

CHESHIRE ANCESTOR



The Journal of the
Family History Society of Cheshire



In this edition

Commonwealth War Grave for a Dockyard Worker
Charles Inglesfield - from Cheshire, Liverpool, or Holland?
Crewe's Aeronaut: 'Professor' George Higgins
William Field, Gunmaker of Birmingham and more...

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*Cover picture: Runcorn All Saints Church, December 2010. Photo © John Lord.
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Read about Charles Inglesfield, who married Jane Cattrall at Runcorn, in *Was Charles Inglesfield from Cheshire, Liverpool, or Holland?* on page 30.



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 last page).

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

Editorial

by Rosie Rowley



Many thanks to those who have recently submitted articles for the journal - please keep sending them in! The next issue will have several articles connected with the Great War, as we commemorate the centenary of the Armistice in November, so articles relating to the end of the war, peace or commemoration would be very welcome.

Please see the last page for submission guidelines. Remember that you do not need to wait until the deadline to submit your article; in fact, the sooner your article is submitted, the easier it is for me to produce the journal.

As mentioned in the previous issue, I plan to stand down from the role of journal editor after the December 2018 issue and would like someone to come forward and be ready to take over in January 2019, when production of the March 2019 **ANCESTOR** begins. If you have been thinking about taking on the role but are unsure about some aspect of it, please contact me to ask. We are in danger of having no journal next year.

❖ WANTED - NEW JOURNAL EDITOR ❖

No formal editorial experience is needed as advice will be given; however, you do need to be a confident computer user and have experience of (or be willing to learn) word-processing and English punctuation, grammar, etc, and simple manipulation of images (cropping and resizing). **A laptop** with software (*Quarkxpress*) and free versions of photo editing software, an email program and an office suite **will be provided**. An Internet connection is needed for email and for checking websites, future events, etc.

The editor does not work alone - there is a volunteer typist to type up handwritten articles submitted by post, and a volunteer proof-reader to check the completed **ANCESTOR** for errors. In addition, the downloadable electronic version is assembled by Geoff Johnson, the Computer Group leader.

If you are interested in taking on this vital role, please contact the editor, Rosie Rowley, for information. It may be possible to share the post between two people - editing alternate issues, for example.

Chairman's Jottings

by Victoria Doran



Last quarter I was hoping for summer to arrive after a long winter. Well it is exceeding expectations in every way! Where I live on the coast of north-west Wirral we have only had 2mm of rain since the first week of June, and currently have had no rain for three weeks, with none expected any time soon. Temperatures have been up to nearly 30°C - there has been nothing like this in the UK since 1976.

It is not ideal weather for sitting indoors researching family history, which I always think of as more of a winter pastime. However, for those of us who have been working on the names on local WWI war memorials since at least 2014, the centenary of the Armistice is looming as a deadline. Whilst I have enjoyed the associated research, which has given me many fascinating insights into the social history of the period as well as some detailed knowledge of WWI, it will be a welcome change to be able to devote more time to a wider range of projects.

Work on the website continues slowly in the background, severely affected by the real life of our webmaster, but some day the promised online shop will appear. In the meantime the membership system is supported by the website. Sometimes it may seem not to be clear in what it shows, but, rest assured, the underlying data is correct.

As I wrote last time, we do need a new editor for **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**. This is the flagship of our Society as it is the only significant part of the Society that reaches every one of our members, wherever they are in the world. There is an advert for the post elsewhere in this issue.

I have set myself the task of attending a monthly meeting of each of our groups over the next two years. So far, I have met members at Bebington, Northwich, Tameside and Wallasey group meetings, and I hope to visit another four or five groups this year. It is already clear that they are all different in how they operate, where they meet and their ideas. All groups depend on volunteers, and certainly in some cases more members need to be active volunteers, not just consumers of talks arranged by the 'few'. If you don't come forward to take on some responsibilities, you may be faced in the future with no group to

go to. We have already lost two groups in recent years because of this. You will also discover that it is more rewarding to be a contributor to a group than just a taker. There are many simple small tasks to be done, as well as the major roles. The Group Leaders' meetings, which were started as annual meetings in 2016, are proving a good way for Group Leaders to share ideas and solutions to issues, and to feel, as they must sometimes do, that they are not fighting lone battles. These meetings have been increased to twice a year by popular demand.

Please help to keep your society running smoothly by volunteering - even a small role like putting chairs away or making tea at group meetings is an important 'cog' in the machinery. Many hands make light work!

Members' 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 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, Look up 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



For some years now we have offered a lookup service, using the resources at the research centre, to help members who find it difficult to visit us at Mobberley. A small charge has been made for this service. However, it has now been decided to offer this service to members free of charge. If you are tempted to submit a request please remember that we will undertake a simple look up for one named person. For further details please see the display panel opposite.

Our librarian, Joan Irving, has been busy producing a guide to help visitors to the library to find their way around the approximately five thousand books on the shelves, as well as our microfilm and fiche resources. The first part of the guide lists the following broad categories:

Cheshire including all places in the historic county of Cheshire

Other Counties including Wales, Scotland, Ireland and Overseas

One-name Studies

Information - research, history, occupations, parish, law and order, medical

Military - Army, Naval, Royal Air Force

Directories including Gazetteers, Who's Who and Whittaker's Almanac

Religion and Clergy

Antiquarian Collections

Maps

Filing Cabinets -Trunkfield Collection, Chadwick Collection, Bramhall Collection, Wills Collection

Computer external hard drive collection (more information about the contents on page 7 of this issue)

Newspaper Collection

The guide goes on to give more details of each of these categories. As an example, for Cheshire books there are four main categories:-

CH/P – Cheshire place names; books relating to Cheshire towns and villages.

CH/M – Cheshire Monumental Inscriptions in graveyards and cemeteries.

CH/GEN – Cheshire books on history, agriculture, social and economic aspects of the county; includes surnames on county issues, eg. Church Court Records, Poor Law Records; Cheshire History volumes with an article index on the indexes shelf.

CH/OVERSIZE – Cheshire books in any category too big for the standard shelves.

Indexes to all these can be found on the laptop in the library and on the FHSC website. The Cheshire Combined Index is also in the library file in the computer room. This index includes Cheshire books, CDs, films and fiche.

Antiquarian books in the library also include articles on Cheshire; indexes to them are on the shelf above the filing cabinets.

Joan hopes that members will find this guide a useful aid for more focused searching the of library.

Crewe Family History Unit

by Margaret Spate

In addition to our usual Monday and Tuesday openings we will open on the following Saturday mornings:

Sat 1st Sept 9.30 – 12.30

Sat 13th Oct 9.30 – 12.30

Sat 17th Nov 9.30 – 12.30

No Saturday opening in December.

The team of volunteers is always there to help you with your research.

The library list, available as a paper copy at Crewe, is also available on the FHSC website at *Research Centres > Crewe Family History Unit > Holdings*. Check the list to see if the unit holds records that could help your research.

Thanks for the donations of books and maps that help to consolidate our local information and guides.

Consider browsing the images of local scenes and events - we have recently scanned additional photographs, making them easier to view.

Mobberley Computer External Drive

by Peter Davenport

The external hard drive at the Mobberley Research Centre has over 200 gigabytes of information on it. There is a paper index which lists the information by county, and numerous other headings, such as Army, miscellaneous books (over 200 of these) and so on.

Most of the files on this drive are in *PDF* format and word searchable. These have been obtained from copyright-free sources, and revamped, so that one can search from the index in many cases. Some of the images are slightly fuzzy, as the originals are of poor quality, and not up to my own standards.

Also on the drive are searchable *PDF* copies of nearly every family history magazine, quite a few of which are no longer in business, plus selected data from around 350 of the CDs that the magazines used to give away.

We are missing the following magazines:

Who Do You Think You Are? for 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2016 and 2017.

Your Family Tree for 2014 and later.

Family Tree Magazine for 2015 and later.

If you have any of these magazines and do not want them, please leave them for me at Mobberley; thanks to those who have supplied the copies that we already have on the drive.

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Tel: 01856-831533 or Email: vestlaybanks@btinternet.com

NOTICE OF THE FHSC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**The Annual General Meeting of the FHSC will be held at
3.00pm on Saturday 3rd November 2018 at
Mobberley Victory Hall
Town Lane (junction with Church Lane), Mobberley, WA16 7JQ**

This hall is $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from the Rajar Building, down Town Lane.
Ample on-site car parking is available; for bus information, please see the DG Bus
website (www.dgbus.co.uk/buses-in-cheshire.html).

The Research Centre will be open to members 11am - 1pm (no charge).
Members wishing to use a Research Centre computer should
pre-book by phoning the Research Centre on 01565 872210.

The Victory Hall will open at 1.00pm.
Proceedings begin at 2.00pm with a performance by Act it Out CIC:

Letters of War WWI Commemorative Event

This 35 minute commemorative performance piece was written, on commission, in 2015 for the opening of an exhibition by artist and veteran Mr Frank Foy. The reception it received was completely unexpected and led to Act it Out CIC being booked to perform at the City of Stoke on Trent's Somme Commemorative Event, at events for the Royal British Legion, Help for Heroes and Combat Stress, and in schools and community spaces, churches and even railway stations.

It was adapted as a schools workshop in 2016 and has been funded by Cheshire East Reflects, Congleton Town Council and Inclosure Trust, Sandbach Town Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund to tour schools, with an end of project performance, since inception. So far we have taken the message of Remembrance to over 600 school children and performances have been seen by over 8,000 people.

There will be a short comfort break between the talk and the AGM, which starts at 3pm.

Note, the constitution requires that

An Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held within five months of the end of its financial year for the following purposes:

- To receive a report from the Committee and a statement of Accounts from the Hon. Treasurer for the preceding financial year, together with the report of the Independent Examiner or Auditor, and reports from each of the Groups of the Society.
- To elect the Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and other Society officials for the ensuing year.
- To appoint an Independent Examiner or Auditor.

- To decide by simple majority upon any resolution which may be duly submitted to the meeting for consideration. No resolution, other than those relating to the adoption of reports and accounts, shall be moved at the Annual General Meeting unless a notice in writing, signed by the member who proposes to move it and stating its terms, has been received by the Hon. Secretary at least forty-two days before the date appointed for the holding of such Annual General Meeting.
- The Chairman of the meeting shall, at his or her discretion, and with the consent of a majority of the members present and voting, have the power to admit resolutions of which notice has not been given, if such resolution shall not involve any alterations of the Constitution. Such resolution shall be decided upon by a simple majority of members present and voting.
- At least twenty-eight days before the Annual General Meeting, a detailed notice of such meeting shall be sent, by circular or otherwise, to every member of the Society at his/her last known address.

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

2nd Sep 2018	FHSC Executive Committee Meeting, Jubilee Hall, Little Budworth, 2pm.
10th Oct 2018	Final copy date for CHESHIRE ANCESTOR , December issue.
3rd Nov 2018	AGM, The Victory Hall, Mobberley, 2pm. (see opposite)
10th Jan 2019	Final copy date for CHESHIRE ANCESTOR , March issue.
20th Jan 2019	FHSC Executive Committee Meeting, Jubilee Hall, Little Budworth, 2pm.

Those 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.

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(see last page for full details)

Family History Events

For news of family history events, see the online calendar
<http://geneva.weald.org.uk/>

The Family History Show - London

10.00am to 4.30pm, Saturday 22nd September 2018
Sandown Park Racecourse, Portsmouth Rd, Esher, KT10 9AJ
Admission on the day £7.00 - under 16s free - refreshments available
Free parking - free talks - free shuttle bus from Esher station
<https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/london/>

Federation of FHS Day Seminar: Beyond the Census III

10.30am to 4.30pm, Saturday 29th September 2018
Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission, City Road, London, EC1Y 1AU.
Speakers include Myko Clelland (FindMyPast), Peter Bailey (FFHS & FIBIS),
Leigh Dworkin (Jewish Gen. Soc.), Peter Higginbotham (Workhouses)
Booking essential - tickets £19.50 incl buffet lunch
www.eventbrite.com/e/ffhs-beyond-the-census-conference-3-central-london-tickets-42522905154

Families in British India Society (FIBIS) 20th Anniversary Conference

Friday 28th - Sunday 30th September 2018
Hawkwell House Hotel, Iffley, Oxford, OX4 4DZ
Booking essential - Non-members welcome
Reduced fee for members
www.fibis.org/store/events/conference-2018/20th-anniversary-conference-2018/

Catholic FHS Conference (with AGM): Education and School Records

10.00am - 4.00pm, Saturday 29th September 2018
Bar Convent Living Heritage Centre, 17 Blossom Street, York, YO24 1AQ.
Booking essential - tickets £20.
Contact Jean Smith, 10 Irving Close, Stockport, SK2 7DX
<http://catholicfhs.online>

Guild of One-Name Studies Seminar: DNA

9.30am - 4.30pm, Saturday 6th October 2018

Beauchamp College, Ridgeway, Oadby LE2 5TP

Specialist speakers on DNA will revisit the basics of DNA testing as well as looking at the latest techniques.

Booking essential - Non-members welcome

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

Society of Genealogists Lecture:

Creating a One-Street Study to Build a Picture of your Ancestors Lives

2.00pm, Wednesday 3rd October 2018

14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA.

Create a historical picture of a street, using a variety of sources. In this talk, Gill Thomas looks at using the 1911 Census, Great War records and church memorials, rate books, electoral rolls, local newspapers and school records.

Booking essential - tickets £8 (discount for members).

<http://www.sog.org.uk/books-courses/events-courses/>

Society of Genealogists Lecture: Using Lulu for Online Self-Publishing

2.00pm, Thursday 4th October 2018

14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA.

Lulu (www.lulu.com) has been helping family history researchers capture their family life stories since 2002. It provides easy to use, online, free, independent publishing tools, allowing you to create a permanent record as a printed book and e-book format. Jean Roberts discusses:

- How to publish your research in print and e-book formats;
- How to distribute your research to a wider book-buying readership.

Booking essential - tickets £8 (discount for members).

<http://www.sog.org.uk/books-courses/events-courses/>

Advance Notice - Family Tree Live

26th - 27th April 2019 at Alexandra Palace, North London

Family Tree Live is a new UK family history show, brought to you by *Family Tree* magazine in partnership with the Federation of Family History Societies.

Advance tickets £12; *Family Tree* magazine subscribers £10.

Free on-site parking; free shuttle bus from Alexandra Palace Station and Wood Green underground station; refreshments available; cloakroom.

<https://www.family-tree.co.uk/ftre/show/family-tree-live>

Family History News

Remember, if you don't have a subscription to *Ancestry*, *Find My Past* or *The Genealogist*, you can access their UK records at our Research Centres.

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. Click on the name of a record set for more information, and to search just that record set.

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

Selected Recent Additions and Updates

1939 England and Wales Register

<https://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/db.aspx?dbid=61596>

Ancestry has added images of the 1939 Register, with information about people not known to have died redacted. They say: *Indexes have been created from redacted images as provided by The National Archives and as such, some indexes may not include all information as originally recorded, where it is obscured.*

Cheshire, England, Extracted Church of England Parish Records, 1564-1837 (51,686 records)

<https://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/db.aspx?dbid=61550>

It's always worth scrolling down the database page to see what information *Ancestry* supplies. In this case, there is a useful list of the parishes and registers included in these records: marriages bonds and licences, late 1600s to 1700s, and some baptism, marriage and burial registers, 1600s to 1800s.

UK, Registers of Employees of the East India Company and the India Office, 1746-1939 (643,303 records)

<https://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/db.aspx?dbid=61468>

By 1803, at the height of its rule in India, the British East India Company had a private army of about 260,000 men – twice the size of the British Army.

The records list the employees, both civil and military, of the East India Company and later, the India Office.

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>; click on the name of a record set for more information and to search just that record set.

To see what's new at *FindMyPast*, go to www.findmypast.co.uk/whats-new. Here you will also be able to access the latest *FindMyPast* articles and tutorials, helping you to get the most from their records. Remember you don't need a subscription to search the records.

Selected Recent Additions and Updates

Lancashire Parish Registers

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/articles/world-records/full-list-of-united-kingdom-records/life-events-bmds/lancashire-parish-list>

Registers cover almost 200 parishes in Lancashire.

Staffordshire Parish Registers

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/staffordshire-registers-and-records>

Registers cover twenty-three Staffordshire parishes, with dates ranging from 1538 to 1812.

Britain, Royal Navy, Navy Lists 1827-1945

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/britain-royal-navy-navy-lists-1827-1945>

Official lists of Royal Navy Officers; 147 publications in searchable PDF format, mainly the *Navy List*.

British Army Service Records additions

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/british-army-service-records>

Over 34,000 new Scots Guards records have been added to the collection of British Army Service records. The new additions consist of Enlistment Registers spanning the years 1642 to 1939.

British Armed Forces, First World War Soldiers' Medical Records

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/british-armed-forces-first-world-war-soldiers-medical-records>

Searchable images of WWI admission/discharge registers from the National Archives MH106 series: a representative selection of records from hospitals and casualty clearing stations, field ambulances, an ambulance train and a hospital ship.

Indexed transcriptions of these records can also be found on the Forces War Records website. Registers are not yet all online.

The Genealogist

To see what's new at *The Genealogist*, go to www.thegenealogist.co.uk/news

New Metropolitan Police Habitual Criminals Registers

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/british-army-service-records>

Indexed images of these registers, as well as registers created by the Police to supervise released criminals - including spies! Entries can contain a description of the individual, dates of conviction or discharge from prison and even the places they frequent. One of the most interesting features of these records are the photographic portraits taken from the Registers of Habitual Drunkards.

To search only these registers, add *MEPO 6* to the keywords box.

Some of these records are also available on *Find My Past* at <https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/england-and-wales-crime-prisons-and-punishment-1770-1935>

General Register Office PDF Extended Pilot

<https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/>

The GRO has announced that their pilot service, which was restarted on 12 October 2017, will now continue indefinitely. It provides digital (PDF) copies of historical birth and death registrations - NOT marriages - for England and Wales. Each copy costs £6, must be applied for online, and include a GRO index reference. Records which are available as PDFs include:

Births: 1837 -1916

Deaths: 1837 -1957

For more information about the PDF copies of birth and death registrations, see the **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**, March 2017, page 51 (*Net That Serf*).

This is particularly good news for overseas researchers, who can now obtain historical birth and death registration information much more quickly and at a far lower cost than before.

New Indexes

Have you used the new GRO Online Historical Birth and Death Indexes yet? These indexes have been recreated from the historical registers to include mother's maiden name from 1837 for births (previously only available from 1911) and age at death from 1837 for deaths (previously only available from 1866). Some websites, e.g. *Find My Past*, are updating their transcriptions to include this new information. See the index section of 'Most Customers Want to Know' on the GRO website for more information.

Teesdale Mercury Newspaper Archive

<http://teesdalemercuryarchive.org>

The *Teesdale Mercury* is an independent, privately-owned newspaper which was first published in 1855. With the aid of Heritage Lottery and other funding, the newspaper's 150-year archive of issues, dated from 1855 to 2005, has been converted to searchable images and put online to view free of charge (donations are welcome). Any newspaper page can be saved to your computer in pdf format.

You may think that Teesdale has no connection with Cheshire, but Victorian 'local' newspapers frequently reported news from other parts of the country. Searching the *Teesdale Mercury* newspaper archive for places in Cheshire gives a surprising number of 'hits':

Congleton	58
Macclesfield	281
Nantwich	63
Northwich	105
Stalybridge	102
Tarporley	26
Wallasey	78
Wirral	71

The following example is from the *Teesdale Mercury*, 29th November 1882:

A curious case has recently occupied the attention of the Sandbach magistrates, when Arthur JACKSON, of Stoke, was charged with stealing a quantity of vegetables from a farm at Alsager. Defendant, who is a fireman on the North Staffordshire Railway, was observed to leave his engine, which had been stopped opposite a field, and go over a hedge and bring back a bag of vegetables, which he deposited on the foot-plate. Just as two policemen who had been watching came up, the train was restarted. Defendant, who said he had been induced to steal by his mates, was fined 20s and costs, the Bench intimating that his companions might be proceeded against. - At the same Court, William WOOLISCROFT, pig-dealer, was fined £3 and costs for neglecting to notify the existence of swine fever on his premises.

Why not give it a try - after all, it's free!

Certificate Exchange

by Jean Jones

This service enables members to share unwanted certificates. 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 or 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 will be listed in the **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR** as soon as possible after receipt.

Thank you for donating unwanted certificates to the FHSC.

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

Correction to an entry printed in the June 2018 **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**:

Birth Certificate for Annie Hampson should read *To John and Sarah Jane, formerly **Batters*** (not Hampson).

BANN	Betty	D 1838 Apr 5	Age 71 yrs. Widow of John Bann.	Bollington CHS.
BANN	Thomas	D 1866 Feb 1	Age 3 yrs son of George Bann.	Prestbury CHS.
CHADWICK	Lydia	B 1843 Feb 4	To Peter & Ellen formerly Wood.	Burslem STS.
CLOWES	Isaac	M 1892 Apr 16	To Sarah J Jefferies. s/o William Clowes.	Congleton CHS.
CLOWES	Mary	M 1861 May 20	To Edward Sykes. d/o Robert Clowes.	Elworth CHS.
DAVIES	Thomas O.	M 1911 Jul 10	To Margaret M Morgan. S/o Thomas Davies.	Pontypridd. GLA.
EVANS	Elizabeth	M 1868 Jan 21	To Job Evanson. d/o John Evans.	Nantwich CHS
EVANSON	Ann	M 1868 Dec 8	To William Prince. d/o John Evanson.	Nantwich CHS
EVANSON	Elizabeth	M 1871 Apr 12	To Thomas Simpson. d/o John Evanson.	Nantwich CHS.
EVANSON	Job	M 1868 Jan 21	To Elizabeth Evans. s/o Samuel Evanson.	Nantwich CHS

EVANSON	Job	M 1868 Jan 21	To Elizabeth Evans. s/o Samuel Evanson.	Nantwich CHS
FRANKLIN	George	B 1853 Jan 10	To James & Mary A formerly Green.	Wendover BKM.
FRANKLIN	George	B 1859 Sep 27	To Joseph & Caroline formerly Woodley.	Wendover BKM.
HEAPS	Catherine	D 1928 Aug 29	Age 69 yrs. Widow of John D Heaps.	Tranmere CHS.
HEAPS	George E.	B 1890 Jun 10	To James & Mary formerly Tharrat.	Everton Liverpool.
HEAPS	Harriet M	B 1881 Nov 15	To John D. & Harriett formerly Smith.	Tranmere CHS.
HEAPS	John M.	B 1890 Aug 3	To John D & Katherine formerly Heaps.	Tranmere CHS.
JEFFERIES	Sarah J.	M 1892 Apr 16	To Isaac Clowes. d/o Samuel Jefferies.	Congleton CHS.
JONES	Eleanor	B 1884 Apr 13	To Robert & Mary formerly Davies	Birkenhead CHS.
LILLY	Harriot	B 1838 Jul 25	To Charles & Margaret L formerly Edmonton	Newark NTT
LILLY	Margaret	B 1844 Nov 18	To Charles & Margaret L formerly Edmonton	Newark NTT
MORGAN	Margaret M.	M 1911 Jul 10	To Thomas O. Davies. d/o William H Morgan.	Pontypridd. GLA.
MORTON	Catherine	B 1859 Mar 2	To John & Jessie formerly Hudson.	Wirral CHS.
NICHOLLS	Richard D.	B 1860 Jun 17	To Henry & Ellen formerly Demain.	Everton Liverpool
PRINCE	William	M 1868 Dec 8	To Ann Evanson. s/o Joseph Prince.	Nantwich CHS
SHEPPARD	Ada E.	D 1990 Jan 1	Born Dec. 7 1895. Wife of Frederick C Sheppard.	Bromley. London.
SHEPPARD	Frederick C	D 1991 Jul 24	Born May 29 1897. Malcolm F Sheppard son atten.	Trafford CHS.
SHERLOCK	Joseph	B 1871 Mar 28	To Ellen Sherlock.	Wirral CHS.
SIMPSON	Thomas	M 1871 Apr 12	To Elizabeth Evanson. s/o George Simpson.	Nantwich CHS
SYKES	Edward	M 1861 May 20	To Mary Clowes. s/o Joseph Sykes.	Elworth CHS.
WILSON	John H.	B 1881 Feb 20	To John R & Mary E formerly Heaps.	Tranmere CHS.

Book Reviews

by Lyn McCulloch



Newly published items on genealogical or Cheshire subjects are welcomed for review. Please send to Lyn McCulloch, Barrymore, Marbury Road, Comberbach, Northwich, CW9 6AU.

After review, items are given to one of the Society's libraries or groups.

If you wish to purchase a book (or other items) online from Amazon, Ebay or another retailer, please consider first 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.

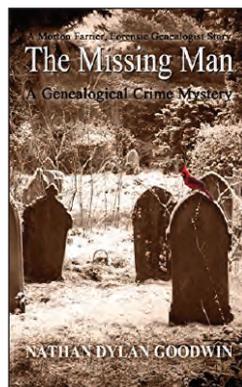
The Missing Man: A Morton Farrier novella

by Nathan Dylan Goodwin

Review by Jean Laidlaw

The 'Missing Man' of this book's title is Morton Farrier's biological father. Finding his father, Harley 'Jack' Jacklin, who disappeared just six days after a fatal fire at his Cape Cod home in 1976, had so far been one of the most difficult challenges of his career in forensic genealogy.

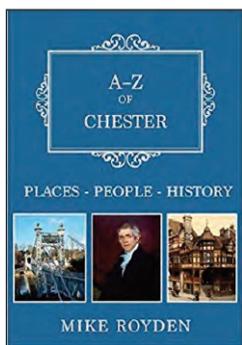
Morton, and his long-suffering partner Juliette, are on honeymoon in America and Morton's quest to find his father is paramount. But the time he can devote to his mission is limited, and he keeps coming across dead ends. As usual, there are plenty of twists and turns in the story, which moves backwards and forwards in time from the present day to the time of the fire and earlier events. Unlike previous books, which contain violent attacks on Morton, there is no violence which makes this story more realistic. This is the sixth book in the Morton Farrier genealogical crime mystery series, but it can be enjoyed as a stand-alone story.



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145pp. Paperback. ISBN 978-1542910750. Price: Kindle £2.99 Paperback £4.99.

Books available on Amazon, or personally signed copies may be purchased at www.nathandylangoodwin.com/books (payment by card, charged in US dollars).



A-Z of Chester: Places-People-History By Mike Royden

This is what I would call a ‘dip in’ book. It is one man’s selection of Chester-related material, ranging from historical events (e.g. The Siege of Chester) to buildings (St John the Baptist Church) and famous people (Architect John Douglas).

There is something for everyone in Mike’s book, including actors, footballers and a gymnast. Many of the photographs were taken by Mike’s son, Lewis Royden, and it is well illustrated with maps.

There is a “Further Reading” section for those who want to find out more. As a first book on Chester for those who don’t know the city, this is an excellent starting point; and I’m sure those who know it well will learn something new.

This definitely my kind of book and I hope Mike does more in the A -Z format that works so well for this Chester volume.

Published 2018 by Amberley Books.

96pp. Paperback. ISBN 978-1-4456-7454-4. Price: £14.99.

Mobberley 1841

By Alistair MacLeod

One of our volunteers at Mobberley Family History Research Centre, Alistair MacLeod, has produced this excellent little booklet on the village of Mobberley as it was around the time of the 1841 census.

Liberally illustrated with wonderful old photographs, it also includes the electoral roll for 1836 and maps to help identify houses, some of which have now disappeared. Manchester Airport has encroached on land in this area, causing some properties to be dismantled and rebuilt. I have no Mobberley connections but I found Alistair’s book really interesting and it will be a gem for those whose ancestors lived there.



Mode Cottage, Mobberley, 1890

The book costs £10 (including P&P) and is available from Alistair, who can be contacted by email (alistairmacleod@uwclub.net).

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Jacinda ARDERN, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, has been much in the news recently due to the birth of her daughter Neve Te Aroha ARDERN GAYFORD on 21st June. It was not too difficult to infer that she might be descended from a Cheshire family, and so it has proved.

Jacinda's paternal great-grandfather was Samuel Vincent Howard ARDERN, born 17th August 1890 in the New Plymouth area of New Zealand. His father was Vincent West ARDERN, thought to have been born on 14th October 1866 at Norley in the Delamere Forest, Cheshire, England. He is said to have emigrated in 1869 with his mother and his father Samuel ARDERN, who was born in Altrincham in 1836, the son of John ARDERN (born c. 1812).

My own family stems from the Altrincham area, with many members buried in St Mary's churchyard in Bowdon. The linkage seems to go back to John ARDERNE, a yeoman of Timperley (1681-1754), who is buried at Bowdon. I need to do more research on the family during the eighteenth century to see if the direct link is later than this John. Our family bible only goes back to John ARDERN of Hale Barns (1801-1850).

Some interesting research awaits during the long winter nights.

Richard Ardern
Inverness
Member no. 4796
rjardern@hotmail.com

Dear Editor,

I read with great interest the article on the Lymm Surgeons Certificates. I would like to clarify the definition of the term **haemoptysis**: it is a general term for the coughing up of blood, and while it can be a symptom of TB, there are other conditions which can cause this.

Vivienne Cliff
Member no. 9613

Ed: Thank you very much for the helpful explanation.

Dear Editor,

I volunteer in a charity shop in Sandbach, and recently found two interesting photographs in the stock room. It is not known who donated them. Are these men from your family? If so, would you like these photographs? There are no names apart from the message on the left-hand one which says *To Mum and Dad with best wishes your loving son Ernest 22/6/43*. This photo was taken at Simpson Bros in Toronto, Canada, and is in a folding card, size 31cm x 20cm.



The second photo, on the right, was taken by Lambert Weston photographers of Folkestone; the company was patronised by the Royal Family, there being a famous portrait of Queen Mary by them. This photo is on a backing board sized 35cm x 25cm.

Silla Mitford
Member no. 9185
sylmitford@gmail.com

Ed.: For various reasons, most aircrew from the UK (and other Allied countries) were trained in Commonwealth countries between 1940 and 1944 under the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP). Over half (131,500) trained in Canada.

Dear Editor,

I am writing about the mystery photographs printed in the 'Help Wanted' section on pages 24 to 26 of the **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**, March 2018.

The *Directory and Gazetteer of Cheshire 1864* by Morris, shows under the heading Trades and Professions for Macclesfield (page 272):

HAND, Joseph, Grocer and Tea Dealer, 2 Park Lane

Page 816 of the 1874 edition shows:

HAND, Joseph, Tea Dealer, 2 Wardle Street

The *Post Office Directory of Cheshire* by Kelly, shows under the heading of Macclesfield on page 152:

ROYLANCE, George, Timber Dealer, Joiner and Builder, Waters Green

The *Directory of 1860* by White, shows under the heading of Joiners and Builders for Macclesfield (page 753):

ROYLANCE, George, Boden St; h. Beech Lane

Morris's 1874 Directory shows under the heading of Trades and Professions for Macclesfield (page 827):

ROYLANCE, George, Joiner and Builder, Wheelwright, Blacksmith and Timber Dealer, 94 Waters

Kelly's Directory of Cheshire 1906 shows under the heading of Builders Merchants (page 788):

ROYLANCE, George & Co. Lim. Water's Green, Macclesfield

There is an identical entry listed under Builders on page 787, and there is also an advertisement for this business on page 14.

I hope this has given some useful clues to the origins of the photographs.

Elizabeth Pendlebury

Member no. 4948

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Help Wanted

If you are puzzling over a family history problem relating to Cheshire or elsewhere, 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, your name, membership number and postal and/or email addresses will be printed so members can contact you, unless you request otherwise.

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.

*Do you have any unwanted Cheshire photos or documents? Perhaps you are a keen photographer and could take photos of gravestones in your local churchyard?
If you are able to help other members in some way, please write to the Editor.*

Help Wanted: BATHO - Crewe - 1900s

I am undertaking the life stories of ten siblings, all of whom originated from Pelsall, Staffordshire, for a 93-year-old descendant.

One of those siblings was Emma Edith ELWELL (born 17th December 1877 in Pelsall). She married Herbert BATHO (born 7th April 1872 in Prees, Shropshire) in Pelsall on 27th May 1901. Herbert worked as a bricklayer. Following their marriage, Emma and Herbert moved to Crewe in Cheshire, and the 1911 census records them as living at 106 Ruskin Road, Crewe.

Is anyone able to provide me with some information on the history of Ruskin Road, industries within that area, etc. - in fact anything of interest that I can include in the story?

I would also love to be able to trace descendants of Emily and Herbert's family. They had three known children: Mildred May (born 3rd May 1902), Jessie Emily (born 9th September 1904) and Maggie (born 26th June 1908).

Any information which would point me in the right direction would be greatly appreciated. Unfortunately I am unable to travel to Crewe, hence this request for help.

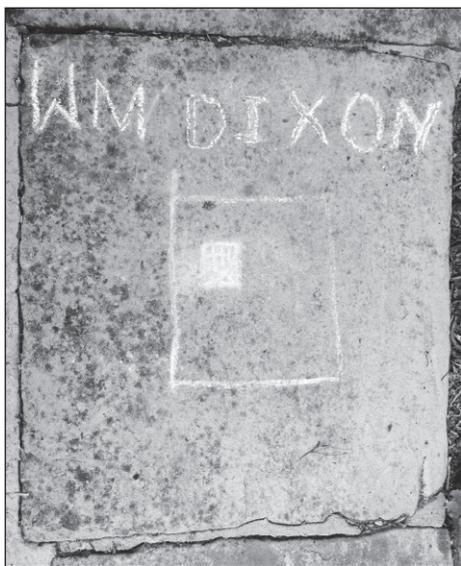
Chris Day
hsdbrsem53@talktalk.net
172 Camphill Road, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, CV10 0JJ

Help Wanted: DIXON - Prestbury, near Macclesfield

When repairing the cottage I live in at the end of the 1990s, my late builder brought in some flag stones he said had been sold off from Prestbury Church, I think to raise funds for the restoration of the Norman Chapel there.

Although these were mostly used inside, there is one rather fascinating stone with a scratched inscription, "WM DIXON", and a rather cryptic symbol. We wondered when it arrived if it was an amateur's effort as an unofficial memorial stone for a loved one, maybe someone in an otherwise unmarked grave? It certainly felt rather special, so instead of putting it inside, my builder carefully laid it beside the path in my garden where we would constantly see it. I've been puzzling over it now for nearly twenty years.

To make the lettering clearer, I've chalked in the marks on the stone. Of course I've tried to find a William DIXON in Prestbury (or in Macclesfield, as St Peter's in Prestbury village was Macclesfield's mother church) for a long time. Did the stone even come from Prestbury?



At first, I couldn't find a likely William DIXON, but recent parish records which have come online (*FindMyPast*) brought forth a marriage between a William D...ION and a Mary MOTTERSHEAD on 16 October 1800 in Prestbury (Diocese of Chester Bishop's Transcripts of Marriages c1600-1910). Interestingly, a William DIXON married a Mary MOTTERSHEAD in the first quarter of 1893 as well! (GRO Marriage Index, Macclesfield District, Volume 8A Page 181.) It must be their son William DIXON who I found was born in the second quarter of 1896 and died aged one in the fourth quarter of 1897, Macclesfield (GRO Births Index, Volume 8A, Page 131 and GRO Deaths Index, Volume 8A, Page 112) because his mother's maiden name was MOTTERSHEAD.

Could the stone relate to the Prestbury William D...ION, the baby aged one who died in 1897, or even forty-three-year-old William DIXON of Macclesfield who died in 1913?

What I really need is someone who is good at code breaking, who can work out what the symbolic grid on the stone means. It might be a clue as to who is remembered in my garden. A date, an age, the amount of months the baby boy lived? Is there anyone out there who can help? I'd be so grateful.

Brenda Folds (née Bickerton)
Member no. 5727
bickerton-folds@btinternet.com



Research project - passing your research on to the next generation

I hope that this query will be useful to other family history researchers.

I have done a lot of research on my family tree and this is stored on my PC at home using the *Family Historian* program. However, with my advancing years, I am conscious that when I eventually leave this life my research could potentially end with me - which quite frankly is a great shame! I am sure that other members will probably feel the same.

Anyway, I am thinking of doing an exercise of printing out most of the relevant documents so that when I leave this earth, someone else can take over my research if they feel so inclined. I am also thinking of doing it because, being "old school", I still think that the best family history research results from good old fashioned printed material rather than viewing everything on a computer screen. This will also provide another level of backup!

Do these thoughts resonate with other family historians or am I just making work for myself? Other members' thoughts would be gratefully received.

David Sewell
Member no. 9185

Ed.: If you have Internet access, please reply to this query on the FHSC website. Log in to the website, click on FHSC Forum on the top menu, then Research Help, then the title of the topic you want to reply to, and finally click Quick Reply and type in your message.

Those without Internet access may post their comments to the editor.

Commonwealth War Grave for a Dockyard Labourer

by Sue Fryer
Member no. 7079
sue.fryer@yahoo.co.uk

James Chorley HUMPHRIES (1891-1918) was my great-uncle Jim. He wasn't in the military but he has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone and he died one hundred years ago from Spanish flu.

I knew from the 1911 census that Jim had been an apprentice engine fitter, living at home in Northwich with his family, the men all being in engineering occupations. When I came to write about Jim in my family history narrative, I recalled my late father saying, "He's buried in Halifax", which I wrote down in the little blue notebook I kept at the time. On reflection, twenty years later, I remembered this comment because I had thought it odd. Why would Jim be buried in Yorkshire when he came from Cheshire? I searched the available records at the time and could not find a death or burial record for him.

I visited my uncle and asked him about his Uncle Jim. He recalled that Jim had been stationed in Bermuda as "an Inspector of His Majesty's Shipyards" and he "had died from Spanish flu on his way home to England on a troopship". That would explain why I could not find a death or burial record for him. I assumed I was now looking for a burial at sea and, not knowing where to start, I appealed online to the Rootsweb Cheshire members for guidance.

I can see myself now, sitting at the computer that evening after tea; the family were in the adjoining room. I was delighted by the quick response from members online and half an hour into the exchange of conversations on my thread I suddenly had the *Eureka!* moment. Alan Kendall (Rootsweb Cheshire) had typed that *the ships returning from the West Indies would be likely to sail up the east coast of the USA following the Gulf Stream ocean current which would reduce the sailing time. Nova Scotia lies further south than the south coast of the UK but would be easily reached on the journey home.* Someone else said that troops who had been taken ill on board the ships were taken ashore at Halifax on the way past. Halifax! Halifax in Nova Scotia - not Halifax in Yorkshire! Our Jim was buried in Canada.

I rushed into the hall and started pulling boxes out from under the stairs. Somewhere in the 'HUMPHRIES' box was that little blue notebook.

That little blue notebook not only confirmed that dad had said Jim was buried in Halifax, but it also reminded me that my grandmother (Jim's sister-in-law) said the family had been sent a telegram to inform them of Jim's death, along with a bill for the funeral expenses.

I returned to the computer to thank the Rootsweb correspondents and say that they were most probably right. My great-uncle Jim could be buried in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The next question was, how would I go about finding where he was buried?

Toni (Rootsweb Cheshire) suggested I contact Rootsweb Nova Scotia, which I duly did. Wallace Lowe (Rootsweb Nova Scotia) responded to my appeal and not only helped with locating images of death records but also visited St John's cemetery on my behalf and liaised with Steve Hardman, the manager there. They visited the grave and sent me photographs of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) headstone, which states

*James Humphrey
Dockyard Labourer
7th October 1918*

How generous people are with their time! Thank you to those who respond to appeals for help, whether it be an online forum or in a family history magazine or journal. My particular thanks to those already mentioned who may also be members of FHSC.

The moral of this story? Never dismiss any little snippet of information from conversation with relatives, however odd it would seem at the time. Write everything down in a notebook: who knows when you might go searching for it and where it might lead?

I wanted to write this article to link with the centenary of the outbreak of Spanish flu, knowing an ancestor of mine had died from it. Of course, as with all family history research, it has just posed more questions:

Why has Jim got a CWGC headstone when he wasn't military?

Why was he on a troopship?

Was he a dockyard labourer, as stated on his headstone, or an inspector of the shipyards, the family story recalled by my uncle?

All for another day!

Sarah Malone - Murder in Lymm

by Victoria M L Doran
FHSC Chairman

The small item in the June 2018 CHESHIRE ANCESTOR relating to the death of Sarah MALONE rang a bell with me. On looking into the family tree of my maternal grandfather I discovered that I have a distant connection by marriage(s).

My great-grandmother Jane SPEARITT (1833-1906) had a younger sister Anne (1838-1888). Anne married Charles William BLATHERWICK (1832-1888) and their daughter, Beatrice Mary BLATHERWICK (1867-1897) married Charles LEAH (1848-1931). Charles married Mary MALONE (1809-1875), who was the daughter of John MALONE (1784-1859), the son of the murdered Sarah.

Sarah MALONE was born Sarah STATHAM about 1754. She married Patrick MALONE (birth and death dates unknown) on 23rd May 1784 at Lymm. Their first child, John MALONE was born on 28th August 1784, so she was several months pregnant at the time of the marriage. A second son, James MALONE was born on 7th July 1787 and baptised at Lymm on 24th August 1787; beside the entry in the baptism register is the note *Pauper*. I have found no further trace of Patrick MALONE.

Of interest is that though she was married, the *Chester Courant* newspaper reports refer to her as Sarah STATHAM rather than Sarah MALONE. This suggests to me that Patrick MALONE was not around for very long after the birth of James.

Sarah (known as Sally) was described as a large lusty woman who had been heard bragging that John THORNHILL was the father of her unborn child. John was the butler at the rectory and well thought of by the rector and his family. He inveigled Sally to a quiet area of Lymm and murdered her by hitting her over the head with a hammer and then threw her body into the mill dam.

John was born in Gloucestershire. He was apprehended after trying to flee by coach, then taken to Chester and held in the castle until the Assizes at the end of May. The trial lasted fourteen hours. He was condemned to death and duly hung.

Sally's son, John MALONE, who might have been expected to face a very difficult future as the orphan of a murdered woman whose husband had left her, in fact improved his lot. Possibly due to the good offices of the Rector of Lymm, he was apprenticed and became a blacksmith.

I do not know what became of James MALONE.

The details of Sarah's murder on 5th January 1798 were well known and in recent times were published in both *Cheshire Life* and a booklet issued by Lymm & District Family History Society entitled *What the Butler did*.

Interest in the murder existed in the 1700s as well, and a W. MINSHULL published an account of the events, together with a sketch (or 'representation') of the accused at the time of sentencing. The *Chester Courant* carried the following advertisement on 29th May 1798:

Just published, price one shilling

A NEW EDITION OF

THE TRIAL of JOHN THORNHILL, for the MURDER of SARAH STATHAM, at Lymm, in Cheshire; with some particulars of his behaviour before and after condemnation, and at the place of execution.

Chester: Printed and Sold by W. Minshull; and may be had of the booksellers in Chester, Warrington, Wrexham &c and of the newscarrers.

Of W. Minshull also may be had,

A REPRESENTATION of THORNHILL at the time of receiving the awful sentence of death. Price 1s. coloured, or 6d. plain.

Ed.: Searching the newspapers on *FindMyPast* for more information, I found the *Cheltenham Chronicle* of 4 September 1828 stated that John Thornhill was a *short, stout-built man, [with] round face and light complexion*. The newspaper had reprinted an article from the *Berkshire Chronicle and Windsor Herald* giving descriptions of several murderers whose misdeeds took place in Cheshire and elsewhere over the previous thirty years. In all cases, the murderers had a pale complexion or *light features*. Reader, you have been warned!

Was Charles Inglesfield from Cheshire, Liverpool, or Holland?

by Rodney Inglesfield
Member no. 8795
rodney.i@icloud.com

This article sets out the steps I took when tracing my family history back to the eighteenth century. Its main concern is with the genealogical jigsaw which enabled me to progress to the early life of Charles INGLESFIELD. It is not therefore a history of the family as such, but inevitably some interesting things did come to light.

When I started looking into family history many years ago, initial progress was easy. Both my father and grandfather had lived into their mid-seventies and although I never knew my great-grandfather, I had a reasonable amount of information about him. Beyond that, I had absolutely no information whatsoever, not even a name. All the family were believed to have lived in Runcorn as far as anyone knew. This was confirmed by census records.

The only difficulty I had was in finding the marriage of my great-grandfather Joseph (1863 - 1940). From birth he appeared in every census record in Runcorn, but a marriage for him in Runcorn was not in the parish registers or in the GRO index. From the census returns, I was easily able to identify my 2x great-grandfather, Charles INGLESFIELD, locate his marriage in Runcorn and order a marriage certificate. I had thus been able to bypass Joseph and concentrate on Charles.

Eventually I widened my search of the GRO index of marriages and this revealed Joseph (1863 - 1940) as having married Emily ACKERS in Widnes. I suspect this was because their elder child, also named Joseph, was born on 22nd March 1881, only five months after their marriage on 17th October 1880, and both Joseph and Emily were only seventeen at the time. Probably a degree of discretion required an early marriage somewhere where they were less well known. Apart from this, all available records show him in Runcorn throughout his life until his retirement.

When I tried to follow Charles's line my problems soon became apparent. Charles was married in 1854 in Runcorn. His marriage certificate from the GRO showed he had married Jane CATTRALL and it gave his father's name as William. Both bride and groom were recorded as of full age although there is

little doubt that Charles was no more than 20 and Jane CATTRALL a year or so younger. Both Charles and his wife signed their marriage certificate with a mark, implying that neither was able to read and write. All census returns from Charles's marriage until his death in 1893 showed him living in Runcorn - for example, the 1861 census, right. Importantly, in all of them he gave his birthplace as Liverpool. In three of the four censuses his age agrees with what I now believe was his date of birth. One census was a year out - this level of error is not unusual. Many years ago now I searched all available registers in Liverpool Library, but found nothing of my Charles. The matter rested there for many years; it seemed I had reached the dreaded "brick wall".

With the advent of various genealogical websites I resumed my search. In the 1851 census I found a Charles INGLESFIELD living and working on a farm at Keckwick, about four miles east of Runcorn. Was he my ancestor? He had the right name (with a slight spelling difference) and age, but the place of birth was given as Holland, Cheshire. There is no such place, although there is an Up Holland in Lancashire. Charles does not seem to be related to any of the other occupants and I thought it likely that the birth place was incorrect - probably a guess by the head of the household or whoever completed the census schedule. However, for many years this did dissuade me from believing this could be my missing ancestor. There is also an area named Holland in Lincolnshire, but I could not find a baptism there and a search of the 1841 census produced no results for anyone named INGLESFIELD or variants of that name in that area.

I searched widely, particularly in the Cheshire parish registers, available on *FindMyPast*. I found a Charles INGLESFIELD born in 1839 in Woodchurch, but his father's name was John - the wrong father and the wrong age. Also this Charles appears in later censuses so is clearly not "my Charles". I also found Charles HINGLESFIELD, baptised on 20th July 1836 in the parish of Barrow, Cheshire. His father was William, but I did not feel I could assume I had found the right Charles. There were several William INGLESFIELDS of a somewhat similar age in Merseyside around that time and the location was some way from where I expected. Maybe my Charles really was a Dutchman, or a Liverpoolian; I just had not yet tracked him down.

1851	Do	Charles Inglesfield	Wife	Ann	26	Doek Labour	Lancaster - Sport
		Jane	Wife	Ann	24		Cheshire - Runcorn
		Annuel	son				do do
		Mary	son		4	labourer	do do
		Mariah	son				do do

During my various reflections on the problem, I developed the feeling that Charles was either an only child, or was estranged from his parents. None of my searches had found any apparent relatives, apart from his own wife and his twelve children. In censuses, I found no neighbours who may have been siblings or their children. Then recently, looking over the various records, I noticed something of vital importance. Charles's first child - another William - was born in 1855. You would expect him to have been shown at home in the 1861 census as he would have been only six years old, but he was missing. I knew from later census records that he never married and lived with family all his life. This started a search of the 1861 census for a William INGLESFIELD born in 1855 in Runcorn. I fairly quickly found him in Lower Bebington, Birkenhead; he is recorded as born in Runcorn, Lancashire. So much for census accuracy! Also he is living with a William INGLEFIELD and his wife Mary.

The really big breakthrough is that he is recorded as being William INGLEFIELD's grandson. This really seemed to link things together nicely. I needed to be sure this was a blood relationship. He could have been the grandson of Mary by another man, using the INGLEFIELD name, or simply some other adoption arrangement. I was interested to see that William and Mary had no children of their own at home. I also noted that Mary was five years older than William. William's birthplace is rather smudged, but the 1851 and all other later censuses for this William show his birthplace as Ince, and I feel that the smudged name is also probably Ince, a village between Ellesmere Port and Helsby.

The next thing was to find William and Mary in other census returns, particularly 1851 which should show any children they may have had. In 1851 I found them living on their own in Runcorn - it looks as if they had no children. Still wanting to be sure I was on the right track, I searched and found their marriage. It was on 21st October 1849, in Farnworth in the parish of Prescot - near Widnes. Mary was a spinster, but William was a widower. Mary was forty-three years old when she married, so children were unlikely. It was really beginning to look as if Charles's mother had died fairly soon after he was born. I also now knew William's father's name, Joseph.

A search of the 1841 census for Ince revealed a Charles INGLEFIELD, a William INGLEFIELD and a Joseph INGLEFIELD, all in the same household. All were of the right ages to be my Charles, his father William and William's father Joseph. Of course the 1841 census does not record relationships, but it seems a reasonable assumption that this was my Charles, living with his widowed father in the family home. I decided to take another look at the Charles HINGLESFIELD baptised in 1836 in Barrow, Cheshire and his father William.

The parish register for Barrow, Cheshire shows Charles HINGLESFIELD was baptised on 20th July 1836 and his parents were William and Sarah. Their abode was Broom Hill, a farmstead or hamlet in the parish. As William had re-married in 1849 as a widower, I wondered if Sarah had died in childbirth, so I searched the burial registers. I found Sarah HINGLESFIELD had died on 18th July and was buried on 20th July, aged twenty-one years. The burial was the same day that Charles was baptised! Maybe they were unsure if Charles would live, or perhaps it was just practical to baptise Charles whilst his father was in church for the funeral.

Finally I looked for a marriage of a William HINGLESFIELD or INGLESFIELD or indeed INGLESFIELD. I found a William INGLESFIELD marrying Sarah HOLLAND in Thornton in the Moor on 31 August 1835. Thornton is less than two miles from Ince, and about five miles from Broomhill, Barrow; all within reasonable walking distance for the times.

I was now confident that I had traced Charles's ancestry to William and his father Joseph, as shown in the 1841 census for Ince. Charles was of Cheshire origin. I felt I needed some explanation for his repeatedly stating Liverpool as his place of birth. I suspect he may genuinely have thought his birthplace was Liverpool, because his father had associations with Birkenhead and Widnes and may even have lived in Liverpool for a while whilst Charles was young. I am also encouraged by a book, *A Cheshire Parish being a short history of Ince* by F. G. Slater, who was vicar of Ince from 1910. This gives a detailed account of the village over the centuries. According to the book, until the construction of the railway in the 1860s

the chief means of communication between our sequestered village and the outer world was a ferry-boat which plied between Ince and Liverpool, a passage of some twelve to fourteen miles.

The ferry and landing stage are clearly shown on early OS maps. It is probable this was the



Map: O.S. First Edition, 1856, from *A Vision of Britain* website (www.visionofbritain.org.uk/place/5534)

normal way to reach places such as Widnes and Birkenhead from Ince. It is quite possible that as a young child, Charles tended to think of such places as being part of Liverpool.

The geography and landscape around Ince would have been very different in the first half of the nineteenth century. Ince village is situated in very flat land within around a mile of the shores of the Mersey estuary. Much of this land flanking the Mersey was salt marsh, subject to frequent flooding. Frodsham is a similar distance from the Mersey as Ince; in the garden of the Old Hall Hotel in Frodsham are two stones marking high tide points in 1802 and 1862. It is therefore likely that the roads around Ince heading inland were very poor.

The arrival of the railway in 1863 would put an end to the ferry, this fact alone confirming how important the ferry had been. The construction of the Manchester Ship Canal (around 1890) effectively blocked off the river from flooding the marshes surrounding Ince. Road connections would then be able to improve.

As I said at the beginning, this is not about “putting flesh on the bones”. Even so, interesting points come to mind. Death due to childbirth was tragically common in the nineteenth century, but it seems particularly sad to see Charles being baptised on the day of his mother’s funeral. I am assuming that he had been born only a week or two before that. It is, however, possible that he was several months old, that his parents had omitted to have him baptised immediately, perhaps due to the ill health of his mother. We will never know for certain, but as his parents were only married just under a year from Sarah’s death, it is reasonably likely that Charles was born in 1836.

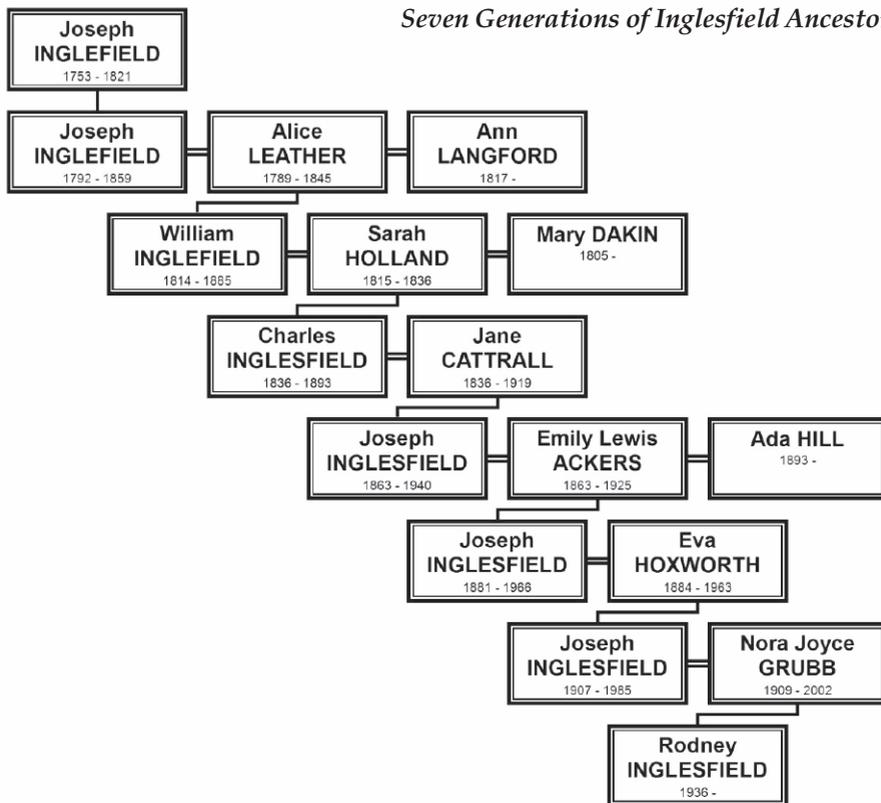
A final point to ponder is the place of birth given in the 1851 census when Charles was a sixteen-year-old farm worker. His mother’s maiden name was Holland. Was it possible he was curious enough to ask his father about his mother and therefore knew her name? Perhaps he talked to people about this at the farm and when the census enumerator wanted to know the place of birth, someone remembered that Charles had mentioned Holland, but obviously not in the right context. On the other hand, it looks as if he really believed he was born in Liverpool as he stated this consistently in all subsequent censuses. Is it likely that he knew his mother’s name but not where he was born? Probably not, but stranger things have happened.

Charles had twelve children. As was common, several died in childhood. Two of the sons were drowned at sea in shipwrecks. Several of the daughters married and had large families giving Charles around sixty grandchildren. The

male side was much less prolific, my grandfather Joseph (1881 – 1956) being the sole producer of the next generation of male INGLESFIELDS. The tree is now spreading out again somewhat, my grandfather having four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Finally, Ince parish records easily revealed details of William’s father Joseph (b. 1792) and his father, yet another Joseph, (b. 1753). Thus, with reasonable certainty, I had traced my ancestry back to the mid-eighteenth century.

Seven Generations of Inglesfield Ancestors



Stillbirth Burial, Wybunbury

Spotted by Sue Parker inside the front cover of the grave register for St Chad's, Wybunbury 1807-1874:

63 April 29th an illegitimate child interred by me (?) in the name of Louis BROADLANE (?), Dr WILLIAMSON attendant no certificate Stillborn.

William Field, Gunmaker of Birmingham

by David Sewell
Member no. 9185

This is a follow-up article to the letter that appeared in the *CHESHIRE ANCESTOR* of June 2018.

William FIELD was born on 28th Dec 1845. During his working lifetime in Birmingham, he had small workshops in Price Street, King Alfred's Place, Broad Street (1885-1896) and 2 Cambridge Street (1897- 1898). King Alfred's Place was behind the old location of the Bingley Hall (see <https://maps.nls.uk/view/101597708>); the site is now occupied by the Birmingham Repertory Theatre.

Kelly's Directory of Birmingham, 1886 lists under Gun, Rifle, & Pistol Makers:

*Field Rifle Co. (William Field, manager)
inventor of the "Field" match, military, & sporting rifle; also inventor of the
"Field" hammerless rifle for rook, deer, tiger shooting & C., 2 King Alfred's
Place, Broad Street*



This was located near the Bingley Hall and next to the extra pit entrance to the Prince of Wales Theatre. The 1888 edition had *Laudenburg C.H. & Co. East India Merchants* included at the same address as the Field Rifle Co.; perhaps William Field gone into some sort of partnership with this gentleman or his firm, because he is also named on the fourth of William FIELD's seven rifle patents. These are the British patents, awarded between 1876 and 1898, that William FIELD either drew up himself, or was associated with:

No. 4569 (1876) gave him provisional patent protection only for his invention. It laid out various ideas for improving the action and safety of the Martini-Henry, and other similar arms.

No. 1927 (1877). This patent dealt with improvements for opening and closing breech blocks, and the cocking mechanisms on the Martini and other rifles.

No. 2646 (1883) was for “Rook” and other Rifles and refers to drop-down barrel actions and improving breech-loading.

No. 7502 (1889) was a Gun Barrel Reflector, for viewing the interior of a gun barrel (this was in association with C. H. LAUDENBURG).

No. 4704 (1898) Martini-type action and loading indicator (this patent seems to be credited to C. B. ENGELS trading as W. FIELD).

No. 11,468 (1898) was regarding magazine designs.

No. 23,477 (1898) W. FIELD again with ENGELS, was a modification of No. 4704.

Some of these patents can still be viewed in volumes at the Central Library in Birmingham.

William FIELD was also granted a U.S. Patent #200,041 for a breech-loading firearm. Given on February 5th 1878, this probably refers to the British Patent No. 1927.

As a small boy, Charles HARVEY (William’s grandson) visited the workshop at King Alfred's Place and remembers seeing several lathes and other pieces of machinery. It was a typical small workshop in Birmingham - 'the city of a thousand trades'. From *Albert's Story, Birmingham the Working City*:

The workshops were often very cramped, with work-benches all along the walls. Some had little machines which ran by a motor with belts to drive them. The men worked on polishing gun barrels or carving wood- stocks for handles. There were tools everywhere , hanging on nails and straps all over the walls and lying on the benches. You gradually became aware of it all from the dim shafts of light filtering down from the small windows. The men were all skilled at their trade, which they handed down from father to son. I loved to watch them elaborately engraving the metal parts of the sporting guns, and shape the firing-mechanisms. All hand done, an immense amount of skill went into the making of guns.

Charles also remembered seeing the brass plate of the Field Rifle Co. that was set into the wall of the premises.

Charles believed that his uncles Fred and Cyrus both helped in the factory. The wooden (walnut) parts of the guns were bought home for his daughters to French polish. Needsfoot oil - made from tripe! - was used on the metal parts, and linseed oil on the fresh wood. He said his grandfather William was a good shot, and regularly went to Bisley. Records of an 1882 Bisley Meeting show a Mr TURNER of the Midland Rifle Club coming 4th and 5th using a Field-Turner Rifle; Lt. MELSANE of the 1st Renfrew Corps used the same type of rifle. Was this a Turner Rifle using William FIELD's patents, or did William's company also have a hand in its making?

The hall in the FIELD residence was a long one and afforded target practice, right down into the garden! One of William FIELD's sporting rifles was in the possession of his grandson Arthur Stanley FIELD, son of William's eldest son William Samuel FIELD. Arthur Stanley FIELD died some years ago and it is not known what happened to the gun after his death.

The Martini-Henry rifle was the official rifle for the British army from the early 1870s until the introduction of the Lee Metford rifle in 1888. It was accurate but only a single cartridge rifle; cartridges were loaded and expelled manually. As an army rifle the gun had its defects. Not only was it a single cartridge rifle but after it had shot ten rounds or so the mechanism began to cause problems. The recoil became more pronounced, so that after prolonged firing it caused heavy bruising to the shoulder - so much so that at Rourke's Drift in the Zulu War some soldiers admitted that after perhaps 200 rounds they could only hold their weapon at arm's length, resting on the barricade, and fire away wildly. Furthermore, the weapon became very hot and it was difficult to support the stock without burning one's fingers on the barrel.

The Martini-Henry was four feet long and weighed ten pounds. It was sighted up to 1200 yards, but was particularly effective at ranges of less than 400 yards, when the rear sight-ladder was laid flat, allowing the marksman to aim without craning his neck away from the butt. It was a lethal weapon, with great "stopping power". The Martini action is still used to this present day, primarily for target rifles and shotguns. Most of William's patented innovations were in regard to improvements to the Martini-Henry Rifle as a sporting rifle and target rifle; this was the area of the trade in which William FIELD's expertise lay.

The gun trade in this country had flourished, in field sports, in the expanding British Empire, and in various wars. This connection meant that it was trapped in an unfortunate paradox. Peace and good times for the many often brought hardship for gun workers.

The Shah of Persia gave William's firm a big order for guns, but the ship carrying them was wrecked in a storm; no guns received meant no money - it almost ruined him.

A conversation in 1998 with Edna PARKER of Alfred J. PARKER Ltd (suppliers of guns, rifles and shooting accessories) of Moseley Road, Birmingham said she believed that William FIELD was in the Royal Warwickshire Volunteers with her grandfather, and that they would certainly have shot together at Bisley. At this time her grandfather made the verniers (small moveable scales for sighting the rifles) - she still has some with *Wm. Field* engraved on them!

Edna said that skilled men in those days were so poorly paid that they lived very frugally. Freelance workers would be employed in one long shop. Each paid 2s. 6d. per window for their position. They could not afford to live normally and just slept under the bench of the workshop. They stayed in the trade because of the camaraderie and the atmosphere. With his own company and patents, William FIELD had, of course, risen well above this lowly level.

Geoffrey BOOTHROYD of the *Shooting Times* found a reference to a Field's Rook rifle in *The Modern Sportsman Gun & Rifle Vol.2*, and there is a mention of the Field Rifle in W. W. GREENER's book *The Gun*.

During the South Africa War (1899-1902) all rifles were in great demand. As always, the FIELD family helped to polish the wooden butt ends. Some rifles were very special and expensive. These were often damascened in gold and silver (this was the inlay put into the gun's metalwork). Charles HARVEY's mother Louise said that these rifles were for 'Indian Maharajahs'. No doubt such specialised work would have been undertaken by other craftsmen in Birmingham.

William FIELD died on 15th February 1917 and was buried at Warstone Lane Cemetery, Birmingham.

Acknowledgements

This article is based on a book written by Martin Hewitt in 1998 and revised at various intervals when new information and sources came to hand, some of which I was able to supply. He was the unknown cousin I wrote about in the letter that appeared in the **CHESTER ANCESTOR** of June 2018.

The information for the book was obtained from a letter sent by Charles Harvey of Harborne, Birmingham (a grandson of William Field) to his cousin Dorothy Lester, various other sources, and interviews made by Martin Hewitt.

Thoughts on Brick Walls

by Gren Dix
Member no. 4174

My brick walls are of infinite interest to me: yours are boring. You may agree with this sentiment. Brick walls - and the breaking of them - are of more general interest when the technique gives you insight into the process or adds to your armoury of methods.

As an indirect example, why did the sibling of one of my ancestors appear in police records? The Shropshire Family History Society and Shropshire archives have collaborated to collate all references to names for a specific time in the late nineteenth century. A reference to the name led to some dusty boxes at the archive office, in which I discovered that the ancestor had reported the theft of a watch. Subsequent records showed that the alleged thief was prosecuted - and the hearing took place in a public house! Two observations came from this. One was that both my ancestor and the police had to pay a surety to ensure that they turned up for the hearing. The other was the speed at which justice was administered. Our present legal system could learn a few lessons.

The background to my brick wall.

My direct ancestor, Henry DIX was born, lived and died in the village of Geddington, three-and-a-half miles north-north-east of Kettering. Its claim to fame is that it has the best-preserved Eleanor Cross*. Henry DIX and one of his brothers, Joseph, married two daughters of George STANLEY. Joseph emigrated to Australia - but that is another story. George STANLEY married in 1810 in Geddington. The wedding document said *George Stanley of Weekly*.

Weekly is a very small village south of Geddington and one-and-a-half miles north-north-east of Kettering. When I visited the village, it boasted one shop which incorporated a café and a post office. Houses in the village, even today, have just a number, with no street name, and a plan of the village showing all the houses and their number was displayed in the shop. The entrance to the stately home of Boughton Park is nearby. I looked at the local parish records for 'my' George STANLEY. There was no sign. However, there were some interesting details of a Diston STANLEY. It turned out that he was steward at Boughton Park; in the parish records he was referred to as 'Mr.' Stanley. On his death he had the honour of being interred in the aisle of the local church.

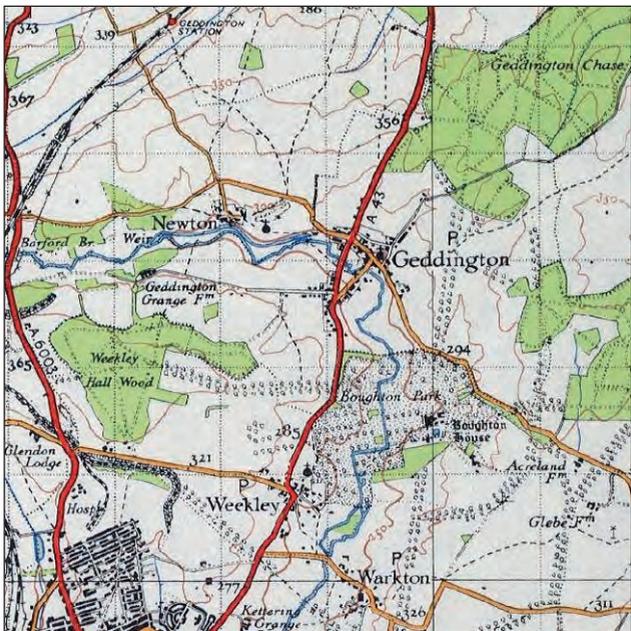
For a decade I gave up looking for George. I found the burial of George in 1819, aged thirty-one, so he was born about 1788. I assumed that he had not been baptised (Henry DIX and half his siblings were apparently not baptised).

The breakthrough.

Recently I subscribed to *Ancestry* and searched Northamptonshire records for George's birth. Among the various possibilities was a George baptised in 1789, in the quaintly-named village of Newton in the Willows, a mile west of Geddington; it had just sixty-eight inhabitants in the mid-nineteenth century. From this I found his siblings; some married in Geddington, as did their children. I also found George's parents and one set of grandparents.

The moral is not "don't believe what is written" - George may well have lived in Weekly - but be more receptive to a wider search. In this case I was blinded by the words in the marriage register stating that he was of *Weekly*.

**In 1290 Eleanor of Castile, the wife of Edward I, died at Harby, in Nottinghamshire. The twelve places where her body rested during the journey south to Westminster Abbey were marked by stone monuments. Today only those at Geddington, Hardingstone and Waltham Cross remain.*



Map: O.S. New Popular Edition, 1945, from *A Vision of Britain* website (www.visionofbritain.org.uk/place/7942)

Crewe's Aeronaut: 'Professor' George Higgins

by Donald Tomkinson

Member no. 1346

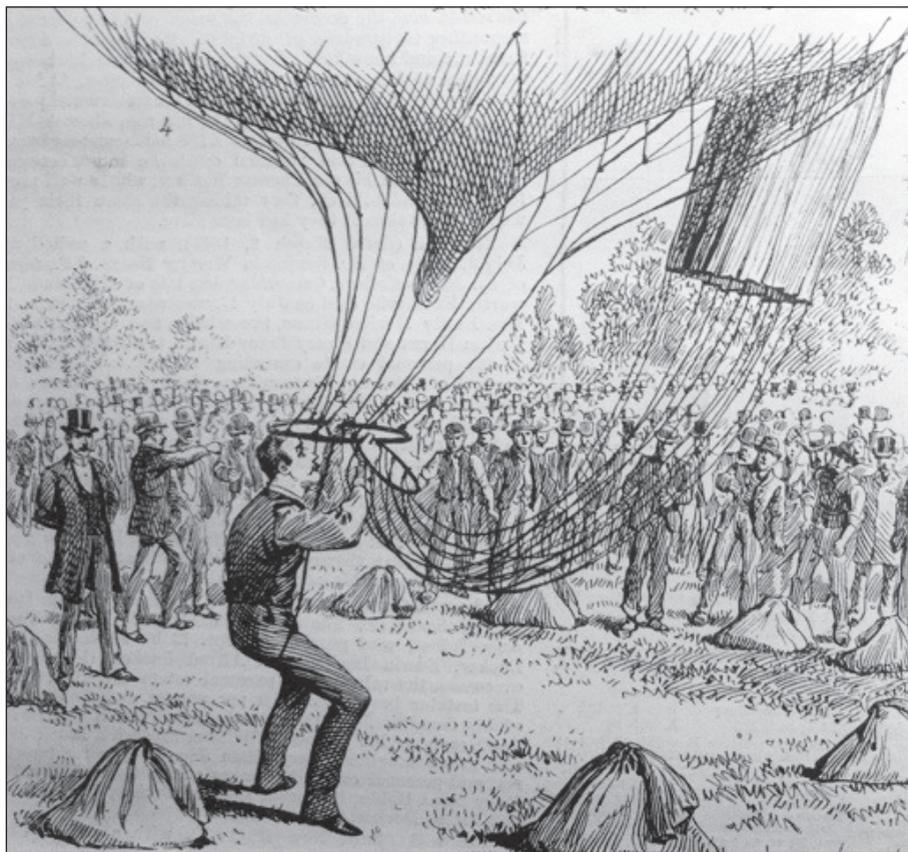
Throughout the ages every locality has had its heroes, some home bred and others adopted. This is an account of one such personality, who, although only briefly associated with the town, was claimed as its own by Crewe, and who had, with his colleague (known as Miss Emma De Voy), a life of daring and adventure worth recording.

From the first time man watched the birds sailing through the sky, he must have wanted to join them, soaring in the blue. Leonardo da Vinci presciently said: *When once you have tasted flight you will forever walk the earth with your eyes turned skyward, for there you have been, and there you will always want to return.* Long ago the Chinese invented the hot-air balloon; although it could not carry them in person, they were able, at least, to send their spirits soaring skywards.

It was many centuries later that man was able to carry himself into the skies, when in 1783 the first Frenchman perilously took to the air in a hot-air balloon. He was quickly followed in December of that year by another Frenchman, flying in a hydrogen balloon. They pioneered the way for a multitude of courageous, and possibly foolhardy, men to endanger their lives, driven by a mixture of a sense of adventure and, in many, exhibitionism. It was not long before there was a major disaster: in 1785 a balloon crashed in Ireland, setting fire to a hundred houses in the town of Tullamore, County Offaly. Since that time the list of balloon disasters and fatalities has steadily grown.

During the nineteenth century, ballooning became not just a sport, but a public entertainment. Large crowds gathered to watch the aeronautical exhibitions, drawn by the novelty of the spectacle of men, and women, taking to the skies, and perhaps also by the ghoulish attraction of watching people endangering their lives. In these exhibitions the possibility of disaster was high, as most of the balloons were filled with highly inflammable hydrogen gas. In America, a professional balloonist, John E. BALDWIN, used to give public shows during which he took to the air and then threw ignited sticks of dynamite from his basket. Eventually, the inevitable occurred. He rose to a good height. There was an explosion. A second of silence - then very small pieces of what had been in the air rained down on the people below.

Curiously, nine Baldwins are listed as balloonists and only three were related. One of the Baldwins, Thomas Sackett BALDWIN, was a remarkable character. He was born in 1854 in the USA and had several varied and somewhat exotic careers, which included acrobat and tightrope walker in a circus; a balloonist in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show; a gas balloonist touring the world giving exhibitions, and later became an airship and aeroplane pilot. Baldwin visited London in 1888, drawing a large crowd to Alexandra Palace on the 28th July to watch his remarkable display. The Professor, as he called himself, not only flew in his gas balloon, but leapt from the balloon and floated to the ground in a parachute of his own design. The parachute was attached to the side of the balloon, and Baldwin ascended, not in a basket, but sitting on a trapeze suspended below. He held on to the parachute by grasping two rings. When he was ready he jumped from the trapeze holding the two rings, his weight tearing the attachment of the parachute to the balloon. He would have needed all his strength to keep hold of the rings when the parachute opened.



During his performance at Alexandra Palace, Baldwin is reported to have said that no Englishman had been able to emulate his feats of parachuting. This challenge was taken up by an unlikely Englishman, George HIGGINS. Although he was at times described as a London cabman, up to the time of him becoming a balloonist, he is only recorded as an agricultural labourer, and never referred to himself as having been a cabman.

George HIGGINS was born in 1854, in Dinton, Buckinghamshire, the son of Thomas and Ann HIGGINS, later described as a *good yeoman stock*. On the censuses up to 1881 he is recorded as a farm servant, but he seems to have been somewhat out of the ordinary. He published a pamphlet on his life, no longer in existence, but from which some information about his earlier years has been recorded. He was said to have been a considerable athlete, excelling as a runner, and often, when acting as a runner to Baron Rothschild's staghounds, earning gifts from the Baron and the huntsmen when in at the death. He then took to cross-country running and once ran thirty miles in four hours and ten minutes, beating twenty other runners. He extended his athleticism to sculling and he claimed that although competing with well-known oarsmen, he was never beaten. At one time he told the press that he had been in the army, but does not seem to have mentioned this in his pamphlet. One episode in his life which he did not record, unsurprisingly, was that in 1871 he spent six weeks in Aylesbury gaol for stealing poultry. The following year, his father Thomas, then a dealer, spent even longer in the same gaol, serving three months for obtaining money under false pretences. So much for "good yeoman stock."

Following the challenge of Professor Baldwin, it was not long before Higgins made his first ascent and descent by parachute on the 28th October 1888 before a large crowd at the Greyhound Pleasure Gardens, Lea Bridge, London. This was the first of many performances he made around the country after he became a professional balloonist. Higgins' title of 'Professor' was self-awarded, following the example of 'Professor' Baldwin, the man he was rivalling - and also annoying Baldwin, who published a notice in the papers decrying *Higgins, the London cabman*. Higgins was joined in his performances by a lady parachutist with the exotic name of Miss 'Emily De Voy'. Her name was derived from her actual name of Emma DOVEY, and she was the sister of his wife Matilda. The sisters were born in St. Pancras, London, the daughters of John DOVEY, a cordwainer, and his wife Bridget. Matilda was born in 1863 and her younger sister Emma in 1870. Incidentally, no record can be found of a marriage of George HIGGINS to Matilda DOVEY, although she is recorded as his wife in the 1881 census. Emily, or Emma, beginning her 'aeronautical career' at only eighteen years of age, was the equal of Higgins in daring, but probably exceeded him in prudence. She was described as "an ordinary looking

young lady, neatly dressed, a little under average height, unaffected and affable." Many photographs must have been taken of Higgins and Miss De Voy, but unfortunately none can be located. No detailed description of Higgins has been found except that he was moustachioed and must have appeared the typical Victorian showman.

Higgins' first ascent began a ballooning career of numerous exhibitions around the country. By the end of 1888, less than three months after his first ascent, he had made twenty-two appearances. It was a career full of excitement, danger, and brushes with death, not only for Higgins, but also for his associates. On Thursday 13th December 1888, Higgins narrowly escaped losing his life at Snaresbrook, Essex, when ascending from grounds adjoining the Eagle Public House. Intending to make his parachute descent, he shot up to 4,000 feet where he met turbulent air, detaching the parachute from the balloon, which dropped under the balloon, still attached to Higgins. He cut himself free from the parachute causing the balloon again to shoot upwards to a height which Higgins said was some four miles high. Whatever the height, it was cold enough to cause ice to form on his moustache. The balloon, with its passenger, drifted over Epping Forest, before Higgins was able to descend at Enfield Lock by a gin factory; it is not recorded whether he was able to console himself with its product. However, Higgins escaped with only a sprained ankle. For this exploit, George Higgins was awarded the gold medal of the Balloon Society of Great Britain.

The next year, 1889, followed the same pattern. At Leicester, on 6th July, a 'Professor' BELLINI accompanied Higgins and Miss De Voy while they ascended prior to their parachute descents. They both jumped at 4,000 feet, causing the balloon to shoot up to 7,000 feet. As it descended from that height, the balloon lost gas and came down heavily, with Bellini entangled in the balloon netting, and suffering severe injuries.

Higgins, never deterred by narrow escapes from death of himself or his associates, was performing at Salford ten days later on the 16th July, when a man named LENNOX volunteered to accompany him in a basket, as Miss De Voy was unable to take part. The conditions were windy, and after it was released the balloon shot up and drifted away. Higgins jumped out over Alexandra Park and landed in the lake, getting away with just a soaking. Lennox was not as lucky; after Higgins had jumped, the balloon shot up, out of control. The fabric seemed to rip, deflating the balloon and dashing Lennox to his death. At the subsequent inquest, Lennox was said to be a thirty-eight-year-old seaman from Liverpool, who, Higgins said, had been introduced to him by Bellini, whom he called his assistant.

Professor, or Señor, Bellini, described as an Anglo-American, recovered from his injuries and had a career as exotic as that of Higgins. In 1892, described as an aeronaut and balloon builder, he was proposing a voyage by balloon across the Atlantic. In 1897, described as an aeronaut and balloon instructor, he had patented 'Signor Bellini's Flying Man.' Later in 1897, he staged a bizarre performance when a 'Professor' Anthony ascended under his balloon, sitting on a bicycle, on which he descended by parachute. It is not recorded if he pedalled on the way down. It is to be hoped that he landed on a well-sprung saddle.

Again, in spite of the serious accident and death, Higgins and Miss De Voy continued their 'aeronautical' careers, with Emily De Voy literally rising to new heights at Wolverhampton. On the 21st October, she broke the record of female parachutists with a drop of 14,000 feet, from which she alighted *with the utmost ease and without hurt*.

On the 6th August 1890, Higgins and De Voy were at Crewe. It was said that a crowd of some 50,000 people had gathered to watch them - probably a highly exaggerated figure, as in 1890 the total population of Crewe was only about 28,000. Once again there were difficulties. As the balloon was being released, a strong gust of wind drove the balloon against some nearby iron railings; Emily De Voy was thrown to the ground, while the balloon shot up, with Higgins clinging in the balloon netting. Once more, both escaped without serious injuries. Miss De Voy suffered only minor cuts and bruises, while Higgins parachuted down safely, landing in Lord Crewe's Park, it was reported, to a *perfect ovation*.

Higgins must have taken a liking to Crewe, as in the 1891 census, he had become the landlord of the *Lord Nelson Inn* in Mill Street (now demolished). He was described as an aeronaut and publican, living with Emily de Voy who was listed as a boarder and aeronaut. Higgins' daughter, Lily, was also living there. Higgins' residence in Crewe enabled *Eardley's Crewe Almanac* to claim him as *Crewe's Aeronaut*.

The year of 1891 was not a good one for Higgins. On Bank Holiday 3rd August at Roundhay Park in Leeds, he was at an event organised by the Hospital Gala Committee. All went well and Miss De Voy had a very successful ascent and descent. It was intended to repeat the feat the next day; many thousands attended, but they were disappointed for, after a long delay, this performance had to be abandoned due to an escape of gas. To recompense the spectators it was promised to yet again perform on Saturday, the 8th, free of charge. Unfortunately, and it transpired, disastrously, the same site was not available,

and a new site was found with a good supply of gas, in a field next to the *Star and Garter Hotel* at Kirkstall. Saturday afternoon was cloudy and blustery, but a crowd of some 20,000 had gathered, eager to see the spectacle. The site must have been quite close to the hotel and to the roadway with adjacent telegraph wires and stone wall. The unsuitability for the launching of a balloon, made worse by the field being six feet below the stone wall, is quite apparent in the 1950s photograph of the hotel on the Leeds Photographic Archive website www.leodis.net/display.aspx?resourceIdentifier=8141.

In spite of the unfavourable site and weather conditions, Higgins decided to go up. He was wearing his ordinary clothes, except for the uniform jacket of the Balloon Society and a tight-fitting cap. Miss De Voy was wearing a fetching outfit consisting of a close-fitting bodice and combinations of dark blue and a sash and cap of delicate light blue.

Higgins shouted to an assistant to remove the gas pipe from the balloon, which the assistant did - so clumsily that it tore the gas valve away, releasing gas from the balloon. In spite of this, Higgins shouted to let the balloon go and a sudden gust of wind ripped the balloon with a loud report. The gust caused Miss De Voy to fall to the ground, where she was cut loose from her parachute by spectators. Again - incredibly - Higgins shouted, "Let her go". The trapeze then tipped sideways and the balloon was badly damaged. As the balloon was released another gust of wind blew it towards the telegraph wires, helped by the two flapping parachutes acting as sails. Higgins' feet caught the wires; as he tried to free himself he was tipped upside down and, turning a somersault, fell some forty feet to the ground, landing with his back on a post of the fence around the balloon enclosure. He was carried into the adjoining *Star and Garter*, where he died twenty minutes later, his back badly broken. The balloon disappeared out of sight and caused the clergymen of Huggate, thirty-four miles away, some excitement when it narrowly missed the church spire and came down in a field nearby.

An inquest on Higgins' death was held on the following Monday, at the *Star and Garter Hotel*. The principal witness was Miss De Voy, who, in some reports, was described as Mrs. Emily Higgins, but in others, correctly, as his sister-in-law. When asked by the coroner if Higgins did not perceive the danger, she replied, "There was a great clamour among the multitude of people, which he may have taken to mean that people were incredulous as to his really meaning to go up, and thereupon he would persist." This would have been entirely consistent with Higgins' personality. Actually, one report said that someone had shouted *They're doing this deliberately*, which would have been like a red rag to a bull. The verdict was accidental death.

Emily De Voy left Leeds the next day, having been given over a sovereign from a collection towards Higgins' funeral expenses. On Wednesday there was another twist to the tale, when another woman, dressed in deep mourning, appeared at the *Star and Garter*, saying that she was Higgins' widow, and that Miss De Voy was her sister. When the Landlord, Mr. LISTER, said that Miss De Voy had said at the inquest that she was Higgins' wife, she said that she had married Higgins in 1880; they had four children and he sent them money from time to time. She had been told of Higgins' death and had borrowed the money to pay her fare to Leeds. The Chief Constable of Leeds handed to her 12s. 6d., the balance of the subscription towards the funeral expenses. It was a pretty poor recompense for the real Mrs. Higgins which would not even have covered the cost of her journey one way.

The ascent would have been Higgins' 61st, and Miss De Voy's 31st. Higgins' career had lasted only three years; perhaps in view of the dangers and Higgins' personality, it might be considered a wonder that it had lasted that long. Miss De Voy had made a revealing remark at the inquest, saying, "There is something about us to save us." They both believed that they were immortal.

However, Emily De Voy, or Emma Dovey, was a remarkable young woman. She did seem to have an unshakeable belief in her own ability and safety, and the death of her partner did not deter her from continuing her career as a parachutist. She made an ascent at Luton in 1895 on Whit Monday, 3rd June, which was another hazardous adventure. The performance, under C. G. SPENCER and Sons, of Holloway, London, commenced about 5.30pm, again with thousands of spectators. All went well, until at about three or four hundred feet, the parachute became detached from the balloon and floated inverted beneath. The wind was blowing from the north and took the balloon with its parachutist toward Flamstead. Miss De Voy later said that she decided that she would go as high as she could, to have plenty of time for the parachute to open. She thought that she reached 18,000 to 20,000 feet when she was numbed with the cold and decided to jump. As she jumped she landed in the middle of the parachute and fell, rolling over and over, her feet caught in the cords. Once again, her guardian angel was looking after her, and she was able to make a comfortable landing in a potato field at Flamstead. As this was said to be about her fiftieth performance, she had made quite a number of descents since the death of Higgins.

Surviving her hazardous performances, in 1895 Emily married John FISH in Chorlton, Manchester. FISH was a glass and china dealer, and both were living in Chorlton in 1901. There are no records of Emily continuing her remarkable aeronautical career afterwards, and she seems to have settled down to married

life. Higgins' wife Matilda also found refuge with another husband, marrying George BALE in Islington in 1896.

George HIGGINS and Emily DOVEY were members of an intrepid band of Victorian adventurers who, driven by a mixture of motives, put their lives in danger in the pursuit of conquering the air. Their history contains many who paid with their lives, like George Higgins, but some went on to be pioneers of aviation: one of mankind's remarkable achievements - with its mixed blessings.

Sources:

Parish records and censuses: Find My Past.

Newspaper archives: Find My Past.

The Times archive: Cheshire Libraries.

Image of Thomas Baldwin: The Illustrated London News

Research: David Railton

Treasure Trove at Mobberley Research Centre

by Lyn McCulloch
Member no. 487

When I get a spare moment while on duty at Mobberley I love to delve into the filing cabinets full of documents. Not everyone realises just how many names appear in these in addition to the main indexed names.

I picked one at random to illustrate this. I haven't transcribed it but I have noted the names that appear. It is dated 1817 and concerns Bostock House Farm, Hassall, Sandbach which was originally a moated manor house belonging to the LOWNDES family.

If you are interested in any of the names I suggest you consult the document itself - and there is another related one dated 1827. I have included involved parties, witnesses and legal people.

Richard DARLINGTON

Joseph LEA of Bostock

Robert TIMMIS of Weston, Cheshire, Farmer

Richard LOWNDES of Hassall & wife, Margaret

Richard LOWNDES the younger

John WALKER of Wich Malbank, Nantwich, Gent.

James DOE of Little Saughall, Gent.
 William FORD the younger of Odd Rode, Yeoman
 Daniel FORD of Odd Rode, Wheelwright
 Jane RAWSTHORN
 Elizabeth DAWSON
 Richard DARLINGTON
 William PENLINGTON the elder of Odd Rode & Mary
 William PENLINGTON the younger Esq.
 Mary PENLINGTON spinster
 Jasper GARNETT Banker
 Joseph JACKSON of Nantwich
 Penelope JACKSON (widow of Joseph?)
 Joseph GARDNER
 Matthew MOORE of Fenstanton, Staffs. Earthenware Manufacturer
 Charles MOORE of Nantwich Gent.
 Job DARLINGTON
 James LAMB Clerk
 Thomas EMERY
 William LATHAM
 Messrs SKERRATT Solicitors of Sandbach (Samuel & James)
 James CALDWELL of Linley Wood, Audley, Staffs & wife Elizabeth
 Robert BUTTERS of Nantwich, Draper & wife Mary
 Ann WRENCH of Butt Green, Nantwich
 Joan LOWNDES of Butt Green
 Penlington WRENCH & wife Elizabeth of Butt Green
 Jean L P WRENCH
 Elizabeth WRENCH

Sadly the old moated manor house has gone now and even the moat seems to have disappeared. It can, however, be clearly seen on the Cheshire Tithe Map website (<http://maps.cheshire.gov.uk/tithemaps/>) Before the Lowndes family owned it, the house belonged to Hugh de BOSTOCK of Hassall, Sandbach, a descendent of the BOSTOCKs of Moreton Say, Salop.

Next time you visit Mobberley, see what you can find in the wealth of documents that we hold. You might just find some treasure!

Birth Announcement

Found by Lyn McCulloch in the *Glasgow Herald*, 7th June 1900:

At Warrington, Cheshire, on the 31st, the wife of Arthur R EWING PhD, a son.

Soldiers recorded in Cheshire

by Tony Sant
Member no. 9314

A small selection of the 37,000 soldiers, sailors and airmen (1640 - WWII) that I have in my files, mostly in Cheshire but a few relating to recent articles in the **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**.

AARONSON, Godfrey Warren, son of Godfrey, sergeant, Army Pay Corps
bapt. at St Oswald's Church, Chester, 1899.

ALLMANN, Joseph, private in the 35th Regt (Royal Sussex Regt)
mar. Mary EDDOWES at St Oswald's Church, Chester, 1805.

AMIS, Thomas, private in the Hereford Militia
mar. Mary TOMLINSON at St Oswald's Church, Chester, 1801.

ANDREWS, Edward, a sergeant in the 4th Foot (Royal Lancashire Regt.)
buried at St Oswald's Church, Chester, 1800.

SHAW, Samuel, private in the 3rd Regiment of Foot (East Kent Regt.)
mar. Cath PARSONAGE at St Oswald's Church, Chester, 1807.

SHELMARDINE, David, private in the 2nd Royal North Lancs Militia
mar. Elizth. EVANS at St Oswald's Church, Chester, 1808.

SHELMARDINE, Harriet, dau of Jane and Joseph, sergeant in the Lancs. Militia
bapt. at St Oswald's Church, Chester, 1813.

SHEPHERD, Thomas, Ensign (sic) buried at Holy Trinity, Chester, 1708.

SHERRATT, John Thomas, private, aged 21
mar. E. BROWN at St Peter's Church, Congleton, 1917.

SHIELDES, Elizth, dau of Leonard, souldier (sic)
bapt. at St Mary's Church, Chester, 1736.

SHUCKBURGH, Charles Stewkley, of Christchurch, New Zealand, died 6 Aug
1912, Letters of Administration granted London, 1915 to Charles Stewkley
SHUCKBURGH, Commander RN (retired).

SHUCKBURGH, James Pigott, of Ottawa, Canada, died on or between 31 Mar
and 2 May 1900 at Mafeking, South Africa. Letters of Administration
granted London, 1915 to Charles Stewkley SHUCKBURGH, Commander
RN (retired).

SHUCKBURGH, Stanley, Lieut, late 37th Regt (Hampshire Regt post-1881)
of Limerick, Ireland.(Referenced Cornwall 1786).

TYDD, Thomas, captain of the Invalides, bur St Mary's Church, Chester, 1788.

TYDD, Thomas Samuel, late of 40th Foot Regt (South Lancs Regt)
died in Mumbai, India (born in Warwickshire) Referenced 1797.

Net That Serf

The Computer Section

Compiled by Geoff Johnson

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From the Desktop



This issue ought to stir up a few comments! As you will see I've got rather strong views on cloud storage issues, together with its security risks and the major manufacturers' drive towards restrictive data-sharing practices. We also have an interesting treatise on *Ancestry's* DNA assumptions.

I continue to worry as to whether all members who take the electronic ANCESTOR really make full use of the features that we build into it.

I'm pleased that at least one member has taken to heart my suggestion that we could all reduce our paper storage considerably. Are there any others having a go?

A plug for Kindle and, if you like a good read with a combination of genealogy, thrills and domestic issues, I give you a review here of a series of novels that I have thoroughly enjoyed. I'd be surprised if some of you don't enjoy them too.

The saga of people wanting to operate established *Windows* packages including *Family Historian*, on a range of other devices continues, and hopefully I've written a piece here that may help.

Using the Cloud – Or Preferably Not!

by Geoff Johnson

Computer Club attendees are very aware that I'm not a fan of 'cloud' storage', particularly not *Apple's* offering! My only notable commitment to use of the Cloud is *Dropbox*, which I just use for very specific low-security purposes. My email is managed on my own system using *MS Office Outlook*, so I am solely responsible for storing and protecting my email data.

I read and hear daily of incidents whereby websites and cloud services are being attacked. Members write to me that they're being hit by spam attacks. User email contacts are being bandied around the net, and we are all seeing phishing exercises most days. If you use webmail in the form of *Gmail*, *Yahoo*, *Talktalk*, *AOL*, *Outlook.com*, *Sky*, *BT Internet*, et cetera, all your email data is being held by them, and it's installed somewhere within their cloud services. This includes your address books, calendars, and so on.

This is not the case if, like me, you use your own email client such as *Thunderbird* or *Outlook*! Are you really comfortable with that situation? I certainly wouldn't be.

Of course, the big advantage and attraction of these services is that they enable users to send and receive their email from mobile phones, tablets, desktops, laptops, coffee shops, quite often using Wi-Fi links or mobile phone channels that are invariably insecure. Not for me, thank you!

Taking my argument a step further, the likes of *Apple*, *Google*, *Microsoft*, and now *Amazon*, are all working very hard to tie users in to their own cloud services. Each of them is pushing its own cloud service for buying, selling, transferring downloads and other data; and they all want to tie their apps with it – just their own one, nobody else's! These are known as *iCloud*, *Google Drive*, *One Drive*, *Amazon Cloud Drive*, etc. The most disturbing part from my experience is that, at the same time, they're doing their very best to ensure that one service can't be easily mixed with the other. In many cases they block such interaction, and above all they all seem to hate *Dropbox*! *Dropbox*, as I see it, is independent from a mobile phone company, or proprietary operating system, including *Android*.

I like and use *MS Office OneNote* to an increasing extent. Mainly this is on my desktop, but I've managed, with some difficulty, to set up a *Dropbox* share. This enables me to share my *OneNote* file between my notebook and desktop. Subsequently I started to try to share it with my newer *Android* mobile phone.

But I've had to give up. *Google*, who manages the *Android* operating system, just won't let it access *Dropbox* on a sharing basis! In my research to find a fix for the problem, I observed that *Apple* users have similar problems between *Dropbox* and *iCloud*. Sadly, this is the way we are all being pushed by these technology giants.

If you really must use them, my advice is to restrict your cloud usage strictly to storing data which does not require secure storage. Anything financial, confidential, or personal that you value, is best stored and backed up properly on your own system. Any problems then become yours alone.

One final point: if you have grandchildren or others visiting don't give them your Wi-Fi password. Let them use their own mobile phone services. It's safer!

DNA Research

by Robert Davey of Braunston, Northants

Dear Geoff, I want to add to the discourse on DNA testing which has appeared in *Net That Serf* (always the most interesting section of the journal). I've had my DNA tested by *Ancestry*, and I'll explain why I believe *Ancestry's* resultant analysis requires some intelligent and guarded interpretation.

I've tracked my ancestry along all known ancestral pathways, at least to c.1800 and in some cases to c.1750 and, ignoring the possibility of False Paternity Events - also known as Non-Paternity Events (when the husband of a child's mother is not the biological father of the child) - I've found NO trace of any ancestors from foreign parts, except for one possible paternity incident. I have one unknown great-grandfather who put my great-grandmother Elizabeth GUDGEON in the family way in 1867. The resultant child, my grandfather John Brindley GUDGEON, had eight children, of whom the eldest, Annie, had a very Spanish appearance. The remaining seven were typically English in appearance. I thus expected a DNA profile which was largely English and Celtic, with perhaps an Iberian element of up to 12½ per cent.

My DNA profile as reported by *Ancestry* is:

Europe West	45%
Ireland/Scotland/Wales	26%
Scandinavia	14%
Iberian Peninsula	11%
Great Britain	3%

The fact that my Iberian Peninsula percentage is so high is consistent with my unknown great-grandfather, who may have been Spanish.

That I have 14% Scandinavian DNA is consistent with having ancestors from the north-west of England.

The 26% Ireland/Scotland/Wales element requires an interpretation rather deeper than *Ancestry's* rather blinkered categorisation, because that category ignores the predominantly Celtic origins of the Cornish and Devon populations. The Cornish language was a Celtic, in particular a Brythonic language, very close to Welsh and Breton. Thus at least one half of my Celtic origins are actually consistent with my great-great-grandparents John DAVEY and Mary Ann SKINNER, who both came from Liskeard, Cornwall. Their parents also came from there.

The remaining two elements, 3% Great Britain and 45% Europe West require even more searching consideration, and in fact I suspect these categories are flawed, not in the percentages but in the categorisations given.

What does the Great Britain category actually mean? Well, according to *Ancestry's* maps, which accompanied the report, it actually appears to mean England (including Celtic Devon and Cornwall but excluding Scotland). So, ignoring the Devon/Cornwall anomaly, *Ancestry* does not appear to understand the difference between the Kingdom of England and the United Kingdom of Great Britain (which includes Scotland).

In summary, therefore, my 3% Great Britain appears to be 3% English. Whether that means Anglo-Saxon I do not know.

Finally, I turn to the dominant category in my DNA, which is 45% Europe West. Turning to *Ancestry's* maps again, this category appears to be from a geographical area encompassing the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, and Northern France. That is inconsistent with my ancestral trees all being English or Cornish from at least 1750, unless perhaps somewhere in the distant past there were a number of western European men who were all responsible for false paternity events. But I don't believe the latter.

Digging into my distant memory, there is an alternative explanation for the 45% Europe West. I recall a DNA study being reported which concluded that the DNA of the East Anglia population was no different from that of people in the Netherlands. However, so far, I have not found any ancestry associated with East Anglia.

So where does all this lead? Simply that I am sceptical of the DNA results issued by *Ancestry.com*; the company does not understand the ethnic origins of the various parts of the British Isles. Their results require careful interpretation and even then, I'm not convinced that their results can be regarded as accurate.

My analysis may raise a chuckle or two amongst readers, and I can image some readers winking and nudging each other, muttering, *He's clearly not aware of a very recent false paternity event in his ancestry!* However, that seems rather unlikely. In my latter years I'm beginning to resemble my father very closely, and I also resemble a distant cousin on my mother's side.

The answer, for me, is to arrange tests with other companies to see whether their results can verify and validate the *Ancestry* results.

GJ: I've picked up more than one negative comment about the Ethnicity Estimates created by Ancestry DNA, especially from the LostCousins newsletters. I find mine generally quite plausible, but the 10% Iberian Peninsula content is a little confusing. There weren't many cheap holiday flights around in those days!

The Electronic CHESHIRE ANCESTOR and Bookmarks

by Geoff Johnson

In the June edition I asked if I could save myself the effort of creating the bookmarks that I so carefully integrate into the online *PDF* file, wondering whether anyone actually sees or uses them. So far, I've only had a response from one person who seems to do so - our Editor!

Rosie Rowley told me:

I note that you say you installed Adobe Acrobat Reader on your tablet, but still couldn't see the bookmarks (Table of Contents/TOC). I have Acrobat Reader on both my Samsung Android mobile phone and on my Amazon Fire tablet (which is basically an Android tablet with a customised Amazon interface). In both cases, opening the ANCESTOR using Acrobat Reader allows me to view the TOC. You have to tap on the page, then tap the 'book' symbol in the bottom right corner of the screen. I haven't found anything else that will show the TOC.

Rosie is right. On my *Samsung* tablet, in the upper right corner of the screen there is a symbol - three horizontal lines - with dots alongside (I think this might be known as a sandwich or hamburger symbol). Tapping that brings up the bookmarks that I created, including the sublists. Tapping it again makes it disappear - and, unbelievably, it works on my *Samsung* phone as well. I learn a bit every day; thank you, Rosie.

Stephen Hawkes from Walton, Liverpool, said:

Just got around to reading your article re PDF, NTS and iPad mini 4 and thought I would drop you a line about it.

*I own a Mac Book Pro and an iPad mini 4. I don't use any PDF apps or downloads. I read my copies of **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**, and any other PDF document, in iBooks. iBooks has its own PDF reader, and I find that print and picture quality are both crystal clear.*

As I download the current issue, there is an option to open it in iBooks, which I do, and the copy is then stored. As for bookmarks, I don't use them, as iBooks always opens up and remembers the page you were reading. I am a member of a few(!) Family History Societies and some of them, like Cheshire, provide PDF versions of their journals, all of which I place into iBooks in their own folder. I now have quite a library of them.

I have also created folders in iBooks corresponding to the families I am investigating i.e. HAWKES, DOBSON, etc., and placed there all the PDF documents I have, which can be documents I have scanned in myself, or downloaded from the Internet. Hope this helps.

Peter Rowley, Computer Group secretary says:

Hi Geoff, with regard to bookmarks, I don't use them! I just go straight to Net that Serf and, when I've finished that, I have a quick browse through the rest.

Sue Ritchie, Computer Group treasurer says:

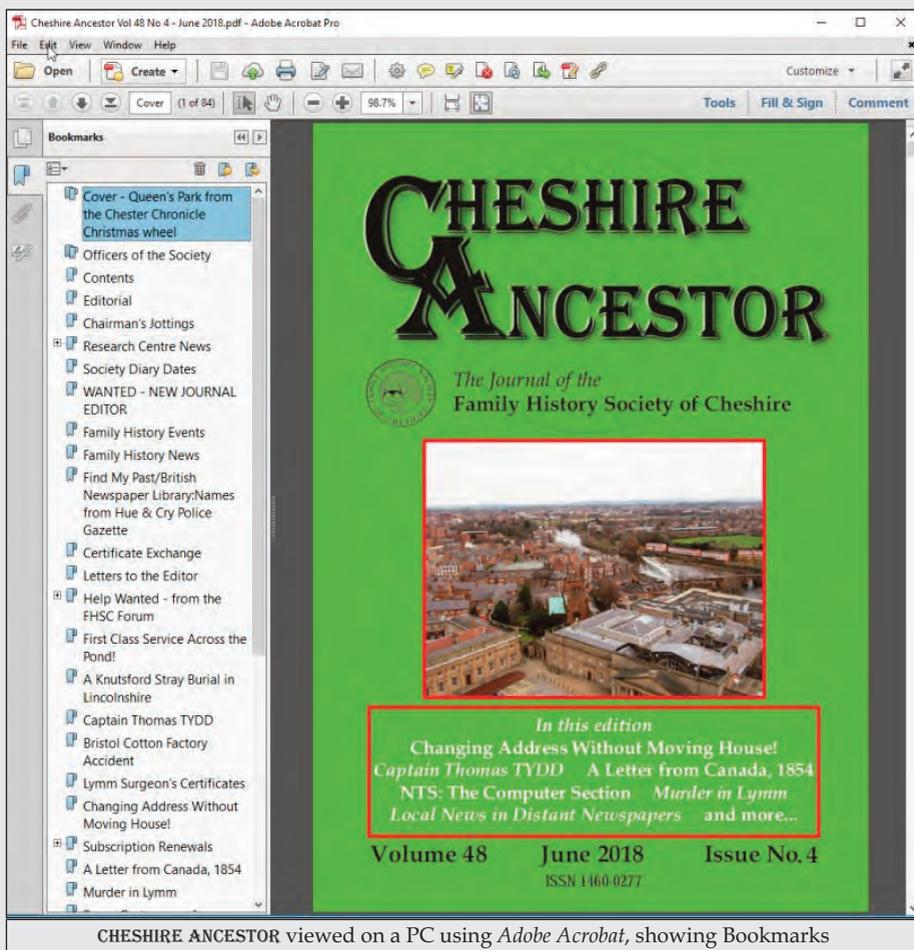
*I don't use the bookmarks either - I don't think they work on my iPad. If I do look at the digital **ANCESTOR**, I go straight to NTS and read it from start to finish.*

Joy Keegan of Ellesmere Port said:

*I am very happy with the electronic **ANCESTOR**. I read my **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR** on my Apple iPad and it downloads fine, however I don't use bookmarks (I don't really know what they are). I open my **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR** in iBooks on my iPad and can read it perfectly; the pictures and photos etc. are perfect.*

For clarification I replied to Joy, saying:

The bookmarks I create are simply a more comprehensive contents list but clicking on any bookmark link takes you straight to the page. I feel that this is an excellent *Adobe PDF* feature, but it's evidently wasted on *Apple* users - and *Android* phone users like me may be missing a point too! Bookmarks (also known as Table of Contents) are there just to help with navigation. The list stays with you as you move through the document. The little plus signs open up further sublists within a section. Try having a look on a 'proper computer' and see what you're missing!



CHESHIRE ANCESTOR viewed on a PC using Adobe Acrobat, showing Bookmarks

Our editor added:

Playing with the settings in Acrobat Reader on my Amazon Fire tablet, I found there was a night mode option, which gives you white text on a black background. All well and good until you come to a page with a photo on it – this mode also inverts the colours in the photos, giving a ‘negative’ effect – quite scary when there’s a person in the photo! Apart from that, I like it, as it’s not as bright and far less distracting for the person next to you who’s trying to get to sleep!

Thanks, Rosie.

Don't Print Census Pages - Reducing the Paper

by Geoff Johnson

In December I wrote a piece on this quite broad subject, which seems to have set a few minds thinking. **Lesley Baxendale** gave me a constructive piece in June, but I forgot to include the images she had sent me; I'll include them here.

Lesley has now given me an update. She says:

I'm progressing with the clear-out quite well. The original row of eight CLARKE family files is down to six on the first pass, and I'm doing a bit better with my maternal DARLEY line, which is currently down from six to three. However, the process of getting rid of all the extraneous paper has highlighted quite a few omissions in the data in my family tree program, so I've been updating that too. That's produced a bit of a sub-system, which often bypasses the need to go through all those jumbled downloads mentioned in June.



A small selection of Lesley's files...

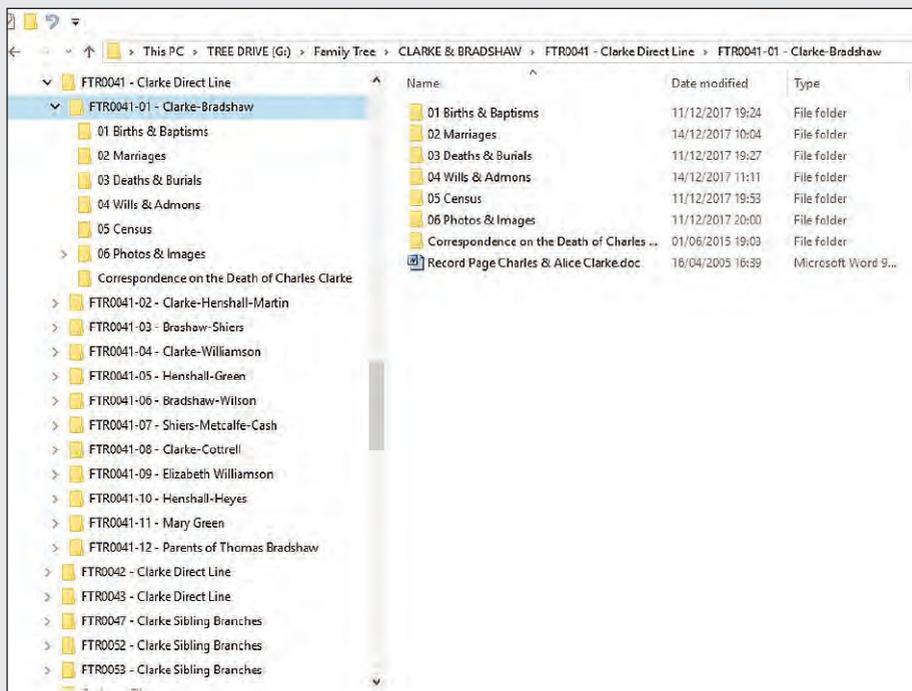
I open my family tree program (*Family Tree Maker 2017*), *Excel* spreadsheet, *Windows File Explorer* and the appropriate lever arch file for the family I'm working on. I work my way through the lever arch file one tab at a time, starting with the earliest entry (usually a marriage).

As I go through the file removing paper, I check that I have entered that information

in the program, and input it if not. I check that I have the source input at the same time. Then I look for a digital copy of the event in question - this often means looking on the Internet and downloading it again, which is usually quicker than trying to find it in my computer's 'can of worms'. The downloaded files then go in the sub-structure of folders for that particular family branch. If there isn't an image, that's noted in the source citation. Done!

As I finish a tab in the lever arch file, I annotate my spreadsheet to say whether there is anything remaining in hard copy and where I've put it. I've also started using the Plan function in my software, which I've never used before. That means I can get rid of even more bits of paper which I was using as *aide memoires* to remind me to look for something or progress a family branch.

As time has gone on and more documents are now available digitally, I've even managed to make progress on some branches, so that's been another benefit of having a clear-out. I've also demolished a couple of brick walls in the process!



Lesley's computer file structure.

The family record sheets I mentioned in the first article (example on the next page) are now stored at the beginning of the remaining lever arch files with their folder number written on them. It seems a shame to throw them away after all that work filling them in! They act as a 'quick look' to remind me which family each person belongs to.

When I've done as much as I can, I'll go through my computer files and get rid of all the extra downloaded images lurking in various folders. I haven't finished yet by any means, but I'm feeling quite pleased with my progress so far.

Ed.: The family record sheets that Lesley is using can be found on the *Family Tree* website at www.family-tree.co.uk/how-to-guides/tree-charts-interview-sheets, where you can also download (in PDF format) a pedigree chart, fan chart, family interview prompt sheet and First World War records checklist. The website also has some very good guides to using various records.

Family Tree  **Family Record Sheet** 

Husband ALEXANDER CLARKE

Born: 8 SEPT 1845
 Baptised: _____
 Married: 6 OCT 1873
 Died: 1 JUNE 1903
 Buried: 4 JUNE 1903
 Occupation: GENEALOGICAL RESEARCHER
 Father: WILLIAM CLARKE
 Mother: SARAH WILLIAMS

Wife HANNAH HENSHALL

Born: 30 APRIL 1851
 Baptised: 11 JUL 1852
 Married: ① 22 AUG 1868 ② 6 OCT 1873
 Died: 20 FEB 1915
 Buried: 24 FEB 1915
 Occupation: SUE LEVER, WIMBOR, DUFFEL
 Father: RAUL HENSHALL
 Mother: ANN GREEN

Census: _____

1841	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A

1841	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

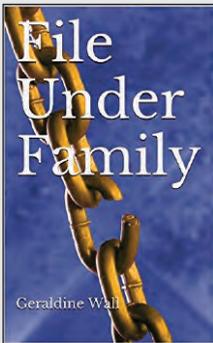
Children	Born / Baptised	Married	Died / Buried	Census: 1841	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
1	WILLIAM 9/7/1874 25/11/1874	13/11/1897	18/8/1950	—	—	—	—	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	HANNAH 14/5/1876	3/1/1897	4/3/1950	—	—	—	—	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	CHARLES 19/3/1879	18/5/1907	17/3/1959	—	—	—	—	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	ROBERT 16/5/1881	18/11/1905	19/2/1952	—	—	—	—	—	—	✓	✓
5	RAUL 25/6/1885 5/8/1885	—	29/8/1966	—	—	—	—	—	—	✓	✓
6	ARGABEL 7/5/1888 3/11/1889	—	11/7/1918	—	—	—	—	—	—	✓	✓
7	DEEMAY 26/11/1893 7/2/1894	22/5/1915	4/11/1975	—	—	—	—	—	—	✓	✓
8											

Reference & Notes: _____ Prepared by: _____

Example of Lesley's family record sheets.

Kindles and a Book Review – File Under XXXX

by Geoff Johnson



Some time ago Peter Calver at *LostCousins* recommended a book, *File Under Family*, by Geraldine Wall. The book has now been developed into a series of genealogical novels centred on Anna Ames, who works as a probate researcher for an heir hunting company. Good genealogy, including mistakes made by others, are highlighted throughout the series, but the books are very much centred on Anna's complex family situation, her work colleagues, and the numerous people that she comes up against as the stories move along. I thoroughly enjoyed the first book and quickly went on to read others in the series.

I've been reading them in *Kindle* format on a tablet. There are two reasons for this: firstly, the books were originally only published in that format, and secondly, I possess a *Samsung* tablet that I had bought some time ago, but was

hardly using. With the free *Kindle* app installed I find it an ideal reading tool. Much of my reading takes place at bedtime, and the tablet is much easier to handle than any paperback book - you don't even need the light on. This is especially useful when the missus wants to go to sleep!

The four books published to date have a common title form: *File Under Family* is the first, followed by *File under Fear*, *File under Fidelity*, and *File under Fathers*. Be sure to read them in that chronological order, because there is an ongoing personal and family thread throughout. Of course, each one contains a separate set of genealogical research tales.

I do like good hardback books and have a collection of a several first editions. But one-off reads that only come available in paperback, especially the 'fat' ones, are not the nicest thing to handle. However, I learned today that the Geraldine Wall series is now available in paperback format as well as *Kindle*. I've read all four books currently available in the series, and understand that the author is working on a fifth - beware, they are addictive! The *Amazon URL* is a whopper, so just go to *Amazon* and search for Geraldine Wall.

Ed: There are currently several popular authors of genealogical mystery novels, including Nathan Dylan Goodwin (Morton Farrier series, reviewed in 'Book Reviews' in this issue), M J Lee (Jayne Sinclair series), Steve Robinson (Jefferson Tayte series), to name but a few - just go to the Amazon website and search for *genealogical mystery*. Many of these books are available to read as part of Amazon's *Kindle Unlimited* subscription service (£7.99 per month).

Family Historian on Apple Mac, iPad or Android Devices

by Geoff Johnson

I quite regularly receive emails expressing the desire to use *Family Historian* on non-*Windows* devices. When I've been to exhibitions and the like, I've routinely asked at the *Family Historian (FH)* stand what, if anything, they are doing to respond to researchers who would like to use *Family Historian* on a *Mac*. I've always been told that it's a subject that *Calico Pie* (the publishers of *Family Historian*) are aware of and have been considering. But that's been the case for many years now.

I put out a call to *Calico Pie* to discuss and get an update on this *Apple Mac* topic. I received a very prompt response from them, in fact from a guy who I'm fairly certain is the boss. He tells me that they continue to explore avenues to provide

a version of *FH* for that purpose. However, any such process is overly complex, because *FH* is intrinsically wrapped up in *Windows* structures. Their most active investigation is to team up with a program, that anybody can already use, called *Crossover*.

Crossover is understood to be a well-known and popular program which enables you to run pretty much any *Windows* application on an *Apple Mac*. However, the installation of it, and setting up the links is a process that may well be above Mr Average's normal capabilities. So, what *Calico Pie* are working on is a structured merger with *Crossover* in a way that can integrate the two packages together in one installation file. This is their proposal for overcoming this regularly asked question.

At present, *Crossover* is not a free program - see www.codeweavers.com/products If you follow the *Store > Pricing* links (top right), you can see that it is available as an unsupported, no-updates product for £38. A license for one year of support and updates costs £48, and if you want to go the whole hog with 'forever' support and updates it goes up to £400! The license allows you to install the product on as many machines as you wish, as long as you only use one at a time. Note also that you can download and install a 14-day free trial. I believe you will find that there are many users of *Crossover*, and a bit of googling should give you some understanding of its reliability.

Ed: Techies like me will discover, after some poking around on the *Crossover* website, that the *Crossover* software is based on open-source software called *Wine*. This can be downloaded free of charge from www.winehq.org. Whether it will work with *Family Historian* is unknown - is anyone brave enough to try?

Family Historian on iPad and Android

David Smetham, Society Treasurer, asked me:

I have been looking for an app for iPad to carry my family history around with me, particularly my tree. I have Family Historian. Do you have any recommendations? For my Windows mobile I use Relative History which is a bit basic, just uses a Gedcom file to view.

I, too, have been wondering about transferring my own *Family Historian* data onto my recently acquired *Android* smartphone. However, I doubt if *Crossover* covers the intricacies of driving *FH* on an *iPad*. The website certainly doesn't indicate so. When it comes to tablets or smartphones, the man from *FH* suggested that the most used, up-to-date, and successful app is *GedFamilies* (www.telgen.co.uk/gedfamilies). This enables you to work with your major *Family*

Historian data via its central GEDCOM file - and in fact will work with any GEDCOM file, not just *Family Historian*. However, to convert GEDCOM files to the format required by *GedFamilies* and to transfer them to and from your mobile device, the *GedFamilies* app also needs to have a companion program, *GedFamilies Sync*, running on the PC. This enables transfer of the *Gedcom* file to and from the *iPhone*, *iPod Touch*, *iPad* or *Android* device and can be downloaded from the above website free of charge; the *GedFamilies* app itself costs £4.99 from the *Google Play* or *Amazon* appstores, and £7.99 from *Apple*.

I might even try it on my *Android* phone!

From the Inbox

Gordon Tuff found an extract in his Journal of Guild of One-Name Studies about GENEalogical EVents and Activities (GENEVA) which he felt was worth knowing about: www.geneva.weald.org.uk

Ed: This website has been mentioned at the start of the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR's *Family History Events* pages for at least the last two years - I assume no-one reads those pages!

Gill Barber of Macclesfield wrote to ask:

Hi Geoff, I very much enjoy *Net that Serf* and even my husband reads it, although he is not particularly interested in family history! I have a question for you regarding the Cheshire Family History Journals DVD which I bought from the Society. I have been searching from Journal 11 for particular surnames. It does work, but the DVD seems to have to work hard and makes a lot of noise. Is it possible to copy the files to my laptop? It would be much easier to search from there.

I phoned and talked Gill through using *File Explorer*, finding the files, selecting them all, creating a new folder in her *Documents* folder and copying them to the new folder. The conversation reminded me that I'd got a copy of the DVD as well. So, I ran the same process on my desktop. Interestingly, one of my DVD drives was not very happy doing it either, but switching to the other worked okay.

Gill subsequently wrote to let me know that she had now saved all the files on her laptop. It took two goes, as on the first it got to 88% and then gave up the ghost, so she gave the DVD drive a rest and then saved the rest. She could then search fourteen volumes in much less time than it had taken her to search six volumes on the DVD, and even found something useful!

Closing Snippet

Gren Dix found this baptism which pre-dated a birth during a recent search on *Ancestry*:

Name:	Emma Starmer [Emme Starmer]
Birth Date:	25 Apr 1865
Baptism Date:	13 Feb 1865
Baptism Place:	Kettering, St Peter and St Paul, Northamptonshire, England
Parish as it Appears:	Kettering
Register Type:	Parish Registers
Search Photos:	Search for 'Kettering, St Peter and St Paul' in the UK City, Town and Village Photos collection
Father:	John Starmer
Mother:	Caroline Starmer



Please keep your input coming, and let me know your thoughts and opinions on anything to do with computers and technology.

GJ

Group Events and Activities

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

Alsager Group

by John Higgins

Future meetings:

- 17th Sep *What Great Uncle John Revealed* – Hazel Rugman
This talk will follow the Annual General Meeting.
- 15th Oct *Place Names and Field Names: A Source for Local History*
– Tony Bostock
Tony's presentation will show how the names of towns and villages, and those of fields, hold clues to interpreting the past.
- 19th Nov *A Crewe Factory Girl: the life of Ada Nield Chew*
– Graham Dodd
- 10th Dec *Christmas lunch at the Manor House Hotel, Alsager.*

Alsager Group meetings are held 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:

- 24th Sep *Family History Top Tips Reviewed* – Jean Ingram
- 22nd Oct *Turnpikes and Motorways* – Gavin Hunter
- 26th Nov *Old Meols* – Heather Chapman
- 10th Dec *Members' Christmas Social*

Bebington Group meets on the 4th Monday of the month (excluding Bank Holidays) at Bebington Civic Centre, Civic Way, CH63 7PN, commencing at 7.30 pm.

Bramhall Group

by Janet Phillips

Future meetings:

- 13th Sep **AGM**, followed by
Researching the RAF - Geoff Simpson
A look at the allied airmen who took part in the Battle of Britain in 1940 with reference to Stockport and the rest of historic Cheshire.
- 11th Oct **The Social Class Divide in Willow Grove Cemetery**
- Sheila Robins
An account of the paupers buried in the closed cemetery at Willow Grove in Reddish.
- 8th Nov **A War to End Wars 1914-1918** - Brian Hallworth
A respectful look at the First World War of the ordinary soldier.
- 13th Dec **An enlightening family tale** - Janet and David Phillips
How a newspaper item in 1850 led to finding a breach of promise, illegitimate births and new family members!
Our Christmas party will follow the talk.

Meetings are held at 7.30 pm 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 £2.00. All visitors are most welcome.

Chester Group

by Helen Elliott

Future meetings:

- 27th Sep **The Progress of Women in Britain 1800 - 1945** - Michael Murphy
The progress of women from their lowly status with no property rights, through their roles in WWI, to gaining the right to vote and more opportunities, e.g. in the job market.
- 25th Oct **The Art of Criminal Conversation** - Claire Moores
Researching divorce records.
- 29th Nov **A Seasonal Miscellany**.
- December** **No Meeting**

Meetings are held at 7.30pm on the last Thursday of the month at All Saints Church Hall, 2 Vicarage Road, Hoole, Chester CH2 3HZ. There is a small admission charge and parking is available. All members and visitors welcome.

We run two family history helpdesks. The Chester History and Heritage Centre, previously at St Michael's Church in Bridge Street, Chester, has moved

to the Grosvenor Museum, 27 Grosvenor Street, Chester. Our helpdesk is now open at the Grosvenor Museum 10.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 4.00pm on Tuesdays and Fridays. There is also a helpdesk at the Library at Storyhouse from 10am to 12noon on Tuesdays.

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

Future meetings:

- 18th Sep **AGM**, followed by *Workshop – FHSC Resources*
 Memorial inscriptions, CDs, books, web data, etc.
- 16th Oct ***The Great War-shattered illusions – Danny Wells***
- 20th Nov ***Elizabeth Wolstenholme-Elmy (1833-1918), a forgotten Congleton Suffragette*** – Olivia Smedley
- December** ***No Meeting***

This September the Congleton Group celebrates forty years since our inaugural meeting. The group was set up by Phyllis Bingham and since that time we have only had three other Group Leaders. Thank you to all those members who have supported Congleton Group over the years. We are planning a special additional event in October to celebrate.

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

Crewe Group

by Margaret Spate

Future meetings:

- 11th Sep AGM, followed by *Short Presentation and a Display by the Group*.
Home-made cakes will follow.
- 9th Oct *To be arranged*
- 13th Nov *The second two years of WWI in Crewe* - Peter Ollerhead
- December *No Meeting*

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 6pm. 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:

- 25th Sep AGM, followed by *The FHSC Website* - Alan Bennett (webmaster)
- 23rd Oct *From Copper to Velvet: Havannah, Cheshire's Deserted Village*
- Ian Doughty
Havannah, near Congleton, was one of the first industrial villages to be built. For over 200 years the village's powered mills were used in the manufacture of copper sheet and brass wire, the spinning of silk, the production of Havannah cigars and of velvet; but in the early 20th century Havannah became a deserted village.
- 27th Nov *Monarchy and Dunham, the grey area* - Peter Braun
An illustrated talk covering the history of Dunham Hall, the families, royal claims, intrigue, executions, power, passion and scandal.
- December *No Meeting*

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 for a 7.30pm start. Entry is through the new main door facing the Churchill Way car park. Admission is £2 including refreshments and a ticket for the FHSC members-only draw for a small gift. Visitors welcome.

For the latest news, please see the Macclesfield page on the FHSC website www.fhsc.org.uk. To receive the Macclesfield monthly email newsletter, click on *Add Macclesfield to My Groups*; or send a request to macclesfield@fhsc.org.uk.

Macclesfield Data CDs

The Macclesfield group has three data CDs for sale, each priced £10 plus P&P:

Christ Church in Macclesfield
Roman Catholics in Macclesfield
Macclesfield 1871 Town Maps

For more information or to order, please see the Macclesfield page on the FHSC website or see the Projects Administrator, Rosie Rowley, at one of our meetings.

Macclesfield Reflects WWI project (www.macclesfieldreflects.org.uk)

If you have information about anyone from the Macclesfield area who served in WWI, or if you would like to help with research, please contact Rosie Rowley on macclesfieldreflects@gmail.com. The project will be closing at the end of this year.

Middlesex Group

by Victoria Doran (FHSC Chairman)

Is there a member in the London area who would like to run this group? Support will be provided - the key activities will be to arrange a venue and meeting topics. If any member would like to attend a meeting in London please contact me - chairman@fhsc.org.uk.

Nantwich Group

by Sheila Mitchell

Future meetings:

- 18th Sep *British Home Children 1860 - 1948* - Alison Williams
16th Oct *Cheshire Maps and Mapmakers* - Jonathan Pepler
(Postponed from March)
20th Nov *Our WWI Ancestors : Stories of those who fought in WWI*
December *No Meeting*
15th Jan *UKGDL: Genealogical directories and lists on the Internet*
- Sharon Hartas

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. Visitors are very welcome.

Family History Workshops in Nantwich Library

These are held monthly at 2.00pm on the following Mondays:

September 24th, October 22nd, November 26th 2018; and January 21st 2019.

If you have a query or need help with your family tree then call in to see us, you will be most welcome.

Johnson's Almanac and Directory of Nantwich

At the moment we are collecting copies of these directories to scan and create a database that can be used by family and social historians.

If anyone has a pre-1939 copy that they are willing to let us borrow, please get in touch with Sheila Mitchell via Crewe Family History Unit. Thank you.

Northwich Group

by Dave Thomas

Future meetings:

- 10th Sep *AGM*, followed by
 Miss Winifred Comber of Knutsford: Traveller and Photographer
 - Audrey Young
- 8th Oct *Subject to be confirmed* - Tony Bostock
- 12th Nov *Talk on World War One* - Alan Lowe
- 10th Dec *Hotpot Supper and Quiz*

Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of the month at Hartford Methodist Church Hall, Beach Road, Hartford, Northwich CW8 3AB. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Admission is £1, and non-members are most welcome. Car park available.

Runcorn Group

by Peter Johnson

Future meetings:

- 5th Sep *Maps & Mapmaking* - Jonathan Pepler
- 3rd Oct *Churches and Castles* - Gordon Roxby
- 7th Nov *The Story of Port Sunlight* - Tom Hughes
- 5th Dec *Christmas Social with Buffet, Drink and Entertainment*
- January *No Meeting*

Meetings are at 7.30 pm on the first Wednesday of the month (except January) at Churchill Hall, Cooper Street, Runcorn, WA7 1DH. All will be made very welcome. Our helpdesks have been suspended until further notice.

Sale Group

by Marion Hall

Future meetings:

- 12th Sep ***The Art of Criminal Conversation*** - Claire Moores
Talk to help with researching divorce records.
- 10th Oct ***Little Pieces of Paper*** - Chris Makepeace
The value of ephemera to local and family historians.
- 14th Nov ***Sale and its People*** - Peter Lewis
Peter's relatives lived in the Sale area; he has done extensive research into his family and the district they came from.
- December** ***No Meeting***
- 9th Jan ***The Tatton Family of Wythenshawe Hall*** - Richard Jackson
Richard is a member of Friends of Wythenshawe Hall and will tell of its past history and some of the more recent problems.

Meetings are held at 7.30pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at Trinity Methodist Church, Trinity Road, Sale M33 3ED (talk begins at 8pm.).

Admission: Members £2, non-members £2.50. Visitors are always welcome.

Tameside Group

by Gay Oliver

Future meetings:

- 12th Sep ***AGM***, followed by
Women in Tameside - an exhibition and project by Gay Oliver and Kathryn Booth in conjunction with Tameside History Forum.
This year's theme for Heritage Open Days is "Women" in celebration of the partial enfranchisement of women in 1918. It's surprising how many women have broken down barriers or excelled in their field - come and find out.
- 10th Oct ***Mossley Military Hospital*** - Rita Vaughan
- 14th Nov ***Sex and Sin in 17th Century Lancashire*** - Alan Crosby
- 12th Dec Christmas Social

Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Old Chapel Schoolrooms, Dukinfield - doors open at 7.00pm. There is disabled access and both members and non-members are welcome. Entrance fees are £2 for members and £2.50 for non-members.

For more information, go to www.fhsc.org.uk and navigate to the Tameside pages to see the programme and 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.

Tarporley Group

by Mike Craig

Note: The future of Tarporley group is uncertain and volunteers are needed to help keep the group operating. For information, please contact Geoff Johnson of the Computer group (contact details inside back cover).

Proposed future meetings:

5th Sept

3rd Oct

7th Nov

5th Dec

Meetings are usually held at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of the month at Little Budworth Village Hall, Booth Avenue, Little Budworth, CW6 9BU.

Mostly we now meet for a chat. Non-group members and visitors are very welcome to attend, but please confirm that the meeting will take place by emailing the Tarporley group at tarporley@fhsc.org.uk.

Wallasey Group

by Dave Beck

Future meetings:

18th Sep *The First World War* - Barry Humphreys

On the centenary of the end of the war, this talk presents the impact that the events of 1914 - 18 had, and how society was changed forever; plus the tragic story of a local girl who lost her fiancé in 1918 just before the end of hostilities.

16th Oct *Read all about it* - Alison Williams

It's not just the Births, Marriages and Deaths column that is useful for genealogy. You never know what you might find in the newspapers - attempted murder and suicide, bigamy, lunacy, and a taxi called Florrie!

20th Nov *Lost Halls of Wirral* - Gavin Hunter

A lavishly illustrated lecture which looks at some of the wonderful manor houses, mansions and old halls, many of which have long since disappeared, built for titled gentry, hereditary

landowners, and wealthy merchants of Wirral during the last several centuries.

December *No Meeting*

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

We hold a helpdesk from 10am to 1pm 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.

Sisters' 'Referee' Appointed in Will

by Chester Guttridge
Member no. 9193

Found in the will of James OWEN of Chester, written on 9th September and proved on 12th November 1889 (available to view on *FindMyPast*):

It is my desire that so long as my wife resides at 22 Sellar Street, Chester that my two single daughters (Frances Annie and Sarah Agnes) be privileged with the use of their bedroom as at present so long as they live comfortably together and in case of dispute my son George's opinion to be binding on both sides.

Lucky George - in danger of losing the love of one or both sisters! Did wise old father expect trouble? Perhaps the young ladies had had a bust up that he had just managed to quell while he was drafting his will; or perhaps they were regular combatants. Anyway, he thought it wise to appoint a male authority over his unmarried daughters until such time as they came under the discipline of husbands. Very Victorian.

Ed: The 1891 census shows that the two sisters were still living at 22 Sellar Street with their brother George, his wife Isabella and their four-year-old son, also named George, so I assume they didn't have too many disputes.

Membership

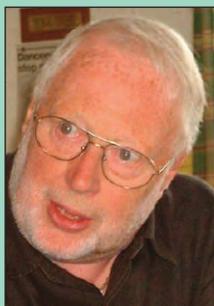
Sue McNulty



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 Maurice Stokes.

Maurice Stokes



Renewals/Changes

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

The "M" Team

Advance Notice: Future Renewals and Changes

Maurice Stokes will be retiring from his position as Membership Renewals/Changes Officer on 1st December 2018.

As a result, the address for sending postal subscription renewals, gift aid and any notifications of changes to personal details will change with effect from 1st December 2018. New contact details will be published in the December 2018 issue of the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR.

❖ **COULD YOU BE OUR JOURNAL EDITOR?** ❖

After three years of service, Rosie Rowley will be retiring from her position as Journal Editor later this year. If you believe you could help to ensure that FHSC continues into the future by taking on this vital role, please contact Rosie for more information.

New Members

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

#9892	NO	Mrs Susan	PLANT	Cheshire
#9893	UN	Mr John	WARMAN	Cheshire
#9894	UN	Ms Diane	KUSTER	USA
#9895	MC	Mr Brian	MOSS	Australia
#9896	UN	Mrs Sue	ANDREWS	Australia
#9897	UN	Mrs Pauline	BOUGHTON	Devon
#9898	TA	Mrs Lesley	SCHOFIELD	Shropshire
#9899	UN	Mrs Glenda	INGRAM	Cheshire
#9900	UN	Mrs Diane	WRIGHT	Cheshire
#9901	NO	Mrs Joyce	DALE	Cheshire
#9902	CR	Mr David Arthur	MACHIN	Cheshire
#9903	UN	Mr Michael	HOBBS	Lincolnshire
#9904	AS	Mrs Lesley	LIVINGSTON	Cheshire
#9905	AS	Mr Ian & Mrs Isobel	WATSON	Cheshire
#9906	UN	Mrs Frances Anne	BOWDEN	Cheshire
#9907	WA	Mr John	THORNTON	Merseyside
#9908	UN	Ms Janet	EVANS	West Yorkshire
#9909	UN	Ms Susan	MARLOW	Canada
#9910	UN	Mrs Marilyn	COLLINS-DAWSON	New Zealand
#9911	TS	Dr David	KNOTT	Dorset
#9912	CR	Mr John G	OWENS	Cheshire
#9913	UN	Mrs Janet	KINSELLA	Cheshire
#9916	UN	Mr John	WILSON	Sussex
#9919	UN	Melissa	BIRKS	USA
#9920	UN	Miss Julie	HOUGHTON	Nottinghamshire

#9920	UN	Miss Julie	HOUGHTON	Nottinghamshire
#9922	UN	Mrs Mary	TAYLOR	Northamptonshire
#9923	UN	Mrs Juliet	ROBERTS	Cardiff
#9924	UN	Mrs Ann	SIMM	Cheshire
#9925	UN	Mr John	MORGAN	New Zealand
#9926	UN	Mrs Margaret E	CAPPER	Shropshire
#9927	UN	Mr Damian	WILLIS	London
#9928	UN	Mr John	KENYON	County Durham
#9930	UN	Mrs Jill	WRIGHT	Norfolk
#9931	UN	Mr Kye Anthony	LARENZO-LAW	Cheshire
#9932	UN	Mr Johnstone	GODFREY	Cheshire
#9934	UN	Mr Darrell	HERD	Cambridgeshire
#9935	UN	Mrs Jill	STEPHAN	Australia
#9936	UN	Mrs Julie	HENDERSON	South Yorkshire
#9937	UN	Mrs Doreen	BRIEN	Australia
#9939	UN	Mr Simon	GREGORY	Cheshire
#9941	NA	Mr Peter	BILLINGTON	Belgium
#9942	UN	Mrs Margaret	PRITCHARD	Australia
#9943	CO	Mr Mark	LANGHAM	Cheshire
#9944	UN	Mrs Elizabeth	OSBORNE	Northamptonshire
#9945	UN	Ms Diane	TOOSKI	Gloucestershire
#9946	UN	Ms Cassie	BRITLAND	Australia
#9947	CR	Mr Michael	WRENCH	Cheshire
#9948	UN	Mr John William	EVANS	Cheshire
#9949	UN	Mrs Julie	HETHERINGTON	Oxfordshire
#9950	AS	Mr Richard	POGSON	Staffordshire
#9951	RU	Mrs Christine	LEITH	Cheshire
#9952	UN	Mrs Yvonne	RODWELL	Greater Manchester

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

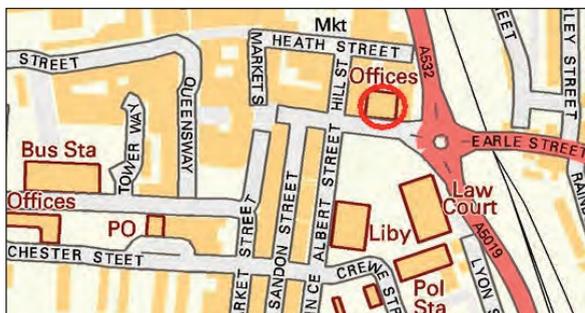
See the Crewe FHU Library Holdings lists on the FHSC website

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*, *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

Large tree printing, fiche/film and A2 scanning available – please enquire.

Usual opening hours: Monday-Friday 10am-4pm; closed on bank holidays.

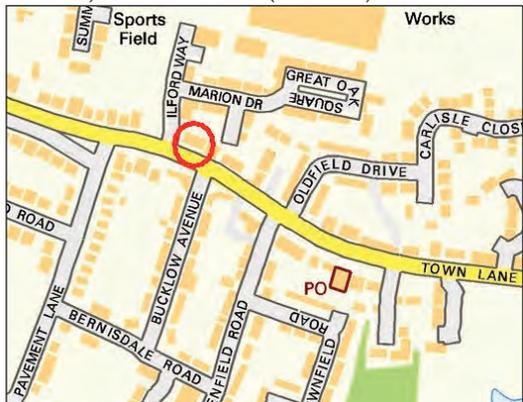
For changes to usual opening hours, please see this issue's *Research Centre News* or the FHSC website www.fhsc.org.uk.

Admission charges apply. Non-members welcome but preferably should phone in advance. Non-member entry fee £5, refundable on joining the Society on day of visit. FREE hot drinks. Sandwiches etc may be purchased nearby.

Bus stop (Bucklow Ave) nearby for the **new D&G Bus** no. 88/89 service from Knutsford (10 mins), Wilmslow (20 mins), Macclesfield (50 mins), Altrincham (55 mins), Northwich (50 mins). See www.dgbus.co.uk.

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

Parking at **weekends only** at a business park in Goostrey Way, second right off Ilford Way.



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 Sue McNulty, 59 Cedarway, Bollington, Macclesfield SK10 5NR

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

Maurice Stokes, 19 North Drive, High Legh, Knutsford WA16 6LX

ITEMS FOR THE CHESHIRE ANCESTOR

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 digitally (in MS Word or Open Office format) by email, or as typescript or manuscript. Suggested length 500-2000 words. Please email images as separate files in JPG format, preferably scanned at 300dpi, and **never** send **original** photos by post.

Please include your name and membership number (if a member), and postal or email address. Please state if you do not want your address to be published.

ADVERTISING RATES

Advertisements are accepted for publication at the following rates per issue, with a discount when the same copy is run in four consecutive issues:

Full page:	£47 per issue; £170 for 4 issues
Half-page:	£25 per issue; £90 for 4 issues
Quarter-page:	£14 per issue; £50 for 4 issues

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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The Family History Society of Cheshire
www.fhsc.org.uk

Location of Groups

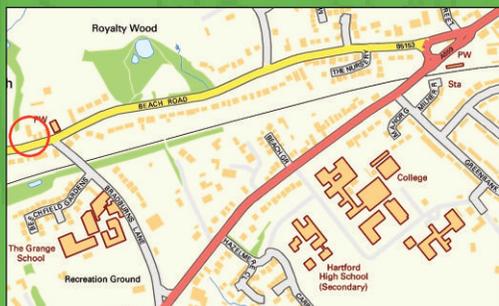
(see inside back cover for contact details)



GROUP FOCUS

Members may attend the meetings of any of the Society's groups. If travelling some distance to attend a particular talk, please check with the FHSC website or the group leader in case of a last-minute change.

NORTHWICH GROUP



The Northwich group meets on the second 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. A car park is available.

Future Northwich Group Meetings

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 10th Sep | AGM, followed by Miss Winifred Comber of Knutsford, Traveller and Photographer - Audrey Young |
| 8th Oct | Subject to be confirmed - Tony Bostock |
| 12th Nov | Talk on World War One - Alan Lowe |
| 10th Dec | Hotpot Supper and Quiz |

For full details, please see the Northwich group information on page 71.

We hope to see you soon!