

CHESHIRE ANCESTOR

CELEBRATING
50 YEARS
OF FAMILY HISTORY

The Journal of the
Family History Society of Cheshire



In this edition

William Thorneley - Railway Engineer

The Adventures of Thomas Burgess ❖ *Sibling Research*
Your Local Lock-Up ❖ *Lower Peover Defamation Cases*
Plus Anyone's Ancestors? ❖ *Net That Serf and more...*

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OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

CHAIRMAN

Victoria Doran
9 Birkett Road
West Kirby
Wirral CH48 5HT
Tel: 0151 345 3816
chairman@fhsc.org.uk

MOBBERLEY RESEARCH CENTRE REPRESENTATIVE

Alan E Jones
7 Beaufort Close
Alderley Edge SK9 7HU
Tel: 01625 584678
research.centre@fhsc.org.uk

PUBLICITY OFFICER

Peter Johnson
57 Helston Close
Sutton Park
Runcorn WA7 6AA
Tel: 07769 575078
publicity@fhsc.org.uk

HONORARY SECRETARY LIBRARIAN

Howard Martin
2 Roxburgh Close
Macclesfield SK10 3QE
Tel: 01625 613310
secretary@fhsc.org.uk

Joan Irving
62 Orme Crescent
Macclesfield SK10 2HS
Tel: 01625 421545
librarian@fhsc.org.uk

PROJECTS ADMINISTRATOR

Lesley Smetham
Little Trees
Gawsworth Road
Gawsworth
Macclesfield SK11 9RA
Tel: 01625 426173

HONORARY TREASURER

David Smetham
Little Trees
Gawsworth Road
Gawsworth
Macclesfield SK11 9RA
Tel: 01625 426173
treasurer@fhsc.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP (RENEWALS)

Peter A Mellor
Tan y Celyn, Rhos Isaf
Rhostryfan, Caernarfon
Gwynedd LL54 7LY
renewals@fhsc.org.uk

ELECTRONIC PROJECTS

Peter Davenport
Glenside
One Oak Lane
Wilmslow SK9 2BL
Tel: 01625 533936
electronic.projects@fhsc.org.uk

HONORARY EDITOR

Mrs Rosie Rowley
21 Lavenham Close
Macclesfield SK10 2TS
editor@fhsc.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP (ENROLMENT)

Mrs Angela Moore
6 Woodlands Close
Stalybridge SK15 2SH
(*new members only*)
membership@fhsc.org.uk

BOOK/CD SALES & OUTSIDE EVENTS

David Johnson
91 Stretford House
Chapel Lane
Stretford
Manchester M32 9AY
Tel: 0161 864 1521
book.sales@fhsc.org.uk

JOURNAL DISTRIBUTION

John Lord
17 Rowan Drive
Cheadle Hulme
Cheadle SK8 7DU
Tel: 0161 486 0333
magazines@fhsc.org.uk

GIFT AID

Maurice Stokes
19 North Drive
High Legh
Knutsford WA16 6LX
painter022@yahoo.com

WEBMASTER

Alan Bennett
8 Barford Drive
Lowton
Warrington WA3 1DD
webmaster@fhsc.org.uk

CHESHIREBMD & UKBMD

Ian Hartas
webmaster@cheshirebmd.org.uk

Cover picture: The Cage, Lyme Park, Lyme Handley, Grade II Listed, built as a hunting lodge and later used as a park-keeper's cottage and as a lock-up for prisoners.

Photo © Brian Deegan (cc-by-sa/2.0) - geograph.org.uk/p/5734362.

See *Your Local Lock-Up* by Dr. Elaine Saunders on page 28.



CHESHIRE ANCESTOR

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Cheshire Ancestor is published in March, June, September and December.

Please send items for possible publication to the editor by post or email (see page 3).

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Our society was founded in 1969 – one of the first family history societies

Editorial

by Rosie Rowley



I'm writing this just after returning from RootsTech London 2019, possibly the largest family history conference ever held in this country. The emphasis was very much on learning, with around sixty talks on each day of the three-day event, grouped into five sessions at 9am, 1pm, 2pm, 3.30pm and 4.30pm, plus one keynote talk at 11am. More than once I found myself mentally tossing a coin to decide which talk to attend, and I found all the talks interesting.

Several talks were filmed and these can be viewed online for the next nine months exclusively by those who purchased a virtual pass; after that they are available to everyone free of charge. Past sessions going back to 2015 can be viewed at www.rootstech.org/video-archive

There was wild excitement after Saturday's keynote session with Donny OSMOND, with a long queue of people waiting to meet him in the exhibition hall afterwards. Donny has been the custodian of his family's genealogy for many years, and has ancestors in Wales and Oxfordshire. You can find out more about his ancestry, and discover whether you are related to the OSMOND family, from a link on this page: www.familysearch.org/blog/en/donny-osmond

Returning to this issue of the ANCESTOR, several pages are devoted to the recent AGM, which unfortunately I had to miss because of illness. Macclesfield group leader Jean Laidlaw is once again planning to run her very popular family history course at Mobberley Research Centre, starting in January - more details are on page 40. A new *Reader Challenge* starts in this issue (page 35), and there are requests for help to return a soldiers' medals to his family (page 26), discover more about local lock-ups (page 28), and research the *Mayflower* passengers' families who remained behind in England and the Netherlands (page 30). A new feature on the back cover is *Members' Family Photo*, and members are invited to submit their own family photos - see inside the back cover for details.

Finally, if you are thinking of visiting one of our research centres or Cheshire Archives, please check the December closure dates on pages 6 to 8. If the weather has been bad it's a good idea to telephone first to check that the centre is open, in case our volunteers are unable to get there. Merry Christmas!

Society Diary Dates

For Group meeting dates, see the Groups pages at the end of this issue.

For changes and up-to-date news check the website www.fhsc.org.uk

10 Jan 2020	Final copy date for CHESHIRE ANCESTOR, March issue.
Sun 19 Jan	Exec. Committee Meeting, Rajar Building, Mobberley, 2pm.
10 Apr	Final copy date for CHESHIRE ANCESTOR, June issue.

Members who do not have access to the Internet should contact their local or affiliated group for up-to-date information about meetings, etc.

Contact details for all groups are inside the back cover.

STOP PRESS - GRO Death Indexes Updated

Statement on the GRO website www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/login.asp
*We are currently adding to our online indexes which will help you identify and apply for copies of our records. We have now added online indexes for **deaths** registered between **1984 and 2019**. We will notify you here when more indexes are added online.*

ITEMS FOR THE CHESHIRE ANCESTOR

For advertising rates and information, please see last page.

FINAL copy dates are the 10th day of January, April, July or October.

The earlier material is submitted, the more help it is to the editor.

Publication is at the discretion of the editor and is subject to space being available; unused items may be carried over to a later issue.

Articles accepted by email (in Microsoft Word, Open Office Writer, or plain text format, using any font type or size), or by post as manuscript.

Suggested length 300-2000 words. Please write all surnames in CAPITALS.

If you have typed your article on a computer, please consider the Editor's workload and submit it by email to avoid the article having to be re-typed.

Please **email** images (two or three max.) as separate files in JPG format, preferably scanned at 300dpi. Please **do not send images printed on normal paper** as they will not reproduce well; and **never post original photos**.

Please include your name, membership number (if a member), and postal or email address. **Please state** if you DO want either or both of your postal or email addresses to be published, otherwise they will be omitted, to comply with GDPR regulations - which means potential 'cousins' cannot contact you.

Chairman's Jottings

by Victoria M L Doran



By the time you read this, our 50th Annual General Meeting will have been held and I will no longer be Chairman of the Society. After five years as treasurer and two as chairman I am stepping down from the committee in order to take an eighteen-month trip round the world. If I don't do it now, I will be too old and decrepit to get insurance for such a trip, let alone make the most of it!

I will not, of course, give up on family history - indeed, one of my destinations will be Sri Lanka where I hope to discover more about a great-great-grandfather who died there in 1874. A look at the website for the Sri Lanka National Archives indicates that it is run on very similar lines to our own archives, so I hope that I will make some interesting discoveries.

Elsewhere in the **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR** you will find reports from the AGM, and discover who my successor is. I wish him well and trust that he will be able to steer the Society through the changes that will be necessary to enable it to continue to serve Cheshire family historians for another fifty years.

Many changes in the world of family history have happened in the last ten to twenty years, and a sub-committee is now looking into their impact on our Society, and what needs to be done to sustain it for the future. This is an issue that is affecting virtually all family history societies, and there is little doubt that if we continue to just do what we have always done, the Society will run out of willing volunteers to run it in not very many years time. The Society is in a strong financial position, and there are not likely to be serious financial constraints in respect of any changes that may be proposed.

We have recently had the good news that Cheshire Archives have succeeded with their latest bid for lottery funding to provide the Archives with facilities fit for the 21st century. We already have meetings with the County Archivist on the relocation, and no doubt will continue to work with them to advise on family history viewpoints, and to see if it may be possible to work with them in a way that helps both parties to a sustainable future.

The Society's fiftieth anniversary will continue until next summer, during which time the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR will have a golden cover. It will feature some of the entries from the competition, whose winner will have been announced at the AGM.

I wish you all well, and happy family hunting.

Ed.: Perhaps on her return Victoria will write an article about her family history adventures in other countries? Has anyone else travelled overseas to carry out research? Do tell us about your experiences!

Members' FREE Research Lookup Service

This is a free service for members only.

Upon request we will search our research resources (see the list on the FHSC website) for specific information about one named person. For example: a search for a marriage, baptism or burial record or a search for a memorial inscription.

We will also check other indexes that we hold.

We will respond as quickly as possible but please remember that the Research Centre is staffed by volunteers who have other duties.

Please note we cannot undertake in-depth family history research. Members wanting that sort of service should engage a professional genealogist.

Requests can be submitted:

- **Online at *www.fhsc.org.uk***
Log in to the website, then navigate to
SHOP > PRODUCTS > SERVICES > RESEARCH SERVICE.
- **By post**
Please remember to include your name, membership number, contact details and a correctly stamped, addressed envelope (at least C5 size).
Requests should be posted to:
Family History Society of Cheshire Lookup Service, Mobberley Research Centre, Rajar Building, Town Lane, Mobberley, Cheshire, WA16 7ER.

Research Centre News

Information about our research centres can be found at the end of the journal.

Mobberley Research Centre

by Alan Jones



In the busy run-up to Christmas you may be planning to spend time with relatives during the festive period. If so, it could be a good opportunity to share the fruits of your family history research, and maybe tap into their knowledge of the lives of people in other branches of your family. We all know that finding the missing link can open up a whole new line of research.

If such opportunities do not arise, January may be the time to resolve to make progress with your research in 2020. Our Research Centre is there to help you, whether or not your ancestors were from Cheshire. If you can pay us a visit there is a treasure trove of research resources awaiting you. If you cannot visit, perhaps we can help you with a simple lookup? For details of this service see the panel on the previous page.

FHSC member John Mitchell recently donated transcriptions of parish registers from St. Wilfred's, Davenham (1560-1812) and St. Michael and All Angels, Middlewich (1588-1812). These include Bishops' Transcript information and the work was carried out at Cheshire Record Office using an ultraviolet lamp, which enhanced some very faint entries. John feels sure that many entries are better than those found on *FindMyPast*. Another important item recently received is a transcription of the Middlewich Independent Chapel Church Book 1821-1891, which has a lot of information about the members and events.

Mobberley is always happy to accept donations of local and family history related books and CDs - for anywhere, not just Cheshire - and the library list was recently updated on the FHSC website.

Changes to usual opening times

With winter upon us, please remember that in the event of bad weather it is advisable to telephone the Research Centre on **01565 872210** before travelling to check that we are open, as our duty volunteers may have difficulty getting there themselves.

A reminder that due to staffing problems we will be **CLOSED** on the **1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesdays** of each month, until further notice.

Christmas Closure

Mobberley Research Centre will close at **4.00pm on Friday 6th December** and reopen at **10.00am on Monday 6th January 2020**.

Crewe Family History Unit

by Margaret Spate

Additional donations of resources are constantly being received and catalogued. The Alsager Group library has been integrated into our holdings and is listed on the website.

Work is ongoing to scan and catalogue the images donated to the *Crewe and District Local History Association* archive. These are available for individuals to view.

It is really helpful if members who are travelling long distances are able to notify us in advance of their visit. We can then reserve a computer for them to use during their visit.

In addition to our usual Monday and Tuesday openings we will open on

No Saturday opening during December.

Sat 18th Jan	9.30 – 12.30
Sat 15th Feb	9.30 – 12.30
Sat 14th Mar	9.30 – 12.30

Christmas Closure

The Family History Unit will be closed from **4pm on Tuesday 17th December 2019** and reopen on **Monday 6th January 2020**.

BRAINTEASER 1

What's the smallest possible number of people in a family group that includes a grandfather, a grandmother, two fathers, two mothers, four children, three grandchildren, one brother, two sisters, two sons, two daughters, one father-in-law, one mother-in-law and one daughter-in-law? *Solution on page 67.*



Cheshire Archives December Closures

Closure week:

The searchroom will close at 5pm on Friday 29th November and will re-open at 9am on Tuesday 10th December to carry out important collections work. Urgent phone and email enquiries will be dealt with during the week.

Christmas and New Year:

The searchroom will close at 1pm on Tuesday 24th December and will re-open at 9am on Thursday 2nd January 2020.

FHSC Website Shop

The website shop is now open for business. You must be registered on the website and logged in to buy items from the shop.

Prices start at just £1 and payment is by card, enabling overseas customers to buy without the difficulty of obtaining sterling cheques. Data files can be downloaded to avoid the expense of delivery charges and allowing you to receive your purchase immediately.

One free item is available so that buyers can familiarise themselves with the purchase, checkout and file download process risk-free - no payment details will be requested if that is the only item 'purchased.'

Several products are now available as pdf downloads, including:

- **Kelly's Directory of Cheshire, 1923;** price £2.50
- **Downloads which include some church registers:**
Congleton Edge Methodist Chapel; price £2
Dukinfield Old Chapel; price £5 - this download includes a huge amount of information, totalling over 3,000 pages.
- **Memorial Inscriptions:**
The shop also has for sale a large number of files containing memorial inscriptions for Cheshire churches.

Go to the website shop, click on *Shop News* and then click the little head and shoulders person on the right; this allows you to subscribe to the shop news email list which means you'll receive an email every time new items are added. More information about buying from the shop is in the website FAQ at www.fhsc.org.uk/new-faq#faq_38

2019 Annual General Meeting

Abbreviated reports presented at the 50th Annual General Meeting of the Family History Society of Cheshire, held on Saturday 2nd November 2019 at the Lion Salt Works Museum, Northwich, CW9 6ES.

Reports cover the year ending on 30 June 2019.

Full reports and minutes will be available on the FHSC website.

Chairman's Report *by Victoria Doran.*

As many of you will be aware, I am not standing for the post of Chairman for the coming year, as I have decided to spend eighteen months travelling.

Most of what has happened during the year will be covered by the secretary's report, so I am just going to deal with the governance of the Society. I have spent seven years on the committee, and during that period the committee has never reviewed its governance. Indeed, the current constitution dates from the 1990s and was last amended in 2001. There has been a minor change to the way the committee works in the last couple of years; we now have two meetings a year for group leaders to discuss common topics, and the main committee now meets only three times a year. This has improved the discussion of group topics but has had little impact on the time available for discussion at the main committee meetings.

There are a significant number of people on the committee who were there when I joined, and, of course, we are now all seven years older. Finding people to take on important roles has never been harder.

As I have never been a group leader, nor, indeed, a very active member of any group committee, on becoming chairman two years ago I decided to visit every group and managed all but two. What I found confirms my suspicion that some change is essential if the society is to continue for another twenty years, let alone another fifty.

Ideally, we should aim to have vibrant groups, where the group leaders have spare energy to run the Society, with the assistance of some other members who are also not required full time by their groups. This assumes that a group leader organises a number of members who between them actually run the group. In many, if not all of our groups, the current situation is that the group leader has insufficient support and actually does most of the work of running the group.

This does not leave many of them with the energy or time to run the Society, and the supply of new people to take over the other committee roles has virtually run dry.

Of course, we can all appreciate that the fundamental problem is that the world of genealogy has changed dramatically over the last twenty years. Once upon a time almost anyone wanting to research their family tree needed the resources and advice of a family history society. Now there is so much information and advice available online that most people think they can do it all by themselves at home. We may well know of instances where their research is inadequate at best, but that does not actually lead to us getting many new members.

My personal view is that if there is no change, the Society will gradually run down - we have already lost several groups - and eventually fold. This would be a great shame, and it need not happen. There is a need for the services we can provide. Indeed, Cheshire Archives are hoping that we can play a significant part in the success of its new facilities when they are eventually built.

We now have a sub-committee looking at the future of the Society. If you have any contribution to make in respect of possible future changes, please contact any of the Society's officers.

Finally, I would like to thank all those whom I have served alongside during the last seven years, and to wish my successor well. I know he had hoped not to have to step up to the Chair again until after he retired.

Honorary Secretary's Report by *Howard Martin*

I must start by thanking David Smetham for ensuring that the Society has celebrated its Golden Anniversary in a suitable manner. He proposed that the AGM should be turned into a celebratory event for members and has planned the day with support from Dave Thomas. The facilities provided at the Lion Salt Works have been excellent, the talks have been enlightening and I am sure that all members have enjoyed the "Golden Anniversary" tea.

Members will already have noticed the golden cover on September's **ANCESTOR**. This will appear on the next three issues. The website also now boasts a celebratory golden masthead, again for the next twelve months. A golden anniversary essay competition has been held and I think the judges will agree the entrants set them a difficult task. Thanks to all those who submitted entries. Several entries will appear in the pages of the **ANCESTOR** in the future and you can be assured of some interesting reads.

The Executive Committee has continued to keep a watching brief on the progress of the bid by Cheshire Archives and Local Studies (CALs) to the Heritage Lottery Fund for support for its plans to relocate and develop the record office services. David Guyton has kept us in contact with Paul Newman at CALs and a group of committee members met with Paul Newman last month to continue our exploration of ways in which the Society can collaborate with the Archive service more effectively and profitably in the future. I would like to thank David for his valuable contribution to the committee's deliberations on this important subject.

Both of the Society's Research Centres at Mobberley and Crewe continue to provide valuable support for members and non-members alike. Interestingly, both of the research centres are good sources of new members. Both of them, and the helpdesks run by local groups in libraries and community centres, are important ways in which the Society seeks to raise its profile and to meet the objectives set by our charity status. We owe a great debt to the teams of volunteers led by Alan Jones and Joan Irving at Mobberley and by Margaret Spate at Crewe. They will always welcome new volunteers and an approach to either of them would be appreciated. Without volunteers neither facility can fully function.

This year has seen a new membership team of Peter Mellor and Angela Moore, supported by Alan Bennett and Maurice Stokes. They are hoping to streamline enrolment and renewal processes to make them more transparent and easier to understand. This is part of a strategy to halt the fall in membership numbers facing FHSC and other societies in an age when all family history knowledge appears to be available online. The committee is very aware of the need to provide "added value" to encourage non-members to join and existing members to renew and that will be a major focus for the coming year.

Members who access the website will have noticed the changes and improvements that the web team (Alan Bennett, Webmaster, and Gay Oliver) have made over the year. The shop is now online offering a range of resources to purchase. We are indebted to David Smetham, Joan Irving and Peter Davenport who have prepared these resources by changing formats, carrying out additional research and confirming copyright before items are placed in the shop. Some resources are also being readied for placement on the *FindMyPast* platform which will also generate further income for the Society.

Under the editorship of Rosie Rowley the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR continues to excel. She is ably supported by her assistant, Jackie Jones, and proofreader Suzie Woodward. We must also thank all those members who contribute articles to

the journal and to Geoff Johnson for his regular enlightening contributions through *Net that Serf*. All help to make the ANCESTOR the fine product it is. Unfortunately, last year Rosie wished to resign from the editorial chair. We are still seeking a replacement. Full training and support will be given to any member who offers to take on this important role and there will be a warm welcome from the executive committee.

There are thirteen local groups meeting across the historic county of Cheshire, plus the Computer Group. The Group Leaders continue to produce lively and informative programmes for their members – a quick glance down the events page on the website highlights this. They are an excellent team who have their own forum within the Society's structure, meeting twice a year to resolve common issues. The Society's Middlesex Group has been inactive for many years but following an initiative from other north-west-based family history societies there are proposals to establish a North-West Group to bring together family historians in the London area.

David Smetham has represented FHSC at meetings of the North-West Group of Family History Societies (www.nwgfhs.org.uk), and at the Family History Show held in April at Alexandra Palace, London.

I would like to record the Committee's thanks to Victoria Doran as she retires from the Chairmanship of the Society. As treasurer and then chairman she has served the Society well and has helped to take it forward into its second half-century in good health. She has chaired our meetings with care and authority, ensuring that all points are heard and business is concluded efficiently.

Finally I would encourage as many of you as possible to volunteer for roles within the Society. There is an advertisement for the new role of social media officer in September's ANCESTOR and we are still looking for an editor; other roles are available, from service on group committees to volunteering at the research centres. The Committee thanks all who help; without your support there would have been no Golden Anniversary.

Honorary Treasurer's Report by *David W Smetham*

For the second year we have had our books prepared by Heywood Shepherd.

At the end of June 2019 we had bond accounts with Principality (1%) and Hampshire (1.6%) and a savings account with Shawbrook (1.3%).

The consolidated accounts for the year ending 30 June 2019 show a net surplus

for the year of £1,453. Last year we had a surplus of £3,648.

The fourteen groups combined had a surplus of £2,051.09 this year, although four groups returned a negative balance for the year. Some of the negative balance is associated with one-off purchases. The surplus was £800 last year. Total funds held by groups is £35,830.25. The group allocation for 2018-2019 was £500 to each group. Groups can apply for an augmentation of the group allocation and for half the cost of any equipment purchased.

The remainder of this report applies only to the 'central' funds.

Income for the year is £38,732 and expenditure is £38,146. Although we have a slight surplus, we are happy to use some of our reserves in the pursuit of our charitable aims.

Income from membership subscriptions for the year 2018-2019 has increased by 7.9%. This was not expected; however, the mix of subscriptions has been changing, with some members reverting to paper copies of ANCESTOR. We also try to report subscription income for the actual membership year, and subscriptions received in the last three months of our subscription year 2018-2019 are treated as being for year 2019-2020. Membership records indicate a decrease in membership numbers from 1935 in 2017-18 to 1575 in 2018-19. The 1935 included approximately 250 temporary members who took up the free subscription offer we made as a recruitment initiative. Taking these into account, we have lost around 110 members. I am taking extra care in reporting subscription income to Heywood Shepherd to make sure that it is accurate.

Sales of books and CDs have again fallen slightly but we have now established the selling of data downloads via our website. We are working to make more data available on the website shop. Royalties from *FindMyPast* are up. We will soon be ready to place more data online, hopefully leading to further purchases from our shop.

Gift Aid reduced this year. It is closely related to membership subscriptions and members signing up for gift aid.

Expenditure is up, primarily the additional cost of rental at Mobberley, where we have taken on more space for storage of the Macclesfield newspapers, and the accounting costs. We are carrying out scanning trials to make information from the newspapers available to our members. We are now paying rent quarterly by standing order so that variability of invoicing through the year will no longer influence rent paid in the financial year.

Magazine costs have increased slightly. Some more members who originally opted for electronic ANCESTOR have switched back to a paper copy, and postage rates have increased.

Genfair, which has somewhat higher costs than Paypal for subscriptions, is no longer used for subscriptions. Income from Genfair from sales of books and CDs is negligible.

The accountancy fee has risen slightly; the committee decided to employ Heywood Shepherd to keep our books. This item is being kept under review.

Other expenses were broadly in line with expectations. The Family History Federation subscription and insurance is based on membership, so reduces as membership declines.

There is nothing in the accounts to suggest that a change in membership fee is appropriate at this time.

The full set of independently examined accounts are available by request to the Treasurer, and can also be accessed on our website.

I would like to thank our accountants Heywood Shepherd for their work on behalf of the Society. I would also like to thank our Group Treasurers for their work in delivering the Group accounts.

Brief Report of AGM Proceedings

The full minutes will be available on the FHSC website.

The formal business of the AGM was preceded by the announcement of the winning entries in the Golden Anniversary essay competition and by the presentation of an honorary life membership of the Society to Ian Hartas.

Golden Anniversary Competition Results

The winner is Sue Johnson who wrote *Barthomley and a Bradshaw tree*. Second place goes to Judith Hankey for *Finding an Aunt who kept a Pub and other Family Stories* and third is Sue Taylor for *Lord Raglan's Balloon*. Betty Booth's entry *My Lucky Day* was highly commended.

Sue Johnson will receive a £50 voucher to spend on FHSC publications, and a one year digital subscription to *Family Tree* magazine kindly offered by Warners Group Publications. The two runners-up will each receive a £25 voucher to spend on FHSC publications.

The Chairman's remarks and the reports from the Treasurer and the Secretary are on the previous pages. The Treasurer's report and accounts were approved.

The Chairman, Victoria Doran, resigned from that role at this meeting and Alan Bennett, Webmaster, was elected as Chairman. The Treasurer, David Smetham, and the Secretary, Howard Martin, were re-elected for a further year.

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Anyone's Ancestors?

Excerpts from the *Macclesfield Advertiser and East Cheshire Gazette*, 5th December 1919, page 6. For full details see the newspaper at Mobberley.

FORMER SANDBACH RESIDENT

Mr Bertram NIELD, of Nantwich... has entered as a student at Fitzwilliam Hall, Cambridge...

SANDBACH PETTY SESSIONS

Thomas WARD & Sons Ltd, Lach Dennis, farmers ...failing to paint... the weight of the trailer... fined 5s.

Frank BYRNE, Sandbach... exceeding the speed limit.... fined 20s.

Arthur MOWLEM, Stafford... exceeding the speed limit... fined 20s.

Randall Cyril BARKER, Alsager, farmer, failing to have lamps... fined 10s.

Frank BATEMAN, Alsager... motor cycle not having two brakes... fined 5s.

Samuel EDWARDS, Hassall... riding bicycle without a red lamp... fined 5s.

Albert Bernard GUNN, Sandbach... similar offence... fined 5s.

John LEA, Moston... allowing dog to be at large... fined 10s.

Family History Events

For news of family history events, see the online calendars at
<http://geneva.weald.org.uk/>
and www.familyhistoryfederation.com/events

Guild of One-Name Studies Seminar: Wherever I lay my Hat

Saturday 22nd February 2020

Littleton Millenium Memorial Hall, The Hall Way,
Littleton, Winchester SO22 6QL

Research advice and insights into itinerant families

Booking essential - Non-members welcome

<http://one-name.org/events> Tel: 0800 011 2182

Family Tree Live

Friday 17th - Saturday 18th April 2020

Alexandra Palace, north London

Discounted tickets for subscribers to Family Tree magazine

www.family-tree.co.uk/information/family-tree-live

Scottish Association of Family History Societies

Annual Conference and Family History Fair

9 am – 4.30 pm Saturday 18th April 2020

The Brunton, Ladywell Way, Musselburgh, EH21 6AA

Conference booking essential

Fair £2 on the door (free to conference delegates)

www.safhsconf2020.simplesite.com

Short Break by coach from Macclesfield/Congleton to Ypres

Sunday 26th - Thursday 30th April 2020

Tour of WWI cemeteries and monuments of West Vlaanderen, Belgium
with a knowledgeable and experienced guide

Coach travel from Macclesfield or Congleton - B&B at central Ypres Hotel

<http://macclesfieldreflects.org.uk/2020/04/26/2020-ypres/>

Guild of One-Name Studies Conference & AGM: Sources and Resources

Friday 24th - Sunday 26th April 2020
Jurys Inn, Godstow Road, Oxford OX2 8AL
Dates and details to be confirmed
Booking essential - Non-members welcome
<http://one-name.org/events> Tel: 0800 011 2182

The Family History Show, York

10.00am - 4.30pm, Saturday 20th June 2020
Knavesmire Racecourse, York, YO23 1EX
Free parking - free shuttle bus from York railway station
<https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/york/>

THE Genealogy Show

Friday 26th - Saturday 27th June 2020
The NEC, Birmingham, B40 1NT
Adjacent to Birmingham International railway station
Onsite car parking with free shuttle bus from car park to venue
www.thegenealogyshow.uk

Family History News

A selection of recent updates to websites, and other family history news. Remember, if you don't have a subscription to *Ancestry*, *Find My Past* or *The Genealogist*, our Research Centres have free access to many of these records.

Bear in mind that record collections on the Internet may be incomplete.

**Merseyside Maritime Museum Archives
Temporary Closure**

The Maritime Archives and Library will close at 4.30pm on Tuesday 17th December 2019 and will reopen at 10.30am on Monday 30th March 2020, due to the closure of the second floor of the Merseyside Maritime Museum in preparation for the new *Life on Board* gallery. Staff can be contacted via email and telephone during this time but will have limited access to collections.

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/maritime/archive

Bombing Britain: an Air Raid Map

Bombing Britain: an air raid map uses data from the National Archives to mark more than 30,000 UK locations that were subject to air raids during WWII. The map is free to use and is based on daily reports compiled by wartime intelligence officers for the Ministry of Home Security. You can view and download information about an air raid, including the date, location and number of casualties. Unfortunately at the time of writing the map has been taken off-line due to technical difficulties caused by high demand.

www.warstateandsociety.com/Bombing-Britain

Ancestry

To see a list of all record sets included on the *Ancestry* website, go to <http://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/cardcatalog.aspx>.

Click on *Sort by > Date Updated* to see the latest additions.

To find out what's new at *Ancestry*, see www.ancestry.co.uk/cs/recent-collections

UK, Bristol Parish Registers

www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/bristolparish/

www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/bristolbaptisms/

www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/bristolburials/

www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/bristolmarriages/

Various dates between 1538 to 1994; images available.

UK, Pembrokeshire Electoral Registers, 1740-1978

www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/pembrokeshireelectoral/

Scroll down the page to see an explanation of the codes used in the registers.

The index was created using text recognition software. Records were not transcribed and are available for every fifth year.

No registers were produced during the war years 1916, 1917 and 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1944. Images available.

North Lanarkshire, Scotland

Poor Law Applications and Registers, 1849-1917

www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/northlanarkshirepoorlaw/

After the Poor Law Scotland Act of 1845, Scottish parishes were able to establish institutions called Parochial Boards to care for the poor, house them and give out relief. Whilst there was a Central Supervising body, each institution was locally run. Unlike the poor in England, those who were destitute in Scotland were able to appeal if denied relief. Images available.

The Genealogist

To see what's new at *The Genealogist*, go to www.thegenealogist.co.uk/news
To see a full list of holdings, go to www.thegenealogist.co.uk/coverage

More Regimental Histories added

The Genealogist has released a set of 50 Regimental Histories, bringing the total to over 70 different regiments. This release covers records from the 17th century in the earliest incidence, for *The Ancient Vellum Book of the Honourable Artillery Company 1611-1682*, through to the late 1920s for *The King's Royal Rifle Corps Chronicle, 1927*.

North Buckinghamshire Lloyd George Domesday records added

North Buckinghamshire records have been added to the Lloyd George Domesday Survey (1910 Valuation Survey). This unique online resource allows researchers to discover where an ancestor lived in 1910-1915 for various London districts and North Buckinghamshire.

For more information see www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/valuation-office-survey-land-value-ownership-1910-1915

Relocation of The Wilfred Owen Story Exhibition

After almost a decade on Argyle Street in Birkenhead, The Wilfred Owen Story (the first and only permanent exhibition dedicated the great War poet), has moved to West Kirby Arts Centre, located in a former Unitarian church.

Owen, who lived with his parents in Birkenhead between the age of seven and thirteen, was educated at the Birkenhead Institute and spent summer holidays at his Aunt and Uncle's home in Bertram Drive in nearby Meols. *It is really lovely here*, he wrote in one letter. *There are miles of fields in front of the house and it is not far from the sea*. In other letters, he speaks of going *on the lake* at West Kirby. Most poignantly, it was the decision of his relatives not to assist in funding Wilfred's entry into university that ultimately led to Wilfred's decision to enlist in World War One.

Open daily, 12-2pm. Free admission, refreshments available. Short walk from West Kirby station; parking nearby at West Kirby Concourse car park.

Information about the Wilfred Owen exhibition: www.wilfredowenstory.com
Information about West Kirby Arts Centre: <http://westkirbyartscentre.org.uk>

West Kirby Arts Centre, 29 Brookfield Gardens, West Kirby, CH48 4EL

Find My Past (FMP)

To see a list of all record sets included on the *FindMyPast* website, go to <http://search.findmypast.co.uk/historical-records>.

To see what's new at *FindMyPast*, go to www.findmypast.co.uk/whats-new or <https://blog.findmypast.co.uk/latest-records/>

England & Wales Government Probate Index 1960-2019

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/england-and-wales-government-probate-death-index-1960-2019>

Search more than 14 million probate index records on Findmypast. The index will give you a person's death date, probate date, residence, executor and more. Some records include images of the official index pages.

UK, Dorset Memorial Inscriptions

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/dorset-memorial-inscriptions>

This collection includes over 110,000 records transcribed by the volunteers of the Dorset Family History Society and the Dorset and Somerset Family History Society. For a full list of the places available in this collection, see www.findmypast.com/articles/dorset-memorial-inscriptions---parish-list

UK, Manchester, Peterloo Witnesses and Casualties, 1819

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/manchester-peterloo-witnesses-and-casualties-1819>

Discover if your English ancestor witnessed or was injured during the Peterloo Massacre on 16 August 1819. The records were created from the www.peterloomassacre.org database by Peter Castree.

1939 Register Update

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/1939-register>

To mark the 80th anniversary of the 1939 Register, FMP has made over 79,000 closed records searchable for the first time, in association with the National Archives. In the three years since the Register was first launched, FMP has matched millions of 'closed records' to data sources to correctly confirm the death of individuals whose information was redacted. These new additions are currently exclusive to Findmypast.

Westmorland Baptisms, Marriages and Burials

www.findmypast.com/articles/westmorland-parish-list

These Westmorland parish records include both transcripts and images of printed transcribed volumes of parish register copies provided by the College of Arms.

Certificate Exchange

by Jean Jones

This service enables members to share Birth, Marriage and Death certificate information. Due to current legislation, only information from certificates over 100 years old can be supplied. Members can obtain a **transcription** of a certificate by sending your name, membership number, and identifying the required certificate from the published list:

- by email to editor@fhsc.org.uk (marked for the attention of Jean Jones, Certificate Exchange)
- by post (please include a stamped self-addressed envelope) to Jean Jones, 2 Lytham Rd, Ashton in Makerfield, Wigan WN4 9RU.

Unwanted certificates should be sent to the above address. Please ensure you use the correct postage rate for the envelope size and weight. If in doubt, please ask at your local Post Office. Certificates over 100 years old will be listed in the **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR** as soon as possible after receipt. Other certificates will be held until such time as legislation allows them to be listed.

Thank you for donating unwanted certificates to the FHSC.

Certificate type: B= birth; M=marriage; D=death

ALLEN	Robert	M 1915 Oct 4	To Ann Harrison. Son of Richard Allen.	Bucklow CHS.
BROTHERTON	John	B 1895 Oct 23	To George Francis & Ada formerly Allonby.	Chorlton MAN/LANC.
CALLAN	Ann	D 1875 Apr 16	Age 53 years Wife of John Callan.	Pancras. MDX.
CLOWES	Elizabeth	M 1857 Nov 23	To John Mellor. Dau of Thomas Clowes.	Congleton CHS.
CLOWES	Isaac	M 1869 Dec 25	To Jane Turner. Son of Frederick Clowes.	Nantwich CHS.
CLOWES	Mary M	M 1907 Aug 6	To John Weekes Hilditch. Dau of Daniel Clowes.	Congleton CHS.
COX	Walter	M 1874 Mar 9	To Eliza Milhench. Son of William Cox.	Saddleworth YORK.
GRACE	Mary	M 1857 Feb 4	To James Whittingham. Dau of Patrick Grace.	Garstang. LAN.
HAGGER	Elizabeth	M 1841 Nov 8	To James Lawrence. Dau of John Hagger.	CAMBRIDGE.
HARRISON	Ann	M 1915 Oct 4	To Robert Allen. Dau of Thomas Harrison.	Bucklow CHS.

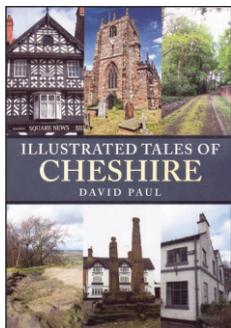
HEAPS	Mary E	B 1859 Jan 23	To Thomas & Susannah formerly Demain.	Everton LIVERPOOL.
HEAPS	Susannah	B 1861 Feb 12	To Thomas & Susannah formerly Demain.	West Derby LIVERPOOL.
HEAPS	Thomas G	B 1866 Oct 15	To Thomas & Susannah formerly Demain.	Tranmere BIRKENHEAD.
HEAPS	Thomas W	B 1878 Dec 15	To John & Harriett formerly Smith.	Birkenhead CHS.
HILDITCH	John W.	M 1907 Aug 6	To Mary M. Clowes. Son of James C Hilditch.	Congleton CHS.
HUMPHRIES	Sarah	D 1867 Sep 14	Age 1yr 8mths Dau of John Humphries.	Birkenhead CHS.
LAWRENCE	James	M 1841 Nov 8	To Elizabeth Hagger. Son of Richard Lawrence.	CAMBRIDGE.
LAWRENCE	James	D 1848 Apr 6	Age 76 years. Eliza Lawrence in attendance.	Forehoe NFK.
MELLOR	John	M 1857 Nov 23	To Elizabeth Clowes. Son James Mellor.	Congleton CHS.
MILHENCH	Eliza M	M 1874 Mar 9	To Walter Cox. Dau of Joseph Milhench.	Saddleworth YORK.
ROBINSON	Thomas	D 1866 Jul 4	Age 33 years.	MANCHESTER.
ROUGHLEY	Hannah	M 1864 May 16	To James Whittingham. Dau of Richard Roughley.	Skelmersdale. LAN.
TURNER	Jane	M 1869 Dec 25	To Isaac Clowes. Dau of William Turner.	Nantwich CHS.
WHITTINGHAM	James	M 1864 May 16	To Hannah Roughley. Son of Thomas Whittingham.	Skelmersdale. LAN.
WHITTINGHAM	James	M 1857 Feb 4	To Mary Grace. Son of John Whittingham.	Garstang. LAN.
WILSON	Thomas	B 1857 Jul 20	To Isaac & Mary formerly Owen.	LINCOLN.
WILSON	Thomas	B 1858 May 30	To Mary formerly Tutty. Father Railway Porter.	LINCOLN.

Book Reviews

Newly published items on genealogical or Cheshire subjects are welcomed for review. Please send to the editor (contact details inside front cover). After review, items are given to a Society library or group.

If you wish to purchase a book (or other items) online, please consider registering with the fundraising website *Give As You Live* at www.giveasyoulive.com/join/fhsc-macclesfield. Shopping via this website generates a donation to the FHSC at no cost to you.

***Illustrated Tales of Cheshire* by David Paul** **Reviewed by Lyn McCulloch**



This is a beautifully illustrated volume containing a pot pourri of Cheshire based stories, mysteries, traditions and legends. It is what I always label a 'dip into' book rather than one you read from beginning to end. I enjoyed the variety of his topics and the curious facts he has unearthed. David supplies an excellent bibliography on all things Cheshire.

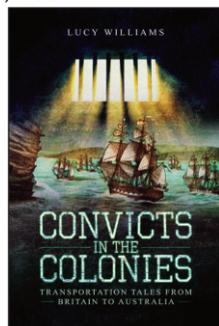
It was unfortunate that David chose a drawing of the wrong 'Marbury' to illustrate the text. Being a Lancastrian, he may not have realised that there are two places in Cheshire named Marbury!

The book cover is delightful and the illustrated tales within will compliment anyone's Cheshire library.

Published by Amberley Publishing, 2019. Paperback, 96 pp, £14.99.
ISBN: 978 1 4456 7855 9

***Convicts in the Colonies: Transportation Tales from Britain to Australia* by Lucy Williams** **Reviewed by Lyn McCulloch**

Lucy has spent the last four years researching convict transportation. It is a massive subject and although we all have a rough idea of how it worked this interesting volume will add to your knowledge.



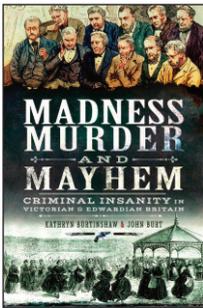
Lucy uses case histories to illustrate the process of transportation. I didn't realise, for example, that female convicts did not have to wait as long as males to board a ship for Australia. The men spent much longer waiting on the hulks for the simple reason that there were so many more of them. I also hadn't realised that some convicts were transported more than once.

Lucy gives details of the struggles of the initial inhabitants of the penal colonies and the lives they led. No wonder our Aussie friends are proud of their convict ancestors and how they survived what was basically a wilderness.

One for the long winter nights and thank you, Lucy, for all your hard work.

Published by Pen & Sword History, 2018. Paperback, 202 pages, £12.99.
ISBN: 978 1 5267 5631 2

***Madness, Murder and Mayhem: Criminal Insanity in Victorian and Edwardian England* by Kathryn Burtinshaw and John Burt
Reviewed by Lyn McCulloch**



Who could resist the catchy title of this publication? Which genealogist is not disappointed by not finding a criminal or, better still, a lunatic in their family research? For some reason we all find the subject fascinating, even though, in some cases, horrific. The very word *Broadmoor* resonates with most of us.

This is a very readable history of the development of such establishments and offers many case histories of inmates.

The book is certainly thought-provoking. There are criminals who were found to be insane and were not executed, and some who were clearly not sane but were executed none the less.

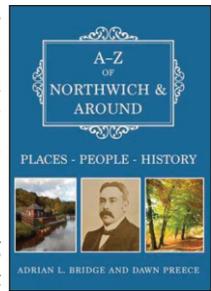
It is to be hoped that modern justice and its approach to mental illness is an improvement on that of the past and this book certainly gives you the facts. The case histories used to illustrate this book are really interesting

An excellent read.

Published by Pen and Sword History, 2018. Paperback, 182 pages, £12.99.
ISBN: 978 1 52675 137 9

***A-Z of Northwich & Around*, by Adrian L. Bridge and Dawn Preece
Reviewed by Dave Thomas, Northwich Group leader**

Although subtitled *Places - People - History*, I found the information about the people associated with Northwich to be of most interest. These authors, new to me, present a refreshing look at some known stories and a number of new items, together with several tales of people that I was unaware had links to Northwich.



Locally born Adrian L. BRIDGE has a B.A. in history, along with other impressive qualifications. He has lectured in that subject for nearly twenty years. Dawn PREECE is a history graduate, originally from Stoke. A specialist in women's history, she has organised exhibitions on the subject, and given local history talks to Cheshire Women's Institutes and Mothers' Unions.

The contents page lists 65 items and I am sure most readers would find several new bits of information about Northwich.

The sections about the English Civil War, the Chemical Industry and the JARMAYS of Hartford Lodge I found particularly interesting, as was *ICI and the Rose Cottage Murder Mystery*, the story of murder and suicide connected to the birth of ICI in 1926. Then there is the fascinating story of the ALLEN sisters of Davenham Hall, their exploits in WWI and connections with Chester Zoo.

The subjects are dealt with in good detail. For instance, I learned that the origin of Sir John Deane's college dates back to 1557, when Sir John DEANE founded a free grammar school for boys in Witton. He was not a knight of the realm - in the mid-Tudor period, the title *Sir* was applied to clerics who were in possession of university degrees. The money to launch the school came from the profits Deane made from buying and selling former church lands acquired after Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries.

Two minor issues: a discrepancy in the numbers of people who died in the Northfleet disaster, and the designer of the two swing bridges is Colonel J. A. SANER, not John SAYER as stated. However, these errors should not detract from the overall good quality of the material.

Amberley Publishing, 2019. Paperback, 96 pages, £14.99.
ISBN: 978-1-4456-9259-3

Help Wanted

If you are puzzling over a family history problem, why not ask on our website forum, or send it to the Editor, and see if other members can help? For queries printed in the journal, you must give permission for your name, membership number and postal and/or email addresses to be printed so members can contact you.

If you are able to help with any of the following requests, please reply direct; if no postal address is given and you do not use a computer, please post your reply to the Editor, marked 'For the Attention of' and the name and membership number of the enquirer.

Do you have a Charles EDWARDS in your family tree?

We are trying to trace any relatives of Charles EDWARDS who was born on 13 November and baptised on 31 December 1882 at St Mary's Church, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, the son of John William EDWARDS of Queen Street, a Chief Superintendent of the county police, and his wife Mary.

In 1891 Charles was living at the Police Station, 58 Green End, Whitchurch, Shropshire, with his parents; he was a scholar aged eight. He had four siblings: George aged seventeen, a carpenter's apprentice, William aged nine, Elizabeth aged five and James aged 4 months. His father John William EDWARDS was born in 1843 at Albrighton and was a Superintendent of police. In the 1901 census Charles was at "Bothy," Lillieshall Gardens, Shifnal, Shropshire, a journeyman gardener with two other gardeners and in 1911 he was at Ashfield, Chester, in the house of Percy WHALLEY. Charles was a gardener and his future wife Annie DAVIES was cook in the same house; she was born in Halkyn, Wales and was aged 20.

Charles married Annie DAVIES on 27 October 1913 at St Oswalds Church, Chester. At the time he was living at 99 Whipcord Lane, Chester. Their son, also named Charles EDWARDS, was born in Chester on 18 Sep 1915.

Charles joined the army in December 1915. His army service record states that he was a market gardener. He served in the Royal Engineers, service no. 210716. He was posted to the Army Reserve on 11 December 1915 and was then mobilized on 18 October 1916 and posted Driver R.E. Signals Depot. He served at home until 22 April 1917 when he was posted to the British Expeditionary Force (i.e. he served in "France and Flanders"). He was disabled in August 1917 in the Somme region and returned home on 19 September 1917. He spent

about six months in Huddersfield War Hospital before being discharged from the army on 22 May 1918. Charles died on Tuesday 28th May 1918 at 6 o'clock and his funeral was held on Friday 31st May 1918. The following is a report of his funeral:

Military Funeral. The funeral with military honours of Mr Charles EDWARDS, Whipcord Lane, Chester, who has served in France with the R.E., and was discharged only on May 2nd, took place on Friday. The chief mourners were: Mrs EDWARDS (widow), Mrs EDWARDS (mother), Messrs. George and Alfred EDWARDS (brothers), Wellington, Messrs Harry and William EDWARDS (brothers), Stafford, Mrs S. L LLOYD (sister), Mrs M. E. BUNTER (sister), Mrs L. JONES (sister), Miss M. DAVIES (sister-in-law), Mr and Mrs J.T.DAVIES, Mrs M.J.WILLIAMS (sister-in-law), Mr Jos. DAVIES (father-in-law), Mr M. DAVIES and Mr W. WILLIAMS (brothers-in-law), Mrs and Miss HOSKINS. The Rev H. E. BURDER conducted the service at St Oswald's Church, and also at the graveside. The Cheshire Regiment Depot Band was in attendance. Buglers sounded the "Last Post" at the conclusion of the service at the graveside, where many friends of deceased assembled. Deceased, who was the fourth son of the late Chief Spt. EDWARDS, Wellington Salop, leaves a widow and one child. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr W.H. HALLMARK, Milton Street.



His widow Annie EDWARDS née DAVIES married Charles H BURGESS in 1920. In the 1939 register son Charles EDWARDS can be seen living with his stepfather, mother and two half-brothers at 15 Sydney Road, Chester.

A Charles EDWARDS died on 26 Apr 2009 aged 93 at Chester but we have no proof this is Charles EDWARDS the son of Charles EDWARDS the soldier.

We are trying to trace family members to return to the family the war medals (still in their original packaging) and some photos and newspaper cuttings relating to Charles EDWARDS, found some years ago at a refuse tip.

Jean Laidlaw
Macclesfield Group Leader
macclesfield@fhsc.org.uk

Your Local Lock-Up

*by Dr Elaine Saunders
Researcher, Your Local Lock-Up
Email: earlypolicing@gmail.com*

Dr Rosalind Crone of The Open University created the 19th Century Prisons database at www.prisonhistory.org in 2018. This project has recently been updated and extended to include local lock-ups and, we believe, will be of even greater interest to family and local historians.

Alongside the 19th Century Prisons database (www.prisonhistory.org/19th-century-prisons), which provides a searchable list of 847 prisons and their archives, Rosalind Crone has developed *Your Local Lock-Up*, a public engagement project which aims to locate any structures used for temporary imprisonment or restraint. These lock-ups might have confined the accused until they appeared before a local magistrate, when being moved between penal institutions, or when undergoing trial. Some lock-ups, like stocks, could also have been used to punish those 'behaving badly' in the local community.

Lock-ups have been almost entirely overlooked by penal historians, but they are essential for understanding criminal justice at the local level, and the use and experience of imprisonment in British history. *Your Local Lock-Up* at www.prisonhistory.org/local-lock-up is building a national database of surviving or demolished lock-ups and other places of local confinement. This will allow us to explore various aspects of lock-ups' use, character and design, and enable us to complete the next stage in the recovery of the penal landscape of historic Britain.

To do this, we now need the help of local historians! There are around 650 lock-ups in the database at www.prisonhistory.org/local-lock-up, but currently only seventeen are for Cheshire. This is far from exhaustive, and we anticipate that there are countless others we know nothing about. We are therefore calling upon local and family historians to help us discover more lock-ups, and would be very grateful if your members could tell us about any in your area. The project is compiling data on any place or structure used for temporary confinement between the 16th and early 20th centuries, including purpose-built lock-ups, police stations, cells in town halls, courthouses, workhouses, stocks and even rooms in pubs used to detain prisoners.

Anyone can easily contribute information on a new lock-up directly into the database through an online form at www.prisonhistory.org/locallock-up/submit-lock-up. Or perhaps someone has more details and photographs of a lock-up already listed in the database. If so, we would be very grateful for any additions or corrections via the *Anything to Add* button on each lock-up entry. We are also inviting anyone interested in lock-ups and penal history more generally to join our project team to help with research and the development of the database at www.prisonhistory.org/local-lock-up/become-a-contributor

Your Local Lock-Up is interested in collecting many different types of evidence on lock-ups, and especially welcomes historic and present-day descriptions of structures or their uses, and pictures. It need not be written evidence, either. We are equally keen to hear anecdotes about incidents involving the lock-up, the prisoners held there and the location of any that are now lost.

We are also collecting stories of lock-ups or prisons for our new features page, some of which can already be seen at www.prisonhistory.org/category/stories. Could any of your members contribute a story on the history of a particular institution, prison or lock-up in the local area; the restoration or conversion of a lock-up; local events held there; or an account of how data from the project is being used?

To increase *Your Local Lock-Up's* usefulness to history societies and communities, every lock-up entry in the database includes a *print* button, which generates a ready-made pamphlet containing information and an image that can be displayed or distributed. Please do let us know if this facility is of use to you, and whether there are any additional features that you would find valuable on the site. We need your feedback to develop this resource further!

Finally, why not connect with *Prison History UK* on social media? You can follow us on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/prisonhistoryuk>), like our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/Prison-History-UK-2390455521218014), and share material with us on Instagram (www.instagram.com/prisonhistoryuk). You can also subscribe directly to our mailing list at www.prisonhistory.org to receive the latest project news and updates.

If you have any queries, or would like further information about *Your Local Lock-Up*, please email Dr Rosalind Crone at Rosalind.Crone@open.ac.uk or me, Dr Elaine Saunders, at earlypolicing@gmail.com.

We look forward to receiving your comments and contributions to this exciting new project.

Mayflower 400 Commemorations: The Families They Left Behind

Maureen Selley

Secretary of Devon FHS

Email: secretary@devonfhs.org.uk

www.mayflower400uk.org

Devon FHS is hosting a Mayflower International Genealogical Conference in Plymouth on 29th August 2020. Of course, the only Plymouth/Mayflower connection is that Plymouth in Devon was the last port of call before the *Mayflower* finally left England.

Are you descended from one of the *Mayflower* passengers' families left behind in 17th century England? Can you contribute to our project, *The families they left behind*? If I get enough interest and responses, I plan to create a booklet containing that research, attributed to the contributors. It will be available at the conference and for distribution afterwards. So much has been done on the Mayflower descendants in the United States, it would be great if we could say *They came from here - and here's my family connection!*

In September 1620, the *Mayflower* finally left England from Plymouth, Devon, with most of those on board intending to settle in the New World. There were 102 passengers on the *Mayflower*, including 37 members of the Separatist Leiden congregation, who would go on to be known as the Pilgrims, together with the non-separatist passengers. There were 74 men and 28 women - eighteen were listed as servants, thirteen of whom were attached to Separatist families. Thirty-one children were on the *Mayflower*, with one child being born during the voyage (aptly named Oceanus). The crew was led by Captain Christopher JONES, who was born in Harwich. The total number of crew members is unknown.

Check their names and places of origin here:

www.mayflower400uk.org/education/mayflower-passengers-list-an-interactive-guide

They came from:

Tingrith and Henlow in Bedfordshire

Welford near Newbury in Berkshire

Bristol

Fenstanton and Wisbech in Cambridgeshire

Harwich and Great Burstead in Essex
Rotherwick, Upper Clatford, Hursley and Winchester in Hampshire
Watford and Therfield in Hertfordshire
Sandwich and Canterbury in Kent
Eccleston and Chorley in Lancashire
Swannington in Leicestershire
East Halton in Lincolnshire
London
Redenhall, Norwich and Great Yarmouth in Norfolk
Scrooby & Babworth, Sturton-le-Steeple and Worksop in Nottinghamshire
Shipton and Stanton in Shropshire
Ipswich, Stratford St Mary and Chattisham in Suffolk
Dorking in Surrey
Crowhurst in Sussex
Droitwich in Worcestershire
Austerfield and Doncaster in South Yorkshire

Who did they leave behind? Are any descendants of the passengers and crew of the *Mayflower* who stayed in England or Leiden still living there?

Other places involved in the commemorations are Gainsborough, Boston, Immingham, Southwark, Rotherhithe, Southampton, Dartmouth and Plymouth.

If you are related to someone who sailed on the *Mayflower* please email me, Maureen Selley, at secretary@devonfhs.org.uk, or write to me at Devon Family History Society, PO Box 9, Exeter, EX2 6YP.

Anyone's Ancestors?

Excerpts from the *Macclesfield Advertiser and East Cheshire Gazette*, 12th December 1910, page 6. For full details see the newspaper at Mobberley.

MARRIAGES

CHADWICK-MORLEY - Saturday December 6, at Woodley Primitive Methodist Church, Robert Duncan... to Constance...

KNOTT-OATES - December 9th, at the Congregational Church, Wimbleden... Alan Gordon... to Edith Grace...

McCARTHY-TONGE - December 4th, at Alderley Church... James Joseph McCarthy....Northern Rhodesian Police... to Dorothy Lilian Tonge...

Letters to the Editor

Dear Rosie,

You asked for information about battlefield wives. Eleven years ago I submitted this to the ANCESTOR. I can't remember why - perhaps the then editor had asked for curious entries found in the census, because I sent a second curiosity at the same time. It might be of interest to you. As I recall I found it on the same page as someone I was interested in.

The Battle of Vitoria, 1814: Allied Losses 4,500; Gains 1

The Peninsular War was a bloody affair, and in 1814 in the Battle of Vitoria alone 4,500 allies and 8,000 of the enemy were killed or injured. Not the place, one would have thought, for a heavily pregnant woman, but the 1851 census for Bethnal Green, London, records the place of birth of 37-year-old linen draper's assistant John GARDINER as "Spain, Vitoria battlefield."

Source: HO 107; Piece 1539; Folio 290; Page 32; GSU roll: 174769.

Ian Cameron Bramhall Group

Dear Rosie,

I read David Lammer's piece about Soldiers' wives in the last CHESHIRE ANCESTOR and a family history friend told me about the book she had. I

have quickly read some of it on the Internet - missing out all the religious and sentimental waffle. There's definitely more in the book than on the Internet so I now have to plough through it, but it is very small print.

If you Google *Mary WELLINGTON - The soldier's daughter, wife and widow* by Rev. Richard COBBOLD ,M.A. you should find it; he wrote other books as well. Mary married Thomas HEWITT - and if you read the book you will see HEWITT, and my ancestor (below), were both musicians and at the same places in the Peninsular war so they could have met!

My ancestor, William/Wilmer PEEKS (senior) first appears on muster rolls and pay lists of the 68th Reg in 1783 as a corporal at Hillsea Barracks, then in Portsmouth in 1784. I don't know where he was born.

Two ships with twenty-two women and thirty children sailed from Jersey and Guernsey to Gibraltar in 1785. William PEEKS (junior) was born in Gibraltar in 1786 to William/Wilmer PEEKS and his wife Margaret. Their other two children, born in Gibraltar, died young. We searched the PRs in the King's Chapel when we visited on holiday. So, Margaret was presumably just at the barracks and not on a battlefield.

Nov. 1793 – Wm. PEEKS Jr. enlisted and attested private to drummer boy aged seven.

1794 - last duty found of Wm. PEEKS Sr. and John PEEKS (presumably a relation).

1795 - Leeward Islands. The Books of the Regiment having been lost in the island of St. Lucia - no further information can be given for the periods above mentioned.

1796 - no Wm. Sr. or John PEEKS. No idea yet where Margaret is!

1797-1800 - Wm. PEEKS Jr. in Ireland, and marching round southern England.

1800-1806 - The West Indies: Martinique, Dom. Republic, Barbados, St. Lucia, Antigua, St. Vincent.

1806 - Leeds, Ripon.

William PEEKS Jr. and Jane STEEL were married at Ripon Cathedral in 1807, and were also buried there. Unfortunately, William Jr died before the 1841 census. I have not exactly worked out yet when they were together but certainly know he was at Brabourne Lees, near Hythe, before going to Flushing, Holland, and at Walcheren in 1809. This was then followed by a spell in hospital at Brabourne Lees, and then on furlough. Their son William was baptised Ripon 1 January 1810, died in 1814 and was buried in Ripon.

Before the 68th sailed to Lisbon in 1811 William had been promoted to bugle major and was in the top four on the pay list. At Pedragao he was promoted to drum major. He was at

Castelo Branco, 1812 Ciudad Rodrigo, Badojos, Salamanca, Madrid, 1813 Vittoria.

The 68th took no part in battle of Toulouse in 1814. William's health had obviously deteriorated by then and he was in a Belfast hospital (demoted and left the top four on the pay list) – and then on furlough. His wife must have been with him around this time as a daughter, Maria Christiana, was born in Enniskillen in 1816 and later christened in Ripon cathedral 1818, as were her younger brothers who were all born in Ripon. 1816/17 seemed to be spent on duty, marching and playing in the band - Castlebar, Dublin etc.

1818 He was discharged from Kilmainham Hospital and presumably got a pension.

So, I surmise that wife Jane was only with him at barracks or on furlough which isn't much help to David Lammer!

There are PEEKS/PEAKES in earlier Ripon PRs but I've not managed to link them up unless Wm. PEAKE, who stole periwigs from Squire LEWIS's shop in Ripon marketplace in 1737 and was sentenced to be transported (possibly to Virginia) turns out to be connected.

Sorry to bore you with my family history!!!

*Susan Bickley
Bramhall Group*

Dear Rosie,

On page 75 of the last issue you asked, *Have you come across any unusual names in your family tree?* Well, not in my family tree but during my family history research I have come across these three items which readers might find amusing.

On 28th November 1809 **Gabriel Money BOX** was baptised at St Nicholas, Great Yarmouth. Sadly, he did not survive long enough to enjoy his piggy bank and his burial is recorded on 18th February 1810.

Then, on 26th September 1813 at Aylsham, Norfolk, the son of John and Maria BALL was christened **Golden..!**

A few years later **Mahershallalashbaz TUCK** was married to Emily BEDDOE at East Dereham on 25 December 1866 and the vicar, Reverend Benjamin ARMSTRONG, recorded in his diary the story of his name:

December 25, Christmas Day - Married a young parishioner of the name of Mahershallalashbaz Tuck. He accounted for the possession of so extraordinary a name thus: his father wished to call him by the shortest name in the Bible, and for that purpose selected Uz. But, the clergyman making some demur, the father said in pique, "Well, if he cannot have the shortest he shall have the longest."

Finally, I found a highly unusual comment written by the vicar in the

Mottram-in-Longdendale parish register about the marriage by licence of Daniel BROADBENT and Martha CHEETHAM on 9th March 1780:

N.B. A peculiar marriage Daniel Broadbent was aged twenty-three - Martha Cheetham aged eighty-three.

*David Guyton
Chester Group Leader*

Dear Rosie

Further to the article about the Miniature Flag of the Cheshire Regiment I can add a little more information about it. Prior to the battle the platoon officer and a corporal crossed the Mons Canal to assess the enemy's situation; on their return they reported to the commanding officer.

At this point the retreat was ordered and a section of the battalion was cut off and eventually captured. They spent the rest of their time as prisoners of war.

How do I know all this? It's because the corporal who crossed the canal was James TUNNICLIFFE, my mother's elder brother.

I was very proud to have known my uncle Jim. When he died, on 23 April 1985, he was probably the last survivor of the men who fought in that battle.

*David Johnson
Member no. 386*

Reader Challenge: Large Families

This challenge was started in the September 2019 issue of the ANCESTOR, with Thomas Wardle laying down the gauntlet by writing about Robert PARKER and Lily BEWES, a widower and widow, both with children, who married in 1918 to create a blended family with a total of 16 children.

***A family of 19 children (17 surviving to adulthood)
Sent in by Liz Culley, member no. 8966:***

My 4x great-grandparents, John WHITLOW (1779-1853) and Mary Ann RUTTER (1786-1860) were dairy farmers in Lower Whitley, near Northwich in Cheshire. They had nineteen children, seventeen surviving to adulthood, between 1804 and 1829. Most went into farming and/or the licensed trade, but number sixteen, Samuel WHITLOW (1823-1905) became a doctor, working initially in Manchester, then following the early deaths of his wife and child, back in Lower Whitley. On the 1881 census return, although he lived with his older brothers, he was listed as the head of the household.

The children were:

Forename	Dates
John	1804-1867
Ann(e)	1806-1852
Thomas	1807-1886
Mary	1808-1847
Joseph	1810-1865
Sarah	1811-1837
Hannah	1812-1835
Peter	1814-1851 twin of
Margaret	1814-1881
James	1816-1842
William	1817-1884
Stephen	1818-1893
Charles	1819-1884
Elizabeth	1820-1900
Richard	1821-1822

Samuel	1823-1905
George	1824-1885
Henry	1827-1827
Jane	1829-1904

The family Bible photo shows eighteen entries, Peter and Margaret being listed together. Margaret was my 3x great-grandmother who married Ralph BRERETON (1811-1879) and ran pubs in Stockton Heath and Runcorn.

John and Mary Ann are buried in Great Budworth churchyard with their two little boys and Hannah. Their headstone forms part of the pathway between the church and the Reading Room, as all the headstones in that part were at one time removed and not replaced where they had been.

Mary Ann died in a fire at the farm, fire being the second most common cause of death for women at the time - the first, of course, being childbirth. Her death was reported in the *Chester Chronicle* on 5 May 1860:

A FARMER'S WIDOW BURNED TO DEATH - Mrs Whitlow, the owner of an extensive dairy farm at Whitley, near Warrington, was attending to some cattle food which was being prepared in a large boiler, on Monday evening, when her clothes caught fire. Instead of immediately raising the alarm, Mrs Whitlow ran to a pump to pour water on her burning garments. Unfortunately the pump was dry, and when her screams at length brought help she was dreadfully burned. She died next morning. The deceased was about 70 years of age, and had had nineteen children, fourteen of them being sons.

***A family of 20 children (14 surviving to adulthood)
Sent in by Vivienne Cliff, member no. 9613:***

I read with interest the article on large families. My great-grandparents Robert PARR and Margaret PHILLIPS had twenty children and, remarkably for the time, fourteen survived to adulthood. They were:

Joseph, Eliza, Alice, Evan, Phillip, Hannah, Morgan, Alquin, William, James, Ellen, John, Edward, Charles

Of the six who died I have found four: Evan, William, Henry and Albert. Through the eldest son I am in contact with two second cousins but somewhere in and around Liverpool there must be lots more.

Families of over thirty children

Sent in by David Guyton, Chester Group leader:

On page 57 of the last issue you wrote, *Here's a new challenge - I think a family of sixteen children will take some beating.* Well, here are a couple of items that make sixteen children seem quite a modest number.

The parish register of St Etheldreda in Norwich records the baptism of the **thirtieth** child of Jacob SALTER on 9th January 1690, and there were even two further baptisms after that. In those days, the mother's name was not recorded so he may have had more than one wife but, even so, thirty is quite a large number to have produced under one roof.

Closer to home, there is a grave in the Overleigh Cemetery in Chester to Mary JONAS (1814-1899) who had **thirty-three** children including thirteen sets of twins. In view of that burden, it is more than a little surprising that she lived to the age of eighty-five. See <http://cheshirero.blogspot.com/2012/02/at-rest-in-overleigh-mary-jonas-beloved.html>

Ed.: I think David wins this challenge, although the families are not his own. Read on for a new challenge!

A family of 15 children - but many grandchildren!

Sent in by Marion Hall, member no. 9303:

In the September issue of Cheshire Ancestor we were asked if we had come across a larger family than sixteen children, but the case illustrated was actually two families, a widow with five children marrying a widower with nine children and then having two children together making the total sixteen. I can't quite match sixteen but on my family tree there are fifteen children all belonging to one married couple. Mary RICHARDS b. 1837 married Thomas FEARNALL in 1857 when she was twenty. They went on to have **fifteen** children ending with Mabel in October 1880 when Mary was forty-three. Sad to say, Mary died in September 1881, of exhaustion I should think!

The children of Mary and Thomas FEARNALL: Fanny 1857, Thomas 1858, Lucy 1861, Frederick 1862, Arthur 1864, Hugh 1866, Mary 1868, Edward 1871, Minnie 1871, Henry 1873, Florence 1874, Amy 1876, Robert 1878, Margaret Jane 1879 and Mabel 1880

Mary was the ninth child and fourth daughter of my great-great-grandfather Charles RICHARDS b. 1798 d. 1901 (so lived in three centuries) and his wife

Jane LLOYD, and they had eleven children. Charles was a farmer and lived with his family in Worthenbury, Flintshire on the Welsh border.

Of their eleven children, one daughter Jane died aged fourteen and one son John never married, but the other nine children married and between them produced **sixty-one** offspring, with his daughter Mary and her husband Thomas helping that total by having fifteen children. Mary and Thomas's first daughter Fanny married Francis LLOYD in 1878 and went on to produce fourteen children: seven sons and seven daughters.

The children of Charles and Jane:-

Charles b. 1823 mar. Emma FENEMORE - nine children

George b. 1825 mar. Ann WILSON - six children

Elizabeth b. 1826 mar. John OVERTON - two children

Ann b. 1829 mar. George BATTARBEE - nine children

Richard b. 1830 mar. Mary Jane TOMKIN - seven children (my great-grandfather)

Jane b. 1832 d. 1846

John b. 1834 d. 1922

Henry Lloyd b. 1836 mar. Deborah Wynne JONES - four children

Mary b. 1837 mar. Thomas FEARNALL - fifteen children

Martha b. 1839 mar. William FEARNALL (brother of Thomas) - seven children

Frederick b. 1842 mar. Jane LLOYD - one child

According to a report in the *Wellington Journal and Shrewsbury Times* dated 19th November 1891 celebrating Charles' 100th birthday, he had eleven children, sixty-six grandchildren (my calculation was sixty-one, but perhaps with so many it's easy to lose count), ninety-seven great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren. Perhaps the next challenge should be the number of grandchildren a couple had?

Ed.: That sounds like a good challenge!

So, whose ancestor had the most living descendants, or the largest number of generations of descendants, when they died? Marion starts us off with a whopping 172 descendants spanning four generations - can you beat that?

BRAINTEASER 2

A woman had great grandchildren, yet none of her grandchildren had any children. How come?

Solution on page 67.



Lower Peover Defamation Cases 1664-1666

*by Joan Irving
Mobberley Librarian*

Thomas Deane v William Powdrill 1664-1665 Thomas Deane v William Powdrill 1665-1666

A three-volume transcript of these cases was recently given to Mobberley Research Centre by Rev. John MITCHELL. The cases are from the Episcopal Consistory Court of Chester and were written in Latin. John has translated and transcribed these cases giving both the Latin and English versions. The volumes give a good indication of the depth of information available in such Church Court cases.

Thomas DEANE, gent of Lower Peover was accused of sexual congress with one of his maidservants, namely Elizabeth LEICESTER, by William POWDRILL, farmer and Churchwarden of the Chapel of Lower Peover.

Thomas DEANE was an ancient man and of good repute and credit amongst his neighbours. The accusations were made by Anne LEICESTER, sister to Elizabeth, who repeated them to William POWDRILL and others.

As Churchwarden, William had taken oath to report all crimes and misdemeanours to the Church Courts; so all persons committing adultery, fornication or incontinency would be censured, punished and corrected according to Ecclesiastical Law. The Churchwarden then accused Thomas DEANE of sexual misconduct with his servant and Thomas DEANE took him to Court for defamation. Thomas DEANE lost his case and William POWDRILL was absolved on the grounds he was acting in his role of Churchwarden.

However, after his year as Churchwarden ended William repeated his accusations and was sued for a second time for defamation. This time he was found guilty. He was excommunicated until he retracted his defamatory words and had asked forgiveness from Thomas DEANE.

Witness statements from parishioners in these cases give their ages and occupations and therefore are valuable for family historians at a time when information is scarce. The witnesses were:

John BRETTIN, Peter STREET, Thomas PIMLOTT, Hugh MEE snr, Hugh MEE jnr, Peter KINSEY, Thomas BARBER, Geoffrey WRIGHT, John SHAW, John STRETCH, Alice MARCH jnr, William TOMKINSON, Ellen HIGSON, Elizabeth wife of Randle HIGSON, Hugh BRADSHAW and John ROYLE, all of Lower Peover.

John CARTER of Cranage; Hugh MEE and John MARSH, both of Peover; Thomas WOOD of Nether Peover; Peter WOOD of Peover Parish; Emma KINSEY of Knutsford; Anna LEICESTER of Chester Town in Knutsford; Richard SMITH and Ellen wife of Richard SMITH both of Plumley; Ralph HENSALL and William LOWE, both of Allostock.

Maria wife of Henry HALL, Isabella wife of Richard ANNYON and Anna HARDING, all of the City of Chester.

The Lower Peover Defamation Cases 1664-1666 are to be found in the Mobberley Library ref: CH/P 1227, 1228 and 1229.

Family History Course

Are you interested in a short family history course for beginners, or as a refresher for those who want to know about new developments?

**To take place weekly at 2.00pm on Mondays
starting on Monday 13th January 2020**

**at Mobberley Research Centre
Rajar Building, Town Lane, Mobberley**

Tutor: Jean Laidlaw (Macclesfield group leader).

Cost £5 per session which includes the use of the Research Centre Facilities: FREE access to Ancestry, FindMyPast and The Genealogist together with the extensive library of books, documents, microfiche and local newspapers.

Topics to be covered will include:

Civil Registration ❖ Census Returns ❖ Parish Registers ❖ Printed Sources ❖ Recording and Managing your Information ❖ Internet Research, and more

For more information, please email
Jean Laidlaw - macclesfield@fhsc.org.uk

The Adventures of Thomas Burgess

by Howard Lawless

Member no. 9603

Email: brey58mayer@gmail.com

Thomas BURGESS (1810 – 1882) was my wife's great-great-grandfather. I first heard family legends about him from her uncles, who maintained that Thomas had sailed with Charles DARWIN on HMS *Beagle*. There was also another legend that at least one ancestor had been born in a police station. As will be seen, both stories were based on fact and both related to Thomas.

Thomas was born on the 8th October 1810 and was baptised at Gee Cross Unitarian Chapel in Hyde on the 1st November 1810. His father was Isaac BURGESS (1790? – 1843), a shopkeeper living in Heaton Norris. Thomas had a sister, Harriet, and at least two brothers who reached adulthood. Thomas was to marry Hannah FLETCHER of Peak Forest in the county of Derbyshire on the 26th February 1838 in the parish church at Cheadle. One would have thought that his marriage would be one of the first major events in his life but by the date of his marriage Thomas had experienced many events and visited many places that his family and friends could only dream about.

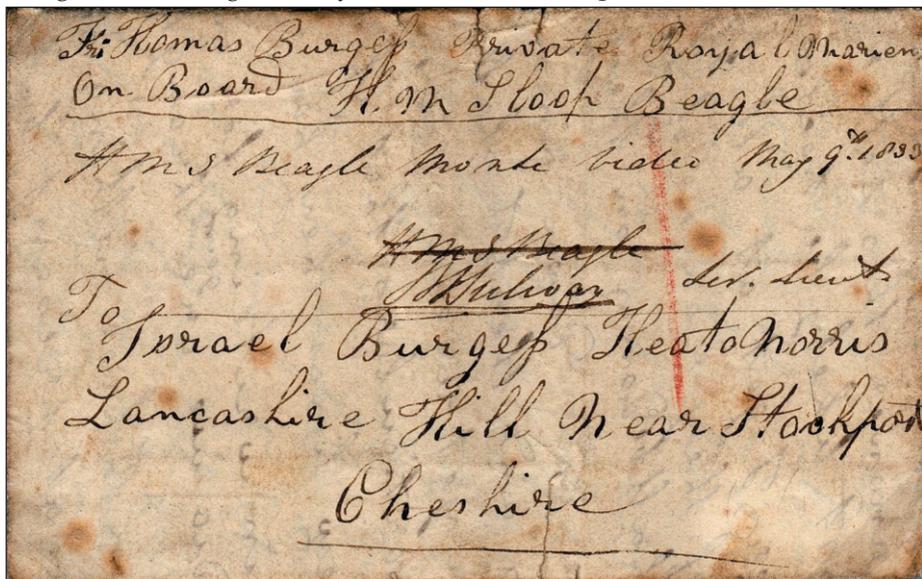
On the 23rd October 1830, at the age of nineteen, Thomas enrolled as a Royal Marine. What prompted him to join up is a mystery as there appears to have been no family connection to the military. Fortunately, from just six surviving letters sent back to his family in Heaton Norris over the following five years, it is possible to trace his movements, particularly as he was to become involved in an historic event of national and possibly international importance. From a close perusal of these letters it is likely that these are the only letters that he sent. Unfortunately, the whereabouts of the few letters his parents sent to him - referred to in his correspondence - is not known.

The first letter was sent from Portsmouth on the 11th January 1831. All letters were addressed to his father Israel BURGESS, at Lancashire Hill near Stockport, Cheshire. At that time, Thomas was aboard HMS *Tyne*, then lying at Spithead, but shortly to leave for South America. HMS *Tyne* was a 28-gun sixth-rate ship launched in 1826, but was converted to a store ship in 1848 and eventually sold for breaking in 1862. Thomas explained that he was sailing as a supernumerary and until his eventual destination was reached his family were to send no letters.

The second letter, three months later, was sent from Rio de Janeiro when he had joined HMS *Warspite*, the flagship of the South American station. Thomas tells of calling at Le Havre and Tenerife before crossing the equator where he took part in the usual "crossing the line" ceremonies. He relates how he was shaved on St Patrick's Day in the morning, then lathered with nasty coal tar and shaved with an iron-hoop.

The family had to wait a further nine months before they heard from Thomas again. By this time, he was serving on HM Schooner *Adelaide*, a tender to HMS *Warspite*. They had been detached to assist in the recovery of gold bullion lost on HMS *Thetis* some twelve months before - much of the cargo was recovered.

Thomas had thoughts of returning to England at that point but his next letter, sent six months later on 29th June 1832 must have disappointed his waiting family. He told them that he had left the schooner and was then on board HMS *Beagle*, a surveying vessel. He went on to say that the *Beagle* was on a round the world voyage and it would probably be another four or five years before he saw his home again. He concluded by telling his parents that he was very happy on the ship and looked forward (if he was spared to return home) to being able to tell a good story and with well-lined pockets!



To Thomas Burges Private Royal Marines
On Board H.M. Sloop Beagle
H.M.S. Beagle Monte Video May 9th 1833
~~H.M.S. Beagle~~
To Israel Burges Lieut. Genl.
Lancashire Hill near Stockport
Cheshire

Almost a year later on 9th May 1833 Thomas was still in South American waters. HMS *Beagle* had sailed further down the coast to Montevideo, from where Thomas sent his next letter home. He enthuses about the abundance of beef, which can be bought for as little as a penny per pound. The ship was shortly

to sail for Tierra del Fuego which he said was the most frightful coast he ever saw, the top being covered with snow and very high with heavy winds which made it very dangerous for ships. Thomas described the inhabitants as being very poor with no shelter from the elements. They lived mainly on fish and had little clothing other than sealskin held around the shoulders.

Thomas's last known letter home was postmarked 24th June 1834, sent from HMS *Beagle* in Valparaiso Harbour in Chile. He witnessed the earthquake in Chile which he says devastated the area and he was shocked to see the inhabitants living in the open air as their houses had all been destroyed. Some forty years later, in 1875, Thomas was to recall this event in letters exchanged with Charles DARWIN. Both of course were then in their old age.

The next we hear of Thomas is in 1835 when, having returned to England in advance of HMS *Beagle* which did not dock in England until 1836, he was discharged from the Royal Marines on the 19th August of that year. It would appear that he purchased his discharge, as there is an original letter in the archives from the Admiralty dated 15th February 1835 confirming his discharge on payment of £20. It obviously took the civil servants of that day just as long as their modern counterparts to formally complete his discharge. His net wages shown on discharge amounted to £25.18s.8d. This is presumably for the whole period of the voyage.

To conclude the part the *Beagle* played in his life we must now jump forward some forty years. Retired to the village of Rainow, near Macclesfield, aged 65, Thomas obviously related his experiences to his friends in the village. It is clear that some disbelieved him as, on 26th March 1875, the first of a series of three letters was written, addressed to Charles DARWIN, who was by then retired and living in Kent. The first two letters were dictated by Thomas and written by a disbelieving friend; the third was in Thomas's own hand.

Thomas begins by reminding DARWIN of the earthquake in Chile when Thomas, as the marine on duty that night, called Charles DARWIN and others on deck. DARWIN is alleged to have exclaimed *Oh my God, what a sight. I shall never forget.* He goes on to remind DARWIN of other events they both jointly took part in and concludes by requesting some form of keepsake, partly to satisfy the doubts of his friends.

During my research of this period of Thomas's life, Cambridge University, where the DARWIN archives are kept, were able to confirm from DARWIN's own records that he was called on deck by the duty marine during the earthquake.

The second letter dated 13th April 1875 acknowledges DARWIN's reply and goes on to advise DARWIN of the events which led Thomas to some thirty-four years service in the old Cheshire Police and later in the present Cheshire Constabulary which replaced it.

The third and final letter from Thomas to DARWIN is dated 21st April 1875, in which he thanks DARWIN for a book and photograph. He tells DARWIN that he will in due course pass the book onto his grandson *named after me*. The whereabouts of the originals of Charles DARWIN'S letters to Thomas are unknown as are the whereabouts of the photograph and book. They were no doubt passed down to one of Thomas's many descendants.

That certainly happened to another object that Thomas brought back from his voyage round the world. A shipmate of his, one James BUTE, a fellow marine, made a number of engravings on sharks' teeth. Such engravings, known as scrimshaw, are very collectable - particularly so when there is any connection with Darwin. Only five other examples of BUTE's scrimshaw are known, one of which sold in September 2009 for £40,800, an auction record for scrimshaw.

In 2009 a relative was clearing out the wardrobe of an elderly relative, a great-granddaughter of Thomas BURGESS, when a silver mounted piece of scrimshaw was discovered. The tooth, edged with silver, depicts on one side a group of Fuegian natives in a canoe in the Beagle Channel, and on the other a settlement on Queen's Island, Tahiti. In August 2010 it came up at auction again and a price of between £30,000 and £50,000 was placed upon it. It is not known what it eventually sold for.

Thomas's career as a police officer, stationed in a number of East Cheshire villages, will be the subject of a later article.

Anyone's Ancestors?

Excerpts from the *Macclesfield Advertiser and East Cheshire Gazette*, 12th December 1919, page 4. For full details see the newspaper at Mobberley.

MACCLESFIELD COUNTY POLICE COURT

Alfred MARRIOTT, Prestbury C of E School, granted theatrical licence...

Henry Ernest HENSTOCK, licensee of Cheshire Hunt, Rainow, granted extension of hours on 17th December for Christmas Fat Stock Sale...

Olive MOUNTFORD, Tytherington...not in control of horse... fined 2s 6d.

Abram WHITEHEAD... Newton Heath... driving at speed... fined £5.

Benjamin GEE, Stockport...William James LOWNDES, Openshaw... John GALLIMORE, Ardwick...failing to illuminate identification plate... fined 10s.

Arthur BOLSHAW... Sutton... riding bicycle without red light... fined 2s 6d.

Into the Royal Air Force - Part 2

by Chester Guttridge
Member no. 9193

In part one, we learned how Chester was conscripted into the RAF in 1943 and was sent to Skegness for training. His first posting was to RAF Withybush.

October 1943: Withybush

On Sunday evening I caught an evening train from Paddington to Haverfordwest. I grabbed a corner seat so I had a window frame to rest my arm against and spent the next ten or twelve hours sitting upright, blinds down for most of the way, lights too dim to read and no refreshments. I slept fitfully, rocked by the carriage movements and mesmerised by the *diddle-de-der* of the wheels over track joints. The airman next to me slept some of the night with his head resting on my shoulder. We trundled on, stopping occasionally, then stopped for some time. I peered out of the window and saw that we were at Carmarthen and it was 0500 hours. After about thirty minutes we set off backwards to Haverfordwest. There, a dozen or so airmen gathered outside the station. Someone said a truck would take us to RAF Withybush. Half an hour later one did. *Withybush? Pile in, mate.* We threw our kitbags into it and climbed aboard.

At Withybush three innocent airmen entered the guard house. *Who the hell are you? I'll get someone to show you your billet.* It was a long asbestos hut amidst trees, holding some twenty beds. Those near the central coke stove were in use. We found empty ones at one end near the draughty door. We had been issued with blankets, bicycles, capes and leggings. We were wet and cold, so lit the stove and mooned about till lunch time. After lunch, I was directed to my place of work, a flight office out on the airfield where I became a messenger boy. The sergeant made me welcome. *Sit there lad and have a mug of tea.* Then nothing happened. Mostly nothing happened during my three weeks at Withybush. From time to time, perhaps thrice in all, he sent me with a message to one of the other flight offices across the airfield. I set off on my bicycle in cape and leggings, battling the headwind and driving rain with straining legs and stinging eyes. Airfields are exposed places.

The station was equipped with twin-engined Lockheed Hudson bombers, each fitted with a Leigh Light in a turret under the fuselage to illuminate German

U-boats, it being a Coastal Command Squadron. The whole station from gormless messenger boy to station commander and a dozen or so Hudsons existed to try to sink German U-boats. I don't remember mass take-off, only one or two planes taking off on long patrols searching for U-boats. Such is war, such was the need to preserve our lifeline to North America.

Newcomers do the round of fatigues. I did cookhouse, peeling spuds, and fire duty. I remember sitting in a fire engine cab as it stood by when planes were taking off or landing. I had no protective equipment or training. Fortunately, I was not called upon to extinguish anything or rescue a wounded airman from a burning plane. There were no disasters that day and none while I was at Withybush - and no kit inspections.

Operational requirements permitting, I had a day off every eight days, two in total during my stay. One Sunday I caught the bus to St David's Head, took a look at the cathedral from the village triangle, had a quick cuppa and caught the same bus back, there being none later. I spent my other free day at Haverfordwest, looking round the town and eating at the YMCA, a little way up the hill.

The sergeant in the flight office called me in one day. *Your posting to Cosford has come through. I've read somewhere that airmen going on a long training course are to be given a week's leave if possible. I'll see what I can do.* These were pretty much his words. He got me my week's leave. Accordingly, I set off one morning on the long journey home, not sorry to be leaving the wet and windy world of Withybush. I had been there three weeks - the Coastal Command unit didn't stay long either.

November 1943: Cosford

Cosford was built in the late 1930s for training flight engineers, engine and airframe fitters and mechanics. The mechanics course lasted sixteen weeks, with a new intake every week. Our batch had the misfortune to be billeted on an off-campus site, necessitating a long march daily to and from the training workshops on the main site. Our cookhouse was almost half a mile from our huts, so we spent much time either marching in column or walking to the mess, mostly in darkness. One night, a lorry ran into the back of a column - not ours - killing a couple of airmen. After that the rear man carried a hurricane lamp at night. The only advantage of being off-campus was that we didn't have to book out or in at the guardroom when leaving camp, we just walked round outside the perimeter. But overall, airmen living on the main site had a much easier time and could enjoy the facilities: library, concert hall, dance hall, gym,

swimming baths, an ENSA show one evening most weeks and film shows other evenings. They were effectively only available to us if we stayed on the main campus after work, missing tea and making do with a snack in the NAAFI before the show.

I remember seeing several pregnant women standing outside the main gate hoping, I was told, to catch the airmen responsible.

I had been at Cosford for about a month when I started a small diary, making brief entries from Saturday 11 December 1943 until Saturday 26 February 1944. It's a poor record; entries are short and mostly about off-time activities with next to nothing about the mechanics course. But it reminds me of much. Reading it through, I am surprised by how much I travelled about.

In those ten weeks I saw:-

1. Sadler's Wells Opera performing *Madam Butterfly* in Dudley, noting my expenses: Fares 2/-, Opera 4/-, Food 6d (old pence) and Quack 3/-, Total 9/6. I've no idea what Quack was.
2. *The Lisbon Story*, a film I saw in London.
3. George Doonan in *Robinson Crusoe*, Wolverhampton.
4. George Formby in *Get Cracking* (film), on camp.
5. Visited an art exhibition in Wolverhampton, *20th Century French Art*.
6. A concert of Folk Music by a Polish Army Orchestra.
7. Liverpool Philharmonic, *Brahms Symphony No. 1 in C minor*, in Wolverhampton. I was queuing to buy a ticket when a man thrust a 6/- ticket into my hand.
8. An All-star Concert with Reginald Foort playing the theatre organ on camp.
9. An ENSA concert on camp.
10. Film, *Sonja Henie in Katina*, on camp. She was a figure skater.
11. Visited Wolverhampton Art Gallery.
12. *The Chocolate Soldier* at Wolverhampton (3/- seat).
13. The International Ballet on 26 February, Dudley.

Later, I saw John Hanson in the *Student Prince* and either the *Vagabond King* or the *Desert Song* at the theatre in Wolverhampton, sitting high in the 9d gods.

Over the period, I went to Birmingham once, Wolverhampton eight times, Shrewsbury, Dudley and Albrighton twice each and Chester once, the latter to see my aunts, uncle and cousin. The diary records my visits home on 48-hour leave and 36-hour weekends, the latter from Saturday lunch time to 23.59 on Sunday. It records money, mostly five shilling postal orders, and gifts sent by my mother and aunts in the run up to Christmas. Cousin WILLIAMSON sent

me a copy of *Printers' Pie*. I wrote and received numerous letters from mum, aunts and my girlfriend at home.

I was friendly with a colleague called Eric. I don't remember his surname. Together we frequently hitch-hiked to Wolverhampton to see shows and/or have a meal in one of the servicemen's restaurants, returning by train to Cosford Halt, a wooden station just outside the camp, round about midnight. One Sunday we went to Shrewsbury by train, looked round the town and had tea in the Women's Institute canteen. I then went to Evensong in St Chad's, while Eric stayed in the canteen. Twice on Sunday afternoons I walked to Albrighton where the WI canteen had a few bars of chocolate to sell to the first arrivals.

The diary records fatigues I did. I spent the evening of Christmas Eve with others preparing small sprouts in the cookhouse until after midnight. I pinched a slice of Christmas cake for breakfast next morning so that I could have a lie in. It made me vomit, but not ill enough to miss Christmas lunch, when we were served by an officer - a tradition. We had turkey with stuffing, pork with apple sauce, roast and boiled potatoes and sprouts, preceded by soup and followed by Christmas pudding, mince pies, apples and beer, all served by a young Pilot Officer.

On Boxing Day - Monday 27th december, instead of the usual date of 26th as that was a Sunday - I slept until 11 o'clock, missing breakfast, then, after lunch, went with Eric to Wolverhampton. *We had a grand time in the YMCA. There was a delicious laid out tea followed by films and dancing. As we left at 10.10, we were given a bar of chocolate & 5 cigs which I sold for 6d. Got to bed just after midnight.*

Other fatigues noted were inline picketing (what was that?), Cosford Halt Patrol, spud-bashing in the cookhouse (peeling and gouging out 'eyes' - potatoes had prominent eyes then), fire-watching on the aerodrome and guard duties. Wednesday evenings we cleaned our hut. On one very unpleasant night six of us spent two hours on, four off, guarding the off-campus station hospital. It rained, a downpour. Back in the billet there were six beds with blankets, clean or dirty, we couldn't tell for there was no bulb in the single lamp socket, although we had torches. We were cold, wet, hungry, in the dark, climbing into bed in damp clothes, sleep impossible. A junior officer called, promised to get us a light bulb but didn't. Later, we learnt that the nurses made excellent hot cocoa for the guards who ventured into the hospital.

We were at Cosford to learn the skills necessary to enable us to service aero engines. We were in the workshop from 8.00am to 5.00pm on weekdays, with an hour for lunch, and finished at 1.00pm on Saturdays - more or less a standard

working week. We did practical metal work using hand tools, acquiring skills that I was never to use subsequently in the RAF. We spent the last practical week shaping a lump of mild steel into a block of given dimensions with blunt hacksaw and blunt files. Accurate filing isn't easy, flat surfaces end up domed. It was a tedious week standing at a bench and filing for 45 hours less tea breaks and skiving time - taking one's turn at mooning in the smelly, smokey, unpleasant lavatory block for ten-minute breaks on the pretext of need.

Still in the workshop, we began instruction on engines, their parts, what they did and how they were connected together. A corporal talked at a group of, I think, ten of us with chalk and blackboard to hand. There were similar enclaves on either side and beyond them more. It was at these sessions that the SH1T chit (as it was labelled) was most valued. Cumulatively, a lot of time was lost in the loos to learning. Having been in the ATC, I was familiar with crankshafts, connecting rods, big ends, gudgeon pins, TDC (top dead centre), carburettors, spark plugs and magnetos, etc. Others appeared to know little and cared less. We were instructed on propellers, instruments, in-line and radial engines, lubrication, servicing schedules, etc. My diary records nothing about work, except that I finished in the workshops on 15th January, 1944 and on the following Monday started on the aerodrome.

I clearly remember one interesting day on the aerodrome which my diary doesn't mention. We were introduced to a radial engine on an old Wellington bomber. Only the starboard of its two engines worked. After prolonged instruction standing in a semicircle, we learnt to start it. First, having made sure that the ignition switches were set to off (that is closed to short circuit the magnetos), we took turns to rotate the engine backwards two revolutions by pulling on the propeller to make sure that all seven pistons were free in their cylinders. Then a cartridge was put into the holder, the switches turned on and the cartridge fired, giving the engine a mighty half-turn. It burst into life. Then, in turn, we ran it up to a predetermined speed, nowhere near its maximum operational revs, it being an old engine. I ran up lots of engines later. It was the best day of the whole course, marred only by seeing and hearing a Spitfire crash to earth in a tail spin. We watched it spinning down, saw smoke rising and then heard the explosion. A wasted life, a mother, a wife, grieving. Someone said, *Another poor bugger's copped it.*

On another day we learnt to start a Gipsy Moth engine by swinging the propeller and one's body clear in one movement. We took turns to start another aircraft engine by cranking up its flywheel until it had sufficient momentum to start it.

A fortnight before the course ended I felt unwell, but still went home on a 48-hour pass, feeling groggy. It turned out to be flu. I went to see a local doctor, who gave me a chit to take back to camp after a week. On the Monday after returning, I attended sick parade with full kit packed in kit bag etc. as required. I was granted three days light duties, which meant only that I was excused fatigues. Having lost a week's tuition, I had to join the following week's group and move to one of their huts on the main campus, finding myself in the lower tier of a bunk bed near the door. I lost my friends and colleagues, although I went to see Eric before he left Cosford. Had I reported sick in camp instead of going home, I would have spent a week in the camp hospital, perhaps even a fortnight, where the food was said to be good and the nurses good fun. Then I would have been given a week's leave, so I lost out all round.

At the end of the course I got a week's leave. For the third time, now a *Flight Mechanic Engines*, I arrived home with loaded kit bag to await instructions. A few days later they arrived, telling me to report to RAF Mepal in Cambridgeshire. It might have been worse - it could have been further away from home, or even overseas. (*To be continued.*)

Anyone's Ancestors?

Excerpts from the *Macclesfield Advertiser and East Cheshire Gazette*, 12th December 1919, page 6. For full details see the newspaper at Mobberley.

DEATHS

ADSHEAD - 5th Dec... Brownlow Green... Elizabeth... age 71.

BARTON - 9th Dec, Edwin... at his residence... Heaton Moor... age 85...
(founder of the Lancashire and Cheshire Band of Hope Union...)

BERRY - 10th Dec... Wilmslow, Elizabeth... age 57.

BILLINGS - 3rd Dec, at 4, Broadway, Withington, Alice Billings.

COOK - 4th Dec, suddenly, Daniel Cook, of ... Altrincham, age 58.

HARGRAVE - 6th Dec... Southport, Alice Annie, widow of the late Spencer HARGRAVE of... Stretford... age 65.

HODGSON - 8th Dec... Withington... Thomas Hodgson, age 78.

JONES - 8th Dec at 21 Oxford Rd, Altrincham, Thomas Neden Jones.

KINSEY - 4th Dec... Baguley, William Kinsey, age 67... Interred Eccles...

MELLAND - 9th Dec... Bowdon... Elizabeth Jane, widow of... age 81.

MELLOR - 6th Dec... Flintshire... John Mellor, late of... Rainow... age 76.

PRICE - 4th Dec, Fredk Arthur Price, of... Altrincham, age 64.

SUMNER - 7th Dec... Wilmslow... Annie... age 71.

WILLCOCK - 5th Dec... Cheadle Hulme... Thomas... age 71.

YOUNG - 9th Dec, suddenly... Didsbury... Andrew(?) age 61.

William Thorneley, Railway Engineer

By Aileen Brookfield
Member no. 8538

Several years ago, after my mother passed away, I did what we all must do and started to go through her belongings. Whilst dealing with that, I came across an old Great Central Railway Company magazine from 1905 with an article about a gentleman named *William THORNELEY, M.Inst., Mech E.*

I felt I had seen the face in the accompanying photograph somewhere before, and when I was looking through our old family photographs, I realised why – he was a distant relative on my late father’s side. This started me on the road to taking up genealogy. I found out that he was my paternal grandmother’s uncle, and he had held a senior position at a major loco works in Gorton, Manchester. William was chief draughtsman and works manager at what was termed *Gorton Tank* when the article was written.



My partner Roy is an enthusiastic railway buff with a wealth of knowledge; he looked for information on William on my behalf and found out that he was a major influence in the introduction of the *Belpaire Firebox* for locomotives, designed and built for the Great Central Railway. Subsequently, it was widely adopted by steam loco designers throughout the industry. The sad thing is that he wouldn’t have received any kudos for this, because the company who employed him would get that! This amazing gentleman had been what we would now term *head hunted* from another major loco works in the area.

William’s railway career began with an apprenticeship at Beyer Peacock, a major manufacturer of locomotives which exported all over the world. He moved from the counting house through the workshops to the drawing office. From there he went to Messrs Sharp, Stewart and Co, when their works were in Manchester, leaving them for service at the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway in Horwich. He then returned to Beyer Peacock, subsequently leaving once again to take up his final role as chief draughtsman and works manager at the Gorton works.

To be a little technical here, I need to explain about the Belpaire Firebox. It is a type of firebox used on steam locomotives, invented by Alfred BELPAIRE of Belgium in 1864. Basically, fireboxes traditionally had a round top, mimicking the round top of the boiler, as this resisted boiler pressure more easily. With the Belpaire design, the outer upper boiler walls are parallel with the flat upper firebox enabling a squarer shape and thus a greater surface area for evaporation. This allowed engineers to dispense with a steam dome to collect steam.

However, very sadly, William hadn't had a very auspicious start in life, as I found out some time after my original research began. I had joined *Ancestry*, and through them a lady contacted me to enquire about one of her distant relatives. I responded, and it transpired that we were distant cousins, and she still resided on the outskirts of Manchester. This lady found out that William's mother had been murdered by his father, which resulted in the children becoming orphans. It seemed from the medical records I obtained that the father had suffered a brain haemorrhage, and was therefore deemed at the time to be insane or not responsible for his actions; he was carried into the courtroom for his trial. He was then sent to Broadmoor where he passed away several months later. William was aged twenty at the time, so not a child. The eldest child, Elizabeth - my direct relative - then looked after the rest of the children, employing a servant; they resided next door to William.

I think that what happened to William's family must have been horrendous, but he was able to rise above that and not only managed to study hard and obtain a good job, but progressed and ultimately forged a distinguished career. However, he retired through ill health in 1906, and died in 1910. The house he owned, Abbey Hey House, Abbey Hey Lane in Gorton, was bombed during the Second World War, so although I made a pilgrimage to Gorton to see the partially derelict works, I was unable to see where William had lived.

It makes me very proud to know that I had such a distinguished ancestor, although the first I knew of him was when I found that old railway company magazine!

Ed.: A brief history of Gorton Locomotive Works can be found on Wikipedia at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gorton_Locomotive_Works, while information about the Belpaire firebox is at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belpaire_firebox

BRAINTEASER 3

Anna's father has four daughters. The names of the first three daughters are April, May and June. What's the name of the fourth daughter?

Solution on page 67.



Tip: Sibling Research

*by Ian Cameron
Bramhall Group Web Administrator*

The mass of genealogical material that is now literally at one's fingertips in one's home has prompted me to further extend my research into the siblings of my ancestors. When I go back to notes I made or was given by collaborators decades ago, which I had long forgotten about, I find they now have a significance they didn't have at the time. I've been in the hobby nearly forty years and had tightly filled two filing cabinet drawers with notes and correspondence about my own and my wife's ancestry before computers and the Internet made the hobby all but paperless. If you have accumulated paper archive like that, don't let it lie idle – it's a valuable resource.

We all place a different emphasis on our family research, and I'm a great advocate of sibling research. If your ancestor was one of five, the chances are that the interesting one in the family was among the four you are not descended from. For example, Grandma CAMERON's dad worked in a cotton mill and so did his brother. A son of that brother, Grandma's first cousin, finished up looking after the shop, so to speak, while Lord BEAVERBROOK was serving in Churchill's war cabinet and his son Max AITKEN was away at war. In due course he was knighted for his services to the newspaper industry, alongside Barnes WALLIS of the Bouncing Bomb and Manchester United's manager Matt BUSBY. The first cousin of another very ordinary ancestor of mine resigned from the Cabinet in 1914 over the declaration of war, and towards the end of his life was made a Viscount. Growing up in the 1950s and '60s I heard nothing at all about the knight and only garbled and confusing references to the Lord, but sibling research unearthed my unlikely connection with these two worthies.

It can also be a nifty way around a brick wall. It is sometimes possible to identify an ancestor's siblings while being unable to establish his or her parents. If you then search for the parents of the siblings, you might find what you need. In the 1990s a gentleman in Florida sent me a copy of a will that had been sent to the USA in the 1860s from Yorkshire, in which an elderly childless man was leaving his estate to the children of his siblings, all deceased, whom he identified. When I compared the will with my research and a speculative tree I had put together, it proved to be the wrecking-ball that completely demolished our brick wall.

Net That Serf

The Computer Section

Compiled by Geoff Johnson

Email: nts@fhsc.org.uk Tel: 01829 760422

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From the Desktop



My thanks for the member input this time - I've only had to write one piece. That one piece of concerns the growing number of approaches I'm getting about problematic systems that, when enquired about, reflect overly outdated equipment. These things don't go on forever, unlike many of my favourite gardening and model engineering tools.

I have a piece about books and database learning which I think many could find useful. The DNA research area is becoming ever more comprehensive, and you have two members here who have made good progress. There have been others in previous issues.

The articles from my inbox present a reminder about Australasian newspapers that we have covered before, but like most other genealogical information continued to progress. Other articles further support the arguments about outdated equipment and software!

Grandad's Potato Fork

by Geoff Johnson

My gardening tools include a much-loved potato fork. It gets cared for and has been used every year since I started managing a vegetable garden 43 years ago. The last thing I would want to do is throw it away! I should also point

out that I am a bit of a squirrel when it comes to anything that might come in useful.

However, when it comes to computers, I have learned to be much more rash. My desktop computers tend to get replaced or extensively rebuilt every four years or so. But since I acquired my first laptop, I have dispensed with two, and am currently on my third. During the last year I have advised about five or six members or friends to stop messing about with a heavily outdated PC, and upgrade to something more current. Typically, this involves desktop or laptop computers that were obtained in the days of *Windows Vista*, or in some cases even *XP*!

There's only one sensible solution – it's called the council tip!



Ed: Do take care to erase all personal data first, just in case someone picks it up! Alternatively, you could donate your unwanted computer equipment - and more - to a charity in Warrington which will wipe your data and recycle or dispose of your old computer equipment safely. See www.weeecharity.co.uk.

The technology here is moving on so fast, and it's being added to by users who are now doing more on their computers, creating an ever-growing collection of pictures, and are utilising the Internet to an ever-greater extent. I keep stressing to people that there is just no point struggling along with a slow, tetchy machine. You will just become frustrated, and won't enjoy the benefits that can be obtained by upgrading. There comes a time when you just have to bite the bullet. Go and buy another one!

At this point the most important decision is to try and future-proof your purchase. It is no good going out and buying the cheaper £299 offer that appears to be the best thing since sliced bread. Such sales are invariably of machines that are surplus or end-of-line - they'll be well behind on current technology. I would anticipate that, if you buy one of those, you'll very quickly find that whilst on the outside it looks a lot smarter than your old machine, the 'innards' of it will be far less than you hoped for.

Efficient, up-to-date computers have to cope with:

- Windows 10 with more extensive screen graphics
- Faster Internet speeds
- a much more demanding Internet and associated browsers
- more sophisticated programs
- effective spam and virus management
- larger disk storage

In today's environment the machine ought to have a solid-state disk drive (SSD). Be wary if the disk drive supplied is only described as HDD - that's an old-style mechanical "spinnny disk." However, you may find some machines that, whilst they have an SSD as their main drive (to store the operating system and programs), an large HDD is also fitted, to be used as a separate storage drive for lots of data and backups.

A 128GB SSD is often supplied, and may well be adequate for the 'average' user. But if you want to store large quantities of photographic images or other data-consuming stuff, you ought to be looking for an SSD with at least 256GB, or a computer with a secondary HDD as mentioned above.

An absolute minimum for RAM memory on *Windows 10* is 4GB. 8GB is definitely preferable.

If you are buying a laptop be cautious about the smaller screen versions. In general, you end up with a minimised keyboard. It seems to me that only with a 15.5" screen size, do you tend to get a full width keyboard with numeric pad. Also, you need good eyesight to read that tiny screen!

With some up-market suppliers you may be offered a three year warranty. That can seem be a valuable attraction, because in the main most suppliers will give no more than a two year warranty. This might be seen as something to clinch the deal; I have a reply to sales people who try to press me on warranties: "*If it's likely to go wrong I don't want it, thanks!*"

I can't publicly name names, but there are many companies whose sales staff are rather forceful. Remember that their place in life is to take your money. Clueless sales people also tend to get up my nose!

All this is totally unlike grandad's potato fork that still bears the maker's mark of Vaughan's Tools. This firm, founded in 1850, still exists in Stourbridge. A knowledgeable man from the company suggested that they probably haven't made potato forks since the early 1900s! So, the fork is most likely over a hundred years old.

In his early years, my grandad had been a farm labourer and foreman, living in the countryside. By 1911 he had moved to London, but I know from my father's memoirs that the family were subjected to redundancies and they moved out to rural areas where grandad could resurrect his horse management skills. It's quite likely that he had an allotment garden, growing spuds and using a potato fork. But by the start of WWII the family was back in London. I don't know but have always assumed that my dad's potato fork came from his dad; it's certainly of that vintage. Regrettably I had to get one of the tines welded when I stupidly lent it to someone who used it for something unrelated to its description!



Of course, few people these days would even think about growing potatoes. But for those that do, a potato fork has broad tines, which means that when you lift a root of potatoes, the tines 'sieve' the potatoes out and minimise the spiked potatoes that can occur if you use an ordinary narrow-pronged fork. Modern automated farm machinery handles potatoes in a very similar way.

Grandad's potato fork is still going strong. It's a valuable tool and works just as efficiently today as it did originally. Totally unlike the personal computer!

Ed.: Some years ago, my mother gave me one of these forks - who would have thought I'd learn exactly what it was for by reading NTS?

Curiosity Costs Money

by Computer Club's Joe Dunn

I think I can confidently say that all the members of the Society exhibit more curiosity than the average person. After all, aren't we all keen to find out as much as we can about the history of our families, their occupations, their trials and tribulations?

Members of the Computer Club may well have even more curiosity. We also want to know about how best to use our sundry computer systems to search the Internet, and hold our findings in the most sensible way. We want to investigate the best genealogy systems for our needs, and discover whether DNA tests really help us fill in the gaps and knock down brick walls.

This curiosity and, with some of us, the urge to learn new things that might help us to satisfy the curiosity, does come at a price. Books on genealogy or computer software and systems don't come cheap! Despite being in IT for over forty years, I find that I still need to learn more about certain IT-related areas, and have been looking for ways to save money.

This article aims to suggest some ways that members can achieve savings - it concentrates on self-help (and self-tuition) rather than by taking a course because the costs for tuition are much higher than teaching yourself.

There are three major ways to keep costs down:

- Buy a good quality second-hand book, perhaps in digital form
- Find a video online (*YouTube*) and follow what you are shown
- Get free online hints and tips from experts in their fields

In this article, I concentrate mostly on savings to be made on books and - almost - totally ignore information sources that cost big money!

Let's start with buying a book. I'll use *Amazon* as my example - simply because they do have a vast choice available. Prices were correct when I wrote the article.

In printed book form (hardback or paperback)

As well as new books on *Amazon*, you can also find second-hand books - labelled *Used* - and the sellers, (not necessarily *Amazon*), will typically classify books in this class as follows:

Used - like new = clean with no markings, minimal wear, as good as new.

Used - very good = clean with minor defects.

Used - good = shows some signs of wear, might have markings inside.

I am ignoring other classifications because I would always want to buy books of fairly decent quality.

As an example, I bought a book on *Excel 2010* (recent enough for me) for £0.73 plus £2.80 postage. This had a minor mark on the top edge of the pages that did not detract in any way from what I needed. It ran to over 1,000 pages and included a CD in its original plastic packaging (this had the full book in *PDF* format that I can read on my iPad). It's an excellent book and cost £3.53 in total compared to around £35 for a new book.

Books on genealogy don't sell in the quantities that computer books do, so bargains are a bit harder to find, but *Researching Your Family History Online For Dummies* in very good condition sells for £3.90 (£1.10 plus £2.80 postage) compared to the new price of £11.99.

If you are into DNA, try *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy: How to Harness the Power of DNA to Advance Your Family Tree Research* (paperback) at £12.32 plus £2.80 postage instead of £17.69 new.

With any used book, check the advertised condition and make sure that the price, inclusive of postage, does give you a saving. There is also a *look inside* feature on *Amazon* that allows you, in many cases, to look at the structure of the book (the chapter list, the scope of the book) and this can give you a very good idea of what you are getting.

There are genuine savings to be made!

In eBook format (e.g. Kindle)

You can still make good savings on an *eBook* purchase but of course you need an *eBook* reader first. If you have one and are not looking for colour in your purchase but are comfortable with using a standard *eBook* reader, check out the book prices. As an example, the DNA book referred to above will cost £11.69 in *eBook* format compared to £17.69 for a new printed copy.

Note - if you have a tablet and would be more comfortable using a bigger screen than a standard *Kindle* provides, just download the *Kindle* app and view it on that. You can even read *Kindle* books on a PC or laptop using the *Kindle for PC* app from www.amazon.co.uk/kindle-dbs/fd/kcp or the *Kindle Cloud reader* (a website you log into with your *Amazon* account details) at <https://read.amazon.co.uk>

Of course, there are other makes of *eBook* readers and hopefully you will still find bargains that will run on your device!

Online Videos (e.g. *YouTube*)

www.youtube.com

These videos (and the app) are free and will run on a tablet, a laptop or a PC. Simply use the search icon (magnifying glass) and enter e.g. *genealogy*, then press *Enter*. If you want to search for computer-related videos, I wouldn't recommend entering *computer* in the search field - you'll get a huge list which will include hardware and software. Instead, you should search for a more targeted area - e.g. search for *Excel* or *Word*.

A list of videos will appear and you must make your own judgement on the quality and content included. There is a very wide variety of videos and they vary in length - avoid the rubbish (of which there is plenty), but be assured that some do address useful areas of research and learning.

Don't forget that you can pause the video and repeat the whole or part of it at will - useful if you miss anything and want to go back and see it again. The best element of using *YouTube* is that it's free.

Get free online hints and tips from experts in their fields.

With computer-related subjects like *Excel*, *Word*, *Access* and more difficult subjects like *MySQL/PHP* (as used on the Society's website), just use *Google* or your favourite search engine. There is a treasure trove of free hints and code samples that you can access online.

Take a free online course with *Futurelearn*

www.futurelearn.com

Don't be misled by the advertising urging you to register and pay for a year's unlimited access to these courses; many of the short courses on this website are completely free, but you can only access the course materials for a few weeks.

There are also costly courses and seminars galore, but rather than fill up this quarter's issue with useful URLs, in the future I can provide a list of useful sites and/or I will send you regular emails with useful information and links.

As regards sites with free genealogy facilities and information, I think we probably know a lot of them already between us and perhaps we could put our heads together and create a definitive list.

Best of luck in your search for knowledge and your quest to save money!

DNA Research

We have two updates by previous DNA reporters. Interestingly, both are having success using similar new DNA analysis features. Worth reading; and thank you ladies!

Judith Hankey wrote:

I wonder how other Cheshire researchers have got on with *Ancestry's* innovations in *ThruLines* (a DNA tool) and other new tree features?

I took part in the beta testing of *ThruLines* in the late spring, and my initial response was scathing. But in my personal experience the feature has improved considerably over time. I believe it has now been rolled out to all *Ancestry* subscribers and can be seen on your DNA page instead of the original *DNA Circles* feature.

I only had two *DNA Circles*, both on my father's side, and they involved very definite 3rd and 4th cousins. These two were from the early days of my DNA test, and I never got any more circles despite working with several cousins to successfully find our common ancestors on other lines. Similarly, I had only about fifteen DNA common ancestor hints. And some were awful - the ancestor's name was similar, such as Ann ROBERTS, but they were on the wrong side of the Atlantic, or out by 100 years on date of birth.

At first *ThruLines* was similarly awful - here is an example. My great-great-grandmother Ann CATTRALL was born in 1840 in Runcorn, Cheshire and I have twenty sources attached to my *Ancestry* tree for her. I also have her father James, who was born in Helsby in 1808. James has twenty-six supporting sources and, in addition, the aunt that I found supported an existing family story. So, when I scrolled through my *ThruLines* suggestions I found they had given Ann a different father, who was born and lived over on the Stockport side of Cheshire, and whose only matching feature was that he had a daughter called Ann CATTRALL who was born in 1840 in Cheshire. This family featured in a member's tree and had about three supporting sources, one of which was just other *Ancestry* trees. So I promptly filled in their feedback form giving *ThruLines* the lowest possible score, declining to recommend it and was scathing in the free-form text box, using words like useless, annoying, insulting and phrases like *why would I consider your suggestion when I have a fully documented individual in place already?* I suggested that they should have a rating system for individuals according to percentage confidence, so that they would not suggest replacing a certain ancestor with proven links with a speculative one from other trees.

A forum that I follow had even more ridiculous examples. A totally out of date tree was being used for an individual where he had made a breakthrough on one line, and yet his six-months-out-of-date tree was being used for his hints.

Just a few weeks later the *MyTreeTags* feature appeared, again in beta, and I felt fully vindicated; see <https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/MyTreeTags>. I cannot take any credit for it since it must have been in the pipeline anyway, but this feature allows you to mark a person with comments like *verified*, *unverified*, *hypothesis*, *complete*, *brick wall* etc as the research status. There is also a DNA tag to flag common ancestors or a match, and newer ones of life experience, such as *immigrant* or *royalty*, plus relationship tags such as *adopted*. As a result, the *Ancestry* algorithm must now give a weight to the trees with more verified and fewer hypothetical people. It is a learning algorithm so it can get better still in the future.

ThruLines is now pretty good, and where I know I have ancestors who are common with many of my matches, they now show up. Better still, the lines down to my cousins are credible. For example, my 5x great-grandparents are Thomas SYMMS (1743-1815) and Anne GREENWAY (1747-1817) who both came from farming families in Utkinton, Cheshire. They had a total of nine sons and one daughter, giving me many SYMMS cousins, and I descend from their fourth son who went into the Army. A DNA match gave me confidence that I had found the right family and shared matches allowed me to place another three cousins. Working with these matches over some months we all agreed this was our link. But this pair never appeared in the old *DNA Circles* at all. Now this pair are the ancestors of eighteen cousins on *Ancestry* and the links are credible when compared to my tree, those of my cousins and other intermediate tree links. No extra work was required on my part for this increase in clarity and numbers either. When I feel motivated, I put these links into my tree, but it will need some cold dark winter evenings to do many, since there is such a list to catch up on.

Even people who have only five individuals in their tree can show up with identified common ancestors on my common ancestors filter. If they are lucky enough to have relations with other trees in *Ancestry* then the link will appear. *Ancestry* uses private trees as well as public trees to generate common ancestor hints with *ThruLines*. My personal speculation is that they may even use trees which are not indexed so do not appear on any human search. As a result of the improvements in *ThruLines* I have over seventy cousins with known common ancestors and only two are dubious, using trees where the connection is unclear.

My only remaining concern is that it has taken some of the fun away! It is satisfying to put another cousin in place, but there is much less satisfaction in just copying it all down from *ThruLines*. There are many cousins that I will not be able to place, e.g. if they or their immediate ancestors were adopted, or have unknown fathers. Certain of my lines have brick walls and then I will need the right people to carry out a DNA test in order to make any breakthrough. Adding yet more cousins from USA descendants of a particular pair who emigrated to Utah, and took up the LDS faith, is nowhere near as satisfying.

I hope you get more people providing you with inputs for *Net that Serf*, since the background tools are what we all need to make more progress in this computer age.

Lyn McCulloch wrote:

Since I last wrote in the June 2019 NTS, I have had great success in my search for the birth father of a friend. I mentioned *Ancestry's ThruLines* previously. After a shaky start these seem to be working much better now. You do, of course, need to have your DNA test results (unzipped raw data) linked to a tree or else *ThruLines* will not work.

Potential ancestors are suggested by *Ancestry* on *ThruLines* but I cannot stress enough the importance of checking them out. Our friends at *Ancestry* love to be helpful, but they are not always right, as people have found out to their cost.

Unfortunately, my friend's birth family has very few researchers with trees, and none of the close members seem to have done a DNA test. We had only a name - and even that we weren't 100% sure of - and a possible birthplace in an area of Scotland. I was able to narrow the contenders down to about four, despite the name being a common one. *Scotland's People* proved useful for this. I researched all four families' trees and then, plumping for the one I felt most likely to be correct, I put a tree on *Ancestry*, linking my friend's DNA test to it. I kept it private. At this stage it was still a theoretical link and I didn't want anyone else to copy it.

Lyn is about to use the word 'eventually'. ThruLines is an ever-changing calculation process. I believe that it is churning away in the background all the time, picking up changes made by both users and the programmers at Ancestry. So, if you make a change or addition to your data it's important to keep checking back. - GJ

Eventually, the *ThruLines* appeared, and I searched them for any DNA matches. There was one tiny match of 7 centimorgans. This is a very distant link but it was enough to confirm that I was on the right track. I recently found a second

match of 6 centimorgans and I am in the process of trying to verify *Ancestry's* suggestion of a half-brother six generations back. The 7 centimorgan link is clear as it goes back to two full siblings six generations back. My two contacts are in New Zealand and Canada.

My friend's birth father died about fifty years ago in Canada, but his son is still alive. The family went from Scotland to Canada in the 1960s to farm in Saskatchewan. We are hoping that someone over there will take a DNA test just to confirm my findings. After dealing with such small amounts of DNA it would be brilliant to see a match of 2000 cMs!

Ancestry provides a colour-matching system on the same lines as The Dana Leeds system (www.danaleeds.com). You can also add brief notes which is very useful. Other facilities include comparing ethnicity results, and maps showing the origins of ancestors. You can sort your matches with other members using various filters such as new matches, matches with a specific surname, and matches with names that occur in their tree. *Ancestry* tells you which names occur in both your trees which saves you a lot of time. I think the most useful facility is the *Common Ancestor* notification - you are given the names of the couple that you both descend from. You can spend many happy hours exploring all these aspects but you are learning all the time.

I cross reference my DNA matches with *GEDmatch*, which is free. You can easily pick out those matches who tested on *Ancestry* because their test number begins with an A. You can even find out exactly which chromosome you have in common!

Is it any wonder that I get no housework done? If anyone wants any advice or help to find relatives using DNA please just ask.

Geoff Oultram

Geoff was known in the Computer Club, and by me, as "Geoff the Elder". He was a good friend, strong supporter, and was the group treasurer for a number of years. Geoff passed away in July. With last-minute notice we placed a brief obituary on page 76 of September's *CHESHIRE ANCESTOR*. A number of members attended the funeral and were very impressed with the excellent eulogy given by his daughter, Christine Newton. I made contact with her, obtained her notes and converted them into a PDF document which is now on the Society website. I recommend it for an excellent and interesting read. See www.fhsc.org.uk/computer-group-documents/computer-group-public-documents/2050-eulogy-for-geoff-oultram

From the Inbox

Australian and New Zealand Newspapers from Jenni Gay, Adelaide

For those members whose ancestors emigrated to Australia or New Zealand, you may not be aware that while the *British Newspaper Archive* is a subscription service, the digitised newspapers from both the Australian and New Zealand National Libraries are FREE. The Australian site, called *TROVE*, can be found at <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper>. It is a fantastic resource for family and historical information in the late 1700s, 1800s and into the early 1900s - not a lot of mid and late 1900s is online yet.

It is particularly informative if your family settled in a country area. In the late 1890s, one of my great-grandmothers settled in a small country town after being widowed with four children, and set up a fruit and confectionery shop. On *Trove*, I found eleven years of advertisements and advertorials giving me a great insight into how she changed the shop to increase custom over the years. I hadn't heard anything about this when I was young so it was a great find and fleshed out this ancestor for me.

The city papers are great sources of shipping lists, court and accident reports, and birth, death, funeral and marriage notices. They are also handy for finding out what was happening in the area where your ancestors lived during a particular time period. As the library doesn't have the funds to digitise every issue of every surviving newspaper immediately, it adds titles and increases the range of issues intermittently, when it receives more funding from the government and historical societies. So it's always worth going back and redoing your search at regular intervals.

The Australian newspapers often picked up stories - presumably by telegraph - from other papers in Australia and even around the world, so don't just look at papers in the locality of your ancestors.

The New Zealand digitised newspaper collection, called *Papers Past*, is also free and just as useful. It can be found at <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers>. Here, I found a missing Irish great-great-uncle who was a seaman and settled in NZ with his family; this was unknown to me and the family in Ireland. I was able to follow him and his descendants from the 1890s until the early 1950s.

Terry Wall from West Kirby has concerns about *Windows 10* and a few other things. He says:

As usual I have enjoyed reading *Net That Serf* but feel moved to respond to some of the points raised. I was very happy with *Windows 7*, so refused to accept any

of the free upgrades to *Windows 10*. But then my computer did the upgrade anyway. From the start, I have found *Windows 10* awkward and annoying.

The main problem has been managing my files: it keeps doing things I don't want it to do. It created four separate folders, each labelled *Documents*, which I have not yet succeeded in tidying up; many files appear in more than one of the folders, so there is confusion about which version is which. It also has some pet folders that are of no use I can imagine, and whenever I delete them they reappear next time: *Camera Roll* and *Saved Pictures* keep getting into the way when I am looking for the folders that are really there.

The most annoying thing about upgrades is that it always insists on doing them when I want to start work in the morning, whatever I give as my preferences. Perhaps you can advise me if there are settings to avoid this.

New data releases: my experience too is that they only rarely include anything I don't already have - most items are those I downloaded from the IGI about 20 years ago. I have no interest in Essex; most of my families are in Derbyshire, within a dozen miles of Chesterfield. There are three HEARNSHAW families with marriages recorded which suggest a birth date in the early 1770s. However, there are no corresponding birth records in *Findmypast* anywhere near here. I recently tried getting all early HEARNSHAW marriages from *Findmypast* and checking against my list. The 'new' items turned out to be mis-transcriptions - in one case it was the century that was wrong - suggesting an error rate of about 1%.

I, too, have tried searching by place - my own address is in Kirby Park, West Kirby, Wirral. For the 1939 register the street name is no use; I eventually found records under *Hoylake cum West Kirby*, and paging through these entries found addresses variously transcribed as *Kinley Park*, *Risley Park* and even *Kinap Sap!* Many of the names - which I knew from electoral registers - were also mis-transcribed.

Oh well, now I've got my grumps off my chest. Thanks again, and keep up the good work.

I did respond to Terry, but due to lack of space in this edition, I'll ask for reader comments on the points raised - GJ.

Barbara Icke of Chelford said in a similar vein:

I find that NTS is very interesting - in fact it is the first thing I go to when I get the new magazine. So, keep it up.

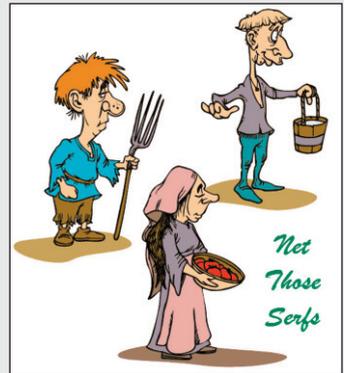
Regarding *Windows 10*, I have been advised by my computer man to upgrade to this. I am now on *Windows 8.1*. I have agreed to the update, but what I am not sure about is he said I wouldn't need my *Adobe* virus checker and could cancel it. In your opinion do you think that is correct?

GJ: This was my response to Barbara: One point of good advice from your computer man is to upgrade to *Windows 10*. *Windows 8/8.1* were considered to be the second worst operating systems that *Microsoft* had created since *Vista*! *Windows 10* is good, solid, and generally more reliable than its predecessors, other than *Windows 7* perhaps.

I have never heard about *Adobe's* virus checker; it is not in the higher rating list as I can see it. I would not agree about not needing a virus checker. In my opinion the protections offered by *Windows*, even in *Windows 10*, are fairly basic. My advice is to spend a bit of money and buy an annual copy of *Norton Security* for around £20 - search for *NORTON Security 2019 for 3 devices*.

A secondary point for you to consider is that if your computer system came with *Windows 8.1*, it's probably, like me, getting on a bit. In my opinion, there comes a time, when the average PC reaches about five or six years old, that technology levels and the amount of data activity in the operating system would require you to upgrade the whole thing. See my piece on this very subject above, headed *Grandads Potato Fork*.

The response to my whinge last issue has proved successful, but I will need more items for the next one - so please keep sending them in! - GJ



1. Seven. Three siblings (two girls and a boy), their parents, and the father's parents. It is easier to understand the solution when drawn as a family tree.
 2. The question talks about *great grandchildren*, not *grandchildren*. The hyphen makes all the difference. The grandchildren were great, brilliant and awesome, but childless.
 3. Anna, of course! Yes, it's an old chestnut...
 Puzzles from *The Guardian*, by Alex Bellos.



BRAINTASER SOLUTIONS

Group News

For changes and up-to-date news check the website
www.fhsc.org.uk

Alsager Group

by Hazel Rugman

Future meetings:

- 9th Dec *Members' Christmas Social*
Members' Christmas Lunch at the Manor House, Alsager.
- 20th Jan *Spread the net wider and dig deeper - Ann Simcock*
A fresh look at basic records such as BMDs and Censuses to build a broader picture of our ancestors' lives
- 17th Feb *Family History Cameos*
Members' short talks about family or local history and heirlooms.
- 16th Mar *Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy - Olivia Smedley*
Olivia, who will be in costume of the period, will talk about Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy, Congleton's forgotten suffragist.

Alsager Group meets at 7.30pm on the 3rd Monday of the month (except August and December) at Wesley Place Methodist Church Hall, Lawton Road, Alsager, ST7 2AF. Admission is £1 for members and £2 for non-members. Refreshments are served after the talk, when there is an opportunity to discuss family history with other members. There is a large car park (free) opposite the church. Visitors are most welcome.

Bebington Group

by Bob Wright

Future Meetings:

- 9th Dec *Members' Christmas Social*
- 27th Jan *Price's Village - Glyn Parry*
- 24th Feb *Hadlow Road Station - Chris Hampshire*
- 23rd Mar *Life in Higher Bebington in the 19th century - David Casement.*

Bebington Group meets at 7.30pm on the 4th Monday of the month (excluding Bank Holidays) at Bebington Civic Centre, Civic Way, CH63 7PN. Admission is £1.50 for members, £2 for visitors, including refreshments.

Bramhall Group

by Janet Phillips

Future meetings:

- 12th Dec ***Christmas Social Evening and Talk***
Our December meeting will follow the traditional Xmas format - a social evening for which we contribute the seasonal fare ourselves, combined with a short talk by one of our own. We shall be requesting contributions for the food table near the time.
- 9th Jan ***Local Autograph Book – Janet and David Phillips***
The Bramhall group was given an autograph book dating from 1915. The talk will reveal our findings.
- 13th Feb ***Outlaws in the High Peak – Steve Cliff***
The 'White' and 'Dark' Peaks of the Derbyshire/Staffordshire/Cheshire and Yorkshire borderlands reveal their many legends and the archaeology of our prehistoric ancestors, whose DNA we share today, including Neanderthals, Ice Age reindeer hunters, Celtic chieftains, Romans, Medieval outlaws and saintly hermits, who all utilised caves as homes, hunting lodges, contemplative cells and sepulchres for the dead.
- 12th Mar ***Wills and where to find them – David Guyton***
Where to look for wills, and what makes them so interesting.

Meetings are held at 7.30pm on the second Thursday of each month in the United Reformed Church Hall, Bramhall, SK7 2PE (corner of Robins Lane and Bramhall Lane South). Admission charge £2. All visitors are most welcome.

Chester Group

by David Guyton

Future meetings:

- December ***NO MEETING***
- 30th Jan ***Researching Your Welsh Ancestors – Joy Thomas***
- 27th Feb ***Writing My Family Story – George Hall***
- 26th Mar ***Transportation To Australia – Carolyn Barnwell***

Group meetings are held at 7.30pm on the last Thursday of the month in the Church Hall, All Saint's Church, 2 Vicarage Road, Hoole, Chester CH2 3HZ. There is a small charge for admission and parking is available. All members and visitors welcome. We have a family history help desk at 10.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 4.00pm on Tuesdays and Fridays at Grosvenor Museum, and 10.00am to noon on Tuesdays at Chester Library at Storyhouse.

Computer Group - The Society's Computer Club

by Geoff Johnson

Meetings take place at 7.30pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at Hartford Methodist Church Hall, Beach Road, Hartford, Northwich, CW8 3AD. There is no charge - even the tea and biscuits are free! Open to ALL members, we focus on a wide range of genealogy/computing topics. Discussions are informal and audience participation is encouraged. Access to all the main family history websites is available at our meetings. With all attendees suggesting search ideas, members often go home with some family history information they have been struggling to find.

We seldom pre-arrange meeting topics, preferring instead to discuss new websites, members' own current problems, or generally educating members on getting the best from their computers. The subject of each meeting is usually announced the week before, by email or on the Club's events web page.

Congleton Group

by David Smetham

At the AGM in September, the following officers were elected:

David Smetham was re-elected as Group Leader.

Sue Tyers - Treasurer.

Sue Parker - Projects Co-ordinator.

Phil Walton - Librarian.

Lesley Smetham is responsible for greet and meet for new members.

This is our 41st year.

Future meetings:

December **NO MEETING**

21st Jan ***Congleton Victorian Database - Ian Doughty***

Meet at the Congleton Museum at 7.30pm.

18th Feb ***Cheshire Tithe Maps***

17th Mar ***The Primitive Methodist Story as it was told in Victorian times - Margaret Veal of Englesea Brook.***

Includes a short session of the Victorian Sunday School with a few people helping by taking part as pupils (costume provided).

Meetings take place at 7.30pm on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at Congleton Library. Non-members are welcome. There is ample parking nearby and access to the Library is by the lower entrance.

Crewe Group

by Margaret Spate

Future meetings:

December **NO MEETING**

14th Jan ***The Spanish Habsburgs - Paul Blurton.***

How centuries of inbreeding and genetic mutation caused the death of the Spanish Royal Family.

11th Feb ***Crewe in the 1890's - David Cooke***

Developments and events of a Railway Town.

10th Mar ***Where there's a Will, there's a way - Margaret Roberts***

How Margaret has used wills and letters of administration to trace her family tree once parish records have been exhausted.

Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Jubilee House, St Paul's St, Crewe CW1 2QA. Suggested parking at the adjacent Victoria Centre Car Park, CW1 2PT where there is free parking after 6.00pm. Please check the Crewe pages on the FHSC website for further information on meetings.

Crewe Family History Unit

Please see pages 78 - 79 and elsewhere in this issue for details of the Society's research centres.

Macclesfield Group

by Jean Laidlaw

Future meetings:

December **NO MEETING**

28th Jan ***History from Local Sources event - Ian Doughty***

Exploring the historical possibilities from family memorabilia and local media.

25th Feb ***Wagons West - Ian Cameron***

Three brothers of a Cheshire ancestor converted to Mormonism in its early years and in about 1850 set off for the U.S. with their families. They travelled on sailing ships and on wagons across the Great Plains, with three entirely different outcomes.

24th Mar ***Studying the "Three Rs" - Claire Moores.***

An introduction to school and education records for family tree research.

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of the month at The Salvation Army Hall, Roe Street, Macclesfield, SK11 6UT. Doors open at

7.15pm and meetings start at 7.30pm. Entry is through the main door facing the Churchill Way car park, and we meet in the ground floor room. From January 2020 admission is £2 for members and £3 for non-members, including refreshments.

For the latest news, please see our pages on the FHSC website www.fhsc.org.uk. A monthly update and reminder about meetings is emailed to subscribers on our newsletter list. If you would like to be added to our newsletter list go to the Macclesfield page on the website and click on *Add Macclesfield to My Groups* - or send a request to macclesfield@fhsc.org.uk.

Middlesex Group

by Victoria Doran (FHSC Chairman)

We are trying to set up a joint North-West FHS Group in the London area with the Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society and the Cumbria Family History Society. If you live within range of central London, keep an eye on our website to find out about meetings.

Nantwich Group

by Sheila Mitchell

Future meetings:

December **NO MEETING**

14th Jan **UKMFH - Military Family History websites - Ian Hartas**

18th Feb **The Pubs of Nantwich - Bill Pearson**

17th Mar **Joseph Paxton (1803-1865) The busiest man in England as Gardener, Architect and Victorian Visionary! - David Cooke**

Family History Workshop is held on Mondays from 2.00pm at Nantwich Library for anyone with a query or need help in starting their family tree. We meet on the following dates - Jan 20th, Feb 23rd, March 23rd

Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Nantwich Methodist Church Centre, Hospital Street, Nantwich CW5 5RP. Doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. Admission is £2 for members and £3 for non-members including refreshments. Ample parking nearby.

If you have a query or need help with starting your family tree then please come to one of our workshops. We meet on Mondays from 2.00pm on the following dates: 20th January 23rd February 23rd March.

Everyone is most welcome at all of our meetings and workshops.

Northwich Group

by Dave Thomas

Future meetings:

- 9th Dec *Hotpot Supper and Quiz*
13th Jan *Open Discussion*
10th Feb *Florence Nightingale - Frances Raftery*
9th Mar *Time Traveller 2 - Paul Hurley*

Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of the month at Hartford Methodist Church Hall, Beach Road, Hartford, Northwich CW8 3AB. Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. Admission is £1, and non-members are most welcome. Car park available.

Runcorn Group

by Peter Rowley

Correction: the name of the Runcorn Treasurer is Christine Leith. Apologies to Christine for the error in the last issue.

Future meetings:

- 4th Dec *Christmas Social*
January *NO MEETING*
5th Feb *Research Evening*
4th Mar *History of the River Mersey - Bob Roach*

Meetings are at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of the month (except January) at Churchill Hall, Cooper Street, Runcorn, WA7 1DH. All will be made very welcome. Refreshments - tea, coffee and home-made cakes, parking available. We have speakers occasionally, but encourage group participation in helping others to knock down their brick walls. We have parish records available to view, please ask a committee member.

Sale Group

by Marion Hall

At the AGM on 14th August, the following officers were elected:

Tony Sant - Group Leader.

Sylvia Dillon - Treasurer, IT Equipment, Admission and Welcome.

David Johnson - Bookstall.

Marion Hall - Bookings and Publicity.

Joan Willshire - Committee Meeting Host and Announcements.

Pat Middleton - Website and Assistant IT Equipment.
Angela Jenkinson - Secretary, Admission and Welcome.

Future meetings:

- 11th Dec ***Everyone has a Story to Tell - Alan Hulme.***
How Alan encouraged his mother to write down her memories.
- 8th Jan ***The Munificent John Leigh - Leslie Turner.***
The 'Rags to Riches' story of how his father (also John Leigh) developed into a leading cotton waste merchant, and about the closure and exhumation of 20,000 bodies from one of Manchester's top cemeteries; a place considered by North Manchester's wealthy merchants THE place to be buried.
- 12th Feb ***Members' Short Talks - My Favourite or Most Interesting Ancestor***
- 11th Mar ***Heaton Park Trams - Andrew Smith***
- 8th Apr ***Who was Jones? Welsh Surnames - Alister Williams***

Meetings are held at 7.30pm, for talk at 8.00pm, on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at Trinity Methodist Church, Trinity Road, Sale M33 3ED. Visitors are always welcome. Admission is £2 for members and £2.50 for non-members.

Tameside Group

by Gay Oliver

Future meetings:

- 11th Dec ***Christmas Social and Crime in WWI - Kate Booth***
Criminal extracts from the First World War taken from the *Reporter*; nothing changes.
- 8th Jan ***Members' Evening***
Questions and answers, lookups and short talks.
- February ***NO MEETING***
- 11th Mar ***Medicine and Magic - Peter Watson***
Peter's talk will also include old family remedies.

Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Old Chapel Schoolrooms, Dukinfield - doors open at 7.00pm. Admission is £2 for members and £2.50 for non-members. There is disabled access. Visit the Tameside pages on www.fhsc.org.uk for more information and to sign up for our newsletters.

Why not come along to one of our helpdesk sessions in Tameside Local Studies and Archives Centre on the first and third Tuesdays each month between 2.00pm and 4.00pm, where our team of experts can help you to break down those brick walls or get started from scratch.

Wallasey Group

by Dave Beck

Future meetings:

December **NO MEETING**

21st Jan **Party/social evening**

18th Feb **Liverpool's Links with America - David Hearn**

There are various links between Liverpool and America, some that most people will know and others that may surprise. This is a light-hearted talk that invites contributions from the audience.

17th Mar **A View from the Past - Sheila Hamilton & Mike Bygate**

Local scenes from one hundred years ago viewed the way of our ancestors - through a magic lantern.

Meetings are held at 7.30 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month except December at Clarendon Methodist Church, Clarendon Road, Wallasey CH45 6UE. Access via car park in Taunton Road. Visitors are always welcome.

We hold a helpdesk from 10.00am to 1.00pm on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month, at the Wallasey Central Reference Library, Earlston Road, Wallasey CH45 5DX. At these helpdesks we are able to give individual help with family history research. There is access to the library via a ramp and internal lift for those who are less mobile or using a wheelchair. All members and non-members are welcome.

Anyone's Ancestors?

From the *Macclesfield Advertiser and East Cheshire Gazette*, 26th December 1919, page 7.

PRESENTATION OF WAR MEDALS AT CHESTER

Major M F CLARKE, officer commanding the Cheshire Regiment Depot, presented war decorations and medals at Chester Castle on Saturday to the following:

D.C.M. - Sapper H. ROBERTS, R.E., of Penllys, Bangor.

M.M. - R.S.M. LYON, Cheshire Regiment, of 52 Crane St, Chester; Sapper T.O. WILLIAMS, R.E., of Llanderfen, Menai Bridge. R.S.M. LYON also received the long service and good conduct medals and the Mons Star.

Mons Star - Private J. H. WOODWARD, Depot, Cheshire Regiment; Private F. PERRIN, Hyde; Lance-Corporal C. BURNS, Holyhead; Sergeant A. PETERSON, Liverpool; and C.Q.M.S. W. LLOYD, Liverpool.

Membership

Angela Moore



New Members

If you receive a printed journal, the label on the mailing envelope shows your membership number and subscription renewal date. The additional numbers are "sort numbers" used by our mailing agency. If you change your contact details, please update them on the website or advise Peter Mellor.

Peter Mellor



Renewals/Changes

If you do not wish your address to be stored on the Society's computer database, please inform Peter Mellor (see inside front cover).

The "M" Team

Presentation to Len Davenport

Len Davenport was the society's CD sales volunteer for twenty years, helping to make our resources available to family historians.

As a token of our thanks, the society recently presented Len with an engraved society paperweight to show our gratitude for his long and dedicated support.



New Members

We welcome the following new members to our society and wish them success with their research:

#10107	UN	Mr John	SCHNEIDER	Cheshire
#10107	UN	Mrs Susan	CRUM	Cheshire
#10109	NO	Mrs Gillian & Mr Brian	SMITH	West Sussex
#10110	UN	Mr Graham	HOWARD	Hertfordshire
#10111	AL	Mrs Ann	SIMCOCK	Staffordshire
#10112	UN	Mrs Josie	MOORE	Cheshire
#10113	UN	Mr Phillip	OWEN	Australia
#10114	CR	Mr Paul & Mr David	FRIESNER	Cheshire
#10115	CR	Mrs Diane	GOODE	Cheshire
#10117	BE	Mrs Sue	ROWORTH	Cheshire
#10118	UN	Mr John	CURTIN	Cheshire
#10119	CON	Mrs Elizabeth	GIBBONS	Dorset
#10120	CR	Mr James P.W.	WRIGHT	Gr. Manchester
#10121	UN	Mr John	LANGDILL	Cheshire
#10122	AL	Mrs Patricia	PEPPER	Cheshire
#10123	BRA	Dr Ron	BUTLER	Cheshire
#10124	UN	Mr Derek	HALFPENNY	Cheshire
#10125	UN	Mr John	WOOD	Cheshire
#10126	AL	Ms Patricia	DAKIN	Staffordshire
#10107	CR	Mrs Sandra	KINNEAR	Cheshire
#10128	TA	Mrs Jackie	TUCKER	Cheshire
#10129	BRA	Mr Keith	BROADBENT	Lancashire
#10130	UN	Mr Alfred	WILD	Oxfordshire
#10131	BRA	Mrs Gillian C	MONK	Cheshire
#10132	UN	Mr John	GERRARD	Cheshire

The Society's Family History Research Centres

Both locations offer free access to *FindMyPast*, *The Genealogist* and *Ancestry* websites, and hold a large collection of microfilms, microfiche, books and documents. Manned by experienced volunteers, visitors can obtain help and advice on family and local history research. Do you have your own microfiche but no reader? Bring them to us and view them using our fiche readers!

CREWE FAMILY HISTORY UNIT



**2nd Floor, Municipal Building,
Earle Street, Crewe, CW1 2BJ
Tel 01270 685699**

The Municipal Building is situated near the market and opposite Memorial Square and the old library. Crewe Register Office is in the same building.

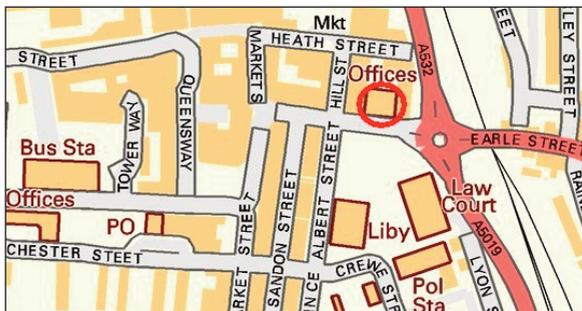
All visitors must sign in and out at reception. You will be directed to the second floor; a lift is available.

FREE access to *FindMyPast*, *Ancestry* and *The Genealogist*
Local parish registers on film - extensive library of books
Crewe and District and South East Cheshire local history archives
See the Crewe FHU Library Holdings lists on the FHSC website

**Usual opening hours: 10am-4pm Monday and Tuesday
plus one Saturday morning each month**

For Saturday dates, and changes to usual opening hours, please see this issue's *Research Centre News* or the FHSC website www.fhsc.org.uk.

Non-members visiting for the first time will be offered (for a small donation) time with a volunteer to explain the facilities available and advice on family history research. Membership of the Society is encouraged for further visits.



MOBBERLEY FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH CENTRE



**Rajar Building, Town Lane,
Mobberley, WA16 7ER
Tel: 01565 872210**

The Rajar Building is situated on the corner of Town Lane (A5085) and Ilford Way. The entrance is at the front of the building on Town Lane, and the Research Centre is on the first floor (access by stairs - no lift).

FREE help and advice from our experienced duty volunteers
FREE access to *FindMyPast (World)*, *Ancestry* and *The Genealogist*
Local parish registers on film (some of which are not available online)
Extensive library of books on all topics, covering many areas of the UK
(See the Mobberley Library Holdings lists on the FHSC website)
Searchable digital archive of family history magazine back-issues and data
Nominal charge for printing and photocopying
Fiche/film and A2 scanning available – please enquire.

Usual opening hours: 10am-4pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month.

Closed on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesdays of the month, bank holidays, and over the Christmas-New Year period. For changes to usual opening hours, please check this issue's *Research Centre News* or the FHSC website.

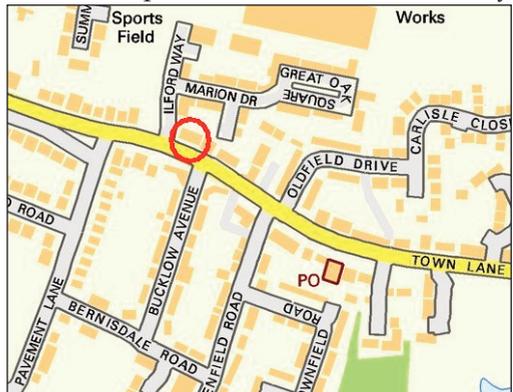
If travelling some distance, please ring first to confirm the centre is open.

Daily admission charge (per person) £3 for members, £5 for non-members (refundable on joining the Society on day of visit). Non-members preferably should phone in advance. FREE tea and coffee provided - sandwiches etc may be purchased at nearby shops.

Suggested on-street parking on Ilford Way, Marion Drive, and on Pavement Lane, across the road from the Rajar Building.

Bus stop (Bucklow Ave) nearby for the *D&G Bus Services* 88/89 from Knutsford, Wilmslow, Northwich, Macclesfield and Altrincham.

See www.dgbus.co.uk.



ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES

UK INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP with a printed CHESHIRE ANCESTOR	- £18.00
UK INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP with an electronic CHESHIRE ANCESTOR	- £13.00
UK FAMILY GROUP MEMBERSHIP (all at the same address)	

Above rates plus £2.00 per family

OVERSEAS MEMBERSHIP with an electronic CHESHIRE ANCESTOR	- £13.00
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Special arrangements will be made for overseas members who need a printed copy.

The Society year commences on 1st July.

Membership commences on the day of receipt of an application.

- New members joining between 1st July and the following 31st March inclusive will receive all four journals of that society year; renewal date is 1st July following joining date.
- New members joining between 1st April and 30th June will receive a complimentary journal; renewal date is 1st July the following year.

Cheques, etc., should be made payable to "FHS of Cheshire".

Please ensure your payment date on your standing order is set to 1st July.

New member applications should be sent to Membership Enrolments:

Mrs Angela Moore, 6 Woodlands Close, Stalybridge, SK15 2SH

Renewals, or changes of address, should be sent to Membership Renewals:

Mr Peter A Mellor, Tan-Y-Celyn, Rhos Isaf, Rhostryfan, Caernarfon, LL54 7LY

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Please send a cheque payable to "FHS of Cheshire" to the Treasurer, enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope if a receipt is required. Advertising copy to be emailed or sent by post to the Editor, preferably as a PDF file (addresses inside front cover).

Note: final copy dates for adverts are TWO MONTHS prior to publication date, i.e. 1st January for the March issue and so on.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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GROUP CONTACTS

ALSAGER GROUP

Hazel Rugman
157 Sandbach Road North
Alsager
Cheshire ST7 2AX
Tel: 01270 876386
alsager@fhsc.org.uk

BEBINGTON GROUP

Bob Wright
9 Lough Green
Bebington
Wirral CH63 9NH
Tel: 0151 334 6345
bebington@fhsc.org.uk

BRAMHALL GROUP

Ian Bickley
Lumb Cottage
Lumb Lane
Bramhall
Stockport SK7 2BA
Tel: 0161 439 5021
bramhall@fhsc.org.uk

CHESTER GROUP

David Guyton
Springfield
22 Lache Lane
Chester CH4 7LR
Tel: 01244 675978
chester@fhsc.org.uk

COMPUTER GROUP

Geoff Johnson
Garth Nook, Well Lane
Little Budworth
Tarpoley CW6 9DA
Tel: 01829 760422
computerclub@fhsc.org.uk

CONGLETON GROUP

David Smetham
Little Trees
Gawsworth Road
Gawsworth
Macclesfield SK11 9RA
Tel: 01625 426173
congleton@fhsc.org.uk

CREWE GROUP

Margaret Spate,
FHSC Crewe Group
Municipal Building
(second floor)
Earle Street
Crewe CW1 2BJ
crewe@fhsc.org.uk

MACCLESFIELD GROUP

Jean Laidlaw
47 Sycamore Crescent
Macclesfield
SK11 8LW
macclesfield@fhsc.org.uk

MIDDLESEX GROUP

Vacant
middlesex@fhsc.org.uk

NANTWICH GROUP

Sheila Mitchell
FHSC Nantwich Group
c/o Crewe FHU
Municipal Building
(second floor)
Earle Street
Crewe CW1 2BJ
nantwich@fhsc.org.uk

NORTHWICH GROUP

Dave Thomas
1 Arley Court
Wrenbury Drive
Northwich CW9 8RX
Tel: 01606 46938
northwich@fhsc.org.uk

RUNCORN GROUP

Peter Rowley
2 Norton Tower Cottages
Norton Lane
Runcorn
WA7 6PX
Tel: 07984 603936
runcorn@fhsc.org.uk

SALE GROUP

Marion Hall
114 Conway Road
Sale
M33 2TD
Tel: 0161 973 7791
sale@fhsc.org.uk

TAMESIDE GROUP

Gay Oliver
26 Woodville Drive
Stalybridge SK15 3EA
Tel: 0161 338 5241
tameside@fhsc.org.uk

WALLASEY GROUP

Sheila Hamilton
10 Church Gardens
Wallasey
CH44 8HF
wallasey@fhsc.org.uk

Rear cover picture: Do you have a high quality landscape format photo of your ancestors? If so, to be considered for publication please scan a copy (**at least 300dpi**) and submit it **by email only** to the editor with the names, location and date, including confirmation that you agree to the publication of your name, membership number and email address.



The Family History Society of Cheshire

www.fhsc.org.uk

Location of Groups

(see inside back cover for contact details)



MEMBERS' FAMILY PHOTO



Spridgeon Family, Thorney, Cambridgeshire, c.1924

A photo of my great-grandparents, Frances Emma (née BRATLEY) and James SPRIDGEON, and their children John (b.1901), Arthur (b.1902), Elsie (b.1904), Frances (b.1905), Thomas (b.1908), Betsy (b.1909), George (b.1911), Emma (b.1913) and Phyllis (b.1918), outside their home in Wisbech Road, Thorney. From **Rosie Rowley**, member no. 2119 (spridgeon@one-name.org)