

# CHESHIRE ANCESTOR



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



## **In this edition**

*Golden Moment Competition: Lord Raglan's Balloon*  
*Cousin Relationships ❖ Always Look at the Original!*  
*Where There's a Will... ❖ Newspapers Solve a Death Mystery*  
*Then and Now: Well Lane, Little Budworth ❖ and more...*

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**Cover picture:** 'The south end of Crewe station, about 1900.' Photo from Tony Hisgett, Wikimedia Commons, Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic license.

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Crewe\\_station\\_around\\_1900.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Crewe_station_around_1900.jpg)

See 'Thomas Humphries, Crewe Station Master (Part 1)' by Roger King on page 46.



# CHESHIRE ANCESTOR

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

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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.

### FHSC Bookshop Alan Godfrey Old O.S. Maps

The FHSC Bookshop stocks Alan Godfrey Maps for a huge number of locations in Cheshire, price £2.50 plus £1 P&P.

Please contact David Johnson for a stock list (contact details inside front cover).

## Editor's Page

by Rosie Rowley



Welcome to the latest issue of **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**, jam-packed with articles and ideas to inspire and encourage you to explore your family history.

There has been a lot of interest recently about researching places, no doubt partly fuelled by the BBC programme *A House Through Time*. The third series, which ended in June, featured a house in Bristol. *FindMyPast* suggests sources for researching your own or an ancestor's property at [www.findmypast.co.uk/blog/help/the-history-of-your-house](http://www.findmypast.co.uk/blog/help/the-history-of-your-house).

In *Then and Now* on page 43, Geoff Johnson writes about the history of Well Lane in Little Budworth. If you have an interesting, good-quality old photo, and a present-day photo of the same location, why not write a few words and send them in - look at the previous page for submission requirements.

For the first time in its history, FHSC will hold its AGM online this year, using Zoom - see page 11 for preliminary details; more information will be sent to members by email. Please support this new venture if you can.

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

### ***Ancestral Colouring Book***

[www.familytreemagazine.com/premium/make-a-genealogy-coloring-book/](http://www.familytreemagazine.com/premium/make-a-genealogy-coloring-book/)



This article, from the American *Family Tree Magazine* (no connection with the UK magazine of the same title), explains how to use your computer's picture editing program to turn scanned photos of your ancestors into monochrome sketches to colour in. You can add names, dates, places and other information to the photos, and perhaps bind the sheets or put them in a loose-leaf folder to make a booklet. This example was created using a free program called Gimp ([www.gimp.org](http://www.gimp.org)).

This activity might make a good introduction to family history for a younger child; they can colour the pictures while you tell them about the family.

## Chairman's Jottings

*by Alan Bennett*



Hello everyone,

I would like to re-emphasize some key points from my first jottings, printed in the December 2019 *ANCESTOR*.

The website operation, and smooth management of the society, depends on you providing a valid email address (if you have one) and keeping it up to date. The website is the best way for you to check and update your personal details. Please be assured that we take data security seriously and NEVER expose your details beyond the committee and yourself. As webmaster, I ensure that even committee members are restricted to only seeing data that is essential to their role. I understand that some of you have email addresses but are wary of sharing them with us because of your concerns about security; this restricts your access to membership benefits which are available to you via our website. Website usage has increased during lockdown, so many members are taking advantage of these benefits.

A key feature is members' interests, where you can share your surname interests to attract contact from other members, or offer help to other members. Contact is made using email, but your email address is NOT displayed on the website or sent to the person making the enquiry until you reply to them, so there is no need to be concerned about security. There are 1400 entries in the database so please give it a try; if you have not already added your surnames, please consider doing so. Who knows, you may find that 'missing link'!

I was endeavouring to visit all the groups this year to talk in more detail about all the topics covered in these jottings but unfortunately this opportunity was lost through lockdown. I am available to join online meetings which are being organised by some groups using Zoom. If you are keen to hear from me, then please ask your group leader to invite me.

Online meetings are proving extremely popular with the committee and I think face-to-face committee meetings will be rare in the future. Some groups have reported higher attendance for this type of meeting. The benefits include: no need to travel, no impact of bad weather, and reduced costs for the group. There will probably not be any face-to-face group meetings until 2021. We all need to do our best to protect ourselves.

I am sure many of you will have made significant progress during lockdown. I have been contacted by a number of living distant cousins who connected to me through my website <http://familytree.cheshirealangenealogy.co.uk/> or through DNA matches on Ancestry and elsewhere. I have managed to fill several gaps in my knowledge and delight my new cousins in the process. Working together is certainly more fun than working alone.

I look forward to our first online AGM on the 31st October. Please note that there will be a vote on a change to our constitution and I would like a good turnout to ensure the vote is meaningful.

Best wishes  
Alan

## Society News and Notices

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

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

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

### 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 society news by email.

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

### Society Diary Dates

**Sat 31 Oct 2020** AGM, to be held as an online Zoom meeting; see page 11.

**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 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*).

### Journal Distribution Officer

A replacement is needed to oversee the distribution of the journal after printing; preferably someone who lives in or can easily travel to East Cheshire, in case of any problems and to collect the spare copies every quarter. **For information, please contact the current postholder, John Lord** (*magazines@fhsc.org.uk*).

## Email Newsletters Report

*by Gay J Oliver  
Website Administrator  
web.admin@fhsc.org.uk*

The society has not stopped working for the benefit of the members while we have been locked down. We are still adding to our website and we now have a very active social media officer, Margaret Roberts, posting news and articles.

Please keep visiting our website for all our latest news, which we are constantly updating. Look out for news about when each group will be starting to organise meetings again, and about plans to reopen our research centres.

Meanwhile I have been emailing a *Lockdown Newsletter* to members every two weeks. I hope you are enjoying them and they have helped with your research during the last few months. We hope to continue to send newsletters when everything opens up again, but they may be shorter and less frequent.

### **Important - keep your email address up to date via our website**

Sadly about 350 of our members are not receiving these newsletters because we don't have a current valid email address for them, or they have requested no



contact under GDPR rules. If you wish, you can change any information held by the FHSC by logging in to our website and clicking on *My Membership* and then *My Profile*. If you are having difficulty, email me at [web.admin@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:web.admin@fhsc.org.uk).

For a second chance to read the newsletters, copies in pdf format have been added to our website. To see them, click on *Document Library*, then *Members Documents*, and search for *Lockdown Newsletter*.

## Social Media Report

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

We are all aware that social media has had a tremendous impact on our culture - in business, the world at large and individually; even more so in these times of lockdown and social distancing. Many FHSC members will have found, especially during the current crisis, just how handy and easy it can be to use social media to keep in touch with family and friends.

Social media has altered the way in which many businesses and societies operate and run on a daily basis, with over ninety per cent of local British societies of all genres having at least one social media profile, thus enabling them to interact and promote themselves as well as disseminate news and update members on relevant offers. After all, the major platforms are free to use, so why would you not take advantage of this? As the new FHSC social media secretary, I have been working hard to improve the Society's online communications via Facebook, Twitter and the FHSC website.

On a daily basis I update followers with news of online conferences, free offers, TV and radio programmes and new books, as well as relevant updates to holdings, such as the British Newspaper Archive. I have also instigated a number of weekly items which have proved popular not only with FHSC members but also with other family history societies, which have used my information to inform their own members. This is all good publicity for FHSC, spread right across the country. These weekly posts include:

- **What's On This Week**  
Published every Monday, this is a list of events, webinars, free online talks, etc., taking place during the coming seven days. Each post contains all the relevant details and links to register with the various events.

- **Friday Roundup**

A comprehensive series of posts that informs members of additions to the main genealogical websites during the past week. Ancestry, Find My Past, The Genealogist, Family Search, The British Newspaper Archives and many more.

- **Archive of the Week**

Published on Saturdays and proving to be the most popular item on the social media platforms, I highlight an archive or database that may be unknown to members. These archives are not necessarily limited to family history or even in the UK, but they are always free to access, search and download data from.

Once the groups are able to have meetings again, I will be encouraging group leaders to send me details of their talks, with photos from their meetings. I can then show on the social media feeds just what the society has to offer, and the many interesting events happening across the county on a regular basis.

I also post on the news section of the FHSC website with bulletins on online talks, seminars and conferences, such as the latest season of online events from the National Archives, as well as blogs, for instance on the series of *A House Through Time*. Starting very soon will be a series of "How to" guides. Is there something you would like to see, or have you some news to share? Please don't be shy - contact me on [social.media@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:social.media@fhsc.org.uk)

So, what are you waiting for? Social media is here to stay and will only get bigger and better! Don't ignore the opportunities on offer here - embrace the change and enhance the revolution.

*Like and Follow* the FHSC on Facebook and Twitter at

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CheshireFamilyHistory](http://www.facebook.com/CheshireFamilyHistory)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/FHSoFCheshire>

I look forward to seeing you there!

***THAT'S ODD!***

Seen in a recent email from Wirral Archives:

*.... who is organizing the 13th annual St Olav's Day Viking Heritage walk on 29th July, needs a seven-foot bishop's staff for the walk.  
If you have a spare one just contact him....*

## FHSC Bookshop Sale

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

Please contact David Johnson for a stock list (contact details inside front cover). For CD stock please see the previous issue of **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**, or the FHSC website.

N.B. The offer does NOT apply to the online shop on the website, which sells downloadable data.

## 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](http://www.fhsc.org.uk/new-mobberley-research/mobberley-holdings) and make a list of things to look up when we reopen?

Remember we have research materials for many other counties as well as Cheshire. We also have subscriptions to three research websites: The Genealogist, Ancestry and Find My Past, so you can search their indexes at home and make a checklist for when you are able to visit.

### Crewe Family History Unit

*by Margaret Spate*

The Crewe Family History Unit was closed on Tuesday 17th April due to the pandemic, and at the time of going to press it was still closed.

There is a possibility that we will be allowed to re-open later in 2020. Any information and dates will be advertised on the FHSC website and via newsletters and social media, as will any changes we have to make to accommodate government guidelines at that time.

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

Hoping that we will soon see volunteers and members back at FHU Crewe, working together to discover your family history.

## NOTICE OF THE FHSC 51st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**The 51st Annual General Meeting of the FHSC  
will be held in Extraordinary Circumstances at  
3.00pm on  
Saturday 31st October 2020**

At their meeting held on the 9th May 2020 the Executive Committee decided that because of the risks and restrictions arising from the Covid-19 pandemic the 51st AGM of FHSC will take place electronically using Zoom on Saturday 31st October 2020 at 3.00pm. Members who have supplied a valid email address to the society and have agreed to email contact will be informed of the Meeting ID and password by email prior to the meeting. The Meeting ID and password will also be posted on the members-only section of the website. The Zoom meeting waiting room will be open from 2.45pm.

To ensure that the meeting can run smoothly:

- The secretary's report is published in this issue of the **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR** with this notice.
- The chairman's and treasurer's reports and the accounts will be posted on the website two weeks prior to the meeting.
- It would be helpful if members who have questions about the reports or the accounts could submit them to the secretary at [secretary@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@fhsc.org.uk) prior to the meeting so that they can be passed to the relevant officers for a response.
- The agenda, together with an amendment to the Constitution proposed by the Executive Committee, also appears in this issue.
- The reports, the agenda and the minutes of the 2019 AGM will also be posted on the website.

Note, the constitution requires that:

An Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held within five months of the end of its financial year for the following purposes:

- To receive a report from the Committee and a statement of Accounts from the Hon. Treasurer for the preceding financial year, together with the report of the Independent Examiner or Auditor, and reports from each of the Groups of the Society.

- To elect the Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and other Society officials for the ensuing year.
- To appoint an Independent Examiner or Auditor.
- To decide by simple majority upon any resolution which may be duly submitted to the meeting for consideration. No resolution, other than those relating to the adoption of reports and accounts, shall be moved at the Annual General Meeting unless a notice in writing, signed by the member who proposes to move it and stating its terms, has been received by the Hon. Secretary at least forty-two days before the date appointed for the holding of such Annual General Meeting.
- The Chairman of the meeting shall, at his or her discretion, and with the consent of a majority of the members present and voting, have the power to admit resolutions of which notice has not been given, if such resolution shall not involve any alterations of the Constitution. Such resolution shall be decided upon by a simple majority of members present and voting.
- At least twenty-eight days before the Annual General Meeting, a detailed notice of such meeting shall be sent, by circular or otherwise, to every member of the Society at his/her last known address. This will be by means of the notice in the September edition of CHESHIRE ANCESTOR.

## **AGM AGENDA**

- 1. Apologies for absence**
- 2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2019 AGM\***
- 3. Chairman's Remarks\***
- 4. Hon. Treasurer's Report and Accounts\***
- 5. Hon Secretary's Annual Report\***
- 6. Amendment to Part 6 Section F of the Constitution**

Part 6, Section F of the Constitution states: *No officer may serve on the Committee in the same capacity and office for more than five consecutive terms.*

The *Officers of the Committee* listed in the Constitution are Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer. A *term* is one year.

Because of the difficulties being experienced in finding replacements for officers after the completion of the fifth consecutive year, the Executive Committee proposes the amendment of Part 6, Section F of the Constitution to read:

*Normally no officer may serve on the Committee in the same capacity and office for more than five consecutive terms but in exceptional circumstances (e.g. when no member volunteers to undertake that role), and with the agreement of the members present at the AGM, the term of office can be extended further on a yearly basis.*

## **7. Elections**

Election of Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary.

Both Alan Bennett, Chairman, and David Smetham, Hon. Treasurer, have expressed their willingness to stand for re-election.

Howard Martin's fifth consecutive term as Hon. Secretary ends at this AGM, and nominations are therefore sought for the role of Hon. Secretary. In the absence of any nominations he has expressed his willingness to stand if the amendment to the Constitution (Item 6 on the Agenda) has been agreed.

## **8. Appointment of Independent Examiner**

## **9. Proposals**

Under its Constitution the Family History Society of Cheshire invites proposals from its members. The Constitution states that the membership present at the AGM has the opportunity:

*To decide by simple majority upon any resolution which may be duly submitted to the meeting for consideration. No resolution, other than those relating to the adoption of reports and accounts, shall be moved at the Annual General Meeting unless a notice in writing, signed by the members who proposes to move it and stating its terms has been received by the Hon Secretary at least forty-two days before the date appointed for the holding of such Annual General Meeting.*

*The Chairman of the meeting shall, at his or her discretion, and with the consent of the majority of the members present and voting, have the power to admit resolutions of which notice has not been given, if such resolution shall not involve any alterations of the Constitution. Such resolution shall be decided upon by a simple majority of members present and voting.*

## **10. Any other business relevant to the AGM.**

**\*NOTE - the minutes of the 2019 AGM and reports for the 2020 AGM will be available in *Documents* on the website prior to the AGM.**

## Hon. Secretary's Report to the 2020 AGM

*by Howard Martin*

The Society's 50th anniversary year has been especially challenging. The year began last July with the excitement of the Golden Anniversary, reflected by a change of colour to gold of the website masthead and the cover of **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**. It seems such a long time ago! An essay competition with the theme of "golden moments" launched the celebrations. This was won by Sue Johnson whose winning entry appeared in the March **ANCESTOR**, and other successful entries are also appearing in **ANCESTOR**. The AGM became the focus of the Society's anniversary events. It was a full day meeting held at the Lion Salt Works in October. Members who attended enjoyed talks on local history and a celebratory cream tea before settling down to the business of an AGM that was better attended than many over the years. Commemorative pens were mailed to every member and were well received. The Society owes a great debt of gratitude to David Smetham, our treasurer, who organised and co-ordinated all these arrangements and ensured their success.

Then, in March, coronavirus struck. Local group meetings were cancelled, the research centres at Mobberley and Crewe closed their doors and the helpdesks were suspended. The Society went online; fortunately, Margaret Roberts had responded to an appeal for a social media organiser. She took up the role and had no time to ease herself in - she had to hit the ground running. Within weeks she had revolutionised the Society's online presence. If you have not already followed the society on Facebook or Twitter, I recommend that you click on the link from the website or in the **ANCESTOR**. It is full of news, updates and interesting features. Gay Oliver has performed the same service on the website and has circulated an excellent fortnightly Lockdown Newsletter (number 7 as I write) to all members for whom we have a valid email address. If you have email I would encourage you to let us use it to keep you updated. The Society owes both Margaret and Gay a huge debt of gratitude for the way in which they have ensured that members are kept informed and in contact.

By the time you read this, your executive committee will have held two online meetings using Zoom, and the computer group has also met online. Meetings have to be managed in a different way but Zoom is being actively investigated by the Executive Committee as a means of taking us out of lockdown if restrictions still apply in the autumn, hence the format of this year's AGM.

Our thanks must also go to Rosie Rowley, our editor, and her proofreader Suzie Woodward. They have valiantly produced **ANCESTOR** despite the new restraints. **ANCESTOR** has kept us informed, entertained and instructed. Geoff Johnson's



*Net that Serf* is always informative and it must have given food for thought to members with extra time to spend on family research.

June and July are the subscription renewal months in the society's annual cycle. The indications are that members are renewing as expected. We continue to welcome new members but the executive committee is very conscious of the need to provide an offer that will retain members as well as attracting those beginning their family history journey. Thanks to Alan Bennett and Gay Oliver the website has continued to develop and the online shop is being stocked with new material from the society's resources on a regular basis. David Smetham, Peter Davenport and Joan Irving are key members of the group organising and managing the digitisation of resources. It is hoped that some of this material will be placed on the *FindMyPast* platform. The working group set up to review future developments, to enable the society to move forward whilst enhancing its work in meeting the objectives of its charitable status, has been restricted by the impact of the coronavirus.

Our research centres had to close their doors in March. At the moment there is no indication when they could re-open safely for volunteers and visitors. Margaret Spate at Crewe, Alan Jones and Joan Irving at Mobberley, together with their respective teams of volunteers, are eagerly waiting for the time when they can unlock those doors and welcome members and other researchers. The executive committee has agreed to investigate and apply for FamilySearch Affiliate Library status for our research centres. This would enable members and visitors to access resources not generally available online, and could increase visitor numbers at both research centres, whilst providing an opportunity to encourage new members.

This year has been difficult for our local groups and their leaders. Their carefully crafted programmes came to an abrupt halt in March and group leaders have had to find other ways to keep in contact with members using the website and newsletters. Group leaders met online in July to co-ordinate a restart, but all will depend on the removal of current restrictions and the practicalities of meeting in the various venues used. Meanwhile our thirteen local groups and the computer group are beginning to plan in the hope that it will be possible to begin again in the autumn, if not as a traditional meeting then in some form of online linkup. The society's Middlesex Group has now joined with other north-west societies to form a more viable London group of north-west family history societies.

On the wider stage David Guyton has kept us well informed on the progress of the joint Cheshire local authorities' bid for Heritage Lottery funding for the

proposed re-location of the Cheshire Record Office. The society's collaboration has been actively sought and welcomed. David Smetham continues to represent the society at the North-West Group of Family History Societies meetings and he recently hosted a chat desk at the online Family History Show.

The committee's thanks go out to all those volunteers who keep the society functioning, from the chairman to all those who volunteer on local helpdesks. The society could not exist without them – the group leaders and group committee members, the research centre managers and volunteers, and many more. The society, however, like many in the voluntary sector, faces a crisis. None of us is getting any younger and the committee would welcome new blood in any role that the society offers. All volunteers from the membership will be given training and advice for the role they wish to undertake. New volunteers at the research centres will always be welcome and are needed to keep them open. Group leaders need assistants and helpers. Volunteers to take on crucial roles have been sought for the last two years. Rosie Rowley, editor of the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR, would welcome a volunteer to take over that role after an agreed induction period. Peter Mellor and others involved in the membership team have expressed their intention to resign in the near future. Volunteers would be supported and guided through an induction period. The Secretary's five-year term of office comes to an end at this AGM unless the amendment to the constitution proposed by the executive committee is carried. There is a great opportunity now for members to volunteer to participate in the future development and progress of the Family History Society of Cheshire. Please contact the chairman or the secretary if you are interested any of these roles or require further information.

Your society faces the future with confidence and we look forward to welcoming you again to meetings and the research centres.

### *Traditional Recipes*

Would you like to try some food that your ancestors might have eaten? Ever wondered how to make marrow jam? What about Cheshire onion pie (an open pie, rather like an onion quiche)? Or Chester tart (a shortcrust base filled with thin layer of jam-like custard made from egg, ground almonds, sugar and butter, topped with meringue)?

The Foods of England website at [www.foodsofengland.co.uk](http://www.foodsofengland.co.uk) has a collection of over 3,000 traditional recipes from all over England. If you can't think what to have for dinner tonight, click on *Random* and see what the site suggests!

## Family History Events

For news of family history events, see these online calendars

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

### **CANCELLED - Stretford Family and Local History Fair**

Saturday 12th September 2020

St Matthew's Parish Church, Chapel Lane, Stretford, Manchester M32 8HF

### **The Family History Show Online**

10.00am - 4.30pm, Saturday 26th September 2020

Another online show has been arranged, featuring:

'Ask the Experts panel', virtual exhibitor stalls with exclusive discounts, talks (available for 24 hours) and a panel Q&A session with our experts.

The FHSC will be represented at this event.

Tickets £6 in advance, £8 on the day.

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

### **CANCELLED - Huddersfield & District FHS Fair**

Saturday 7th November 2020

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

### **NEW - The FHF Really Useful Family History Show**

Saturday 14th November 2020

An online event, announced by the FHF (Family History Federation) just as we were going to press.

See the website for information and to book your place.

UK "attendees" who book early will receive a real goody bag by post.

[www.fhf-reallyuseful.com](http://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com)

### **Manchester & Lancs FHS Family History Fair**

10.00am - 4.00pm Saturday 27th March 2021

Manchester Central Library, St Peter's Square, Manchester, M2 5PD

Save the date - more details to follow.

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

## 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.**

### Census News

It has been announced that the 1921 census, taken on 19th June 1921, will be published online by *Findmypast* in January 2022. In addition to the questions asked in 1911, the 1921 census also asked householders to reveal their employer's name, place of employment, the industry they worked in and the materials they worked with. Questions were also asked about education, marital status, including if divorced, while those under 15 were asked if their parents were alive or if either or both had died.

See [www.findmypast.co.uk/1921-census](http://www.findmypast.co.uk/1921-census)

Scotland has announced that next year's census is to be postponed to 2022 because coronavirus is hampering preparations. If the rest of the UK does not follow suit this could lead to some people being recorded twice, e.g. at home in England in 2021, and again on holiday in Scotland in 2022.

### Archives Opening

At the time of writing, archives are starting to reopen, but under very different conditions than before. Visits must be pre-booked, and documents to be viewed must be pre-ordered. Opening hours have been reduced to allow more time for cleaning surfaces and archive materials. Some archives require you to wear a mask. If you are considering a visit to an archive, please check their website to ensure you can meet their requirements.

The National Archives (21st July)

[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/news/coronavirus-update/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/news/coronavirus-update/)

The British Library (22nd July)

[www.bl.uk/visit/reading-rooms](http://www.bl.uk/visit/reading-rooms)

Cheshire Archives (28th July)

[www.cheshirearchives.org.uk/home.aspx](http://www.cheshirearchives.org.uk/home.aspx)

Wirral Archives was still closed at the time of writing.

## **Cheshire Archives - Life in Lockdown: Your Stories Shared**

*[www.cheshirearchives.org.uk/latest-news-and-events/Life-in-Lockdown-your-stories-shared.aspx](http://www.cheshirearchives.org.uk/latest-news-and-events/Life-in-Lockdown-your-stories-shared.aspx)*

Cheshire Archives has launched a project to collect images of Cheshire during the Covid-19 pandemic. These might be images of people, places and events illustrating everyday life in lockdown: socially distanced queues outside shops, a house decorated with rainbows, empty high streets, home schooling and working from home, telling the stories of our local communities during this time. Can you contribute to this collection, creating a visual time capsule of everyday life? One hundred images will also be chosen to go on the historic photograph website, Cheshire Image Bank. If you would like to share your images, please go to the website at the top.

If you have video, please contact the North West Film Archive (NWFA) at [www.nwfa.mmu.ac.uk/lockdown.htm](http://www.nwfa.mmu.ac.uk/lockdown.htm)

## **Cheshire Archives - Things to do**

*[www.cheshirearchives.org.uk/Keep-Curious.aspx](http://www.cheshirearchives.org.uk/Keep-Curious.aspx)*

On their website, Cheshire Archives has a page full of learning activities and puzzles for adults and children, including:

- Horrible Handwriting - an introduction to palaeography
- Jigsaw puzzles
- A Family History Detective Adventure to help children start researching their family history
- Colouring sheets from the pages of *The Herball or Generall Historie of Plantes* by John Gerard, who was born in Nantwich in 1545.

## **County Archives' Blogs**

Cheshire Archives (also known as Cheshire Record Office) has a blog featuring some interesting discoveries from the records in the archives. For example, did you know that the origin of the term *a peppercorn rent* is literally that - a charge of one peppercorn in rent. See this, and other examples of unusual rental payment requests, on the Cheshire Archives blog at <http://cheshirero.blogspot.com/2020/06/rose-by-any-other-name-can-be.html>

Manchester Archives has a blog at <https://manchesterarchiveplus.wordpress.com/Search> to see if the archives for your ancestors' home town has a blog!

## Ancestry

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

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

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

### **England & Scotland, Select Cemetery Registers, 1800-2016**

[www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/9041/](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/9041/)

Burial registers from select cemeteries in England and Scotland, including selected registers for the following areas (full details at the bottom of the web page): England: West Sussex, Hampshire, Oxfordshire, Norfolk, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Kent, Staffordshire

Scotland: Dumfriesshire, Kincardineshire, Kirkcudbrightshire, Wigtownshire

### **Former British Colonial Dependencies, Slave Registers, 1813-1834**

[www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/1129/](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/1129/)

In 1807 The Abolition of Slave Trade Act came into force, making the trade in slaves from Africa to the British colonies illegal. Following this act, many of the British Colonies began keeping registers of black slaves who had been "lawfully enslaved". In 1819 the Office for the Registry of Colonial Slaves was established in London to keep copies of these registers. The registers continue through to 1834 when slavery was officially abolished.

### **Midlands, England, Electoral Registers, 1832-1965**

[www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/2584/](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/2584/)

Voters lists – including electoral registers, burgess rolls, poll books, and absent voters lists – for Birmingham and some of north Warwickshire.

### **Scotland, Ireland and Wales, Militia Attestation Papers, 1800-1915**

[www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/61643/](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/61643/)

Until 1881, the Militia was a part-time force, organised by county and called upon for home defence. After that date, it was officially part of the county regiments until reorganisation into the national Territorial Army in 1908. This collection comprises attestation papers for recruits from 1800-1915.

### **Ireland, various records.**

Petty Session Court Registers, 1818-1919

[www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/61938/](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/61938/)

Dog Licence Registers, 1810-1926 [www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/61940/](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/61940/)

Prison Registers, 1790-1924 [www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/61943/](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/61943/)

Encumbered Estates, 1850-1885 [www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/61939/](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/61939/)

## Find My Past (FMP)

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

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

### **Faces of the Fallen, 1939-1945**

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/faces-of-the-fallen-1939-1945>

This unique collection of fallen service personnel from World War II includes over 1,000 photographs of those who lost their lives during the conflict. Originally printed in the *War Illustrated* magazine, the photos date from 1939 to 1945 and cover all branches of Britain's armed forces.

### **UK Electoral Registers & Companies House Directors 2002-2020**

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/uk-electoral-registers-and-companies-house-directors-2002-2020>

A further 1.5 million records have been added with this latest update.

### **World War II Allies Collection**

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/world-war-2-allies-collection>

The collection contains over 15 million records for British and American personnel, including service records, draft registrations, enlistment records and prisoners of war, as well as casualty lists, cemetery indexes, and rolls of honour for those who served during the Second World War. For example: Army Lists, British Army casualty lists, civilian casualties in Britain, Durham Home Guard, Prisoners of War, Royal Air Force combat reports, Royal Air Force operations books, Royal Artillery enlistments, Royal Tank Corps enlistments, US Servicemen in North Devon, US National Veterans Cemetery Index, US WWII Prisoners of War, US WWII Army Enlistment Records.

### **New Cheshire Newspapers**

*Alderley & Wilmslow Advertiser* covering 1874-1896 and 1898-1924

*Nantwich Chronicle* covering most of 1945-54, 1976 and 1978

### **FindMyPast App for Mobile Devices**

[www.findmypast.co.uk/blog/getting-started/findmypast-app](http://www.findmypast.co.uk/blog/getting-started/findmypast-app)

The FMP app has been updated and can now be used to search for records, as well as updating your FMP family tree. The app is free, but of course you need to have a subscription to view the records - just use your usual login and password details for your laptop or computer account.

## The Genealogist

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

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

### New Worcestershire Parish Records

Over 85,500 individuals have been added to the Worcestershire Parish Records, in association with Malvern Family History Society.

### New Headstone Records

Nearly 53,000 records have been added to the International Headstone Collection, covering 71 new cemeteries from Buckinghamshire, Cheshire, Conwy, Denbighshire, Devon, Dorset, Essex, Flintshire, Gloucestershire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Lancashire, Merionethshire, Merseyside, Oxfordshire, Somerset, Warwickshire, West Midlands, Wiltshire and Worcestershire. This collection includes photos and transcriptions of headstones.

### Tithe Maps added to Map Explorer™

Georeferenced black and white tithe maps for Berkshire, Cambridgeshire, Leicestershire and Oxfordshire have been added. Map Explorer™ allows researchers to trace property from Victorian times to the modern era. Over 3,300 tithe maps are now available in Map Explorer.

## Visually-Impaired Genealogists Group

<https://groups.io/g/Visually-Impaired-Genealogists>

This group has been set up to help those who have a visual impairment, as a replacement for the *Blind-Genealogists* mailing list of RootsWeb which was discontinued on 2nd March 2020. In addition to helping sight-impaired members of the group with their genealogical queries, there are members who are willing to assist with issues relating to screen reading software and other accessibility matters.

## University of Edinburgh CoronaGenes DNA Project

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/coronagenes>

The University of Edinburgh is asking family historians to submit their DNA test results to try to discover why some patients are more severely affected by coronavirus than others. Those without DNA test results can also participate by agreeing to provide a saliva or blood sample to the University. All participants are asked to answer a symptoms survey.

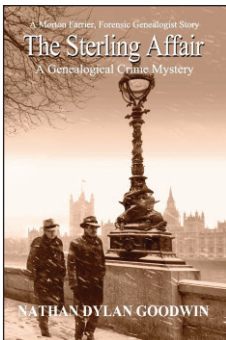


## Book Review

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.

### ***The Sterling Affair - A Morton Farrier Forensic Genealogist Story*** **By Nathan Dylan Goodwin**

Reviewed by Babs Johnson



This eighth novel in the Morton Farrier series, which can be read as a stand-alone novel, really tests his research skills. Just as we think the mystery is solved, the story takes an unexpected twist, as Morton through his painstaking and thorough research uncovers fresh evidence.

Whilst working on a contract to discover who has been impersonating his client's long-deceased brother, he discovers some disturbing evidence relating to his own family background.

These two avenues of research run concurrently through the book, as Morton demonstrates his attention to detail. He leaves no stone unturned while following up hunches with many lines of evidence until he is satisfied that all facts are correct.

The story takes us through the Second World War, the Cold War and the Suez Crisis, examining government secrets and espionage.

In my opinion, this was the best of his novels I have read so far.

Independently published, 2020. Paperback, 392 pages, £10.49. Kindle, £4.99. ISBN: 978-1696700252

Visit Nathan's website to see some of the research and locations used in the story, or to buy a signed copy: [www.nathandylangoodwin.com/the-sterling-affair](http://www.nathandylangoodwin.com/the-sterling-affair)

## Letters to the Editor

### VE DAY MEMORIES

When the war in Europe ended, my father was learning to fly in Canada and his girlfriend - my mother - was at university in Glasgow. My father kept a photographic diary of his training and on the page headed VE DAY 8th May he wrote:

*While the rest of the world rejoiced, we were grounded by the snowstorm and were pretty miserable at the combination of 'no flying' and loneliness. We thought of the folks at home out all night singing and dancing. We went to bed for there was nothing much else to do.*

He had just progressed to advanced single-engine trainers (Harvards) with the expectation of moving on to the twin-engine De Havilland Mosquito and the continuing war against Japan.

I asked my mother, who is still going strong at 93, what her experience was. She said:

*Living outside the city, the celebrations were much more modest than those you see in the cine footage of London. There was a sense of great relief, almost disbelief, that those years had come to an end, that the servicemen would be coming home in due course and bloodshed in the European war theatre, at least, would stop. The flags were out all around the Toledo cinema in Muirhead (Glasgow), where we had a victory dance - the upper storey being a dance hall. At a personal level, I knew that Angus would not be coming home then, and there was still the Japanese conflict. He did enjoy Canada, even talked about going there after the war, but he had to concede eventual relief that they were spared the Japanese conflict.*

*Amidst all the celebrations we were aware of local people whose husbands would never come back, including my mother's friend whose husband a naval captain, went down with the Jervis Bey (sunk in 1940). She never had closure and sometimes thought she heard him come in. I was at university and before long we were flooded with ex-service students and had large classes.*

**Alistair MacLeod**  
**Membership no. 8805**

## YES, I READ CHESHIRE ANCESTOR!

I do not live in Cheshire and I have always requested a printed copy of the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR... When I have finished reading my copy of CHESHIRE ANCESTOR, I leave it in the Archives section of my local library for others to refer to. It has so many web links, book reviews and adverts for family history events, as well as well-written articles to inspire those who may want to write a narrative of their own history. I hope that people who read the journal may be encouraged to join the society, and appreciate that there is still a place for books and paper-based information. Not everyone feels comfortable, or has access to, a computer screen for their research.

I am grateful that the journals are now online too, as it means I can give away my paper copy, knowing I can always find an electronic version through my membership.

**Sue Fryer**  
**Membership no. 7079**

## FROM ONE EDITOR TO ANOTHER

I wanted you to know that your wonderful and newsworthy journal is being read and enjoyed on the other side of the world in Caloundra, Queensland, Australia.

As we are in isolation because of the Covid-19 virus, I welcomed your journal today and have spent some time searching the suggested websites in your *Net that Surf* section. Well done to Geoff Johnson and others who contribute the educational ideas. My head was spinning as I read about the process of mind mapping - and I thought I was an organised person!

Genealogy is keeping my mind active but not my body so I should get moving and enjoy the sunshine and beach where I live.

**Sue Brownjohn**  
**Editor of *Caloundra Clipper***  
<https://caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au/>  
[www.visitsunshinecoast.com/What-to-do/Places-to-see/Caloundra](http://www.visitsunshinecoast.com/What-to-do/Places-to-see/Caloundra)

*Ed.:* *Caloundra Clipper* is one of the many exchange journals which are on the FHSC website. Log in, click on Research, then choose Read Exchange Journals.

## LOCKDOWN NEWSLETTER POSTCARD CHALLENGES

Readers of the lockdown newsletter postcard challenge are invited to claim the postcard if they have a family connection to the sender or recipient.

**The postcard challenge in Newsletter 6** was a photograph of Queen's Park, Crewe, sent (postmark date illegible) to Miss Laura Beard, 37 Catherine St, Macclesfield, with the message *Dear Laura, On the way to Tal-y-Bont again, will write later, Love from Harold xxx.*

### **Richard Renold wrote:**

Sorry, have no connection, but the following research - gleaned from the ½d. George V stamp, FreeBMD, 1939 Register, probate calendars and GRO Index - seems to fit. All events took place in Macclesfield unless otherwise stated, and, of course, should be properly verified using certificates and other documents.

Laura BEARD (born 3 July 1888, died 13 December 1973). Her parents were John James BEARD and his wife Barbara Ann SIMCOCK who married Q1 1885.

Laura was married Q3 1919 to Harold Marshall COOPER (born 1 February 1888 in Chorlton Registration District, died 22 February 1956 at West Park General Hospital, Macclesfield). The couple do not appear to have had any children. Harold (electrical contractor) and Laura (silk section warper) were at 19 Brook Street, Macclesfield on 29 September 1939 (1939 Register), which was also their residence at the times of their deaths; they both left probated wills.

Laura later remarried Q1 1969 to Norman CHADWICK.

*Ed.:* During WWI, Harold served in the RASC with service number M2/019214. His discharge papers show that he enlisted in November 1914 and was drafted to France the following month.

**The postcard challenge in Newsletter 9** was a photograph of Artist's Lane, Alderley sent on 25 August 1904 to Mr Sam Holt, 1 Sandfield St, off Turpin Green Lane, Leyland, with the message *Dear Aunty, There is no toffy shops here. what must i do with my money. Edith.*

### **Mike Green wrote:**

Samuel Holt (26) was living at 1 Sandfield Street, Leyland in 1901. His wife was Louisa (27), and presumably she is Edith's aunt. Source: 1901 census, *The Genealogist*.

*Ed.:* I'd love to know if Edith found anything to spend her money on!

## WHERE'S THAT? THE PEOVERS

Just a follow up to the article by Gren Dix in the June issue. There are in fact seven Peovers! Over Peover, Peover Superior and Peover Heath, Lower Peover, Peover Inferior, Higher Peover and Nether Peover.

We live in Peover Heath, but this is not recognised by computers, so we have 'migrated' to Over Peover. Curiously, I have never met anyone who lives in Peover Inferior!

**Anthony Dobell**

**Membership no. 8558**

## GENEALOGICAL ODDITY - MARRIAGE AGES

The article by Gren Dix on page five of the last issue of **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR** (June 2020, Volume 50, Issue 4) mentioned Spencer NICHOLL, 52, who married Kezia SELLER, 21 - an age difference of 31 years. Gren asked if anyone had found any greater age differences in their research.

### Reply 1: Age Difference of 61 Years

This is not related to my family history research, but I had noted the following in the *Over Parish Magazine* for 1905 - even then, there must have been an interest in history as each month includes excerpts from the parish records of the 1700s. In the February, 1905 edition:

*Noted in Marriages 1778*

*Peter Proudlove of this Parish of Over, Salt Officer and a Widower, aged 76, and Martha Baker of this Parish of Over, Spinster, aged 15 were married in this Church by licence this thirty-first Day of January in the Year One Thousand seven hundred and seventy-eight, by me, John Broadbent Minister.*

Other entries rarely recorded the ages of the participants, but in this case the minister obviously thought it worthy of note. I have not checked the actual parish records, simply copying the information from the 1905 parish magazine.

**J A Newell**

**Membership no. 4311**

*Ed.: I have checked the parish register for Over and the entry is exactly as stated above. Interestingly, both Peter and young Martha signed their names.*

## Reply 2: Age Difference of 35 or 43 Years

In March 1769 my husband's 4x great-grandparents were married at Wybunbury. Thomas GALLEY of Shavington, widower, aged 60 or 68 - different records show he was born in Cheshire in 1701 or 1709 - married Elizabeth ASHLEY of Bretherton, aged 25. I have found online a copy of a document to say he paid £100 to the Bishop of Chester, presumably to allow him to marry again.\* They already had a child born in January 1768, before their marriage, and another child was born five months after their marriage.

If any members think they might be related, please get in touch.

**Lin Galley**  
**Membership no. 10081**  
**loo29@btinternet.com**

*\*Ed.: As the marriage was by licence, the document mentioning £100 paid to the Bishop of Chester probably refers to the marriage licence. See [www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Marriage\\_Allegations,\\_Bonds\\_and\\_Licences\\_in\\_England\\_and\\_Wales](http://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Marriage_Allegations,_Bonds_and_Licences_in_England_and_Wales)*

## Reply 3: Age Difference of 46 Years

My 2x great-grandfather Daniel PERCIVAL was aged 68 when he married Sarah JEFFES, age 22, on 16th February 1860 at Rostherne; however, there is a note at the bottom of the certificate that *this marriage is null and void because Sarah is the niece of his deceased wife - see certificates in Parish Chest 2nd September 1860.*

I have confirmed Sarah JEFFE's birth in the September quarter 1837 in the Altrincham District but have not yet found her baptism, although I can trace most of her siblings. Her father Nathaniel JEFFES was a farmer in High Legh.

Daniel PERCIVAL was baptised 6th November 1790 in Great Budworth Parish Church. He was widowed twice and had twelve adult children between the ages of 27 and 50 at the time of this marriage, but he and Sarah went on to have nine more children - only one died in infancy, the rest went on to lead full family lives. Daniel died of senile decay at the age of 93 on 22nd January 1884.

I am sure quite a lot of people in this area of Cheshire can trace links back to him, he had about ninety grandchildren and many more great-grandchildren!

**Midge Broadhurst**  
**Membership no. 2218**  
**midgebroad@aol.com**

## Help Wanted

### COWAP, VALE ROYAL

I am researching my branch of the COWAP family in Cheshire, in particular I would like any help from other researchers who may have been looking into families who worked for Lord Delamere at Vale Royal, the seat of the CHOLMONDELEY family in Whitegate, Cheshire.

My 3x great-grandfather Thomas COWAP was born in Whitegate in 1795. By 1841 Thomas was described as a male servant; in 1851 he was a retired coachman and in 1861 a groom. In 1875, Thomas, aged seventy-nine, died in Whitegate, Cheshire and up to his death he was still listed as a groom.

I have tried researching at the Cheshire Record Office and online but cannot find any employment ledgers or rent books for Vale Royal at these times which actually name him. Has anyone found members of their family employed at Vale Royal and if so, where did they find this information?

Sue Higginbotham (nee Cowap)  
Membership no. 10168  
suehigginbotham@yahoo.co.uk

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However long or short, be sure it is correct!

Contact me to discuss your project.

**Suzie Woodward**

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# GRO Registration Districts

by David Williams

Your ancestor died in a village somewhere, but when you look at possible records you don't recognise the registration district name? Or maybe you think the record should be found in one county, but the only details you can find are in an adjacent county? Perhaps there is a place name on a census record that isn't written clearly enough to read?

This website may help you: [www.ukbmd.org.uk/reg/districts/index.html](http://www.ukbmd.org.uk/reg/districts/index.html)

It lists the name of each registration district for England and Wales that existed at any time since the start of civil registration in 1837, and gives the details of which civil parishes were included within it – and when.

People born in South Manchester may well have had their birth registered in *Chorlton*, or in *Barton upon Irwell* if a little further west. Many records for the Birmingham area can be found in *Aston* or *Kings Norton*; before the advent of civil registration, Aston was the main town in the area. Birmingham grew very rapidly rather earlier than Manchester and the other cotton towns of the north-west of England.

Also, don't forget that births and deaths were (and still are) registered in the district where the event happened, which may not be where someone spent the rest of their life. For example, Manchester Royal Infirmary was in *Chorlton* district until 1925. Remember also that the dates in the GRO indexes for births and deaths are the dates that the events were registered, and not when they took place. Babies were frequently registered in the quarter after they were born; new parents have plenty of other things to do! This can cause some confusion when an ancestor was born in late November or December and registered in the first quarter of the following year.

The boundaries of registration districts changed from time to time, usually reflecting shifts in population densities. So a family might have children whose births were registered in different districts even if they never moved house.

Registration districts were not always restricted by county boundaries (which also may have changed over time). For example, *Tavistock* in Devon was a



registration district that included Calstock in Cornwall, and *Easingwold* district in Yorkshire included Crayke in County Durham.

Some registration districts have names that refer to a larger area, e.g. *Surrey South Eastern*, rather than the name of a town or city. *Kerrier* covered the southern tip of Cornwall – it's the name of one of the ancient Hundreds. Other districts are named after ecclesiastical parishes and don't include the name of a town. For example, *St Thomas* was in Devon, *St Luke* was in Holborn, London and *St Faith* was in Norfolk. Some important towns and cities did not have registration districts named after them – or at least not all the time. For example the *Chester* district was called *Great Boughton* until 1870, while *Altrincham* became *Bucklow* in 1898.

There are three registration districts with Newcastle in the name: *Newcastle upon Tyne* (sometimes shown as *Newcastle T*), *Newcastle under Lyme* (in the Potteries) and *Newcastle in Emlyn*, which included places in Cardigan, Carmarthen and Pembrokeshire. There are two each of *Wellington* and *Whitchurch*, and two places called *Newport* as well as *Newport Pagnell*. So take care not to be misled by the name.

If you know the name of a place, but don't know which registration district it was in, you might find the answer by looking at GENUKI ([www.genuki.org.uk](http://www.genuki.org.uk)). This is run by a network of volunteers and the quality and quantity of information varies considerably between different counties; you may find an oasis or a desert! If the latter, and it's an area you are familiar with, why not volunteer to help?

### *How Facebook Works*

Found online:

*For those who cannot comprehend why Facebook exists and how it works, I am trying to make friends in real life while applying the same principles.*

*Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom. I give them photos of my family, my dog and of me gardening, repairing things, cooking, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch, and doing what anybody and everybody does every day. I also listen to their conversations, give them a "thumbs up" and tell them I "like" them.*

*It works just like Facebook; I already have four people following me - two police officers, a private investigator and a psychiatrist!*

## Where There's a Will...

by Mike Hodgkinson  
Membership no. 7929

I agree with the statements made in David WILLIAMS' article on probate records in the June 2020 issue of *CHESHIRE ANCESTOR*. We all have brick walls in our family history research. Some are due to a surname disappearing from the local records for a variety of reasons; others occur when almost everyone with a particular surname seems to be using Christian names such as John or Mary, and there are a few where we believe that if only we could find that elusive baptismal record, the wall would be demolished.

Sometimes a will can supply the answer and to those who say *but none of my ancestors was rich enough to leave a will*, I would say this: none of my ancestors was rich but several left wills. They can be a valuable source of information about spouses - even probate records usually name a surviving spouse - children and siblings as well as providing fascinating insights into social history. I have examples of all of these below.

My 3x great-grandfather Thomas HODGKINSON and his siblings were born in different villages on the Derbyshire/Staffordshire border. Thomas was left five pounds by his spinster sister Hannah Flint HODGKINSON, who was living as a servant in a household about thirty miles away. She described her brother as *a farm labourer of Mappleton*, which is a hamlet in Derbyshire. This fitted his latest census record, so I knew it was Thomas my ancestor, and Hannah's unusual middle name of FLINT confirmed the maiden name of their mother, allowing me to push back my research another generation with confidence.

A different problem was resolved by another will. I have an ancestor called Elizabeth DEAVILLE who lived in Leek, Staffordshire between 1770 and 1843. I have a DNA match with her grandchildren, the probate record of her father John DEAVILLE (1736-1781), and the will of her grandfather William DEAVILL, a yeoman farmer of Felty Sitch, Leek, who died in 1776 and named all his living children in his will. Unfortunately, I was unable to find William DEAVILL's baptismal record, although there are good records for Leek at this time. Most published family trees on *Ancestry* showed the baptismal record of the nearest William DEAVILL in a village about 30 miles away; but I was unconvinced. Another brick wall! But this, too, was demolished by a will.

*FindMyPast* had listed a 1739 will of a John DEVELL of Leek but there was no original will accompanying it. I thought that the will must have been too fragile to digitise. During the lockdown, I decided to email *FindMyPast*, who suggested that I contact Staffordshire Record Office. The duty archivist very efficiently responded to my email query on the same day as follows: *You will probably have found that some of the indexing on FindMyPast is not very accurate. I did locate this will but it is indexed in error as DEVOTT. I hope that helps you to locate it.*

I easily found it, and the original John DEAVILLE (1736-1781) probate record which had been indexed as DEAWALL. To find the latter I omitted the name and submitted only the year and the town into the computer search. This gives several names but as you know roughly what the spelling of your elusive surname is, it is usually simple to see which is the one you want and so it was in this case.

John DEVELL's 1739 will said that he was leaving his leasehold estate of Felty Sitch to *William DEVELL ats. COPE who now lives with me*. I wasn't familiar with the abbreviation *ats* (*Ed.: the abbreviation ats is probably als meaning alias.*) I wondered why he left all his estate to a young man who did not seem to have any connection with him but all was soon revealed. John DEVELL also left twenty shillings to his maidservant Sara COPE. The probate lawyer accepted that William DEVELL was John's natural and lawful son and sole executor. I then found a William COPE with a mother Sara COPE who had been baptised in Leek and we can draw the obvious conclusion.

I have now traced this line back by three more generations to John DEVELL who died in 1628, as the next three male ancestors and one widow left wills naming their surviving children and spouses. Many more Cheshire records have been digitised by *FindMyPast*. The lesson is that the absence of an original accompanying listed will does not necessarily mean that the original digitised will is unavailable online; and that *where there's a will, there's a way*.

Finally, wills provide a fascinating insight into social history. Many of my ancestors were yeoman farmers or husbandmen. Their wills identify the land they occupy as leasehold to aristocracy or gentlemen. When I have identified the location of the land, I am surprised that the land they lease is often in different villages. I suspect that some of these leaseholds may have been inherited or given as a dowry in marriage. The wills are often accompanied by a list of goods and chattels. This identifies the number and type of animal they owned, husbandry equipment, the quantity of hay or grain in store or in the field, good and bad debts and household goods. All these items have values attached to them.

One ancestor left his estate to his son with a proviso that the young man allows his mother to continue to reside for her lifetime in the house and in the room she occupies now. So far, so usual, but the will goes on to state that if the mother chooses at any time to leave the family home the son must provide her with an allowance sufficient to enable her to maintain her own establishment. Was my ancestor aware that mother and son did not get on? Or was it a case of a mother-in-law feuding with the son's wife? Or perhaps a kindly husband guarding against this kind of problem in the future? A touching insight into a family about two hundred years ago.

In summary: I have found wills to be not only a useful tool for the family history researcher but also fascinating and sometimes touching social documents.

## *Marriage Changes*

### **The Civil Partnerships, Marriages and Deaths (Registration etc) Act 2019.**

As well as providing for opposite-sex couples to be able to enter into civil partnerships, the act will allow for mother's names to be included in marriage registers as well as or in place of father's names. It also makes provision for significant changes in the way that marriages are registered, envisioning a move from the current paper-based system of registration to a central electronic register.

Couples getting married in church (in England and Wales) will no longer be given a marriage certificate during the ceremony. The proposal is that a married couple will be given a document, signed in a similar way to the marriage register, confirming that the church marriage has taken place, and they will have to present this within seven days to a civil registration office where a computerised registration of the marriage will be carried out.

However, there are a number of problems with introducing the new system, partly administrative, but also the realisation that many couples go away for a honeymoon after the wedding - attending an appointment with a civil registrar is not part of a traditional honeymoon! The couple can ask someone to lodge the marriage document on their behalf, but it is the couple's responsibility to ensure that it is done.

Of course, this will be of more interest to future genealogists than to current researchers. For more information, see:

*[www.facultyoffice.org.uk/clergy/news-clergy/changes-to-marriage-registration/](http://www.facultyoffice.org.uk/clergy/news-clergy/changes-to-marriage-registration/)*

**With thanks to Dave Williams.**

## Lord Raglan's Balloon

by Sue Taylor  
Membership no. 9979

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

James DONE, dairy farmer, would not be of the slightest interest to the makers of programmes such as *Who do you think you are?* People who lived long, quiet and productive lives do not make good television!

So how do you bring to life people like my 4x great-uncle? He was a successful tenant farmer in the mid-nineteenth century, making a living for a large family on 180 acres of prime dairying estate at Lower Hall Farm, Aston juxta Mondrum, in the parish of Acton near Nantwich. This was where some of the best Cheshire cheese was made. His status was such that his marriage to Ann BROOKBANK on Christmas Eve 1834 and his death on 29 October 1876 were briefly mentioned in the local newspapers.

In 1832, the *Representation of the People Act* widened the property qualifications in the counties, extending the franchise to small landowners, tenant farmers and shopkeepers. James DONE, as *Occupier as a tenant of house and lands at a rent exceeding £50 per annum*, could now vote and the electoral registers from 1834 onwards reflect this. This tells me he was now officially middle class.

In February 1838, John TOLLEMACHE, a principal tithe-owner (recipient of the tithe) for Aston juxta Mondrum, inserted a notice in the *Chester Chronicle* summoning the landowners and other tithe-owners within the township to a meeting at James DONE's farm on 3rd March. This was all about using the *Act for the Commutation of Tithes* to find a lasting settlement to the vexing question of the tithe. James and his wife Ann had a young family, two daughters aged two and one. Their cows would be in calf or calving and in need of the utmost care. Now John TOLLEMACHE, the owner of 28,000 acres of land in Cheshire, would be arriving in his carriage for the meeting.

Troublesome though that day may have been for James DONE, what a gift to family historians this problem was. The solution involved mapping, over the course of a few years, all titheable lands, specifying acreage, land usage and details of ownership and occupancy. I can see from the maps that one of James'

fields was severed in 1840 by the construction of the Chester to Crewe railway. His sister Catherine and her husband suffered even more disruption on their adjoining farm. What a topic of conversation the “iron horses” must have been!

I looked for James DONE’s footprints in the obvious place – the reports of the Cheshire Agricultural Society, host to The Cheshire Show. His name does not appear. Year after year my other ancestors scooped prizes for their cheeses. These included cheeses not made on the Sabbath, much favoured by pious landlords who did not themselves have the problem of keeping milk cool until the Monday!

Why could I not find James in those reports? There is a clue; his son William left the family farm at the age of eight and went to live on his uncle’s farm in neighbouring Poole, where he stayed for sixty years. For many of these years he worked on both farms, only returning to live at the family farm at Worleston when the farm at Poole was sold. This was long after his father and mother had died, and William, still a bachelor, was now near the end of his life also. He helped his unmarried sister Elizabeth with the family farm until his death in January 1916.

Reporting on his well-attended funeral, the *Nantwich Guardian* was full of respect: *His farm was always noted for the good dairy of cheese it produced. Mr Done never sought honours at dairy shows, but his cheese always commanded a price which placed him in the front rank of makers.* Perhaps the writer was thinking of the example set by William’s father, James, when he added: *Mr Done belonged to that thoroughgoing, painstaking type of agriculturalist who farm well and without ostentation.*

Interestingly, James’ servants did receive their due at the Cheshire Show. At the 1864 Cheshire Show, held at Nantwich that year, Mary JONES was awarded a prize for her service as housemaid to James DONE and his wife Ann. It says something about James that he took the trouble to nominate her for this and I hope the *pelting and drizzling rain* did not spoil it for Mary!

Good farm servants were worth their weight in gold to tenant farmers like James DONE. They were like members of the family; they lived in and ate at the table. One day in 1841 James heard the news, probably from his brother Thomas, that his waggoner, John JOYNSON, a young man of just twenty, had been killed in an accident. He was bringing ground bones from the mill at Winsford for James to use as fertilizer. James was thirty-one at the time and had a growing family of two daughters and two sons all under the age of seven, the younger son just a few months old. He also had his seventy-year-old father

living with him. On his shoulders he bore the responsibility for 180 acres of land within the Dorfold estate. The *Chester Chronicle* ran the story:

*The deceased was waggoner to Mr James Done, and had been on the day of his death to Winsford, to fetch a load of crushed bones, in the company with a servant of Mr Thomas Done, who had also been there for a similar purpose. On returning the waggon driven by Joynson was the last of the two and shortly before reaching home he was missed by Beech, who immediately turned back to look for him, and found him lying dead across a rut on the road side, the wheel of the waggon having passed over his back. James must have been devastated.*

James DONE's landlord was the widow Julia TOMKINSON, in whom the Dorfold Hall estate (in the parish of Acton near Nantwich) was vested. Her daughter Anne, heiress to Dorfold Hall, was married to Wilbraham Spencer TOLLEMACHE, a distinguished soldier of the Napoleonic wars and a Justice of the Peace. He was the younger brother of the Conservative member of parliament for Cheshire South, John TOLLEMACHE, the most prominent landowner and estate manager in Cheshire and the ego and money behind the building of Peckforton Castle in the 1840s. Built in fully authentic thirteenth century style it came complete with arrow slit windows, moat and portcullis. Raised high on a hilltop it was poised to ward off the marauding masses of Beeston - a vanity project if ever there was one!

There is no doubt that both John TOLLEMACHE of Peckforton, and Wilbraham Spencer TOLLEMACHE of Dorfold Hall were excellent landlords. The £60,000 John TOLLEMACHE spent on his castle was small compared to the £148,000 he spent on farmhouses, and the same on cottages. Wilbraham Spencer TOLLEMACHE was at the forefront in the campaign for the vaccination of herds against cattle plague in the 1860s. This may be one reason why I could not find any reports of losses on James DONE's farm.

In the early years at Lower Hall Farm when their children were very young, James and Ann needed a workforce to help raise and feed their herd and run the dairy. Ann would have learned the art of cheesemaking from her mother on the neighbouring farm at Poole where she grew up. But they needed a cowman or two and a dairymaid. Milking by hand was exhausting work. They also needed a carter and a housemaid. As their sons and their daughters grew older they became the workforce and there was less need for hired help. Some of the children stayed at the home farm throughout their lives.

Of his four sons, Thomas, William, James and John, only John broke away and obtained a farm of his own. He brought up a family on farms in Thornton le

Moors in Cheshire and later in Lancashire. The other sons all dedicated their lives to the home farm and died there. Of the five daughters - Frances, Emma, Eleanor, Ann and Elizabeth - only two married.

Frances married a local farmer's boy, Thomas BASFORD, from Wistaston. Thomas learned the trade of an ironmonger as an apprentice in Nantwich and it was not long before they were drawn to nearby Crewe. There was plenty of work for ironmongers in the huge locomotive works that had consumed the former village of Monks Coppenhall. Sadly Frances died in childbirth at the age of thirty-seven, having already suffered the loss of her two-year-old son Charles. Three other children survived into adulthood.

Emma married Thomas KNIGHT, a grocer in Welsh Row, Nantwich. His brown bread was so good that in 1882 the Board of Guardians for Nantwich workhouse found no need to supply the inmates with white bread! Their only child, a daughter named Frances, died at the age of five.

Eleanor, Ann and Elizabeth all remained spinsters and worked on the home farm or, in Eleanor's case, assisted in the dairies and the houses of nearby relations. Ann sadly died one Sunday morning in November 1877 in the porch of her local church, St Oswald's Church at Worleston. Aged just thirty-four, she was accompanied by her brother William. *She had only been seated a few minutes when she was seized with illness, and was obliged to be carried into the porch, where she expired almost immediately,* reported the *Chester Observer*. Medical assistance was sought from Nantwich but she died before Dr LAPAGE arrived. Her death certificate cites heart disease as the cause. Elizabeth lived a long life. In her will she specified that a memorial window was to be created in the parish church at Worleston. It is still there today, calling to memory her parents James and Ann.

In James' later years, cheesemakers were under threat from foreign competition. Premium cheeses were spurned in favour of cheaper early ripening varieties that could satisfy the expanding urban populations. Factory cheese was the future because it produced a uniform product in controlled conditions. Many farms were given over entirely to milk production to supply places like Stockport and Crewe. But cheese from James' locality was of such high quality that it continued to be prized and sold in London. Established skills of cheesemaking honed in farm dairies could be coupled with science and a formal full-time education in dairy practices. This was the ethos of the Worleston Dairy Institute, formed in 1886 at Aston Hall Farm, close to where James lived. It was a progression from the clubs and agricultural societies of the 1850s and the precursor to the College of Agriculture at Reaseheath.



I had learned something about the forces and alliances that shaped James' daily life; but one item in the newspaper archive caught my eye and James just walked out of the pages! At midday on 25 November 1854 James DONE was out in his fields, when *a balloon, 18 inches in diameter, filled with hydrogen gas by the Rev JR Thompson's pupils, Collegiate School, Victoria Park, Manchester, and sent up at half past on Saturday last, alighted about noon the same day at Nantwich, a distance of 30 miles from the place of ascent. It was picked up at Aston juxta Mondrum by Mr James Done, who forthwith communicated the fact to the principal of the school, and the young gentlemen were not a little delighted at the prospect of having their "Lord Raglan Balloon" returned after its first adventure.* Now James DONE was no longer just out in his fields - he was part of the wider world. Intrigued, I tried to find out more.

In Victoria Park, fashionable suburb of Manchester, a science lesson had been taking place for the sons of the business and professional classes. Here they were safely removed from the smog and squalor generated by the cotton mills. Executed by a group of Manchester's business and political leaders and opened 5 August 1837, the 140-acre development of Victoria Park boasted tree-lined streets and Gothic style homes with towers, battlements, buttresses, pointed windows, mullions and porches. Many of the founders of Victoria Park had been active members of the Anti-Corn Law League and had opposed the right of aristocratic landowners to profit from a tariff that kept grain prices high. This did not stop them from adopting many of the privileges that the aristocracy had enjoyed. They created a secluded landscaped parkland accessible only through a gatehouse, with not a whiff of the elements that choked the millworkers and their children.

The hydrogen-filled *Lord Raglan Balloon* had been released at 11.30 am that morning. It was exactly a month - to the hour - since the disastrous charge of the Light Brigade had left much of the British Light Cavalry dead or dying, sabres on the ground, in front of the Russian guns at Balaklava. On that day it had been reported in the Cheshire newspapers that Lord Raglan, the Commander of the British army, had been elevated by Queen Victoria to the rank of Field Marshall.

James DONE complied with the request in the note attached to the balloon; he informed the principal of the school of its finding and returned it to him. I wonder how he went about this? Did he drive his trap four miles into the market town of Nantwich and leave it at the Post Office? There was a small rural railway station in the neighbouring township of Worleston, just a short trot along the lane from his homestead. Did the stationmaster accept letters and small parcels? Or did he take the package to Manchester himself? It was 1854

and the world was shrinking, thanks to the railways. He could have caught a train at nearby Worleston station at 8.20 in the morning and reached Crewe station ten minutes later. At 8.45am, a train would depart from Crewe and take him to Manchester, arriving at 10.10am. A horse-drawn omnibus could take him from the railway station to the gates of Victoria Park.

I love this little story of James and the *Lord Raglan Balloon*. It fixes him in time and space - a quiet and dutiful man in a country at war and in a new world of mechanisation, science and mass communication.

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### *Always Look at the Original!*

Here is an example (spotted on Twitter) from the 1851 census, showing why it's always a good idea to look at the original image, if there is one.

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation	Birth place
Mary Ann	Turner	Wife	Married	Female	28	1823	Tempstress	Mansfield, Middlesex

According to the *FindMyPast* transcription, Mary Ann Turner was born in **Mansfield**, Middlesex, and her occupation was **Tempstress!**

It would have been a great talking point to have an ancestor with that occupation, but the original image reveals that she was born in **Moorfields** and her occupation was actually **Sempstress**, an old word for Seamstress.

## Surname Search Tips

by Dave Williams

All the old civil records were handwritten, including the original GRO lists. Of course, many records still are handwritten – like church marriage registers, for example. So it's not only how words **sound** that affects how they are **written**, but also how they are **written** that affects how they may be **read** - and someone had to **read** an original document in order to index or transcribe it. Even though we now may have Optical Character Recognition (OCR) on computers, it doesn't work with handwritten records, and isn't very good at reading old-fashioned print; it doesn't like serifs. Until a few years ago almost all printing was done using a serif typeface (usually called a *font* on computers) like Times New Roman or Courier New. A sans-serif font is much easier to read, even for human beings.

Many of the transcription problems are with handwritten vowels. For example, *e* and *i* can look very similar, and the dot that should be over the *i* may be missing or offset or may actually be just a mark on the page. It can be difficult to differentiate between *o* and *a* in cursive script, and also between *u* and *v*. The bar on a *t* may be missing, making it look like an *l*, and the practice of writing a double *s* as *fs* continued for a surprisingly long time. The letter *r* used to be written in rather a strange way, and not always consistently. It is often the letters at the end of a word that are scribbled more rapidly, as if the writer thinks that the ending doesn't matter so much. One of the most affected group of names is BROOK/BROOKE/BROOKS/BROOKES/BROOKER etc. Is that a letter after the *k*? Or two letters? Or just a decorative squiggle on the *k*? Maybe it is spelled incorrectly, anyway?

Upper case letters can also be difficult, particularly due to the way people were taught to write *T* and *F*, *I* and *J*, and sometimes also *G*. A capital *Q* was often written like a 2. *H* and *M* can also give problems, and a curly *E* can look like a *C*.

When records began to be typewritten, this was an improvement but didn't end all the problems, particularly when mis-spellings had to be corrected either manually or by overtyping. Even in the computer age, the quality of some dot-matrix printed records is not very good.

Search engines that look for variant spellings usually pay principal attention to the consonants, so may well find names with mis-spelled vowels. But they are much less good at finding names with one or more consonants mis-spelled. In the example in my article *Name Variants*, printed on page 35 of the last issue of **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**, Issachar and Hezekiah may **sound** a bit similar, but they don't start with the same letter when **written**, and the first letter is usually the most critical element in defining a Soundex code, for example.

John KELL and Margaret ENGLISH had seven children between 1897 and 1910. Five of them appear with the name KELL in the GRO lists. The other two are respectively KILL and KEEL. Both are understandable mis-transcriptions of handwriting. The GRO website search engine found these variants when searching for KELL.

Margaret's mother was Grace EARLE or EARL. Both spellings appear in different records. However, I was surprised to find that the GRO website does **not** consider that EARL and EARLE are either *phonetically similar* or *similar sounding*. It was necessary to search for each of the spellings in turn in order to find birth records for all of Grace's children. Incidentally, EARL was transcribed as CARL on one of the census records I found!

So if you can't find a record online, you may need to do a bit of lateral thinking and search for something a little different.

One possibility is to browse through the register, i.e. go through it page-by-page, as if you were looking through a physical book. For example, if you find a baptism record for one child of a family in an online scan of a register, you may be able to browse through the register scans to find other children's baptisms in the same register. But this isn't practical if you are on pay-per-view, nor in the case of a busy church such as Manchester Cathedral, where there were 5,000 baptisms a year in the 1860s and 1870s.

You can also browse through census records, or carry out a search by address instead of by name, to look at the address where a family was living on the previous or following census, or on a birth certificate, baptism register, etc.

Census enumerators usually used ditto marks to avoid repeating a family surname, so if the name was wrongly entered for the head of the family, other family members were similarly afflicted. But if a family listing ran over onto a second page, the surname would be written again on the first entry of that page. So sometimes you may search for and find a record for one of the younger children of a family, even if the head of the family cannot be found.

## Then and Now: Well Lane, Little Budworth

by Geoff Johnson

My wife collects local postcards. About twelve years ago she purchased this early 1900s one at an antiques fair. Whilst it is faintly over-printed *LITTLE BUDWORTH*, she didn't recognise the location at first, but as soon as I saw it, I realised that it is a photo of Well Lane, where we live!

The card is clearly postmarked *1pm Dec 3 1906*; the stamp cost one half-penny. It is addressed to Mrs M Busby, Billington, Stafford, with the message, *Dear Minnie, perhaps you know this little view on the other side. Just spending a few days round here. Kind remembrance to all. It is signed Fran R Clark and dated 3/12/06. Written up the side of the card are the words Stop it "Jackson"!* The only explanation I can think of is that there were Jacksons living at Park Farm, Little Budworth, in 1911. One can only wonder at what the words meant!

*Ed.:* perhaps Jackson was the name of the family dog? It sounds like the sort of thing you would say to a dog!

In the early 1900s the lane was not named, and it continued to be unnamed for many years. However, in the 1939 Register the thatched cottages are called Well Cottages, occupied by a roadman and a boot repairer. Well Farm House is named, as is Lower Farm.

Pictured in the postcard is Well Farm House - the property with two chimneys - which still exists, as does the sparse-looking yew tree in the distance, and the sandstone walling. Lower Farm House is out of shot, just around the corner to the right. Sadly, the thatched cottages went in the 1960s and were superseded by three new properties, including one which is still called Well Cottage. The little gate in the foreground on the right of the postcard leads to Yew Tree Farmhouse. You may be able to see a goose standing in front of the yew tree, beside the end of the long wall. The goose probably went that Christmas!

The 'now' photo is my best attempt at a reproduction of the postcard view. The heavy tree and hedge growth don't help at all! The yew tree, now much sturdier, is above and to the left of the small, pale, yellow-leafed acer tree at the end. Our house, along with four others, was built in the 1970s beyond and to the left of the yew tree. The steps in the foreground on the right lead to the former Yew Tree Farmhouse, now called Yew Tree Cottage.



Well Lane was historically a cattle road serving several dairy farms. In today's environment the only time I see cattle in the lane is when there's an escapee! Today, Lower Farm is still a productive dairy farm.

On the easterly and slightly lower side of Little Budworth the soil is very sandy. At no great depth water can readily be found - there would have been plenty of wells around in those days. The very end of Well Lane comes to a geological change, where the land all levels out on to the Cheshire Plain. From that point onward the land quickly progresses to clay.

The original postcard is not that clear, but I reckon that the road surface today, over one hundred years later, is not much better now than it was then!



For an extended version of this article, complete with the back of the post card, and more present day images go to:

<https://www.fhsc.org.uk/new-cheshire-ancestor/family-histories/2292-well-lane-then-and-now>

On Website >Cheshire Ancestor >Family History Stories >Then and Now

# Thomas Humphries, Crewe Station Master (Part 1)

by Roger King  
randaking@talktalk.net

## *A Famous Crewe Station Master*<sup>1</sup>

This was the headline in the *Crewe Chronicle*, dated 21st December 1912, reporting the death of my mother's maternal grandfather, Thomas HUMPHRIES, who was stationmaster at Crewe from 1875 to 1898.

Thomas was born in Fenny Stratford in Buckinghamshire (now within Milton Keynes) in November 1838. He came from *military stock* - his father, also Thomas, was born in 1790 and had a distinguished military career, including service in the Duke of Wellington's Peninsular Campaign against Napoleon's army; on leaving the army he was a Chelsea Out Pensioner. Thomas' mother, Dorcas COCHRAN, was born in Ireland in 1800, the daughter of a sergeant-major in the Lancers.

*From the beginning, the railway companies recruited extensively from the army ..... and created a uniformed service. Soldiers...were...used to dressing smartly.*<sup>2</sup> Thomas HUMPHRIES, senior, joined the London & Birmingham Railway in 1838 as a policeman, initially at Denbigh Hall, near Bletchley (also within Milton Keynes). He died at Swanbourne, near Bletchley in 1864, the occupation stated on his death certificate being *Station Master*.

## **Early Career**

Thomas HUMPHRIES, junior, entered railway service in June 1855 at the age of sixteen as a booking clerk and office porter at Aylesbury. After four years he moved to Market Harborough where he was booking clerk and ticket collector. Whilst there he married Catherine PRATT in September 1859, with whom he was to have fifteen children, seven of whom pre-deceased him. He was next promoted in 1862 to inspector at Blisworth, Northamptonshire, before moving two years later, at the age of 25, to his first stationmaster's post at Buckingham. Evidently, rapid promotion was not unusual at the time: *...when expansion of the railways was at its fastest, there was the opportunity of rapid progress through the ranks for a junior clerk who could expect to run a small station after a few years.*<sup>3</sup>

His obituary of December 1912 states, *There can be no doubt that his ability and merits were of exceptional character and impressed the board of directors of that day strongly in his favour, for he was promoted time after time... he was given charge of the*



*important position of station master at Leighton (the station name changed to Leighton Buzzard in 1911). In 1871 he was again promoted, this time to the stationmastership of Bletchley, one of the most important main line stations on the railway. There he spent four years. But his star was still in the ascendant". Undoubtedly his ascendancy was greatly enhanced by the London and North Western Railway (LNWR) selecting him whilst stationmaster at Bletchley to give evidence before a Royal Commission on Railway Accidents.*

### **Royal Commission on Railway Accidents**

After the standardisation of railway time in 1847, the railway companies became increasingly concerned with timekeeping and this concern with speed and time led to a high accident rate - between 1872 and 1875 an average of over 1300 passengers and railwaymen had been killed each year. The Royal Commission was appointed in 1874 under the chairmanship of the 3rd Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, who had been Chairman of the LNWR from 1853 to 1861. The Commission's report was not published until 1877.

Thomas HUMPHRIES appeared before the Commission in January 1875 and he apparently endured the ordeal of over four hours of cross-examination, answering 404 questions! At the close he was warmly congratulated by the then LNWR Chairman, Mr. (later Sir) Richard Moon, for the way he had given his evidence - and his potential noted and rewarded not long afterwards, perhaps?

The principal theme of the cross-examination was signalling operations with a series of extremely detailed questions into the system in use, staffing levels, individual duties and rosters, supervision and operational management. Considerable emphasis was placed on both passenger and freight movements on and across the main line (with branch lines to both Oxford and Cambridge), through, in and on the approaches to the station, including shunting. The handling of late-running trains was also probed in some depth.

### **And so to Crewe**

*Crewe is the railway town par excellence<sup>4</sup>*, says more about its creation by the LNWR when it moved its locomotive works there from Edge Hill, near Liverpool, in 1842. However, in railway operational terms, from the first station built in 1837, it had by 1858 become the junction for the six lines which still radiate from the station today.

From its very beginning the LNWR had been growing at a great rate. An industrious, capable railwayman could not escape observation in those days and Thomas HUMPHRIES' promotions culminated in his appointment in May 1875 at the age of 36 to the position of stationmaster at Crewe, on a commencing

salary of £225. An undated photograph, reprinted in the *Crewe Chronicle* in April 1973, shows him resplendent in his uniform of top hat and morning coat, complete with buttonhole flower. Later records show that on 1st January 1878 his salary was £275p.a. and on 1st January 1881 it was £300p.a. He retired on 31st May 1898 on the grounds of ill-health, receiving a £100 gratuity and a pension from the superannuation fund.

On the subject of the top hat, the following appeared in the *Crewe Chronicle* in 1949: *The days of top hats worn by Station Masters on a number of leading railway stations in the country are numbered. They are to be replaced by bowlers. The "top hat charter" was introduced at Crewe in the 80's of the last century, and it is stated that the late Mr. Thomas Humphries, station master at Crewe .... rarely missed a day without wearing his headgear. "Tommy" Humphries and his top hat were synonymous. Many interesting stories – some amusing, others somewhat embarrassing – are told of some of these top hat men of the railway. The writer remembers the late Mr. Humphries superintending the disembarking of a coffin from the Scotch express at Crewe, and as he was walking away one of the mourners, obviously believing him to be the undertaker, pressed half a gold sovereign in his hand, with the remark it had been a perfect journey and he only wished his poor brother could have expressed his personal thanks.*

From out of nowhere in 1837 Crewe had grown, by the 1860s, to become the great hub in the LNWR network in the north-west. In 1867 the first station was replaced by a completely new station but by 1873, just two years before Thomas HUMPHRIES' arrival, it had become a notorious bottleneck. Despite further rebuilding in the late 1870s and early 1880s, the overall situation continued to deteriorate; by 1893 it was obvious to the LNWR Board that yet another major remodelling of the station was necessary. The company set up a committee in 1894 to investigate the problems and devise solutions. Plans were prepared in 1895 and authorised by the Board the following year. The works started before Thomas HUMPHRIES retired in 1898, but were not completed until 1906. It seems entirely reasonable to surmise that he would have been consulted on the plans and probably made material contributions to them.

To be continued.

#### Bibliography

1. The *(Crewe) Chronicle*, Saturday, December 21, 1912 - obituary.
2. Christian Wolmar - *Fire & Steam* (page 153), Atlantic Books 2007.
3. Christian Wolmar - *ibid.* (page 153).
4. The Buildings of England CHESHIRE - Nikolaus Pevsner (page 186).

Unless otherwise stated all quotations are from the *Crewe Chronicle*.

## Sarah Elizabeth Owen

by Chester Guttridge  
Membership no. 9193

My great-aunt Elizabeth OWEN (née WILLIAMSON) had four daughters and five sons; Sarah Elizabeth was her eldest child. She was born in 1857 in Patricroft, Lancashire (as it then was), two years and eight months after her mother's wedding; an unusually long time after marriage for a first child to be born in Victorian England. Patricroft was some thirty miles from the family home at Rowton, near Chester. Although neither her birth away from the family home nor the unusual delay necessarily have significance, there were other unusual features of her life which, although not individually significant, together suggest that perhaps all was not well.

Sarah's mother was only seventeen years and two months old when she married George OWEN. George spent his childhood in Sellar Street, near the canal in Chester and not far from the *White Swan* in Milton Street, where Elizabeth lived with her parents, George and Rebecca WILLIAMSON, my great-grandparents. The couple may have known one another as children, or Elizabeth may have met George by serving him with bread and cheese, a pie and a pint of ale at the *White Swan* - who knows?

Baby Sarah was baptised on 27 June 1858 at St John the Baptist's Church, Chester, where her parents had been baptised and later married. I know little of Sarah's childhood but have no reason to suppose she lived anywhere other than with her parents at Rowton, where her father farmed a small acreage. By the 1871 census Sarah, then thirteen years old, had two sisters and four brothers, although on the night of the census she was with her grandparents, George and Rebecca at the *Nag's Head*, Bridge Trafford, where George was brewer and licensee. With Sarah was her ten-year-old cousin, Robert BENTLEY, son of her aunt Ann and her first husband, Thomas BENTLEY, who died in prison (see *Great Aunt Ann's Story*, CHESHIRE ANCESTOR, Volume 46, Issue 3, March 2016).

Sarah Elizabeth OWEN entered domestic service, the only member of the extended family to do so. How or when this came about is unknown. Perhaps her parents arranged it to get her away from the family. Perhaps she had become a headstrong young lady, determined to leave the family at all costs. In the 1881 census she was aged twenty-three and living some thirty miles from home, serving the DORRINGTON family as a laundress at Bonis Hall, Butley,

near Macclesfield, along with a butler, a cook and two housemaids. Thirty-one-year-old James Thomas DORRINGTON was a cotton merchant, a working aristocrat. His wife came from Charleston, South Carolina, which suggests that the couple had met when James was buying cotton in the States.

Sarah would have been low in the pecking order of the DORRINGTON downstairs team, laundress being one of the lowliest of servant jobs, along with that of the scullery maid. In such a small team she was probably called on to help with other tasks. She was in the power of others, her life at best tolerable, at worst tyrannized. Although the work was, doubtless, hard, the hours long, the pay little, she is likely to have been well fed and clothed according to her position. Her arms may have been red and her hands sore with immersion in hot water but she had the comfort of belonging to a team.

As a daughter of a reasonably comfortably-off Cheshire family, I think it unlikely that she was put into service by her parents. Although domestic service at the time was a respectable career for a girl, I find it hard to imagine that she entered it other than in necessity. That she sought such employment suggests to me that she was either not wanted at home or chose not to live there. Live-in domestic service provided her with a home and security - unless she misbehaved, argued, stole the employer's property or, worst of all, became pregnant. Other than by disgraced dismissal, the only realistic escape routes from servitude were to return home or to marry. Sarah married.

Sarah's opportunities to meet men would have been limited. At the age of twenty-five she found her man, John BROADHURST, a coachman (domestic), probably an employee of the DORRINGTONs. They were married on 18 September 1882, the ceremony taking place in the parish church at nearby Prestbury, where her first child would later be baptised. One wonders if any of her family made the long journey to see her marry a man they may have thought beneath her. Anyway, if present, none served as a witness.

Coachmanship was not the worst of estate jobs, but had its uncomfortable times, sitting high on the master's coach in the wind, rain, snow or under scorching sun. From his perch, John would be able to see over the horses' heads to the road beyond and so guide his team round the worst of the ruts and potholes, thus making the journey a little less bumpy that it might have been.

Sarah's first child, Ellen, was born at Prestbury in 1884; her second, Frank, at Millington near Manchester; her third, Ada, and fourth, John, at Mold; her fifth, William, at Dukinfield, near Ashton-under-Lyne; her sixth, Doris, at Styal, near Wilmslow, Cheshire, and her last, Bert, in 1902 in a Manchester suburb.

During those restless years, the family was recorded in the censuses living at Ashton upon Mersey in 1891; Styal in 1901 and at 6, St Michael's Terrace, Macclesfield in 1911. Apart from Mold, where Ada and John were born, the places are within a radius of ten miles or so of south Manchester. Domestic coachmanship was a dying profession during the later years of the nineteenth century. The coaching classes were becoming less wealthy and having to cut back on expenses, some selling their estates. Others bought motor cars. Husband John may have struggled to find employment at times. He finally gave it up and became a coal dealer, along with his sons, Frank and John, sometime in the early 1900s. The couple's third son, William Charles, was a motor driver in 1911, a sign of things to come.

William died of pneumonia in a Gibraltar hospital on 25 June 1918, an early victim of what became known as Spanish Flu. He was a respected chief motor mechanic in the Royal Volunteer Naval Reserve. His sister Ada served in France as a cook with the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, brother Frank was a sergeant with the Army Veterinary Corps in France and brother John was in Salonica with the Army Service Corps. Sarah's children did their bit for their country in the war.

At the 1911 census, Sarah's widowed mother, Elizabeth OWEN, was with her and her coal dealer husband. With them also were Sarah's three grown-up sons, eleven-year-old Doris and eight-year-old Bert. Whatever difficulties there may have been between mother and daughter over the years, seemingly some affection for one another survived and Elizabeth accepted her eldest daughter's hospitality. She died on 17 August 1914, aged 73 years. Her remains lie in Macclesfield's Municipal Cemetery, later to be joined by her daughter, who died on 9 August 1920, aged 63 years, and her son-in-law, who died on 3 May 1923.

John and Sarah had stayed together and supported their children to the best of their ability, neither in riches, nor in poverty, but hopefully, with sufficient resources to permit reasonable health and contentment. Although perhaps never hungry, I doubt whether the family enjoyed many of life's luxuries.

I am grateful to the Editor, Rosie Rowley, for drawing my attention to the BROADHURST family grave in Macclesfield Cemetery.



## Newspapers Solve a Death Mystery

by Joan Jeffrey  
Membership no. 9193

It often takes us some time - in fact years - to solve some of the problems and mysteries we have with our family history. This had been the case for me with my 2x great-grandmother Delia HALLIDAY (née BOTTOMLEY) who lived in Chester. Delia is on the 1891 census but by the 1901 census her husband George had remarried. Many years later I found the grave for George and Delia, giving Delia's date of death. The only death I could find for a Delia HALLIDAY of the right date was registered in Warrington, the death having taken place at the *Legh Arms* in Newton-in-Makerfield and being registered by the landlady.

The mystery as to why Delia died in a hotel far from home conjured up various hypotheses and lay unsolved for very many years until I recently read in the newsletter that more Cheshire newspapers had been published on *Findmypast*. Searching the newspapers has been bountiful, and I have found some good - and some not so good - items relating to my family. The mystery about Delia's death was solved by the discovery of this report from the *Crewe Chronicle*, 11 June 1892:

*Sudden Death of Chester Lady – On Saturday evening as Mrs. Halliday, wife of Mr. George Halliday, Brook Street, formerly a lay clerk at the Cathedral, was returning from a visit to her daughter at Bolton, she had occasion to change at Kenyon Junction and hurried up the steps to catch the Chester train, she was taken suddenly ill in the train. Some people in the carriage not considering it safe for Mrs. Halliday to travel further at Newton-le-Willows removed her from the carriage to the Station Hotel where she died in about five minutes. Mr Halliday was telegraphed for, but of course life was extinct some hours before he could arrive. The remains were interred on Tuesday at Chester Cemetery. Much sympathy is expressed for Mr. Halliday in his sad bereavement.*

I have always known that my 2x great-grandfather George HALLIDAY was a lay clerk at the Chester Cathedral. George was born in Elland, near Halifax, but this was only one of his many occupations which include: card machine maker (woollen industry), professor of music, piano tuner, fishmonger, fruiterer, director of music, conductor. I have found many newspaper reports about concerts he gave in Cheshire and surrounding areas.

# Married Twice?

by Gren Dix  
Membership no. 4174

On a number of occasions, I have found people who have been baptised more than once. In one case the child was baptised twice, ten years apart. In another case the child was baptised on successive days at two different churches.

I can understand why, in some cases, people get married to the same person twice (I exclude Richard Burton). They may be of different religions and marry in a church of each faith, or perhaps also have a civil ceremony. A soldier may remarry his wife after gaining formal permission to marry from the Army.

In the following example I can see no reason for the second marriage. Can anyone suggest a reason? Incidentally, their first child was born in Quarter 3, 1918. There was only one GRO marriage entry and that was for the 'second marriage' in Quarter 4, 1917. Both records (below) are from Ancestry.

Marriage 9/12/1916 of Pollie Ault and Francis W Hainsworth at Bradford St Peter (Bradford Cathedral)

Francis Walter Hainsworth	24	B	Non-Ministerial	18 Hill-side Rd	Francis W	Dyer's Stover
Pollie Ault	21	S	M	do	Frederick H	Engineer

Marriage 23/12/1917 at Girdlington St Philip

1917. Marriage solemnized at St Philip's Church in the Parish  
of Girdlington in the County of York

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
264	December 23 1917	Francis Walter Hainsworth	26	Bachelor	Dyer	7 Hutton Street	Francis Hainsworth	Dyer
		Pollie Ault	22	Spinster	—	60 Hutton Street	Frederick Ault	Engineer

Married in the St Philip's Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England by Harry Lawton or after Banns by me, George Peasley Vicar

This Marriage was solemnized between us: Hainsworth } in the Presence of us: Frederick Ault  
Pollie Ault

**Ed.:** I suggest that the 'first marriage' is in fact an entry in a banns register, and the marriage did not take place. If you browse through both sets of images on Ancestry, you will see each year has marriages at the start and banns at the end, although the Cathedral banns are not described as such. The Girdlington banns are on image 25 for 1917.

# Net That Serf

## The Computer Section

*Compiled by Geoff Johnson*

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### From the Desktop



Big problem for this issue: I've run out of space. That's what happens if I moan about a lack of stuff - feast or famine! Several items have been put in December's draft issue.

*Family Tree Analyser* is a very powerful utility tool. It is entirely safe and does not modify the data files, instead just making a whole raft of very detailed suggestions. Corrective actions are for you to do! Analysing and fixing all the stupid problems I've made over the years is definitely rainy-day work.

The piece titled *Be Known* is very much targeted to my growing thoughts on making one's trees public, but on well-managed sites. Family Search is the only one that I have any faith in. I've started to expand on this topic in a draft, but you'll have to wait until December to read it.

I've persuaded a user to give us a view of *Legacy Family Tree*; a well-respected FH program that seems to be a rising star in the program reviews.

My piece on Wi-Fi comes from my own experience, and the numerous times I speak to members about the poor Wi-Fi performance they experience.

The Inbox contains a number of useful thoughts and titbits, as usual.



# Using Family Tree Analyzer

by Orpington member Paul Reeve

*Family Tree Analyzer* (<http://ftanalyzer.com/>) is a utility program which helps you to find errors and omissions and check the completeness of data held by any family history program. It's a free program that allows you to submit a GEDCOM file, which it then checks for errors, duplicate facts and gaps in your research. This is a very useful utility to help you understand your genealogy data better; both what is there, and - possibly more importantly - what is not!

If you do not have the program and are using Windows, you have to get it from the Microsoft app store ([www.microsoft.com/en-gb/windows/windows-10-apps](http://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/windows/windows-10-apps)). If you're like me and prefer to have desktop icons rather than going to the start menu for a program, then you almost certainly will be disappointed as there will not be an icon! To get one, press the WIN and R keys together to get the *Run* dialog; type in *shell:AppsFolder* and press *enter*; you should then be able to find the icon and drag/copy it to your desktop.

To start with, you need to tell the program where your GEDCOM file is located and import the file. It will firstly tell you if there are any errors, including unknown fact types, etc, and will calculate the number of direct ancestors, descendants, blood relations, married to them, linked or related by marriage for the root person. The wide range of tabs available are *Main Lists*, *Errors*, *Surnames*, *Locations*, *Facts*, *Census*, *Lost Cousins*, *Research Suggestions*, *Treetops* (people at the top of branches of your tree), *World Wars* (those alive in WWI or WWII) and *On This Day* (events in your tree occurring on a particular day and month).

The *Main Lists* (see right) include *Individuals* (sorted initially by individual ID), *Families*, *Sources* and *Occupations*. All the lists can be sorted by any of the columns (and there are a lot!) to suit your requirements. In most lists, double-clicking on a cell will bring up various facts on the person or family.

*Errors/Fixes* includes data errors, such as calculated biological improbabilities (e.g. birth when the father is aged under

IndividualID	Forenames	Surname	Gender	BirthDate	BirthLocation	DeathDate	DeathLocation	Occupation
* 00001	Paul Graham	Reeve	M	13 NOV 1949	Bromley, Kent, England	UNKNOWN		
00002	Marion Rosemary	Dunning	F	29 DEC 1957	Beckenham, Kent, England	UNKNOWN		
00003	John Ernest Stanley	Griffiths	M	24 JUN 1917	Thornham Heath, Surrey, England	2003	Herting District	Law Student
00004	John	Griffiths	M	1914	Beckley, Kent, England	UNKNOWN		
00005	Timothy John	Griffiths	M	30 AUG 1947	Bexhill, Sussex, England	UNKNOWN		
00006	Christopher Charles	Griffiths	M	7 FEB 1959	Bexhill, Sussex, England	UNKNOWN		
00007	James Beauford	Griffiths	M	15 APR 1951	Bexhill, Sussex, England	UNKNOWN		

thirteen, etc), unknown fact types, possible duplicate entries and a 1939 register record where the birth record is not exact. Also catered for are loose births/deaths where the range can be narrowed. *Surnames* gives the number of individuals, families and marriages per family name, while *Locations* are self-explanatory – although it does depend on how you have entered in the data.

File Reports Export Tools Maps Help

Gedcom Stats Main Lists Errors/Fixes Surnames Locations Facts

Relationship Types

Direct Ancestors     Related by Marriage     Unknown

Blood Relations     Descendants

Married to Blood or Direct     Linked through Marriages

Surname	Individuals	Families	Marriages
UNKNOWN	220	216	8
Lock	193	68	67
Way	185	79	43
Gladden	154	50	49
Reeve	139	72	66
Cabeldu	102	79	30
Gill	96	63	45

*Facts* can be selected as required, or show all of them for different relatives and, if required, for one surname. *Census* allows you to search for people missing from any particular year's census (UK, Ireland, US, Canada plus Scottish valuation rolls). *Lost Cousins*, if you use this, allows you to check and see which of your ancestors have been entered into that program. It requires your login details, so this may not be for everyone. *Research Suggestions* is the page I have used most – see below for details. The *Treetops*, *World Wars*, and *On This Day* tabs I have not used. There are a lot of options! Note that in most of these tabs, only direct ancestors, blood relations, married to blood relations/direct ancestors and descendants are shown by default; others can be included as required. I always include *related by marriage* and *linked by marriage* as well.

The *Research Suggestions* tab allows you to select any or all surnames or families, how related or linked and whether UK, Ireland, US or Canada records should be used. The result is a coloured output chart showing (in alphabetical surname order) those where census data is recorded (green) or not (red), census information with no *Lost Cousins* entry (yellow) and not alive/out of the country (grey). There is an option to exclude unknown birth date/death date from the output, which will reduce the number of entries considerably if, like

me, you have a lot of these. The default settings are shown below. The census report also includes birth and death information if available.

### Selecting census or BMD reports:

File Reports Export Tools Maps Help

Gedcom Stats Main Lists Errors/Fixes Surnames Locations Facts Census Lost Cousins Research Suggestions Treetops World Wars On This Day

Relationship Types

Direct Ancestors  Related by Marriage  Unknown

Blood Relations  Descendants

Married to Blood or Direct  Linked through Marriages

Surname

Family Filter

Census Suggestions Reports

Ignore individuals with no birth date  Ignore individuals with no death date

### Part of colour census report output:

Ind. ID	Forename	Surname	Relation	Relation To Root	1841 Cens	1851 Cens	1861 Cens	1871 Cens	1881 Cens	1891 Cens	1901 Cens	1911 Cens	1939 Nat of Regis	Birth Date	Birth Location	Death Date	Death Location
I0453	Emma M	A	Linked by M...											18...	Hackney, ...	U...	
I5820	Mary Ann	Abbs	Marr to Direc...											A...	Hevingha...	18...	Hevingham, Norfol...
I5305	Mary Ann	Abel	By Marriage											18...	Hevingha...	U...	
I5590	Maria So...	Adams	Linked by M...											18...	Ridgewell, ...	19...	Lowestoft, Suffolk, ...
I5564	Samuel	Adams	Linked by M...											U...		U...	

There is an option to search directly from FTA using *Ancestry*, *FindMyPast*, *FreeCEN*, *FamilySearch* and *Scotland's People*. This is done by double-clicking on a cell. The output can be saved as a csv file to *Excel* for further analysis, but this loses the colour-coding. To get round this, I have written some visual basic code in *Excel* to filter the data and put back the really necessary colour code (red). *GJ*: This will be discussed in an article in the next issue.

## Comments on Previous Issues

### Backups - A couple of happy *SyncBack* users:

#### Don Wood from Alsager writes:

I am not the genealogist in our house, that is my wife Maureen, but I am the one held responsible for anything that goes wrong or is not suitable on the PC. We had a separate hard disk backup with data compressed and thus not easy to check if the backup was working properly. So, after being instructed to read your article, I purchased a 2TB Seagate Back Plus. This was very easy to install.

I tried using *SyncBack* to set up a mirror back up but there were too many error messages to sort out for a first try. So, I decided to set up some smaller backups. **GJ:** *Best to start with small bits first, until you learn the intricacies.*

I set up a backup for the family history programme *Generation 8*, including the application and data. Nice and easy - no problems. Next backup was the file containing family history data, burial indexes, etc. Again, nice and easy, with no problems. A further three backups were set up - one for family history photographs, one for my own photography images and one for the complete *Document* folder. All were set up quite easily.

The backups were not compressed, and as a result their reliability could easily be checked. Indeed, the data could be used direct from the backup. Thanks again for your article - I now have some bonus points on my 'husband performance card'!

#### **Bramhall member Rodney Inglesfield:**

I have read your article on backing up in the June issue and am trying the *SyncBack* program that you suggested. I use *Family Historian* which I think you also use. I have been using the inbuilt backup feature to copy the project data to a freestanding USB disk. This was not mentioned and I wonder if it is in fact best not to include the family history data in the *Syncback* profile?

As you know, *Family Historian* prompts for a backup when you close the program, so it seems to me that it does not need automatic scheduling. Also, as FH stores the backup in a compressed form, less data storage is required.

**GJ:** *I back it up both ways, Rodney!*

#### **On the general importance of backups, Paul Reeve (Orpington) tells me:**

Further to our recent correspondence and your email about backups, I thought you might like to know that I've had to make use of mine. My main PC crashed on Sunday evening - hard disk (SSD) boot error and I think the data drive has also failed, so fairly spectacular.

I've already copied some essential files from the backup to my laptop, and ordered a new PC this morning - I've been concerned that it wasn't performing very well for a while. So, my genealogy program data is safe (on a portable drive), all my downloads from the internet are safe (on a cloud drive); I just need to reinstall the *Family Historian* program. The only thing I know I can't access at the moment (although I'm sure there will be others) is old emails - they're backed up but I need to wait until I can reinstall *Outlook* before I can read them.

## Be Known

by Gren Dix

As an aside at the December meeting of the computer group, Geoff Johnson ruminated on the outcome of his family history research. He said that others in his family did not have his passion for the subject, and wondered what would happen to his work on his demise. He further thought that at least some of it should be in the public domain. This got me thinking about my own mortality - it is post-Christmas after all - (and post-covid19 lockdown since you wrote this, Gren! - GJ). Like Geoff, my family is not particularly interested. So - an instant new year resolution - I plan to put some of my work into the public domain.

I decided to use my great-grandmother's family (both backwards and forwards in time). To this family I had added all the censuses (and their images) that I could find. I'd also incorporated 1939 register and BMD images. The file size was about 360MB. I exported a GEDCOM file from *Family Historian* (FH), which gave rise to two problems. The first is that FH asked me what type of GEDCOM I wanted - at this point a pin was useful! The other point was after I had set the process off, I had no idea where FH had put the file. It turned out that it was in the public folder within the family name project folder. The exported file size was only about 600KB - what about the images?

Using the scatter-gun approach, I thought that I would upload the tree to both *Ancestry* and *FamilySearch*. The *FamilySearch* upload was fairly straightforward, but I do not know how to amend anything. *Ancestry* was a bit of a fag. I Googled how to upload a tree. The answer, from *Ancestry*, suggested a set of menus. However, these did not exist on the site. In the end I selected *Trees* on the strapline menu and there was the *Import* option.

The file appeared to have been imported, but when I made a search of a person in the *Tree Search* option my tree was not there. In passing, I saw another tree with over 400,000 people. With both of them I fear that some data will have been lost. For example, where are the baptisms? Where are the images? I have yet to check if the tree links to census and BMD images, but at least I have made a start.

*GJ: As far as I'm aware, Gren, no family history applications have the ability to associate the images with a GEDCOM file. It would be no good trying to including images, because the import practice on a receiving program would not be able to cope with it. A GEDCOM is a GEDCOM - a very basic plain text file containing all the key data of your family history - by its very structure it cannot contain images. But all the "good stuff" is in there.*

# Family History Programs - Legacy Family Tree

by Macclesfield member - Dave Williams

Dave introduced this program in the June issue, and here are his thoughts:

I am not in a position to compare *Legacy* with other family tree software, as I haven't used any other system in the last couple of decades. I like *Legacy*, but I don't for a moment imagine that anyone would want to switch their family tree from one software program to another without a pretty good reason.

However, if anyone wants to start using family tree software for the first time, they should search online for *What's the best family tree software?* *Legacy* is generally one of the top recommendations. In particular, it is recommended for its charting and report-writing capabilities. To get an impression of what it can do, there is a free *Standard* version, which includes a sample family that you can play with. *Legacy* is now owned by *My Heritage*.

The basic family screen shows a couple - male and female - with a table of children below and the two pairs of parents above. You can now enter same-sex marriages; it does ask you if you are sure. The gender of children can be male, female or ? Sometimes you're not sure to start with - e.g. if you know only that a couple had two children - but you can change the gender later as long as the individual is not part of a couple.

You can add notes and events to individuals or couples. Events can have roles attached to them. For example, John Smith and his family appear on the census. Put all the census details as a *Census event* for John Smith, then share the event with each of the others as *Household Members*. So, the event is linked to each family member; but the information is only entered once. There are many different events already built in, along with a selection of roles, but you can add your own or edit what is there. For each event and role there is a sentence that you can customise yourself if you don't like what has already been programmed: for example, *John Smith was the [event role] at the [event] of [main person] at [desc], [place] on [date]*. This sentence will appear in standard reports with the appropriate details inserted.

A large selection of reports is available, including *Ancestors of X*, *Descendants of X*, and even *Multiple lines of descent*, which reports each line in turn, and automatically stops one line when a person has already appeared, giving reference and page numbers to show where the common line continues. You can customise the content and style of the reports and include (automatically generated) name and/or location indexes if you wish. Reports can be exported

as *pdf* files. Available charts include descendants, ancestors, male or female DNA, fan, hourglass, bowtie.

There is an international location database, which includes most places in the UK that are larger than small villages. There is an extensive search facility. You can include sources. You can include photos (and other media) and choose whether these will appear in printed reports.

The software will tell you if you enter a possible duplicate person – you can look at the details for the possible duplicates side by side and then decide to either merge them or keep them both. It will check that you have entered a valid date. It can also warn you of potential problems, e.g. event after death, parents with same surname, too large gaps between children, and more. Any or all of these checks can be turned off if you don't like them. You can even have events like *Alternative date of death*.

You can decide whether you want hints displayed from *Find my Past*, *My Heritage*, *Family Search*, *Genealogy Bank* (a USA resource), although you need a valid account to get much information from the subscription sites. You can link directly with the *FamilySearch* database, check/select/reject possible matches, and import or export details between your tree and *FamilySearch*. You can include ID references from *FamilySearch* or *Find-a-Grave* in your tree if you wish. There is a DNA recording facility, but I haven't used this.

You can merge trees together or import/export GEDCOM files, but make sure you backup all your original data first - a must, whatever software you use. There is a *Legacy* Facebook page, if you use that sort of thing, and a responsive online support facility. If you have a problem, they will try to replicate it to understand what's happening – and, if necessary, put a correction in the next software update. You can also suggest improvements. How many records can it cope with? I don't know; I've only got 9,000 people in my tree.

## **Are You Using Wi-Fi?**

by Geoff Johnson

I frequently get involved in discussions around Wi-Fi problems. I argue - why use slow, erratic Wi-Fi when your 'superfast' broadband provider gives you a router with Ethernet connectors? In a good proportion of homes, the original telephones were located in the hallway close to the front door. That decreed the incoming phone connection. Inevitably that's where the broadband router tends to get plonked. The hall/stairwell are not the most comfortable place to set up your PC, office desk and chair, and printer!

So, Wi-Fi is a strongly sold feature of the broadband router. It's less physical hassle to use than getting the incoming telephone point relocated to a good place of comfort. As a result, Wi-Fi is used as a simple way to achieve a broadband connection to a laptop, computer, or even a printer.

However, Ethernet offers a faster and more consistent connection than Wi-Fi. It involves a simple plug-in hardware cable. Wi-Fi is software-driven, needing a set-up procedure and a password. When it doesn't work, you're invariably into black-art investigations!

The most commonly-used *Cat 5e* (Category 5e) Ethernet cable, such as the yellow one generally supplied with your router, supports up to 1 Gigabits per second (Gbps) - or 1000 Megabits per second (Mbps). Cat 6 or 7 cables can be much, much faster still. Unlike a Wi-Fi connection, that speed is consistent. On an average Wi-Fi connected laptop, the speed may run up to 150 Mbps - at least 7 to 8 times slower. Not only that, the speed will vary, especially with other Wi-Fi users in the house - televisions streaming movies or BBC iPlayer programs, and children's tablets or online game consoles can become a real pain. Wi-Fi has become significantly faster over the last decade, thanks to new standards, but that will tend to be on more expensive or newer devices and routers. You need to realise that broadband suppliers' basic routers are generally *as cheap as chips!*

Both of my two domestic desktop systems connect to the internet using an Ethernet cable. You probably won't be connecting an Ethernet cable to your smartphone any time soon, but it's usually worth getting your master phone point moved to a good central location, or running Ethernet cables to important devices, as well as your PC, if you can - for example, SmartTV and media PC backup devices, and set-top boxes.

We shouldn't be too hard on Wi-Fi. It's reasonably speedy, super-convenient, and perfectly serviceable for what many of us do on our networks. It's essential if you've got mobile devices. Maybe you feel it's too difficult to run a permanent, out-of-the-way cable to the location you want? On the other hand, if you have a desktop PC or server that sits in a single place, Ethernet is by far the best option. Once you can plug the devices in with an Ethernet cable, you'll get a more consistently solid connection. You can buy a longer (up to 20 metres) Ethernet cable with RJ45 connectors quite easily, but go for the newer and faster Cat 6 or 7 types if you can.

*Ed.: This website explains the different categories of Ethernet cable: <https://planetechusa.com/demystifying-ethernet-types-difference-between-cat5e-cat-6-and-cat7/>*



**After we discussed this at Computer Club, Dave Sewell told me:**

My PC is some distance from the Wi-Fi router so I decided to install an Ethernet cable and have found it so much better than using the Wi-Fi. It was a bit of a faff installing it as I had to drill through walls and put the cable inside trunking to make it less visible, but it is well worth it. I even put the router inside a box (with ventilation) so that it could be housed more centrally, to make the domestic Wi-Fi reception as good as I possibly could, but still not be too obtrusive. It has made a big improvement and the whole house gets good reception with no drop outs. Highly recommended.

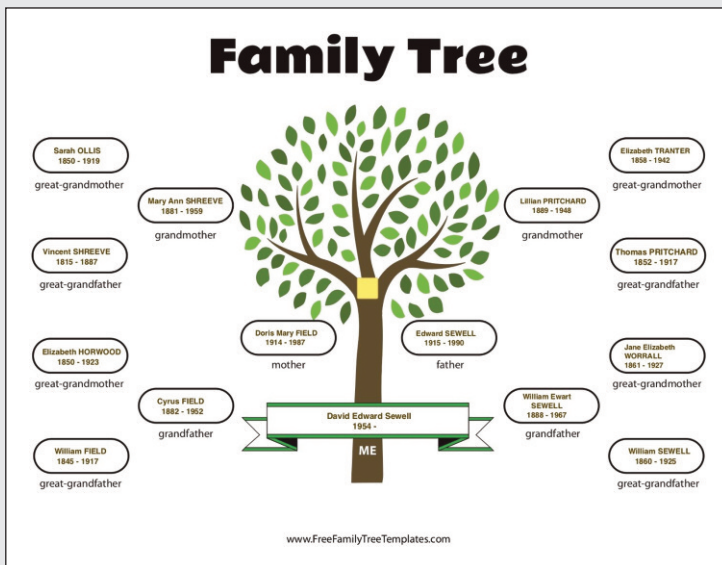
## From the Inbox

### Write a Book

Computer Club’s David Sewell wrote to me about a service that he has recently used. It’s a book creating service called Solentro - [www.solentro.co.uk](http://www.solentro.co.uk) He says:

I know that *Family Historian* has a book making facility to it which I have tried to use, but I found the one from Solentro was very good. I recently created a forty-four-page book using the service and was very pleased with the end result. I used old family photos that I had on my PC and, using drag and drop, ended up with a very professional-looking book. Three copies cost about £100 but the cost does depend on the style of book you choose. I am sure that I will use the service again. Just to give you an idea of the end result, I am attaching a copy of the front and back covers of my book, plus the family tree that I put into the book.





You can customise it totally - add your own text, add or subtract pages, use your own background and so on. The end result is a really good quality book.

## Who Do You Think You Are? Magazine Forum

Paul Reeve advised that the magazine's forum was closed down in mid-June. He said:

A group of users, including me, have got together and created a new forum which it is hoped will offer the same friendly welcome as the old one. It has just launched, and I wondered if you could mention it in your next newsletter? The web address is [www.whowhenwherenealogy.org.uk](http://www.whowhenwherenealogy.org.uk).

## Trees - the Ancestry type

Gren Dix told me that he'd put his great-grandmother's tree on *Ancestry* (and on *FamilySearch*). He said:

Today, looking at trees, I found a dozen 'hints' and 160 possible records, and 22 possible linked trees. I looked at some of the hints and they were very good. One was my great-grandfather's probate, which I had not previously looked for. Other trees linked more distant ancestors. Who knows, putting your tree on *Ancestry* may help with brick walls.

From my wife's line I looked up trees on *Ancestry* and found one with her great-great-uncle on it. This has proved most fruitful. I have had a number of conversations and found part of her tree in Australia. So, *Ancestry* isn't all bad and false links!

## **Windows 10 free upgrade – availability in question**

Computer Club's Mike Grose - who signs himself off as *Mentally Bewildered of Nantwich!* - advises:

Further to your comments in *Net That Serf* regarding the continuing free Win 7 to Win 10 upgrades (see - some of us do read it!). Some time ago, my laptop, originally on Windows 8 – later 8.1 - crashed completely. I was unable to recover the operating system, but as all the data was backed up, I had to buy a new copy of Windows 10 and do a clean install. This eventually proved successful (with a little help from Microsoft). The installation was done using the downloaded setup files which I copied to a USB drive. This has turned out to be very useful, because I have upgraded two other people's machines from Windows 7 to 10 using the same USB stick. It does, however, seem to work better if you disconnect from the Internet whilst doing the install and letting it pick up updates later, though I am not sure why. The first time I tried to download updates during the installation it failed, so now I don't bother. It takes around two hours to complete.

Last week, however, I tried to upgrade a friend's PC from Windows 7 using same method. The updated PC worked for about 48 hours, then decided that Windows 10 was not activated. Checking out the old download method I found they seem to have closed the server to the free upgrade facility – they will still, however, accept your money! No surprise there, then!

## **Shetland Islands Family History**

Another one from Mike Grose:

This is a really good website for anyone with family connections in the Shetland Islands: [www.bayanne.info/Shetland/index.php](http://www.bayanne.info/Shetland/index.php) It is free, too, although he will gratefully receive donations. I found it very useful in tracing further back on my great-grandmother's side of the family. I now have over thirty-six members of the family with sea-faring connections – fishermen, boatmen, whalers, merchant seamen, shipwrights etc.

## **Happy Readers**

Judy Jones of Milton Keynes wrote:

Just to make you feel better, I always read *Net That Serf*. Computers? They are like cars - as long as they work, I'm happy; and, like cars, as long as they are safe and up-to-date, and you're aware of possible problems when using them, that's all I need to know.

But I still read *Net That Serf*, because it's interesting, even though I couldn't possibly comment on the contents. Yours happily....

Sue Fryer of Barrow-in-Furness said:

I do not live in Cheshire and I have always requested a hard copy of the **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**. I wanted to reassure you that I do read the computer section *Net that Serf!* In fact, I have found it the most helpful part of **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR** over the years. There's always something useful that I can use myself, or information I can pass on to other people. My box file of *bits to file when I have time* are mainly pages from *Net that Serf*. Please don't give up. Maybe your email



address should also be published on the inside front cover like other important contacts?

**GJ:** Sue, I'm contactable on either the [nts@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:nts@fhsc.org.uk) address on the NTS Contents or the [computerclub@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:computerclub@fhsc.org.uk) address in the Group Contacts, printed on the rear cover of every issue of **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**.

Your input keeps this forum active, so please keep writing those hints and responses – **GJ**

### *Cousin Relationships*

Our former chairman, Victoria Doran, wrote:

I am sure we have all found example of first cousin marriages. However, whilst sorting out the *Ancestry* hints for my sixth cousin, Dorothy Olive WESTON, I came across a situation I never expected to find.

Dorothy's parents were Frank James WESTON (1896-1979) and Rose HAMBLIN (1899-1991).

Frank was the son of William WESTON (1863-1925) and Mary Ann HAMBLIN (1865-1912).

Rose was the daughter of Olive WESTON (1873-1952) and John James HAMBLIN (1868-1939).

William and Olive were siblings; Mary Ann and John James were also siblings. So Frank and Rose were double first cousins, as they were first cousins through their fathers and also through their mothers.

Both families lived in a relatively small area where Staffordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire meet, so they must have known how they were related. It was interesting unravelling the records as adjacent parishes can be in different counties, and their registration districts in yet another.

## 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, normal society meetings are cancelled until 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic*

Although this quarter's group meetings have been listed, it is unlikely that they will take place as actual meetings in person. Trials of online meetings are planned and it is hoped that many members will be able to participate, or at least "listen in".

The recent experience of the Computer Club is that an online meeting can allow the participation of more members, who are able to take advantage of the online technology to attend these virtual meetings, when for various reasons they are unable to attend meetings in person.

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

### **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.

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

**There will be no physical group meetings until 2021, due to the pandemic. We may be able to hold our AGM in September as an online Zoom meeting.**

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

## Bebington Group

by Bob Wright

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

**There will be no physical group meetings until 2021, due to the pandemic.**

**Below are details of the meetings which had been arranged.**

- 28th Sep *Precious Memories – Hilary Watmough.*  
26th Oct *Liverpool, City of Sculptures – Brian Anderson*  
23rd Nov *The Blood Bikers – Speaker TBA*  
14th Dec *Members' Christmas Social*

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

## Bramhall Group

by Janet Phillips

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

**There will be no physical group meetings until 2021, due to the pandemic.**

**Below are details of the meetings which were planned before this decision was taken.**

- 10th Sep *AGM - followed by Members' Social Evening:*  
What family history research did you do during lockdown?  
8th Oct *Liverpool Cowkeepers – Dave Joy*  
Dave draws on his own family history to tell the story of the lives and times of the Liverpool Cowkeepers in the mid 1800s.  
12th Nov *To the other side of the world ... and back! – David Guyton*  
A story of emigration from England to Australia and New Zealand in the mid-nineteenth century based on family history research. The story illustrates the wide range of sources available, with some interesting and unexpected instances of initiative and enterprise, challenges and setbacks.  
10th Dec *Never a dull moment – Ian Cameron*  
Christmas Social Evening, plus a talk about the fate of some of Ian's ancestors.

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

## Chester Group

by David Guyton

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

**There will be no physical group meetings until 2021, due to the pandemic.**

**Below are details of the meetings which had been arranged.**

24th Sep     *Transportation to Australia - Carolyn Barnwell*

29th Oct     *The Canal Duke - Bernard Dennis*

26th Nov     *A Seasonal Miscellany*

December    *No Meeting*

Under normal circumstances, 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 and there will be no physical group meetings until 2021, due to the pandemic.**

For the time being we've gone *virtual*! The club is now running online Zoom meetings. Members who have added the Computer Group to their FHSC membership, and agreed to receive emails from the society, will receive notification of all meetings and any changes to the current situation.

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

Notes on topics from past meetings are made, and displayed on the Society website - go to *Groups > Computer Group > Computer Group Documents* and look for *Past Meetings*; or use the link

[www.fhsc.org.uk/computer-group-documents/past-meetings](http://www.fhsc.org.uk/computer-group-documents/past-meetings)

Meetings take place at 7.30pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. There is no charge - Open to ALL members. Contact [computerclub@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:computerclub@fhsc.org.uk) for online access details.

We focus on a wide range of genealogy and computing topics. Discussions are informal and audience participation is encouraged. Access to all the main family history websites is available at our meetings. With all attendees suggesting search ideas, members often go home with some family history information they have been struggling to find.

## **Congleton Group**

*by David Smetham*

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

**There will be no physical group meetings until 2021, due to the pandemic.**

**Below are details of the meetings which had been arranged.**

15th Sep **AGM plus Workshop**

The FHSC website, how can I use it to help my research? Lots of changes driven by the pandemic, more help available. The AGM will be held later if it is not possible in September.

20th Oct ***"Nests of ignorance... haunts of filth," Cheshire Courts of King Cholera - Claire Moores***

17th Nov ***Brick Walls: General Problems and Approaches***

December ***No Meeting***

Under normal circumstances, 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):*

**There will be no physical group meetings until 2021, due to the pandemic.**

**Please check the FHSC website and Crewe Group Newsletter for further details of Zoom virtual meetings.**

8th Sep ***Follow up from Crewe Group AGM, and a catch- up session***

13th Oct ***TBA***

10th Nov ***TBA***

December ***No Meeting***



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

### *Crewe Family History Unit*

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

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

## **Macclesfield Group**

*by Jean Laidlaw*

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

**There will be no physical group meetings until 2021, due to the pandemic.**

**Below are details of the meetings which had been arranged.**

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.

27th Oct *Bollington History, Including Some Bollington Families*

*- Tim Boddington*

24th Nov *What's new in FamilySearch? - Val Moss*

December *No Meeting*

Under normal circumstances, 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](http://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](mailto: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):*

**There will be no physical group meetings until 2021, due to the pandemic. Below are details of the meetings which had been arranged.**

15th Sep *No Meeting*

20th Oct *AGM*

17th Nov *Joseph Paxton - Victorian Architect and Gardener - David Cooke*

December *No Meeting*

19th Jan *The Pubs of Nantwich Part Two - Bill Pearson*

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

At the moment it is very difficult to say when we will be able to meet. We have to consider the requirements of the venue and what we will need to do in order to meet safely. As soon as I know that we can meet again, I will contact everyone by email and explain what it would entail. All our speakers have agreed to postpone their planned talks until next year.

Nantwich Library reopened in July but group meetings, including our workshops, are not allowed at present.

Answers to last month's quiz on occupations:

- a. Fellmonger - dealer in hides and skins.
- b. Sawyer - someone who saws wood in a sawpit or mill.
- c. Cooper - maker of barrels.
- d. Cordwainer - shoemaker.
- f. Mason - bricklayer
- g. Tallow Chandler - makes and sells candles.
- h. Higgler - pedlar.
- i. Mangler - operates a wringer or mangle in a laundry.
- j. Lederer - makes things in leather.

Please use the resources available on the society website - click on *Research*. You can also use the website to check our latest group news.

I hope you have received the lockdown newsletters and found them useful and informative. I suggest you keep a record of what the last few months have been like for you and your family, which could be part of your family history story for future generations to read.

Look out for any family history programmes on tv.- they can be very informative and helpful.

## **Northwich Group**

*by Dave Thomas*

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

**There will be no physical group meetings until 2021, due to the pandemic. Below are details of the meetings which had been arranged.**

14th Sep    *AGM, followed by Anglo Saxon Churches - David Young*  
12th Oct    *Living with Funerals - David Shaw*  
9th Nov    *In the Bleak Mid-Winter - Brian Hallworth*  
14th Dec    *Our World-Famous Hotpot Supper and Quiz*

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

## **Runcorn Group**

*by Peter Rowley*

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

**There will be no physical group meetings until 2021, due to the pandemic.**

Under normal circumstances, meetings are at 7.30pm on the 1st 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 - and parking are available. We have speakers occasionally, but encourage group participation in helping others to knock down their brick walls. Parish records are available to view, please ask a committee member (when meetings resume).

## **Sale Group**

*by Marion Hall*

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

**There will be no physical group meetings until 2021, due to the pandemic.**

**Below are details of the meetings which had been arranged.**

- 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.
- 14th Oct     *Willow Grove Cemetery in Stockport - Sheila Robins*
- 11th Nov     *War Time Memories - Short Talks by Members and Friends*
- 9th Dec      *TBA*

Under normal circumstances, 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 remain cancelled. Our AGM in September may have to be an online ZOOM meeting. I am practising with some video-conferencing software and may email you all with a request to register for a remote session.

I hope it might be possible for our usual December Social meeting to go ahead; this will depend on whether circumstances change closer to the time.

Meanwhile, during lockdown I have been producing fortnightly emailed newsletters for the society. I hope you have enjoyed them and would really love some feedback. Back copies of our *Lockdown Newsletter* are available via the society's website; go to [www.fhsc.org.uk](http://www.fhsc.org.uk), click on *Document Library*, then *Members' Documents*.

Why not visit the website and click on *RESEARCH*? There is an increasing collection of resources to help you with your research.

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

**No physical group meetings are planned until 2021, due to the pandemic.**

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

**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):*

**There will be no physical group meetings until 2021, due to the pandemic. Below are details of the meetings which had been arranged.**

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.

20th Oct *A look back at the 1950s and 1960s - Ray O'Brien*

A nostalgic and humorous look back, including TV programmes and much more; a reminder of our youth through rose-tinted spectacles.

17th Nov *Before Parish Registers - David Guyton*

Family history before parish registers in the mid-sixteenth century takes us into less familiar territory, but information can be found if you know where to look.

December *No Meeting*

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

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

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, normal society meetings are cancelled until 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic***

### ***THAT'S ODD!***

Found on the 1851 census, living with his family at 36 Cambridge Rd, Bethnal Green: *Parsley Bacon, aged 64, a cheesemonger*

His son was also named Parsley Bacon. Plenty of "food for thought" in that household!

## 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*

### Bank Sort Code Change

Please note that the sort code for the Society's bank has recently changed. We understand that if you pay with a standing order which was set up before the change, your bank should be able to continue to make payments without any difficulty; however, new standing orders should be set up using the new sort code, which is 09-01-51. The account code is unchanged and is still 22835506. A revised standing order form is on the next page, should you need it.

We apologise for any inconvenience that may have been caused due to notification not being received until after the June issue of **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR** went to press.

# Standing Order Form *(to be returned to your bank)*

Use **ONLY** if you have a U.K. Bank Account

To *(Insert the name of your Bank)*..... PLC

Branch Address.....

.....

Bank Post Code..... Bank Sort Code.....

Account Number..... Account Name.....

Please pay to Santander Business Bank plc and credit the account of The Family History Society of Cheshire, account number 22835506 sort code 09-01-51 the sum of £.....immediately and **annually thereafter on the 1st day of July** until further notice, and debit my account accordingly. *(see page 80 for membership rates).*

My Membership number is.....and **MUST** be used as payment ID

**THIS INSTRUCTION CANCELS ALL PREVIOUS STANDING ORDERS  
IN FAVOUR OF THE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY OF CHESHIRE**

Signature.....Date.....

This form should be completed in full and **RETURNED TO YOUR BANK**

## *Surname Interests - A*

Are you researching any of these names? If so, log in to the FHSC website and click on *Research* to contact the person or people who registered the name as one of their surname interests. If you haven't already registered your surname interests on the FHSC website, why not do it today? You may make contact with someone who holds the key to your brick wall!

ACKERLEY-ACKERLY-ADAM-ADAMS-ADEMS-ADKINSON-ADSHEAD-  
ALCOCK-ALLCOCK-ALCROFT-ALDINGTON-ALLMAN-ALMAN-  
ALMON-ALMOND-ALLOT-AMBROSE-AMSON-ANCHORS-ANCHOR-  
ANKER-ANKERS-ANCHIER-ANNACKER-AUKER-ANTROBUS-APPLBEY-  
-ARDSON-ARMSTRONG-ARNOLD-ASHBROOK-ASHTON-ASHWORTH-  
ASKEW-ASTLE-ASTLES-HASELL-ATHERTON-AUSTIN-A`COURT

## 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 FIRST



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

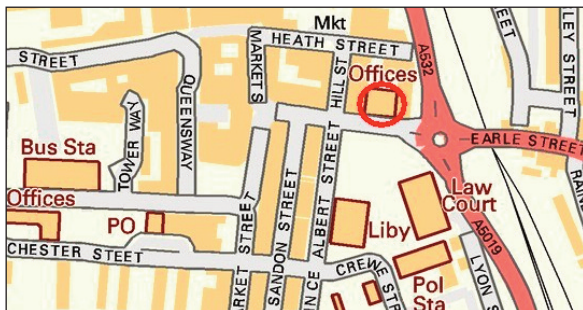
The Municipal Building is situated near the market and opposite Memorial Square and the old library. Crewe Register Office is in the same building. All visitors must sign in and out at reception. You will be directed to the second floor; a lift is available.

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

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

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

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





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



**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](http://www.dgbus.co.uk).



## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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

Above rates plus £2.00 per family

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

The Society year commences on 1st July.

Membership commences on the day of receipt of an application.

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

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

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

New member applications should be sent to Membership Enrolments:

Mrs 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

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

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

*(see below for full details)*

## ADVERTISING RATES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*Maps: OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2016 and 2017.*

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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



### The Bell family, of Lower Peover, c.1914.

This is a photo of my grandmother's family in their garden at Lower Peover. As John Thomas Bell is wearing Army uniform, it was probably taken in late 1914. Back row: Fanny Bell, Sarah Bell, John Thomas Bell, Florence Bell, Edward Bell. Middle row: my great-grandparents George Bell and Elizabeth Bell née Riley. Front row, from left: my grandmother Bertha Bell, Wilfred Bell, Margaret Bell.

From Linda Wilding ([runfamilyhistory@virginmedia.com](mailto:runfamilyhistory@virginmedia.com))