

1135-01-512 **David R Bellhouse*** (bellhouse@stats.uwo.ca), Dept of Statistics and Actuarial Science,
University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario N6A5B7, Canada. *A Decade in the Life of
William Playfair.*

William Playfair (1759 – 1823) is best known in mathematics and statistics for his invention of some graphical techniques for understanding trends in data. To provide a flavour for the range of his abilities and some of the vicissitudes of his life, I will focus on the decade 1800 – 1810. At the beginning of this decade, Playfair wrote *The Statistical Breviary* which contains some of his graphs. In the middle of the decade he produced the first posthumous edition of Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations* and at the end of the decade he was in the middle of publishing an enormous genealogical work, *British Family Antiquity*. During the same decade he was sent twice to the Fleet Prison for debt and once to Newgate Prison for his involvement in a questionable scheme to conceal information from the creditors of one of his colleagues. (Received September 06, 2017)