



Stow Parish Archive

Newsletter

April 2009

As you will see in this Newsletter we are to have our “**Who Do You Think You Are?**” evening in the primary school this month. The surnames Borthwick, Hogg, Ingles, Pringle, Scott and Tait are very familiar to us in this locality but one name has a definite connection with Stow.

Waddell or Waddel

Some Waddells are notable artists and musicians, some are manufacturers, some councillors; all are characterised by intellect; all have prospered and all are respectable. The Waddells can be known anywhere by their massive heads, domelike foreheads and large clear eyes. The name is we believe, the same root as Wedale, the ancient name of an extensive district of the Gala water centred on Stow. It is a name often met throughout the (Scottish) Borders.

From “The history of Channelkirk” by the Rev. Allan of that place in 1900.

Mr David Weedall from Hightown near Liverpool was in touch with the Archive last year and was kind enough to share some of the research he has been doing about his family. He says, “ According to the authority Indexes “Surnames of Scotland”, New York Public Library 1946 : The names WEEDALL / WADDELL / WEDDELL / WEDALLE are all derived from people who left the area of WEDALE.

The earliest recorded names are:

- Adam de Wedale "An outlaw of the kings of Scotland in 1202".
- There's another worth a mention - Adam de Wedale, a monk, testified against the Knights Templar in 1309.
- Sir Thomas of Wedalle Knight of Scotland had a writ of passage at the port of London in 1372.

The variant name of Weedall was pronounced as Wedale in older English times. There was no central authority or dictionary etc. to advise on spellings, and so whatever the clerk or registrar wrote was the best they could at the time.

The name spread to Leeds, Manchester and Cheshire. Our branch of the family found regular working in the Cheshire (Northwich) salt industry. That is why the population of Weedalls in Cheshire is higher. Others are now in USA, New Zealand, & Ireland etc.”



David Weedall, a descendant of Wedales from the Stow area, on a visit to Stow last year.

Stow Parish Archive is delighted to be working with **Stow Primary School** to help families, friends and neighbours investigate the past. We have invited experts from both **Midlothian and Scottish Borders Council Archives and Local History Centres** to offer tips on family and local history research and to answer any questions. This will be an excellent opportunity to get started on your family tree – wherever you hail from – it will also be a good starting point to research your house, or to look into a business or industry that has long gone. It will also be a great boon to Stow Parish Archive, as we would like to ask for any copies of research undertaken with a view to having a grand display/ exhibition in the autumn. We are particularly keen to get families and people of all ages involved. Please come along on **Thursday 23rd April at 7pm** to the school. Meet the experts, share some stories, have a look at what can be done. Any children coming can be treated to some tales of Stow from people who were children here over 50 years ago, as well as trying out some school equipment from long ago.

Stow Parish Archive with Stow Primary School

