

MALTON & NORTON HERITAGE

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Woodhams Stone Collection

Issue 01 November 2020



Wheelgate, Malton circa 1907

Welcome

By Linda McCarthy, M&N Heritage Editor

Malton & Norton Heritage Centre is the home of the Woodhams Stone Collection Trust, formed in 2011 to secure the future of two very significant local history collections for the communities of Malton and Norton. It was named after two much respected local collectors.



Mr Sid Woodhams (left) spent over 60 years collecting objects relating to local businesses, trades and household items that represent life as it used to be in and around these towns.

From studying the items in his collection, we can produce a time line of how domestic life and trades have changed and adapted over the years. It is fascinating to see which objects are easily identified by people of ‘a

certain age’ but produce great interest and enchantment especially in young children.

Mr John Stone (on right in photo) has collected hundreds of postcards and photographs showing the streets and landmarks of Malton, Old Malton and Norton and the surrounding villages, from around 1900 to the present day. Comparison of old images with today’s reality, show how some places and landmarks have changed very little, yet others are altered beyond recognition. His large paper-based archive relates to local businesses, trades and community activities including dances, sporting events and concerts. Of particular interest are how business practices have changed and how modern technology has changed business transactions and their recording.

WHY I BECAME A ‘FRIEND’

By Mandy Enticknap, Trustee & Volunteer, currently cataloguing images of Malton & Norton and delighted to join others in appreciating what has gone before!



As a child, I was fascinated by my Nan’s stories of living in the ‘weighing-in room’ (then converted into a wooden bungalow) on Auburn Hill, Norton. Laddie the Bull Terrier and Susie, a

rescued Jack Russell, the best Christmas dinner ever during the war years – a rabbit, Nan watching a fox every

evening walking along the ridge of the wold, silhouetted against the evening sky, Dad, a teenager then, having to exchange his sandwich with Laddie for any game ‘picked-up’ on their walks.



My paternal grandfather worked as Head Lad at High Field Stables at the height of their successes in the 1940s/50s. I saw photos of an elegant string of racehorses exercising, the riders looking so smart in sports’ jackets and ties! Weighing Room is shown above.

I've discovered that there was a settlement in Malton long before the Romans brought their horses!

Land and buildings soak up the past – like a reel-to-reel, a cassette, a floppy disc... and can play it back. This past informs our understanding of the towns and the people who live here now, our families, our stories and how we live our lives.

History is not about a time long ago, it's yesterday, it's what makes us who we are today. Technology and the rapid social changes following the end of the Second World War have shaped our lives. But what shaped the lives of those who came before?

The bicycle! This affordable transport made it easy for young men and women to socialise with surrounding villagers. No longer was 'the boy next door' the only eligible bachelor!

My Lockdown Family History!

By Lorraine Williams, volunteer and trustee.

While in 'lockdown' I had a rather interesting family history experience that I would like to share with readers.



A little background information:

I have lived in Norton and the surrounding area for the past 45 years. Born in Middlesbrough in 1951 we moved to Peterlee in Co. Durham a year or so later. My mother and father separated when I was about 3 and I lost contact with my father and his family. About 25 years ago I decided to look for my father, but where to start? I hoped he was still living in Peterlee but I had no address. I found an Aunt by asking at a local shop but she informed me that my father had since died. She put me in touch with another Aunt who lived in Wheatley Hill and through her I learned that my father had remarried and had 3 daughters.

For years I have been interested in my family history so a discreet search for my 3 half siblings began. Based on the maiden name I was given by my Aunt of Thompson for the mother of the girls and my father's name of Simpson, my search began. I had a rough idea of where the births would be registered and of the years, they were born but common names can make a search difficult. I decided to take a wild guess and I ordered birth certificates for 3 siblings that appeared to fit what I knew. Totally wrong babies, so back to square one!

Being a Friend of MNHC opens a rich seam of artefacts, documents, photographs and memories which tell the back story of our lives here. If your family has a long history here, you'll find fascinating information and memories. Making your family life here now? Discover the wonderful past of the towns you now call home. Businesses, politics, professions, attitudes and livelihoods are all there waiting for you to connect with. What's not to like?

We are passionate about Norton, Malton and the surrounding villages. Add your voice. Join us!

However, luck was on the horizon during Lockdown! I had sent my DNA in to a couple of companies a year or so ago and early in March I checked for updates on Living DNA. There was a very close match to me, Lesley Carr. I knew instantly that she was one of my siblings. I sat on it for a while, I tried to find her marriage record based again on Simpson maiden name and Carr, presumably her husband's name but nothing fit. So I decided I would try to make contact with her through Living DNA. However, that company never used to pass messages on. The recipient had to log into the site to see if anyone had made contact. I believe the company is much improved now and emails are sent out if anyone leaves a message.

So, what next! I decided I had nothing to lose by just typing the newfound name and the area I thought she may live in into the search bar on my computer and 'Voila'. There was her business profile on LinkedIn. I just knew it was her! I plucked up courage and rang; it was like we had known each other for ever. We had so much to chat about. Sadly, her two elder sisters had died a few years previous.



I had a lovely surprise visit from Lesley and her husband a few weeks ago. We later met up with my other 2 sisters at Redcar and Lesley brought 2 of our nieces to meet us. My Redcar

sisters had found a little café newly opened and the proprietor was really obliging and locked the door so we had the place to ourselves. It was like a scene from 'Long Lost Families', it was a very enjoyable and memorable occasion.

What On Earth's That?

Each issue of our newsletter will feature an unusual item from the collection. It's an opportunity for you to see the range of items which constitute the Woodhams Stone Collection. Those of you of an 'interesting age' may know what they are, but what about your children or grandchildren?



There are a variety of these 'darning mushrooms' in the collection made from a variety of woods and of different sizes.

Changes over the years

By Howard Champion, trustee

Over the years the traffic issues at Butcher Corner have been well documented. Sheer volume of traffic, coupled with the traffic lights at the junction and/or the closing of the gates at the railway crossing will be in the memory of many. Much of this was solved by the opening of the by-pass.

The Butcher Corner was not a 'straight' cross-roads, and the corners were very tight. This picture was taken pre-1956. Even before the motor-car, horse and carts were taking the corner too fast and accidents would happen.



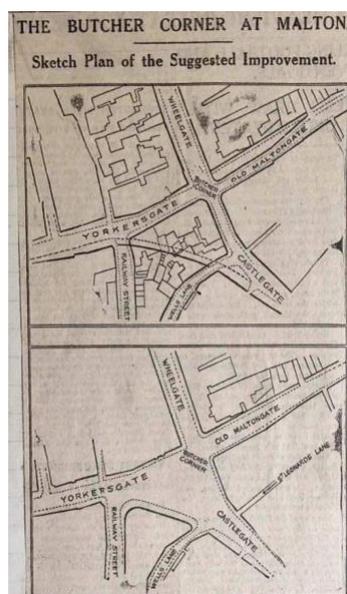
One such accident happened in 1896 when a father and son were driving down Wheelgate, 'when the horse was startled and dashed down to Butcher Corner. The horse attempted to turn up Yorkersgate, but too late, and smashed into the large plate-glass window of Messrs. Snow and Son, drapers. The man and boy were both thrown through the window, and were seriously hurt by

For those family history bods out there, the reason I couldn't find the girl's birth records was that Thompson wasn't their mother's maiden name; it was her name from her first marriage. Lesley had married 30 previously in Florida, the reason why I could not find her marriage record.

The darning mushroom would have been an essential tool in an era when women were constantly repairing worn socks. Before the advent of synthetic materials, socks and other items of clothing were in constant need of repair. Darning would have been considered a necessary skill for girls and young women, part of their education as future wives and mothers! The mushroom was used to make repairs to clothing, bed linen etc. a practice that has largely disappeared with the development of modern textiles. Darning was a remarkable skill when done properly and was even recognised by the Girl Guides during the 1950s with a special achievement badge! Do you still use a darning mushroom and do you know of any other name for it? Please let us know.

Next month will feature some lovely items from John's contribution to our collection.

the glass. The man had his left shoulder dislocated, his arm broken, one hand cut, and also had a nasty cut several inches long across the lower part of the back.



The boy was badly cut on the head, and was for a time insensible' (Leeds Times, 15 February 1896). A Miss Bell, attracted a similar fate while cycling, when she lost control of her machine, and dashed into the shop window of Messrs. Snow and Sons, drapers, sustaining severe cuts on the face and hands. (Leeds Mercury, 26 June 1911). I hope all parties had good insurance! One item in the WS collection is this pre-war press

cutting regarding possible improvements at the Butcher Corner cross roads.



Those roads had long been the bane of Scarborough traffic as well as heavy goods articulated vehicles which had to perform double and complicated manoeuvres in order to manage a turn. Nothing happened until 1956 when buildings to the West side of Old Maltongate were

removed.

The photograph on the far left was taken while the demolition process was happening. This also illustrates the cable which was suspended in September 1922 between the bank and Laverack's chemist's shop. The lamp affixed to this illuminated the whole of the junction. The Butcher Corner lost a lot of character, including the historic old Post-Office building, but a straighter and safer route from Yorkersgate into Old Maltongate was achieved. In the subsequent years, road traffic increased disproportionately and a further move was made in 1966 to straighten out the Castlegate to Wheelgate section.

Events Diary

December – Due to Covid – 19 work at the Malton & Norton Heritage Centre has been interrupted and planning any events for the public has not been possible. We hope that current circumstances will change as soon as it is safe to do so. For latest information, please check our News and Events Page [here](#).

Easyfundraising



Please sign up to #easyfundraising and help us raise FREE funds for Woodhams Stone Collection when you are

doing your everyday shopping online. THIS IS FREE MONEY FOR US! Plus, when you raise your first £5,

easyfundraising will match it!! This short [video](#) explains how simple it is and it doesn't cost you anything –

Sign-up using our [unique link](#):

So far 17 supporters have raised over £800

Contact Details

You can email us [here](#) and see our website [here](#)

The [Malton & Norton Heritage Centre](#) has a Facebook page

The [Malton & Norton Memories](#) Facebook group, with nearly 4,500 members, is for those who are interested in life as it used to be in the twin towns of Malton and Norton. It is chiefly a showcase for photos and items from the Woodhams-Stone Collection but you are welcome to post any comments, memories or photos you may have to share.

And sometimes we [Tweet](#) !

Tell Us What You Think



Well, what do you think of our first newsletter? Does it contain the sort of articles which interest you? What else would you like to see included?

We have also redesigned our website and would be interested to hear any feedback you have.

Please contact us using the details opposite.