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Thank you for letting me read this. You asked to check the people and places mentioned, so I have used Census reports, Local Trade directories, Guide Books for the period etc. Fortunately I have a colleague in the Killingworth Info. Centre who is also interested in the History of her area so I've been able to tap into her knowledge also.

Probably the easiest way will be to go through the History, and confirm of correct as I go along. In over 100yrs, verbal accounts get distorted, and dates, persons, places and events aren't always as they are presented today! For instance - "Dad was born at Newcastle on Tyne Durham Co. of York" - well now, Newcastle was a county in its own right, within the county of Northumberland. Durham is a city and also a county, and York is the City of Yorkshire. Both Counties are south of Northumberland.

I've checked the Vickers-Armstrong beginnings. "In 1847, William George Armstrong bought two fields of 5 1/2 acres, in Elswick Heughs Newcastle, from Richard Grainger, to set up works for the manufacture of hydraulic cranes. (This was part of the Manor of Elswick which Grainger bought in 1839 from John Hodgson-Hinde). So I'm afraid as the Armstrong works were already established, Sanderson & Sons don't appear to have been involved in a sale to them. However, Pigots Directory of Newcastle 1834 (the nearest I can get to the relevant dates) gives a Francis Sanderson, Iron Merchant, living at 35&36. Foot of the Butcher Bank Newcastle. Then again, J.D. Scott's book "Vickers Armstrong - a History" on page 5, in the chapter "Origins" says "In 1829 the firm of Naylor & Sanderson, one of many firms characteristic of Sheffield was dissolved for family reasons. Edward Vickers was connected with this firm. .... There now arose 2 new firms, one of which, Sanderson Bros. & CO. was the descendant of the old Naylor & Son and carried on this well known Sheffield name. Did one of the Sandersons move North after the split, and set up his Steel works in Newcastle? Edward Vickers amalgamated with Lord Armstrong to for the present Engineering works.

Killingworth is 6 miles from Newcastle, in a N.E. Direction. The old village is basically the same as it has been for over 300 yrs., a road down a tree-lined hill, with a row of houses, large and small on either side. An 1825 guide says "There are many marks of the genteel in this village on a hill" and numbers the farms, pubs, cottages and houses. These numbers have not altered although some buildings have been demolished and others have risen. The New Town of Killingworth was built about 10yrs. ago, on the other side of the lake, and is very modern in appearance.

The Squire of Killingworth is difficult to define. The Squire is normally the chief landed proprietor in a district., but there were two large houses in Killingworth, .. Killingworth Hall and Killingworth House. The Hall belonged to the Killingsworths of Killingworth and had done for centuries, and though the direct line is now extinct, the Distaff line continues in the name of Punshon in the village, although they now have a smaller place. The Hall is still standing. Killingworth House was pulled down several years ago, and so far nothing has been built where it once stood. I've marked it's position on the map, between Killingworth Cottage and East Farm. The House seems to have had a varied sort of existence, from apartment house to Dame School with single owners between. Unfortunately I have not been able to trace the owners between 1825 & 1855 so far, so cannot say definitely that the Sandersons were occupants at the time of Dad's birth. Around 1785 Admiral Robert Roddam settled in an apartment in the House after he retired. The House was let off into about six flats. In 1825 a Guide states that it is unoccupied at present. The 1851 Census does not mention the House, though giving the names of other houses and their occupants, so we must presume that no-one lived there then. In 1855, Welwyns Directory names the owner as Nathaniel Lambert, he was the manager of Walker College.

As the Killingworths of Killingworth Hall were the Lords of this Manor, as senior landowners of many centuries, it is reasonable to assume that the owners of the next largest Property in the district would be considered to be the Squire, particularly if he engaged a large number of the local people to work in the House or on his land.

I'm trying to trace the negative of the photograph of Killingworth House, which was taken about 1898, but it's proving very elusive. The print I have seen is very faint and will not copy at all. My colleague at Killingworth is hoping to collect more details of the occupants of the House from older people of the village whose families have been there for generations. I'll pass on any more which she digs up.

Dad's christening - well it could not have been as stated, as Killingworth didn't have it's own church in 1840, being part of the Parish of Lengbenten - and the church is not St. Thomas. There is a church of St. Thomas the Martyr in the Barrass Bridge Newcastle, but I don't think it was built till the 1850's. Can't check the Baptismal Roll as the City Registrars telephonists are on strike at the moment. There is one other possibility, that is that Dad was christened in the Chapel. This is now the Vicarage for St. John's Church, but the Baptismal Records are no longer there. If you have a copy of his Birth Certificate or Baptisement, I can work from this.

The first named Godfather: There is a suburb of Stockton-on-Tees, in Cleveland, formerly N. Yorkshire, called Norton so I guess this is where Rev. Clements had his church. The other Godfather, Robert Stephenson, was never knighted, so is plain Mr. Stephenson. The house he lived in with is father, George, is a quarter of a mile down the hill from the main part of the village and is a great tourist attraction, though the original small cottage has been enlarged by combining it with its neighbour.

I haven't yet traced an Armigerous family named Clements in Cumberland, and the Crest is common to many Coats of Arms, so if you can give me more details of the nearest village or town, the name of their property, their full title, (Hon. before the Rev. Clements name pre-supposes his being the younger son of an Earl, Viscount or Baron) and more details of their Coat of Arms, in particular their Motto and Shield. If you could supply a drawing of the Shield this would be very helpful, if it is accurate, as it will show the main family line and branch.

The Arms as described: the Shield belongs to the Saunderson family, and naturally other spellings of the name occur through time such as Sanderson. I enclose a copy of part of one sheet from an Armigerous alphabet printed around 1716 showing the shield of a Sanderson, living in the County of Northumberland at that time. I'm sorry that no names of Estates are given on this, so it is as described in your family history. The motto you give belongs to the branches of the Family in Brancepath, Healey Hope. Newcastle & Eggleston, but their Shield is different in that it has a sword in place of the circles on the crossing band. Heraldically, the Hound is known as a Talbot, it should stand on three legs, with the right foreleg raised, black with the ears gold, and gold spots. Above the Shield there is a Helmet, the style of this gives the rank of the holder of the Arms - Esquire, Knight, Peer or Sovereign.

Hope these notes are of help to you. If you can send more details, such as addresses of other members of linked families and dates of birth and marriage, it may be possible to do a more accurate trace. I haven't been able to find a copy of Jane Sanderson's book, Family research being one of her hobbies, was it published, and if so by which Publishing House.

Northumberland Families research being one of my hobbies, along with Heraldry, I've enjoyed visiting Libraries & Records Offices to turn up these facts for you.