

# CHESHIRE ANCESTOR



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



## **In this edition**

*My Anderton Ancestors* ❖ *Reasons to be Thankful*  
*Child Labour in Australia* ❖ *Thornton Meadows*  
*A Trip to Canada* ❖ *A 1910 Australian Family Reunion*  
*Golden Moment Competition: Noah Gilks* ❖ *and more...*

**Volume 51    March 2021    Issue No. 3**

ISSN 1460-0277

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*Cover picture: St Thomas's Church, Hyde.*

*See 'My Anderton Ancestors' by Martin Anderton White on page 33.*



# CHESHIRE ANCESTOR

Registered Charity: 515168

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

## Contents

Items for the Cheshire Ancestor	2	A Trip to Canada (Part 1)	26
Did You Know? 1	2	A 1910 Australian Family	
Editor's Page	3	Reunion	31
Chairman's Jottings	4	My Anderton Ancestors	33
Seen on Twitter	5	Reasons to be Thankful	37
Did You Know? 2	6	Did You Know? 3	38
Society News and Notices	6	Subscription Renewals	Centre
Society Diary Dates	6	Cartoon by Harry Dunks	39
Volunteer News	7	Thornton Meadows	40
Society Vacancies	7	Child Labour in Australia	44
Obituary: Howard Somerset	7	A Golden Moment with	
Obituary: Pauline Hill	8	Noah Gilks	46
Surname Interests	9	NTS - The Computer Section	51
Research Centre News	11	Group News	63
Family History Events	13	1911 Census: An Awful Butcher	73
Family History News	14	The Society's Family History	
Book Reviews	16	Research Centres	74
Selected Archives of the Week	19	Member's Photo: Brook Street	
Letters to the Society	22	Chapel, Congleton	Back Cover
Help Wanted	23		

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

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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.

### *Did You Know? 1*

The first canal to be cut in England was the canal from Worsley to Manchester in 1761. This opened up the era of canal travel. The Grand Trunk Canal, stretching for 96 miles, connected the River Trent in the east to the River Mersey in the west.

The VEREY family came by canal from Buckinghamshire to Handforth, near Wilmslow, and many more people travelled north to Cheshire by canal.

## Editor's Page

*by Rosie Rowley*



I apologise if this issue is not up to the usual standard. My husband and I moved house on 29th January - the weekend when I would normally complete the **ANCESTOR**, ready for sending to the printer in early February. Unfortunately we had no landline or Internet service at our new home until mid-February, and only managed to get a rather weak mobile phone signal when sitting half-way up the stairs, so we really were cut off from the world! As a result, this issue has not been proof-read so any mistakes are mine and not a lapse by Suzie, our excellent proof-reader.

This issue includes, by coincidence, a number of articles about ancestors who ventured overseas, to Australia and North America. If I felt cut off from the world after my recent move, I can't imagine how these people felt, relying on letters which took weeks to arrive.

I am still very short of articles, so please consider writing something about your family history, or a notable Cheshire person, or a Cheshire property or location. Shorter articles are particularly welcome - see the opposite page for submission guidelines. Your old family photos for the back cover are also desperately needed. You may like to send an email or letter with your thoughts on anything in this issue. Please remember to always include your membership number, and give permission to print your email and/or postal address if you would like to receive a reply from another reader.

### ***Editor's Challenge - Answer***

In the last issue, I asked if anyone could tell me the connection between the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior, who was buried in Westminster Abbey one hundred years ago in November 1920, and Macclesfield.

The Tomb of the Unknown Warrior was first thought of in 1916 by the Rev David Railton, an Army Chaplain at the Front, who in 1920 wrote to the Dean of Westminster, Herbert Ryle, to propose his idea. Herbert Ryle strongly supported the idea and helped to bring it into effect, also composing the inscription on the tomb. Herbert Ryle was the grandson of John Ryle of Park House, Macclesfield, M.P. for Macclesfield from 1833 to 1837.

## Chairman's Jottings

*by Alan Bennett*



I thought I would update you on some research I did over the Christmas period, particularly in relation to some discoveries made as a result of my DNA testing. One year ago, I took an Ancestry DNA test using one of their special offers. The benefits are directly related to the size of your tree on Ancestry and the trees added by the other members of your extended family who have also undertaken Ancestry DNA tests. As such, the benefits grow over time.

You do need to be careful - sometimes the DNA link is valid, but the link is not necessarily the one identified by Ancestry. This is because it is influenced by any faulty research carried out by the connected researcher.

I have made little progress on extending my lines back in time, but I must be more patient in that area. What has been beneficial is connecting with distant cousins who share my ancestors. This has filled gaps in my tree and provided extra information about relations I had already documented, at least in outline. I have found it particularly useful where cousins have emigrated away from the UK.

The biggest recent discovery was when I found a DNA connection to a family of Mormons in Utah. A thorough review of the Mormon records that were revealed by this led me to discovering that part of my COTTERELL family from Warrington had moved to Manchester in the 1830s. Whilst in Manchester they attended meetings organised by Mormon visitors from America. This quickly led to their conversion in the late 1830s. A number of their family then joined other converts on the many subsidised voyages from Liverpool to America.

There is still much research to do, and document, to find the full history of these Warrington-born Mormons, but so far, I have discovered my first polygamous marriage in my tree. My cousin Ellen COTTERELL was the first wife of her husband from Ohio. In the 1870 census I found three wives listed in the same household, two of whom are sisters. Other records suggest there was also another wife, but I have yet to confirm that.

Another interesting revelation from the same family was that one of the COTTERELL descendants, born in Utah in 1860, married William George BROUGH who was from Longton, Staffordshire. The BROUGH family had followed a similar path to the COTTERELLS; they converted to the Mormon faith in the UK and then sailed for America, some time later than the COTTERELL family.

That's interesting enough, but even more so when I tell you that the BROUGHS form part of my wife's extended family! So a branch of my family and a branch of my wife's family both converted to the Mormon faith in the UK, crossed the Atlantic, and Emily Jane COTTERELL and William George BROUGH met in Salt Lake City where they married in 1879. So far I have found eight children from this union.

This part of my tree is going to expand rapidly due to the importance of family research to the Mormons. I am greatly helped by the detailed histories that can be found on Ancestry, FamilySearch, and other websites. I am also amazed at how many photographs have survived from the mid-nineteenth century.

If you have made any interesting discoveries in your research, do write to the Editor and tell us what you have found. Your research might help and inspire other members.

### *Seen on Twitter*

Unfortunately the source and date of this gem was not stated, but it seems likely that it appeared in a South African newspaper; an image of the newspaper article was posted on Twitter:

#### *TWINS, TRIPLETS, AND -?*

*The Sporting and Dramatic News* retails the following chestnut:

*"A little yarn which concerns a civil servant whose wife presented him with a son and heir at Cape Town.*

*Next year he was moved to Tweefontein (Two Fountains) and there was an addition of twins to the family circle. Later he was transferred to Three Rivers, and to heighten the coincidence triplets arrived.*

*Months later he was found in a dead faint in the office with a telegram tightly clutched in his hand. It was a notification that he had been appointed resident magistrate at Fourteen Streams."*

## 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 you have given us your correct email address and 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

All of the following meetings for 2021 will be held remotely on Zoom.

<b>Sat 8 May 2021 at 2.00pm</b>	Executive Committee Meeting
<b>Sat 17 July 2021 at 2.00pm</b>	Group Leaders' Meeting
<b>Sat 4 Sept 2021 at 2.00pm</b>	Executive Committee Meeting
<b>Sat 30 Oct 2021</b>	Annual General Meeting (time to be confirmed)

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.

### *Did You Know? 2*

The Lancashire Record Office at Preston has a series of registers (Ref QDR) dated 1801-2, 1811-14 and 1818-35 relating to the deportation of vagrants to Ireland. Large numbers of these vagrants passed through the hands of the Justices for Lancashire, and this series of registers of such vagrants sailing from Liverpool has been preserved. These records are now available on Ancestry at <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/6882/>



# Volunteer News

## Society Vacancies

The society is seeking new volunteers for the following posts:

### **Wanted: Honorary Secretary**

Howard Martin has now exceeded the secretary's usual five-year term of office.  
**For information, please contact the current postholder, Howard Martin.**

### **Wanted: Honorary Editor**

Rosie Rowley has now served as editor for five years and wishes to stand down due to a change in family circumstances.

**For information, please contact the current postholder, Rosie Rowley.**

## **Obituary: Howard Somerset**

Alsager Group are saddened by the death of Howard Somerset, one of our members. It is true that most people casually dropping in to one of our regular meetings at Wesley Place probably didn't notice Howard, because he was one of those quiet, courteous individuals who didn't draw attention to himself. However, those of us who have served on the committee found him to be enormously supportive in many practical ways.

For some years, Howard undertook to look after the group's library, arriving early to get a number of large boxes out of our storage cupboard at the other end of the building and then displaying the contents attractively on several tables. Returning the books to store often made him late leaving, as he had to wait until another meeting in the building had finished before he could access the cupboard. He never complained, even when people were slow to return books they had borrowed, simply reminding them quietly.

Howard also played a major role in the group's project to list the MIs in our local churchyard at Christ Church. This meant spending many damp days clearing moss from graves, carefully noting the inscriptions above and occasionally below ground, and then repeating the process to check the accuracy of what had been written down. Later, he undertook the complex task of indexing the finished work, something he seems to have actually enjoyed. No doubt that was because he was an excellent mathematician who spent his career in computer systems and who was a keen solver of puzzles. He may have kept himself in the background but he will be very much missed.

## **Obituary: Pauline Hill**

It is with regret that I must also advise you of the death of Pauline Hill, a founder member of the Alsager group of FHSC. She died in hospital just before Christmas, having broken her hip.

In the late 1990s, following her retirement as a senior probation officer in Staffordshire, Pauline joined the Alsager U3A where she attended a group studying family history, led by Maureen Wood. There she met Dennis Whyte, a member of the FHSC Macclesfield group, and it was decided to form another FHSC group in Alsager. Pauline became leader of the group, specifying in the constitution that the leader of the group cannot serve more than four years.

Following her four-year term, Pauline helped as a member of the committee for a time and then took over as one of the two main providers of refreshments at meetings, something that only changed two years ago. At meetings - and she rarely missed one - Pauline was always an attentive and interested listener and could be relied on to ask pertinent questions. Pauline was always quietly efficient in whatever she did, willing to give good advice but never interfering.

I was amazed to discover just how difficult things were for the group in the early years, not because of lack of support, but because there was considerable opposition to a Family History Society of Cheshire group in Alsager from other parties. Apparently, instead of forming a group in Alsager, some people felt that FHSC groups in other towns in Cheshire should be supported, although transport links from Alsager are not particularly good. Amazingly, the Birmingham and Midland Family History Society also lodged a protest with the then Federation of Family History Societies (now the Family History Federation); no doubt they were fooled by Alsager's Stoke on Trent postcode which was historically caused by the early postal route being through Congleton to Stoke on Trent via Kidsgrove, which happened to be the nearest post office to Alsager in the early nineteenth century. Of course all the early maps and the Domesday survey put Awsager or Alsager (pronounced All-sager) firmly in Cheshire, whilst Kidsgrove is in Staffordshire.

It seems that Pauline stood firm and ensured that the group prospered. We shall all miss her.

**Hazel Rugman**  
**Alsager Group leader.**

## Surname Interests

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!

IKIN-INGHAM-INGLESFIELD/INGLEFIELD/ENGLEFIELD-INGLESON-INSKEEP-INSKIP-IRELAND

JACKMAN-JACKSON-JARMAN/JERMAN-JENKINSON-JEPSON-JERVIS/JARVIS-JOHNSON-JOINSON/JOYNSON-JOLLEY-JONES-JOYCE-JOYNSON

KELLY-KELSALL-KENNERDALE-KENNERLEY/KENNERLY/KENERLY-KENT-KERFOOT-KEY-KING-KINNEAR-KINSEY-KIRK-KIRKHAM-KITCHEN-KNOWLES-KYNNERSLEY

LACELETT-LACEY-LACY-LACYE-LAKE-LAMB-LAMBERT-LAMONT-LANCELEY/LANSLY/LANCLEY/LANGLEY/LANSLY/LANCELIN-LANCELOT-LANCELYN-LANDER-LANE-LARGE-LARKIN-LASLETT-LASSY-LATHAM-LAUNSLET-LAWRENSON-LAWTON-LEADBEATER-LEAH-LEDGERTON-LEDHAM-LEE/LEIGH/LEA/LEES-LEECH-LEESON-LEGERTON-LEICESTER-LEUTTON-LEWIS-LEY-LIGGETT-LIGGINS-LIGHT-LIGHTFOOT-LINE-LINGARD-LINLEY-LITTLE-LITTLEMORE-LITTLER-LITTLEWOOD-LIVESEY-LIVSEY-LLOYD-LOCK-LOCKETT/LOKET-LONGDEN-LONGWORTH-LOUGHLIN-LOVELOCK-LOWE-LOWERY-LOWNDES-LOWNDS-LUTTRELL/LETTRELL-LYNTON-LYWOOD

MADDERS-MADDOCK/MADDOCKS-MADDOCKS/MADDOCK/MADOCKE-MADDOX-MAINWARING-MALBON-MALBONE-MALLARD-MALONE-MANNING-MARLAND-MARSDEN-MARSH-MARTIN-MASON-MASSEY-MASSIE-MATCHETT-MATHERS-MAURICE-MAXFIELD-MAYBANK-MCCORMICK-MCCUMASKY-MCCUMESKY-MCDONALD/MACDONALD-MCGEE-MCGRAIL/MCGREAL-MCGRATH-MCKELLAR-MCKINNEY-MCLOUGHLIN-MCMINN-MCNEE/MCNEE-MCWILLIAMS-MEAKIN-MELIA/MALIA-MELLOR-METCALF-METCALFE-MICHELSON-MIDGLEY-MILENCH-MILLER-MILLINGTON-MILLS-MINSHALL-

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MOORES-MORETON-MORGAN-MORRELL-MORREY-MORRIS-MOSELEY-  
MOSLEY-MOSS-MOSS-MOSSFORTH-MOTTERAM-MOTTERSHEAD-  
MOULD-MOULT-MOULTON-MOUNFIELD/MOUNTFIELD-MURPHY-  
MURRAY/MURREY/MORRAY/MORREY-MYATT/MYOTT-MYTTON

NANGREAVE-NEILD/NIELD-NEWALL-NEWTON-MASON-NICKSON-  
NIELD-NIXON/NIXSON/NICKSON-NORBURY

OAKES-OATEN-OCEGO-OGLEY-OLDHAM-OLIVER-ONLEY-OWEN-  
OXTON

PALIN-PARKER-PARKS-PARSONS-PARTRIDGE-PEAK-PEARSON-PEELE-  
PEMBERTON-PENKEYMAN-PENLINGTON-PENNANCE-PERCIVAL-  
PERRIN-PERRY/PERREY-PETTINGER-PHILLIPS-PICKERING-PICKFORD-  
PICKSTOCK-PIDGEON/PIGEON/PIDGEN-PIERPOINT-PIERSON-PIETTE-  
PIMBLOTT/PIMLOTT-PINNINGTON-PLATT-POINTON-POLLITT-POPE-  
PORTER-POSTLES-POSTLETHWAITE-POTT-POTTER-POTTS-POVALL-  
POWELL-POWNALL-PRESTON-PRICE-PRINCE-PRITCHARD-PROCKTER/  
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QUAYLE

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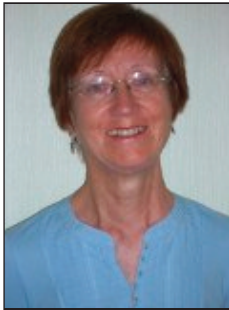
## Research Centre News

*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 Joan Irving*



Although Mobberley Research Centre is closed, work is still going on behind the scenes, especially the digitising of our memorial inscriptions so they can be sold in the FHSC online shop.

#### **Wirral update**

Recently David Silcock donated a collection of large-scale maps of the West Kirby area, which were listed in the December ANCESTOR.

A new addition to our records for the Wirral area is transcriptions of memorial inscriptions for the following churches:

Bidston St Oswald  
Birkenhead St Mary  
Bromborough St Barnabas  
Saughall All Saints  
Saughall Methodist  
Saughall Grove Chapel  
West Kirby St Bridget

These should soon be available for download from the FHSC shop.  
Other Wirral memorial inscriptions still available as CDs are:

Bebington St Andrew  
Bebington Christ Church  
Rock Ferry St Peter  
Wirral compilation: Wallasey St Hilary, Birkenhead Friends Meeting House, Egremont St John, Frankby with Greasby St John, Heswall St Peter,

Hoylake Holy Trinity, Liscard St Alban, Moreton Christ Church, Thurstaston St Bartholomew and Woodchurch Holy Cross.

We have CDs for other Cheshire areas, available online or by post from David Johnson (see inside the front cover for David's contact details).

Peter Davenport and I hope to have other Cheshire area memorial inscriptions available as downloads very soon. Check the FHSC website regularly to see which graveyards are now available.

## Crewe Family History Unit

*by Margaret Spate*

Volunteers who are able to work remotely have continued with a transcription project managed by Alan Burgess. In time and on our return I am sure that it will be an invaluable research tool.

An index has been compiled of the Obituaries/Announcements printed in the Crewe Chronicle from 1933 to 2019. The Family History Unit only holds a few years of these original newspapers; you can see these listed on the Crewe Group page of the FHSC website, under *Holdings*. The index gives the date of publication of the announcement and is a good finding aid for your research. If you have visited FHU you may already be aware of this resource in hard copy. It is intended that this index will be updated as resources allow, adding earlier and later dates.

The Crewe Family History Unit was closed on Tuesday 17th April 2020 due to the pandemic, and at the time of going to press it was still closed, because the New guidelines will have to be formulated, probably with a prebooking system, before re-opening, and visits may have to be timed. 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. Members are encouraged to use the FHSC website forum to ask questions about problems with their research - other members may be able to suggest avenues of research.

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

## 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)*

### **NOTE - COVID-19**

At the time of going to press, most 'in-person' events have been cancelled, some being replaced by online events.

Please check that an event is going ahead before travelling.

### **Family History Federation Really Useful Show (online)**

10.00am - 6.00pm, Saturday 10th April 2021

Ask the Experts - Virtual Exhibition Stands

Over 20 Inspiring Speakers (talks viewable for up to 7 days)

Tickets £10

*<https://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/>*

### **THE Genealogy Show 2021 (online)**

Friday 25th and Saturday 26th June 2021

Exhibitors - Talks - Family History Societies

Sign up on the website for the newsletter for more information

*<https://thegenealogyshow.uk/>*

### **Family History Federation (FHF) Podcasts**

The FHF is creating a series of podcasts aimed at providing information on various family history research topics, with questions raised at Federation events and family history society talks.

*[www.familyhistoryfederation.com/askfederation](http://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/askfederation)*

## 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 these sites. You may also be able to access *Ancestry* or *Find My Past* through your local public library service, and look out for offers of free access on occasions such as V.E. Day, Remembrance Day, Thanksgiving Day or New Year.

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

### **Neston Collieries website**

*www.nestoncollieries.org*

The website has been relaunched with an updated database of the 600 men known to have worked at the early Neston collieries (1759-1855).

### **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/blog/new](http://www.findmypast.co.uk/blog/new)

#### **New Newspapers**

*Birkenhead News* covering 1881-1920 (some years are missing)

#### **1939 Register**

over 69,000 previously-redacted records have been opened.

#### **British Armed Forces, First World War Soldiers' Medical Records**

More records have been added to this collection, which includes admission and discharge records from over twenty hospitals, field ambulances and casualty clearing stations during the First World War.

#### **Greater London Burial Index**

Additions cover St Olave's, Southwark 1583-1665, including the time of the Great Plague.



## **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)

**Lancashire, England, Electoral Registers, 1832-1935**

## **The Manorial Documents Register for Cheshire**

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/manor-search>

The Manorial Documents Register for Cheshire is now complete and available online on the National Archives website. The Manorial Documents Register (MDR) is an index to the surviving manorial records for England and Wales. It allows researchers to identify all records relating to a particular manor or place, whether they are held in local record offices, privately held family estates, cathedral and college collections or national repositories.

## **Photos of Cheshire**

[www.cheshireimagebank.org.uk](http://www.cheshireimagebank.org.uk) and [www.flickr.com/photos/cheshirero](http://www.flickr.com/photos/cheshirero)

Five hundred photos from Cheshire Record Office's collection have been digitised and will be added to the Cheshire Image Bank, including new images of Crewe, Helsby, Manley, Marple and Shavington. Many more images can be seen on the CROs Flickr site. The CRO also wants to expand the Image Bank with more photographs taken 'in living memory' such as those by Anthony Baker, a photographer based in Crewe in the 1970s.

## **Greater Manchester Civilian Blitz Victims**

[www.greatermanchesterblitzvictims.co.uk](http://www.greatermanchesterblitzvictims.co.uk)

This website lists a total of 1,482 civilians from the Greater Manchester District known to have been killed during the various air raids of WWII. Included are the emergency services: Police, Fire, A.R.P. Wardens, Home Guard, Ambulance, First Aiders, etc. Also included are twenty-nine servicemen, who were either at home on leave or serving on defence duties within the Greater Manchester area when they were killed.

## Book Reviews

Newly published items on genealogical or Cheshire subjects are welcomed for review. Please send to the editor (contact details inside front cover).

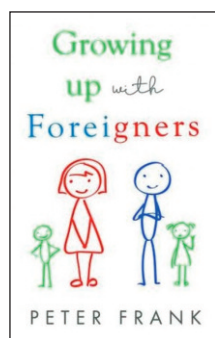
After review, items are given to a Society library or group.

All pricing and other information correct at the time of going to press.

### *Growing Up With Foreigners*

By Peter Frank

Reviewed by Margaret Roberts



This book is the story of Peter Frank's family and how his mother, a German-Polish Catholic from Upper Silesia, and his Austrian-Jewish Protestant father, born in Vienna, came to be in England a few short months before the start of World War Two.

Frank, using documents and photographs left by his parents together with historical online information and personal recollection of conversations with his family, recounts how his parents met and married, and his experiences of growing up in Cheshire's Marbury Park.

Frank's childhood was a kind of no man's land: his parents were foreign, they had diverse social and cultural values from their neighbours, and attempting to cling onto parts of their former lives, while simultaneously trying to integrate into an English way of life, gave Frank the feeling that he wasn't quite British, not quite fitting in.

The fate of Frank's paternal grandparents, rich Jewish bankers, is sadly all too familiar - both perishing in the Holocaust - while his maternal grandmother was a member of the minor Polish nobility. Quite apart from the story of the horrors endured by Frank's father in escaping Austria, arriving in Great Britain, finding his bride and starting a profession as a market gardener, this book is also one that relates the history of the time and how two lives unfolded and grew together in a strange and foreign land.

The resilience of this couple as they fought their own private war against suspicion, oppression and prejudice shines through with the turn of every page. The book is advertised as a mixture of *adventure, fact, fear and fun* and you

certainly will find yourself laughing and crying in equal measure at the trials and tribulations suffered by the various generations of this family across a time when the whole continent was in a state of flux and turmoil.

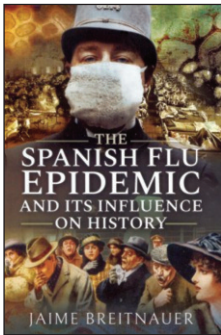
It makes a fascinating read for both the social and the family historian. Life was never straightforward for those who fled from the horrors of a war-torn Europe, but the story of the Frank family demonstrates the capacity of the human race to overcome tremendous obstacles and difficulties. A thoroughly enjoyable and informative book.

Pegasus/Vanguard Press, 2020. Paperback, 226 pages, 23 illustrations, £7.99.  
ISBN 978-1784657260

### *The Spanish Flu Epidemic and its Influence on History*

By **Jaime Breitnauer**

Reviewed by Peter Ramsden



After four years of fighting in Europe and elsewhere from 1914-18, when no one imagined the situation could get worse, a mysterious pandemic emerged across the globe and claimed somewhere between 50-100 million lives, amounting to 5 per cent of the world's population. Then, as quickly as it had appeared, it faded away. Attention was focussed on rebuilding economies, infrastructure and political alliances after the Great War and the Spanish flu, as it was named at the time, became the ghost in the night. More deadly than the Great War itself, the pandemic has somehow faded into history.

Several other books have been published on the Spanish flu of the early 20th century and this one, published in 2019, is a readable introduction to a complex set of events, which are still not fully understood. The author is a British-born writer and journalist, who divides her time between the UK and New Zealand. Jaime Breitnauer has a particular interest in twentieth century history and the effects of war and disease on society.

The author's perspective is that the flu epidemic had significant influence on global events at the time. Jaime Breitnauer suggests that the post-war political settlement in Europe and the Middle East was influenced adversely by the illness or death of key personalities, including US President Woodrow Wilson who never fully recovered from his bout of 'flu. Also, that independence movements in the colonies of European powers were encouraged by the poor

treatment of indigenous peoples during the pandemic; they certainly experienced far higher mortality rates.

With a global perspective that includes not only Europe but the Americas, Africa, Asia and the Pacific, the author recounts the experiences of individuals, discusses the science behind the disease and its spread, and asks what the next pandemic might look like. *Time is a great healer, she writes, and there are lots of good reasons to be interested in Spanish flu now, a hundred years on from the pandemic; to honour the dead, to analyse the medical response, to measure the impact of the virus on the health of the population, because of the high possibility it could happen again.* The irony is that the next pandemic is now with us, just over one hundred years later. Written before the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic, the author could not have guessed how timely her book would be.

Pen and Sword, 2019. Hardcover, 136 pages, £19.99. ISBN: 978-152674-517-0

### ***The History of the Stained Glass Windows at St. Mary Sandbach***

**Compiled by Richard Vickery**

Reviewed by Joan Irving



A beautifully illustrated book showing the colours and details of the twenty-one windows in St. Mary's Church with a potted history of the date and maker of each window, together with background information on the figures depicted. The windows date from the restoration of the church in 1847-49, yet some of the memorials predate this. The memorials are dedicated to prominent people of the parish with eight of them being to members of the Latham Family of Bradwall Hall. Ten other local names are dedicated on other windows. The book also has two short family trees for the Latham and Rickards Families.

Many of the windows in the church were manufactured by William Wailes, who was one of the most important stained glass manufacturers in the country, so there is some information on his life. Other Cheshire churches with William Wailes windows are listed too.

If you have family or local interest in Sandbach then this book is well worth reading.

Published in Congleton, 2020. Paperback, 60 pages, illustrated. £5 incl UK P&P from the author at 5 Offley Road, Sandbach. Email [vickeryfamily@hotmail.com](mailto:vickeryfamily@hotmail.com).

## Selected Archives of the Week

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

The *Archive of the Week* section on the Society's social media platforms has continued to be a popular item. As in the last edition of the ANCESTOR, I am listing a selection of the archives that I have highlighted recently so members who do not use social media do not miss out on the information.

As always, each of these archives is free to access and covers a range of genealogical, family and social history subjects; not all are Cheshire or even UK based but all will invariably be of interest.

### **The History of the Workhouse**

<http://www.workhouses.org.uk/>

Workhouses immediately conjure a picture of the grim Dickensian life portrayed in novels such as *Oliver Twist*. However, the story of the workhouse is a fascinating mix of social, architectural, economic and political history and Peter Higginbotham's fabulous site is a must for anyone with even a passing interest in the subject. There are sections devoted to workhouse history, Poor Laws, daily life, myths, an online museum, videos, memories, links to census returns, suggestions for books and even a quiz! A great place to start if you are looking for information on the Workhouse as an Institution or need some pointers for your own research.

### **University of Kent, Special Collections**

<https://www.kent.ac.uk/library/specialcollections/a-z.html>

Over 150 archival collections, including:

- Popular and comic performance from the Victorian era to the present, including published and archival material from pantomime, melodrama, variety, stand-up comedy, cartoon artwork and publications, particularly cartoons using satire to make a political or social comment.
- History of the University of Kent and the local area.
- Photographs, scrapbooks, engineer records, and published books relating to wind and watermills.
- Collections of 20th century prose and poetry first editions

## **British Cartoon Collection (BCA)**

<https://archive.cartoons.ac.uk/>

Also held at the University of Kent, this is a national collection of socio-political cartoons from British newspapers and magazines, plus comic strips, newspaper cuttings, books and magazines. The online catalogue contains over 150,000 cartoons either held at the BCA or by other institutions. Often you can see various versions of the same cartoon from the sketch to the artwork to the various published versions. The cataloguing includes subject terms and identifies the people depicted in the cartoons.

## **The Arolsen Archives (International Centre on Nazi Persecution)**

<https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/>

Many members will have watched Robert Rinder's follow up to his *Who Do You think You Are?* episode, in which he spent time tracking families who were devastated by the Holocaust. The Arolsen Archives are the world's most comprehensive archive on National Socialist persecution. The documents were collected to help clarify the fates of the victims of persecution. They contain information on victims of the Holocaust and concentration camp prisoners, on foreign forced labourers and on the survivors, who were trying to rebuild their lives as displaced persons. This free database is well-worth searching if you had relatives or ancestors who were displaced or persecuted during WWII. The records are available for download without requiring registration. The English database can be searched by names or topics - I recommend searching by name. The results can be filtered by religion, nationality and family status.

## **American Library of Congress**

<https://www.loc.gov/>

This site gives free access to a range of American newspapers and also allows you to search a vast array of databases, blogs, images, books, magazines, histories, exhibitions and more. If you have American ancestors then put aside some time as I guarantee you will be hooked for days! The newspaper holdings have some 3,280 odd titles with dates covering 1789-1963. Click on Digital Collections tab on the main page link to access the various collections.

## **Coflein**

<https://coflein.gov.uk/>

The online database for the National Monuments Record of Wales (NMRW) - the national collection of information about the historic environment of Wales. The name is derived from the Welsh cof (memory) and lein (line). Coflein contains details of many thousands of archaeological sites, monuments, buildings and maritime sites in Wales, together with an index to the drawings, manuscripts and photographs held in the NMRW archive collections.

There are a lot of wonderful images - especially the ones taken from the air, including the parts of Cheshire that border Wales. Well worth a look.

### **The Highland Archives**

<https://www.highlifehighland.com/archives-service/online-catalogue/>

This archive recently added their extensive archive catalogue online, opening up the fantastic and varied collections to the world like never before. The catalogue contains nearly 100,000 descriptions of archives and library holdings held in the four Archive Centres in Inverness, Portree, Fort William and Wick. It will be continually added to, with new content added on a monthly basis. If you have Scottish Highland ancestry, this is an amazing resource as well as being a very interesting archive.

### **EthOS (E-Thesis Online Service)**

<https://ethos.bl.uk/>

The UK's national thesis service, which maximises the visibility and availability of the UK's doctoral research theses from the British Library. *What use will PhD theses be to me?* I hear you cry. A simple search of the word *Cheshire* comes up with downloadable texts including:

- The agricultural history of Cheshire, 1750 - 1850
- The system of criminal justice in Cheshire, 1820-75.
- Crime, gender and social order in early modern Cheshire
- The Legh of Booths muniments (c.1280-1808): the study of a Cheshire family through its archive.
- Political society in early Tudor Cheshire 1480-1560.
- The implementation of social policy in England in the 1930s: a case study of Cheshire County Council and Birkenhead County Borough.
- Landowners and communities in the east Cheshire Pennines from the 13th century to the 20th.
- Cheshire castles in context
- The origins and early development of primitive Methodism in Cheshire and south Lancashire 1800-1860.

This is just a few of the results and there are many more - a wealth of free untapped information. You need to register for a free BL account and the majority of texts are immediately downloadable.

These represent just a small selection of the archives mentioned on the FHSC social media platforms in my Saturday section - to take full advantage, follow the society on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/CheshireFamilyHistory](http://www.facebook.com/CheshireFamilyHistory)) or Twitter (@FHSoFCheshire)

## Letters to the Society

*If you have any comments about any of the articles in the ANCESTOR, or any aspect of the society, please share them - I'd love to hear from you! Just send an email to [editor@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:editor@fhsc.org.uk) including your name and membership number, and tell me if you also want your email address to be printed so other researchers can contact you.*

### **"BRILLIANT"**

I have been a member of the FHSC for some years now but I am limited in my ability to join in locally as I am based in Jersey! All my trips to the UK and to Cheshire never seem to have coincided with a FHSC meeting - let alone one from the Northwich Group to which I belong, due to it being the area from which my maternal family originate.

As I am interested in most things Cheshire, can I assume that it is okay for me to join your Congleton Group Zoom meeting? If so, perhaps you will be good enough to send me the meeting ID and password.

The last year with the updated website and the regular posting on Facebook, Twitter plus Lockdown Newsletters and the Journal has been brilliant. Please pass on my thanks to those concerned. It has transformed my experience of the Society as I am sure it has for others much further afield than me.

**John Reed**  
**Jersey**

*Ed.: all members are welcome to join any group's Zoom meeting, subject to the limit of 100 participants.*

### **"BEST GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY"**

I'm greatly enjoying the Lockdown Newsletters! They're filling all sorts of gaps in my knowledge and I want to encourage their continuation.

The FHSC has been consistently the best genealogical society that I've ever been a member of, and the Newsletter and *Net that Serf* are part of that success.

**By email from an anonymous member.**



## Help Wanted

### Book about WWI Smallholdings

I recently received an enquiry from a member about a book relating to the smallholdings given to ex-soldiers of WWI. Unfortunately, the lady could not recall either the title or the author and wondered if any members might know.

Research shows that at the conclusion of the Great War the Land Settlement Bill, 1919 was passed. The purpose of this legislation was to enable County Councils to acquire and create smallholdings for occupation, in return for a preferential rent, by ex-servicemen who wished to settle on the land. This Act was to redeem the pledge made by Lloyd George's Government of creating a *land fit for heroes*. The Government firmly believed that by introducing new and fresh blood into the agricultural sector it would not only create a virile race of men who would contribute to the success of country life, but would also lead to a much needed growth in the intensive cultivation of the soil.

In July 1920 the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries stated that 902 ex-servicemen had applied to Cheshire County Council for the scheme, meaning that some 13,345 acres of land would be required. Each man had to be interviewed to assess his suitability; thus far, 586 applicants had been approved but not yet provided with a holding and 78 had been given a property and hence a means of livelihood.

If you have any information - even a small snippet - then please contact me.

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

### Fire Mystery

These two photographs belonged to my husbands late grandmother, Florence Mary DIX (née BARNETT), who was born 1900 in Willaston, Nantwich and died 1976 in Haslington. She lived in Cheshire and Staffordshire and her family had connections with Liverpool. They have fascinated us since we found them because there is nothing written on them to say where they were taken, although one has *Copyright J Lowe* stamped on the back. I wondered if any member recognises the location or can shed any light?

Sylvia Mitford  
Membership no. 7456  
sylmitford@gmail.com



## Improvement Rate

Below is a page from my ancestor George WILLIAMSON's ledger for the 1880s, in which he makes a charge of five shillings for *Improvement Rate*. Subsequently he abbreviated this to *Imp. rate*. Entries continued from first lettings to when he sold the four properties in Sealand Rd, Chester, thirteen years later, although the entries became less frequent latterly. None of his other properties attracted the charge. The rate was usually around 2/6, twice yearly.

George entered other charges in a similar way: poor rate, property tax, income tax, ordinary rates and costs of repairs.

Can any member explain what is meant by *Improvement Rate*?

Chester Guttridge  
 Membership no. 9193  
 cgguttridge@icloud.com

Mr W. Hodge, Tenant for a House & premises  
 situate in Sealand View being No 6 Dec 29<sup>th</sup>  
 rent Due Quarterly first Due September 29<sup>th</sup> 1883  
£ 4.00 per Quarter, Quarterly Tenant

1883	Oct 20	Received one quarter's rent Due Sept 29 <sup>th</sup> /83 Cash 3.15.0 1/2 Improvement rate 5.0	4	0	0
1884	Jan 14	Do do Due Dec 25 <sup>th</sup> /83	4	0	0
	March 25	Do do Due March 25 <sup>th</sup> /84	4	0	0
	June 24	Do do Due June 24 <sup>th</sup> /84	4	0	0

## A Trip to Canada (Part 1)

*by Dave Williams*  
*Membership no. 7539*

My grandfather Robert Thomas WILLIAMS and his brother Evan left their home in Wrexham to travel to Winnipeg, Canada in 1904. It was intended to be an emigration, but it didn't work out and the story of how they travelled back to North Wales at the end of 1904 will be printed in a future issue.

I have part of a document which is very neatly written (although with some grammatical and spelling errors, which are left in the copy below) and appears to be a "fair copy" of a letter the brothers intended to send home. I don't know whether it was ever sent or even whether it was ever finished. But although it is not a complete account of the journey, it is a fascinating description of what was intended to be the start of a new life in a faraway land.

There used to be a large estate near Wrexham called Plas Power and there was a nearby railway station called Plas Power Station. The station closed to passengers in 1917, but was still in use for goods until 1956. The Plas Power estate had originally belonged to Sir Henry Power in 1620 but the estate was sold several times. It was the location of an important colliery during the industrial revolution and there were ironworks nearby. Somewhat confusingly, the colliery did have its own power station as the colliery was one of the pioneers in the use of electricity underground. A number of colliery buildings remain. The last owners of the big house were the FITZHUGH family. The house and most of its associated buildings have been demolished, but a few remain - notably St Mary's Church, Bersham, also known as Plas Power Chapel. It is thought to be the only remaining private chapel in Wales still holding regular services.

Another historical note: Robert Thomas (he was ALWAYS known by both forenames) points out that the officials on the train from Halifax, Nova Scotia to Winnipeg, Manitoba were Americans. By this date, people had realised that it was less trouble to get into USA from Canada than via official immigration stations such as Ellis Island. British travellers could enter Canada without any immigration formalities unless they stated that they were intending to enter USA - and Canada needed immigrants, especially for establishing or working on farms.

Incidentally, the railway journey was about 1600 miles – over half the distance they had travelled across the Atlantic - and it sounds as if the speed of progress might have been about the same! Even today, the train journey from Halifax to Winnipeg takes around 70 hours, including three changes.

I never knew my grandfather, as he died in 1920, but he seems to have been a good storyteller. Imagine you are hearing the following in a Wrexham accent. The diary has been copied exactly as written.

297 Young Street  
Winnipeg  
Canada  
June 3rd 1904

This is the diary which we promised to send you giving an account of what we've seen and what we had to contend with, and what occurred on our monotonous journey from North Wales out to Winnipeg Canada.

To make the diary complete we think it best to start from Plas Power station, nr Wrexham. We left home on Thursday morning March 17th 1904 after bidding goodbye to our relatives & friends by the 9 o'clock train from Plas Power station to Wrexham in company with Miss S.E. WILLIAMS our sister and Miss S.A. REYNOLDS our friend. Also our brothers and cousins and dear friends, namely Messrs. Richard JONES, J.W. WILLIAMS, Stephen WILLIAMS, Arthur WILLIAMS, John Thos. HUGHES & our dear friend Mr. William REYNOLDS our Sunday School Teacher which we appreciated very much indeed. We left Wrexham at 9.40 after bidding goodbye to part of our company mentioned above to Liverpool in company with Messrs. William REYNOLDS, Richard JONES, Arthur WILLIAMS.

After making all arrangements at the Offices of the Allan Line Company, James Street, Liverpool, we went to have a dinner together at a restaurant. Afterwards we made for the Landing Stage, waited there a while & then we had to embark on the tender which took us out to the liner a distance off on the river. We must admit that the parting on the landing stage from our brothers and friend made us feel very sad, thinking perhaps that it may of being for the last time. But we hope to meet again if it's God's will. We must trust God and all will be for the best.

There were a good many at the same time going through the same sad experience of parting from their relatives & friends. The tender that took us out to the Ionian only took second class passengers, the third class were aboard the

day previous. After we were aboard the Ionian [the tender] returned to the Landing Stage for the first class & Saloon passengers. We should of stated when going off the tender onto the Liner there were two men Doctors I think standing one on each side of the gangway & all passengers had to hold out there wrists so that they could feel there pulses, to see whether they were in good health or not, or a matter of form, it must be an usual observance as they have. The reason is we thought in case of something happening such as feavers etc on board while out at sea.

We left Liverpool at 4.30 in the afternoon stopped at a place called Merville North coast of Ireland at 10 o'clock that night & left at 1.30, elsewhere on the 18th [inst?] then we came into the rough high sea & began to feel the rocking of the ship & the effects the motion was beginning to have on the passengers.

It did not matter in what position you were whether lying down in your cabin or sitting in the smoking room or on deck you could feel the upheaving of your stomach for a good while & then you did not feel inclined to go down to the Dining room thinking of what would be the result. The majority of the passengers after having indulged in the good things that is to be had at the eating rooms in a day or two began to feel queer & then you could see one hear & their vomiting as if it was a competition. Then Evan said to me he felt sick & up it came & so he felt himself relieved of such a bad sickness but it seems it was not sufficient to his nature & he was for three days could not eat but a few cakes, orange drink occasionally so as to have something to vomit as they say its a bad thing to be without. After Evan first day I felt sick & up it came but what seemed queer I was allright before him. But it is a sickness & no mistake. You could see them washing the deck very often it was in such a mess. Their were many that did not turn out of their Cabins for days & several did not come out on deck until the last day or two we were on board. The Cabins are the worst places on Board they are so stuffy & make you sick. So we got up on deck as much as we could & thats the best remedy for seasickness. There was a good many on Board that had Seasickness. If they knew what it was really like before starting, they woud'nt of ventured across the sea. A person does feel that way if he only admits the truth, but when you get over it you enjoy your meals & look forward to it as a luxury because of the good things & they vary as stated on the menu. All drinks on board is sixpence that is if you need it.

On the sixth day we passed a vessel with Cargo, previous to that we could not see nothing but water & the waves rising very high when the sea was rough. We also have a good deal of Wet weather, but mild weather. Anxious every day to see land. We seen also and abandoned fishing vessel. When you are on the high seas that is so monotonous only water to be seen you are very glad to see

any object floating to draw your attention. A night or two previous to us landing there was a Concert held for the benefit of the sailors home in Liverpool. As we were nearing our destination namely Halifax it was very foggy, and they used the foghorn every five minutes in case of accident that so often occur. The waiters on the tables in dining rooms expect you to tip them we did so they were very attentive you could get what you wanted at the table such as fruits & a desert.

There is a Doctor on board & also a barber we were shaved once on board. The ship was well finished in all respects it opened ones eyes such a thing afloat & the people it accommodated when you look from one end to the other its as if you were looking down a street such a length. All Foreigners in steerage are put separate from English people they are a dirty class of people what we have seen of them in that part of the vessel. The vaccinated a good many on board especially that class in the steerage before landing. Its worthwhile going about especially at night on board to hear the singing & dancing by men & women & the walking up & down the only Exercise. When we were entering Halifax the scenery was beautiful. The Forts they had there were well fortified in case of attack by an enemy. There was a report from one of the guns when we were entering just to let us know I suppose that they were prepared in case of emergency.

We arrived at Halifax on Sunday morning about 10.30.

The vessel travelled on the Th. Frid Sat first 3 days                      271 miles

Sunday 311

Mon    288

Tues   244

Wed    302

Thurs   265

Frid    253

Sat to Sunday morning   327

This gives you an Idea. These liners travel on such a rough sea as the Atlantic ocean. You see also how each day varies. If the weather is favourable it makes a great deal of difference to progress of the vessel.

After we got our feet on land once more we felt very queer we were as if we were drunk while walking in the streets of Halifax. The first thing we did in Halifax was to Cable over to you in Wales of our arrival it cost us 8/- by what we understood you would receive it in the Afternoon & such a long distance.

We have now given you an account of our voyage roughly.

In Halifax there were all sorts of people who had arrived by different liners & were in a large room in which there was a Place of provisions in which you could purchase for whatever you wanted for the journey in the trains namely Bread & Butter tea sugar milk cakes fruits knives spoons cans for your use. We purchased sufficient we thought but ran short of provisions while travelling in the train which we shall mention later on in the diary. After having a dinner in Halifax we left by train for Winnipeg at 1.30 in the afternoon it was a very slow train calling in all Stations & stopping in many other places on the way. Its a single line & very badly laid down which made the passengers very uncomfortable. The train is open from one end to the other & you are able to walk down all the carriages & can see all the passengers.

They were a good many foreigners on the train they were put separate from English people, but when you went through the compartments the smell was enough to make you sick. There were two stoves on the train so that you could boil your water to make tea but two stoves was not sufficient, there were so many at the same time around it wanting to boil their water & many had to do without. We had to be satisfied several times with condensed milk & cold water. It was laughable to see all eating & drinking in the seats.

The sleeping accommodation was bad in some carriages there was above every ones head a kind of shelf in which you could pull down & two lie in same & the other lie in there seats. In other carriages there were only the seats to lie on. And during the night when you would be asleep there would be someone opening the carriage door & that often which was letting in the cold wind & that would cause you to awake & feel miserable. Another time when asleep you would be startled by hearing the official calling out tickets please, so that he could punch same & you had to look in your pocket for same & and that when half awake it was a sight. The same ticket was punched many times before reaching your journey end.

We should say that all the Officials on the train are Americans. The snow was very deep along the line & when the train stopped passengers would jump out & ramble about & the train would start & then you could see them running at their best to catch same. In other places it stopped such as villages where you could see Hotels Coffee houses & then you could see many anxious to have a drink of something hot & refreshing but had to pay dear for same & while eating & drinking the train would start and they had to run & leave same after paying so much for it. We should say here that the line crosses the roads & it made it convenient for them to get to these places we mentioned.

(The account stops here, not at the end of a page.)



## A 1910 Australian Family Reunion

*by Gren Dix*  
*Membership no. 4174*

We tend to think of family reunions as being fairly recent ideas, at least for *Ag Labs* and similar ordinary people. Below is an account of a reunion that took place in Adelaide, South Australia, on 13 September 1910, produced from a compilation of articles printed in the newspapers listed in the references.

*A unique gathering occurred at the Co-operative Hall, Angas Street, Adelaide on the evening of Tuesday 13 Sept when the first reunion of the DIX and STRONGMAN families took place. Over one hundred descendants were present, when the history of the pioneer in each family was read. The reunion brings to mind a vivid picture of the struggles the pioneers of this State were called upon to make. Of the two families, the former have been the longer in the State, but the elder members of the STRONGMAN family also have memories of the early fifties in South Australia.*

*Mr. and Mrs. Joseph DIX arrived in South Australia from the Midlands of England with a family of two boys and three girls in 1847 on the ship *British Sovereign* (Captain Crowe). After spending several years in the city, they joined in the rush to the Victorian goldfields, where Mr. DIX and his eldest son were fairly successful. After that they returned to this State and followed pastoral and agricultural pursuits at Concordia and Redbanks successively. Mr. DIX was successful in his work on the farm and retired after several years and spent his last days with his son, Mr Joseph DIX, at Kensington. He died in 1897 at the age of 81. His descendants, many of whom were present, numbered 188.*

*Mr. and Mrs. David STRONGMAN arrived in the ship *Standard* in December, 1854 with four daughters and two sons. All but one of the family are still living. For five years, they lived at Campbelltown, where they owned the extensive garden now belonging to Mr. J. HOBBS. In 1903 Mr. STRONGMAN and his two sons went to the Barrier Ranges and helped to open up the Mundi Mundi and Mingary stations, then occupied by Mr. W. WHITING. The return journey was made over the plains between Umberumberka, and Boolcamatta, and the party were the first white men to cross that stretch of country after the explorer, Mr. BABBAGE. Mr. David STRONGMAN also settled at Redbanks, renewing an old friendship with Mr DIX, and on the farm which he acquired at Inkerman. He died at the age of 86. His descendants number 260. (Another article says there are 266 descendants in total).*

The two families are united by the marriage of the eldest and youngest sons of Mr. Joseph DIX to the eldest and youngest daughters of Mr David STRONGMAN respectively.



*A good flashlight photograph represents a group of those who gathered at the hall.*

I always think of our ancestors as being relatively static, usually venturing only as far as nearby villages, or perhaps travelling further afield in search of work. I tend to forget that we had an empire and people went round the world.

In 1851 the STRONGMAN family was in Cornwall. However, one child was born in New Brunswick, North America about 1840 and another, David Java STRONGMAN, was born *on the Atlantic Ocean on board the Java transport*. As a result of this, for many generations the name Java was used as a middle name.

Ellen MOSS, born circa 1788, the daughter of John MOSS (b 1760) married Edward BRANDRETH. The family then had many generations of sons with the forenames 'John Moss'. This even extended to the South African branch.

Do any other readers have family names with interesting origins?

### References:

*Barrier Miner* (Broken Hill, NSW: 1888 - 1954) Friday 16 Sept 1910, page 4  
*Evening Journal* (Adelaide, SA: 1869 - 1912) Thursday 22 Sept, page 4  
*The Register* (Adelaide, SA: 1901 -1929) Wednesday 14 Sept 1910, page 12  
*The Adelaide Advertiser* Wednesday 14 Sept 1910, page 10  
All found on [trove.nla.gov.au](http://trove.nla.gov.au)

## My Anderton Ancestors

by Martin Anderton White

Membership no. 10253

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My name is not hyphenated, and I rarely use my second forename; however I do feel that it is relevant in this particular context.

The ANDERTONS are an old Lancashire family; the name is derived from the town of Anderton near Bolton. In *A Topographical Dictionary of England*, Samuel Lewis wrote in 1845, *This place gave name to a family which was seated here at an early period.* The name of the town is derived from the Anglo-Saxon personal name *Eandred* and the old English word *tun*, meaning the settlement belonging to Eandred.

I have in my possession an ANDERTON crest, which I believe was given to my father by his aunt Jane WHITE. On the back is written:

*WILLIAM ANDERTON 1664 bore by right heraldic: Sable, three shackbolts argent. Seated at ANDERTON in Lancashire aged 61 – 22 Sep 1664 f Peter, f Peter, f Oliver all of the same. These arms were also allowed in 1664 to James of Birchley, to Hugh of Buxton and to Francis of Lostock.*

I have not been able to link any of these ANDERTONS to my ANDERTON forebears and I have no idea whether any of my ANDERTON ancestors were entitled to use the crest.

John ANDERTON, my 3x great-grandfather, was born in 1767. This date was found in an old family Bible by my 2x great-uncle, the Rev Arthur ANDERTON (1854-1929). I am grateful to Arthur ANDERTON: he was evidently interested in family history and a collection of his papers was passed to me by my cousin Ingun ROBERTS née WHITE. I do not have confirmation of John's parents; however, it is likely that John was the son of James ANDERTON who was a wealthy landowner in Blackburn.



James ANDERTON died in 1800 and bequeathed a weaving shop to his son John. James ANDERTON's will makes interesting reading. The only child mentioned by name is John. He refers to his children and to his wife *Betty*. He shows concern that Betty might either remarry or have a *bastard child*. This leads me to think that this was a second marriage, and that Betty was much younger than James.

John ANDERTON was a successful cotton manufacturer, at a time when the cotton industry was expanding rapidly. During the period 1766-1787, the production of cotton cloth in Great Britain increased fivefold and by 1800 steam power was increasingly being used in the cotton mills. John ANDERTON had been *in the service of the first bart. Sir Robert PEEL at Radcliffe* (Bury Times 4 January 1908). Sir Robert PEEL 1750-1830 was the father of the more famous Sir Robert PEEL who became prime minister; the PEELs had also become wealthy through the cotton industry. A James ANDERTON, possibly John's father, had assisted the PEEL family in the construction of a cotton mill in Blackburn. It was probably while Sir Robert PEEL was living at Chamberhall, near Radcliffe that John ANDERTON was in his service.

In 1795, John married Elizabeth BARROW, the daughter of Henry and Martha BARROW who were nonconformists, and there is a lot of evidence that the ANDERTONS had nonconformist connections. For instance, there is an interesting connection to the HEYWOOD family. In a letter from a cousin, Arthur ANDERTON was informed that *There were HEYWOODs on both sides of the family, I believe a certain Oliver HEYWOOD was supposed to be a 'persecuted divine' on one side. A short life of him was written and Grandfather ANDERTON (John) supplied information.* Oliver HEYWOOD 1630-1702 was indeed a nonconformist minister who was persecuted for his beliefs. One of John ANDERTON's sons was named Joseph Heywood ANDERTON.

John and Elizabeth ANDERTON had fourteen children. Their tenth child, Charles, born at Pilkington near Manchester in 1813, is my 2x great-grandfather and became a surgeon. A surgeon was then what we would today call a general practitioner or G.P. The term G.P. came into use during the early nineteenth century but did not then have any legal definition; some G.P.s continued to use the term *Surgeon*.

The Apothecaries Act of 1815 had been a first step in the professionalisation of the medical profession. The term *Medically Qualified* then had a clear meaning and had to be acquired through academic effort and financial cost. The G.P. was expected to be proficient in physic, surgery, pharmacy and midwifery. In the period 1750-1850, the status of a medical practitioner progressed from that of a

tradesman of lowly status to membership of a unified profession with recognised qualifications. It is highly likely that Charles studied medicine at the Pine Street Medical School established in Manchester by Thomas TURNER in 1824. Pine Street became *the first complete provincial school of medicine*. Charles had practices at Huddersfield Road, Queen Street and Portland Place in Stalybridge, and in Mottram in Longdendale.

In 1837, Charles ANDERTON married Jane HALL, the daughter of James, a cotton spinner of Stalybridge. Charles's brother, the Rev Joseph Heywood ANDERTON, officiated at the wedding. Charles and Jane had three children, their first child born in 1838 being my great-grandmother Emily ANDERTON. Jane died of tuberculosis in 1847, and Charles remarried to Anne MELLOR in 1849. They had one child, the aforementioned Arthur ANDERTON, born in 1854, who entered the priesthood. From 1890 until retirement, he was Vicar at the Church of Saint John the Evangelist at Miles Platting. William TEMPLE, who later became Archbishop of Canterbury, was Bishop of Manchester 1821-29, and during this time, he and Arthur became friends. In a letter to Arthur from a cousin in 1820, William TEMPLE was described thus: *So you are to have 'Willie' Temple. There is no doubt that he is a man of great ability. He ought to be a broadminded and sympathetic Bishop, and his sympathies with the working classes are well known. I hope you will find him a blessing.*

Charles ANDERTON died at his home in Stalybridge in 1857. It was reported that *Mr Anderton had been unwell for some time but was considered to be recovering*. He was recorded as having died of a *ruptured blood vessel*.

Following the death of her mother in 1847, my great-grandmother Emily ANDERTON and her sister Sarah Anne attended Chadderton Hall, a boarding school for young ladies near Oldham. In 1860 in Ashton-under-Lyne, she married my great grandfather, the Rev William Henry WHITE. He was a Cornishman from Saint Just-in-Penwith where his family had tin mining and farming interests. Historically, the WHITE family had been Cornish blacksmiths.

This was a period of revival for the Church of England. By the end of the eighteenth century, *Years of neglect had left it shabby and lethargic* (*The Victorian Parson* by Barry



Emily White née Anderton

TURNER, 2015). It was during the first half of the nineteenth century that a period of reform began, with the Church beginning to play a prominent part in the nation's affairs and the local vicar becoming a respected pillar of society. The Church became active in campaigning for schools, healthcare, living conditions and humanitarian values. The vicar was often a champion of the lower classes. In many ways, the Victorian parson was an unsung hero.

This was also an era of church building. The Church of Saint John the Evangelist where Arthur ANDERTON was Vicar was consecrated in 1855 and the Church of Saint John the Baptist in Pendeen, Cornwall, where William Henry WHITE grew up, was consecrated in 1849 when Henry was fifteen; his father was the first churchwarden. The church at Pendeen had been established by the Rev Robert AITKEN, a popular preacher who had already exercised a remarkable ministry. Emily and William named one of their daughters Emily Aitken WHITE and a son was named Robert Aitken WHITE.

John ANDERTON became prosperous, thanks to his cotton interests. He died in 1846 at the family estate of The Elms, at Whitefield, just south of Bury, and was interred in the nearby Stand Presbyterian Churchyard. Elizabeth ANDERTON née BARROW died at the age of ninety, also at The Elms, in 1870. The Elms was a large estate and Elizabeth had continued to enjoy considerable wealth, having lived with her unmarried daughter Mary *on their own means*.

William WHITE was curate at Saint John Dukinfield, Saint Paul Stalybridge and then Vicar at Saint James Millbrook near Stalybridge, Saint Thomas Hyde and finally at Saint Mary, Long Newton, County Durham. The cotton industry had led to a dramatic growth in the three closely connected towns of Dukinfield, Hyde and Stalybridge. The population of Stalybridge increased from 140 in 1750 to over 14000 in 1831. Emily and William would have been serving their parishioners at Stalybridge during the cotton famine of 1861-65, when the American Civil War led to a huge cut in imports of raw cotton. As a result, thousands of mill workers were laid off and there was severe hardship. The Church played a leading role in providing relief.

Emily and William had eleven children. Their seventh child, my grandfather - also named William Henry - was born in Hyde in 1873. The couple eventually retired to Lytham St Annes, where Emily died in 1913.

My grandfather moved south and after sojourns in Cornwall and South Africa he joined the Merchant Navy. He was more or less continuously at sea from around 1905 onwards, and in 1908 married my grandmother Sarah Ann DALEY in East Ham, London. Sarah was a Lancashire lass, and in 1891 had been living

in Back Bower Lane, Hyde while the Rev William Henry WHITE was vicar at St Thomas', Hyde. My father Thomas William WHITE was born in East Ham, London, in 1909. The family home was then established in Charlton, south-east London. When my grandfather retired from the sea, he and Sarah moved to West Hoathly in Sussex, where he died in 1955.

## Reasons to be Thankful

*By David Phillips  
Membership no. 9243*

Reasons to be thankful have been few and far between over the last ten months or so; however, there have been one or two positives for which we can be truly thankful.

For us, the first thing is the way that the lockdowns and other restrictions have brought people together. Our local Chatsworth Road *Whatsapp* Group began in the middle of March, and has gone from strength to strength, with most of the 150+ households on our long road represented. We have also developed links with the Crewe and Nantwich groups within the Cheshire Family History Society through their Zoom meetings. These have been very rewarding, allowing us to join with people who live not just in Cheshire but also Oxfordshire, the north-east of England, and North Africa.

The second positive aspect of the current way of life has been the provision of time to do some of things that we had set aside until we had time to get around to it! I was reminded of the circular coaster that my mum had, with the legend: *This is a ROUND TUIT - you no longer have an excuse to put off doing things.*

We have spent some very productive time with our family history investigations - tidying up the trees, organising files, writing the stories, indexing photographs and other media and also investigating further along the branches.

It is always exciting to find information about our ancestors that allows us to paint a more detailed portrait of the real person behind the name. We know very little about the extended family beyond the direct line, as there are so many of them, and we always seem to become distracted by the social history being played out around the family though the years.

We have used our time over recent months to delve into the growing amount of information from newspapers being published online, for example, Ursula PHILLIPS, my first cousin twice removed. Ursula was the third of the four daughters of Richard and Lavinia PHILLIPS, Richard being a younger brother of my great-grandfather, George Charles PHILLIPS, himself one of six children. Searching for *Ursula Phillips* in a newspaper archive website produced the following article, published by the *Birmingham Daily Gazette* on 25th March 1948:

***The smiling sweet guide retires***

*When chocolates are no longer on the ration and people are once more touring Cadbury Brothers' factory, Bourneville, at the pre-war rate of 1,000 or more a day, there will be only one thing missing - the welcoming smile of Miss Ursula Phillips, head of the factory's staff of guides.*

*For today, after 35 years spent in receiving visitors from all over the world, Miss Phillips will retire with memories she values more than anything else. It is of the many thousands of people, from royalty down to the most humble members of society, who have received her engaging smile and courteous welcome at the factory gates.*

*"I love meeting people," Miss Phillips told the Birmingham Gazette as she flashed the same engaging smile that is known all over the world. "My whole life couldn't have been spent in happier circumstances."*

*Tribute to Miss Phillips's work was paid last night by Mr. L Jones, head of the visitors department, when he presented her with a travelling case and umbrella from the staff.*

I always wondered where my insatiable craving for Cadbury's Chocolate Buttons came from!

***Did You Know? 3***

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# The Family History Society of Cheshire

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**Kevin Dean, FHSC Membership Renewals Officer**

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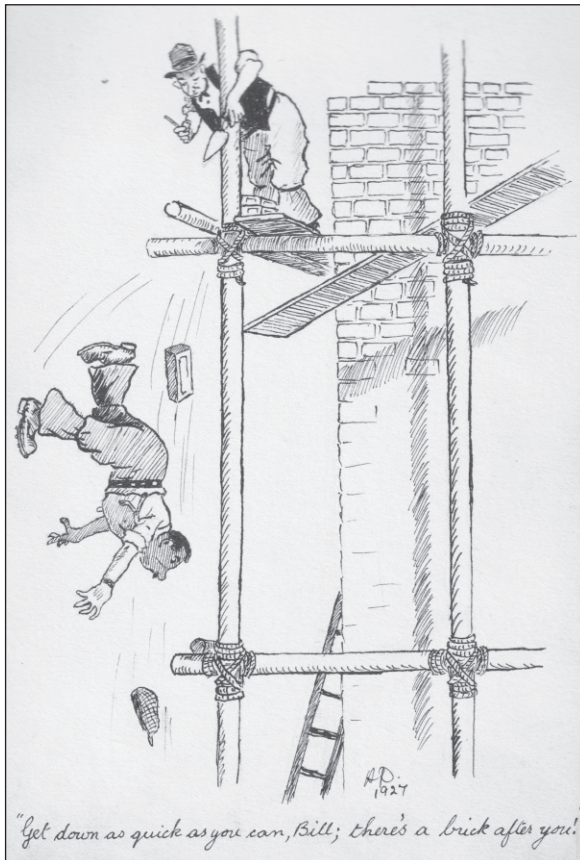
## Cartoon by Harry Dunks

*by Jim Bates  
Membership no. 2828*

Here is a cartoon by my mother's brother, Harry DUNKS 1904-1973. Although he and his three sisters were born in Denton, Lancashire, they do have Cheshire connections as their mother Miriam DUNKS née CAMERON (1878-1922) was born in Hyde, Cheshire and died in Denton.

I thought the cartoon would give members a chuckle. The caption is:

*Get down as quick as you can, Bill, there's a brick after you!*



## Thornton Meadows

by Chester Guttridge  
Membership no. 9193

My great-grandfather, George WILLIAMSON, bought three fields in Thornton-le-Moors on 24 December 1873 from James WHITBY, paying him £550.

A transcription of the conveyance describes the property thus:

*ALL THOSE THREE several closes pieces or parcels of land situate lying and being in Thornton-le-Moors in the County of Chester commonly called or known by the name of 'Thornton Meadows' all lying together and containing Ten acres Three roods and Thirtytwo perches statute measure\* be the same more or less as the same were formally (sic) in the occupation of .....\*\* Webster but now of the said James Whitby and are more particularly delineated and described in the plan drawn in the margin hereof and therein edged with the color (sic) pink.*

\* 4.432 hectares.

\*\* His first name was omitted from the transcription.

The plan has not survived so I am unable to identify the fields among the many then *situate* in the area to the east of the River Gowy as it meanders towards the Mersey. Thornton Meadows were small fields varying in size, mostly rectangular, some long and narrow arranged in columns. George's *three several closes pieces or parcels of land* included one later described as the *top meadow* and, very likely, one bordering the river or a brook providing a source of water for grazing animals. They were probably near the southern end of the area not far from the *Nag's Head*, his public house at Bridge Trafford.

The Schedule of Deeds and Documents relating to the three fields shows that from 2 January 1846 they were owned by William WAINWRIGHT and, from 23 November 1861, by William WHITBY who bequeathed them to James WHITBY. Both WAINWRIGHT and William WHITBY mortgaged the property, the latter with the Trustees of the Lancashire and Cheshire Permanent Building Society. WEBSTER isn't mentioned in the list.

George WILLIAMSON was 61 years old when he purchased the three fields. He had spent a lifetime as a publican and brewer: first in Milton Street, Chester, then in Bickerton and from 1862 at the *Nag's Head*, Bridge Trafford, where latterly he was assisted by his son George and daughter Martha whose husband

was then living elsewhere. When the elder George died in 1876, young George, then twenty two years old, became licensee and brewer while twenty eight year-old Martha ran the bar, purchasing ale at wholesale prices from George in a business-like arrangement.

During the seven years of joint operation following George senior's death, Martha bought 21%, by value, of her brother's output of ale, the remaining 79% being sold by George off-premises to other public houses, one over twenty miles distant, and to farmers and private buyers. For this, he would need at least one dray and two horses. He and the family would also need a pony and trap for day-to-day business, private journeys and Sunday church-going. There is little doubt that the three Thornton Meadows were bought to provide grazing and hay for these animals.

Young George married Eliza Jane WRIGHT, a neighbouring farmer's daughter in 1882 and moved with her to Overwood Lane, Mollington taking his brewing business with him and leaving Martha at the Nag's Head with her husband, William DARLINGTON.

William, a butcher by trade, had been living at Foulk Stapleton but returned to his wife, took over the *Nag's Head* licence in 1882 and became George's first tenant of Thornton Meadows, paying £22 per annum in half yearly instalments in arrears on 2 February and 2 August. He was never less than two months late in paying. George occasionally allowed deductions from rentals and on 2 February 1882, he *Allowed for ripe crop 1:0:0* (£1 0s. 0d.)

In May 1884 a haystack in the meadows belonging to William caught fire, destroying twenty-seven tons of hay. The Chester Volunteer Fire Brigade arrived with a manual engine and seven men but too late to save the stack, which was valued at £100 (*Cheshire Observer*, 10 May 1884). William had fortunately insured it with the Norwich Union Assurance Company for £80, so he would have been well pleased, I imagine, if he received the money for a stack of last year's hay. How it caught fire is unknown but I confess to having unworthy thoughts about how it came to be ignited and, generally, about William's honesty and liking for liquor, although I have only circumstantial evidence to support the view. He had been before the courts twice, once for trying to sell contaminated meat and once for *furiously driving* when his horse mounted the parapet (boundary wall) of a public house in Brook Street, Chester. (*Chester Observer*, 4 October 1879).

In 1885 William gave up the *Nag's Head* and the tenancy of the Meadows. He had presided over three years of declining prosperity at the pub and on one

occasion bought substandard ale cheaply from George. George re-let the Meadows without a break in March 1885 to William McWATERS of Wimbolds Trafford for £16 per annum, payable on 29 September and 25 March in arrears. McWATERS proved to be a satisfactory tenant, paying more or less on time until he gave up the tenancy on 25 March 1904, after nearly nineteen years. He too benefited from concessions. In October 1895 George allowed him £2 for *cleaning brook* and, strangely, in March 1896 George allowed him ten shillings for a subscription to Thornton Sunday School and, more reasonably, five shillings for a gate in 1904.

Again without a break, George found a new tenant, Mr Tom JOHNSON of Hall Farm, Wimbolds Trafford, who also paid £16 per annum half yearly in arrears until March 1915. In 1906 he was allowed £1:2:0 for two gates.

Martha LITTLER of Bank Farm, Elton took up the tenancy in 1915 on the same terms, although four years later the rent was increased to £18 a year. At the 1911 census Martha LITTLER (then 54 years old) was at Bank Farm with her four children, Mary Ellen (30), Frank (25), Elsie (21) and Maud (15). Henry, her husband and children's father, was no longer with them as he had been in 1891. In 1923 the let was transferred to Martha's son Frank LITTLER at Rook Farm, Elton. George allowed him £1 for a *bad season* in 1923 and £4 for cleaning ditches the following year. In 1932 the rent was reduced to £12 per year for *the loss of the top meadow*. The 1930s were difficult years for farming and Frank had problems meeting the rent demands. He was sending cheques for rent four or more months late. Payment due on 25 September 1938 was not received until June 1939 by which time the March 1939 payment was three months overdue. He died aged fifty-four in late 1939 owing £12 for his last year of tenancy.

George WILLIAMSON had died in June 1927, leaving Eliza Jane and their eldest daughter, Gerty, dependant on investment income. The Estate Trustees decided in 1940 to sell Thornton Meadows but this proved not to be easy. Walter JONES, Elsie's husband, dealt with the sale on behalf of the three sisters, Gerty, Elsie and my mother, who were the ultimate beneficiaries of George's estate. Eleven letters have survived concerning LITTLER's debt and the sale.

The first letter concerns unpaid Tithes. The Tithe Authorities took proceeding against Frank LITTLER for three unpaid tithes totalling £1.5s.6d. During the proceedings Frank discovered that the tithes were chargeable to the landlord and not the tenant. The Williamson Executor's Trust was then billed. The second letter is a copy of one sent to Frank threatening proceedings for £6 rent arrears as he was still legally the tenant. Frank had claimed that he was no longer tenant following a letter he had received from Walter stating that a new tenant had



been found. A follow-up letter from Bate & Son, Solicitors, to Walter, dated 27 February 1940, provides clarification and adds details of the confusion over the tithes. Messrs. Gamon & Co, representing the Tithe Authorities, had on an earlier occasion taken proceedings against Frank to recover 17 shillings, which he claimed was not due because he was no longer tenant of the property. Gamon & Co. accepted his claim and withdrew from the proceedings. The WILLIAMSONs were then billed and paid the money due.

C. H. STOCKTON of Bate & Co. wrote to Walter JONES on 2 March 1940 informing him that Frank had sent a post-dated cheque for £6 for *when we get our next Milk cheque in....* Poor Frank was living hand to mouth. I believe he was a genuine victim of the 1930s depression in farming and his farm was too small to be viable. According to a notice of an impending auction of Rook Farm in 1905, it was only 70 acres (*Cheshire Observer*, Saturday May 6 1905.) The solicitors took the view that he was a difficult man to have financial dealings with.

The next letter was from the Weston Area Officer of The Cheshire War Agricultural Executive Committee, replying to a letter from Walter inquiring whether the 10½ acres of meadow land could be put to good use. Walter or the solicitors were seemingly unaware of the loss of the top field. The officer said that he would ask a surveyor to visit the land and make suggestions. The outcome is unknown. The War Ags, as they were called, were charged with seeing that farms were properly run and land used productively. They offered advice, issued instructions and were even empowered to replace an incompetent farmer, such was the need to maximise food production.

On 9 October 1940 STOCKTON wrote to Walter referring to some earlier correspondence with the Cheshire Rivers' Catchment Board for which a reply had not been received, then going on to say that Mr Leonard WRIGHT, Auctioneer, had said that in his opinion the *land was practically unsalable owing to it being liable to flooding*. STOCKTON further reported that he had approached several local farmers but none were interested in a tenancy. Lastly, he expressed his opinion that there was no hope of receiving any rent due from Frank as he had been informed by solicitors acting for his Executors that the Estate was almost insolvent. Written in a footnote in the WILLIAMSON ledger are the words *Len Wright states that at the Littler's Sale (33 acres) (July 4th 1940 £1000 condition poor) said that our land was also very poor*. It's not surprising that Frank ran into difficulties in the 1930s as his farm consisted of poor land and was seemingly only half the size it was in 1905. Had he lived a couple of years longer he would have benefited from the wartime recovery in agricultural prosperity. In view of the poor quality of the land it is surprising that George seemingly had little difficulty finding tenants in previous years.

The next two letters comprise the description of Thornton Meadows transcribed in the opening paragraph above and the list of previous owners. The penultimate letter confirms the WILLIAMSON decision that £300 is the lowest sum they are prepared to accept for the land. The final letter, dated 17 June 1941, records the receipt of £300 from Capt. GRIFFITHS for the meadows and sets out Bate & Son's charge of £6.11.0 and two others relating to the tithe, leaving a net sum of £292.12s.11d. The money was invested in 3½% War Stock, another loser.

Thornton Meadows had at last gone, no doubt to the huge relief of Walter and the family. It had been a poor investment, netting a capital loss approaching 50% after eight years of grazing and sixty years of a meagre 3% average gross annual return, although the capital loss may have been offset by an unrecorded payment for the top meadow in 1932.

If I have correctly identified the location of this land, it is in the region of an area now known as Goway Meadows, a wildlife sanctuary run by Cheshire Wildlife Trust.

## Child Labour in Australia

*by Gren Dix*  
*Membership no. 4174*

An article about one of my ancestors, printed on page 24 of the *Murray Pioneer and Australian River Record* (Renmark, S.A.: 1913 - 1942), 7 September 1923.

### **George Joseph Dix (1836-1907)** **Tells of Bygone Days - Looking Backward**

George Joseph DIX, one of the most widely known settlers of the Renmark district, was born in 1865 at Redbanks, in the district of Port Gawler. His parents, old colonists, hailed from England, the father [*George DIX, born 1836*] being a Northampton man and his mother [*Mary Lewis STRONGMAN*] a Cornish girl. It was in 1846 that Mr DIX's father arrived in Adelaide [*the family actually departed 14 July 1847 from Plymouth on the British Sovereign*]. His mother was eleven years old when she disembarked from a sailing ship, the *Standard*, which left Plymouth on 10 September 1854 for Port Adelaide.

Mr DIX, the subject of this sketch, first went to school at Redbanks. Boys and girls had to tumble out of bed early in those days. Half a dozen cows to milk, the pigs to feed, wood to chop then a four mile walk to school. Then in the evening four miles home, the wood to get, the cows to milk and those pigs to feed. Fairly hard on children, *But, says Mr DIX life was happy. I cannot remember feeling tired then, but of course the teaching was much simpler than it is today, did not require as much concentration of mind as it does now.*

Mr Dix was at school for two or three years. At ten years of age he commenced working. All day long he followed two great Clydesdale horses which pulled a little Ranson double-farrowed plough. Handling that plough alone, the tally at the end of the last furrow being two and a half acres to the day. And that was his day as at ten years. As the sun rose the great Clydesdales slipped into their collars, their chains tightened and the child guiding the plough would talk to them and control them, all through the long day. When the sun set, the big horses were stopped, unyoked and taken home by the little boy. It is a wonderful picture and belongs to an age of its own. The Clydesdales were bred by Mr DIX's old grandfather [*Joseph DIX, born c.1813*] who lived in Redbanks and was a stockmaster and breeder of draughts.

Mr DIX worked with his father until he was twenty two years of age. From 1875 to 1885 the seasons were on and off. Farming was pretty rough in those days. There was not much science or judgment used. The proper tilling of the soil was not yet understood. The fallows would be always too late, say at the end of August or the beginning of November. Mr DIX always considered that his father made a mistake in ploughing too deeply. In the very early days bullocks were used on most farm lands. The plough would be set to six, eight or ten inches. Mr DIX's father was a pioneer of the Port Gawler district and considered it necessary to well stir up the land in order to obtain good results. Arriving in the district between 1859-60 he carried on the old farming traditions which folk found hard to break away from. Mr DIX was a very old hand in the bush. Accompanying the Mr GOYDER as a bullock driver he had, away back in the 50's, punched his team with the first survey party through to Cooper. Whilst on the long overlanding trip Mr DIX learned music and how to play a concertina. Upon his arrival back in Adelaide, almost any sheet of music could be read and Mr DIX was recognised as one of the best concertina players in Adelaide.

Mr DIX does not consider his early farm days as humdrum. Plenty of hard work intermixed with social gatherings. A twenty-mile ride on horseback, after a day's work, dancing all night and the ride home arriving just in time to breakfast and yoke up.

## A Golden Moment with Noah Gilks

*by Susan Tyers*  
*Membership no. 6565*

*Another entry in the FHSC 50th anniversary "Golden Moment" competition.*

After my mother died in 2004, my cousin Ann sent me a family photograph which included my father, mother and me as a toddler. There are very few photographs of me with both my parents, as my father died in an accident at work just before my fifth birthday. I realised I knew very little about my father's family and so began my explorations into GILKES family history.

After joining our Society I was at a Congleton Group Meeting in 2005 and found a Guild Of One Name Studies booklet of surnames which included the name GILK(E)S. I contacted the gentleman running the GILK(E)S study and he helped me follow my line of GILKES back from my grandfather, William Henry (1874-1946) in Nottingham to his father, my great-grandfather, John (1845-1896) in London, my great-great-grandfather Thomas (1823-1863) in Banbury, Oxfordshire, to my 3x great-grandfather, Thomas (1796-1864) in Napton-on-the-Hill, Warwickshire, and my 4x great-grandfather, John (1754-1825), also in Napton.

In 2006 the easiest way to look at Napton parish records was by ordering a microfilm for the grand sum of £1.10 for up to three months at the Family History Centre attached to the Church of the Latter-Day Saints at Broken Cross, Macclesfield. This could be viewed on a Tuesday or a Thursday when the centre was open. The Napton records were very helpful as, not only did they include baptisms, marriages and burials, but also the Churchwardens' Accounts, Vestry Minute Book, Rate Book, Overseers Accounts, Apprenticeship Records and Parish Minutes. I found myself investigating each branch of the family and getting a picture of life for each generation.

My 3x great-grandfather, Thomas, born in 1823, had a brother George, who was baptised on 25 December 1829 at St Lawrence Church, Napton. In the 1851 Census was Thomas, born 1796, who was a brewer and beer retailer living by the Oxford Canal at Napton-on-the-Hill and George, his son, was an agricultural labourer aged 21 and living at home with his parents. After that, like many country people, George followed the canal towards the industrial

midlands looking for better paid work and on 7 April 1855 George married Sarah ALOM in Dudley Parish Church, Worcestershire, when he was described as a Stocktaker.

George and Sarah had seven children born in Tipton, Staffordshire, when George was labouring in an ironworks: Mary Ann, born 1859, Henry, born 1861, Emma, born 1865, Elizabeth, born 1867, and William, born 1870. The family had moved to Wallbrook, Sedgley by the time Noah was born in 1874 and Eliza Jane in 1881, where George was a general labourer. George's wife, Sarah, died on 7 June 1890 at home, 4 Edge Street, Wallbrook, Dudley, and George died on 16 March 1902 at Sedgley Union Workhouse.

Of George and Sarah's children, Noah was the only boy to survive past infancy. At the time of the 1881 Census he was living at home with his parents and sisters Emma and Elizabeth, but by the time of the 1891 Census he was in Saltley Reformatory for Boys in Aston, Birmingham. In July 2007 I found and purchased Noah's death certificate, from which I learned that he had a son, C E GILKS, who had registered Noah's death on 22 October 1939 at 4 Victoria Avenue, Altrincham. However, I had not found a marriage for Noah nor found any trace of him between 1891 and 1939! Also in 2007 I had acquired the marriage certificate of Eliza Jane GILKS, Noah's younger sister; the witnesses were Charles GILKS and Annie GILKS - but I had no idea who they were despite extensive searching on the Internet.

A year later at the end of July 2008 I had a message relating to a profile I have on Ancestry, although I am not a subscriber. This came from a lady called Jean who was helping her friend Sandra to research her family history, as Sandra had no access to a computer. The message stated *We are trying to find information about Noah Gilks, son of George Gilks (born 1830 the son of Thomas and Mary). Noah had a son Neville who married Prudence Maud Ward in or about 1928/1929. Prudence was born in 1909 and is still living. Sandra, who is looking for information, is the great-granddaughter of Noah.* With emails flying back and forth I was very quickly enlightened about Noah and his descendants, which would probably never have happened if I did not have a profile on Ancestry.

After I had replied to Jean with a short history taking the GILK(E)S line back to Napton-on-the-Hill, she found entries for C E GILKS at Altrincham in 1952 and Timperley in 1978 in the British Phone Books 1880-1984 database on Ancestry. Sandra's sister, who lived near Jean, remembered visiting her great-uncle in Timperley years before - and then Jean found the birth registration for Charles Edward GILKS in 1905. I then searched the microfiche GRO indexes at Alderley Edge (the location of Society's research centre before it moved to Mobberley)

and found the marriage of Arthur N GILKS to Prudence Maud WARD in 1928 and also the birth of Josephine GILKS with the mother's maiden name WARD. I sent for the birth certificate of Charles Edward GILKS, who was born on 17 November 1905 at 39 Byrom Street, Altrincham, only to find that the father was Charles GILKS, a machine puncher, and the mother, Annie GILKS formerly Tomlins. The light dawned – they were the couple who witnessed the marriage of Noah's sister, Eliza Jane at Altrincham on 2 August 1902! Jean then told me that Noah was called Charles Noah or Noah Charles.

I was sure that Sandra and I were related - my great-great-grandfather, Thomas, was the older brother of George, Noah's father, and our common ancestor was my 3x great-grandfather Thomas (1796), making us fourth cousins. So Sandra and I communicated through Jean, spoke to each other on the telephone and soon arranged to meet. Sandra mentioned that she was visiting the Shrewsbury area the following week and it came about that we met on the first Thursday in August, less than two weeks since Jean's enquiry, in Wem, Shropshire, which was very convenient for me as Sandra lives in Suffolk. I provided her with a Genealogy Report and Family Tree from my Family Tree Maker (2005) programme and she gave me photographs of all Noah's descendants. What a wonderful way to bring our family history up to date.

In the meantime, I had found Noah in the 1901 Census listed as Noah C GILES, a boarder with Mary GLARVEY, an Irish widow, and her son, a cab driver, at 13 Russell Street, Altrincham. Noah's occupation was shown as a machine fitter and his birthplace as Wallbrook. Later in August I obtained a copy of his marriage certificate, which shows that Charles JILKS and Annie TOMLINS were married on 19 April 1902 at St John the Evangelist Church, Altrincham. Noah was a machinist and lived at 40 Pownall Street, Altrincham, and Annie lived at 6 Borough Road, Altrincham.



Over the next few years we pieced together Noah's story. In 2009

Sandra obtained Noah's records at Saltley Reformatory for Boys from the Birmingham Central Library at a cost of £25. The Reformatory Register Entry stated that Noah had been admitted to Saltley at the age of 14 from H M Prison, Stafford, having been sentenced at Bilston Petty Sessions to 14 days and 5 years at Saltley. He had been committed once before for stealing coal but was discharged with a caution. The present sentence was for stealing a piece of leather and a hammer. He had been working at gathering rags for Mr Enoch GETTING of Bilston. When he was admitted to the Reformatory he could read and write very imperfectly. He was described as being of sallow complexion with brown hair, brown eyes, 4ft 7ins tall and in good health. It was also stated that George GILKS was a labourer at an Iron Works and Sarah was a *cripple since 9 years*. Their treatment of Noah had apparently been good and nothing had been reported against the character of the parents. However it was felt that the circumstances which led to the crime were a lack of control by the parents. Sandra's mother said that when she knew Noah *he was a marvellous writer* and she remembered him as being tall. His signature in the marriage register at St John's Church, Altrincham, looks neat and legible, although there is an attempt to change the G to a J to match the Vicar's written entry!

Although Noah's sentence expired on 20 January 1894, he was discharged on licence on 21 June 1892 to employment by Mr French at New Bridge Farm, Yardley, when his conduct and character were considered good. On 30 June 1893 he was licensed to work for Mr Horton in Manchester. This was actually his sister Mary Ann's husband, Ambrose, who worked as an iron moulder and lived in the Miles Platting area. Finally on 30 September 1893 Noah was licensed to Mr Menzies in Altrincham when his conduct was described as good. There were no further entries in the records as Noah's sentence expired on 20 January 1894. Mr Menzies was a gentleman living on his own means with his family at Elinor Lodge, Walney, Ellesmere Road, Altrincham, and, as well as domestic servants, he employed a gardener in 1901. Presumably that could be how Noah worked for him before he completed his sentence. Noah obviously moved on after that as he was a machine fitter living in Altrincham in the 1901 census.

In 1901 Annie TOMLINS was a domestic cook and living with her married sister and husband as well as her brother and sister, Jane, at 6 Borough Road, Altrincham, the address from which she was married to Noah on 19 April 1902. Sandra's mother thought that Noah worked as a groom and gardener and met Annie at the same workplace, where she was a cook; we presume this was in Altrincham. It had seemed natural for Noah to move north from the Midlands as his mother had died whilst he was in Saltley Reformatory and at the time of the 1891 Census his father had been staying in Manchester with Mary Ann and Ambrose. His sister, Elizabeth, married John Smith at St Edmund Parish

Church, Manchester, in 1888 and in 1891 the youngest sister, Eliza Jane, was living with them at Chorlton on Medlock.

As mentioned earlier, Noah and Annie's first child was Charles Edward, who was born on 17 October 1905 at 39 Byrom Street, Altrincham, when his father was machine puncher. The birth was registered by Annie, who called her husband Charles. The second child was Arthur Neville, who was born on 16 June 1910 at 70 Hale Road, Hale, and was registered by Charles himself. He gave his address as 7 Hardy Avenue, Chorlton cum Hardy, and his occupation was domestic coachman.

At the time of the 1911 Census Noah - now named Charles - was an *Electric Controller Fitter* living at 4 Victoria Avenue, Timperley, with Annie, Charles Edward (born 1905) and Arthur Neville (born 1910). They also had a boarder, which would have given them extra income. An entry in the 1914 Slater's Directory of Altrincham, Bowdon, listed *Charles Gilks, fitter, 4 Victoria Avenue, Timperley*. Charles and Annie were still living at the same address when the 1939 Register was taken and Charles' occupation was *Gardener (Retired ill health)*. Noah died later that year on 22 October at the same address at the age of 65 from *Cardiac Disease and Chronic Nephritis*, being heart disease and kidney failure. Annie died in 1964 at the age of 93.

Nobody seems to know how Noah became Charles but the initial "C" first appeared on the 1901 Census. It was not unusual at the time for servants to be given a different name in larger households when employers preferred something different. So it may well have been that when Annie first knew Noah, she knew him as Charles and the name stuck! When he died and his son, Charles Edward, registered his father's death he used the name *Noah GILKS* - thank goodness! That really was a *Golden Moment!*

#### **Sources:**

Guild of One Name Studies (GOONS) - Gilk(e)s  
Church of Latter Day Saints - Parish Registers 1604-1977 - Church of England  
Parish Church of Napton-on-the-Hill.  
English Censuses - 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911  
1939 Register  
General Register Office - Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates  
FreeBMD - Birth, Marriage and Death indexes  
Birmingham Central Library - Saltley Reformatory Register Entries  
FHSC Research Centre - previously at Alderley Edge, now at Mobberley.



# Net That Serf

## The Computer Section

*Compiled by Geoff Johnson*

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### Contents

From the Desktop	51	Family History Programs	60
iPad Issues	52	Groups.io	61
Comments on Previous Issues	54	From the Inbox	61
DNA Research into Scandinavian Ancestry	56	Closing Snippet	62

### From the Desktop



A reminder that Census Day is on Sunday 21st March. You can find more details here:

<https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census/>

A mixed bag in this issue, starting with the growing trend for iPads. My nephew has just bought one for his parents – they may be great for grannies, but they’re presenting questions to a non-user like me every week. To make it worse, my two lady referees are against me!

Our former chairman is another user of Family Tree Analyzer, and she alerts us to the possibility of using its output to more easily expand your Lost Cousins coverage. A keen DNA researcher delves into the Scandinavian factor that seems to pop up a few percentage points in many of our DNA investigations.

My favoured family history program, *Family Historian*, has a new major update, and we’ve found links to several forums that offer extensive help for technical and general family history questions.

We end with a couple of observations regarding backup, and an observation on the widening IT knowledge across the generations.

## iPad Issues

### **Rodney Inglesfield of Bramhall wrote:**

I find I cannot download the new issue of ANCESTOR to my iPad. I have only recently replaced my old iPad with a new one, which runs iOS 14.2. I have never previously had a problem. Maybe there is an issue with the latest operating system? I have also failed to download the new lockdown newsletter. I occasionally download a different magazine; I have just tried the latest issue of that one, and it downloaded as usual. I can download the FHSC stuff on my computer, but would really like to keep them on my iPad. Any advice please?

### **Geoff Johnson responded:**

I'm a fan of 'proper' PCs. I don't think I've made much comment at our Zoom meetings of my rather negative approach to Apple products, Rodney, but regular old-style meeting attendees are well aware of it! I can't help you on this one, but am copying to user-gurus who both use iPads, and our group treasurer Sue Ritchie is an ardent iMac user, too.

Nonetheless I'll say my piece. The CHESHIRE ANCESTOR is constructed by our editor, Rosie Rowley, using Quark Express, a desktop publishing program. Once completed, the program generates high quality, print-standard Adobe Acrobat PDF files, which she sends to the printers. The file for the cover pages is in colour but the file for the inner pages is in monochrome at this stage. Rosie then re-edits it to include the colour, and passes the revised PDF files to me to construct the electronic ANCESTOR. I take these PDF files and optimise them to compact the final file size. I then combine all the pages into one PDF file, and renumber the pages, because the covers and membership inserts would otherwise throw the page numbering out. Then it's time to spend a happy couple of hours putting links in from the contents page list to the individual articles. I follow that by going through the whole journal and creating Acrobat Bookmarks and sub-bookmarks for every heading of interest. The process ends by setting up the properties to ensure correct page opening practice, and making a final check to see that the whole thing works.

Once I send it out to the wide world, a high proportion of people seemingly try to open the file in anything but a proper Adobe Acrobat Reader program! The chances are that they won't see the bookmarks, or be able to use the contents page direct links. That being the case I am uncertain why I am bothering to generate all the Acrobat finesse into the job!

Just out of interest, I've downloaded December's journal to my 'monkey phone' (a Samsung Android device) opening it in the Adobe Acrobat App. It certainly works: the image quality is good and the links from the contents page do work. But I can't see any included bookmarks; just the ability to create new ones. To my mind that's not a good way of reading a journal.

I suspect it is highly probable that your problem is caused by your 'wonderful' Apple device declining to recognise the international standard of the PDF program. Those other journals that you are able to see are probably opening in a browser. I now wait for iPad fan Gay Oliver to completely disagree with me!

**Gay Oliver (Webmaster) replied:** I am not disagreeing with Geoff at all about PCs, but personally I don't think I could live without my iPad, it is so convenient for emails, photos, social media, watching live TV and catch-up, and has progressed with the introduction of iPad Pro, which enables the iPad to mimic much of what can be achieved via my PC. In the past I downloaded an app called *Documents* by *Readdle*, and this is where I stored downloaded documents to read later. PDFs were perfectly rendered.

A while ago one of the iPad iterations introduced *Files*, which looks like a PC documents folder but coloured blue. It works very much like your PC Documents folder. Our FHSC website comes up with a message, *would you like to download this file?* answer YES, and you don't get any form of confirmation and have no idea where it has been saved but, if you go to your *Files* folder, it is there, under *Recents*. I just checked, and my latest newsletter is there. It's perfectly readable with no differences from the PC version.

I haven't played much with *Files* because I use my PC for what I call real work. But if I upgrade to iPad Pro and attach a keyboard, I think I could more or less replicate a lot of what I use my PC for. *FILES* also has links to where your other files are stored e.g., Dropbox, Google Drive, iCloud etc. I hope this helps, if not let me know and I will send you the latest copy of the FHSC newsletter.

**Sue Ritchie (Computer Club) suggests:** Maybe, if you haven't done so already, you could reboot your iPad?

Don't worry about Geoff's explanation of all the amazing work he does to produce each edition. He does a fantastic job, but a PDF is a PDF - the whole point is that it can be read on any device and certainly doesn't need Adobe Acrobat Reader! I concede that the bookmarks may not work but since, when I have time to read the Ancestor, I usually start at the beginning and read

through to the end, I don't tend to use the bookmarks, even if I read it on my laptop. I am running iPadOS 14.2 on mine and have been able to download the December issue of the Ancestor as usual. I've just found the latest Lockdown Newsletter on the website and that has appeared perfectly on my iPad too. So, luckily, it doesn't seem to be a problem with OS 14.2!

This is from the MacReports website: *Your iPhone or iPad is designed to open PDF files automatically. You do not need to install any additional apps to read them.*

## Comments on Previous Issues

### Windows Update Matters

David Griffiths from Nottingham suggests with reference to the December Windows Update article: I had a similar problem. Finding the Windows Update Assistant program worked for me: <https://support.microsoft.com/en-gb/help/3159635/windows-10-update-assistant!~OMSelectionMarkerStart~!!~OMSelectionMarkerEnd~>

### Family Tree Analyzer

My experience with FTA, from Victoria Doran

I use a Mac AirBook, so downloaded the Mac version of FTA. There were indications that this is some sort of trial version, but it seems to work fine.

I keep all my research in four trees on Ancestry (one for each grandparent) and back them up and resolve errors and addresses using *Family Tree Maker* (FTM).

Until this year, I had not done much work on my own family since 2014, as I have been involved in researching WW1 servicemen. So, when I returned to my own family last February, Ancestry had found me many thousands of hints. Since then, I have concentrated on bringing just two of my trees up to date with all the new data that has come online since 2014. My philosophy is to go as far back as I can, then follow all the cousin lines forward as far as possible, including the direct ancestors of the people any of them married. I have three large trees and one small one. The small one has only 306 people in it (and many, many brick walls), the other that is now 'clean' has over 8,500. I expect the other two trees will be at least as large, if I eventually manage to process all the Ancestry hints. I wouldn't have been able to get one of the large trees clean had it not been for Covid.

Incidentally, the quality of Ancestry hints has improved dramatically since 2014. Except for very common surnames such as Jones or Smith, over 90% of the hints

now actually relate to the correct person, though they may be for family members I am not interested in - for instance, if the spouse of a cousin remarries, I am not interested in their spouse before that marriage.

Downloading and installing FTA was problem-free. Next I created a GEDCOM file for the smallest tree from FTM. It took me a little while to realise that I needed to go to the top menu, select *File...Open* and then choose the GEDCOM file to get anything to happen, but it soon came up with its reports.

I had already dealt with all the errors that FTM can find, so on the small tree FTA found very little. I did sort out the names for the custom events I had created on Ancestry, but apart from that there was little to do. There were a lot of warnings about *residence dates* and *census facts* not matching the actual census dates, but I think that is because I usually put a census into Ancestry with a date such as Mar 1891, rather than looking up the actual day. I have decided to ignore all those warnings, though I am puzzled as to why the number of such errors listed is considerably shorter than the total number of such events, and why some come up as *residence dates* and some as *census facts* when I do not use the census fact type on Ancestry at all.

The most useful facility was the option to automatically upload all relevant records to *LostCousins*. I thought I had already uploaded all the 1881 entries, but it found a few more and also uploaded several other censuses as well. It didn't find any more *LostCousins* contacts, but I don't seem to have much luck with that site anyway. My error rate in manually entering data on the LostCousins site is high, and this was wonderfully easy. The census date errors do not appear to make any difference to LostCousins. (*See my comment at the end - G*).

I then had a go at the large tree. Not surprisingly, it took FTA several minutes to analyse it. There were so many pages of errors for *residence date*, *census fact* and *unknown fact type* (for Ancestry custom events) that it was initially quite daunting.

I decided to start with the error types that seemed most important. As I have now eliminated the real errors, I can't report on the exact wording used in the program. However, it certainly found a small number of people who were *unattached* - these were left over from lines that I had deleted when they turned out to be incorrect. Another category that puzzled me for a while was along the lines of *husband appears to be a female*; these turned out to be marriages where, on Ancestry, I had attached a wife to a marriage entry but had failed to attach her husband. They were all genuine mistakes.

FTA is strong on couples with the same surname, and children born when the parents were too young, too old or already deceased, but I had already resolved all the genuine errors from the Family Tree Maker error reports.

Resolving the different names I had used for what are effectively the same custom events took some time, but was worthwhile.

The huge benefit with such a large tree was the upload to *LostCousins*. This tree now has 488 entries on LostCousins, which would have been an enormous amount of work to add manually.

I made no attempt to use the *Research Suggestions* as there were so many. A key to the colours used would be helpful, but FTA provides no help facility at all. I have also not used *Locations*. I have already resolved all my place names on FTM, so that the top level is now just a country. FTA throws up an error for the component parts of the United Kingdom, as I have treated them each as a separate country.

Overall, if you use LostCousins, it is very useful indeed. If you don't, unless you have always been perfect in managing your data, it will find any heinous errors for you. If you don't use any other Family History program, it will also find lots of other errors as well, in particular possible duplicated facts and names. It would be beneficial if it provided a facility to suppress specific error types.

**GJ:** There's a big learning point in here for me - I hadn't been aware of this facility. Thanks, Victoria, I will investigate. This link explains how to do it: <https://ftanalyser.com/guides/Family%20Tree%20Analyzer%20Lost%20Cousins%20Guide.pdf>

## **DNA Research into Scandinavian Ancestry**

**By Judith Hankey**

I wrote up this small piece for a cousin who asked about her Scandinavian ethnicity prediction on MyHeritage.

My own paper heritage for pre 1800 births is 45% Cheshire, 1% Irish (or Scottish), 25% south Derbyshire, 13% Burton on Trent area (where there are four counties within ten miles), 7% Shropshire, 1% Staffs, 8% Lancs. My mother's is 50% south Derbyshire, 25% Burton on Trent area, 12.5% Shropshire and 12.5% Cheshire and south Lancashire (Mersey basin), while my father's lines are 2% Irish or Scottish, 2% Staffordshire, 4% Lancashire and 92% Cheshire

- the areas of Tarporley/Utkinton to Nantwich, and between Northwich and Warrington across to Knutsford.

So far, all lines are from the British Isles, despite what some testing companies say. For example, MyHeritage says I am 61.8% English, 32.3% Scandinavian and 4.2% Finnish, and my mum is 86.9% English, 8.4% Irish, Scottish Welsh and 3.5% Finnish. IF (and a big if) I believed this prediction then the Scandinavian is from my dad and the Finnish from my mum, or both sides.

Options to explain this:

### **Huguenots**

The first time I found a purely Swedish match on my new cousin matches, I was so intrigued that I made contact and we corresponded a few times. She had some known Huguenot ancestors from Belgium. One of my Mum's lines had Huguenots too, who came over to London. Both were escaping the persecution of Protestants by the Catholic authorities when Spain ruled the Benelux countries, and the time period was the early 1600s, so this hardly explains why I appear to be 30% Scandinavian.

### **A Sailor**

We can all have undocumented ancestors from missing fathers and the over friendly man next door. So possibly I have a roving Scandinavian sailor (rSs) as a remote great grandfather. Given how close Cheshire is to the port of Liverpool, and in earlier times Chester was a big port too, this is feasible.

This rSs must be fairly remote since I have a number of DNA cousins which confirm my more immediate Cheshire lines; looking at my closer paternal cousins on Ancestry, and comparing which ones also have Scandinavian ancestry, I find that all of my paternal line cousin matches also include Scandinavia. This would have to mean that a roving sailor was involved in all of my paternal lines, which is not very likely.

### **Vikings**

There is a well-documented Viking enclave on the Wirral area of Cheshire and also in Liverpool and coastal Lancashire in Medieval times, which could explain Scandinavian ethnicity on my Dad's side.

My Mum's areas are all north and east of the Danelaw line, so that is a possible explanation too.

### **Using DNA Painter from MyHeritage data**

*NB - The DNA Painter images below are unhelpful in the monochrome printed version of CHESHIRE ANCESTOR. I'd recommend viewing this helpful detail by downloading the electronic colour version from the website - GJ*

This is a web-based application which allows you to enter your cousins (with both known ancestors or otherwise) and view the match across your chromosomes. Going from the MyHeritage matches a second or third cousin could have a match length of about 100cM and share about 100 matches. The common ancestor would be born after 1800.

Filtering MyHeritage matches for Scandinavian ethnicity, and filtering again for 'presently living in Sweden', which removes Americans of mixed heritage, gives me cousins who are all noted as 'of low confidence'. Checking my highest match of 30cM shows that we have more than 10,000 shared matches. The huge number of shared matches tells me that, despite a moderate match length, it is more likely to be much longer ago. Going through my top twenty Scandinavian matches, all of them have more than 10,000 shared matches. So, for me that could imply the Viking era on my Dad's side.

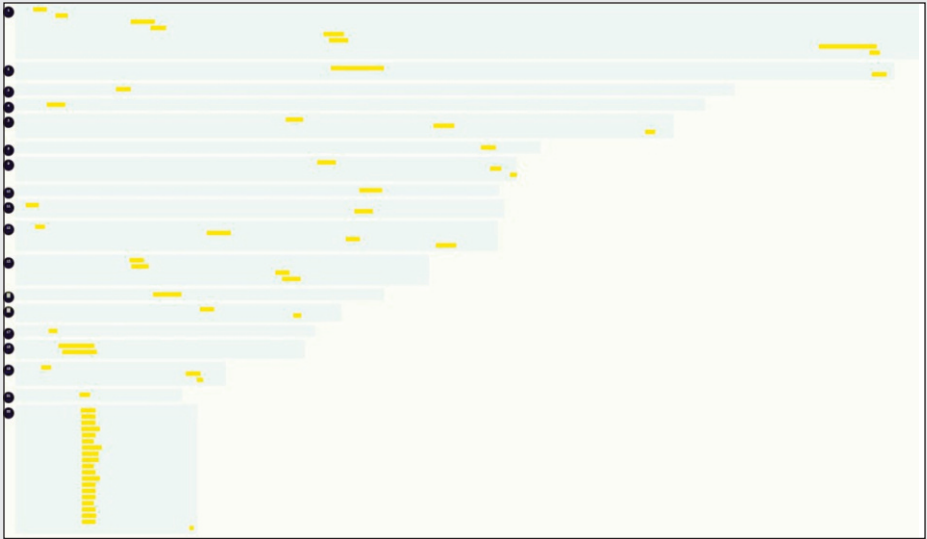
In contrast, one cousin with Finnish ethnicity who lives in Finland at present had a match of about 20cM and shared about 100 matches, but most Finnish matches have 10,000+ shared matches. So that match is also longer ago.

Looking at the position of the match on the chromosome is where DNA Painter comes into its own, because you get a visual display showing where on the chromosome the matches are. This blue display of my Finnish matches (below) shows that most of the cousins match to each other as well as to me on chromosome 22.

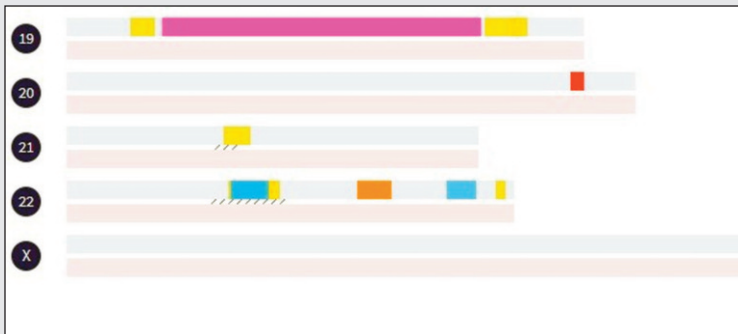


The following (yellow) image is the first twenty Scandinavian matches that I have, and again we mostly match each other on chromosome 22.





The expanded multi-coloured figure below is the most important that DNA Painter gives, showing the yellow for Scandinavia and the blue for Finnish in exactly the same area; crucially, the area also has some diagonal hashed lines, which means it is something that is called a pile-up zone, in that lots and lots of people have DNA which match in these areas. It does not indicate something quite as common as blue eyes or blond hair but that is the sort of example, a stretch of DNA where a lot of people have the same pattern. This indication by DNA Painter is valuable since it prevents the false interpretation that there is a common ancestor waiting to be found.



So, since it is this exact area that gives me all of the Scandinavian and Finnish matches then it means that the most important part of the match with these cousins is the phrase *of low confidence*. It implies that the Viking migration to the UK is the most likely source of this DNA, or perhaps even longer ago than that.

# Family History Programs

## Family Historian

### Family Historian Version 7 Released

We've waited a long time for this, but it's finally happened. As I'm an existing user of Version 6, I qualified for a discounted upgrade. The full upgrade from earlier versions than V6 is £59.95, but I paid only £41.96.

On start-up it initially looks the same, but one soon starts to come across new features. There's a couple of points that I find irritating, but I really need to spend more time using it. The trouble is that working on the assembly of this journal doesn't lend itself to proper FH work!

Two important words of warning:

**Registration Detail:** Before you start, make sure you have your registration keys to hand. Calico Pie seem to be focusing more on your having an account and password. I've never had one from my starting days, but they want one now. If you've got one, test it out beforehand. If you haven't, create one. Above all, keep safe records of new account details along with your licence number.

**File Structure Change:** FH7 creates a different set of file structures. The upgrade converts them nicely, but you can't take them backwards. So, make sure you save full backups of your V6 or earlier data before you start.

For the same reason, take a backup if you share your FH licence with another PC. In my case that meant my desktop and laptop. If they share the same files - THINK! I upgraded on one machine initially, which converted all the FH files. I then upgraded the program on the other machine WITHOUT OPENING THE FH PROGRAM. The program then opened up the shared files without any trouble.

### Geoffrey's Family Historian Hints & Tips

As I learn things in FH, and especially for things or features that I don't use often, I've been jotting them down in a Word document. Following increasing interest, and the need to more easily answer questions by others, I've tidied it up a bit, created a PDF, and posted it on the FHSC website. You can find it by navigating to *Computer Group > Computer Group Documents > Family Historian*. Note that it will be a developing document, so take a fresh copy from time to time.

## Family Historian Backups

FH offers three types of backup when you close it down. Numerous members have asked me what the difference is? Which should they use? So I've updated my *FH Hints & Tips* document (see above) - it's on the last page.

## Groups.io

Groups.io is an internationally available forum/ mailing list system that covers a wide range of subjects, including help for some family history programs. To register with *groups.io*, go to <https://groups.io/register>.

Some groups can be extremely active, leading to your receiving numerous messages each day to your inbox - notably so with Family Historian. I'd advise that you set up the *Daily Summary* option. Again, I've covered how to do this in the *FH Hints & Tips* document referred to above.

A search for groups relating to *genealogy* gives 2,144 results. Many have been migrated to *groups.io* from forums which have closed, e.g. Rootsweb, Yahoo Groups, and others.

## Family Historian Help

In the above-mentioned *FH Hints & Tips* document I refer to the FH User Group at <https://www.fhug.org.uk>, but there's a group on *groups.io* that's even more active - I strongly recommend FH users to join, at <https://groups.io/g/family-historian>. As I write, the group has 1,140 members, covering 354 topics.

## Family Tree Maker Help

I'm too out of touch with FTM these days to say much about it. However, I know that there are many users out there, and I've found a couple of help facilities. There's a *groups.io* forum for Family Tree Maker at <https://groups.io/g/FTM-2008-Help> - I understand it was previously with RootsWeb. There are only 58 members at this time, and it seems to cover FTM users from V2008 onwards. Read the help section first. I'm also advised of a Facebook FTM User Group at [www.facebook.com/groups/FamilyTreeMakerUsers](http://www.facebook.com/groups/FamilyTreeMakerUsers)

## From the Inbox

### Auto Backups

Computer Club's Brian Williams told me his SyncBack program would not back up one particular Excel file and another GEDCOM file. He felt I might have an answer.

I suggested that the two files in question are probably being used by another program at the same time as his auto-backup was running and therefore they will not be copied, as *SyncBackFree* needs all the files it's backing up to be closed. The simple solution is to spend money!

I therefore advised him that, since he's now proved to himself that the *SyncBack* program runs, and its auto-backup principally does the job, he should upgrade to the paid-for version called *SyncBackSE*. It's a one-time cost of £37, and that version will copy locked or open files. Brian's now done that and satisfactorily fixed his problem.

**FreeFileSync** - John Fallows of Wilmslow advised that he has switched over to using *FreeFileSync* rather than *SyncBack* if that is of interest. He's not sure what the exact differences are but feels that maybe it's easier to setup. But it does need paying for to support ongoing development.

<https://freefilesync.org/download.php>

## Closing Snippet

A teenager approached his family historian granddad, saying:

*I've just seen a really cool piece of modern art, Granddad. Someone has used a 3D printer to make a sculpture which looks like the Save icon.*

For the first time in his life, he'd seen a 3½ inch floppy disc!



Your input keeps this forum active, so please keep the responses coming- GJ



## 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 further notice due to the Covid-19 pandemic - check with the website or your local group leader*

It is unlikely that group meetings will take place as actual meetings in person. Several virtual group meetings using Zoom have already taken place and it is hoped that many members will be able to participate, or at least "listen in". The advantage, of course, is that members do not need to live near the group in order to attend these meetings - but you do have to supply your own tea and biscuits! You may attend any of the group meetings.

To receive news of future group meetings, log in to the FHSC website, go to the group's page and click on the button *Add ... to My Groups*. You can receive emails from as many groups as you wish.

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*

### **Alsager Group**

*by Hazel Rugman*

The group is sorry to announce the deaths of Howard Somerset, a member who was a very active volunteer with the group, and Pauline Hill, the founding group leader of the Alsager Group. Their obituaries can be found in the Volunteer News section which starts on page six of this issue.

At the time of going to press the Alsager group has nothing planned for 2021 but, if our meeting venue opens, we propose that we have a social gathering when we hope that people will informally share any research they have done during lock down, or even tell us of any surprising discoveries.

Too few of our members can use Zoom for us to meet that way but we hope that those who can will take the opportunity to join other groups online.

*Future meetings (subject to alteration due to the pandemic):*  
**There will be no physical group meetings for the time being.**

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 for the time being.**

Due to the unpredictable Coronavirus situation, we have no meetings planned. However, we hope to have some Zoom meetings. Please check that the society has your correct email address so I can send out details by email.

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*

As we go to press Bramhall FHG will not be holding face-to-face meetings. Our group is now twinning with the Tameside group to deliver an alternating series of joint ZOOM meetings and presentations.

*Future meetings (subject to alteration due to the pandemic):*  
**There will be no physical group meetings for the time being.**  
**All meetings are online using Zoom.**

- 9th Mar *The Story of Prophet John Wroe - Gay Oliver*  
It all started with a cryptic clue in great-great-grandfather's newspaper obituary. You decide if John Wroe was a prophet or charlatan.
- 8th Apr *Women in Mining - Denise Bates*  
Denise, whose own family history lies in the mining area of Barnsley, digs deep into the nation's coal seams and beyond to

unearth the story of Britain's *pit lasses*, the hardy women who were the backbone of coalmining communities.

13th May *Liverpool Cowkeepers - Dave Joy*  
Dave draws on his own family history to tell the story of the lives and times of Liverpool Cowkeepers in the mid 1800s.

8th Jun *Sophia's Journey - Gay Oliver*  
Sophia was born in Ashton-under-Lyne in 1852, but her journey takes her to Hamburg, London, Henbury, Australia and Hastings, with some rather more unusual records created along the way.

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.

## **Chester Group**

*by Helen Elliott*

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

**There will be no physical group meetings for the time being.**

We have a full programme of meetings planned for 2021 but it remains uncertain when meetings will resume. We will endeavour to notify members by email as soon as it seems reasonable to restart - please check for the latest information on the FHSC website under the *Groups* tab for Chester. The following meetings have been arranged but will only take place if allowed under the Covid-19 regulations in place at the time.

25th Mar *Transportation to Australia - Carolyn Barnwell*

29th April *The Colour of Heraldry - Tony Bostock*

27th May *The Golden Age of the Picture Postcard - Linda Clarke*

24th June *Historical Research Using British Newspapers - Denise Bates*

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

**There will be no physical group meetings for the time being.**

Instead, we’ve gone *virtual*! The club is now running online Zoom meetings. Members who have requested emails from the Computer Group 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 available on the FHSC 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 start at 7.30pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, and are 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

We intend to work with the Macclesfield Group sharing online meetings, each group arranging a talk in turn on a monthly basis. Notifications for future talks will be by email, newsletter and advertised on the FHSC website.

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

**There will be no physical group meetings for the time being.**

**Please see the Macclesfield Group for full details of online Zoom meetings.**

23rd Mar *Scientists, engineers, mathematicians and medics associated with Didsbury, Manchester - Diana M Leitch.*

20th April *Sons of the Soil: Researching our Agricultural Labouring Ancestors - Janet Few*

18th May *Cheshire's old villages - Tony Bostock.*

22nd June *Family Search - Ian Waller.*



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 for the time being.**

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

Crewe and Nantwich are holding joint meetings at present. The two groups will continue to hold these joint meetings until further notice; with this in mind a programme of meetings has been prepared. Speakers listed here are willing to present meetings via Zoom if actual meetings are not possible. Thanks to all who have joined us at Zoom meetings including members who cannot usually attend meeting due to the distance.

- 16th Mar *An Enlightened Family Tale - David Phillips*  
David explores the twists and turns of her family history, along with the unexpected.
- 13th Apr *The Clerk, the Engineer and the Doctor:  
Sporting Railwaymen of Crewe - Liam Dyer*
- 18th May *The Three Rs - Claire Moores*  
An introduction to school and education records for family history.
- 8th June *Peter Lockett - Christine Wootton*  
This talk starts with a letter, given to Radley History Club, that was written by Squadron Leader Charles Lockett to his wife who was living in Radley. The Lockett family were originally from Cheshire. It was sent in 1942 while he was a prisoner of war in Colditz Castle. For Christine it was the start of several years of very interesting research leading to the publication of two books with many coincidences on the way. In the course of her research she was able to also find out about the story of his brother Peter who was a prisoner of war in Stalag Luft III, Zagan, of the 'Great Escape' fame.

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 for the time being. All these meetings are virtual meetings using Zoom.**

23rd Mar *Scientists, engineers, mathematicians and medics associated with Didsbury, Manchester - Diana M Leitch.*

With its close proximity to the educational, academic, medical and commercial heartland of Manchester, Didsbury became the home of such well-known figures as physicists Lord Rutherford and Lord Bragg; mathematicians Douglas Hartree and Dame Kathleen Ollerenshaw; engineers such as Daniel Adamson, Henry Simon and his family and medics such as Sir Geoffrey Jefferson. Who were they? This talk covers their work, lives, achievements and homes.

20th April *Sons of the Soil: Researching our Agricultural Labouring Ancestors - Janet Few*

This talk covers a range of sources, many of them under-used, which help to shed light on the working lives of our rural British ancestors.

18th May *Cheshire's old villages - Tony Bostock.*

Exploring some of the attractive villages in the county and something of their past.

22nd June *Family Search - Ian Waller.*

There are many facets to the *FamilySearch* website which enable family historians to contribute to a world-wide tree including the use of memories, photographs and the addition of sources. This talk examines the way in which the site can be used by contributors to its best advantage.

To be kept up to date with future meetings please sign up to the newsletters of the Congleton and/or Macclesfield groups on the FHSC website, or check the group website pages.

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*

For the time being we are unable to meet in the usual way so I hope members will join us via Zoom. If you are interested in any of our Zoom meetings, held jointly with the Crewe group, then please register with Margaret Spate at [crewegroupleader@gmail.com](mailto:crewegroupleader@gmail.com)

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

**There will be no physical group meetings for the time being.**

**For full details of the online Zoom meetings please see the Crewe Group.**

16th Mar *An Enlightened Family Tale - David Phillips*

13th Apr *The Clerk, the Engineer and the Doctor:*

*Sporting Railwaymen of Crewe - Liam Dyer*

18th May *The Three Rs - Claire Moores*

8th June *Peter Lockett - Christine Wootton*

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.

## Northwich Group

by *Dave Thomas*

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

It is likely that we will be unable to confirm meeting details for March onward before the deadline for entry in the March issue of the ANCESTOR. Therefore, please be aware that it is our hope that physical meetings will soon be possible. We will circulate by email details of meetings that are being held as soon as they are confirmed. This is in addition to newsletters and website information.

Please check the FHSC website or subscribe to the Northwich Group email newsletters (via the FHSC website) to keep up to date with our latest group news.

**Below are our usual meeting dates.**

8th Mar     *TBC*

12th Apr    *TBC*

10th May    *TBC*

14th Jun     *TBC*

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 for the time being. Please see the FHSC website for information.**

At present we have no speakers arranged, but we plan to have online Zoom meetings on the first Wednesday of each month. Details will be announced later.

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.

## Sale Group

by Marion Hall

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

At the time of going to press we were in another lockdown, so no meetings have been planned. Please watch the website for the latest situation - we will hold meetings on the dates listed below if it is possible. No drinks will be offered. Doors will open at 7.30pm for the talk at 7.45pm.

10th Mar TBA

14th Apr TBA

12th May TBA

9th Jun TBA

Under normal circumstances, meetings are held at 7.30pm, for the talk at 7.45pm, 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 until Easter at the earliest and possibly until the summer. Meanwhile I continue to write my Lockdown Newsletters which I hope you have enjoyed; I would really love some feedback. All back copies of our Lockdown Newsletters are available via the FHSC website - go to [www.fhsc.org.uk](http://www.fhsc.org.uk), click on *Document Library*, then *Members' Documents*.

Why not visit the FHSC website and click on SURNAMENAMES? There is an increasing collection of names here to help you with your research. Add your own and check if anyone else is researching the same families.

Our group is now twinning with the Bramhall group to deliver an alternating series of joint ZOOM meetings and presentations.

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

**There will be no physical group meetings for the time being. All meetings are online using Zoom.**

9th Mar *The Story of Prophet John Wroe - Gay Oliver*

It all started with a cryptic clue in great-great-grandfather's newspaper obituary. You decide if John Wroe was a prophet or charlatan.

- 8th Apr *Women in Mining - Denise Bates*  
Denise, whose own family history lies in the mining area of Barnsley, digs deep into the nation's coal seams and beyond to unearth the story of Britain's *pit lasses*, the hardy women who were the backbone of coalmining communities.
- 13th May *Liverpool Cowkeepers - Dave Joy*  
Dave draws on his own family history to tell the story of the lives and times of Liverpool Cowkeepers in the mid-1800s.
- 8th Jun *Sophia's Journey - Gay Oliver*  
Sophia was born in Ashton-under-Lyne in 1852, but her journey takes her to Hamburg, London, Henbury, Australia and Hastings, with some rather more unusual records created along the way.

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 at Tameside Local Studies Library are cancelled due to the pandemic.**

## Wallasey Group

*by Dave Beck*

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

**There will be no physical group meetings for the time being. All meetings are online using Zoom.**

- 16th Mar *History of Photography - Richard Jackson*  
From its earliest beginnings to the modern digital age and how the technology, the equipment and the images have changed.
- 20th Apr *1000 years of History in a Mid-Wirral Landscape*  
*- Anthony Annakin-Smith*
- 18th May *TBA*
- 15th Jun *The Wreckers and Mr. Atherton: New Brighton's Early Days*  
*- Gavin Chappell*  
New Brighton in Wallasey was developed by James Atherton to be a seaside resort fit to rival her southern namesake. However, the land on which he chose to build his new resort was already home to the notorious Wallasey wreckers. This talk will describe the clash between two worlds, between the land pirates who for centuries had preyed upon passing shipping, and the nineteenth century developer and man of business....

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.

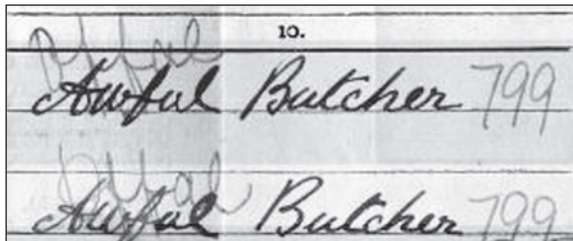
At the time of going to press, helpdesks are cancelled due to the pandemic.

## 1911 Census: An Awful Butcher

*by Rosie Rowley*  
Editor

Found in the 1911 census at 33 King James Street, Southwark, Edward BLUCK and his son Joseph who both gave their occupations as *Awful Butcher*. Fortunately the enumerator understood and corrected it to *Offal Butcher*.

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family.	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX.	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE.					PROFESSION of Persons aged			
of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Servant, who  (1) passed the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911, in this dwelling and was alive at midnight, or  (2) arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 3rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere.  No one else must be included. (For order of entering names see Examples on back of Schedule.)	State whether "Head," or "Wife," "Son," "Daughter," or other Relative, "Visitor," "Boarder," or "Servant."	For Infants under one year state the age in months as "under one month," "one month," etc.	Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.		State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of—			Personal Occupation.  The reply should show the precise branch of Profession, Trade, Manufacture, &c.  If engaged in any Trade or Manufacture, the particular kind of work done, and the Article made or Material worked or dealt in should be clearly indicated.  (See Instructions 1 to 8 and Examples on back of Schedule.)			
			Completed years this present Marriage has lasted. If less than one year write "under one."	Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)	Total Children Born Alive.	Children with Living.	Children who have Died.				
		Age of Males.	Age of Females.								
		1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
1 Edward Bluck	Head	51		Married	30 yrs	12	6	6			Awful Butcher 799
2 Maria Bluck	Wife		55	Married							
3 Joseph Bluck	Son	21		Single							Awful Butcher 799
4 Emily Bluck	Daughter		17	Single							Stationery assistance
5 Rose Bluck	Daughter		12								School 390



## 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**

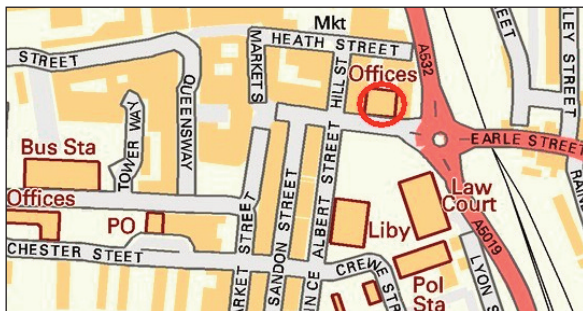
The Municipal Building is situated near the market and opposite Memorial Square and the old library. Crewe Register Office is in the same building. All visitors must sign in and out at reception. You will be directed to the second floor; a lift is available.

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:

Kevin Dean, 7 Fields Drive, Sandbach, CW11 1YB

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

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

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### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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### 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**), submit it **by email only** to the editor with the names, location and date (if known), 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](http://www.fhsc.org.uk)

## Location of Groups

(see inside back cover for contact details)



### MEMBER'S PHOTO



Brook St Wesleyans, Congleton

#### Brook Street Wesleyans, Congleton.

An undated postcard from my personal collection of Cheshire postcards. The photo includes a cricket bat, ball and stumps so I assume this is a cricket team, perhaps with coaches and team manager, or church officials. According to the Genuki website, the church was founded in 1834 and closed in 1966.

From Rosie Rowley, membership no. 2119 ([editor@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:editor@fhsc.org.uk))