

CHESHIRE ANCESTOR

CELEBRATING
50 YEARS
OF FAMILY HISTORY

The Journal of the
Family History Society of Cheshire



In this edition

*Golden Moment Competition: An Aunt who Kept a Pub
Name Variants ❖ Odd Census Occupations ❖ Where's That?
A Volunteer's Story ❖ A Mine of Information on Colliers
Probate Records ❖ Data CDs Sale - and more...*

Volume 50

June 2020

Issue No. 4

ISSN 1460-0277

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Cover picture: 'A Pithead near an Estuary' by John Laporte, reproduced by courtesy of Anthony Annakin-Smith. A similar scene would have been found at the Neston collieries. See A Mine of Information on Colliers by Anthony Annakin-Smith on page 39.



CHESHIRE ANCESTOR

Registered Charity: 515168

Society website: www.fhsc.org.uk

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

Please send items for possible publication to the editor by post or email (see page 3).

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

ITEMS FOR THE CHESHIRE ANCESTOR

For advertising rates and information, please see last page.

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

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

Publication is at the discretion of the editor and is subject to space being available; unused items may be carried over to a later issue. Authors retain the copyright of their own articles after publication but if an article is reprinted please mention that it was previously published in the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR.

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

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

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

Please **email** images (two or three max.) as separate files in JPG format, preferably scanned at 300dpi. Please **do not post images printed on normal paper** as they will not reproduce well; and **never post original photos**.

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

ODD CENSUS OCCUPATIONS 1

In the 1881 census, Albert E NEAT, aged 32, of Carisbrooke, Newport, Isle of Wight was described as a *maker of sand views*. Alum Bay on the Isle of Wight has twenty-one different colours of sand, and gifts made with these coloured sands were presented to Queen Victoria in 1860, starting the tradition of coloured sand souvenirs.

Queen Victoria died in 1901 at Osborne House, her royal residence on the Isle of Wight. The property was given to the nation the following year.

Editor's Page

by Rosie Rowley



Welcome to this issue of the **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**, produced under the most unusual conditions I have ever experienced. I have not left home for five weeks now, apart from twice popping down the road to post a letter. I expect many of you in the UK, like me, are taking advantage of the good weather to work in the garden, in between getting family history research organised, scanning old colour slides and even older negatives, and doing 101 other jobs that have been on the 'to do' list for far too long!

If you have time on your hands, please consider writing something, long or short, for the **ANCESTOR**; it doesn't have to have a Cheshire connection, as long as it includes some aspect of family history. You could write a letter about something in this issue, submit a photo for the back cover, or ask for help with a brick wall. To help with your research, a list of data CDs which the society has for sale, with 20% off the list price, begins on page 22. Order by post, with payment by cheque, from David Johnson, the book sales officer - address inside front cover.

Are you keeping a diary of your experiences? If so, you may wish to consider sending a copy to the Mass Observation Archive - for more information, see www.massobs.org.uk/about/what-s-on/205-covid19.

Whatever is happening in your life at the moment, take care and stay safe.

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Suzie Woodward

Volunteer proof reader for the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR

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

Chairman's Jottings

by Alan Bennett



Hello everyone

I never expected that I would be writing my second jottings under such unimaginable circumstances. I can only guess at the difficulties you may be having.

- You may have been unable to celebrate birthdays or anniversaries with your family as usual.
- Your holiday or other events may have been cancelled.
- You may have been infected by the virus.
- Someone you know may have sadly passed away.

Some retired members may not have the financial hardships being endured by those who cannot earn a living until Government financial assistance kicks in. Whatever you may be facing, you have my sympathy.

The society reacted quickly to government advice, cancelling meetings and closing the research centres. Let's hope it won't be too long before we can get everything operating again at the earliest safe opportunity. The committee will be trialling online meetings using computer technology in place of the quarterly committee meetings. Who knows, this may become our standard operating method in order to cut down on travel and save fuel costs and emissions.

I have been lucky in that I work for a major bank and have been able to work from home. On the downside I have been at my busiest for many years as I have been working to enable all of our call centre agents to take calls from their homes. As a result I have little to no time to spend on running FHSC, and I can only thank everyone on the committee who has pulled together in my absence to keep you informed and suggest things to do in the lockdown. We now have a fortnightly emailed *Lockdown Newsletter*, organised by Gay Oliver, and regular updates on Facebook, thanks to our new social media officer, Margaret Roberts. More information about these can be found on page 11.

I know many of you are probably spending your time in lockdown catching up on your research using online resources; there has been a leap in sales of our data downloads from the FHSC website. These can always assist you when subscription websites are struggling to cope with the numbers of people trying

to access them. How much more difficult would the lockdown have been if it had occurred, say, twenty years ago when technology wasn't as advanced.

A thought heavy on my mind is how we will record this period in our family histories. I suppose it will be similar to the period around the end of the First World War, when many died from Spanish Flu. I will be trying to document it fully for future generations and praying that they won't have to go through a similar experience.

Please take care, and I hope it won't be too long before we are able to meet again.

Best wishes

Alan

GENEALOGICAL ODDITY - MARRIAGE AGES

While looking at marriages I was reminded of a newspaper article I once read. It stated that there were a number of marriages in India where the groom was over fifty years older than the spouse. In effect, the groom, by paying a dowry, had bought a carer for his old age. It was proposed to introduce a law limiting the age difference to twenty-five years.

I found in my wife's line a marriage where the age difference was 31 years. Lieut. Col. Spencer Percival Talbot NICHOLL, aged 52, married 21-year-old Kezia SELLER on 19 July 1893 at St John the Baptist Church, Chester. Have you found a greater age difference? If so, please write and tell us!

According to the 1901 census their first child, Charles, was born in Switzerland in 1895 and the second, Ruth, in Malvern Wells the following year. Spencer died in Sherbourne, Dorset in 1909.

There is another twist to this tale. In 1911 Kezia was living at Llandough rectory, Cowbridge, Glamorganshire, with her nephew, Henry Stephen NICHOLL, a clerk in Holy Orders, and his wife, Etheldreda Elizabeth NICHOLL. Despite being her nephew, Henry was two years older than Kezia. Henry's wife died in 1917 and in 1919 he married Kezia's younger sister, Frances Edith SELLER.

How many different relationships can two people have? For example, Kezia's sister was also her niece!

Gren Dix, Member no. 4174

Society Diary Dates

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

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

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

- Sat 22 Aug Exec. Committee Meeting, Rajar Building, Mobberley, 1pm.
Sat 31 Oct AGM, Macclesfield; full details to follow.
Sat 16 Jan 2021 Exec. Committee Meeting, Jubilee Hall, Little Budworth, 1pm.

Members who do not have access to the Internet should contact their local or affiliated group for up-to-date information about meetings, etc.

Contact details for all groups are inside the back cover.

Society News and Notices

Vacancies

The society is seeking volunteers for the following posts:

Honorary Secretary

The secretary's five year term of office ends at the AGM in October and the society is looking for a new secretary. **For information, please contact the current postholder, Howard Martin (secretary@fhsc.org.uk).**

Honorary Editor

The editor is still seeking a replacement, due to ongoing family commitments. **For information, please contact the current postholder, Rosie Rowley (editor@fhsc.org.uk).**

Membership Renewals Officer

Peter Mellor intends to stand down after this year's renewals cycle. It would be preferable if a volunteer could start immediately and work alongside Peter in order to learn the renewals process, but training can be provided at a later date if required.

For information, please contact the current postholder, Peter Mellor (renewals@fhsc.org.uk).

Unwanted Certificates Organiser

A new volunteer is needed to process members' unwanted GRO certificates, details of which are printed in the journal. The role entails:

- Receiving certificates by post (or email if pdf)
- Entering basic details from certificates into a spreadsheet on your computer
- Sending details of certificates to the journal editor every three months
- Replying to email and postal enquiries
- Storing certificates securely (both paper and pdf files)

For information, contact the chairman Alan Bennett (chairman@fhsc.org.uk).

Volunteers for Family History Helpdesks

Volunteers will be needed when our local libraries reopen.

If you've enjoyed researching your own family history, you might like to help others discover their family's past. Several local groups in the Family History Society of Cheshire run family history helpdesks at their local libraries or heritage centres. These include:

Chester	Nantwich	Tameside	Mobberley
Crewe	Runcorn	Wallasey	

Cheshire Libraries and the FHSC would like to expand coverage of helpdesks to other libraries in the county. Places mentioned so far are:

Barnton	Blacon	Chester	Ellesmere Port
Frodsham	Hope Farm	Helsby	Great Boughton
Lache	Little Sutton	Neston	Northwich
Upton	Winsford		

More locations are likely to be identified in East Cheshire.

Volunteers can choose when and how often the helpdesks are open: once a quarter, once a month, once or twice a week, morning or afternoon or both. There is also complete flexibility to share the role between people. The libraries offer free online access to Ancestry and Findmypast which volunteers can use for their own research when there are no visiting members of the public.

If you would like to join an existing helpdesk, or would like to consider starting a new helpdesk, please get in touch. This is an interesting and rewarding opportunity to help others and your contribution would be greatly appreciated.

For more information, please contact David Guyton (chester@fhsc.org.uk)

Discover more about volunteering in the article on page 32.

FHSC Bookshop Sale

The FHSC Bookshop is currently offering 20% off all books, maps and CDs.

Please contact David Johnson for a stock list (contact details inside front cover). For CD stock please see page 22.

N.B. The offer does NOT apply to the online shop on the website.

Members' FREE Research Lookup Service

NOTE: At the time of going to press, we are unable to offer this service as Mobberley Research Centre is closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

This is a free service for members only.

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

We will also check other indexes that we hold.

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

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

Requests can be submitted:

- **Online at *www.fhsc.org.uk***
Log in to the website, then navigate to
SHOP > PRODUCTS > SERVICES > RESEARCH SERVICE.
- **By post**
Please remember to include your name, membership number, contact details and a correctly stamped, addressed envelope (at least C5 size).
Requests should be posted to:
Family History Society of Cheshire Lookup Service, Mobberley Research Centre, Rajar Building, Town Lane, Mobberley, Cheshire, WA16 7ER.

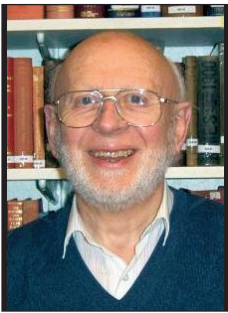
Research Centre News

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

NOTE: At the time of going to press, both research centres are closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Members will be notified on the website and by email when we are able to reopen.

Mobberley Research Centre

by Alan Jones



Although members cannot visit at the moment, why not download the holdings catalogues from the website at www.fhsc.org.uk/new-mobberley-research/mobberley-holdings and make a list of things to look up when we reopen? Remember we also have research materials for many other counties as well as Cheshire.

Closure dates

Mobberley Research Centre will be closed on Monday 31st August for the Bank Holiday.

Crewe Family History Unit

by Margaret Spate

Subject to pandemic regulations, once we are able to reopen on our usual Mondays and Tuesdays, we will also be open on

Sat June 13th	9.30am – 12.30pm
Sat July 18th	9.30am – 12.30pm
Sat Aug 15th	9.30am – 12.30pm
Sat Sept 12th	9.30am – 12.30pm

When open, the team of volunteers is always there to help.

The library list is available on the website as well as a paper copy at Crewe. Check the list out to see if there are records held that could help your research.

Closure dates

The Family History Unit will be closed on Monday 31st August for the Bank Holiday.

Family History Events

For news of family history events, see the online calendars at
<http://geneva.weald.org.uk/>
and www.familyhistoryfederation.com/events

NOTE: At the time of going to press, all events are subject to cancellation due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Many events have already been rescheduled for 2021.

The Family History Show, York

This show, which was to have taken place on Saturday 20th June 2020 at Knavesmire Racecourse, York, has been postponed until next year.

Replacement Online Family History Show

10.00am - 4.30pm, Saturday 20th June 2020

'Ask the Experts panel', virtual exhibitor stalls with exclusive discounts, lectures on YouTube and a panel Q&A session with our experts. Tickets £4
<https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/online/>

Mayflower International Genealogical Conference

Saturday 29th August 2020

Plymouth Guildhall, Guildhall Square, Plymouth, Devon, PL1 2BJ

Booking essential; tickets £5

www.mayflower400uk.org/events/2020/august-2020/mayflower-international-genealogical-conference

Family and Local History Fair

10.00am - 4.00pm, Saturday 12th September 2020

St Matthew's Community Hall, St Matthew's Parish Church,

Chapel Lane, Stretford, Manchester M32 8HF

Admission £2 - Talks on Family History related topics

Stalls selling a wide selection of books, CDs, ephemera, maps etc.

www.fhsc.org.uk/sale-events/event/1889-family-and-local-history-fair-in-stretford

Huddersfield & District FHS Family History Fair

10.00am - 4.00pm Saturday 7th November 2020

Cathedral House, St Thomas' Road, Huddersfield, HD1 3LG

Admission £3.00 Accompanied children under 16 free.

plenty of free car parking at Cathedral House - cafe open all day.

www.hdfhs.org.uk/the-family-history-fair/

Family History News

A selection of recent updates to websites, and other family history news. Remember, if you don't have a subscription to *Ancestry*, *Find My Past* or *The Genealogist*, our Research Centres have free access to many of these records.

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

Family History Society of Cheshire News

For the Society's latest news

Keep up to date between the quarterly journals by reading the society's emailed newsletters, or follow the FHSC on Facebook or Twitter.

Provided that we have your correct email address and you have given us permission to contact you, you should receive a fortnightly emailed *Lockdown Newsletter* full of genealogy news, tips, and things to do.

Our new Social Media Officer, Margaret Roberts, is adding regular news updates on our Facebook and Twitter feeds. Follow us on

www.facebook.com/pg/CheshireFamilyHistory/posts/

<https://twitter.com/FHSoFCheshire>

The General Register Office

www.gro.gov.uk

The GRO online indexes have been expanded to include deaths for the years 1984-2019. The indexes, which are for England and Wales only, now cover births between 1837-1919 and deaths between 1837-1957, and 1984 to the current year.

Cheshire Archives

At the time of writing, the Cheshire Archives office in Chester is closed. However, a number of resources are available online, including maps, downloadable trade directories, indexes to railway staff, employees at Crewe Railway Works, Port of Runcorn crew lists, and more. See

www.cheshirearchives.org.uk/what-we-hold/what-we-hold.aspx#Search_Databases

For the latest news, and to download the latest newsletter from the Archives, see the home page of their website at www.cheshirearchives.org.uk/home.aspx

Cheshire First World War Absent Voters' List

<http://databases.cheshirearchives.org.uk/Cosocius.Ww1Archive.Internet/Home/ArchiveSearch>

Over the last four years nearly fifty volunteers have been working remotely to transcribe the contents of the spring 1919 Absent Voters' Lists for all nine Cheshire constituencies.

The lists are an invaluable resource for anyone seeking ancestors serving in the First World War. Names, addresses, ranks, regimental numbers, units and notes relating to each serviceman and woman have been extracted and added to a searchable database, which has over 40,000 entries.

Deceased Online

www.deceasedonline.com

Deceased Online has now added the records for Alderley Edge, Knutsford, Macclesfield and Wilmslow. The complete list for East Cheshire is:

- Alderley Edge Cemetery
- Coppenhall Cemetery
- Crewe Cemetery
- Crewe Crematorium
- Knutsford Cemetery
- Macclesfield Cemetery
- Macclesfield Crematorium
- Nantwich Cemetery
- Sandbach Cemetery
- Weston Cemetery
- Wilmslow Cemetery

The records are free to search and scanned documents may be viewed and downloaded on payment of a small fee. The search results show the burial date and cemetery free of charge.

Family History Resources at Public Libraries

At the time of writing, public libraries in the UK are closed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, many libraries have made arrangements with *Ancestry* and *FindMyPast* to allow library cardholders to access these websites at home, free of charge. Simply log in to your library website and follow the instructions. Note that most libraries appear to have a quota for accessing *FindMyPast* which for many has run out in mid-April.

Most public libraries also offer online or downloadable access to other resources, such as:

- *Newsbank* - newspapers published within the last 5 - 25 years
- magazines, including *Who Do You Think You Are? Magazine*
- eBooks, including a number of history books
- eAudiobooks, including a few history books

Availability will vary depending on where in the UK you live. You will need your library card number and a password or pin to access these facilities. Some libraries will allow you to join online if you are not already a member, and can offer help if you don't know your password or pin.

Ancestry

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

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

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

London, England, Newgate Calendar of Prisoners, 1785-1853

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/61811/>

Newgate Prison stood at the corner of Newgate Street in the City Of London and housed prisoners for over 700 years until it was closed for good in 1902 and later demolished in 1904. The prison held both female and male prisoners and was also used by the Crown to hold those accused of treason and heresy.

This collection contains a calendar of prisoners for the years 1785 to 1853. These calendars consist of lists, for the most part printed, of prisoners tried at Assizes and Quarter Sessions.

Find My Past (FMP)

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

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

British Army, Women's Army Auxiliary Corps 1917-1920

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/british-army-womens-army-auxiliary-corps-1917-1920>

Uncover details of the remarkable women who served during the First World War with these detailed military records. They've been published online for the first time ever, only at Findmypast, with original document images. From The National Archives' WO 162 and WO 368 series, the records include:

- WO 162/54 women emigrating after the war
- WO 162/58 WAAC administrators in France
- WO 162/62 lists of female motor drivers
- WO 162/65 recommendations for honours and mentions in Peace Gazette

British Armed Forces, First World War Disability & Retirement Payments For Officers & Nurses

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/britain-the-great-war-i-was-there>

Another online first from The National Archives, these records contain information on Great War officers and nurses. In particular, you'll find details on the pay and gratuities that were given to invalided officers from the three branches of the Armed Forces, as well as nurses' disability payments. The collection comprises of forty pieces from six Ministry of Pensions series:

- PMG 42 – Disability Retired Pay, Gratuities, etc
- PMG 43 – Supplementary Allowances and Special Grants
- PMG 44 – Pensions to Relatives of Deceased Officers
- PMG 45 – Widows' Pensions
- PMG 46 – Children's Allowances
- PMG 47 – Relatives of Missing Officer

FindMyPast on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/findmypast>

If you are a Facebook user, join FindMyPast for their regular live interactive chats, usually held at 4pm BST (3pm GMT) two or three days per week. Listen to a talk and type in your questions to get instant answers.

The Genealogist

To see what's new at *The Genealogist*, go to www.thegenealogist.co.uk/news
To see a full list of holdings, go to www.thegenealogist.co.uk/coverage

New Pre-Census Trade and Residential Directories

The Genealogist has released a collection of searchable Trade and Residential Directories spanning the years 1816-1839, covering parts of Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cornwall, Derby, Devonshire, Dorset, Durham, Essex, Glasgow, Hampshire, London, Liverpool, Middlesex, Northumberland, Norfolk, Nottinghamshire and Suffolk.

New WWII RAF Operations Records

In a release of over half a million records, this is the first batch of RAF Operations Records Books (ORBs) to join our military records collection. For the first time, these RAF records are fully searchable by name, aircraft, location and many other fields.

The records, from the National Archives series AIR27, provide summaries of events and can reveal the death of aviators, crashes, as well as less traumatic details such as weather and places patrolled by the planes and where the squadrons were based as the war wore on. As aircrew personnel are named in these reports, those wanting to follow where an ancestor had been posted to and what may have happened to them will find these records extremely informative.

For more information about these records, see
www.thegenealogist.co.uk/featuredarticles/2020/raf-operations-books-build-a-picture-of-wwii-aircrew-ancestors-action-1231/

Church of England Burial Ground Mapping

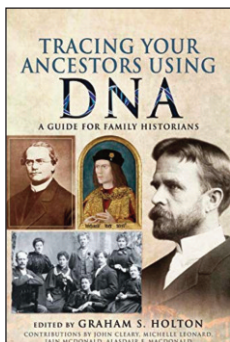
www.leeds.anglican.org/news/unique-church-mapping-project-successfully-launched

The Church of England has announced plans to use laser-scanning to map all church burial grounds over a period of five years and make them free to search online after the successful completion of a pilot scheme at two churches in West Yorkshire. Volunteers from the churches and local history groups were trained to take high-quality photographs of approximately 6,000 memorials, which were linked to the memorial location on a map. The burial registers were scanned and the transcribed text was also linked to the map. The pilot results can be seen at www.kirkburton.burialgrounds.co.uk and www.shelley.burialgrounds.co.uk

Book Reviews

Newly published items on genealogical or Cheshire subjects are welcomed for review. Please send to the editor (contact details inside front cover). After review, items are given to a Society library or group. All pricing and other information correct at the time of going to press.

Tracing Your Ancestors Using DNA: a Guide for Family Historians
Edited by Graham S Holton, with John Cleary, Michelle Leonard, Iain McDonald, Alasdair F Macdonald
Reviewed by Gay Oliver



I wish this book had been around about four years ago when I was struggling to find my granddad. It was DNA which finally helped me to solve a 25-year-old brick wall. Just imagine - I spent my time advising others on their family history but I couldn't find my own grandfather, who came from Ireland, even though I knew him in real life. However, the advent of DNA research gave me hope.

This book is ideal for serious genealogists who are getting to grips with DNA. It explains how to decide which test to take and how to interpret the results. It might seem a bit of a heavy tome at first, but if you drill down into the detail, the explanations are clearly understood. It will also help to interpret the scientific jargon, e.g. Haplotype, Sub Clades, Centimorgans, Ystr, Short Tandem Repeats, Non Paternity Events, Mutations, Recombination etc. No discipline seems to exist without apparently impenetrable language!

The book's chapters are written by different authors with each chapter being easy to dip into, including one about the future of DNA testing.

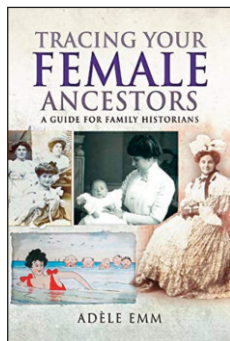
My eight-year-old granddaughter was learning about the Vikings at school. As she and her classmates were coming out of school, I overheard a discussion about who had the most Viking DNA. Prepare to answer their questions - they are the future.

Pen and Sword, 2019. Paperback, 256 pages, £14.99.
ISBN: 978 152673 309 2

Tracing Your Female Ancestors: A Guide for Family Historians

By Adèle Emm

Reviewed by Jean Laidlaw



I have always thought our female ancestors are often overlooked, but this book provides us with the opportunity to learn more about female lives and gives ideas of many sources of information to use.

Many of the examples given in the book relate to this area, so it is particularly interesting to those with ancestors from the north-west.

The book covers the lives of female ancestors from the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815 to the beginning of the First World War. In 1815 a woman was the chattel of her husband but by 1914, when the male population were embarking on World War I, the women at home were successfully taking on jobs and responsibilities never before imagined.

The chapters cover birth, marriage and death, education, daily life, working life, crime and punishment and emancipation. The differences between working class, middle class and upper class lives are covered. Each chapter gives advice on where further resources, archives, wills, newspapers and websites can be found, with plentiful common sense advice on how to use them.

A very useful and informative book - well worth reading.

Pen & Sword, 2019. Paperback, 220 pages, £14.99.

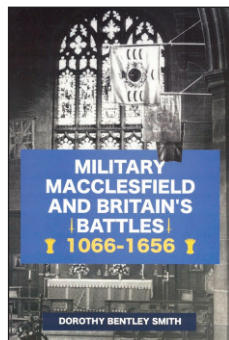
ISBN: 978-1-52673-013-8.

Military Macclesfield and Britain's Battles, 1066 - 1656

By Dorothy Bentley Smith

Reviewed by Peter Ramsden

Macclesfield historian, Dorothy Bentley Smith, sets out to chart the military history of Macclesfield from the reign of William the Conqueror to the height of Oliver Cromwell's military achievements as Lord Protector of the Commonwealth. These often turbulent centuries witnessed significant battles in England at Hastings and Bosworth, as well as wars in France and Scotland involving English forces, and finally a civil war in England.



The book is divided into three chapters: the Middle Ages, Tudor Times and the Stuarts. In a wide-ranging narrative that describes events at home and abroad, the author outlines the roles played by significant Cheshire families and of Macclesfield Forest in shaping the early development of Macclesfield as a town, a commercial centre and a source of soldiers – particularly archers skilled in the use of the English longbow.

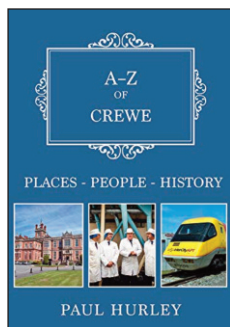
Each of the three chapters is further divided into sections, complemented by an index. By the end of the English Civil War, a time of divided loyalties in Cheshire, Dorothy Bentley Smith concludes that *the long battle for minds and religious ideals had begun and Macclesfield, as an ancient borough, had been caught in the middle of it*. There is the suggestion, in the author's foreword, of a second book to continue the story towards more modern times.

Amberley Publishing, 2019. Paperback, 249 pages, £16.99.
ISBN: 978-1-4456-9467-2

A-Z of Crewe: Places - People - History

by Paul Hurley

Reviewed by Margaret Spate



As the book progresses through the alphabetic listings it includes many diverse areas of interest within the town and its history.

The images give an insight into this railway town and the industrialists who helped to shape not only the industry but the residences of this 'new town'. It also includes some twenty-first century changes in Crewe.

The many photographs show changes which have taken place to buildings over the years, allowing those with local knowledge to remember the people and its history. Others can explore the potted histories of this south Cheshire town, including some lesser known names and places as well as the London and North-Western Railway, Francis Webb, Rolls Royce and Bentley Motors.

An interesting read.

Amberley Publishing, 2019. Paperback, 96 pages, £14.99
ISBN: 978-1-4456-9507-5

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

THE COWKEEPER'S WISH

In the **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**, March 2020, you kindly printed my letter about my surprise links to the book *Convicts in the Colonies – Transportation Tales from Britain to Australia* which was reviewed in a previous issue.

Imagine my surprise yet again when I read the review from Jean Laidlaw for the book *The Cowkeeper's Wish*. This is a book I bought last year when hints on *Ancestry* kept popping up for one of my husband's relations. The relative concerned is John HUMPHRY and he is the nephew of my husband's 2 x great-grandmother. I think that makes John my husband's first cousin three times removed! Not a very close relation, but it's still a good story and one that brings social history close to home.

As Jean says in her review, Benjamin JONES and Margaret DAVIES walked with their cows all the way from their home in Wales to Southwark where they got married in 1846. The family set up a dairy business and went on to have six children. They were hoping for a better life; however, Southwark in the 1840s was really a tough place to live and the authors of the book describe their lives with knowledge and empathy.

Benjamin and Margaret's daughter Mary married David EVANS in 1868. David and Benjamin became the breadwinners for the increasingly large JONES family, which lived together in Red Cross Street, Southwark. David died at the age of 43, his death being brought on by chronic bronchitis, no doubt exacerbated by the London fogs, described in the book as brown, reddish-yellow, or greenish and which produced, when thick, a choking sensation.

David and Mary had four children and the book goes on to describe their lives. The daughter that my husband's relative is connected with was Margaret Eleanor EVANS (aka Ellen) who, at the age of just eighteen, married Henry Frederick ROFF, aged 21, employed as a moulder at the Doulton Pottery Works. Fred and Ellen's first daughter was born four months later, and they went on to have a family of four daughters and one son between 1886 and 1895.

During this time life was extremely difficult for Ellen. Fred had been drained both emotionally and financially by Ellen due to her alcoholism. Apparently

there were stories about how Fred would come home from work and find the bailiffs carting off his goods for non-payment of rent. Ellen neglected the children, pawned family belongings and could not be trusted.

Fred asked Ellen to leave, at least for a while, and said that he would pay her an allowance as long as she remained sober. If she reformed he would take her back. Sadly this was not to be and Fred took the children to live with his parents.

During this period Ellen met John HUMPHRY. On the 1891 census they appear as a married couple living in Southwark and they have two young children, the eldest of which is named Florence. Strangely, Ellen has given Florence the same name as one of her daughters from her marriage to Fred. Although there are two children on the census there had been another birth of a daughter who died at just a few months old.

On the 1911 census John is living with his brother as a single man and his daughter Florence is also there – he has written at the side for her relationship to him “bastard daughter”. I think that expresses quite clearly how he feels about the whole episode.

Altogether Ellen had eight children: five with Fred and three with John. Ellen continued to have health problems and suffered from alcoholism; she spent time in and out of the workhouse and Stone Asylum, eventually reaching the age of seventy-five in 1944.

Her two daughters survived and went on to have apparently trouble-free lives. John appears on Florence’s wedding certificate in 1919 living at 2 Causeway Place, Newington and appears on the 1939 census as a single man still living at the same address. He died in 1940 aged 78 – hopefully more at peace than in the early 1900s.

Janet Phillips, Bramhall Group
Member no. 9243

ODD CENSUS OCCUPATIONS 2

In the 1881 census, seventy-six people had the occupation of *knocker up*. This entailed visiting homes early in the morning, tapping on bedroom windows to wake the workers. In the days before clocks were in general use, this was a vital service for those who worked in mines and mills - being late for work could mean being barred from working at all that day and not getting paid.

For information, see www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-35840393

The only mystery is, who woke up the knocker up?

Help Wanted

TORKINGTON, BOSDEN & WINDLEHURST; FELT HAT MAKING

My ancestor, John BRIDGE, was born circa 1680. At the time of his marriage in 1705, he was a blacksmith of Torkington. He married Rebecca PEELE on 26th October 1705 at Marple Church; both were described as being from Marple.

John had two children; both were baptised at Marple, when he was described as inhabiting Bosden in the parish of Cheadle. His son married in 1742 at Marple and lived at Windlehurst. When his children were baptised he was described as a feltmaker, and later as a hatter.

Could anyone give me any information about Torkington, Bosden and Windlehurst at that time and recommend a book about felt-hat making around the Marple area? Any help would be gratefully received.

Norma Reaney
Member no. 10074
nereaney@hotmail.com

REISS of WHATCROFT HALL, DAVENHAM

My mother's maternal grandfather, Thomas HUMPHRIES, was station master at Crewe from 1875 to 1898. His obituary in the *Crewe Chronicle* of 21st December 1912 was headlined *A Famous Crewe Stationmaster*. During his career Thomas met many VIPs, from Queen Victoria and Empress Elizabeth of Austria to the greatest political rivals of the nineteenth century, Disraeli and Gladstone.

In his will Thomas bequeathed seven valuable gifts (all silver apart from a drawing room clock) which had been given to him by Mr. E. J. REISS of Whatcroft Hall, Davenham, and one from Miss Reiss. I would like to know more about Mr. Reiss, his occupation, and why he gave these gifts to my great-grandfather. I can only surmise that he must have been a frequent traveller between Crewe station and Whatcroft Hall, presumably on business, and that perhaps my great-grandfather paid special attention to Mr. Reiss on his (many?) comings and goings.

Roger King
Member no. 6577
randaking@talktalk.net

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Ref	Church and Monumental Inscription Records - Title	Price
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D107	Altrincham & District M.I.s: Altrincham, Ashton, Hale Bams, Lymm, Northenden, Partington, Ringway, Rostheme, Timperley, Warburton	£12.00
D127	Altrincham Methodists	£15.00
D058	Astbury St Mary Memorial Inscriptions	£12.00
D075	Astbury St Mary Parish Registers DVD 1572-1910 Plus Historic Details And Brochure	£20.00
D113	Bebington St Andrew M.I.s with Photos of Churchyard & Graves	£6.00
D151	Bebington Christ Church M.I.s with Photos of Churchyard & Graves	£6.00
D001	Bertram Merrell Cheshire Marriage Index 1550-1837	£17.50
D210	Betley St Margaret Monumental Inscriptions	£8.00
D078	Brookland (Sale) Cemetery (Old Part)	£6.00
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D117	Chester Diocese Marriage Bonds 1750-1769	£6.00
D116	Chester Diocese Marriage Bonds 1733-1837	£10.00
D004	Chester Holy Trinity Parish Registers From 1532 To 1837	£12.00
D161	Congleton Mow Cop St Luke M.I.s and Burial Register	£5.00

Ref	Church and Monumental Inscription Records - Title	Price
D140	Congleton St Stephens M.I.s, Pew Allotments, Grave Register; Congleton Edge Methodist M.I.s, Burial Register & History; Mossley Holy Trinity M.I.s & Grave Register; Buglawton St John M.I.s & Burial Register	£20.00
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D129	Knutsford St John The Baptist M.I.s; Mobberley St Wilfred M.I.s	£10.00
D160	Macclesfield Ferrets M.I.s: Knutsford & Wilmslow Municipal Cemeteries; Marton St Paul, Swettenham St Peter, Goostrey St Luke Burial Registers; Hulme Walfield St Michael	£6.00
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D118	Macclesfield Christ Church Pictures And Documents; Parish Registers Bap 1775-1943, Mar 1889-1943, Bur 1776-1961, Bur Plot Purchases 1773-1828	£10.00
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D120	Malpas St Oswald Mariages 1561-1837	£15.00
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D042	North & East Cheshire Marriage Index 1554-1837	£17.50
D153	Pauline Litton Cheshire Marriages By Female 1550-1800	£10.00
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D122	Stockport St Mary Bap 1584-1849 Mar 1584-1754 Bur 1584-1754	£20.00
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D128	Stockton Heath St Thomas Parish Registers And History	£20.00
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D124	Baines Lancashire County Palatine History & Duchy Of Lancaster	£15.00
D221	Bowdon Wills & Probate Records 1600-1760	£10.00
D222	British Surnames Atlas	£12.00
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D223	Cheshire Churches A Summary Guide	£6.00
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D123	Cheshire Visitations 1580, 1613 & 1663 Records Of Pedigrees	£10.00
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D090	Chester City History Events Up To 1815, Register Of Town Clerks, Recorders, Clergy And Members Of Parliament	£15.00
D108	Chester Miscellany Contains Books & Articles About The History Of Chester, Its Parishes And People	£8.00
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D048	Estate Sale Catalogues Vol.1: Alderley Edge Estate Alderley Park 11th Oct 1938; Astle Park 9th Oct 1833; Cogshall 21st June; Crewe Hall 4th Sept 1917; Crewe Hall 28th Sept 1915; Daresbury 9th Dec 1941; Doddington 15th May 1911; Egerton Leigh Marbury 8th July 1932; Knutsford 24th July 1924; High Legh 9th July 1919	£10.00
D059	Estate Sale Catalogue Vol.2 Alderley Edge Estate	£10.00
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D055	Henbury A Village History Series Vol.1 Wills Hearth Tax Tithe Apps.	£6.00
D125	Lysons Magna Britannia Cheshire Topographical Account 1806-1882	£15.00
D	Merrels Index Of Marriage Licences 1750-1837	£15.00
D119	Mottershead Information 11th Cent. To 1978: 9000 Pages Of Events	£12.00
D093	Nantwich Wills 1603-1688	£5.00
D020	Ormerods History Of Cheshire	£15.00
D043	Owners Of Land 1873: Names Of Owners Of 1 Acre & Upwards	£15.00
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Ref	Directories - Title	Price
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ODD CENSUS OCCUPATIONS 3

In the 1881 census, Jessie McDERMID, 29, of Glasgow, Scotland was listed as a *colourist of artificial fish*, while 53-year-old Marianne GRAY of Govan, Glasgow, Scotland was a *colourist of anatomy*. Other colourists generally worked with photographers to artificially colour monochrome photographs.

Into the Royal Air Force - Part 4

by Chester Guttridge
Member no. 9193



Chester previously related how he was conscripted into the RAF in 1943 and sent to Skegness for training. His first posting was to RAF Withybush, and in November 1943 he was posted to RAF Cosford for a sixteen-week mechanics course, after which he returned home for one week's leave before reporting to RAF Mepal, Cambridgeshire.

After the Normandy landings our planes went on short daytime tactical raids over France, in support of the army. Aircrews never spoke of their operations and we ground crews never asked. I read on the web that 75 (N.Z.) squadron has an impressive reputation for its contribution to the bombing campaign, operating more sorties than any squadron.

S Sugar and W Willie (another of our planes) sometimes flew on training flights of one sort or another. If a novice pilot had made a bumpy landing, he would be ordered to do a few *circuits and bumps* - maybe half a dozen - until his skill satisfied the flying control officer of the day. Ground crews were encouraged to join such trips although we tried to avoid circuits and bumps, which we saw as more hazardous and less interesting than cross country flights. But one day, having been misinformed, I went on one. I sat in the rear gunner's turret, closed the doors behind me and swivelled around, aiming the unarmed Browning machine guns at imaginary targets. A rear gunner would be cooped up in his turret for eight, ten or even more hours on a long flight, perhaps over Berlin.

The flight hut was our shelter in rain and a focus for a little social life. A small coke stove made it cosy in cold weather. When WAAF drivers called to deliver items or to bring news, they were invited in for a gossip. Airmen from nearby huts called, but not often. Our aircrews often came to chat with us during daytime or watch us carrying out the service checks. When the NAAFI van called at the flight area mid mornings and afternoons we took our mugs over for *tea and a wad* - the wad being a rectangle of cake costing a couple of pence.

The flight Elsan toilet was indescribably filthy; seat and container being never

cleaned and never disinfected. I lined the seat with toilet paper when necessity overrode disgust. Now and again a team of civilians tipped the contents into a larger container which they humped on their backs and emptied into an even filthier container on a lorry. We urinated behind the hut, where we also washed our overalls in high-octane leaded aviation fuel. They dried in the wind, a slightly grey colour from the lead in the petrol.

One day five colleagues and I were called upon to guard a crashed Lancaster on the fens overnight. We were issued with rifles and ammunition. The night was uneventful. Otherwise fatigues were rare. I once scoured roasting tins in the cookhouse and on another occasion painted stones lining the path to the education hut in preparation for an inspection. *If it moves, salute it, if it doesn't, paint it*, the saying went. Once I cleaned billet hut windows. Airmen (never me) sent to clean WAAF hut windows reported seeing topless young ladies lying on their beds in their service knickers, colloquially known as passion dampers. Such boasting was always doubted. The ladies sought their male friends from among the aircrews, preferably officers, of which there were plenty. We ground staff lacked money and glamour.

I was sent on a three-day anti-aircraft gunnery course at RAF Mildenhall, where I aimed at pictures of moving aircraft projected on the domed ceiling of the special building, accompanied by the noise of planes and gunfire. Another time I went on an overnight visit to Waterbeach for a forgotten purpose. Such occasions were opportunities for the exchange of disgusting jokes.

Once a fortnight we joined pay parade in the NAAFI. I was then getting something like four shillings and sixpence a day as a Leading Aircraftman (LAC), the highest grade I was ever likely to achieve as a late entrant. Having initially received about three shillings a day, I had been promoted to AC1, probably on completion of the mechanics course at Cosford. I arranged for a small portion of my pay to be paid to my mother who saved it for me. Promotion to LAC followed an assessment for colour blindness and an intelligence test in which I did quite well.

Once we were summoned to a VD inspection - it was called FFI - free from infection. Some one hundred airmen with dropped trousers were examined in the NAAFI by a sturdy lady doctor who carried a knee donger to dong any attachments that failed to dangle. An airman, hero of the hour, said that being donged hurt. Nobody was diagnosed with VD as far as I know.

I spent many evenings in the billet hut, chatting, reading, darning socks or listening to the distorted noise of a wireless, perhaps having a bath in one of

the two bath cubicles in the wash building where we daily washed faces and hands in bowls lined with thick soapy scum. A thirty-nine-year-old airman stoked the boiler that kept the water hot but didn't clean the bowls. Sometimes I cycled the half mile to the NAAFI for tea and a bite, or to the education hut. There were no Ensa visits. During winter I joined the WEA (Workers Education Association) evening classes in nearby Sutton. One course was on literature, another on poetry. I remember studying Irish poet W. B. Yeats and the English Jesuit, Gerard Manley Hopkins' poem *Pied Beauty*.

Glory be to God for dappled things. For skies of couple-colour as a brindled cow ...

On the way back to camp from Sutton one evening, I and numerous other airman were caught cycling without lights. I had no red rear light. I wrote to the court truthfully explaining that the rear light battery had been stolen in Ely a few days before and I had had no opportunity to buy another. I was fined five shillings.

Ely and its sparse entertainment was five miles away and, in practice, could only be reached by bicycle. It had one small cinema, a WI or YMCA canteen, pubs, a cafe that served beans or sometimes egg on toast, and the wonderful cathedral which I, among few airmen, visited a couple of times. The cinema changed its programme twice a week, but showed films only long after their initial release. I watched *Fantasia* twice in three days, probably having beans on toast on the outskirts of Ely on the way back to Mepal on my sturdy service bike.

I wanted to see places, so cycled one summer afternoon to St Ives, looked round, had a bite to eat and cycled back over the fen to Mepal at dusk. An owl swept silently across the road close to my face, frightening me. Another afternoon I cycled to Chatteris and on to March, much impressed by the huge bog oak trunks on the roadside that had been preserved in the peat fen for several thousand years. A couple of times I cycled four or five miles with Binnie to earn cash by stripping damsons from laden branches.

Operations permitting, all ground staff enjoyed a week's leave every three or four months and a forty-eight hour break in the interval, service needs permitting. We were issued with rail passes, in my case between Ely and Kings Langley via Liverpool Street and Euston. We also got thirty-six hour breaks from time to time, from Saturday lunch time to 23.59 hours on Sunday, but travelled at our own expense. When going on leave, Corporal COOPER allowed me to go for early tea, starting at 3.30pm, if our daily engine checks were completed. When without a travel pass, I caught a train to Cambridge,

hitchhiked to Watford, hitched or bussed the final five miles to Kings Langley. Trains were often overcrowded so we stood in the corridor or sat on the floor. Fare dodgers piled into the loos and locked the door when a ticket inspector approached. Hitch-hiking luck varied although I was never stranded. Once a Sunderland's lorry picked me up - probably on the A1 at Baldock - and took me all the way to his base in Kings Langley. Another time a US Army truck took me from Cambridge to Watford, the black driver swigging whisky from a bottle every few miles. But lifts were mostly from town to town - Royston, Baldock, Stevenage, Hatfield bypass and Watford, usually having to walk across town for the next pick-up. Sometimes I rode in comfort, other times I bumped along on the back of a lorry. In Cambridge, I liked to browse in Heffer's bookshop, then in Petty Curry. I returned by train, not wishing to take the risk of failing to get lifts on a Sunday evening. I chanced it one glorious summer evening. After waiting perhaps half an hour at Waterbeach, a few miles beyond Cambridge, I was picked up by an army dispatch rider and taken pillion for the last fifteen miles or so. He went out of his way to drop me, much relieved, a hundred yards from my hut at Mepal as the sun set.

Sometime in 1945 an urge to learn came upon me. From whence it came, I know not. Where it led is the story of my life. It was not long after I had read an abandoned coverless copy of *Pickwick Papers* with the last page missing. I had left school at fifteen years of age with no qualifications.

The education officer seemed pleased to have someone interested in his world. He gave lectures on rehabilitation in the expected new post-war better world. I borrowed books from his small library and he offered me a new book he had just received - *The Song of Bernadette*, about the shrine at Lourdes which is said to have miraculous healing powers. I know a lame man for whom it failed. I first took an English correspondence course, studying in the education hut. The Education Officer set me up in a quiet place to study. Then, getting ambitious, I started courses leading to London Matriculation, part one. I registered for the examination and later sat several three hour papers in London with hundreds of others at widely separated desks in a huge hall, writing furiously. I passed, then embarked on part two.

Meanwhile the European war ended on 7 May 1945 and bombing ceased. The country celebrated. Our planes flew less often. Ground crews were invited on *Baedeker* flights over Germany to see what our bombs had done. I went on one, lying on my tummy in the bomb aimer's position in the nose of the plane, with an excellent view of the ground beneath as we flew over the coast, low over the North Sea, over the coast of Holland or Belgium and on to Germany. I remember seeing the floor of the North Sea clearly beneath the waves, the sandy

beach of the European coast, then, from about one thousand feet, saw the wrecked German factories and marshalling yards of the Ruhr. We flew over residential Dresden, famous for its almost complete destruction, with hardly a building remaining standing. The Germans had started the war, bombed our cities, killed our civilians and almost certainly killed two crews that I had served. They had *sown the wind and reaped a hurricane*. I felt no pity for them.

A few mechanics like me were being transferred to the Royal Navy to work on aircraft carriers in the Far East. I was selected but the education officer said he would try to get me off on the grounds that I was studying for an examination. He succeeded and a hut colleague went instead. I was unpopular and uncomfortable for a while but there was no going back. A couple of months later my substitute came to see his old mates, proud of his sailor's uniform, not unhappy. I doubt whether he saw action in the Far East as Japan surrendered three months after Germany, although he may have gone there and seen more of the world.

I must have been well into the part two course when the unbelievable happened out of the blue. I was to be released back into civilian life at the request of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, specifically to go back into poultry keeping. Colleagues were madly envious, some having served upwards of five years. Perhaps someone in Whitehall thought that the national diet lacked sufficient animal protein and that poultry meat could be produced more quickly than any other. It was not demobilisation, only a Class B release. I was to report to Watford Employment Exchange within seven days of release. I was relegated to class GII of the reserve and required to keep my uniform and always be available for recall at a week's notice. I was granted twenty-one days release leave before taking up employment. I received a gratuity of £15 (30 months at 10/- a month) and a Post War Credit of £24 0s. 6d. (961 days at 6d per day). So it was that 3006180 L.A.C. Guttridge, trade F.M.E., of V.G. Character and Sat. proficiency and NIL Marks and Scars, said good bye to the RAF on Wednesday, 20th February 1946. The three week leave was counted as service so my actual release date was 13th March.

But first came the formalities. Once again I packed all my possessions in my kit bag, left an empty hut at Mepal - colleagues were all at their work - humped my kit bag upon my back and caught the duty lorry to Ely station, changed at Cambridge for Cardington where I surrendered part of my kit, had my privates examined yet again and was issued with a civilian suit of my choice - I chose a brown one. The single breasted jacket was too small, the trousers, with turn-ups, too baggy and the trilby hat looked silly on my head. I kept one uniform (my comfortable working battledress), my RAF shirts, socks and underclothes.

In my new suit, release papers in my pocket, train pass in hand and a lighter kitbag on my shoulder, I caught a train to Bletchley and changed to a stopping train for Kings Langley. I remember being restless, finding the journey slow and tedious in the non-corridor coach. At Kings Langley I caught a bus to the common and walked the quarter mile home. I felt strange, empty of purpose. Mother was unimpressed with my suit.

I reported to the Labour Exchange. The man shook his head, saying, *I've got no jobs in poultry. Don't know what to do with you.* I explained that I could work on my father's poultry farm. That satisfied him so everyone was happy. I continued to study for matriculation, passed part two and thus qualified for university.

My RAF career had been a happy time, generally speaking. I enjoyed the camaraderie, the friendships, the responsibilities, and the feeling of doing something important.

GENEALOGICAL TIP - LISTED BUILDINGS

Might the house your ancestors lived in have been listed? I was unaware until recently that two ancestral farmhouses in my wife's ancestry and one in my own, which years ago we visited and photographed, are Grade II listed. I wasn't surprised about any of them, particularly the gem not far from Harrogate that's valued today at £2m!

You can find out about listed buildings by going to the Historic England website at <https://historicengland.org.uk/>.

Click on the *Listing* tab and then on *Search the list*. Clicking on the name of the property takes you to full details about it. Most property listings include a photograph taken as part of the *Images of England* project, a photographic record of every listed building in England, created using photographs of listed buildings taken by volunteers between 1999 and 2008.

On the *Images and Books* tab of the website, over a million of the twelve million photos, plans and other records of the Historic England Archive (formerly the National Monuments Record) can be searched and viewed. Many of the photos and documents are not linked to the records of the listed buildings to which they refer, so it's worth checking there as well.

Ian Cameron, Bramhall Group Website Administrator

A Volunteer's Story

by Gill Campbell

Member no. 7391

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Introduction by David Guyton, Chester Group Leader:

Gill Campbell is a member of the Chester Group of the Family History Society of Cheshire and has been running a family history helpdesk at Chester Library and more recently at Storyhouse for the past five years. She is also one of the organising members of the annual Chester Heritage Festival.

Volunteers are the backbone of family history societies – managing the website and social media; editing, producing and circulating the magazine; organising local monthly meetings; running helpdesks in local libraries and heritage centres; transcribing, indexing, cataloguing and digitising sources of information; managing libraries and resource centres; replying to enquiries; administering membership and subscriptions; and so on. Without their efforts family history societies simply could not exist. In recent years a vast increase in information available on the Internet has transformed the nature of family history research and has made it much more accessible to the general public. But it is still a large and bewildering subject especially for newcomers who are wanting to discover more about their own family histories.

In order to help more people learn about and appreciate the circumstances and experiences of their ancestors and to maintain all the services the Society likes to provide, we are always keen to welcome more volunteers to support helpdesks and local groups across the whole of Cheshire, or in any of the roles mentioned elsewhere in this magazine. Volunteers can choose when, where, or how they are able to contribute, and existing volunteers are more than willing to offer initial assistance and guidance. In this era of easy digital communications, many of the central, functional roles can be undertaken by people not living in the immediate locality. Gill has written her own volunteer's story. She has found it a fascinating and rewarding opportunity and the assistance she has been able to offer has been greatly appreciated. So please get in touch if you feel you could share your experience and enjoyment of family history with others who are curious to embark on their own journeys of discovery.

In November 2014 I was made redundant from my job and decided that I would look upon this as early retirement. I knew that I did not want to be idle for the rest of my days but I also knew that I had spent my working career in

health and education and I did not want to take any new role that was related to these topics. I have always had an interest in family history, having started researching at the age of seven with help from my father and great-aunt. This interest remained with me throughout my life and I decided that I would like to try to help others find their own family stories.

I now live in North Wales but grew up in Chester so I asked Chester library whether they could use a family history volunteer - they welcomed me with open arms. I moved over to Storyhouse with the library and am now well-known in the building. I offered a drop-in service between 10.00am and noon every Tuesday, until stopped recently by the coronavirus shutdown.

So, what is volunteering like? Well, no two weeks are the same. Very occasionally I have a week when nobody comes, but generally I get at least one visitor each session. People come to see me for many reasons. Some people have never looked at their family history; others have been tracing their family for many years and have hit a brick wall. I try to offer some help to everyone who comes to see me. Usually I try to draw a rudimentary tree as people are often unsure of how or where to start. A very small number of teenagers have come to see me; I have to explain that very little current data is available and they need to start by talking to their families to get back as far as they can before research can begin. Even the 1939 register was taken over eighty years ago!

Sometimes people have remarkably little knowledge about their own families. I had one elderly gentleman who wanted to find out about his family but when asked his parent's names he only knew them as Mother and Father and was not sure of their first names, ages, dates of birth or when they died. That presented a real challenge, especially as he had a very common surname. In the end I discovered that he had a sister and suggested that he talked to her to see if she had any further information that we could use and to come and see me again. Sadly, he did not return so I will never know if the sister knew any more.

Often I get people who have brought a few notes scribbled down in haste, often from something their parents or elderly relatives mentioned some years ago, but generally that is enough to get us started and using BMD indexes and censuses we can usually get back to the mid-1800s quite quickly. I try to encourage people to stick with one branch of their tree at a time and it can be hard work to stop people jumping around but we all know the value of a systematic approach. Some people come to see me regularly and I have got to know many of them quite well. I know I am in a very privileged position with people often confiding their family secrets to me and I get as much pleasure in uncovering their families as I do when researching my own ancestry.

When Brexit first raised its head I had a number of people who wanted to find evidence of Irish ancestry to try to apply for dual nationality. I was able to help some, but others were not so successful.

Experienced researchers may come with a specific problem and I try to look at their research with fresh eyes and suggest ways that might help to overcome the problem. These people generally do not want me to solve their problem as they like to do this for themselves; they just want suggestions of where they might look next or how they might be able to circumvent the problem.

I am frequently asked which is the best, Ancestry or Findmypast. Many are unaware that there are other resources such as FamilySearch or The Genealogist. In all cases I suggest that they try before they buy. Libraries in Cheshire offer their members one hour daily on the Internet free of charge and that includes access to both Ancestry and Findmypast. I suggest that no one company is better than another but some feel less cumbersome and easier to use than others and some have more data for particular counties. Most of the companies offer a free trial which is also worth taking advantage of as long as you remember to cancel before payment is taken if you change your mind.

For most people, interpreting what we find is almost as important as the information. For example, on the 1911 census I always discuss the section which says how many rooms are in the house and compare that with the number of residents. Many are shocked by how little space people had and, of course, that becomes even more the case as we go back in time with large families living in very small dwellings. Occupations may need to be interpreted and Google comes in very handy for that.

I have only had one visitor who had a famous ancestor - although many thought they had! A lot of people think that, if they share a name with somebody famous, it means they are definitely related in some way and of course that is not the case. A gentleman who did have a famous ancestor came to me as he had discovered his past through DNA testing and linking with a family in America. We spent some time looking at the documentary evidence to support the DNA findings.

So, my days in the library are very varied and that, for me, makes them fun, interesting and very enjoyable. If you think that you would be interested in volunteering please feel free to talk to me. You would be welcome to come and sit with me to see what it is like and decide if you would like to get involved.

There is always room for more volunteers.

Name Variants

by David Williams

When you are searching for records of your ancestors, the search engines on most websites will allow you to look for name variants. But some “variants” lie outside the range that the search engine will allow for. For example:

A wedding took place on 14 April 1879 at St James’s Church, Oldham, between

Issachar James ETCHELLS age 37, widower, porter of 11 Bower Street, son of Thomas ETCHELLS, lodge keeper

and

Eliza O’NIELL age 33, widow, finisher, of Chadderton Street, daughter of Issachar ETCHELLS, baker

The groom signed his name and the bride made her mark - showing that she could not read or write.

I was struck by the unusual forename Issachar and the fact that the name of both the groom and the bride’s father was Issachar ETCHELLS.

I discovered that:

- the name Issachar was not quite as uncommon as I had imagined.
- on the register entry for Eliza’s first marriage, her father’s name was entered as Hezekiah.

It was often the case in former times that parents would use biblical names for their children. So it seems that Issachar may have been what some people heard when Hezekiah’s name was read out in church - he is mentioned in both New and Old Testaments - and eventually it became a forename in its own right (or should that be in its own write?). As Eliza was illiterate, she probably would not notice the different spellings of her father’s name on the two documents. Presumably the vicar (Rev Thomas Lloyd KNAPP) assumed he had heard the same forename repeated when he filled out the marriage register. He wasn’t at Oldham when the first marriage was solemnised.

And yes, the couple were distant cousins.

But the main point is that Issachar and Hezekiah won't normally be considered as variant spellings by search engines (they don't have the same soundex code nor the same metaphone code). So if you come across an unusual name in your genealogical research for which you can't find other references, it may be worth saying it out loud and thinking about what it might be a variant of. However, I have to admit that it was only by seeing Eliza's father's name spelled both ways that the penny dropped for me.

When searching the birth or death indexes on the GRO website (www.gro.gov.uk), you can choose to include *phonetically similar* variants, or *similar sounding* variants. I don't know what algorithms are used for these searches, but they produce different results; and, rather annoyingly, the lists of results start with exact matches, followed by the variants in alphabetical order. So a search (using *phonetically similar*) for John BLACKBOROW born 1870 +/- two years gives two results for BLACKBOROW followed by BABB, BEBB, BEE etc down to BIBB on the first page of fifty results. John BLACKBORO is on the second page of results. If searching with *similar sounding* you get rather fewer results (192 instead of over 250) and in this case BLACKBOROW is followed by BILLSBOROUGH etc and John BLACKBORO is the eighteenth item on the first page. So in this case at least, using *similar sounding* gives more satisfactory results.

Also on the GRO website, you have the option to search for *derivative name variations* for forenames, which uses a thesaurus of common name variations such as alternate spellings or abbreviations. Strangely, JACK is not considered a common variation of JOHN, but SAMUEL is. *Findmypast* includes JACK, EVAN and OWEN as variants of JOHN.

In many families, including mine, Evan, John and Owen are considered as different names and given to siblings. Similarly, in many families there are siblings named Elizabeth and Eliza, or Maria and Mary. In many families there is a JOHN in each generation. Each may have been registered and/or baptised as JOHN, but then alternate fathers and sons might be known in the family as JACK and JOHN, so that they would know which one the wife/mother was calling for or shouting at.

So be warned! Searching with variant names may not provide the results you expect (or at least hope for). It also may provide too many results, and each search may take considerably longer to complete; but of course, sometimes it can be very useful.

Where's That?

by Gren Dix
Member no. 4174

While looking at a census entry, I wondered where the village mentioned was located. Out came a 3" road atlas with an index. Try as I might, I couldn't find an entry for the village. Looking at another census year for the same person in another village, I had the same result. This got me thinking about unusual place names, and places that had a name that all the locals knew but didn't appear on any index.

I used to live in a place that had a local newspaper with a place name known to locals but not appearing on any map. I was a citizen of Soton. The newspaper was the *Soton Evening News*. Outsiders will know the city as Southampton. Southampton used to have an unusual feature - people spoke about the floating bridge. I initially imagined a pontoon bridge; I was soon disabused. It was, in fact, a ferry! This has now been replaced by, in my opinion, a very ugly bridge.

The Peovers are well known place names in Cheshire. How many are there? Below are those that I know about:

Peover Superior

Peover Inferior

Nether Peover

Peover Heath - I have seen a sign but never found this place

When I lived near Warrington in Great Sankey (I haven't found any other Sankeys) a bus displayed its destination as *Lane Ends*. Again, it is not to be found on any map. Its full name is Penketh Lane Ends, and in fact, it is the point where Penketh Lane comes to an end. [Ed.: there is a place near Macclesfield called Sutton Lane Ends, but I'm not aware of any lanes ending there.]

I used to cycle near Wigan and Upholland. I once saw a bus with a destination *Dangerous Corner*. I wondered who would want to go there?

Inhabitants of Knutsford know instantly where Top Street and Bottom Street are. Their real names are King Street and Princess Street, two parallel roads, one higher than the other. While talking of Knutsford, we have Nether Knutsford, Crosstown and Over Knutsford - and some would say Knutsford Inferior.

I am a *Sandgrounder*. This means that I and my parents were born in Southport. The history of the area is interesting. In the Domesday Book there is mention of Otringemele, which is probably an early name for North Meols. Some early mentions of Meols occurred in the late twelfth century. On old maps you will see the parish of North Meols. There is no South Meols, although there is a Meols located on the Wirral. The North Meols was a manor seven miles long and three to four miles wide. In the thirteenth century there were thirty to forty families. The parish church lies about two-thirds of the way up the parish.

There was also a hamlet of South Haws. Earlier there were Hores Houses - this was a collection of fishermen's dwellings. In 1792 William Sutton built a bathing house at South Haws; a later cottage, Belle View Cottage, built in 1797 was the start of Southport. With the fashion of taking the water, Southport grew rapidly. Even in 1837 you would not find Southport or North Meols in the births register; all births were registered under the Ormskirk district. This continued until about 1934, by which time Southport was about three times the size of Ormskirk. Southport then had its own district until 1980. In 1973 Southport became part of Liverpool, grouped with Bootle in the district of Sefton. If you look at LancashireBMD you will find Southport registrations under Sefton North. As far as censuses are concerned, up to 1891 the district is North Meols and later it is Southport. Some search engines have difficulty with this.

Southport has some other peculiarities. Many street names were changed. For instance, the house where I grew up had over time three different numbers and two different street names. The next street had two different names. The street where my grandfather was born also had two different names. One of the streets where my great-grandfather lived was one of three in the borough with the same name. However, the populous rose up when the council tried to rename *Cockle Dick's Lane*. A compromise was reached and only half of it was renamed. One street name that has survived is *Ralf's Wife's Lane*.

When looking for a place or street you sometimes have to know the local names or the history of the location.

ODD CENSUS OCCUPATIONS 4

In the 1881 census, William PARKES, 37, of London, was listed as a *Knight of the Thimble* - in other words, he was a tailor.

Three other men - Edward Allen HOLDICH, Robert MONTGOMERY, and Philip E WOODHOUSE, who all lived in London - were stated to have the occupation *Knight of the Bath*, but in their case, rather than being plumbers or bathing attendants, they had actually been knighted.

The Family History Society of Cheshire

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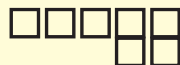
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If you are a recent new member, you will have given permission on the membership form or website when you joined.

A Mine of Information on Colliers

by Anthony Annakin-Smith
anthony@nestoncollieries.org

Two new databases have recently been launched to allow those interested in west Cheshire's early coal mines to find out about the individuals who worked there and their families. Two collieries operated near Neston, on the Wirral Peninsula, during the Industrial Revolution. The main one, Ness Colliery, operated from 1759 to 1855 and was highly successful for several decades; a rival, Little Neston Colliery, was open for 25 years or so from about 1820. The databases complement a new book on the collieries, published by the University of Chester Press.

Neston's mines were extraordinary for many reasons. Because of the local geology most of the mine-working took place deep below the Dee Estuary. The risk of inundation was a real fear for the mine-owners and workers (just such a flood caused the closure of Mostyn Colliery on the other side of the estuary in 1884). It also presented challenges for haulage - coal being won a mile or so offshore couldn't simply be raised up a shaft in the estuary. Instead, for a while, and almost uniquely in Britain, underground canals were in use to bring the coal from distant faces to shafts on the shore. Thus, while ships operated in the estuary, far below them other boats were plying back and forth along the canals.

Another thing that made the mines extraordinary - probably unique - were several incidents of sabotage perpetrated by no less than an English baronet. Sir Thomas STANLEY was principal owner of Ness Colliery and he did not take kindly to a rival operation starting on adjacent land. First, Little Neston Colliery's engine was smashed;

**TWENTY
GUINEAS
REWARD.**

Whereas some Person or Persons did, on Tuesday, the 3d day of May instant, between the hours of Eight and Eleven at Night of the same day, wilfully and maliciously Damage a certain Engine used for the purpose of drawing Coals out of one of the Pits belonging to Little Neston Colliery, in the County of Chester,

**A REWARD OF
Twenty Guineas**

Will be paid by Mr. DICAS, Solicitor, Chester, to any Person who shall give such Information as will convict the Offender or Offenders.

By an Act of Parliament, passed in the ninth year of the Reign of King George the Third, persons wilfully damaging Machinery, or any thing belonging to Coal Pits, are, upon Conviction, subject to Transportation for Seven Years.

Chester, 5th May, 1821. Printed by M. Galway, Chester.

A reward offered in relation to one of the acts of sabotage committed against Little Neston Colliery

then, almost unbelievably, STANLEY took to blowing up the competing mine, utterly destroying the best seams. Unsurprisingly, this incident ended up in Chester Assizes where, following direction from a ... how shall we say? ... rather partial judge, the jury decided that STANLEY was indeed guilty but no malice was intended! STANLEY's rage at losing the case, albeit on a considerably less serious count, led him to take further action: he deliberately flooded the rival mine even though it damaged his own mine, too. Little Neston Colliery never really recovered.

It is, though, the social aspects of the mines which are likely to be of particular interest to readers of this journal. To support my analysis of the lives of the miners and their families, I created two databases. The main one lists every known reference to local colliers during the period in question, as well as references to their family members, where relevant. Sources include church and chapel registers (including some which don't appear on genealogy websites), censuses from 1841, coroners' accounts, Quarter Session records, business documents and underground plans (although, sadly, relatively few mention specific individuals), death certificates, militia records, parliamentary reports, poor law records, newspaper articles, and Chester Infirmary accounts. In total over 600 men have been identified and the bringing together of information from these multiple sources gives a fascinating insight into both the lives of individuals and the colliery community. The second database comprises information from three or four sets of census entries from 1841, enabling rapid identification of what happened to the men and their families in the final couple of decades of the mines and after the works closed.

One of the themes that emerges from the data is one of migration. Neston had no previous mining history and so skilled workers had to be imported. These came principally from North Wales and from Lancashire; a few originated in Staffordshire. Amongst the men to come from Lancashire was Henry LYON, a blacksmith from the colliery village of Whiston near Prescot. He soon married and had a daughter locally – she grew up to be Emma, Lady Hamilton, a huge celebrity in her day and the mistress of Admiral Lord NELSON. She would, though, die in poverty in 1815 – a real rags-to-riches-to-rags story. The links to Lancashire continued throughout the mines' history and the census database brings this home – scores of Neston men went to work in Lancashire before and after the works closed, including many who had no known connection with the Neston pits. Staffordshire was also a destination. Oddly, though, very few went to North Wales, despite many men coming to Neston from there – reflected in the name of the still-popular pub in Little Neston, the *Harp*. Despite this migration, many uncommon names can be found over generations and many are still in the area today in one form or another – these include

JELLICOE, SWIFT, ANYON, COTTRELL/CATHERALL, LITTLEMORE, LIGHTFOOT, KENDRICK, MEALOR, GLAVE/GLEAVES and many others.

There is little, if any, evidence to suggest that women worked below ground at the Neston mines, although it is possible that they worked on the surface, maybe at the farm the colliery kept to grow animal feed and food for the mining community. Neston women did, however, go and work in the Lancashire pits where this practice was much more widely accepted. There is plenty of evidence at Neston, though, for child labour. Records show children as young as nine working there and it would not be surprising to discover that some were even younger. Children were cheap to employ and there were plenty of mundane, unskilled jobs they could undertake – leading ponies, operating pumps, opening ventilation doors and so on. These young children might sit for hours alone and in darkness and one mine inspector reckoned their experience was almost *equal to solitary confinement of the worst order*. Not only did children suffer the misery of day-to-day working, but they were as vulnerable to horrific mine accidents as any other worker. Twenty-seven accidental deaths have been identified so far at Neston, including those of at least four children. Two, aged just nine and ten, plunged to their deaths down shafts in separate incidents. Generally, though, it was explosions which caused the most accidents, resulting in serious injury – principally burns – or death.

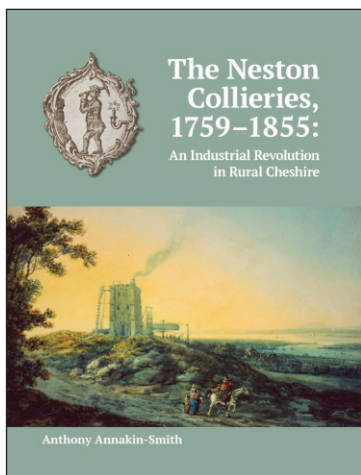
As mentioned above, the databases enable us to tell the stories of numerous individuals. Let me give just one example. Early information on collier Robert ANGLESEY comes from parish registers. He married in 1830 aged 19 (colliers often married young; they knew might not have a long life ahead of them). There was clearly no stigma concerning pre-marital sex for the couple had a child baptised within four months. This reflected practice at a community level – the main database reveals that 36% of couples had a child baptised within eight months of marriage. Over the following twenty years Robert and his wife had eight more children, of whom one died in infancy of scarlet fever. In this respect they were relatively fortunate: perhaps the single most astonishing statistic I uncovered was that half of all couples lost at least one child. At least one child in five died before the age of fifteen – most within their first two years.

The ANGLESEYs appear in the 1841 census in Neston, but by 1851, as the town's mines wound down, they had migrated twenty-five miles or so to work in a pit at Wigan, Lancashire. The following year was to be a momentous and tragic one for Robert. He first appears in a report for a parliamentary committee on mining accidents which recorded that he had been injured in a roof fall – a common cause of injuries. He went on to return to work and, one hopes, was fit enough to enjoy the weddings of two of his children that year, both listed in

the Wigan parish register. But, exactly two months after his daughter was married, Robert's burial was recorded in the same register. His death certificate stated, *Burned in a coal pit*. Despite his tragic end, Robert's three sons also became colliers – they had few other options.

There are many more stories of individuals in the book – over 100 colliers are named – and much more on the social history of the community. The databases allow detailed understanding of the demographics of the mines: marriage rates, numbers of children - up to fourteen per couple! - mortality, etc. Information drawn from several sources enables us to learn much about the health and sickness of the colliers as well as their wives and children; and housing was appalling, often with families of eight or more crammed into unhygienic hovels more-or-less devoid of furniture. Education, religion, recreation and the impact of war are other social themes that the book explores; England was at war or under threat for several decades during Ness Colliery's operation. There is also, of course, plenty of coverage of how the mines operated. Ness Colliery installed the second earliest steam engine in the county and, later, George STEPHENSON had connections to the works. The book also looks at trading – coal was often shipped to Ireland and North Wales, but some found its way to Newfoundland and even Barbados. Locally, it was also used by the people and industries of the Wirral and the growing city of Chester – indeed, it seems that there were plans for one of Britain's first canals to run between Neston and the city.

The story of Neston's earliest colliers is, for me, a fascinating one. If you have any information on the early miners at Neston – or, indeed, on the ones who were there during a later period of working, from 1875 to 1927, I would be interested to hear.



Meanwhile I hope FHSC readers will enjoy exploring the colliery databases, which freely available at www.nestoncollieries.org.

The 412 page book *The Neston Collieries, 1759-1855: An Industrial Revolution in Rural Cheshire* (ISBN 978-1908258045) is available from the University of Chester Press and from booksellers, price £19.99.

Contact Anthony by email at anthony@nestoncollieries.org

An Aunt who Kept a Pub: ROGERS Family Stories

by Judith Hankey
Member no. 9147

This article was placed second in the FHSC 50th anniversary "Golden Moment" competition.

I am sure that we all have an aunt or two in our trees who kept a pub but I was on the lookout for a particular one, as a consequence of hearing one of my grandmother's family stories. The aunt lived in Barnton near Northwich in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century, but I did not know her name, nor that of the pub. A bit tricky, that one!

As a little girl I used to like browsing in my grandmother Emily's box room; she was very indulgent and used to tell me stories about some of the items, such as her father's sea chest. William WHETTON was born near Burton-on-Trent and ran away to sea as a lad. His captain realised that he had some ability, so he was trained to be a ship's engineer and went around the world on many different vessels. William met his wife, Nelly ROGERS, in Barnton while Nelly was living with her aunt who kept a pub there. The story was somewhat elaborated in that young Nelly was said to be living away from her family in Liverpool, where her father was a pawnbroker, to keep her way from sailors - and yet she met one in Barnton, many miles from the port.



Nelly in 1960 with my grandma Emily, my mother and me, aged two.

This ROGERS line was the first one that I followed when I started my family history researches, since my mum and I wanted to know what I could find out about several of her grandmother Nelly's stories. This took me some time since I had to learn all the search techniques and sources and I was easily led astray.

I soon learnt to treat Ancestry hints with a large pinch of salt, but I made so many other mistakes as a beginner.

My first discovery was that Nelly got married at St Peter's Church, Liverpool on 18th of October 1895, less than two months after turning seventeen^[1], claiming, of course, that she was twenty-one years of age and that her father, Charles ROGERS, was a clerk. That was one story Nelly never told her daughters! At the same time, William stated that he lived in Barnton and was twenty-six, when he was actually aged twenty-eight. The witnesses were William's younger sister Ada, and a man whose role I never established, John FISK. So it seems that my great-grandmother ran away to marry!

I can follow lots of events in Nelly's life since her baptism in October 1878^[2], also in St Peter's Church in Liverpool, with parents Ann and Charles ROGERS, a pawnbroker. I could see the possible different spellings of her given name, which was not a nickname but could be spelt Nelly or Nellie. I found her in the 1881 census^[3], aged two, with her parents and her much older brothers and sisters. I have since made contact with some of my mum's second cousins who descend from these siblings, and two of my third cousins. The names of all these cousins were known to my mum because my grandmother was a great letter writer and kept in touch with her cousins, while mum continued to write to one second cousin as well.

The Rogers family in 1881 is listed below and I have added information that I found later to keep this concise:

Name	Age	Occupation	Future spouse's surname	Where born
Charles	45	Pawnbroker		Lancashire, Liverpool
Ann (née CATTRALL)	40			Cheshire, Runcom
Mary Jane	17	Pawnbroker assistant	DUGDALE	Lancashire, Bootle
Mary Ann	16	Pawnbroker assistant	GRIEVE	Lancashire, Bootle
Charles Edward	13	Scholar		Lancashire, Bootle
Richard Woodhouse	8	Scholar		Lancashire, Liverpool
Louisa	4		HAMILTON	Lancashire, Liverpool
Nelly	2	(my grandmother)	WHETTON	Lancashire, Liverpool

The family lived at 1 Rosalind Street, Kirkdale, and my DUGDALE cousin tells me that the girls were known as the *Bootle Belles*; certainly, I have a photo of one of the girls in which she looks very striking, but unfortunately I cannot confirm which sister it is.

I then ran into a puzzle, as the family was no longer together in the next census, 1891. Nelly was living with her older sister Mary Ann, who was then the wife of Thomas GRIEVE, a commercial traveller with a young family. Louisa was with older sister Mary Jane, her husband John DUGDALE, a publican, and their young family. I had one possibility for Ann as a visitor to friends in Manchester, but nothing clear. I could not find Charles or his children Richard Woodhouse, Charles Edward, Minnie or William; but since Charles Edward became a seafarer he may not have been in the country. Given the apparent family break-up I looked for Charles' death and indeed found a matching entry in the GRO death index in the mid-1880s. But in those days I did not appreciate the need for a death certificate to confirm that I had found the correct person. So I made this assumption and carried on searching for the previous generation so that I could locate potential aunts to Nelly.

When Charles married Ann in Liverpool in 1863^[4] I knew I had the right couple because Charles was said to be a pawnbroker; the marriage entry I found gave me their fathers' names and occupations. Edward, a victualler (publican), was Charles' father and Ann's father was James, a warehouseman. I had suspected Charles' father might be named Edward because Charles had named his son Charles Edward. This information allowed me to find the couple's brothers and sisters so I could find the aunt who ran the pub.

But, like many a beginner, I had jumped to looking for Ann's family before I had the marriage certificate. The nearest matching birth that I could find was an Ann CATTRALL born in Runcorn in 1843,^[5] which I ordered, but when it arrived, I could see instantly it was the wrong Ann because her father was William. I later found the correct Ann in the 1841 census with the surname COTTRALL; I had fooled myself into trusting Ancestry's 'sounds like' and I had not yet learned to use wildcards (*) in searches, either.

In the 1851 census^[6] I found some CATTRALL contenders for the aunt who may later have run a pub. I was unable to find a baptism record for all the children of James CATTRALL, but those I found were baptised at All Saints Church, Runcorn. When his eldest was baptised, James' occupation was flatman, which is a man who worked on sailing barges (flats) on the river Mersey.

Name	Year of birth	Place of birth	Notes
Elizabeth Catrall	1831	Cheshire, Runcorn	Only found by her baptism record
Jane Catterall	1834	Cheshire, Runcorn	
Ann Catterall	1840	Cheshire, Runcorn	My great-great-grandmother
Martha Catterall	1856	Cheshire, Runcorn	

I hoped to add some aunts from the ROGERS side of the family. To find them, I first had to find Charles' family and I had been disappointed to find he was born in Liverpool, since the family story from Nelly was that the family came from somewhere near Oswestry, Shropshire. However, I found his baptism record of 1st March 1835:^[7] *Charles, son of Edward and Mary ROGERS of Market St, Liverpool* and Edward was a beer-seller. Market St seems a good place to have a pub on the face of it. Bingo! This was lovely, finding the right family - a true golden moment for me.

Finding the Shropshire connection was a little trickier. Located next to Wales, Shropshire has many people with the surname ROGERS and I was flooded with options. Charles himself helped by being a lodger in Birkenhead in 1861, whilst working as an assistant pawnbroker, where the head of the household was Nathaniel ROGERS, a grocer born in Wrexham (just over the border in Wales) who had a son also called Charles. So I made an assumption that Nathaniel - a nice rare name - was a relative and followed him back to his roots, eventually finding my Charles aged five in the 1841 census, in the same household as Edward ROGERS, aged thirty-five, publican and Sarah ROGERS, aged seventy, the ages of both adults being rounded down to the nearest five years, of course. The location was just right, Whittington near Oswestry, exactly as Nelly's story, but of course no relationships are given in the 1841 census. But each piece of information added to the growing jigsaw, proving that the family did come from north Shropshire near Oswestry.

I found only one younger sister of Charles, Ann Harriet, who was baptised in Liverpool in January 1839 when Edward and Mary still lived in Market Street. She died at the age of nine months and was buried in Whittington, Shropshire; the records gave her place of abode as Market St, Liverpool^[8]. Sadly Charles' mother Mary died in 1843, aged only twenty-nine, and was also buried at Whittington. I found these crucial records on *Findmypast*. I also found Edward and Mary together in the 1841 census, running a pub in Willow Street, Oswestry with no children present, (one of two duplicates of people in my tree in 1841). So did they return to Oswestry from the filthy city of Liverpool because of Ann's death, or was Mary already in poor health? I will never know. I concluded that there were no more aunts to be found on the ROGERS side of the family.

I followed James CATTRALL through the censuses and found he had moved to Anderton, near Northwich - only a mile from Barnton - by the time of the 1871 census. His youngest daughter, Martha, then aged twenty-four, was still living at home. They lived next door to the BOWYER family, whose son Ashton was twenty-eight. Guess what happened next? In 1872 Martha married Ashton, not in the local church but in Manchester - in the cathedral, no less. I originally thought this was a high social statement but one of the FHSC experts at

Mobberley Research Centre explained that the cathedral (previously known as Manchester Collegiate Church) actually ran a conveyor belt of marriages and it was cheaper to marry there, because the Collegiate Church retained a virtual monopoly over the licences to perform the ceremonies. There were outlying chapels within the parish of Manchester, which covered sixty square miles and included thirty townships, but a ceremony at one of the chapels was liable to a double fee – one to the chapel, and one to the mother church at the centre.

Jumping onwards to the 1891 census^[9] Ashton and Martha lived in Barnton, and Ashton was the innkeeper of the *Farmers Arms*, 52 Redhill, Barnton, as well as being a waterman on the river Weaver. How wonderful to find the pub as well as the aunt! Just four years later, my great-grandmother met my great-grandfather there. The pub was built by a waterman in 1856^[10] on land on Redhill - now known as Barnton Hill - and in 1892 Ashton BOWYER was listed as the landlord of the *Travellers' Rest* public house. Ashton died the following year and I could not find Martha in the 1901 census. I assumed that Martha had remarried but could not find the marriage, which was a frustration since I had another family story to verify. My grandmother Emily went to school in Winnington, about a mile from Barnton; after school one day, instead of going straight home as she should, she went to visit her great-aunt Martha. Martha gave Emily a jam butty and sent her home, whereupon Emily got into trouble for being so late. This was probably after 1908 since Emily was born in 1903.

However, my breakthrough came from the local studies room of Northwich library. In *The Licensees of the Public Houses of Vale Royal*^[11] I found the licensee of the *Travellers' Rest* from 1896-97 was Martha CARTER. Armed with Martha's new married name I was able to find her marriage to Louis Gaskin CARTER, a waterman from Barnton. Martha and Louis did move around later, living in other villages surrounding Northwich, but I was able to trace them. Where exactly she was living when supplying little Emily with a jam butty is unclear but she was definitely a pub landlady in Barnton in the period when Nelly ROGERS met William WHETTON.

So how successful was I in verifying Nelly ROGERS' stories? It was a mixed score, since I have no idea about some stories, and other information was not given to me at all. Nelly didn't say whether the family had broken up, or when her father Charles had died. Nelly's stories were not of the *we were so poor that...* type; in fact it was quite the opposite - lots of money and living in a big house on Ullets Road near Sefton Park was more her style.

Once I took my blinkers off, removing the assumption of when he died, I did find Charles again. There were no doubts about his identity since his

occupation was stated to be *former pawnbroker*. He lived in the Kirkdale workhouse for more than twelve years and he died there in 1913. Kirkdale was a home for the aged in the area by then^[12] but the family thought he was dead long before - when his son Charles Edward remarried in 1908, he stated that his father was deceased. I started going through the microfiche in the Liverpool Archives for admissions to the workhouse before 1901 to find the reason for admission, but my patience ran out before I found any record. Computers have such advantages in finding a needle in a haystack!

However, I was really pleased to find some evidence of money in the family earlier in Charles' life; his aunt Jane left him £300 in her will in 1882^[13]. Jane ROGERS married a rich butcher in Wrexham who had made his fortune supplying meat to Liverpool; she had no children and in her will left her money split between her nephew Charles and two nieces. If you ever visit Oswestry station^[14] you will find that there used to be a cattle marshalling yard for shipment to the surrounding cities. I also found out a little more about the pawnbroker's shop in Rosalind Street, which existed well into the twentieth century. The area was thoroughly bombed in WWII, but my mum met a couple, whilst on holiday in the Lake District, who had grown up in that area in the 1930s. They remembered the pawn shop as a substantial building on the corner of the street with large bay windows on two sides. It was long after Charles' time but the business continued.

Like all family stories and family history research, there were lots of gems to find and I was so pleased to uncover some of them, even though many questions remain unanswered.

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Probate Records

by David Williams

There are now a lot of wills available online on *Findmypast*, *Ancestry* and elsewhere. Many are reproduced in hand-written form which can be difficult to read and/or interpret, with a lot of repetition of legalese stock phrases. They are interesting social documents and may sometimes include references to family members that you didn't know about. But potentially much more useful to family historians are probate records, in particular the *England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1995*, available on Findmypast and Ancestry, especially the records before about 1966 - after this date, details of executors are not provided.

The amount of information provided varies a great deal but can include:

- Full name of the deceased (sometimes with AKA -also known as)
- Where the deceased lived (sometimes with former addresses)
- Where they died, if death did not take place at home
- Their marital status
- Their occupation
- If married/widowed, their spouse's name
- Names of executors, and their occupations
- If an executor is a married woman, her husband may also be named
- The value of the estate

There are two specific aspects of probate records that are particularly useful for genealogists:

- The information provided may enable you to make a positive identification of a death record. This is particularly useful if you are researching a common surname (like mine, for example). Not sure whether this is the right John WILLIAMS? Do you know where he lived? Do you recognise the names of the executors? And their occupations?
- The naming of executors, particularly in the case of married women. In many cases the executors are relatives and it's often worth assuming they might be and investigating further - although you are not very likely to be related to Barclays Bank! But an executor named as a solicitor or bank manager might turn out to be a relative or at least married to one. When dealing with a common surname you may well know the maiden names

of the deceased's daughters, but have no information about their marriages. For instance, there will be an enormous number of possible marriages of a Mary WILLIAMS. If a woman disappears from census records and doesn't figure in death records, the most likely explanation is that she got married. And if she is named as an executor of, for example, her father's will, you may then find out her married name and the name of her husband.

Some other important details:

- A death certificate is issued in the district where a person died, which is not necessarily where they lived. They might be on holiday, visiting friends/relatives or in hospital, for example. If a deceased's place of death was not their home address, the probate record usually gives both locations.
- Even if a person died overseas, if they owned property in England or Wales then their will would probably be proved in this country.
- Named executors must have been alive at the date of probate.
- WWI soldiers made wills before going overseas. Some of these wills appear in probate records – even if the man's service record didn't survive. The details may prove (or disprove) his identity.
- Probate (or administration) was not only granted to rich people. Some left only a few pounds. So don't just assume that your relative was so poor they wouldn't appear in probate records.
- Remember that you can only find out who inherited the estate by obtaining a copy of the will (if one was made). At present a digital copy of a will costs £1.50 and may be purchased online at www.gov.uk/search-will-probate. Check carefully before ordering that the probate record includes a will - a probate record with the words *Administration (Admon)* or *Grant* does not include a will and does not provide any more information.

In summary, probate records are another useful source of evidence which, taken alongside other information, can help to build up proof of identity, and may lead you to the identification of missing relatives.

GENEALOGICAL ODDITY - THE TYSON FAMILY

My wife has a great-great-uncle named **John Tyson**. His father was **John Tyson**, his father-in-law was **John Tyson** and he named a son **John Tyson**. His mother was **Dinah Tyson**, he had a sister **Dinah Tyson**, he married Miss **Dinah Tyson** so she became Mrs. **Dinah Tyson**, and they called a daughter – you guessed - **Dinah Tyson**. It's said that the only one who responded confidently when her name was called was his mother-in-law, **Sarah Tyson**.

Ian Cameron, Bramhall Group Website Administrator

Net That Serf

The Computer Section

Compiled by Geoff Johnson

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From the Desktop



Well, my little moan in last issue has produced more stuff than I can really cope with in this one! So, some of your thoughts and comments will be held over to September.

My backup survey and results, together with further backup guidance, has taken up quite a lot of room, but I feel the topic is very, very important. Generating a planned mission statement is probably something that we all need to consider. Perhaps we should make better use of the DNA tests that we have paid good money for. We have a teaser piece about *Legacy Family Tree* - are there any other users out there who could add to the debate? Similarly, *Family Tree Analyzer* is another tool that we could do with a bit more information about.

The Computer Club Backup Survey

Some five years ago I was becoming very concerned at the number of members who, when asked, were very lackadaisical about backing up their computers. In some cases, they were not doing any at all! So, I set out to explain how I go about things, and to encourage regularity in backup procedures. The piece I generated in NTS became rather lengthy, so I wrote it in three parts which are always available to members from the website. You can find it on the FHSC website at www.fhsc.org.uk/new-cheshire-ancestor/net-that-serf/long-articles

or by clicking through the menus: *Cheshire Ancestor* > *Net That Serf* > *Articles too Long for NTS* > *Backups My Way* (3 parts)

More recent conversations with members had led me to believe that more of you have now established some form of backup procedure. Therefore, in February I asked the 200 Computer Club members to complete a questionnaire about their use of system backups. I received replies from 44 members (22%). Two respondents acknowledged that they do not carry out backups. We'll never know if the remainder are in that *no backups taken* category! Therefore, I still worry about the risks many family historians take with their data.

Backup Frequency - Of the 44 respondents, 15 took weekly backups, and 5 took them monthly. A further 14 have backups taking place continuously, generally via cloud connections. The remaining 10 have varied backup rates ranging between two and sixteen weeks. I suspect that this group features many whose procedure is *when I remember*.

Data in more than one place - 29 have their backup stored remotely from their computer, often in the cloud, and 13 have their backup devices close to their system, like me.

Just Data or Full System - 26 backup only their data, and 18 their full system. These figures include six members who backup both.

Recovery Confidence - 32 members were confident that they can retrieve their data. A further 10 placed themselves in the 'maybe' category!

Storage device - 32 members use external drives - generally, these are USB/Apple connected. Cloud storage is used by 19 members. In some cases, members use both. A network attached storage device (NAS) is used by only three members - yours truly makes it four!

Cloud Storage Users - some of the 19 members use more than one: 6 use iCloud, 4 Dropbox, 2 OneDrive, 2 Backblaze, 1 iDrive, 1 GoogleDrive, and 3 didn't say. Dropbox, Backblaze and iDrive seem to all be independents, Apple runs iCloud and Microsoft runs Onedrive. GoogleDrive is self-explanatory!

Key learning points:

- It seems that many more are running backups, but still not enough!
- Too many of us need to review remotely storing our backups. Cloud users seem happy, and whilst I've always been negative about the cloud, the principle now seems to be well established, and one does not read of major vulnerability issues. To this end I'm beginning to wonder if there are benefits in using both; it provides a great help to overcome the remote storage dangers.
- For the many who just use the local external drive procedure, an automated backup would help with regularity. See my thoughts in the next piece!

Backup Regularity

By Geoff Johnson

When did you last run a backup? Are your backups carried out regularly, or is it just a matter of when and if you think about it? I ask these questions quite regularly - seldom do I get many positive responses!

From my perception, for people who backup to a local external drive, or are looking to do so, the three big questions are:

- What is the best backup system?
- How do I remember to do it?
- What do I backup to?

My three answers are:

- *SyncBack* - backup software for Windows
- Set up *SyncBack* to remember and do it for you
- Use an external hard drive that is both permanently connected and preferably switches off the disk to stop it spinning when not needed.

Backup Software

I've been using *SyncBack* for about twelve years. I have set it up to backup all my personal documents once a week; it does this at midday on a Friday (my choice). Should my system happen to be switched off at that time, the backup is performed the next time the computer is on. The folders and files are stored in the external drive in exactly the same format as they are on the PC, not as a compressed single backup file. My backup setting creates a mirror image; that means the files and folders appear exactly as they do in their normal location. The backup process only updates items that have changed since last week.

The basic level of the program is called *SyncBackFree*, and it's a free download from www.2brightsparks.com/syncback/syncback-hub.html

Backup Disk Drives

A key factor here is that in order to have your backup run automatically, you must have a disk drive that is always connected. It's no good feeling the need to disconnect the drive simply because it's sitting there, running all day and doing nothing. Once you do that it'll easily get forgotten, along with the next backup! If you have two drives you can swap them back and forth, stashing one in another location.

Size-wise, I'd recommend you to look for at least a 1TB device, but if you store significant amounts of data (especially photos and big images), perhaps the

2TB version may be more appropriate. There are two principal ways of connecting the drive. One is a simple USB connection, and the other is a more expensive Network Attached Storage (NAS) drive.

A NAS drive is capable of powering down the disk when it's not in use, and most of them are set up to do just that. As they are supplied, USB drives will generally have the disk powered and disk spinning until such time as you unplug the connection! That's what I'm using.

USB Connected Backup Drives

It's preferable to find a drive that will automatically power-down when it's not in use. One does not really want a disk humming away, waiting for the one day in the week when you run your backup. I had assumed that most present-day external drives would do this, but it's taken me a bit of research to find out which reasonably priced drives actually do so. Western Digital responded; recommending their *My Passport Portable Hard Drives*. These have built-in drive management software that will enable you to set power-down options.

However, Seagate told me that all of their drives are capable of being powered-down from settings already established within Windows 10, saying, *You have the possibility to change the power management of these drives through the Windows power settings and selecting to power off the drives after 30 minutes of inactivity for example, or depending on the choices that would be suggested by Windows."*

There was something new to learn here, so I did a Google search and, sure enough, I found a deeply buried setting in Windows 10. If I go to *Control Panel > All control Panel Options > Power Options > select Power saver > Change plan settings > Change advanced power settings*, I arrived at a sub-window where, with *Power saver (Active)* showing, I could go down the list to *USB settings*, and clicking on the + sign I found the *USB selective suspend* setting. Clicking on that + sign allowed me to *Enable/Disable* the feature. I noticed that the menu choices and settings differ slightly between Windows 10 Home and Pro.

I didn't possess a USB drive to test this theory, so I ordered one - a 1TB WD PassPort, price £46 - which arrived just before the journal deadline. Plugged in to my laptop, it was immediately connected and available for use. It has two pre-loaded files to install its own *Discovery* program, which I didn't run. I copied an 8GB folder from my own documents, which took about two minutes. Holding the disk to my ear I could hear it humming. After five minutes or so it stopped. When I opened a file in the copied folder it restarted and opened the file immediately. Theory proved! Please try it yourselves and let me know if it works for you.

Use USB3 – and find the blue edged connector

USB connection speeds have steadily increased over recent years, and most newer USB connected disk drives are able to operate with USB3. If you can connect them to a USB3 connection on your PC, data transmission will be about ten times faster. USB3 connections are identifiable by having a blue edge marking on the business-end of the PC's connector.

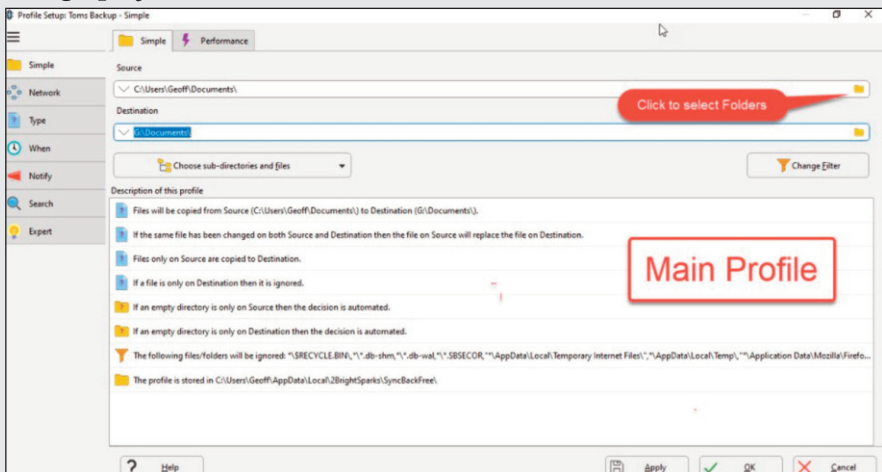
Network Attached Storage (NAS) drives

As implied by their name, NAS drives are connected through your PC network, plugging into your broadband router. That's the method I'm using, with a Synology single bay drive. The current version, the Synology DS120j 1TB 1 Bay NAS Solution is available from Amazon and other places for £160. If you happen to have a spare large-capacity disk drive, you can buy the NAS device as an empty enclosure for about £100 and install your drive into it. An additional benefit with this method is that other PCs connected to your home network can run backups to the same NAS drive.

A No-Cost start-up

However, you may already own a backup device. It could be a DVD drive, a flash drive with enough reasonable capacity, or an existing USB drive, which might even have an auto disk-off facility. If so, before spending any money on hardware and for the sake of a free and reliable software download, have a trial run with *SyncBack*. You can worry about the powering-off facilities later. I'd recommend that you take a little setup time, install *SyncBack* and spend some time trying my recommendation. If my suggestion appeals you can then look into obtaining a permanently connected backup device.

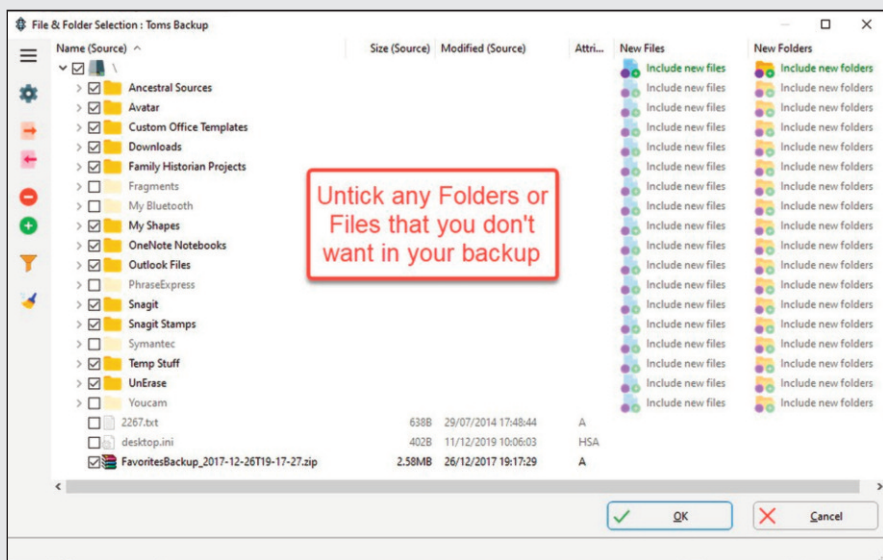
Setting up *SyncBack*



Download the program from the link given near the start of this piece. It will open with an empty *Profile* page. Click *New* in the bottom left-hand corner. Give the profile a name, e.g. *Toms backup*. Accept the default profile type – *Backup*. Enter the source and destination and just leave the other options (internal/external drive, network path, etc). Click *Done*, and you will see a message *The main profile setup window will now open*. Click *OK*. You should see something like the *Main Profile* image on the previous page.

Next you must specify the source of your data to be backed up, which could be *C:\Users\Tom\Documents*, and the destination folder which will be on your external disk drive or USB stick - perhaps *D:\Backup*. Then click on the folder icon indicated in the previous image by my *Click to select Folders* label.

You will then see the option to *Choose sub-directories and files*. If you click on the drop-down arrow and select *Source*, you are presented with a list of the folders in your selected *Documents* folder. You can untick any folders that you do not wish to back up, thereby minimising transfer of stuff that is unimportant.



When you have finished, click *OK*; your profile is complete and, provided it works, you will never need to edit it again. You're then given an option to carry out a *Simulated Run*, which is advisable. It won't actually transfer any data, but will highlight any errors that you might have made, or difficult folders to read. After the simulation run is complete, click *Task > View Log* to see the results.

To carry out your first backup simply select/highlight the Profile and click *Run*.

Remember that the first time you run a full backup it will inevitably take rather a long time. After that a re-run will be much shorter, as it only has to backup things that are different.

Setting Auto-Run Timing

You can then move on to set your *Profile* to run at a specific time. By this time your confidence level should be much improved so just right-click on the *Profile* and select *Schedule*. You will be able to set it to run at the time and frequency of your choice.

So, please have a try – and **whatever you do, please don't do nothing!**

Comments on Previous Issues

How Old Is Too Old?

Probably in response to my December piece on my potato fork, Computer Club member Janet Keane asked this question about her 2012 laptop. I asked her to dig out the basic details of its original specification. What is the processor? How much memory does it have? Has any memory been added since? What was the original operating system - was it XP, Vista, or Win 7? What is its hard disk size/capacity? How much of that disk space remains unused?

With that information I concluded that, in fact, Janet had purchased a machine that was originally quite up-market for its time. I suggested that she might want to consider expanding the amount of memory and possibly changing the disk drive to a solid-state drive (SSD).

Family Tree Analyzer

After reading my complaint about no comments from the December issue, Paul Reeve from Orpington thought he would let me have at least one this time!

I saw the tip about the Online Genealogical Index (OGI at <https://ogindex.org/>) and I can see that it could be quite helpful. I have used *dustydocs.com*, which I find very helpful if sometimes out of date. I shall now look at both sites when checking – although the downside of OGI is that you must put in a town first, whereas dustydocs allows you to scroll through a list of towns/churches.

I found mind maps quite interesting but I'm not sure I would be able to adjust my way of working!

I wonder how many of the Computer Group use *Family Tree Analyzer*? One of the many outputs which can be produced is an easy to read coloured table of

census data which is missing from your GEDCOM file, and another one for missing birth and death data - although the census output also includes birth and death data if it exists. There are different colours for no census data, no Lost Cousins data, out of the country etc. This can be output as a csv file which can then be imported into/played with in *Excel*; however, as it is a csv file, the colour is not exported.

I have created a spreadsheet which imports the csv file and adds some colour back in. I have incorporated output sheets for direct ancestors, blood relations, marriage to direct ancestors and linked by marriage (not a standard ticked option in FTA), then there are individual output sheets for each year's census covering all from your GEDCOM file. It tells me if the census data is there or not. I do use Lost Cousins but have not got all my ancestors in it; so, at the moment I do not need the functionality to identify that.

At least in the present Covid-19 scenario I have the time to play with things like this - and get on with my tree - for the foreseeable future!

GJ: Paul had sent me a number of screenshots to use, but the image detail is quite small and fine; I could not imagine that it would be sufficiently clear to include in the Cheshire Ancestor. We have considered Family Tree Analyzer at Computer Club, and I intended to introduce it as a very useful piece of software, but it will be a separate article for a future issue.

Mission Statements for Family Historians

By Gordon Tuff

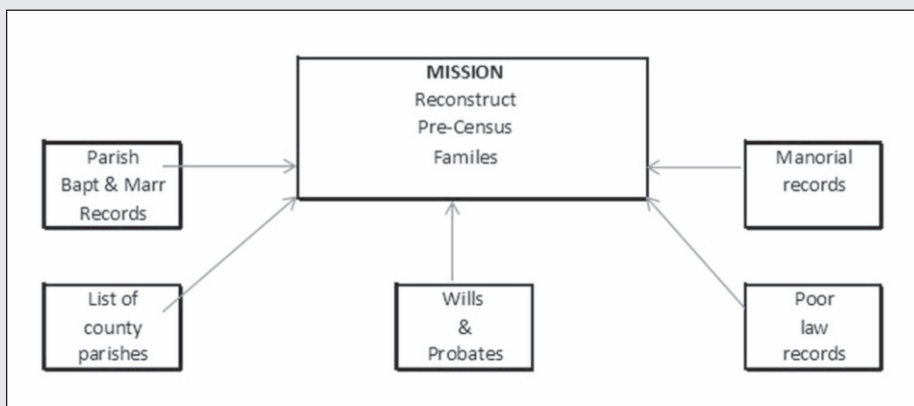
Reading the reprint of Richard Todd's 2007 article about mind maps in the last **ANCESTOR** made me remember what a useful technique mind mapping can be. Mind maps can, of course, be applied to all sorts of activities, but I have found them particularly helpful with one aspect of my family history research: mission creep. For example, you start out on some new line of enquiry that you think might yield a small piece to fit into the jigsaw - perhaps looking for a burial record at a particular church - and, before you know it, you're deep into the story of how one parish merged with another, and who wanted that to happen, and what the impact was on the local populations; all very interesting, but are you any nearer finding that burial?

Given the amount of time and energy we spend on our hobby, it can be helpful to remind ourselves occasionally of what it was that we originally set out to do before we got side-tracked. There is so much information available at a click of a mouse these days. You are never going to run out of tempting additional

leads to investigate. So, I find it helpful to try to create a mission statement for my research and ask myself *what is the main thing I am trying to do - where would I really like this to lead?* To keep yourself on the right track you need to be sure that the words you choose for your mission statement capture your aims accurately, and you may find it useful to keep asking the question *Why?* For example, *why did you want to find that burial record?* Perhaps you wanted to check whether a child had never reached adulthood and so had no descendants; why would you want to know that? Maybe because your aim is to try to find all the descendants of the oldest direct ancestor that you have discovered. If you ask why you want to do that, it might be that you hope to identify and contact other living descendants of the same family.

However, perhaps your ultimate goal is to place your ancestors in context of the times and places where they lived. What would the town of today look like when it was just a small village? How would your ancestors have earned their livelihood? Or maybe your main preoccupation is to leave your records in a state where somebody else could pick them up and continue where you left off?

Once you have clarified what you are ultimately trying to do, write it as a simple statement in a box in the middle of the page of a mind map. Then, following the approach that Richard explained in his article, think of all the research activities that would most help to meet that objective.



For example, I am trying to reconstruct families of my own surname from the baptism, marriage and burial records from parish registers. My logic for researching this is in my "Mission Statement Mind Map". I found that the process of really thinking through what my mission statement was and identifying the lines of enquiry which would most help me to get there was challenging but rewarding.

Of course, some people don't need to have a specific 'end point'. They may simply get a kick out of solving puzzles and feel that the journey is what matters, not the destination. Fair enough, but for those who occasionally feel slightly overwhelmed as they face the choice of which research leads they should follow up, a mission statement might be helpful.

DNA Adventures

Please take note of how effort and experience bears fruit. Here are two members who have had great success with the use of Ancestry's ThruLines feature!

Part Three of Lyn McCullough's Saga

The search for my friend's birth father is over. I am as sure as I can be that I have the right man, this time. I say *this time* because I had spent a long time chasing the wrong man.

I had a Scottish surname and a first name of *Jock* so I worked on the basis that his name was John. I had kept at the back of my mind the possibility that his first name might not be John but I had to start somewhere. I got to know John's family really well. I made a mirror tree, keeping it private. When *Ancestry* gave me the *ThruLines* I only got two very tiny DNA matches which concerned me. Surely there should be more? Was I on the right track or not?

I had three DNA tests: my friend's, mine and my husband's. Having the results for my known cousins was very useful, as I could see what that amount of DNA probably meant. I had a 179 cMs match with the grandson of my grandfather's brother. I knew him so the link was clear.

I put all three DNA test results into *MyHeritage* - a free offer that I took advantage of before Christmas last year, which months later is still producing results at no cost to me. I could cross-reference with *Ancestry* if, like me, others had tested with both. *MyHeritage* sent me its fabulous *Autoclusters* - a way of showing results in pretty colours. I was able to identify the cluster which contained my cousin, Morag.

I used the colour coding system on *Ancestry*, marking shared matches as being likely to be certain branches. Again, this is great fun and extremely useful in sorting out where people fit in. If a new match has shared matches who all have a purple blob, chances are they are from that family. One always has to keep in mind that nothing is 100% certain; also that people may link in two different ways. A mental question mark is always required!

Gedmatch is another site which is free to join; you can play happily for hours with shared matches and chromosome matches. Where *Ancestry* only works with matches above 6cMs, *Gedmatch* allows you to drop it to 3cMs, if you wish. You can also see which actual chromosomes you match on - fascinating!

Returning to the search for my friend's birth father, I was concerned about a fairly close match of 280cMs for which I could see no link. I looked more closely at the tree of this match, expanding it and looking at similar relationships in my own tree. I found a family with four sons, all in the running for birth father of my friend. Two sons were a bit young and the eldest was married, but the second eldest was unmarried and serving in the police force at the appropriate time. My husband told me that he had several colleagues who were known as *Jock*, who were not named John at all but had a surname beginning with *Mc*, thus giving rise to the nickname *Jock*!

Sadly, I said farewell to the first candidate and his family, disconnected my friend from that mirror tree and attached her to the new one I had made for *Jock* the policeman. Then I sat back and waited. *Ancestry* says to allow *ThruLines* about a week to update. I kept looking - and then one day there they were. My friend had numerous cousins and, best of all, twenty new common ancestors. My hunch had been correct - I was over the moon.

The original two distant matches with the first candidate probably point to the family being the same, but several generations back, in Scotland. A place of birth search on *Ancestry's* matches for my friend shows a very strong connection to Scotland. This particular branch of the family ended up in Ireland and then came to England. Some of them went to Canada and the USA which explains all the cousins across the pond. *MyHeritage* seems to be very popular with our American and Canadian friends.

Apart from tidying up a few loose ends, my search for my friend's birth father would seem to be complete. Now I have time to check out all my own new cousins and my husband's, too. My Christmas card list has expanded greatly!

ThruLines have really come up trumps and I can only recommend doing a DNA test and seeing what comes up. As always, with *Ancestry*, *ThruLines* need to be checked out as they are like *Ancestry's* hints. Don't forget that you must attach your DNA results to a tree on *Ancestry* to see *ThruLines*, and you do need three or four generations on your mirror tree if you are seeking a birth parent.

Please ask if you have any questions and I will try and answer them.
Good luck!

Peter Rowley (Runcorn Leader and Computer Club Secretary) added to the Thrulines success story:

Having received my DNA results, I was at a loss as to what to do with them. The first port of call was Peter Calver's website *Lost Cousins* (www.lostcousins.com) and his DNA Masterclass. I decided to look through my DNA matches and group them together. I was able to make some connections, and in a lot of cases was able to determine whether they were maternal or paternal matches.

However, since *Ancestry* brought out *ThruLines*, things began to fall together. To use *ThruLines*, click on DNA on the black ribbon bar at the top. Then click on *Explore ThruLines*. The next page shows your direct ancestors down to 5th great-grandparents (in my case). Select one of these ancestors and you will be shown how many DNA matches you have to that grandparent. Click on the arrow, and an abbreviated family tree will appear showing the connection between yourself and a common ancestor, sometimes unknown to me. Not exactly a brick wall, as I hadn't got that far with my research.

Family History Programs

Legacy Family Tree

Dave Williams of Macclesfield responded to my March issue whinge, saying:

Jenni Gay's articles referred to *Legacy Family Tree* webinars. I don't often use the webinars but I do use *Legacy* for organising and storing my family tree. I find the software, in general, is very good and it's easy to add relations and details. It has a good selection of automatically generated text reports (ancestors, descendants, multiple lines of descent) and a reasonable selection of automatically generated charts. It has a split screen facility to directly compare details in your own family tree with those in *FamilySearch*. You can compare possible matches in *FamilySearch* and copy data from *FS* into your tree or vice versa. The program will also provide hints from e.g. *Findmypast*. You can add media. Details at <https://legacyfamilytree.com/DeluxeEdition.asp>

As I have never used any other currently available family tree programs, I cannot say how *Legacy* compares. But I like it and it is modestly priced at \$35 [*That's about £28 – GJ*]. There is a free *Standard Edition*, but this is really only a trial version. Every few years there is a new version (discounted for existing users), but in between there are regular free updates. I don't recall that *Legacy* has ever been reviewed in NTS. Did I miss it, or has it been overlooked?

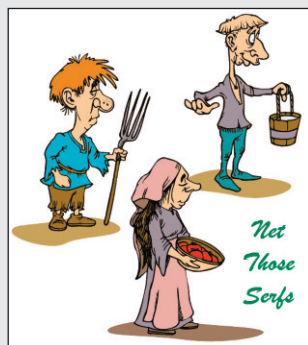
GJ - No, you didn't miss it Dave, because we've never done it! You are the first user I've come across. Perhaps you can expand on your experience for us.

One tip I have recently discovered for printing family tree charts: the charts from *Legacy* can be exported as PDFs – I guess it will be the same for other programs. These charts are normally much wider than they are high, as is the way with family trees. Most of us need to print on a home A4 printer. If using *Adobe Acrobat*, print as a *Poster*, *Tile Scale 100%* (and optionally tick *Cut Marks*). Okay – you have to stick the pieces together. But if you try to print the chart on A4 without changing the settings, it will probably be too small to be legible.

Closing Snippet

Gren Dix recently received an e-mail from his energy supplier, Ovo, giving his annual summary of electricity usage. It said for information on switching supplier see overleaf. Gren knows he's getting a bit past it - he can crop, re-size or distort an image - but he cannot flip it over to look at the back. He looked at the back of the monitor but could see nothing!

I rely on your input to keep this forum active, so please keep the responses coming. – GJ



DID YOU KNOW? QUARANTINE

In French the suffix *-ine* or *-aine* is found in nouns relating to a number. For example *douze* means twelve and *douzaine* means a group of twelve - no prize for guessing where the English word *dozen* comes from!

Quarante means forty in French, so the original concept of quarantine was a period of forty days. As well as the medical connotation, *forty days* is a time period that is referred to several times in both Old and New Testaments of the Bible. It is also a significant time period for Muslims. The period in the Christian year leading up to Easter is Lent – the period of forty days (not counting Sundays) from Ash Wednesday to Easter Day.

The French word for Lent is *Carême*, which used to be spelled *quaresme* and was originally derived from the Latin *quadraginta*, or forty - as was *quarante*.

David Williams, Macclesfield

Group News

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

Note that at the time of going to press, all meetings are subject to alteration or cancellation due to the Covid-19 pandemic

Alsager Group

by Hazel Rugman

The Alsager group is not meeting at present, due to the current situation. The speakers who were booked have agreed to postpone their talks until we can meet again. We shall hopefully be meeting on a purely social basis sometime before the end of July. There is no meeting in August and we hope to have our AGM on Monday 21st September as usual.

We have suggested to our members that, as we too are part of our respective families' family histories, we should write down our experiences of what it is like to live through these extraordinary times and also to consider writing up something on our memories of our grandparents especially as that often reveals things about our own early years. Perhaps that could be in the form of a letter written to our grandchildren or someone else in that generation. We could then share something of our experiences/ memories when we meet socially.

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

17th Jun *Meeting cancelled*

20th Jul *Meeting cancelled*

August *No meeting*

21st Sep *AGM*

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

Bebington Group

by Bob Wright

Future Meetings (subject to alteration due to the pandemic):

- 22nd Jun *Jessie Hartley, Liverpool Dock Engineer – David Hearn*
27th Jul *Down Below, Sewers and Health – Michael Murphy.*
24th Aug *The Wreckers and Mr. Atherton – Gavin Chapel*
28th Sep *Precious Memories – Hilary Watmough.*

Meetings take place on the 4th Monday of the month (excluding Bank Holidays) at Bebington Civic Centre, Civic Way, CH63 7PN, commencing at 7.30 pm. Entrance £1.50 for members, £2 for visitors, including refreshments.

NOTE - we no longer do helpdesks.

Bramhall Group

by Janet Phillips

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

- 11th Jun *Meeting Cancelled*
9th Jul *Meeting Cancelled*
13th Aug *Meeting Cancelled*
10th Sep *AGM - Speaker to be confirmed*

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

Chester Group

by David Guyton

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

- 25th Jun *The History of Thornton Manor and its Residents - Gavin Hunter*
30th Jul *AGM, followed by*
Don't Forget Your Ration Book - Michael Murphy
August *No Meeting*
24th Sep *Estate and Manorial Records - Gill Campbell*

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

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

We have a family history helpdesk at Grosvenor Museum - opening times are 10.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 4.00pm on Tuesdays and Fridays. There is another helpdesk at Chester Library at Storyhouse on Tuesday mornings between 10am and 12noon.

Computer Group - The Society's Computer Club

by Geoff Johnson

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

Meetings and topics are seldom pre-arranged. Our preferred practice is to discuss new websites, members' own current problems, or generally educating members on getting the best from their computers. We are here to help and learn! The proposed subject of each meeting is usually announced the week before, by email or on the Club's events web page. Notes on topics from past meetings are made and displayed on the Society website, go to *Groups > Computer Group > Computer Group Documents* and look for *Past Meetings*; or use the link <https://www.fhsc.org.uk/computer-group-documents/past-meetings>

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

Congleton Group

by David Smetham

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

- 16th Jun ***Brick Walls: Finding a way round them - David Guyton***
 General problems and approaches, and a case study illustrating them.
- July ***No meeting***
- 18th Aug ***Visit - To be arranged***
- 15th Sep ***AGM plus Workshop***

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

Crewe Group

by Margaret Spate

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

- 9th Jun *Motoring in the Edwardian North West - Dr Craig Horner*
In the late 19th century and early 20th century the very first cars had the same design as a horse drawn carriage and petrol was bought from chemists, who sold it as a cleaning product!
- 14th Jul AGM, followed by
Short presentations by members, and refreshments
- August *No Meeting.*
- 8th Sep *1914 - 1918: The Home Front - Edward Hilditch*
The second in the series by Edward Hilditch, rearranged from cancelled April meeting. The talk includes extracts from his grandfather's diaries, an Elworth man working at Fodens.

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

Crewe Family History Unit

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

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

Macclesfield Group

by Jean Laidlaw

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

- 23rd Jun *Tabley House - Claire Pye.*
- July *Visit to Tabley House.*
Date to be arranged.
- 25th Aug *Researching Military Medals - Peter Ramsden*
- 22nd Sep AGM, followed by "*Show and Tell*".
Bring along a family heirloom or two and tell us why they are so precious to you.

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of the month at The Salvation Army Hall, Roe Street, Macclesfield, SK11 6UT. Doors open at 7.15pm and meetings start at 7.30pm. Entry is through the main door facing the Churchill Way car park, and we meet in the ground floor room. Admission

is £2 for FHSC members and £3 for non-members, including refreshments.

For the latest news, please see our pages on the FHSC website www.fhsc.org.uk. A monthly update and reminder about meetings are emailed to subscribers on our newsletter list. If you would like to be added to our newsletter list go to the Macclesfield page on the website and click on *Add Macclesfield to My Groups* or send a request to macclesfield@fhsc.org.uk.

Middlesex Group

by Alan Bennett (FHSC Chairman)

We are trying to set up a joint North-West FHS Group in the London area with the Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society and the Cumbria Family History Society. If you live within range of central London, keep an eye on our website to find out about meetings.

Nantwich Group

by Sheila Mitchell

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

16th Jun *Meeting cancelled*

21st Jul *Meeting cancelled*

August *No Meeting*

15th Sep *Transportation to Australia - Caroline Barnwell*

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

As we are all housebound at the moment, here are some tips on what you could do to fill in the time:

1. Nantwich Library is still accessible via the internet. You will need to be a library member with a library card and with it you could get free remote access to *Findmypast* and *Ancestry* for at least an hour each day.

2. Sort out those family photographs. Who, What, When, Why. Make a record of each one. Never write on the back of a photo.

3. Start writing up your family history. Write up some of your family members' profiles.

3. If you are able to, then go to something like newspaper.com (subscription site) and see if there is an obituary for any of your ancestors who have died in the

last one hundred years.

4. Quiz.

Just for fun - do you know what the following occupations are? They are real and were in the Nantwich area. The answers will be in the next edition of **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**. Good luck.

What is a? a. Fellmonger b. Sawyer c. Cooper d. Cordwainer e. Mason f. Tallow Chandler g. Higgler h. Mangler i. Lederer

5. Don't forget as a member you have access to resources on the FHSC website; also check our group site for any updates.

We will contact members if there are further cancellations or at least update you on the latest information through our newsletters. Let's hope this is soon over. Good luck with the research and try to enjoy the summer.

Northwich Group

by Dave Thomas

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

8th Jun *Meeting cancelled*

13th Jul *Open discussion*

10th Aug *Down Forget-Me-Not Lane (1938-1945) - Brian Hallworth*

14th Sep *AGM, followed by Anglo Saxon Churches - David Young*

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

Runcorn Group

by Peter Rowley

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

3rd Jun *Meeting cancelled*

1st Jul *Meeting cancelled*

5th Aug *Meeting cancelled*

2nd Sep *Meeting cancelled*

Meetings are at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of the month (except January) at Churchill Hall, Cooper Street, Runcorn, WA7 1DH. All will be made very welcome. Refreshments - tea, coffee and home-made cakes, parking available. We have speakers occasionally, but encourage group participation in helping

others to knock down their brick walls. We have parish records available to view, please ask a committee member.

Sale Group

by Marion Hall

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

- 10th Jun *Cheshire Inn Signs - Tony Bostock*
8th Jul *My Favourite Ancestor - Terry Dean*
A talk about James Kenyon, a textile entrepreneur
12th Aug *AGM, followed by*
My Favourite or Most Interesting Ancestor - short talks by
members, a continuation of our successful February meeting.
9th Sep *Our Family At War - Liz and Roger de Mercado*
World War II Far East prisoners of war, and a look at the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas, Staffordshire.

Meetings are held at 7.30pm, for talk at 8.00pm, on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at Trinity Methodist Church, Trinity Road, Sale M33 3ED. Visitors are always welcome. Admission is £2 for members and £2.50 for non-members.

Tameside Group

by Gay Oliver

All our meetings are cancelled for now. It is likely that some can be rearranged at a future date. The earliest could possibly be in July. We never meet in August, so as far as I can see, the next most likely meeting could be our AGM in September. However, I am practising with some video conferencing software, so I may email you all to sign up for a remote session.

Meanwhile, I will be writing newsletters every fortnight to keep us all in touch and suggest lots of things to do while we are all in lockdown. I hope you are enjoying them - I'd love some feedback.

Why not visit our website www.fhsc.org.uk and click on RESEARCH? There is an increasing collection of resources here to help you with your research.

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

- 10th Jun *Cancelled*
July *To be confirmed*
August *No meeting*
Sept *AGM (To be confirmed)*

Meetings are held in the Old Chapel Schoolrooms, Dukinfield - doors open at

7.00pm. There is disabled access and both members and non-members are welcome. Admission is £2 for members and £2.50 for non-members.

At the time of going to press, helpdesks are cancelled due to the pandemic. I will let you know as soon as it is safe to start them again.

We run helpdesk sessions in Tameside Local Studies and Archives Centre 2pm - 4pm on the first and third Tuesdays each month. Our team of experts can help you to break down those brick walls or to get started from scratch.

Wallasey Group

by Dave Beck

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

- 16th Jun *Serendipity - Hilary Watmough*
The talk is based on chance encounters that have led to some important family history discoveries. Good luck has often helped.
- 21st Jul *AGM followed by Old Wallasey Village - Mike Colebourne*
A dip into Mike's lifelong research into Wallasey Village including his personal drawings of the old cottages.
- 18th Aug *Liverpool at Work - Ken Pye*
The fascinating story of how the people of Liverpool earned their living over the centuries, beginning as a simple fishing hamlet and growing into an major international port and tourist destination.
- 15th Sep *Wirral Watercourses - Gavin Hunter*
A fascinating illustrated tour of the streams and rivers that serve the Wirral Peninsula, from West Kirby to Shotwick and from Wallasey to Ledsham.

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

At the time of going to press, helpdesks are cancelled due to the pandemic. We hold a helpdesk from 10am to 1pm on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month at the Wallasey Central Reference Library, Earlston Road, Wallasey CH45 5DX, where we are able to give individual help with family history research. There is access to the library via a ramp and internal lift for those who are less mobile or using a wheelchair. All members and non-members are welcome.

Note that at the time of going to press, all meetings are subject to alteration or cancellation due to the Covid-19 pandemic

Membership

Angela Moore



New Members

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

Peter Mellor



Renewals/Changes

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

The "M" Team

Obituary - Richard Todd

We regret to advise that Richard Todd passed away on 10th February 2020.

Richard was a long-term stalwart of the Computer Group, and contributor to Net That Serf. His 2007 article about Mind Mapping was recently reprinted in the March 2020 edition of NTS.

With a membership number of 1271 Richard was clearly an early member of the society. His sense of humour showed in his email address: *richtea@-----!*

In recent years Richard seldom visited Computer Club meetings due to failing eyesight. But he was still a great help to Geoff by writing pieces for the journal, and spotting new trends.

Richard will be sorely missed, and the society sends its condolences to his family and friends.

New Members

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

#10162	UN	Mr Chris	BAYLEY	New Zealand
#10163	CH	Mrs Jacqui M.	BULMER	Cheshire
#10164	NO	Miss Gillian M.	PROCTER	Lancashire
#10165	UN	Mr John A.	JONES	Cheshire
#10166	ALG	Mrs Carol	BIRCHALL	Cheshire
#10167	UN	Mr Jamie	JACKSON	Cheshire
#10168	NO	Mrs Sue	HIGGINBOTHAM	Cheshire
#10169	UN	Mr Colin L.	LINDSEY	Northampton
#10170	UN	Mr Anthony C.V.	VERNON	USA
#10171	UN	Mr Philip	COFFEY	Jersey
#10172	MA	Mrs Margaret I.	HOLMES	West Sussex
#10173	UN	Mr Mark	ROBINSON	Hereford
#10174	UN	Miss Hannah S.	SMALLWOOD	North Norfolk
#10175	UN	Miss Anne	LATHAM	Cheshire
#10176	UN	Ms Pauline	JUDD	Australia
#10177	CR	Mrs Sue	WEIR	Cheshire
#10178	UN	Mr Michael J.	GALLAGHER	Hertfordshire
#10179	NO	Mrs Elizabeth	CULSHAW	Lancashire
#10180	BR	Mr Jim W.	COURT	Cheshire
#10181	RU	Mrs Janet C.	CARTLEDGE	Cheshire
#10182	CR	Mr David	GREAVES	Cheshire
#10183	UN	Mrs Patricia	BRAMICH	Cheshire
#10184	TA	Mrs Karel A.	LEES	Cheshire
#10185	UN	Mr Graeme T.	TETLOW	Australia
#10186	NA	Mr John E.	CORDERY-SHORE	Cheshire
#10187	UN	Mrs Sue	KISLOFF	Cheshire
#10188	UN	Mrs Jean	HUGHES	Cheshire
#10189	UN	Mr John	BRUNLESS	West Midlands
#10190	UN	Mr Robert L.	LLOYD	Cheshire
#10191	CRE	Mr Byron	EVANS	Cheshire
#10192	UN	Mr Peter J.	CROTON	East Yorkshire
#10193	UN	Mrs Susan	JONES	South Ayrshire
#10194	UN	Mr Wyndham	MARSH	Northampton

The Society's Family History Research Centres

Note that at the time of going to press, both research centres are closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic

Manned by experienced volunteers, visitors can obtain help and advice on family and local history research. Do you have your own microfiche but no reader? Bring them to us and view them using our fiche readers!

CREWE FAMILY HISTORY UNIT PLEASE PHONE OR CHECK WEBSITE



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

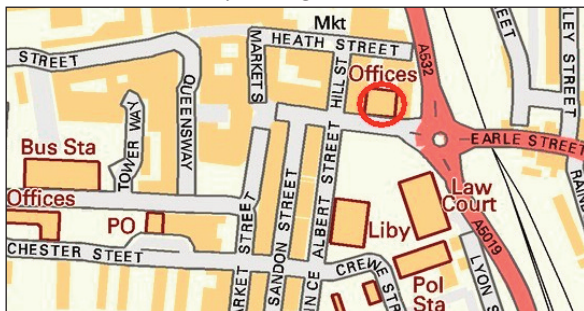
The Municipal Building is situated near the market and opposite Memorial Square and the old library. Crewe Register Office is in the same building. All visitors must sign in and out at reception. You will be directed to the second floor; a lift is available.

FREE access to *FindMyPast*, *Ancestry* and *The Genealogist*
Local parish registers on film - extensive library of books
Crewe and District and South East Cheshire local history archives
See the Crewe FHU Library Holdings lists on the FHSC website

**Usual opening hours: 10am-4pm Monday and Tuesday
plus one Saturday morning each month**

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

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



**MOBBERLEY FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH CENTRE
PLEASE PHONE OR CHECK WEBSITE**



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

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

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

Usual opening hours: 10am-4pm Monday to Friday.

Closed on bank holidays and over the Christmas-New Year period.

For changes to usual opening hours, please check this issue's *Research Centre News* or the FHSC website.

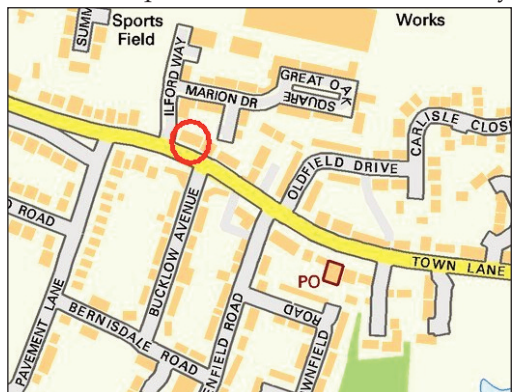
If travelling some distance, please ring first to confirm the centre is open.

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

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

Bus stop (Bucklow Ave) nearby for the *D&G Bus Services* 88/89 from Knutsford, Wilmslow, Northwich, Macclesfield and Altrincham.

See www.dgbus.co.uk.



ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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

Above rates plus £2.00 per family

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

The Society year commences on 1st July.

Membership commences on the day of receipt of an application.

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

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

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

New member applications should be sent to Membership Enrolments:

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

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

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

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

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

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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NOTE:

GL: Group Leader
GC: Group Contact

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



The Family History Society of Cheshire

www.fhsc.org.uk

Location of Groups

(see inside back cover for contact details)



MEMBER'S PHOTO

Children's Paddling Pool, Hoylake



Children's Paddling Pool, Hoylake, posted to Sale in 1919

Posted on 15 July 1919 to Messrs A & J Hall, 11 Essex Rd, Sale. The message is: "Dear Boys, How does this picture suit? Wouldn't you just like to be one of them? They seem to be very happy. Your turn will come soon. We are having grand weather. Love to both." For sender's name, see right.

If these are your ancestors, please get in touch.

From Rosie Rowley, member no. 2119 (editor@fhsc.org.uk)

