

CHESHIRE ANCESTOR



The Journal of the
Family History Society of Cheshire



In this edition

Patriots: Railways and the Great War *DNA Research*
An Unusual Will **Wallace Paulson and HMS Natal**
Writing the History of a Church *WWI Military Exemption*
Goodbye to Old Weights and Measures **and more...**

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Cover picture: Postcard sent by Wallace Paulson to his cousin Nellie in 1915.

Read about Wallace Paulson, who perished when HMS *Natal* was sunk by an internal explosion near Cromarty on 30 December 1915, in *Wallace Paulson and HMS Natal* on page 35.



CHESHIRE ANCESTOR

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

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

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

Editorial

by Rosie Rowley



Many thanks to those who have 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.

This issue has a number of WWI articles and information, to mark the centenary of the WWI Armistice. A final "Stop Press" item is <https://astreetnearyou.org>, a new website based on CWGC and Lives of the First World War records, showing WWI casualties on a map. It's a work in progress as many records don't have addresses, or the street no longer exists.

After a disappointing year with no big genealogy shows following the demise of *Who Do You Think You Are? Live*, next year we'll be spoilt for choice! See pages 15 and 16 for details of three new events including RootsTech, hosted by FamilySearch and billed as "The World's Largest Family History Conference", coming to the UK for the first time in October 2019. I'm hoping to visit at least one of these three events next year - perhaps I'll see you there?

Note: Membership Renewals and Changes

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

THERE IS A NEW MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS OFFICER with effect from 1st JANUARY 2019.

ALL payments and enquiries from that date should be directed to

MR PETER A MELLOR,
TAN-Y-CELYN,
RHOS ISAF,
CAERNARFON,
LL54 7LY.

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

- 10th Jan 2019 Final copy date for CHESHIRE ANCESTOR, March issue.
20th Jan 2019 FHSC Executive Committee Meeting, Jubilee Hall,
Little Budworth, 2pm.
10th Apr 2019 Final copy date for CHESHIRE ANCESTOR, June issue.
10th Jul 2019 Final copy date for CHESHIRE ANCESTOR, September issue.
10th Oct 2019 Final copy date for CHESHIRE ANCESTOR, December issue.

Those members who do not have access to the Internet should contact their local or affiliated group for up-to-date information about meetings, etc. Contact details for all groups are inside the back cover.

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 500-2000 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 and 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.

The Editor would like to acknowledge receipt of articles submitted by post from member numbers: 965, 6392, 8711, 9314.

Chairman's Jottings

by Victoria Doran



After a wonderful summer we now seem to be enjoying an Indian summer - still not the weather for sitting indoors researching family history.

Sadly, Tarpoley group has recently folded due to insufficient numbers willing to run the group. This should be a warning to those of you in other groups that you can take nothing for granted. Some groups depend on a dwindling band of ageing members to keep them going - if you want your group to continue, step up to the plate and offer to take on a little of the responsibility.

I recently restarted my visits to groups with a trip to Hartford to experience the Computer group in action. This is certainly not one of the groups that is struggling, largely due to the enthusiasm of Geoff Johnson. If you live anywhere within range and still actively pursue your family history research, it would be well worth your while checking it out. It caters for all levels of knowledge, and I would be surprised if you did not learn something useful - I certainly did.

You are no doubt aware that Cheshire Archives needs to relocate, as it received a very adverse report from The National Archives on how it stored much of the archive. Members of the committee have been working to support the application for Heritage Lottery Funding for new Record Office locations, but we have recently heard that they were not successful in the latest round of grants. We will keep in close contact with the archivist and do what we can to assist any future grant applications.

The amount of useful family history information available on the Internet continues to expand rapidly. If you haven't checked lately you may be surprised just how many counties now have the bulk of their parish registers on either *Find My Past* or *Ancestry*; and the image of the register page is usually available, so you are looking at a primary source.

Another fairly recent feature that I find very useful is the new GRO (General Register Office) index for birth registrations between 1837 and 1917 that

includes the mother's maiden name (see page 14 of the **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**, September 2018). Be wary, though, of e.g. two brothers marrying two sisters, in which case the surnames and mothers' maiden names for their children will be the same!

If you need the certificate, it can be obtained for only £6.00 by ordering a PDF download.

By the time you read this we will have held the AGM, and should have two new Life Members. Details will be printed in the March 2019 issue of the **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**.

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



The ability for us to provide access to the Society's research facilities at Mobberley depends on volunteers to staff the Centre, helping visitors, if required, to make the best use of all our resources and facilities. Now we have a problem. One of our long-standing volunteers, Paul Hibbert, has found it necessary to step down for personal reasons. We thank Paul for the good service he has given over many years.

We need a few more volunteers to enable us to keep the Research Centre open for five days a week; it would be a great pity if we had to reduce our opening times to four days a week. So please consider whether you could become one of our volunteers for three hours a week, or even three hours every two weeks. Training would be given in the use of our equipment and procedures for running the Centre. You will have the satisfaction of helping others to pursue their family history research and at quiet times have free access to do some research for yourself. If you are interested in helping us please email Kay Brown at kaybee35@talktalk.net or phone the Research Centre on 01565 872210.

When looking through our extensive collection of old Macclesfield newspapers, our librarian, Joan Irving, found in the *Macclesfield Courier & Herald* dated 29th November 1873 a list of criminal cases being heard at Macclesfield Magistrates' Court. The cases were reported in some detail but Joan noted the following basic information to show the variety of cases being heard:

- Wm SHAW and George THORLEY, juvenile inmates of Macclesfield Workhouse, for stealing and Wm MASSEY, weaver, and Mary Ann MARRIAN, widow, for receiving stolen goods.
- Thos. BROCKLEHURST, James MCDERMOT, Michael CARNES, James CARNES, Henry GANTLEY, all aged between 8 – 15, for stealing three dozen lead pencils belonging to Edwin LOMAS.
- Daniel HENSHAW, tailor, for assaulting his wife Margaret but his wife refused to testify.

- Joseph YATES, cotton spinner, on warrant for deserting his wife and family after applying for relief.
- Ann NISBET, hawker, for stealing wearing apparel from Wm. ROWBOTTOM.
- Wm RUSSELL, dyer, charged with assaulting Hannah GOODWIN with whom he lived.
- John BAYLEY, labourer, and Patrick MURPHY for being drunk and disorderly.

The newspaper collection covers both local and national stories and it's certainly worth having a browse.

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

Christmas Closure: Mobberley Research Centre will close at 4.00pm on Friday 7th December and reopen at 10.00am on Monday 7th January 2019.

Crewe Family History Unit

by Margaret Spate

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

No Saturday opening during December

Sat 26th Jan 9.30am – 12.30pm

Sat 23rd Feb 9.30am – 12.30pm

Sat 23rd Mar 9.30am – 12.30pm

Christmas Closure: Crewe Family History Unit will close at 4.00pm on Tuesday 11th December and reopen at 10.00am on Monday 7th January 2019.

The team of volunteers is always there to help.

The library list is available on the website as well as the printed copy at Crewe. Check the list out to see if there we have records that could help your research. Additional resources have recently been added to the library list.

Thanks for the support at our sale of duplicate and donated books on 17th November.

2018 AGM Reports

Reports (slightly edited below) were presented at the 49th Annual General Meeting of the Family History Society of Cheshire, held on Saturday 3rd November at Mobberley Victory Hall, Town Lane, Mobberley.

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

Chairman's Report by *Victoria Doran*.



This report covers the year that ended on 30 June 2018.

Both our Research Centres continue as before, though they do not attract as many visitors as we would wish. Many thanks to all the volunteers at both Mobberley and Crewe.

Around the turn of the year we were offered a set of old Macclesfield area newspapers which the Macclesfield Silk Museum could no longer store, some of which the Macclesfield group wished to scan. We decided that we had sufficient funds to take this on, even though it involved renting a further space from Mobberley Parish Council in the Rajar Building. Shelving donated by the Silk Museum was installed, as well as a large scanner given to us by Manchester University, and they are now available for use. Some volumes are very fragile, so care has to be taken. Scanning has started, and a prototype DVD of scanned newspapers for 1917, 1919 and 1920 has been created as part of the process towards preparing the newspaper scans for sale to members. This will be a long project over many years. Many thanks to Rosie Rowley, Alan Jones and Peter Davenport, as well as everyone else involved.

In common with most Family History Societies, our membership continues to decline. This is inevitable unless we can find new ways to reach the large number of people worldwide who currently do their research using the many online facilities, and who do not realise how much we can assist them.

We were approached at very short notice by Who Do You Think You Are? Magazine in the autumn of 2017 as their focus for the December issue was Cheshire. We let them have a couple of downloads of Monumental Inscriptions (and duly received some financial recompense). We also offered free membership until June 2018 to their subscribers. No other society had previously done this. The offer was taken up by 232 people, and five have

subsequently renewed their membership. This was good publicity and it cost nothing apart from a bit of effort by a few of our officers. Special thanks are due to Alan Bennett and Gay Oliver for providing the downloads. We need to seriously consider how we can improve our publicity worldwide.

Another way that we can increase membership is by running helpdesks and classes locally. This of course depends on our groups, and some of them find it very difficult to get their members to commit to such activities, or indeed to assist in running the group. At the beginning of the Society's year we lost West Wirral Group, which had been struggling for several years. Wallasey and Bebington Groups are now the only ones left in Wirral. Both of these groups are vibrant, and have picked up a small number of the former Birkenhead and West Wirral members.

I have set myself the task of visiting every one of our groups over a couple of years. So far I am about halfway through. They vary greatly, but all have interesting programmes. I will arrive, unannounced, at the other groups in due course.

The Committee decided that its calendar of four meetings per year was not working very well. Specific group leaders' meetings were tried during the year before I became Chairman, and have proved so useful that we now hold two per year. It was decided to reduce the General Committee meetings to three per year, as they no longer need to spend much time on matters only of concern to groups; they can concentrate on issues that affect all our members.

It is also recognised that, although we have long-standing group regulations as guidance, we have provided little support for new group leaders, and the role can appear daunting. David Smetham has volunteered to convene a small sub-committee to compile an advice pack for new group leaders.

In terms of management, the future of the society lies with those of our members who live within reach of the old county of Cheshire, but we must also consider what we do for the majority of our membership who live further afield. The CHESHIRE ANCESTOR continues to be our best means of communication, and sadly, Rosie Rowley has told us that, due to family commitments, she can no longer continue in the role. Hers will be a hard act to follow, but it is absolutely vital to the Society.

During the year Len Davenport also stepped down, due to ill health; he has handled CD sales for many years. Sales are no longer very large, and David Johnson kindly offered to take on CD as well as book sales.

The future has to lie with our website. It is now running well, and a lot of work has been done in the background to prepare for the online shop that has been promised for so long. We found that there was no complete list of all the assets that we own that we could sell via a shop. Much work has been done by several people including Joan Irving, Peter Davenport, David Johnson and David and Lesley Smetham to sort this out. Now that we have a complete list, there are still such matters as putting those appropriate for download into the correct format with meaningful descriptions, where again Peter Davenport is key. Where they were created with or by third parties, we have to examine the copyright issues, especially considering we inherited much data from North Cheshire FHS.

Strictly speaking, the launch of the online shop is a matter for next year's report, but you will probably be aware that it has recently taken place. Our book list is now available online again after a long absence. Many thanks to all those concerned, especially Alan Bennett and Gay Oliver.

After many years of valuable service to the Society, our Membership Secretary, Maurice Stokes is now stepping down - an event which really belongs in next year's report. We all wish him well. We are very fortunate that Peter Mellor has stepped forward to take on the role, even though he lives further away than most of us. We will all support him in his endeavours. This is one of the most important roles in the Society as the membership subscription is the source of most of our income, and our interface with members.

I am advised by those who have been much longer in the Society than I have that we are now in our 50th year. We have not yet decided how to mark the occasion, but something special will happen in 2019.

Honorary Secretary's Report *by Howard Martin*

I would like to thank Alan Jones and his team of volunteers for opening the Research Centre to members this morning to enable them to explore the wealth of material the Society holds on its shelves and in its databases. Thanks, too, to David Smetham for suggesting that it would be appropriate to precede the AGM with the performance of "Letters of War WWI Commemorative Event" by Act it Out. In the month of the 100th anniversary of the end of that war it has been a moving and thought-provoking experience.

The Executive Committee has continued to maintain a close watch on developments in the future location of the Record Office. David Guyton, group leader of Chester Group, has taken the lead here by attending meetings on the

Society's behalf, keeping in contact with Paul Newman, head of Cheshire Archives and Local Studies (CALs), and arranging meetings between officers and committee members to explore future possibilities and ways in which the society and the Archives service can collaborate more. I would like to thank David for his valuable contribution to this process and for his input to the Executive Committee's deliberations on this subject.

The Society is very aware of its need to maintain the security of its databases and the privacy of members. The new GDPR regulations were discussed by the Executive Committee, an appropriate policy was approved and the new membership forms now appearing on the website reflect the need to make members aware of these responsibilities. The renewal forms that will be published in the March Cheshire Ancestor will also contain the revised wording.

Both of the Society's Research Centres at Mobberley and Crewe continue to provide valuable resources to help members and the general public in their researches. Alan Jones, Joan Irving and the volunteers at Mobberley and Margaret Spate and her team at Crewe provide valuable assistance to local family historians and, along with those members who volunteer on helpdesks throughout the county, are a real advertisement of the benefits of belonging to the Society. The Committee's thanks go out to them all. Jean Laidlaw has continued to run her successful family history courses at Mobberley.

David Smetham has represented Cheshire at the Federation of Family History Societies AGM and General Meetings, and also at the North West Group of Family History Society meetings.

As the Chairman has already mentioned, membership continues its gentle decline. During the 2017-18 membership year, a peak of 1935 members was reached, inflated as a result of the WDYTYA special offer. Current membership is 1557 subscriptions to which about 230 additional family members can be added. This can be compared more accurately with the 2016-17 figure of 1650 paid up memberships plus additional family members. The committee is aware that to encourage new members the "added value" to subscribers through attendance at Group meetings, use of a vibrant website and an informative and helpful journal together with access to research facilities and advice and suggestions must be significant.

To this end Alan Bennett, webmaster, ably assisted by Gay Oliver, has sought to develop a website that will attract and invigorate members and encourage non-members to complete that application form. The CHESHIRE ANCESTOR, ably

edited by Rosie Rowley with assistance from Suzie Woodward and Jackie Jones, continues to enlighten us, and the committee has taken the decision to distribute it more widely through libraries and archives in the old county of Cheshire in the hope of attracting more members. Embedded within the **ANCESTOR** is Geoff Johnson's *Net that Serf*, always full of good advice and relevant comment. Peter Davenport's industry and expertise has been invaluable in preparing materials for sale through the online shop.

We run thirteen Groups and a Computer Group across Cheshire. Our thanks go to the Group Leaders and their committees for their work in producing a varied programme for members. You only have to look through the Group pages in the **ANCESTOR** to appreciate the range of topics that are covered at these meetings. Most Groups are also working on their own projects or collaborating with other local groups.

The Chairman has noted the decisions of Rosie Rowley to stand down as Journal Editor, Maurice Stokes as Membership Secretary and Len Davenport from CD sales. To this I can add Susan McNulty, also from the membership team. The Society owes them a great debt of gratitude for the work they have done over the years in a variety of roles. Peter Mellor has volunteered to take over membership and will do that in January. Anyone interested in taking over one of the most important roles in the Society would be given the fullest support to enable them to do so. Volunteers are the lifeblood of any Society at all levels - in groups, on committees, supporting helpdesks and research centres or in officer roles. A warm welcome, support and training will be offered to any members who feel they have the time to help the Society to go forward into its fiftieth year and beyond.

Honorary Treasurer's Report *by David Smetham*



This is my first report as Treasurer, having been elected in October 2017. It has been a steep learning curve but I have been very grateful to Victoria for the Treasurer's Manual she prepared for me. We are still going through change as a society. This year we have had our books prepared by Heywood Shepherd so I have been developing our relationship with Emily Moores, our bookkeeper.

We have had two bond accounts with Principality and one with Hampshire. One of the Principality bonds matured in May 2018 and I re-invested with Principality.

The consolidated accounts for the year ending 30 June 2018 show a net surplus for the year of £3,648. We had a large surplus in the previous accounting year (ending 30 June 2017) as £28,960 was received from North Cheshire FHS when they closed; the actual FHSC-only figure for that year was £9,151.

The fifteen groups have a combined surplus of £800 this year against a deficit of £449 last year. The committee decided that the Group Allocation for 2017-2018 would be £500. Groups can also apply for an augmentation of the group allocation and for half of the cost of any equipment purchased.

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

Income for the year is £37,704 and expenditure is £34,856.

Membership subscriptions this year have fallen by 16.6 per cent. This is a more significant fall than expected; however, we have been going through another period of change with many subscriptions being paid via our website shop. We try to report subscriptions for the actual membership year. I have been looking into how we report membership as records indicate an increase in membership subscriptions in 2017-18 compared with 2016-17. I will try to ensure consistency in reporting membership income in future annual reports.

Sales of books and CDs have again fallen slightly but we have recently opened our website shop, selling data files and digital books which can be downloaded directly from the website. We hope that this will bring renewed interest in our data resources and ultimately help with member numbers. We have had a promising start - during the first three weeks since the shop opened in October 2018 there have been twenty-two online shop purchases, amounting to £77.53. This will, of course, be seen in the next year's accounts. David Johnson is still handling sales of books and CDs in the publications list and sold offline.

Attendance at Mobberley Research Centre also continues to decline; however, the income contribution has slightly increased. Mobberley Research Centre volunteers are now doing lookups for members.

Royalties from Find My Past (FMP) have increased. We should be placing more information on FMP, hopefully leading to further purchases from our shop.

Gift Aid reduced this year. It is closely related to membership subscriptions.

Expenditure is down very slightly.

Overall CHESHIRE ANCESTOR costs have decreased. Some members who originally opted for the electronic version have switched back to a paper copy,

and postage rates have increased.

The Mobberley Research Centre and the Crewe Family History Unit costs are about the same as last year. Additionally, we have taken on space at Mobberley to house the Macclesfield newspapers as we scan and make them available in a digital format.

Use of Genfair for sales, which has higher costs than PayPal, is now negligible.

The accountancy fee has risen slightly as the committee decided to employ Heywood Shepherd to carry out the bookkeeping. This item is being kept under review.

Other expenses were broadly in line with expectations. The FFHS subscription and insurance is based on membership, so reduces when our membership declines.

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

The full set of independently examined accounts are available by request to the Treasurer, they have been deposited online and can be accessed on our website at www.fhsc.org.uk/documents/main/public-documents

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

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

Family History Events

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

Federation of Family History Societies' Conference and AGM

Saturday 16th March 2019

Royal Engineers Museum, Prince Arthur Rd, Gillingham, Kent ME7 1UR

These meetings give our Member Societies the opportunity to discuss issues with the FFHS Executive and to share ideas with other member societies.

For information see website or email admin@ffhs.org.uk

www.ffhs.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

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.

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

Guild of One-Name Studies Seminar: Maritime Aspects of Yorkshire

9.30am - 5.00pm, Saturday 3rd August 2019

The Community House, Porthome Road, Selby YO8 4QQ

The venue is situated on the major arteries of Yorkshire waterways. Specialist speakers will talk about the maritime aspects of this region. This seminar will appeal to all family and social historians as well as one-namers.

Booking essential - Non-members welcome

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

The Genealogy Show 2019

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

The NEC, Birmingham, B40 1NT

Speakers include Gill Blanchard, Audrey Collins,
Nathan Dylan Goodwin, Michelle Leonard, Phil Tomaselli

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

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10.00am - 4.30pm, Saturday 22nd June 2019

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Free on-site car parking - Free talks - exhibition stands

Admission £5 - online advance booking offer, buy two tickets for £7.50

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

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Thursday 24th - Saturday 26th October 2019

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The world's largest family history conference is coming to London!

Discovering your family history has never been easier, and we're bringing it all together at RootsTech, the world's largest family history event! Join us for three exciting days of discovery, and make connections to your past. Get ready to have the ultimate learning experience as you choose from more than 150 hands-on lectures on topics such as DNA, records, and preserving family memories. Test out the latest tech in the exhibition hall, enjoy world-class entertainment, and much more!

www.rootstech.org/london

Family History News

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

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

Selected Recent Additions and Updates

Cheshire Newspapers

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search/british-newspapers>

Congleton & Macclesfield Mercury and Cheshire General Advertiser for the years 1870, 1872, 1884.

Macclesfield Courier and Herald, Congleton Gazette, Stockport Express, and Cheshire General Advertiser for 1911.

England & Wales, Electoral Registers 1920-1932

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/england-and-wales-electoral-registers-1920-1932>

Includes the names of those who were first entitled to vote after 1918, and is an useful substitute for the lost 1931 England & Wales census.

Royal Air Force Lists 1919-1945

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/royal-air-force-lists-1919-1945>

The Royal Air Force Lists from 1919-1922 and 1938-1945 contain over 62,000 names and include the WRENs, WAAF, and Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service. The records are digitised copies of the original publications.

Billion Graves Cemetery Indexes

Over two million records have been added to the Billion Graves Cemetery Indexes for the UK and overseas locations, each with a transcription and a link to an image of the headstone with GPS location information.

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

Selected Recent Additions and Updates

Cambridgeshire, Juror Books, 1828-1883

<https://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/db.aspx?dbid=61430>

Records of those qualified to serve as a juror in the county of Cambridgeshire between the years 1828 and 1883. Qualifications were based on ownership of land or property and therefore excluded the majority of residents.

Cambridgeshire, Electoral Registers, Burgess Rolls & Poll Books, 1722-1966

<https://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/db.aspx?dbid=61429>

UK, Allied Prisoners of War, 1939-1945

<https://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/db.aspx?dbid=61642>

Names and other information about soldiers captured and held in Prisoner of War Camps in Europe and Asia during the Second World War. A limited amount of information can be seen in the search results, but an additional subscription to the *Fold3* website is required to view full details.

What is Fold3?

Ancestry users may have noticed references to *Fold3* in the search results. *Fold3* was originally an independent website containing a variety of US records, especially those relating to the military. The blog for the website (<https://blog.fold3.com/>) states: *The name Fold3 comes from a traditional flag-folding ceremony in which the third fold is made in honor and remembrance of veterans for their sacrifice in defending their country and promoting peace in the world.* The site was acquired by *Ancestry* in 2010 but is still independent, hence the need for a separate login (and availability of a separate subscription).

Ancestry occasionally allows free access to the site, and there is a 7-day free trial (remember to cancel before you are charged). In addition, you can register and view some records free of charge.

These free records can be searched at <https://www.fold3.com/free.php>

British WWI pension records and registers on Fold3

The first tranche of the 6.5 million WWI pension records and registers saved by the Western Front Association (WFA) has been digitised by *Ancestry* and released on *Fold3*; the records can be searched at

<https://www.fold3.com/browse/250/h-gceWkCT>.

A further release is expected to be available by November 2018. The intention is that WFA members should be able to access these records free of charge but the mechanism to allow this was not in place at the time of writing.

Learn about these records on the WFA website at

www.westernfrontassociation.com/latest-news/october-2018/release-of-naval-and-mercantile-marine-pension-records-by-ancestry/

The Genealogist

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

To see a full list of holdings, go to www.thegenealogist.co.uk/coverage

Selected Recent Additions and Updates

1910 Valuation Office Survey (Lloyd George Domesday Survey)

<https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/lloyd-george-domesday/>

This new release (currently available for parts of London only) links properties to large scale (5 feet to the mile) 1910 ordnance survey maps, coupled with the accompanying books that will provide information about the valuation of each property, including the valuation assessment number, map reference, owner, occupier, and description. A specific house may be located by address. Fully searchable by name, county, parish and street.

Central Criminal Court Records

<https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/featuredarticles/2018/new-criminal-records-reveal-ancestors-crimes-from-petty-theft-to-murder-928/>

Additional School Registers Released

These seem to generally be from public schools.

<https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/featuredarticles/2018/musical--literary-greats-discovered-in-newly-launched-school-records-962/>

FamilySearch

To see what's new at *FamilySearch*, go to www.familysearch.org/blog/en/whats-new-at-familysearch

To find what records are available for your location of interest, go to the catalogue at www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/search

You must register for an account to use *FamilySearch*, but all records are available free of charge.

Ellis Island Records

Find your relatives who immigrated to America. Complete Archive of Ellis Island Records – now online free of charge.

www.familysearch.org/blog/en/archive-ellis-island-records

Church Registers

Some images of church registers are now available online, although in some cases the images are not linked to the index so you have to scroll through the 'film' to find the entry you want. Many more registers are partially transcribed and indexed. Especially useful are the Methodist registers which are often not available on the 'big' websites. Use the catalogue (above) to find the church you want and then scroll down the page to see the information - a 'magnifying glass' icon means the register has been indexed and a 'camera' icon means it can be viewed online.

Cheshire Archives New Website Address

The Cheshire Archives website can now be found at

www.cheshirearchives.org.uk

Guild of One-Name Studies Indexes

The Guild of One-Name Studies has two indexes available to non-members on its website at <https://one-name.org/the-guild-indexes/>

The Marriages of the World Index contains worldwide marriages up to eighty years ago, contributed by Guild members.

The Modern Newspaper Index contains newspaper announcements collected since the 1950s, primarily in the UK.

Certificate Exchange

by Jean Jones

This service enables members to share unwanted certificates. Members can obtain a **transcription** of a certificate by sending your name, membership number, and identifying the required certificate from the published list: by email to editor@fhsc.org.uk or by post (please include a stamped self-addressed envelope) to Jean Jones, 2 Lytham Rd, Ashton in Makerfield, Wigan WN4 9RU.

Unwanted certificates should be sent to the above address. Please ensure you use the correct postage rate for the envelope size and weight. If in doubt, please ask at your local Post Office. Certificates will be listed in the **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR** as soon as possible after receipt.

Thank you for donating unwanted certificates to the FHSC.

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

ALLEN	Jane	M 1855 Apr 23	To Thomas Foxley. d/o Job Allen.	Oxford BKM.
BAGLEY	Sophia	M 1844 Apr 24	To John Foxley. d/o John Bagley.	Bedford. BDF
CHADWICK	Jonathan	B 1844 Dec 20	To John & Jane formerly Renshaw.	Manchester LAN.
DOWNING	Samuel	M 1887 Nov 10	To Elizabeth Newton. s/o Peter Downing.	Northwich CHS.
ENGLISH	Jessie. S.	B 1903 Feb 23	To Joseph S. & Annie Newman.	INDIA.
EVANSON	Ernest	B 1893 Sep 12	To Emanuel & Eliza formerly Huxley.	Crewe CHS.
EVANSON	William	B 1848 Jul 14	To Peter & Hannah formerly Cowap.	Wrenbury CHS.
FOXLEY	Thomas	M 1855 Apr 23	To Jane Allen. s/o William Foxley.	Oxford BKM.
FOXLEY	John	M 1844 Apr 24	To Sophia Bagley. s/o Richard Foxley.	Bedford. BDF
HINDLEY	Kate	B 1858 Aug 14	To James & Sarah formerly Jones.	Eastham. MDX.

NEWMAN	Annie E.	B 1872 Apr 16	To Job & Eliza J. formerly Savage.	Fulham. MDX.
NEWTON	Elizabeth	M 1887 Nov 10	To Samuel Downing. d/o -----	Northwich CHS.
SHEPHARD	John	B 1887 Sep 14	To John L. & Mary A formerly Francis.	Kensington MDX.
SHEPHERD	Charles	B 1849 Mar 4	To Charles & Mary A formerly Elliott.	Kensington MDX.
SHEPPARD	Susan C.	B 1890 Oct 3	To William & Mary A formerly Jimson.	Fulham. MDX.
SHEPPARD	John L.	B 1868 May 8	To William & Mary A formerly Grey.	Kensington MDX.
SHEPPARD	Charles J.	B 1895 May 13	To William & Mary A formerly Jimson.	Hammersmith MDX.
SHEPPARD	Ann E.	B 1893 Mar 2	To William & Mary A formerly Jimson.	Hammersmith MDX.
SHEPPARD	Mary A.	B 1889 Oct 11	To John & Mary A. formerly Francis.	Hammersmith MDX.
SHEPPARD	Mary A.	B 1888 Apr 18	To William & Mary A formerly Jimson.	Hammersmith MDX.
SHEPPARD	Joseph A.	B 1886 Feb 11	To William & Mary A formerly Jimson.	Hammersmith MDX.
SHEPPARD	John L.	B 1883 Jun 13	To William & Mary A formerly Jimson.	Hammersmith MDX.
SHEPPARD	Stanley G.	B 1914 Aug 21	To John L & Katherin formerly Currie.	Hammersmith MDX.
SHEPPARD	Leslie A	B 1911 May 11	To John L & Katherin formerly Currie.	Hammersmith MDX.
SHEPPARD	Margaret L	B 1908 Jun 9	To John L & Katherin formerly Currie.	Hammersmith MDX.
SHEPPARD	Sydney N.	B 1906 Dec 25	To John L. & Katherin formerly Currie.	Hammersmith MDX.
SHEPPARD	Edgar C.L.	B 1902 May 30	To John L & Katherin formerly Currie.	Hammersmith MDX.
SHEPPARD	Archibald J.W.	B 1905 Jan 29	To John Luke & Catherine Formerly Currie.	Fulham. MDX.
SYKES	Agnes	M 1894 May 12	To Joseph Wilkinson. d/o Edward Sykes.	Sandbach. CHS.
WILKINSON	Joseph	M 1894 May 12	To Agnes Sykes. s/o Benjamin Wilkinson.	Sandbach. CHS.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Re. Help Wanted: Roberts family (CA September 2017)

Thank you for publishing my request in your 'Help Wanted' column. I am pleased to tell you that my second cousin, John Roberts, has been in touch and I am looking forward to reconnecting with family members.

I would also like to thank, through CHESHIRE ANCESTOR, the former neighbour (also a FHSC member) who recognised the family and passed my request on to John's wife. If it had not been for this act of kindness I would never have been able to get in touch with the Roberts family, as previous attempts had been unsuccessful.

Sara Pearson (Mrs)
Member no. 3638

Famous Palindromic Names

www.independent.co.uk/voices/top-10-names-palindromes-trivia-a8319926.html

Tim Smit, founder of the Eden Project.

Leon Noel, France's ambassador to Poland at the outbreak of the Second World War.

Revilo Oliver, professor at the University of Illinois, who testified before the Warren Commission on JFK's assassination.

Lon Nol, prime minister and president of Cambodia, which he renamed the Khmer Republic, until he was overthrown by the Khmer Rouge in 1975.

Anuta Catuna, Romanian athlete who won the New York marathon in 1996.

Nisio Isin, Japanese novelist and manga writer.

Mike Kim, US-Korean author of *Escaping North Korea: Defiance and Hope in the World's Most Repressive Country*, which is being made into a film.

Ordelafo Faledro, Doge of Venice, 1102-17. A branch of a noble family in Romagna, known as Ordelaffi, or Ordelaf, moved to Venice and inverted the surname to Faledro, or Faliero.

Nell Allen, artist.

Anna Sanna, Democratic Left Italian mayor and MP in 1980s and 1990s.

A Family History Journey

by Jackie Jones
Member no. 6971

It must be about twenty years since I decided to try researching my family history. Online resources were just becoming available, I had a new computer and dial-up Internet connection (!) and decided, on a whim, to do a little delving. What was I to lose? All I had to help me were stories which had been passed down to me and an enthusiasm to learn.

I decided to follow my maternal grandmother's line, only because my grandmother had told me a few family stories which made me inquisitive. So, knowing that her father's name was Albert Leonard BROOKS I searched the available resources (which were made mostly using *Familysearch*, *Origins* - which later became *Find My Past* - and the GRO). I found his birth, sent for the certificate and was immediately dealt a bit of a shock. Remember, this was my first experience of family history searching. Albert Leonard's birth certificate had no father named on it. The certificate named his mother as Ann BROOKS and he was born 10 January 1876 in Butt Lane, Audley, Staffordshire. However, on the 1881 census he is shown as "son" in the family of John and Mercy BROOKS, living in Whaley Bridge, Derbyshire, and I was unable to find Ann BROOKS anywhere in that same census - did she die in childbirth?

I needed to find out more about Ann BROOKS to enable me to find out what happened to her after her son was born. I found her on the 1861 census living at Bridge Cottage, Tetton, Middlewich, alongside the Trent & Mersey Canal. The census gave her birth as 1858, Tetton. Her parents were Richard and Mary Martha BROOKS, and her brothers and sisters were Charles Prince BROOKS, b. 1842 Rugby, William, b. 1843 Leicester, Augustus, b. 1845 Yeadsley-cum-Whaley, John, b. 1848 Leicester, Alice, b. 1853 Leicester, Joseph, b. 1856 Tetton, and Mary Martha, b. 1861 Tetton. The 1871 census also shows their son Richard Christopher, b. 1863 Odd Rode, Cheshire.

So, in all, Richard BROOKS and his wife had nine children - five boys, four girls. Richard was a canal boatman on the 1861 census, as were the two oldest boys, and all the children were born along canal routes. Being a canal boatman may be the reason why I cannot find any trace of the family on the 1841 and 1851 censuses.

Over the years, Ann BROOKS eluded me. I recorded her brothers and sisters, their marriages and subsequent children. Her father, Richard, died in Arclid Workhouse in Cheshire in 1867, and in 1871 her mother was living at Cottage House, Tetton, which I think may be the same house she lived in with her family in 1861. On this census, Ann BROOKS was aged fourteen and employed at Kinderton Hulme Farm as a domestic servant. Five years later, her son, Albert Leonard, was born.

In 1881, Mary Martha BROOKS was a widow and living as head of the household in Congleton Road, Butt Lane, Audley, Cheshire, accompanied by her son Joseph, granddaughter Martha Ann, and sons Charles, William, John and Richard. Strange that Ann's mother was living in the area where Albert Leonard was born; was he born at her home?

Over the years I found out more about the various directions the family members took. I corresponded with someone living in Australia who was also related to my BROOKS ancestors - there are quite a few. Emails flew back and forth but I could never track down the elusive Ann BROOKS, mother of my great-grandfather. I visited the FHSC Research Centre when it was based in Alderley Edge and explained my predicament to a duty volunteer. "She will have got married" was the advice I was given. I now know that her advice was spot on.

About three or four years ago I was scrolling through *Ancestry* (as you do, on a wet Sunday afternoon) looking for anything to do with any Ann BROOKS who was born in Cheshire. Bingo!!! I found an Ann BROOKS marrying William Mycock STEVENSON in 1879 at St James' Church, Congleton, Cheshire. I can't describe the excitement of hammering down my first brick wall. Of course, I sent off for the marriage certificate and all my hopes were confirmed. Ann BROOKS married William Mycock STEVENSON on 15 April 1879 at the Parish Church of St James, Congleton, Cheshire. Ann's father's name was Richard BROOKS, occupation: boatman (although he is not described as deceased, which he most certainly was!)

With the information that Ann BROOKS married William STEVENSON, I revisited the 1881 census and found that they were living just down the road from Ann's mother, on Congleton Road, Butt Lane, Audley, with their firstborn child Elizabeth, aged one year.

Of course, I then researched Ann and William STEVENSON in the following censuses and found that they went on to have five children - Elizabeth b. 1880, Martha Mary (you can see the connection with Ann's mother here) b. 1884,

Joseph Brooks STEVENSON b. 1887 (perhaps in tribute to Ann's brother), Charles Ernest b. 1889, Louie b. 1891, Arthur Leonard b. 1895. I still find it interesting that Ann Brooks' first child was Albert Leonard BROOKS and her last-born was Arthur Leonard STEVENSON. What was the fascination with the name Leonard?

I managed to gain quite a bit of information about the STEVENSON family. Martha Mary, Charles Ernest and Louie ran a photographic studio, Charles being the photographer. Charles is listed as a photographer at 2 Woodshutts Avenue, Talke, Staffordshire in the 1912 Kelly's Directory. By 1916 they are based in a shop/studio at 105 Congleton Road, Talke. Eventually, Charles STEVENSON joined the GPO as a postal worker and, when Mary Martha died in 1926, Louie continued to run the shop as a general store until she passed away in 1944.

The moral of my story is this: always ask the family about ANY little stories or snippets of information. It was only three years ago that I found out that my BROOKS family knew of the STEVENSONs. My mother's cousin told me that she remembered visiting "Uncle Charlie" at his home, somewhere near Rhyl, Flintshire, in the 1960s. "Uncle Charlie" turned out to be Charles STEVENSON, son of Ann STEVENSON n^{èe} BROOKS.

I sent for the will of Louie STEVENSON and found that Louie had left a sum of money to my great-uncle – the son of Albert Leonard BROOKS. In other words, she left a bequest to her half-nephew. Of course, he might actually have been her full nephew, if his father was William Mycock STEVENSON, who married his mother a few years after he was born. Who knows?

Victorian Invention to Prevent Oversleeping

Spotted in the newspaper archives by Myko Clelland of *FindMyPast*: an 1851 invention from the Great Exhibition that tips you out of bed in the morning and throws you into the bath. Wonder why it never caught on?

Mr Jones, of Lombard St, exhibits a silent alarum bedstead, to turn any one out of bed at a given hour. This is certainly one of the most amusing inventions we ever heard of. It assumes a degree of density in the sleeper which no alarum can affect, or else a singular amount of luxurious weakness of purpose. The bed, therefore, acts the part of Resolution for the sleeper; and having been "set" overnight for a given hour in the morning, the said incorrigible sleeper finds the bed revolve so as to tip him out; and a bath being placed by the bed-side, he may at once be relieved of all need for summoning a resolution either to get up or to take a plunge.

An Old Adage

by Gren Dix
Member no. 4174

In the September 2018 issue of **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR** I wrote about taking too narrow a view. In particular, if someone said that they were from or of a certain village it didn't necessarily mean that they were born there. This time I will encourage readers to heed the words of an old adage, which is given at the end of this article.

One branch of my family lived in villages to the east of Ludlow, Shropshire - in particular the quaintly named villages of Cleobury Mortimer, Stanton Lacy, Hope Bagot, Neen Sollars and Hopton Wafers. My direct ancestors lived in the last of these for well over a hundred years. For some time I was stuck with the earliest ancestor, who married in 1764 and died in 1806 at the age of sixty-six - thus he was born about 1740. Using various websites, I searched for anyone with his name born in Shropshire about this time. His surname was fairly rare for Shropshire, and only one possibility came up. This man was born about 1739-40 and baptised in Stottesdon, a village about six miles north-east of Hopton Wafers. On looking at the image of the parish register, at first I couldn't find him. That was no surprise as the writing was even worse than mine. However, the facing page had the heading *Baptisms at Farlow*. Farlow? Where is that? Out came the FHSC 2½ inch map at the Mobberley Research Centre, and I found that Farlow is a village equidistant from Hopton Wafers and Stottesdon. This gave me reasonable assurance that I had the correct baptism. The entry also gave me the forenames of his parents, and further searches gave me the marriage of his parents and his siblings.

Hindsight is a wonderful thing. On looking at descendants I found that a couple of marriages had taken place in Stottesdon.

In a similar vein I was looking for my DIX ancestors. Again I cast my net wide (in Northamptonshire in this case). I suspected that there might be dissenters (nonconformists) amongst my ancestors. Lo and behold, the search gave a dissenter baptism in a nearby town. Looking at the image of the event I found that although the church was listed as being in the town, a note against the baptism said that he had been baptised in his home village.

The moral is: always look at the original documents when possible.

An Unusual Will

by Astrid Dean
Member no. 7631
astridsdean@gmail.com

For some time I have been researching the SIMCOCK family from Mobberley, trying to find the connection between my SIMCOCKs who lived in the Baguley Green and the New Mills area of Mobberley and the SIMCOCKs who still live at Grimsditch Farm. I have got back to John SIMCOCK born around 1746 but still cannot find the connection. I think the answer lies with one of John's eight children, Caleb, as this name passes down to the SIMCOCKs from Grimsditch Farm even to this day but I need to do a lot more digging. However, whilst researching I came across a very interesting will, that of John SIMCOCK's widow, Nancy.

John SIMCOCK married Nancy MOORS on 20th June 1773 at St Wilfrid's Church, Mobberley. They went on to have eight children: Elizabeth, Lydia, John, Nancy, Andrew, David, Caleb and finally Enoch, to whom I am related. John SIMCOCK died on 21st September 1798, aged 52, and was buried three days later at the Quaker Burial Ground in Mobberley. I found no will for John but did find a later one for Nancy, written in 1821. Nancy was buried at St Wilfrid's Church on 14th October 1832, aged 82. She obviously took over the running of the farm after her husband's death, assisted by some of her children. Her will states:

... All my farming stock, household and other goods, furniture, plate, linen and china should be valued and sold and the money arising from such a sale together with such other money and property as I may die possessed of shall be divided equally amongst my children Elizabeth, Lydia, John, Nancy, Andrew, David, Caleb and Enoch. Except that David having lived with me and worked for me so long I direct his share shall be £10 more than the other children.

The share of my daughter, Lydia shall not be paid to her present husband John BRADBURY as I do not intend him to devise any benefit whatsoever from it but I do hereby appoint my executors to receive the share of my daughter Lydia and to pay it to her and for her benefit. If my daughter shall die in my lifetime her share shall be divided equally between her two illegitimate children, William SIMCOCK and John SIMCOCK.

I direct that the farm I now hold by lease for a term of years shall be occupied for the remainder of the term by my son Andrew for his own use and benefit provided he allow my daughter Lydia to live with him. If my daughter Lydia and son Andrew cannot agree or do not find it convenient to live together I direct that Lydia shall have for her own use the parlour and the chamber over the parlour provided that she continue to live separate from her husband, John BRADBURY, but if she shall at any time again live and cohabit with her said husband then I direct that during such time she shall forfeit all claim upon the said farm and farmhouse occupied by my son Andrew.

I nominate my son David and James STANLEY of Warford my executors.

This will raises all sorts of questions. Did Nancy disapprove of Lydia's husband John BRADBURY? He had married Lydia and taken on her two illegitimate sons but maybe Nancy thought he had his eye on Lydia's inheritance? Or was John BRADBURY abusive to Lydia and her sons? Maybe Nancy was a controlling matriarch? It cannot be common for a mother to direct a daughter not to live with her legally married husband. I tried to find out a bit more about Lydia. What did she do after her mother died? Who did she live with?

On the *FamilySearch* website are two records for a Lydia SIMCOCK: the first is the baptism of her son William Thurbishley SIMCOCK on 18th July 1802 at the Old Dissenting Chapel, Presbyterian, Nether Knutsford. This is verified on *FindMyPast* with an image of the nonconformist register:

Wm Thurbishley son of Lydia SIMCOCK of Mobberley born April 9th 1802

I believe "Thurbishley" to be a misspelling, as further investigation produced no further references to Thurbishley SIMCOCK but several for Curbishley or Corbishley SIMCOCK. There was also a William CURBISHLEY living in Mobberley at this time – was he the father of her children?

The second record for Lydia is her marriage to John BRADBURY, sawyer, at Wilmslow Parish church on 27th March 1818.

In the 1841 census I tracked Lydia down to Siddington where she was living with her son John, a farmer, his wife Hannah and son William, aged 6. In 1851, at the age of 69, she was described as a *late potato dealer*, lodging at George Street, Bowdon along with Mary SIMCOCK aged 8, who may have been her granddaughter. In 1861 she was living with Mary SIMCOCK, then 18, in John Street, Altrincham. Neither had a profession listed.

A will of 1846 shows that her son John Corbishley SIMCOCK, a cheese factor, who resided at Ashton on Mersey, left an estate valued at under £450 to his wife Hannah.

In 1841 her other son William, a saddler, was living at Chester Rd, Chorlton with his wife Maria and children John and Louisa. By 1851 the family had moved to Crown Street, Hulme and had five more children.

Lydia died at the age of 87 and was buried at the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Bowdon on 20th Jan 1863.

WWI Military Exemption

by Jean Jones
Member no. 1515

This is the Military Service Certificate of Exemption issued to my grandfather, William J. LAMPREY (1878-1920) in Newport, Monmouthshire on 9th June 1916.

When conscription came in during the First World War in 1916, provision was made for men (or their employers) to apply to a Military Service Tribunal for exemption from service for a variety of reasons, including business or domestic hardship, medical unfitness, conscientious objection, and being employed in work of national importance. In this case, grandfather was employed in the coal mining industry and was granted exemption provided that he remained employed as a coal trimmer.

Local Tribunal: Name _____
Address NEWPORT, MON.
Certificate No. 141
This is to certify that:—
Name (in full) William Lamprey.
Address (in full) 45 Alice St.
Age 38
Occupation, profession or business Coal trimmer.
is exempted from the provisions of the Military Service Act, 1916.
The exemption is* Conditional on remaining as a coal trimmer.
The ground on which the exemption is granted is _____
Signature Johanna Jones
Date 9. 6. 16. for the Tribunal.
* State whether the exemption is absolute, conditional (in which case the conditions should be stated) or temporary (in which case the period of time should be stated).
If the exemption is granted on conscientious grounds and is from combatant service only, this should also be stated.

Patriots: Railways and the Great War

by George Maund

Railways played a crucial role in supporting the British and Allied campaigns of both world wars. From 1914 to 1918, in addition to its normal work, the leading west coast route of the London and North Western Railway (L&NWR), centred on its works at Crewe, provided a vital link in taking the colossal supplies of coal from south Wales to Scotland to power the Naval fleet and produce vast quantities of munitions. Over thirty thousand of its staff volunteered for military service, with more than one in ten of those making the ultimate sacrifice.

Seven railway employees, out of a total of 186,475 across all the railway companies who served, were awarded the Victoria Cross for individual acts of bravery and valour: LCpl John CHRISTIE, Euston Station, L&NWR, Thomas Norman JACKSON, engine cleaner, Mexborough, Great Central Railway, Sgt John MEIKLE, Nitshill Station, Glasgow, Barrhead & Kilmarnock Joint Railway, Jacob RIVERS, labourer, Midland Railway, Charles ROBERTSON, Blackwall Station, Great Eastern Railway, Ernest SYKES, platelayer, Micklehurst, L&NWR, and a young engine cleaner employed by the L&NWR at Stockport's Edgeley shed, Wilfred WOOD.

Wilfred enlisted in 1916 at the age of 19, joining the 6th Battalion, Cheshire Regiment; after being drafted to France, he was transferred to the 10th Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers which moved to Italy to fight against Austro-Hungarian forces in November 1917. On 28th October 1918, at the battle of Vittorio Veneto, Pte WOOD charged enemy machine-gun emplacements, resulting in the surrender of over 300 soldiers, and was later awarded the Victoria Cross. The citation for his V.C. stated:

For most conspicuous bravery and initiative on 28 October 1918, near Casa Van, Italy, when a unit on the right flank having been held up by hostile machine guns and snipers, Pte. Wood, on his own initiative, worked forward with his Lewis gun, enfiladed the enemy machine-gun nest, and caused 140 enemy to surrender.

The advance was continued till a hidden machine gun opened fire at point blank range. Without a moment's hesitation Pte. Wood charged the machine gun, firing his Lewis gun from the hip at the same time. He killed the machine-gun crew, and without further orders pushed on and enfiladed a ditch from which three officers and 160 men subsequently surrendered.

The conspicuous valour and initiative of this gallant soldier in the face of intense rifle and machine-gun fire was beyond all praise.

Wilfred WOOD was demobilised in 1919 and returned to railway service, becoming a driver and inspector. He retired in 1960 and died in 1982.

After the war, three railway companies named locomotives to honour their employees who had fought and died during the conflict - *Valour* (Great Central Railway), *Remembrance* (London Brighton and South Coast Railway) and *Patriot* (LNWR), which was given the number 1914. The locomotives all carried special plaques to acknowledge the sacrifice of these brave men:

1165 *Valour*: *In memory of G.C.R. employees who gave their lives for their country, 1914-1918*

333 *Remembrance*: *In grateful remembrance of the 532 men of the L.B. & S.C.Rly who gave their lives for their country, 1914-1919*

1914 *Patriot*: *In Memory of the Fallen L.&N.W.R. Employees 1914-1919*



Photo: Oakwood Visuals

The L&NWR also named three *Cloughton* Class locomotives after their three employees who had been awarded the Victoria Cross.

When the *Cloughton* locomotives were withdrawn in the 1930s, the locomotive named *Patriot* was scrapped; this caused great resentment amongst railwaymen, being taken as an insult to the memory of their fallen colleagues. The name was subsequently transferred to the first of a new class of engines which became known as "the Patriots". Many of these were given names with military connections, and the nameplates *Private E. Sykes V.C.* and *Private W. Wood V.C.*, who were both still employed by the LMS, were transferred to new locomotives.

Locomotive number 5536 was named *Private W. Wood V.C.*, the nameplate being unveiled by Mr WOOD himself at Stockport in 1936. "Patriots" became a familiar sight on the west coast main line and on express passenger trains in the north-west. Sadly, with the demise of steam, this second locomotive was scrapped in the 1960s, although the nameplates survived and were given to the Northumberland Fusiliers Museum. The museum gave one to Mr WOOD, which he donated to his old school in Norbury, Hazel Grove.



*Wilfred Wood in the cab of
5536 "Private W Wood V.C."
Photo: Bob Essery*

A pub in Hazel Grove, adjacent to Hazel Grove war memorial and opened by Wetherspoons in 2010, is named the *Wilfred Wood* and has information about Wilfred WOOD on an exterior plaque and on interior display panels.

On 11th November 2016, Freightliner named their diesel locomotive number 66418 *Patriot* in a naming ceremony following a Remembrance Day service at Freightliner's new Crewe depot. The naming was carried out by Adam CUNLIFFE, Freightliner's U.K. managing director, and Graham WOOD, the grandson of Wilfred WOOD V.C. The locomotive nameplate also carries the message *In Memory of Fallen Railway Employees*.

That, however, is not the end of the story, for in 2007 a project was launched to build a brand new Patriot class steam locomotive to act as a National Memorial Engine. This engine is being built largely to the original plans, with some alterations, including additional safety features and a 2½ inch height reduction, to allow for full main line use under modern conditions. Costing at least £2million, and dependent on sponsorship and regular donations from supporters, it will be appropriately named *The Unknown Warrior* and carry the same number, 5551, as the last Patriot, built at Crewe Works in 1934.

Most of the assembly is taking place at the Llangollen Railway, with parts being constructed at a number of locations around the country. The heart of a steam engine, of course, is the boiler and this is where another Cheshire link comes in, for its construction started in Crewe using traditional skills, with completion taking place in Derbyshire.

The latest news is that members of the public have been invited to see the partially-built locomotive at Crewe Heritage Centre on Remembrance weekend, 10th-11th November 2018, when the new crest will be unveiled by Simon WESTON C.B.E., the project's patron. Crewe Heritage Centre is also hosting the *Rails and Remembrance* exhibition until the end of December 2018, which tells the story of the role railways played during the Great War, and the Remembrance locomotives that were later built.

It is hoped that *The Unknown Warrior* will be completed in time to take a role in 2019 with the re-enactment of the repatriation of the body of the Unknown Warrior.* For those of us old enough to remember the Patriots in action, this new locomotive will bring back many fond memories.

Sources and further information

* On 10 November 1920, the body of the Unknown Warrior was carried from Dover to London in South Eastern and Chatham Railway General Utility Van No.132, which had previously been used to transport the bodies of Edith Cavell and Charles Fryatt. The train arrived at platform 8 of Victoria Station at 8.32pm and remained there overnight. A plaque at Victoria Station marks the site: every year on 10 November a small Remembrance service, organised by The Western Front Association, takes place there. The van has been preserved by the Kent and East Sussex Railway and was restored in 2010.

The LMS-Patriot Project: www.lms-patriot.org.uk or by post to The LMS-Patriot Company Ltd, The Hub, 17 Eastgate Street, Stafford, ST16 2LZ.

Railway staff V.C. winners: www.railstaff.uk/2017/02/08/heroes-britains-railways-great-war

Information about Wilfred Wood: <http://vconline.org.uk/wilfred-wood-vc/4588567768> and <https://livesofthefirstworldwar.org/lifestory/4857855>

The naming of Freightliner 66418: www.projectrailwayhonour.com/news

The Unknown Warrior: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Unknown_Warrior

Kent and East Sussex Railway: www.kesr.org.uk

Crewe Heritage Centre: <https://crewehc.org/>

British Locomotive Database: www.brdatabase.info



Lancashire and Cheshire-interest
books my speciality

“ACORNS”
3 STAINING RISE
STAINING
BLACKPOOL FY3 OBU

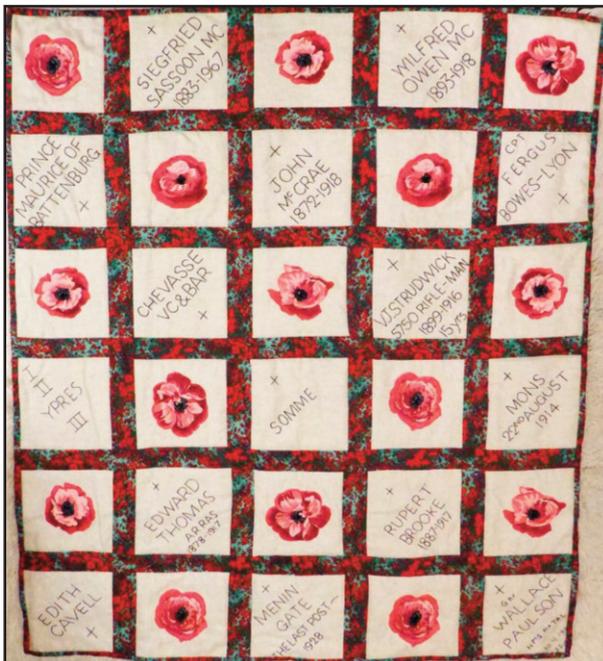
Tel: 01253 886103
email: landypublishing@yahoo.co.uk

Wallace Paulson and HMS *Natal*

by *Elly Macbeath*
Member no. 7921

In the June 2014 issue of **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR** was a request to contribute to a WWI Centenary Quilt to celebrate, in fabric and thread, those who served with the Commonwealth forces during WWI. The stated aim was to produce a quilt made up of fabric squares embroidered with the names of ancestors or those in the local community who gave their lives. I sent a square with the name of a young man from the Roll of Honour in my local parish church, All Saints, Thornton Hough, Wirral; at the time I believed I didn't have an ancestor who had served and died in WWI.

This request in **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**, together with a visit to the battlefields of WWI in 2014, was the impetus to produce a commemorative quilt of my own. I have included poets, battlefields, two members of our Royal family and an ancestor, Wallace PAULSON, whom I found lost his life in a disaster in the Cromarty Firth in 1915.



Gunner Wallace PAULSON (1892-1915) was a son of one of my great-uncles. His parents were William PAULSON (b.1856) and his first wife, Sarah (1862-1902). Wallace had five siblings, one half-sister and one stepsister. In the 1911 census he was eighteen years old and employed as an engine cleaner with the Great Central Railway. His service records show that he joined the Royal Marine Artillery in 1911, and by 1912 he had been promoted to the rank of Gunner. He was on board HMS *Natal* on 30th December 1915 and was one of 421 crew and visitors who died in an explosion in the Cromarty Firth whilst at anchor. The remains of the wreck are designated as a war grave.

HMS *Natal* was launched by Louisa Cavendish, Duchess of Devonshire and cost £1,218,244. Funds to build her came from the residents of the colony of Natal. She was an escort ship to RMS *Medina* in 1911-12 which served as the Royal Yacht for His Majesty King George and Queen Mary to attend the Delhi Durbur. In 1914 HMS *Natal* joined the Grand Fleet and in January 1915 she was refitted at Cromarty Firth. She spent most of 1915 on patrol in the North Sea until she had a brief refit in Camel Lairds shipyard, Birkenhead on 22nd November 1915. She rejoined 2nd Cruiser squadron at Scapa Flow, and twelve days later the squadron sailed to Cromarty Firth.

On 30th December 1915 at 3.25pm a series of violent explosions ripped through the ship's stern. Investigations revealed the cause to be an internal ammunition explosion. There was one known survivor, the chief stoker, who escaped through a porthole.

In my family archive material I have a photograph of a man in the uniform of the Sherwood Foresters (Notts & Derby Regiment). This man was identified by my father (1915 - 1981) as Wallace PAULSON. In this archive I have four postcard albums containing Easter, Christmas and birthday cards, which belonged to three sisters of my great-grandfather. Two postcards show HMS *Natal* and were sent by Wallace to my great-aunt Ellen. They seem to have been written whilst he was on board ship in 1915. Another postcard shows white heather, bagpipes and a thistle - all Scottish emblems. This seems consistent with HMS *Natal* being in Scotland in 1915.



A fourth postcard from Wallace is a photograph of a group of gunners on board ship – with no indication which one is Wallace! These postcards close with the words *from your everloving cousin*, accompanied by fifteen kisses! This great-aunt died, a spinster, in 1924. I wonder whether a relationship would have developed further, had he survived?



My only living relative on my father's side of the family is a bachelor cousin, five years younger than me. In his possession is a Christmas card from Wallace and a card commemorating his death. So, there is no one we can ask to confirm or deny the identity of the man in the photograph, said by my father said to be Wallace PAULSON. Hence, the next part of my research is to try to ascertain if there is a photograph of this relative in other records. Meanwhile, he is commemorated in my WWI quilt.

Further information

HMS Natal: www.hmsnatal.co.uk

Cromarty Image Archive: www.thecromartyarchive.org/groups.asp?id=7

Nottinghamshire County Council Roll of Honour - Wellor War Memorial:
<https://secure.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/RollOfHonour/WarMemorials/Details/620>

Nottinghamshire County Council Roll of Honour - Kneesall War Memorial:
<https://secure.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/RollOfHonour/WarMemorials/Details/103>

Lives of the First World War: <https://livesofthefirstworldwar.org/lifestory/6962247>

Arthur Edwin Pickering, Royal Engineers

*by Roger Sutton
Member no. 9076*

It is now one hundred years since the end of the First World War. It was on 19th November 1918 that my grandfather, Arthur Edwin PICKERING, died of Spanish influenza and pneumonia while serving in France. This is his story, and that of his family.

Arthur was born on 2nd June 1875 in New Cross, South London. He was one of six children of John Turney PICKERING and Annette ROLLS, who were married on 1st May 1866 at St. George's Church, Camberwell. In 1881, Arthur's father was listed on the census as a bank cashier and Captain of Volunteers. On leaving school, Arthur worked as a draughtsman for a Jewish firm of architects in Broad Street in the City of London. This firm specialised in designing synagogues for London's large and growing Jewish population.

Arthur married Florence Amy GERRETT on 27th June 1908 at St Mark's Church, South Norwood. Florence had been born on 3rd December 1877 at 7 Old Cavendish Street, where her father ran a warehouse doing business with drapers and textile dealers. Today the whole of Old Cavendish Street has been taken over by the House of Fraser and John Lewis of Oxford Street.

Arthur and Florence's daughter Eileen (my mother) was born on 18th March 1913 at South Norwood; their son Arthur was born on 6th June 1919, after the death of his father.

Arthur enlisted on 29th May 1915, just four days before his 40th birthday, joining the Royal Field Artillery as a gunner with service number 28644. Fortunately, his service records are included in the forty per cent which survived the fire at the War Office Record Store in Arnside Street, London in September 1940, caused by an incendiary bomb. Until 2nd July 1916 Arthur was based in England; he was then sent to join the British Expeditionary Force in France. Arthur's wife and daughter later moved to Worthing, West Sussex, to escape the German bombing of south London.

On 25th September 1916 Arthur was appointed Acting Bombardier, but reverted to the rank of gunner on 27th February 1917. His wife was informed

that he had been wounded on 23rd April 1917, but by June he must have recovered because he had been transferred to the Royal Engineers with service number 307206 (later WR/276149) and was in Boulogne-sur-Mer, an important base port for the British Army.

The war relied on the technically skilled Royal Engineers, and Arthur served with the 5th Railway Survey and Reconnaissance Section, a Canadian unit which had an office in an old railway carriage. Arthur was examined in several subjects and on 1st January 1918 he was awarded the qualification of Draughtsman (Railway) with an overall grade of "Superior". The subjects tested were Profiles (very superior), Plans (very superior), Points, Crossings and Yards (superior), Structures (skilled), Earthwork Quantities (skilled) and Mathematics (skilled).

In the closing days of the war Arthur contracted influenza which led to pneumonia. He was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 16th November 1918 and died there three days later on 19th November 1918, just a few days after the Armistice. He is buried in Auberchicourt British Cemetery, Nord, France. His widow, Florence, later recalled that his former employers were very good to her.

Arthur's siblings

Percy, born in 1868, was the eldest; he became a bank clerk and, later, an actor, using the stage name Percy BALLARD. He appeared in *The Silver Chord* in London's West End, and toured South Africa. In January 1921 he appeared in the comedy *French Leave*, which ran for a fortnight at the *Tivoli*, Cape Town, and *carried honours*, according to a newspaper review. Percy's uncle, William Baugh PICKERING, had emigrated to Transvaal, South Africa in 1889 and had twelve children; there are still numerous PICKERINGS in South Africa.

Mabel, born in 1870, went to South Africa with Percy and married late in life, becoming Mabel INGHAM. She lived at 374 Baring Road, Grove Park, London. Mabel was the informant when her mother Annette died in September 1933 at the age of ninety.

Henry Rolls PICKERING, born in 1872, became first a printer's roller, and later a buyer of German wines. He married Flora STUMER, whose father was German, in 1896.

Elsie PICKERING, born in 1874, married George HALE, who was related to the GERRETT family, on 2nd August 1899. George had a farm at Timperley, Cheshire, and their children, Stephen, Annette and Dudley, all attended

boarding schools. My mother Eileen, their cousin, recalled having a holiday at the farm in Timperley, which specialised in growing fruit.

The youngest brother, John PICKERING, was born in 1877 and was educated at West Kent Grammar School, Brockley. He joined the London Joint Stock Bank at the age of eighteen on 17th October 1895, on a salary of £50; by 1913 his salary was £210. He retired on 1st April 1927, by which time his salary was £525. He was very musical, and ran a small orchestra in his spare time.

Arthur's parents and earlier ancestors

Arthur's mother was Annette ROLLS. Her grandfather, William ROLLS (1772 - 1845), was a property speculator of Marlborough Place, Old Kent Road, Camberwell. After his death, he left 115 properties and his bequests totalled £24,885. As a widow, Annette had lived at Rose Cottage, Penketh, Warrington, Cheshire, possibly moving there to be closer to her daughter Elsie at Timperley.

Annette's great-grandfather was Joseph RAY (1753 - 1837), a builder of 6 St. Dunstan's Hill, City of London, whose wife was Mary ADAMS. Both RAY and ADAMS are Sephardic Jewish surnames, and the surname GERRETT is of the same origin. Both my grandparents, therefore, had Jewish ancestry, although there is no indication that they knew about this.

Arthur's father, John Turney PICKERING, was born on 23rd October 1839 at Newington; his mother's maiden name was TURNEY. He spent the whole of his career working for the London Joint Stock bank, where his son John also worked. The bank was founded in 1836 at 4 Princes Street, City of London. John was remembered by my grandmother Florence as a very generous man - if you said you liked something, he would buy it for you. My mother Eileen remembered the PICKERINGs as a jolly family, who liked the good things in life; they entertained quite a lot, organising musical evenings and whist drives.

The father of John Turney PICKERING was John PICKERING (1808 - 1852), who was born in Bermondsey. John and his brother Samuel (1802 - 1857) were drug and spice brokers, specialising in mercury, which is highly toxic. This is probably the reason that members of the PICKERING family who were engaged in this business often died young.

The father of John PICKERING, Arthur's great-grandfather, was Samuel PICKERING (1767 - 1823). He was born in Arclid, near Sandbach, Cheshire. Samuel moved to London in the late eighteenth century and lived at Pump Court, Long Lane, Bermondsey.

Samuel Pickering's father was Thomas PICKERING (1745 – 1777), who was the Diocese Surgeon of Arclid. He died when Samuel was only nine years old; this may be the reason that Samuel decided to move to London.

Cheshire is associated with dairy farming and making Cheshire cheese, which is what earlier PICKERING ancestors did for a living. My ancestor John PICKERING (died 1688) made Cheshire cheese: there is a reference to a cheese press in his will of 16th March 1688. His son Thomas PICKERING left a will dated 18th September 1690, attached to which is an inventory which includes dairy cows valued at £23 and Cheshire cheese in the cheese chamber worth £15. His brothers John, Samuel, Bernard, William and Joseph were all listed as yeomen.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to the Mobberley Research Centre and my distant cousin Celia COTTON of Leicester for their assistance.

Further reading

West Sussex and the Great War Project, Arthur Edwin Pickering:
www2.westsussex.gov.uk/learning-resources/LR/arthur_edwin_pickering7b4d.pdf

British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa, No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station: https://bifhsgo.ca/cstm_cdnCasClrStn.php

Wikipedia, Sephardi Jews: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sephardi_Jews

Walter Bradbury and family, of Macclesfield, died October/November 1918

Walter Bradbury served as Private 73050 with the 24th (Denbighshire Yeomanry) Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, and was killed in action on 31st October 1918 in Belgium, aged 35. The death of Private Bradbury was reported in the *Macclesfield Courier* on 23 November 1918:

PRIVATE BRADBURY – Mrs Bradbury, of Blagg Street, Hurdsfield, who was suffering from influenza at the time, heard on Sunday morning of the death of her husband in France. This bad news made her much worse, and she died the same night. Next day her little boy also passed away, and her sister who came to nurse them is now lying seriously ill.

All three are remembered on a family gravestone in Macclesfield Cemetery. Walter's daughter Sylvia, then aged four, survived.

Joshua Bracegirdle, Bigamist

*by Jean M Lancashire
Member no. 4120*

It is said that you shouldn't undertake studying your family history unless you are prepared to find unsavoury facts about your ancestors such as madness and criminal behaviour. I have found family members in the asylum, others suffering from disease and poverty, ending their days in the dreaded workhouse, but my ancestor Joshua BRACEGIRDLE proved to be the most colourful of the lot.

I started to research the ancestry of my paternal grandmother, Matilda HULME (born 1869 in Macclesfield) with only a few details from my father. He knew that her mother was called Caroline and her father was Joshua BRACEGIRDLE, and that a relative had been sexton at Prestbury Parish Church. That was it.

I found Joshua on various censuses but the information about him didn't add up. The only constant was his occupation, first silk weaver and then joiner, and his place of birth, Knutsford. His approximate date of birth varied wildly from census to census. It was to vary even more on the three marriage entries that I eventually found for him.

On the 1841 census he was aged 25; 1851 aged 35; 1861 aged 44; 1871 aged 50; 1881 aged 60; 1891 aged 70 and in the last listing 1901 he was 84. His death certificate dated 10 June 1903 gave his age as 88. He was to lie about his age on every official document that I could trace.

The only baptism entry online for a likely candidate for my Joshua BRACEGIRDLE was on 19 September 1813 at St. Mary's, Bowdon, son of John BRACEGIRDLE, a farmer and his wife Hannah. As Bowdon is situated some distance from Knutsford it seemed unlikely, until I examined the actual baptism entry where his birthplace was given as Knutsford. This proved the necessity of always examining the source material, not just relying on the Internet. He was the fourth child of nine by John's first marriage to Hannah HOBSON in 1804 at Bowdon. John subsequently had another six children by his second wife Charlotte, whom he married in 1833 at Stockport Parish Church.

I found a marriage at St. Mary's Church, Cheadle in Cheshire on 8 May 1831 between Joshua BRACEGIRDLE and Ann BOON. The information in the entry

was scanty. Both were stated to be of full age and resident in the parish, married after banns. Neither signed the register and their marriage was witnessed by parish officials, not family members. Joshua was therefore 18 at the time of his marriage, not the full age of 21. But why did they marry at Cheadle?

The answer was that Ann was much older than her spouse, and as her father was the sexton at Prestbury Church it would have caused a scandal. It is possible they married in secret. I discovered that the families were neighbours in the small hamlet of Butley in the parish of Prestbury, the BRACEGIRDLES having moved there from Bowdon to farm. Ann was 29 at the time of her marriage to Joshua, eleven years his senior (she was baptised 1 November 1801, the daughter of Peter & Elizabeth BOOND (not BOON)).

Joshua and Ann's first known child, Hannah, was baptised at Prestbury Church on 9 December 1832, and buried there the following February, aged 3 months. My great-grandmother, Caroline, who was born at Prestbury on 13 December 1834, was not baptised until 30 June 1837 at Brunswick Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Sutton, Macclesfield. The record gave details of her date of birth, names of parents (Jesse instead of Joshua) and maternal grandparents so this confirmed that Ann BOON was the daughter of Peter & Elizabeth BOON (the surname BOOND is often misspelled in records). This also caused confusion with regard to Caroline as her baptism date, not her birth date was used to calculate her age in the census. The fact that she was baptised in the Methodist chapel may reflect either that it was cheaper than a Church of England baptism or that there had been a family rift.

All seemed well with the little family as both parents and Caroline are recorded living in Macclesfield in the 1841 and 1851 censuses. The last recorded date that Joshua was living with his family in Macclesfield was when he witnessed the marriage of his sister Elizabeth on 15 June 1851. He must have deserted his family soon afterwards.

He reappeared in Brighton in the 1861 census, living at 1 Scotland Street, aged 44, carpenter, living with his wife Mary, 44, born in Godalming, Surrey. They were not in fact yet married, but Ann was still alive and living in Macclesfield when he bigamously married Mary HEATHORN, claiming to be 44 and a widower, on 31 April 1862 at Brighton Register Office. Ann died of chronic bronchitis and heart disease on 19 March 1864, shortly after the marriage of Caroline to my great-grandfather, George HULME.

By 1871, Joshua had returned to Macclesfield and was living at 25 Justice Street, but the Mary listed as his wife was not Mary HEATHORN, she was Mary

HARRISON, whom he had married at St. Peter's Church, Congleton, on 10 July 1870. I have no evidence as to the whereabouts or death of Mary BRACEGIRDLE, née HEATHORN, so it is possible that Joshua again committed bigamy. He claimed to be a widower, aged 48, and his bride Mary to be 35 (he was really 57 and Mary was 32). The marriage was destined to be short-lived as Mary died of phthisis in January 1872.

Joshua remained in Macclesfield and must have reconciled with his daughter, Caroline, as she named her son after him and her husband, George HULME, registered Joshua's death on 10 June 1903 at the Workhouse Infirmary. Joshua was buried at Holy Trinity Church, Hurdsfield two days later.

Goodbye to Old Weights and Measures

by Chester Guttridge
Member no. 9193

I have in front of me Joseph Sauls' *Tutor and Scholar's Assistant; being A Complete Treatise of Vulgar and Decimal Arithmetic 1847*, published by Longman, Brown and Co (with others), London. It is the 14th edition, which suggests it sold well in its time. Mr Saul, in his original preface, writes:

The author's design in this treatise is to exhibit, in a clear and concise manner, a set of rules in several branches of Arithmetic, naturally arising out of each other; to furnish a more extensive collection of Practical Questions than are to be met with in any other work on the same subject; with such familiar illustrations and remarks as the learner generally requires of the teacher.

I can safely say that in its 212 pages, 71 chapters, 33 tables, numerous specimen calculations, upwards of 3000 questions (but no answers), it fulfils all reasonable expectations. One can understand Joseph's reluctance to spend time working out the answers. There are tables of weights: Troy, Apothecary and Avoirdupois; measures: linear, square or superficial cubic or solid; measures of ale and beer, of wine, spirit, honey, oil, etc.; of dry commodities such as cereals, salt, coal and oysters; of time; and of Imperial coinage. Pi is given to 208 decimal places, which the author presumes is accurate. Its reciprocal is given to only 18 places.

This is the book for you if you wish to know that one cubic inch of distilled water at 62° Fahrenheit weighs 252.456 grains troy in air and 252.722 grains

troy in a vacuum, whereas a cubic foot of water weighs 998.17969 ounces avoirdupois in a vacuum. I will not burden you with further details, except to mention that 1,728 cubic inches of air weighs 528.376 grains troy or 1.207696 ounces avoirdupois.

It might be worth noting that one pound troy equals 12 ounces, 240 pennyweights or 55,296,000 periotics in the troy scale, while in the apothecaries scale one pound is 12 ounces, or 96 drams, 288 scruples or 5,760 grains. An avoirdupois pound (lb) is 16 ounces, as mum's old recipe books will confirm. The apothecaries also measured liquids, one gallon equalling 8 pints, 1,280 fluid drams or 76,800 minims.

Avoirdupois weights, which some of us remember from school days, were used to weigh dry materials, which the book describes as *coarse and dross, or subject to waste, groceries and all kinds of bread, butter, cheese, and most other necessities of life; pitch, tar, resin, wax, tallow, flax, etc.; as are likewise all metals, silver and gold excepted*. One ton, it may be remembered, equals 20 hundredweight (cwt), 2,240 pounds (lbs), 35,840 ounces (oz) or 573,440 drams. An allowance called a trett could be deducted, when appropriate, for waste at the rate of 4lbs per 104lbs or 1/26th part of theuttle, theuttle being the overall weight. After the trett had been deducted the remainder was called the trettuttle.

For our convenience, Mr Saul has already calculated that the avoirdupois ounce is less than the troy ounce by one and 97/175 drams avoirdupois, or 42½ grains troy, or in the ratio 175 to 192. Further examples are given.

In some circles it was useful to know that a firkin of soap weighed 64 lbs while a firkin of butter weighed only 56 lbs. A fodder of lead was 19½ cwt in London and Hull, 22cwt at Stockton, 20 cwt at Chester, 22½ cwt at Derby and Bawtry and 21 cwt at Newcastle.

A peck loaf of bread came in at 17 lbs, 6 oz and 1 dram - some loaf! Wool was weighed in pounds, cloves, stones, tods, weys, packs, sacks and lasts. A last of wood weighed 4,368 lbs.

More mature ladies and retired tailors may recall that cloth was measured in inches, nails, quarters, Flemish ells, yards, English ells or French ells. A French ell was the largest, measuring 6 quarters or 24 nails; the English ell was 5 quarters or 20 nails, but the Flemish ell equalled only 3 quarters or 12 nails. A nail was 2¼ inches. A hank of cotton yarn was 7 skeins, leas or raps, or 30,240 inches. Different measures were used for linen yarn.

Having mastered the above, it is time to turn to measurements of liquids. Ale, beer and water were measured differently from other liquids. My maternal grandfather, who owned the book I am quoting from, was a brewer in the late 19th century, supplying ale to several inns and some 450 private individuals near Chester. He sold his ales in hogsheads, barrels, half barrels and quarter casks and probably knew that a tun of ale equalled 2 butts, or 3 puncheons, 4 hogsheads, 6 barrels, 12 kilderkins, 24 firkins, 216 Imperial gallons, 864 quarts, or 1,728 pints. A barrel of ale contained 288 pints. Despite metrication, draught beer and cider must, by law, still be sold in pints, the government of the day having declined to challenge the drinking lobby.

I quote, *Table XII. Liquid Measure. By this measure all wines, brandy, rum, spirits, liquors, cyder, perry, mead, vinegar, honey, oil, etc., are measured, bought and sold.* The full series runs thus: tuns, pipes, puncheons, tierces, barrels, ankers, Imperial gallons, quarts, pints and gills. Gallons and pints are the same as in the ales series but all the larger measures are different. For example, a barrel of vinegar contains only 252 pints, that is, 36 fewer pints than in the barrel of ale or beer.

I turn to the volume measurement of all dry commodities. Such materials might be sold in lasts, weys, quarters, cooms or sacks, strikes, bushels, pecks, Imperial gallons, pottles, quarts, pints and cubic inches, stricken measure - that is rim level, not heaped. Heaping is defined as adding a further 27%. Bushel wicker baskets were commonly used for apples in the 1930s. A bushel equalled 4 pecks or 16 pottles or 64 pints. A stricken pottle of oysters was 4 pints. A load of corn was 5 bushels, a cart-load 40 bushels. An Act of Parliament passed in 1831 ruled that within 25 miles of St Martin's-le-Grand, London, coal was to be sold by weight, one sack to contain 2 cwt. Beyond the London ring, coal was sold by heaped measure. A shipload of coal, or 20 keels, equalled 11,160 bushels.

Before the metre and kilometre were imposed upon unwilling British folk in the 1970s, the yard and mile prevailed, as did the rod, pole or perch, the Gunter chain and the inch and its fractions. Nowadays roads are surveyed by satellite. A local authority road surveyor said to me some ten years ago, *It's more than my job's worth to be seen using a tape measure.* All of us above a certain age are happy in the knowledge that a mile was 8 furlongs, 40 rods, poles or perches, 1,760 yards or 5,280 feet, unless one happened to be at sea where a nautical mile stretched to 2,025 yards. Please note that a barley-corn equalled one-third of an inch, a palm 3 inches, a hand 4 and a span 9 inches (or three palms), while a geometrical pace was 5 feet. A woodland pole measured 18 feet, a forest pole 21 feet, a Cheshire pole 24 feet and in Sherwood Forest 25 feet. A rood of fences or ditches was 7 yards.

For the purposes of calculation, may I remind you that 960 farthings, 240 pence or 20 shillings made one pound sterling, and a guinea was 21 shillings. Thus the original prize fund for the *One Thousand Guineas* horse race, first run in 1814, was £1,050 (in 2018 the prize fund was £500,000).

If you need to know the length of an anomalistic year, it is 4 minutes 43.335 seconds longer than a sidereal year, and 25 minutes 47.2911 seconds longer than an equinoctial year, according to Mr Saul.

There are 150 pages of calculations scattered through the book, both ordinary and 'promiscuous', for the readers to test their arithmetic skills. They are grouped under the following headings: reduction, compound addition, compound multiplication, the rule of three, direct and inverse proportions, simple and compound interest, exchange, double fellowship, bills of parcels, vulgar fractions, decimals, annuities, square and cube roots, arithmetical and geometric progressions and alligation. In case you need, as I did, an explanation of the latter, I quote: *Alligation teaches to mix simples so to ascertain the price of a mixture. - The proportional quantities of simples to be mixed to bear a given price. - The quantities of simples to be mixed with a given quantity of one of them, to bear a given price. - Also to make a mixture of a given quantity and price.* I trust that's clear.

The book finishes with fifty miscellaneous questions, the last one being: *What number is that to which, if 3/10 of 18/7 of 141/213 be added, the sum will be one?* At school in the 1930s we called it simple arithmetic!

Finally, you might like to tackle question 29 on page 88:

How far may 94cwt. 2qr. 26lb. be carried for 8 guineas, when 35cwt. 1qr. 19lb. are carried 70 miles 5 furlongs for 5l. 10s. 6d. (£5. 10s. 6d)?

By my reckoning the answer is 40 miles, 1 furlong, 29 rods, poles or perches, 3 yards, 1 foot and 6 inches. Am I right?

Thomas Bagguley, 1835 Murderer

Found on page 3 of the burial register for St Chad's, Wybunbury 1807-1874 by Sue Parker:

Thomas BAGGULEY was interred across Church Gates for the murder of John MALPAS' daughter July 1st Aged 44 years He hung himself June 28th 1835. This was done at the Hole House Doddington.

Writing the History of a Church

by Sue Burrell
Member no. 8383

“Will you write a history of our Church, please?”

You are a family historian - imagine you have been given the above challenge. Do not panic! Keep calm and preserve your composure!

Here are some ideas I considered when I was given this project last year, which might help you, should you find yourself in the same situation.

Information to consider

Your brief may be to relate to a specific topic or to people worshipping in the Church during its existence – start to draw up a sketch plan of initial thoughts which you could expand into your ‘work in progress’. Is the publication going to be released to celebrate a special occasion, anniversary of consecration or to raise funds for major building works? This information may have an impact on the way your narrative flows.

Establish if a similar project has been done before – if so, decide whether to continue from the last edition or start afresh. Has a date span of coverage been requested? Be flexible. I had started to research the Church’s history and subsequently realised I could include important local events - this may create intrigue for your readers, especially if their ancestors took part in the ‘goings-on’ of the past, or witnessed events which hit the headlines.

How will you relate the story or narrative to your readers, or will a time-line of events in phrases or bullet points be most appropriate? Is your publication going to contain black text on white paper or will there be coloured text and/or coloured paper? Are photographs going to be included – will they be black and white or coloured?

You may need to consider the time you have available to spend on the project, as well as the cost of the completed publication – does your budget determine whether you will produce a leaflet, booklet or book? Your answers will help you to calculate whether you are likely to meet your release date or whether you will have to adjust your plans. You may need to construct a Gantt chart (a spreadsheet incorporating interim deadlines), which will highlight any

overlapping timescales and guide you to meet your target deadline for publication. Of course, you will also need to decide on the title of your project.

Audience

You may need to conduct some market research to ascertain your target readers, taking account of:

Age – adult or children including male or female;

Background - ecumenical or non-religious;

Occupation – retired, unemployed, workers or students;

Families - couples or singles;

Location - global, national, city, town or village.

These statistics will have an impact on your readers' interest and time available to read your publication.

Research

Ideally, where possible, research should be carried out from primary sources (e.g. legal documents, Church registers). However, secondary sources (e.g. Internet transcription sites, memorial transcriptions) do have a part to play – they can direct your subsequent searches to original documents or to the graves of notable people. Obtain permission to search registers and documents held in the Church – you might find them stored in safes, cupboards or meeting rooms. Is there a pile of parish magazines which have been kept, untouched for many years, languishing at the back of the choir vestry?

Can you establish when the Church was built? Have there been improvements since that date? Were faculties (i.e. when the diocesan registry granted approval) given before project work commenced? These legal documents may be kept in the safe or may have been lodged at the county archive.

Arrange to visit archives, libraries, research centres and museums - find out when they are open and whether you need to book ahead or take identity documentation to access their collections and equipment. Search the catalogue of holdings on the archives' website to ascertain if you need to request any documents stored off-site ahead of your visit. Even if the documents are held on-site and can be ordered at the time of your visit, it may be worthwhile enquiring if any documents are out 'on loan', and establish when they will be returned.

Read relevant newspapers and magazines and follow up articles which may assist your research – is there an index of previous issues (with topics covered)

on the Internet? Join the Family History Society of Cheshire (FHSC) or similar history group in the locality and talk to members, parishioners and people born locally – they may have family records or have information about incidents which link to your project. You can follow up these leads by visiting churches, buildings, stately homes, places of interest and other locations; where you can ask more questions. When visiting local schools and public buildings, watch out for wall plaques proclaiming official openings by dignitaries or royalty.

Find out about the people who have been involved in the Church in the past – vicars and clergy, or members of the congregation. Did they arrange for major building work to be carried out or did they achieve notoriety because they wrote letters or acted in an unusual manner? Before starting to write, I decided I would avoid including any information which could cause offence or upset to anyone.

Scroll through historical newspaper reports – they may be viewable on microfilm at the local library, archive, research centre or on genealogical websites. The newspaper articles may lead you to legal documents, provide information or lend themselves to further use – some editions contained verbatim reports of meetings which can be reduced for re-enactments (with the necessary permission of the newspaper, archive and/or any relevant website). Each piece of information (and source) should be referenced in your notes as it is gathered so, if necessary, the details can be re-visited to use in your ‘work in progress’ or checked back with the final draft before printing.

Make a note of the organisations and people who offer assistance so that, with their approval, acknowledgements can be listed in the completed publication. Similarly, if you take photographs, record the dates, people and locations, but ensure written permission is obtained for their inclusion. You should also record website addresses with their dates of access alongside.

Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights

(Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, 1988, Chapter 48)

This may be the time to decide on the relevant copyright paragraph you will use in the publication to protect your work – this information is usually visible on the inside opening pages where you should also add the copyright symbol, your name and year of publication.

It is vital to ensure the requirements of the Data Protection Act, 2018, Chapter 12 (DPA) and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) are fulfilled (applicable from 25 May 2018). Permission should be sought to use living persons’ names (i.e. ‘identifiable living individuals’ DPA s3[3]). The names of

deceased persons are not considered to be personal data and are therefore outside the scope of DPA and GDPR.

Obtain permission to quote or reference articles from archives, newspapers, magazines, Internet sites as well as authors and publishers, so the creators' work of the past is protected. You will need to quote the proposed numbers of copies, size and details of your planned work, together with the envisaged selling price of the publication or whether it will be handed out free of charge (some organisations may refuse to grant permission if the publication is going to be sold).

Permission may be required from more than one source, e.g. Church registers, when you may need to approach the Church, county archive, local library, and genealogical website/s together with any organisation (e.g. FHSC) who may have transcribed the registers. If you wish to quote extracts from wills, permission may be required from the estates via the executors or administrators, together with the county archive (or storage facility). You should retain the terms and conditions of the written permissions or authorisations you receive.

Keep a list of organisations and persons approached for permissions and chase them if their replies have not been received within a reasonable period of time. If a response has not arrived by the time the publication 'goes to print', you should omit the details and notify the relevant organisation of the exclusion.

You will have to decide how your extracts from documents, registers and newspapers etc are going to be referenced – will a list be created in the footnote at the bottom of the page, listed at the end of each section or at the end of the publication? You may decide to incorporate additional lists of books, articles, statutes, abbreviations etc. which you have used during your research.

None of the archives, libraries or organisations I contacted required an ISBN (International Standard Book Number) but, if you plan to distribute a one-off publication to retailers and national libraries, information can be obtained from the ISBN website www.isbn-international.org.

Contributions

Consider if you would like someone to take photographs, write a foreword, letter or article – if so, you should agree a completion date. It will be your responsibility to check and proof-read the contribution to make sure any relevant copyright issues are covered and to ensure there are neither spelling mistakes nor grammatical errors.

Create a priority distribution list as a mark of your appreciation for the assistance provided. Organisations may require copies of your completed publication for their records as part of the agreement allowing you to reference their documents. The FHSC and archives, as well as local libraries, are keen to receive copies of publications for family and local historians to use. Decide how you are going to distribute these copies – by personal visit, or by post (when you will need stocks of envelopes, labels and stamps).

Printing

You will need to consider how the publication is going to be set out: your chosen font size should be relevant to the final printed page size, i.e. from A3 to A4 or from A4 to A5.

Determine whether you will self-publish (do you have access to stocks of paper, printer ink and staples, as well as the time and knowledge?) or whether you will approach printing companies to obtain quotes for price comparisons. Check the prices to establish if the printing companies charge set up costs on top of their printing costs. Be aware of anticipated times needed for printing, including holiday shutdowns, to make sure there will be no overrun of the target deadline for the publication's release.

Does the printing company charge additional costs for coloured pages or photographs? To reduce the price, can coloured pages be used sparingly, e.g. cover and back pages (both sides of the paper) and/or middle pages only? You will need to know how the printing company requires the article to be delivered to them, e.g. in hard copy format, Word document, pdf file or another format, as well as how they prefer to receive photographs (within the text or separately?)

You should allow plenty of time to check and re-check your work before 'going to print' and then, when the printer's proof has been received, allow plenty of time to read back the text (character by character) with another person. It is surprisingly easy to lose characters at the end of a page when making corrections to a 'work in progress' document.

It is a good idea to store back-up copies (preferably in different locations) as your work develops in case your 'work in progress' file becomes unusable, corrupt, or you decide to include a section which you previously deleted.

You may have to consider other items in your research which I have not covered but, with experience, you will be able to work through them in a logical manner.

Two copies of my booklet, *Notable Dates and Events in the life of St Thomas' Church, Stockton Heath, Warrington* (published April 2018) are deposited with the FHSC Research Centre at Mobberley, with copies also available from St Thomas' Church.

A Visit to a Genealogy Conference

by Lyn McCulloch
FHSC Member no. 487
GOONS Member no 795.

Secret Lives - Hidden Voices of Our Ancestors

This conference, which took place over the weekend of 31st August to 2nd September 2018, was a joint venture by The Guild of One Name Studies, The Society of Genealogists, Agra and The Halsted Trust. The venue was Jury's Inn, Hinckley, Leicestershire which was the same as the previous one we attended five years ago. It's a vast conference centre which is very convenient, being in the centre of the country. People came from Scotland, London, and even New Zealand and Canada.

Genealogists love to chat and it was good to meet old friends and also put a face to some of the well-known names in family history. The usual banquet took place on the Saturday evening and we actually joined in with the disco dancing!

There was a wide variety of talks, with three to choose from each time, and I managed to fit in about eleven. Topics included: Occupational Hazards (Dr Janet Few), Marital Disharmony in Scotland (1700-1900) (Kirsty Wilkinson), Male Prostitution in 19th century London (Carol Kerry-Green), British Involvement in the Slave Trade (Dr Penny Walters).

The whole weekend was well organised and apart from the usual moans about people's name labels being too small to read and too dangly, I would have liked my membership of the FHSC and GOONS to have been included, as at previous conferences. Apart from that little niggle I had an excellent weekend and would recommend going to a conference, or one of the many seminars which take place all over the country. Even after fifty years I am still learning new things!

Net That Serf

The Computer Section

Compiled by Geoff Johnson

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From the Desktop



This issue opens with a piece on the most frequent query that I receive, from both members and associates in my life generally: *Windows 10* and its updates. I then cover a second regular issue in the piece about *Internet Explorer* and other browsers, this also being an area where I find great reluctance to change. In both of these pieces I'm trying to keep users as up-to-date as possible.

I have several reader comments concerning use of the Cloud, and further views on DNA. I also have a specific DNA section where previous contributors add their thoughts and others join in.

I've added a brief mention of the Computer Club activities, feeling that the visible profile of our activities could be widened. Please have a look and see what we talk about.

There are more thoughts, comments and ideas concerning the use of family history programs in the *Apple Mac* environment.

I close this issue with a piece about setting up the most appropriate default programs in your *Windows* environment.

Windows Update Issues

By Geoff Johnson

Many users have a degree of frustration with the extent and complexity of updates to *Windows 10*. In the *Windows 7* and earlier days, one could control updates, to either do it in your own preferred time, or not to do it at all!

In their wisdom but, I suggest, probably due to frustration at the number of queries they were getting from users with obscure problems, who had not kept their systems up-to-date, *Microsoft* designed *Windows 10* to automatically download and install updates. There is no obvious way to stop it! In theory, this takes place in the background whilst you are continuing to do other things. However, a good proportion of the updates require you to do a restart. I was very uncomfortable with this at the outset, but I've generally got used to it now.

Over a long period, I have now established the principle whereby:

- I always keep things up-to-date: and that includes ALL my regularly used programs
- I anticipate regular *Windows 10* updates on the second Tuesday or Wednesday of each month
- I always maintain personal file backups

Free versions of some utility programs don't always keep up-to-date, but if you're using them frequently it can be worthwhile purchasing the full version. One then finds that support is freely available and significant updates come out from time to time. They are generally not that expensive and it's only fair to the developer to support his efforts - they might be "free to evaluate", but it's right to pay for software which is used regularly.

I receive numerous queries from members and others whose systems appear to have gone potty. Invariably upon checking, I am able to show that their system is attempting to do an update and the necessary restart. A key problem is that with many people operating on laptops nowadays, their system has a habit of going into sleep mode after a relatively short space of time. If that happens in the middle of a significant update it's quite likely that the update process will halt, and then try to continue when the system is back up and running. Similarly, desktop systems may have a sleep setting which is set overly short; in my case my system is set to never go to sleep, but I can easily click the start button and send it to sleep if I'm just going out for a few hours.

If a laptop “sleep” setting is blocking the update process, the important thing is to connect its power lead, and ensure that sleep mode is not entered for a significantly long time. I suggest at least one hour, but if your broadband service is on the slow side, it may need longer than that.

Sleep mode is controlled as follows: click on *Settings > System > Power & Sleep*, and change the sleep setting to a sensibly long time. Note that you have two options to consider on a laptop: one when the mains power is connected, and the other when it’s not (i.e. it’s powered by the battery). You can leave the ‘battery’ setting for a shorter period if you consider this beneficial to your power management.

If you are taking your laptop somewhere else, it pays to check before you go that there are no updates looming. Just click on *Settings > Update and Security > Windows Update*, and click on *Check for updates*. It’s much better to run these at home, rather than have your system trying to do it in a strange location, possibly with a poor Internet service.

In general terms, *Microsoft* carries out a monthly update which happens around the second or third Tuesday or Wednesday of each month. That can vary at times, such as national holidays or year-end. Just occasionally, they will roll out a significant and larger update, which is really a complete reinstallation of *Windows* up to a new version level.

To establish your current version of *Windows 10*, click on *Settings> System> About*; note that both the *About* and the relevant *Windows Specification* details are right at the bottom of the page - you may need to scroll down. The latest version at the time of writing is 1803, but *Microsoft* is attempting to release version 1809 (the numbers indicate the year and month of release). However, the 1809 initial roll out, available to those who manually installed it, quickly exhibited problems for some users and, as I write, it has been temporarily withdrawn. There is no indication as to when its roll out will be restarted. Some users have already installed it, seemingly without trouble; but there were claims that, under certain circumstances, user data was deleted! For full details, see <https://tinyurl.com/yc7ddr3g>

This typifies my central reason for having a regular backup of my own key data. If you don’t keep a regular backup, you are treading dangerously in this world. I seem to have said this before somewhere!

Note, though, that I have never lost personal data due to an updating process.

Internet Explorer and Browsers

By Geoff Johnson

This piece was initiated by a couple of emails from members. Firstly, **Suzie Woodward**, our Orkney-residing journal proof-reader, said:

Accessing FamilySearch.org

A few weeks ago, having gained access as usual to www.FamilySearch.org website, I was unable to conduct a search! When I went to the Help section, it informed me that my Internet Explorer no longer supported FamilySearch. (Maybe that's not the technical term or the right way around but you'll know what I mean!)

FamilySearch is a vital tool for us researchers, so I had to do something!! Windows 10 comes with its own browser, Microsoft Edge. I had never used it before because I was quite comfortable using Internet Explorer for all my Internet tasks. But now I had to bite the bullet. So, I opened Microsoft Edge and typed in the address for FamilySearch.org. Bingo...up it came, and quite quickly too, so I was immediately able to conduct searches as usual.

I noticed that on Microsoft Edge, there is a facility where you can copy-over all your favourites and your favourites bar from your existing default browser. I have managed to do that quite easily, but have yet to organise them the way I had them before; but that's a job for another day. At least I can get in to FamilySearch now!

Several genealogical chums have commented to me that they could no longer search FamilySearch as usual, and so I told them what I had done. I am sure there are other browsers which support FamilySearch, but many folks will still be struggling when using Internet Explorer.

Internet Explorer (IE) is no longer a fully supported program, and anybody who is still using it would be well advised to switch. Commonly used browsers are Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Apple Safari, Mozilla Firefox.

I am fairly certain that if your PC was set up to use *Internet Explorer* when it was upgraded from *Windows 7* or *8* to *Windows 10*, *Windows* respected your usage and kept *IE* as the default. You've probably been using it ever since! But now, the *Microsoft* default browser is *Edge*. I switched to its use some time ago and have never looked back. In my opinion, *Edge* is a significantly better, more flexible and faster browser than *IE* ever was.

I have looked at *Chrome* and *Firefox* on a number of occasions, but found that their various idiosyncrasies didn't quite fit in with my long-term use of *IE*.

Relooking at them all today I perceive that there is not a great deal of difference between any of them - but I'm staying where I am!

The second email I referred to came from a Computer Club member who asked:

Browsers and Search Engines

I've just realised that I am slightly hazy about the difference between Browsers and Search Engines. Are there restrictions on which ones you can use depending on your Operating System? What are the pros and cons for deciding which ones to adopt? How do you make sure you are running the latest version? Does it matter?

Also, can you use your email program with any old browser? (I think the answer is Yes). And is your Home Page set up in your Browser or your Operating System? (Browser - I think)

Maybe everybody else is up to speed on these basic issues but if not, then perhaps we could discuss them at our next meeting?

My initial thought was that we could knock this subject off in five minutes or so of discussion at our meeting. However, we ended up rambling around for at least half an hour at that session!

A browser is simply a program that converts the commonly-used HTML data circulating on the Internet into visible pages of information that you can read on the screen. In round terms it does nothing more. As described above, commonly used browsers are *Edge, Chrome, Firefox, or Safari*. You, the user, can decide which one you prefer. You can have all four installed on your system, but only one can be set as the *Default Browser*.

Search engines are a different kettle of fish. A search engine is a website that you can use to search the Internet for information, the results of which are displayed in your browser. By far the most commonly used is *Google*, created and managed by that very company. But there is also much pressure from *Microsoft* to adopt its *Bing* search engine.

Look at www.reliablesoft.net/top-10-search-engines-in-the-world to see a broader range of search engines. There are many other search engine options you can experiment with - just *Google* search engines!

Ed: Or why not search the Internet and raise money for charity at the same time? Use the Everyclick search engine at www.everyclick.com/fhsc-macclesfield and the group will receive a small donation for every search where you click through to a website.

To fully answer the above query:

I believe that there is a version of most browsers for both *Windows* and *Apple Mac* - perhaps not *Edge* on a *Mac* though! The pros and cons of each are mainly down to user preference.

Some browsers update automatically, whilst others prompt you to update as necessary. For online security reasons I'd advise ALWAYS keeping up to date. I believe any recent browser should work with your online webmail account.

Your preferred home page is set in the browser's *Settings menu* - usually three little dots or bars in top right-hand corner, or sometimes a little cogwheel icon. Set the home page to something you'd prefer to see, rather than the browser supplier's default advertising, which might lead you into all sorts of "*other things that you don't really want or need*" options. How about the *BBC weather* page, or *Google, Find My Past, Ancestry, FamilySearch* - or even the *FHSC website*? You should be bold enough to choose your own settings and refuse to settle for the default option that somebody else wishes to force upon you.

Comments on Previous Issues

Using the Cloud - Or Preferably Not

Ian Pidgeon from St Albans writes:

Dear Geoff, I can't agree with you more about not using the Cloud. But then I've been called a dinosaur! (Me too - GJ). My version of *MS Outlook* is part of *Office 2003*, and I still use it on *Windows XP*. I have more modern *Office* versions on my newer laptop, and I hate them, using the laptop as little as possible. All my serious work is carried out on the desktop, with two large screens, one of which I use for the Internet (using *Firefox*) and the other for my *Office 2003* files. I have a 2 TB hard drive for backup.

Incidentally, although *Microsoft* supposedly stopped supporting *XP* many years ago, I still get updates (presumably security updates) about once a month.

A DNA continuation from Ian

I never saw the point of *Ancestry's* DNA test. I have been using *FTDNA* for many years, primarily because I'm doing a one-name study, for which the *Y-DNA* test is very useful. For non-male connections I have used their *Family Finder* test which is useful in identifying up to 5th or 6th cousins.

I can trace my ancestry back to more than forty ancestors (see *www.pid-gen.uk*). Some go back six generations, others fewer, so I have probably inherited between one and six per cent of DNA from them. I know where they come from - mostly Devon, Ireland, Cheshire, and Shropshire. The ancestors of my ancestors may have come from further afield, but will be predominantly from England and Ireland. Looking back twelve generations (to about the fifteenth century) there might be someone from a quite exotically different place. How much of their DNA will I have inherited? About 0.02 per cent. Can that be measured and identified by a DNA test? I very much doubt it.

We (humans) share about 97 per cent of our DNA with chimpanzees, with whom we had a common ancestor about six million years ago! So just how much will be different from my ancestor of 1000 years ago? What is the difference, for example, between Italian and Irish DNA? In fact one wonders how much difference there can be between Irish and English DNA, when one remembers how many English farmers settled in Ireland in the sixteenth century. I think Ancestry have latched on to a good thing with their DNA tests!

Malcolm Upton, Computer Club member and user of *Thunderbird* gave me his pennyworth about webmail versus your own home-based email program:

My take on it is that it is like keeping all your letters and address book at the local Post Office sorting office, but with instant access by TV to any letter. Would you be happy with their security - or would you rather have them at home where you know exactly what security you have, good or bad?

Where are *iBooks* stored? **Gay Oliver**, our web-lady and Tameside Group Leader, picked up on my thoughts that *iBooks* are stored in *iCloud*, and she's corrected me. Gay tells me that *iBooks* are only stored on your device. *Apple* have their own equivalent of *Dropbox* called *iCloud*. What is stored in *iBooks* is not automatically sent to *iCloud*; you have to send them there yourself. She went on to say that if you have multiple devices you can synchronise content between them using a cable - or perhaps via *iCloud*!

DNA Research

Robert Davey adds to his previous piece :

Dear Geoff, I refer to my submission to you, published in the September 2018 issue (p54) on the subject of DNA testing. With hindsight, I fear I was over-sceptical about my '45% Europe West' DNA. Since my submission I've made contact with a distant relative who shares my ancestral origins from Plymouth, Devon / Liskeard, Cornwall. That distant relative, who I've traced through a

link provided by Ancestry, had a great-grandfather who was a sibling of one of my great-grandfathers. Both were born in the Plymouth, Devon or adjacent Liskeard, Cornwall area. Mine moved to the Midlands; hers moved to the Channel Isles.

Her Europe West DNA is 65%, compared with my 45%. This suggests a high 'Europe West' percentage can be expected from those whose ancestors lived in coastal areas which habitually traded with mainland Europe. You can't go anywhere in the Channel Islands without going by boat! The image that comes to mind is of lusty seafarers coming ashore after weeks at sea, and with one thought in mind, namely, 'sex and beer'. A potent mix, save for known physiological conditions arising from consuming beer.

In conclusion I'm no longer puzzled about my forty-five per cent Europe West origins. It's consistent with what I now know of both my father's and my mother's coastal origins. Where our supposed 'Anglo-Saxon' origins figure in all this I'm not entirely clear, save that 'Anglo-Saxon' would again be consistent with the 'Europe West' category, as their believed origins are in and around Angeln in the Jutland Peninsula.

I remain puzzled by my (LOW) 3% English origins (what *Ancestry* incorrectly describes as 'Great Britain' origins); and if anyone can come up with a convincing explanation of that then I'd be delighted to hear.

Lynford Dean of Macclesfield joined the debate, saying:

Hi Geoff, what a fantastic area DNA testing is! Many thanks to Robert Davey for his excellent article on his own DNA anomalies. Can I add to the debate here, and perhaps offer some additional thoughts?

My own DNA is broadly - Scandinavian forty per cent, Irish-Welsh 30%, Iberian 18%, Great Britain 9%, and Caucasus 3%. Having tracked all lines of my family tree to c.1720, on all but my Irish links, I would concur with the DNA findings. But I too was very surprised by the high Iberian figure.

Historians tell us that in prehistory there have been five major migration routes into the British Isles since the last Ice Age 10,000 years ago and one of the earliest was through the Mediterranean and then northwards. Iberia would be settled early on this route. This may have some significance with trade routes and certainly would later on, from circa 2000BC when the traders from the Middle East were sourcing copper and tin for export from the British Isles. A labour source would have been available on this route.

Secondly, although the Romans were here for 400 years, we are told that they have left no visible trace of their DNA in our genome. Incredible! However, historians do tell us that cohorts of Roman soldiers and their families from Iberia were utilised here over the period of their occupation so, here again this may a source of the high profile in our genome. The Romans also would have used the sea route for the copper and tin trade through Iberia.

Just as an aside, I looked a little deeper into The Caucasus figure, and it transpires that this is very common in the British genome, and relates to the migration of Beaker people into the islands in the early Bronze Age.

Member **Roger Sutton** from Lancing adds to this debate:

Dear Geoff, I was very interested to see the letter from Robert Davey on DNA research. I think it is important to realise that there are no indigenous Britons. All our ancestors arrived here over the last eleven thousand years. We know from history about the invasions and settlements over the last two thousand years. But what about earlier migrations?

The analysis of Britain's DNA is a project led by Sir Walter BODMER and Professor Peter DONNELLY of the Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics. It revealed a great mystery. There was evidence of a major wave of migrations, very likely over many hundreds of years, about which effectively nothing is known. It is probably the biggest single contribution to DNA in England and much of Scotland, but it had no impact on Wales. I read separately about a significant influx of Siberians to England. This was even more significant in the case of Scotland, which suggests that the migration came from the north. Once again, the history books tell us nothing about this migration. How do the DNA profiles described by Robert Davey allow for these major migrations?

Roger sent me a further letter mentioning a piece from Peter Donnelly that had been in the *Daily Telegraph*. I had no success finding that, but by Googling *Peter Donnelly DNA Research* I found the following three links that seem well-written and very relevant:

www.well.ox.ac.uk/peter-donnelly-human-genetics

www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-31905764

www.newscientist.com/article/mg22530134-300-ancient-invaders-transformed-britain-but-not-its-dna/

I do hope this is helpful and look forward to hearing other stories, and thanks again to Robert for submitting the article!

Computer Group – Past Meeting Notes

By Geoff Johnson & Peter Rowley

In order to let members know what we do at the Computer Club every second Wednesday, we've set up a series of document files on the Society website for all to see. We all chat about things and Secretary Peter makes notes. These are then turned into a 'compendium'. Please have a browse and see what we get up to. It also serves when the brain fails, as a reminder for our regular attendees to check back on some topic that we've previously discussed.

Login to the website, find *Groups > Computer Group > Documents* and look for *Past Meetings*. This may help: www.fhsc.org.uk/maintain-computer-library/past-meetings

The notes are continually developed after each meeting. They're grouped by the month, re-starting each year after our group's AGM in July.

Family History Programs

Family Historian on an iMac

Following my discussion with *Calico Pie*, and the potential to use the cross-platform solution given by the *Crossover* or *Parallels* software, I asked two *Apple* users in the Computer Club for their thoughts.

Computer Club member **David Sewell** writes:

Yes, I have been running *Family Historian (FH)* on my *iMac* for some time now, using a software package called *Parallels*. But I can recall previously using a different program, which I think was called *WineBottler*. However, although I cannot recall the detail, I know something happened that meant *FH* wouldn't run - I think that although the blurb said *FH* should run with it, the program was not supported for use with *FH*. So, in other words it might not. It did run to begin with, but something happened along the way that stopped it - if that's clear enough! I can't recall the exact events, but anyway I decided to invest in *Parallels*. My research showed that that would work best, and it has worked, faultlessly, for several years now!

The only potential problem I have found, if one can call it a problem, is that I am a great believer in the saying that if something ain't bust, don't repair it. Being loath to upset the running of my *iMac*, I continue to run it on *Yosemite*, instead of upgrading the operating system to the newer *El Capitan*. This has recently replaced a couple of other updates to OS X. Apparently, *Yosemite* is

not supported now, and I saw recently that *Apple* did not recommend running an *iMac* or any other *Apple* computer without upgrading the OS X, as it leaves one vulnerable to some virus or another. (See my piece above on keeping *Windows* up-to-date! - GJ). I gather all computers are vulnerable to this, not just *Apple*.

Because *Yosemite* is no longer supported and *Safari* has not been updated for some, I have decided to download *Mozilla Firefox* and use that as my default browser. From reading various articles on the net, from other *Mac* users who are (like me) still using *Yosemite*, this will help to protect me when browsing the Internet and, more importantly, especially when using Internet banking.

However, I am not overly worried about all that, as I try to keep the *Mac* as clean as possible and avoid any sites that may be suspect. I rely upon the general view that the bad lads don't normally target *Apple*. Perhaps I am a little naive, I don't know, but I what I do know is that if I did update the OS X version, I would need to purchase an updated version of *Parallels*, as mine is not compatible with the new OS X!

The only thing I have done recently, to protect myself, is to make sure I have a bootable version of my OS X on an external hard drive, and have therefore installed *SuperDuper* (see www.shirt-pocket.com) to do just that. I have the registered version that costs about £25 as a one-off payment. I use an anti-virus on my *iMac* too, called *Bitdefender Virus Scanner*, that you download from the *App Store* for free. I have also installed *Windows Defender* on the computer, for when using *Internet Explorer* on *Windows 8.1* that I use to run *FH*.

That's more or less it in a nutshell! (That was a big nut, David! - GJ)

I also have another external hard drive connected that runs *Apple's* backup system, called *Time Machine*. All in all, I think that *Apple* computers, although expensive, are much better than *Windows*, and you don't get loads of updates needing to be installed each week. They are also much more robust - you basically get what you pay for! I have turned off the auto updating on my machine as well, so I can choose when I update anything!!

Hope that this is not too long an answer, but I would NEVER go back to *Windows* - even though I am forced to use it, in a way, to enable *FH* to run!!

Sue Ritchie - Computer Club Treasurer and Mac user, added this to the debate:

I didn't know much about *Crossover*, but thank you for finding out more about it. I have now looked at the website. If that is a one-off payment of £48, I shall certainly consider trying it. However, in view of what you say, and because I

don't have a lot of time for my research at the moment, maybe I'll wait until *FH* put together a joint package.

When I bought my *MacBook Pro* three years ago, I could have bought *Parallels* software for a one-off payment at the time. I chose not to, and now see on the website that, like many other software packages, one now has to pay an annual charge for it.

David is the expert here as I know he uses *Family Historian* under *Windows* on his *Mac*. He uses the *Parallels* software and I'm sure he will explain how it works. David will have much more useful information to add than I can offer. In the meantime, as you may know, Geoff, I am using *Reunion* as my family history database. Although I used it on a *Windows* PC about twenty-five years ago, it is now a *Mac*-only product. It is what Peter Davenport recommended to me - he's also a *Mac* man.

I have two more offerings from Mac users.

Firstly, **Stephen Hawkes**, who wrote a piece in September 2018 (page 57), added:

What I forgot to tell you was that, as I use a *Mac*, I use *Family Tree Maker 2017*. This is linked to *Ancestry* with a very useful sync facility. *Ancestry* has an app which I downloaded to my *iPad Mini 4*. So, when I finish updating my tree, I sync it and then I can look at it on my *iPad*.

A further thought on backups; maybe I go a little overboard, but I use *iCloud* and a removable hard drive. I use these to backup both my Family History folder and the backup from *Family Tree Maker*.

Secondly, a comment from non-member **Bob Steed**. He has a one-name study and is a former secretary of the South-west Group of Family History Societies.

Whilst I am not a member of the Cheshire FHS, a friend passes on the journal and I always find something of interest in *Net That Surf* (sic).

In the September 2018 issue, page 63, David Smetham said he was looking for an app for his *iPad*. I use *Heredis* (it is free, or was) for my *Apple iPad* and all of my files from *Family Tree Maker (FTM)* moved over with no problem. In fact, I am also running it on my laptop now, alongside *FTM 2012*.

Keep up the good work - I just hope my friend continues as a member! Give my regards to David for me.

From the Inbox

Setting the PDF default program

Jose Colclough of Crewe wrote to ask:

Hello Geoff, sorry to bother you, but could you tell me how I can print the membership form off my computer without printing the whole of the journal. When I try to print the relevant page the 'current page' icon is greyed out. I have been trying to do this for a while now and getting more frustrated by the minute. It could be something I am doing wrong but I don't know what. Hoping you can help, thanks in advance.

I can't fully recollect what this problem was, but my notes indicate that it was the common problem where Jose's computer was opening the **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR PDF** file in its browser or some other program, instead of opening it in a *PDF viewer* program such as *Adobe Acrobat*.

I told her to go to: *Start button > Settings > Apps > Default Apps*. Scroll down until you see *Choose Default Apps by File type* and click on that - not the words at the very top of the list, but where it's repeated down the list below, in blue. Wait until it loads them all, and then scroll your way down into the letter P. Find *.pdf*, and change file type to *Acrobat* (assuming it's not already there!) Printing from *Acrobat* is more flexible and solved Jose's problem.

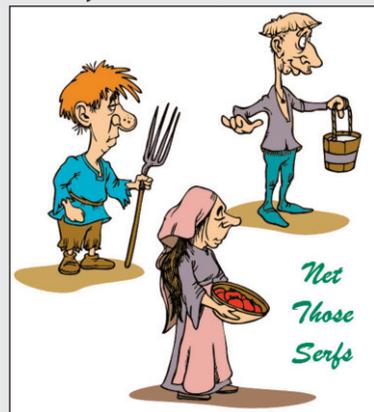
A Plug for Irfanview

Note that you can change the default program to be used with any type of file via the method shown above. Typically, the *Windows 10* default for *jpeg/jpg* files is usually *Windows Photos*. I personally hate that default and always set my system to use *IrfanView*. It's the best picture editor going, in my book, and it's free; I've been using it for many years. See www.irfanview.com/

Ed: I use Irfanview almost daily, but if you want to carry out more complex image editing using techniques such as layers and transformations, then I recommend the free, open-source cross-platform image editor Gimp - www.gimp.org.

This might be the December issue but I'm writing in mid-October, so will refrain from the seasonal greetings bit!

Please keep your views coming, folks; I rely on your input to keep the forum active. 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:

10th Dec *Christmas lunch at the Manor House Hotel, Alsager.*

21st Jan *Dating Churches and Castles – Gordon Roxby*

Architecture is a fashion industry. This was true of earlier times as well as the modern era.

18th Feb *Family History Cameos – Members' Evening*

Short talks given by members of the group covering family or local history and heirlooms.

18th Mar *Knocking Down Brick Walls – David Guyton*

David will show us a few ways around them. He will explain general principles and present a case study to illustrate.

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:

10th Dec *Members' Christmas Social*

28th Jan *Ellesmere Port Waterways Trust*

25th Feb *Britain's First Policewoman – Bob Knowles*

25th Mar *The Englishman who Posted Himself – Bill Johnstone*

15th Apr *History of Birkenhead Priory – Colin Simpson*

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:

- 13th Dec ***An enlightening family tale - Janet and David Phillips***
How a newspaper item in 1850 led to finding a breach of promise, illegitimate births and new family members!
Our Christmas party will follow the talk.
- 10th Jan ***The Nevills and Bramall Hall - Diana Leitch***
The story of the rise of this family of calico printers from their beginnings in north Manchester to their ownership of the printing mills in Strines, the creation of the Calico Printers Association and the purchase of Bramhall Hall for Charles Nevill. Subsequent owners of the Hall also feature.
- 11th Feb ***Cheshire Inn Signs Today - Tony Bostock***
Inn signs are one of our oldest cultural traditions and whenever a pub is renamed something like the *Slug and Lettuce* we lose a piece of our history.
- 14th Mar ***Secret Stockport - Ian Littlechilds***
Explore Stockport's secret history through a fascinating selection of stories, facts and photographs.

Meetings are held at 7.30 pm on the second Thursday of each month in the United Reformed Church Hall, Bramhall, SK7 2PE (corner of Robins Lane and Bramhall Lane South). Admission charge £2.00. All visitors are most welcome.

Chester Group

by David Guyton

Future meetings:

- December** ***No Meeting***
- 31st Jan ***Using Google for Family History - David Guyton***
- 28th Feb ***The Lost Halls of Wirrall - Gavin Hunter***
- 28th Mar ***A Cheshire Diary: Personal Recollections of Home Life and Events of the Day - Edward Hilditch***

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

Future meetings:

December *No Meeting*

15th Jan *DNA – How does it help my family history research?*

19th Feb *My most interesting ancestor.*

How to put ‘meat on the bones’ in your research, so it is not just a list of names and dates.

19th Mar *To be arranged*

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:

December *No Meeting*

- 8th Jan *Resources for Family Historians in Crewe Library – Kathryn Bate*
 12th Feb *The Cheshire County Training College, its Students
 and the Great War - Margaret Roberts and Sarah Gee*
 12th Mar *BMD.org.uk on the internet - Ian Hartas*
 Are you making full use of the site?

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:

December *No Meeting*

22nd Jan *Quarter Sessions Administrative Records for Family History -
 Claire Moores*

26th Feb *To be arranged*

26th Mar *What to do with 323 post cards? - Julie Bagnall*

The background to 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.

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.

For the latest news, please see our pages on the FHSC website www.fhsc.org.uk

A monthly update and reminder about meetings is emailed to subscribers on our newsletter list. If you would like to be added to our newsletter list go to the Macclesfield page on the website and click on "Add Macclesfield to My Groups" or send a request to macclesfield@fhsc.org.uk.

Macclesfield Data CDs

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

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

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

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

If you have information about anyone from the Macclesfield area who served in WWI, or if you would like to help with research, please contact Rosie Rowley on macclesfieldreflects@gmail.com. The project will be closing in early 2019.

Middlesex Group

by Victoria Doran (FHSC Chairman)

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

Nantwich Group

by Sheila Mitchell

Future meetings:

December *No Meeting*

15th Jan *UKGDL: Genealogical directories and lists on the Internet*
- Sharon Hartas

19th Feb *Graveyard Memorial Inscriptions - Mike Grose*

19th Mar *'Poor black sheep who have gone astray' - Hazel Rugman*

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

Family History Workshops in Nantwich Library

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

21st January, 25th February and 25th March 2019.

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

Northwich Group

by Dave Thomas

Future meetings:

- 10th Dec *Hotpot Supper and Quiz*
14th Jan *Open Discussion*
11th Feb *Servants at the Big House - David Cooke*
11th Mar *Quarter Sessions Administrative Records For Family History*
- Claire Moores

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 Edmund Owen

Future meetings:

- 5th Dec *Christmas Social with Buffet, Drink and Entertainment*
January *No Meeting*
6th Feb *Family History Sites - Peter Rowley*
6th Mar *To be advised*
3rd Apr *UKGDL - Sharon Hartas*

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 and parking available. We have speakers most months but encourage group participation in helping others to knock down their brick walls. Our helpdesks have been suspended until further notice.

Sale Group

by Marion Hall

Future meetings:

- December** *No Meeting*
9th Jan *The Tatton Family of Wythenshawe Hall - Richard Jackson*
Richard is a member of Friends of Wythenshawe Hall and will tell of its past history and some of the more recent problems.
13th Feb *The Bravest Little Street - Norine Loftus*
A talk on the book about men from Chapel Street, Altrincham who fought in WWI. Norine and other volunteers helped Sale Library staff compile this history of a small street in Altrincham.

- 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.

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:

12th Dec *Christmas Social*

9th Jan *Talk - Gay Oliver*

I could talk about the Murphy Riots of 1868 in this area. About four years ago I had access to the Home Office papers concerning these riots: what led up to them, the signing up of special constables and telegrams going back and forth to the Home Office requesting help, etc. I'll leave it up to the group whether they want me to develop this into a talk and presentation.

February *No meeting due to Chapel Pantomime*

13th Mar *Wagons West: the early years of the wagon train movement in the USA - Ian Cameron*

I became interested in the westward migration by wagon trains when I discovered that ancestral uncles of mine had converted to Mormonism in the 1840s, sailed to the America and crossed the Great Plains by wagon train.

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.fhsc.org.uk and navigate to the Tameside pages to see the programme and sign up for our newsletters.

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

Tarporley Group

Tarporley Group has now closed.

Wallasey Group

by Dave Beck

Future meetings:

December *No Meeting*

15th Jan *Social evening / party*

19th Feb *Wallasey Trams, a new look - Rob Jones*

19th Mar *A History Of The Cunard Line - Barry Humphreys*

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.

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.

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Membership

Sue McNulty



New Members

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

Maurice Stokes



Renewals/Changes

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

The "M" Team

Important Notice: Future Renewals and Changes

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

THERE IS A NEW MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS OFFICER with effect from 1st JANUARY 2019.

ALL payments and enquiries from that date should be directed to

MR PETER A MELLOR,
TAN-Y-CELYN,
RHOS ISAF,
CAERNARFON,
LL54 7LY.

Wanted - New Membership Enrolment Secretary

Sue McNulty is standing down from her position as New Membership Enrolment Secretary and a replacement is needed for this important role. The main tasks of this position are to:

- Reply to queries regarding new membership
- Enrol new members whose applications are sent by post
- Send new member welcome information
- Maintain a list of all new members for inclusion in the journal

If you are interested in taking on this role please contact Sue McNulty for more information.

New Members

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

9953	UN	Mrs Susan	MOSSOP	Cheshire
9954	UN	Ms Jane	DUNN	Cheshire
9955	UN	Ms Lynette	GOLBORNE	Dorset
9956	UN	Ms Fiona	CRAIG	Hertfordshire
9957	UN	Ms Wendy	LARK	Australia
9959	UN	Ms Susan	CHAMBERS	Cheshire
9960	MC	Mr Colin & Mrs Margaret	CHARLTON	Cheshire
9961	UN	Mrs Sylvia	ELLIS	Cheshire
9962	UN	Mrs Janet	ELLIS	Nottinghamshire
9963	MC	Mrs Carol	AVERY	Cheshire
9964	NO	Mr Harry	HURD	Cheshire
9965	UN	Mrs Jackie	SKINNER	Bristol

9966	UN	Mr Ronald	ASPINALL	West Yorkshire
9967	UN	Mr Philip	DALE	Cambridgeshire
9968	UN	Mr Roger	FIDLER	Australia
9969	CR	Ms Olivia	FONDYGA	West Midlands
9970	UN	Mr Malcolm	FLEURY	Cheshire
9971	UN	Ms Jennifer	BROCKIS	Cheshire
9972	UN	Mrs Sue	WILLIAMS	Cheshire
9973	UN	Mrs Sandra	DICKEY	Cheshire
9974	UN	Mr Clifford	OWEN	Merseyside
9975	UN	Mrs Eunice	QUINLAN	New Zealand
9976	CH	Mr David	WEAVER	Clwyd
9977	UN	Mr Morris	ROWLANDS	Merseyside
9978	UN	Mrs Sue	BYRNE	Cheshire
9979	UN	Mrs Sue	TAYLOR	Worcestershire
9980	CH	Mr Tom	MASSIE	Monmouthshire
9981	UN	Ms Della	HICKEY	Cheshire
9982	UN	Mrs Verity	CARTWRIGHT	Staffordshire
9983	UN	Ms Barbara Ann	PETRIE	Cheshire
9984	UN	Mrs Margaret	CLARK	New Zealand
9985	MC	Mrs Marie	CUNNINGHAM	Cheshire
9986	NA	Mrs Catherine	LEA	Staffordshire
9987	UN	Mr Gerry	BRANNIGAN	Buckinghamshire
9988	CR	Mrs Margaret	ROBERTS	Cheshire
9989	CR	Professor Dave	DAY	Cheshire
9990	UN	Ms Susan	McMILLAN	Cheshire

The Society's Family History Research Centres

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

CREWE FAMILY HISTORY UNIT



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

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

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

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

Local parish registers on film - extensive library of books

Crewe and District and South East Cheshire local history archives

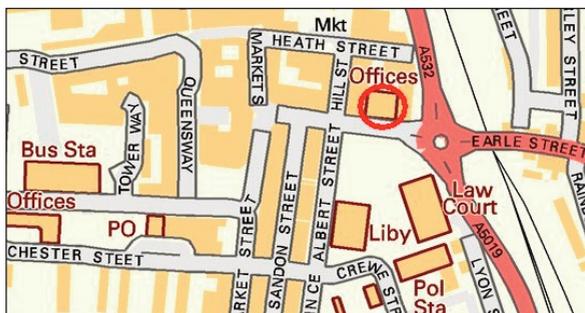
See the Crewe FHU Library Holdings lists on the FHSC website

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

plus one Saturday morning each month

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

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



MOBBERLEY FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH CENTRE



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

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

FREE help and advice from our experienced duty volunteers

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

Local parish registers on film (some of which are not available online)

Extensive library of books on all topics, covering many areas of the UK

(See the Mobberley Library Holdings lists on the FHSC website)

Searchable digital archive of family history magazine back-issues and data

Nominal charge for printing and photocopying

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

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

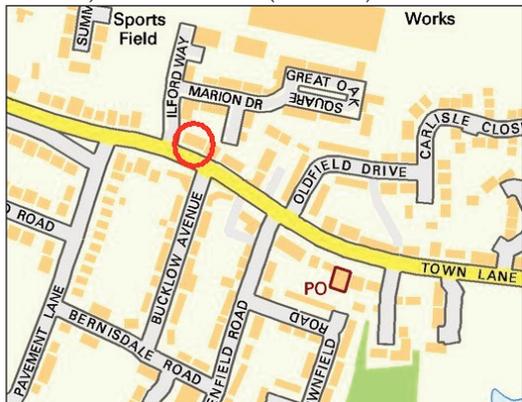
For changes to usual opening hours, please see this issue's *Research Centre News* or the FHSC website www.fhsc.org.uk.

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

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

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

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



ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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

Above rates plus £2.00 per family

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

The Society year commences on 1st July.

Membership commences on the day of receipt of an application.

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

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

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

New member applications should be sent to Membership Enrolments:

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

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

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

*Why not ADVERTISE your
Cheshire or Genealogy BUSINESS or PRODUCT
in this space?*

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

(see below for full details)

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

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

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

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

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

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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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.

RUNCORN GROUP



The Runcorn group meets at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of the month (except January) at Churchill Hall, Cooper Street, Runcorn, WA7 1DH.

Refreshments and parking available.

Non-members are most welcome.

Future Runcorn Group Meetings

January	NO MEETING
6th Feb	Family History Sites – Peter Rowley
6th Mar	Subject to be confirmed
3rd Apr	UKGDL – Sharon Hartas

For full details, please see the Runcorn group information on page 72.

We hope to see you soon!