

NEWSLETTER

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FROM CLASSEN TO KLAZEN TO CLASSEN

Derek Pratt

I hope this story of discovery will be a lesson for all of us as we research our own ancestors. Permission was obtained to use this story from the member of the CLASSEN/KLAZEN family who had asked me to research his family.

In June this year I was asked to find a marriage in the St Francis Simon's Town records of a Johannes Jacob Bertram CLASSEN who married a Simon's Town woman, Marlene Diana SPRINGHALL. As this marriage only took place in 1984 I could only find the date of it on gendatabase.com and as the client was the Anglican Chaplain of the Mission to Seafarers, I said that my hobby was genealogy and if he needed any further help, I was willing assist him *pro bono*. He said that he had his grandfather's name but nothing more on him and would I help.

Aware that there are many ways of spelling CLASSEN - Classen, Claasen, Klassen, Klaasen - I searched and firstly found his grandfather's marriage. He was **Johannes Daniel CLASSEN** and he had married **Helena Elizabeth JOSHUA** in Calvinia in 1924. Johannes Daniel Classen was a driver, aged 27 years (according to the marriage certificate) and Helena Joshua was a teacher, aged 20 years, so she had to have her mother's permission. My immediate thought was, "Why mother and not father?" and I guessed that father was dead. This led me into researching the JOSHUA side of the family. All this, plus the fact that I was doing the research *pro bono* as one clergyperson to another, resulted in finding lots of his family before I put it on the back burner, but found nothing further on his grandfather, Johannes Daniel CLASSEN.

In December my client contacted me again and reminded me that he had nothing on his grandfather's family and maybe some new information he had obtained from the family about his grandfather's sister, who he only knew as 'Auntie Hanna,' might help me and could he ask me to research Auntie Hanna and her descendants. The information he had was mainly first names of daughters of Auntie Hanna - which I presumed was Johanna born CLASSEN - but no married names for these ladies, except that one of them, he thinks, was married to a Dr Henderson - no first name for the doctor!

I first of all had to remind myself of the CLASSEN family. I noticed that in my report I sent him I stated certain facts but had no source references for them. I went back to familysearch.org and re-searched for info on Johannes Daniel CLASSEN.

I typed in Johannes Daniel CLASSEN and a birth registration came up on the list of finds. I have noticed that recently birth registration for the year 1895 (when Birth Registration in the Cape Colony began) are now popping up in searches on familysearch.org.¹ The Johannes Daniel CLASSEN birth registration that popped up had in the surname column in the search page, "KlaZEN - Classen". Now that was one variation of CLASSEN I had not used so far! I downloaded that image and this is what I had: [See page 2]

¹ I found two 1895 Birth Registrations in the same week which made me think that this was happening. Later I found that familysearch.org has always had a certain number of birth registrations for a few decades before 1895 and the two I found just happened to be among these.

Form of Information of a
Vorm van Kennisgeving van een



Birth: Act No. 7 of 1894
Geboorte: Wet No. 7, 1894.

CHILD.
Kind.

Date of Birth
Datum van Geboorte
Place where born
Plaats waar geboren
Name (if any)
Naam (als het een heeft)

Eighteenth April
Luty Street, Williston
JOHANNES DANIEL

1895

REGISTRAR.
59/4-0768 Date: 28/12/59

Sex
Geslacht Male

FATHER.
Vader.

Name and Surname
Naam en familienaam
Rank, Profession, or Occupation
Stand of Beroop

Sant Jacob Joham Hagen CLASSEN
Butcher

Age
Ouderdom
Race or Nationality
Ras of Nationaliteit

32 years
Cape Colony
Mixed

ISSUE—KINDEREN.

Information under this heading does not include the child whose birth is the present subject of registration.
Informatie onder dit hoofd sluit niet in het kind wiens geboorte thans geregistreerd wordt.

	Living (In het leven).		Deceased (Overleden).		Stillborn (Doodgeboren).	
	Sons. Zoons.	Daughters. Dochteren.	Sons. Zoons.	Daughters. Dochteren.	Sons. Zoons.	Daughters. Dochteren.
By Present Wife (Bij tegenwoordige vrouw).....		1	1		1	
By Previous (if any) Wife or Wives (Bij vorige vrouw of vrouwen)	—	—	—	—	—	—

MOTHER.
Moeder.

Name and Maiden Surname
Naam en geboorte naam
Occupation (if any)
Beroep (als zij een heeft)
Birthplace
Geboorteplaats

Marije Magdalena Hagen geboren Leuten
Housewife
Age
Ouderdom 26 years
Cape Colony
Race or Nationality
Ras of Nationaliteit Mixed

ISSUE—KINDEREN.

	Living (In het leven).		Deceased (Overleden).		Stillborn (Doodgeboren).	
	Sons. Zoons.	Daughters. Dochteren.	Sons. Zoons.	Daughters. Dochteren.	Sons. Zoons.	Daughters. Dochteren.
Information under this heading must include all children of whatever paternity borne by the mother, excluding the child at present the subject of registration. Informatie onder dit hoofd moet insluiten alle kinderen door de moeder in de wereld gebracht wie ook de vader is, behoudende het kind dat thans geregistreerd wordt.	1	1	1		1	

INFORMANT.
Berichtgever.

Signature
Handtekening
Description
Beschrijving
Residence
Woonplaats

Isabel Leuten
Father
Williston

Name of any witness at Birth
Naam van een getuige bij geboorte

When Registered 19th April 1895 Sub-District of Williston

Signature of Hemming Assistant to Deputy Registrar (Urban Areas).

When Registered 26th April 1895 District of Francsburg

Signature of H. B. B. Deputy Registrar No. of Entry 24.

This form needs some careful analysis. The first thing that slightly put me off was that his date of birth was given as 8 April 1895. His marriage certificate said he was 27 years old in July 1924. If he turned 27 in April 1924 this means he was born in 1897. But we all know that ages on marriage certificates in those days are often incorrect. This could be for many reasons such as the person not really knowing their actual age through to their own and their parents just forgetting in pre-Identity Book days. The other reason, in this case specifically, could be that Johannes was marrying a young woman of only twenty and so perhaps to have a nine-year age gap didn't look as good as a seven year one. I was not too concerned about this difference. There is a CLASSEN family tree on familysearch, which gives his birth date as "12 April 1897", perhaps the year based on the marriage certificate but where was the 12th April obtained?

Perhaps that was the date Johannes himself was brought up to believe as his birthday and not the 8th as registered. Or did the person who registered it get it wrong? Or, even worse, is this the completely wrong person?

What made me hesitate further was that surname. Looking at the Registration form... I am no handwriting expert but even to my inexperienced eye it appears that at least five people filled in something on this form. Starting at the bottom the Deputy Registrar at Fraserburg dated 26th April, then the 'Assistant to Deputy Registrar (Urban Area)' in Williston dated 19 April, then the informant who signed it in a very unpractised hand, 'Jacob Klazen' and then the witness Johanna Leukes who filled in 'Father' and 'Williston'. I have feeling that she filled in the rest of the form as well except for those entries in capitals.

I still wondered why the change from KLAZEN to CLASSEN? Then I spotted that on the top right there was a stamp with a Registrar's signature, a reference 59/40768 and what appeared to be a date 28/12/59. I then concluded that the entries labelled circled 1 and circled 2 were filled in in 1959 when Johannes Daniel KLAZEN applied to have his name legally changed from KLAZEN to CLASSEN. Like many birth registrations in those early days, and I've seen this in the HAWC registers at the Archives, no first names are given but only the gender - male or female. This is most frustrating for researchers as most are not up-dated once the child is named. So added to the form is JOHANNES DANIEL in 'Name (if any)' space. Also changed is 'Name and Surname of father' from Saul Jacob Johannes Klazen to Saul Jacob Johannes CLASSEN.

I am not sure where I can find or be allowed to see the reference quoted in the stamp - 59/40768 - which might give the reasons for the name change - perhaps the reason might be merely because he has always been known as CLASSEN and not KLAZEN. I had originally thought that maybe the clerk in the Registry Office was English and spelt CLASSEN phonetically as KLAZEN but a quick search for KLAZENs produced quite a few and mostly in the Williston-Fraserburg-Calvinia area. Thus, it is a fairly common name (over 34 times on NAAIRS)

With my client's great-grandparents (**Saul Jacob Johannes KLAZEN** and **Maria Magdalena KLAZEN born LEUKES**) I could search on. Saul KLAZEN died in 1903 when Johannes Daniel was only eight and Maria Magdalena married again to a David Louw in 1905. Saul's Death Notice tells us he was a policeman when he died. He had been a butcher when Johannes Daniel was born. It also tells us of the three surviving children, Johanna Maria, Johannes Daniel and Jacobus Andries - so there is "Auntie Hanna", the first born, and my client knew of Jacob. Fortunately, Saul's Death Notice also gave his parents' names Johannes KLAZEN and Johanna born VAN WYK. With these names I was able trace the family right back to the 1830s as I found their marriage in 1855 in Williston which in those days was called Amandelboom. They were married by the Rev J H Lutz. My next task was - in which church? Maybe I could find baptisms. The Dutch Reformed Church only open in Williston in 1888. Wikipedia gave me the information I needed:

Williston was originally known as Amandelboom (Afrikaans "almond tree") as a large almond tree stood as the focal point of the town by the Sak River. The tree had been planted in 1768 by Johan Abraham Nel, a farmer and owner of the land that was to become the town, to commemorate the birth of one of his sons. In the early 19th century, the district was populated by pastoralists who constantly moved their livestock between springs in search of fresh grazing areas. These pastoralists were derogatorily referred to as 'Basters' as the pastoralists were of mixed race and descendants of the Khoi and Dutch. In 1845, the community requested that the Rhenish Church, which had a mission station in Wuppertal, establish another mission station in Williston. Two missionaries were sent to Williston to assist the community with their spiritual needs. By 1845 a Rhenish mission station was established in the area by Johann Heinrich Lutz.

This is the minister J H LUTZ who did the marriage of Johannes and Johanna. No age is given on the 1855 Marriage Certificate but both were entered as 'meerder jarig' (full age) so they were at least 21 years and thus born pre-1834.

What started as having nothing on Johannes Daniel CLASSEN's forebears, I now can take my client's tree back another two generations to at least the 1830s. The lesson of looking for as many varieties of spelling of the name as one possible can is even more relevant. We must even use the spellings you would never think of! Can I also say, read the documents you find very carefully? They contain so many clues. Also just do google searches for information around the family – like the town, the occupations, the farm names, churches etc. All these build up a picture of the family in their social milieu which is definitely different from yours today.

It goes without saying that if anyone can add to this CLASSEN/KLAZEN family history, I would appreciate it. Contact me at dpratt@mweb.co.za

LUCKY ENQUIRY

A combined effort from David Slingsby, Fred Pohl and others

The following e-mail was sent to Ann Smythe and David Slingsby

Good Day

I wonder if you can help me or tell me who might be able to. I am looking for a photograph of my Great Grandfather, Bernhard Pilgram who at one stage, owned The Athenaeum (La Rochelle).

I found some information on previous owners of the Athenaeum written by Margaret Cairns and published by The Historical Society of Cape Town. Unfortunately, I cannot contact The Historical Society by phone and cannot find their email address.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

Lyn Glenn

Our chairman, David responded:

Hi Lyn,

I forwarding this mail to Fred Pohl a friend and descendant – a very lucky query

And Lynn Glenn responded:

That was quick! Many thanks. Lyn

David writes that Fred Pohl is a long-time friend who also shares an interest in Family Research and had prepared the document below and has agreed to allow us to share in our Newsletter.

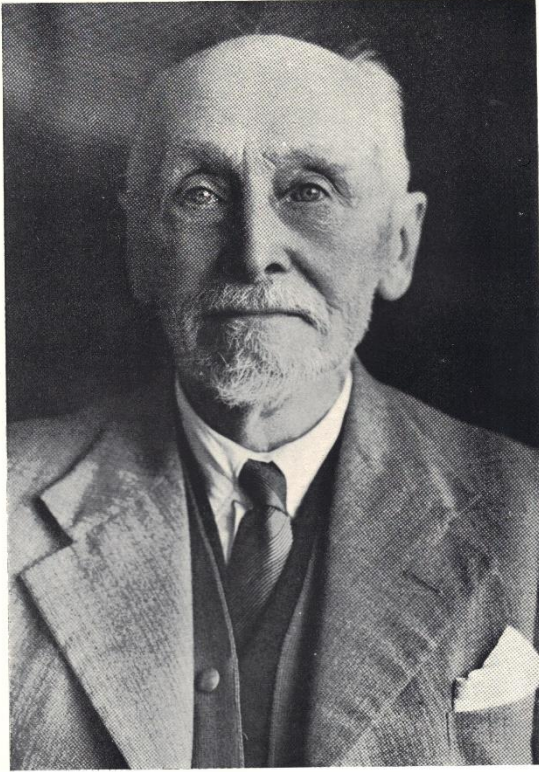
Bernhard Gilbert Pilgram (4 June 1845 – 15 Jan 1944)

Bernhard Gilbert Pilgram, was born in Humboldtstrasse, Elberfeld, District Barmen, Germany. The son of a Merchant, he originally left his ancestral homeland in the late 1860's to seek his independent future and fortune in the City of London.

He met, and subsequently married on 3rd October 1872, the beautiful Amy Marian Benison (1851 – 1928), a daughter of a Military Officer in the 31st Regiment of Foot (Huntingdonshire Marines), Major Samuel Benison, who was at that time serving with the British Army in India, Afghanistan and Crimea. They lived on together in London for a further 2 years during which their first daughter, Elfriede Geraldine, was born.

In 1874, Bernhard left London and sailed to the Cape of Good Hope with his wife and daughter, to take up an appointment as Treasurer of the Rhenish Missionary Society, principally in connection with their trading stations in Namaqualand and elsewhere. They lived at "La Rochelle" in Campground Road, Newlands (now known as "The Athenaeum") which he had purchased from Jacob Isaac de Villiers on 8th July 1875 for £1,450. While living at "La Rochelle" they increased their family by an additional seven daughters, Helena, Irene, Beatrice Ada, Edith Benison, Constance Mary, Amy Blanche, and Muriel Victoria.

Bernhard was one of the founder Members of the City Club which was first established in 1878 with 62 members. (In 1938 a photograph was taken of him aged 93. He was the only surviving founder member of the City Club at that time. This photograph still hangs in the Rhodes room at the new Cape Town City Club). He was also a very active Freemason being a Member of the Scottish Constitution Lodge Southern Cross (No. 398) – this Lodge is still active today and has the honour of being the oldest Scottish Constitution Freemasons Lodge in the Southern Hemisphere.



BERNARD PILGRAM Esq. [Photo: Cape Times.
THE ONLY SURVIVING ORIGINAL MEMBER.

From 1880 Bernhard retired from the Rhenish Missionary Society to work for his own account, and opened a business in Cape Town with a copper mining operation in O'okiep which he ran from 1880 to 1888. He was made a Director of the Van Rhyn Gold Mining Company, and Chairman of the Van Rhyn Wine and Spirit Company. On 21st July 1887, he was granted letters of Naturalisation as a British subject in the Cape of Good Hope. He was made a Justice of the Peace on 23 August 1889 in the District of Wynberg, during his term of office as Chairman of the Claremont Municipality. He was by now a highly respected and successful merchant and businessman with offices in Cape Town in Castle Street between Long and Loop Streets. He and Amy took a very active part in the busy social life of the Cape Peninsula at that time.

On 5th February, 1889 in the middle of the night, "La Rochelle" caught fire and was burned to the ground. The family fortunately escaped unharmed, but all their possessions were lost. They were assisted with accommodation by friends, and then they moved to temporary accommodation while the plans for a new home to be built on the property were drawn up by their Architect, Anthony De Witt. The 4 sheets "The Proposed Villa at Newlands, residence for B.G. Pilgram, Esq." are dated 1889 and are typical De Witt in style. The outward appearance of the dwelling is very similar to the Loodwyk House in Milner Road,

Rondebosch, which is another example of the work of this Architect. The plans show a basement and a home of two storeys comprising twenty rooms, four of which were for the staff, also two bathrooms, two separate wc's, kitchen, wine cellar, grocery store, dairy and scullery. The Living rooms included a Ball or Billiard room, huge day nursery, and a servant's hall. This grandiose conception was never put into operation as they eventually decided to rather purchase an additional property, which incorporated a small farm spanning the Kromboom River, on the False Bay side of Lansdowne Road, Claremont. The Pilgrams called their new property "Fermanagh" after the county in Ireland that Amy's father's family originated from, and they took up residence there in the summer of 1891 or early 1892. The family lived there until 1898 when he returned to London, after which it was let out for the next 22 years, and finally sold in 1921.

Bernhard's return to London in 1898 was in the interests of the Van Rhyn Gold Mining and Wine and Spirit Company, and he initially took up residence at "La Rochelle" in Beulagh Hill in Upper Norwood. On the 3rd of January 1899 that Bernhard's Mother-in-law, Mary Benison, widow of Major Samuel Benison, passed away aged 77. They then moved to 42 Hanley Road (St Mark), Tollington Park, Middlesex, and later to "The Manor House", Winterbourne Gunner, near Salisbury, Wiltshire. He remained in England until 1905, when he finally returned to South Africa.

In 1890, the Union Bank failed. It had been established in the Cape for over forty years, and Bernhard was in the process of being appointed to its board of Directors, but had not as yet attended a Board Meeting or signed the appropriate documents. Possibly he could have escaped involvement, but he made no attempt to avoid the responsibility he felt he owed to the shareholders, and he decided to assign his Estate. The "La Rochelle" property was put up for sale during this process by the Trustees, and purchased by Frederick Chapman Gibson in 1891. Although he was fully rehabilitated from the insolvency on 12th January 1895, financial problems plagued the family for the rest of his life as Bernhard struggled to fittingly educate and keep his family of eight young ladies, and at the same time pay off the remaining debts which he felt morally, though not legally, obliged to settle. Such an attitude was in keeping of the character of this fine man.

By the time Bernhard returned to the Cape in September 1905, his eldest daughter was married, and the other Daughters were seeking a way to earn their living according to their varied talents, and the few opportunities open to the young women of good family of their day. Amy also had to spend some additional time in Switzerland for her specialised health treatment as she had been taken ill whilst living in England. He was appointed a Director of the Imperial Cold Storage Company in Cape Town in 1906, but he retired from business in 1915, aged 70, and by the end of the Great War, most of his daughters had left home.

Bernhard purchased a holiday home called "Miramar" in Kalk Bay in 1906 which he owned until about 1919. His daughter Edith Benison, had married Captain Edward Kenelm Bird of the 29th Punjabi Regiment, and she stayed at "Miramar" at this time. Captain Bird was originally from Pietermaritzburg, Natal, and had been posted to serve in India and Afghanistan, but he fell ill there and was returned to the Cairo Field Hospital where he died, and is buried in the Cairo War Memorial Cemetery in Egypt.

In May of 1920 Bernhard was appointed as a Member of the South West African Concessions Committee and he rendered valuable services to that body. On 3rd September 1920, he was formally thanked by the Secretary of the Concessions Commission in Swakopmund, for services rendered.

In 1922 the family moved out "into the country", some twelve miles from Cape Town, to a house called "Noisette" in 1st Avenue, Bellville, owned by two of his daughters (Victoria and Edith) where his wife, Amy spent her last years before finally passing away in 1928. Bernhard continued to live with his daughters for a further sixteen years, and maintained his interest in his large and growing family until the end. After he died aged 99, Victoria and Edith bought a small cottage in Somerset West, in the "real country" this time, some thirty miles from Cape Town. They called it "Fermanagh" and they stayed there together with Edith's daughter (young Edith), who was employed by the Dynamite Factory at the Strand as Personal Secretary to the Managing Director. After the two sisters had both passed on in the 1990's, "young Edith" stayed on in the cottage, eventually retired from the Dynamite Factory, and finally passed away in about 2006 at the "Serenitas" Home for the aged in the Strand.

Fred Pohl

October 2014.

As noted, Bernhard Pilgram was a founder member of the City Club Cape Town. A report in the Cape Argus 30 January 1877 reads as follows *"A meeting of gentlemen interested in the formation of a club in Cape Town was held yesterday in the side room of the Commercial Exchange. It was resolved to call it the City Club"*.

Followed by a notice appearing in the Cape Times 25th April 1878 *"The opening dinner of the City Club will be held tomorrow evening. Members desirous of being present should communicate with the Secretary as early as possible."*

Ref : *History of the City Club Cape Town* by A.L. Little² - Celebrated their Centennial in 1938

A brief outline of Founding members in found in the publication.

PILGRAM, Bernard. Only surviving (1938) original member of Club. Born Germany 1847. Came to South Africa 1874 as treasurer of Rhenish Missionary Society principally in connection with their trading stations. Retired 1880 when at O'okiep (1880-1888): his Cape Town office was in Castle Steet between Long Street and Loop Street. Subsequently director of Van Ryn Gold Mining Co. Ltd., and also a director of Van Ryn Wine & Spirit Co. Went to London 1898 in Van Ryn interests (then resigning from Club) and remained and remained till 1903 when he returned to South Africa.



Bernhard PILGRAM watering his garden aged 98 years.
Gone are the days of watering the garden in a suit and tie!

² This book is in our library and has short biographical of 'the just and the good' who were members of the City Club, Cape Town in 1938.

Was thereafter connected to Cold Storage interests and finally retired from business 1915. His photograph taken at the age of 93 hangs in committee room.

In conclusion Fred writes

It turns out that Lyn and I share a Great Grandfather and Great Grandmother (Bernhard Gilbert Pilgram & Amy Marion Benison).

They produced no less than eight Daughters, two of which were my and Lyn's Grandmothers. There were 51 subsequent off-spring from their generation, so the old boy can be proud of his productivity!!! The family have spread widely over UK, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Canada, Italy, New Zealand, India and Egypt, some of which was due to wartime military service.

Fred Pohl has sent four files which is a register of the family. If anyone is interested they can contact me dpratt@mweb.co.za

RESEARCH NOTES ON HEPBURN FAMILY AVAILABLE.

Celia Baylis is moving and so getting rid of stuff. She has half a dozen files of her research into the HEPBURNS of Scotland. These files are all hand written, and with some illustrations, in Tree form with much detail about each person on the Tree. It would be of no interest except to someone researching the name HEPBURN. The Earl of Bothwell, who married Mary Queen of Scots, was a James HEPBURN, and much has been written about him who Celia thinks is her ancestor. Her files contain his family details and connections. Like all of us, Celia is loathed to just throw the files away. She would like to give them to someone in the Family History Society who might find them of interest. To contact Celia send me an email at dpratt@mweb.co.za and I can help to connect you to Celia.

BLOWERS & South African PIKE

Joyce Settle

I had an email from Joyce Settle. If you remember, she is researching all the BLOORS and as many different spellings of that surname that she can find.

I have been sitting out Covid in virtual findagrave.com graveyards and many will probably think I am going a bit loony BUT I am seeing things that normally would go unnoticed and may well be unimportant to most of the people I know BUT when I get a gut-feeling I have to take an extra few minutes to report in what has come on my screen. I very rarely find any Blo(o)r(e) connections to South Africans and have probably figured out the ones I have already found BUT ... well here goes for what it is worth.



The BLOWER family grave at Highland Cemetery, Casper, Natrona County, Wyoming USA

This morning I came to a guy called **Lloyd Kenneth BLOWER** who died in USA so I took my very large List of Blo(o)r(e) people and their connections thinking " Great a 'middle name;... and quite an unusual name " ie not John or Mary.

The parents of Lloyd Kenneth Blower were:

Stephen Ginnis Blower (1881 April 27-1936 December 19) born Shrewsbury Shropshire (Ian and Peter, two England based fellow-member of the BLO(O)R(E) One-Name-Group and they will be happy as he is another English Blower who sailed off into the sunset never to be found again [until now]). He was Buried in Highland Cemetery Casper, Natrona Co., Wyoming, USA.

He married **Florence Myrtle Pike** (1885 November 21-1967 March 21) born **Pretoria Gauteng**. Buried with her husband in Highland Cemetery Casper....

They had two children:

Lloyd Kenneth Blower (1918 June 30-1996 July 16) Buried Highland Cemetery Casper

Molly M Blower (1924 April 12-1990 March 3) born Casper Natrona Co Wyoming d. Springfield Sangamon Co Illinois Buried Highland Cemetery Casper.. married Grider.

There do not seem to be any kids for these Blower children.

Do you know of any **PIKE** parents or family for Florence? There were some Pikes in the 1820 Settlers - William Pike born February 1779 Keyworth Nottinghamshire. I am pretty sure they will all tie up but for now I am going back to my post in findagrave graveyards as I still have the majority of Blowers to figure out. Going round the houses I nearly forgot I was looking at an Anne Blower who seemed to be in the same grave as Lloyd Kenneth so she may well have been his wife...

[Finally a heart-felt plea from Joyce]

I hope we will have some real Family History Society meetings soon. I am missing it badly.

A short aside: WHAT IS A PIMP MAKER?

Looking through UK Census Records often throw up very strangely titled occupations. I found a seventy-year-old woman listed in the 1911 Census as being a 'Pimp Maker'. I immediately imagined an elderly granny whose task it was to teach prostitutes' pimps their trade. Why not? Afterall Monty Python had their sketch about Hell's Grannies. Check it out at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SmzMzmnB-iQ>

Sorry to spoil the theory but...maybe it was a transcription error? I checked the original and it wasn't a transcription error so I entered it in Google and was disappointed to discover that a pimp maker was "a maker of firewood bundles". They were also known as Spile Makers or Bavin Makers.



Here is a male pimp maker busy creating that bundle of wood.

SCATTERED-HOMES

Derek Pratt

A recent client asked me to look-up her mother who had been born in the industrial North of England. After some time in the Parish Work House Nursery, she was sent to what my client called 'Scattered-Home'. Now, that was a term I had never heard of, so I decided I need to find out more about them.

I found that Peter Higginbotham's famous website on workhouses (www.workhouse.org.uk) had a page giving a description of Scattered Homes or Isolated Homes, as they were also known. The 'isolated homes' system was devised in 1893 by John Wycliffe Wilson, Chairman of the Sheffield Board of Guardians. Wycliffe Wilson criticised the well-established 'cottage homes system' as isolating children from the real world in which they would eventually have to make their way. The alternative system of 'boarding out', though well regarded, relied on a steady supply of foster families, which was not always guaranteed. It was also only appropriate for orphans and deserted children, and was not suited for short term inmates as the "in-and-outs" (those parents and children who arrived for a short stay in workhouse).



Children at one of Sheffield's scattered homes.
© Peter Higginbotham.

Isolated homes, or scattered homes as they were commonly known, placed small groups of children in ordinary houses scattered around the suburbs of towns and cities. Unlike cottage homes sites, which usually had their own schools, the children in scattered homes attended ordinary local Board Schools. The placing of homes was arranged such that there were never more than 30 children from scattered homes attending any one school.

In most large towns and cities, the scattered homes each had between fifteen and twenty-eight beds. Some of the homes were allocated for Catholic children and others for Protestant. Each house was presided by a foster-mother, assisted in the household work by the elder children and an occasional charwoman.

In some cases, the distinction between cottage homes, scattered homes, and what might be called 'children's homes' became blurred. By 1914 over 90 unions (the organisation that ran the parish workhouses) were making use of scattered homes. Because they were just ordinary houses, many former scattered homes still survive, now converted to private residential use. In many cases, the present occupiers are unaware of the previous use of their house. (Condensed from www.childrenshomes.org.uk/scatteredhomes/)

In the town I was researching³, the Guardians decided in 1903, that all children over the age of two should be removed from the workhouse and housed instead in scattered homes. Each home housed between fifteen and twenty children and was run by a house-mother. The children attended normal schools, but were expected to help with chores in the home. Children over five were separated according to religion (Catholic or Protestant) and gender. Children between the ages of two and five were housed in the home's nursery.

In the town I'm researching the local archivist has researched Scattered Homes. She told of the homes created all over the town to save children from the workhouse, around the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century. Some of the matrons loved their charges, but more were harsh and cruel. Children sometimes never saw their parents again, some were sent abroad to learn a trade, brothers and sisters were separated, and daily chores were gruelling.

³ Kept anonymous as possible to protect the client.

Among the more kindly matrons was Mother Heywood, who held Christmas parties and made mince pies, jam tarts, and puddings. But next-door, Mother Hilton used the cane and children dreaded chores such as shovelling coal into the cellar, cleaning the outside steps and five toilets, or black-leading the grate.

The Archivist-author said that as a girl she was often threatened by her grandmother with "You'll go to the Scattered Homes!" when she quarrelled with her sister. She added: "This resulted in us running past the Scattered Homes in our area before the door opened and someone could capture us on

our way to play out in the park." And she added: "The memories of the people I interviewed for my research will always remain with me. Would these children, if they had a choice, have preferred to live in squalor rather than feel rejection? Would hunger be forgotten, would it be erased quicker than the scars left behind? Many of the people I spoke to are gone now. One person said 'Nobody knew you and you felt nobody cared'. Sadly, this person is no longer with us but I promised I would tell the story sometime of the Scattered Homes children."

Were there any equivalent homes in South Africa? Were any of you brought up in a home like this? Would you like to share about it?



Children at one of Sheffield's scattered homes.
© Peter Higginbotham.

From Family History Federation, *Really Useful Bulletin* No 18, Feb 2022

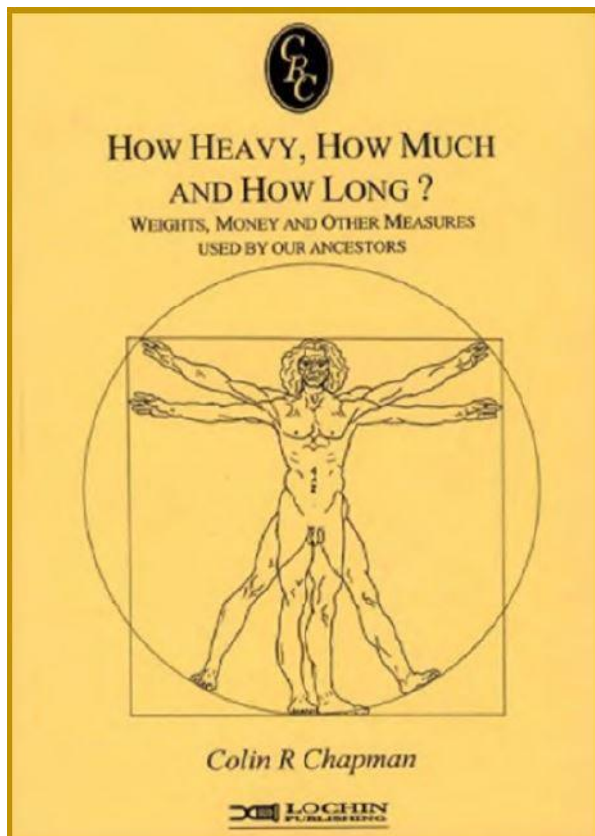
Weights and Measures Used by Your Ancestors

Colin R Chapman

When studying your ancestors' wills or inventories, reading their diaries, examining their finances, possibly deciphering their tenancy obligations in manorial documents, even looking at churchwardens' accounts, you have probably seen unfamiliar terms indicating a particular quantity; for example, a kipp, stoke, kiver or warp, respectively expressing the number of lamb skins or trenchers (wooden tableware), the amount of thatching material or fish. Lengths such as span, cubit, fathom and stade were based on body measurements, while rods, perches, barleycorns and furlongs (short for furrow-long), a few surviving today in horse racing and sporting circles, were derived from agricultural usage. Mercers applied lengths such as ell, plait, bolt, fold, cue and spindle to textiles. Had you realised that historically a mile in Scotland (5920 feet) was longer than in England (5280 feet), whilst in Ireland was even longer (6720 feet)?

The size of an area such as hide, oxgang, virgate, barony, math, pottle, relating to a portion or multiple of an acre, are found in documents compiled by or referring to our agrarian ancestors; but until standardised during Edward I's reign, an acre was not the same size everywhere - it was based on the area a team of eight oxen could plough in a morning (the oxen were put out to pasture in the afternoon); on heavy soil, less land could be ploughed so an acre was smaller.

Ancestors pursuing a timber trade, when quoting cubic measures for volumes and capacities, included deal, cord, cast, and shid, while ancestors considering other dry capacities used tovet, coombe, raser, or possibly cran, in addition to the more common peck and bushel.



Volumes of liquids such as beer and porter were expressed as pin, hogshead and leager, although for wine and spirits, even for honey identified in an ancestor's inventory, you may find anker, rundle, pipe and rode being quoted.

Units of weight and mass applied at markets depended on the commodity: examples are a pocket of hops, boll of flour, quartern of bread, bolting of straw, tierce of beef (differing from a tierce of pork), clove of butter or cheese, chest of soap, keel of coal, puncheon of prunes, and frail of figs. Your ancestors would have been aware of different series of pound and ounce: troy, mercantile (or commercial), tower, apothecary, avoirdupois, and postal – some subdivided into pennyweight and others into drachm and scruple.

Monies of account, coins in circulation and comparisons with today's values, wages and cost of living are a minefield of misinterpretation, as few commodities have changed by the same amounts. Coins originally contained the value of the metal displayed on them: a copper penny contained a penny's worth of pure copper, a silver groat, fourpence worth of pure silver, a gold guinea, twenty-one shillings worth of gold. A mark was two-thirds of a pound sterling (sixteen shillings and eight pence).

The relationships between all the above, and many more, with their modern equivalents are explained in my ***How Heavy, How Much and How Long?*** ISBN 1-873686-09-9, available now from the Family History Bookshop; £5.50 plus P&P. *Direct link is:*

www.familyhistorybooksonline.com/how-heavy-how-much-and-how-long-weights-money-and-other-measures-used-by-our-ancestors-by-colin-r-chapman-316

An early Victorian observer decried the "superfluity of naughtiness" among the men of the Church of England. It was indisputable that whenever a clergyman was involved in a scandal of morals, the public attention it received was magnified exponentially. *Clerical Errors: A Victorian Series, Volume 2*, by Ian Bruce is published in paperback and for Kindle, recalls the scandals that enmeshed five such Victorian clergymen, one of whom ended up at St Helena Island. This story I obtained from one of a St Helena website.

A SUPERFLUITY OF NAUGHTINESS

The ancient church of All Saints, West Haddon, in Northants, boasts a "massive embattled tower." On Sunday morning, 6 March 1892, the vicar failed to appear. Days later, a notice of his resignation, as required, was nailed to the church door. Everyone knew the reason; for some time, West Haddon had been in a "state of ferment."

The Rev Edwin Arthur Barraclough had been vicar at All Saints for five years. The 34-year-old clergyman had been married less than a year to Lucy Eagland, a doctor's daughter from Yorkshire. Alas, as someone once famously said, "there were three people in this marriage."

At the village flower show, Mrs. Barraclough was innocently introduced by the vicar to Mrs. Amy Underwood. This woman of some charm was known locally as a "grass widow," an unflattering term for a woman living apart from her husband. The absent Mr. Underwood, a farmer, had gone out to South Africa. The vicar's apparently pre-existing and longstanding attentions to this woman drew his new wife's ire and there were furious rows. She finally left him. In her divorce petition, Lucy Barraclough claimed her husband drunkenly threatened her with a gun, beat her and even tried to burn down the vicarage.

In the Divorce Court, Mrs. Barraclough presented evidence of her husband's adultery in West Haddon, Putney and

Stockbridge in Hampshire. There were allegations of a child born in Putney. Mrs. Underwood actually appeared during the trial to deny any adultery with Rev. Barracrough. Justice Barnes called the whole case "extremely distressing," especially in "a marriage so recently celebrated." The decree was granted.

Within a few weeks, the forgotten husband (Mr. Underwood) popped back to Blighty to file his own petition. He enlivened the second round of proceedings with a spicy claim that, whilst in West Haddon, the Rev. Mr. Barracrough used to carry a ladder from the churchyard to climb up into Mrs. Underwood's first floor boudoir. On one evening, "his visits being watched, some person removed the ladder." The clergyman was forced to skulk out via the scullery door. "How the Vicar came and went" made the usual headlines, of course. Mrs. Underwood counter-claimed her AWOL husband's abandonment and condonation, but the divorce was granted.

The sum of these shocking allegations left the Rev. Edwin Barracrough with little chance of church employment in England but few men went so far as he - to Napoleon's old haunt, St. Helena, in the South Atlantic. He rose to be a canon of the island's cathedral until his past caught up with him and he was sacked for "having represented himself as a single man (i.e. not divorced)." The local Bishop rankled at the island being a dumping ground for clergymen seeking a new start in "some remote corner of the earth." Barracrough returned to England, remained a clergyman, and died in Clevedon in 1934.

I was in two minds whether to include this gossipy story about the divorce of the Rev Barracrough and his wife Lucy. The fact that he ended up at St Helena made it more local, but maybe it was the story of the ladder to the 'boudoir' that swung it for me.

Edwin Barracrough had attended Cambridge University and they had the following brief biography of him.

BARRACROUGH, EDWIN ARTHUR. Matric. Non-Coll. Lent, 1883. Adm. (age 25) at Jesus, Oct. 1883. S. of Alfred. B. Feb. 13, 1858, at Leeds. School, Leeds Grammar. Ord. deacon, 1881; priest (Lichfield) 1882; C. of Cannock, 1881-2. C. of All Saints', Cambridge, 1882-6. V. of West Haddon, Northants., 1887-92. V. of St Paul's, St Helena, 1894-8. Canon of St Paul's Cathedral, St Helena, 1895-8. Chaplain to the Forces at Colombo, 1900-2. C. of Denton, Norfolk, 1902-3. C. of Presteign, 1910-11. C. of Atherstone, 1919-20. Lic. pr. at Walton, Somerset, 1921-34. Of the Old Rectory House, Walton-in-Gordano, Clevedon. Died there Jan. 13, 1934. (*Leeds Gr. Sch. Reg.*; *Crockford*, 1932.)

GO ON! WRITE THAT ARTICLE!

Kevin Turner, the speaker in February, encouraged you all to tell your family history story but I'm afraid only one person took it to heart – and that's our chairperson, David Slingsby and he submitted the story about The Athenaeum above.

I've included a few short 'asides' in this Newsletter – the one about the Hepburn Research papers and one about the Pimp Maker just to show how a few lines would be happily accepted. So... GO ON! Write that article!

For those who missed Kevin's talk, you can watch it on Youtube: <https://youtu.be/-h5-c5qRpEs>

Previous editions of the CTFHS Newsletter (2009-2021) are available at <https://www.thefamilyhistorian.co.za/cape-town-family-history-society-newsletter-archive/>