

# CHESHIRE ANCESTOR

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



## *In this edition*

*Report on Mobberley Research Centre*   *What the Butler did!*  
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*Net That Serf*   *and more.....*

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Can you help?  
For more information,  
contact the secretary.



# CHESHIRE ANCESTOR

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### *Cover picture:*

The Rajar Building, Town Lane, Mobberley the new home of our research centre. Photograph by Alan E Jones. See page 5 and back cover for more details.

**CHESHIRE ANCESTOR** is published in March, June, September and December (see last page).

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Please send items for possible publication to the editor: by post or email.

All items should include name & membership number or postal address of submitter.

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

# Editorial

*by Jean Laidlaw*

Hello everyone,

I hope the New Year has got off to a good start for you. The good news that we have finally moved our research centre to the Rajar building in Mobberley will be old news by the time you read this. I hope we will see plenty of familiar and lots of new faces at Mobberley.

I was hoping for some comment following my last editorial concerning online family trees; the reliability of the information used and the lack of named sources for that information. I have had no response at all. Is that because you have not looked at any family trees on sites such as *Ancestry* and *Genes Reunited* and you agree with me so didn't think a response was needed or you haven't read the Editorial? (I will forgive you it was Christmas.) However, any comments would be interesting, especially ideas for improving the quality of the trees submitted.

You will find with this issue of the journal a survey designed to give the committee an idea of what our members require and expect from the society. Personally I would like to know what you want of your journal; since I took over as Editor I have had practically no feedback, good or bad. I hope that is because you are satisfied, but all comments and ideas for new topics and presentation will be very useful.

All responses to this membership survey, (which may also be completed online - Login to the FHSC website and you will find the questionnaire on the Members Only Menu), are voluntary and will remain totally anonymous. You need only answer the questions of your choosing.

Please take the time to fill in the survey and return it.



## Chairman's Jottings



*by Alan Bennett*

Hello everybody,

It's always weird writing my jottings as they have to be written two months before publication. I try to minimise the gap by pushing our excellent new editor to the deadline before I send in my thoughts. Sorry Jean.

The new research centre in Mobberley will have been open for a few months by the time you are reading this. A fantastic effort by all involved under the guidance of Alan Jones. Many thanks to all involved especially Jim McNulty and Dennis Whyte who have been very busy with carpentry and painting, and of course Alan, Joan Irving and their team of volunteers for their marvellous efforts. Please visit as soon as possible to see how much of an improvement there has been in comparison to our previous Alderley Edge premises.

The early part of 2012 has been busy for our family. I regret that I had to miss the January Quarterly Meeting at Anderton, but I hope the committee understood my excuse in that I was walking my eldest daughter down the aisle at her wedding.

On a sadder note, we celebrated the life of one of my aged relatives - great-uncle Canon Alfred Loughlin aged 101. In 2010 he turned 100 years old and on that occasion, he received a message from The Queen and one from the Archbishop of Canterbury.

It's amazing to think that Alf lived through a lot of this country's history. Born in 1910, as a young boy he saw the local men go off to war; he saw women fight to obtain the vote and he himself served in the Second World War. During his lifetime, he also saw 3 Kings and 1 Queen on the throne and about 20 Prime Ministers pass through Downing Street.

Alf, who was married for 71 years and whose wife is now 99 years old, reached a grand old age and it seems longevity runs in this branch of the family. He was one of 12 children and noting down their ages looks like reading a cricket the whole family it reads like a great cricket team score!

Alice	- 101
Alfred	- 101
Charles	- 99 Not Out
George	- 96
Jean	- 88 Not out
Edith	- 88
Albert	- 86
Jeff	- 79
Sarah	- 2
Daniel	- 1
Alfred	- 0
Dorothy	- 0

I make that a total of 741 and still counting. Can anyone beat that? If you can then please write to me and I will announce what I hear in the next Cheshire Ancestor and provide the person who beats my score by the highest margin with a suitable prize.

Finally, I urge all readers to complete the membership survey in this issue or complete it online. This will enable the society to provide the benefits wanted by the membership.

### A snippet from Davenham Parish Chest

Handwritten Voucher

*Rec'd at Easter 1794 of Mr Richard Sutton one of the Churchwardens of the Parish of Davenham the Sum of Eight Pounds and thirteen Shillings for an Horizontal Sun Dial; which is now fixed in the Church yard of the said*

*Davenham, and for my time and expenses in taking the Meridian and seeing the said Dial truly fixed.*

£	s	d	
8	8	0	for the dial and fixing it
	5	0	Expenses attending thereon
£8	13	0	

*as witnesseth my hand*

*Thomas Hall*

*I wonder if it is still there Ed.*

# Mobberley Research Centre Report

*by Alan E Jones*

The relocation of the research centre from Alderley Edge to Mobberley took place during December/January and opened to members at the end of January. The Society is renting rooms on the first floor of the Rajar Building from Mobberley Parish Council.



**Joan Irving & Bill Deverell dismantling the library**

We closed our doors at Alderley on 2nd December and a team of volunteers had everything packed up and ready for the removal men on 13th December. Two large removal vans were needed to transport our 200 packing cases, 100 fiche boxes, computers, film and fiche readers, bookcases, furniture, stationery etc. By the end of the day the job was completed and all our stuff had been delivered safely to our new home in the Rajar Building.

We needed workstations to be built for the computers and film readers; also new library shelving units, using as much as possible of the materials from Alderley. We were fortunate to have the services of a recently retired carpenter Jim McNulty, husband of Sue, our New Members Secretary. Jim worked together with Dennis Whyte, Macclesfield Group Leader and a Trustee of the Research Centre, applied his skills as a professional

**Jim McNulty and Dennis Whyte hard at work**





decorator (retired) to paint the new library shelving and workstations. We are very pleased with the results of their labours and most grateful to them for the many days they worked to get the job done.

After the Christmas/New Year break, volunteers unpacked all the boxes and, under the guidance of Joan Irving our Librarian, placed everything in the designated places.

Geoff Oultram installed the computer network cabling and we employed an electrician to put in a new ring main circuit with 17 socket outlets. As a result of a lot of effort we now have two rooms that are spacious and light, providing a pleasant environment in which to carry out research. Facilities for taking refreshments are in an adjacent common room. The village bakery is just across the road.

Directions to the research centre will be found on the back cover of this issue and the front cover carries a photograph of the Rajar building. There are some car parking spaces at the rear of the building but only two are reserved and



**The Library has capacity for new acquisitions. There are places for members to sit and read.**





### **The computer and fiche/film readers area**

marked for our use. These would normally be taken by the Duty Volunteers. Please do not take other spaces marked R as these are for other users of the Rajar building and do not take any numbered spaces as these are for residents of the surrounding houses. Parking spaces can usually be found in side roads adjacent to the building.

Many thanks to all those who helped in any way with the removal and setting up our new research centre. Now all we need is for you to come and visit us .Our Duty Volunteers are ready to help you if required.

We will be opening our doors on 30th January but the formal opening is being planned for 4th Feb, so an account of that will have to wait until the June issue.

### **RAJAR HISTORY**

Members may like to know a little about the history of the Rajar Building. It was constructed between 1901- 03 for the Rajar Camera and Photographic Company to allow their works to be relocated from Liverpool, and later became part of the Ilford Printworks. (Look above the main entrance for the date plaque.) When Ilfords downsized the factory and made way for a housing development, the original Rajar Building was preserved and completely refurbished by Barratt, Manchester. It was gifted to the Parish in 2007 for community use and was formally opened on 15th July 2007 by the Mayor of the Borough of Macclesfield.

## Diary Dates

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

15th Apr	FINAL copy date for <b>CHESHIRE ANCESTOR</b>
29th Apr	FHSC quarterly meeting, Anderton Memorial Hall, 2pm
15th Jul	FINAL copy date for <b>CHESHIRE ANCESTOR</b>
29th Jul	FHSC quarterly meeting, Anderton Memorial Hall, 2pm
15th Oct	FINAL copy date for <b>CHESHIRE ANCESTOR</b>
4th Nov	FHSC quarterly meeting, Anderton Memorial Hall, 2pm

Those members who do not have access to the Internet should contact their local group leader for up-to-date information about meetings, etc. Details for all Group Leaders are inside the back cover.

### Proofreading & Copy-editing Services

***Give yourself the edge!***

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Grammar, punctuation, ambiguity, clarity and accuracy all checked.  
However long or short, be sure it is correct!

Contact me to discuss your project.

Suzie Woodward  
*Volunteer proof reader for the* **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**

Tel: 01856-731305;  
or Email: [vestlaybanks@btinternet.com](mailto:vestlaybanks@btinternet.com)

## Notice Board

### **Birmingham Archives & Heritage Service**

The Birmingham Archives and Heritage Service will open in the new library of Birmingham in 2013. Due to preparations for this move, access to the present Archives Section on the 6th floor will be restricted as follows:

From December 2011, the opening hours for the Archives and Heritage service will be:

Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays only - 10.00am – 6.00pm

It is also essential to book in advance to use the archives searchroom.

For further information please visit the website:

<http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/cs/Satellite/localstudieslibrary>

or contact:

Birmingham Archives and Heritage

Central Library

Chamberlain Square

Birmingham

B3 3HQ

Tel: 0121 303 4549

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

### **General Register Office**

The main telephone number for the General Register Office (GRO) will be changing from January 2012. From that date customers who wish to make an enquiry about, or place an order, for certificates will be asked to contact 0300 123 1837. This aims to be a particularly memorable number for customers as civil registration was introduced in England and Wales in the year 1837.

Telephone numbers beginning with 0300 are non-geographic numbers, specially designated for use by public bodies and not-for-profit organisations. Calls to 0300 numbers are not free and should not be confused with 0800 numbers.

*17th annual*  
***Yorkshire Family History Fair***

*..... Organised by Family Historians for Family Historians .....*

*Knivesmire Exhibition Centre*  
*The Racecourse*  
*YORK*

*Saturday 30th June 2012*

*10am to 4.30pm*

*Admission: Adults £4.50 : Children under 14 FREE*

*Free car parking Cafeteria facilities*

*<http://www.yorkshirefamilyhistoryfair.com/>*

*Further details from:-*

*Mr A Sampson, 1 Oxbang Close, Redcar, Cleveland*  
*TS10 4ND*

**Buckinghamshire Family History Society**

will be holding its annual Open Day on Sat 28th July 2012,  
between 10am and 4pm  
at The Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury, HP21 7NH

The many attractions for researchers will include access to the Society's full resources, including its baptism, marriage, burial and other databases; publications for sale; expert advice; guest societies and suppliers of maps, software, archival materials and more.

Admission is free, with free parking available at the venue.  
Further information can be found at [www.bucksfhs.org.uk](http://www.bucksfhs.org.uk)

## **Worcestershire Record Office**

### **Notice of closure of County Hall branch**

Worcestershire Record Office is currently in the process of preparing to move premises to the Hive, based in the centre of Worcester. Our County Hall branch will close to the public in 2011. We will re-open as a joint archives and archaeology service at our new home in July 2012. Our History Centre branch will remain open until April 2012.

The public can keep fully up-to-date with the progress of our move by following our blog 'Worcestershire Archives on the Move' at: [www.worcestershirearchives.blogspot.com](http://www.worcestershirearchives.blogspot.com), which will be updated throughout the entire closure period.

For more information about our exciting new home please visit:  
*[www.TheHiveWorcester.org](http://www.TheHiveWorcester.org)*

## **British Newspaper Archive**

BrightSolid, with the British Library, have now launched the British Newspaper Archive at <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk> as a central repository for online newspapers. Searching is free but images are pay-per-view. Some four million pages were available at the launch, with more being added daily, 40 million being their target.

## **Gwent Archives**

Gwent Archives opened its new site in 2011.

It is at Steelworks Road, Ebbw Vale, Blaenau, Gwent.

Tel. 01495 353363

[enquiries@gwentarchives.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@gwentarchives.gov.uk)

OPENING HOURS

Monday – Friday 9.30am – 5.00pm

For more information about the new office and our services, see our website:  
*<http://www.gwentarchives.gov.uk>*

## **Sheffield & District Family History Fair**

Saturday 21 April 2012

10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.

To be held at 'Centre in the Park' Norfolk Heritage Park

Guildford Avenue , Sheffield S2 2PL

Local & National Family History Societies

Genealogical Publications, Books & Maps

Computer Software

Free Database Searches & Help Desk

Café by Norfolk Park Catering

Car parking adjacent to Guildford Avenue Entrance

Trams: Nearest Supertram Stop for

'Centre in the Park' is Arbourthorne Road

Buses: 7, 8, 9, 21, 41, 50, 95, 120 & 132

For more travel information call 01709 515151

**Admission Free**

## **Monthly workshops at Wirral Archives Service**

Wirral Archives Service runs a series of free workshops on a variety of family and local history topics. From 2012 these workshops will run on Thursdays from 2pm to 4pm. For more information, or to book a place, please contact: Tel: (0151) 606 2929 or [archives@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:archives@wirral.gov.uk)

### **Future workshops:**

5 April	Wirral and the Titanic
3 May	Prehistoric Wirral
7 June	Roman Wirral
5 July	Anglo-Saxon Wirral (5th–8th centuries)
2 August	Viking Wirral (9th–11th centuries)
6 September	Medieval Wirral
4 October	Tudor and Stuart Wirral
1 November	Changing Wirral
6 December	Modern Wirral

## Books Worth Reading ...



by Lyn McCulloch

*Newly published items are welcomed for review; they should be on genealogical or Cheshire subjects. Please send to: Lyn McCulloch, Barrymore, Marbury Road, Comberbach, Northwich, CW9 6AU. After review, books are placed in the Library at the Society's Research Centre for use by members.*

### ***Working Lives of Warrington From Old Photographs*** by Janice Hayes.

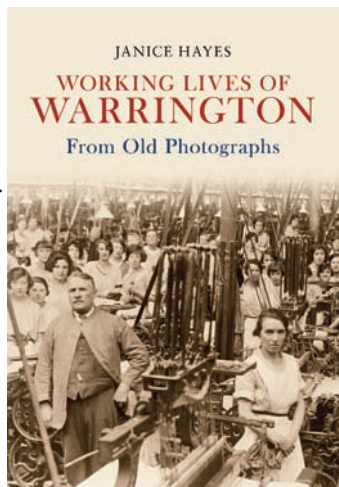
Janice's latest offering on the town of Warrington is a wonderful collection of old photographs showing what life was like in the factories and workshops of a hundred years ago.

Warrington had several glassworks and produced clocks, watches and gas cookers as well as wire, nails and soap powder. Tanning was also a major industry as was the making of chemicals. Firms such as Joseph Crosfield and Sons and Peter Stubs Ltd were household names. There were also paper and flour mills and breweries. Many people worked in conditions that would be frowned upon today.

Janice has interspersed the photographs of people and places with old advertisements and even the odd painting. Each photograph is accompanied by text. The book contains a lot of useful information. If your ancestor lived in, or worked in, Warrington you will find it extremely interesting.

Published 2011 by Amberley Publishing, The Hill, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 4EP. Paperback 128 pp. ISBN: 978-1-4456-0526-5 Price : £12.99

Available from [orders@amberley-books.com](mailto:orders@amberley-books.com)



### ***Cheshire Railways - The Age of Steam*** by Robin Jones.

Another good read for those with railway ancestors, or like me, just have fond memories of the days of steam. The book is well illustrated (mainly with pictures of trains!) and mentions many of the men involved in the building and running of the Cheshire Railways.



I found the sections on wartime particularly interesting (First and Second World Wars) although of course I'm too young to remember them. Railway buffs will love this book.

Published by Countryside Books 2011. Paperback 128 pp.

ISBN: 978 1 846674 155 5

Price: £9.95, By post: UK £12.36, Overseas: Surface mail: £13.20

Airmail: £15.50

Available from our Bookstall Manager.

### **Davenport Family Gathering**

In 2010 40 members with DAVENPORT family connections from around the world (USA, Australia, Saudi Arabia etc) gathered at Capesthorpe Hall (home of Sir William BROMLEY-DAVENPORT) for discussions and an exchange of information. After lunch they toured the Hall and then went on to Prestbury, the burial place of Vivian DAVENPORT, for a light tea with the parishioners. The next day they met for a tour of Bramhall Hall. This was followed by lunch at the Davenport Arms, Marton and then a visit to the church at Marton, founded by Vivian DAVENPORT. Next they visited Swettenham and the original site of the village of Davenport by the river Dane.

In 2011 20 members met at Sutton Hall, Macclesfield (home of Sir Humphrey DAVENPORT) for further data sharing.

It is intended to have another gathering in 2012, either in July or August. If anyone wishes to join us, please get in touch.

Email [colind54@talktalk.net](mailto:colind54@talktalk.net)



**The Davenports at Capesthorpe 2010**

## Letters To The Editor

Dear Jean,

### **Parish Register Access**

I am a long-term member of two Family History Societies, the Bedfordshire Family History Society where my paternal family is rooted and the Family History Society of Cheshire where I've lived for some 35 years.

My Bedfordshire membership is obviously targeted as a source for personal genealogical research in the light of the '150 miles from home' problem of ready-access. Cheshire membership simply enables a 'close to home' dialogue with people of similar interests, albeit that I have no ancestors from there!

From the point of view of historical record presentation these are two quite different societies. They have each approached the need to make parish record data more accessible and searchable for the ever-growing genealogical world, but they've each done it in a different way. Which one is best for the family historian?

I started writing this article with a synopsis of what each society offered in the way of transcriptions, indexes and access to original record images. I

quickly realised that my detailed knowledge of each was too scant; I ran the risk of upsetting the many good people who have toiled extensively to enhance information and searchability.

My discussion is therefore just centred on this example of the significantly varying approaches that family history societies and record offices are taking towards improving data search and presentation standards.

### **The Bedfordshire Approach**

In September the society released a complete set of parish records on CDs. In broad terms these give baptism and burial records for every parish up to 1851 with marriages to 1837. In many cases there are additional items. I believe that this project was conducted with the full collaboration of the Bedfordshire Record Office. The 1813-1851 stuff is fully searchable, but earlier data requires working from a master index and sub-searching from it. I understand that the CDs do not give access to images of the original records.

### **The Cheshire Approach**

In November, *Find My Past*, in close collaboration with the

Cheshire Record Office, released The Cheshire Collection. This provides access, amongst other items, to Cheshire parish registers from 1538 to 1910. This was pretty much a fait-accompli between the Cheshire Record Office and *Find My Past*; there was minimal discussion with the Family History Society of Cheshire. Completeness is undefined but it is known to be an on-going project. The whole thing is searchable. Most significantly the search result links directly to images of the original register pages.

### **The Images**

Lack of access to the actual record images is not a problem if your genealogy standards accept transcriptions without verification against the original record.

However I like to see the record and keep a copy of it too! For Bedfordshire material that means a visit to the Bedfordshire Record Office or payment to have a copy taken and sent to you. For Cheshire simply click on View Image - it's on the screen and you can print or save it.

### **Researcher Costs**

The average cost of a Bedfordshire CD is just over £13. All 129 of them would cost you just under £1700! You might just need one or two, but annoyingly, ancestors moved around. So you could end up ordering another and another, as research progresses. Ordering

posted copies of images from the Bedfordshire Record Office are £5.25 per copy! I'll refrain from discussing travel costs to Bedfordshire from Cheshire - or perhaps even for those from foreign locations! If you don't already subscribe to *Find My Past* it will cost you around £100 for a one year subscription. That will also give you access to the whole of *Find My Past's* significant family history databases as well as the The Cheshire Collection itself. Of course in either case you'll need a computer!

### **How are the Societies Affected?**

On face value Bedfordshire seems set to gain from increased CD sales. Cheshire's existing media sales may well fall. Only time and experience will tell.

### **Which Medium is Most Reliable?**

Optical disc media is not recognised to survive for ever. Much depends on standards of storage. Good quality media, properly written should be OK with care, but in themselves the disks present one with a storage problem; genealogists usually have more than enough 'stuff' to keep! A further point relates to updating; changing or correcting entry detail on one or more of the CDs present the Society with an 'update' problem!

Online databases are well proven, and in my personal opinion, *Find*

*My Past* run one of the best. Record corrections or changes can be made easily, *Find My Past* are responsive, and the results are seen by every user. Key vulnerability lies with the longevity of the website owner. Changes of ownership in IT companies can have quite detrimental effects on standards of management. I cannot imagine that the Cheshire Record Office will not have secure copies of the data in their own hands!

### **Researcher Conclusions**

The differing approach for these two counties would seem to be a trend for things to come. In one case the Family History Society has taken the initiative, whereas the Record Office has done so in the other. I personally fear that in both cases the driving force has

been towards the financial benefits rather than meeting user requirements. We are starting to see this trend in several other County Record Offices and they in turn are talking to different subscription site providers. I must profess a dislike for the Bedfordshire system. The Cheshire - *Find My Past* solution is 'much rounder'. It links in well with other *Find My Past* services, and *Find My Past* are by far the best provider to go with.

It's a pity I can't use the Cheshire material; clearly my 4 times Great Grandfather played for the wrong team!

Geoff Johnson  
Bedfordshire FHS No 3198  
FHS of Cheshire No 5781

## **RENEWALS and GIFT AID HAVE MOVED HOUSE**

**All future correspondence relating to  
MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS and GIFT AID**

**Should be addressed to**

[Redacted address line]

[Redacted address line]

**Email [renewals@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:renewals@fhsc.org.uk)**

## Help Wanted or Offered

### Cheshire Photographs



I wonder if anyone can help me please. I have just acquired a lovely musical Victorian photo album with 58 Carte de visite and 6 Cabinet pictures, sadly

none of the photographs are labelled.

The only clue is that most of them were taken in Cheshire.

I thought that if few were printed in Cheshire Ancestor somebody might



recognise their ancestors. I find it very sad that so many family pictures are sold in charity shops, antique shops and on eBay. I



am very lucky with over 1,000 of my own family. I have bought two other albums, one of which I have been able to return to the family. I am working on the other.



M. A T Spaling

### Samuel Skaife Grange

My great great grandfather Samuel Skaife GRANGE died in 1885. He was a licensed publican and ran the *Junction* or *Grand Junction Hotel* in Manchester and lived at The Hollies, Ashton Lane, Ashton upon Mersey, Cheshire. His wife Jane Skaife GRANGE died in 1892.

I am trying to find where they are buried. Their son Edwin Skaife GRANGE is buried at St Martin's, Ashton upon Mersey – I have a picture of his headstone, but I don't think they are buried there and I am wondering where else to look.

Any help will be greatly appreciated.

Elaine Grange Hinshaw  
Biggsville, IL, USA  
hinshaw77a@frontier.com

## Graham family of Tranmere

I have been trying to find information on John GRAHAM (born about 1815 in Berwick on Tweed) and his family, who lived in the Tranmere/Seacombe area of Cheshire but have had no luck.

This is my information to date;  
On the 1861 census they were living at Sydney Road, Bebington, Tranmere, Cheshire.

John GRAHAM, Head, aged 46,  
Commercial Traveller, born  
Berwick on Tweed

Elizabeth, wife, aged 39, born  
Liverpool, Lancashire

Helen, daughter, aged 9, born  
Tranmere, Cheshire

Elizabeth, daughter, aged 5, born  
Bootle, Liverpool

Frank, son, aged 4, born Seacombe,  
Cheshire

William, son, aged 1, born  
Liverpool, Lancashire. (He was my  
friend's grandfather.)

On the 1871 census they were  
living at Woodlands Avenue,  
Tranmere, Cheshire.

John GRAHAM, Head, widower,  
ship painter, born Scotland

Helen, daughter, aged 19,  
housekeeper, born Liverpool

William, son, aged 11, scholar, born  
Liverpool

Annie, daughter, aged 9, born  
Cheshire, Tranmere.

I discovered that daughter  
Elizabeth and son Frank emigrated  
to New Jersey, USA in 1870 along

with a William and Sarah  
JACKMAN. On the 1870 USA  
census William JACKMAN was  
aged 38 and a farmer, and Sarah  
was aged 48, and a housekeeper.  
Elizabeth GRAHAM was aged 15  
and Frank, aged 13. It stated that all  
were born in England but not the  
actual place. I have had verification  
from a descendant in the USA that  
they are definitely connected to the  
GRAHAM tree I have been  
researching, but no-one knows who  
the JACKMAN's were and why the  
two siblings would have gone with  
them! Sister Helen never married  
and eventually emigrated to the  
USA, to be near her siblings, and  
died there aged 90.

Very recently I found a possible  
birth for Annie GRAHAM (born  
1861) and I sent for the certificate,  
the address was the same address  
given for the family in 1861. It  
showed Annie was born on 7th  
November 1861 and gave the father  
as John GRAHAM, painter, and the  
mother as Elizabeth GRAHAM,  
late JONES, formerly  
HOLDSWORTH. In 1851 an  
Elizabeth HOLDSWORTH was a  
visitor in Albert Place, Tranmere,  
aged 28, unmarried, and born  
Liverpool. HOLDSWORTH seems  
to be a Yorkshire name, and  
although I searched, I wasn't able  
to find any other Elizabeth  
HOLDSWORTH born in Liverpool  
and of the right age (or an  
Elizabeth JONES for that matter).



In the 1881 census William was living at 118 Borough Rd, Birkenhead, listed as a son, with an Ann GRAHAM, widow, and an Edward SCOTT (both born in Ireland) but John obviously died between 1874 and 1881. I therefore looked for a further marriage for John, and found that John GRAHAM had remarried in 1874 to an Ann SCOTT. I sent for the certificate and the address given for John was the same as on the 1871 census, and the occupation of both John and his father Thomas (deceased) was a Painter.

So to sum up - If it is possible I should most like to find a definite marriage for John GRAHAM and Elizabeth (late JONES) formerly HOLDSWORTH. I should also like to find the births of Helen GRAHAM (approx 1852 in Liverpool or Tranmere), Frank GRAHAM, (approx 1857 in Seacombe) and William GRAHAM (approx 1859/60 in Liverpool). Also John GRAHAM's death (between 1874 - 1881 ?Tranmere), and Elizabeth GRAHAMs death (? Bebington, between 1861 - 1871).

Thanks very much to anyone who might be able to help, as I haven't been able to find any of this information. I am researching on behalf of an elderly friend who is the great grandson of John and Elizabeth GRAHAM.

Lyn Lord  
lyn@brookhaven.plus.com

## **Bradwell Reformatory School** (1855 - 1920)

Walnut Tree Lane, Bradwall in Sandbach, Cheshire. This website <http://bradwallreformatoryschool.wordpress.com> may be of interest to people tracing family members who may have been inmates or staff. We would be very glad to receive further information about staff and inmates in return.

David Jones



## **Soldier John HUMPHREYS**

I'm hoping your members can help me trace a surviving soldier of the First World War who lived in Timperley, Cheshire.

My name is Kate WILLS. I am an Administrator on the Great War Discussion Forum at <http://1914-1918.invisionzone.com>, speaker secretary for Northamptonshire branch of the Western Front Association, and a member of the Salonika Campaign Society.

My principal area of First World War research is military concert parties and entertainments. I am compiling databases of concert troupes and performers, but as my grandfather served there, I have a particular interest in army concert parties in Salonika.

I would love to make contact with



the family of this former soldier, whose post war address is as follows:

Mr J N HUMPHREYS  
(formerly 287th Company, Royal Engineers)  
3 Denver Drive  
Stockport Road  
Timperley  
Altrincham Cheshire

Mr HUMPHREYS served in Salonika, where he wrote reviews of the soldier shows he saw. He shared some of this with the old comrades journal The Mosquito, but naturally, I would like to make contact with his family in the hope that his review archive was preserved.

I have contacted Cheshire CRO and local newspapers without success.

John HUMPHREYS was born in Birmingham and followed his father into the building trade. I imagine he married a Cheshire girl after the First World War, and settled in Altrincham, and most likely set up as a builder.

Many thanks  
Kate Wills

[REDACTED]  
Northampton

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Arley Hall Archives

Arley Hall has a treasure trove of documents, particularly a set of invoices from 1750 to 1790. Around 7,000 of these, which are in digital form, have been entered into a database and are searchable. These will appear on the Internet soon and will be made more complete by the addition of invoices from the various agricultural activities, particularly the activities of various corn mills

There are no pictures of the corn mills at Warburton and Sutton, and I am hoping that one of our readers might have some pictures, or know of some, which would complete this project.

Please get in contact with me  
Peter Davenport  
[electronic.projects@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:electronic.projects@fhsc.org.uk)

## Searching for Peter Wallace

I am researching Peter WALLACE who appears on the 1861 census in Fetlow or Tetlow, Cheshire. He appears on the 1861 and 1871 census at the same location and the 1881 and 1891 censuses at Stud Green, Tetlow or Fetlow. Other names appearing on the certificates are Congelton, Edlishbury and St Leonards.

I have copies of each of the censuses but they are mostly undecipherable and I could not find any of these locations listed under Cheshire Parishes.

I am also researching George, William and David WALLACE who migrated from Scotland to Cheshire in the mid-1800s. I would appreciate any assistance.

Incidentally I was stationed in the US Air Force at Burtonwood, near Warrington in the mid-50's. I wish I had known then that I had ancestors who had lived nearby.

Thank you.  
Tom Wallace  
[REDACTED]

### **Seeking Robert Stevenson**

My great great grandfather Robert Stevenson/Stephenson born in Scotland in 1792 came to South Wales in 1844 as a Bailiff for the

Penrice Estate in Glamorgan. I have been able to follow his history from the 1851 census until his death in Pembrokeshire in 1868.

However before 1851 it has not been so easy. I think I have found him at Nether Alderley in 1841 at Fern Hill. He was a Bailiff.

Would anyone be able to give me some local information re Fern Hill. Are there any papers that might throw some light on his work as a Baliff?

Any help would be gratefully received  
Joan Phillips  
[REDACTED]

Mike Spencer has put these burials on the Derbyshire Mailing List recently.

Burbage, near Buxton  
10 Dec 1871 Jedidah WEST of Stockport aged 69  
Castleton  
26 Mar 1828 Dorothy NALL of Newton nr Hyde aged 60  
23 Sep 1846 Millicent NALL of Duckinfield aged 82  
Earl Sterndale  
27 Apr 1862 William MILWARD of Macclesfield aged 46  
4 Aug 1863 Margaret BAGSHAW of Taxal aged 26  
Mellor  
3 Dec 1816 Miriam dau of Joseph and Miriam TAYLOR of Hyde aged 6m  
Monyash  
23 Apr 1845 Mary BAGSHAW of Hurdsfield Ches aged 43  
Stoney Middleton  
12 Apr 1862 Hannah MOSLEY of Macclesfield aged 60

## Information for Members on the FHSC Website

*by Gay J Oliver (web assistant)*

Have you tried logging in to our website to find out what there is exclusively for our members?

To find out if anyone else is researching the same families – checkout Members Only in the bottom right-hand menu.

Click on Research Resources in the main left-hand menu and you will find a set of regularly updated research guides to help you with your research including:

### **Beginners' Corner:**

- Researching Your Family's History
- Pedigree Starter Chart
- Getting Started updated December 2011
- To Compute or not to Compute updated December 2011
- Now to Begin Filling in the Gaps in your Pedigree Starter Chart updated December 2011

### **Reminders and for those with More Experience:**

- Maps for Family Historians updated December 2011
- Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates updated December 2011
- Census Returns updated December 2011
- Trade Directories updated December 2011
- Parish Registers updated December 2011
- Wills and Probate Records updated December 2011
- Newspapers and Family History updated December 2011
- 1841 Census Example new December 2011

There is also a detailed guide to the legislation concerning the keeping of Parish Registers, a guide to finding Monumental Inscriptions in Cheshire, two Visitations of Cheshire in 1580 and 1613 and a whole set of census indexes. You can also access various photo galleries for our society and groups.

Our new website was launched in November 2008 and at that time anyone with a known email address was sent their individual login details. These are automatically generated for new members and sent to you by email.

However, we all forget our passwords at times and forget to tell people when we change our email addresses. In order to login to the website, the society MUST have your current email address, so if you have changed addresses recently or have never told us before, please get in touch with Maurice Stokes via: [renewals@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:renewals@fhsc.org.uk)

If anyone with a known email address is having problems remembering their user names or passwords, click on Frequently Asked Questions in the left- hand main menu where you should find a solution. If you are still having problems please contact our webmasters: [webmaster@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@fhsc.org.uk)

## Remembering Robert

*by Wendy Cooksey*

In the churchyard at St John's Buglawton, Congleton, Cheshire, there stands a memorial to local soldiers who died in The Great War, 1914-1918. Robert SHENTON my great great uncle is among them. I first became aware of Robert SHENTON's military service in a letter to me from his nephew Harry SHENTON. Harry told me that Robert had died on the Western Front in 1915. This date initially created confusion as there was another Robert SHENTON who died in 1915. Subsequent research showed Robert actually died in 1918.

Robert was born on the 4th April 1877 the fifth child of Peter SHENTON and his wife Jane McCLINTOCK/McCLINKETT. The children also had two older half-sisters, Mary Ann and Fanny, from Peter's first marriage. When he was six years old, Robert's mother died. Eleven years later Peter married a widow, Hannah WILLIAMS, and they had three daughters.

Robert became a silk weaver and later a fustian cutter like his father. He eventually moved in with his half-sister Mary Ann and her family.

On 8th September 1914 Robert was accepted into the General Service Corps of the 10th Cheshire Regiment at Macclesfield. Whilst teenagers throughout the United Kingdom were putting their age up to join the army, Robert lowered his by three years, telling the officials he was 34. He successfully underwent a medical check. His attestation papers indicate that he was 5' 10" tall and weighed 135lbs. He had a fresh complexion, blue eyes and dark brown hair. Unfortunately, no known photos survive to confirm my mental picture of a tall handsome man eager to serve his country.

On 5th September 1915, Robert's brother-in-law Thomas STUBBS was killed in Gallipoli. The next day Robert was deployed to France. Whilst there he forfeited five days pay and was 'awarded' 14 days for 'overstaying his leave from 11.45pm on 9th April 1915 to 6.15pm on 14th April 1915' - 102 ½ hours.

He served in Salonika, Greece, where he was to become chronically affected by malaria. His papers state:

17th December 1917 - Anaemia. Salonika.

6th January 1918 - Debility. Salonika.

21st January 1918 - Chronic malaria.

1st February 1918 - Affected by malaria – not to be sent to a theatre of war other than France or Italy.

Some time later, Robert was listed as 'missing', but by 16th April 1918 it was confirmed he was a prisoner of war.

Robert was held at Hautmont Prisoner of War Camp, which is on record as being a brutal place. Hautmont is a town in the department of the Nord, 5km south-west of Mauberge in the valley of Sambre in France. The Germans had captured the town quite early in the war and established a prisoner of war camp there.

An insight into the conditions experienced by the prisoners was provided by Private Henry EMERSON, number 41103, an Irishman from Tyrone who was captured on 28th March 1918. Private EMERSON was interviewed on 1st October 1918 about his experiences as a prisoner of war at Hautmont and Fresnoy-Le-Grand Prisoner of War Camps. He was interned at Hautmont from 6th July to 9th September 1918, when he managed to escape. He had previously escaped from Fresnoy-Le-Grand.

Some of Private EMERSON's comments were;

*"At Hautmont we were accommodated in an old building which had a roof. We had no beds or blankets. We worked at a salvage dump, eight hours a day, seven days a week, pretty heavy work. We received pay here, 1s. 2d. per hour..... the treatment there was bad. We were beaten and kicked by the guard. This was the usual thing. The guards constantly ill-treated us like this. There was no one to complain to; if we complained to an officer, he would give us the same..... No parcels were received in my time. There was no canteen and no means of buying anything."*

The comment at the end by the interviewer J.W. CAMPBELL is most poignant; *"This was a difficult witness; willing, seemingly, but one who found it difficult to express himself. He gave me an impression of having received worse treatment than he was able to express clearly"*.

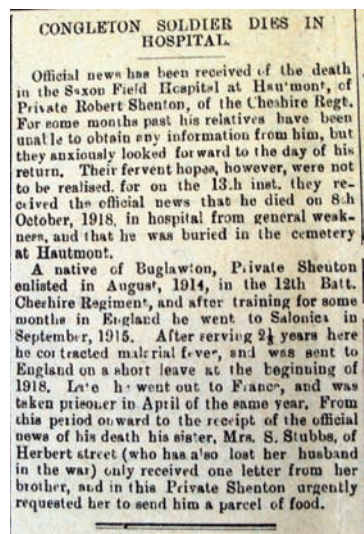
(From Prisoner of War interviews, No.2536, National Archives, Catalogue Reference WO/161/100/445.)

These were the conditions under which Robert lived during his imprisonment. At this time a pandemic of influenza was raging and, given the crude accommodation, lack of bedding, and brutal treatment meted out to the prisoners, a dose of influenza would have made Robert's life absolutely horrendous. Any recurrence of his malaria would have been exacerbated by these conditions.

During his interment Robert was able to send just one letter to his sister Sarah STUBBS in which he 'urgently requested her to send him a food parcel'. It is doubtful he would have received it, as indicated by Private EMERSON's account.

Not surprisingly, Robert died from 'general weakness' whilst a prisoner of war in Saxon Field Hospital on 8th October 1918, just over five weeks before the 42nd East Lancashire Division retook possession of Hautmont. Robert is buried in the south-west part of the Hautmont Communal Cemetery.

Robert's family in Buglawton tried desperately for several months to find out



what had happened to him, as indicated in a letter from his brother James on 4th April 1919. The concern for his brother's welfare would have been heightened by the knowledge that he was a prisoner of war and was begging for a food parcel. It wasn't until 13th April that the family received confirmation of Robert's death. The *Congleton Chronicle* carried a heartbreaking obituary for him on 26th April 1919, long after others from the district had been commemorated in a weekly Roll of Honour.

Very little was recorded on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) site about Robert, not even his first name and date of birth. His number 15493 led Martin TOMLINSON and I to identify him as our great great uncle. We provided several proof

documents as requested by the CWGC that enabled further information to be added to his record. On 7th June 2011, I received an email from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Enquiries Section, advising that the information about Robert had been updated as follows;

*Private SHENTON, ROBERT*  
*Unit: 10th Bn.*  
*Regiment: Cheshire Regiment*  
*Service No: 15493*  
*Age: 41*  
*Date of Death: 8 October 1918*  
*Commemoration: HAUTMONT COMMUNAL CEMETERY*  
*France*  
*Plot IV. Row A. Grave 13.*

*Additional Information: Brother of James SHENTON. Son of the late Peter SHENTON and Jane SHENTON (nee McClintock) of Buglawton, Congleton*

Robert's sister, Sarah STUBBS received his medals, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal, on 7th December 1921, putting the final touch to the life of her younger brother. A life that ended so tragically, with him starving, brutally treated, ill and far from home, and probably wondering if lowering his age to enable him to fight for his country was really worthwhile.

### **Acknowledgements**

I am indebted to Martin TOMLINSON for working with me to ensure the information we have regarding our great great uncle Private Robert SHENTON is correct. It was quite a task to unravel and ensure we had the right soldier.

In September 1940 around 60% of the British military records from WW1 were destroyed by bombing. The remainder were badly damaged and have been preserved by the National Archives. They have been digitised and made accessible to the public on *Ancestry.com*. Fortunately, our Robert SHENTON's attestation papers were amongst those salvaged, enabling us to prove that he actually died in 1918 and that he is our ancestor.

I am also grateful to Barry and Allan SHENTON, Robert's grand nephews for always being willing to check things for me in Buglawton and Congleton and answer my numerous questions relating to our family history.

I am hopeful that someone will read this article, see a connection and contact me. I would like particularly to be able to obtain a copy of a photo of Robert and his medals, if they are still in family hands.

Wendy Cooksey wcooksey@tpg.com.au  
22 Belgrade Ave  
Wodonga 3690 Australia



## **RENEWALS and GIFT AID HAVE MOVED HOUSE**

**All future correspondence relating to**

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS and GIFT AID**

**Should be addressed to**

**[REDACTED]**

**[REDACTED]**

**Email [renewals@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:renewals@fhsc.org.uk)**

### **Keeping Things Tidy.**

Whom you are descended from  
Find out if you're able  
Where they lived and what they did  
Don't forget to label.

Find some clues, renew the search  
Sift the facts from fable  
Census, wills and parish reg.  
Index, file and label.

Who's this in the wedding group,  
Mary, Jane or Mabel?  
How shall we sort out the snaps  
That haven't any label.

Write about your own life, too  
Thus you will enable  
Records to continue - but  
Be sure they have a label.

M. Churton Member No 1248

## Spotlight on Parish Chests

### Parish Apprentices

*by Joan Irving*



Parish apprenticeships were a matter of public record. The Poor Law of 1601 allowed Overseers of the Poor to place poor children between 7 and 15 years of age with a master or mistress to learn a trade. Hopefully this would ensure the children would be able to earn a living as adults and not be a drain on the parish. The placing of children had to be done with the agreement of two Justices of the Peace. Local yeoman, traders, clergy and gentry were encouraged to take on poor apprentices. Sometimes children were sent further afield, with Overseers responding to advertisements like the one below from an 1821 Macclesfield newspaper. Could this be why so many people suddenly arrived in Macclesfield?

*To Overseers, Guardians of the Poor, and Families  
desirous of settling in Macclesfield.*

#### **WANTED IMMEDIATELY,**

**F**ROM FOUR to FIVE THOUSAND PERSONS from Seven to Twenty Years of age, to be employed in the Throwing and Manufacture of Silk. The great increase of the Trade having caused a scarcity of hands; it is suggested that this is a most favourable opportunity for Persons with large families, and to Overseers wishing to put out children as Apprentices; to insure a comfortable livelihood for them.

Application to be made (if by Letter Post Paid) to the  
**PRINTER** of this Paper.

Payment for taking on an apprentice was not an absolute necessity but it did happen in many parishes, the money coming from parish taxes or from local charities.

In Davenham in 1732 a Mrs Vickers set up a charity in her will to provide apprenticeships for poor children of the parish. In 1827 it paid for the following apprenticeships:- (extract)

**1827**

January 6th To Leftwich – John Unwin apprenticed to Edward Roberts  
£10.0

February 9th To Moulton – George Hope apprenticed to John Charlesworth  
£5.0

April 16th	To Wharton – Geo: Bostock apprenticed to Richard Edwards £10.0.0
May 1st	To Leftwich – Wm Johnson apprenticed to John Thompson £1.0.0

Apprenticeship Indentures were official documents and could be handwritten or on printed forms. The Indentures laid out the conditions expected for both the master or mistress, and the apprentice, and were written in typical legal jargon. The following is a transcript of a printed indenture dated 1819, the hand-written parts are transcribed in italics.

**This Indenture** made the *twenty-second* day of *February* in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and *nineteen* between *John Etchelles* and *Thomas Cooper* Overseers of the Poor for the Township of *Macclesfield Forest* in the County of *Chester* of the one part and *Martha Swarbrook* of *Macclesfield* in the said county *Bonnet Maker and Black worker* of the other part. **Witnesseth** that the said Overseers of the Poor, by and with the consent of two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said county of *Chester* (one whereof is of the Quorum) have put, placed and bound, and by these present Do put, place and bind *Mary Birchinall* a poor Girl of and belonging to the said township of *Macclesfield Forest* of the age of *nine* years or thereabouts, to be an Apprentice to *her* the said *Martha Swarbrook* and as an apprentice with *her* to dwell, continue and serve from the date of these presents until the said *Mary Birchinall* shall attain *her* age of twenty-one years or *day of marriage which shall first and next happen* according to the Statutes in such case made and provided: During all which time and term the said *Mary Birchinall* shall well and faithfully serve the said *Martha Swarbrook* *her* Mistress in all such lawful business as *she* the said *Mary Birchinall* shall put unto by the command of *her* Mistress according to the power, wit and ability of *her* the said *Mary Birchinall* and honestly and obediently in all things shall behave *her* self towards *her* Mistress and honestly and orderly towards *her* Family. **And** the said *Martha Swarbrook* *for and in consideration of the sum of ten pounds of lawful British Money to her in hand paid at or immediately before the Execution of these Presents and also and in consideration of the faithful service of the said Apprentice, doth for herself, her Executors and Administrators, hereby covenant, promise and agree to and with the said Overseers of the Poor, and every of them, their and every of their Executors and Administrators, and their and every of their Successors for the time being, that the said Martha Swarbrook shall and will teach, instruct and inform, or cause and procure to be taught, instructed and informed, the said Mary Birchinall in the trade or business of a Bonnet Maker and Black worker as now used and followed by her the said Martha Swarbrook in all the arts and mysteries thereof. And also, that she the said Martha Swarbrook her Executors and Administrators*

shall find, provide for and allow unto the said Apprentice, good, wholesome and sufficient Meat, Drink, Apparel, Washing, Lodging, and all other things needful and necessary for an Apprentice during the term or time aforesaid.

**Provide always** that the said last mentioned Covenant on the part of the said *Martha Swarbrook* her Executors and Administrators to be done and performed, shall continue and be in force no longer than three Calender Months next after the death of the said *Martha Swarbrook*. In case the said *Martha Swarbrook* shall happen to die during the continuance of such Apprenticeship, according to the provisions of an Act passed in the thirty-seventh year of the reign of King George the Third, intituled 'An Act for further Regulations of Parish Apprentices'

**In Witness** whereof the said parties to these presents hereunto set their Hands and Seals, the day and year first above written.

Sealed and delivered in the presence of

*J C Everest*

*Peter Browne*

*John Etchells*

*Thomas Cooper*

*Martha Swarbrook*

We, two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the above mentioned county of *Chester* dwelling in or near to the said township of *Macclesfield Forest* and one of us of the Quorum, do hereby declare our assent to the binding of the above-named *Mary Birchinall* an Apprentice to the above-named *Martha Swarbrook* according to the form and effect of the above-written Indenture. Given under our hands the *twenty second* day of *February* in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and *nineteen*.

*Thomas Parker*

*John Glegg*

Handforth Register of Apprentices 1803-39 gives reasons why children were apprenticed as well as the officials involved in the indenture. The following are examples from the register.

28 Mar 1803 - Hannah Sumner, Girl 10, Parents dead, from Handforth cum Bosden, to Samuel Walmsley, weaver of Cheadle Moseley, term 21 or married, fee £2.0.0  
James Whitelegg & John Simpson, Churchwardens  
George Barrow & Enoch Dickens, Overseers  
Charles Prescott & J. Philips, JPs

15 Nov 1810 - John Wildblood, boy 6, parents dead of Handforth cum Bosden  
same day - Sarah Wildblood, Girl 11, " " " " "  
both to James Constantine, weaver of Newton, term both to 21 fees £4 each, James Whitelegg, Churchwardens  
Isaac Hammond & John Hallworth, Overseers  
G. Hyde Clarke & J. Philips, JPs

10 Nov 1814 – George Shard, boy 9, father alive, of Wilmslow,  
to John Williamson, hatter of Bollin Fee, term until 21 fee  
£6.0.0  
Thomas Cooper & Thomas Bracegirdle, Churchwardens  
Thomas Brown & Thomas Swindells, Overseers  
Thomas Wm Tatton JP

Those apprenticed to husbandry or housewifery were often used as unpaid slave labour and the usual term of seven years was often exceeded. Until 1768 boys could be forced to continue to the age of 24 and girls to 21 unless married first. Some apprentices ran away and others had their apprenticeship agreements nullified, most of these incidents were reported to the Quarter Sessions and the necessary action taken. The following examples are taken from LCRS vol.94 'Cheshire Quarter Sessions 1559-1760'

Absconding Apprentice – Thos Hardinge, apprentice to William Crewe, shoemaker of Nantwich 1635

Ill treatment – Richard Dod, glover apprentice to Robert Philips at Churton 1641

Blasphemous behaviour of Master Henry Ball – John Hill, carpenter's apprentice 1640

Misbehaviour of Apprentice – John Dodd, idle labourer apprentice to Thos Speed, of Dunham-on-the-Hill 1638/9.

And from Handforth.

14 Mar 1839 – Moses Holt, Boy 13, parents dead, of Handforth, to Thomas Chatham, surgeon of Stockport, term until 21.

This boy served his Master about 4 months in Stockport then left him and has not returned at this time, April 14th 1840, H. Knowles & S. Davenport, JPs  
*Poor lad probably couldn't cope with all the blood and guts!*

Many poor children benefited from their apprenticeships and learnt trades and skills that gave them good employment as adults. However others were exploited or apprenticed to Masters and Mistresses who were cruel and uncaring and the children grew up in misery with few future opportunities. Perhaps one of your ancestors was a parish apprentice, it's always worth a check.

For more information on parish and private apprentices see 'My Ancestor was an Apprentice' – ref: OCCUPATIONS 30 at Mobberley Research Centre

# Trove - finding your Family in Australia

by Rae Szuch

The National Library of Australia has a website called *Trove*; <http://trove.nla.gov.au/> which could be useful for anyone looking for information on ancestors or relatives who have moved to Australia. I became aware of this tool at a family history session at my local library but haven't used it much as all of my ancestors currently being researched come from Cheshire and surrounding counties. However, I expect many members of the FHSC will find the tool very useful. The following is a quick summary of the contents of *Trove*:

- Digitized newspapers from 1803 to 1954
- Journals, articles and data sets
- Books
- Pictures, photos and objects
- Music, sound and video
- Diaries, letters and archives
- Maps and more

I have only used the newspaper section and very easily located two separate obituaries for a death in 1937 of a Captain James Banks. The obituaries contained excellent information on where he lived, a little about his family, work history and birthplace.

If at first try you don't find what you are looking for try again at a later time as resources are being added constantly. Data is also being loaded electronically which is not without errors and as time passes the electronic versions are gradually being corrected.

**Cheshire Archives and Local Studies Service** now have a presence on *Twitter* at <http://twitter.com/#!/CheshireRO> and a blog *Curiouser and Curiouser: tales from Cheshire Archives and Local Studies* at <http://cheshirero.blogspot.com>. They are also uploading photographs to *flickr* at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/cheshirero> to enable them to stage virtual exhibitions and also to invite a larger audience to add to their descriptions and identify unknown images of places, events, people and buildings. (Check out the 'mystery photographs' section to see if you can identify some of their unidentified pictures.)

## Clogs in the Family

*by Kathleen Morris*

Was your ancestor a clog maker? Or did your ancestors wear clogs? People have worn wooden soled footwear for centuries, but clogs became more widely worn during the 18th century, and continued as popular footwear until the middle of the 20th century. Clogs were the footwear of farm labourers, miners, and factory workers. Cheap and hardwearing, they were also the first protective footwear for industrial workers in places such as foundries. So unless you can trace your Cheshire ancestry in every line through wealth and landed gentry, chances are that some of your ancestors would have worn clogs at some time between 1700 and 1950.

A clogger, as a clog maker was generally known, was not the same thing as a shoemaker or boot maker. For a start, he was further down the social scale, as were his customers.

By the time we see cloggers listed in any numbers in trade directories in the early 19th century, the trade had developed its own ancillary trades. A clogger would buy his soles in bulk from a dealer who cut them as blanks. The uppers were leather, nailed onto the sides of the wooden soles, and the clogger probably cut the individual pieces himself depending on the size the customer required. Clogs could be fastened in several ways, generally with laces or by a metal clip or buckle - another component the clogger would have bought in.

So a clogger could be more of an assembler of parts than a craftsman making an article from scratch - appropriate perhaps for someone supplying customers who also worked in industrial situations.

The soles of a clog are not flat but turn up slightly at the toe, making them very easy to walk in. At its most basic a clog could be worn as soon as the upper had been nailed onto the sole, but generally they were more complex than that. To make them even more hardwearing, irons were nailed onto the soles. Clog irons are a little like horse shoes, not covering the whole of the sole area, just the outer part. Of course, it is impossible to walk quietly in them, but that has been turned to advantage by clog dancers, precursors of the more upmarket tap dancers.

Relatively little capital or training was needed to set up as a clogger, and it was



not a trade where apprenticeships were used. So for some men it could be a stopgap occupation between other jobs. However, for those who chose clog making as a permanent occupation, there was no shortage of customers; plenty of work, but not necessarily much profit.

*Cheshire Wills Online* shows few wills proved for cloggers - only 27 in all. There were many more working cloggers than that but probably most were nearly as poor as their customers, and didn't leave enough to need probate. The earliest one is in 1726, Robert COLLIER of Romiley, followed by Robert THORNLEY of Poolhouse Fold, Stockport, in 1728. The most recent is Arthur BALL of Congleton, whose will was proved in 1917.

The wills indicate the dates and areas where clogs were being worn. Most cloggers were in the north-west of England. In 1881 almost half the cloggers in England were in Lancashire, around 4,000 of them. Cheshire had a mere 382; in some counties there were none at all.

Even within Cheshire, there are marked differences. Chester, Wilmslow and Crewe appear to have no cloggers in the late 19th century. In Frodsham, there seems to have been a single clog maker, a father and son business run by Halstead CLOUGH, who had moved from Burnley, another area where clogs were everyday wear. Nantwich and Northwich had 6 cloggers each; Macclesfield had 31. The greatest concentration was in the north-east part of the county. In 1881 Stockport had 44 cloggers, Hyde 28, and Dukinfield 49.

It is worth taking a closer look at the clog trade in Dukinfield and the surrounding area.

One of the first things that stands out is the number of men who were employed as clog iron makers. The main reason for this was the ironworks founded by John SUMMERS in the adjacent town of Stalybridge. This started off making clog irons but expanded, eventually becoming Shotton Steel Works. Clogs may have been the footwear of the poor, but they were also the foundation of at least one fortune.

Census entries show people such as Fred BRAGG, who in 1881 was a 13-year-old clog iron maker living at 18 Dukinfield Road, Hyde. Many of the clog iron makers were only 13 or 14 years old. Clearly this was a simple job from which they could progress to more difficult work as they got older. Young Fred's father, Thomas, worked as a clogger.

Clog sole makers were also in evidence, for instance, also in 1881, there was William BRADLEY of 3 Orchard Street, Hyde.

A typical clogger might be Reuben RIGBY, born in 1840 in Dukinfield. His father, John, was at various times either a cotton weaver or a greengrocer. Reuben seems to have stuck to his clogs. In 1861 the family lived at 29 Walmsley Street, Dukinfield and 21-year-old Reuben was listed as a clogger. In 1871 he had crossed the county boundary to Oldham, actually only a mile or so away, but by 1881 he was back in Walmsley Street. In 1891 the census includes additional information, so we know that Reuben was working as an employee for someone else. It could have been one of the many self-employed cloggers in town, or there is the possibility that he was working at the local Co-op.

There are many other Dukinfield names with clog-making connections. From the 1881 census alone there is George BAXTER of 208 Tame Valley; Robert BENTLEY of 9 New Spring Bank Street; Samuel BLACKWELL of 42 King Street; Thomas BROOKS of 22 Vicarage Street and Alfred ADAMS of 34 Kay Street.

Are any of these your elusive Cheshire ancestor?

Alfred ADAMS at 34 Kay Street in 1881 was another man who made a living from clogs. He was born in Heywood, Lancashire, but moved into the area and married a local girl, Elizabeth WILLIAMSON, in 1868. By 1891 he too had re-crossed the county boundary to Oldham. It was not a great distance, but typifies the difficulties which can be encountered when dealing with areas close to county boundaries.

Because clogs were associated with industrial areas, it is easy to forget that they were so widely worn in Cheshire. The image of open farmland and spreading greenery is a tempting one. But by the mid 19th century Cheshire was also home to cotton and silk mills, coal mines, railways, and a thriving chemical industry. These were the clog-wearing areas of the county, and in many cases they were also associated with migrant labour, even when they were not close to the county boundaries.

Clogs fell from favour mainly because of increased prosperity which allowed many their first opportunity to wear shoes. Another factor was the introduction of purpose designed safety footwear, complete with BS numbers.

You can still buy clogs, and one thing hasn't changed – you won't find them at a mainstream shoe shop. You may have to search for a modern clogger and he will probably tell you that he makes for folk dancers and re-enactment groups. A far cry from the impoverished miners and weavers of 150 years ago.

## My Mother was a Nurse

by Margaret Churton

Our family all knew mother trained as a nurse; first she was a nursery-nurse, and then a hospital nurse and midwife at the London Hospital, now the Royal London Hospital. I wish I had more details of her career before she married. Why had we not talked about it when she was still alive? She died sixty years ago, my brother died almost eighteen years ago and two of my sisters knew no more than I did. When I was married and had left my parents' home, my youngest sister, ten years younger than me, left home to train as a nurse at The London Hospital. Perhaps she had talked with our mother. Imagine my excitement when she told me that Mum had put aside her nursery-nursing in response to Lord Kitchener's posters and joined the VAD (Voluntary Aid Detachment.) She was sent to Gravesend General Hospital where she made friends with another member of the VAD and they decided they would both get a proper training as nurses at The London Hospital so they went to London. My sister also confirmed that Mum had gone on to work as a midwife in the East End and was able to tell some interesting stories of her experiences! I expect these were very similar to those told by Jennifer Worth in her book *Call the Midwife*.

My elder daughter lives in Hertford - near enough to London for a useful day trip while I was visiting her. She arranged the necessary appointment at The London Hospital Archives where we enjoyed individual attention. We were soon provided with several ledgers and a shoebox full of old postcards. My sister owned Volume I of a *History of The London Hospital* but she did not know if Volume II had ever been written. I took the opportunity to ask. A copy was in the bookcase opposite where I was sitting and was immediately handed to me to look through but I was told it was out of print. I listed the chapter headings and took some other details in the hope that I might find a copy.

My daughter and I set to work. I had a ledger which included a report of my mother during the two-and-a-quarter years when she was a probationer. She was obviously just the right kind of person for the job - "neat and carried out orders with nurse-like manners". There was a special mention of her being gentle and patient with women in the gynaecological ward.

Meanwhile, my daughter was studying the records in another ledger. The hospital knew about Mum's experience as a nursery-nurse and appointed her

to fill a vacancy as a Staff Nurse in the Children's Medical Ward. During her second year as a Staff Nurse she was registered with The London Hospital Private Nursing Institution which provided a resident nurse for limited periods, often in the London area, but on one occasion for my mother as far away as South Devon. Her patients were often babies or young children. In between these cases she returned to work as before at The London Hospital. She asked for maternity training and it was provided for her for a period of three months. I presume that this entitled her to call herself a midwife but there were no records of this at The London Hospital Archives. She left The London Hospital in August 1920 and was married in August 1921.

We left the premises with a bundle of notes and photocopies of a selection from the postcards but as you may guess the story doesn't end there. Chester Library traced a copy of Volume II of the history at Newcastle University for me to borrow and I became absorbed in nursing history. Perhaps next year I should investigate the Royal College of Midwives Roll (1872 - 1983) at the National Archives.

### **A Picture of Life in 1911 is Completed**

The final, missing column of data from the 1911 census, which details individuals' infirmities is now available at [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk) and [www.1911census.co.uk](http://www.1911census.co.uk). The infirmity column details wide-ranging descriptions of peoples' health conditions as perceived and hand-written by the head of the household on the night of Sunday 2 April 1911.

#### **A less 'politically correct' society**

'Lunatic', 'imbecile' and 'feeble-minded' are some of the most commonly used entries reflecting an era before such terminology was deemed unacceptable. The census in fact prompts the respondent to record if a person is 'totally deaf', 'deaf and dumb', 'totally blind', 'lunatic', 'imbecile' or 'feeble-minded.'

#### **1911 humour**

However, not all the entries are negative or insensitive. The 1911 records also reflect the humour and curious family dynamics from a century ago. One extraordinary record details a Mr John Underwood from Hastings recording his children as 'quarrelsome', 'stubborn', 'greedy', 'vain' and 'noisy'. He even records himself as 'bad-tempered' and his wife as suffering from a 'long tongue'.

#### **Suffragette labels 'voteless' as her infirmity**

The cause of the suffragettes is also illustrated within the new records, with some women listing their infirmities as not having the vote or not being enfranchised. For example, four women living in the same house recorded their infirmities as 'voteless, therefore classed with idiots and children'.

# The Higinbotham Chronicles

*by Paul Higinbotham*

Like most people, when I began to look into the history of my family, I knew nothing beyond the lives of my grandparents. Travelling further back my researches took me to Marple in Cheshire, and eventually I concluded that all the HIGGINBOTTOMS in the world originated from the Marple area.

The origin of the name is a corruption of Anglo-Saxon English. The bottom refers to the bottom of a valley, or broad valley, and the Higgin may have originally been 'aecen' – oak tree – but becoming connected with a dialect word hicken, higger – mountain ash – or a local name higger. The inhabitants of Marple could have referred to my eponymous ancestors as the people that lived next to the tree at the bottom of the hill. Considering the topography around Marple, this is quite a plausible explanation.

The first mention of any HIGGINBOTTOM is of an Ottywell HIGGINBOTTOM of Marple, who was 'four score and ten years old' in 1522 indicating he was born during the 1430s. The first indication of my family is a yeoman called Richard and his wife Frances, who were living in Marple in the 1640s. They resided at the Spout House, in Strines. Since my grandfather was born in Hyde in 1899, the family appeared to have moved less than ten miles in 600 years.

Using parish records from Stockport, Disley and Marple I have found that this original family were notable for a high level of infant mortality and number of early deaths. At one point Richard had buried his wife and four children, leaving only him and his teenage son, John, alive. This is the first in a series of points where the family nearly dies out and leads me to conclude that I am lucky to be here. However, having negotiated the Civil War, John marries Catherine ASHENCARE, of Rainow, in 1663.

John and Catherine move up the hill to the Turf Moor area. They had five children, though only Jonathan lives long enough to marry and have children himself. Jonathan also lived around Turf Moor and had five children, one of them also called Jonathan, married and had eleven children. Jonathan junior and his wife, Elizabeth WASHINGTON, moved towards Stockport.

Their fifth child, Thomas was born in 1747 and after his marriage to Rebecca NORBURY in November 1774 the story becomes clearer. Census records now

add detail to the parish records and broaden the picture. Thomas was a weaver and he also worked at All Saints Church in Marple as a sidesman. This last piece of information was gleaned from a newspaper obituary for one of his grandchildren, as three generations had performed this function. Thomas's will is interesting as it names his grandchildren from the two marriages of his daughters, as well as identifying his three sons. Tantalisingly it names a Mrs Ann CLARE as his niece, however, she has proved elusive. His second son Charles was also a weaver, and through him the *Staggs Head* in Marple Bridge enters the story (today it's known as the *Norfolk Arms*). The pub stands in an ideal location, a busy road junction and a river crossing, it was run by David and Hannah TAYLOR. In 1812 David and his son David died in an accident, leaving Hannah in charge of the pub. In 1813 Charles and Hannah married and Charles becomes landlord. An increase in the population who worked in the mills and the building of the canal must have provided excellent trade at that time. The family run the pub until 1821. Charles and Hannah had four daughters, but only one son Thomas, so the family name nearly dies out at this time.

Thomas married a Margaret HIGGINBOTTOM (no relation) and moved to Hyde to work in the mills that were being built. Of their four children only one, John, married and had children. John married Sarah SCHOFIELD in 1864 and they produced eight children. Four years later his grandfather Charles, the former landlord, now aged 68, went to visit one of his daughters. At the end of the evening he decided to walk to his brother's house - via a pub - and was never seen again. The following morning a boatman, also called Charles HIGGINBOTTOM, but no relation, was going with a loaded boat from Marple to Manchester. He saw a hat floating on the water and picked it up. Underneath was a walking stick and when he pulled the stick he found that the right hand of a man was clinging to the knob; he then dragged up the body of Charles. Charles had drowned in the canal near Marple aqueduct. An inquest held at the *Navigation Inn*, Marple, returned an open verdict of 'found drowned' as there was no indication of how the drowning happened.

His grandson, John, worked for Ashton Bros at Throstle Bank Mill, Hyde as a stripper and grinder. A stripper and grinder was a worker in the cotton industry who maintained the machinery, specifically removing rubbish from the carding machines. In 1886 he lived at 19 Thomas St, Flowery Field, Hyde and times were difficult. Like his grandfather, his body was found in the canal, this time near Captain Clarke's bridge in Hyde. At the inquest his wife Sarah related her story to the coroner "*The deceased John HIGINBOTHAM was my husband. He was 44 years of age and a stripper and grinder at Throstle Bank Mill. He left home about ten o'clock on Thursday night June 10th, but did not say where he was*

*going. I never saw him alive afterwards. I made enquiries in vain as to his whereabouts and was on my way down to the police on Monday night last, when I heard a man had been found in the canal. I afterwards saw the body and identified it as that of my husband. We had a slight quarrel on Thursday night and after remaining in the house for twenty minutes, he took his hat of the peg and said he might as well go, as he should be 'bagged' (sacked) in the morning. He had been rather low spirited for some time for fear of losing his work at the mill."* The jury returned an open verdict but concluded it was most probable he committed suicide as a result of his domestic troubles and anxieties.

Sarah was now a widow with eight youngsters to care for. One by one her children married and left home. One son joined the army and was abroad for ten years, first in India and then in South Africa during the Boer War. In 1893 her son Thomas, then aged 22, married Emily CARTER in Gee Cross. They had five children. One joined the army as part of Kitchener's volunteers and fought in France. Sadly he succumbed, not in action, but to pneumonia in Boulogne during 1917. The second son also served in the army during World War I, but died due to illness shortly after its conclusion. One died in infancy and the only daughter married, but did not have any children. The remaining child was my grandfather, Sydney. Thomas himself led a rather nomadic life living in Hyde, Warrington, Sheffield and Manchester.



They settled, for a while, in Ardwick, Manchester, where my grandfather, Sydney, met and married, Frances HANSOM in 1928. During the depression years they moved to Burnage and had two children, one of whom married a girl from the same street in the 1950s. They in turn had three children the eldest of whom was me, the first of my family to try to uncover something of the history of the HIGINBOTHAMS. I have visited archives, libraries and record offices in my search and contacted relatives, some of whom are happy to help and some who have no interest whatsoever, in my journey back in time to find Richard and Frances.

**Sydney HIGINBOTHAM the grandfather of the author is in the middle.  
(1905)**



# Certificate Exchange

*by Jean Jones*

This service enables members to share unwanted certificates that they have purchased. Details of new lodgements are made available in each edition of the Ancestor. Members can obtain a copy on request by giving your name and membership number and identifying the certificate from the list published: by email to [lampreyjones@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:lampreyjones@blueyonder.co.uk) or by post (include a donation to FHSC of at least 50p to cover copying costs for each item, plus a stamped self-addressed envelope) to Jean Jones, 2 Lytham Rd., Ashton in Makerfield, Wigan WN4 9RU. Unwanted certificates should be sent to me at the above address.

Can I remind members to ensure they use correct postage rates. If in doubt, please take the item to your local Post Office.

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

BAYLEY	William	M 1901 Dec 25	To Rosa Hancock: s/o William Bayley: Witn Albert E Hancock, Emma Cotton	Congleton CHS
BILLINGTON	Sarah Ann	B 1874 Dec 2	To Joseph & Elizabeth formerly Horton	Nantwich CHS
BILLINGTON	Joseph	B 1851 Nov 13	To Henry & Sarah formerly Shuker	Wrenbury CHS
BLISS	George Walter	D 1900 May 19	Age 64 years [Workhouse] Present William Crosby Barker	Mansfield NTT
BLYTHIN	Ellen	B 1848 Aug 28	To Benjamin & Mary formerly Prondle	Wrexham DEN
BLYTHIN	Benjamin	B 1851 May 18	To Benjamin & Mary formerly Prondle	Wrexham DEN
BODEN	David Christopher	B 1872 Apr 12	To Christopher & Margaret formerly Davies	Cardigan CGN
CHADWICK	Peter	B 1947 Jun 16	To William & Winifred formerly Hughes	Wrexham DEN
CHADWICK	Jesse	B 1884 May 16	To Henry & Elizabeth Lois formerly Hurst	Bolton LAN
CHADWICK	Albert	B 1880 Jan 10	To Charles Mary Ann formerly Slater	Heywood LAN
CHADWICK	Arnold	B 1896 Oct 17	To Joseph & Mary formerly Cartwright	Prestwich LAN
CHADWICK	Walter Fearnhead	B 1893 May 3	To Henry & Elizabeth Lois formerly Hurst	Farnworth LAN
CHADWICK	Arnold	B 1888 Mar 7	To Henry & Elizabeth Lois formerly Hurst	Farnworth LAN
CHADWICK	Henry	M 1874 Jan 1	To Elizabeth Lois Hurst: s/o Thomas Chadwick: Wit John H Dale, Mary A Green	Bolton LAN

CLUBBE	John	M 1915 Nov 12	To Kathleen Roberts: s/o Edwin Clubbe: Witn H Christies, Jennier Jones	London
CROSS	Samuel	B 1864 Nov 13	To Joseph & Martha formerly Carter	Northwich CHS
CROSS	George	B 1871 Dec 13	To George & Jane formerly Yoxall	Bunbury CHS
CROSS	John	M 1866 Jan 18	To Mary Ann Harding: s/o John Cross: Witn Francis Fairhurst, Sarah J Harding, Wm Trickett	Northwich CHS
CROSS	John	B 1880 Oct 20	To John & Mary Ann formerly Harding	Congleton CHS
CROSS	Sarah	B 1845 Oct 15	To John & Sarah formerly Fryer	Congleton CHS
CROSS	Sarah Ann	M 1869 Aug 30	To John Willett: d/o John Cross: Witn Hercules A Price, Eliza Redfern Touny	Manchester LAN
HANCOCK	Rosa	M 1901 Dec 25	To William Bayley: d/o James Hancock: Witn Albert E Hancock, Emma Cotton	Congleton CHS
HARDING	Mary Ann	M 1866 Jan 18	To John Cross: d/o Wm H Harding: Witn Fancis Fairhurst, Sarah J Harding, Wm Trickett	Northwich CHS
HULME	Mary Jane	B 1860 Mar 2	To William & Elizabeth formerly Colts	Manchester LAN
HURST	Elizabeth Lois	M 1874 Jan 1	To Henry Chadwick: d/o Jesse Hurst: Witn John H Dale, Mary A Green	Bolton LAN
McGEE	Sarah	B 1863 Jul 20	To Thomas & Charlotte formerly Berisford	Liverpool LAN
NIBLETT	William	D 1852 Aug 13	Age 75 years Present Hannah Niblett	Clifton GLS
NIBLETT	William	D 1852 Aug 14	Age 7 months: Son of John Niblett	Gloucester GLS
NIBLETT	William	D 1854 Mar 14	Age 3 years: Son of Robert Niblett	Newnham GLS
PARKINSON	Walter	B 1901 Feb 12	To Thomas & Annie formerly Stanley	Tattenhall CHS
PARKINSON	James	B 1839 Mar 13	To Martha Parkinson	Grt Boughton CHS
ROBERTS	Kathleen	M 1915 Nov 12	To John Clubbe: d/o Thomas Roberts dec. Witn H Christies, Jennier Jones	London
ROBERTS	Ann	D 1870 Apr 20	Age 39 years. Wife of Thomas Roberts	West Derby LAN
ROBINSON	John	M 1838 Oct 19	To Eleanor Walker: s/o Thomas Robuinson: Witn T Garth, Chas Longstaff! George Love!	Sunderland DUR
SMITH	Thomas	B 1868 Dec 1	To John & Margaret formerly Fairhurst	Warrington LAN
WALKER	Eleanor	M 1838 Oct 19	To John Robinson: d/o Thomas Walker: Witn T Garth, Chas Longstaff! George Love!	Sunderland DUR

WILDSMITH	Sarah Ann	M 1854 Dec24	To Joseph Wroe: d/o George Wildsmith: With William Parker, George Wroe	Dewsbury YRK
WILLETT	John	M 1869 Aug 30	To Sarah Ann Cross: s/o Thomas Willett: With Hercules A Price, Eliza Redfern Touny	Manchester LAN
WRIGHT	Fred	B 1891 May 10	To Charles & Mary Jane formerly Rogers	Chester CHS
WROE	Joseph	M 1854 Dec24	To Sarah Ann Wildsmith: s/o John Wroe: With William Parker, George Wroe	Dewsbury YRK

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## What the Butler did!

*by Ken Malone*

This story of my ancestor is set in the village of Lymm. Although often described as a sleepy village, it was nevertheless the place where a number of murders were committed, the victim of the first of these was my ancestor, Sarah MALONE. This terrible crime took place in 1798 at the Rectory in Lymm and the villain of the piece was indeed the butler.

The old rectory was a big black and white house high on the bank overlooking the Dingle and the Lower Dam; the driveway leading to Lymm Hall was opposite the Rectory. The Rectory was the home of the Reverend Peter Egerton LEIGH Archdeacon of Salop and Rector of Lymm, his wife Theodosia, some of their family and a large staff. The staff included a housekeeper, cook, lady's maid, dairy and kitchen maids, coachman, gardener and a butler. The butler was a young man called John THORNHILL, who also undertook the duties of valet. John was not a local man but came from the Cotswolds. He was born near Stow and had been in service with a number of families before being recommended to Revd. LEIGH by his sister-in-law. By 1798 John THORNHILL had lived at The Rectory for about seven years. He was valued and trusted by his employer and was popular with the other servants. Mrs LEIGH appreciated his kindness and devotion to the Rector whose health was poor. Rebecca CLARK, Mrs Leigh's own maid, must have appreciated him for other qualities as she was engaged to marry him.

What kind of a man was John THORNHILL? Nothing, one suspects, much out of the ordinary. From the hotch-potch of evidence presented at his trial he emerges as being tall, strong and handsome. He was conscious that his position as a 'gentleman's gentleman' put him a cut above some of the other servants and he was a bit of a dandy with smart clothes. He wore a purple and black dressing jacket and a light grey coat with a red cape. Rebecca knitted him a pair of green and white garters, which came to a sorry end tying up his irons to keep them from biting into his ankles while he was imprisoned in Chester Castle. He seems to have not been very bright but he was stubborn and became violent when his reputation was threatened. If he had been a clever man he would not have murdered a woman whom everyone knew he was connected to, or thrown her body into the Lower Dam near to where he lived. On a dark January evening he struck this woman, twenty years his senior, several brutal blows with a hammer, bundled her body into the water and climbed up

through the steep Dingle back to the Rectory, and to his doom.

The dead woman had been well-known in Lymm as Sally STATHAM, although the name given in the burial register is Sarah MALONE. STATHAM is the name given to part of the village, so she probably lived there sharing a cottage with another woman, Phoebe DANIEL, and her two children. The first of these children was John, her son, and there was a much younger daughter. John was thirteen years old at the time of her murder. Despite his young age, he was employed as a weaver and his mother used to “wind” for him. Sally also took in washing to make a living. Among the bundles of washing left at, and collected from, her cottage, was John THORNHILL’s and presumably that was how they became acquainted. Sally was described as “large and lusty” and although the evidence did not directly say so, it was inferred that she had a certain reputation. There was no mention of a husband, if she had one.

It was in the early summer of 1797 that John THORNHILL became “concerned with Sally STATHAM – but once, and once only” as he later maintained. John then accompanied the LEIGH family to Lichfield and did not return to Lymm until October. A few days after the family’s return, Rebecca CLARK heard a rumour that Sally STATHAM was with child and that the butler at the Rector was the father. When Rebecca told John about the rumour he furiously denied that he was responsible and to prove his innocence he agreed to accompany Rebecca to Sally’s house to hear the truth from her own lips. After church on Sunday evening, the engaged couple went along to see an indignant Sally who vowed that she knew no more of the butler “than the furthest man in London” and that the child was not his.

Rebecca was convinced of his innocence and very contrite. However, she was not aware that John had paid an earlier visit to Sally and been closeted in her cottage for half an hour, bribing her to acquit him. It is possible that this was the first of many such payments.

Christmas came and went and the situation became more and more intolerable for John THORNHILL. Sally was taking great delight in spreading the story that THORNHILL so vehemently denied. So, on the evening of 5th January 1798, he arranged to meet her in the thickly-wooded Dingle below the Rectory and using the hammer he had brought with him from the Rectory pantry, he murdered her.

Most of the evidence presented at the trial was given by his fellow servants. They all gave detailed accounts of how THORNHILL endeavoured to explain

away how he tried to wash, burn or conceal his clothes, which were covered with mud and bloodstains. The servants at the Rectory were aghast at the state he was in. There was blood everywhere, on his jacket, trousers, shirt, stockings, wrist band and even on the binding of his hat. To explain why his right hand was swollen and blistered he invented several stories. The first was when he told Rebecca that he had gone into the yard to drive off some pigs and had fallen over the cinders. When the Rector noticed he said that he had fallen down in the dark when going "to the necessary" and later changed this story to say that he stumbled when he was carrying a large coal. He was a poor liar, constantly contradicting his earlier stories.

Sally STATHAM's body was found at noon the next day in the Lower Dam. She was fully clothed except for her petticoat, cap and shoes. These were found a month later in the stream, weighed down with stones. The two surgeons who examined the body concluded that she was dead, or nearly so, when thrown into the water. She had been killed by three savage wounds that had laid the skull almost bare and was eight months pregnant when she died.

John THORNHILL, ashen-faced and trembling, went to the Rector and told him that Sally STATHAM had been found in the Dam and that he was suspected of having done away with her. He declared upon oath that he knew nothing of it, but then he broke down and cried "nobody saw me; how can they hurt me; nobody saw me; how can they prove anything against me." He was practically incoherent with terror. He pleaded with his master to hide him in the Rectory cellar or let him be concealed in the gardener's cottage as everyone was turning against him. The following morning, John insisted upon an interview with Mrs LEIGH. Of all the evidence given at his trial, hers is the most moving. She saw John upstairs in the Rectory Tea Room. She watched him enter, took one look at his face and cried, "Oh, God John, I see you are guilty!" She sank into a chair and he threw himself down, clasping her knees and looking wretchedly into her face. She realised that he was about to tell her everything and was appalled. "John, make no confession to me; don't tell me anything. I can't bear it."

John blurted out that he would run off to High Legh to get the London coach or go to Liverpool to board a ship where no one would get him. Mrs LEIGH helped him to his feet and said, "John, if you are guilty there are numberless little circumstances that lead to a discovery you cannot guard against". That evening a constable came and took him to the *Spread Eagle* where he spent the night. He later escaped but was apprehended and taken to gaol in Chester Castle.

John's trial began on Friday 20th April 1798 and lasted for fourteen hours. He was convinced that as no one had seen him commit the murder, he would be acquitted. His behaviour throughout the trial was of "the utmost levity" and when he was called upon to present his defence his only remark was "I am innocent and know nothing at all of the matter". It was only when the death sentence was pronounced that the mask of unconcern cracked and sweat ran down his face, but he still refused to admit his guilt. On the following Monday, his face covered with a handkerchief, he was taken by cart to the place of public execution at Broughton where a large crowd was waiting by the gallows.

Just before the execution, he hid his face on the attending minister's shoulder and stammered, "My good sir, there was too much reason for what my mistress said and for my behaviour to her." "Ah," cried the minister as he lifted THORNHILL's head and looked into his face, "so you confess to having committed the crime?" John replied, "Tis too true, but I hope God will forgive me". Somewhat sadistically they tried to make him confess to the crowd, but he refused, despite waiting twenty minutes with his face covered. At last, he threw off the handkerchief crying, "Lord, have mercy on me", and the deed was done. After the execution his body was taken away for dissection (the custom at the time).

The Rector, Mr LEIGH, died six months later after being shattered by the tragedy.

I have been lucky enough to find out so much about my ancestor and the trial of her murderer because a century after the trial another Rector, the Reverend G B THURSTON, came across a published account of the trial which he copied into a notebook. Mr THURSTON died in 1917 and his library disappeared but a few years ago his notebook was spotted in a Manchester bookshop and returned to Lymm Local History Society.

*Entry from the Parish Notes of Lymm St Mary, 1568 - 1871*

*Burial 1798/01/12 (Malone) She was murdered by John THORNHILL (by whom she was with child) & thrown into the Mill Dam. Body was found on 8th. THORNHILL committed to Chester Castle on a strong Suspicion.*

*Arraigned on 20th of April and after a trial of 14 hours was convicted upon the strongest presumptive Evidence. Executed on the 23rd. When at the gallows & not til then he acknowledged himself guilty. He was Servant to Revd Mr. Archdeacon Leigh, Rector of Lymm.*

**This article first appeared in the Doncaster Ancestor. Thanks go to them and to Ken Malone for allowing us to publish it in the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR .**



# Net That Serf

## The Computer section

*Compiled by Geoff Johnson*

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## From the Desktop

I've received much more input from you after my moan in the last issue - whingeing definitely works! My thanks to all those readers who've submitted their thoughts and experience on various topics, it really does make this job so much easier.

I'd ask you to seriously consider the *FamilySearch* indexing article. Have a look at the Cheshire data as an example of the service. It's free to use but it relies on user- transcription, so you can help.

The General Register Office (GRO) certificate charges piece is hopefully informative and is, I feel, a good example of 'when will they ever learn'. I'd like to know if you've reduced your purchases.

My December piece on subscription websites created lots of comment. There seems to be varying degrees of support for each of them, but member experience is definitely pointing at *findmypast*. An interesting observation; on Bank Holiday Tuesday, 27th Dec., I submitted two transcript errors to findmypast. Both were considered, accepted and applied that day!

We've got a nice stack of new webpages for you to play with, but before you do, make sure you read the piece on causes of viruses. I'm going to stick my neck out here - I use all those five programs and always keep them updated. I'll say no more other than that I've got my other finger (the one I don't type with) on a piece of wood. The Computer Club discussions about *Family Historian* indicate a growing enthusiasm for this program. So I've pulled in a couple of summaries from longer-term users.

In closing a request please for comments regarding my use of `tinyurls'; do they help?

## Indexing for Family Search

by Billie McNamara

You will recall that Billie is one of our American members. She's mentioned this subject to me and I asked her for more information. You ought to recall that *FamilySearch* is the family history arm of the Church of Latter Day Saints. In my early days they produced the *IGI*. They also presented that first and probably best index of a British census, the one for 1881. Their `modern' version of the *IGI* is the online *FamilySearch* database. Access is fairly intuitive from <https://www.familysearch.org>. It's a totally free service - remember that your Cheshire Parish register data can be searched on there; albeit without access to the images. Billie is keen to have family historians inputting records to this database and seeks volunteers. Why not have a go! Here is a summary of what Billie told me.

Are you interested in getting free genealogical data online as quickly as possible? Do you have access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection? Do you have a few minutes every now and again to spare? If you can answer "yes" to these questions, please quickly make your way to the *FamilySearch* Indexing Web Site at <https://familysearch.org/volunteer/indexing> Then pick a project, and get started!

The Genealogical Society of Utah, based in Salt Lake City, is probably more familiar to genealogists through LDS Family History Libraries located around the world. Since 1894, the GSU has acquired nearly 2.5 million rolls of microfilm from 110 countries and principalities. Very little of the information on these microfilms is available online. The *FamilySearch* Indexing Web Site intends to change that, by creating indexes and making those indexes available free to researchers via the Internet.

Volunteers - some as young as 12, from many walks of life, many locations, and a variety of languages - even individuals with physical limitations - work on indexing as their personal schedules allow. Once you create a free login account at the [familysearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org) site, you will be instructed on how to download the small indexing program to your computer.

When you are ready to work, simply select and download a batch, containing up to 50 records (digitised scans from the microfilm). Easy-to-follow instructions guide you, and a spell-checker confirms your data entry. When you've completed the indexing, simply save your work and transmit it back to the server. You and another individual will index the same batch for comparison, after which the data will be double-checked by another volunteer, called an arbitrator, who will submit it for the online index.

You can stop at any time and save your work. When you are ready to index again, you can access your work from any computer that is connected to the Internet (as long as you can install the small indexing program). You will have a week to complete a batch. If you aren't able to, however, simply save what you've got and send it back. Someone else will pick up and complete it. There is never any pressure to index.

The system works with *Mac*, *Windows*, and *Linux* operating systems. No special computer or data entry skills are required. There is never any paperwork with *FamilySearch* indexing. Participate when you have time. Just register, sign in, and follow three easy steps. If you need support, you'll find it 24/7 from *FamilySearch* technicians, on a *Facebook* group for indexers, or on one of several user-based discussion forums on the *FamilySearch* Web Site.

When you've completed a batch, sit back with a pot of tea and enjoy the satisfaction thousands have felt from getting masses of data on the Web. Then tell others...

## **Under Scrutiny - GRO Prices for BMD Certificates**

by Geoff Johnson with much help from Lost Cousins

When I first started ordering certificates ten years ago they cost £8 from the GRO and £6.50 from a Registry Office. It was then a postal process. Around 2003 the GRO went to an online system and we got a bonus as their standard charge was reduced to £7. At first the rate of certificate requests increased enormously, creating delays until the GRO smartened up their system. It settled down and stayed that way for the next 6 or 7 years. By my perception that increased revenue enabled them to look towards further automation of their systems, but the projects involved came to a standstill in 2008. Now of course financial constraints are heavy, so they need more 'investment' from Joe Public. Last year this led to a brilliant piece of logic that meant BMD certificate prices were to significantly increase, to £9.25. I personally haven't done enough useful research to need to order at the new rate, but must admit to a more cautious consideration of this now 'over-the-top' cost.

So I am buying fewer certificates now- are you?

Peter Calver who runs the excellent Lost Cousins website is working hard on this issue. This article consists of edited extracts from several Lost Cousins newsletters, acknowledging Peter's persistent efforts.

Peter observed that the April 2010 increase of 32% was announced one day after Who Do You Think You Are? Live ended (the world's biggest family history event!), thereby forestalling any concerted efforts taken there to fight the increase. But that's the only clever thing they did...

Peter raised a Freedom-of-Information-Act request to find out how they had

calculated the new price. It took the GRO eight weeks, twice the statutory limit, to provide the answer. The response revealed a curious state of affairs. He suggests that if the figures supplied are the only ones upon which the pricing decision was taken, he was shocked - they did not appear to have considered the possibility that a lower price for certificates might produce a greater income. Buying the special paper and printing the certificates costs just 16p per certificate; posting a certificate costs just 23p on average. The rest is accounted for by staff costs, IT, property costs, depreciation, bank charges, and 'support services'.

He went on to suggest that he could not imagine a commercial organisation remaining in business for very long if all they did to set their prices was add up their costs then divide the total by the number of units they expected to sell? One doesn't need to have worked as an accountant (as Peter has) to know that many costs are fixed, and that as more units are sold the average cost of each comes down. You also don't need to have studied economics (again as he has) to know that when you cut the price the demand generally goes up - which means that reducing the price of certificates to £5 might well have produced a greater surplus for the taxpayer than the higher price of £9.25

When the GRO accounts for the 2010/11 year were published, it was therefore no surprise that income from certificate sales hadn't increased to reflect the 32% increase in prices, it had actually fallen by 6.1%, even though tens of thousands of certificates ordered just before the end of the 2009/10 year (to beat the price increase) were not despatched until the new financial year. The latest information he received from the GRO confirms that the revenue from those last minute sales is recorded in the 2010/11 accounts - without it the figures would have looked even worse.

When they set the new prices the GRO assumed that income from certificate sales in 2010/11 would total £18.846 million, but the actual sales were just £15.894 million (nearly 16% lower than forecast). Peter suggests again that perhaps they should have taken his advice and reduced their prices instead of putting them up!

Peter indicates that he has spoken personally with Theresa May, the Home Secretary, about the cost of certificates. The GRO is part of the Identity & Passport Service, which comes under the Home Office. When he mentioned that, despite a 30% increase in price, the income from certificates in 2010/11 was lower than in the previous year she raised her eyebrows - and she didn't disagree when he suggested that if raising the price resulted in a lower income, perhaps what they ought to have done was lower the prices instead.

You can read Peter Calver's latest Newsletter on [www.lostcousins.com](http://www.lostcousins.com). Look for Latest News, and the link in the middle of the page. To see all the previous

letters you need to sign up as a member. Basic membership is free, but in order to communicate with cousins you find through the site, membership costs just £10 per year. It's worth it just for Peter's excellent newsletters, but there's much, much more to be had.

## Comments on Previous Issue

**Which Family History Websites.** This subject created all the comments from December NTS articles

**Ancestry Experience** – *I know that Jacqui Simkins is a Warwickshire researcher. Ancestry has released data for this area so I sought Jacqui's opinions. She told me:*

We had tackled Warwick Record Office back in early 2008 as to what their plans were for their newly digitised films of parish registers. The reply was to the effect that they didn't know, but would keep the local family history society informed. Not a peep! I was in the Record Office the day they went "live" and staff were telling enquirers to use the computers in preference to the films (this suggests that the film readers will not be maintained - a number are out of action and regularly there are not enough to cope with demand).

*Ancestry* has appalling indexing especially pre-1754. One parish I know inside-out came up with just single names. As the entries were "Francis, son of Francis and Jane Bloggs", it obviously didn't meet the prescribed method of *Ancestry's* transcription slaves so all the index shows is "Francis".

They also put online some Worcestershire records, for parishes that have changed county but which are held at Worcester, the only copies on film were at Warwick. After a challenge from Worcester Record Office they were taken down quite quickly!

Some who have tried using the new Warwickshire parishes on *Ancestry* in the libraries are getting a lot of "blank page" responses; this happened also in Lichfield on Monday when a researcher there was trying them out; so it's not a county council server problem.

**Ancestry Access at Libraries.** Ray Acton reminded me that we shouldn't forget the free use of *Ancestry* at main Cheshire Libraries. This is a great service which he uses frequently, enabling him to spend his cash on a subscription to *The Genealogist*. All Cheshire Libraries provide access to the full worldwide *Ancestry* service. The first hour is free and each subsequent hour will cost you £1.70 (85p if you're on 'benefits'). Printouts are 15p each. Perhaps it would be courteous to book. (GJ).

### Further comments on *The Genealogist*

Irene Birch adds to her *The Genealogist* comments of December. I have found that there are some BMD Transcripts (for Diamond Subscribers) on their site:

Marriages 1837-2005, Births 1960-2005 and Deaths 1984-2005. It's an improvement but still very much "work in progress".

*And from GJ.* I've been looking at some 1841 census pages on *The Genealogist*. The pages for my earliest parentage have appallingly faint images on LDS microfilm, *Ancestry* and *findmypast*. But *The Genealogist* have made them very readable – and got the indexing right. If you too have experienced poor 1841 images try looking on *The Genealogist*.

*Wilmslow member Ray Acton said:* Useful article on 'Which Website? I too have been waiting a long time for Cheshire 1911 with *The Genealogist*. The company is responsive, though it seems it did not get its tasks prioritised correctly. They do, however, respond and seem to have accelerated their census schedule; but chasing up BMDs with *The Genealogist* is hard work! I chose *The Genealogist* because I am a local historian (teaching at the Wilmslow Guild), and I felt at the time (about 5 years ago) that *The Genealogist* would give me a better sight of the page images of the enumerators's returns. I am into family reconstruction over a parish or part of a large parish and need to move up and down the streets fairly smartly. Today after a long interval, I have been on to *findmypast* and am pleased that I can chase up people in the Scottish censuses of 1841-1861 at 5 credits a transcript page, although this does not give me an image page.

### ***Find My Past***

*Sheffield member Peter Dutton said:* Like you, I had initially subscribed to *Ancestry*, but I did not like their persistence in trying to get me to upgrade my subscription so I could look at more UK data (under the title, if I remember correctly, of a "World Subscription" – i.e. mostly American). So I changed to *findmypast*, and have regretted it very rarely.

When I have been 'stuck', I've found their emails in response to my pleas for help have been quick and helpful - and less hassle than trying to do the same by phone, although I did manage to get through quickly just once - and again, found the guy to be most helpful and knowledgeable. The few times that I had asked for help from *Ancestry* (even *ancestry.co.uk*) rarely produced any response at all. If I remember correctly, I think I did get an answer once, and that was a standard reply to a totally different question!

More recently, I changed my computer to *Windows 7* 64 bit and stayed with *Firefox 7*. I was able to use *findmypast* without any trouble at all, but when downloading census pages I found that the enhanced viewer did not work - the standard one did, and the quality of the pictures was acceptable.

As above, I contacted *findmypast* and had a good email discussion over the next few days, sadly without solving the problem. His last suggestion was to contact LizardTech (the authors of *DjVu*) direct. I did this, and received a reply saying



that they no longer supported *DjVu* but gave me a website in Japan that did. Searching that, I found a mention that, at that time, they did not support *Windows 7* 64 bit, only the 32 bit version - but they were working on it. That was at the beginning of November.

For reasons above, I've only just started using *findmypast* again, and sure enough found the enhanced viewer working perfectly so all is well again. I describe this little anecdote just to illustrate some of the points you made about *findmypast* - and to offer support.

*findmypast impresses Gordon Tuff of Holmes Chapel:* Just before Christmas I received an e-mail from *findmypast* offering 10% off an annual subscription. I hadn't renewed my *Ancestry* subscription last year (I got fed up with them not including data on ancestors who I knew to be in their database because on occasions they had included them, so I've lost confidence in their system).

I took the plunge and signed up for *findmypast*. After I had paid my money, I realised that I hadn't got any discount. I guess I failed to tick the right boxes (don't say a word, Geoff!). I sent off an e-mail straight away - not because I thought it would change anything - more of a 'Grumpy Old Man' knee-jerk reaction, really. Five minutes later there was a reply from a real person, saying I had missed out something in my application, and they are refunding my discount today. I really get the feeling that they listen to their customers and I am already very happy that I've made a good choice in switching to them. I already feel inclined to trust their family history data!!

**General Views** *Gay Oliver tends to agree that: findmypast* is becoming the website to choose, but a lot will depend upon where you are searching for your ancestors. I do find it very frustrating that competing sets of data are on either *Ancestry* or *findmypast*. If you are researching in Cheshire, then *findmypast* must be your first choice because of the huge collection of records from Chester RO which are now finding their way onto the site. They are also adding many records from contributing Family History Societies. They hope to add records for Wales, Westminster, Canterbury and Hertfordshire in 2012 together with completing their transcriptions of Scottish census returns. Whereas *Ancestry* are very strong on Liverpool, Yorkshire West Riding and the London Metropolitan Archives parish registers.

I also find it progressively more and more difficult to find what I want using the *Ancestry.com* Library Edition and I still dislike *Ancestry's* NEW search screens. I dislike the way so many results are produced by their New Search with a scattergun approach; I have little patience to wade through them. I prefer to search individual sources, but remembering what is on *Ancestry* to search, such as Criminal Registers or Probate indexes, is becoming a bit of a minefield. To help this I have begun to develop the use of their card catalogue



to limit the data source to *England only* before I start.

Since more and more libraries are offering free access to either or both *Ancestry* and *findmypast* it may depend on the geographical roots of your ancestors which one you are inclined to join.

**Regarding subscription renewals** Ray Acton suggests reminding members that if they are on auto-renewal for a subscription to one of these organisations using their credit card, they should note the date carefully. Then work out what the others have to offer to see if their specific needs can be better met elsewhere. If they dither, they will be hooked in for another year!

And some other variants: Bill Pearson of Nantwich observes; I read with interest your article on Which Family History Website. Like many I've used *Ancestry*, *Find my Past* (and *Genes Reunited*). I've also used *British Origins* <http://www.britishorigins.com> which I found was one of the most accurate for the years they've covered. There's a useful page on *Genuki* about who's done what at <http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/Census.html>.

I've just been offered a heavy discount (75% off \$149 = \$37.25) for a year with <http://worldvitalrecords.com>. The discount was because I've got a Premium account with <http://www.myheritage.com> (which I got free through the Guild of One Name Studies). However I don't know anything about these people (who did the transcription? Can I trust them with my credit card etc.), and they don't appear to have the 1901 census. I'm hoping that brightsolid will put the *British Newspaper Archive* <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk> with *findmypast*, but suspect that won't happen for some time...

*Your hopes re British newspapers seem to be correct. The Daily Telegraph reported on 2nd December. It is brightsolid doing the scanning work. From the tone of the article it looks as if they're romping along with it. I also notice that the British Newspaper Archive webpage says at top-right 'in association with brightsolid'. Somehow I suspect it'll be a separate/additional subscription payment! (Ed).*

## **New Databases and websites to View**

### **Cheshire Collection now on *findmypast***

The Parish Register collection for Cheshire has now gone public. The wills and land tax have still to be added, so there could be a 'relaunch' later in the year. Go to *findmypast*'s homepage and click on News. It was the 5th item down the list when I typed this in January. Don't forget that this collection can take you to the actual record images.

### **Manchester records now at *findmypast***

*findmypast* have added nearly one and a half million records from the Manchester area. There's a strong emphasis on workhouse and prison records,

so you're more likely to find ancestors who were at the lower end of the social scale, but there are also school registers, cemetery records, and parish register transcripts (mainly for Oldham St Mary).

### **FREE websites for north-east Cheshire and contiguous parishes in northwest Derbyshire**

Gay Oliver has added;

[www.tamesidefamilyhistory.co.uk](http://www.tamesidefamilyhistory.co.uk) - an information resource for the nine towns of Tameside - Ashton-under-Lyne, Audenshaw, Denton, Droylsden, Dukinfield, Hyde, Longdendale, Mossley and Stalybridge. Including transcriptions of original pre-1837 sources e.g. early trade directories, land tax returns, 1811 census, medieval rentals and historical descriptions.

[www.carlscam.com](http://www.carlscam.com) - excellent website by Carl Rogerson including a Cheshire Gazetteer, photographs and transcriptions of hundreds of Cheshire War Memorials, a Cheshire timeline and stage coach routes.

[www.disley.net](http://www.disley.net) - Marjorie Ward's website packed with transcriptions of many original records from Taxal, Whalley Bridge, Lyme Handley and Disley. If you think that your ancestors may have strayed across the border then sources for the Chapel en le Frith, Chinley, Charlesworth, Glossop, Hadfield, Hayfield, Mellor, New Mills & Padfield areas can be found at her other site:

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~dusk>

Gay Oliver brings this organisation to our attention. [www.gouldgenealogy.com](http://www.gouldgenealogy.com) Do not be put off by its being Australian; there's a whole lot to look at there. Use the title url and navigate to the homepage. The homepage title is 'Genealogy & History News'. You can go anywhere from there but if you select Genealogy UK (just under the title) and select Records from the dropdown, you get a list of current newsy items. Look for *Millions of New Genealogy Records Go Online - September 2011*. It has a comprehensive and informative list of current releases from a whole raft of service providers. Here's a Tinyurl <http://tinyurl.com/3pxn4c4> that will take you straight to the page if it's still in the same place by March It's evident that content of this site is constantly changing and 2011. Posts may be well behind us when you read this (written in January), so be patient if things don't look just as I've described.

**Wi-Fi Security** Peter Davenport monitors the New York Times and brought this to my attention. If you use a wi-fi connection in strange, public places this may help your security. <http://tinyurl.com/83npan8>

## **Why you get Viruses**

*Billie McNamara gave me this from a recent newsletter. I'd totally support the argument. Keep those key programs on auto-update wherever possible. Above all make sure you keep your version of Windows updated.*

This interesting study by a Danish security firm found the main reasons people get viruses is because they don't update their software. The main sources for getting infected are via out-dated versions of *Adobe Flash*, *Adobe PDF Reader*, *Java* and *Microsoft Internet Explorer*. The lesson is clear; if you use these programs make sure you keep them up to date!

The conclusion of this study is that as many as 99.8 % of all virus/malware infections caused by commercial exploit kits are as a direct result of the lack of updating of these five specific software packages.

As they say, prevention is better than a cure. As annoying as it is, it's safer to keep your software up to date (and much less annoying than getting a virus). Microsoft recently published a similar study where they found about 90% of virus infections were through unpatched software.

## The Family Historian Program

*After listening to Peter Deakin at Computer Club and then Googling for info I too have decided to go down the Family Historian route. I've easily converted one part of my family data collections, and now need to spend time to get the full hang of it. These are the reports of two members who have got to grips with the program over a lengthy period and seem very pleased.*

**Family Historian Version 5 - By Peter Deakin** of Warrington

I suspect that for many of us amateur genealogists our family tree program is rather like our bank account. We select one by some not necessarily logical process and then stick to it year after year irrespective of the quality of service it delivers. The thought of changing fills us with horror. We can't face up to transferring all that data. Or of deciding what might be better.

The most popular programme used by Society members is, I suspect, the market leader, *Family Tree Maker (FTM)*. Heavily promoted and clearly visible on many genealogical websites, it catches people early and then clings fast to them. Some members of FHSC dabble with the likes of *Roots Magic* or *The Master Genealogist*, but they in the minority.

I too seem to be in a minority, as I run *Family Historian*. I bought it as Version 3 in 2008 and Version 5 is due out in February 2012. I chose it after reading a range of reviews, including highly favourable comments from 'Which?' magazine. It costs perhaps double what the basic FTM costs, but I decided that £30 or so (c£35 for V5) was not unreasonable for a program that I wanted to stand the test of time. I was impressed by its *GEDCOM* format, and from the start I met with no difficulty in using it. I imported the tree data from my *Genes Reunited* tree without hiccough. From then on I've learned to exploit more and more of its features and have remained very happy with it.

*Family Historian* is a British program: aware of the needs of British genealogists (although I'm no expert in how our needs differ from those of our American friends). It has a user group that seems to function well and is again attuned to British needs. The help facility on-screen is good, but you can also purchase a printed version called '*Getting the Most from Family Historian*'. My Version 4 edition, almost 200 pages long, covers everything from 'Getting Started' through editing records, sources, diagrams and charts, multimedia and reports. What's more, most of it makes sense to me! Half-day training courses are offered e.g. in Mexborough (Yorkshire) and London (at the Society of Genealogists). They've also developed additional software, such as the little freeware program by Nick Walker called *Ancestral Sources* which is a very straightforward way of entering Census data for a family group.

Version 5 looks to have responded again to user comments. I note, for example, that a fan diagram or chart will now be available; the lack of a fan chart was the one blemish in Versions 3 and 4, from my elementary perspective.

I hold no shares in Calico Pie who produce it, but I would recommend any FHSC member looking to improve upon their current family tree program to take a serious look at. You have nothing to lose but *Google*-time.

***Family Historian and Ancestral Sources* – by Don Muir of Congleton**

It started at a family party in 2006; my niece said that now I was retired, if I put together our Family Tree, it would give me something to do. Hmm. The tone of voice didn't allow a refusal.

I approached it as anyone else would – on the cheap. But it took only one evening on *Ancestry.co.uk* to realise my collection of text files, spreadsheets, and bits of paper was already getting out of control. How about a relational database? Yes - if there was nothing else. I used to do that kind of stuff in my job, but surely someone must have worked all that out before me.

So I looked for ready-made software. I asked Mr *Google*, then spent a day or two poring over magazine reviews, and downloaded trial programs. I discovered that only *Family Historian*, a British program, stores everything in the standard GEDCOM format. No conversions, no import/export problems. The BBC used it for "*Who do You Think you Are*" and it seemed to do everything. We bought it; version 2 (current cost for v4 is £34 from *www.my-history.co.uk*).

It has turned out to be an excellent choice. Pretty well all the software on offer does the basics of recording names, dates and relationships; some better than others. But *Family Historian* does almost everything superbly well, with a huge range of options for diagrams, reports, automatic web page generation, and more. The current version lets you organise your data into separate 'projects', where the database, diagrams, and associated files such as photos and

document scans are saved in their own directory tree. This makes them easier to find again, and to back-up (you do back things up, don't you?).

One of the most common tasks is recording the content of census searches. A census often reveals a great deal about a whole family including names, ages, relationships, occupations. Often, there will be new individuals to add to your tree, with place of birth, source references and scanned documents or images. *Ancestral Sources* is an add-on piece of software for *Family Historian* that manages this process for you. It is not an extension like some browser add-ons, rather as a separate program in which you can easily enter a whole census page at once. It updates the *GEDCOM* file directly. If there are new names it adds them. It also gives the approximate dates of birth, occupations, addresses, source references, linked images and everything else. It even has templates for the Welsh, Isle of Man, and Canadian (including French) census variants, and for baptism records.

*Ancestral Sources* is a download from the Family Historian User Group site <http://www.fhug.org.uk/> (follow the Downloads, Gedcom link). It is free, but the author appreciates donations.

*Family Historian* runs on all current *Windows* systems, and at least some *Linux* versions; Version 5 is due for release in February. Note that *Ancestral Sources* is for *Windows* only.

## From the Inbox

### *British Newspaper Archive*

**Bill Pearson** of Nantwich advises: Platinum subscribers to *Genes Reunited* can now add the *British Newspaper Archive* to their annual subscription for an additional £39-95. No announcement has yet been made by *findmypast*.

Having subscribed to the *British Newspaper Archive* through *Genes Reunited*, I've found the search facilities aren't as good as on the main *British Newspaper Archive* site (which offers Advanced Search facilities). This is irritating as I now do the search on; <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk> - but then have to go to *Genes Reunited* to again find and then view the results!

Having said all that it's a great resource, but soaks up time.....

Last edition's input from you was great. Please keep going; this journal relies on you. - GJ



## Group Events and Activities

### Alsager Group

by Janet Martin

In October we had a talk by Trevor Raistrick entitled *Genealogist to Novelist*. Trevor was asked by an elderly relative to look into a family mystery and the resulting research led him to write *The Crooked Sea*. In November, one of our own members Hazel Rugman gave a light-hearted but informative talk on *Marriage Matters*. December was the Group's Christmas party with seasonal refreshments. Members brought in treasured family objects and spoke for a couple of minutes about their mementoes. The social evening was enjoyed by all.

#### Future meetings

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 16th Apr | <i>Do We Have News For You - Using Newspapers in Family History</i> - Liz Green Chester C.R.O. |
| 21st May | <i>Lucky Break - Solving Brick Walls in their Common Ancestors</i> - Jean Ingram & Steve Smith |
| 18th Jun | <i>Cheshire Registrar's Office</i> - Julie Hadfield Crewe Office                               |

Our Group meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at Wesley Place Methodist Church Hall, Lawton Road, Alsager, ST7 2AF. Meetings commence at 7.30pm. Visitors are most welcome.

### Bebington Group.

by Bob Wright

The format of our October meeting was completely changed when Jean Ingram (a member of our committee) ran a workshop on Wills. Very different from our usual meeting as we were all involved in "hands on" attempts to transcribe old wills (with not a great deal of success on my part). In November, Kate Tobias-Buick gave us a great insight as to how useful newspapers can be in fleshing out the life and times of our ancestors. The Christmas Social in December was well attended and everyone seemed to enjoy meeting in an informal, social setting for a change.

#### Future Meetings:

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 26th Mar | <i>S.J. Waring, Liverpool Merchant</i> - Dr. Elly MacBeath       |
| 23rd Apr | <i>Getting the most out of UKGDL &amp; UKMFH</i> - Sharon Hartas |
| 28th May | <i>The History of Bromborough Port</i> - Gavin Hunter.           |
| 25th Jun | <i>Gunboats in the Mersey</i> - David Owen                       |

Our Group meets on the 4th Monday of the month at Bebington Civic Centre, commencing at 7.30pm. We hold a Help desk at Bebington Library on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month from 10.00am to 12.30pm where we can give individual assistance to our members and the general public.

## **Birkenhead Group**

*by Janet Cooper*

We meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month at the Lauries Community Centre, Claughton Road, Birkenhead at 2.15pm.

We hold a Help Desk at Birkenhead Reference Library, Borough Road on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 10.00am to 12 noon.

### ***Future Meetings***

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 28th Feb | <i>Surnames</i> – by Irene Birch.  |
| 27th Mar | <i>Great Uncle Joseph Thelfall</i> – by Judith Beastall.   |
| 24th Apr | <i>Old Photographs</i> – by David Guyton – still to be confirmed.  |
| 22nd May | <i>Auschwitz</i> - by our own Pauline Robinson.  |
| 26th Jun | <i>A One-Name Study</i> - by David Guyton – still to be confirmed.                                       |
| 24th Jul | <i>Annual General Meeting</i> followed by <i>The Story of the Stanley Family</i> – by Ann Margaret Jones |
| 28th Aug | <i>Summer Outing</i> – still to be decided.  |

During October we had a visit to Wirral Archives where William Meredith gave us a detailed talk on family history research and how the Archives can help. Afterwards we had a guided tour of the Archives Search Room and later we could then spend time searching our lists of interests.

In November we had a talk by David Lambert on *Land Deeds, Marriage Settlements, Lunacy & Inheritance by Daughters*. This was excellent, an all round informative talk on the problems that can arise within a close knit family even when a will is present.

In December we held our Annual Lunch at the Central Hotel, Birkenhead, and once again we were not disappointed; some of us also tried to guess what they put into their cabbage to make it so special.

## **Bramhall Group**

*by Ian Bickley*

In October we had a talk from Heather Braddock entitled *Victorian Woodford*. This was a small, mainly self-contained rural community, where everybody knew everybody else. The land was largely owned by the Davenports of



Capesthorne. In the early days there was a large mill for printing and bleaching calico; but this failed as steam power was increasingly used. Early on silk weavers lived there who took their work to Macclesfield. The church was completed in 1842 and the National School in 1847. Child mortality was high and the children had to help on the farms and often had no shoes. There was great rejoicing at both of Queen Victoria's jubilees.

November's talk was by Gwyneth Mitchell entitled *Distant Shores Part Two*. This told the story of what happened to the migrants when they had completed their long and perilous journey to Australia or New Zealand. For Australia the problem was overcoming the stigma of the penal colony. South Australia was a new state in 1836 and Adelaide its capital was laid out as a model city, although the settlers - largely skilled workers - had to build everything. It was a similar story in New Zealand although 15 years later. Despite the hard work they prospered, earning much more than they could at home, and enjoying a much freer life. Families had to be built up as mainly men came initially. The gold rush of the 1850s brought many more people, as did the slump in agriculture in Great Britain from the 1870s to the end of the century.

Our December meeting consisted of our Christmas party and a talk entitled *The Blacksmiths of Bramhall*. This was the story of the Cash and Ford families - members of both families attended. Cilla Ward, whose husband is descended from the Cash family, outlined the part played by both families in the development of Bramhall in the 18th and 19th centuries. The families were eventually united by marriage and many people remembered them and their businesses. Both Fords Lane and Cash's Cottages were named after them. Everyone brought food for the party and the raffle produced over £50 for a local charity.

### *Future Meetings*

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| 8 Mar  | <i>John Doe and Richard Roe - Odd Points from Old Documents</i> - Brooke Westcott   |
| 12 Apr | <i>The Importance of Timelines etc.</i> - Joan Irving   |
| 10 May | <i>From First Edition to City Final - a history of newspapers in Manchester</i> - Peter Levy  |
| 14 Jun | <i>Goyt Valley Miner - the lives of five generations of the Hewitt family working in the private mine of Errwood Hall</i> - Kevin Dranfield |

Meetings are held at the United Reformed Church on the corner of Robins Lane and Bramhall Lane South, Bramhall, SK7 2PA starting at 7.30pm on the second Thursday of each month. Admission £1. All visitors are welcome.

## **Chester Group**

*by Helen Elliot*

### *Future meetings*

29th Mar	<i>Getting the most out of UKGDL and UKMFH</i> - Sharon Hartas
26th Apr	<i>Sisters under the Skin</i> - Gwyneth Mitchell
31st May	<i>Taxation Through the Ages</i> - Brooke Westcott
28th Jun	<i>Cheshire goes to Sea</i> - Tony Barratt

Group meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month at the County Sports Club, Plas Newton Lane, Chester at 7.30pm. There is a small charge for admission. All members and visitors welcome.

Our computer club is open to members and visitors and meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 7.30pm in the Boardroom of the County Sports Club. Programme - We have a variety of topics tailored to help with your research or improve your computer skills regarding family history. There will be a charge of £1 per session to cover costs.

Chester Group is very sad to report the recent death of Gwyn Coffin. She was an early and long standing member of the Chester Group which formed the nucleus of the Family History Society of Cheshire on its formation in 1969. Gwyn served on the committee of the Chester Group for many years and was tireless in sustaining it when membership was limited and there were few volunteers to take on committee roles. She was widely respected for her enthusiasm and for her extensive knowledge of the locality and for family history in general and she continued to provide a help desk at monthly meetings until shortly before her final illness. She will be greatly missed by everyone and the Society conveys its sympathies to members of her family.

## **Computer Club**

*by Geoff Johnson*

Informality is the order of the day at our Club meetings. We'd much rather discuss your problems rather than bore you with a topic that will send you to sleep. Surely you've got some problem that you're trying to solve!

These are the sort of topics you've missed in the past few months:

*Introduction to the Editing functions in Photoshop Elements*  
*Simple methods of Camera to PC Picture file management*

*Taking pictures of documents in Record Offices*  
*An introductory foray into the Family Historian program*  
*A free Date Calculator program*  
*Cautious interpretation of Census data*  
*Basics of setting up PowerPoint presentations*  
*Recent new offerings from Ancestry and Find My Past*

And by the time you read this you might have missed our online *findmypast* Help desk at the Northwich Fair.

Look at all the good things you're missing!

The Group meets regularly at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of each month at Hartford Methodist Church Hall, Beach Road, Hartford, Northwich CW8 3AD.

## **Congleton Group**

*by David Smetham*

### ***Future Meetings***

20th Mar	<i>Congleton Inclosure Trust - The People</i> - Peter Boon
17th Apr	<i>Who lived in a house like this? - Behind the scenes</i> - Lyndon Murgatroyd
15th May	<i>Online Resources</i>

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

Sadly, Barbara Brampton died on 16 January 2012 after a short illness. Barbara was a member of Congleton Group and was our Treasurer for 12 years. Barbara will be remembered by all who attended our meetings as it was her friendly face that greeted us to each meeting. She played a big part in the Group's Memorial Inscription project work at local churches. She was also very active in the Methodist Church community.

## **Crewe Group**

*by Margaret Spate*

Please note our new meeting night is TUESDAY at [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### ***Future Meetings***

- 14th Feb      *Henry Hare - Crewe's Municipal building, and his architecture* - Ken Rex
- 13th Mar      *UKMFH/UKGDL* - Sharon Hartas will demonstrate her two major websites and how you can use them for your family history. (Military and Genealogical).
- 10th Apr      *The English Parish Church* - Roger Pask
- 8th May      *The secret wireless man* - David Sparling

## **Macclesfield Group**

*by Alan Jones*

### ***Future meetings***

#### **Main Group**

- 25th Apr      *Dating Victorian Photos* - Linda Clarke
- 23rd May      *Unusual sources for FH* - Kate Tobias-Buick
- 27th Jun      *A look at Cheshire heraldry and its importance to genealogy and local history* - Tony Bostock

### **Computer Club**

Each meeting is run on the lines of a workshop, covering a variety of topics to help beginners as well as those already familiar with computers. A programme has been drawn up for 2012 but to allow flexibility and rescheduling of topics when necessary, only the dates of the meetings are given here:

3rd May; 2nd July. (NB. No meeting in April or June)

For up-to-date information on the topics, please see the our page on the FHSC website

\* \* \*

All meetings are held at St John's Church, Earlsway, Macclesfield SK11 8RS at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

A reminder about each meeting will be sent by e-mail to members on our e-mail list. If you are not already on the list and would like to be included, please send a simple request to:

macclesfield@fhsc.org.uk (for the Main Group)  
macclesfieldcomputergroup@fhsc.org.uk (for the Computer Club).

## Middlesex Group

by David Arnold

### Future Meetings

26th Apr      *Record Keeping for Family Historians*

12th Jul      *Topic to be decided*

Our meetings are held at 8.00pm, Christ Church, Roxeth Hill, Harrow, HA2 0JN. We offer an informal environment, with a brief talk, an opportunity to share problems and breakthroughs, some Cheshire chatter, bookstall and refreshments. Ample parking or near underground (Metropolitan/Piccadilly). Please ring or email for directions, etc.

## NantwichGroup

by Paul Simpson

Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start with entrance fee of just £1 including refreshments, so come along to the Nantwich Methodist Centre, Hospital Street, Nantwich. Full directions are on the website.

### Future meetings

20th Mar      *Marriage Matters* - Rev Hazel Rugman

17th Apr      *Birchall Family History and their Tasmanian relatives* -  
Lynda Burke

15th May      *Cheshire Knights and their ladies* – Tony Bostock

19th Jun      *Family Tree Maker 2012* – Paul Simpson

## Northwich Group

by Richard D Garner

In October we welcomed Linda Clark from Cheshire Archives and Local Studies who spoke about *Dating Victorian Photographs*. We learned how to look for clues within the photographs and the surrounding mounts, how to identify different types of photographs from early daguerreotype to more modern photographs taken by Kodak Brownie cameras and how to identify changing fashions.

In November Gwyneth Mitchell returned to give a talk on Emigration called *Distant Shores*. Her talk covered the conditions people endured on their journey to distant shores and the great hardships they often faced on arrival at their destinations. She spoke mainly of emigration to New Zealand and Australia but the same hardships applied to all emigrants.

In December we held our *Hot Pot Supper and Quiz*. It also gave us a chance to chat about our ancestors and exchange ideas.

#### *Future meetings*

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| 12th Mar | <i>The Pit Brow Women of the Lancashire Coalfield</i> - Alan Davies |
| 2th Apr  | <i>Funeral Customs and Traditions</i> – Hilary Watmough             |
| 14th May | <i>Victorian Education Records</i> – Hilary Ambrose                 |

Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 7.30pm at Hartford Methodist Church Hall, Beach Road, Hartford near Northwich.

## **Runcorn Group**

*by Edmund Owen*

The Runcorn Group meets on the third Tuesday of each month (except December) at the Grangeway Community Centre, Grangeway, Runcorn WA7 5HA. We start at 7.30p.m. You don't have to be a member to attend. The price is £1.50 for members and £2.00 for guests including tea or coffee. We now have a help desk at all our meetings where all our local Church records are available to view after the speaker finishes. We are also on the Internet so church and census records are also available after the speaker has finished.

Our Runcorn and Halton Village Cemetery CD has now been updated to December 2011 it now contains over 41,000 burials. The cost is £10.00 plus £1.00 p&p; for full details e-mail me at eddieowen@talktalk.net. Our latest transcripts include Runcorn St Edward's Catholic Church baptisms 1842 to 1932, including godfathers and godmothers, and marriages 1854 to 1954.

Our help desk is open on the 1st Monday of the month at Egerton Street Library and all other Mondays at Halton Lea Library where one may look at the records on microfilm and in books for most of our local churches. We also give help on the Internet, researching the censuses, births, marriages and deaths and First World War records etc. Opening times are 10.00am until 12.00am.

Please note we have changed venue and are no longer at Churchill Hall.

#### *Future Meetings*

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 20th Mar | <i>UKBMD</i> - Ian Hartas                      |
| 17th Apr | <i>Who Lived in my House?</i> - Hilary Ambrose |
| 15th May | <i>Annual Outing to TBA</i>                    |

## Tameside Group

by Gay Oliver

In November Sharon Hartas came along to demonstrate her companion sites to Ian's UKBMD. *UK Military Family History (UKMFH)* and *UK Genealogical Data and Lists (UKGDL)*. An excellent presentation. Our group was extremely impressed with Sharon's hardwork in building these valuable resources.

In December Brain Hallsworth came along to present a seasonal theme *In the Bleak Midwinter*, a history through time of midwinter customs and festivals. Very professional photographs and sound with carols and a quiz. This was followed by the best potato pie supper we have ever had, and we only had to order it from the pub next door.

### Future Meetings

- 14th Mar     ***Dirt and Disease in Lancashire*** - Tony Foster from the Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society.
- 11th Apr     ***Cheshire War Memorials*** - Carl Rogerson will be coming along to tell us about his website project to photograph and transcribe Cheshire War Memorials.  
<http://www.carlscam.com/>
- 9th May     ***Victorian Mapping Project*** - Paul Newman from Chester Record Office will be demonstrating their tithe maps online website. <http://maps.cheshire.gov.uk/tithemaps/>

For up-to-date information please visit our website:  
[www.fhsc.org.uk](http://www.fhsc.org.uk) click on Groups then Tameside

Meetings are held in the Old Chapel Schoolrooms, Dukinfield - doors open at 7.00pm. There is disabled access and both members and non-members are welcome.

Why not come along to one of our help desk 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 brickwalls or show how to get started from scratch



## **Tarporley Group**

*by Jan Craig*

### *Future meetings*

7th Mar	<i>Mind the Gap</i> – Jan Craig
4th Apr	<i>To be arranged</i>
2nd May	<i>It started with a funeral</i> – Sue Church
6th Jun	<i>To be arranged</i>

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

Non group members are very welcome to attend.

## **Wallasey Group**

*by Dave Beck*

### *Future meetings*

20th Mar	<i>In search of Uncle Joe</i> - Peter Threlfall A serving T.A. soldier himself, Peter will talk about the research and short military life of his great uncle, MZ/598 Able Seaman Joseph Threlfall, Howe Bn. Royal Naval Division, who died of wounds on 24th April 1917, aged 18
17th Apr	<i>Members' Evening</i> - with internet access & the use of group resources, so bring along your "brick wall" queries to see if anyone can help you knock them down.
15th May	<i>Getting the most out of UKGDL &amp; UKMFH</i> - Sharon Hartas. Some thoughts on different resources and how they may help with research or fill out the details of family history, including making it easy to access sometimes difficult websites.
19th Jun	<i>Who's Bert Chappell ? from Lincolnshire farms to Lancashire mills to Flanders fields : a family history search</i> - John McCourt The search for the details of a relative who was killed in WWI and whose body was never found - about discovering his civilian and military life and ensuring how he would be remembered. How John was able to piece it altogether and have his full life details finally entered on the database of the Thiepval Memorial, where previously they only had a name

We hold a Help Desk on the 2nd Friday of each month from 10am to 1pm at the Wallasey Central Reference Library, Earleston Road, Wallasey CH45 5DX. Here we are able to give individual help with family history research. All members and non-members are welcome.

**PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW VENUE -**

Meetings are held at Claremount Methodist Church, Claremount Road, Wallasey CH45 6UE on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm except December.

## **West Kirby**

*by Rod Caird*

The group meets on the second Wednesday of each month (excluding Aug. and Dec.) at Westbourne Community Centre, Westbourne Road, West Kirby, CH48 4DQ commencing at 2pm (helpdesk from 1.30pm). Visitors are very welcome. Admission at the door costs £1.50.

### ***Future Meetings***

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| 11th Apr | <i>Bromborough War Memorial</i> - Judith Beastall<br>(a look at the lives of some of men on the memorial) |
| 9th May  | <i>Anecdotes of a Liverpool Registrar</i> - Carole Codd   |
| 13th Jun | <i>Ephemera (newspapers, postcards, magazines, tickets)</i> -<br>Glynn Parry                              |
| 11th Jul | <i>Annual General Meeting</i>   |

Helpdesks are held at the following libraries:

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| Heswall    | 1st Monday of the month 10.00am to 1.00pm  |
| Greasby    | 1st Tuesday of the month 9.30am to 12.30pm<br>1st Saturday of the month 9.30am to 12noon |
| West Kirby | 2nd Monday of the month 10.00am to 1.00pm  |
| Upton      | 2nd Tuesday of the month 9.30am to 12.30pm   |

# Membership

Sue McNulty



New Members

*Please check the label on the mailing envelope. This shows your membership number and subscription renewal date. All subscriptions need to be aligned to 1st July – please ensure your subscription amount (see last page of journal) & renewal are correct. The additional numbers are “sort numbers” used by our mailing agency. If you move, otherwise change address or change email, please advise Maurice Stokes.*

Maurice Stokes



Renewals/Changes

If you do not wish your address to be stored on the Society’s computer database of members’ interests, then please inform the membership renewals officer (see inside front cover).

Chris Hughes



Members’ interests

The name and address of each member is preceded by the membership number and the affiliated group. All county and country abbreviations used in Members’ Interests are Chapman Codes. If you find an error in your listing please inform the Members’ Interests Officer so the records can be corrected and mentioned in the Ancestor.

If an email address does not seem to be correct, or you receive no reply, we suggest you contact that member by post.

Always please acknowledge receipt of contacts or enquiries through Members’ Interests. Please note: this list of new members and Members’ Interests is only those we have received in the three months prior to going to print. If you require further assistance with regard to any aspect of Members’ Interests please contact the members’ interests officer (see inside front cover for details).

## The "M" Team

## New Members



[illegible]

## Membership Changes

### Change of Address - New Address shown

[illegible]


### New/Changed Email Addresses - New Email shown


### Change of Group


### Change of Name


### Recently Deceased Members




## Members' Interests

List of new names added to the database up to 15th January 2012

**N.B.** An envelope postmarked Greenford/Windsor reached me on 9 Dec. totally destroyed by the Royal Mail but for the front. If your submission is missing below, please repeat it.

In the first list below, the number in the left-hand column is the number of the member who supplied the entry. The second list shows the contact details for the members who submitted them. Their name and address is preceded by their membership number.

The full database of Members' Surname Interests can now be accessed via the members' section of the Society's website. However, members without internet access are welcome to send enquiries to the Members' Interests Officer.

If any email address seems incorrect or "dead", you should try writing to the attached postal address and also please inform the Members' Interests Officer to whom any other related enquiries should be sent.

**Please let Chris Hughes know of any new surname interests you have so they can be included in the next edition.**

No	Surname	Place	County	Country	Period
8554	ARNOLD	Altrincham/Bowden	CHS	ENG	1800 to date
8602	BARKER	Runcorn	CHS	ENG	19C
8598	BATHER	Bromborough	CHS	ENG	19C/on
8598	BOWEN	Birkenhead	CHS	ENG	19C/on
8605	BRATT	Altrincham	CHS	ENG	19C
8598	BROWN	Birkenhead/Port Sunlight	CHS	ENG	19C/on
8598	BROWN	Warrington	LAN	ENG	19C/on
8607	CHATTERTON	Glossop	DBY	ENG	1700-1850

8610	COOPER	Bollin Fee/Wilmslow	CHS	ENG	18C
8554	DAVENPORT	Altrincham/Bowden	CHS	ENG	1800 to date
8554	DEAN	Altrincham/Bowden	CHS	ENG	1800 to date
8598	DODD	Bickerton	CHS	ENG	1740-1840
8598	DODD	Bebington	CHS	ENG	19C/on
8607	FOX	Barton-on-Humber	LIN	ENG	18-19C
8607	GLAD	any		DEN	17-19C
8614	GRUNDY	Stockport	CHS	ENG	19C
8554	GUY	Altrincham/Bowden	CHS	ENG	1800 to date
8614	HALLWORTH	Norbury/Crewe	CHS	ENG	18-20C
8614	HALLWORTH	any	HRT	ENG	20C
8614	HALLWORTH	any	ONT	CAN	20C
8614	HARRISON	Bramhall	CHS	ENG	1869/on
8605	HILL	Knutsford/Rostherne	CHS	ENG	1750-1900
8605	IKIN	Knutsford	CHS	ENG	19C
8598	IVESON	Clint	YKS	ENG	19C/on
8598	IVESON	Port Sunlight	CHS	ENG	c.1875/0n
8602	JONES	Runcorn	CHS	ENG	19C
8607	KELSALL	Rochdale	LAN	ENG	1800-1950
8607	KELSALL	Mottram in Longendale	CHS	ENG	17-19C
8607	KETTLEWELL	Leeds/Pateley Bridge	YKS	ENG	1450-date
8607	KNOX	Alnwick	NBL	ENG	1700-1851
8614	MACKENDRICK	Campbeltown	ARL	SCT	18C
8598	MARLES	Bebington	CHS	ENG	19C/on



Please see website: <http://www.fhsc.org.uk/> for current info

## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES

UK & Europe individual members:

UK & Europe family group (all at same address):

Overseas individual/family members:

All new members also pay an initial joining fee of:

The Society year commences on 1st July.

Membership commences on day of receipt of application.

- Members joining between 1st July and the following 31st March inclusive will receive all the four journals of that financial year: renewal date is 1st July following joining date.
- New members joining between 1st April and 30th June will receive a complimentary journal and their membership will extend until 30th June of the following year.

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

New member applications should be sent to:

Membership Enrolments: Mrs Sue McNulty,

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

Membership Renewals: Maurice Stokes,

Please ensure your renewal arrangements are amended to coincide with 1st July

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## ADVERTISING RATES

Advertisements are accepted for publication at the following rates:

Full page: £47

Half-page: £25

Quarter-page: £14

10% discount when same copy is run in four consecutive issues.

Please forward payment with copy & enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope if receipt is required.

*Note: copy date for adverts is 2 weeks prior to dates below.*

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## COPY DATES

Final copy dates for the **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR** are 15th day of January, April, July or October. The earlier material is submitted, the more help it is to our editor. Articles accepted on disk (preferably Word format), as typescript, manuscript, or by email to [editor@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:editor@fhsc.org.uk)

Images preferred in JPEG format: please do not send originals.

# GROUP LEADERS

## ALSAGER GROUP

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
alsager@fhsc.org.uk

## BEBINGTON GROUP

Bob Wright,  
[REDACTED]  
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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
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bebington@fhsc.org.uk

## BIRKENHEAD GROUP

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
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## *The Family History Society of Cheshire*

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

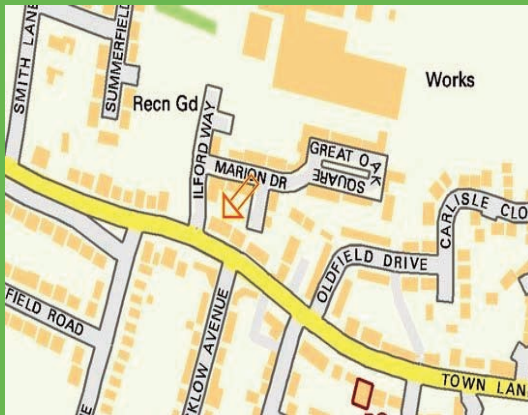
### *Location of Groups*

(see inside cover for contact details)



### ***MOBBERLEY RESEARCH CENTRE***

Rajar Building, Town Lane,  
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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.

Free access to *findmypast* and *The Genealogist*. Parish registers on film, national probate index, extensive library and much more. Large tree printing, fiche/film and A3 scanning available– please enquire.

Non-members admitted by prior booking **only**, with proof of identity required, or they may join on arrival.

Admission charges apply. Closed on bank holidays. Parking available.

***Opening hours: Monday-Friday 10.00am – 4.00pm***

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