

**U DX101**

**Photocopies of material relating  
to the Billany Family**

**1794-1899**

**Biographical Background:**

Neiles Boyton Billany (1826-1896) was apprenticed as a shipwright in 1839 and it appears he completed his apprenticeship as he became a Freeman of Hull in 1847.

Lincoln Billany (1865-1930) was Neiles sixth child, was born shortly after Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. He attended Board Schools in the City and was then apprenticed with Mssrs Amos and Smith Boilermakers and became a member of the Boilermakers' Society serving as District Secretary for a while. Lincoln's second son Harry Rusling Billany (1887-1950) had 7 children including their first son Dan (1913-1943).

Dan Billany was born in Hull in November 1913. He was active in the Labour League of Youth and later the Hull branch of the Socialist Party of Great Britain. He received a degree in English from the University College of Hull in 1937 and began a career in teaching at Chiltern Street School, Hull. Billany joined the army in 1940 becoming an officer in the East Yorkshire Regiment. He was captured by the Germans and spent 15 months in a prisoner of war camp in Italy.

Billany wrote a number of novels including 'The Opera House Murders' (published in 1940) and 'The Magic Door' (1943). Billany continued to write whilst a prisoner, after he escaped he gave the manuscripts for two further novels 'The Cage' (1949) and 'The Trap' to an Italian farmer to be post back to Britain after the war. Sadly Billany and three friends were last seen in Capistrello in November 1943 trying to make their way to the Allied forces and it is believed he died shortly afterwards.

**Custodial history:**

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**Description:**

Photocopies of material, including apprenticeship indentures, relating to the Billany Family

**Extent:** 9 items

**Related material:**

1951 TORCH student magazine includes reprint of a story by Dan Billany that first appeared in 1938 edition of Torch [Ref U DX313/1]

Valerie A. Reeves & Valerie Showan, Dan Billany: Hull's Lost Hero (1999) L.920 BIL

**Access conditions:**

Access will be granted to any accredited reader

Hull History Centre: Photocopies of material relating to the Billany Family

U DX101/1	Photocopy. Certificate that Jonas Graveline is a Swedish subject and exempt from impressment into the navy 1 item	19 Apr 1794
U DX101/2	Photocopies. Apprenticeship Indentures a) Neiles Boynton Billany, son of Sarah B. widow, to Thomas Humphrey shipwright, all of Hull: as shipwright and carpenter, 25 Apr 1839 b) George Ellis Ruslings of Hull to Dennis Pepper of Selby: as seaman, 9 Sep 1857 c) Rusling Billany, son of Neiles Boynton Billany of 3 Botanic Terrace, Stainforth Place, Hessle Road, Hull, shipwright, to James Humphrys and Frank Henry Pearson of Hull, engineers and shipbuilders: as engineer, 18 Oct 1869 d) Lincoln Billany son of Neiles B. Billany carpenter to John Frederick Sweeting stonemason, all of Hull: as stonemason, 25 Jun 1879 e) Lincoln Billany (as d) to Charles Frederick Amos and Henry Wilson Ringrose Smith engineers, all of Hull: as boiler maker, 11 Aug 1881 5 items	25 Apr 1839- 11 Aug 1881
U DX101/3	Photocopy. Oath of Neiles Boynton Billany as a burgess of Hull 1 item	1 Jul 1847
U DX101/4	Photocopy. 'Radical Songs for Working Men' by Mark Hastings (Guy Hayler), composed for election meetings in support of Neiles Boynton Billany 1 item	May 1885
U DX101/5	Photocopy. 'Monthly Labour Journal' (organ of Hull Trades Council) No. 72 Includes a portrait and brief biography of Lincoln Billany 1 item	Dec 1899