

MEMBERS MEETING 5 MAY 2009

“A Thousand Years of the Broughton Family” talk by Roy Smith with a power point presentation

Before he commenced his talk Roy gave some background information about himself. He recently retired on ill health grounds and needed an income and employment so decided to put to use his passion for historical and family history. He now writes in “Reflections”, gives talks on a variety of subjects including local and family history, writes biographies and assists his wife with her genealogy business.

His motivation for the interest in the Broughton family was the fact that his grandmother Ivy Lillian appeared twice on the 1901 census with her two sisters. This became his “brick wall” and it took him some time to work out why this was. It was his mother, Mollie now age 86, who helped him to solve the problem. She told him the children were illegitimate and that two of them were adopted by their uncle John. He lived in Spalding. He recorded them there but they were also recorded at home. Roy still doesn't know the name of his great grandfather and he was fascinated by the story and wanted to discover more about the family.

The route Roy travelled to discover more may be familiar to family historians. The sources he used were; the census, church records, IGI, Monumental inscriptions and the Lincoln and Nottingham Archives. One of the most useful items he used was a birthday book. This had belonged to his great aunt Annie. It included details of relatives, dates of their births, marriages and deaths plus annotations like “I never liked so and so” and one entry which said that a male relative had had seven children by four different ladies!

From the Lincoln and Nottingham Archives Roy discovered that the family of Broughton came from Lincoln and the Wash and Fens area. He then discovered that his 4 x great grandfather's name was Richard Broughton.

On his family tree Roy pointed out the problems that can occur when names are written as they are pronounced e.g. Ann Houlbourn Wright's was sometimes confused with “Oban”.

Roy's next step was to consult the poor laws. He found the indexing done by the Lincoln Archives to be very good. He located a Richard Broughton on a settlement certificate dated 20 September 1764 in the parish of Newark. He also found a Peter Broughton of Lowdham born 1628 who married Anne Staunton in 1656.

He then discovered what he calls his "Gateway Ancestor" — Sir Bryan Broughton who was the first baronet in 1660. This made him look at records like the Herald Visitations, the Harleian Society, The Baronetage of England by Thomas Wootton and Sampson Erdeswicke's "Survey of Staffordshire". These records led him back to the early 1000's. He found a Walter Broughton recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 with lands in Cheshire, Lancashire and Buckinghamshire. He died in 1090 and his lands passed to a Richard Broughton who also had lands in Huntingdon, Northampton, Rutland and Leicestershire.

The Broughton line was recorded in the Heralds Visitations as Richard de Vernon, Adam de Napton, John Lord Broughton 1426, Thomas Broughton and Sir Bryan Broughton the first baronet.

Roy was then able to draw up a family tree of the Broughtons. This showed that Richard Broughton born 1737 was a direct descendant of Peter Broughton of Lowdham. Richard appeared on the poor law records probably because family money would be lost to him due to the number of children in the family. Roy discovered that his 9 x great grandfather was a civil war royalist who fought with Prince Rupert at Newark in 1641. His lands and property were sequestered during Cromwell's time and in 1647 he had to pay £3200 to get his land back. This information was obtained from the journal of the House of Commons.

Roy found that there was a Broughton Hall in Staffordshire. This was built in 1637 and is now owned by John Cauldwell the 'phone entrepreneur. He uses it to hold charity events.

The first baronet Sir Bryan Broughton was created on 10 March 1660. The 3 baronet married Lady Elizabeth Delves in 1708. They were known as the Delves Broughtons of Doddington Hall. In 1725 there was a Sir Bryan Broughton-Delves. In 1766 Sir Thomas Broughton became the 5 baronet. There was a petition to drop the Delves name but Delves became a first or middle name for male and female descendants. Peter Broughton of Lowdham 1618-1694 married Anne Staunton in 1656. In Lowdham village church there are memorials in the form of plates on the wall to the couple and they are a good source of family history information.

Roy said he had found "worthies and rogues" in his family history research. Andrew Broughton was a lawyer, Spencer Broughton was a highwayman, Thomas Broughton was a Lt. Governor, William Robert Broughton was an explorer and private Norman Broughton (Roy's uncle) was a soldier in the Lincolnshire Regiment. Andrew Broughton was a clerk to the justice under Cromwell and read the death sentence at the trial of Charles 1. On the restoration of Charles 11 he fled to Vervary in

Switzerland where he died in exile. Spencer Broughton born 1744 in Horbling, Lincolnshire was involved in robberies from the Rotherham and Cambridge mail in 1791. In March 1792 he was tried and in April 1792 he was gibbeted and his body displayed for 35 years on Attercliffe Common. There is still a Broughton Lane in Sheffield. The honorable Thomas Broughton was an early settler in South Carolina, USA. He established the mulberry plant there. He farmed 4423 acres and his mansion was call Seaton. He married Nathaniel Johnson's daughter and in 1735 he became Lt. Governor. Captain William Robert Broughton was at Bunker Hill in 1775. He served on HMS Chatham in 1791 and explored the American Pacific coast. He also explored the Colombia river and named Mount Hood. In 1795 he was exploring Polynesia, Japan and New Zealand. Broughton Island off New Zealand was named after him. He was much respected as an explorer.

Sir Henry (Jock) Broughton was the 11 baronet. He built up gambling debts and his estate had to be sold. In 1941 he was tried for the murder of the 22nd Earl of Erroll but he was acquitted. It was a notorious case and in 1987 a film "White Mischief" was made based on the case starring Joss Ackland and Charles Dance.

The current claimant to the baronetcy is Philip Delves-Broughton who is a journalist on the New York Times.

Roy took questions at the end of his talk and was delighted to discover that three members of the audience had Broughton ancestors.

A vote of thanks was given by John Bradley.