

## REMEMBRANCE 2018

### We All Served

If you missed the above presentation in the Cemetery at 4.30pm on Sunday 11 November 2018, you missed a treat. It was outstanding. A unique presentation provided by Wheatley Hill History Club and Lonely Tower Film & Media made possible by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The film company had interviewed people in Wheatley Hill before the event and the aim of the presentation was to portray the modern-day views of this generation about an event that happened 100 years ago—the result was excellent.

This was part one of the project. Starting again in January, Lonely Tower will once again be around the village asking the same questions about the First World War which will provide information for a further presentation planned to coincide with the official end of the War—19 July 2019—Peace Day. The War actually ended on this date after the Versailles Treaty had been signed in June 1918. Further details about the July event will be released nearer the time.

The crosses were financed from the Parish Council and made by members of the Men's CREE and adorned with hand-knitted poppies by the ladies of the Thornley Craft Group, and together they provided a very poignant visual display of the many lives that were lost from the then very small village of Wheatley Hill—189 men who didn't return. The crosses swayed in the wind as we waited for the 4.30pm event to start—their tea lights swaying with them and the there-but-not-there Perspex figures set amongst them, adding to the emotion of the afternoon.

War poetry was read by 11 different people from across the village and whilst it was difficult to hear as a result of wind and traffic noise, a voice appearing from different parts of the audience I felt, was very moving and everyone will have heard at least one poem. Whilst electronic amplification was considered, it was ruled out as inappropriate for such an emotional occasion and may have reduced the impact of the nostalgic value.

Once the second presentation has taken place in July, the whole presentation will be available on dvd and Utube.

If you would like the opportunity to see the first presentation again, it is being screened at Wheatley Hill Workingmens' Club on Wednesday 23 January 2019 at 7.30pm—everyone is welcome—free entry.



*Display of crosses & poppies in Wheatley Hill Cemetery, 2018*

The crosses and poppies have been incinerated and the ash remains buried in the cemetery with a suitable notice indicating their relevance to the Remembrance of 2018.



*Commemorative Thomas Kenny VC Stone*

#### CONTACT DETAILS

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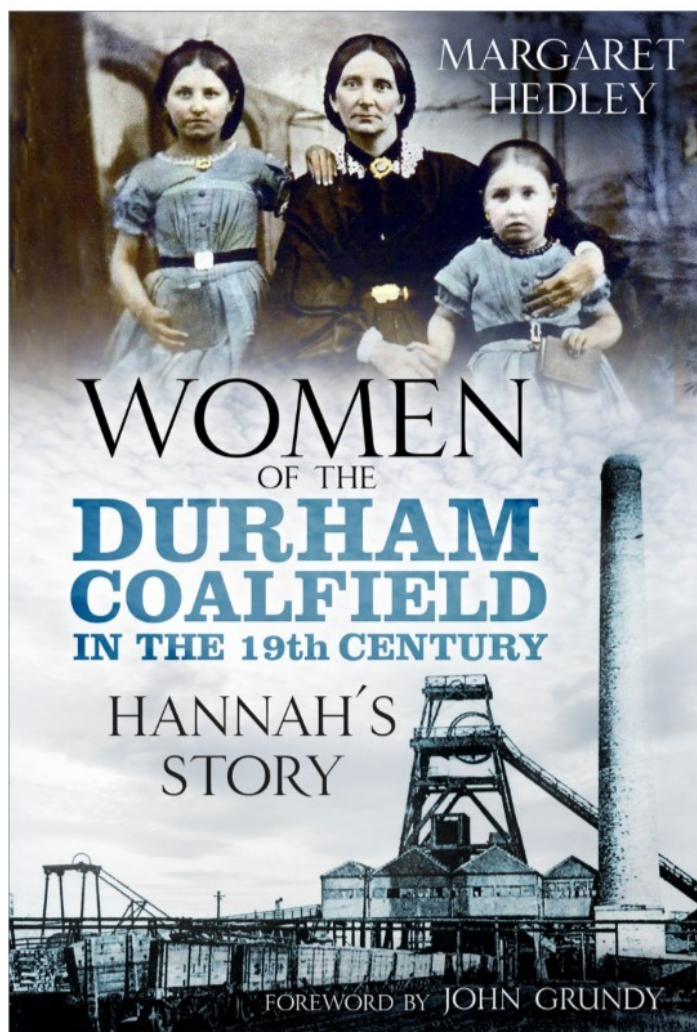


#### ALL MEETINGS START AT 11.00AM

27 March	A Moment of Folley, Extravagance & Jobbery	C Lloyd
24 April	Snooping on Snaps	J Harrop Of Beamish

£2.00 per meeting  
Includes tea/coffee/biscuits/raffle

## First Book by Local & Family Historian Margaret Hedley



The success of the Durham coalfield and its important role in the Industrial Revolution is attributed to men of influence who owned the land and the pits and the men who worked in the coal mining industry during the Victorian period. There has been very little written about the importance of the home-life that supported the miners—their wives, who through heroic efforts, did their best to provide attractive, healthy, happy homes, in appalling social conditions.

To provide such a welcome atmosphere at home demanded tremendous resources and commitment from the miners' wives. Despite their many hardships these women put everyone in the family before themselves— they were selfless. They operated on less rest, less food at times of necessity and under a huge physical burden of work and emotional burden of worry concerning the safety of her husband at the pit and the mortality of her children.

This book addresses the lack of information about women's roles in the Durham coalfield, engagingly explored through one woman's experience.

Hannah's story is set mostly in the East of County Durham—Thornley, Shadforth and Ludworth.

#### ARTHUR DODDS

It was great sadness that we learned of the death of our member Arthur, on 12 January. He died exactly as he would have chosen to, in his own home, without strangers around him and without fuss.

Arthur was an excellent supporter of our History Club despite having no family links to Wheatley Hill. He was originally from Haswell and became involved with us when he brought his sister-in-law to one of our events. He always said he was drawn to us because he liked the way we did things!

He was also well-known on the local history circuit for his outstanding talks. Arthur will be greatly missed by a lot of people.

The History Club sent flowers and were represented at his funeral.

# 2019 Subscriptions

# £6.00

# Due at the March Meeting

# THE MEMOIRS OF

## Thomas Russell 1847-1928

### (during the short time he lived in Wheatley Hill)

#### **19 January 1879 Wheatley Hill Colliery**

On this date things is verry plesent to all and we are thinking of getting our supper. Ellion's mother and sister is over from Station Town.

#### **Late January 1879 Wheatley Hill Colliery**

John Clemand living at this place and on 20th January 1879 he went to his work at Denbridge but he was not in the pit over one our and a half before he happened a misfortune. There was a stone fall out of the side and hit him and he was brought home and he died on the 22nd of the same month  
(John Clement was the first husband of Thomas' sister, Mary)

#### **February 1879 Wheatley Hill Colliery**

On this date my mother got the lens of Ellion's watch and on 10th May 1879 we got it home again and I have five watches—4 of our own and one belonging to Thomas Farrow. He has gon to Amarica. Him and his son Henery and Mrs Farrow and hir daughter went to Henton to see hir brother and she left the watch and a purs of gold with us look after until she come back.

#### **19 February 1879 Wheatley Hill Colliery**

Dear Ant we have often thought about you and how you ware getting on. We hope these fue lines will find you and your family all as it leeves us in enjoy-ing the same grate blessing Thank God for it. We have often looked back and thought about the time that you ware in Shotton and how you have come on since then.

#### **22 February 1879 Wheatley Hill Colliery**

I have but a fue words more to say. I am going to my cold and silent grave. My lamp of life is nearly extinguished. I have parted with everything that was dear to me in this life for my country's cause with the idle.

#### **27 February 1879 Wheatley Hill Colliery**

On this day I was thinking about Charles Pece. He requested a drinke of cold water but he could not get it. Time would not admit him to have it. His request could not have it.

#### **4 April 1879 Wheatley Hill Colliery**

On this day I was thinking about my brother William. He is goin to set off for Amarica on the 8th of this month. He is goin to Indianna, North Amarica.

#### **8 April 1879 Wheatley Hill Colliery**

Letter from William Russell to his family:  
Dear Father, Mother, Brothers and Sisters. We landed in Liverpool about 5 o'clock last night we went to the Inman office but it was no go we could not be on. Ther seams to be a understanding with all companys so we will be aboard at 1 o'clock today

With the steam ship City of New York. It cost of £8.16s.9d to book a place they call Attice in the State of Indinna, but if any of you should come, book with Humphery or some of the agents. It saved us nothing coming to Liverpool. I can say I am prity well at present. Hoping this will find you all at present. You can let brother Robert no I hope he is keeping his canch up and I hope it will not be long before we meet again. Excuse this writin so I remain your loving son and brother W R Russell.  
(Attice is probably Attica in Indiana)

#### **30 April 1879 Wheatley Hill Colliery**

On 29th April 1879 was the day that Thomas Farrow and his son Henery went to Amarica he went to Pittington and from ther to Renton and he went off to Liverpool next morning and he went with James Wood from Big Hetton Colliery.

#### **3 May 1879 Wheatley Hill Colliery**

On this date my wife went to Ferry Hill to see my sister Mary and thay ware going to Spenny Moor on Saturday. She has been verry poorley but now she is a grate deel better. Ellion went on Friday. I am goin on Saturday if all be well. I will go in forst tomorrow we are working in the forst north at a bottom canch and we think we will finish it and then we will have a chance to get another one in the same way. It is not a bad one that we have just now. We have the good air and plenty of rume and a chance to earn two shillings a yard for it. I must conclude hopping all is well with all.  
(Canch is the stone removed from the roof and floor)

#### **5 May 1879 Wheatley Hill Colliery**

On this date my brother William landed in Amarica and they stayed at Simnious Miners Arms, No 2 Front Street, New York but thay could not get a tram til the day after to Indianna.

#### **7 May 1879 Wheatley Hill Colliery**

Was the day that the men of Wheatley Hill Colliery brought ther gear out. David Thomas Bradley and me were working in the forst north at a bottom canch and he ware in forst and we brought our gear out.

#### **9 May 1879 Wheatley Hill Colliery**

On this date I was at Thornley and it was pay Friday night and I met William Davison and we got on to talk about William and Robert and how thay ware coming on in Amarica and he told me that William was not so sharp as he toke him to be.



**Wheatley Hill Community Association** T: 01429820214

Wheatley Hill Community

**Greenhills Centre**

For the Community

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**Margaret Hedley, MA, B.Ed(hons)**

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The advert will appear  
 in four newsletters  
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£25.00

OCTOBER 2018 MEETING

Local historian and keen archaeologist, Gordon Henderson gave us a very interesting talk on Binchester Fort near Bishop Auckland at our October meeting—the last meeting of 2018.

Gordon has been fascinated by the Roman site since he was a boy and has dedicated much of the last 25 years in investigating and promoting it.

Dating back to the first century, the seven-hectare site is believed to have once housed several cohorts of Roman soldiers along with units of auxiliary cavalry.

The Binchester site is now part of the very exciting Auckland Project.