



## Pocklington and District Local History Group

*December 2020—Newsletter No. 2*

Welcome to Pocklington & District Local History Group's Christmas newsletter 2020. We hope you have the best festive season possible and that things start to get back to something like normal in the new year. Christmas 2020 will be somewhat different to the norm, and we have dipped into the Pocklington history archives for Christmas snippets of old.

Further on in this newsletter are a couple of adverts from the annals of our local paper of 100 years ago, The Pocklington Weekly News, detailing Christmas gifts and fare on sale in Pocklington shops in December 1920.

### Local links to your Christmas sherry

There are many national and local Christmas traditions, most focusing on food and drink. Pocklington's tradition for brewing beer goes back at least a thousand years, but a particular Christmas custom is to enjoy a festive sherry. Many do but few know that all the most popular British brands have local links.



*Photographs from a visit by Andrew Sefton to the González Byass Sherry bodegas in Cadiz, Spain in June 2019*

The best known sherries are Gonzáles Byass, Tio Pepe, Harvey's Bristol Cream, and Croft Original.

The Byass of the González Byass wine conglomerate came from the Byass family of Pocklington - William Byass was educated at Pocklington School and did not join the family ropemaking business that continued behind the Market Place for some 150 years. He left the town for Cambridge University in 1750 and went on to become a vicar. His family became London wine merchants and co-founders of González Byass in 1835.



Rev. Mark Lawton came to Kilnwick Percy in 1847 where he remained as vicar for 50 years. A year after his arrival his daughter, Elizabeth, was born, and in 1889 she married Edward Harvey, who with his brother, John, ran the Harvey's of Bristol wine merchants from the 1860s together developing their famous 'Bristol Cream' quickly becoming the country's No 1 brand. Soon after Edward's marriage Harveys became the wine and sherry suppliers to Queen Victoria, with Edward taking sole control of the business in 1910.

And remarkably there is a Kilnwick Percy marriage links to the third of Britain's top sherries, Croft Original. Sir Edmund Anderson was a local baronet and chief Pocklington magistrate, who was famed for his wine cellars at Kilnwick Hall. His daughter, also Elizabeth, married Stephen Croft of the York wine importing family in 1711. Their four sons all went into the wine trade, dividing their time between York, London and Oporto, where the company specialised in making port in the 17 and 18 hundreds before developing their famous Croft Original sherry in the 20th century. So if you have a Christmas sherry this year, there's a fair chance it will be one with local connections.



## Pocklington clock and watchmakers

by Phil Gilbank

Lots of people have an interest in old clocks (the technical term is 'horology'), perhaps prompted being given the key to wind up a Victorian wall or mantle clock at their grandparents. While grandfather, or more correctly longcase, clocks generate particular curiosity.

The bottom has dropped out of the grandfather clock market in recent years, with clocks that would have gone for several thousand pounds not that long ago now only making a couple of hundred; and it has a quest to find a Pocklington longcase clock and 'bring it home' to put somewhere on public display.

Searching for a Pocklington made clock has produced quite a list of Pocklington watch and clock makers operating in the town from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards. More than 20 individuals, including several generations of some families, were in working at Pocklington, some remaining in the town throughout their life, some alternating between Pocklington and nearby market towns, and others moving on to bigger markets in Hull, West Yorkshire, or even America.

The earliest reference so far is of a John Wall in the book 'Yorkshire Clockmakers', which states he was operating in Pocklington in the 1770s, though we haven't as yet found a surviving piece of his handiwork. However, several longcase clocks by John Watson, listed as a watchmaker at Pocklington in the 1791 Universal British Directory and said to have continued to the 1820s, have survived.

*Maggie Brooks in Canada contacted the history group to inform us she had an old Pocklington clock signed by John Watson. Watson appears in a directory for Pocklington in 1791.*

Indeed, our hopes of acquiring an early Pock timepiece soared when a lady, Maggie Brooks, contacted us through the website last month to say she had inherited a Watson of Pocklington clock and wanted to know more about the owner. In the correspondence that followed she said her sons were not really bothered in inheriting it and she might leave it to the history group in her will – only problem is she is a fit and healthy 71, and she and the clock live in Canada!

By the time Watson's career ended the Fryer family were already up and running in Waterloo Lane. William started in the early 1800s, John took the business on, then his widow, Maria, kept it going before handing on to her son, Edward, and grandson, John Henry, in the 1850s. They then moved to Hull where John Henry was still making watches in 1911 aged 65 along with his son, Arthur, the fifth generation Fryer in the business.

The Milner family produced three generations of timepiece makers and jewellers in Pocklington, starting with Reuben on West Green/Railway Street in the 1830s, then carried on by son Charles, who was joined by his nephew Robert. When Charles died in 1873 Robert moved to Leeds as a watchmaker, though his life rapidly became ignominious. He was declared bankrupt, his wife divorced him for cruelty, adultery and desertion; and he left Yorkshire behind and emigrated to Philadelphia where he reinvented himself, starting a new family then a watchmaking and jewellery business in 1899. He ran his shop until 1920 when it was taken on by his son, another Reuben. The business continued in Philadelphia until the 1950s.

The longest serving Pocklington watch and clockmakers were clearly the Gilsons of Market Place – where Thomas started out in business in 1828 and



*Above: William, Maria, Edward & John Fryer were all clock and watchmakers in Pocklington up to 1855 when John moved to Hull.*



remarkably carried on making watches up to his death, aged 85, in 1894, when his grandson, also Thomas, was assisting him and later became a watchmaker in Lancashire. Four of his sons followed in his footsteps as watchmakers, with youngest son, William, who made it to the age of 80, taking over from his father, with elder sons Richard in the trade in Halifax, Walter in Market Weighton, and John Thomas also in Pocklington. And the W. Gilson & Son business in Market Place was continued into the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century by the third generation of Gilson watchmaking octogenarians, William's son, Percy. The name was

retained by subsequent owners of the business into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The other family watchmaking and jewellery business that spanned the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries was Lundy & Son which survived in Railway Street into the 1960s. It was founded by Joseph Lundy, born in Pocklington but who learnt his trade as a watchmaker in Leeds in the 1860s. He then moved back home to set up business at the Oddfellows Arms, where his father was landlord. He moved into premises in Market Place and then Railway Street in the 1880s; and after he died in 1890 the business was continued as Lundy & Son by his widow, Susannah, and her Lamb children from her first marriage, and Kendall nephew. The shop was still there with clocks in the window in the 1960s but was no longer in business.

Frustratingly we have just missed out on a number of Pocklington made longcase clocks, discovering a week or two late that they had been sold for a song. A Fryer clock went for just £100 in an auction in Scarborough in 2017 and another in Grantham for £140; while a Thomas Gilson clock made £150 in a Lincolnshire sale. Some older clocks have reached better prices and we were outbid when a John Northan clock in Leicestershire was sold on ebay recently. The search goes on, so if you know of the sale of a Pocklington made grandfather clock, or the names of any other makers to add to the list below, then please let us know.

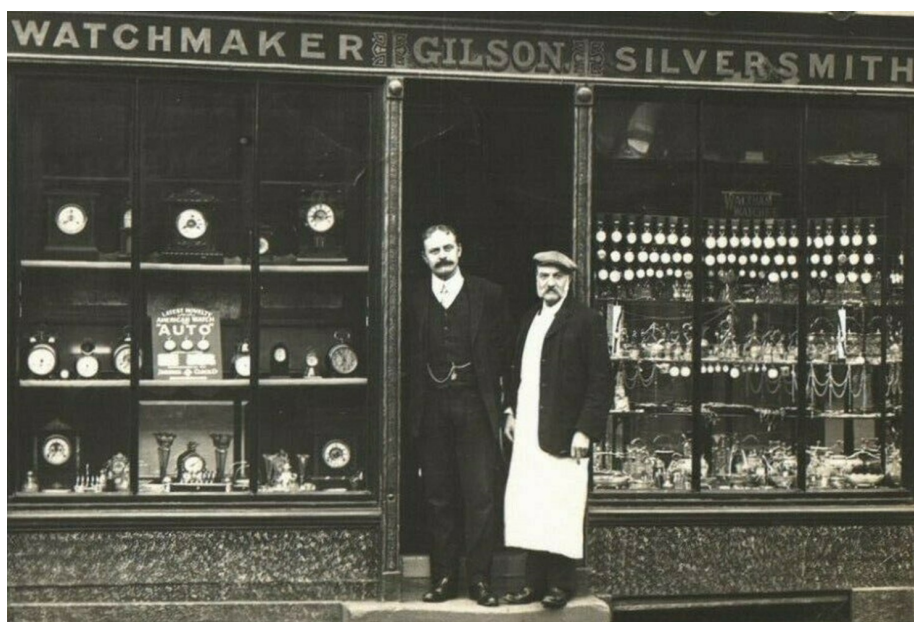


*Above: This watch was marked Henry Winter of Pocklington and is Hall Marked for 1873.*

*Left: A Yates of Pocklington clock*



*Above: A Richard Northen Clock labelled Pocklington recently sold on ebay for £410. This clock is believed to date from the late eighteenth Century. Richard Northen appears in most trade directories in Hull in the early 19th Century.*



*Left: The oldest and longest lasting Clock and Watchmakers in Pocklington were the Gilson family who established their business in Market Place in 1823 and carried on until 2011. Pictured here is Percy and William Gilson circa. 1910 .*

## A list of Pocklington watch and clock makers

Wall, John c1770

Watson, John 1770-1820.

Northan/Northern, Richard c1800 (then Hull)

Fryer, William c1808-1822; John 1810s-1831; Maria (John's widow) 1830s-1840s; their son, Edward 1850s-1860s: his son, John Henry, 1860s.

Yates, John 1816-1818.

Milner, Reuben 1830s-1840s; his son, Charles 1850s-1870s; nephew Robert; 1870s.

Jefferson, John 1830s (then Driffield).

Newlove, George 1830s

Gilson, Thomas 1828-1894; Richard 1860s (then in Scarborough, then Halifax to 1916), Walter 1860s-1870s (then in Market

Weighton to 1924); John Thomas 1880s-1918; William 1880s-1933, Thomas 1890s (then Nelson, Lancs, to 1933), Percy 1890s-c1950.

Hawgood, William 1840s-60s.

Winter, Henry 1870s.

Lundy, Joseph c1870-1890; Susannah (Joseph's widow) 1890-19; William Lamb (Susannah's son) 1890-1912; Margaret Lamb (William's wife) 1890-c1950.




Christmas in  
Pocklington  
100 years ago



Prescriptions carefully made up

### XMAS PRESENTS



500 Xmas Cards, 1d each.  
200 boxes Xmas Cards, the latest, 6½d, 9d, 1/- boxes.  
Pret. Picture Books, 1d, 3½d, 4½d, 5½d, and 1/-.  
Daint-dimple Dolls, 2d, 4½d, 6½d, 1/-, 2/-, 3/6.  
Newest Games, 6½d, and 1/-.  
Tip-top Toys, 1d, 2d, 4½d, 6½d, and 1/-.  
Jointed Dogs "FIDO" most laughable, 6½d.  
Gee-back gu-en wie HORSES, 6½d, 1/-, 1/6, and 2/-.  
Barrows, to wheel stones and anything, 1/-.

Fancy Boxes Handkfs, 7½d, 9½d, 1/3d, 1/6d.  
Ladies' Fancy Bags, 6½d, 1/0½d, 1/6d, 1/11½ to 3/6  
Hair Brushes, 6½d, 1/6, 1/6, 2/-, and 2/6.  
500 prs, Dent's Gloves, all makes, 3½d, to 4/9  
Ladies Newest Neckwear, 6½d, 1/-, 1/11½d, to 3/6  
68 Latest Umbrellas, 1/11½d, 2/11½d, 4/6, 6/6, to 21/-.  
New Stock of Furs, 1/11½ to 30/-.  
Fancy Shawls 1/0½ 1/11½, 2/11½, to 4/11  
Matrons Wool Knitted Capes, black 4/11, 5/11, grey 3/6  
Smart Blouses, full range  
Newest Belts in all colours to match blouses  
Fleeced and Wool Motor Scarfs, 1/0½d, 1/6½d, to 2/11  
Gent's Mufflers, 1/-, 1/6, 2/-, to 4/6  
Smart Braces, 6½d, 9½d, 1/-, and 1/6  
500 Gents Ties, newest designs, 6½d, and 1/-.  
Ladies and Gent's Handkfs, 6½d, and 1/-.  
200 Superb Cabinets of Stationery, 3 for 9d, 1/-, 1/7½d, and 2/4½  
Silk Handkerchiefs for gentlemen, wht, helio, blue, 7½d  
Baby-doll Mailcars, 6½d, 1/-, and 2/-.  
Sheffield made Pocket Knives, 6½d.  
Mechanical Toys, express speed, 6½d, 1/-, 1/6.  
Record Flying Machines, 1/-, 1/6, 2/6, 3/6, and 4/6  
Strong Wood Engines, 6½d, 1/-, 1/6, and 2/-.  
Mouth Organs, 1d, 4½d, 6½d.  
Dominoes, 6½d, and 1/-.  
Newest Purses, 6½d, 1/-, 1/6, 2/-, and 2/6.  
Newest Scents, 6½d, 1/-, 1/6.  
Ladies Fancy Shell Side-combs, 3d, 4½d, 6½d, 9½d, pair.

**C. STATHER, Pocklington and Market Weighton.**



### Good Things for CHRISTMAS

Our stock at all times is particularly fine, but at Christmas we pay exceptional care and attention to the purchasing of products.

This year we have a very rare consignment of **FRUIT and CHRISTMAS DAINTIES** in deed, have you seen it? If not, don't fail to call. You will not be pressed to buy—the quality and keen prices of the products will ensure us clearing the whole of the goods.

Below we enumerate a few of the lines:—

**Currants, Raisins, Peels, Muscatels, Almonds, Figs, Fancy Biscuits, British Wines, Fruits in tins and bottles, Essences, Spices, &c.**

May we have the pleasure of your Orders.

**GEORGE TODD,  
Pavement, Pocklington**

## Latest Website Updates



The [Ullathorne family](#) is now included on the family section, their claim to fame was [William Ullathorne](#) who was born in Market Place, Pocklington, on 7th May 1806 the eldest of ten children of a local grocer. His father, also William, came from a family of West Riding landed gentry that forfeited its estates to the claims of the Stuart insurrection in 1745. William senior became a shoemaker, then draper, before marrying and setting up in business in Pocklington. William Junior became a Roman Catholic missionary to Australia and first bishop of Birmingham. He was influential in securing the final abolition (1857) of the British system of transporting convicts to Australia. Looking further back up the [family tree](#), it is possible to trace this family to [Sir Thomas More](#) (pictured left) and even further back to William the Conquerer. The [Buttle family](#) of Pocklington also link in to this tree.

Read about the six sons of the Dykes family from Market Street, Pocklington, who all served for the king in the Great War, two



of which won the Military Medal. Sergeant Fred Chapman Dykes, the third son, was also in the Territorial Force, and was called up when hostilities were begun, was sent to the front in April 1915. He was awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field, going out under heavy shell fire and carrying a wounded officer to a place of safety. Corporal Arthur Dykes, aged 26, joined the Territorial Force soon after the outbreak of war and went to the front with his brother Tom. He was awarded the Military Medal for his courageous work during the night of July 31st—August 1st 1917. Corporal Dykes, acting on instructions, took charge of a raiding party of 48 men, and came in contact with 160 of the enemy, armed with bombs, bayonets, and daggers. The enemy made an attack, which was met with great skill and daring. Cpl. Dykes led the men, and they used



their bombs and bayonets to such good effect that the enemy were completely repulsed, a number of the party being left dead in No-Man's-Land. Their officer in charge was captured, and important documents seized. Corpl. Dykes was an old scholar of the Pocklington National School, of which Mr. A. Skinner was the head teacher. These stories and more can be read in "[Adieu to Dear Old Pock](#)" the book covering all soldiers from Pocklington and district who took part in ww1. It is available from Forth's stationers in the town or via [online through eBay](#).

Paula Ware has given a 'virtual' talk to the Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society on the Pocklington Chariots. For a limited time her talk can be viewed [here](#).

[Fred Lee was a pioneer of Cinema in Pocklington](#). He build the first Cinema



which was the Central Cinema in the town and obtained a kinematograph license in June 1912. His first film projector was lit using a gas lamp but switched a few months later to electric. He suffered a premature death in 1918 from Pneumonia and a massive funeral was held in Pocklington to acknowledge the town entrepreneur.



Another family research page has been created. The website of [Rick Hagyard of Canada](#) has been rescued after its disappearance. Rick found and published many early Hagyard from Pocklington family wills. Some of the branch then emigrated to Ontario and Manitoba in Canada. Rick has since contacted me.

[Kay and Edwards](#) haulage company were started in 1955 out of the balk Pocklington and were dissolved in 1996 after moving to Full Sutton Industrial Estate. It is still fondly remembered in Pocklington for employment of delivery drivers in the area.

Pocklington history's contribution to 'Black History



Month' is [Sergeant Lincoln Orville Lynch DFM](#), an air gunner serving with No 102 Squadron, Royal Air

Force, photographed wearing his flying kit by the rear turret of a Handley Page Halifax at Pocklington. Lynch, from Jamaica, volunteered for service in the RAF in 1942, and in 1943 won the Air Gunner's trophy for obtaining the highest percentage of his course during his training in Canada. On his first operational flight with No 102 Squadron he shot down a German Junkers Ju 88.

