



DECEMBER 2007 NEWSLETTER



Merry Christmas everyone and best wishes for a happy New Year!

1. ADAMTHWAITE ARCHIVE

Is now ONLY to be found at www.adamthwaitearchive.org.uk You may have noticed that I have now removed all the Archive pages from the end of my own family website, though if you do a search for any Adamthwaites, Google still shows the link to the old site much higher up the list than the new one, and if you click on that it comes up with a 'page not found' message. Sorry about that but I am not clever enough to do one of those 'redirect' instructions (my web skills are pretty basic)

2. UPDATES TO THE WEBSITE

I have just updated all the UK BMD and census pages with the latest additions and corrections. I have also added many more references in the 'MORE INFO' column of the [birth spreadsheets](#) which say where you can find mentions of individuals elsewhere on the website. I would have liked to make these clickable links to the relevant page, but that would seriously affect the load time of the spreadsheets, which is already quite long enough.

After spending many months researching the ORANGE line of the Adamthwaites, I have finally added an article about them – you can find it on the Miscellany pages along with the other stories.

Do you have a story about members of YOUR line? I would love to add more stories to this section, along with the photo galleries they are the most frequently visited pages on the site.

3. USEFUL WEBSITES

Most of these came from the latest issue of Your Family Tree magazine:

MANORIAL RECORDS

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/mdr/ if you want to find out where your ancestors were living in 16th century, you can search for the location of **manorial records** by placename – e.g. a search for Ravenstonedale provides 41 documents dating back to 1560. Most of these are held at the Carlisle Records Office but some are at Kendal. The information on the Archive about rental agreements (in the Wills and Documents section) came from some of these records (courtesy of Elizabeth) – but there are many more waiting to be searched.

A search for Sedbergh throws up 13 finds going back to 1360 (how is your Latin??) – most are held at the North Yorkshire County Record Office, but confusingly one in Essex and a couple at Sedbergh School.

Kirkby Stephen has a whopping 113 records, dating back to 1560

You can put any village into the search engine and it throws up lists of documents. However, you do have to actually visit the records offices to view the documents, and transcribing the early ones is a time-consuming (though fascinating) process. For advice on how to use this sort of record, take a look at <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/projects/manorialrecords/index.htm>

For anyone who is interested in early settlement of Adamthwaites (or any other Westmorland/Yorkshire family come to that) there is obviously loads of information stored away in those archives.

ON-LINE PARISH CLERKS – see <http://www.onlineparishclerks.org.uk/> for a list of the counties which have so far joined the scheme and an explanation of the various ways in which the scheme operates.

Cumberland and Westmorland seems to be a very recent addition to the scheme, with not many records at present and doesn't follow the same format as the other counties involved – I wonder why Nancy McLoughlin's excellent Kirkby Stephen site <http://freepages.misc.rootsweb.com/~enzedders/> is not linked in? The other counties are: **Cornwall**, where it all began, **Devon, Dorset, Essex, Hampshire, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Somerset, Sussex, Warwickshire** and **Wiltshire**

So, if you have ancestors in some of the more established counties to have joined the scheme, you may have a lucky find!

SURNAME DISTRIBUTION

The Spatial Literacy Surname site has moved to www.nationaltrustnames.org.uk and you can see maps of how particular surnames were distributed in the 1881 census and 1998. As before, the search does not take account of spelling variations in the transcripts from 1881, so for example they have only found 117 Adamthwaites in the 1881 census whereas we have found 157 to date, and know that there are still several families missing. But if you are looking for a surname that is less prone to mistranscription, it is a very useful site.

SCOTTISH RECORDS

I have had a recent success with <http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/> where you can search Scottish birth, marriage, death and census records on a pay per view basis. If you know when your event occurred it is a brilliant service – though I recently spent a small fortune hunting for my Green and Cameron records I was very pleased with the resulting finds. Not only can you buy an on-line copy of certificates, but they provide MUCH more information than English BMD certificates. Instant gratification!

Great Ormond St Hospital <http://www.smallandspecial.org/>

This lovely site, as well as providing access to records for children treated between 1852 and 1914, has a gallery of photos of the hospital itself and staff and patients. You need to register (free) to search the site. Thanks to Margaret for this link – we found two Adamthwaite children there, and you may find well records of members of your family.

4. GENES REUNITED

Probably as a result of the huge growth in interest in family history as well as their recent takeover by Ancestry, there are now many more people using Genes Reunited. Though I don't keep much of my own family tree on there, there seem to be plenty of people who do and their tree mapping software is pretty impressive. I recently trawled through all the members who have Adamthwaites in their tree, and as a result have been in touch with more Adamthwaite descendants. It could be worth the time spent adding your details?

5. FAMILY HISTORY WEBSITES

If any of you have your own websites, I would be pleased to add a link to them on the Archive site.

In future I am going to try to produce newsletters on a quarterly basis (family responsibilities permitting!) so if anyone wants to contribute, please let me know

Best wishes

Sue