

# CHESHIRE ANCESTOR



*The Journal of the*  
**Family History Society of Cheshire**



## **In this edition**

*'LBSC' - Professional Name-Changer (part 2)*

*Medal Reunited ❖ Dialect Words*

*The Wilbrahams of Townsend House*

*Memories of Public Transport ❖ and more...*

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*Cover picture: Eastgate, Chester, pictured before 1920 with a tram in the distance, beyond the arch of the Eastgate clock. Postcard from the Editor's own collection.*

*See Memories of Public Transport by Chester Guttridge, page 48.*



# CHESHIRE ANCESTOR

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

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

## 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. Authors retain the copyright of their own articles after publication but if an article is reprinted please mention that it was previously published in the **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**.

Articles are accepted by email (in Microsoft Word, Open Office Writer, or plain text format, using any font type or size), or by post as a manuscript. Suggested length 300-2000 words. Please write all surnames in CAPITALS.

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

Illustrations must be **your own, copyright-free images and NOT copies of images or photos found online or in a book**, unless you have written permission from the copyright holder.

Please **email** images (two or three max.) as separate files in JPG format, scanned at minimum 300dpi (higher resolution is required for small photos to allow for enlargement). Please **do not post images printed on normal paper** as they will not reproduce well; and **never post original photos**.

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

### 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 to the Editor, preferably as a PDF file (addresses inside cover).

*Final copy dates for advertisements are TWO MONTHS prior to publication date, i.e. 1st January for the March issue, and so on.*

# Editor's Page

by Rosie Rowley



Thanks to all who sent letters and articles - please keep them coming; it makes my life so much easier when I have plenty of items of different lengths to choose from. I won't necessarily use every item in the next issue but rest assured, everything will appear eventually!

To ensure that the **ANCESTOR** continues to be of interest, I am asking members to help me by filling in a short survey. I'd like to know what you want to see in the **ANCESTOR**, and whether there's anything that you don't want to be included. All feedback, both positive and negative, is very welcome.

## **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR** Content Survey

Please tick the box(es) that apply. Scan/photograph the pages (please ensure they are sharp and clear) and email them, or return by post, to the Editor (contact details inside front cover). Alternatively, you could type the questions and your answers into an email. Thank you for your help.

### 1. How do you read your copy of the **ANCESTOR**?

- (a) Start at the beginning and read everything in order
- (b) Turn to ..... and read that first
- (c) Just dip in here and there, reading odd bits
- (d) I don't read it (why not?).....
- (e) Other .....

### 2. What items in the **ANCESTOR** do you enjoy the most? (tick all that apply)

- (a) Articles
- (b) Net That Serf
- (c) Society News
- (d) Family History Events
- (e) Family History News
- (f) Book Reviews

- (g) Surname Interests
- (h) Letters to the Editor
- (i) Help Wanted
- (k) Group News
- (l) BMDs and other snippets at the ends of articles
- (m) Other .....

**3. What items in the ~~ANCESTOR~~ do you dislike the most, or never read? (tick all that apply)**

- (a) Articles
- (b) Net That Serf
- (c) Society News
- (d) Family History Events
- (e) Family History News
- (f) Book Reviews
- (g) Surname Interests
- (h) Letters to the Editor
- (i) Help Wanted
- (k) Group News
- (l) BMDs and other snippets at the ends of articles
- (m) Other .....

**4. What would you like to see more of? Is there anything not in the ~~ANCESTOR~~ that you would like to be included?**

.....  
 .....

**5. What would you like to see less of? Is there anything in the ~~ANCESTOR~~ that you would like to be omitted?**

.....  
 .....

**6. Other comments (continue on another page if you wish)**

## Chairman's Jottings

by Alan Bennett



I re-read last year's epistle before sitting down to write this year's December jottings. I started with "*What a year this has been for the society, our members, and the world at large.*"

I am sure we were all hopeful for a better 2021, but I'm not convinced it was much of an improvement, other than the great progress with the vaccines and their deployment.

There has been increased pressure on the money available to spend on hobbies such as family history. I am sure this will have had some impact on the reduced number of renewals we have seen this year, in conjunction with our inability to run face-to-face meetings for most of the year.

The society is trying to innovate with ways of providing value to members, such as the recently-started seminar series with world-class speakers. I know this is not very beneficial to some of our less computer-literate members, but please bear with us whilst we try and get back to providing face-to-face meetings and facilities so that everyone's needs are met.

On a more personal front, nothing much has changed, and I am still spending most of my time in my home office. Last year I reported that this had led to health issues; as a result, I have tried to reduce my time on the computer. This has also minimised the time available for my (mainly computer-based) FHSC activities. This position should change in the next six months as I approach retirement, and I should be able to commit a lot more time to FHSC from the second half of 2022.

Season's greetings to you and your families.

### 1871 Deaths (1)

From the *Hyde & Glossop Weekly News*, 7 December 1871

Nov 22nd, **Joseph**, son of **Mr John Bowker**, Riddling-lane, Hyde, aged 7 months.

Nov 24th, **George William**, son of **Mr William Cadman**, Mill-lane, Bredbury, aged 2 years.

Nov 23rd, **Mr Thomas Johnson**, Brook-street, Hyde, aged 57 years.

## Society News and Notices

**NOTE: At the time of going to press, all meetings are subject to cancellation due to the Covid-19 pandemic regulations.**

### For the Society's Latest News

Keep up-to-date between the quarterly journals by reading the society's emailed newsletters, or follow the FHSC on Facebook or Twitter. Provided that you have given us your correct email address and permission to contact you, you should receive society news by email.

Emailed newsletters are occasionally sent out by groups. You can subscribe to emails from any group; go to the group's page on the FHSC website and click on the button *Add ... to My Groups*. Check which email newsletters you are subscribed to by clicking on *Newsletters*, then *My Newsletter Subscriptions*.

### Society Diary Dates

Below is a list of meetings planned at the time of going to press; for full details of seminars and group meetings, please see the Group News pages towards the end of this issue, or check the FHSC website.

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.

1-Dec-21	Runcorn Group	TBA
7-Dec-21	Crewe & Nantwich Joint	The History of English Traditional Pantomime - Dr Claire Robinson (Zoom)
8-Dec-21	Computer Group	Computer Group Meeting (Zoom)
8-Dec-21	Sale Group	Christmas Memories
9-Dec-21	Bramhall Group	Bramhall Members' Social Evening
13-Dec-21	Bebington Group	Christmas Quiz (Zoom)
13-Dec-21	Northwich Group	General Discussion - no speaker
15-Dec-21	FHSC Zoom Seminar	Christmas and the British – Prof Martin Johnes (Zoom)
5-Jan-22	Runcorn Group	TBA

10-Jan-22	Northwich Group	Living with Funerals (a lighthearted talk) - David Shaw
12-Jan-22	Computer Group	Computer Group Meeting (Zoom)
12-Jan-22	Sale Group	TBA
13-Jan-22	Bramhall Group	TBA
14-Jan-22	Bebington Group	TBA
18-Jan-22	Crewe & Nantwich Joint	Cheshire Turnpikes - Paul Hindle (Zoom)
25-Jan-22	Macclesfield Group	Studying the three Rs - Claire Moores (Zoom) - NOTE CHANGE OF DATE
18-Jan-22	Wallasey Group	Social Evening
19-Jan-22	FHSC Zoom Seminar	The 1921 Census - Myko Clelland (Zoom)
27-Jan-22	Chester Group	Welcome Back! - David Guyton
2-Feb-22	Runcorn Group	TBA
8-Feb-22	Crewe & Nantwich Joint	Run No Unnecessary Risk of Injury – Mike Esbester (Zoom)
9-Feb-22	Computer Group	Computer Group Meeting (Zoom)
9-Feb-22	Sale Group	TBA
10-Feb-22	Bramhall Group	TBA
14-Feb-22	Northwich Group	TBA
15-Feb-22	Macclesfield Group	Researching Military Medals – Peter Ramsden (Zoom)
15-Feb-22	Wallasey Group	Where there's a Will there's a Way - Margaret Roberts (Zoom)
16-Feb-22	FHSC Zoom Seminar	Tracing your Irish Ancestry - Natalie Bodle (Zoom)
24-Feb-22	Chester Group	Chester at Work - Stewart Shuttleworth
28-Feb-22	Bebington Group	TBA
2-Mar-22	Runcorn Group	TBA
9-Mar-22	Computer Group	Computer Group Meeting (Zoom)
9-Mar-22	Sale Group	TBA
10-Mar-22	Bramhall Group	TBA
14-Mar-22	Northwich Group	TBA
15-Mar-22	Crewe & Nantwich Joint	Peter Lockett – Christine Wootton (Zoom)
15-Mar-22	Macclesfield Group	TBA
15-Mar-22	Wallasey Group	Researching House History - Jackie Depelle (Zoom)
16-Mar-22	FHSC Zoom Seminar	Titanic Honour & Glory - Sean Szmalc (Zoom)
28-Mar-22	Bebington Group	TBA
31-Mar-22	Chester Group	Transportation to Australia – Carolyn Barnwell
13-Apr-22	Computer Group	Computer Group Meeting (Zoom)

## 2021 Annual General Meeting

**Abbreviated reports presented at the 52nd Annual General Meeting of the Family History Society of Cheshire, held online on Saturday 30th October 2021 due to the Covid pandemic.**

Reports cover the year ending on 30 June 2021.

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

### **Treasurer's Report** *by David Smetham*

Our books have been prepared by Heywood Shepherd.

Our financial year 2020-21 was an exceptional year with activities limited as a result of the pandemic. Most of our activities came to a halt in the spring of 2020 but our financial commitments, including delivery of four issues of the Cheshire Ancestor and rental for our use of the Rajar Building in Mobberley, continued. Groups used their allocations to deliver online talks. At the end of June 2021 we had £50,000 in a Hampshire Trust Bank, 3-year business bond at 1.5%, £30,000 invested in a Hampshire Trust Bank 2-year Business Bond at 1.1% (to keep below the £85,000 FCA limit with Hampshire), and £25,000 invested in a Shawbrook CAF 12-month fixed rate saver at 0.45% (total £105,000).

The consolidated accounts (Income and Expenditure) for the year ending 30 June 2021 show a net deficit for the year of £1280. Last year we had a similar deficit of £1219. Cash in the bank end of June 2021 was £7,798; this includes advance subscription payments from members.

The fourteen groups are financially viable - total funds held by groups is £46,131.27. The Group Allocation for 2020-2021 was £500 to each group. Group activities were curtailed by the epidemic.

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

Income for the year is £29,519 compared with £34,644 in 2020, the significant difference is related to no receipt of gift aid in the year 21-22 and no income from Mobberley because of the Covid shutdown. Subscription income is slightly up on last year. Expenditure is £34,985 compared with £39,718 last year. The reduction is mainly to do with reduction in website expenditure and reduction in Ancestor printing and postage cost as the result of a review of print numbers and postage/distribution costs. Committee costs are also down because of the Covid shutdown.

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

The independently examined accounts are available by request to the Treasurer, they have been deposited online and can be accessed on our website.

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

### **Secretary's Report** *by Howard Martin*

The year 2020-2021 has been a challenge for the Family History Society of Cheshire. Our usual range of activities – group meetings, helpdesks and the provision of research facilities at Mobberley and Crewe - have all been interrupted and stalled by the lockdowns and uncertainties thrown up by the pandemic. On the other hand, the situation has created new opportunities through which the Society has been able to support its members and to encourage the wider interest in family history.

The Executive Committee and the Computer Group have continued to meet using Zoom but from September 2020 group leaders, working together or individually, began meeting online using Zoom. Crewe linked with Nantwich first, followed by Macclesfield and Congleton, then Tameside and Bramhall. Bebington, Northwich and others have ventured into Zoom and group leaders have kept in contact with their members through newsletters. Whilst appreciating that some members felt disadvantaged by the temporary move online, the Zoom meetings have had benefits. They have attracted large audiences. Some over-subscribed talks have been repeated and others have been recorded for a later overflow meeting. Members have been able to attend meetings hosted by other groups, members not affiliated to a group have attended, and the society has had a good response from out of county and overseas members. Online meetings are proving popular and will continue to be part of the society's offer to members as face-to-face meetings are resumed in the next few months.

Following the success of the online meetings, Margaret Roberts, Margaret Spate and Jean Laidlaw proposed that a programme of society-wide FHSC seminars should be held during 2021-2022. These would be held on the same day every month, slotting into the regular timetable of group meetings. The executive committee supported the proposal. A format was devised; speakers of national standing were engaged; members were informed of the programme and a

registration process for the events was devised. The first in the FHSC Seminar series takes place in October and the committee encourages members to check the website where full details of the programme and the registration procedure can be found.

In July, groups began to contemplate the return to face-to-face meetings. Sale Group led the way, but other group leaders sought members' opinions and received a very mixed response. It seems that online meetings will continue into 2022, with a gradual return to face-to-face meetings as members become more confident.

The society owes a debt of gratitude to Margaret Roberts and Gay Oliver for the way in which they have kept members informed through the website, the Lockdown Newsletter, and social media (Facebook and Twitter). The Family History Society of Cheshire has an active website and online presence with updates, news items and family history hints and information being posted regularly. Rosie Rowley, Editor, and Suzie Woodward, proof-reader, have ensured that the ANCESTOR has arrived four times a year. There is the same stimulating mix of information, hints and articles covering many aspects of family history. Geoff Johnson's Net that Serf pages continue to provide thought-provoking expertise. The society, however, lost the services of John Lord, who resigned from the ANCESTOR distribution role which he had successfully managed for several years.

The research centres at Mobberley and Crewe have remained closed throughout the pandemic. This situation has meant that the Society has not yet been able to complete its investigation and application for Familysearch Affiliate Library status. The Society has also lost the services of Alan Jones, for many years the manager of the Mobberley Research Centre, who moved out of Cheshire with our thanks and best wishes. Nevertheless, the Mobberley Centre took the first tentative steps to re-opening in September and the society thanks David Smetham, Joan Irving, Kay Brown, Alistair MacLeod and the volunteers for making that possible. At Crewe the situation is still very uncertain although Margaret Spate has begun to plan for an eventual re-opening.

Membership numbers are still a cause for concern. Current figures, however, would suggest that the society has held its own during the pandemic. We must thank Kevin Dean and Angela Moore for ensuring that the society maintains and expands its membership base. They have simplified the joining process and new members will, in future, renew twelve months after joining instead of at the end of June.

Website shop sales have continued, but the addition of new material for download has slowed down. The digitisation team's work came to an abrupt halt when Mobberley closed and there is now a backlog of material to be added to the shop stock and for possible release onto FindMyPast.

On the wider stage, David Guyton has continued to keep the committee well-informed of the progress of the planned record office changes and the joint local authorities bid for Heritage Lottery Funding. Contact with Paul Newman at CALS has ensured that the interests of the Family History Society of Cheshire will not be neglected in a bid that must show a significant amount of community involvement if it is to succeed.

Margaret Roberts and David Smetham have participated in the online family history shows, successfully representing the Society on virtual tables. David Smetham represents the Society at the North West Group, although meetings have not been possible during the pandemic, and Margaret Roberts has attended Family History Federation online events.

On behalf of the committee, I must thank all those volunteers who have kept the Society going through the pandemic, group leaders, the website and social media team, the membership team, the Ancestor editor and all contributors to the journal. They all deserve our thanks and support. As the situation improves the society will need more of its members to come forward. Thanks to the Mobberley volunteers who have already returned but we hope that the help desks manned by local groups will eventually resume. I have already alluded to the departures of John Lord and Alan Jones. The society has also lost the services of David Johnson. He volunteered to take on book sales on a temporary basis thirty years ago and has resigned this year after long service on the Executive Committee and as a group leader. He will be badly missed. The society has been very lucky in the quality of its volunteers but as the Executive Committee ages younger blood with fresh ideas would be greatly appreciated in the many roles available at all levels of the Society. Rosie Rowley, our editor has expressed her wish to retire from that role, and the Secretary's official five-year term of office came to an end last year. Any volunteer for any role will be welcomed and supported by the incumbent until they feel confident to take over fully.

2020-2021 has been a challenging year but the FHSC has risen to that challenge and has responded well. Your Society can look forward to the future with confidence.

## Informal Report of AGM Proceedings

*Howard Martin, Honorary Secretary.*

This year's well-attended AGM was held on Saturday 30th October 2021 on Zoom. The formal business meeting was preceded by an informative presentation from Peter Calver, the creator of the Lost Cousins website ([www.lostcousins.com](http://www.lostcousins.com)). He explained very clearly how the website could be utilised by family historians to broaden and enhance their researches by putting them in contact with *lost cousins*.

The AGM was opened by the Chairman, Alan Bennett, at 3.15pm. The minutes of the 2020 AGM and the 2020-2021 accounts and Treasurer's report were then approved. Both the Treasurer's and the Secretary's reports to the AGM can be read in this edition of **ANCESTOR**. The accounts can be found on the website.

The main business on the agenda was to vote on the proposed changes to the Society's constitution. The Secretary explained that the changes were necessary so that the constitution reflected the new ways in which Society meetings were being held as a consequence of the pandemic. In recommending these changes, the Trustees and the Executive Committee were following advice from the Family History Federation to ensure that our procedures met Charity Commission requirements. The motion from the Trustees and the Executive Committee was then carried.

Alan Bennett, Chairman, and David Smetham, Treasurer, were re-elected, and, in the absence of any nominations, Howard Martin was elected Secretary for a further year.

The meeting concluded with a discussion of the ways in which the Society had used Zoom as a platform for its meetings and events during the pandemic, and how that could be continued into the future to benefit members when face-to-face meetings are resumed.

The AGM closed at 4.10pm.

*The full minutes of the meeting will be published on the FHSC website.*

### **1871 Deaths (2)**

From the *Hyde & Glossop Weekly News*, 7 December 1871

Nov 26th, **Hannah**, wife of **Mr Samuel Hyde**, John-street, Hyde, aged 66 years.

Nov 25th, **Mr Samuel Taylor**, Stockport-road, Hyde, aged 71 years.

Nov 26th, **Mr Isaac Wood**, Acres-street, Hyde, aged 38 years.

Nov 24th, **Elizabeth**, relict of **Mr James Woolley**, Church-street, Hyde, age 83 yrs.

## Margaret's Media Musings - Out and About with the FHSC

by Margaret Roberts  
Publicity & Social Media Officer  
[social.media@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:social.media@fhsc.org.uk)



Over the last three months FHSC members have really been spoilt for choice with the Zoom talks offered by our Groups, as well as the tentative return of in-person events and the reopening of the Mobberley Research Centre. As always, I have tried to attend as many talks as possible and have been educated, enthralled, and entertained in equal measures, hearing talks about farming in the 1940s, the Birkenhead Tramways, the Privateer Hero of Wallasey and the photographer E. Chambre Hardman. The stories of members' own research such as Sophia who travelled from Ashton-under-Lyne across the world and the lives of trainee teachers at the Training College in

Crewe certainly showed how far dedicated investigation can take you. An enjoyable night evoking memories of schooldays and life between 1949 and 1969 was complemented by other evenings spent learning about the vast range of genealogical websites and how best to use them. A smorgasbord of delights!

Remember that members may attend any talks or events hosted by any group. Browsing the Events page ([www.familyhistoryfederation.com/events](http://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/events)) on the Family History Federation website where our events are also listed, I can confidently say that FHSC offers one of the most comprehensive ranges of talks available to family history society members across the country. To see the latest details of our events, visit the *Events* page of our website ([www.fhsc.org.uk/new-events](http://www.fhsc.org.uk/new-events)) and, if interested, contact the group leader to receive the joining notification when it is released. Remember that our new seminar series started in October and you need to register for those talks. See the start of the Groups pages towards the end of the **ANCESTOR** for details and how to register for each talk.

Look out for the Really Useful Podcast from the Family History Federation, a brand new monthly podcast series, where a number of family historians come together to talk about various subjects. I took part in four of the seven recordings: Young People in Genealogy, Social Media, Online Events and Using Historical Newspapers; the three other episodes are on Occupations, Identity and One-Place Studies. To listen, visit [www.familyhistoryfederation.com/podcast](http://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/podcast)

FHSC has been represented by me and David Smetham on various recent online family history shows, and more are planned. In fact, watch out for a familiar face giving a talk on the main stage of The Genealogy Show in December! See the events news elsewhere in this issue and watch out for details on our website and social media platforms. Online family history shows are becoming much more sophisticated, with the various talks now available for several days - and sometimes weeks - after the event. It's well worth the price of a ticket.

## Membership Renewals

*by Kevin Dean  
Membership Renewals Officer  
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### Advice about Membership Renewals

I started to process membership renewals in 2021 and after six months experience I feel able to report on the process and give advice to members. The biggest problem I have had is members trying to pay the annual membership more than once a year. This may seem like a nice problem to have but it makes extra work, which disrupts the usual smooth flow of transactions. The extra payments arise in various ways:

- Members read the Cheshire Ancestor in March and June telling them it is time to renew and send a cheque in response to both editions,
- Members set up a standing order, forget about it, then pay again either by cheque or PayPal.
- One member has a *monthly* standing order, paying the annual membership fee every month, in spite of pleas to change it sent by email and post

My recommendation to save effort both for me and for members is to set up either a standing order from your bank current account or a recurring PayPal instruction to pay the annual membership. You set it up once, make a note of it and know it will be paid once a year until you decide to stop. The option to pay by cheque or manual PayPal transaction will still be available, but if you use these methods, please check that you are not making a duplicate payment.

When a member does duplicate a renewal payment, I try to contact them to explain what I intend to do. Unfortunately, some member profiles contain

neither a telephone number nor an email address, making communication slow and labour-intensive, as well as costing the society money in the form of stamps. If I receive a cheque duplicating a renewal payment, I shred it and inform the member, if I can. If a standing order duplicates a renewal payment, I offer to extend membership by another year (the preferred solution) or ask the treasurer to send a refund cheque. If I can't easily contact the member, I extend membership by a year. There are now thirty-three members who have paid in advance beyond 30 Jun 2022.

Until 2021, the expiry date for every member was 30 June each year. Now the expiry date for new members is one year after their first payment. When a renewal payment is recorded, the expiry date is extended by one year, no matter when the payment is made. If you pay early or late, the expiry date is calculated the same way. You are allowed three months grace after the expiry date before your membership is considered to have lapsed.

Until now, it made sense to remind members in the **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR** to renew their memberships in the period leading up to 30 June, because that is the date when most memberships expire. However, as new members join with varied expiry dates, a reminder in the **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR** to renew by 30 June will not be appropriate and members will have to be more aware of their own expiry dates. Members with a valid email address recorded in their profiles will receive email warnings, but those who have not shared an email address with us, or have not kept their email address up-to-date, should set up a standing order or find a way to remember to send in a cheque in time.

The March 2022 edition of the Cheshire Ancestor will contain a renewal form which can accompany a cheque to renew your membership. Members renewing by standing order or PayPal do not need to fill in a form; the arrival of the payment triggers the renewal update. In practice a cheque with the membership number written on the back works just as well. The envelope containing your printed **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR** has your membership number and expiry date printed on it. All members can log in to the website and check their membership expiry date at any time; after logging in, your *Membership Status* is shown in the bottom right corner of the screen (you may need to scroll down) and this includes the type of membership you have and when it expires.

One final piece of advice. Unless you are rushing to pay before the end of the three month grace period, you don't need to use a first class stamp. I process all renewals in the same way no matter how much you paid for postage - but please don't forget the stamp altogether!

# Volunteer News

## Society Vacancies

The society is seeking new volunteers for the following posts:

### **Wanted: Honorary Secretary**

Howard Martin has now exceeded the secretary's usual five-year term of office and the society is seeking a replacement. **For information, please contact the current postholder, Howard Martin ([secretary@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@fhsc.org.uk))**

### **Wanted: Honorary Editor**

Rosie Rowley has now served as editor for over five years and wishes to stand down due to a change in family circumstances. You do not need to live in Cheshire to carry out this role as everything is done by email or by post. **For information, please contact the current postholder, Rosie Rowley ([editor@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:editor@fhsc.org.uk))**

### **Wanted: Exchange Journals Officer**

We are looking for a volunteer to manage our exchange journals activity. We currently exchange digital family history journals with thirty-five other societies and these are made available in the members area of our website. We would like to increase the number of societies with which we exchange journals.

The officer will ensure that the digital version of our journal, the **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**, is sent to participating societies and will receive and distribute digital journals from these societies to our website officer for uploading to the members' area of our website. There are opportunities to streamline this process and the officer will make sure that the system runs smoothly.

**For information, please contact the current postholder, David Smetham ([exchangejournals@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:exchangejournals@fhsc.org.uk))**

### **Wanted: Book/CD Sales Officer**

We are looking for a volunteer to manage our book and CD sales. David Smetham is fulfilling sales until we find a replacement volunteer.

**For information, please contact the current (temporary) postholder, David Smetham ([book.sales@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:book.sales@fhsc.org.uk))**

## Society Retirement

by David Smetham



Left: David Johnson Right: David Smetham

David Johnson joined our society in 1970, soon after its establishment. He has been a volunteer and an officer of the society for forty-nine years, since 1972, and resigned as a trustee and officer at the 2021 AGM in October. David was presented with an engraved plaque at the AGM, when the chairman, Alan Bennett, thanked him for all that he has done for the society.

David has supported the FHSC through many different roles during his forty-nine years of service. Many years ago, he

represented the FHSC at a very early Federation of Family History Societies meeting. He has long been responsible for book and CD sales, delivering purchases and keeping stock up-to-date, and has attended many shows and events over the years, taking the FHSC bookstall across the country and bringing in significant funds. David was Group Leader at Sale Group, and was a regular volunteer at our research centre when it opened at Alderley Edge, and later when it moved to Mobberley; he will continue to volunteer at Mobberley Research Centre.

### **1871 Deaths (3)**

From the *Hyde & Glossop Weekly News*, 7 December 1871

Nov 29th, the wife of **Mr Edward Thornley**, George-street, Compstall, aged 42 years.

Nov 25th, **Martha Brunt**, Chapel-street, New Mills, aged 84 years.

Nov 26th, **Alfred**, son of **Mr J D Radcliffe**, Thornsett, aged 1 year 5 months.

Nov 25th, at the Duke of York, Romiley, **Joseph**, son of **Mr James Chappells**, licensed victualler, aged 21 years.

Nov 27th, at Stirrup Benches, Ludworth, **Mr James Dawson**, aged 64 years.

## Research Centre News

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

**NOTE: At the time of going to press, Crewe FHU was still closed. Members will be notified on the website when we are able to reopen.**

### Mobberley Research Centre

*by Joan Irving*



We have now been open since September and our duty volunteers have already been helping some members with their family history. It is good to be back and meet up with volunteers and members once again; I hope you have had time to check through your family information during lockdown and are now ready to follow up new leads.

We hope many more will come to use the facilities we offer over the winter - although if the weather is bad, please ring to check our volunteers have managed to get there before you set out. Remember too that we shall be closed, as usual, for about one month around Christmas - this will probably be from **Monday 13th December until Friday 7th January inclusive** but please check the website, or phone the Research Centre, to confirm these dates. **Unfortunately at present we are unable to open on Wednesdays - please check the website for the latest news.**

I was recently reminded that all wills nationwide from 1650 to 1660 (the time of Cromwell's Commonwealth) were proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, and are held in The National Archives. Indexes to the Cheshire and south Lancashire wills and administrations for this period are at the end of *Lancashire and Cheshire Record Society volume 4, Wills at Chester 1621-1650*, a copy of which is available at Mobberley. The indexes only show the name, county, year and reference, but it's definitely worth checking if a family member died at this time, as wills can provide a lot of information.

Copies of these wills can be obtained online on the National Archives website at <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C12122>. At present, wills (and other TNA documents) which have been digitised can still be downloaded free of charge; no doubt the usual fee of £3.50 per item will be reinstated eventually.

Let us hope we can soon put the Covid crisis behind us and return to our family history with renewed energy and success.

# Crewe Family History Unit

by Margaret Spate  
crewe@fhsc.org.uk

At the time of writing this report I have no further news on the reopening of the Family History Unit.

I hope that by the time you receive this publication you will have been notified with all the information required by visitors. This will include changes to our procedures if any are needed. We look forward to welcoming regular visitors as well as new members of the society.

Thanks again for your support.

## Letters to the Editor

*If you have any comments about any of the articles in the ANCESTOR, or any aspect of the society, please share them - I'd love to hear from you! Just send an email to editor@fhsc.org.uk or post a letter to the address inside the front cover, including your name and membership number, and tell me if you also want your email/postal address to be printed so other researchers can contact you.*

### Unusual Forenames

**Ed.:** On the *Editor's Page* in the June issue, I asked if readers had found any surprising names during their research.

Victoria responded with her ancestor Alphonsus Turibius DOYLE, but had no idea of the origin of the name. I suggested that, as Alphonsus and Turibius were both Catholic saints, her ancestor might have been born on the feast day of one of the saints, and this proved to be the case.

You are correct - he was born on St Turibius day, 23rd March. Still no idea about Alphonsus, though.

**Victoria M L Doran**  
Membership no. 8426

## The Editor meets her Waterloo: a Correction

On page 19 of the last issue, member Frank Cooper wrote to tell us about his ancestor, Waterloo HATTON, who was named after the Battle of Waterloo - but I made an error when typing up his baptismal date, writing 3rd March 1815 instead of 3rd December 1815.

Several eagle-eyed readers who knew their dates were quick to point out that Waterloo HATTON's parents must have been psychic, as the Battle of Waterloo didn't take place until 18th June 1815, three months after baby Waterloo was supposed to have been baptised! Geoff Johnson was able to correct the digital version of the ANCESTOR for me, but of course the printed version could not be changed. Apologies to all concerned.

It later transpired that the author of the letter, Frank Cooper, had himself made a different error in his original letter; he writes:

*I managed to make a complete hash of a surname - citing (twice!) the surname SWINGFORD when it should have been SWINGWOOD! Though the remarkable coincidence of the SWINGWOODs being based from the 1700s in and around the town of Old Swinford, Worcestershire could have been a factor in the misinformation I gave.*

### “Squire” Haley: an Unusual Forename

My paternal grandmother, Elizabeth (Lizzie) BIRKBY, was born in Cleckheaton, West Yorkshire, in 1883. Her mother, Mary Ann HALEY, married Joe BIRKBY, a twenty-two-year-old millwright, in 1879. Mary Ann, born 1858, was the third child of Squire HALEY and Jane PEARSON, who was a cousin of the first Lord Cowdray. Squire HALEY was listed on the marriage certificate as an *earthenware and china dealer*.

There were earlier gentlemen with that name. Squire HALEY, born Cleckheaton 3 November 1797, was the first child of Joseph HALEY and Sarah BIRKBY (born Wike April 1770). Another Squire HALEY was decorated in the Peninsula Wars (*selectsurnames.com*). Quite possibly the Wike in question above would not be the village north of Leeds but the local abbreviation for Heckmondwike? Notice too how the BIRKBYs and the HALEYs seemed to like to be joined in marriage.

I have not managed to trace the origin of the use of Squire as a forename. Does it relate to the gentry or to landownership? It could get quite confusing if it were the customary first name for all firstborns in a family. Father, son and

grandson could all be alive at the same time. In our own time the term *Esquire* is still used, and from it the habit of using the term *Squire* as a form of affectionate greeting.

I do not have a lot of information on my BIRKBY connection, but I suspect the name has Danish origins, from *birk* meaning birch tree and *by* meaning farm or estate. Seemingly simple research on the family can so often produce all kinds of interesting further questions.

**Richard Ardern**

**Inverness**

**Membership no. 4796**

### **Bertha Crowther, Britain's First Pentathlon Champion**

An article in the June issue caught my eye whilst looking at surnames. I'm always interested to see names that might be in my Tree, but this was different. The article about Bertha CROWTHER mentioned several times the name of one of her fellow competitors, Dorothy ODAM TYLER.

I never actually met this lady but had heard a lot about her. A teaching colleague of mine (Head of the Science Department) was Dorothy's daughter-in-law. She was allowed by Dorothy to bring in one of her Olympic medals to show the children, whilst telling them about her life. Obviously, Dorothy was very proud of her achievements and would often wear her medals to family occasions such as weddings.

I sent a copy of the article to my friend and she has added it to her family archive.

**Judith Rye**

**Membership no. 4350**

**Email [castleview61@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:castleview61@tiscali.co.uk)**

### **Thank you**

A member recently sent this email to Gay Oliver, our FHSC website administrator and Tameside group leader:

Thank you so much for your very helpful and informative email. I have now logged into the website and am having a wonderful time exploring! I hope I might one day have the opportunity of meeting some society members in person; I'm sure the time will come when a trip to Cheshire becomes *essential*.

# Help Wanted

## Remember When: Cheshire Schooldays

Our Publicity and Social Media Officer, Margaret Roberts, invites members who went to school in Cheshire to share their memories so that a series of FHSC articles can be written, with a view to producing a book. It's nothing too onerous, just attend a meeting - on Zoom to start with - and chat with others. Reminisce about the 11+ exam, school dinners, punishment, staff, buildings, uniform, playtime, homework, etc. It should be great fun, so if you are interested please contact Margaret on [publicity@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:publicity@fhsc.org.uk)

## T Webb, Tea and Coffee Merchant



I have a photograph of a shop with the name T WEBB across the top and an awning outside. I think it is a relative of my family, but the shop (selling tea and coffee) looks as though could be in America. The photo was previously published in the December 2012 issue of the ANCESTOR, but I didn't receive any responses at all. I kept a copy of the request and I have realised that perhaps the reason for no response is that my email address was printed incorrectly; the correct email address is given below.

**Aileen Brookfield**  
[aileen-brookfield@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:aileen-brookfield@hotmail.co.uk)

## Surname Interests

Are you researching any of these names? If so, log in to the FHSC website and click on *Research* to contact the person or people who registered the name as one of their surname interests.

If you haven't already registered your surname interests on the FHSC website, why not do it today? You may make contact with someone who holds the key to your brick wall!

The following names have been added between August and October 2021:

ADDERLEY-ALBINSON-ANDERTON-ASTLE

BARNETT-BENTHOM/BENTHAM/BENTHEM-BLAKELEY-BLYTHING-  
BOWDEN-BOYES/BOWES/DU BOYES-BROADHURST-BROCKLEHURST

COOK-COPE-CORKER-CRANK-CURRAN-CURRAN

DARBYSHIRE-DICCONSON

EATON

FAIRCLOUGH-FLEET-FOGG

HALL-HARRIS-HARVEY-HATTON-HEMMINGS/HEMINGS-

HIGGINBOTHAM-HOLCROFT-HOUGH-HOULDEN

JACKSON-JONES

KING-KITCHEN

LANGLEY-LARKIN-LEICESTER-LEWIS-LUNT

MAKINSON-MARSHALL-MARTIN-MCSHERRY/M'SHERRY/MCSHERRY/

M'SHERRY/MACSHERRIE-MEAKIN-MIDDLETON/MIDLETON/

MYDDELTON-MILNER-MOLYNEUX/MOLINEUX/MOLGNENX

NEWTON

OXTON

PARKINSON

RIDGWAY-ROBINSON

STATHAM

THORRINGTON/THORINGTON-TIMMIS

WHITELEGG/WHITTAKER-WITHINSHAW/WITHENSHAW-

WORTHINGTON

## Family History Events

For news of family history events, see these online calendars

<http://geneva.weald.org.uk/>  
[www.familyhistoryfederation.com/events](http://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/events)

### NOTE - COVID-19

At the time of going to press, most in-person events have been cancelled, some being replaced by online events.  
Please check that an event is going ahead before travelling.

### THE Genealogy Show Winter Event (online)

12.00pm Friday 3rd - 12.00pm Sunday 5th December 2021

Content available online for 30 days.

\*FHSC will be present, and **Margaret Roberts** will give a talk\*

Tickets £20, students £10

<https://thegenealogyshow.uk/>

### The Family History Show (online)

10.00am - 4.30pm Sat. 19th February 2022

Ask the Experts - Talks - Family History Societies \*FHSC will be present\*

Advance tickets £7; on the day £10

<https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/online/>

### RootsTech 2022 (online)

Thursday 3rd - Saturday 5th March 2022

Following on from the success of RootsTech 2021, RootsTech 2022 will again be entirely virtual and FREE. \*FHSC will be present\*

[www.familysearch.org/blog/en/rootstech-connect-2022](http://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/rootstech-connect-2022)

### FHF Really Useful Show (online)

Saturday 9th April 2022

Exhibitors - Talks - Family History Societies \*FHSC will be present\*

<https://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/>

## Family History News

A selection of recent updates to websites, and other family history news. Remember, if you don't have a subscription to *Ancestry*, *Find My Past* or *The Genealogist*, our Research Centres have free access to these sites. You may also be able to access *Ancestry* or *Find My Past* through your public library, and look out for offers of free access on special occasions such as Remembrance Day.

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

### Find My Past (FMP)

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

To see what's new at *FindMyPast*, go to [www.findmypast.co.uk/blog/new](http://www.findmypast.co.uk/blog/new)

#### **British Armed Forces and Overseas Births and Deaths**

Thousands of new records of overseas births and deaths from The National Archives and the General Register Office have been added, including Regimental and Consular indexes and deaths in service and at sea e.g. on the Titanic.

#### **The Francis Frith Collection**

Spanning from 1860 to 1970, get a glimpse of Britain (and beyond) with Francis Frith's captivating vintage photos. The vast archive covers over 9,000 cities, towns and villages across the UK, as well as special collections featuring the military, artistic pieces, royalty and much more. The photos have a copyright watermark.

#### **British Army, Royal Engineers Other Ranks Casualty Cards**

These detail-rich records cover casualties during and after World War II. You'll uncover information on their injuries, next of kin and more.

#### **\*\*\* STOP PRESS \*\*\* 1921 Census \*\*\***

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/1921-census>

Find My Past has just announced that the 1921 census will be released on 6th January 2022. Census records will initially be available on a pay-per-view basis only - you do not need to be a FMP subscriber to view the records.

## Ancestry

To see a list of all record sets, go to <http://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/cardcatalog.aspx>  
Click on *Sort by > Date Updated* to see the latest additions.

To find out what's new at *Ancestry*, see [www.ancestry.co.uk/cs/recent-collections](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/cs/recent-collections)

### **Shropshire, England, Church of England records:**

#### **Baptisms, Marriages and Burials 1538-1812:**

[www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62249](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62249)

**Births and Baptisms, 1813-1900:** [www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62289/](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62289/)

**Marriages and Banns, 1754-1901:** [www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62290/](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62290/)

**Deaths and Burials, 1813-1900:** [www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62291/](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62291/)

No images - records are indexes from registers at Shropshire Archives.

## FamilySearch

To see what's available for your name or location of interest, check the catalogue: [www.familysearch.org/search/catalog](http://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog)

For the latest news from FamilySearch, see <https://media.familysearch.org/>

FamilySearch has now completed digitizing its 2.4 million rolls of microfilm, which used to be available to view at LDS Family History Libraries.

Explore FamilySearch's free collections at [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org), and then search both *Records* and *Images*. The *Images* feature will let you browse digitized images from the microfilm collection.

## Wirral Archives Service

[www.wirral.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives/wirral-archives-service](http://www.wirral.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives/wirral-archives-service)

Wirral Archives Service reopened on Monday 25 October. Visitors must pre-book by phone or email, and there is a limit to the number of researchers allowed in the search room. The wearing of masks in the search room is recommended, as is the use of hand sanitiser on arrival (in line with Government advice).

Telephone: 0151 606 2929

Email: [archives@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:archives@wirral.gov.uk)

Lower Ground Floor, Cheshire Lines Building, Canning Street, Birkenhead, Wirral, CH41 1ND. Access to the building is via Shore Road, Birkenhead.

## Selected Archives of the Week

by Margaret Roberts  
Social Media Officer  
[social.media@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:social.media@fhsc.org.uk)

The *Archive of the Week* section on the society's social media platforms remains a popular item. As in previous editions of the ANCESTOR, I am listing a selection of these archives so members who do not use social media don't miss out on the information.

Each of these archives is free to access and covers a range of genealogical, family and social history subjects; not all are Cheshire or even UK-based but all will be of interest to family historians.

### **Museum Crush**

<https://museumcrush.org/>

From Culture 24. Less of an archive and more of a wander around numerous museums and the objects on display, all from the comfort of your own sofa! Museum Crush is dedicated to sharing the many curious and compelling objects round in museum collections and this website will help you explore the rich treasures they contain – from their archives, storerooms, and digital collections to their displays and exhibitions. Museum Crush also carries listings drawn from thousands of UK museums and galleries and heritage sites to perhaps help you plan your next cultural excursion.

### **Jewish Gen**

<https://www.jewishgen.org/>

Searching for Jewish Ancestors or interested in Jewish Genealogy? This site offers a wide and diverse range of constantly updated records, information, and resources, along with unparalleled opportunities to connect with other Jewish Gen users throughout the world. On JewishGen you can easily search the archive of more than 30 million records, read accounts of what Jewish life was like for your ancestors, and connect with other members of the JewishGen.org community throughout the world.

### **Chartist Ancestors**

<https://www.chartistancestors.co.uk/>

Created and run by Mark Crail, this is a great resource for finding out more about your Chartist Ancestors with links further reading, etc.

### **Automated Genealogy**

<http://automatedgenealogy.com/index.html>

Something for those with Canadian ancestry. The site hosts several projects to index Canadian censuses, as well as a lot more links that will take you directly to any particular record at Library and Archives Canada.

### **Convict Transportation Register Database**

<https://www.connectedhistories.org/resources/cr/>

This database gives information on more than 123,000 of the 160,000 convicts transported to Australia between 1787 and 1867 included in the Convict Transportation Registers Series (HO 11) held in the UK National Archives.

### **Crime and Punishment Database**

[https://crimeandpunishment.library.wales/index\\_s.htm](https://crimeandpunishment.library.wales/index_s.htm)

Part of the National Library of Wales website. Comprising of information about crimes, criminals, and punishments from the goal files of the Court of the Great Sessions in Wales dated from 1730 until its abolition in 1830. The court would try all types of crimes, from petty thefts to high treason. In practice, most of the petty crimes were heard at the Courts of the Quarter Sessions, whose records are held by the Welsh county record offices. The records of the Court of the Great Sessions do not include cases tried in Monmouthshire since that county formed part of the Oxford Assize circuit, whose records are held by the National Archives. There are, however, several cases of Monmouthshire interest on this database.

### **Surgeons' Hall Museums**

<https://museum.rcsed.ac.uk/>

This site also incorporates WOHL Pathology Museum, the History of Surgery Museum, and The Dental Collection. Although this is a physical museum based in Edinburgh, there are a huge range of online images and information. The museum is home to one of the largest and most historic pathology collections in the United Kingdom.

### **Masonic Periodicals Online**

<https://masonicperiodicals.org/>

Having been asked about Masonic records at a recent Zoom meeting, I thought it was worth repeating one of my very early *Archives of the Week* selections. Freemasonry is one of the oldest social and charitable organisations in the world. Organised freemasonry began in 1717, when freemasons from four London lodges met to form the world's first Grand Lodge in the *Goose and Gridiron* tavern. During this time there was a boom in magazines, or periodicals, emerging from Britain's busy city culture spurred on by the discussions in

coffee houses and taverns. There were established titles aimed at both men and women specifically. So, it was no surprise that several periodicals produced for freemasons appear toward the end of the century. Few complete series of these periodicals have survived in libraries and they have only limited indexes. Masonic Periodicals Online enables the most significant masonic periodicals from the period 1790 to 1900 to be searched.

### **National Archives of Australia**

<https://www.naa.gov.au/>

The Australian National Archives collection contains records about key events and decisions that have shaped Australian history. Immigration records, court records, military, and a whole lot more, many with images and pictures.

### **Electoral Registers.org.uk**

<https://www.electoralregisters.org.uk/registers>

With the recent addition by FindMyPast of electoral registers dated 1910-1919, together with those held by Ancestry and The Genealogist - as well as those on local record office sites and FamilySearch - it can be quite confusing as to where to find what. The Electoral Registers.org.uk website has information about the electoral registers, electoral rolls, poll books from 1700 to the present day, how to access the registers online, how to make the most from your searches, what is available and what isn't, as well as much, much more.

These represent just a small selection of the archives cited on the FHSC social media platforms in my Saturday section. To take full advantage and keep abreast of the updates to genealogical websites, follow the society on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/CheshireFamilyHistory](http://www.facebook.com/CheshireFamilyHistory)) or Twitter (@FHSoFCheshire).

## **Proofreading and Copy-editing Services**

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Tel: 01856-831533 or Email: [vestlaybanks@btinternet.com](mailto:vestlaybanks@btinternet.com)

## Book Reviews

*Newly published items on Genealogical or Cheshire subjects are welcomed for review. Please send to the editor (contact details inside front cover).*

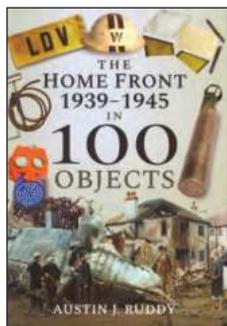
*After review, items are given to a society library.*

*All pricing and other information is correct at the time of going to press.*

### ***The Home Front 1939-1945 in 100 Objects***

**By Austin Ruddy**

Reviewed by Peter Ramsden



It was Neil MacGregor, director of the British Museum, who originally conceived the idea of using one hundred objects to describe a particular era or civilisation. His talks have been broadcast on BBC Radio 4 since 2010. The idea of identifying one hundred representative objects to tell a story has captured the imagination of many writers, who have applied it to a wide variety of topics.

The author of this book is Austin Ruddy, a journalist, local historian and collector of objects connected with the 1939-45 Home Front. Many of the objects selected are iconic, although many are ephemera that will be relatively unknown to readers, but which nonetheless shed light on the highs and lows of the civilian population in Britain during the six years of the Second World War. So, a gas mask and a stirrup pump sit alongside a Women's Land Army armband and a photo of Glen Miller and his band in performance, probably taken at a US Army base near Blackpool in 1943.

Each object is presented on a double-page spread, with a description of the object and some context. All the objects are attractively photographed in colour, and contemporary black and white photos are sometimes used to illustrate the context. The book is printed throughout on glossy paper, which produces a weighty book and may also account for the relatively high price for a book of this size. You're unlikely to read this book from cover to cover; it really is one for browsing and dipping into, in no particular order. The book is indexed, and there is a short bibliography of further reading.

Frontline Books (an imprint of Pen & Sword Books), 2019.

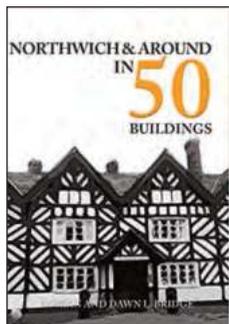
Hardcover, 212 pages, £25.00 (also available in ebook format).

ISBN: 978-1-5267-4086-1

## *Northwich and Around in 50 Buildings*

By **Adrian L. Bridge and Dawn Preece**

Reviewed by Dave Thomas



Locally-born Adrian L. Bridge has a BA in history, along with other impressive qualifications. Dawn Preece is a history graduate, originally from Stoke.

The theme of this book is the way that Northwich has grown over the years. It began as a very small township in Roman times, surrounded by larger communities such as Witton-cum-Twambrooks, Leftwich, Hartford and Davenham. During the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, Northwich expanded to incorporate many of these places.

The book has illustrations of landmarks and structures from across the centuries which are significant to the town. These are the buildings that reveal the fascinating history of Northwich and its environs and tell the story of its people and their way of life. Focusing upon key themes including ancient buildings, portable buildings, industrial heritage, residences of the rich and poor, Victorian paternalism, leisure and retail, and modern buildings, the authors study a wide range of structures that served many different purposes and were built in contrasting styles.

Among those featured are Vale Royal Abbey, Arley Hall, the Lion Salt Works, Anderton Boat Lift, the local workhouse, churches, schools, pubs, hospitals and places of entertainment. Coming right up to the twenty first century, the Baron's Quay development and the Northwich Memorial Court complex are also included in this detailed and engaging chronicle of the area's history and architecture.

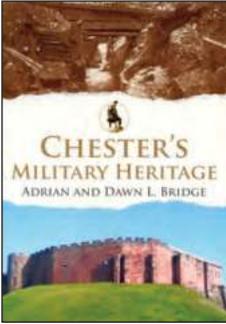
There is a street map at the front of the book, which is very useful, as the precise location of each structure can be easily found. Amply illustrated, there is plenty of information about each building and, indeed, even the introduction contains a lot of detail. Locations that have appeared in previous books are still of interest, as the text includes fresh information.

Overall, the book is definitely worth a read and would be a useful addition to any library.

Amberley Publishing, 2021. Paperback, 96 pages, £15.99.

ISBN: 978-1-4456-9613-3

*Chester's Military Heritage*  
By Adrian and Dawn Bridge  
Reviewed by Peter Ramsden



Chester has an illustrious military history dating back to Roman times, when a fort, larger than anything known elsewhere in Roman Britain, was built here. In this book, local authors Adrian and Dawn Bridge chronicle the city's military history across the centuries. Beginning with the impact of the Roman XXth Legion, the authors go on to explore the Dark Ages, Viking, Saxon and medieval eras right through to the 20th century and the two world wars.

The book's eight chapters address broad themes, rather than attempting a chronological account. These include local, national and foreign conflicts; personalities, honours and awards; and memorials. At ninety-four pages in length, this is not a detailed account of Chester's military history but it's an interesting starting point and well-illustrated, mainly in colour. There is no index and only a very short bibliography.

Amberley Publishing, 2021. Paperback, 94 pages, £15.99.  
ISBN: 978-2-4456-9958-5

### **1871 News (1)**

From the *Hyde & Glossop Weekly News*, 7 December 1871

**REUBEN GETS A DROP TOO MUCH** – A man named **Reuben Roper** was found drunk by **P. C. Courtney**, at Haughton, about half-past seven o'clock on the evening of Saturday, the 11th November. On the officer speaking to him he was very insolent, and cursed **Courtney**. He was summoned last Wednesday to the Ashton County Sessions, and on the above being stated to the magistrates they ordered him to pay a penalty of 5s. and the costs.

**KEEP YOUR CHIMNEY SWEEPED** – **Jane Booth**, of the Nottingham Castle Inn, Denton, was summoned to the County Police Court, Ashton, on Wednesday, charged with having had her chimney on fire on Monday, the 13th ult. **Constable Courtney** proved the offence to have been committed about half-past six o'clock in the evening, and said there was a good fire in the grate when he went into the house. **Miss Booth** admitted the chimney was on fire, but added that it was quite accidental. – Fined 1s and costs.

## Medal Reunited: Great-grandfather's British War Medal

*by John Faulkner  
Membership no. 10006*

In August 2018, I was contacted via the Ancestry website messaging service by Ian MARTYN who runs Medals Reunited New Zealand. The purpose of Medals Reunited NZ is to reunite medals that have been found with their descendant families. Following publicity of his activities, Ian had been contacted by Russell BENNISON of Papakura, Auckland, New Zealand, who had found an old medal among those which he inherited from his father. The medal had no ribbon, suspender bar or claw. It was a British War Medal with the inscription 'FAULKNER T.' on the edge. Russell had no knowledge of anyone named FAULKNER connected with his family, or how the medal came to be in his father's possession.

The British War Medal was instituted on 26 July 1919 for those who had served in the Great War between 5 August 1914 and 11 November 1918. Of these, 6,500,000 medals were struck in silver and 110,000 in bronze, the latter for Chinese, Egyptian and Indian labour corps. Normally, the recipient's name, rank, service number and unit are inscribed on the edge of the medal; however, for merchant seamen, only the name was inscribed.

In December 2017, I took an Ancestry DNA test, and the first match revealed was Alan BUSH. It transpired that Alan and I are third cousins on my father's mother's side. Alan has an extensive family tree on Ancestry comprising 17,927 people. I contacted him and was able to advise him of a few corrections, which he made.

Meanwhile, in New Zealand, Ian MARTYN was trying to trace T. FAULKNER. His primary focus was on New Zealand but he could find no record of any local merchant seaman named T. FAULKNER who served in the First World War. His search expanded and fortuitously, using Ancestry, he found only one T. FAULKNER who was awarded a medal as result of Merchant Navy service. The medal card which he found revealed that the British War Medal and the Mercantile Marine Medal were issued to Thomas FAULKNER of Flatt Lane, Ellesmere Port on 11 October 1923. Also, that Thomas was born in Chester in 1857. He was a Master Mariner whose certificate number was 103480.

As a result, Ian then had information with which to search census returns and records of birth, marriage and death. He discovered that Thomas was born in 1856, married Jane JOYNSON in Chester in 1882 and they had two children, John William, born 1882, and Mary, born 1884. He also found that Jane died in 1895 and John William FAULKNER died in 1927, and that Mary FAULKNER (whose married name was TREVENEN) had gone to the United States with her children. Then the trail fizzled out.

Ian also discovered that Thomas had served on the SS *Doomass* which had been requisitioned to transport food and munitions from England to France. The ship was an 888 ton cargo ship, built in 1897 by Caledon Shipbuilding & Engineering Co. Ltd. in Dundee.

When Alan BUSH added my details to his family tree, Ian MARTYN had a new lead and, after contacting Alan BUSH, he contacted me. From my records I was able to confirm Ian's research: Thomas FAULKNER was born illegitimately on 3 January 1856 at the home of his great-grandparents at Dee Banks, Chester. He was brought up in Ellesmere Port and became a mariner. On 10 January 1882 he married Jane JOYNSON. Two children ensued: John William, born 31 August 1882 and Mary, born 27 November 1884. His wife Jane died on 2 April 1895.

Thomas FAULKNER's son John William was working as a palm oil trader prior to the First World War, but on its outbreak he returned to Britain and enrolled in the Queen's Regiment in Guildford using his sister's Guildford address. Following the Gallipoli campaign and advance against the Turks in Palestine, he was transferred to the Western Front where he was injured by a gas attack. Subsequently, he married Grace SOWTER on 3 May 1919 in London and, returning to Ellesmere Port, two children were born: Kenneth John on 10 March 1920 and Geoffrey (my father) on 2 October 1923. However, the effect of his war injuries led to his death on 8 April 1927.

Thomas FAULKNER's daughter Mary married Samuel TREVENEN in London on 26 December 1906 and they had three children: John Faulkner in 1907, Stanley Eccleston in 1909 and Kathleen Mary in 1916. Samuel TREVENEN joined the Artist's Rifles in 1917 but was killed in action on 30 December 1917. Samuel's father was an American citizen. After the war ended, John Faulkner TREVENEN went to live in the United States, where it was thought his prospects were better. Mary returned to Ellesmere Port with her two younger children, where she married William LIVESLEY in 1920 and two more children were born: Margaret in 1922 and Peter Joynson in 1925.

I was aware that Thomas FAULKNER had remarried and had a child named Madge, but knew no more than that. Thomas died on 22 August 1931 in Ellesmere Port. According to the newspaper report in the *Ellesmere Port Advertiser*, he had been suffering from blindness in his later years.

Ian MARTYN included the information which I had given him in an article which he posted on his website. Before posting the medal to me, he enlarged the photograph of Thomas Faulkner which I had sent him, and on Merchant Navy Day on 3 September 2018 he attended the Memorial in Nelson, New Zealand.

Barbara McPARLAND of Ormskirk, Lancashire, had often sought more information about her grandfather but save for a photograph and a copy of the *Ellesmere Port Advertiser* dated 28 August 1931 reporting his death and funeral she had drawn a blank. She occasionally made Google searches but with little result. In February 2019, however, her search produced the article on Ian MARTYN's website. It included a copy of the photograph which she already had, and the cutting reporting the death of Capt. Thomas FAULKNER from the *Ellesmere Port Advertiser*. As my name was mentioned on the website, she started ringing all the John FAULKNERs in Tamworth for whom she could find telephone numbers and we thus made contact. We could each fill in the gaps in our knowledge. Thomas FAULKNER had married Emma NICHOLLS in Liverpool in 1901 and their daughter, Margaret Adelaide FAULKNER (known as Madge) was born on 14 January 1903. Sadly the marriage did not last. I was able to visit Barbara in October 2019 in Ormskirk and also met her brother, Trevor. So, not just Medal Reunited but Family Reunited!



The final question is how my great-grandfather's medal came to be in New Zealand. He never visited New Zealand and I don't think any of the family has either. There is only one improbable route that I can think of and the evidence for that is entirely absent. However, I am encouraged by the quotation which Sir Arthur Conan Doyle ascribed to Sherlock Holmes: *When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth.*

So here is my theory. My uncle, Kenneth John FAULKNER, served in 'A' troop of 432 Battery of the 149th Royal Artillery Regiment and was killed on 27 November 1941 in the breakout from Tobruk to link with the New Zealand 2nd Division advancing from Egypt. According to the letter which my grandmother received from Major Tom BIGLAND, there were no personal effects to return because they were lost when the position was overrun by enemy tanks and all of my uncle's detachment were taken prisoner. The position was retaken, but there was nothing to be found.

Russell BENNISON's father served in the Pacific during the Second World War, but he had a cousin who did serve in the New Zealand 2nd Division; he was captured in the battle for Crete in May 1941 and was a prisoner of war thereafter.

Did my uncle take his grandfather's medal to war with him? Was it taken from his body by his comrades, who then met Russell BENNISON's father's cousin in a German Prisoner of War camp? The medal could then have returned to New Zealand following his liberation. Far-fetched, but what else is a possibility?

Thomas FAULKNER's entry on the Medals Reunited NZ website:  
<https://medalsreunitednz.co.nz/thomas-faulkner-welsh-merchant-marine-captains-ww1-medal-reunited-with-great-grandson/>

### **1871 News (2)**

**Ed.:** Warning - readers of a nervous disposition should look away now...

From the *Hyde & Glossop Weekly News*, 7 December 1871

*BREDBURY: FEARFUL ACCIDENT TO A YOUNG WOMAN AT BOTANY MILL - On Monday afternoon, between three and four o'clock, a young woman named Zoah Daniels, daughter of Mr Thomas Daniels, of Woodley, who was employed as a former at Botany Mill (Messrs J L Buckley and Sons), left her own machine, which was stopped at the time, and went to a companion, who worked a hardening machine, to speak to her. She had not been there long before a hat dropped down at the back of the machine, and Daniels unthinkingly went round to pick it up. There was a shaft near the place, and after stooping for the hat she attempted to get up again, when her hair caught in the wheels, and her head was brought in contact with them. Her skull was much fractured, and part of the scalp torn off. She was released as soon as possible, and Dr Smith and his assistant were speedily in attendance. She was afterwards conveyed to the Stockport Infirmary, where death put an end to her sufferings on Wednesday afternoon. She was 15 years of age, and highly esteemed by all who knew her.*

## Pandora's Box

by Marie Ball  
Membership no. 3447

It was all the fault of Peter CALVER of Lost Cousins ([www.lostcousins.com](http://www.lostcousins.com)), who kept advocating an Ancestry autosomal test as providing the most cousins. I had already bought my husband, Bill, both the Y-DNA and Family Finder DNA tests on Family Tree DNA ([www.familytreedna.com](http://www.familytreedna.com)) so I wasn't keen, but eventually I caved in and found that Peter CALVER was quite right.

I share my research into my husband's line with his cousin, whom I shall call J. After a while I noticed something strange. Bill's maternal grandmother was Florence SHAWCROSS, who married Joseph SHEEHAN in Stockport on 11th January 1908, stating that her father was William SHAWCROSS. I had gone wrong on his family, and J put me right. She has done detailed research into SHAWCROSS, KNOWLES and others from Hazel Grove. William's wife was Zipporah GARLICK and I have followed this family back to Glossop. On Ancestry, Bill had acquired over eighty DNA matches via Zipporah - GARLICKs, DEARNLEYS, SWINDELLs etc. - but only three via William SHAWCROSS; all three are descended from Florence's brother, James SHAWCROSS. J had fewer or lower matches as she is once removed, so it was more visible to me.

Peter CALVER recommends checking all the surnames in your tree and Ancestry brings up all the other matches who have that name in their tree. I followed a number of trees without finding anyone related to Florence's supposed father. We knew there was no problem with Florence's husband, Joseph SHEEHAN, as his mother's OWENs from Roscommon had been verified by finding DNA matches; our brickwall in the SHEEHAN line was solved by Ancestry finding SHEEHAN cousins in Roscommon. The problem lay with Florence's father. Mark DEARNLEY (<http://familytree.dearnley.com/>) had previously pointed out that Florence's birth date on the 1939 register - 8 May 1883 - did not agree with the date on her birth certificate, 12 Jun 1885; J said the family had understood her date of birth to be the one on the 1939 register.

Bill and J had two shared matches from Stockport with very short trees - as well as checking surnames, Ancestry has a box which matches locations in trees. I extended their trees and discovered they were actually cousins, with common ancestors George WHITTAKER and Ursula BARDSLEY. At first, I assumed

George WHITTAKER must have been Florence's father; although he was quite a bit older than Zipporah, his sons were all younger than her. George and Ursula were on the censuses in Stockport in Hesketh Street, near where the SHAWCROSS family lived in Higher Union Street. Then I found a third match, cousin to the first two but via Ursula BARDSLEY. Florence's father had to be George and Ursula's eldest son, William WHITTAKER, born in 1858; Zipporah was ten years older than William.

William WHITTAKER married Mary WRIGHT on 7 Apr 1879 at St Thomas' Church, Heaton Norris. Their first child was Florence, who died as an infant; their second was Elizabeth Ann who died in 1882, the year after she was born. They didn't have another child until 1885, when Sarah, who lived until 1936, was born. Florence SHAWCROSS fits into the gap between 1881 and 1885. Although registered in 1885 it seems she was actually born in 1883 and her name might have come from William's first baby. It's not a previously-known SHAWCROSS or GARLICK name. This suggests an affair rather than something more fleeting. Fortunately, I never had to tell my mother-in-law any of this!

What I do wonder is whether Florence knew. All I know from my mother-in-law is that Florence, who was Anglican, was so grateful to her mother-in-law for helping her when she had her first child, as her own mother was ill, that she agreed to let her children be brought up in the Catholic faith. Florence was also very close to her older sister Alice, born 1872, and both had daughters called Emily who often played together. William and Mary WHITTAKER had another daughter in 1890, who was also named Florence.

Part of Bill's ethnicity had included him in Greater Manchester and some of these new families explained that. Now J and I are working on the names BARDSLEY, WHITTAKER, GILL, CLOWES, and BENNETT. Quite a few of these came from the same area as Zipporah: Glossop, Mottram and Taxal.

### **1871 Deaths (4)**

From the *Hyde & Glossop Weekly News*, 7 December 1871

Nov 26th, **Hannah**, wife of **Mr James Lever**, Pitt-street, Hyde, aged 49 years.

Nov 27th, **John William**, infant son of **Mr Samuel Gant**, Mill-lane, Bredbury, aged 4 months.

Nov 28th, **Eliza**, infant daughter of **Mr Henry Stafford**, Gerrards, Werneth, aged 7 months.

Nov 26th, **Ellen**, daughter of the late **Mr Edward Davies**, Rochfort-street, Hyde, aged 19 years.

## 'LBSC' – Professional Name-Changer (Part 2)

by Geoff Johnson  
Computer Group Leader

In part 1, I wrote about the research an associate and I carried out into the early life of a writer, designer and model engineer known by the pen-name LBSC (the initials of the London, Brighton and South Coast railway), after reading a biography published in 1982 by Brian Hollingsworth. We concluded that it had some errors, possibly due to the difficulty of accessing genealogical data at the time. We established that this man had been born William Morris BENJAMIN, was known as William Morris MATHIESON after his mother remarried, was popularly known as Curly and later used the name Lillian LAWRENCE.



So how did LBSC get the name Lillian LAWRENCE, which he used for most of his adult life? It was obviously his own choice, and not a chance of birth that led him to assume that name. The change must have occurred sometime between May 1902, which is the last record of William MATHIESON in the LB&SC Railway archives, and his marriage in 1908, which took place under his new name of Lillian LAWRENCE. There is no obvious reason why the name was chosen, but the name Lillian is only two letters away from William – Bill became Lill!

### Lillian Lawrence: the Enigma

We can only speculate on why LBSC decided to change names. It may have been at this time in his life that a feminine side of his nature came to the fore, and he decided to change his lifestyle and name. Whether he chose the name Lillian LAWRENCE from the register of births, marriages or deaths, or whether he had some knowledge of a LAWRENCE family is again open to speculation - perhaps along the following lines.

The 1901 census lists a LAWRENCE family living just two streets away from LBSC's family. The father, George LAWRENCE, is a railway policeman. It is quite possible that he operated at New Cross and could well have been a colleague of LBSC: the 1881 census shows he had been a *plumber-tinman*; i.e. he was skilled with his hands. More significantly, in 1901 he has a ten-year-old daughter named Lilian. The name Lilian can be spelt with one L or two: the single L version is by far the most common. LBSC preferred to use a double L,

but that's more in line with his real name, William. Lilian was seven years younger than LBSC, and no trauma can be found such as a young death. Did LBSC just adopt this family's name and the daughter's Christian name? It seems we shall never know.

As mentioned in part 1, the 1901 census shows that LBSC was working as a railway cleaner. We searched the records of the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway at the National Archives at Kew, London, and these shed some light on his career with this company. Three sets of records could hold relevant information on that career; the first of these is the *Changes of Staff with Rates of Pay*. The first entry in these is the name of William MATHIESON, when he joined the LB&SC Railway in the week of 7th September 1899, just before his sixteenth birthday. This shows that he started working as a cleaner at New Cross, earning 2 shillings a day. In December 1900 his pay was increased to 2s 2d per day, and in June 1901 to 3s 4d per day, when he became a *washerout* (of loco boilers). The final entry in these records is for May 1902 when his pay was reduced, along with that of several colleagues, to 3s per day when he returned to being a cleaner. In this set of records there is no entry listing William MATHIESON as either a fireman or a driver with the company.

The second set of records of interest are registers of *Engine Cleaners passed as Firemen and Firemen passed as Drivers*; these contain no entries at all for William MATHIESON. The final set of records are the *Registers of Staff*, listing the careers of staff above a certain grade; for instance, staff are entered into these records on promotion from cleaner to fireman. Again, there is no record of William MATHIESON in the grade of fireman or driver.

From these records - or lack of them - it seems that LBSC was never a fireman or driver with the LB&SC Railway. Nonetheless, he may well have travelled on the footplate as a cleaner, training to be a fireman. This observation gives support to Brian Hollingsworth's comment that virtually none of LBSC's reminiscences of the LB&SC railway are described directly, but are impersonal descriptions. Of course, we also checked that there were no entries in any of the records in the name of Lillian LAWRENCE.

The change of name and lifestyle may well have caused some sort of rift in the family. We concluded that family relationships appear strained, and if one reads between the lines of Hollingsworth's book he does, too. There are intimations that LBSC had little to do with his parents. He certainly spoke much about his granny, and available diaries indicate normal connections with brother Rudolph and wife Mabel's family in later years.

LBSC also mentions needing to find a new job to earn more money, perhaps a sign that he needed to leave home and make his own way in the world. He makes few references to his father and, where he does, they seem to imply that he has died. Many of LBSC's references to his own life seem to be making it hard to track his past, or were perhaps aimed at developing the new identity.

LBSC seldom refers to his family but he does speak of his *Scottish ancestors*. In the opening paragraphs of a book for the construction of loco model *Mona*, he implies that he is half Scottish, and mentions a tendency to meanness. He also refers to having married a *Scottish lassie*. The first of these has only one piece of evidence to support it. Whilst his mother and father were both of straightforward London parentage, we have established through censuses that LBSC's step-grandfather Thomas MATHIESON was of Scottish descent. It seems that LBSC either took this fact as a convenience, or did not know the details of his real grandfather Joseph BENJAMIN. LBSC's wife Mabel certainly had Scottish "connections" - she was born there, but had English parents!

By 1911, LBSC and Mabel are living in Honour Oak Mansions (evidently a flat) in Dulwich. He is listed as a worker in motor manufacturing. Hollingsworth's biography tells us that in 1910 LBSC took employment with the Daimler Motor Car Company, involving testing and experimental work.

### **The Munts**

With Mabel there is yet another name change! Mabel was born at Maryhill near Glasgow, but her parents Thomas MUNT and Lucy NOAKES had both been born in Islington. They moved north of the border in the late 1880s and married at Maryhill. Their first child was registered as Sarah MUNT, born 2nd January 1889. They went on to have two more daughters: Emma, born in 1890, and Alice in 1894. By 1901 the family had returned to Rotherhithe where a son, Thomas William, was born in 1900.

By 1908 one of their daughters had set her heart on our hero. The couple were married on 2nd January and she called herself Mabel, but Thomas and Lucy MUNT did not have a daughter named Mabel! The wedding date was exactly on Sarah's birthday and the bride's age given as nineteen - exactly right for Sarah on that day. A witness to the wedding was James NOAKES, younger brother of mum Lucy. Sarah had become Mabel! She could certainly claim to be Glaswegian, although she only lived there for about ten years. The birth records for Sarah and Emma were relatively easy to find, but searching for baptisms in the Glasgow area appears to be daunting. Maybe Sarah was baptised with a second name? Perhaps a member who is familiar with researching Scottish baptisms can help me out?

## Children

To the best of everyone's knowledge LBSC and Mabel had no children. It may be that they didn't want any, but LBSC periodically mentions youngsters, including a niece. Indeed, there are many indications that both LBSC and Mabel were very fond of children. We have attempted to trace any likely births with early deaths to no avail. Stillbirths are another possibility, but a national register of stillbirths was not begun in England until 1926 and it is impossible to access records unless one is of the direct line – and it seems there is no direct line!

## Other Family Members

LBSC's sister Clemence married Leo McDOWELL at Camberwell in 1916. Leo had been born in Leeds in 1891. His mother died the following year, and it seems his father, who re-married, put him into care. Leo was in the Shibden Industrial School for Roman Catholic Boys in 1901, and was then seemingly shipped out to Canada in June 1905 with the Catholic Emigration Association. He enlisted with the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force in 1914 and was posted to France in May 1915, but received a shrapnel wound to his right leg and foot on 3rd June 1916. As a result, he was repatriated to the UK and received treatment for four weeks at Dartford War Hospital, followed by two weeks' convalescence in Epsom and three weeks at Westcliffe Canadian Eye and Ear Hospital, Folkestone, suffering from a perforated eardrum. He presumably met Clemence, who would have been in her late twenties, either whilst in training in 1915 or whilst in hospital in 1916 - most likely the latter, as he did not ask the Army for (retrospective) permission to marry until November 1917! Perhaps Clemence worked in one of the hospitals. Before joining up, Leo was a *loco fireman* and perhaps LBSC also gleaned some information from this source.

The birth certificate of LBSC's brother Rudolph shows the whole picture, naming his father as Henry Morris Benjamin MATHIESON. Rudolph was also married in 1916, to Beatrice SANSOM, and died in 1989, aged 94.

## Subsequent Updates

Publishing the original article in *Engineering in Miniature* in 2006 generated a steady feed of helpful responses. In September 2008 we established that LBSC had a nephew who was still alive and well! An octogenarian fund of information, Reg MATHIESON is the son of LBSC's younger brother Rudolf MATHIESON. Reg fully confirmed the accuracy of the above research and was able to add yet more information.

Part three will attempt to consolidate that information along with database and newspaper material that certainly helps to explain LBSC's desire to disassociate himself from his original family name.

### A Part 3 Taster

During WWI, LBSC managed a factory in the Weybridge area which produced aero engine parts. His chief assistant was a former coffee-shop keeper - LBSC's maternal uncle Walter. The team consisted of thirty-seven girls. Munitions gave him a Model T Ford to get around, together with necessary petrol. From Model Engineer articles it's evident that his management style was unconventional, friendly and very successful.



A model engineer wrote to us:

*I was having coffee one evening with a neighbour who is not a model engineer. In a box of curios on display was a heavily made brass money box. It appeared to be a one-off, craftsman-made piece by someone who was a skilled turner. It was the inscription that intrigued me - "Mabel Xmas 1916". Could it have been made by LBSC, for his wife Mabel in the munitions factory where we're told he worked in 1916-17? It's recorded that he was prone to make brooches and the like for his staff, so he was not beyond making a trinket. It had to have been made where the material was available and by someone with the necessary skill. It's probably a red herring, but one never knows, and a money box fits in rather nicely with LBSC's habit of watching the pennies. Nothing is known about the origins of the box other than it was bought in a Bath flea market some years ago, at a time when Bath dealers frequented the London markets.*



From all that's come about since, we'd strongly suspect it was a 'Curly'! It typifies the good quality but practical engineering work he was noted for.

## Early Cheshire Stonehewers (Part 2)

by Michael Stonehewer

Membership no. 3649

mstonehewer@hotmail.co.uk



I am again indebted to the chairman of the Congleton History Society, Peter Aston, for kindly giving me permission to use extracts from the excellent *History of Congleton*, edited by W. B. Stephens and published in 1970 by Manchester University Press on the occasion of the 700th anniversary of the granting of a charter to the town. The symbol for the Congleton History Society is above left; Congleton was also well known for its cockfights and bearbaiting. On one occasion the town bear died just before the annual wakes. The town had been saving to buy a new bible, but lent the *bearward* sixteen shillings from the bible fund to buy a new bear!

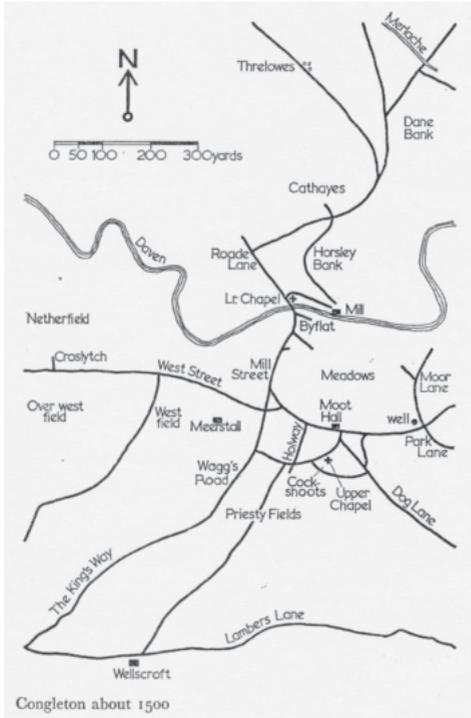
You will probably recall that I concluded my first article on the Early Cheshire Stonehewers with a series of questions. This left me a puzzle: where to start answering these questions? One question that I half answered was the question of the location of Milstonbergh quarry. At this time, after a great deal of work, I haven't got any further than it is (or perhaps was) on Congleton Edge. There are currently two sites that are possible which I have identified, but I am awaiting the answers to some questions that I have raised - when I have a more definitive answer, I will get back to you!

Whilst the text from Stephens' *History of Congleton* led to me trying to find out the location of Milstonebergh quarry, I conducted an additional search to find out where the millstones from this Congleton quarry went. You may recall that the text from Stephens' book said:

*It provided supplies for local use but it was also a source for the surrounding areas. In 1370-1 John Burgh, the bailiff of Whitley, spend £1 16s on the purchase and transport of two millstones from Congleton for the water mill at Whitley; it was ordered that two of the best grindstones were to be carried to the castle of Halton in 1378-9, and a further two millstones were to be sent to Whitley, Halton and Runcorn in 1397-8. The lord of the manor did not work the quarry himself.*

So here we have the mills for Whitley, Halton castle, Runcorn, and *locally*, (presumably in Congleton itself), ordering millstones and grindstones from Milstonbergh quarry. At first I looked at maps of Cheshire to locate these sites.

To start, let's look at Congleton - the maps below are taken from the Stephens book. The first shows Congleton in 1500 and you can see Mill Street running from the mill south of the river into town. The second map is of the town in the 1960s - you can see that Mill Street still exists, and you may be able to make out, north of the town centre, a road parallel to the river called Mill Green. This was the site of a Victorian industrial mill and unrelated to corn milling.



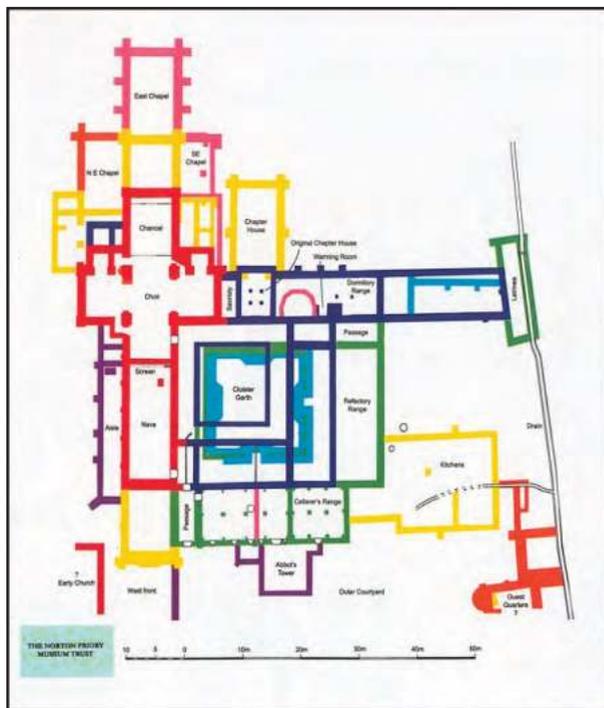
It is very likely that our quarry men (i.e. William BACOUN, Richard BACOUN and Thomas STONEHEWER in the period 1372–1388, and subsequently, Roger STONEHEWER, Richeard KELYNG and Thomas GRANT in the period 1423–1430) would probably have called at their local mill to see their millstones at work; indeed, it is quite possible that they delivered them!

But what of Whitley, Runcorn and Halton Castle – could these mills still exist, and is there a chance that any of the millstones have survived? Further map research showed that whilst Whitley Mill does not appear to exist, Whitley village is situated just south of Stockton Heath, Warrington between the A49 and the A559 and there is a lane called Old Mill Lane with a farm called Old Mill Farm – it does appear that the farm is probably close to the Old Mill site, but sadly nothing of the mill appears to remain.

What about Runcorn, and Halton Castle? Again, maps showed roads with the name Mill associated with them, but no evidence of a mill remains. Searching for Halton Castle, I came across [www.nortonpriory.org](http://www.nortonpriory.org), the website for Norton Priory Museum and Gardens, an organisation which is a charitable trust looking after both Norton Priory and Halton Castle. Initially I couldn't find any reference to mills at either the priory or castle, but looking at the section labelled *Monastic Ruins*, I found at the bottom of the page:

*Monasteries and Priors were one of the few places in medieval England that would have toilets. The latrines at the priory would probably have been drop toilets – simple holes that opened straight onto the sewer. Water would flow along the drain at the bottom, regulated by a sluice. Kitchen waste, and water from the roof would also pass into the drain and eventually be washed into the millpond.*

When I read this, I thought to myself, *Bingo - I have finally found a reference to a mill!* Associated with this text is a plan of the priory buildings. It is perhaps difficult to see clearly, but you can see the cross shape of the church building to the left, and to the lower right are the kitchens, which are shown connected to the drain running vertically down the right side of the plan. Indeed, towards the top of the drain is a rectangle representing the latrines!



The site of the mill is probably at the top of this drain, i.e. top right of the plan, where the mill was connected to this drainage channel by its mill pool, but I could find no photographs so I approached the Priory through their website to see if I could find out more. I received a very helpful reply from Claire Broadhurst of Norton Priory Museum and Gardens. She kindly gave me permission to use material from the Trust's website and added the following regarding mill(s) at the Priory:

*As for Norton Priory, in medieval times there was a complex system of ponds and moats around two and a half sides of the priory site, although none of these exist today, mostly [being] filled in during the 18th century. We know there was a watermill on the mill pool or pond (which is now a grass playing field), and we border an area called Windmill Hill, where, as you might guess, there used to be a windmill, although there is nothing left of either of these mills. We also know that medieval Norton Priory was granted ownership of a few mills around the local area as part of the foundation charter in 1134 and also later gifts and grants of land from benefactors.*

Claire's comments are illuminating. The orders placed for the millstones from Milstonbergh Quarry for delivery to this site indicated that some three mills ordered millstones, and it seems likely that Norton Priory, or Halton Castle placed one order on behalf of the three mills.



*General view of the area where the Priory water mill would have been.*

The above photo shows the current state of a place that had at least three mills in its immediate locality, supplied by the STONEHEWER quarry men with their Cheshire colleagues.

Delivery of millstones at the time (i.e. around 1400) is an interesting question, and earlier I made reference to the delivery of mill wheels for Congleton Mill. In a later edition of the ANCESTOR I will cover the various methods for moving mill wheels, along with what our Cheshire millstone grit ones were like - plus what it could cost you to buy one today!

Finally, I wish to repeat my thanks to Peter Aston, Chairman of the Congleton History Society, for permission to use extracts from W. B. Stephens' 1970 book *History of Congleton*, and to Claire Broadhurst of the Norton Priory Trust for permission to use material from the website, and taking the time to answer my questions.

# Memories of Public Transport

*by Chester Guttridge*  
*Membership no. 9193*

My first bus ride - I remember it well! Dad had a car and we lived a couple of miles from a bus route, so it really could have been my first bus ride, not just the first I can remember. It was probably in 1928, the year of my fourth birthday. The weather was fine, dry but not sunny, as I recall. I was with my mother on the open top deck of a bus travelling from Watford to Kings Langley in Hertfordshire, a journey of four or five miles that I later made daily. I insisted on travelling on the open-topped upper deck. Mum sat on one of the varnished, slatted wooden seats at the front of the bus while I stood in front of her holding the handrail above the panelling and watching the road ahead through the three or four inch gap between panel and rail, just at my eye level. The whole adventure was more than just the unfolding road ahead, it was mounting the platform, climbing the stairs, treading the top deck with its anti-slip steel strips, then later descending the stairs and alighting from the platform.

The bus was red, with GENERAL painted on the sides - the standard livery of the company's buses, as I later discovered. The wheels had solid tyres, and steep curved iron stairs led from the conductor's platform at the back to the upper deck. Judging from pictures of old buses, I guess it dated from the early 1920s and was probably an ex-London bus pensioned off to finish its working days plying country routes, less demanding on its engine and gear box. The driver sat outside with a canopy over his head, a large, impressive steering wheel for leverage, a front panel to protect his legs and a canvas canopy to pull over his thighs in wet weather. I doubt whether we reached more than fifteen miles an hour, even on the straight and level bits of road.

Four years later, in September 1932, I started at Watford Boys Grammar School, bussing along the same route and walking four miles daily, adding two and a half hours to my school day and wearing out my shoes. Newer, General busses now plied the route, sharing it with two other companies, the Chiltern and the Ashton Clinton. All three company buses were covered-top double deckers, all had inflated tyres and, at least later, external cabins for the drivers. Occasionally a Premier single-decker ran ahead of the scheduled bus, stealing its passengers. I sometimes caught it. In the mid-1930s the General bus company became the National.

My two friends and I preferred the upstairs rear seats, although they were usually occupied by girls from their Grammar School who got on first. Being outnumbered, we lads opted for respectful discretion and sat at the front, occasionally suffering verbal abuse from the girls. Definitely faster than the old General, the 1930s buses did well to reach twenty-five mph; maybe even thirty. Cyclists sometimes rode slipstream behind them with frantic pedalling, as I did occasionally - a dangerous game.

The uniformed conductor in charge of the bus stood on the rear platform supervising passengers getting on and off, his leather money bag and ticket puncher hanging from his shoulders, and a clip of tickets in his hand of different colours and prices. Working along the bus, collecting fares, he had to know how many fare stages there were between every stop and every other one along the route and issue the correct ticket - quite a feat of memory. Occasionally he referred to a booklet of fare stages. As he took a fare he selected the correct value ticket and clipped a hole in it at the appropriate fare stage. Inspectors got on and off the bus at random, checking that passengers were not riding beyond their ticket range. My journeys cost two old pence, half the adult price.

When passengers were clear of the platform and seated the conductor signalled to the driver to start by pulling a cord that ran through hooks along the ceiling of the lower deck from the conductor's platform to the driver's booth where it pinged a bell - two pings for start, one for stop and three to cancel the previous signal. It was a simple and sensible device that could be accessed anywhere along the lower deck. Upstairs, the conductor resorted to stamping his foot twice on the floor to signal the driver to start, having first checked in the convex mirror mounted on the stairs that the platform was clear. I only saw the cord system on General buses; the others, and the later Nationals, had a series of electric push buttons upstairs and down. Standing passengers were allowed within limits, making the conductor's job more difficult.

In Chester City I rode the trams, clanking, swaying, lurching from side to side, their overhead pick-up arms dutifully following, sparking. I mostly rode along City Road under the much-pictured Eastgate, with its clock celebrating Queen Victoria's sixty glorious years on the throne, to near grandma's house at Dee Banks. The Chester trams were replaced by buses in February 1930, so the tram rides of my memory must have been in 1928 or '29. I loved my holidays in Chester, watching the river boats, walking the Rows and occasionally the Walls, sucking Aunt Gerty's home made toffee (which she broke into pieces with a hammer), playing with my cousin and taking a candle up to bed, sleeping cosily on the feather mattress. That erstwhile maid's room had once been my mother's bedroom and now was mine. Happy, happy memories.

## The WILBRAHAMS of Townsend House and its Walled Garden

*Linda Briggs and Helen Cooke  
Nantwich Museum and Nantwich Walled Garden Society*

Many Nantwich residents are unaware that there is an ancient walled garden in their town, dating back to the late 16th or early 17th century. The garden was part of the site of Townsend House, now demolished, built by the local WILBRAHAM family who lived there for 200 years from 1580 to 1780. The house was located to the north of Welsh Row where King's Court now stands.

The walled garden can still be found but sadly, at the time of writing, it is neglected and overgrown. The garden is privately owned by developers and cannot be visited. It consists of about half an acre of land surrounded on three sides by Grade II listed walls; the fourth wall was constructed in the 19th century. The listed walls are well-constructed of hand-made clamp bricks, with good quality sandstone ashlar dressings and decorative copings. There are three bee boles built into the south wall and until the late 1990s an original doorway could be seen in the north wall. Historic England considers it to be a rare surviving example of a walled garden from its period.

Townsend House was built by Richard WILBRAHAM (1525-1611/12). Richard married Elizabeth MAISTERSON in 1550 and they had four sons: Richard, Roger, Thomas and Ralph. James Hall, in his *History of the town and parish of Nantwich*, records that they all *rose to positions of wealth and honour*. Richard, the oldest, became a Common Sergeant of the City of London; he predeceased his father and two of his children were sent to live with their grandparents at Townsend House. The second son, Roger, became Solicitor General for Ireland under Queen Elizabeth I and subsequently served King James I, who knighted him in 1603. The third son, Thomas, had an additional connection with Nantwich: he married Anne PIERSON of London, the *worshipfull gentlewoman called mistress Anne Wylbraham*, whose experiments to find a cure for ague were mentioned by the Nantwich-born herbalist, John Gerard, in his famous *Herball*. The youngest son, Ralph, built Dorfold Hall, Nantwich, and was the ancestor of the WILBRAHAMS of Dorfold. A decorative 17th century gateway, believed to be from Townsend House, is now located at Dorfold Hall.



*Illus. 1*

Richard (senior) began the WILBRAHAM Diary, which subsequent generations of the family would continue for 400 years. He recorded, often poignantly, births, marriages and deaths in the family and also significant events in Nantwich - a flood in 1574, the great fire in 1583, a famine in 1585 and a serious outbreak of plague in 1604. One event he did not record was being accused of murdering a fellow Nantwich citizen in 1572 - he was later acquitted. A copy of the diary is available in the Cheshire Record Office and a transcript is in Nantwich Museum. Richard's first wife died in 1589 and two years later he married Margaret WRIGHT, a widow. His eldest son died in London in 1601 and Thomas WILBRAHAM, his grandson, became his heir. Margaret died in 1606 and Richard continued to live at Townsend House until his death a few years later. He had considerable holdings of land and property in Nantwich itself and the surrounding area.

Thomas WILBRAHAM (1589-1643), who inherited Townsend House from his grandfather, was born and brought up in London; he attended Brasenose College, Oxford, and was admitted to Lincoln's Inn. He also travelled widely in Europe *for the better experience and knowledge of the Languadges*. In between his European tours, he entertained King James I at Townsend House, when the king visited Nantwich to view the salt workings in 1617. Thomas continued travelling until his marriage to Rachel CLIVE in 1619; they came to live at Townsend House where they raised their family of six sons and two daughters. Their eldest son, Richard, died aged 12 in July 1633 and when another son was born in September that year, he was also given the name of Richard, a not uncommon practice at a time of high infant mortality. In 1636 Thomas commissioned a monument to commemorate his grandfather and his son, which can be seen in St Mary's church, Nantwich.

Thomas made many alterations and improvements to Townsend House and its garden. Indeed, according to Twemlow: *Under Thomas Wilbraham Townsend House reached its zenith. Great pains were taken with the gardens and orchards, the best of the then known fruit trees being planted*. The work he commissioned is recorded in *Thomas Wilbraham's Personal Account Book, 1613-42*, and in the *Household Account Book of Thomas Wilbraham and his wife, 1620-32*, which are in the Cheshire Record Office in Chester. The account books chronicle the projects undertaken to develop the garden and to construct buildings associated with the house. They detail the names of the individuals engaged in the work, as well as the sources of the materials used, and give insight into the life of the household.

Concerning the garden, Thomas records having purchased *cherrytrees, apricocks and peaches 12s*, and in 1621, having paid for hundreds of *setts* for different types

of trees and bushes, including birch, privet and holly. Payment for paving the court is also listed in 1621. Later sections of the Personal Account Book include some features of the garden: a wooden garden house, wooden columns, an arbour (constructed over a period of twenty-two days), iron pots and a carved stone lion! The records also include references to a kitchen garden, lower garden, a pump and a well. It is therefore clear that Thomas WILBRAHAM undertook extensive works on the garden in the 1620s.

Thomas also contributed to the WILBRAHAM family diary which his grandfather had begun. In addition to recording family events, Thomas noted extreme weather episodes, as his grandfather had before him: earthquakes, an *exceeding great Snowe wherein many perished* in early 1634 and a flood in 1636 which swept away the wooden bridge over the River Weaver.

Thomas served Charles I as a Gentleman of the Privy Chamber and, when the Civil War broke out in 1642, he found himself in the minority in the Parliamentary stronghold of Nantwich. He was imprisoned in Townsend House for refusing to contribute to the Parliamentary cause and left Nantwich on being released, dying at a friend's house in Sussex in 1643. He was succeeded by his second son, Thomas, who was in France when his father died; Thomas only survived his father by a few years, dying *of Bleeding at his House in Nantwich*. The third son, Roger, then inherited the WILBRAHAM estates which *stood deeply charged with Debts & Portions* as a result of the Civil War.

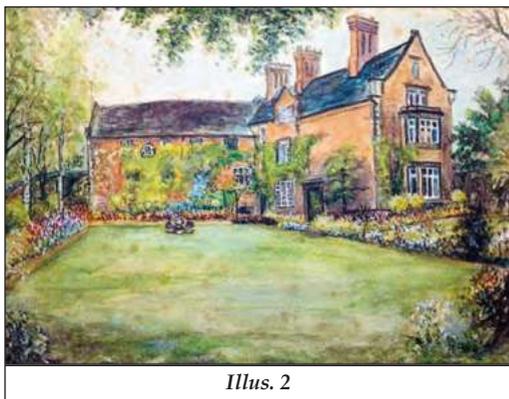
Roger WILBRAHAM was born at Townsend House in 1623; he read law at Cambridge and was called to the Bar in 1649 but he gave up his law practice and came back to live in Nantwich after his older brother died. He married Alice, one of his WILBRAHAM cousins from Dorfold, and they had eleven children in twelve years. Of these, only four survived to adulthood and their mother died in 1676, the year after the deaths of her two eldest sons. The catalogue in the diary of all these bereavements makes sad reading. Roger lived on at Townsend House as a widower, and Hall described him as *an active and never-failing guardian of the rights and interests of the town*. In 1669 he became the first Nantwich citizen to hold the rank of High Sheriff of Cheshire. Roger recorded a robbery at Christmas 1679, when thieves *came over ye Orchard Wall into ye Garden* and stole plate and linen from the kitchen, as well as helping themselves to some food and drink! Some years later, he noted an earthquake which *overthrew the topp of my Hall-chymney*.

Roger was succeeded as head of the family in 1707 by the elder of his two surviving sons, Randle, who had been living at Rode Hall, near Congleton - now the home of the BAKER WILBRAHAM family - but moved to Townsend

House in about 1710. He, too, took an active interest in local affairs and charities. Randle and his brother Stephen endowed and administered the Blue Cap Charity School in Nantwich: they selected the charity pupils and also paid for their clothing. Each boy received annually *a stout drab jacket, a blue cloth cap, a band, a pair of shoes and a pair of stockings*. Randle had a (perhaps understandable) preoccupation with his health and described several bouts of illness in the diary; in 1730 he recorded that as a treatment for distemper he had *found nothing so helpfull as large doses of Portwine!*

Randle was in turn succeeded in 1732 by his son Roger, who moved from Chester to Nantwich in 1738, after his second marriage. Sadly, all the children of his first marriage to Elizabeth BROOKE died young and their mother died in childbirth in 1737. By his second marriage to Mary VERE HUNT he had three sons, George, Roger and Thomas, and it was George (1741-1813) who was the last WILBRAHAM to live at Townsend House. In 1780 he moved his family to Delamere Lodge, a new house which he had commissioned at Cuddington, near Northwich. He took some mementoes of Townsend House to his new home, notably *some carved oak work from Townsend; and also some very good panelling... from the reign of Charles I*. George died in 1813 and his son remembered him as *an enlightened Agriculturalist, a kind Landlord and Master, an affectionate husband and a respected Parent*.

After the family moved out in 1780, the house and gardens evolved somewhat separately, the surrounding buildings and land having many uses. George Ormerod said in 1819 of the first Townsend House: *judging from the small portion still standing, Townsend House was a lofty and spacious edifice of brick, with large bay windows, surrounded with numerous outbuildings of timber and plaster, and gardens with high walls of brick, ornamented with stone carvings of armorial bearings and grotesque devices*.



*Illus. 2*

By 1818 a brewery had been established, followed by a clothing factory. The original house was demolished in the mid-1800s, a new house being built by George HARLOCK. In the mid to late 19th century, magistrates' offices, a court, and a police station were constructed on the site. The house was demolished in 1963 soon after the death of its then owner, solicitor A.O. BEVAN.

All that remains today are the garden and its historic walls. In 2002 a campaign was initiated to save and restore the walled garden. This led to the foundation in 2004 of the Nantwich Walled Garden Society (NWGS), a not-for-profit organisation, comprised entirely of volunteers, with the following aims:

1. To prevent the development of housing on the site of the Old Walled Garden, off Welsh Row in Nantwich, which was once part of Townsend House.
2. To ensure that the walls of the garden are fully restored and reinstated.
3. To restore the garden in a way that reflects its history, so that it can be left in perpetuity for the enjoyment of the residents and visitors to Nantwich.

Further information about the NWGS is available on the Society's website <http://nantwichwalledgarden.org.uk/>.

To join the Society, please email [Secretary.NWGS@gmail.com](mailto:Secretary.NWGS@gmail.com).

A booklet entitled *Nantwich Walled Garden and Townsend House* (£2.95) can be purchased from Nantwich Museum shop and website. Further information is available at <https://nantwichmuseum.org.uk/>.

### **Acknowledgement:**

Catherine Mehan for her research of the WILBRAHAM family archives.

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Francis Randle Twemlow: *The Twemlows, their Wives and their Homes*. 1910

### **Illustrations:**

1: Large gold 16th century ring incised with the arms and initials of the owner, Richard Wilbraham (1525-1611/2), on display at Nantwich Museum.

2: The second (Victorian) Townsend House. Artist Herbert St John Jones, 1934. Original in Nantwich Museum art collection.

### **1871 Deaths (5)**

From the *Hyde & Glossop Weekly News*, 7 December 1871

Nov 30th, **Mary Jane**, daughter of **Mr Robert Hyde**, Well Meadow, Flowery Field, aged 2 years.

Nov 24th, **James**, son of **Mr John Potts**, of Newton, in his 31st year.

Nov 24th, **Miss Nancy Bancroft**, of Windmill-lane, Denton, aged 75 years.

# Dialect Words

by Rosie Rowley  
Journal Editor

I recently discovered on Twitter @tweetolectology, someone who is researching language and regional dialect by carrying out surveys and showing the results in map form on Twitter. The surveys simply ask you to specify what you call an item or how you pronounce a word, then say where you were brought up, where you live now and what year you were born.

Some surveys can be found here [http://icge.co.uk/twitter\\_surveys/](http://icge.co.uk/twitter_surveys/)

## Dialect words for a bread storage container.

What did survey respondents in the 1950s call a container for storing bread? Here are the results <https://twitter.com/tweetolectology/status/1410110912619585537>

Many of these terms have long histories as general words for earthenware vessels, but aren't recorded elsewhere as specific terms for containers for bread e.g. **pot, jar, stean, pankin, mug, pippin** (which is derived from **pipkin**).

Some words, like **breadpan**, seem to first refer to a container for baking bread in, rather than storing it, whereas others, like **breadbowl**, seem to have started out as terms for the vessel for mixing bread dough. **Mingingdish** is an example of this last type: *to ming* was a verb meaning *mix* - which survives in standard English as *mingle* - and specialised to mean *knead bread dough*. So a **mingingdish** was first a bowl for kneading bread, before it came to be used for storage!

Help @tweetolectology by answering a survey on what you call a bread container: [http://icge.co.uk/twitter\\_surveys/breadcontainer](http://icge.co.uk/twitter_surveys/breadcontainer)

To me, the word **mingingdish** seemed at first sight to be rather an odd term for a place to store bread until I read the above explanation. I had never heard the word *minging* until I moved to Macclesfield in the 1990s, where I learnt (from my children) that it meant *disgusting*. Apparently, this word and meaning are thought to be derived from the Scottish dialect word *ming* meaning *excrement*, hence its use mainly in Scotland and the north of England.

# Net That Serf

## The Computer Section

*Compiled by Geoff Johnson*

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### **From the Desktop**



Well, I wasn't blessed with articles for the September issue. My starting point for this one was even more scant. However, my circular round the whole society membership proved fruitful, and we have a useful edition of NTS for the Xmas season. My thanks to all the helpers - you know who you are! Please respond with more stuff for our March issue and do submit comments or questions about pieces in this issue, topics you'd like to see - or better still, draft a piece yourself! I'm quite adept at tidy-ups or helping with drafting, creating acceptable images etc.

### **Spring Cleaning Time**

By Gren Dix

It's a bloke thing: wanting a shiny, new, fast toy. The bloke gets a new car and the old banger gets used for the school run.

It all started when my wife complained that her (decade-old) computer was slow, especially when loading. And when Windows updates occurred it was even slower. First, a bit of history about her computer. A couple of years ago the worst nightmare happened - the hard disk died. It is at times like this that you are glad you made backups and recovery disks. At this point I used a

company called Level 1 Computers, in Northwich, to install a solid-state disk (SSD) and reinstall Windows. I then used my backups to restore everything. I later also upgraded the RAM memory. The machine was faster, but the SSD still used the SATA interface as the computer did not have an M2 interface.

Later I upgraded my ten-year-old laptop to an SSD, using *Acronis True Image* software, and bought more memory for it. I had a cunning plan to buy myself a shiny new toy (laptop) and let my wife use my old laptop if she wanted, as mine had a faster processor than hers.

On getting my new toy - sorry, *essential upgrade* - I had a minimal sort out. On switching on the new machine, Windows asked various tedious questions, then loaded up. I was asked to log in to my Microsoft account; I use the *KeePass* app to store the details. This login magically found my favourites. I then loaded my documents, software, photos, etc.

The big question was, could I load Office? At a prompt some years ago from the Computer Club I bought copies of *Office 2016 Pro*. So, I uninstalled the copy on my old machine and installed it on my new machine. All I had to do was enter the activation code; fortunately I had kept a copy of which code applied to which machine. It worked! There were some minor changes, though. Having done this, I installed Family Historian 7. When I tried to load FH7 it said that I already had the maximum of two copies installed. I contacted the company and they said that the licence, even for earlier versions, was for a maximum of two copies, but they only enforced this condition from version 7. You can deactivate an installed copy and later reactivate it again without reinstalling.

It was time for some belated spring cleaning. Like Topsy, my files had just grown and grown. It was time to rationalise my filing - i.e., replace *no filing* with *some filing*. I needed to move some files. My *Download* folder was the digital equivalent of a glory hole, where you dump everything with the intention of one day having a tidy up. There were downloaded software files, jpg files, user manuals, photos, scans and goodness knows what else. It has taken some time to even make a dent in this pile. I frequently moved something, then got side-tracked into other things that needed doing. I had also installed various programs to try, never used them but never uninstalled them. I had program sources dating back to the year dot. I hadn't the faintest idea what most of them did.

My *Documents* folder has about three dozen folders, and my *Downloads* folder has four dozen. The latter will be reduced to a handful of files, and the former will lose about six folders. Long ago I set up a library. This didn't appear with

documents, downloads, music etc, but appeared under *This PC*. I have got rid of it and put the files elsewhere.

*Ed.:* A library is a virtual folder, containing shortcuts to other (real) files and folders. It doesn't contain any actual files or folders and doesn't move anything on your hard drive; it's just there to help you locate your files and folders more easily. For example, if your family history files are in several folders, such as Document Scans, Old Photos, Data Downloads, Life Story Documents, Family History Program Backups, and so on, you can add all those folders into one virtual Family History folder and access the folders from there, instead of hunting around on your hard drive for them.

I had originally set up a user for me on my wife's computer. In a way, it acted as a backup storage place. I have erased this; it felt like cutting off a leg. On my old laptop I have deleted things after I trying them on my new laptop. This feels like death by a thousand cuts. I am nearly there; it has been painful. All this has taken about two weeks. I am sure that I will feel better for it – one day.

## Roger's Rumbblings

By Roger Pask

I never met my maternal grandfather, Jan van BEEVER. All I knew was that he was born in Amsterdam around 1885, the youngest of six children, and came to England with his parents sometime between the 1891 census (which they are not on) and 1897, when his father died. This information is from Findmypast (FMP) census and BMD records. In the 1901 census he is a sixteen-year-old musician lodging with a Jewish family in Amhurst Road, Hackney (London), both his parents now being dead.



According to subsequent FMP census and 1939 Register records, plus family BMD certificates bought online from the General Register Office, Jan's occupation ranged from musician through band leader to musical director. I have a photograph of the *Busy B's Concert and Jazz Band* (above). BEEVER is my grandfather, standing, playing the violin. I can't find out who BAKER is, but the very young pianist, Gerald BRIGHT, went on to study South American gaucho music, added the letter o to his first name and became the very famous dance band leader, *Geraldo*. During the early 1910s, using FMP and Ancestry *Travel and Migration* records, I found my grandfather was a musician during several voyages across the Atlantic on the *Mauretania* and the *Celtic* - two major passenger liners of the time. Musicians were self-employed, through an agency in Liverpool, and because of this are recorded among the 2nd class passengers.

Jan died in 1928, when my mother was twelve years old, and is buried in Stoney Royd Cemetery in Halifax, West Yorkshire. My mother was also born in Halifax and I was later born there, too. Using *Google Maps*, I found that the house in Stirling Street, where my mother was born, has been demolished to make way for a dual carriageway and the house in Winn Street, where Jan died, has been demolished to make way for the roundabout at the end of the dual carriageway!

Many years ago, I found a Dutch genealogy website called the *Levie-Kanes Family Tree Collection* and with grateful thanks for sharing their research was able to trace my van BEEVER line back to 1664, though Jan's birth was still shown as *about 1885*. So, my ancestry was Jewish! That was, until Jan married my grandmother, a formidable lady, who told him *We'll have none of that nonsense here*. From then on, the family became Methodists.

For years, like many other researchers, I have been dipping in and out of family history websites. One has been that of the Latter-day Saints' *familysearch.org* where, just recently, I was directed to the *Netherlands, Noord-Holland Civil Registrations 1811-1950* dataset. What a treasure trove of information this, together with the website *openarch.nl*, has proved to be. The actual certificates and record books are there to freely view and copy - among them the birth registration of my grandfather, Jacob Samson van BEEVER, which he later anglicised to Jan! Each of Samson Godfried's five sons have their father's name *Samson* as their second name, which seems to be normal in Dutch families. Their one sister, Sara, anglicised her name to Zara.

With the help of *Google Translate* I managed to get some of the birth registration words into English but, because the handwriting is not clear, was defeated by many more. I used two options - one was to look at other certificates written by the same person and try to decipher the words, and the other was to guess

the words in English and see what that was in Dutch. The longest time taken was with the squiggle which turned out to be *zijne echtgenote - his wife!*

Interestingly, the addresses of not only the van BEEVERs, but also the witnesses Moses COHEN (a friend) and Jacob van BEEVER (Samson's brother) are supplied. *Google Maps* and *Streetview* show the roads are still there but their houses seem to have given way to new developments. However, they were all living fairly close to each other.

Researching online has enabled me to gather a wealth of information, but it has also had a sobering effect. The Jewish Historical Museum in Amsterdam has now published records of the Holocaust on the website at <https://jck.nl/>. Among them are details of three of my mother's cousins who were murdered in the gas chambers at Auschwitz on the 25th January 1943 - Willi van BEEVER aged 13, Herman van BEEVER aged 15 and Godfried Henri van BEEVER aged 20. My mother never spoke of this and it is likely that she never knew.

On a lighter note, my grandfather's eldest brother, Emanuel Samson van BEEVER, was an artist and a member of the *Laren (North Holland) School of Dutch Painters*. He died in poverty, like most artists of the time, but his works have been sold in recent years through Sotheby's and Christie's. The Jewish Historical Museum holds about thirty of Emanuel's paintings; my children chose three which the Museum scanned at high resolution and sent over the internet. These were professionally printed, framed and presented to me for my 70th birthday - many years ago (!) - and hang proudly in my house. About ten years ago my wife and I went, for the first time, on holiday to Amsterdam. I emailed the Historical Museum beforehand and they very kindly put on a VIP exhibition, just for us, of the *van Beever Collection*; we were able to see my three copies in real life.



All this has been thanks to computers and the internet. Apart from giving me a great deal of pleasure, with the excitement of the hunt and the delight of finding a bit more information, I have built up something for my children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren to take on. After all, family history will go on into the future for ever!

## Don't Print Census Pages! Continued.....

By Lesley Baxendale

### What do you do, and how do you do it?

Way back in 2018, I submitted an article to Net That Serf, following on from pieces by Geoff and Rosie, on not printing census pages. In particular, I wrote about trying to refine my vast collection of family history lever arch files and folders. I'd made a great start and all was going well. I was expecting it to take a couple of years to complete - there were hundreds of documents and at least two very large crates of photographs and photo albums to scan and sort out.

*Previous articles: Dec 2017 p61 GJ, March 2018 p48 RR, June 2018 p53 LB and September 2018 p59 GJ/LB.*

Then life took over. What with one thing and another, including Covid - which you would have thought would give me plenty of time to get on with it - I haven't really progressed very much, other than reducing my lever arch count by about half so far. I have, however, slowly plodded my way through many of the folders on my laptop and changed filenames to be both logical and in some sort of order. It's starting to look organised. Then I open another folder and my enthusiasm takes a direct hit - what exactly does *Henshalls in Cheshire* actually mean as a file name on an Excel file, I ask myself? Not a lot, unless I open the file and take a look. It turned out to be a list, by piece and folio number, of all the Henshall families found in the 1851 census in Cheshire. I vaguely remember compiling it using census CDs at some time in the late 1990s. Is it of any use now? Probably not, as I've got lots of files on various Henshall families, none of which I've managed to make a direct connection with, yet. Anyway, it's pretty easy to pull up Henshall families in 1851 on the various family history websites these days. So, do I keep it? Me being me, yes, I do; but with the addition of 1851 at the front of the filename - at least until I've finished all my refining and sorting.

One thing I didn't bargain for when I started all this sorting, was that I was going to spend a lot of time getting to grips with the vast number of source records within my family history software - Family Tree Maker in my case. When I started, it was pretty much like an index card system but on a computer. You put basic information in there and attach a source, if possible. Sometimes I got carried away with entering my newly-found, checked in three places information, and forgot to enter all the sources - you know how it is. Since then, the software has been updated and improved a number of times, and there is now a lot more scope for entering source data, locations, etc. There's also a lot more scope for making it messy. I spent a week just going through all the

places in my data and getting them into a) something FTM recognised as a place and b) something that actually included all the relevant address details - FTM seems to be a bit picky in that regard. You'd be amazed at just how many ways there are of entering a place of marriage as St Peter's, Prestbury. I think I must have used them all at some point as I had a lot of tidying up to do. As I've gone along tidying up what was already there, I've checked that I'd done the same for everyone in that particular family group. So, addresses, occupations etc, have all been entered by census year (and any other notable event) for each family. Still a work in progress, but getting there. Repetitive and time consuming, but worth it in the end. After a couple of months of on and off diligent work, I think I've finally got all my sources sorted out, in the correct format and in the correct places. That is, until I start adding new information and people!

So, the photos are still in the crates un-scanned. My remaining lever arch files are still sitting there - although I have put some of the little-used ones in a crate under the bed in the spare room. I look at them on the shelf now and then, open one, flick through, close it again and go and make a pot of tea.

One day, I'll complete my original task. One day.....

## Windows 11

By Joe Dunn

### Windows 11 is here - what am I going to do?

Microsoft (MS) has now launched Windows 11 and my computer is not able to run it. My machine is around four years old and still works very well - I have ample disc space and have my home computing system pretty much as I want it to be. However, Windows 11 requires things that my setup doesn't have.

Let's review the Windows 11 system requirements:

- A "compatible" 1 GHz or faster dual-core 64-bit processor from Intel, AMD, or Qualcomm
- 4GB of RAM
- 64GB of storage
- UEFI Secure Boot supported and enabled
- A Trusted Platform Module (TPM), version 2.0
- A DirectX 12-compatible GPU with a WDDM 2.0 driver
- A 720p display larger than 9 inches in size

You can download an *MS PC Health Check* app - this will assess what you have and tell you if your PC is compatible with W11 – or not! The app will tell you, in detail, why your PC/laptop is not compatible and will reference *Settings / Update & Security / Windows Security / Device Security*.

It tells me: *Standard hardware security not supported. This means that your device does not meet at least one of the requirements of standard hardware security.*

You may be told that your device meets or exceeds standard hardware security requirements (and may also tell you that you simply need to enable a feature in the BIOS). In that case, you are fine and can consider an update to W11 without needing to replace or upgrade your PC.

The processor requirement is the most restrictive. If your computer is older than late 2017 it can't officially run Windows 11. The supported processors all have chips that launched in late 2017 and early 2018. I was unlucky because I bought my PC in mid-2017! There are ways to install W11 on PCs that do not officially support W11 but I'm not going to cover those.

I've upgraded my setup several times over the years without any great hassle and Windows 10 made a point of supporting pretty much anything that could run Windows 7 or Windows 8. But that's not the only issue - the three big ones are the CPU requirement, the TPM requirement, and the Secure Boot requirement. I can give a more detailed explanation of what these requirements mean but, essentially, they are all about improving security. I prefer to start a discussion on alternative paths that I (and perhaps you) can take.

It's time that I assess my options and I plan to list all the obvious ones and investigate the pros and cons of each. I don't intend to make my final decision before early 2022 and, like most (or all) of us, can't afford to make a big mistake and go off in the wrong direction.

### **My Current Situation:**

- My PC is 4 years old and runs Windows 10 with 8 GB RAM
- I have a large amount of disc storage, both internal and external
- I have a decent 21.5" monitor and printer
- I have a lot of family photographs stored on my PC and more to add
- I have around 12,000 tracks of music on an external drive and connect to 2 Sonos speakers
- I have a BT router and a couple of Wi-Fi signal boosters around the house
- I no longer have a useable laptop (apart from an outdated couple running Windows XP!)

- I have an iPhone and an iPad (used for Zoom): they integrate happily with my network
- I have a smart TV and use Netflix and Amazon Prime extensively - the TV is connected to my home network
- I use cloud storage applications like Google Drive, OneDrive and Dropbox

Key Issue: I use MS Office a lot - my job for over twenty years involved writing and supporting systems for users in Access, Excel and Word. I anticipate needing to use MS Office for a good few years into the future.

### Options:

- 1 Don't do anything - stick with W10. It still works, but support will progressively become less and I don't want to get too much out of date. However, Microsoft promises support for W10 until at least 2025.
- 2 Replace my PC with one suitable for W11 but do my best to preserve my use of my monitor and printer plus my internal and external drives. The transition has to be as painless as possible and I don't want to lose data.
- 3 Migrate to an Apple Mac mini - or Mac laptop - but retain ability to use MS Office. That means I will have to use either *Boot Camp* (to dual-boot the device into either Windows or MacOS) or something like *Parallels* or *VMWare-Fusion* to run Windows programs in MacOS.

I could complicate life by replacing the Windows PC with a Windows laptop or a Mac laptop - this would bring into play a fair number of other issues. I would need to investigate adding a docking station to connect the laptop to my router, printer and monitor, thus giving me the flexibility to easily take my laptop downstairs or out of the house.

As mentioned, I want to keep as much of my current equipment as I can and to preserve my data. I quite fancy the Apple Mac mini to cut down on space used! The options that utilise the Apple Mac appear quite frightening at this point, but perhaps some intensive research may allay those fears. Maybe our Mac users can put forward their views and help me to decide?

I'm not a hardware or operating systems guy - my strengths lie in software. I just want the hardware to work, without trouble. I want a seamless transition - is it possible? I'll be going through my options for my own purposes before I decide which way to go. I'm intrigued by the possibilities of migrating to MacOS but it's not an easy move. If there is sufficient interest, I'm happy to do another article in the March edition of NTS but I'd really like input from the Mac users. Sticking with a Windows PC (one capable of running W11) is probably the easiest option but, for now, there's no reason to rule out anything.

GJ: I agree with Joe that, for the immediate future, the best thing to do is to stick with Win 10 and await user feedback. Like Joe's, my PC is currently ruled out, saying that the Intel Processor isn't CURRENTLY supported for Windows 11. I suspect this really means that they've not got round to adapting the software and testing it yet. As Jonesy always told us (in Dad's Army) "Don't panic!"

## From the Inbox

### Using Autocorrect in Microsoft Office - from Kevin Dean

Microsoft Office includes a feature that corrects misspelled words as you type them in Word, Excel and the other Office programs. In addition to correcting errors, it can also insert symbols and frequently-used words or phrases in your text e.g., the copyright symbol © appears if you type (c). The default autocorrect table contains several symbols, and you may add others that you find useful. To view the contents of the autocorrect table:

- Click on the *File* tab on the left of the ribbon in Word.
- Click *Options* at the bottom of the list on the left, then click *Proofing*.
- Click *AutoCorrect options*; the table opens with the symbols at the top.

If you want to add, for example, the Japanese yen currency symbol ¥, you should insert it into a Word document (on the ribbon, click the *Insert* tab, then *Symbol*), copy it to the clipboard, then go to the autocorrect table as described above. Enter in the *Replace* box the text you want to type to indicate the ¥ e.g. (y) and paste the symbol into the *With* box. Click *Add* and the table is updated. Whenever you type (y) in an Office program in future, the symbol ¥ will appear.

If you frequently have to enter a long phrase, you can save yourself some keystrokes by creating a shortcut in the autocorrect table as follows. Suppose you want to save time entering *The Family History Society of Cheshire*. Enter in the *Replace* box your proposed shortcut, e.g. (fhsc), and paste the full name into the *With* box. Click *Add* and to update the table. In future, when you type (fhsc) in an Office program, the text *The Family History Society of Cheshire* will appear.

### Evernote - useful tip from Peter Rowley

Following on from Phil Isherwood's Computer Club talk in April, I started taking the *Evernote* program more seriously. I had noted that I had been given an email address including Evernote in it, but at first couldn't see a use for it. Then I realised that it could be used to forward emails into *Evernote*, and as a subscriber to the *Family Historian io* group, I was able to save all the useful hints and tips sent to the group. After adding an appropriate tag, the notes became very searchable, and I didn't have to keep going back to my Inbox to find them. I also use it to save important emails to *Evernote*, making them easier to find.

## Closing Snippet

Thanks to Margaret Roberts for this one. She said:

*Your thoughts on passwords reminded me of the attached (reproduced right). At university for a while, they insisted that we changed passwords every so often, entirely at the IT department's random discretion. So sometimes it was months and months, and another time it was just a couple of weeks. It had to be 18 characters long, not a phrase (grrr! How do they know, and isn't everything a phrase??), contain upper- and lower-case letters, numbers, and a special character. I did once reset mine to `Bugg3r0ffR1ghtN0w@' and had that for a little while; no one complained!*

Thanks, Margaret.

Don't forget, members can write to me at any time, and my email and telephone details are always shown above the NTS Contents page.



- GJ

### CREATING A PASSWORD

Please enter your new password  
*cabbage*

Sorry, the password must be more than 8 characters  
*boiled cabbage*

Sorry, the password must contain 1 numerical character  
*1 boiled cabbage*

Sorry, the password cannot have blank spaces  
*50stupidboiledcabbages*

Sorry, the password must contain at least 1 uppercase character  
*50STUPIDboiledcabbages*

Sorry, the password cannot use more than one consecutive uppercase character  
*50StupidBoiledCabbagesShovedUpYourBottom, IfYouDon'tGiveMeAccessImmediately*

Sorry, the password cannot include punctuation  
*NowIamGettingReallyHackedOff50StupidBoiledCabbagesShovedUpYourBottomIfYouDontGiveMeAccessImmediately*

Sorry, that password is already in use.

### 1871 Deaths (6)

From the *Hyde & Glossop Weekly News*, 7 December 1871

Nov 28th, **Joseph William**, infant son of **Mr George Basnett**, Manchester-road, Denton, aged 10 weeks.

Nov 25th, aged 1 yr 9 mths, **Harry**, son of **Dr E T O'Brien**, of Wilton House, Denton.

## Group News

**For changes and up-to-date news check the website**  
*[www.fhsc.org.uk](http://www.fhsc.org.uk)*

*Note that at the time of going to press, some in-person society meetings are planned, subject to Covid regulations - check with the FHSC website or your local group leader*

It is possible that some future group meetings will take place as actual meetings in person. Several virtual group meetings using Zoom have taken place and it is hoped that many members will be able to participate in these. Members may attend any group meetings.

To receive news of future group meetings, log in to the FHSC website, go to the group's page and click on the button *Add ... to My Groups*. You can receive emails from as many groups as you wish.

If you need to find out more or get help with online meetings, please contact your group leader. If you are not affiliated to a group, please contact David Smetham by email: *[congleton@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:congleton@fhsc.org.uk)*

### **FHSC Seminars**

*By Margaret Roberts, Margaret Spate and Jean Laidlaw*

These talks, presented on Zoom and open to all members, take place on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. The Zoom waiting room will open at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start.

A newsletter will be sent out on the 1st of each month with details of the forthcoming talk. To register, **after the first day of the month** simply sign in to the FHSC website using your username and password, navigate to *Events* and scroll down until you find that month's talk. Click on the title and then click on the *Join* button, followed by *Save*. You will receive two automated emails confirming your request to attend. Joining instructions and meeting protocols will be sent out by email one week before the talk.

It is not possible for members to 'block book' all the talks.

*Future meetings:*

- 15th Dec ***Christmas and the British – Prof Martin Johnes***  
A renowned historian of popular culture in modern Britain, Martin has published many books on a range of subjects from politics to pop music and disasters. At the heart of his research is the question of identity and how people think of who they are and their place in the world, culminating in his landmark 2019 BBC series *Wales: England's Colony?* This talk centres around Martin's best-selling book *Christmas and the British: A Modern History*, in which he illustrates how Christmas and its traditions have been lived, adapted, and thought about in Britain since 1914. An entertaining look at how we celebrate the season.
- 19th Jan ***The 1921 Census – Myko Clelland***  
Myko is a genealogist, spokesperson and regional licensing manager for FindMyPast, regularly discussing family history on television, radio, online and in print. He holds a masters degree in genealogy and is a qualified adult education teacher. Myko has links with our county, having ancestors from the Cheshire/Welsh border villages of Kinnerton and Dodleston. With the recent announcement of the 1921 census to be released on 6th January 2022, Myko's talk is sure to be informative and entertaining.
- 16th Feb ***Tracing Your Irish Ancestry – Natalie Bodle***  
Natalie is a professional genealogist from County Antrim; with twenty years' research experience, a Post Graduate Certificate in Genealogical Studies and membership of the Association of Professional Genealogists, Natalie is well placed to help family historians find their way with Irish Ancestry. If you have Irish roots, then this talk is not to be missed.
- 16th Mar ***Titanic Honour & Glory: Revealing the Unforgettable Story of the Tragic Liner – Sean Szmalc***  
Titanic is one of the most famous ocean liners in history; join our presenter who is dressed in full White Star Line uniform and step aboard the legendary liner as we take a riveting tour of the Titanic through story-telling, from her construction in Belfast, through to the maiden voyage and tragic sinking. Experience survivors' personal stories as told to the presenter, encounter rare historical artefacts from the Titanic as you view and learn the fascinating stories attached to them. All combined brings a fascinating insight into one of history's most famous ships, bringing history to life where the past is always present.

## **Alsager Group**

*by Hazel Rugman*

Regular members will be contacted personally by email or post.

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

## **Bebington Group**

*by Bob Wright*

*Future Meetings:*

**Meetings may be online via Zoom, or in person - please check the website.**

Group members who have supplied their correct email address will receive full details of meetings by email a week before the event.

13th Dec    *Christmas Quiz via Zoom*  
24th Jan    *Details of speaker and venue TBA - check website*  
28th Feb    *Details of speaker and venue TBA - check website*  
28th Mar    *Details of speaker and venue TBA - check website*

Under normal circumstances, meetings take place on the 4th Monday of the month (excluding Bank Holidays) at Bebington Civic Centre, Civic Way, CH63 7PN, commencing at 7.30 pm. Entrance £1.50 for members, £2 for visitors, including refreshments. NOTE - we no longer run helpdesks.

## **Bramhall Group**

*by Janet Phillips*

Our last Zoom meeting with our "twin" Tameside group will be on the 9th November. Our thanks go to Tameside members and especially Gay Oliver for all their help and support with Zoom meetings over the last year.

Will group members please check the website for future meetings; at the time of going to press we are still waiting for responses to a "future" questionnaire.

*Future meetings: (subject to alteration due to the pandemic)*

- 9th Dec     ***Bramhall Members' Social Evening (In-person meeting)***  
 We are hoping that this will be Bramhall's first face-to-face meeting for almost two years, when we will celebrate with a drink, mince pie and an opportunity for members to catch-up on their family research during lockdown.
- 13th Jan    ***TBA***  
 10th Feb    ***TBA***  
 10th Mar    ***TBA***

Under normal circumstances, meetings are held at 7.30pm on the second Thursday of each month in the United Reformed Church Hall, Bramhall, SK7 2PE (corner of Robins Lane and Bramhall Lane South). Admission charge £2.

## **Chester Group**

*by Helen Elliott*

At the time of writing in early October, we are hoping to resume our monthly meetings in January 2022 providing that there is no deterioration in the epidemic or tightening of restrictions during the winter months. Our meetings are held at 7.30 pm on the last Thursday of the month. Scheduled dates for the first quarter of next year are 27 January, 24 February and 31 March 2022. The majority of speakers over the last eighteen months have indicated their willingness to postpone their talks and we are lining up another full programme of meetings during the year. In order to make it safer and easier for members and visitors to attend we may change our venue. As soon as we can confirm when and where our meetings will be held, we will notify members by e-mail. Please check the FHSC website under the Groups tab for Chester for the latest information. After what has been a very long break we are looking forward to welcoming everyone back as soon as we can be confident about proceeding.

### ***Future meetings (subject to alteration due to the pandemic):***

- December   ***No meeting***  
 27th Jan    ***Welcome Back! - David Guyton***  
 24th Feb    ***Chester at Work - Stewart Shuttleworth***  
 31st Mar    ***Transportation to Australia - Carolyn Barnwell***

Previously, group meetings were held at 7.30pm on the last Thursday of the month in the Church Hall, All Saint's Church, 2 Vicarage Road, Hoole, Chester CH2 3HZ. In order to make it safer and easier for members and visitors to attend we may change our venue; Chester group members will receive confirmation of date and location by email. All visitors and members welcome - there is a small admission charge of £1.50 for members and £2 for visitors.

## **Computer Group – The Society’s Computer Club**

*by Geoff Johnson*

**All meetings are online using Zoom.**

Members who have requested emails from the Computer Group will receive notification of all meetings and any changes to the current situation.

Meetings and topics are seldom pre-arranged. Our preferred practice is to discuss new websites, members’ own current problems, or generally educating members on getting the best from their computers. We are here to help and learn! The proposed subject of each meeting is usually announced the week before, by email or on the Club’s events web page.

Notes on topics from past meetings are available on the FHSC website - go to *Groups >Computer Group > Computer Group Documents* and look for *Past Meetings*; or use the link [www.fhsc.org.uk/computer-group-documents/past-meetings](http://www.fhsc.org.uk/computer-group-documents/past-meetings) Meetings start at 7.30pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, and are open to all FHSC members. Contact [computerclub@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:computerclub@fhsc.org.uk) for online access details.

We focus on a wide range of genealogy and 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.

## **Congleton Group**

*by David Smetham*

We resumed face-to-face meetings in September, as a result of interest from members. On 21st September we met to discuss continued face-to-face meetings and updates from members who were present. We held our Group AGM; the committee remains as for last year.

During the pandemic, Congleton and Macclesfield groups have continued to join together to host Zoom meetings at regular intervals through the summer. There will still be regular meetings on Zoom, please see the notices on the FHSC website or in our newsletters.

Updates and reminders about meetings are emailed to subscribers on our newsletter list. To be kept up to date with future meetings please sign up to the newsletters of the Congleton and/or Macclesfield group on the FHSC website

(‘Follow this group’) or check the group pages on the website [www.fhsc.org.uk](http://www.fhsc.org.uk)

There will be no face-to-face meeting in December 2021. For January, February and March 2022, meetings will be announced in newsletters and on the website.

We regret to announce the death of Alan Hayward on 5th October 2021. Alan has been a long-standing member of FHSC and a regular volunteer at our Mobberley Research Centre.

#### *Future meetings:*

December *No meeting*

January *TBA*

February *TBA*

March *TBA*

Under normal circumstances meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Congleton Library. Doors open at 7.15pm and meetings start at 7.30pm. Entry is through the lower door facing the bus station.

## **Crewe Group**

*by Margaret Spate*

#### *Future meetings:*

**There will be no physical group meetings for the time being.**

**All meetings are online using Zoom.**

Crewe and Nantwich will continue to hold joint Zoom meetings until March 2022. All speakers have been booked on this basis.

Please note that the contact email for these meetings is [crewe@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:crewe@fhsc.org.uk); please add **Zoom** with the **date of the meeting** to the subject line of your email when you register your interest in attending. Thanks.

7th Dec *The History of English Traditional Pantomime  
- Dr Claire Robinson (Zoom)*

Dr Robinson is an associate lecturer at the University of Chester and expert in theatre and pantomime history, especially that of the north-west.

18th Jan *Cheshire Turnpikes - Paul Hindle (Zoom)*

Paul Hindle was a Senior Lecturer in Geography at Salford University until his early retirement. He is Hon. Secretary of the

Manchester Geographical Society. Paul will include some local references in his presentation

8th Feb ***Run No Unnecessary Risk of Injury – Mike Esbester (Zoom)***  
Railway Staff Accidents and Family History in Cheshire.  
Mike Esbester is Senior Lecturer in History at the University of Portsmouth, specialising in the history of transport and mobility, and in the history of accidents and safety in modern Britain.  
The Railway Work, Life and Death project website can be found at [www.railwayaccidents.port.ac.uk](http://www.railwayaccidents.port.ac.uk)

15th Mar ***Peter Lockett – Christine Wootton (Zoom)***  
A letter sent in 1942 by a prisoner of war in Colditz Castle started several years of research, including into his brother Peter - also a prisoner of war held in Stalag Luft III, Zagan.

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

### ***Crewe Family History Unit***

**At the time of going to press, the FHU is closed due to the pandemic.**

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

### **London/Middlesex Group**

***by David Smetham (FHSC Treasurer)***

The joint London branch of the Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society and the Cumbria Family History Society has invited members of societies belonging to the North West Group of Family History Societies to participate in their talks. This includes Family History Society of Cheshire members.

Currently there is a programme of Zoom talks which are free to our members who live in London and the Home Counties.

When the branch is relaunched for face-to-face meetings they are likely to be held on Saturdays at 2.00pm at Saint Stephens Church Hall, 48 Emperor's Gate, Kensington, London SW7 4RL.

For more information, please email David Smetham at [info@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:info@fhsc.org.uk).

## Macclesfield Group

by Jean Laidlaw

As there was very little interest in the two face-to-face meetings we planned for September and October 2021, the committee has decided to revert back to Zoom meetings for the first three months of 2022. After Easter 2022, depending on the situation then, we hope to arrange a full programme of face-to-face meetings. **For the latest news, please see the Macclesfield pages on the FHSC website.**

*Future meetings (subject to alteration due to the pandemic):*

- 25th Jan *Studying the "Three Rs": an introduction to School and Education Records for Family Tree research - Claire Moores (Zoom)*  
**NOTE this is a late change of date from 18th January**
- 15th Feb *Researching Military Medals - Peter Ramsden (Zoom)*
- 15th Mar *TBA*

Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of the month at The Salvation Army Hall, Roe Street, Macclesfield, SK11 6UT. Doors open at 7.15pm and meetings start at 7.30pm. Entry is through the main door facing the Churchill Way car park, and we meet in the ground floor room. Admission is £2 for members and £3 for visitors, including refreshments; members are also eligible to take part in a draw for a small gift.

To be kept up to date with future meetings please sign up to the newsletters of the Macclesfield group on the FHSC website [www.fhsc.org.uk](http://www.fhsc.org.uk) - go to the Macclesfield page of the website [www.fhsc.org.uk/about-the-group-macclesfield-2](http://www.fhsc.org.uk/about-the-group-macclesfield-2) and click on *Add Macclesfield to My Groups*; or send a request to [macclesfield@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:macclesfield@fhsc.org.uk).

## Nantwich Group

by Sheila Mitchell

For the time being we are unable to meet in the usual way so I hope members will join us online via Zoom. If you wish to join our Zoom meetings, held jointly with the Crewe group, please register with Margaret Spate at [crewe@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:crewe@fhsc.org.uk) and include **Zoom** with the **date of the meeting** in the subject line of your email.

*Future meetings:*

**There will be no physical group meetings for the time being.**

**All meetings are online using Zoom; for details please see Crewe Group.**

- 7th Dec *The History of English Traditional Pantomime*  
*- Dr Claire Robinson (Zoom)*

- 18th Jan    *Cheshire Turnpikes - Paul Hindle (Zoom)*  
8th Feb    *Run No Unnecessary Risk of Injury - Mike Esbester (Zoom)*  
15th Mar   *Peter Lockett - Christine Wootton (Zoom)*

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

## **Northwich Group**

*by Dave Thomas*

Arrangements have yet to be made for February 2022 onward. Speakers will be booked, but we have yet to confirm whether meetings will be at the Methodist church hall, or via Zoom. Newsletters will go out in plenty of time with details.

*Future meetings (subject to alteration due to the pandemic):*

- 13th Dec    *General Discussion in the church hall - no speaker*  
10th Jan    *Living with Funerals (a lighthearted talk) - David Shaw*  
                  We plan to hold this talk at the church hall.  
14th Feb    *TBA*  
14th Mar    *TBA*

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

## **Runcorn Group**

*by Peter Rowley*

We have been informed that our former venue is no longer available for community groups so we are looking for a new venue. We had our first face-to face meeting in September and only eight members were present - please support the group if you can.

As we had no venue at the time of going to press, no meetings have been arranged - potential dates are given below.

**Please see the FHSC website for the latest information.**

*Future meetings (subject to alteration due to the pandemic):*

- 1st Dec    *TBA*

5th Jan     **TBA**  
2nd Feb    **TBA**  
2nd Mar    **TBA**

Under normal circumstances, meetings are at 7.30pm on the 1st Wednesday of the month - venue to be advised. All will be made very welcome.

## **Sale Group**

*by Marion Hall*

*Future meetings (subject to alteration due to the pandemic):*

We have restarted our face-to-face meetings, all properly distanced and sanitised and have welcomed being able to meet people in person again.

8th Dec     **Christmas Memories**

Come along and share a memory, a photograph or a favourite present with us.

12th Jan    **TBA**

9th Feb     **The Parish Chest - Sylvia Dillon**

Using Parish Registers in your research.

9th Mar     **My Favourite Ancestor - Terry Dean**

A talk about textile entrepreneur James Kenyon.

Under normal circumstances, meetings are held at 7.30pm, for the talk at 7.45pm, on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at Trinity Methodist Church, Trinity Road, Sale M33 3ED. Visitors are always welcome. Admission is £2 for members and £2.50 for non-members.

## **Tameside Group**

*by Gay Oliver*

I am continuing to produce the Lockdown Newsletters which I hope you have enjoyed. I would really love some feedback or suggestions of anything members would like to include.

All back copies of our Lockdown Newsletters are available via our website [fhsc.org.uk](http://fhsc.org.uk) - click on *Document Library*, then *Members' Documents*. Please get in touch if you are having problems logging in.

At the time of writing there has been no firm decision as to when everyone will feel safe enough to resume face to face meetings. I am hoping to arrange some sort of social occasion before Christmas and then work out where we go from

there. Most of us will have had our booster jabs by then and we will have some idea if this will start to bring infection rates down - they are currently very high in Tameside, and I do know some people who, despite being double-vaccinated, have been quite ill with Covid and I personally still want to take precautions.

As a result, I can't adequately plan our programme for December through to March, but there will be meetings even if still virtual. Keep an eye on our website for up-to-date information and please read any newsletters I send out. **Please see the FHSC website for the latest information.**

Under normal circumstances, meetings are held in the Old Chapel Schoolrooms, Dukinfield - doors open at 7.00pm. There is disabled access and both members and non-members are welcome. Admission is £2 for members and £2.50 for non-members.

## Wallasey Group

*by Dave Beck*

We are hoping that by April every meeting will be held face-to-face. **Please see the FHSC website for the latest information.**

*Future meetings (subject to alteration due to the pandemic):*

December *No meeting*

18th Jan *Face-to-face Social evening*

15th Feb *Where there's a Will there's a Way - Margaret Roberts (Zoom)*

How using wills can help enhance your research, with examples from Margaret's own family history research.

15th Mar *Researching House History - Jackie Depelle (Zoom)*

Taking over a family-built property prompted focused research of people, place and contents. Jackie draws on an extensive collection of sources, both online and awaiting discovery in archives, which provide information on properties as well as their inhabitants.

Under normal circumstances, 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 is via the car park in Taunton Road. Visitors are always welcome.

**At the time of going to press, helpdesks are cancelled due to the pandemic.**

# The Society's Family History Research Centres

*Note that at the time of going to press, Crewe Family History Unit is still closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic*

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 - CLOSED**  
**PLEASE PHONE OR CHECK WEBSITE FOR LATEST NEWS**



**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](http://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 - OPEN  
PLEASE PHONE OR CHECK WEBSITE FOR CHANGES**



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

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

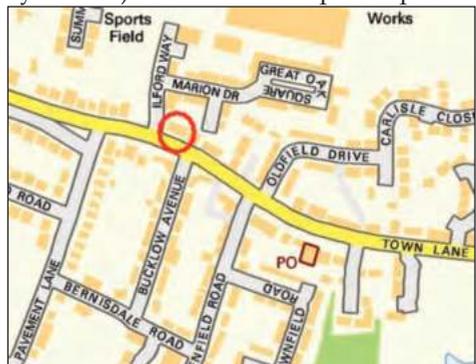
FREE help and advice from our experienced duty volunteers  
FREE access to *FindMyPast (World)*, *Ancestry* and *The Genealogist*  
Local parish registers on film (some of which are not available online)  
Extensive library of books on all topics, covering many areas of the UK  
(See the Mobberley Library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

**Usual opening hours: 10am-4pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.**

**Closed on bank holidays and over the Christmas-New Year period.** Proposed Christmas closure dates at time of going to press **Monday 13th Dec. 2021 to Friday 7th Jan. 2022 inclusive - please check the website or phone to confirm.** For changes to usual opening hours, please check this issue's *Research Centre News* or the FHSC website. **Please ring to check we are open before travelling if the weather is bad; volunteers may be unable to get there.**

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

Suggested on-street parking on Ilford Way, Marion Drive, and on Pavement Lane, across the road from the Rajar Building. Bus stop (Bucklow Ave) nearby for the *D&G Bus 88* from Knutsford, Wilmslow, Macclesfield and Altrincham. See [www.dgbus.co.uk](http://www.dgbus.co.uk).



# Location of Groups



## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES

UK INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP with a <b>printed</b> CHESHIRE ANCESTOR	-	£18.00
UK INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP with an <b>electronic</b> 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

Special arrangements will be made for overseas members who need a printed copy.  
Membership commences on the day of receipt of an application.

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

New member applications should be sent to Membership Enrolments:

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

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

Kevin Dean, 7 Fields Drive, Sandbach, CW11 1YB

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*Just £14 per issue, or £50 for four consecutive issues*

*(see page 2 for full details)*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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### NOTE:

**GL:** Group Leader  
**GC:** Group Contact

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

## MEMBER'S PHOTO



**Port Sunlight Strollers Cricket Club, 1925**

Here is a photo of the Port Sunlight Strollers Cricket Club, taken in August 1925.

The only thing I know about them is that the young man who is first left on the back row was called Billy. He took a liking to my mother, Gladys THOMPSON, but she did not return his affections! It would be interesting if a member could name anyone else in the photo.

From Viv Pitcher, membership no. 3282