

## A Fascinating Local History Story -

At the end of our Worship Lunch and Music service recently a lady came in and asked if she could take some photos of the church: we agreed and found that she, Margaret Beardsley, was tracing family history with her son Paul. Going through local records we found the position of grave stones for Nicholls and Lowe for them to record. We also gave them record details so they can look to Shrewsbury Record Office for their history.

The couple had come down from Yorkshire where Mrs Beardsley's parents had met. The fascinating fact that emerged was that both sides of her family came from here!

The Great grandfathers Enoch Lowe (1865) and Robert Nicholls (1847) were miners in Lilleshall and needed to move on as mining here declined. Enoch married Hannah Eliza Rowley in Shropshire and joined his brother in the mines in Featherstone, West Yorkshire (1891). They went on to have nine children and the eldest of which was grand father Edward, Thomas, William, Matthew Lowe. Edward became a successful barber owning three shops in the Pontefract area. He had three children one of which was Florence Lowe.

Robert Nicholls married Martha Dunning in Shropshire and moved to Walsall in 1869. They had six children. The youngest child was grandfather Robert Nicholls Junior. In the 1880's the family followed mining and moved to South Yorkshire. There followed a period of tragedies in the family Robert Jnr. loosing his Mum when he was 7 and his Dad in 1900, moving to his Uncle who died in 1902 and his older brother in 1904. But Robert Jnr., found love and married Annie Hough in 1905 they moved to Fitzwilliam which is the next door village to Featherstone. they had three children, one of which was Harry Nicholls. But as Robert Jnr. never spoke of his family history all knowledge of Lilleshall was lost.

We believe that Harry and Florence were both members of a cycling club and they fell in love uniting both families.

Harry was a very popular man adored by his family. They had a very happy life together, however sadly Harry died aged 50 in 1963. Yet another blow for grandfather Robert Jnr. Florence never remarried and died in 2004. Margaret and Paul wish she could have seen the beautiful village her family came from and also been aware that meeting Harry was always meant to be. The Nicholls and Lowe's continue to meet up in Yorkshire although now living in around the UK.



May be we will see them here sometime – isn't it an amazing story!!

Geoff Lott