registers refer to Walter Mitchelson. In the 1911 Census Walter Mitchelson and family were found in Bedlington with the youngest child, Annie, being born in Chopwell. As this confirms the Parochial Register entry, then Mitchelson is taken to be the correct surname. Walter's wife Margaret was a widow and included in the Household of 1911 was a group of three step-children with a surname of Walters. The 1901 Census found the Walters family in Seghill with Nathan Walters as Margaret's first husband.

Albert Norton Winship married Alice Winter in 1902 and his cousin James Norton Winship married Jane Winship in 1904. Since Jane was a sister of Albert then the latter marriage is an example of a first cousin marriage. A younger brother of of Albert, was living in No. 10 Richardson Terrace, although he was employed at the Colliery he was a joiner, not a miner, who worked above ground. William Thomas Winship, the father of James N. Winship was living in Greenhead Terrace, evidently he was considered to be one of the senior staff at the Colliery.

No. 7. Ingram, John/ Dagenbach, John/ Robinson, Joseph

John Ingram and family occupied No. 7 for 1901 and, as his wife, Margaret Ann, was 48 years old the family was obviously completed; the youngest child was aged six years. The family had probably moved out of the village before 1903 as another family – Dagenbach – were living in No. 7 by March 1903. The time of arrival into Craghead for the 1911 Census is also not known precisely but a daughter Sarah was married in Craghead in 1904. It seems most likely that as the Ingrams moved out the Dagenbachs moved in.

The 1911 Ingram Household in Craghead contained four grand-children, one with the surname Ingram and the other three called Graham. The grandson – Joseph Henry Ingram – was defined as a 'son' in 1901. There is great doubt about the claim that these were grandchildren. The oldest son that was traced, John Joseph, married in 1904, so John Henry Ingram was not his son. Another son, Matthew, was not traced but is presumed dead as he is thought to be one of four children of John and Margaret who had died by 1911. The others include the three oldest, all girls, the first, Tryphosa, died young in 1888 – her namesake was born in 1893 – so did not marry. The second, Margaret Jane, could have married young in 1891 but her spouse did not have the surname Graham, while the third, Mary Hannah, married John J. Penaluna in 1898. While it is possible to say that they are not grandchildren it is not possible who they are.

The Dagenbach family stayed long enough to register two births in Chopwell, 1903 and 1905, but were not found in the 1911 Census. The family was traced in 1901 living in Counden Grange. The parents, John William and Elizabeth, were both born in Yorkshire but even knowing their origins, names and ages, the data was not sufficient to reveal their whereabouts in 1891.

Joseph Robinson married Margaret Errington in 1877 in Chester le Street. Subsequent census returns found them in Chester le Street (1881), Brandon (1891), Lanchester (1901) and Chopwell (1911).

No. 8. Tate, Simon/ Sawley, William

Simon Tate was the sole representative of his surname and probably did not stay long in Chopwell. His 1911 Household in South Shields contained his youngest daughter, born 1902, whose birthplace was Highfield, while her slightly older brother, was born in Crook in 1900. So his residency window for Chopwell was less than two years.

Simon Tate's own birthplace was initially identified as Southwick, Sunderland (1901) but this probably was Southkirk or South Church, Bishop Auckland (1911): five of the children were born in various villages in the Crook area. Meanwhile his wife's birthplace was identified as Hargrave in Suffolk, however, there is also a Hargrave in Norfolk and further research showed that both were incorrect.

The marriage of Simon Tate and Emma Nunn took place in 1883 when Emma was aged 16 years. With Emma's maiden name it was possible to find that she and her parents were in the Auckland area for both the 1881 and 1871 Censuses. In both these Censuses Emma's birthplace was given as Durham, while her father came from Norfolk and her mother came from Suffolk. The first two children in the Nunn family were born in Northants which identified the migration trail north to County Durham.

The Nunn families made no attempt to travel any further north while the Tate parents and siblings lived in the South Shields area. This is perhaps why Simon eventually migrated to South

Shields, to be closer to his kinfolk.

The 1911 resident in No. 8 Severn Street was William Sawley. Both William and his wife were in their mid-50s and had been married for 35 years; the only family living with them was a 17-year old daughter. In the previous 1901 Census William and more of his family were living in Wingate, Durham. William had been born in Burnley and in 1871 he was living with his married brother in Burnley.

None of his immediate kin lived locally and his two sons were living in Shotton Colliery, both were married with the elder son being Head of the Household.

No. 9. Stewart John/ Merritt, Samuel.

No further information was discovered about John Stewart.

Although Samuel Merritt was listed as being Head of the household in 1911 his position is debatable. He was unmarried and his widowed mother, Harriett, was also present in the household. The complication arises because Harriett's husband, Richard, had died in 1898 when the Merritts lived in Brandon: Harriett then married James Walker, in 1899 in South Shields, and the couple with four Merritt stepsons were recorded in No. 29 Severn Street in 1901. James Walker died in approximately 1911 just before the Census which recorded Harriett under her previous surname of Merritt; none of her adult children changed their surname.

Also living at No. 9 Severn Street was William, an older brother to Samuel, who was a widower with two young children. William married Hannah Walton in the first quarter of 1900 so the question is why did the 1901 Census not record this fact and further where was Hannah (Merritt)? A search found her in South Shields with her daughter some four months old, living with her Great Aunt Mary Walton; Hannah had been born in South Shields. Hannah's daughter, Mary Walton Merritt, died during the third quarter of 1901, her Great Aunt died in the fourth quarter of 1901, so Hannah then probably returned to Chopwell where she died in 1908.

Richard, the father, Harriett his wife and their two oldest sons were born in Cornwall. In 1891 the family were living in Brandon but no earlier trace was found

No. 10. Grant, Thomas/ Coyle, John/ Cole

Thomas Grant married Elizabeth Hannah Gray in 1888 when he was 36 and she was 24: Thomas was from Craghead while Elizabeth came from Iveston. In 1891 Thomas and Elizabeth were living in Brandon before moving to Chopwell, where their only child was born in 1901. Their length of stay could not be determined but it was surprising that they were housed – possibly without a child - in a three-roomed house in Severn Street. In the move to Lanchester they actually down-sized to a two-roomed house in a street named Happy Lands: not only was it a smaller house but the Household contained a lodger – Elizabeth's unmarried brother.

The twelve-year age gap between Thomas and Elizabeth hinted at the possibility of a second marriage. Another marriage was discovered of Thomas (correct age and birthplace) to Ann Smiles (born in Swalwell) in 1875, living in Tanfield in 1881. The search for the death of Ann Grant between 1881 and 1888, however, drew a blank. A further search in the 1891 Census for Thomas and Ann Grant failed to turn up another Thomas Grant or any other leads. Although not proven it is probable that Thomas was married twice.

The presence of a John Coyle was noted in 1910 but he could not be traced.

George and Jane Cole were both over 60 years in 1911 and had only been married for six years. With three adult sons with the surname Cole in the Household it was obvious that George had been married before. The couple were married in 1905 in Gateshead District. In the 1901 Census George was living in Escomb as a widower with five children, while Jane was married to Richard Colebrook – an Army Pensioner. Both the Colebrooks came from Hampshire and were also living in Escomb and Richard died there in 1902. Since there were no obvious kinlinks in Escomb it is possible that Jane, as a widow, became a housekeeper to George Cole before he moved to the Gateshead area.

For 1871 Census the Colebrooks were in Whitchurch, Hampshire with two young children with the surname Douglass and, subsequently, it was found that Jane Colebrook had been married before to a William Douglass who had died in 1868. By 1881 the Colebrook family had moved in County Durham but were living in different places perhaps due to Richard's occupation as a platelayer. In the next Census the family were back together in Escomb.

No. 11. Pallistre, Robert/ Dixon/ Robson, Walter

No further information was found for the Pallistres and Dixons.

In 1891 Walter Robson was living in Mickley as a lodger with William Oswald and family. The Oswalds were still in Mickley for 1901 as was Walter, who had married Mary E. Tiffin in 1897. A brother of Mary was living in Clyde Street, Chopwell in 1911. Although the Oswalds do not appear to have been related to Walter, several of the Oswalds were also in Chopwell for 1911.

No. 12. Hall, Christopher/ Skene, Thomas/ Callender, William

The 1901 Household has a group of step-children with the surname of Dawson and a marriage to Catherine Dawson was found in 1899. Although initially Christopher could not be found in 1891 widening the age search found him in Hetton-le-Hole; he was five years older than his 1901 age. Several of the Hall children married and lived local to their parents in Hetton-le-Hole. (It is noted that a transcription error has Hetton-le-Hole as 'Hilton Town'.) The move by Christopher and his new wife to Chopwell did not persuade any of this group to join the migration.

There was one baptismal entry for a child of Thomas and Hannah Skene for 1905. This was another small family who at sometime in the decade moved to No. 2. Tyne Street before the 1911 Census. The Skeens (alternative spelling) had been married for 14 years and of their four children three had already died.

There were two entries for Callender families in Chopwell for 1911 and they were brothers - William and Sarah Callender (No. 12 Severn Street) and Henry and Hannah (No. 6. Mersey Street). The former couple and children had been living in Sacriston for the 1901 Census while the latter household had been in Medomsley.

According to the birthplace record in the 1911 Census William lived in Sacriston for some 20 years so the last entry which suggests a spell in Killingworth, Northumberland looks rather odd; perhaps the last child was illegitimate. The move to Chopwell was either made from Sacriston or Killingworth and the presence of eight children did not appear to hinder the migration.

No. 13. Lockey, Francis/ Nevins, Robert/ Henderson, Thomas

A number of Lockey families were living in Chopwell by 1911 but they don't appear to be related. Francis was married and lived in Cornsay with his wife and two children in 1891. The stay in Chopwell must have been brief as the residence window, judging by the birth sequence of the children, was approximately 1899 – 1902. After a gap of some eight years the family returned, this time to High Spen; it was here in 1910 that Francis died.

There was a single entry for Nevins in the Baptismal Register for 1905 when the family was in Severn Street and a further reference to the death of a child in 1909 when the family was in No. 24 Clyde Street. Houses in Clyde Street numbered above No. 20 began to be occupied 1906/7 and these houses had four rooms, one more than No. 13. Severn Street. With a household size of nine by 1905 the move to the larger house seems eminently practical, however, the Household expanded even further, to thirteen, with three lodgers. The three lodgers appeared to be linked – an unmarried couple and child.

The 1911 Henderson Household comprised three separate families.

- Thomas his wife and four children.
- James and Albert Borrowdale (sic).
- Edward, Elizabeth Taylor and a young daughter.

A search revealed that Thomas Henderson married Frances Borrowdale in 1895 so there is a high probability that Albert and Frances were related. Frances was traced back to Whitehaven in 1881 where she was a step-daughter to Edward Thompson who had married widow Mary Borrowdale, Frances' mother.

The 1901 Census also recorded Thomas and Frances in Mickley and in the Household was an adopted son Sam Borrowdale: Sam was found in the 1891 Census living with his uncle James Borrowdale in Bill Quay.

In respect of Edward Taylor, he married Elizabeth Duffy in 1901, but no kin connection was found to the Hendersons.

No. 14. McNestry, William/ Cogan, Thomas

All the McNestrys in Chopwell were related and originated from James McNestry who was living in Allendale Cottages, Medomsley in 1881. Attempts to determine the history of the family further back were not successful. There were ten children in 1881 but it is possible that James had been married twice: the stated age of his wife Catherine was 35 years, 14 years younger than James, while the oldest son was 26 years. It is possible that the age was wrong as in the 1891 Census, Catherine was only eight years younger than James.

Four sons of Patrick moved into Chopwell:

1. William was in No. 14 Severn Street for 1901
2. Joseph was in No. 44 Forth Street for 1901 and 1911.
3. Patrick was in No. 25 Blyth Street for 1901 and 1911.
4. John was in No. 11 East Street for 1911.

Thomas and Mary Ann Cogan (the spelling changed to Keogan) probably arrived after 1907 from Tow Law as their youngest son had been born there in 1907. There is not a lot more to add to the Cogan history except that a brother, Francis Cogan, was living in the Tow Law area 1901/11.

No. 15. Raine, Henry/ Brown, Thomas

The earliest trace for Henry Raine was 1891 when Henry and his wife Mary were living in St. Helen's, Auckland. The arrival into Chopwell was before August 1899 when they buried an infant and yet another infant was buried in 1901 aged only 21 days. They may also have changed houses as the address in the Parochial Register was No. 18 Severn Street. The migration north to Chopwell was reversed after 1901 when the family moved south to Sacriston.

The Browns came from the Stanhope area and Thomas was living with his parents in 1881 in Stanhope. A move to Crook was recorded for the 1891 Census followed by a return to Stanhope for 1901 and then on to Chopwell.

No. 16. Urwin, George/ Stobbart, Matthew/ Laycock, Aaron.

The youngest child in the Urwin Household was one-year old and had been born in Easington so the Urwins were newcomers into Chopwell for 1901. In 1891 George Urwin was unmarried and lodging with a family in Craghead. In 1911 George was back in Craghead as a widower, his wife died in 1906 shortly after the birth of a child. When she died the family was living in Tay Street. In the 1911 Household was a Leonard G. Slater described as a stepson, probably an illegitimate son of Mary Ann, but no further evidence came to light to confirm this conjecture

The Stobbart family, Matthew and Ellen, had moved into No. 16 Severn St. by 1905 with a Household size of nine: Edith the youngest was baptised in Chopwell but the 1911 Census stated Blaydon as her birthplace. This may have been ignorance, a simple mistake or Blaydon may have been the next 'port of call' in the migration route to Tanfield Lea for 1911. The second youngest child had been born in Hare Law in 1904, so they probably did not arrive in Chopwell before that date.

The tenants in 1911 were Aaron Laycock, his wife and six children who did not arrive before 1908. In a 16-year marriage their tour had taken in Leamside, Craghead, Sunderland, Craghead, Low Fell and Chopwell.

No. 17. Thompson, William/ Minto, George

Apart from the 1901 Census, when William was a widower, nothing further was discovered about William.

Although there was a Minto family in New House Farm, George Minto does not appear to be related to the family. George could not be found in the 1901 Census but was living with his wife in Sleetburn for 1891: Mary, his wife had been born in Monmouth, South Wales.

Entry of the family into Chopwell was probably 1909-11, if the evidence from the birthplace sequence of the children can be relied upon. Mary's maiden surname was Prosser and an older brother and family were already in Chopwell in No. 5 Tees Street from 1900 to 1911.

No. 18. Brown, William/ Hardy, Septimus/ Millican, Vipond

The earliest reference to William Blackbird Brown was in the 1881 Census when he was living in the Heworth Household of his grandparents – Ralph and Isabella Brown. By 1891 Ralph was a widower and William had been replaced by another grandchild – Elizabeth Todd born in Berwick. At this Census William was living with Ralph and Hannah Brown in Hamsterly Colliery, although no relationship was specified, since Ralph was a son of Ralph and Isabella, William was living with his uncle. The way William was being 'farmed out' among grandparents and an uncle suggests that he was illegitimate; particularly as no parents or siblings were identified in the records.

No information about Septimus Hardy except to note he shared a common surname with Vipond Hardy, see discussion below. .

Vipond Millican married a widow Alice Wedgewood in 1903 in Hexham District and with her came three step-children and a step-grandson. The latter was the illegitimate son of one of

Alice's two girls. The Millican story is further complicated by the fact that Vipond was probably the illegitimate son of Mary Millican who married Joseph Hardy in Alston in 1867. The complications do not end there as the marriage was actually recorded as being between Joseph Hardy and 'Elizabeth' Millican not Mary Millican. Also Vipond was born in 1869 after this marriage had taken place and therefore he should be legitimate and called Vipond Hardy. The 1871 Census has Mary Millican and Vipond Millican still living in the Millican household while in the 1891 Census Mary was married to Joseph Hardy and Vipond Millican was listed in the Household. Finally, the 1901 Census listed the individual as 'Vipond Millican Hardy'.

The wider kin network is illustrated by a link to, Joseph, a son of Alice Wedgewood, who married Catherine Callender, the oldest daughter of William Callender of No. 12 Severn Street (1911). Joseph, Catherine and a child were living in No. 12 Hollings Terrace in 1911

No. 19. Lowery, James/ Coulson, John G

The 1901 Census had John Lowery not James Lowery but investigations into earlier censuses confirmed the choice of James as the correct first name. In 1891 James was with his parents and siblings in Sherburn near Durham; all the children were born in Sherburn. James married Ellen Hull in 1896 but they had no children. The childless couple were living Ellen's parents and two sisters were living in Stockton in 1891 while Ellen was a domestic servant in Darlington. The death of Ellen's mother must have occurred between 1891 and 1901 but this was not traced. The Hull family came from Essex.

John George Coulson was one of eleven children who were all born in the Prudhoe/Wylam area. John's father died before the 1901 Census as his widow was living in West Wylam with seven of her children still at home. Five of her sons, including John George, were traced, Robert, Thomas and Isaac stayed in Prudhoe, while Jonathan lived in Ryton for 1901 before moving to High Spen from 1902-06. In the few years he was in High Spen he and his family lived in at least two different houses – No. 1 Short Cross Row and No. 6. Queen Row.

John George was in Severn Street at least by 1906, according to the Baptism Register, although there is an earlier entry for 1902 with the non-specific address of 'Chopwell'. However, since the Lowerys were in No. 19 Severn Street until 1904, the Coulsons could have lodged with them as the Lowerys had no children or they could have been in another house.

No. 20. Ridley, John F./Appleton, John W./Stones, James.

John F. Ridley was identified in 1871 living with his parents, John and Ann, who were lodging with Ann's widower father in Wolsingham. By 1881 the family was living in Witton-le-Wear and both John and his father were unemployed general labourers. For the next census John was in employment as a Railway Policeman, before he moved into the coal mines, no doubt attracted by the wages.

The family was not found in 1911.

The Appleton family arrived into Severn Street in approximately 1904 and stayed until 1908-09 before moving to No. 2. Mersey Street; the Baptism Registers recorded an Appleton baptism in September 1909 when the family lived at No.2.

The Mersey Street house had four rooms which were needed as the Household numbered eleven by 1911, including two lodgers.

The first reference to James Stones in Chopwell was in 1903 when his daughter, Ellen, was baptised, a further two children were also baptised in 1905 and 1906. The home address for the later baptisms was No. 3 Clyde Street, which the family occupied from 1905 to 1907 before moving to No. 20 Severn Street for the remainder of the decade. The youngest child John (b. 1908) had his birthplace recorded as Hedley-on-the Hill, which was possible but evidence suggested that the family did not move; perhaps his mother's confinement took place there.

The 1911 Household headed by James contained a brother-in-law, John Taylerson aged 13, who had been living in Brandon for the 1901 Census. Also in the 1901 Household was James Stones and his bride-to-be, Ellen Taylerson. The Head of the Household was Helen Taylerson, a widow: her husband had died in 1900.

John Stones and family were living in No. 22 Blyth Street in 1901 and, although not proven, it is probable that his son James Edward was the above James Stones.

No. 21. Shiel, John/ Toward, Joseph /Longstaff, Robert

John Shiel (Scottish spelling) was born in Berwick, while his wife was from Ryhope, near Sunderland. Four of their children were born in Scotswood, while the youngest only a few months

old in 1901, was born in Chopwell. There were two deaths – one in 1904 and the other in 1906 – of the Shiel family when they occupied No. 21 Severn Street. The family could not be found in the 1891 or 1911 Censuses.

There was another entry for No. 21 in 1906, a family called Dunn appeared to be in occupation, perhaps after the Shiel family moved out. By 1908 Joseph Toward had moved in with a new wife – they married in 1907 – however, indications are that the Towards were lodging with Robert Longstaff and his Household of two adults and six children. By 1911 the Towards had moved to Shotley Bridge, their eldest child was born in Chopwell in 1908 while the next oldest was born in Shotley Bridge in 1910.

Robert Longstaff was resident in 1910 and 1911, while his brother and family were living in Havelock Terrace. In the 1881 Census the two brothers were living with their parents in Willington while in the 1891 Census they were still in Willington with their widowed mother as Head. By 1901 Robert was married with four children and lived in Cowpen, near Blyth.

No. 22. Wishart, George/ Broad, Thomas

George had been born in High Spen and had a number of brothers living in the High Spen area, these households have been covered in the entries for No. 17 Howard Terrace. In 1911 George had returned to High Spen and lived in Townley Terrace.

After spending the 1901 Census in No. 10 Wear Street, (Reuben) Thomas had moved to No. 22 Severn Street for the 1911 Census. The family were definitely in Severn Street by July 1909 as Reuben's daughter Margaret had an illegitimate child baptised at that time and two years later in December 1911 she presented a second illegitimate child for baptism. As was common with this situation the illegitimate child was absorbed into the grandparents family as their own daughter.

No. 23. Mosley, Patrick/Mallaburn, John/Stephenson, John.

Patrick Mosley and his wife were both from Ireland and probably were married before they came to England, although all the children were born in County Durham. The family could not be traced in the 1881, 1891 and 1911 Censuses.

There is no indication how long the Mosleys stayed but by 1905 a John Mallaburn was resident in No. 23. The reference was to a death of an infant in February 1905 aged 18 days, unfortunately, John Mallaburn did not marry Mary Jane Mason until the third Quarter, 1906. The identification becomes even more tricky when the next reference is to the baptism of William, son of Charles and Ellen Mallaburn, in February 1906. Although there were other Mallaburn families in Chopwell, no trace of these parents was found, raising the possibility that the entry was incorrect.

Entries to a further three baptisms and another death were recorded to John and Mary Jane Mallaburn: for one baptism (1907) the family were in Severn Street, while the next one was in January 1909, after they had removed to Tees Street. The last baptism was of another William born in February 1911 and who died in October 1911, however, there was no death recorded of the first William.

The other Mallaburn families were not related to John Mallaburn but the reverse was true for his wife's side of the family: Mary Jane Mason had three brothers and their families living in Tay Street, Tweed Street and Hollings Terrace for the 1911 Census. Two of these families had children, aged seven and eight years, born in Chopwell, which suggested an arrival date around 1903; the other family was headed by a widower.

The parents of Mary Jane and her brothers were found in earlier Census Returns for 1881 and 1901 living in Birtley and Dinnington, respectively. The father, James, came from Ireland while the mother, Margaret, came from Wigan, Lancashire.

The Stephensons were another family who migrated in without any obvious kin network. The marriage of John and Jane was only nine years old in 1911 and they were married in 1902 in Lanchester District: all four of their children were born outside Chopwell.

In 1881 John's parents were in Herrington, followed by Waldrige in 1891 and then in Stanley for 1901. Two of John's brothers married but stayed in the Stanley area.

No. 24. Mallaburn, Matthew/ Carvil, Thomas

As mentioned above, Matthew was not related to John Mallaburn of No. 23 Severn Street. His Household travelled extensively from mid-Durham to Throckley in South Northumberland; four children were born in Throckley. When the family moved into Chopwell Sarah, Matthew's wife was past child-bearing age so there were no links from the parochial registers. Matthew died in Newburn area in 1910 and the dispersal of his sons suggested that he had left Chopwell some years

before.

Thomas had been born in Cumberland while his wife was from County Down, Ireland. The 1911 Household contained four children born in Egremont and two born in Crook, however, this is contradicted by the 1891 Census when the four Egremont children were recorded as Irish births.

No. 25. Hepburn, Southern/ Marriott, John/ Cape, John

The Hepburns were the sole representatives of this family and by 1911 had moved out to Coxlodge, Newcastle. The Coxlodge Household, apart from Southern and his wife, contained two married sons and grandchildren.

Southern was married in 1871 and was traced to Chilton (1881) and Sherburn (1891) and later Censuses revealed that he and his family moved regularly throughout mid-Durham, but never too far away from his parents in the same area. None of his brothers followed him north.

There were three births and two deaths of Marriott children in the Chopwell Registers in the period 1904 to 1908; the three births were all illegitimate to two Marriott females – Isabella and Hannah. The register entries did not give any details of Isabella and Hannah's parents but a search finally traced John and Elizabeth Marriott to Quebec, Durham for 1901: among their eight children were Isabella (17) and Hannah (12). By 1911 the Marriotts were living in Cornsay with five children.

John Cape and family were living in No. 15 Wear Street from 1906 to 1910 before moving into No. 25 Severn Street: a move which occurred in 1910/1911, although this can be narrowed down to between the date of the 1910 PVS and August 1910. John's son James was married in the third quarter of 1909 and was living with his parents in No. 25 Severn Street when his son Robert was born on August 21st, 1910. Shortly afterwards James moved out to No. 10 Thames Street, where he was for the 1911 Census.

Wilkinson Cape occupied No. 29 Severn Street in 1911 and while he was born in Cumberland, no relationship to John Cape was established. His migration route to Chopwell differed from that of John and in 1881 Wilkinson was in Stockton as a policeman. Later he was to change careers and he became a miner.

No. 26. Barnes, Robert/ Barnes, Sarah

The house was empty on Census night 1901 and the first recorded tenant was surnamed Barnes. Joseph Barnes died in December 1905 aged 25, and then another death, Robert Barnes, in July 1909. The 1910 PVS recorded Robert Barnes, previously deceased, as the tenant, while 1911 Census has Sarah, widow, as the Head of the Household. The Barnes family came from Cumberland, through Northumberland to Chopwell.

No. 27. Gibson, William

William Gibson and his wife, Sarah, both came from Northumberland, although precisely which area Sarah came from was not clear; Ovingham (1901) is some distance from Backworth (1911). The family stayed some 15 years in Lambley before making a 'big' jump to Wolsingham in County Durham. The migration to Chopwell probably involved a direct move into Severn Street. In 1901 Sarah was 42 years old, an age when most women cease to have children, however, there was a death in 1904 of a three-year old child which could be a late pregnancy or an illegitimate birth. The 1911 Census does record a grandchild who, as there is no married son present, could be an illegitimate child to the 21-year old daughter still at home.

No. 28. Varty, Thomas/ Whitfield, Robert

The Varty Household in 1901 comprised Thomas and his wife, Mary Jane, two Varty children, three adopted children with the surname Milburn and a father-in-law. There is very little that is clear about this Household. First, the presence of step-children suggested that Mary Jane was, at least, a second wife to Thomas, but a search for appropriate marriage drew a blank - either using Ridley or Milburn. Second, an 1891 census search for Ridley or Milburn was also unsuccessful. Third, in the 1871 Census Thomas was married to Mary Ann who, subsequently, died in 1876. Fourth, the 1891 Census found Thomas married to Esther but no marriage was found. Fifth, no death for an Esther Varty was found.

Several generations of Whitfield lived in the Greenside/Ryton area and in 1881 Christopher Whitfield was a widower living in Ryton Woodside with six children aged 10-20 years and his 65 year-old father. Among the children were Robert, James and William, all of whom eventually married and moved into Chopwell for 1901-11. Robert, the oldest, probably arrived in 1900 with

a completed family of eight children: the youngest child of some eight months had been born in Ryton.

No. 29. Walker, James/ and others/ Cape, Wilkinson

There were five different names associated with No. 29 but it is not clear if they were Heads or just Lodgers. No further traces of the Lawson, Rushton and Lowther families were found and neither was there evidence that James Walker had been married before.

James evidently married a widow and acquired four adult stepsons. There were no traces of James in earlier Censuses. James died in the second quarter of 1911, before the 1911 Census, when Harriett, having reverted to her previous married name of Merritt, was living with one of her sons in No. 9 Severn Street. Since James was not identified in the 1910 PVS, either at No. 29 or No. 9 Severn Street, but Samuel Merritt was, the Walker Household must have moved into No. 9 before 1910. Since Samuel Merritt was single, this appears to be a breach of the general 'rule' that single men were not given the tenancy of a colliery house.

Wilkinson Cape is covered by the entry for the Capes in No. 25 Severn Street..

No. 30. Ramshaw, Thomas/ Merritt, Richard.

Thomas and his wife Jane, moved into Chopwell with a completed family, however, after exploring the 1881 and 1891 Censuses it was clear that Jane was Thomas' second wife. In 1881 Thomas was married to Barbara who died in 1890 and he remarried to Jane in late 1891 in Sunderland. Neither Jane nor Thomas were found in 1911 but several married sons were found; Thomas (Chopwell), William (Annfield Plain) and James (Oxhill)

Since the Merritt family had moved into No. 30 by 1904 then the Ramshaws had moved on by then. Thomas and Jane were not found in 1911 but two of their sons, William and James, had married and were living in Annfield Plain and Oxhill respectively.

Richard Merritt is covered by the Merritt entry for No. 9 Severn Street.

No. 31. Armstrong, Gawen/ Little, Thomas

Although there were a large number of Armstrong Households Gawen had no kin-links to these other Armstrongs. Searches back to 1861 were not able to identify a Gawen Armstrong which leads to the possibility that he had a different surname. A country-wide search on the first name of Gawen also drew a blank, so the mysterious Gawen Armstrong remains a mystery.

One son of Gawen was found living in Stanley in 1911 which perhaps indicates where the family moved to from Chopwell.

In 1881 Thomas Little and his wife, Elizabeth, were living in Cumberland but as the Household was not found in 1891 their migration route and timetable to Chopwell is not known. Thomas died in 1908 and the 1910 PVS recorded his oldest son, Hugh, as the tenant, while the following year had another son, Thomas, as Head.

No. 32. Eggleston(e), John/ Fo(r)ster, Robert.

John Egglestone, wife and family, eight children, arrived from Brandon in approximately 1900-01 and moved into Severn Street. Later in the decade the family moved into No. 24 Trent Street, with its five rooms, to cater for another three children. There is a possibility that the last child, born when Elizabeth Egglestone was 46, could be an illegitimate child of one of her daughters.

John Foster died in June 1909 while his wife, Jane, died in May 1915. Although John had died nearly a year before the 1910 PVS, nevertheless, he was still identified as the tenant. For the 1911 Census his son, Robert, was the Head of a Household, which contained four adult siblings and his widowed mother.

No. 33. Eddy, William/ Driver, John

The Eddy Household in 1901 contained five sons aged from 21 years down to eight years. William's wife, Ann Marie, was 44 years old and therefore past child-bearing so the family was 'mature': their marriage, between William Eddy and Ann Marie Henderson, took place in 1876. The Henderson kin lived in Wall from 1871 to 1891 and never strayed very faraway although a brother of Ann Marie moved to Newcastle for 1901 and 1911 where he was employed as a fitter in an engineering factory.

The Household history of John Driver has been covered by the analysis of Tyne Street.

No. 34. Armstrong, John/ Birchnall, George

John Armstrong married Sarah Elizabeth Robinson in 1880 in the Lanchester District. John came from Maryport, Cumberland, while his wife was born in Allenheads and they met in Lanchester. The birth places of their children show a well-travelled family – Leeds, Maryport,

Ellenborough, Hooley Hill, Bultons Farm, Greenhill and Fletcher Town. Apart from Leeds most of the other locations were in Cumberland.

The 1901 Household contained seven children, John's parents and three lodgers giving a total of thirteen in the four-room house. The move to Blackhill was to another four-room house but the Household size had reduced to six, including three Boarders.

John's brother Nicholas had also left Chopwell and was living in Hamsterley Colliery with a wife, two children and a house servant., in a two-room house.

The Birchnall history is recorded in No. 8 Tyne Street.

No. 35. Frost, Richard/ Thompson, John

The Richard Frost history can be found in No. 10 Blyth Street.

John Thompson and family turned up in High Spen around 1890 as his youngest son, aged one year in 1891, was born in Winlaton Parish. The arrival into Chopwell was before the 1910 PVS. The house in High Spen – Rose Hill Cottage – was owned by John Thompson as indicated by the 1910 PVS and this was occupied by Emmerson Wishart as tenant in 1910.

George Thompson, oldest son of John was also in Chopwell for 1911.

No. 36. Hird, William/ Graham, George

William Hird was born in Newcastle and his wife came from Nottinghamshire. Their children were mainly born in mid-Durham region apart from a visit to Stanley and then over the border to Wylam for a two-year spell. The move from Chopwell to Oxhill cannot be dated with any precision but it is noted that one son, Robert also moved to Oxhill, in fact the two families were living in the same street. Two other sons remained in Chopwell with marriage durations of eight and six years. This suggests that William was still in Chopwell in 1905 otherwise the two sons would have gone to Oxhill with their father.

George Graham, from Ireland and his wife from Newcastle must have met somewhere in the South Tyne area and by 1881 they were living in Murton Colliery with four children. By 1891 the family had grown to nine children and the household were in Pelton Fell, Chester-le-Street. Their migration trail, as evidenced by the birthplaces of the children, reads as follows; Jarrow, Sunderland, Holborn, East Murton, Washington, Hebburn (twice) and Pelton (twice).

The 1901 Census revealed that the family were in Mickley, Northumberland and the household numbered fourteen, in a four-roomed house. There was a married daughter, plus a grandson, with the surname Knight, but no husband living with them. The daughter in question, Elizabeth, was married in 1898 to Walter Micklewright Knight. A search for Walter in 1901 and 1911 Censuses was unsuccessful as was a search for his possible death: the only relevant match was for a W.M. Knight who was lodging in Byker for 1891. In the 1911 Census the grandson, George Graham Knight, was still with his grandparents but his mother was missing. No death was found for Elizabeth Knight but a marriage was found to a James Ibbetson in 1908: there was a family of Ibbetsons in Blyth Street in 1911, John came from Yorkshire while Ellen, his wife, was from Ireland. James and Elizabeth, childless, were found living in Blackhall Mill in 1911.

No. 37. Rispin, John/Young, Thomas

John was born in Yorkshire but he and his brother Richard ventured north into mid-Durham and in 1871, he and his brother were lodgers with a family in Crook. Afterwards they went their separate way as John moved further north while Richard moved to the Darlington area. Another difference was that Richard became a policeman while John stayed as a coke drawer.

All John's sons initially moved with him to Chopwell and three of them worked on the coke ovens; later three of them moved out of Chopwell and into neighbouring villages. John and his wife could not be found in 1911.

Thomas Young spent several decades in High Spen before leaving East Street, High Spen for Severn Street, Chopwell.

No. 38. Shaw, Robert/ Hind, John/ Hann, John

There were two linked Shaw families, Robert and Hugh, and they were brothers. Robert seems unlikely to have arrived into Severn Street before 1898 as the youngest child, a three-year old, had been born in Gosforth. There is a great possibility that this child was illegitimate as Robert's wife was aged 49 in 1901. Robert died in 1904 in Gateshead Registration District and afterwards his widow moved to Consett after the death.

Hugh's widow, Elizabeth, arrived in Chopwell after his death but this could not be traced. The grandchild in Elizabeth's Household was the illegitimate child of Isabella Shaw an unmarried

daughter.

John Hann, his wife and six children were resident in 1911 but the only clue, the 1910 PVS, showed they were not present at the Survey time. The 1901 Census had the family in Whitwell Pit, near Durham with seven children: the oldest child John T. Hann, could not be traced in 1911. The youngest child in the 1901 family was named Emma but in the 1911 Census her name was given as Cissie. The other conflict in the data was that Emma's birthplace was given as Lancashire in 1911 but it was Yorkshire in 1891. No record of the marriage of John and Emma was found.

The John Hind (Senior) entry for No. 38 Severn Street in the 1910 PVS creates a problem because the same name also appears for No. 39 Severn Street in the 1901 Census and in the 1910 PVS for the same address.

The 1901 Census pre-dated the later entries and that was for John (59) and Mary Ann Hind (55). With a mature family there were no register entries to confirm residence between 1901 and 1910/11: there was the death of a son, Jonathan, in the fourth quarter of 1910 but this did not appear in the Chopwell Registers. Three sons in the 1901 Household married and settled into – No. 15 Tees Street, No. 28 Thames Street and No. 37 Blyth Street by 1911. In addition there were two grandchildren who initially could not be placed. John and Mary Ann were not in Chopwell for the 1911 census, however, it was discovered that they had another son Joseph a widower, who was living in Rowlands Gill. This Household in 1911 contained both John and Mary Ann, their son, James Henry, and his two children, the afore-mentioned grandchildren. James Henry was married in Chester-le-Street in 1894 and his wife died in 1899: in 1901 he was lodging in Winlaton before moving to Rowlands Gill. It was possible that missing register entry for Jonathan could be because he was living in Rowlands Gill.

Since it was unlikely that John Hind moved between No. 38 and No. 39 – identical houses – the conclusion is that the 1910 PVS entry for No. 38 is incorrect.

No. 39. Hind, John/ Gibson, Richardson

The essential history for the Hind family has been elaborated above.

A single register entry for the baptism for a May Fairburn appeared in 1908, although the parents were identified, John Thomas and Mary Jane, no trace of them was found either in 1911 or 1901. A search of the index for Fairbairn, which included a number of families, also failed to find a matching couple.

According to the 1911 Census Return, Richardson Gibson and family were present in Chopwell from approximately 1905. Prior to that the family were in Crook for 1901 and in Wolsingham for 1881.

The two McMahon children – nephew and niece – who were living with the Gibsons belonged to Thomas McMahon who was a brother of Mary McMahon, Richardson's wife. Their parents were still alive and were in Tow Law for 1911 so the reason for the children living with their uncle and aunt is obscure.

No. 40. Stoddart, John

For the 1871 and 1881 Censuses John was living in Ebchester with his parents and in the latter census he was defined as a widower. It was not possible to identify a marriage and with no marriage then there were no clues for a death search. Later evidence showed that John must have remarried to Dorothy but this second marriage was not found either. The next census was silent on John because he and his family were overseas in Australia; the emigration date was probably between 1887-89. The reasons for the original emigration and the subsequent return are unknown. The 1901 Census Household included a young daughter less than nine months old, who was probably not the daughter of Dorothy.

The next marriage to Sarah Ann Wilson took place in 1908, she was a widow from Barlow and brought three of her children to the new marriage; these children quickly assumed the new surname of Stoddart. Two unmarried brothers of Sarah Ann also joined the Household as boarders.

No. 41. Dickinson, Jane/ Miller, David

Jane was a widow of a carter from before 1881. With a number of working-age males in the family, perhaps the economic attraction of coal-mining was a sufficient spur to encourage migration to Chopwell - where they all got jobs.

The only mystery presented by David Miller was his birthplace. In 1911 it was Glasgow, in 1901 it was Gateshead, in 1891 it was again Scotland while in 1881, when he was unmarried living with his parents, it was Marley Hill. Neither of his parents had any evident Scottish connections.

No. 42. Dixon, Thomas and others

Ostensibly Thomas Dixon was present for both the 1901 and 1911 Censuses but this presence has to be capable of placing a family called Mason which was also present in the middle of the decade. According to Parochial Registers there are two deaths associated with No. 42 Severn Street – James aged 61, in 1906 and Joseph aged 24, who died in 1905. Fortunately, it was relatively easy to identify this family who were living in Dinnington in 1901 – James was the father and Joseph was a son. Subsequently the Household moved into Chopwell where the above deaths took place.

One son James, married Elizabeth Stoddart, in 1903 and had a child baptised in 1903. Elizabeth Stoddart was in No. 40 Severn Street in 1901 so the Masons could have arrived into Chopwell between 1901-03. The son of James the elder, married in 1901 probably before the rest of the family moved to Chopwell but since their second child was born circa 1903 they could have been the first to arrive in Chopwell.

Assuming James the elder and family had moved into No. 42, sharing with the Dixons, this would have created a household size of thirteen (excluding visitors, lodgers or boarders): not an impossible number to accommodate, but there did not appear to be any kin-links between these families to justify such a Household. By the middle of the decade another son had married and moved out, as had the widow and other unmarried family members also moved to a different street.

There is no satisfactory explanation for this Household history as all the several options seem to be equally implausible, including the possibility that the Dixons moved out and then returned several years later to the same house.

The other surname linked with No. 42 Severn Street was Carrick – Thomas and Jane Isabel. Jane Isabel was the daughter of Thomas Dixon so the Carricks were kin. By 1911 the Carricks were in No. 12 Hilford Terrace.

The Dixons came from Cumberland with a completed family as Hannah was already 49 years old.

No. 43. Sharp, Thomas/ Dickinson, Thomas.

Thomas Sharp and family were present for both the 1901 and 1911 Censuses although his wife had died and there was only an adult son still at home by 1911. The Census enumerator had also recorded another Household at No. 43 – Thomas Dickinson, his wife and four children. It is possible that the house was nominally 'divided' at ground level to create 'two' houses, however, it was discovered that Thomas Dickinson's wife was a daughter of Thomas Sharp. The living arrangement of two generations sharing a house was not uncommon in Chopwell but usually the Household was not split in this way.

44. Hood, Mark.

Mark Hood was living with his parents and siblings in Clayton Terrace, High Spen in 1871 then in 1873 he married Alice Smith and moved to Tanfield Parish where he was recorded in the 1881 Census. In 1891 the family had moved to Whickham with a Household of seven children, which included a step-daughter Isable Smith; Isable was the illegitimate daughter of Alice Smith. Isable married in 1881, after the Census, to Joseph Newton and the couple moved to No. 12 Tyne Street for both the 1901 and 1911 Censuses.

Meanwhile, father William died between 1871 and 1877 and his widow, Maria, was remarried to Thomas Anderson. This marriage did not last long as Thomas died in 1881 third quarter when the couple were living in Tanfield. The 1891 Census entry causes a problem as the Tanfield Household included, as well as Maria, her two married sons, Matthew and George Hood. George, his wife and children were also recorded living in High Spen in 1891. The whereabouts of Matthew's wife and family (if any) is not known. Matthew, himself, could not be found in 1881 and, while there were several options for his marriage between 1871 and 1891, it was not possible to determine the correct one. Maria Anderson died in 1892 and Matthew died in 1899.

A3.1.5. Thames Street (1901-11)

No. 1. Hetherington, Thomas/ Clarke, John.

There is only a single entry for Thomas and it is evident that he moved out of Chopwell as he was resident in Swalwell for the 1911 Census. The Household size in Swalwell was still only four in number but they now lived in a four-roomed house. Searching backwards the same Household was living in Wolsingham in 1891 and in 1881, Thomas (unmarried) was living with his parents and siblings in Lambly. While there was no evidence of other kin making the journey to Chopwell it was noted that there were several Hetherington families in Chopwell and they all hailed from Brampton/Haltwhistle area. Thomas' wife, Margaret Ann, formerly Johnson, was probably an older sister to Matthew, living in Beaconsfield Terrace.

When did Thomas move out of Chopwell? Probably before 1906 as a new tenant, John Clarke, was in No. 1 Thames Street at that date, having moved from No. 1 Blyth Street, where he was living in 1903. John Clarke had been in the area for some 15 years having married someone from Hamsterley and had lived in Blackhall Mill: it was also noted that his birthplace was Lambly

No. 2. Tiplady, George/ Storey, Enoch

The 1901 Thames Street entry is the only one Tiplady household in Chopwell. George was still there in 1910 but had removed to nearby Greenside in Ryton Parish for the 1911 Census. There was a 17-year old son, William, who was present in 1911 but who was absent in 1901: William was found living with relatives in Bedlington for 1901.

Initially the Tiplady story looked as if it would be relatively uncomplicated – a small family with few relatives in the area – and a 1891 Census search drew a blank. In 1881 George was found in the Household of George and Eliza Armstrong in Lamesley as one of five Tipladys and a group of three with the surname of Lightford who were nephews to George Armstrong. Evidently, Eliza Armstrong was formerly Eliza Tiplady, a widow, and her children were strictly 'step-children' to George Armstrong. Although no blood relationship existed between the Tipladys and the Lightfords they were nominal 'step-cousins'.

The 1861 Census revealed that William Tiplady was the father of George and the Household included six children, although George was yet to be born. Traced back to the 1851 Census the family were in Newcastle which included two children and an unmarried brother. According to this Census all the Tipladys had been born in Durham City in contrast to the later censuses where a variety of Newcastle/Gateshead/Durham addresses were identified but specifically, Monmouth was no longer claimed to be the birthplace of Eliza.

The Lightfords are of interest as in 1901 brothers George and Henry were in Blackhall Mill living a few doors away from each other. A decade later Henry was in Scotswood while George had died and his widow Hannah was remarried to a widower Thomas Rodham and lived in Kibblesworth. Three of Hannah's children William, Margaret and Jane were in the Rodham Household. The youngest, Jane aged eight, had been born in Scotswood so both brothers had lived in Scotswood between the two censuses.

Enoch Storey appeared in Chopwell after 1906 but a definitive link to No. 2 Thames Street was only established in February 1910. The name of George Dargue appeared in the 1910 PVS a few months later but could not be traced. In the 1911 Census Enoch Storey was the Head of Household in No. 2 Thames Street..

No. 3. Whitfield, Robert/ Laws (Lowe), Edward.

Robert Whitfield was present with eight children all born in Ryton Parish, even the youngest child of less than one year was registered in Ryton, which suggested that Robert was a very recent resident into Thames Street. Later in the decade Robert moved into the adjacent Severn Street at No. 28 and was there for 1910/1911. A brother William was in Greenside for the 1901 Census but moved into Chopwell between 1904 and 1910 and was living in Tay Street for 1910/1911. A son of Robert, James, was another family member to be in the village for 1910/1911, in Tees Street. Recently married, the elder of his two children had been born in the local Ash Tree Farm.

The first link to Edward Laws (Lowe) was the baptism of Mary Ann Lowe in 1905 with the family in Tees Street. Two brothers Joseph and George were identified living in Wear Street and Balfour Terrace respectively.

No. 4. Gray, John

Although there is no parochial register to link the Gray Household to No. 4. Thames Street

between 1901 and 1911 it is a reasonable assumption that the Grays were present for the whole decade. The 1891 Census showed John as the eldest son to Thomas and Margaret Gray and this household was living in Stockly near Willington. Of his three other brothers who were traced for the 1911 Census, Thomas was in Easington, Ralph was in Oakenshaw as was William. The parents, Thomas and Margaret, were in Oakenshaw as a couple, so John was the only one to move away to work at Chopwell Colliery.

No. 5. Ruddick, Frank/ Graham, Fred.

Frank, or Francis, Ruddick headed a small household of four individuals – Frank, his wife Hannah, a sister Sarah Nicholson and a niece Nora. The household moved out of Thames Street and into a smaller house in No. 7 Wansbeck Street before 1906 as Frank was killed in a pit accident on February 12th, 1906. The inquest recorded that Frank had been employed as a hewer in the Townley Seam and was killed by a roof-fall. His brother Joseph Jackson Ruddick of No. 32 Wansbeck Street testified at the inquest.

There was a large group of related Ruddicks in Chopwell including the parents of Frank Ruddick and another son, John. These Ruddicks had migrated from Farlam, Cumberland and most of the family were recorded in Farlam in the 1881 Census. For the 1911 Census the parents, Charles and Susan, were in No. 42 Mersey Street while Joseph Jackson and Mary Jane were in No. 13 Blyth Street in 1901: however, Mary Jane died between 1901 and 1903, and Joseph Jackson remarried to an Elizabeth Jane in 1904 and were in No. 32 Wansbeck Street in 1911.

No further data on Fred Graham 1910/1911 was found.

No. 6. Nicholson, Isaac/ Curry, George/ Robson, Lionel.

Isaac Nicholson, his wife and two adult children were present in 1901 but little further information was found about them. The son Thomas was married in 1905 to a Susannah Burke from Leadgate and the couple, childless, were living in Tees Street in 1911. The Census schedule revealed that there had been one pregnancy although the child deceased. There is a death of a 11-month old infant, Edmond Nicholson, in Tees Street for 1907 which could be this family but no parent details or house number were available for confirmation.

The first reference to George Curry and his wife Jessie, at this address was the baptism of a child in November 1908. The family had been in Hamsterley Colliery until around 1907 and, although the evidence from the 1901 and 1911 censuses is equivocal, may have been there for some 20 years. The tenth child to this marriage was also born in Chopwell, probably in Thames Street, but after the 1910 PVS the family moved to a larger house in Clyde Street for the 1911 Census. Jessie was married at a young age - about 16 years old – but the marriage was not found.

Lionel Robson was a widower in the 1911 Census with, Florance, a daughter and two grand-daughters; both grand-children were the illegitimate off-spring of Florance.

No. 7. Temperley, John.

The Temperley Household was present for both censuses, although there is no support from the parochial registers for a claim of a ten-year resident period. John's wife Sarah Elizabeth was 49 years old in 1901, well past child-bearing age which explains the lack of data.

A son of John, another John, was in Coquet Street for the 1911 Census with his wife and two children but in 1908 had been living in William Street. His parents' house in Thames Street was large enough to accommodate his small family as in 1901 there were seven people in the Household: perhaps the reason why John chose to start married life in the private housing of William Street was the presence of a young disabled miner as a Boarder in the parental home No. 7 Thames Street.

In 1881 John and Sarah were living in Winlaton Village and in contrast to the settled period in Chopwell, the evidence from the stated birthplaces for their children demonstrated regular residence changes. There was one other son, Joseph, who was married and lived in Dunston for 1901 and 1911, albeit in different houses.

No. 8. Wright, William/ Turnbull, David

The family arrived from Cumberland via Prudhoe where two (or four) of the children were born. William died in 1909 and his widow could not be found. The Household must have broken up as as one daughter Jane had married and was living in Hollings Terrace; her brothers William and Nicholas were living with the Household.

Although the Turnbulls, David and Mary Ann, were born locally their two children had been

born in Australia. Apart from finding David living with his parents and siblings in Framwellgate, no further details were found.

No. 9. Riley, John/ Tyers, Thomas/ Hymers, Robert

Only entry for John Riley he was not found in 1911 but he was living in Lintz in 1891.

Thomas Tyers was living in Thames Street from about 1904 until 1910 before his Household, numbering ten, moved to a newer, larger house, No. 4A Humber Street. The family were not found in 1901 but in 1881 and 1891, Thomas was found with his parents William and Jane, plus siblings in the Haltwhistle area. Following his parents forward showed them still in Haltwhistle for 1901 and 1911; in the latter census William had retired and was living in some Retired Miners Houses.

No. 10. Brennan, Michael/ Riley, Sam/ Cape, James

There were two Brennan families headed by brothers. Michael in No. 10 and John in No. 14. Michael was not found in 1911 but John had moved back to Ushaw Moor. The Brennans came from Irish stock and Ushaw Moor was the location of a Roman Catholic seminary which probably was the focus for Irish/Roman Catholic families in the region. While resident in Chopwell some of John's children were baptised in the RC Church in the village.

Looking at the 1901 Census entry for Michael, his wife could have been only 15 years when they married: there is also a gap of nearly ten years between the second and third children. It is conjectured that Mary Jane was John's second wife and biological mother to the two youngest children only. There is support for this idea as no marriage between a Michael and a Mary Jane could be found in the early 1880s, while there is a suitable marriage in 1891. The intriguing coincidence was that a Michael Brennan married Catherine Cook in 1882, while a Michael Brennan married Mary Jane Cook in 1891. So, if it was the same Michael Brennan did he marry his sister-in-law? An interesting story but not proven as other confirming details were not present.

Both Samuel Riley and John Riley (above) were Irish but no familial link was found. Sam came to Chopwell already married with a child born in Ireland. Two younger children were born in Chopwell so the family could have been resident in Thames Street for several years before 1910, before he moved to No. 23 William Street.

The residency at No. 10. was taken by John Cape and there were only three in his household, compared with five in Sam Riley's: however, John's father, mother, eight brothers and one sister occupied No. 25 Severn Street. Perhaps the more important hewing, putting, driving an onsetting work provided by the Cape Households had priority over Sam Riley's cokedrawing.

No. 11. Howe, William A./ Dobson, Robert

William Howe must have spent some years in the USA so it was not practical to source any further details.

Robert and Isabella Dobson arrived as a newly married couple from the Haltwhistle area. They were married in 1904 and arrived with William Nixon - Isabella's widowed father. At the same time Robert's parents and two younger brothers, made a similar move to Medomsley.

No. 12. Smith, David/ Bushby, Henry

David Smith with wife and family arrived from Cumberland at the latest 1898 and lived in Thames Street until 1904 at the earliest. The baptism registers identify the family as living in No. 5 East Street until January 1910, which meant the family had to migrate before the 1911 Census to No. 12 East Street. David's parents were traced back to 1871 in Cockermouth.

The complication with Henry Bushby was that in the 1911 Census he was 'George' Henry, while in the 1901 Census he was 'John' Henry. No further details, apart from that in 1901 he was living in No. 4 Tees Street, were found.

No. 13. Hogarth, Joseph/ Gibson, Richard/ Lockey, John T.

There is only one entry for Hogarth as the Household was found in Ashington for the 1911 Census. Joseph's wife Ann was 48 years old so it was surprising that the youngest child, Joseph, was listed as being only five months old; not impossible but highly unlikely. The Hogarths originated from North Yorkshire and in 1891 were living in Saltburn where Joseph worked as an ironstone miner: the three children, all male, listed in 1891 were the same three present in both 1901 and 1911. There is no evidence in the Census returns for another surviving child, either a male who married and produced a son, Joseph, or a female who could have given birth to an illegitimate son, Joseph.

The entry for Richard Gibson in 1910 was the only reference to this individual and while there

were a number of other Gibson Households there was no Richard. Without an age it was impractical to try and trace such a common surname via the census returns.

John Thomas Lockey married Barbara Johnson of Victoria Garesfield in October 1902. The union was only to last some 10 years as John Thomas died in 1912.

There was another Lockey family in Thames Street, in No. 21, but no relationship to John Thomas was found.

No. 14. Brennan, John/ Coskin, Robert W.

John Brennan is covered under Michael Brennan in No. 10.

There were two other names associated with No. 14 - John Dodds (1906) and John Gordon (1910) - but there were no traceable links.

Robert Coskin, and his wife, Mary, were both over 50, and had moved in with three children aged 12 to 21 years. The family had come from mid-Durham and Robert had married Mary Clews, who had a 17-year old son. The Household was traced to Whitwell in 1901 but was not found in 1891. Robert was living with his widowed father and siblings in 1881; his father had been born in Bradford.

No. 15. Wills, Jonathan/ Hannah, Samuel

The Wills family is covered by the entry in Tyne Street.

The 1910 PVS lists a 'Samuel Hancock' as tenant but the name was untraceable and the suspicion is that the tenant was 'Samuel Hannah', who was the tenant in 1911. The family were not found in 1901 but surfaced in Crook for 1891 although the birthdates were slightly adrift. from the 1911 data. In 1881 Samuel was living with his widowed father and siblings in Whitehaven; the father came from County Down.

No. 16. Parker, John T./ Ridley, John

John T. Parker was not found in any other Census.

In the 1881 Census John Ridley was living in the family home near Haltwhistle. The parents and all four children were born in Haltwhistle. John married Mary Dixon in Haltwhistle in 1890 and were recorded in the 1891 and 1901 Censuses in the Haltwhistle area. There was no evidence of any relatives moving into Chopwell with the Ridleys but it is difficult to be certain as there were many groups from Haltwhistle migrating into the area.

No. 17. Wales, Charles/ Ward, William /Anderson, John W.

No migration trail emerged from the Charles Wales' entry; Charles came from Yarmouth while his wife came from Gloucestershire.

William Ward was tenant in 1910 but it was not possible to decide which of two Williams, living in Chopwell, was the correct one.

John Anderson married Sarah Ann Chaytor in 1881 and they were living in Hamsterley Colliery in 1891 and in 1901. The Household which moved into Chopwell probably comprised only John and his wife as by 1908 his children had all left home. One daughter, Maria married P. C. Wigham in 1904 and remained in Hamsterley, while son Robert married in 1908 and lived in High Spen; his younger sister was living with him. Robert was Branch Manager in the Co-op Drapery in High Spen.

No. 18. Boyd, John/ Cruddas, Edward

John and his wife, after 21 years of marriage, were living by themselves, unusually without any lodgers or boarders. In 1891 they were in Elswick with two children and in 1881 they were in Gateshead. The 1911 Census found the couple again in Gateshead with John still working as a miner. While everything looks rather simple, confusion reigned because the birthplace of Ellen Boyd was variously identified as, Cambridge, Suffolk and York. Also the answer to the question in the 1911 Census relating to children in the marriage stated that there had been no children born in the marriage.

Only Chopwell entry for Edward Cruddas (Cruddace) as they came with a completed family. The 1901 Census recorded the family under the alternative spelling of Cruddace living in Craghead. Edward's age was incorrectly given as 48 years instead of 28 years. Moving back to 1891 Edward (Cruddas) was living with parents and siblings in Urpeth, while the 1881 Census gave Edward (Cruddace) also in Urpeth. The 1891 Census had the birthplace of George, the father, as County Durham and, similarly, the birthplace of Jane, the mother, as Yorkshire: the earlier Census had George, Jane and the first two children as being born in Yorkshire. The confusion over birthplaces was a continuing theme as these were placed in either Yorkshire or Westmoreland.

Edward had three brothers - William (b.1860), Richard (b.1862) and George (b.1876) - and these were tracked through several censuses;

- William was in Urpeth in 1901 with six children of his own and his widowed father.
- Richard ended up in Stockton for 1901 and 1911 where he became a School Attendance Officer.
- George was in Chester-le-Street for 1911 with three children plus an adopted son born in London.

No. 19. Hinsey, Patrick/ Irwin, James W.

Patrick Hinsey and his wife were both Irish, a fact which is not in dispute, however, it is possible that the surname was Kinsey not Hinsey. In the 1911 Census (Hamsterley) both surnames appear in the Household listing for Patrick. In an all age search for all Censuses there were 22 Kinseys but only five Hinseys (which included Patrick and Mary) listed in County Durham. In 1891 the family were in Monkwearmouth and the Census listed the birthplaces of the children in a more explicit way: the oldest daughter was born in Ormskirk, Lancashire, indicating part of the migration route to Chopwell.

James Irwin married Eleanor Grant in 1883 in Lanchester District and by 1891 they were living in Brandon with four children. Also in the Household were a group of three with the surname Robson, said to be 'relatives': it was ascertained that Isabell Robson was a sister of James. Isabell and her husband moved to South Shields for 1901. Their daughter Sarah was a 'day servant' in the household of her aunt Mary Ann Irwin.

No. 20. Hall, William/ Rogerson, David M.

The Hall Household arrived with a completed family where the last child, a four-year old, had been born in Washington. Although William was a miner in 1901 in the 1881 and 1891 Censuses his occupation was 'boot finisher'. For these two Censuses the family was living in Gateshead and Elswick respectively, while for the 1911 Census the family - minus William as he had died early in 1910 - was living in Usworth.

The Rogerson Household, headed by David, was one of four related Households which had arrived from Cumberland certainly before 1909 when a nephew was baptised in Chopwell. In 1911 the other members of the Rogerson clan were James/Esther, David's parents in Forth Street, John M., brother in Coquet Street and William, another brother living with his in-laws in Beaconsfield Terrace. It is noted that all three married sons, but not their families, were also listed in their father's Household in Forth Street - an obvious case of double-counting.

For the 1901 Census the Rogersons were still living in Cumberland.

No. 21. Grieves, Michael/ Lockey, Catherine

Michael Grieves and family had left Chopwell for Ashington at the latest by 1904. The 1901 Household included his father and younger brother, both as visitors: his mother and her other children were found in Ashington for the same Census. Michael's mother had been born in Australia and his father was from Bedlington. For the earlier Censuses, apart from circulating in Northumberland, with an excursion down to Bishop Auckland, Michael's parents surprisingly travelled west to Farlam, Cumberland, when the major migration flow was from east to west.

The Head of Household was Catherine Lockey who was a widow and had been since 1889. The marriage produced an only child (born 1873) who was missing in the 1881 Census but made his appearance after his father died. Also in the household from 1891 was a niece who was probably a servant/companion to Catherine. In the earlier Censuses 1871-1901 Catherine lived in Hedleyhope near Crook.

No. 22. Pearson, Michael/ Gray, William G.

Michael married relatively late in life perhaps because his mother was widowed in her early 30s leaving several young children. In the 1861 Census she was described as a pauper labourer and in 1881 Michael was the main breadwinner at the age of 27 when his mother was 57 years old. From 1851 to 1891 Mary and her small Household never moved from Greenside. In 1901 Mary was living with John, her oldest son, in Winlaton. Michael was not living with his mother in 1891 but was in Chopwell for 1901 where his youngest son was born in 1898. The 1911 Census recorded Michael as a widower living with his three children in Leadgate. His wife died in 1909 in Lanchester District.

The William Gray Household was rather mixed with husband and wife, two children surnamed Gray, two step sons one surnamed Andrewartha and one named Killen, two step daughters

surnamed Killen and an adopted daughter surnamed Urwin. Obviously both William and Catherine had been married before, although the Andrewartha link was not traced. A full explanation of this situation is beyond this analysis.

No. 23. Irving, Joseph/ Sowerby, John/ Maggs, John/ Hopkins, John

No further details were found about Joseph Irving or John Sowerby.

John Maggs was living in No. 25 Tweed Street for the 1911 Census, also in the Household was one of his brothers, Jacob, and a sister-in-law, Elizabeth Freek. John had married Frances Freek after sharing accommodation with her in No. 3 Greenhead Terrace in 1901.

The Maggs family came from Somerset to Oakenshaw between 1871 and 1881 and John's father James was still living in Oakenshaw in 1911.

John Hopkins married Margaret Armstrong in 1899 before migrating to Chopwell from the Crook area. John's parents, Isaac and Jane, originated from Bedfordshire and Yorkshire respectively but all their children were born in Crook. Margaret Armstrong was born in Hunstanworth where her father was a lead miner, however, the decline of lead mining forced the family to move into mid-Durham and into coal mining. Several of the Armstrong families also moved into Chopwell and her widower father and married brother were living in No. 11 Clyde Street in 1911.

No. 24. Hodgson, John J./ Shields, Ralph

John Hodgson and his wife, Rebecca, were married in 1900 and had no children in 1901. John was not found in 1911 although Rebecca (m.s. Gardner) was living with her parents in Victoria Garesfield with an eight-year old daughter. Rebecca's status was still 'married'. With few clues about John James Hodgson, it was not possible to identify him in the 1881 and 1891 Censuses. Rebecca, on the other hand, was traced to Low Spen in 1881.

Another young married couple, Ralph Shields and his wife were married in 1906 and all three of their children were born in Chopwell/Blackhall Mill. The 1891 Census registered Ralph with his parents and siblings in Chester-le-Street.

No. 25. Phipps, Joseph/ Walker, John

Joseph Phipps was married with three young children in 1901 but he and his family had left Chopwell for Chester le Street sometime before 1904: he also left mining and in 1911 he was an 'insurance agent'.

The earlier Census Returns 1871 and 1881 recorded Joseph in Hunstanworth living with his parents and siblings. His father, who originally came from Gloucestershire, worked in the lead mines but died in 1884 before the 1891 Census. Since the death occurred in Auckland District, where his widow and Joseph were living in 1891, Joseph must have moved out of Weardale to work in coal mining between 1881 and 1884.

John Walker was from Scotland and his wife was from Greenhead and their daughter was born in Chopwell.

No. 26. Matthews, John W./ Jennings, Isaac

The 1901 Census Return identified John and his wife as a young married couple without children. Ten years later and the young couple, now with three children had moved house to No. 19. Wear Street. House more appropriate family size. No further details were found.

No further details were found for Isaac Jennings..

No. 27. Robson, Alexander/ Ruddick, John

The 1901 Census entry was for Alexander who was the resident with his wife and two-year old child. No further links were found.

John Ruddick was linked to other Ruddicks - see entry for No. 13. Blyth Street.

No. 28. Marr, James H./ Merritt, William/ Hind, Henry

There was only the 1901 entry for this Marr family, a young married couple with no children, and initially the Head, James Henry Marr, could not be traced either forward or backward. It was then discovered that the second name was not Henry but Edmund: this was the key to finding James in 1911 and back to 1881. In 1911 the family had moved to Glossop Street where James was identified as an 'undermanager'. This promotion was the trigger to move house.

Having found James living with parents and siblings in Stockley (1881) and Brandon (1891) it was possible to link the only other Marr family in Chopwell to James. Joseph Marr in Greenhead Terrace in 1901 was an older brother to James. As far as can be ascertained no other relatives came to Chopwell.

The parish registers first recorded the name Richard Merritt against No. 28 in 1902 and there

were another two baptisms in 1904 and 1906. The entries ceased with an entry of February 1908 of the death of Richard's wife, Hannah: Richard could have moved out as early as January 1909 as Henry Hind appeared in the registers at that time. Where did he go? Well the 1911 Census recorded him and his children living with his widowed mother and an unmarried brother in No. 9 Severn Street. Further details can be found in the Severn Street entry.

The Hind family arrived into Chopwell about 1901 and settled in No. 39 Severn Street: in the household were several brothers, one of these was Henry Gowland Hind. Over the next decade three of the brothers married and dispersed into adjacent streets. Further details can be found in the entry for Nos. 38 and 39 Severn Street.

No. 29. Russell, William H./ Moore, Robert. J.

The Russell Household only included two children and the youngest was seven months old and was born in Willington, so they were recent arrivals into Chopwell. It is probable that the Russells moved out of Chopwell and into Newcastle, perhaps before 1902, being replaced by Robert Moore and family who were present in 1911.

The Russells next appeared in 1910 living in No. 3B Clyde Street and then seemed to swap houses with the tenants of No. 1B Clyde Street. Although the Riddleys had ten children, compared with the Russells three, the move is rather puzzling as both houses were the same size with four rooms. B Clyde Street comprised 13 houses split into two groups, one with four houses (Nos. 1B to 4B) and the other with nine houses (Nos. 5B to 13B), the two groups were separated by a full street of 20 houses.

It is evident that the Russells third child was an adopted daughter who had been born in Byker, Newcastle. While adopted children are frequently relatives, in this case it was not possible to confirm or deny any relationship.

As mentioned above Robert Jackson Moore was present in Chopwell, and probably was in Thames Street, from around 1902. The 1901 Census had Robert J. Moore in a Household headed by Moses Bell, his father-in-law, in the village of Billy Row, near Crook. Apart from Robert's wife, Mary Ann (Bell) and a daughter, there was also a widow, Ann Moore, who was thought to be related to Robert. This relationship is explored further in the residential history of No. 33 Thames Street, see below..

No. 30. Marley, Joseph/ Jones, Thomas/ Charlton, William/ Bell, William

The 1901 Marley Household contained Joseph (25), Elizabeth (35) and four step-children with the surname Hardwick: it is obvious that Joseph had married a widow. The marriage took place in the second quarter 1901 just before the 1901 Census. Joseph was a native of Yorkshire while Elizabeth came from Gloucester; the children were born in Yorkshire. In 1891 Elizabeth Hardwick with her first husband Charles and children were in Lingdale, Yorkshire; Charles died in 1896.

The family headed by Joseph Marley had moved to Wansbeck Street before the 1911 Census, in fact there is a parochial register entry which indicated the family was already in Wansbeck by 1908. This entry was for the baptism of a child to Frances Hardwick, single woman, one of the step-daughters of Joseph Marley.

The 1911 Household was sociologically mixed with two parents, three single step-children, two children from the second marriage, and a married step-daughter with son-in-law with grand-child. Frances Hardwick and her child were missing from the 1911 Census record so she may have married.

Of three other names linked with No. 30 very few further details were found:

- Jones, Thomas. A register entry for 1905 puts Thomas and Jane Jones in No. 30 and in 1911 the family were in No. 26 Tweed Street.
- Charlton, William. 1910. No other links were found.
- Bell, William. 1911. No other links were found

No. 31. Crosson, Hugh/ Booth, Isaac

Only the single entry for Chopwell as the 1911 Census showed that the family had moved to Tanfield Parish. There was one child born in Chopwell, an eight-year old. The 1891 Census, with Hugh still at home, revealed that Hugh's parents came from Ireland and the oldest son, William, had also been born there. From 1891 to 1911 Hugh's parents lived in Lamesley Parish, while two married sons lived in neighbouring parishes of Stanley and Tanfield.

Although the Booths were not present in Chopwell for the 1901 Census, three of their children

were born there: the oldest of this group was born in 1903 so the family could have been present before that date. In 1901 Isaac, wife and family were in Whickham as were his parents. Isaac Duncan Booth, father of Isaac, was living in Derwentside, just across the River Derwent from Blackhall Mill, in 1891. At least three of Isaac Duncan's sons married and remained in Whickham/Swalwell area for the 1901/1911 Censuses but Isaac Duncan and Margaret were not found in 1911.

No. 32. Folley (Foley), John/ Pennington, Alex./ Fullen, Thos. E.

John arrived in Chopwell with five young children all born in Brampton and proceeded to have another four in Chopwell. With a household they needed a larger house and they moved to No. 7B Clyde Street for 1910/1911. There is a mismatch on the 1910 date with Alex Pennington tenant in Thames Street and Thomas Stanton tenant for Clyde Street. So where was John Folley and his nine children? The residency pattern in what was called New Clyde Street was rather mixed-up, with tenants, seemingly, changing houses between 1910 and 1911. There was no tenant in what became No. 6B Clyde Street so it is possible that John Folley occupied this house.

The only information on Alexander Pennington was the 1910 PVS tenancy list as he had disappeared from Chopwell and reappeared in Crook by 1911. The Crook Household comprised his wife and six children, plus his father-in-law, two brothers-in-law (one a widower and one married but no wife was present) and a probable grandchild. It is most unlikely that this Household had been living in Thames Street, having moved from Crook, and then retreated back to their origins in such a short space of time. The most likely explanation is that Alexander was living temporarily in Thames Street, perhaps he had an option for work at the colliery. Unfortunately, the Penningtons were not found in any other Census.

No. 33. Imerson, Thomas/ Smith, Robert

Tracing the Imersons and linked families was not a straight forward exercise. The 1901 Household contained an Albert Moore, said to be a brother-in-law of Thomas, this suggested that Mary Imerson was formerly Mary Moore; this was confirmed and the marriage took place in the last quarter of 1889. The 1911 Household of Robert Jackson Moore at No. 28 Thames Street has already been noted above but also in this Household was the same Albert Moore, described as a brother of Robert Jackson Moore. Hence the Imerson and Moore families were linked by marriage.

The 1901 Census for Billy Row, Crook had Ann Moore, a widow, in the household of Moses Bell, she was aged 66 and had been born in Stanhope. Working on the assumption that she could be the mother of Robert Jackson Moore who was also in the same Household, she was traced back through 1891, 1881 and 1871. In all these censuses there was a son Robert but his age did not fit and there was no Albert, as expected since he was not born until 1890. There remains the possibility that this Ann Moore was not, in fact, a relation of Robert Jackson Moore.

A further search in the 1891 Census found a Thomas and Jane Moore in Tow Law, and they headed a household which contained two sons Robert J. Moore and Albert Moore. This seems to confirm the relationship between Robert and Albert. Between 1891 and 1901 Jane Moore died and was replaced by Annie, a former widow with three children with the surname Stewart; the Household was now in Nevilles Cross, Durham. Neither the Stewarts nor the Moores were traced in 1911.

The only piece in this tangled web of interconnected families that could not be confirmed was the relationship between Mary Imerson (Moore) and Robert Jackson/Albert Moore. While the 1901 Census record can be taken at face value there is the possibility that Albert may be the illegitimate son of Mary and not her claimed brother-in-law.

Thomas Imerson was found in both the 1881 and 1891 Censuses. In the earlier one he was living as a nephew in Billy Row with a family named Bond and in the later one he was simply a lodger with the Metcalf family in Sunnyside. According to the 1911 Census Thomas and Mary were married for 19 years but from the official marriage date of 1889 this should be 21 years: it would appear that Mary was only 17 years old when she got married.

The three Jacksons living in the Imerson Household of No. 11 Humber Street in 1911 were brothers and in 1891 were with their parents, John and Ann Jackson, in Coundon: John died before the 1901 Census and Ann was remarried to a Thomas Whitfield. In 1911 there was another Jackson family in No. 27 Tees Street, Chopwell and because James, the Head, originated from the same Coundon area as John Jackson, a search in the 1881 Census showed them to be brothers. Another brother George remained in Coundon at least until 1911.

While the 1910 PSV and the 1911 Census recorded Robert Smith as the resident at No. 33 Thames Street no further links could be established. Robert could have been a recent arrival as his youngest child (less than one-year old) was born in Chopwell but the second youngest, aged six, was born in Langley Park.

No. 34. Jones, William

There was no tenant for the 1901 Census while the 1911 Census recorded two related families living in No. 34 as separate Household Heads. The composition of the William/Harriett Jones Household suggests a second marriage and a possible illegitimate child - Florrie Backhouse. The 1901 Census confirmed that James and William Jones were brothers and that Harriett was not their biological mother. It was found that William married Harriett Backhouse in 1900 and in the 1891 Census Harriett was living with her parents, Alfred and Hannah, in Bearpark. The 1901 Census listed Alfred/ Hannah in St. Giles, Durham together with Florence Backhouse, a granddaughter. Alfred died in Chopwell in 1906 while Hannah died in Lanchester in 1908, so Florence probably stayed with her grandparents and then moved in with her mother.

One complex relationship which was left unanswered was the Household of Thomas Jones in No. 26 Tweed Street for 1911. In this household was George Rewcastle Backhouse described as a 'brother' to Thomas Jones. This was solved when it was determined that Thomas and George had married two sisters, hence George was a 'brother-in-law' to Thomas. It was not possible to establish a link to the family in Thames Street.

No. 35. Gartlam, John/ Wills, Thomas I.

The search for Gartlam was unsuccessful but there was a single baptism entry in the RC Registers of a 'Gartland'. Exploring this surname was also unsuccessful owing to the number of options.

Originally from Farlam in Cumberland, Thomas moved to Northumberland and then into Blackhall Mill by the late-1890s, before moving up the hill into Chopwell. Thomas had three brothers - Robert (b.1868), Joseph (b.1873) and Edward (b.1880) - and of these Edward could not be traced, Joseph was still with his parents in 1901 in Blenkinsopp and Robert migrated to High Spen just before the 1911 Census. Robert travelled to High Spen with a large Household of fourteen to take up residence in No. 4. Townley Terrace - a four-roomed house.

No. 36. Garbutt (Abbott), Thomas/ Bell, Thomas

It was not clear whether the surname was Garbutt or Abbott as in 1901 it was Abbott while in 1911 Abbott was dropped altogether it was simply Garbutt. Thomas was dead by 1911 and his widow, Mary Abbott, with one son were living in Burnhope where she kept a Boarding House.

In 1911 two sons Fred and George Garbutt Abbott were living in South Moor. Another brother, William Garbutt, was living in Craghead with wife and family. Both the 1881 and 1891 Censuses identified Thomas (Garbutt) Abbott and family in St. Helen's Auckland.

Thomas Bell was recorded as the tenant in the 1910 PSV, however the parish register recorded a baptism to Thomas and his wife with an address of No. 39 Mersey Street for June 1910. In February 1909 there was another baptism with another address, this time No. 11 Hilford Terrace. Hilford was a private rented property and may have been a temporary address before a colliery house became available. This suggests that Thomas Bell had three different addresses in as many years.

The 1901 Census had Thomas in Farlam with one son, Harold, but it was difficult to trace Thomas further back because he had such a common surname. John married Jane Ann Ruddick in 1898 and she was traced back to 1891 living with her parents in Brampton. There were a number of Ruddicks in Chopwell but no links were established to Jane Ann.

No. 37. Rule, Matthew/ Armstrong, Peter/ Cook, Joseph

Matthew Rule (or possibly Ryle) was not traced in any other Census.

The 1901 Census had Peter and Rebecca Armstrong living in No. 1 Tyne Street but they could have transferred to Thames Street by 1903 and moved out to No. 20 Forth Street just before the 1911 Census. A number of baptisms confirm the family was in residence between the above dates. Further details can be found in the entry to No. 1. Tyne Street.

Joseph and Annie Cook were living in Clara Vale for the 1901 Census in a Household with four children an uncle, William Henderson and a sister-in-law, Rachel Liddle. It was determined that Annie Cook was formerly Annie Liddell and that Mary Ann Liddle, who married a brother, Fenwick Liddle, was formerly Mary Ann Henderson. William Henderson died in 1913 living at No. 37

Thames Street and Mary Ann Liddle died in 1912 in No. 2 Clyde Street.

No. 38. Fenwick, Joseph/ Bolam, Edward/ Ferguson, Robert

In 1881 Joseph was married to Alice, his first wife, who died in 1890, leaving him with five children under 14 years. He remarried within one year (1891) to Margaret Ellen Woodward and arrived in Chopwell for the 1901 Census. They did not stay long and were back in Tow Law before 1903.

Edward Bolam with a Household of five was living in Hamsterley Colliery in 1901 before moving to Chopwell. After a stay in Thames Street the family moved to No. 7 Ravenside Terrace for the 1911 Census. No further details were found.

There was only one further reference to Robert Ferguson and that was the 1901 Census record where the family were in Heworth.

No. 39. Swindle, Thomas/ Kent, John

The alternative spelling of Swindle is Swindale and it was under this name that the family was registered in 1911 in Gateshead. Evidence from the Baptism registers suggests that Thomas and family had moved out of Thames Street by 1903 and moved into No. 16 Wansbeck. The move from Wansbeck out to Gateshead took place in 1906 at the latest.

In 1891 John Kent was living with his parents and siblings in Haydon, Northumberland, where five of the family were lead miners. The 1861 Census has the recently married William and Ann living with their widower father who farmed 24 acres. Finally the 1851 Census identified George and Jessie Kent living with sons William and John; George was an agricultural labourer.

No. 40. Devlin, John/ Morton, George/ Burns, Andrew

John Devlin and his wife were born in Lanark and were childless. No further information was found of the Devlin family.

The parish registers recorded three entries for George/Jane, at this address - two baptisms and one death in 1906/1907. The arrival into Thames Street, Chopwell must have occurred around 1905 and they must have left before 1910 since the family were not listed in the 1910 PVS. The 1911 Census found the family living in No.49. Forth Street with a one-year old child born in Blackhall Mill. The 1910 PVS listed the tenant at No. 14 Derwent Street as George Moreton so in the space of seven years the family had changed address four times.

The parents, Samuel and Sarah, of George were found living in Whickham in 1901 and George and a brother, Samuel, were in the Household; both parents had been born in Norfolk. The earliest reference to Samuel/Sarah was the 1881 Census when they were in Linthorpe, Middlesborough. The most useful Census was the 1891 when the family had moved further north to Swalwell, here four brothers, including George, were listed; Alfred (b.1871), John (b.1875), George (b.1881 and Samuel (b.1885). All of these settled locally:

- Alfred was in Gateshead (1901) and Rowlands Gill (1911). His Rowlands Gill Household contained his parents and a four-year old who had been born in Chopwell: the entry was confirmed by the parish registers and an address of No. 45. Clyde Street.

- John was in No. 10 Ravenside Terrace, Chopwell (1911) but he had been in the area for several years as his two-year old daughter was born in Blackhall Mill.

- Samuel was in No. 7 Hollings Terrace, Chopwell (1911). He married Jane Wright who was living with her parents, her two brothers (William and Nicholas, who were boarders in Hollings Terrace) and a sister. Jane's father, William, died in 1909 which could account for the break up of the Wright Household.

Andrew Burns could have been in occupancy before the 1910 PVS but with Andrew and his wife in their late 40s they were unlikely to trouble the baptism registers. Originating from Carlisle he was traced from 1881 to 1911. In the 1881 Census he was living with his widowed mother and a sister: his mother's occupation was described as a 'poor loom weaver'. Andrew married Mary Meekly in 1881 (last quarter) and was still in Carlisle for the 1891 Census. Finally he and his family arrived in Lintzford probably just before the 1901 Census.

No. 41. Eager, James/ Tinnion, John

Bradford appeared to be a popular birthplace for the Eager family, but this uniform picture collapsed when the 1911 Census produced a different group of birthplaces. In the case of James Eager himself his birthplace shifted several hundred kilometres south to Sussex; his wife was the only one to retain Bradford. The earlier 1891 Census again revised James Eager's birthplace this time to Suffolk.

For the 1881 and 1891 Censuses the Eagers were in the West Riding and in the former James was with his parents and siblings. There was no evidence that any of James' brothers came north - two were found in Bradford and another in East Bierley, Yorkshire.

John Tinnion, his wife and four children arrived into Chopwell before 1903 address unknown. By 1905 they were living in No. 3 Severn Street before appearing in No. 41 Thames Street by 1908. Both of these houses had three rooms and were of the same vintage so there would appear the usual motives for moving house were not present. Although the marriage was found, 1895 in Lanchester, the 1901 Census entry was not found.

No. 42. Neasham, George

George and his small Household stayed for both Censuses. It was evident that Mary Jane was George's second wife - she was formerly Mary Jane Etherington, which explains the name for their only child, Joseph Etherington Neasham. The 1911 Household contained a Charles Neasham who turned out to be George's brother. There were also two lodgers who were not relatives.

The 1891 Census found George as a widower living in his parent's house, in his home parish of Evenwood. His two children were also present, one was only a month old, suggesting that the mother could have died from birth complications. The family could not be found in 1881 but were identified in 1871.

George's son to his first wife was Robert William and he was found living in No. 10. Coquet Street in 1911 with his wife and young child. They were occupying the house with another young family surnamed Luke. The link between these families was that their respective wives were sisters.

No. 43. Beresford, Robert/ Evans, William

The first difficulty faced with Robert Beresford is the use of a double surname for the children, however, searching for Beresford found that his wife had died after 1901 and he was living with his parents in 1911. Her death was not traced so it is not known if she died before or after the move to Brandon. In 1901 she was only 32 years and had several years of fertility still left but there were no more recorded live births after Annie (b.1900) in Chopwell.

The Evans history could not be delineated in full as there were a number of dead-ends. There were nine children in the 1911 Household and six recorded in the 1901 Census when the family were in Tanfield. The 1891 Census had William, unmarried, with his widowed mother in Tanfield. The nominal date for his marriage was 1892 and although one was found matching the date the name of his wife was Martha, not Frances Maria.

The family was not traced in 1881. Some searches were made to find where several of William's brothers settled: two married and were living in Dipton and another was in Swalwell.

No. 44. McNestry, Joseph.

Joseph was present for both census returns and he was one of four McNestry brothers, John, William, Patrick and Joseph, who were in the village for the 1901-1911 period.

The first evidence for the McNestry family in Durham is the 1861 Census when the name was spelled McKinsty. James and his wife Catherine, plus children, John, William, James and Patrick were living in St. Giles, Durham. They were not found in 1871 but turned up in 1881 in Allendale Cottages, Medomsley when the number of children had increased to ten. The age for Catherine, James' wife was given as 35 years, while 20 years earlier she was 23 years and in the 1891 Census, the last one which recorded the couple, she was 52 years. Obviously the 1881 age was incorrect as this made her 9 years old when she had her first son: if the 1861 age is assumed correct Catherine was still only 17 when she had John.

John and family were not in Chopwell for 1901 but were in Benfieldside when it was found that the household contained two step-children - Joseph Proud and Tamar Proud. The first thought was that Jane Hannah had been married before but searching the 1881 Census Jane Hannah was found in Muggleswick with two children - Joseph aged 4 and Jane aged 1. The Head of the Household was Tamar Whaley, a farmer, who was Jane Hannah's aunt. The conclusion is that Jane Hannah had not been married before and brought two illegitimate children to her marriage with John McNestry.

A3.2. High Spen Streets

A3.2.1 Glossop Street

No. 1. Lowden, Edward/ Hewison, George

Edward was the son of Edward and Catherine Lowden and the Lowden kin network can be found in the entry for No. 30 Howard Terrace. Similarly George Hewison details can be found in No. 36 West Street.

No. 2. Lowery, John

Arrived in 1881 from mid-Durham, had a local wife and three young children. In 1891 he moved to No. 4 New Buildings which became No. 4 East Street: this house was just across the road from Glossop Street. The child count had gone up eight and in addition there were two in-laws, making a total of twelve in a three-room house. The in-laws, Isaac and Jane Errington, had been living at No. 5 Glossop Street in 1881. (For further details of the Erringtons see entry below.) By 1901 the in-laws had gone, they probably had died, but there were still eight children at home which was now No. 26 East Street, a four-room house further up the street. The family were still there in 1911 with six children.

No. 3. Brown, John

Present for both Censuses but not related to other Brown families. Only traced back to 1891 when John, Mary and two children were living in Framwellgate, Durham.

No. 4. Forsyth, James.

There was only one Forsyth family and it appeared in 1871 in High Spen. James claimed Chester-le-Street as his birthplace while Ann, his wife, had Appelby, Westmorland. The family was in view from 1871 to 1911 but for the last two Censuses Ann became Esther while her birthplace changed to County Durham. The 1911 Census recorded a marriage lasting 49 years and the ages of James and Esther were the same as for James and Ann, so the conclusion is that Ann and Esther were the same person. There is only one son, Matthew, from the marriage and he married a Dorothy Smart and lived in nearby High Thornley.

No. 5. Willoughby, Robert

Robert Willoughby can be traced back to 1881 after marrying Mary Waugh in 1872. His Household not only stayed at No. 63 Spen Road for two Censuses (1881 and 1891) but also remained at No. 5 Glossop Street for the 1901 and 1911 Censuses. Robert's wife died in 1894 but he remained a widower. The 1911 Household included two of his own unmarried children, a married daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren. His son-in-law, Robert Johnson, was probably a member of a local kin network of Johnsons but this could not be proven.

A son, Robert, married a widow, Annie Etta Pringle with two children, and was living in No. 4 South Street in 1911. Another son, John George, had also married but had moved to Winlaton.

No. 6. Burnett, Joseph/Carr, James

All the Burnetts in High Spen were related in one way or another. Joseph headed a Household when he married (marriage not found) a widow Margaret Luens, who had two children, William and Elizabeth. Initially they lived in Spen Road (1891) before moving to Glossop Street and then to West Street. Margaret died in 1904 and Joseph remarried another widow in 1906 (not traced). The widow, Mary Gardner (her husband died in 1902), had nine children in the 1901 Census although some would have left home to marry before the remarriage of their mother. The 1911 Census showed that there were five still at home at that time, so the move from Glossop Street (two rooms) to West Street (four rooms) was probably quite necessary.

William Luens adopted his step-fathers' surname and married as William Burnett. In 1901 William was living in Spen Road with a Household of nine individuals, including a sister-in-law and three Boarders. The 1911 Household in East Street had expanded to 14, which included seven of their children, father-in-law, brother-in-law, a Servant and two Boarders.

John Burnett, brother of Joseph, was married by 1901 and lived in No. 21 East Street and stayed for the 1911 Census. The presence of his brother, Thomas, helped swell the Household size to twelve.

Thomas, the father of Joseph, John, Thomas and William, first appeared in High Spen in 1871 and lived in Cardiff Square (1881), New Buildings or East Street (1891) and No. 10 East Street (1901). Thomas died in 1901 and Dorothy in 1907.

The Carr Household headed by James' father Newrick was first detected in Bedburn, Auckland in 1881 before the family appeared in High Spen in the 1891 Census. Newrick died in 1898 and

his widow was listed as Head in the 1901 Census for No.11 West Street. The Household contained her married daughter and son-in-law. The situation was reversed in 1911 when Joseph Poole, son-in-law, was Head in Cardiff Square.

Meanwhile James had moved from No. 10 Glossop Street into No. 6. and brother Newrick had moved to Crawcrook (1901) and Great Lumley (1911). The move by James seems rather pointless as the houses were the same size.

No. 7. Buttle, James

Small family with James traced back to Norfolk working on his father's farm. In 1871 he married Jane Ann Blair, who had a five-year old child, probably illegitimate. This child had disappeared by the next census and the Buttles had two children of their own by 1881. James was a widower before the 1891 Census and was left with two teenaged girls. Their eldest child Alice married Matthew Cunningham in 1897 and she was living in Blaydon for the 1901/1911 Censuses. The other daughter married James Grossart who lived at No. 13 Glossop Street.

No. 8. Stonebank, William/ Johnson, William

William was with his widowed father and siblings in Evenwood, Durham in 1881 and was married before he arrived in Glossop Street. His stay was brief, two to three years, before the family moved back to Toft Hill, where he and his wife had another four children before they left for Newcastle before 1911.

William Johnson married Mary White in 1880 and had all their children in the Byers Green area and arrived in Winlaton by 1901. The 1911 Census recorded the parents and three teenagers in Glossop Street.

No. 9. Laing, James/ Elliot, John

William and Agnes Laing plus six children came into High Spen just after the 1871 Census. The next Census found the Household had another three children and the family were living in Cardiff Square. William died before the 1891 Census and a residual group of six were living in Ramsey's Cottages with the oldest son, Thomas, identified as Head. The 1901 Census found his widow Agnes heading a small Household, in Victoria Garesfield, of five that included a married daughter, son-in-law a grandson and a neice. Clustered around were several married sons;

- James in No. 9. Glossop Street - 1901 (Not found in 1911)
- Walter in Railway Crossing - 1911
- Thomas in No. 40. Long Row East - 1901, 1911
- William in No. 49. Long Row East - 1901
- John in No. 10. Burnop Terrace - 1911

The parents of John Elliott were John and Elizabeth, who were married in 1857 in Gateshead; John was from Greenside while Elizabeth was from Derbyshire. In 1861 and 1871 the couple were living in High Spen. After they occupied No. 71 Spen Road (No. 71 Collindon Road) in 1881 John and Elizabeth disappeared off the scene while for the next three Censuses the eldest son Samuel was recorded at the Collindon address. Son John Elliott married Elizabeth Cox in 1905 although she was not identified in 1901 Census.

No.10. Carr, James/ Lowden, Ralph

James Carr is covered by the entry for No. 11 West Street.

For Ralph Lowden see No. 30 Howard Terrace.

No. 11. Armstrong, James

James was present for four censuses at the same address – No. 11 Glossop Street. His wife died before the 1901 Census and their only child - Agnes – married a John Robinson and this family lived in with James for both the 1901 and 1911 censuses. James was a member of a large family group of Armstrongs that derived from the marriage of Joseph and Rachael Armstrong. Joseph, a farmer, first appeared in 1841 and was last recorded in Barlow as a retired farmer in 1871. Of his eight children six were boys and while not all can be traced at least three of them and their descendants were still in the High Spen area until 1911. There were two links out to Robinson families although it was not ascertained if they were the same family. Thomas, son of Edward, married Jane Robinson who lived at No. 42 Clayton Terrace.

No. 12. Pace, John

Small family group centered around Garesfield and Glossop Street. John and his wife, Mary were in Garesfield for 1851 and 1861 but John was dead for the 1871 Census, although Mary

and two children were still in Garesfield for this Census. Only son John had married by 1881 and began a long association, some four decades, with No. 12 Glossop Street.

No. 13. Grossart, William

William Grossart (sometimes Grossant) originated from Scotland and appeared to be the only family with this surname in the area. The family were not found in 1881 so the arrival date into High Spen is not known. However, once in, William stayed for 1891, 1901 and 1911 Censuses. One of his sons married into the Buttle family who lived at No. 7 Glossop.

No. 14. Jamieson, George/ Barker, Arthur

George Jameson was living with his parents and siblings in Crawcrook in 1881; he was an Apprentice Blacksmith. By 1891 he was married and working at High Spen Colliery as a Blacksmith. His first house in Howard Terrace with its two rooms would obviously be comfortable for him and his wife: by 1901 with five children under ten years moving a few doors down into Glossop Street, with four rooms, would alleviate overcrowding. No. 23 East Street, with four rooms would also help even though the child count was now seven.

Arthur Barker was the youngest child of Samuel and Harriett Barker in 1881. Harriett had been a widow as she brought three children, surnamed Rayment into the Household. All six children had been born in Essex. After a stay in No. 23 New Buildings (East Street) with four children, Samuel and Harriett down-sized to Co-op Terrace with most of the family had left home. Arthur (sometimes called Samuel) was married and was living in Howard Terrace (1901) before moving to Glossop Street (1911).

Another son, Edward, was married and occupied No. 12 South Street in 1901 and 1911. A step-brother George Rayment (there were several alternative spellings) was also married and was living in No. 18 Howard Terrace, again for both the 1901 and 1911 Censuses; however he was a widower by 1911.

No. 15. Emmerson, Joseph/ Emmerson, Arthur

Arthur, his wife and three young children could have been the first tenants in the New Buildings (East Street) in 1891 and were still there in 1901 with another four children. The 1911 Household comprised eleven individuals but they had acquired a four room house in Glossop Street. The acquisition involved an exchange with Arthurs' father, Joseph, who occupied No. 15 Glossop in 1901. Joseph was down-sizing to No. 6 West Street where he was living in 1911 in a Household of only three.

Another Emmerson generation was also in High Spen - Joseph's father, also Joseph - was living in No. 48 High Spen in 1861 and was in Glossop Street in 1881.

No. 16. Eltringham, John/ Marr, James

John and Alice were married in 1876 in Gateshead District and the following four Censuses recorded the family at four different addresses in High Spen:

- 1881 - No. 36 Clayton Street
- 1891 - No. 24 Howard Terrace
- 1901 - No. 16 Glossop Street
- 1911 - No. 22 West Street

One of his sons, James, was resident in No. 9 South Street for 1911. Two of John's brothers were also resident in High Spen:

- Thomas was in No. 100 Cardiff Square for 1901 and 1911
- Robert was in the Ramseys for 1891 and No. 29 West Street for 1901

In 1911 James Marr was Undermanager at High Spen although it is not known if he arrived into that position or worked his way into the position. However, according to the birthplace of his children - all Winlaton over ten years - the latter option is a probability. After his promotion he was joined in Spen by one of his brothers and another brother was found living in Chopwell. Another possible trigger to migrate from Stockley, where the family had lived for some years, was the death of his father, James C. Marr, between 1901 and 1911, unfortunately the precise date was not determined. Their youngest sibling, Sarah, had married by 1911 and her widowed mother was living with her and her husband in Oakenshaw. Both James C. and his wife Sarah were originally from Yorkshire.

A3.2.2. Howard Terrace

No. 17. Noble, Robert/ Whinn, John

Robert Noble married Mary Bell in Gateshead District in 1891; Robert was from Stamfordham while Mary was from Barlow. Although the 1891 Census failed to deliver their whereabouts in 1891 the first three children were registered in Barlow before Robert moved to High Spen. Robert was a Foreman Mason and was therefore entitled by position to live in Howard Terrace and No. 17 was one of the larger ones. There was no obvious indication as to why the Household moved out to Front Street as the house had the same number of rooms as Howard Terrace. Robert was not the registered tenant in the 1910 PVS and the house had a private landlord.

John was born in Flimby, Cumberland to George and Ann Whinn but the family moved into Northumberland about 1884. In 1901 the Household headed by Ann who was a widow were living in Backworth. Apart from a brief excursion to live in Jarow where the youngest son was born, the family returned to Northumberland. While the oldest son John migrated to High Spen all the other sons had married by 1911 and two were living in Backworth, one in West Allotment and another in Longbenton. Widow Ann was still alive and was living with her youngest son George in Backworth. John himself had married Hannah Elliott in 1903 and moved into County Durham by 1906. While he was probably in High Spen from around 1908 his presence was only recorded in Howard Terrace in 1911.

No. 18. Raymond (Rayment), George

Apart from their presence at both Censuses very little additional information has been found. George was from Essex and evidently travelled north, married Ann Carr had two children before she died. The elder daughter was married in 1910 to John Robson who lived in nearby Collingdon Road. For further details see Barker in No. 30 Howard Terrace.

No. 19. Patterson, William

Another small family with two children who stayed for two censuses. A possible marriage was found in 1891 (3rd Quarter) between William and a Selina Sutton however it was in Houghton-le-Spring. A search in the 1891 Census unearthed a Selina Sutton but she was married with five children and did not come from Wolverhampton. The trail petered out.

No. 20. Bell, Thomas/ Stephenson, Robert

Thomas was born in nearby Greenside so his migration trail to High Spen was probably only a few kilometres. Although his marriage was identified in 1898 it was not possible to decide if his wife was Isabella Mordue or Isabella Currie. No. 20 Howard Terrace had only two rooms but so had No. 5 Strothers Terrace, even though it was newer build. His parents James and Mary Bell had three different addresses in 20 years, No. 62 Spen Road (1881), Victoria Garesfield (1891 and No. 32 West Street (1901). James died in 1904 and his widow Mary, with three sons and a widowed sister, Mable Holt, remained in occupation of No. 32 West Street. A match was found for Mabel in Newcastle and her husband died in 1905. Mabel had two sons and a daughter, the eldest son was working but the other two were dependants: the eldest son and daughter were not found but the younger son was found in Newcastle living with an older married brother and family.

Robert (Lowe) Stephenson married Frances Duxfield in 1906. Frances and her parents and siblings were living in Gateshead for 1901; several were employed in the drapery trade, not mining. The 1901 Census had Robert living with Ralph and Elizabeth Stephenson in No. 21 West Street where Robert's surname was Lowe, so Ralph was a step-father. It was not possible to decide if Robert was the illegitimate child of Elizabeth or whether she had been married and widowed in the past. Ralph died between 1901 and 1911 but his death was not found. His widow remained in residence at No. 21 West Street.

No. 21. Brougham, John/ Teasdale, Robert

There are three Brougham families in the High Spen area and the Households are each headed by brothers, John, Thomas and Joseph. In 1911 Thomas and Joseph were living in Victoria Garesfield and Wood Terrace respectively, Meanwhile John and family were first in No. 21 before moving into No. 25 Howard Terrace for 1911; the latter house had one more room than No. 21 as the Household increased to nine.

According to the 1901 and 1911 Censuses John Robson Brougham married a Barbara, however, the only marriage found was to a Sarah Nevin in Hexham in 1891 (2nd Quarter). The 1891 Census had John and his brother Thomas in Ashtree Farm, High Spen, as Boarders with their married sister, Margaret Bell (formerly Brougham); both men were single. At present there is

no explanation for this marriage discrepancy.

The Brougham family was traced back the Hexham for the 1861, 1871 and 1881 Censuses. In 1871 the parents Thomas and Hannah had seven children still living at home but there were another two living with grandparents in 1871. Margaret (married Bell) was with her paternal grandparents while Lydia was with her maternal grandparents (Rutherford). The latter surname was confirmed when the marriage of Thomas to Hannah Rutherford was found in 1855.

All the Teasdale families in High Spen were related and the stem family was John and Jane who were living in Collierley in 1881 with nine children. Ten years later the family was splitting up as some of the older sons got married and left home to form their own Households. In 1891 the parents John and Jane were living in Victoria Garesfield, son Fred also lived there in an adjacent Street, while son George was in High Spen. John was a widower in 1901 and died himself in 1904 by which time seven of his sons were established in High Spen.

No. 22. Eltringham, Andrew

Andrew and his wife arrived into High Spen around 1881 when they lived in No. 1 Glossop Street. Later Andrew, wife and son were living in No. 22 Howard Terrace for the next two Censuses before he was widowed but remained in No. 22 where a neice was housekeeper. He and his wife only had the one child.

No. 23. Robson, Joseph

The 1881 Census recorded Joseph, his wife and five children living in the Ramsey's. For the next Census the family had moved to Cardiff Square with a Household size of eight. By the time the family had reached Howard Terrace several of the older children had left home but remained in High Spen. In the 1911 Census, Joseph a widower, headed a Household that included his married daughter and family.

No. 24. Settrey, James

A Settrey (sic) family appeared in Low Spen in the 1851 Census: George, the father, came from Whitehaven and all three children had been born in Alston. Another Settry family appeared in Winlaton for 1861 and 1871, although they could well have been related the connection proved elusive. Again while all Settreys came from Cumberland, no link was established between the above and the High Spen Settreys.

William Settrey was traced from 1861 to 1901, first in Winlaton and then in High Spen from 1881 to 1901. Of his sons James was in No. 24 Howard Terrace (1901 and 1911) and George was in South Street for 1901 and then in No. 26 Howard Terrace for 1911. George was missing from Spen in 1891 and was found in Oxhill, Stanley, boarding with a Henderson family who appeared to be relatives: Joseph his brother was also present as was Margaret Settry a niece to the Head. Joseph married and stayed in the Stanley area for 1901 and 1911 Censuses.

No. 25. Charlton, William/ Brougham, John R.

Although he was born locally in Ebchester, William was the sole representative of his Charlton Branch. His occupation was listed as 'Overlooker', although this particular term is not known it suggests some kind of senior colliery staff job. William moved to Oakenshaw after 1907 where he was a 'Master Shifter' which could be equivalent to 'Overlooker'. There were still six children in the Oakenshaw Household and the house had four rooms, one more than Howard Terrace. but the larger house was unlikely to be the spur for migration from High Spen. Perhaps, 'Master Shifter' was a promotion from 'Overlooker'.

The Brougham family has been covered above.

No. 26. Lister, Joseph/ Settrey, George

In 1881 Joseph Lister was a lodger in the Household (No. 18 Howard Terrace) headed by Ann Hope, a widow, who had two young children. Joseph and Ann were married by the 1891 Census and lived in the same Howard Terrace address. By the 1901 Census there were still four children at home, however the family had moved to a larger house, No. 26 Howard Terrace.

Joseph died in 1901 and Annie followed in 1904 which caused the Household to break-up. The oldest son, Thomas, married Hannah Lowdon in 1904 and by 1911 was living in Rowlands Gill with two children and his youngest brother James. Another brother Christopher was still single and was lodging in Rowlands Gill.

George Settrey has been covered above.

No. 27. Robson, William/ Dunn, John

William belonged to a distinct group of Robsons and was the son of Thomas, who was present

in High Spen in 1871 and remained in the village through to 1911. Every Census was consistent in recording that Thomas was born in Rothbury but his wife Annie's birthplace was given as: Jarrow (1871), Newcastle (1881), Ireland (1891), East Jarrow (1901) and Ireland (1911).

William only appeared at the one address for 1901, while a brother Philip was present in No. 30 West Street for 1911.

John Dunn had recorded Greenside as his birthplace and in 1881 he was living in Greenside. His address in 1891 was Ramsey Cottages while in 1901 the family was in No. 53 Long Row West. By 1911 both John and his wife were in their mid-sixties and most of their family should have left home but the Household in 1911 numbered twelve. Apart from John and Sarah, there was son Thomas a widower, a married son John, his wife and four children and a visitor Elizabeth Graham and two infants. John Dunn married Sarah Jane Graham so Elizabeth Graham was her younger sister. The two infants look suspiciously like illegitimate children.

No. 28. Robson, Charlotte/ Richley, Thomas

Charlotte was the widow of John Robson who died in 1900. John was the youngest son of William and Elizabeth Robson who had been in the Garesfield/High Spen area since 1861. William's Household moved into High Spen village between 1871 and 1881. John married Charlotte Parker in 1880 and the 1881 Census recorded the family living with William and Elizabeth in Ramsey's Buildings. In 1891 William and Elizabeth were living by themselves in Cardiff Square: William was a retired blacksmith and was registered blind. His son John and Charlotte were living nearby in Howard Terrace. Other married sons were also in High Spen, in particular William, the oldest son, had been in the same address for four consecutive Censuses, 1881-1911.

For the 1911 Census, Charlotte was living in No. 48 Hugar Road with three unmarried daughters. With no resident family member working at the Colliery it was probable that she had had to move out of the Colliery house and into private rented housing. Her oldest daughter was working as a draper's assistant and she also took in boarders. One of her sons, Robert John, was an electrician, possibly at the colliery, was living in Watson Street.

Thomas Rickley (Richley) was one of eleven children belonging to Robert and Ellen Rickley, so the four rooms at No. 42 Clayton Terrace were, no doubt, welcome accommodation. In the decade 1901-1911 at least two of the sons, including Thomas, married and moved out; Thomas to Howard Terrace and Alfred to Watson Street.

No. 29. Wishart John

All Wishart families in High Spen were related and because of the extent and complexity of the various kin relationships it is not practical to attempt a descriptive picture of all the families. So it is proposed to concentrate on John's segment of the family tree.

George and Sarah were present in 1841 and 1861 and of their four sons George was the father of John, in fact, John was his only child. John married Isabella Stokoe (Stoker) in 1881, just missing the 1881 Census. Apart from recording residency at Collindon Road in 1891 the next two Censuses found the family in No. 29 Howard Terrace.

No. 30. Barker, Samuel A./Lowdon, Hannah

Samuel Arthur Barker was born in Essex and the Barker family first appeared in 1881 at High Thornley. In some censuses Samuel was just 'Arthur' and in others he was 'Samuel'. His father, also Samuel, was living with his second wife, Harriett formerly Rayment (there were variant spellings) who was also Essex-born. In the 1881 Census the step-children retained their surname but ten years later they had taken the surname Barker, then in 1901 the only one left at home reverted to 'Raymond' (sic). Samuel, the son, moved from Howard Terrace into No. 14 Glossop Street, which was a larger house; a three-roomed house in Howard seems adequate for a Household of four.

A brother of Samuel Arthur was living in South Street.

Hannah Lowdon was the wife of Edward Lowdon and the couple with children were living in No. 1 Glossop Street in 1901 but moved up the road to the 1911 address. Edward was missing from the 1911 house but Hannah was not described as a widow. A search for his death or presence elsewhere drew a blank.

Edward was one of possibly eight brothers and sisters whose parents were Edward and Catherine and were living in High Spen in 1871. Edward died in 1892 and Catherine died in 1886. Of the children:

- Joseph married Ann and in 1881 was in Victoria Garesfield with five children
- Ralph son of Joseph and Ann was married in 1901 and was living in No. 10 Glossop in 1911

- Sarah - no further details.
- Ralph married and occupied No. 65 Spen Road in 1881
- Mary married William Cox and was living in West Street as a widow in 1901.
- Elizabeth married Thomas Hill in 1881 and moved to Blackhill.
- Edward see above.
- Miles married, wife unknown, and was living with his sister Mary Cox in 1901.

Alice married John W. Robinson in 1890 and moved to Blackhill.

Joseph died in 1887 and Ann died in 1898. Of their children that were traced, Elizabeth married Hugh Dockerty and they were living in West Street for 1901 and 1911. John was unmarried and lived with the Dockertys. Both Ralph and Joseph married and were living in Glossop Street and Cardiff Square in 1911.

A3.2.3. West Street

No. 1. Teasdale, Joseph/ Robinson, John

There was a large group of related Teasdales all of whom derived from the stem family of John and Jane Teasdale, who were located in Collierley, near Dipton, in 1881. Joseph was one of their nine children - eight boys and one girl. John was traced back to his parents, Ralph and Isabella, who lived in Tanfield from 1841. Apart from the only daughter, all John's sons were traced.

John died in 1904 and a son Ralph (married but living with father) died in 1902, while Robert married in 1902 and Bartholomew in 1904. The Teasdale tenancy of the family home at No. 27 East Street would normally have ceased in 1904 but what happened to the widow of Ralph and her four children? She remarried in 1904 to Robert Hart but then died in 1910.

Four of the Teasdale brothers stayed in High Spennings while the other three moved out of the village - two into Ryton Parish and the other, Thomas, returned to South Moor where he had been born. Six of the brothers stayed in mining while George left to become, first, a newsagent and then by 1911 he was in-charge of a team of insurance agents - perhaps a District Manager.

Joseph Teasdale married a Jane Murray who appears to have been a widow as Joseph acquired three step-children. Another son Thomas married a Grace Murray but it was not possible to show that the two Murray families were related. George's wife died in 1903 and George remarried in 1907.

Of interest is John Teasdale who married Mary Walton in 1887 and the couple, after living in Victoria Garesfield, moved into No. 40 West Street where they were resident for at least the full decade 1901-11. Mary Walton's parents, Isaac and Betsy, also lived in Victoria Garesfield; Betsy was dead before the 1901 Census. In 1901 the residue of the Walton family were living with John Teasdale and family in No. 40, West Street making a total of 16 people sharing four rooms at this address. By 1911 apart from Isaac, all the other Waltons had moved out, however since the Teasdales had increased the number of children to ten the household still numbered thirteen.

Robert Robinson married Mary Ann Hird in 1902 in Northumberland, however, within a few years Robert and family were in No. 1 West Street, High Spennings by 1905. His parents, John and Isabella, were still living in the village, in fact they had been in the same house, No. 82 Collindon Road, for three Censuses - 1891, 1901 and 1911.

No. 2. Ward, William.

In contrast to their neighbours (Teasdales) at No. 1, the Wards were a small family group. The parents, Thomas and Margaret from Northumberland, were recorded in High Spennings for the 1881 and 1891 Censuses: neither can be traced afterwards and Margaret died between 1891 and 1901. There were only three sons - William who lived in West Street, Thomas S. who moved to Rowlands Gill and John who couldn't be found after 1891.

No. 3. Armstrong, Matthew.

Another large family group which originated with a Joseph Armstrong who first appeared in 1841, aged 42 years, as a tenant farmer in Winlaton Parish: after three decades he was identified in Barlow as a 'retired farmer'. Of his eight children three sons were traced - Thomas (1829), Edward (1839) and James (1841) - including children and grandchildren.

Matthew was a son of Edward and one of nine children. Several of Edward's sons married and lived in Clayton Terrace, including Matthew who occupied No. 31 Clayton Terrace in 1891. Afterwards he moved into No. 3 West Street for 1901 and 1911: he was joined in West Street by his brother John George and family - No. 27 in 1901 and No. 15 in 1911.

James married late and only had one child, a girl, who married a John Joseph Robinson. This is of interest as Thomas, son of Thomas, was married, so it was first thought, to a Jane Robinson, and lived with his in-laws at No. 42 Clayton Terrace in 1881. The presence of a James Eltringham, step-son to Samuel Robinson, raised the possibility that Jane also had a step relationship to Samuel. The earliest Census reference, 1861, described Jane, aged four years, as a 'daughter-in-law'; obviously this was wrong. The marriage between Thomas and Jane took place in 1877 when her maiden name was given as 'Eltringham', so Jane was probably illegitimate. No links between Samuel Robinson and John Joseph Robinson were established.

Thomas the oldest son died between 1871 and 1881 and his widow, Elizabeth, moved into Chopwell Woods where her oldest son Joseph worked as a 'woodman'. Another son John was in West Street for the 1901 Census (No. 17) and then moved, between 1910-11, to No. 36 for the 1911 Census.

It is noted that four of the above Armstrong Heads stayed in the same house for at least eleven years.

No. 4. Henderson, Andrew

Andrew Henderson arrived in High Spen from Mickley sometime after 1871 but before 1875 as in that year he married Mary Emmerson in Gateshead Registration District. Mary was the daughter of Joseph and Jane Emmerson and lived in No. 45 High Spen in 1861. After his marriage Andrew moved to Hamsterley Colliery via Stocksfield, Winlaton and Medomsley before they returned to High Spen around 1885-6. This approximate date coincides with the death of her father, Joseph, in 1886.

While several of Mary Henderson's brothers married and stayed in High Spen, none of Andrew's brothers ventured from Mickley to High Spen.

No. 5. Howey, Thomas/ Pollard, Frank

This was another small family although it was present in High Spen from at least 1881 and in Barlow for 1871. Thomas and his wife, Mary, were both from Northumberland and were married in Alnwick in 1863. Mary's maiden name was Mennim and her brother, James, was living with them in 1881, however, he married Grace Knotts from Barlow later that year and moved away to Prudhoe where they stayed for the next three censuses.

There were several related Knotts families in High Spen residing in East Street and Clayton Terrace. Although Thomas Howey had no relatives from his side of the family, after his married son moved out, who lived in High Spen, but through the Knotts connection he had the wider 'in-law' links.

His son George moved, first to Hamsterley and then to Blaydon where he was for the 1911 Census. George and his wife produced a family of ten children, all boys, and lived in a four-roomed house with one servant; George, a hewer, and five of his sons were miners.

Frank Pollard was the older of two brothers who probably arrived into High Spen just after the 1901 Census. He was in Spennymoor at the time of the Census, while his brother Benjamin was living in Middlesbrough. Frank had married Irish-born Elizabeth Donnelly in 1898 in Spennymoor and his father-in-law was a lodger; it was possibly his death which sent the Pollards upto High Spen. Ben married Margaret Kelly in 1905 in Gateshead as she was from Middlesbrough it was probable that they had met when he was living in that town. Ben occupied a house in Spen Road while Frank was in West Street.

No. 6. Carr, George/ Emmerson, Joseph

Matthew and Elizabeth Carr arrived in High Spen between 1859 and 1861 with a completed family of eight children, which included sons, Thomas, Matthew, John, Edward, George, and William. Elizabeth was 45 years old in 1861 so the claimed daughter, Mary aged nine years in the 1871 Census, looks more like an illegitimate daughter. Her birthplace was initially Walbottle but in 1881 this had changed to Spen, which is probably correct.

There is a little mystery surrounding the 1881 and 1891 Censuses returns for Matthew and Elizabeth, as in 1881 Matthew was recorded as a 'widower', while in 1891 Elizabeth re-surfaced as a 'widow'. There is no doubt that it is the same family as both households, in 1881 and 1891, contained sons, Matthew and John, and Ann, a daughter. Further investigation revealed that Matthew had in fact died in 1874 aged 59 years, while the death of Elizabeth could not be found.

George, was first identified as Head of Household in 1891, moved to No. 6 West Street for 1901 and then later left for Rowlands Gill. His brother Thomas was married and lived as a lodger with a family called Gill in Collindon Rd., for 1881: Thomas and family moved to 65 Spen Rd. for the next two censuses. Another brother, Edward, had moved out of High Spen for the 1881 Census, returned to Cardiff Square for 1891, left for Earsdon in Northumberland and, finally, returned to County Durham.

It was a characteristic of the Carr brothers that they either married late or not at all. Brothers John and Matthew never married and in 1911 lived in Cardiff Square with John as Head.

Matthew (father) and Elizabeth lived in Walbottle/Newburn for some 33 years – all the children were born there – perhaps demonstrating a strong social link to the area: a general search showed that there were other Carrs in the area, probably relatives who continued to live there. None of these other relatives were attracted to follow Matthew to High Spen but neither was there any evidence of Matthew's children being 'pulled' back to the village of their birth.

Joseph Emmerson has been covered by the entry for No. 15 Glossop Sreet.

No. 7. Morland, James/ Ritson, Wordsworth

James and his wife Mary were both in their 60s for the 1901 Census and most of their children had left the Household. Mary died in 1906 and James became a lodger with his son, William, probably after he had married and moved to Blackhall Mill.

Son Stephen married in 1882 and lived for a period in High Spen before he and his family left for Rowlands Gill. By this time Stephen had eight children with only the youngest being born in Rowlands Gill.

The oldest son, Robert, had moved to Newcastle and married in 1900 aged 40 years. His wife, Elizabeth, was four years younger than Robert, so they managed two children before she became too old. Robert had been a miner at least until his 30s but he changed occupation to become a cartman.

The Ritsons were in Dearham for both 1891/1901 Censuses and there was no indication as to their arrival time into High Spen.

No. 8. Summerside, Christopher.

Christopher was a son, one of thirteen children, of Edward and Elizabeth of Winlaton, however, Elizabeth was probably not the biological mother of the older group as she would have been about 13-14 years old when Thomas was born. Edward could not be found before 1851, so that Elizabeth was his second wife is a possibility but this was not proven. All the Summersides were related.

Edward and three sons – William, Edward and Thomas – were not employed in the mining industry but worked in the iron industry in Winlaton making nails. As the iron industry was on the wain some of the family eventually moved into mining. Christopher, for example, moved up the ladder from a simple nailer to colliery blacksmith. William became an innkeeper in Winlaton and then a general dealer before dying before the 1911 Census. Edward married in 1875 but in 1911 he was living with his brother George and family in Rowlands Gill and, while he still claimed to be married, his wife was missing. His wife and children were eventually found living in Blaydon so perhaps they were separated.

No. 9. Bell, Thomas W.

Thomas as Colliery Engineer was higher up the social scale than the average coal hewer, however, this did not mean that he was more easily traced. Thomas seemed to spend most of his pre-Spen existence in Northumberland but while his marriage was found, no further record of him was found.

No. 10. Stewart (Stuart), John Robert.

John was another professional working as an architect or draughtsman and his father, James, was described as a mechanical engineer. In 1891 the family was in No. 15 Glossop Street but the 1901 census found that the Household had split as James was in the secluded Field House and John was in No. 10 West Street.

By 1911 James was 72 years old, probably retired, his wife had died in 1908 and he was living in No. 10 West St. His son John was no longer in residence in West Street and could not be found in a general search. According to the 1910 PVS the named tenant in 1910 was William Forsyth and although there were Forsyths in Glossop Street there was no William Forsyth.

No. 11. Carr, Elizabeth/ Curwen, Levi

Elizabeth was the widow of Newrick Carr who died in 1898 and the family had previously lived in No. 58 Spen Road in 1891. That household, in addition to the parents, included a daughter, Mary, a married son Newrick and wife (aged 17 years), two other sons, James and Thomas, plus two lodgers. Newrick, the son, was in Crawcrook for 1901 but he had moved further afield to Lumley where the Census recorded a family of nine children. James had married by 1901 and lived in No. 10 Glossop Street; for the next census in 1911 he had moved, but only a few doors away to No. 6.

Although Elizabeth was nominally Head in 1901, she was living with her married daughter, son-in-law Joseph Poole and unmarried son, Thomas, however, for the 1911 Census Joseph Poole was Head when the group lived in Cardiff Square. Joseph was aged 45 years and Mary was 27 years when they married and they appear not to have had any children of their own but in 1911 they had an adopted son.

Levi Curwen and his 1911 Household with all four children born in High Spen, seemed to suggest that the couple had migrated from Cumberland and were in continuous residency in

High Spen. However, the 1901 Census found the couple in Cumberland with the eldest two children having been born in High Spen. For some reason they reversed their migration route and returned to Cumberland. Within two years they had returned again to High Spen to have another two children.

No. 12. Milburn, George.

All the Milburns in High Spen were related and derived from George and after George's death his son Joseph took over the tenancy of No. 12 West St. Also present in Joseph's household were George's widow and a married sister Isabella with her husband. Another son, James who had married in 1895, was resident in the adjacent South Street.

No. 13. Wilkinson, Thomas.

This was a small family from the Crook area of mid-Durham. John and Margaret Wilkinson had at least seven children including four boys – Edward, Joseph, Matthew and Thomas - but Thomas was the only one of these to venture to High Spen. John died in 1890 and the 1891 Census illustrated the dispersal of his family: Edward was married and lived in Framwellgate Moor, Joseph could not be traced and Matthew was married and he lived in Brandon. Thomas only had one son who was married and lived with his parents in West Street in 1911.

No. 14. Whitfield, Thomas.

This is an unusual example of an unmarried family group. Thomas headed a household of two brothers, one sister and one nephew, all of whom were unmarried. The nephew did marry in 1902 and he moved out to Highfield/Victoria Garesfield/Rowlands Gill.

The parents of Thomas – Matthew and Elizabeth - were living in Lambley, Haltwhistle for the 1881 Census. The death of Elizabeth in 1882 might have been the spur for the move from Lambley.

No. 15. Lee, Elizabeth/ Armstrong, John G.

This was a small family group unrelated to other Lee households in the village. While the family arrived without strong evidence of travelling with kin, it is noted that the Whitfields at No. 14 also migrated from the same area. Elizabeth was married in 1891 but her husband died in 1899. The Census of 1911 found that she was living with her unmarried son, Robert, in Watson Street.

The oldest son James was married and was living with his wife and widowed father-in-law, William Richardson, in No. 9 Cooperative Terrace. James had been married for eight years but the union had produced no children – dead or alive.

The other son, Joseph William, married Ellen Ward in 1906 and occupied No. 27 West Street in 1911.

For the Armstrongs see the entry for Matthew Armstrong in No. 3. West Street.

No. 16. Harper, John Wm.

A single family group that arrived from mid-Durham, probably in 1894 as indicated by the baptismal registers: the first known address was No. 25 West Street in 1897 and then No. 16 West Street in 1899.

The various Census returns show some confusion on the origins of William and his wife Emma. In 1881 William was said to have been born in Shiney Row while ten years later his birthplace was Bensham, Gateshead. Similarly, in 1881 and 1891 Emma's birthplace was recorded as Yorkshire but in 1901 and 1911 it became Peterborough, Northamptonshire.

No. 17. Armstrong, John.

John has been covered by the Armstrong entry for No. 3 West Street above.

No. 18. Richardson, William/ Herron, George

William was the son of Matthew Richardson whose household was recorded at No. 31 High Spen in 1861. For the next Census the address was Clayton Terrace but it is likely that this was the same house as No. 31 Clayton Terrace was also No. 31 High Spen. Matthew cannot be found after the 1871 Census and, of his children, only William was traced.

George Herron was a widower in 1911 as his wife, Dorothy, died in 1907. He was the son of George and Elizabeth who were in observation from 1861 to 1891 in various addresses in High Spen. Another son, William, was married and was in No. 60 Spen Road in 1901.

George, a son of George and Dorothy, was living in No. 51 Spen Road in 1911, with his wife Ann and four children under five years: No. 51 was also occupied by Robert Bell, widower, with a family of seven with ages from 25 down to 10 years. By most measures, even with four rooms, this constituted severe overcrowding. A search for Ann Herron found that she was the daughter

of Robert Bell, so although the Herrons were first in the listing the senior 'Tenant' was Robert Bell. In the 1901 Census Robert Bell, his wife and ten children were living in No. 12 East Street - a three-roomed house, so the Bells were no strangers to overcrowding! Perhaps the marriage of his daughter Ann to George Herron in 1904 may have been the reason for the move to West Street.

No. 19. Lee, Wallace

In 1881 John Lee lived in Pawston Birks, just over the boundary of the Township, in a household which included his recently married son, daughter-in-law and grandchild. There was also a married daughter, Isabella Armstrong, but no son-in-law and this situation was repeated for the 1891 Census, although she was living with her brother Wallace; thereafter Isabella disappeared. John had died in 1885 and his widow was also living with Wallace. The Wallace Lee Household in Cardiff Square of 1891 included six children and three lodgers as well as the above – a grand total of thirteen. The overcrowding eased somewhat by the occupation of No. 19 West Street. Matthew, the oldest son, married in 1905 and he moved to Victoria Garesfield.

No. 20. Patterson, William.

William first appeared in 1881 when he was living as a boarder in the housing known as Ramseys. Before the next census he had married, Jane, and occupied a house in Spen Road: although William and his wife were considered local, the marriage could not be identified. West Street was built and occupied between 1891 and 1901 so it was possible that the family moved into a brand new house. Although William died in 1904, Jane chose to remain a tenant in the same house supported, for most of the time, by two working sons between the two censuses. Her eldest son, William, married in 1907 and could have co-resided in the family home, before the couple moved to live with her brother and family in Winlton Village.

This move allowed Jane to take in boarders and for the 1911 Census there were four rather disparate individuals: an elderly widower from Yorkshire, a young married man from Allendale Cottages, Medomsley, an even younger, recently married man from Hebburn and an unmarried man from Scotland.

No. 21. Stephenson, Ralph.

In 1881 Ralph was unmarried and lived as a boarder in Newfield and was classed as a widower. There were no other family with him so it was probable that there were no children from this previous marriage. One complication arose as there was a son listed in his household - Robert L(owes) Stephenson (1891) and Robert Lowes (1901) who was 15 years old in 1891: this was the same individual whose birth pre-dated the marriage of Ralph and Elizabeth. The usual suspicions surfaced that Robert was either the son of Elizabeth and her deceased husband or he was illegitimate. A check on his birth found that while there was a record of a Robert Lowes, no such record was found for the birth of a Robert L(owes) Stephenson. The marriage registers, however, could not confirm the status of Elizabeth on her marriage to Ralph.

The marriage of Robert L. Stephenson and Frances Duxfield took place on March 5th 1906 in High Spen. There were no Duxfields in High Spen in 1901 – Frances' father was deceased according to the marriage register – and in 1901 she was a servant in an 'exotic' household in Corbridge; when she married her home address was The Parsonage, High Spen.

Strictly speaking, in the 1891 Census Robert should have been recorded as a 'stepson' if he was not the genetic son of Ralph. It was noted that the appearance of Albert Smith in the household for 1901 specifically identified him as an 'adopted son' and in the later Census he had assumed the surname 'Stephenson'. Albert's relationship to Ralph and Elizabeth could not be determined.

No. 22. Walker, Joseph/ Eltringham, John

The 1871 Census recorded the household of William Walker living in Winlton Village; William, his wife and two of the eight children had been born in Flimby, Cumberland. Another two children were added to this total in the next decade but by 1881 several of the older ones had left home. Of the children only Joseph was traced, as he married and had moved to High Spen. His wife died between 1901 and 1911 and the latter Census found him as a widower in Coal Burns, on the Chopwell/Ryton border. Joseph was Head of a mixed household with a married son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren, a niece and younger brother.

John Eltringham is detailed in the entry for No. 16 Glossop Street.

No. 23. Richardson, Matthew/ Foreman, Robert

There were four Richardson family groups in High Spen all unrelated to each other Matthew

and his wife arrived as a young married couple before the 1901 Census and their one-year old child Alice was claimed to have been born in High Spen. Her baptism took place in October 1899 when the family residence was No. 16 Glossop Street; it is probable that the couple were lodging at this time. The couple stayed in No. 23 West Street until at least the latter half of 1910 before they moved to East Street for the 1911 Census by which time the household size had increased to seven. This increase was probably the reason for the move as No. 23 West Street was a two-roomed house while the East Street house had three rooms.

Joseph, father of Matthew, worked in a railway goods yard in Elswick for the 1881 and 1891 Censuses and his father Gilbert had also lived and worked in Elswick.

Only one entry for Robert Foreman in 1911. He married Hannah Totney in 1908 so Thomas Henry Totney was in fact the brother-in-law. The Totneys were another single entry living in No. 31 East Street in 1901: William, the father, and Alice the mother, died in 1901 and 1908 respectively. Hannah's sister Alice married John McLlellan in 1907 and lived in Co-op Terrace in 1911.

Robert Foreman was born in Swalwell and the 1901 Census recorded his parents and siblings in Coxlodge, Newcastle.

No. 24. Wait, James.

James was first detected in the area when he was working on his Aunt's farm at Shipcote in Gateshead for the 1881 Census. There was no trail leading back to other family members of the Wait family – perhaps there were none. By 1891 James had married Hannah Sewell in 1882 and was living in Lintz Colliery in Tanfield Parish. The move to High Spen only involved a journey of a few kilometres.

It was noted that the Waits had a larger household size to that of their next door neighbours, the Richardsons, but were still living in a two-roomed house. This may have reflected the value of their respective occupations - Matthew Richardson was a Deputy while James Wait was a Coke Burner.

No. 25. Davies, Joseph.

Joseph married Mary Ellen Wood in Auckland in 1886 and were living in Quebec for the 1891 Census. Joseph came from Staffordshire while Mary came from Yorkshire. The couple were evidently childless and appeared to come into High Spen without any local kin contacts.

No. 26. Leadbitter. John

In 1881 John was living with his parents, Joseph and Jane, in a household which included his wife Mary and nine siblings: apart from the youngest sibling most of this household had been born in Earsdon, Northumberland. John had married Mary Richardson in the first quarter of 1881 and therefore the couple was correctly identified in the 1881 Census as husband and wife.

The Heworth and High Spen entries suggest that John and Mary had a single child before Mary died in 1910. However, there is an entry in 1891 for the household of William Richardson who was living in No. 90 Collindon Road which hinted that there was at least one another child. A grandson to William Richardson was Robert T. Leadbitter born in Silksworth, near Sunderland which was also the birthplace of the other child, Jane Ann, to John and Mary. Unfortunately it was not possible to confirm that Mary was the daughter of William or that Robert was Mary's son.

No. 27. Armstrong, John George/ Lee, Joseph Wm.

John George was a son of Edward Armstrong and was one of the Armstrong 'dynasty' detailed in No. 3 West Street. Similar to Matthew Richardson in No. 23 West Street, John G. Armstrong lived in a two-roomed house in 1901 but he was a Master Shifter – comparable status to a Deputy, which was perhaps why he moved to the three-roomed house that was No. 15 West Street.

Joseph William Lee details can be found above in the entry for Lee in No. 15.

No. 28. Cowman, Harrison/ Nicholson, William

John, the father of Harrison and James, died before the 1901 Census which was not surprising because he was aged 72 years in 1891; he was 23 years older than his wife, Mary. In 1901 Mary was living with three of her children in Cumberland, as was her son James who had married. The 1911 Census revealed that James and family had arrived into the Chopwell area in approximately 1902, as his second child was born in Coalburns in that year.

Harrison married Elizabeth Ann Hope in 1894 in Tynemouth which was a surprise venue as there was no obvious reason for their presence in that district. Elizabeth Hope was the step-daughter of Joseph Lister who occupied respectively, No. 18 Howard Terrace in 1891 and No. 28

Howard Terrace in 1901. With Elizabeth's mother living in an adjacent street the return (if that's what it was) to High Spen seems to have been a planned move. As with other house transfers between West and East Streets, the move by Harrison's household increased the number of rooms from two (West Street) to three (East Street) to cater for the Cowman's nine children.

William Nicholson and his wife, Margaret, were originally from the Alston area before they moved into Haltwhistle. Between the 1881 and 1891 Censuses they moved into Hobson, near Burnopfield and then to High Spen. In 1901 they were living with two unmarried sons, Walter and John William, in No. 17 East Street. Walter married and moved into No. 11 East Street while John married and moved to No. 13 East Street leaving their parents to down-size to a two-room house in West Street.

No. 29. Eltringham, Robert/ Dockerty, Hugh

Robert and John were brothers who were living in Garesfield in 1871 with their mother who could have been a widow. James Swinburn and Thomas were sons of John. Robert and his wife, Ellen, did not have any children and the couple could not be found in the 1911 Census.

Only the one family in the area headed by Hugh. In 1901 the Household was in No. 37 West Street (four rooms) and then, a few doors away in No. 29 West Street (three rooms): as the Household size had only changed from seven to six space wasn't the reason for the move.

No. 30. McIntyre, John Brown/ Robson, Philip

There were only two entries for this individual and family, first in No. 30. West Street for 1901 and then No. 7 East Street for 1911. John, according to two censuses, was born in Dumfries but in the 1891 Census his birthplace was Milnthorpe in Westmorland. He married Elizabeth Nisbet in Whitehaven in 1887 but she died ten years later by which time the family were living in the Hexham area. Judging from the births of his children and the fact that in 1891 the family were in Leadgate, John's migration trail seemed rather erratic. The oldest child was born in Whitehaven, Cumberland, the next was born in Seaham Harbour, Durham, while the youngest was born in Eltringham, Northumberland. After he arrived in High Spen John remarried in 1904 and had one more child.

For Philip Robson see No. 27 Howard Terrace.

No. 31. Short, Peter

All the Short families in High Spen were related and derived from Peter who had been living in Kimblesworth in 1881. Also living in Kimblesworth were Peter's parents, John and Ann, who were in their 70s and an older brother Edward and his family. John died between 1881 and 1891 and his widow Ann was living, in 1891, with her son Edward and family in nearby Plawsworth. At this stage Edward was still working as a miner but ten years later he had left the pits, acquired a shop and had become a general dealer. Later, in 1911, he was described as a 'licensed victualer' and was living with a married daughter and son-in-law in a five-roomed house in Durham City.

Edward appeared to be climbing the social ladder – his son-in-law was an Inspector with the National Telegraph Company – while his brother Peter's life remained rooted in mining and he stayed in High Spen for at least 20 years: three of his married sons also stayed in the village. In addition, actually living 'next door' – in the same numbered house in 1891 - was a married sister, Dorothy Cox; the Cox family had also lived in Kimblesworth.

It was noted that the 1901 Census returned that all the birthplaces were 'Spen', which of course was incorrect.

No. 32. Bell, James

James was a local man as he had been born in the Greenside/Ryton Woodside area just over Chopwell Township border. For the 1871 Census James, as a 19-year old, was in his parents' household with eight siblings in Ryton Woodside. After he married in 1874 he probably had to move out of his old home to set up his new household. Although he was in High Spen by the 1881 Census his first three children were born in Greenside. The 1891 Census found that he had moved to Victoria Garesfield but he evidently returned High Spen to live in the new housing of West Street for 1901.

James died in 1904 while his widow and three working sons lived on in the West Street address: the household also included her sister who had been widowed in 1905. In view of his death six years earlier it is a puzzle that the 1910 PVS registered James as the 'Occupier'.

No. 33. Johnson, Alexander.

William the father of Alexander was living in Tanfield in 1871 with his wife, Mary Ann, and six

children, all of whom had been born in the North Tyne valley. During the 1870s the household was beginning to disintegrate as son John married, followed by Alexander (1877) and then Mary Ann died in 1878. Brothers, Alexander, William and John all appeared in the Spen area for the 1891 Census and by 1911 two sons of Alexander – James and William – had also settled in High Spen.

Alexander's wife, Margaret Ann, died in 1893 aged 40 years. Her death was registered in the second quarter of the year and by the fourth quarter of the same year he had married again to a Mary Ann Ayton. A search for Mary Ann produced only one match to this name - a female servant of the right age in 1891 but she lived in Heighington, South Durham and had no apparent links to High Spen.

Mary Ann was 15 years younger than Alexander and so he was able to father another eight children making a grand total of 15 – all of whom were still alive in 1911. Eleven of these children were still at home in 1911 giving a household size of 13 living in the four rooms of No. 33 West Street.

No. 34. Gardner, James/ Kidd, Andrew

James did not appear to have any kinfolk in the vicinity even though he recorded Winlaton as his birthplace. He died in 1902 and his widow, Mary, remarried a widower Joseph Burnett; the merged families moved into No. 41 West St. Joseph's deceased wife, Margaret, died in 1904 so he and Mary could marry after that date. The 1911 Census recorded that they had been married for five years but a search for this marriage was unsuccessful.

While Andrew's father, Christopher, was born in Cumberland, Andrew and siblings were all Durham born according to the 1871 Census when the Household was in Witton Gilbert. Andrew married Mary Jane Clasper in 1874 and the family was living in Victoria Garesfield in 1881 and 1891. The family disappear from view in 1901 but occupied No. 34 West Street in 1911.

No. 35. Waters, George/ Holmes, Myles

This was a small family group and apart from noting the presence of a son, Thomas George there was very little to add to the picture. George was traced back to 1881 when the family was in Heworth; George was a labourer in a chemical works. The 1911 Census found George a widower living in No. 89 Collindon Road.

Myles Holmes was not traced in 1901 but in the 1881 and 1891 Censuses he was found in St. Bees, living with his parents and siblings. The 1911 Census listed three nephews and a niece in Myles' Household so it was of interest to find where they came from. Myles had three brothers - John, Thomas and William - who could have been the father of the nephews/niece, They were found in 1891 and 1901 with their father, John in Seascale. Why were they living with their Uncle? Well John died in 1908 and it seems probable that Elizabeth, John's wife, had also died; the Household had broken-up.

No. 36. Harrison (Hewison), George/ Armstrong, John

Nothing further was found out about this family as 'Harrison', however, it was discovered that there was confusion between Harrison and Hewison. The reason why Harrison was not traceable was because the earlier entries were recorded as Hewison. Examination of the original 1901 Census page suggests that Hewison is correct and the transcription is wrong; so George Harrison becomes George Hewison.

George first appeared in 1871 living with parents and siblings in Clayton Terrace, a few years later, in 1876, he married Mary Ann Robinson. In 1881 the couple had four children and had created their own Household in No. 75 Collindon Road: ten years on and the child count had increased to nine in the same house. The Household in West Street was still the same size in 1901 as the oldest son Christopher had left home but there was now a grandson. By the time the family were recorded in No. 1 Glossop Street most of the children had left home.

For Armstrong see entry for Matthew Armstrong No.3 West Street.

No. 37. Dockerty, Hugh.

Only found on one other occasion in 1891 living as a Boarder in Seghill.

No. 38. McDermott, Joseph.

Joseph could not be found before 1881 although his wife-to-be, Priscilla, was found in Durham City with her widowed mother in 1871.

Joseph and Priscilla were married in 1875 and were living in Kimblesworth for the next two Censuses. In 1901 the family was in High Spen and judging by the age of the second youngest

child the arrival date was approximately 1898. The youngest child, Alfred, was one-year old and coupled with age of Priscilla, this was suggestive of an illegitimate birth. The 1911 Census confirmed this view as Alfred was now described as a 'grandson'. This Census also recorded another child, Maureen, younger than Alfred who was described as a 'daughter' – again this must have been another illegitimate grandchild. The 1911 Household contained the parents, two children, two grandchildren (both illegitimate), two nephews, one Boarder and a Servant – a rather mixed bunch. There are two gaps of some nine years in the birth sequence of the McDermott children, which reflect on the fact that of the 14 recorded births only six were alive in 1911.

No. 39. Wilson, John/ Hann, Henry

The 1871 household of Thomas and Mary Wilson contained not only son John but also two step-children, so it was apparent that both Thomas and Mary had had previous marriages. Ten years on and John was still with his parents but claimed to be married, although no wife was present and there were no relevant children. By 1891 John headed a household of his own and he was a widower with seven children. The two oldest children were aged 17 and 15 years but they could not be traced in 1881 Census. There is a six-year gap between the 15-year old and the next child which could signify a bereavement: as there were another four children – the youngest was two-years old – it would appear that John was bereaved twice. Unfortunately, with a common surname and two anonymous wives it was not possible to find any further details.

John's father, Thomas, and his step-mother, were found living in the Black Horse Inn, Barlow, where Thomas was said to be, 'Living by the Benefit Society'. The Black Horse Inn appears to have been a generic name which applied to houses, perhaps attached to the Inn, because in 1891, sons Robert and Thomas also lived there.

In 1901 Thomas, 'Living on own means', was a widower and resided with his son Robert in Barlow: Robert was a widower too. By 1911 Robert had moved to Rowlands Gill together with his father, who was aged 83 years.

The 1911 Census reference to George Hann was the only one in the village. In 1901 the family were in Prudhoe but were not found in 1891.

No. 40. Teasdale, John.

John's story is part of the Teasdale saga related above in No. 1 West Street.

No. 41. Cox, Mary/ Burnett, Joseph

Mary was the widow of William and they arrived in High Spen from Ryton Parish. William died in 1893 probably after the move into West Street, leaving Mary with several working sons at the colliery.

In 1911 Mary was living as a 'Visitor' in Blackhill, near Consett, where the Head was Elizabeth Robinson and her brother, John a widower, was the other member of the household. Initially, there were no clues as to why Mary should be staying in this house until it was discovered that in 1901 John Robinson's wife was Alice formerly of High Spen: in addition the other member of the household was Miles Cox. A search for the marriage of John and Alice revealed that Alice's maiden surname was Lowden which immediately made the connection to Mary; Alice and Mary were sisters. Mary was staying with her brother-in-law and sister-in-law.

For Joseph Burnett details see No. 6 Glossop above.

No. 42. Charlton, Edward/ Wilson, John

Edward began working life as an agricultural labourer in Stocksfield where he lived in 1871. Within five years he had moved down the Tyne valley and into the High Spen area where he became a miner. The couple raised eight children and their residential movements may reflect their attempts to obtain optimum living conditions for the large family; both the Clayton Terrace and West Street houses had four rooms. Edward died in 1904 and his wife died 1907.

Two of Edward's sons had married and had formed their own households, while another son Edward was a Boarder in No. 85. Collindon Road. Why wasn't he living with his brother George at No. 88? Probably because No. 88. only had three rooms and the household size was already upto ten inhabitants with George's eight children.

For John Wilson see above entry for No.39.

A3.2.4. Short Rows West and East

No.1. Guy, John/ Harbottle, James Wm.

John only appeared in the 1901 Census so a search was made for him both before and after 1901. This revealed that John and family had been living in Cornsay Colliery in 1881 and 1891. The 1911 Census found that John, a widower, was living with his married daughter, Margaret Ellen, and two younger sons in Annfield Plain. His oldest son, David, was married and living in High Spen at No. 16 Strothers Terrace.

Catherine, wife of John, died in 1910 and the death was registered in Lanchester Registration District so the family had moved to Annfield Plain before that date and before her daughter Margaret Ellen (1911 Census) married to George Graham. In the 1901 Census the daughter's name was Mary Ellen and this introduced a problem as two marriages were found in 1910, both involving a George Graham, one to Mary Elizabeth Metcalfe and the other to Margaret Ellen Guy. It was also noted that a Robert Metcalfe was a visitor in the 1901 Guy household and he was the son of Mary Metcalfe (formerly Guy, oldest daughter of John Guy): Mary was a widow in 1901. Margaret Ellen would appear to be the correct name and the Graham/Metcalfe marriage is a confusing coincidence. Further discussion on this family can be found in the entry for Alexander Gibbons in No. 14, below.

James Harbottle married Mary Ann Tulip in 1905 and this link out is covered by the 1901 entry for Robert Tulip. In 1901 James was living with his parents, Thomas and Mary, in a Victoria Garesfield household that comprised two adults, eight children (including James), four other males identified as nephews and one servant; all crammed into a four-roomed house. Two of the nephews were traced using the 1911 Census and both were married. Joseph was in View Terrace, Victoria Garesfield while John William was in Byker, Newcastle.

No. 2. Davi(d)son, John

John and family were present in the same house for both 1901 and 1911 Censuses. John was born in Barlow while his wife, Elizabeth, came from Newton-on-the-Moor in Northumberland. For the 1891 Census the family was registered at No. 26 Ramsey Cottages and since the length of marriage in 1911 was recorded as 27 years, the couple were married around 1884. Prior to marriage John lived with his father, Matthew, and stepmother, Elizabeth, in High Thornley for the 1881 Census. The 1871 and 1861 censuses record that Matthew's first wife was also called Elizabeth and she probably died around 1865, after giving birth to three children, including John.

In 1891 Matthew, his second wife and some six children were living in Spen but ten years later Elizabeth was a widow in No. 61 Collindon Road and she died in 1905. Of their children only a Matthew H. was able to be traced to No. 73 Collindon Road in 1911, living as a Boarder.

No. 3. Musgrave, Isaac.

Like the Davidson family in No. 2, this household, headed by Isaac Musgrave (Musgrove, Mosgrove), was present for both Censuses. As Head, Isaac was around for the 1881 Census living in the 'Ramseys', as was his father, another Isaac, who lived in the same group of streets. All the Musgraves in High Spen were related, except for one family, and they came from the Walbottle area just north of the Tyne: migration into High Spen must have occurred before the 1881 Census. The two brothers appeared to move 'into the Ramseys' at the same time, suggesting that these streets were newly-built. By the 1891 Census one branch, headed by Isaac's brother William, had moved down to Victoria Garesfield.

In 1901 the Isaac Musgrave household contained his mother-in-law Mary Ann Farrage who was described as 'married', although there was no husband present. A search revealed that her husband, James Farrage, was living at Ryton. Mary Ann died in 1910 while James could not be found in the 1911 Census, so it is not possible to discover if this living arrangement had been temporary or permanent.

No. 4. Best, John/ Clark, Robert.

In 1881 John was head of a family as a widower in Sunnyside but by 1891 he had remarried to a Hannah Mary and had moved to No. 16 Ramsey Cottages. John was dead before 1901 and left his widow Hannah to head a household with seven children at home aged 17 to 4 years old; the older boys, Robert (17) and Edward (16), were working. The 1910 PVS indicated that the Bests were still in No. 4 with Edward as named occupier, although the family had left by 1911. Hannah Mary was in Greenside heading a Household which included four of her children. The oldest son,

John George, must have left home after 1891 to marry and in 1901 was in No. 63 Collindon Road, while ten years later his family of ten had moved to No. 38 Townley Terrace. Edward was also married and was living in Watson Street.

The 1911 Census was the sole entry for Robert Clark with no links to other Clark families. The household came from the Ebchester/Blackhill area and had only moved into Spen within two years prior to the Census.

No. 5 Cox, William/ Bell, Thomas

William, plus his wife and son were in Kimblesworth for 1881 and then moved to No. 27 Ramsey Cottages, High Spen for 1891. After the 1901 entry at No. 5 Short Row West the family moved to Highfield for 1911. This census revealed that John and his wife only produced one child in 40 years of marriage. The house in Nell Terrace, Highfield is specified as two rooms, so on the face of it they moved from a three-room house in Short Row East to a two-room house in Highfield.

Thomas Bell was born locally in the Greenside/Crawcrook area, but other than his address, No. 18 South Cross Row for 1901, and his address for 1911, No. 5 Short Row West, no further information about Thomas and family was found.

No. 6. Tunstall, William

William and family arrived from Cumberland probably around 1895 as two of their children were born in High Spen. There are only two Census entries, 1901 and 1911, for this family.

William's older brother, John, also moved West although he took up residence in Backworth, Northumberland. His family lived in the same house, No. 21 Hotspur Street, Backworth from 1881 to 1911: the 1911 Census had Mary as Head, married but no husband was present. The enumerator had crossed out details of the marriage duration and the data about the children but not the statement about Mary's marital condition. A search found that John had died in the first quarter of 1910 more than a year ago and yet Mary had still entered 'married' instead of 'widow'.

No. 7 Jackson, John/ Brown, Joseph

Only appeared in 1901 Census and was not present in 1911. John was born in Bolton, Cumberland but was not found in 1881 or 1891 and was not related to other Jackson families present in High Spen in 1851 and 1861.

In 1881 Joseph Brown, aged 14, was living in a family household headed by his father, Joseph Brown a 64-year old widower, in Dearham, Cumberland. By 1901 James had moved to No. 2 North Cross Row and was married to a Flora Jane from Cornwall. An older brother, Walker, had also moved into Spen for 1901 at No. 33 Clayton Terrace and was still at this address for the 1911 Census.

No. 8. Mannion, Martin/ Kelly, James

There were three entries, 1891 (Ramsey Cottages), 1901 (No. 8 Short Row East) and 1911 (No. 22 North Cross Row). Martin was born in Ireland and, although his wife originated from Morpeth, as Bridget is a very common Irish name, she could have been a second generation Irish. On each census there were Irish lodgers staying with the family.

There is only one entry for James Kelly and his birthplace was registered as Ireland. A search backwards did find another Kelly family in High Spen with a James Kelly of the correct nominal age but with the birthplace of Bebside, Northumberland not Ireland. Without further in-depth research there is nothing more to add about this household.

No. 9. Charlton, Robert/ Hinds, Ann

Although Robert was born in Greenside there is no trail linking him to other Charltons in High Spen. There is only one entry for 1901 and Robert was not found in 1911.

Ann Hinds was a widow aged 68 years and had three unmarried sons with her with the surname Hawdon; the different surname suggested that Ann has been married before. Ann (or Anna) was found in 1871 married to George Hawdon with four children, including the three still with her in 1901, living in Elswick, Newcastle. By 1881, in Low Spen, George was dead and Ann had remarried to James Hinds, she was 48 years and past child-bearing age. The five children from her previous marriage were correctly listed as step-children and her new husband was from Ireland.

The mixed family moved to Ramsey Cottages for 1891 but James Hinds died before the 1901 Census when Ann was Head at No. 9 Short Row West. Ann died between 1901 and 1910 and at this stage William Hawdon, the eldest son, took over the tenancy.

No. 10. Mewse (Mewes, Mews, Muse), Thomas/ Briggs, John

Only one family in Chopwell, for both 1901 and 1911, Thomas was born in Wigton while Annie his wife was from Shotleyfield nr. Shotley Bridge but in Northumberland. Thomas was in Allendale Cottages, Medomsley in 1881 living as a singleton and it was probably in this area that he must have met his wife-to-be. Pushing the search further back to 1861, Thomas was living with his widowed mother, Ann, in Haltwhistle, where she ran a lodging house. By 1871 Thomas and his mother, the surname was now Muse, were living in Tanfield: with them was a grandson Ralph Almond. Thomas only had one sister, Mary, so a search for Mary Almond identified a matching family, headed by a Thomas Almond, in Scotswood for 1881: Ralph was there as was Ann aged 69 years. However, in searching for this family in 1891 and 1901, the name of Mary's husband had changed to James Almond so Thomas is assumed to be incorrect. In 1891 and 1901 the Almonds were still in Scotswood. In 1911 James the father was dead and Mary, with her unmarried son Ralph, had moved to Newcastle while James was still in Scotswood with his wife and two children.

Referring back to Thomas Mewse, he and his wife had five children and the birth places of the children demonstrate a rather eccentric migration path, The first child was born in Allendale Cottages, the second in Pegswood, Northumberland, the third in Derwent Cote on the banks of the Derwent and the last two children were born in Scotswood. The latter location could have brought Thomas back in contact with his sister Mary Almond.

This is the only entry for Briggs. Further exploration of earlier censuses found John with his parents in Brandon, Durham for 1871 and in the 1881 Census he was a lodger in Hamsterley Colliery. The 1891 Census showed John to be married with five children in Hamsterley, while ten years later the number of children had moved up to eight in the family home in Medomsley. The final move to the 1911 address may have taken place after an excursion to Northumberland as the birthplace of the youngest son was recorded as Whitfield.

No. 11. Garland, Patrick.

The family was present for both Censuses but before Patrick arrived in High Spen he was found living in Tanfield with his widowed mother, a younger brother and another relative.

No. 12. Balmer, Israel/ White, William.

Before Israel appeared in the time frame he was found with his parents and siblings living in Victoria Terrace, Benwell in 1871. The death of his mother Eliza seems to have split the family as Thomas (the father), Fenwick and Israel were living in Cardiff Square, High Spen in 1881: meanwhile John (the son) had married and the second of his two children was born in Spen but this family were back in Victoria Terrace, Benwell for 1881. The 1891 Census had John a widower in No. 21 New Buildings, or East Street, High Spen: his youngest son, Fred, was two years old and had been born in Benwell. There are several possible explanations for this but with no further evidence it is not possible to come to a firm conclusion as to why Fred was born in Benwell. [Fred does not appear in any later census.]

Ten years later John, still a widower, had moved to No. 2 Brickflatt Cottages and while Fred was missing there was now an adopted son, George Beveridge (born in Blyth) aged 17 years. Meanwhile son Israel has had two changes of address moving first to Ramsey Cottages (1891) and then Short Row East (1901).

Searching for Fenwick Balmer in 1891 revealed that he was still single and was living with his father, who had remarried, in Ricklees Farm, Greenside; just outside the study area. In addition there was a William Balmer aged 11 years, who was registered as a son of Thomas, however, this is not true. William was the son of John Balmer and was therefore the grandson of Thomas. The 1901 Census has Fenwick married to a former widow so there were two stepsons - Moses and Samuel - in the household together with an adopted daughter, Violet Balmer. The major point is that Fenwick and family had returned to Benwell - No. 45 Blakett Street. Fenwick, Jane and Violet were not traceable in the 1911 Census. The two stepsons Moses and Samuel were both married by 1911 and were living at Nos. 29 and 44 Blakett Street, Benwell respectively.

Finally, Israel Balmer moved out of Spen to live in Throckley for 1911. The reason could have been that most, if not all, of his direct relatives had also left Spen; there were no Balmers left.

William White came from the Benwell area of Newcastle and his wife from Falstone, Northumberland. No further details were found.

No. 13. Ridley, William.

William and his wife were present for both Censuses and although by 1911 they had been

married for 21 years there were no children. Their household on both occasions contained boarders who did not appear to have had any kin-links to them.

No. 14. Tulip, Robert and Little, Thomas/ Gibbons, Alexander/ Martin, William

Two households were sharing the same house, the Tulips had two rooms and the Littles had one room. Dealing with the Tulips first, Robert and family were found in 1881 in Lintz Hall Farm, Tanfield where he was an agricultural labourer. Ten years later the family were in Ramsey Cottages, Robert and his wife have had four children – John (1865), Elizabeth (1873), Robert (1877) and Mary Ann (1882). John married and moved to Barlow, just outside the study area, while Robert married and lived first in No 1 North Cross Row (1901) and then No 58 Long Row West (1911). Both of these addresses were in close proximity to Short Row East. Mary Ann married, James Harbottle, but was easily identified as in 1911 her aged parents were living with her new household at No 1 Short Row West. The remaining daughter, Elizabeth, proved slightly more difficult to pin down but it was realised that she had married Thomas Little and was, in fact, living at No 14 Short Row East. This is a plausible explanation for the the two households sharing the same house, however, the arrangement did not last for long as by 1911 Thomas and Elizabeth Little and children had moved to No 26 River View, BlackHall Mill. This new house had only one room and therefore was nominally the same size as the one room they previously occupied in Short Row East.

It is of interest to identify here the wider in-law households. Edward a brother of Thomas Little was in No 16 Short Row East, ie. next door, for both the 1901 and 1911 censuses. Another brother Robert was in No.2 Ramsey Row for 1901 while father Robert was not far away in No. 7 Back Ramsay [The houses variously known as Ramsey Cottages, Back Ramsey, Ramsey Row and Ramsey Street were collectively known as 'The Ramseys'; the precise numbering system is not known.]

By 1911 Robert, the son, had moved away and was living in Holmside, Durham with a new wife, Harriett. This marriage was only two years old but it is not known if the death of his first wife was the catalyst for the move to Durham.

Before arriving in High Spennorth Robert, the father, was in Brampton (1881) and then Prudhoe (1891). Neither Robert nor his wife Hannah were found in 1911.

All the Gibbons families were related and probably the first to arrive into High Spennorth was Lancelot Gibbons sometime between 1881 and 1891. In 1881 he was living in Mickley Square with his wife, Margaret, and eight children: they eventually had a completed family of nine children -six boys and three girls. Lance was born in Ovingham but could have moved east to Brampton where he met and married his wife, she was born in Brampton and the first child was born in Brampton.

Three of the sons – George, Alexander and Edward – and one of the daughters – Elizabeth - can be identified as marrying, although Elizabeth and her husband (married in 1902), Edward Greener, cannot be found in the 1911 census. This leaves another five – William, Hannah, Margaret, Lancelot and Foster - who also cannot be traced.

In exploring 'in-law' linkages it was found that Alexander married a widow Mary Metcalfe on December 28th 1901 in High Spennorth. Mary's maiden name was Guy and her father John Guy was living in No. 1 Short Row West in 1901; very close to Short Cross Row. It was noted that a young boy, Robert Metcalfe, was recorded as living with the Guy family as a visitor. Mary, meanwhile, was living in Tow Law as a widow with three young children – John Joseph (5), Robert (3) and Ginetta (1): in the previous census Mary was unmarried living with her parents and siblings in Cornsary. Since there was no other Robert Metcalfe present in the area it is concluded that this child was recorded twice in the 1901 Census; first with his grandparents and then with his mother.

Judging by the age of Ginetta and the fact that there was no bread-winner present Mary must have been only recently bereaved: after the 1901 Census date she moved back to High Spennorth to live with her parents where she met Alexander Gibbons and they were married within six months. The 1911 Census had Alexander and Mary living in Short Row East with five children of their own plus two of Mary's children from her previous marriage.

Mary's mother, Catherine Guy, died in the last quarter of 1910 in the Lanchester area where John and family had moved to from High Spennorth. A search revealed the mixed household was living in Annfield Plain where the Head of House was George Graham (aged 19): George was married to Margaret Ellen (formerly Guy) and they had a one-year old child. Also in the household

were John Guy (widower) and two unmarried sons, Robert and George. In addition there was a niece, Janetta (sic) Metcalfe, who was obviously the 'Ginetta', referred to above. Presumably, when John Guy moved from High Spen, Janetta also left with her grandparents while the two boys, John Joseph and Robert stayed with their mother and stepfather.

When did John Guy leave? Probably after 1905 when his oldest son David married. If the move had taken place before then David would have moved to Annfield Plain with the rest of the family. As it is David married a local girl from Coalburns just over the Township border in Ryton Parish and was living in Strothers Terrace in 1911.

No. 15. Stephenson, Arthur/ Forester, John

This was a single well-defined family unrelated to the other two Stephenson groups in the village. Two of the censuses, 1891 and 1911, had Arthur being born in York, in one case specifically York City, while the 1901 listed his birthplace as Newcastle. As the Stephensons appear to have had a preference for lodgers from the Yorkshire area it is reasonable assumption that York was correct.

The family appeared in No. 39 Ramsey Cottages (1891), No. 15 Short Row West (1901) and finally in North View (1911). The first two houses were of a three-roomed design while North View was a much more substantial five-roomed house standing remote from the main village with its attached garden. It is not known how the tenancy of North View was obtained but it was privately owned. With eight family members and three lodgers this house must have been much less crowded than the house in Short Row West.

Arthur's wife was formerly Isabella Laybourne and there was an extensive network of her family in the neighbourhood; brothers James, John, Robert and Thomas were in No. 15 South Cross Row, No. 18 South Cross Row, No. 8 South Street and Low Spen respectively during 1901 to 1911.

The surname Forester does not appear to be another variant of Forster and there is no connection to other Forster families. The 1901 Census John was in Barlow with a son, Robert, and a brother Alexander (actually the brother was recorded as 'Alexandra' a female); John was a widower. In 1891 John was in The Black Horse Inn, Winlaton with three brothers, of these only Alexander was found in 1901.

No. 16. Little, Edward.

Edward Little had two entries, one for 1901 Census and the other for the 1911 Census. While the census entries suggested residential persistence at the same address there is contrary evidence from the 1910 PVS. Here George Farrage was listed at No.16, while Edward was shown at No. 14. As it seems highly improbable that the Littles moved out of No. 16, into No. 14 and then back again, the explanation must be that the Valuation Officer made a mistake; Nos. 14 and 16 were in fact adjacent houses.

No. 17. Fo(r)ster, George/ Alexander, James.

There were probably six unrelated Fo(r)ster families in High Spen in the 1881 to 1911 period: the family group that included George Foster was the largest. The 1871 Census recorded that George was living in Coalburns with his widowed mother and three brothers – William, James and Robert. William, the oldest, was married by 1881 and moved to Barlow, Winlaton (1891) and then to Dunston (1901).

James stayed in High Spen and lived at No 92 Cardiff Square (1881), No 51 Ramsay Cottages (1891) and No 51 Long Row West (1901). Between 1901 and 1911 James died and his widow and two adult children were still in the Long Row West address, together with his widowed brother George (see below).

The other two brothers were living with their widowed mother in 1881 at No 69 Spen Road. By 1891 this group had split with George, now married, in No 49 Ramsey Cottages with a two-year old daughter, while Robert and his mother were in residence at No 27 Howard Terrace along with a grandson William and a lodger. George was a widower by 1901 and was in No 17 Short Row West where the household included a daughter, Esther, plus a housekeeper who was a widow and her two children. George's deceased wife, Hannah, may have had health problems in 1891 which could account for one of their two children, William, living away from home with his grandmother. As stated above George, in 1911, was living with the widow of his brother James at No. 51 Long Row West.

Meanwhile Robert, finally, married, a widow, Isabella Spears, who had six children and in

1901 this household, at No 1 King Row, included seven children; the youngest, under a year-old, was Robert's contribution to the family. Robert disappeared off the radar screen for 1911.

The marriage to Isabella Spears created a wide network of in-law links. In 1861 Alexander Spears and his wife Mary were living in Coalburns, on the fringe of the Township. By 1871 the household, which comprised the two parents, six children and two boarders, was centred in Struthers Farm where Alexander was a Farm Bailiff. The 1881 Census had Alexander and family in No 90 Cardiff Square and his oldest son Thomas was in No. 53 Spen Road with wife Isabella. Alexander was dead before 1891 and his widow Mary was living with son Ralph at No. 90 Cardiff Square. Son Thomas had moved to No 15 Ramsey Cottages for 1891 before he died. After 1891 most contacts disappeared although Ralph was found in 1911 at Greenside and another son Alexander was just over the border in Broadoak Farm, Northumberland where he was a gamekeeper.

There were eight census entries for Alexander families between 1891 and 1911 in the High Spen area and all households were related. John, the father, had three entries in Victoria Garesfield while his sons - James, Joseph, John and Robert - comprised the other entries; James, Joseph and Robert had High Spen addresses. For the 1881 Census John and his family were living in Bedlington.