

# CHESHIRE ANCESTOR



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



*In this edition*

**Finding the Folcarelli Family A DNA Success Story**  
*Lowndes, Chaddock, and Chaddock-Lowndes*  
**What Happened to William and Louisa White?**  
*Explore the Routes of Macclesfield and more...*

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*Cover picture: The Infirmary, Cumberland Street, Macclesfield.*

Macclesfield Infirmary featured in a display by the Macclesfield group which focussed on discovering how some of the streets in the town were named. The display is now available to view on the FHSC website - see *Explore the Routes of Macclesfield* on page 46.



# CHESHIRE ANCESTOR

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Society website: [www.fhsc.org.uk](http://www.fhsc.org.uk)

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

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

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

## Editorial

by Rosie Rowley



Many thanks to those who have submitted articles for the journal - do keep sending them in! Please see the next page for submission guidelines, and remember that you do not need to wait until the deadline to submit your article - in fact, as I don't have many articles in hand, I'd appreciate having some as soon as possible so I have plenty of time to prepare them for publication. You don't have to write a long article - short pieces are just as valuable for filling in the gap at the end of a longer article, and letters are always welcome, so at least I know someone is reading this!

There are two articles this month about researching old family stories which have been handed down, showing that it's worth following up these stories as there is always at least a grain of truth in them. *What Happened to William and Louisa White?* (page 22) investigates the lives of two siblings - one died young and the other emigrated. Meanwhile, *Finding the Folcarelli Family* (page 33) provides an insight into finding distant cousins overseas, with very little information to start from.

In *Capital Connections* (page 40), Gill Barber shows how revisiting some of her early research after new information became available online paid dividends. Articles about DNA research can be found in both the main body of the journal and in *Net That Serf*, reflecting the growing popularity of this subject.

### **Correction: CHESHIRE ANCESTOR, Dec 2018 Page 30**

The Editor assumed that William Lamprey, a coal trimmer, worked in the mining industry. In fact he was a docker, working on coal-fired ships.

### **IMPORTANT: Permission to Contact You**

Under the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) that came into force in May 2018, the Society is required to obtain your positive permission to use the contact details you have given. For instance, to email you about news and events, send CHESHIRE ANCESTOR to you, etc.

Please see page 72 for full details, and remember to tick the box when renewing by post so the Society can continue to contact you.

## Society Diary Dates

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

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

10 Apr	Final copy date for <b>CHESHIRE ANCESTOR</b> , June issue.
Sun 28 Apr	Exec. Committee Meeting, Rajar Building, Mobberley, 2pm.
Sat 11 May	Group Leaders Meeting, Jubilee Hall, Little Budworth, 2pm.
10 Jul	Final copy date for <b>CHESHIRE ANCESTOR</b> , September issue.
Sun 1 Sep	Exec. Committee Meeting, Jubilee Hall, Little Budworth, 2pm.
10 Oct	Final copy date for <b>CHESHIRE ANCESTOR</b> , December issue.
Sat 2 Nov	Annual General Meeting, venue to be arranged.
10 Jan 2020	Final copy date for <b>CHESHIRE ANCESTOR</b> , March issue.
Sun 19 Jan	Exec. Committee Meeting, venue to be arranged.

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.

### ITEMS FOR THE CHESHIRE ANCESTOR

**For advertising rates and information, please see last page.**

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

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

Publication is at the discretion of the editor and is subject to space being available; unused items may be carried over to a later issue. Articles accepted by email (in Microsoft Word, Open Office Writer, or plain text format, using any font type or size), or by post as manuscript. Suggested length 300-2000 words. Please email images (two or three max.) as separate files in JPG format, preferably scanned at 300dpi. Please do not send images printed on normal paper as they will not reproduce well; and **never** send **original** photos by post. Please type all surnames in CAPITALS.

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

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

## Chairman's Jottings

by Victoria M L Doran



Welcome to the first Cheshire Ancestor of 2019, the Society's 50th year. The Committee has yet to decide how to celebrate our achievement in reaching this milestone. I understand only a few family history societies are as long-established as ours. It would be interesting to hear stories of the early years. Perhaps some of our earliest members would like to take the opportunity to share their experiences with the rest of us. The Editor welcomes contributions - see page 3 for format guidelines.

Due to the time required to compile the Cheshire Ancestor, I am writing this in the second week in January. The winter has been so mild so far this year, that I was not totally surprised to see the first daffodils in flower in North Wales during a walk at the weekend. Still the days are very short, and there is little excuse not to do some family history research.

I have recently found that the 1939 Register (available on both *Ancestry* and *Find My Past*) can provide a lot of information about family members who disappeared after the 1911 census. Spouses and children often appear, and, of course, you discover a date of birth - though as usual the information is only as accurate as the person who provided it. In the case of two of my spinster great-great-aunts the dates can be way out; one gave a year of birth as 1879 instead of 1861, and the other as 1881 instead of 1863. At least they were consistent with each other! From their 30s they had consistently understated their ages. Can you beat a deliberate misstatement of 18 years?

One of my duties as Chairman is to receive the general queries from the FHSC website. A few come from members but most do not. If they relate to a specific area of Cheshire, I refer them to the appropriate Group, but many refer to specific surnames. A quick check on the website under *Research*, then *Search Surnames* soon reveals whether anyone is also interested in the same surname, and my response to the inquiry is easy. However, I wonder how many of us have taken the time to enter details of the Cheshire surnames we have in our own family trees. We may be able to get assistance that breaks down a brick wall, but we may also be able to help someone else break down one of theirs. This is one way that all of us can help others and the society, as often this kind

of help is what convinces someone that it is worthwhile to join the Society. Remember that all contact is via the website, and your email address is not revealed (unless you choose to reveal it). Perhaps some of you who have found this facility useful could write up your stories – I am sure the editor would be delighted to receive them.

Some queries are not so easy to deal with, and, if logistically possible, I recommend a visit to our Research Centre at Mobberley or the Crewe Family History Unit. If this is not possible, the website forum remains an option. This is a main menu option for members and is a good reason to join the Society. Any of us can join in the discussions, so check it regularly and you may find out some source you did not know about, or realise that you can assist from your own knowledge.

## Members' Research Lookup Service

**This is a free service for members only.**

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

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

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

**Requests can be submitted:**

- **Online at *www.fhsc.org.uk***

Log in to the website, then navigate to  
SHOP > PRODUCTS > SERVICES > RESEARCH SERVICE.

- **By post**

Please remember to include your name, membership number, contact details and a correctly stamped, addressed envelope (at least C5 size).

Requests should be posted to: *Family History Society of Cheshire, Look up Service, Mobberley Research Centre, Rajar Building, Town Lane, Mobberley, Cheshire, WA16 7ER.*

# Research Centre News

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

## Mobberley Research Centre

by Alan Jones



I am happy to report that our plea in the December 2018 CHESHIRE ANCESTOR for more duty volunteers has resulted in a good response - three members have offered to help. We are grateful to Mike Smith, Paul Fletcher and Rodney Inglesfield and welcome them to the team. This means that we can continue to open the Research Centre for five days a week. It would be disappointing for Mike, Paul and Rodney to find there are no visiting members so please come and make good use of our extensive research facilities if you can. Now some more good news - the

Society has upgraded the subscription to *Find my Past* at Mobberley from British records only to a World subscription.

Work goes on behind the scenes to add to the resources available to researchers. Peter Davenport and Joan Irving are working on some old MI transcripts that have recently come to light but are as yet unpublished. They include Christleton St. James, Tilston St. Mary, Tarporley St. Helen, and Marthall All Saints. Peter is scanning them for eventual sale in our website shop and, on completion, a paper copy will be placed in the library at Mobberley.

I have always been interested in what people do for a living. During my career as HM Inspector of Factories I was able to observe firsthand the many hundreds of different occupations, including the infamous *Saggar Maker's Bottom Knocker*. If you want to embellish the story of your family history by including a description of the work carried out by your ancestors, our library might be a useful source of reference. In the *Occupations* category we have seventy-two entries ranging from agricultural labourers to wheelwrights with, for example, coal miners, lady's maids and railwaymen in between.

You can peruse the list for yourself on the FHSC website at: [www.fhsc.org.uk/research/holdings](http://www.fhsc.org.uk/research/holdings)

Search for *Occupations*, then click on *6 Inf Occupations* to download the file.

# Crewe Family History Unit

*by Margaret Spate*

In addition to our usual Monday and Tuesday openings we will open on the following Saturday mornings, 9.30am – 12.30pm:

Sat 23rd Mar	Sat 13th April
Sat 18th May	Sat 22nd June
Sat 13th July	

We can arrange other daytime openings for group visits - please contact me at [crewe@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:crewe@fhsc.org.uk)

The team of volunteers is always there to help.

If possible, before travelling to the Crewe FHU please check the FHSC website for the latest news, at [www.fhsc.org.uk/research-centres/crewe-research-centre](http://www.fhsc.org.uk/research-centres/crewe-research-centre)

In addition to the printed copy at Crewe, the library holdings list is available on the FHSC website at [www.fhsc.org.uk/holdings-crewe](http://www.fhsc.org.uk/holdings-crewe)

We are hoping that the FHSC Crewe library will shortly have access to the worldwide FMP data, the same as at Mobberley, but at the time of going to press this has not yet been achieved. The reason is that the Crewe library does not have an independent Internet connection (as is the case at Mobberley).

## FHSC Website Shop

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

Several products are already available as pdf downloads, and more will be added over the coming months. Prices start at just £1 and payment is by card, enabling distant and overseas customers to buy our indexes and data without the expense of delivery charges and difficulty of obtaining sterling cheques.

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

More information is in the website FAQ at [www.fhsc.org.uk/faq#faq\\_38](http://www.fhsc.org.uk/faq#faq_38)

## Family History Events

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

### **Guild of One-Name Studies 40th Annual Conference and AGM: "Past, Present and Future"**

Friday 29th - Sunday 31st March, 2019

Leicester Marriott Hotel, Smith Way, Leicester LE19 1SW

Speakers include Dr Nick Barratt, Dr Penny Walters, Dr Simon Wills

Optional visit to the Richard III Centre and Leicester Cathedral

Booking essential - Non-members welcome

<https://one-name.org/guild-conference-agm> Tel: 0800 011 2182

### **Wirral Archives Service History Workshop**

**"Edith Smith, Oxton's Pioneer Police Woman", by Bob Knowles**

2pm on Thursday 4th April 2019

Lower Ground Floor Conference Room, Cheshire Lines Building,

Canning Street, Birkenhead, CH41 1ND

Booking essential - contact the Archivist, William Meredith

Tel.: 0151 606 2929 Email: [archives@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:archives@wirral.gov.uk)

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

### **Family Tree Live 2019**

9.30am - 5.00pm, Friday 26th - Saturday 27th April 2019

Alexandra Palace, North London, N22 7AY

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

Advance tickets £12 per day, *Family Tree* magazine subscribers £10;

On the door price £14. Book online or by phone 0844-581-4989

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

**Meet us at this event on the North-West Group of FHSs stand.**

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

### **Lancashire Archives Family History Fridays**

Second Friday of each month

Lancashire Record Office, Bow Lane, Preston, PR1 2RE

9.30-12.00: Helpdesk; 12.30-1.30: Talk; 2.00- 3.30: Using the Searchroom  
e.g. Friday 10th May: Ancestors at Sea - Crew Lists for Family Historians

Booking essential for Talk and Using the Searchroom sessions

*Email: [record.office@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:record.office@lancashire.gov.uk)*

*[www.lancashire.gov.uk/archives](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/archives) Tel: 01772 533039 (Tuesday-Friday)*

### **Manchester & Lancs FHS, Anglo-Scottish Group**

Thursday 16th May 2019

Manchester Central Library, St Peters Square, Manchester, M2 5PD

Morning: a talk on *Secrets of the Royal Mile*

Afternoon: Presentations by National Records of Scotland

Iain Ferguson, *ScotlandsPeople* Manager, will focus on *ScotlandsPeople* records, including how to get the best from the website.

Tessa Spencer, Head of Learning, will look at some of the many and varied records held by the National Records of Scotland, from court records to parish records to tax rolls, explaining how the records work and what use you can make of them for family and local history research.

Booking essential - Non-members welcome (£3 charge)

Book via the Eventbrite link on the M&LFHS website home page.

*[www.mlfhs.org.uk](http://www.mlfhs.org.uk) Tel: 0161 234 1060*

### **FFHS Conference: Every Ancestor Matters II**

10.30am - 4.30pm, Saturday 18th May 2019

The Priory Street Centre, York, YO1 6ET.

Four talks - refreshments - 600m York station - limited on-site parking

Booking essential - £19.50 including lunch and refreshments

*[www.eventbrite.com/o/federation-of-family-history-societies-ffhs-7821246146](http://www.eventbrite.com/o/federation-of-family-history-societies-ffhs-7821246146)*

### **The Genealogy Show 2019**

10am to 5pm, Friday 7th - Saturday 8th June 2019

The NEC, Birmingham, B40 1NT

Admission £15 per day or £25 for a two-day pass

Includes talks, exhibition stands, one free 20-min consultation per day

*[www.thegenealogyshow.uk](http://www.thegenealogyshow.uk)*

## Family History News

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

### Rise in Cost of Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates

On 16th February the cost of purchasing birth, marriage and death certificates for England and Wales from the General Register Office (GRO) rose from £9.25 to £11, and the cost of PDF copies went up from £6 to £7. There are corresponding increases for certificates purchased from local register offices (PDF copies cannot be purchased from local offices). Whilst the increase may seem large, this is the first increase since 2010.

Other fees have been introduced: £3 if the full reference is not supplied, and £3.50 if a certificate cannot be issued because an entry matching the information supplied cannot be found. Full details of the changes can be found on several family history websites, including Family Tree magazine ([www.family-tree.co.uk/news-and-views](http://www.family-tree.co.uk/news-and-views)) and the Lost Cousins newsletter ([www.lostcousins.com/newsletters2/xmasday18.htm](http://www.lostcousins.com/newsletters2/xmasday18.htm)).

The GRO website for ordering printed certificates or pdf copies is at [www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/menu.asp](http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/menu.asp)

Indexes and information about ordering from local register offices for several counties are available on the UKBMD website at [www.ukbmd.org.uk/local\\_bmd](http://www.ukbmd.org.uk/local_bmd)

Remember that entries for historic marriages (usually before 1912) which took place in church may be available as parish register images on websites such as *FindMyPast* and *Ancestry*, or on microfilms and fiche at local archives, or their own websites.

**The Mobberley Research Centre has films for most Cheshire parishes, including registers for dates later than those available online - see [www.fhsc.org.uk/research/holdings](http://www.fhsc.org.uk/research/holdings) for a list. Save yourself some money - you might obtain several marriage 'certificates' from parish registers in just one visit to Mobberley. Why not check what is available there, before ordering from the GRO?**

## Find My Past (FMP)

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

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

### Selected Recent Additions and Updates

#### The Cheshire Collection

[www.findmypast.co.uk/articles/world-records/search-all-uk-records/special-collections/the-cheshire-collection](http://www.findmypast.co.uk/articles/world-records/search-all-uk-records/special-collections/the-cheshire-collection)

FMP have been working with Cheshire Archives to pick up some of the records missing from the Cheshire Collection.

#### Diocese of Chester Parish Baptisms

Over 35,000 new records covering seven parishes in Warrington, Widnes, Culcheth, Hargrave and Kelsall and spanning 1538 to 1928 have been added.

#### Diocese of Chester Parish Marriages

Over 14,000 new records covering seven parishes in Warrington, Widnes, Culcheth, Hargrave and Kelsall and spanning 1607 to 1928 have been added.

#### Diocese of Chester Parish Burials

Over 13,000 records covering the parishes of Culcheth, Kelsall, and Widnes and spanning 1607 to 1928 have been added.

#### 1939 Register update

Over 53,000 records have been opened in the 1939 Register. Since the Register was launched, Findmypast has matched nearly five million closed records to multiple data sources to confirm the death of these individuals and allow their records to be viewed.

## How Popular was your Name?

Flourish is an online tool which can quickly turn spreadsheets into online charts, maps and interactive visualisations. Here, some of the data from the UK Local BMD project, compiled by Dr Stephen Bush and Professor Tom Freeman of the University of Edinburgh, has been used to graph the popularity of forenames over 170 years.

<https://demos.flourish.studio/namehistory/>

## Ancestry

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

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

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

At the time of writing there have been no updates since the last issue of the **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**.

## British Newspaper Archive

Although access to newspapers on the British Newspaper Archive website is included in the Find My Past subscription (and available on computers at the FHSC Research Centres), it is easier to see exactly what titles and issue dates are available by looking at the British Newspaper Archive website at

[www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/titles](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/titles)

Clicking the *Latest* tab allows you to see recent additions and also planned future updates. In addition, visiting the 'home page' for a title on the BNA website allows you to view a pre-selected issue free of charge.

One title which has recently been updated is the Cheshire Observer, for which issues for the years 1931-1938, 1946-1949, 1951-1979 have been added, bringing the total availability to 1854-1879, 1881-1897, 1899-1949, 1951-1979

[www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/titles/cheshire-observer](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/titles/cheshire-observer)

## FamilySearch Compare a Face

[www.familysearch.org/discovery/compare](http://www.familysearch.org/discovery/compare)

You must register for a free account to use *FamilySearch*.

See how alike two people are. Upload a photo of yourself, and another relative, and receive a percentage 'likeness' rating - it's not necessary to save the photos on *FamilySearch* to use this facility.

Just for fun - or perhaps a useful utility?

This may actually help you to establish whether a photo of an unnamed person really is your grandfather's long-lost brother.

## The Genealogist

To see what's new at *The Genealogist*, go to [www.thegenealogist.co.uk/news](http://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/news)

To see a full list of holdings, go to [www.thegenealogist.co.uk/coverage](http://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/coverage)

### Selected Recent Additions and Updates

#### Central Criminal Court, Old Bailey Records

Almost 700,000 entries for prisoners spanning the years 1821 to 1876 have been added, sourced from the HO 8 registers held by The National Archives.

#### Newgate Prison Criminal Records

Almost 150,000 entries for prisoners in Newgate prison along with any alias they were known by and the names of their victims, spanning the years 1791 to 1849. Sourced from the HO 26 registers held by The National Archives.

#### Headstone Records

The UKIndexer Project has resulted in the addition of 20,000 individuals to the Headstones collection. Run by The Genealogist, project volunteers photograph and transcribe monumental inscriptions in churchyards and cemeteries around the world.

#### Colour 19th Century Tithe Maps

For Rutland and Huntingdonshire. These high resolution colour maps, from records held at The National Archives, provide greater detail.

#### Outbound Passenger List records for the 1950s

Over four million individuals added from the BT27 registers held by The National Archives, providing information about passenger departures from the UK by ship to destinations across the globe.

#### New WWI records

Over 42,000 records have been added, including images of *Officers Died in the Great War Part I & II 1914-1918*, along with Rolls of Honour and over 30,000 War Memorials, War Graves plans, maps and listings.

## Cheshire Archives Photos

Cheshire Archives has several assorted albums containing photos of artefacts, documents and photographs on the *Flickr* photo-hosting website:

[www.flickr.com/photos/cheshirero/albums](http://www.flickr.com/photos/cheshirero/albums)

# Certificate Exchange

by Jean Jones

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

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

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

BRADBURY	Elizabeth	M 1867 Apr 25	To William Gardner. Dau of William Bradbury.	West Derby. LAN.
COX	Hannah	M 1857 Jun 23	To James Whittingham. Dau of Samuel Cox.	Wolverhampton STS.
DEMAIN	John	D 1853 Nov 24	Age 56 yrs. William Mattison present.	Walton-on-the-Hill LAN.
DEMAIN	Susannah	D 1863 Feb 24	Age 65 yrs. Widow of John Demain.	Everton. LAN.
FOGG	Thomas	M 1901 Jul 8	To Maud Newton. Son of John Fogg.	Bamton CHS.
GARDNER	Amy	D 1906 Apr 6	Age 1 month. Dau of Francis Gardner.	Altrincham CHS.
GARDNER	William	M 1867 Apr 25	To Elizabeth Bradbury. Son of James D Gardner.	West Derby. LAN.
GILLATE	Jessie F.	M 1909 Jul 3	To Frederick Newton. Dau Henry W. Gillate.	Northwich CHS.
HEAPS	Margaret	B 1864 Feb 28	To Thomas & Susannah formerly Demain.	Everton. LAN.
HEAPS	Robert	B 1863 Feb 8	To Thomas & Susannah formerly Demain.	Everton. LAN.

HICKSON	Mary	M 1862 Aug 5	To James Whittingham. Dau of Richard Hickson.	Altrincham CHS.
HINDLEY	Elizabeth	B 1856 Feb 24	To James & Sarah formerly Jones.	Hawarden CHS.
HINDLEY	James	B 1860 Jul 26	To James & Sarah formerly Jones.	Eastham CHS.
HINDLEY	Thomas	B 1856 Feb 24	To Thomas & Emma formerly Williams.	Eastham CHS.
HINDLEY	William T.	B 1863 Sep 16	To James & Sarah formerly Jones.	Tranmere CHS.
JONES	John	B 1868 Jan 9	To James & Emma formerly Thomas.	Newton LAN.
KIRKHAM	William	D 1859 Jul 6	Age 67 yrs. Mary Kirkham present.	Islington West MDX.
NEWTON	Andrew	M 1895 Feb 11	To Ada Walker. Son of Thomas Newton.	Davenham CHS.
NEWTON	Frederick	M 1909 Jul 3	To Jessie F Gillate. Son of George Newton.	Northwich CHS.
NEWTON	Maud	M 1901 Jul 8	To Thomas Fogg. Dau of John Newton.	Barnton CHS.
SHEPPARD	Katherin M.	B 1899 Sep 12	To John L & Katherin formerly Currie.	Fulham County of London.
WALKER	Ada	M 1895 Feb 11	To Andrew Newton. Dau of Henry Walker	Davenham CHS.
WHITTINGHAM	James	M 1862 Aug 5	To Mary Hickson. Son of John Whittingham.	Altrincham CHS.
WHITTINGHAM	James	M 1857 Jun 23	To Hannah Cox. Son of William Whittingham.	Wolverhampton STS.

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## Book Reviews

by Lyn McCulloch



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

After review, items are given to a Society libraries or group.

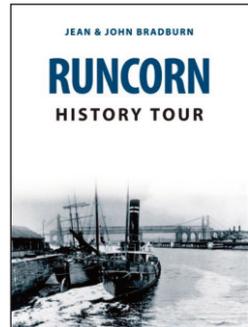
If you wish to purchase a book (or other items) online, please consider registering with the fundraising website *Give As You Live* at [www.giveasyoulive.com/join/fhsc-macclesfield](http://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/fhsc-macclesfield). Shopping via this website generates a donation to the FHSC at no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

### ***Runcorn History Tour* by Jean and John Bradburn**

As a local girl (born in Widnes) I enjoyed reading this little pocket-sized guide to Runcorn and its history. I hope to walk around the town with it soon. Like every town Runcorn has seen many changes but the old photographs in this book remind us of how it used to be. For anyone with an interest in Runcorn town this small volume is a must. Can we have a Widnes one, please?

*Published 2018 by Amberley Publishing.*

*ISBN: 978-1-4456-8163-4 Paperback. Price: £7.99 .*



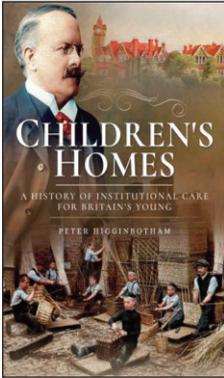
### ***Children's Homes: A history of institutional care for Britain's young***

**by Peter Higginbotham**

**Review by Jean Laidlaw**

Peter Higginbotham is a well-known writer of several books and a website on the Workhouse. His latest book concerning Children's Homes is just as fascinating and comprehensive, and he has a Children's Homes website at [www.childrenshomes.org.uk](http://www.childrenshomes.org.uk)

*Children's Homes* explores an astonishing array of institutions from as early as the mid-16th century. As well as charity schools and homes or 'asylums' for orphans, there were local authority, religious and occupational homes, reformatories, ragged, industrial, truant and approved schools, training ships,



institutions for impoverished children or those with special needs, and 'boarding out' (what we know as fostering today).

This book looks at the evolution of children's homes as society changed. There are chapters on Barnado's Homes, The National Children's Homes, Religious Homes, Local Authority Homes, life in Children's Homes and much more.

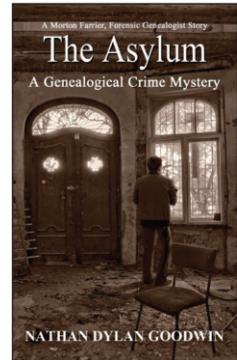
Finding family members who were residents of Children's Homes is no easy task as many homes no longer exist and, until recently, there was no legal requirement for records to be preserved. The final chapter of the book supplies resources, useful websites and practical advice to help researchers to try to trace an ancestor or relative who found themselves in care, and learn a little more about their lives.

*Pen & Sword History 310pp. pbk. £14.99 ISBN 9781526701350*

### Special Offer - FREE digital book for all members!

Nathan Dylan Goodwin, whose genealogical mystery novels have been reviewed in previous issues of **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**, has published a new short story. Called *The Asylum*, it is a short prequel to *Hiding the Past* (the first book in the Morton Farrier series), and is therefore a great lace for new readers to start!

The story is currently 99p on Amazon, but FHSC members can download a FREE digital copy by visiting Nathan's website, [www.nathandylangoodwin.com](http://www.nathandylangoodwin.com)



### Stray Cheshire M.I. at St George's Church, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire

In memory of / JOSEPH TITTENSOR / who died January 29th 1862 / aged 91 years / also of JOSEPH GREATBATCH / son of the above / late of Middlewich / who died April 19th 1850 / aged 41 years / in memory of / ELIZABETH / wife of / JOSEPH TITTENSOR / of this Town / who died February 17th 1839? / aged 54 years / also GEORGE TITTENSOR / son of the above / who died December 28th 1849 / aged 21 years

*Submitted by Rob Carter of the North Staffs Family History Group (BMSGH).*

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I was intrigued to learn the weight of one cubic inch of water in a vacuum (*Goodbye to Old Weights and Measures* - CHESHIRE ANCESTOR vol 49 no 2, p44). I wonder how they did it? From what I remember of 'A' Level Physics, water vapourises in a vacuum so a cubic inch would weigh nothing at all. How Science has progressed since the 19th century!

**Donald Muir**  
**Member 7159**

Dear Editor,

I believe the star of the December edition has to go to Chester Guttridge for his article entitled *Goodbye to Old Weights and Measures*. I didn't know whether to laugh or cry!!! And the words...glazed...over...and eyes came to mind too!

At first I groaned inwardly as I saw all those numbers. Very correctly speaking, numbers 1 to 99 should be written in words - that is numbers one to ninety-nine!! However, in this piece, I felt an exception could be made as it was an article about specific types of numbers; moreover, I believed the thundering worthy effect of the article would have been lost. So I made an executive decision to leave as is.

The facts were mind-boggling to say the least; but at least there were some weights and measures I remember from my school days!! Yet one could only shake one's head in wonder and almost disbelief at what sort of mind the author, Joseph Saul, had! Maybe he didn't get out much in 1847...

Chester managed admirably to make something so ordinary as mundane lists of numbers and names of weights and measures into a most interesting article with an amusing wry twist. I for one thoroughly enjoyed it.

**Suzie Woodward**  
**Proofreader for CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**

Dear Editor

Regarding *Net That Surf* by Geoff Johnson. Thank you for your articles about DNA testing which I really did enjoy reading; so much so, that I applied for a kit at the beginning of December from *Ancestry* and received my result at the end of the same month. Brilliant! I really didn't know what to expect, but my results were England, Wales and Northwestern Europe 79%, Ireland & Scotland 21%. Now I would like to know which test would break down these results further.

**Jean Jones**  
**Member 1515**

## Help Wanted

*If you are puzzling over a family history problem relating to Cheshire or elsewhere, why not ask on our website forum ([www.fhsc.org.uk/forum](http://www.fhsc.org.uk/forum)), or send it to the Editor, and see if other members can help? For queries printed in the journal, you must give permission for your name, membership number and postal and/or email addresses to be printed so members can contact you.*

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

### **HMS Vanguard Photo project**

Wendy SADLER is working on a project to find photographs of all 843 men lost when HMS *Vanguard* sank in July 1917. Her great-uncle, Henry METCALF, was one of those killed and one of the photos she has of him shows him in his uniform with another man. She has no idea who this other man is and this inspired her to expand her search to find the faces of ALL those killed that tragic evening.

A crew list for the *Vanguard*, which exploded in Scapa Flow on 9 July 1917, can be seen at [www.naval-history.net/xDKCas1917-07Jul.htm](http://www.naval-history.net/xDKCas1917-07Jul.htm). Of the 845 men on board, only two survived. Some officers and men had a lucky escape as they were not on board at the time. The Scapa Flow Wrecks website tells the story of the explosion, at [www.scapafLOWwrecks.com/wrecks/vanguard/index.php](http://www.scapafLOWwrecks.com/wrecks/vanguard/index.php).

Five members of the crew for whom photos are required were from Cheshire:

Herbert DIXON, Stoker 1st Class, service number K/13251, was the son of the late John DIXON and Elizabeth HEMBROUGH, formerly DIXON, of Hall Lane, Partington, Cheshire. He was born in Hunts Cross, Liverpool. Information at <https://livesofthefirstworldwar.org/lifestory/6389399>

John (Jack) FARRER, Stoker 1st Class, service number SS/116081, was the nineteen-year-old son of Edward and Sarah Ann FARRER, of 393 Higher King St, Hurst, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancs. He is named on the Ashton-under-Lyne war memorial, and his service records indicate that he joined the Navy on 17 September 1914 and transferred to HMS *Vanguard* on 10 May 1917. Information at <https://livesofthefirstworldwar.org/lifestory/6511440>

John Bertram WRIGHT/KIRK, Gunner in the Royal Marine Artillery, service number RMA/13309, was the son of the late Joseph Wright KIRK, and Eliza KIRK, of 21 Alldis St, Stockport. He was born in Prestbury, near Macclesfield, in 1895 and is named on the Stockport war memorial.

Information at <https://livesofthefirstworldwar.org/lifestory/6948384>

Harold WRIGHT, Telegraphist, service number J/35295, was the son of Rebecca WRIGHT of 12 Ellesmere St, Runcorn. His service records show that he joined the Navy on 31 January 1915 and transferred to the Vanguard on 16 August 1916.

Information at <https://livesofthefirstworldwar.org/lifestory/6316635>

William WYATT, Able Seaman, service number 215671, was the son of John and Elizabeth WYATT, of Stockport, and husband of Rosina KERNAN (formerly WYATT), of 54, West Richmond St., Edinburgh. He was born in Stockport in 1885 and is named on the Stockport war memorial.

Information at <https://livesofthefirstworldwar.org/lifestory/6162768>

The project already has a photo for Lieutenant Oscar Humphrey STOEHR, who was born in Alderley Edge.

Information at <https://livesofthefirstworldwar.org/lifestory/6901869>

If you have a photo of any of the above men, or anyone else who died in the Vanguard explosion on 9 July 1917, please email Wendy, or make contact through the Facebook group *HMS Vanguard 9th July 1917 Lost Crew* at [www.facebook.com/groups/285557418518769/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/285557418518769/)

**Wendy Sadler**

*vanguardcrewphotos@gmail.com*

## **NEWTON - Macclesfield/Derby/London - 1800s**

My grandfather, Sir Louis Arthur NEWTON Bt., was Lord Mayor of London in 1923/24, and all the Press cuttings from that time which are in my possession refer to the fact that his father Reuben was born in Macclesfield, although no further details are given.

My researches to date have established that Reuben NEWTON was married twice, firstly to Mary Ann OLDFIELD in Macclesfield on 25 March 1846, and then to Elizabeth CLOWES in Derby on 4 February 1857, having lived in Macclesfield until his second marriage and thereafter in Derby until he moved to London in about 1870.

There is also some evidence that Reuben's parents were called James and Ann, and that he had four siblings, William (bapt 1801) Hannah (bapt 1803) Jabez or Joseph (bapt 1820) and Isaac (bapt 1823), all of whom were baptised in the Parish of Prestbury; the first two at St Michael's Church, Macclesfield, and the last two at St Peter's Church, Prestbury.

The 1841 census reveals that Reuben was then living in Park Place, Park Lane, Macclesfield (aged 25) with his brothers Joseph and Isaac, all described as Silk Winders. Also living at the same address were Joseph and Hannah WHETTON, who are thought to be Reuben's brother-in-law and sister.

What I cannot find is the date of birth and/or birthplace of Reuben NEWTON, although the evidence which I have gleaned from the marriage certificates and census returns is that he was probably born between 1815 and 1825.

**Hedley Newton**

**Member no. 10005**

**[hjnewton@southbarn.net](mailto:hjnewton@southbarn.net)**

## Unusual Gravestone for JARDINE in Scotland

Here's an unusual gravestone, designed with family historians in mind, posted on a genealogical Facebook group by author Karl DRINKWATER. The gravestone is at Sweetheart Abbey, a derelict abbey near Dumfries, Scotland, founded in 1273 by Lady Devorgilla in memory of her husband, John BALLIOL, who is probably more well-known because of her endowment of a college in his name at Oxford University.



## What Happened to William and Louisa White?

by Elizabeth White  
Member no. 6392

As a young child I enjoyed nothing more on a winter's evening than sitting on the rug in front of the fire, when, if there was nothing she wanted to hear on the radio, my mother Edith would tell me about her parents, George WHITE (1888-1952) and Mary Elizabeth BROCKLEHURST (1884-1951), as she knitted yet another cardigan for me (how I longed for a shop-bought cardigan, ungrateful child that I was). My grandfather George was born in Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, the sixth child of Joseph WHITE (1857-1920) and Mary Elizabeth JONES (1856-1898).

Apparently, grandfather's favourite sister was Louisa. Mum said Louisa *went to America and I don't think they heard from her again*. George's eldest brother William was reputedly killed in a farming accident when he was very young.

I was curious to find out more about these two ancestors but it wasn't until after my mother had died that I was able to start my search, although I had kept as many notes as I could in the meantime. So, while I was recovering from a bout of ill health it occurred to me that I at least had time to collate all the information I had gathered. I've been travelling backwards ever since, sometimes at great speed and at other times excruciatingly slowly.

What happened to Louisa? Did she go to America? Also, which farm had William been working on when he was killed? How had he died?

*Ancestry UK, Find My Past, FHSC and British Newspaper Archives* are the four main websites I use in my research and I am fortunate to live only a short drive from Cheshire Archives. I also found that Ellesmere Port Reference Library held a wealth of information. I had the tools! But what did I discover?

William did NOT die in a farming accident; as sad as that would have been, the truth was even more tragic.

Joseph WHITE, William's father, was a flatman - he conveyed goods, mainly between Ellesmere Port and Liverpool, on a flat which, as many readers will know, is a very large, flat-bottomed barge. His son William worked as a labourer at the Shropshire Union Wharf in Ellesmere Port. On 7 December 1897,

William, then aged 17, arrived home for tea at the family home in Worcester Street, Ellesmere Port. Over the evening meal William told his father he would be going back to work for a few hours overtime. Joseph was never to see his son alive again; William was hit by a capstan that evening and killed.

According to the newspaper report, the accident happened at 7pm. William had been ordered by his foreman, John ASHTON, to get ropes from a shed to draw the wagons. The foreman entered the shed once William left with the ropes; not long after that a worker came and told him that WHITE was in the capstan. The foreman went to the spot where the accident had happened to find William being extricated from the ropes; he was unconscious, with injuries to his head and face. It took five minutes for his workmates to release him. His body was laid on a stretcher and carried to his home.

I can imagine that dark December evening - Mary, busy finishing off her housework, getting the younger ones to bed and thinking about next day's baggin (packed lunch) for her boys, perhaps even hoping William wouldn't be too late, as mothers do. And then came that terrible hammering on the door. *There's been an accident! It's William! They're bringing him now!*

Poor Mary. I was moved to tears when, searching for William's burial in the Ellesmere Port parish records, I found that of his mother, Mary Elizabeth WHITE, aged 42. She had died less than six months after her first-born son.

So, what happened after William's death? There was a post-mortem (reported in the *Cheshire Observer*, Saturday 18 December 1897) held by the County Coroner, Mr J C Bate. Less than two weeks previously he had conducted a post-mortem when another dock worker, Henry FOSTER, a fifty-two-year-old married man, husband to Ann and father of five children, had been killed in almost the same circumstances. Henry's burial is immediately above William's in the parish register.

Quarled white washing Capstan	Henry Foster	Ellesmere Port	Dec: 15 <sup>th</sup>	52 years	Quarled under Burial when Amendment Act 1850 by Henry Toles
No. 474					
Quarled to death by Capstan at 11:15 AM	William White	Ellesmere Port	Dec: 10 <sup>th</sup>	17 years	Walter Biddlelake Vicar
No. 475					

The notes in the margin read: *Crushed while working Capstan* and *Crushed to death by Capstan....*

Looking at the two newspaper reports, I saw that only one witness was produced at Henry's post-mortem and no agent for the company or Board of Trade official was present, but six witnesses were brought to give evidence at William's post-mortem. Mr SHEPHERD, Agent for the Company, was vocal in his indignation at the jury's verdict of *accidental death, but due to the defective state of the lever of the capstan* with a rider to the effect that no inexperienced person should be permitted to do such work. A Board of Trade official was also present. Perhaps the Shropshire Union Railway and Canal Company were becoming a little concerned about public opinion.

What do I think? Times were hard, and there was no trade union to protect unskilled workers. William and Henry were just two of many workers on the wharf and canal I found in my searches through the newspapers of the time who died in tragic circumstances - the youngest being a child of ten. William was just seventeen. At that age many young men think they are invincible, and capable of anything. Perhaps William did think he could operate the capstan on his own, even though, according to the newspaper report, there was a dedicated work crew to operate it.

I can see now why no one in the family ever talked about William's death; it was too painful for them, especially as Mary died just six months later. But William deserves to be remembered, if only as yet another casualty of the power wielded by many employers before the introduction of trade unions and better working standards for all working people.

Now that I had found William, I wanted to find Louisa. Little did I know that it was going to take me a lot longer - years in fact - and she found me!

I had just made my last mortgage payment (HALLELUJAH!) and with that came the need to celebrate. Did I turn cartwheels down the high street? No, vetoed by the family. So, I decided to go global. I paid extra to *Ancestry UK* and signed up for *Ancestry Worldwide*. What a great investment it has been.

The small amount of information I had about Louisa was already on my *Ancestry* tree; even so, when I received a message from a lovely gentleman in America asking me how I was related to her, I was speechless (which if you knew me, is remarkable). Once I recovered, I dashed off all the information I had. Almost by return my new American friend, Ted, emailed back with her life story.

Louisa WHITE (1885-1921) married merchant seaman Harold STEFF (1877-1944) in Birkenhead in 1911 and their daughter Winifred was born the following year. Mrs Harold STEFF sailed from Liverpool on 11 December 1914 aboard the *Grampian*. The ship was bound for Canada and the passenger manifesto includes Louisa and baby Winifred, destination – Minneapolis, USA. Mother and toddler arrived in Canada on 21 December 1914 and it is from the US Record of Aliens Pre-Examined in Canada, that I discovered that Louisa had dark brown hair, brown eyes and weighed 125 lbs - confirmed when I was sent a photograph of Louisa and Harold with baby Winifred.

Why had Louisa left Britain? I'll never know for sure, but the times and their circumstances suggest that perhaps Harold wanted his wife and child safe if he couldn't be there to protect them. Also, Louisa's youngest sister Edith Alice was already in Minneapolis. Harold was a mariner; 1914 saw the start of the First World War so Merseyside was not the place Harold would want his wife and child to be. Nor would he want her to go home to Ellesmere Port which was just too near Liverpool and Birkenhead to be considered safe.

However, there is another consideration, which is that both Louisa and her younger sister Edith Alice were suffering from tuberculosis. Did they travel to the United States in the hope that they might find better treatment? Louisa's younger sister Edith Alice (1895-1917) had emigrated to Minneapolis in 1912, after having contracted tuberculosis when she was fourteen years of age, according to her death certificate. She died in 1917 aged just twenty-two, which must have been a terrible blow for her sister, Louisa, who had obtained work as a housekeeper at the York Hotel in Minneapolis. Louisa had contracted tuberculosis about 1910 when she was twenty-five years of age and she died in 1921, four years after her sister and just two days short of her thirty-seventh birthday.

Louisa's young daughter Winifred had been cared for by her good friends the CASEBOLT family, who went on to adopt the young child. Winifred, now named Winifred Grace, grew up in a happy, loving home. She went on to become an American citizen and it was her son who married Ted's daughter. Louisa's husband Harold continued his life at sea and is buried in Australia.

It was when Ted started his research into his son-in-law's family history that my connection to Louisa came to light. Nearly fifty years after first being made aware of Louisa's existence, I had found her.

Now her story is told and it is a happy one, for Louisa has four beautiful great-grandchildren who are all excelling in their chosen fields.

# Holy Orders

*by G Bracegirdle*  
*Member no. 3215*

Travel further afield than Cheshire or Lancashire, and anyone hearing the surname BRACEGIRDLE will usually give a little laugh, saying *that's a rare and funny name. Never heard that one before.* Little do they know how many there are spread throughout the world. The name can be found in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, France, Northern and Southern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Hong Kong, Gibraltar, and of course, in many places in England.

From the reputed origin of the BRACEGIRDLES being Cheadle in Cheshire, they have migrated to Lancashire, Lincolnshire and London, Cornwall, Durham, Bristol and Gloucestershire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, Devon and Northamptonshire, even to Buckinghamshire, Kent, and the Isles of Man and Wight. How they have gone forth, and multiplied throughout the years!

In Cheshire, most were of farming stock; some were farmers or cordwainers (cobblers to you), branching out into other skilled trades as industry progressed. Some chose Holy Orders, and of these participants there were quite a few. The following list, in estimated birth order, names those who chose this profession. No doubt there are others from long ago that I know not of, plus other present-day clergy that I am aware of but have not listed - a husband and wife team, for instance.

Suffice to say I hope this article will be of some use to others researching this name.

## **Clergymen named BRACEGIRDLE**

1. BRACEGIRDLE, Sir John. Priest. (Witness to Will of Roger ROYLE 1511 of Northenden).
2. BRACEGYRDYLL/BRETCHGIRDLE, John. Of Christ Church. B.A. 7 April 1544. M.A. (Sup Michaelmas Term) 1545.
3. BRACHGIRDILL, Joannes (John) 1548. Libc. Budworth. 1554 Witton.
4. BRACEGIRDLE, Roger. Fellow Brasenose College. B.A. 17 December 1556. M.A. 5 November 1561. B.Med. 28 March 1569. D.Med (Sup 13 February) 1578/9. Will proved at Oxford 16 May 1610.

5. BRACEGIRDLE, Robert. St. Ebbe, Oxford 1560. (Probate records Oxon. 1516-1732.
6. BRACHEGYRDLE, Edmundus (Edmund). B.A. 29 April 1562. One of these names Rector of Holton, Oxon. 1752, and Canon of Gloucester 1600. Died in 1602. (Believed born Cheadle 1529).
7. BRACEGIRDLE, Justinian. (Born 1546? Cheadle.) Aged 30 in 1576. Clerk. Died 25 October 1625. (had brother James, buried 18 November 1630.
8. BRACHGIRDELL, Thomas. 1567 Ord. Priest/Deacon. (No other details.)
9. BRACEGIRDLE, James. (Brother of Justinian at no.7) Deacon 8 August 1577 (Pet.) Rector of Little Billing 17 September 1571 on presence of Edmond Bracegirdle Clerk. James buried 18 November 1630 Little Billing. Will 8 November 1630. (James had son Timothy.)
10. BRASGIRDLE/BRACEGIRDLE, John, Matric Sizar from Queen's Michs. 1588. Born Cheshire. B.A. 1591-2. M.A. 1595. BD. 1602. Ord. Priest (Lincoln) 14 May 1598. Rector of St John-sub-Castro, Lewes. 1598. Rector of St. Thomas-in-the-Cliffe. 1599. Vicar of Rye 1602. Vicar of Peasemarsch 1606. Author of *Psychopharmacon*. (MS in British Museum.) Buried at Rye, 8 February 1613/14.
- 11 BRACEGIRDLE, John. 1599. Appt. M.A. St. Thomas The Martyr. Rector Clive, S.Malling, Sussex.
12. BRASGIRDLE, William. Admin Sizar at Queen's. 17 July 1599. Of Cheshire.
13. BRACEGIRDLE, William. 1606-1607. Selscombe, Lewes. Curate and Schoolmaster.
14. BRASGIRDLE, John. Matric Sizar from Trinity. Easter 1625. B.A. 1629-30. M.A. 1633. B.D.1641. Fellow 1632. Ord.Priest (Peterb.) 30 May 1640. Vicar of Mapsworth, Bucks. 1643.
15. BRASEGIRDLE/BRACEGIRDLE, Richard. Pleb. Pembroke College. Matric 26 October 1660.
16. BRASEGIRDLE/BRACEGIRDLE, Joseph. Gent. Brasenose College. Matric 13 July 1660. B.A. from Harthill 29 July 1663/4. Rector of Quinton, Northants. 1665. Born 1640? Died 30 May 1717. Buried Quinton 2 June 1717. Married four times and at least eleven children. Will 14 May 1717.
17. BRACEGIRDLE, Henry. Son of Richard of Wolverhampton. Co. Stafford. Gent. Merton College Matric 13 November 1663. Aged 18. (Born 1645?). B.A. 1667. BCL. 1670.

18. BRACEGIRDLE, Joseph. (Bpt. 28 June 1681. Quinton.) Exeter College, Oxford. Matric 10 June 1696. Aged 14 years. Magd. College 1698-1706. B.A. 1701. M.A. 1704

19. BRACEGIRDLE, George. (Son of four-times married Joseph of Quinton.) Cler. Merton College Matric 10 October 1722. Aged 16. B.A. 1726. Deacon 24 December 1727(Pet). Curate of Plumpton 1727. 1742 Ord. 1742 Hedsor, Bucks. Priest/Rector. Appt. 1742 Taplow, Bucks. Rector. Resign 1753 Taplow. Resign 1754 Hedsor, Rector. December 1753 Exchanged living with Hon. George Hamilton, Rector of Donagheady, Strabane, Co. Tyrone, Ireland. Arrived from England and lodged with Curate Mr Law. George wrote to his patron the Earl of Abercorn regarding the very basic accommodation. (The Abercorn Papers give more detail.) 1766. Religious Census, George a Returning Officer. (George born 10 December 1705 Quinton. Bapt. 27 December 1705. Brother to Richard, born 12.7.1707, buried 29 May 1715, and Christopher, born 7 January 1712/13)

20. BRACEGIRDLE, Henry. Son of Thomas of St Michaels, Coventry (City). Pleb. St John's College. Matric 12 April 1728. Aged 18 years. B.A. 13 March 1731/32.

21. BRACEGIRDLE, Henry. Draycot, Staffs. Curate 18 September 1736 ? Eccleshall. Deacon. Ord. Jurisdiction/Bishop Richard Smallbroke/Coventry and Lichfield.

### Further Information

A database of Church of England clergy can be found at

<http://db.theclergydatabase.org.uk/jsp/search/index.jsp>

## The Diary of Thomas Jopson: a Visit to Manchester

by M E Booth

Great-grandfather Thomas Borradail JOPSON certainly had no problem getting around Manchester in 1875 using the horse-drawn buses - he seems to have put a lot into this day out.

*Thursday 4 February: took the bus into the city, from thence to Peel Park, back to the city, then took the bus to Harpur Hey, visited Queens Park, then bus back to the city, where I waited until my old friend Richard WOOD arrived. I then took a drive with him on the bus through Rusholm, Fallowfield, Withington and Didsbury to Cheadle where I had tea with him and returned to Manchester. I then took the 5.20 train from Oxford Road to Liverpool where I arrived at 6.17.*

## Lowndes, Chaddock, and Chaddock-Lowndes

by Bernard McLoughlin  
Member no. 8054

I became interested in the CHADDOCK and CHADDOCK-LOWNDES families because there are some links between them and my own interest in the CARTLIDGE family of Astbury.

According to a brass plaque under the west window of the south aisle of Astbury church, erected in 1883 by their grandson Thomas and his sisters, William and Elizabeth LOWNDES had lived at Ramsdell Hall and Old House Green in the civil parish of Odd Rode in Cheshire. From the map, Old House Green appears to be a farm with one or two cottages a few hundred yards north-east of Ramsdell Hall, and its nearest neighbour. Both are near the Macclesfield canal, just south of Little Moreton Hall, which is itself a couple of miles south of the village of Astbury; they all lie within the Parish of Astbury.

William and Elizabeth are buried in plot OB136\* at Astbury; Elizabeth, who died 22 September 1831, aged 57, is described as *the excellent and exemplary wife of William LOWNDES*, whilst William, who died 26 August 1844, aged 72, *lived much respected by numerous circle of friends*. In the same grave is a daughter, Ellen Susannah, the wife of Mr Thomas BURY of Accrington, Lancashire. William LOWNDES appeared on only one census, that of 1841, living at Old Hall Green, and described as *Independent*.

Their other daughter, Elizabeth, married William CHADDOCK at Astbury on 21 June 1832; the marriage was witnessed by Thomas CHADDOCK, Jas Hugh LOWNDES and W. LOWNDES. William CHADDOCK was, like his father, a wine merchant, living in West Street, Congleton. This is where Elizabeth was living in 1841 and 1851, with her widowed father-in-law, Thomas CHADDOCK, before and after the death in 1850 of her husband, who is buried at St. Peter's in Congleton. Elizabeth and William's children were Isabella, born 1831, William, born 1836, Thomas, born 1840, Sarah Hope, born 1843, and Lucy Elizabeth, born 1845.

In 1841, Mary CARTLIDGE, a younger sister of my great-grandfather Samuel CARTLIDGE, was in service in this household. By 1851, Mary had married Richard COWLISHAW, a Congleton tailor, and the eldest daughter of Samuel CARTLIDGE's older brother, Thomas CARTLIDGE, also named Elizabeth, was

in service with the CHADDOCKs. From later censuses we find that Elizabeth CARTLIDGE became lady's maid to Elizabeth CHADDOCK. In 1861, they were living in Hastings, and in 1871 and 1881, at Old House Green, Elizabeth CHADDOCK being described as *Lady or Landed Proprietor*.

The 1860 Cheshire Directory states that Ramsdell Hall was the property of Mrs E CRADOCK (perhaps that should read CHADDOCK) but it was the residence of B. WILLIAMSON, Esq. Ramsdell Hall was indeed occupied from 1841 to 1881 by members of the WILLIAMSON family: Robert WILLIAMSON, a colliery owner, and his sons in 1841, 1851 and 1861, then his son, Hugh, an *iron master* in 1871 and a *landowner* in 1881. By 1891 Hugh was a *retired colliery proprietor* living at Dane Bank House, Lower Heath, Congleton; visiting him at the time of the census was Sarah Hope, daughter of Elizabeth and William CHADDOCK and described as *living on her own means*. Robert WILLIAMSON is also the subject of a white marble tablet, dated 1869, in Astbury church.

Elizabeth and William CHADDOCK's elder son was William, baptised at Astbury on 1 August 1836. He married Patience ADDISON on 31 August 1854 at the parish church of St. George, Hanover Square, London. He was a *minor* (just eighteen years old) and Patience was *full age* - actually nineteen years older than William, who was described as a *Gentleman*, as were both their fathers.

They, too, are commemorated on a white marble tablet in Astbury church:

*Sacred to the Memory of  
William Chaddock  
Of Old House Green and Ramsdell Hall in this Parish  
Who died 24th March 1860  
Aged 24 years  
And of Patience his wife  
Who died 25th October 1869  
Aged 52 years  
They died without issue*

The younger son, Thomas CHADDOCK, was baptised at St. Peter's, Congleton 10 August 1840. He became a solicitor, living in 1871 at Pool Fold, Biddulph with two servants, and his address was given as Biddulph when he married Emily Race HORNER, ten years his junior, in Baguley, near Altrincham, Manchester on 7 September 1871. Emily's father, like Thomas himself, was described as a solicitor, and Thomas was also so described when their oldest child, Rosaline Blanche, was born in West Street, Congleton on 8 July 1872. In 1881, the family was living at 16 Magdalen Road, Hastings; Thomas was described as a *retired solicitor* and they had two children, Rosaline B., aged 8,

and Thomas W., aged 7, and two female servants. They were apparently living at Sandbach Heath when Thomas William was born, since he was baptised at St. John's Church on 5 October 1873; his father was described as a *Gentleman*.

Elizabeth CHADDOCK died at the age of eighty on 12 October 1882. At some time after 1881, Thomas and Emily assumed the name CHADDOCK-LOWNDES, and by 1891 they were living at Ramsdell Hall; the children, of course, took the same surname. Their daughter, Rosaline Blanche CHADDOCK-LOWNDES married Francis Richard CARTLIDGE in Southport, Lancashire on 28 March 1894 and again Thomas was described as a retired solicitor. By the time William died on 18 February 1893, Francis had taken over the duties of sexton at Astbury church from his father, William CARTLIDGE, who was another brother of my great-grandfather, Samuel CARTLIDGE.

Francis Richard CARTLIDGE died of phthisis pulmonalis (T.B.) on 16 October 1898. The following year his widow, Rosaline Blanche, went on a voyage to Australia on the clipper ship *Loch Sloy* but the ship, which was carrying twenty-eight crew and nine passengers, two of whom were ladies, struck a reef off Kangaroo Island near Adelaide and sank. All but four of the people aboard drowned, and one survivor died later from exposure. The event is commemorated on the same memorial tablet in Astbury Church dedicated to William and Patience, which continues:

*Also Rosalind Blanche  
Daughter of Thomas and Emilie Chaddock  
Lowndes of Ramsdell Hall, wife of  
Francis Richard Cartlidge of this Parish  
She was drowned at sea on the 24th April 1899  
In the wreck of the "Loch Sloy"  
She died without issue, aged 26 years  
Also Isabella Chaddock, Spinster  
Sister of the above William Chaddock  
Who died 30th July 1894, aged 57 years  
And was interred at Kelsall Green Cemetery*

The wreck of the *Loch Sloy* is also mentioned on a CARTLIDGE gravestone located in plot OB 176\* in Astbury churchyard.

Thomas and Emily CHADDOCK-LOWNDES were living at Ramsdell Hall right through to 1911 with their son, Thomas William and three more children. He was described on successive censuses as a *wine and spirits merchant* (like his father and grandfather), *living on own means*, and *landowner*.

Elizabeth CHADDOCK's children were all well-educated. In 1851, William, aged fourteen, was boarding in Kensington Square, London, with other male scholars from various parts of the colonies; Isabella, thirteen, was a pupil at a small school in Bridge Street, Macclesfield (her younger sister Lucy Elizabeth was at the same school in 1861, when aged sixteen), and Thomas, ten, was a scholar at Parsonage House, Buglawton. One assumes that the other daughter, Sarah Hope, attended a school between the censuses - she was only nine and at home with her mother and grandfather in 1851, and in Hastings in 1861 was a *Lady* aged nineteen with her mother and elder sister, Isabella, both also described as *Lady*.

The LOWNDES and CHADDOCK families were obviously wealthy and Elizabeth, who died in 1882 as stated before and is buried at Astbury in plot OB 137\* with her son, Thomas, his wife, Emily, and their three-day-old baby daughter, Pauline Grace, left a will in favour of her three daughters. I assume the boys had been left money and/or property by their grandfather and father. Of the daughters, only Sarah Hope married and she married well, marrying Capel Wilson HOGG, a widower, described as *Gentleman, J.P.* at St. John's Church in Paddington, London on 17 June 1896; in 1901 they were living in Davenshaw House, Buglawton, and Capel was described as a *silk throwster (employer)*. He died in 1909 and is buried at Buglawton, so by 1911, still at Davenshaw House, Sarah Hope was alone with a housemaid and a cook.

Capel's father was Henry HOGG, J.P., who according to the 1860 Cheshire Directory was a Borough Magistrate and Alderman and owned an extensive silk mill (Davenshaw Mill, also, I believe, known as Dane-in Shaw Mill). Davenshaw House was described as one of *several handsome houses* in the township of Buglawton.

In 1901 and 1911, the youngest sister, Lucy Elizabeth CHADDOCK, was living at 46, West Street, Congleton, described as a *Sister of Mercy, Nun*, and she died on 5 April 1924 of *cerebral haemorrhage accelerated by shock caused by exposure and want of food - certificate received from the Coroner of Cheshire after an inquest held 8 April 1924*. She was described on the death certificate as a *Spinster of independent means, and daughter of William CHADDOCK, Wine Merchant*.

## Further Information

\*FHSC Astbury St Marys Church MIs CD

<https://chrisroughan.webs.com/historyoframsdellhall.htm>

<https://www.onthemarket.com/details/4973817/>

<https://sites.google.com/site/kipaview/shipwrecks/loch-sloy-shipwreck>

## Finding the Folcarelli Family

by Helen E. Mollart

Submitted by Lesley Smetham

My maternal grandfather's name was Domenico FOLCARELLI, known to friends in our hometown of Bradford as Harry. Born and brought up in the province of Frosinone in the Lazio region of Italy, some forty miles south of Rome, Domenico, his parents and older sibling Joanina emigrated to England in the early 1900s, looking for a better standard of living.

The family settled in an area of Bradford favoured by many Italian immigrants, and therefore referred to as *little Italy*. Many Italians, including the MOLLICONE, BACCIAGALUPO and CAPOVANNI families lived and worked in the area. Granddad's parents, Bernardo and Gaetana, never learned to speak English and called my mother and uncle *Joyza* and *Jacko* rather than Joyce and Jack. Bernardo and Gaetana had four more children in England: Guissepe, Rocco, Mariano and Giovanni.

The traditional ice-cream recipe for *FOLCARELLI's Famous Ices* was handed down from father to son, and Domenico was a familiar figure in the streets of Bradford, selling ice cream from a horse and trap. Grandma sold penny licks (ice cream in a small glass tumbler which was handed back when the ice cream was finished) from the back door of their back-to-back terrace home in Harewood Street.

Domenico, still an Italian citizen, was required to return to Italy in WWI to complete his National Service, and he joined the Alpine troops (photo, right). During his periods of leave Domenico visited the family home in Italy, where he described being able to lie in bed, reach out of the window and pluck



*Domenico and Frances Folcarelli*

grapes from a vine just outside. There were also rabbits, bred for the table and kept in a shed in the garden. The actual location of the farm, however, was unknown to Mum and her brother.

Despite the wishes of his parents, who had arranged for him to marry Amelia BACCIAGALUPO, Domenico married Frances WOOD-PENROSE, a relation of Charlie PENROSE, of *Laughing Policeman* fame. Their first child, Jack, was born in 1924 and my mother Joyce followed in 1932.

Some time later Domenico became a naturalised British citizen and he never expressed a wish to return to his home in Italy. As eldest son of the family, however, the cottage and surrounding farmland should have eventually passed to him. The property had been left in the capable hands of his first cousin Alessandro, whose father was brother to Bernardo, Domenico's father. In 1951 Alessandro wrote to England to ask if Domenico would sign the farm permanently over to him and his family. Domenico agreed and the paperwork was completed accordingly.

Domenico never spoke Italian to his children or grandchildren and it was only in the last few days of his life (he died in 1971 of lung cancer) that he reverted to his mother tongue. Luckily, the doctor who attended him had just spent a holiday in Italy and was able to converse a little in the language, which must have been of some comfort.

Some paperwork from Granddad's estate was very poignant and worth preserving: his birth certificate issued by the Commune of Rocca D'Arce, the letter dated 1951 from Alessandro requesting that the farm be signed over and mentioning that his (Alessandro's) sister Natalina was ill, and Granddad's letters to Frances from his prisoner-of-war camp in the Isle of Man, where he was interned for eighteen months at the start of WWII.

Mum carefully stored these items and began to hope that at some time she would be able to visit her cultural homeland and meet the FOLCARELLI family. By this time all contact had been lost and it was not known whether Alessandro was alive or dead.

There was one family myth, however, which was often repeated: during WWII, Domenico's brother Mariano (conscripted into the British Army and fighting for the Allies) had been sent to Italy and had managed to locate Alessandro and his family. Due to the proximity of Monte Cassino (bitterly fought over and finally captured by the Poles and the Indians), it had been too dangerous to live on the farm. They had moved into the mountains to escape the fighting,

and were living a hand-to-mouth existence, even cooking and eating grass to survive. By the time this story was told to me, we doubted whether the meeting had ever taken place.

In 1956 Mum married Arthur Flounders BROWN (middle name chosen to retain his mother's family name, which is descended from Flemish immigrants before 800 A.D., but that's another story!) and on Christmas Day 1960 gave birth to me. A second daughter, Jennifer, was born in June 1962. I have always been proud of my Italian ancestry and was intrigued when my parents returned from their first visit to Italy in 1986 (staying in Positano) and explained that there were FOLCARELLIs listed in the Rome phone book. Having no Italian language skills, they had asked the manager of the Charles Forte Ritz Hotel to call the numbers and interpret their questions. The people whom he called, however, had no knowledge of Bernardo and Gaetana FOLCARELLI or their son Domenico. The seed was, however, sown and Mum was inspired to begin the search for her roots in earnest.

The 1951 letter from Alessandro had a single-word address, *Colfelice*, and Domenico's birth certificate was issued by the Commune de Rocca D'Arce, so we assumed he was born there. Dad was able to locate both places on a map. In 1987, therefore, and really not expecting to find anything after 36 years, a holiday was booked for Mum and Dad, my husband Clive and myself to stay in a baronial castle in Santa Maria de Castelebarte on the Costa de Cilento.

During the two-week holiday a short excursion to the Frosinone region was planned, taking with us the birth certificate and letter. Clive was our designated driver and he drove us from Santa Maria de Castelebarte to the Hotel Ida at Ceprano. The following morning we would travel to Rocca D'Arce for a look around. Dad had studied French at Leeds University and this gave him a good grounding to leap into Italian. The rest of us were, unfortunately, unable to follow.

The road to Rocca D'Arce is a switchback route up a steep mountainside, with the sleepy, quiet village perched at the top. We parked in the piazza and trooped into the only bar which looked open, which was populated entirely by men. In halting Italian Dad explained to the bar owner that we were searching for the FOLCARELLI family - my mother's family - with whom we had lost contact some thirty years previously. Immediately everybody in the bar offered to help, or voiced an opinion, or got out the phone book, all at once - the noise was incredible! Clive and I left Mum and Dad to manage and went outside to look at the WWI War Memorial. Interestingly, one of the names listed was MOLLICONE.

On returning to the bar we discovered that Dad's understanding of Italian delivered at high speed had deserted him and he was beginning to think that it was a hopeless task. One young man, however, was most insistent that he could help, if only we would go outside with him.

Outside in the piazza the young man asked us to wait whilst he went to wake his father who was having a siesta. This gentleman eventually pushed open the shutters of a house overlooking the piazza and greeted us. As best he could, Dad again explained who we were and why we were there, in Italian. After listening to all this with a glint in his eye, the gentleman answered in English! It later transpired that he had lived in Sheffield for fifteen years.

Although he had no knowledge of the FOLCARELLIs by name, he said that his son could lead us to Colfelice, which was situated back down on the plain, where we could make further enquiries. So we set off, the young man throwing his own car down the tortuous road with the casual abandon of a local, and Clive struggling to keep up in a rented Fiat Uno with four adults aboard.

The young man led us to a road sign which read Colfelice and explained that we should carry on down that road without him, and he wished us good fortune in our search. Upon reaching the small village of Colfelice, we spotted a WWII War Memorial and listed amongst the names was Antonio FOLCARELLI. There was a small group of elderly men playing cards at a table outside and once again they listening carefully to Dad's explanation and request for information; whilst not recognising the family name FOLCARELLI, they did recognise the Christian name Natalina and said that she lived on Via Taglia. We were told to carry on down the road, and we would come to a fork; there in the middle of the two roads was the house where Natalina lived.

Dad was somewhat sceptical at this point, saying that the old guys must have misheard or misinterpreted something, but that we should go ahead and take a look anyway. Sure enough, where the road forked, there was brand new villa, with an old two-room cottage beside it.

On the bell push for the villa was the name FOLCARELLI; however, there was no response when Mum tried the bell. We were just about to leave when we heard a call from a neighbouring house: *Signora, Signora*. Mum went into the neighbour's drive to meet the lady who was calling.

The lady who approached Mum was leaning heavily on two elbow-crutches (she had fallen down the villa steps and damaged her hip), and she asked Mum what she wanted. Mum, knowing only a few words of Italian, explained who

she was, and the lady responded, *But I am a FOLCARELLI, I am Alessandra, Alessandro's wife!* She threw away her crutches and enveloped Mum in a tearful bearhug. A moving moment, even for Clive and I who were merely witnesses.

Alessandra had lived in France in earlier days and Dad reverted to French in order to answer her many questions: *Where was Domenico, Mariano, Guiseppe and the others?* She explained sadly that they were all dead and we asked whether her husband Alessandro had also passed away. We thought she said he had, so it came as a huge shock when she later called his name and he wandered around the corner of the building! It was remarkable how similar in appearance Alessandro was to Jack, my mother's brother.

Alessandra insisted we all return to the villa for a drink and a meal, and once there she introduced us to Alessandro's sister Natalina. Still single and spry at seventy-eight years old, she cycled into the village every day to fetch bread and other provisions.

Without any prompting, Alessandra told of meeting Mariano when he was a soldier during the war. She knew that Domenico was a lorry driver, and this and other details she could only have learnt from Mariano; the family myth, therefore, was confirmed as reality. Alessandra was a little tearful when explaining that the *Antonio FOLCARELLI* we saw on the WWII War Memorial in Colfelice was a relative killed by Allied shrapnel. This was the event which led them to abandon the farm and move into the mountains for safety.

We were shown around the small cottage in the garden and Alessandra said that this was the original family farm, the house which Domenico had visited during leave periods in WWI. The grapevine was still growing outside the window and the rabbit shed still in situ.

We have since learnt that the small cottage is not the original birthplace of the FOLCARELLI family. During one visit, we were taken to a plank and tile cabana in nearby woods. Natalina was most insistent that I understood what she was saying, getting hold of my arm and indicating the trees all around. When she was a little girl, born and brought up in the cabana with no electricity, heating or running water, she had planted many of the trees as tiny seedlings. Now they were over thirty feet high! Both Domenico and Joanina had been born in the cabana; however, Alessandro was considerably younger and therefore had never met his cousin Domenico.

Alessandro and Alessandra have two sons, Gian-Pietro and Mario. Mario and his wife Juliana live in central Rome and have two daughters, Cynzia and Valentina. During subsequent visits to Colfelice, and visits by Mario and his

family to England, Mum and Dad became firm friends with the FOLCARELLIS and were absolutely delighted to be invited to Cynzia's wedding to Stefano in March 2003. Sadly Mum passed away in 2006, but at least she was able to meet her Italian family and discover her Italian roots.

### Acknowledgements

This article was previously published as *Back to my Roots* in *My Weekly* magazine, February 2004, and as *Finding the Folcarellis* in *Family Tree* magazine, June 2006 ([www.family-tree.co.uk](http://www.family-tree.co.uk)).

### Further Information

If you have Italian ancestry, you may be interested in joining the Anglo-Italian Family History Society: <https://anglo-italianfhs.org.uk>

## Advance Notice - FHSC Essay Competition

To celebrate the Society's Golden (50th) anniversary in 2019, the Society is launching a members' competition to write an essay about an aspect of their family history research - full details and the theme will be announced in June. Illustrations are welcome but permission must be obtained from the copyright holder if they are not original images produced by the author.

The competition will be open only to current members of FHSC who joined the society prior to 1 July 2019, the official launch date. The competition will close on 30 September 2019. Winning entries will be published in the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR and/or on the Society's website. Entries must not have been previously published.

Full details will be provided when the competition is launched in the June 2019 CHESHIRE ANCESTOR. This advance notice is being given to allow members to start planning their entries.



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## Cheaper by the (Half) Dozen

*by Gren Dix  
Member no. 4174*

Most of us have come across multiple baptisms of a given family on the same day. Was this because they were not all that religious, some distance from the church, or was it the cost? Often only the baptism date is given without any indication of the birth date (or even birth year). I have also come across siblings or cousins baptising their children on the same day, sometimes even giving these children the same name.

I will open a competition for the most children of the same family baptised on the same day. Here is my contribution of six simultaneous baptisms, from the parish of Kildwick in the West Riding of Yorkshire:

Baptism Date	Birth Date	Forename	Surname	Parents
29 Oct 1797	1781	Elizabeth	PETTY	Christopher & Ann Green
29 Oct 1797	1783	John	PETTY	Christopher & Ann Green
29 Oct 1797	1786	Ann	PETTY	Christopher & Ann Green
29 Oct 1797	1789	Mary	PETTY	Christopher & Ann Green
29 Oct 1797	1791	Thomas	PETTY	Christopher & Ann Green
29 Oct 1797	5 May 1797	Susanna	PETTY	Christopher & Ann Green

In fact, a total of twenty-nine baptisms of children from sixteen different families, including two illegitimate children, plus the baptism of a twenty-five-year-old man, took place at the church on that day!

To show the second and third points (as near as possible), these two baptisms took place at Preston on 13 December 1809:

John, son of Thomas & Eliza BRANDRETH, born 25 September 1809  
and John Moss, son of Edward and Ellen BRANDRETH, born 29 October 1809

So, can anyone beat my total of six baptisms of members of the same family on the same day? Answers to the Editor, please....

## Capital Connections (Part 1)

by Gill Barber  
Member no. 8273

In this account I demonstrate how I proved that a branch of my family left rural Cheshire for London before the end of the eighteenth century. The trail followed shows how family history research has changed over the past decade and that it is worth persevering with research as new record sets become available. It is well known that the Industrial Revolution was the cause of many people from rural areas migrating to nearby industrial towns and cities for work. However, this account illustrates that even in the last two decades of the eighteenth century, young people from the Cheshire countryside were moving as far as London to live and work. More unusually, one branch of the family subsequently returned to Cheshire and lived out the rest of their lives there.

I started researching my ancestor Mary Ann DICKENSON<sup>1</sup> in 2002. She was born in Northenden, a village which was then just on the Cheshire side of the River Mersey, but is now a suburb of Manchester. On 23rd March 1823 she was baptised at the parish church, St Wilfrid; her parents were John DICKENSON and Mary ROGERS, who had married at the parish church in 1821. On the 1851 census John was living in Northenden, a market gardener age 50, born in London. He had died by the time of the 1861 census, buried in the churchyard at St Wilfrid in January 1861. From transcripts of monumental inscriptions for the church, held at Manchester Central Library\*, I discovered that he had a headstone; I was working near the church at the time and went to have a look in my lunch hour. The inscription reads:

*The earthly remains of John Dickinson Apparitor<sup>2</sup> of this Church  
who died Jany 9th 1861 aged 60  
Also Mary wife of the above who died September 24th 1875 aged 76 years  
John son of Thomas Dickinson of Northenden who departed this life  
the 6 day of February 1753 in the 6 year of his age  
Verse*

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<sup>1</sup> A variety of spellings have been used, but I have settled on Dickenson, as the spelling most commonly used for the family since the 19th century, except when I am directly quoting original records. The middle e and i appear to have been interchangeable.

<sup>2</sup> Apparitor is used as an alternative for churchwarden, it means servant or attendant/usher, official of Ecclesiastical Court.

I was amazed to see the reference to John, buried over a century earlier. The lower part of the headstone was in a different style of lettering and had obviously been carved at a different time. Looking through the microfilms of baptisms for the church, I found a baptism for John, son of Thomas, in 1748. Thomas had other children baptised at the church: Mary 1746, Rebecca 1750, Thomas 1752, Nathaniel 1754, John 1757, James 1759, George 1762, Hannah 1766 and Jenny 1772. In addition to John's burial in 1753 I found burials for Nathaniel, son of Thomas in 1765, Martha, wife of Thomas DICKINSON in 1785, age 58 and Thomas himself in 1788, age 63. Because of the shared grave these were obviously all related to the John who was buried in 1861.

There was a baptism for John in 1805, giving a birth date of 20th July 1800; his parents were James and Betty DICKENSON of Northen<sup>3</sup>. His younger brother George was baptised at the same time, birth date 10th January 1805. I traced George through the censuses. He was also a market gardener, born and living in Northenden until his death in 1889. It looked as though John had been born in London and not baptised until the family moved to Northenden. I found a marriage for James DICKENSON, hatter of Northerigden (sic), Cheshire to Elizabeth WOODCOCK at Nantwich St Mary in 1787 which looked promising, but I could not be sure it was correct. There were no other baptisms in the registers at that time for children with parents James and Betty.

I started tracing the children of Thomas and Martha. Their sons Thomas and John died in 1800 and 1806 respectively in Northenden, leaving wills. Thomas was an innkeeper and his beneficiaries included his wife Mary, his brothers John, James and George and his sister Jenny, wife of Thomas OAKES of Northen. John was a yeoman and his will dated December 1805 left £100 each to his nephews Thomas Dickenson OAKES and John DICKENSON, son of his brother James, both to inherit at the age of twenty-one, or in the case of their prior deaths to be divided between their surviving brothers and sisters. John left his messages to George DICKENSON son of his brother George. This confirmed that my John's father was James and his grandparents were Thomas and Martha DICKENSON.

Thomas DICKENSON was the licensee of the *Cock Inn*, Northenden from 1756 to 1766 and from 1775 to 1799, followed by Thomas OAKES from 1800 to 1820 and Jane OAKES from 1821 to 1827\*\*. Thomas DICKENSON senior must have been the licensee until at least 1766, followed by his son Thomas and then by his son in law Thomas OAKES and his daughter Jenny. The *Cock Inn* was renamed the *Church Inn* in the 19th century, rebuilt and eventually destroyed

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<sup>3</sup> Old name for Northenden.

by fire in 2006. Many marriages at Northenden were witnessed by Thomas DICKENSON between 1754 and 1777 and then with a different signature from 1788 to 1800. Thomas father and son must have been heavily involved in the church, like my John was later in the nineteenth century.

Although I went through the Northenden registers, I was unable to discover anything about Thomas's daughters Mary, Rebecca and Hannah. There were, however, some records possibly relating to his son George. Mary, daughter of George DICKENSON of Manchester was baptised in October 1781 and buried in February 1782. Harriet, daughter of George DICKENSON of Manchester was buried aged fourteen months in 1784. There was an intriguing burial record in 1801 for Ann wife of George DICKINSON of London, aged thirty-nine. I found a marriage for George DICKINSON, feltmaker, to Ann HUDSON, both of Manchester, at Manchester Cathedral in January 1781 and a baptism for Harriet, daughter of George and Ann DICKINSON, feltmaker, there in January 1783. These seemed to fit, but as I was unable to discover anything more about the family at that time I turned to researching other lines.

It was 2011 before I returned to the trail, hoping to find those children of Thomas and Martha who were unaccounted for. In the 1841 census in Newington, Surrey I found a George DICKENSON, age 80, not born in Surrey, hatmaker, with a Thomas DICKENSON age 45, born in Surrey, male servant, in the household of John HENDERSON, bootmaker. George's occupation of hatmaker was similar to that of feltmaker (above), both occupations using the same processes. I also found George DICKENSON age 50, born in Surrey, hatter, in Southwark with Ann DICKENSON age 40 and John DICKENSON age 15, hatter, both born in Surrey. This George was still in Southwark in 1851, age 65, born Manchester, hatter and a widower, living with widow Ann Griffiths and his grandson George DICKENSON age 5, born in Southwark.

I looked at *FamilySearch* for baptisms of George DICKENSON, son of George DICKENSON in the period 1780-1800 and found one for George DICKISON (sic) in May 1785 at Manchester St John, son of George and Ann. I also found a series of baptisms at the New Jerusalemite Chapel, Friar St, Blackfriars, London for children of George and Ann DICKENSON: Thomas 1791, Charity 1793, Thomas 1797 and 1800. In addition, there were baptisms for children of James and Elizabeth DICKENSON: Mary 1790, Harriet 1792, Elizabeth 1794 and Martha 1797. When I looked at the original records on *The Genealogist* website at the Society's Research Centre, I noticed three DICKENSON baptisms on the same date in 1789, with no parents' names: George born 2nd April 1785, Nathaniel born 21st May 1787 and John born 15th June 1789.

Charity Dickenson was easy to trace. She was a minor when she married Lewis ROBINSON at Newington St Mary in 1811 by consent of parents, witnessed by George and Ann DICKENSON. The family were in Southwark in 1841 and Charity was a widow by 1851, living in Southwark with three of her children, two doors away from the previously mentioned George DICKENSON age 65, born Manchester. Thomas DICKENSON, baptised 1800, could well be the one living with George in Newington in 1841.

To test my theory that these DICKENSONs were mine, I searched the 1851 census for anyone living in Northenden and born in London/Middlesex or Surrey. There were only five results. My John was the only male. The others were Mary GOODIER age 61 born London, Elizabeth ALLMAN age 57 born London, Martha GOODIER age 52 born London and housekeeper Margret THOMPSON age 40 born Stanmore Middlesex. Samuel ALMOND (sic) married Elizabeth DICKENSON in 1815 and Thomas GOODIER married Martha DICKENSON in 1817, both at Manchester Cathedral. I couldn't find a marriage for Mary DICKENSON with a GOODIER, but she was a widow lodging with the ROBINSON family, so I looked for a marriage with ROBINSON, finding one for Joseph ROBINSON and Mary DICKENSON in 1807 at Northenden. Her second marriage could have been to John GOODIER in 1822 at Mottram in Longdendale. This confirms that these are the DICKENSONs baptised at the New Jerusalemite Chapel, based on their names, ages and birthplace. So James and George DICKENSON were brothers who went to London from Northenden to work, and raised families there. George stayed in London and James's family returned to Northenden. I can find no further trace of James after his sons' baptisms in 1805 at Northenden, but his wife Elizabeth was buried there in 1829. George's wife Ann was buried in Northenden in 1801, perhaps in the grave her first two daughters had been buried in before the family went to London.

George died in the Southwark workhouse in 1848 aged 87 and was buried at Southwark St George. Taking the birth date of 2nd April 1785 given in the New Jerusalemite registers, his son George was probably baptised twice - first only a few weeks after his birth on May 4th 1785 at Manchester St John and again at the New Jerusalemite Chapel in 1789. The New Jerusalemite Church movement was founded in England in 1787 and the first baptisms at the Blackfriars Chapel took place that year. The DICKENSONs must have been early joiners of the sect as Ann DICKINSON was one of the signatories to a printed letter from *the Members of the New Jerusalem Church, who assemble in Great East Cheap, London ... in answer to a letter from the Friends at Manchester... giving reasons for separating from the Old Church* in December 1788<sup>†</sup>.

In 1841 George junior married Ann BUCKEL at Waterloo St John; both were widowed. He was widowed again by 1851. He had two sons who married in Lambeth in the 1840s: George born c.1820, French polisher, and John born c.1825, hatter. Charity ROBINSON died in the Southwark workhouse in 1864 and was buried at Victoria Park Cemetery, Hackney. Thomas DICKENSON, who had been living with his father George in 1841, was in the Southwark workhouse in 1851, occupation porter in shoe warehouse.

Once I had established that George junior was part of my family I realised that the other two DICKENSONs baptised at the New Jerusalemite Chapel on the same day in 1789 (Nathaniel and John) must be his brothers. Nathaniel married Helen/Ellen HENDERSON at Lambeth St Mary in 1808. Nathaniel and Ellen DICKENSON were living in Southwark in 1841; Nathaniel was a hatter. He died in 1849, but Ellen survived until 1882, living in Southwark until at least 1871 and at almshouses in Lambeth in 1881. She had been born in Edinburgh about 1790. They had eight children baptised at Lambeth St Mary during the period 1815 to 1826, including three sets of twins. John and Thomas DICKENSON, sons of George (a hatter) were buried at Southwark St Thomas in 1790 and 1791 respectively, thus confirming the 1789 baptisms.

*Second part to be printed in the next issue of CHESHIRE ANCESTOR.*

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\* Christopher Clapham 1969/1971 929.5.CL4 and Owens MSS vol 34 MF 572.

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General Register Office online index

## A DNA Success Story

by Gordon Tuff  
Member no. 748

Several members have previously said that they have been disappointed by the lack of helpful contacts after having their DNA tested, so it was with low expectations that I had mine done by *Ancestry* about a year ago and indeed received details of only a handful of 5th or 6th cousins. None had surnames which I even recognised, although being an obsessive one-name researcher, perhaps that wasn't very surprising. Then, just before Christmas, I received an email via *Ancestry* from a lady in Australia, Naomi, claiming me as a second cousin. She included the names of my parents as well as the names of our common great-grandparents, so I quickly replied and we began a rapid exchange of emails. In spite of being on opposite sides of the world, it didn't take long to pool our knowledge.

My own research has focussed on my male ancestors only for some time, but my maternal grandmother was one of a family of fourteen children – surname REEVE - who all lived in Hull. Of course by the time I was born, they had all become great-aunts and great-uncles with children (aunts and uncles to me) and grandchildren of their own. Although my own parents never lived in Hull, we used to visit Mum's relatives there quite often. I have memories of these visits when I was a small child to a succession of different households – quite bewildering and intriguing. I remember that we were always given home-made Yorkshire pudding to eat, but it looked and tasted completely different at each home; yet in each case I was told that I was being treated to *Yorkshire pudding made the proper way!*

By the time I began to research my family history, I had lost touch with all my REEVE relatives apart from my second cousin Wendy. Then, recently, Wendy put me in touch with another second cousin – Carole, who lives in Canada. On one of Carole's visits to England, the three of us met up to put our heads together and hammer out our REEVE family tree in as much detail as we could. As far as we knew, the family came from a long line of Hull-based seafarers. Although I had discovered that my great-grandfather Walter William REEVE had married Annie RICHER from Ipswich in 1875, I had viewed her as simply marrying in to the Hull-based REEVE family.

Meanwhile, following our DNA-inspired contact, we discovered that our newly-found second cousin Naomi had emigrated to Australia with her parents as a young child and had researched the REEVE family much more thoroughly than I had. It turns out that our great-grandfather (the link between all four of us) actually came from Ipswich and came from a long line of Suffolk farming forebears. A further wonderful outcome from making contact with Naomi is the quality and scope of her family history records going back to the beginning of the 19th century.

Thank goodness I had my DNA tested!

## Explore the Routes of Macclesfield

by Jean Laidlaw  
Macclesfield Group Leader

In June 2018 the biennial Barnaby festival in Macclesfield was based around the theme *Roots/Routes*. The Macclesfield group of the FHSC produced a display called *Explore the Routes of Macclesfield* which focussed on discovering how some of the streets in the town were named.

Some of the names, such as Roe Street, named after William ROE, the son of Charles ROE who founded Christchurch, were easily explained but others proved more difficult. Elizabeth Street in the Dams area, near the roundabout at the lower end of Churchill Way, is more difficult to explain until you read the will of Samuel STREET who owned land in the area, which he left to his only daughter Elizabeth STREET.

The display is now on the Macclesfield pages of the FHSC website. From the home page of the website go to Macclesfield group page ([www.fhsc.org.uk/about-the-group-macclesfield](http://www.fhsc.org.uk/about-the-group-macclesfield)), click on *Images* on the taskbar then *Some Streets of Macclesfield* to see the complete display.

The Macclesfield group *Images* web page has folders containing photos of local churches and mills, and there are plans to upload historic street views in the next few months. The page is well worth a visit if you have ancestors in the Macclesfield area, to see photos of places where your ancestors lived, worshipped, worked, and spent their leisure time. Remember to check back regularly to see what has been added since your last visit.

# The Life of Charles Williamson

by *Chester Guttridge*  
Member no. 9193

My great-uncle Charles was born in 1836 and baptized on 26 July at St John the Baptist Church, Chester, the first child of my great-grandparents George and Rebecca WILLIAMSON. He was listed in the 1841 census living with his parents and toddling sister, Elizabeth, in Milton Street, Chester. Ten years later he was a cowman living at the *White Swan*, Milton Street, with his parents and sisters, Elizabeth, Ann and Martha. Charles' life was to have its ups and downs. During his fifty-one years, he lived in Chester, Bickerton, Sarn, Bickerton again, Chester again, King's Marsh and Worthenbury.

My grandfather's 1853 and 1854 diaries record him usually paying Charles two shillings a week for carting and helping to look after the animals. In 1854 George bought him various articles of clothing and footwear and set him up with a watch, *bedsteads and matrass* for an independent life at Sarn, near Threapwood where his mother was born. The diaries don't mention him after July, presumably because he was no longer with the family.

Charles married Catherine LOWNDS from Kinderton on 28 April 1855 at St John the Baptist Church, Toxteth, Liverpool, beating sister Elizabeth to the altar by six months. Catherine was about nineteen years old. Charles' paternal aunt Martha was married to a Joseph LOWNDS, so Charles and Catherine probably met through that connection.

The 1861 census shows Charles back at Bickerton, at the *Red Lion* (renamed the *Bickerton Poacher* in about 1970), where his father had been tenant and licensee from 1855 to 1860. Catherine was there with her husband, and a young kitchen maid, Ann BURKIL. Charles was described as a *publican and farmer of twenty acres employing one boy* and Catherine was a *landlady*, born Kinderton, Cheshire. Charles and Catherine were working for Mr VERNON, the then tenant/licensee of the *Red Lion*. Charles, with his interest in farming rather than public houses, probably busied himself with the farm and the animals, Catherine with the domestic side, while Mr VERNON ran the bar. The arrangements were not to last, for Charles and Catherine were back in Milton Street three years later.

Sadly, Catherine died in 1864 after nine years of marriage. Bereaved Charles

was described in the deaths column of the *Cheshire Observer* as being of *Milton Street*. There was no mention of children.

Charles remarried. The 1871 census described him as a cow keeper at 9 Crane Street, Chester, with wife, Elizabeth, born at Worthenbury. Another source says she was from Hanmer, Horseman's Green, some three miles from Worthenbury. Again there were no children. Boarding with them in Crane Street were Frances WILLIAMS, an unmarried dressmaker, and Frederick W. BEST, an upholsterer. Old Crane Street ran from Watergate to the dock area, north of Roodee, but is no more.

While at Crane Street, Charles was twice in trouble with the law. In its edition of 17 December 1870 the *Cheshire Observer* reported under the heading *A DAIRYMAN FINED HEAVILY FOR REMOVING DISEASED COW*, that *Charles WILLIAMSON, dairyman of Crane-street was summoned for infringing the provisions of the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act for driving diseased cattle through the streets on 17th instant ... On Monday evening Detective Inspector BURGESS, of the county police, ... saw the defendant's man driving five cows along Brook-street, three of which were suffering from foot-and-mouth disease. Charles was fined £5 per head for the three cows, and costs, with a month to pay.*

The report contains two snippets of information of interest, namely that Charles kept *about 13 cows* in Crane Street and that *the defendant had land at Newton (near Hoole) and during summer time the whole of his cows were taken thither regularly every day, but during winter only five had been taken occasionally*. I am surprised that a city farm had as many as thirteen cows. The daily journey took him along Watergate St, then either Eastgate St and Frodsham St, or Northgate St and George St, to Brook St and Hoole Rd, although he may have taken some side streets. Pedestrians following after Charles' cows needed to watch where they put their feet.

Charles' second confrontation with the law was less than a year later. The *Cheshire Observer* of 8 September 1871 reported a case brought for *FURIOUS DRIVING*. Charles was charged by P.C. BURGESS (him again) for *cantering the horse drawing his milk-cart in Brook-street. He indignantly denied the charge; but the bench said that they were bound to believe their officers and fined him 5s. and costs, or seven days. The fine was paid.*

It must have been quite a sight, Charles on his float doing 12 to 15 mph along the thoroughfare if, indeed, it was as fast as P.C. BURGESS claimed. Constable BURGESS may have been out to get Charles, as he had previously escaped a second charge in the foot-and-mouth case because of a clerical error.

In 1876, Charles inherited the *Black Horse* in Milton Street when his father died. What he did with the property is unknown.

At the 1881 census, Charles (45) and Elizabeth (46) were farming 186 acres at Marsh House, Extra Parochial Liberty of King's Marsh, near Farndon, with four servants and still no children. Marsh House is marked on the Ordnance Survey Landranger Map no.117. A *liberty* is an area with royal rights that had been devolved into private ownership. One hundred and eighty six acres was a big step up from a city farm with a single field a mile away. When Charles moved to Marsh House is unknown, although we know he left there between 15 November 1882 and 13 July 1883. His father George supplied him with half a barrel of harvest ale at Marsh House on the earlier date but the next delivery (of two half barrels) eight months later was to Brook Farm, just outside Worthenbury.

Brook Farm (also marked on Landranger 117) was near to the birthplace of Charles' mother Rebecca and, presumably, her childhood home, close to where he had stayed with *bedsteads and matrass* between 1854 and 1861. The *Cheshire Observer* of 7 June 1884 carried an advertisement for an auction of three stacks of prime upland and meadow hay amounting to about 65 tons, *Mr John J. CUNNAH having received instructions from Mr Charles WILLIAMSON.*

On 14 January 1887, some four years after the move, Charles died, aged 51, at Brook Farm. He was buried at Worthenbury churchyard four days later on Wednesday 19 January, the first of Rebecca's six children to die. My son, John, and I searched the gravestones there on our visit in 2015 but did not find his. The farm house, consisting of five bedrooms and four reception rooms, still exists but now needs renovation, according to recent sale advertisements. His widow, Elizabeth, was his sole executrix.

At the 1891 census, widow Elizabeth was living with another lady in Shrewsbury Rd, King's Mills area, Wrexham. She died in 1899. Her death was registered at Ellesmere, the district that covers Horsemans Green, suggesting that she had returned to live there during the 1890s. No record of any children has come to light.

### **Cheshire Birth Announced in New Zealand**

BIRTHS: On 18th May, at Mill Bank, Tattenhall, Cheshire the wife of W. W. WILSON Esq., of Dunedin, of a son.

The *Otago Daily Times*, Issue 1759, 20 August 1867, submitted by Jean Laidlaw

## Macclesfield Advertiser, 7 March 1919

*Full details can be found in the newspaper at the Mobberley Research Centre.*

### SPECIAL SALE OF ARMY HORSES

Frank Lloyd & Sons will sell at  
THE CHESHIRE REPOSITORY,  
CREWE

On THURSDAY MARCH 13TH  
100 HORSES, comprising  
32 HEAVY DRAUGHT,  
59 LIGHT DRAUGHT, and  
9 RIDING HORSES

-----  
THURSDAY, MARCH 20TH  
200 LIGHT DRAUGHT HORSES

These are a very fine lot repatriated  
from France in good hard condition.

---

### WEDNESDAY MARCH 12TH

RED CROSS HOSPITAL,  
PICKERING LODGE, MOSS LANE,  
TIMPERLEY

MR JOHN ARNOLD is instructed to  
Sell by Auction

Large DOME-ROOFED PAVILION,  
16yds x 16yds., Valuable  
HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,  
COTTAGE PIANOFORTE in walnut  
case, and other numerous Effects.

---

### SUPER-CINEMA MACCLESFIELD

Licensee & Manager: Mr W H Wells  
MARCH 13 - Three Days

The Great Ideal Super Picture  
"LEST WE FORGET"

A powerful tale of love and danger,  
with the sinking of the Lusitania as  
one of its chief incidents.

Starring the actress RITA JOLIVET,  
who was saved from the wreck.

Book your seats now.

### WILMSLOW WAR MEMORIAL

SECOND PUBLIC MEETING  
BRITISH WORKMAN HALL  
TUESDAY MAR 11th, at 8pm

Discussion of Schemes.

Election of Committee.

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Preliminary Announcement  
MACCLESFIELD MUNICIPAL  
OFFICES

VICTORY DANCE  
FRIDAY 29TH MARCH, 1919

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### LAND FOR EX-FIGHTERS APPEAL BY BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

The President of the Board of  
Agriculture makes a special appeal to  
landowners to offer to the Board... any  
areas of land suitable for settlement,  
of which vacant possession can be  
given at an early date. A considerable  
quantity is in the market, but most of  
it is in the occupation of sitting tenants  
and consequently vacant possession  
cannot be obtained before Lady Day  
or Michaelmas of next year....

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### MACCLESFIELD FARM LABOURER'S DEATH - ANOTHER PNEUMONIA VICTIM

At the Macclesfield Union Workhouse  
on Saturday morning, the District  
Coroner (MR H C YATES) held an  
inquest relative to the death of John  
Robert SHAW (45), a farm labourer,  
who was last employed at Pool End  
Farm, Tytherington...

# Net That Serf

## The Computer Section

Compiled by Geoff Johnson

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

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### From the Desktop



**Think Please before You Unsubscribe** - From time to time we send out emails containing circulars from various organisations. Invariably these may contain a special offer, or urgent invitation et cetera. Such circulars emanate from organisations who often insert at the bottom the opportunity to 'Unsubscribe'. Unfortunately, from time to time a member receiving one of these forwarded emails chooses to click the unsubscribe button! This has the effect of unsubscribing the person who forwarded the mail to you in the first place, not yourself. So, if you go to unsubscribe a circular think first as to whether it was addressed to you originally. If not please leave it alone. By all means go back to the sender and asked them to remove you from their list, but that means you probably won't receive anything! Senders of such messages, such as myself, should always try and remember to delete the unsubscribe line!

In this issue I introduce *Lost Cousins*. I intended to do this some time ago and lost the reminder note! In my opinion this is one of the best, most informative research, and helpful information sites.

DNA research interests are growing and we now find that *AncestryDNA* is getting a better grip on where our ancestors came from. My *Ethnicity Estimate* map is now looking much closer to what my research indicates. Read Judith Hankey's piece and then check your own.

My growing jaundiced view of seeking live, related ancestors, with their limited research and scant source standards, is causing me to review and think about which way to go. Please read *Ask the Audience* and let me know what you think.

We have another batch of technical computing guidance for newcomers to consider, and I'd strongly commend you to try out the PDF file manipulator we've found.

In *From the Inbox* I have identified a nice new site for WWI researchers, a consideration for those who'd like to publish their FH work in print. Finally, a bit of sad news concerning rising BMD certificate prices.

## **The Lost Cousins Website**

By Geoff Johnson

Regular *Net That Serf* readers will have noticed that I frequently refer to *Lost Cousins* as a source of my information. Regular attendees at Computer Club hear me regularly banging on about its significant benefits. I'd like to encourage all readers to:

- become familiar with the website and understand its full objectives
- sign up to be a member
- reap the benefits of an extremely good and valuable newsletter
- be able to share their ancestor details in a highly secure manner
- locate others who have a direct interest in their own ancestry families

Peter Calver created *Lost Cousins* in 2003, and still runs the website single-handedly, even though there are now over 100,000 registered members, 65,000 of whom receive his regular newsletters. As well as being informative, the newsletters often include reminders and links to worthwhile special offers.

The website, found at [www.lostcousins.com](http://www.lostcousins.com), is free to search and free to join. To contact matching cousins, the annual subscription is a very reasonable £10.

I signed up to the site in 2005 and have followed it ever since. Its principal originating concept is to have you input details of family relatives who existed in the 1881 census – see the *Edit Ancestor* page for my grandfather (next page). Remember that access to the 1881 census data is free!

The input process is made easy for you by means of a standard form template, and once you have entered one member of the family, addition of the others is easier, because the census page details are replicated. You just add their name

and personal details. The *Add an Ancestor* form shown below should clarify that process.

Once you have made a good number of entries, you can click *Search* and find out if anybody else has entered the same relatives. Contact may be made, but initially only through *Lost Cousins* itself. That's the point at which you need to pay for a subscription - or you could wait until Peter runs one of his very occasional free access offers. Your interest in the shared ancestors is sent to your cousin, and initially you can exchange information through the website. When you are happy with the bona fides of the person, you can exchange email information and contact each other directly.

**LOST COUSINS** PUTTING RELATIVES IN TOUCH

find my past

Let's explore your past today

**Edit Ancestor**

Main information - (please delete and re-enter this person if the information in this section needs changing).

Source: England & Wales 1891

Piece: 1612

Folio: 33

Page: 9

Surname: Johnson

Forename: James

Middle names or initials:

Age: 3

Now select the appropriate relationship or other connection - always give priority to a family relationship where one exists. See the FAQs page for a more detailed description of the different relationships.

Relationship or connection: **Direct ancestor** (a parent, grandparent, great-grandparent etc)

Acceptor/initials number:  [Edit](#) [Help](#)

Finally enter any additional information you have. If you enter a corrected surname, or a maiden surname, then the name will be added to the relevant index - but you will not be identified in any way.

Maiden surname:

Corrected surname:

Corrected forename:

Corrected middle names:

Corrected birth date: 19 January 1879 Day and month can be omitted

Baptism date:  You must enter a precise date

Certificates held:  Birth  Marriage  Death

Household: 0 Don't change unless you've read [this FAQ](#)

Notes (max 200 chars):

[CANCEL](#) [DELETE](#) [SAVE](#)

**Add an Ancestor**

First select the census using the drop-down menu - the form will change accordingly:

Census: **England & Wales 1891**

**IMPORTANT:** enter the following information exactly as it appears in the census transcription even if you know that it is wrong or incomplete. Do NOT take information from the handwritten census schedule, as it may prevent your relative being matched with the same person entered by another member. When a private household is split over two pages use the references for the first page for the entire household.

Piece: **RG11**

Folio:  (do not enter 'A' if present)

Page:  (for vessels enter '0' if missing)

Surname:

Forename:

Middle names or initials:

Age:  (if shown as 3/12 enter 3m or 3 months)

Now select the appropriate relationship or other connection - always give priority to a family relationship where one exists. See the FAQs page for a more detailed description of the different relationships.

Relationship or connection: **Blood relative** (one who shares your ancestry, but isn't a direct ancestor)

[MORE](#) Click to enter additional information or corrections (optional - does NOT affect matching)

[CANCEL](#) [ADD](#)

The data input process is inevitably time-consuming, but the site makes it as easy as possible. Once done, your handiwork is there forever. The data is held very securely and only you can go in and edit it.

Since its original concept, based on the 1881 census, Peter Calver has added the ability to input data from the England and Wales 1841, and 1911 Censuses. Other censuses that you can use are Scotland 1881, Canada 1881, US 1880 and 1940, Ireland 1911, and even Newfoundland for 1921! The horizons for Lost Cousins research are much wider now.

There is a *Lost Cousins* forum. It is an exclusive, completely free benefit for *Lost Cousins* members. The privilege of using the forum is restricted to those who are demonstrably doing their utmost to connect with the other members. I don't have experience of using it as I have yet to be invited to join. That's simply because I have only logged 75 ancestors. I believe one needs to achieve over 100. Clearly, I simply need to apply more focus to my own family history as opposed to running a FHSC Group and writing this flippin' journal!

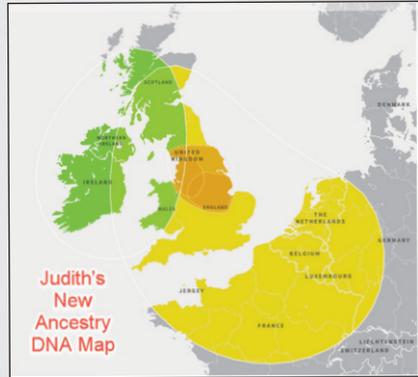
For those who are already *Lost Cousins* members, you can tell if you're eligible to join the forum by clicking on *My Summary*. In the upper box my record says: Your coupon code is: NOT YET AVAILABLE (you need to enter more relatives to get an invitation to join the *Lost Cousins* forum).

## DNA Research

Judith Hankey tells us that *Ancestry* and others have improved their ethnicity predictions. She says:

I was interested in Robert Davey's letter in the September issue because I have always treated *Ancestry's* DNA profile as only a bit of fun. My paper trail shows me to be 45% Cheshire, 1% Irish (or Scottish), 25% south Derbyshire, 13% Burton on Trent area (where there are 4 counties within 10 miles), 7% Shropshire, 1% Staffs, 8% Lancs. This is based on the place of birth of my 4th great-grandparents (63 out of 64 of them, and assuming the one unknown is local) with mostly pre-1800 births. So, I'm 99% English, and nothing further south than Birmingham.

I am fortunate in being able to compare this to the estimates of the different DNA testing companies. One thing to note is that the accuracy of any prediction like this is based on the number of reference samples that they use. *Ancestry* used to use only a few dozen reference people for the whole world, and in comparison, *Living DNA* have access to a scientific data base of several thousand in the UK. That is the main reason that the old *Ancestry* estimates were so inaccurate.



*Ancestry* have also updated their estimates in the last couple of weeks (these were made in October 2018). In my case it has made a big difference - see the table on the next page for a comparison of *Ancestry's* results. They have a loosely drawn area which is Great Britain, and Cheshire is right on the edge.

*Ancestry* used to have a problem, in that too often they claimed British for testers with no such heritage, and I believe that they over-compensated their problem, hence why I had so little. Now they are so correct that I think they are using tester's trees, and their paper trail regions, to refine their predictions. Given that scientists in the field admit that all of Europe have many similarities,

then *Ancestry* will not have a super algorithm for the DNA, just one which combines tree data with ethnicity.

	Old prediction	Paper trail	New prediction
Europe west (i.e. north France with nothing north of London)	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Ireland Scotland Wales	18.00%	1.00%	2.00%
Great Britain (which can only mean English)	13.00%	99.00%	98.00%
Scandinavia	11.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Iberia	4.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Finland	3.00%	0.00%	0.00%
North Africa	1.00%	0.00%	0.00%

I have always been open to the possibility of an NPE (see *Closing Snippet* for an explanation of this) through Liverpool, giving me the Scandinavian heritage. However, all of my second, third and fourth cousins from Cheshire and the Midlands get similar Scandinavian values so I would need an even sprinkling of Swedish sailors in each branch of my tree to explain that effect. So that is very unlikely.

### FamilyTree DNA Results

These results are actually for my Mum who has only 12% Cheshire, 12% Shropshire, and is 75% Derbyshire if the Burton on Trent area is rolled into it too: 68% British Isles, 30% East European, 2% Finnish. So they, too, are wrong - especially with respect to the East European, but not as wrong as *Ancestry* used to be!

### 23&me Results for me

63% British and Irish, 13% French and German, 4% Scandinavian, 1% Finnish, 20% North West Europe (which is undefined Northern France and England).

They go as far to say my French/German ancestry was between 1750 and 1840. Any Scandinavian & Finnish inputs were between 1690 and 1800. Not all of my lines go back that far but enough do to reject the French or German suggestion.

So how come *23&me* are so precise but so wrong? I used to think it could be explained by an NPE or two, but the *Ancestry* uniformity across my many closer cousins stopped me thinking that. So now I think that the segments of DNA that they used to identify the ethnicity have been passed around in endogenous (in-bred) village communities, and keeping the signature of Vikings and Saxons. That would bring the time estimate forward the several hundreds of years needed to explain it.

At least they admit that they cannot distinguish North-West Europe from French/German.

### **Living DNA Results**

These are for my brother, who has the same ancestral areas: 2% German, 98% British Isles, of which they predict 64% North-West England and Midlands so very good really, compared to actual 98% North-West England and Midlands.

*Living DNA* used to say 4% German, so they, too, seem to be refining their predictions, although they have not been brave enough to put a time stamp on it. But frankly, given the accumulated uncertainty of autosomal DNA, a 2% error is just 'noise'.

I am pleased to see that the companies are getting more accurate, because I felt sorry for people in other countries who were believing the tests to give them some direction for their researches on their immigrant ancestors. If I was American, I could have wasted a lot of time on the wrong lines, and they did have a pop-up FAQ on the updated results which was "How to remove a Viking tattoo?" I did not need to look at the answer to that one!

## **Asking the Audience (or The Research Standards of Others)**

By Geoff Johnson

Researching families named Johnson and Harris (my paternal and maternal lines) was never going to be easy. I've plugged away for the past fifteen years or more, identifying my own ancestors and also looking for those of other people's families. Throughout, I've been keeping fairly good records, but most importantly, I'm accurately identifying and recording sources. As we all know, one inevitably hits the proverbial brick wall, and I've probably spent more than half my time trying to break through just two or three of them.

Connecting with other researchers on a similar crusade should, in theory, be a sensible way forward, in order to establish if they've got any bright ideas on

the brick walls. I've sought such contacts through *Genes Reunited* (that's another story!), *Lost Cousins*, *Family Tree DNA* and *Ancestry DNA*.

Have I achieved mind-blowingly positive results from this research source? The answer is a clear No! In writing the piece about *Lost Cousins*, I thought I'd check on those people I'd contacted as a result of the various search comparisons.

As I said in the *Lost Cousins* piece, I really don't have enough ancestors listed to be able to maximise the website's opportunities. I reviewed one contact in particular who had connections in my JOHNSON ancestry line. His connection is as close as our sharing a two times great-grandfather. I immediately sought his views on the next generation upward. The birth of my three times great-grandfather is a major brick wall. What did my new contact know about that three times great-grandfather? This exchange took place in 2007.

We exchanged a deal of information, and I quickly concluded that, by comparison, my collected and stored information whilst similar to his, was more detailed and more accurate than he presented.

His first couple of entries suggested that our 3x great-grandfather was born in 1786 and married his first wife in 1798. That made him aged only twelve on marriage, which didn't get my confidence levels up! The subsequent entry detail he presented was seemingly quite good, but there were a number of aspects in the early 1800s entries that were quite clearly questionable.

I responded as politely as I could, and gave back quite a lot of further information. I received an acknowledging response a month later, but have heard nothing since. That was in September 2007!

I have to refer back to *Genes Reunited* days to remind me of the one and only useful contact. He's proved helpful, careful, and informative, and we now even exchange Christmas cards! Living in north London, he's been able to carry out research on local trips, but we still haven't got behind our shared brick wall.

Of course, in all this process, one often ends up handing out far more source-proven information than one gets back. I quickly realised that whilst I got many responders on the *Genes Reunited* front, a high proportion of them were simply milking information from me, and embedding it into their own records. At that point I ceased using the account. I tried to delete it, but notice that it is actually still there. There's no family history data, but the message exchanges are still there.

I'm finding a not dissimilar situation on the DNA front. Life there is very different from *Lost Cousins*, because the vast majority of subscribers refrain from putting up any FH data at all. The very nature of DNA research is very significantly wider than that covered by the six decades of the *Lost Cousins* census range. DNA family connections are inevitably going to be significantly wider. I've yet to find anything in my DNA matches beyond bits of the family that I already intimately know.

It's important to consider here the difference between DNA testing and other means of knocking down brick walls. DNA tests will match you with cousins on both sides of a brick wall; more conventional methods, including *Lost Cousins*, will generally connect you to people on the same side as you, i.e. researchers who are equally flummoxed, typically because a baptism entry doesn't exist (or can't be found, is wrong, or is illegible). DNA can be particularly useful when you have a theory about who the parents were.

This 'ask the audience' method of carrying out our research is, I find, extremely time-consuming. There seems to be far more information going out than coming in, and the process of communicating with other researchers becomes very protracted.

In writing these two pieces I've made a clear decision to apply my focus on adding many more *Lost Cousins* entries. I think that's likely to be more successful than anything else. What do readers think?

## Computing Terms

By Richard Todd

At least one member of the computer club was hazy about various terms used in computing. Here are a few notes which I hope will clear things up for any members with similar problems.

Starting at the beginning is the **operating system**. This is the software which translates the human input into a language the computer can understand. There are lots of operating systems, but most of us are content with the various varieties of *Windows* or *MacOS* for the *Apple* users. Another you may come across is *Linux*, but this is more for computer buffs rather than ordinary users.

The next level is the **apps** we use, such as *Microsoft Word* (old grumps like me still call them **programs**, Richard. Apps are for monkey-phones and the like! - GJ). The operating system also translates these programs into a language the

computer understands. If you don't want to use the Internet or send emails then that is probably all you need to know.

However, if you want to use the Internet and go online, you need an **Internet service provider (ISP)** such as *BT*, *TalkTalk*, *PlusNet* etc. You pay for the service depending which features you use. I have a *TalkTalk* account, and with that I pay for my Broadband, Phone and TV.

To access the Internet, you need a **browser**. There are lots of these to choose from. *Windows 10* comes with *Microsoft Edge*, lots of people use *Google Chrome* - I have both of these on my machine - and there are *Firefox*, *Opera* and one called *Brave*. I think Geoff uses *Internet Explorer* (no, Richard - I'm an *Edge*-man; see p75 in December's NTS - GJ). I don't wish to comment on these. They are all easy to set up and you will find out for yourself which suits you. I have never thought to check for updates, until now, but I find that all my browsers are up-to-date anyway. You can set up a page to be your home page; the one which opens when you open your browser. My browsers are all set to *www.bbc.co.uk/news*. In the top right-hand corner of your browser you will find a symbol, three dots horizontally in *Edge*, three dots vertically in *Chrome* and three horizontal lines in *Firefox*. Clicking on these brings up a menu where you can find **Settings** or **Options**. Look here to find out where to add your home page. There are all sorts of other things you can change; go on, have a look.

The next item to look at is a search engine. *Edge* uses *Microsoft's Bing* (but you can change it to *Google* - GJ), *Chrome* uses *Google*, but if I type a search request into the *Chrome* address bar it uses *Google*, and also *Yahoo* and *Bing*. I always type my searches into the address bar, but you can use the search bar instead if you wish. There are all sorts of search engines and you can make your own choice: try *DuckDuckGo* or *ASK.com*, for example.

Your next decision is how to manage your email. You can use an *email client* (app) that downloads your email to your computer, or commit your email management to webmail. Webmail is managed by external online services. (See Using the Cloud NTS p53 Sept 2018 - GJ) I use my own email client - *Outlook* - which is a program that comes with *Microsoft Office* (so does Geoff). *Thunderbird* is a free-to-use alternative, and well-proven email client. Webmail may be provided by your own internet service provider such as *BT Internet*, *TalkTalk*, et cetera. There are many well-used independent versions. For example: *Gmail* operated by *Google*, *Apple's iCloud*, confusingly *Microsoft's Outlook.com* (far from the same as *MS Office Outlook* - GJ), *Yahoo! Mail*, and so on. Try searching for webmail suppliers; there's a good list on *Wikipedia*. I have tried *Thunderbird*, *Pegasus Mail* and *Gmail* but there are lots more to try.

If you decide to try one or more of my recommendations do be careful when you download. Make sure you are downloading only what you want and not a load of junk at the same time. An eagle eye and a modicum of common sense should see you safe.

## **Spam Email**

By Richard Todd

I've had a few spam emails lately, and I thought I would list a couple or so to warn other users.

First, I got one supposedly from the *TV Licencing Authority* which said I was due a refund; I am over 75 and I get my TV licence free, so I knew it was SPAM.

Next, I got one supposedly from *The Inland Revenue* saying I was due a refund of £79. It tried to lead me to login at a strange looking website - SPAM. *The Inland Revenue* sends refunds by cheque, which was confirmed for me a couple of days later with an expected cheque for £21.

Then I got an email from what looked like *PayPal* which said I owed £79 for goods sent. I do have a *PayPal* account, but haven't used it in years. SPAM

All were 'genuine' looking emails. The sender in some cases was a name I knew, but by hovering my mouse over the sender's address I noticed it changed to something quite different as I hovered; a sure sign of SPAM.

Delete them by all means, but preferably forward them to your service provider. A search on their website should explain how to report it.

Maybe Geoff would like you to send him your examples to warn others?

## **PDFSAM**

Courtesy of Peter Rowley

Creating and merging documents into PDF format files is a very useful feature. It's very important to me in creating the online **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**. For that purpose, I use the rather expensive *Adobe Acrobat Pro* program. *Acrobat Pro* enables one to take PDF pages and merge them together into one document. It also does lots and lots of other quite exotic things!

The *Acrobat Reader* program that is available free to everybody has some limited facilities, but these are relatively restrictive. Peter Rowley spotted a link in the

*Computer Active* magazine suggesting the use of a free program called *PDFSAM*. You can safely download this from the *Computer Active* store using the URL [www.snipca.com/29320](http://www.snipca.com/29320) - taking care when you do so to untick the box requesting to also download the enhanced version.

We trialled it at Computer Club quite successfully. It seems very practical. You can merge two or more PDF files, rotate pages, extract pages, and split big files down into several smaller ones.

Here's a useful benefit: I find it very helpful if you've downloaded FH records such as an army record. You end up with everything on single pages. If you initially select to download them into PDF pages, or there may be no other choice, you can, using *PDFSAM*, merge them all into one neat file. Should the files you've downloaded be in JPG format, you can easily convert them to PDFs using *IrfanView*.

Please let us know how you get on with this facility.

## From the Inbox

### **A Street Near You** (<https://astreetnearyou.org/>)

Mike Grose, Computer Club member, flagged up this very impressive website. It is a one-man personal project by James Morley. From the homepage you can either search for a name or place, or gently zoom in, to see details of service personnel who were killed in the first world war and came from a street close to your home or other area of interest. Just keep double-clicking or scrolling with the mouse wheel down into the maps as they expand: be patient as the website needs to process a lot of information each time the screen changes. The creator seeks comments and additions - click on the *i* symbol at the top for more information.

### **Lulu** (<https://www.lulu.com/>)

Rosie Rowley our Editor suggested this one simply because the Society of Genealogists gave a presentation on the subject. *Lulu* is an online self-publishing book and eBook company. It could be a good place to start if you are interested in such things. I found it difficult to assess costs so you'd need to do some digging. I don't believe it tells you much about actually creating the book contents; it seems that you do this in your own way. *Lulu* is simply a means of getting your work cheaply into a printed or eBook format. It indicates appropriate settings for creating your document in *MS Word*, but I think I'd be more inclined to look at *MS Publisher*.

## GRO Price Increases

It'll be a bit late to advise you in this issue of the journal, but on 16th February the GRO certificate costs will be increasing significantly, from £9.25 to £11 for a certificate (an 18.9% increase), and from £6 to £7 for a PDF copy of a register entry (16.7% more). Whilst this seems a bit steep, the last change in certificate prices was in 2010, since when prices generally have gone up by well over 20%. However, I have to say that their continuation of the PDF system is a great benefit, and a very acceptable compromise to us as opposed to purchasing an official certificate. Response times for PDFs from point of order are getting shorter and shorter – seemingly less than a week now.

TIP - I personally don't like one-page source data in my system to be in PDF format. The majority of my source records are in JPG format, as it's more suitable for use with my family history program, *Family Historian*. You can easily convert a PDF into a JPG by opening it in *IrfanView* and saving as a JPG.

## Closing Snippet

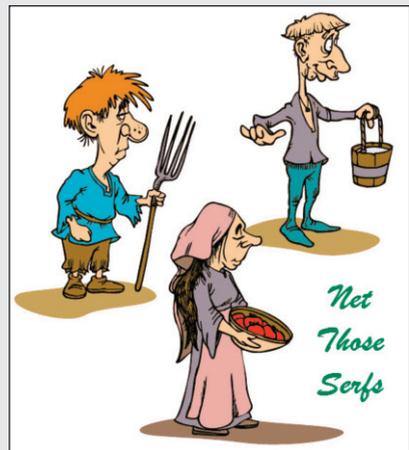
In her DNA article, Judith Hankey refers to an NPE. The term floored me! Google led me to the *Free Dictionary* where there is a multiplicity of options, but in the middle one finds *Non Paternity Event*. Well done Judith! In my family associations this is generally referred to as *wrong side of the bedclothes*. Thinking I might be overly ignorant I asked the computer club members what they thought it meant. Out of some twenty members, only one suggested the right answer.

Thanks for brightening our day, Judith.

[Ed.: I searched and found the definition *non-parental event, meaning that a presumed parent is not the biological parent*. I imagine this could also include cases such as a daughter having an illegitimate child and her parents passing it off as their own child; or even a secret informal adoption of an unrelated child.]

Let's have some comments or thoughts on the foregoing please - I want less stuff to be from me, and more from you.

Please keep the responses coming! - GJ



# Group Events and Activities

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

## Alsager Group *by John Higgins*

### *Future meetings:*

- 18th Mar ***Knocking Down Brick Walls - David Guyton***  
David will show us a few ways around genealogical brick walls. He will explain general principles and present an example case study.
- 15th Apr ***Prosecution Associations in South East Cheshire - Jim Sutton***  
A prosecution association was a local mutual protection society set up to prosecute anyone committing a felony on the property of any member. Between 1700 and 1850, seventy-five associations have been identified in Cheshire, including that of Alsager.
- 20th May ***Unearthing Cheshire's Quaker Community - Claire Moores***  
A look into the archives of the Society of Friends.
- 17th June ***Poison: a Woman's Weapon***  
A talk about a trial in Liverpool in 1884. Two sisters were charged with the murder of Thomas Higgins, husband of the younger sister; the method was arsenic and the was motive life insurance.

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:*

- 25th Mar ***The Englishman who Posted Himself - Bill Johnstone***
- 15th Apr ***History of Birkenhead Priory - Colin Simpson***
- 20th May ***History of Puddington Village - Mrs. Williams***
- 24th June ***Tiptoe Through the Tombstones - Rina Tillinger***

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

## **Bramhall Group**

*by Janet Phillips*

### *Future meetings:*

- 14th Mar ***Secret Stockport - Ian Littlechilds***  
Explore Stockport's secret history through a fascinating selection of stories, facts and photographs.
- 11th Apr ***Historical Research using British Newspapers - Denise Bates***  
Newspapers have become an indispensable resource for anyone who is interested in the past, delivering new insights into the society, events and values of bygone times.
- 9th May ***FANY and SOE from WWI to Present - Sandra Webb***  
A fascinating insight into the work of the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry Corps from 1907, through WWI and WWII, to the present day. Sandra will include information about their famous role in the Special Operations Executive during WWII.
- 13th Jun ***Staircase House and Stockport Heritage Magazine - Steve Cliffe***  
Come and learn about the fight to save the award winning museum Staircase House and how Steve has promoted heritage within the Borough with the Stockport Heritage Magazine.

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

## **Chester Group**

*by David Guyton*

### *Future meetings:*

- 28th Mar ***A Cheshire Diary: Personal Recollections of Home Life and Events of the Day - Edward Hilditch***
- 25th Apr ***Hobby or Obsession: Discovering your family history - Heather Butler***
- 30th May ***A Policeman's Lot: Police history from Sir Robert Peel to the present - Bill Johnson***
- 27th Jun ***Early Sources for Family Historians - Tony Bostock***

Meetings are held at 7.30pm on the last Thursday of the month at All Saints Church Hall, 2 Vicarage Road, Hoole, Chester CH2 3HZ. There is a small

admission charge, which includes tea or coffee at the end of the meeting, and parking is available. All members and visitors are always welcome.

We run two helpdesks which are open to anyone who would like assistance with researching their family history. The helpdesk at The Chester History and Heritage Centre is now located at The History Hub at the Grosvenor Museum, 27 Grosvenor Street, Chester. It is open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10.30 am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 4.00pm. There is another helpdesk on the upper floor of the Library at Storyhouse on Tuesdays from 10am to 12noon.

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

*by Geoff Johnson*

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

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

## **Congleton Group**

*by David Smetham*

In September 2018 we held our AGM and our Group celebrated forty years since its inauguration. We celebrated with a cake at our meeting and in October we had an afternoon tea at the Sawmill Community Café in Congleton. To commemorate the occasion, each of the registered members of the group has been given an engraved, ruby coloured, soft touch stylus pen engraved with the FHSC logo and *Congleton Group FHSC, 40 Years Celebration 1978 – 2018*. The existing committee members were re-elected at the AGM.

### *Future meetings:*

19th Mar *Hidden Lives: Leek's Extraordinary Embroiderers – Cathryn Walton*

Hidden Lives, researched for a recent book, is very family history

- based as it investigates the lives of the women who stitched for the Leek Embroidery Society.
- 16 Apr ***Dogs of War - Tony Bostock***  
Sir Hugh Calveley and Sir Robert Knolles were two Cheshire heroes and mercenary commanders of the Hundred Years' War who became very wealthy on the profits of war. Their reputation was legendary in their own lifetimes and they were greatly feared by the French and anyone else who opposed them.
- 21 May ***Workshop - Irish, Welsh and Scottish Ancestry, Resources and Problem Solving***
- 18 Jun ***Fletcher Moss and his Travels - Dr Diana Leitch***  
Early explorations on his bicycle and train in the early 20th century by this historian and his photographic companion based on his seven books of 'Pilgrimages to Old Houses'. Includes local examples in Cheshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire and North Wales.

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

## **Crewe Group**

*by Margaret Spate*

### ***Future meetings:***

- 12th Mar ***Births, Marriages and Deaths (BMD) on the Internet - Ian Hartas***  
Do we all make full use of all parts of the [ukbmd.org.uk](http://ukbmd.org.uk) facility?
- 9th Apr ***It's the ink in my blood - Sheila Mitchell***  
The Johnson's Almanac story.
- 14th May ***Breaking Down Brick Walls - David Guyton***  
A joint meeting with the Nantwich group, to be held at Crewe Group's usual venue.

Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Jubilee House, St Paul's St, Crewe CW1 2QA. Suggested parking at the adjacent Victoria Centre Car Park, CW1 2PT where there is free parking after 6pm. Please check the Crewe pages on the FHSC website for further information on meetings.

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

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

## **Macclesfield Group**

*by Jean Laidlaw*

### *Future meetings:*

- 26th Mar ***What to do with 323 Postcards? - Julie Bagnall***  
The story of the postcards that were in an Edwardian album left by two sisters, one of whom, Bella, married a Macclesfield man and had close connections with his family after her marriage.
- 23rd Apr ***What did he die of? - Sylvia Dillon***
- 28th May ***The FHSC website - Alan Bennett (FHSC webmaster)***
- 25th Jun ***Quarry Bank Mill, Styal - Shan Bristow***

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of the month at The Salvation Army Hall, Roe Street, Macclesfield, SK11 6UT. Doors open at 7.15pm and meetings start at 7.30pm. Entry is through the main door facing the Churchill Way car park, and we meet in the ground floor room. Admission is £2 including refreshments and a ticket for the FHSC members-only draw for a small gift.

The complete programme for 2019 is available on the Macclesfield page of the FHSC website [www.fhsc.org.uk](http://www.fhsc.org.uk), where you will also find the latest group news. A monthly update and reminder about meetings is emailed to subscribers on our newsletter list. If you would like to be added to our newsletter list go to the Macclesfield page on the website and click on Add Macclesfield to My Groups or send a request to [macclesfield@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:macclesfield@fhsc.org.uk).

## **Middlesex Group**

*by Victoria Doran (FHSC Chairman)*

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

## **Nantwich Group**

*by Sheila Mitchell*

### *Future meetings:*

- 19th Mar ***Poor black sheep who have gone astray - Hazel Rugman***
- 16th Apr ***Physick, Potheary or Chirurgeon - Claire Moores***
- 14th May ***Joint Meeting with the Crewe Family History Group (at CREWE)***  
7.30pm ***Brick Walls - David Guyton***  
Please note that the Meeting will be held on the 2nd Tuesday of

the month at Jubilee House, St Paul's St., Crewe CW1 2QA  
There is free parking after 6pm at the back of the Crewe ASDA car park which is near Jubilee House. Same admission prices as for any of our meetings. If anyone is not sure about the location then please speak to us.

18th Jun *Lost Chapels and Churches in Nantwich - Dave Poyntor*

Apart from the May meeting, all of our meetings will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Nantwich Methodist Church Centre, Hospital Street, Nantwich CW5 5RP. Doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. Admission is £2 for members and £3 for non members including refreshments. Ample parking nearby.

Family History Workshop in Nantwich Library

If you have a query or need help with starting your family tree then you are most welcome to attend a workshop on Mondays from 2.00pm on the following dates: 21st January 25th February 25th March

Everyone will be most welcome to all of our events.

## **Northwich Group**

*by Dave Thomas*

*Future meetings:*

11th Mar *Quarter Sessions Administrative Records For Family History*

8th Apr *Time Traveller - Paul Hurley*

13th May *To be advised*

10th Jun *Anecdotes of a Registrar - Carole Codd*

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

## **Runcorn Group**

*by Linda Wilding*

*Future meetings:*

6th Mar *Questions and Answers - Group Participation, discussion and helping others*

3th Apr *UKGDL - Sharon Hartas*

1st May *A Postcard arrives home from WWI - by Linda Wilding*

Meetings are at 7.30 pm on the first Wednesday of the month (except January)

at Churchill Hall, Cooper Street, Runcorn, WA7 1DH. All will be made very welcome. Refreshments - tea, coffee and home-made cakes, parking available. We have speakers occasionally, but encourage group participation in helping others to knock down their brick walls. We have parish records available to view, please ask a committee member

## **Sale Group**

*by Marion Hall*

### *Future meetings:*

- 13th Mar *Where did your family come from?*  
Short talks by members.
- 10th Apr *Where there's a Will there's a Way - Liz de Mercado*  
Family history research using information available in wills.
- 8th May *Visit to John Rylands Library in Manchester*
- 12th Jun *Manchester to Liverpool by Train in 1834 - Bernard Champness*

Meetings are held at 7.30pm, for talk at 8pm, on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at Trinity Methodist Church, Trinity Road, Sale M33 3ED. Visitors are always welcome. Admission is £2 for members and £2.50 for non members.

## **Tameside Group**

*by Gay Oliver*

### *Future meetings:*

- 13th Mar *Wagons West: the early years of the wagon train movement in the USA - Ian Cameron*
- 10th Apr *Probably about DNA tests and interpreting results*
- 8th May *Styal Apprentice House - Shan Bristow (National Trust)*  
The apprentice house and conditions they worked in.
- 12th Jun *Talk about Peterloo by Kate Booth, or a visit to Styal*  
or 10th Jul (not sure which month)

I have some ideas for future talks, but need more:

- Poverty and Social Reform in late Victorian East End of London
- The History of Hyde Chapel and Unitarians in Tameside
- A group of dedicated Egyptologists from Tameside
- Family History on a Budget
- For 2020 - Alan Crosby on Crime in the 17th Century

Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Old Chapel Schoolrooms, Dukinfield - doors open at 7.00pm. There is disabled access and

both members and non-members are welcome. Admission is £2 for members and £2.50 for non-members. For more information, go to [www.flisc.org.uk](http://www.flisc.org.uk) and navigate to the Tameside pages to see the programme and sign up for our newsletters.

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

## Wallasey Group

by *Dave Beck*

### *Future meetings:*

- 19th Mar ***A History Of The Cunard Line - Barry Humphreys***  
The year 2015 marked Cunard's 175th anniversary. This talk looks at the company from 1840 through to the present day and the Magnificent Three Queens now operated by Cunard. The ships of the Cunard Line have always been record breakers and are still so in the 21st century.
- 16th Apr ***The History of Eversley School - Helen Gill***  
The history of the small private school built by Mrs. Brown in Penkett Road, Wallasey which later became a church and has now reverted to its former use under the name *Eversley Nursery School*.
- 21st May ***The difference in researching WWI and WWII - Ann Muller***  
Comparing research on a WWII memorial for Moreton and Leasowe and a WWI memorial in Chester because of the difference in the availability of records.
- 18 Jun ***Magical Mystery Tour - Ray O'Brien***  
An imaginary tour of the Wirral dance halls and clubs and the artists that played there (mainly Beatles).

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

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

## Membership

Sue McNulty



New Members

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

Peter Mellor



Renewals/Changes

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

### *The "M" Team*

### **Brenda Smith**

We regret to announce the death of our former Society Chairman Brenda Smith, who passed away in January.

Brenda was a member of the Altrincham group and later, following a house move, a member of the Northwich group. Within the society she held the positions of Secretary and Chairman, and was on the original Alderley Edge Research Centre management committee. Brenda worked hard to promote our society at the many functions that she attended, and was a key organiser of our early family history fairs at Northwich. She was also heavily involved with the Federation of Family History Societies.

Brenda was a charming lady with a lovely personality and she will be sadly missed. The Society sends its condolences to her family.

## Permission to Contact You

Under the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) that came into force in May 2018, the Society is required to obtain your positive permission to use the contact details you have given. For instance, to email you about news and events, send **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR** to you, etc.

We have policies in place that satisfy the regulations and ensure that we will not misuse your information, and your contact details are only passed to a third party if you have a printed copy of **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**, when we must, of course, pass your address to the company that handles the distribution for us. We have checked that that company itself is GDPR compliant. Your information will be deleted at a reasonable interval after you cease to be a member, or immediately when you leave if you so request.

The renewal form for 2019 contains a new box for you to confirm that you agree with us using your contact details to run the Society.

**If you pay by standing order** you can go to the Society's website [www.fhsc.org.uk](http://www.fhsc.org.uk) and check that it indicates that you have given permission.

Log in to the website.

Choose *My Membership > My Profile*

Then click the *FHSC Membership* tab.

Finally, look at the *Contact Permission* line.

If you need to change the contact permission, click on the *Edit Profile* button with the cog-wheel further up the page on the right.

Then click the *FHSC Membership* tab.

Make your changes and click *Submit*.

If you want to give permission by post instead of using the website, please complete the renewal form, **marking it clearly that you already pay by standing order**, tick the **permission box on the back page**, and send it to the Membership Secretary for our records.

**If you renew your subscription online**, the online renewal form should ask for your permission when you renew.

**If you are a recent new member**, you will have given permission on the membership form or website when you joined.

## **Note: Membership Renewals and Changes**

Maurice Stokes retired from his position as Membership Renewals/Changes Officer on 31st December 2018.

THERE IS A NEW MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS OFFICER - ALL payments and enquiries should now be directed to:

Mr Peter A Mellor,

Tan-Y-Celyn, Rhos Isaf, Rhostryfan, Caernarfon, LL54 7LY.

## **New Members**

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

9991	UN	Ms Anne	STEWART	USA
9992	UN	Mrs Patricia	DARBY	Northamptonshire
9993	UN	Mrs Barbara	EAST	Isle of Wight
9994	UN	Mr Andrew	WALLS	Wigan
9995	UN	Mrs Sue	TREVOR	Cheshire
9996	MC	Mrs Denise	McKNIGHT	Cheshire
9997	UN	Ms Fran	LLEWELLYN	Shropshire
9998	UN	Mr Ken	CROSSLEY	USA
9999	WA	Miss Gaynor	DAWSON	Merseyside
10000	BE	Miss Debbie	BOOTH	Merseyside
10001	WA	Mr Ian G. & Norma	WILSON & WHITE	Merseyside
10002	UN	Mrs Ann	TAYLOR	Greater Manchester
10003	UN	Ms Susan	HAWES	East Sussex
10005	MC	Mr Hedley	NEWTON	Hertfordshire
10006	CH	Mr John	FAULKNER	Staffordshire
10007	NO	Mrs Lynne	HEWITT	Spain
10008	UN	Mr C.K.	WEBSTER	Cheshire
10034	NO	Mr Gordon	DANIELS	Aberdeenshire
10035	UN	Ms Philippa	WADSWORTH	New Zealand
10052	SA	Dr Mark	BARLEY	Cheshire
10053	NA	Mr Stuart	MORRIS	Cheshire
10054	UN	Ms Pat	JEFFERY	Merseyside
10055	UN	Mrs Lucy	ALEXANDER	Gloucestershire
10056	UN	Mr Mike	BARLOW	USA
10057	CO	Mrs April	MILLS	Bedfordshire
10058	WA	Mr Alec	WARD	Merseyside

## The Society's Family History Research Centres

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

### CREWE FAMILY HISTORY UNIT



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

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

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

FREE access to *FindMyPast*, *Ancestry* and *The Genealogist*

Local parish registers on film - extensive library of books

Crewe and District and South East Cheshire local history archives

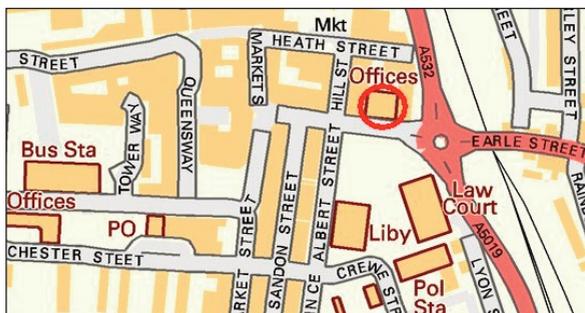
See the Crewe FHU Library Holdings lists on the FHSC website

**Usual opening hours: 10am-4pm Monday and Tuesday**

**plus one Saturday morning each month**

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



**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: Monday-Friday 10am-4pm; closed on bank holidays.***

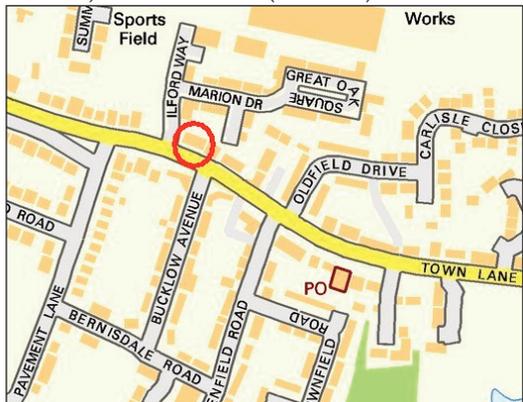
For changes to usual opening hours, please see this issue's *Research Centre News* or the FHSC website [www.fhsc.org.uk](http://www.fhsc.org.uk).

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

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

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

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



## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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

Above rates plus £2.00 per family

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

The Society year commences on 1st July.

Membership commences on the day of receipt of an application.

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

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

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

New member applications should be sent to Membership Enrolments:

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

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

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

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

*(see below for full details)*

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Full page: £47 per issue; £170 for 4 issues

Half-page: £25 per issue; £90 for 4 issues

Quarter-page: £14 per issue; £50 for 4 issues

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

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

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

## Location of Groups

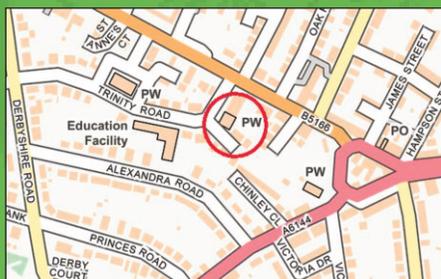
(see inside back cover for contact details)



### GROUP FOCUS

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

### SALE GROUP



The Sale group meets at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of the month at the Trinity Methodist Church, Trinity Road, Sale, M33 3ED.

Non-members are always welcome.

### Future Sale Group Meetings

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 13th Mar | Where did Your Family come from? Short Talks by Members      |
| 10th Apr | Where there's a Will there's a Way - Liz de Mercado          |
| 8th May  | Visit to John Rylands Library in Manchester                  |
| 12th Jun | Manchester to Liverpool by Train in 1834 - Bernard Champness |

For full details, please see the Sale group information on page 69.

*We hope to see you soon!*