

Meeting Report 19th August 2025

Mark B presented '**Ancestors of Elizabeth Stoker**', a tale originating on the banks of the Humber and stretching into Co. Durham and the quirkily named Bearpark, a coal mining community. Despite – or because of – Marks' exceptional depth of research, he had more questions than answers, such as:

How did Elizabeth Thwaites manage to bring up three illegitimate children in the 1880s?

Where was Sarah Hannah brought up?

Why was Robert Temperley so resistant to marrying Elizabeth Thwaites?

After they did marry, did they formally change the surnames of their children?

Why did Robert Stoker take a day off work to register their first born and give the mother's maiden name as Thwaites?

Why did Elizabeth and Margaret Ann take Temperley as a middle name?

There are more questions than answers – Jimmy Cliff, circa 1972, or was in Johnny Cash?

Roger B followed up with the biography of 'his' grandfather clock, for which he is current custodian. It's really a **Yorkshire longcase clock** that stands in his hallway. Made in Wetherby in the 1840s, by Thomas Whitehead, first owned by William Greaves, tailor, it passed 1866 to his grand daughter Sarah Greaves/Ingham/King/Kirk through two addresses in Wetherby, thence to Sarah's daughter Polly, in Starbeck, in 1914. After an additional address nearby, it moved with Polly's son Wilfred to East Devon, 1969, then into store in Crewkerne when Wilfred had to go into a nursing home, then 1990 on to Worcestershire where once more it witnessed the patter of tiny feet, then relocated with the family to Knutsford, where it has resided these past 25 years. Quo vadis, beloved clock? Whither goest thou, next?