

# CHESHIRE ANCESTOR



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



## **In this edition**

*Bertha Crowther, Britain's First Pentathlon Champion*  
*Ancestry's Criminal Records* ❖ *A Jane Eyre Moment*  
*Upstairs, Downstairs* ❖ *Researching Flemish Ancestors*  
*Margaret's Media Musings* ❖ *and more...*

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*Cover picture: St Helen's Church, Tarporley; photo taken by the late Bill Moston.*

*See the Mobberley Research Centre report by Joan Irving on page 9.*



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# CHESHIRE ANCESTOR

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

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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.

### ***From The Dunlop Book, Revised post-war edition, 1919 (1)***

CONGLETON Congleton is picturesque in parts. The streets are in general paved with setts. Tobacco factories, fustian manufacture, and silk weaving are features of the place. There are, however, numerous quaint old black-and-white timbered houses. Chief among these is the old "Lion and Sun" (sic) inn, an extremely handsome example of that style.

**Ed.:** Of course they meant the *Lion and Swan Inn* (<https://lionandswan.co.uk/>)

## Editor's Page

*by Rosie Rowley*



Exciting news has been released at the time of going to press - the UK is starting to move out of lockdown and county and national archives are beginning to reopen, initially providing a limited service by appointment only with social distancing in place.

More exciting news - my daughter is expecting her second baby, due in September. She has been looking at potential baby names, including exploring some of the names of ancestors in our family tree. I was very surprised to discover that my grandfather's name, Arthur, is currently in the top ten names for boys - who would have thought it? According to the latest figures from the Office for National Statistics, Arthur is now the fourth most popular boys' name and at its highest position since records began in 1904 ([www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/livebirths/bulletins/babynamesenglandandwales/2019](http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/livebirths/bulletins/babynamesenglandandwales/2019)). For girls, my grandmother's name, Eva, reached a peak of about 20th place in 2010 but is now down to 35th. Still, who wants to have the same name as several others in the school or workplace? More unusual names in my tree are Clementson, Cornelius, Glennis Royston, Hirdley and Lancelot for boys, and Ermentrude, Keziah, Lettice, Telinda and Regina Valpre for girls. Do you have any unusual names in your family tree?

I would like to thank all those who sent in both short and longer articles after my plea, which made the production of this issue so much easier with plenty of articles to choose from. However, please continue to send your letters and short articles - preferably by email - as I need several for each issue.

In this issue there is a wide range of articles, including one about researching ancestors from Belgium (page 31). If you have ancestors who came to this country, please do share the story of your research as it may help others. Emigration is another topic of interest, as many members have ancestors who emigrated, either to Canada (page 25), USA or Australia. Was your ancestor in the news for some reason (page 40)? Have you learned something about their life through their correspondence or written memories (pages 35 and 47)? Whatever you have learned about your ancestors, even if they're not from Cheshire, please share it with others by writing something for the ANCESTOR.

## Chairman's Jottings

*by Alan Bennett*



I make no apologies for some of this message being a repeat of my first jottings last year. I know from the data available to me that some digital subscribers have not provided an email address, so can't access what they have paid for. This means that not all our members saw those jottings from last year. I have resolved this by sending a printed version of this issue to all UK digital members with no email address.

The smooth management of the society depends on you providing a valid email address (if you have one) and keeping it up-to-date. The website is the best way for you to check and update your personal details. Please be assured that we take data security seriously and NEVER expose your details beyond the essential officers and yourself. I am aware that many of you have email addresses but are frightened to share them with us because of your concerns about security, but this restricts your membership benefits.

Accuracy of your personal data is very important as we sometimes need to contact members to sort out issues we have uncovered. Too often we find no valid email address, no phone number and the member has moved from the supplied postal address. There is a button at the bottom right of the home page of the website (once you have logged in) where you can review and update your data. If you have no computer access, then please write to our renewals officer if you need to update your personal information.

The last item I want to discuss is an important change to the way membership works. This does not impact existing members but will hopefully encourage new members to join. For any new members joining after 1st July 2021, their membership will run for twelve months from the date of joining. This will resolve the unfairness of some members only getting a few months' membership if they join midway through the subscription year.

In addition, from 1st July we will also be offering a new way to pay using the PayPal equivalent of a standing order, which you can set up to auto-renew your membership. This will include the option to request cancellation via the FHSC website.

## 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

At present, the following meetings are planned to be held remotely on Zoom.

<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.

#### ***From The Dunlop Book, Revised post-war edition, 1919 (2)***

*CHESTER is unique. There is nothing elsewhere in England comparable with its distinctive feature, "the Rows." These may best be described as covered passages made along the first-floor level of the houses in some of the older streets. The construction of them is as though the first floor front rooms of the houses were abolished by a passage being driven through them, the upper part of the houses being supported without posts. The "Rows" thus form a rainproof walk for pedestrians in the worst weather; and in the best, the views down from the continuous balconies they afford, on to the streets, are entirely charming.*

## Margaret's Media Musings: Out & About with FHSC

*by Margaret Roberts  
Publicity & Social Media Officer  
social.media@fhsc.org.uk*



It has been quite a busy few months despite the pandemic continuing to curtail Society face-to-face activities. Zoom meetings have gone from strength to strength and I have attended most of the talks given by the various groups.

I have enjoyed talks on many diverse topics including The Crewe Family and the Coming of the Railways, Liverpool at Work, The Manchester Ship Canal, Agricultural Labourers, The Wallpaper Industry and Women in Mining. I have

also been treated to a quiz and a sing-along with Phil Rylance (of 1960s rock and pop fame), learnt how to use the online historical newspapers, found out more about the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and discovered the murky world of the Christian Israelites – no one can say that you're not spoilt for choice!

Remember that as an FHSC member you can attend any of the Zoom talks hosted by any group; you do not have to restrict yourself to the group that you are attached to. The big advantage of Zoom meetings is perhaps obvious – no travelling - and members from not only across the UK but also around the world have been joining us. It has been lovely to connect with those that we have not seen for some time.

To view what is on offer then pop along to the Events page of the Society website ([www.fhsc.org.uk/new-events](http://www.fhsc.org.uk/new-events)); if anything grabs your attention, contact the group leader or organiser and you will be sent the Zoom meeting joining information when it is released.



## Permission to Contact You

*Gay J Oliver*

*Web Admin and Tameside Group Leader*

Are you receiving the society's *Lockdown Newsletter* - or any other emailed newsletters from our groups letting you know about their forthcoming events? Are you being notified when the latest digital version of the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR is available on the website?

If not, this could be because when you signed up as a member you ticked an option not to receive any contact from us. Many will have done this because they didn't want to receive too many emails from us after being inundated with spam from other organisations. The problem is that you are seriously missing out on some of the advantages of membership, particularly now that much of our activity is online because of Covid.

You can change this yourself by logging into our website and clicking on My Membership - then My Profile - FHSC Membership, where you can change your contact permission from No to YES. If you get stuck, just email me on [web.admin@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:web.admin@fhsc.org.uk) and I'll change it for you.

## 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 and the society is seeking a replacement. **For information, please contact the current postholder, Howard Martin** ([secretary@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@fhsc.org.uk))

#### **Wanted: Honorary Editor**

Rosie Rowley has now served as editor for over five years and wishes to stand down due to a change in family circumstances. You do not need to live in Cheshire to carry out this role as everything is done by email or by post.

**For information, please contact the current postholder, Rosie Rowley** ([editor@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:editor@fhsc.org.uk))

## Society Retirements

by David Smetham

The following volunteers have all recently retired from their roles for the FHSC; all these roles are currently being filled thanks to our wonderful volunteers.

Early this year Alan Jones, Mobberley Research Centre Representative, left Cheshire for pastures new. Alan served on the committee and was manager of our research facilities, first at Alderley Edge and then at Mobberley, since 2000 and thus was key to delivering the benefits of our own research facility to our members for twenty years. In addition, Alan was a trustee and a member of our FHSC committee, and reported on activity at the centre. Alan looked after the financial side of the centre and when redesign of the centre was necessary, he took a leading role. Many of you will know that Alan had a background in health and safety and may have received one of his talks including *Did work make your ancestor ill?*

We send thanks to Alan for all his work as a volunteer and wish him well in his new life.

John Lord also retired this year after sixteen years service as Distribution Officer. Before John became involved in 2004, our society journal, now the Cheshire Ancestor, had been distributed by volunteers packing mailing envelopes. We had moved to using mailing services and it was John's job to process the distribution from the printer to the mailing company to delivery. Thank you, John, for all your support.

Peter Johnson has recently stepped down as Publicity Officer, after volunteering in this role for twelve years. Peter has been responsible for interfacing with the press and for distributing spare copies of the Ancestor as widely as possible, in doctors' surgeries, dentists, etc. Peter has been involved in the organisation of family history societies since their early days. Thank you, Peter, for all your support.

Earlier this year Ian Bickley stood down as Group Leader for the Bramhall Group. Ian, ably supported by Susan, his wife, ran the group for ten years. Ian was always ready to participate in committee activity. Thank you, Ian and Susan, for all your support.

## 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*



At the time of going to press Mobberley Research Centre is still closed due to Government lockdown measures. As restrictions ease there is a chance we will be able to open later this year. All news about opening dates will be posted on the FHSC website.

Meanwhile work has continued on typing up forgotten memorial inscriptions (MIs) from earlier projects in readiness for availability as downloads on the website. The following MIs are now ready:

Handley All Saints  
Harthill All Saints  
Pulford St. Mary the Virgin  
Tarpoley St. Helen  
Stockport Tiviot Dale Methodist MIs.

These MIs were transcribed before 2000 and Tiviot Dale Methodist as early as 1970. Therefore you must realise some of these gravestones may have been removed, broken, buried or eroded since the transcriptions were made. In these cases the inscriptions can be very important to the researcher as family members can be linked and sometimes more than one generation in the graves can confirm family connections.

*Knutsford Unitarian Church Memorial Inscriptions* is a completely new FHSC publication from Dave Thomas of Northwich Group. This will also be available soon as a download.

All the digital MIs will of course be available at Mobberley Research Centre when it opens; we hope to welcome volunteers and members back soon.

# Crewe Family History Unit

by Margaret Spate  
crewe@fhsc.org.uk

At the time of going to press the Crewe Family History Unit is still closed. I am keeping in contact with Cheshire East Council so that we can comply with their requirements and the volunteers can make the necessary arrangements for reopening as quickly as possible. I will publish the details by email and a notice on the website when the return becomes a reality.

The library list is available on the website so please check the list to see if we hold records that could help your research and add them to your “to do” list for the future.

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

## Letters to the Editor

*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 or post a letter to the address inside the front cover, including your name and membership number, and tell me if you also want your email/postal address to be printed so other researchers can contact you.*

### Re. Fire Mystery

I just wanted to thank you so much for printing my *Help Wanted* pictures in the last CHESHIRE ANCESTOR (March 2021). I had a reply soon after the paper version came out, and a large part of the mystery has been solved by another member.

I now need to do more research based on the information I have been given.

**Sylvia Mitford**  
**Membership no. 7456**  
**sylmitford@gmail.com**

## Re. Most Living Descendants

Relating to the article sent in by Marion Hall, printed in **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**, December 2019, and the challenge *Whose ancestor had the most living descendants?* This is not about participating in the challenge, but I thought it might be of interest as I have photographs relating to the family mentioned.

As Marion said, Mary RICHARDS married Thomas FEARNALL in 1857, going on to have fifteen children. Their eldest daughter Fanny (b. 1857) married Francis LLOYD in 1878; Francis and Fanny were my husband's great-grandparents and they had seven sons and seven daughters:

Francis Archibald: 14 January 1879 - 12 August 1949  
Ernest Henry: 11 January 1880 - 23 September 1964  
Humphrey Harold: 23 April 1881 - 16 October 1954  
Frances (Fanny): 10 November 1882 - 20 April 1923  
Thomas Eyton: 11 January 1884 - April 1968  
Christine Mary Constance: 16 February 1885 - 17 September 1976  
Beatrice Louisa: 29 June 1886 - 8 October 1964  
Frank Victor: 25 August 1887 - 12 March 1958  
Elizabeth Dorothy: 24 November 1888 - 22 April 1915  
Frances Gladys: 11 January 1890 - 29 January 1891  
Florence Marjorie: 14 February 1891 - September 1978  
Frank (Francis) Stuart: 16 January 1893 - 5 September 1917  
Frances Gwendoline: 13 January 1894 - 18 November 1979  
Frank Gerald: 30 January 1895 - 19 October 1971

I have three photographs of the LLOYD family taken, I believe, in the grounds of The Plassey (their home farm), Bangor-on-Dee, near Wrexham. Sadly I do not have the dates of the photographs, nor can I identify who's who, other than Francis and Fanny. However, the photo of Francis with his sons must have been taken before September 1917, when Major Frank Stuart LLOYD was killed in France.

The earliest photograph, of the whole family, is printed on the back cover of this issue of the **ANCESTOR**; the two later photos, of Francis with his sons and with his surviving daughters, are on the next page.

**Judith Newell**  
**Membership no. 4311**



## 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!

RATCLIFFE-RATHBONE-RATHBORNE-RAVENS-CROFT-RAWLINSON-REYNOLDS-RHIND-RHODEN/RODEN-RHODES-RICHARDS-RICHARDSON-RIDGWAY-RILEY-RISHTON-RITCHIE-RIVETT-ROANS-ROBERTS-ROBERTSON-ROBINSON-RODGERS/ROGERS-ROE-ROGERSON-ROLLASON-ROLLISSON/ROLLINSON/ROWLINSON-ROSE-ROTHWELL-ROWBOTHAM-ROWLANDS-RUGMAN-RUTH-RUTTER-RYDER-RYLE

SAGENT/SEARGENT/SARGEANT-SALMON-SALTER-SANDBACH/SANDBACK/SANDBECK/SANDBATCH-SANDELLS/SANDALLS/SANDLES/SANDS-SANDIFORD-SAVAGE-SAVERY-SCHWEND-SCRAGG-SENIOR-SHALLCROSS-SHANKLEY-SHAW/SHAY-SHAWCROSS-SHELDON-SHEPHERD-SHERLOCK/SHARLOCK/SHIRLOCK-SHEWELL-SHINGLER-SHIRLEY-SHIRT/SHERT/SHIRD/SHERD-SHRIGLEY-SHUFFLEBOTHAM-SIDDORN/SIDDORNS-SIDLEY/SIDDLEY/SIDDELEY-SIMCOCK-SIMISTER-SIMON/SIMONS-SIMPSON-SIXSMITH-SKELHORN/SKELHORNE-SKERRATT/SKERROTT/SHARROTT-SLACK-SMALLWOOD/SMALWOOD-SMEDLEY-SMETHLEY-SMITH-SMITHHELLS-SNELLSON/SNELLSONNE/SNELSON-SOUTHERN/SOUTHEN-SPANN-SPEARIETT-SPEARITT-SPODE-SPOONER-SPRIDGEON/SPRIDGEN-SPROSTON-STAFFORD-STANIER-STANLEY-STANWAY-STANYER-STARKEY/STARKIE-STEELE-STEPHENSON-STEVEN/STEVYN/STEVENE/STEVENS/STEPHEN/STIVEN-STEVENSON-STOCKS-STOCKTON-STOKES/STOAKES-STONEHEWER-STONELY-STONIER/STONYER-STOTT-STOUT-STREET-STRINGER-SUGDEN-SUMMERFIELD-SUTCLIFFE-SUTTON-SWAIN-SWALES-SWALLOW-SWIFT-SWINDELLS-SYKES-SYMMS

TABNER-TAGELL-TAPLEY-TATTON-TAYLOR-THOMAS-THOMPSON-THOMPSTONE-THORLEY-THORLEY-THORNELY-THURGOLAND-TIDSWELL/TIDESWELL-TIM-TIMMINS-TIMMIS-TIPPING-TODD-TOMKINSON-TOMKYN/TOMKIN/THOMKIN/THOMKYN-TOMLINSON-

TOOLE-TORKINGTON-TOWNEND-TRAYNOR-TRUEMAN-TUFFNELL/  
TUFNELL/TUFFNELL-TURNER-TUSHINGHAM-TWEEDLE

UDALL-UTTLEY/UTLEY

VAUDREY-VENABLES-VERNON-VERO-VEROUGH-VICKERMAN-VINCE-  
VINING

WADSWORTH-WAGSTAFFE-WALKER-WALL-WALLEY-WALLWORK-  
WALMSLEY-WALTON-WANE-WARBURTON-WARD-WARDLE-WASE-  
WASHINGTON-WATSON-WATTS-WEAVER-WEBB-WEEDALL-WEIGH-  
WELCH-WELSH-WERREN/WARREN-WESTALL-WESTON-  
'WESTONDORP-WHALLEY'-WHATMORE-WHITELEGG-WHITELEY-  
WHITFIELD-WHITMORE/WHITEMORE-WHITNALL-WHITTAKER-  
WHITTINGHAM-WHITTLE-WICKWAR/WICKWARD-WILBRAHAM-  
WILCOCK-WILD-WILDE-WILDING-WILKE-WILKINSON-WILLET-  
WILLIAMS-WILLIAMSON-WILLIS-WINDSOR/WYNDOR/WINZOR/  
WINSER -WITHINSHAW/WITHENSHAW-WOOD-WOODCOCK-  
WOODHOUSE-WOODRUFFE-WOODWARD-WOOLEY-WOOLLEY-  
WOOLLISCROFT-WORRAL/WORRALL-WORSENCROFT/  
WORSTENCROFT-WORSLEY-WORSTENCROFT-WORTH/WOORTH/  
WOORTHE/WORTHE-WORTHINGTON-WRENCH-WRIGHT/RIGHT/  
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## Book Review

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

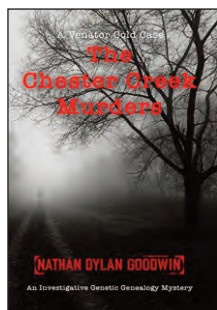
*After review, items are given to a Society library or group.*

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

### ***The Chester Creek Murders – A Venator Cold Case***

**By Nathan Dylan Goodwin**

Reviewed by Babs Johnson



As soon as I started reading this novel I was engrossed and found it hard to put down.

Unlike many of Nathan's other books, this story is set in America, with an explanation at the start as to why he has adopted American English spellings.

In January 2020, Detective Clayton Tyler is tasked with reviewing unsolved murders from the police archives and chooses the cold cases of three teenage girls killed in 1982 and 1983. DNA was collected from their bodies but no matches were found at the time, so he decides to enlist the services of Venator, an investigative genetic genealogy company based in Salt Lake City.

As the investigation process unfolds with the painstaking tracking of DNA matches through five generations and their family trees, we are drawn into the private lives of the head and employees of the Venator company, whose stories run alongside their professional work. The fascinating attention to detail, the use of a wide range of evidence resources and the conflict of professional and private interests makes this an absorbing story.

I hope the author will produce some more in this series.

Independently published, January 2021.

Paperback, 273 pages, £8.99, ISBN 979-8575329886.

Kindle edition, 275 pages, £4.99.

Other digital formats available, see the website [www.nathandylangoodwin.com](http://www.nathandylangoodwin.com)

## 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.

### The Family History Show 2021 (online)

10.00am - 4.30pm Saturday 19th June 2021

Ask the Experts - Talks - Family History Societies

Advance tickets £6, on the day £8

<https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/>

### THE Genealogy Show 2021 (online)

Friday 25th and Saturday 26th June 2021

Exhibitors - Talks - Family History Societies

Talks available for 30 days

Early bird weekend tickets £20, usual price £30

<https://thegenealogyshow.uk/>

### Mayflower International Genealogical Conference (online)

Saturday 28th August 2021

Full day programme of 7 talks

Tickets £5 - please book before 10th August 2021

[www.devonfhs.org.uk/shop/mayflower.php](http://www.devonfhs.org.uk/shop/mayflower.php)

### The Family History Show London 2021

10.00am - 4.30pm Sat. 25th Sept. at Kempton Park Racecourse, TW16 5AQ

Free parking, or direct train from Waterloo to Kempton Park station

Ask the Experts - Talks - Family History Societies

<https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/london>

## 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.**

### 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)

Find My Past has released a new, improved image viewer. The new features and tools include:

- Brightness and contrast adjustors – to help improve the legibility of difficult to read documents. Also included is the option to invert colours for those who prefer to read light text on dark backgrounds.
- Previews of previous subsequent pages - Thumbnails of the images either side of an individual record have now been added.

### England & Wales Deaths 2007-2020

This collection of 3.2 million records (transcriptions only) has been compiled from civic records and funeral homes, and is published as a result of the FMP partnership with Wilmington Millennium Ltd.

### Newspapers (some issues may be missing)

*Warrington Examiner* 1870-1909

*Widnes Examiner* 1880-1916

*Nantwich, Sandbach and Crewe Star* 1888, 1890, 1891

### UK Electoral Registers & Companies House Directors

Provided by *192.com*, the records include publicly-available names, addresses and other details of the UK electorate from 2002 to the present day. FMP has added another 2.9 million entries to this collection.

## Ancestry

To see a list of all record sets, 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)

### **UK, After-Trial Calendar of Prisoners, 1855-1931**

[www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/61809/](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/61809/)

These 'after-trial' calendars are lists, for the most part printed, of prisoners tried at Assizes and Quarter Sessions.

### **UK, Calendar of Prisoners, 1868-1929**

[www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/61808/](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/61808/)

These calendars, usually recording prisoners 'after-trial' are lists, for the most part printed, of prisoners tried at Assizes and Quarter Sessions.

### **UK, Prison Commission Records, 1770-1951**

[www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/61810/](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/61810/)

This collection comprises a variety of records including registers of prisoners and habitual criminals, photograph albums, minute books, visitors' books, order books, journals, assizes and quarter sessions calendars and other records relating to various prisons in England and Wales, Gibraltar prison and some ship prisons.

### **UK, Registers of Habitual Criminals and Police Gazettes, 1834-1934**

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/61812/>

This collection comprises registers and weekly newspapers with details of criminals, including habitual criminal registers, photographs and physical descriptions, Police Gazettes, Supplements 'A' and Informations (London).

## The Genealogist

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

To find out what's new, go to [www.thegenealogist.co.uk/news](http://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/news)

### **1939 Register Transcription**

A transcription-only copy of the 1939 Register.

### **Military Book Records**

These searchable records contain lists of men and women who served in various capacities connected to the military, not just on the front line.

## Cheshire Archives

### Searchroom Re-opening

The searchroom reopened on Tuesday 13th April for a limited appointment-only service on Tuesdays and Fridays. Advance appointments can be made for morning or afternoon slots; all documents must be ordered in advance and social distancing measures will be in place, so places are very limited. Full details can be found on the Visiting Us section of the website [www.cheshirearchives.org.uk/visiting-us/visiting-us.aspx](http://www.cheshirearchives.org.uk/visiting-us/visiting-us.aspx)

### Parkside Asylum Project needs your help!

[www.zooniverse.org/projects/cheshirero/parkside-asylum](http://www.zooniverse.org/projects/cheshirero/parkside-asylum)

Can you help Cheshire Archives with their online Parkside Asylum project from the comfort of your own home? Volunteers are shown a page relating to a patient who was admitted to Parkside Asylum in Macclesfield and are asked to provide answers based on the notes. Head to the project home page to learn more about the project, the asylum and to volunteer – no registration required. This work will provide researchers with a detailed overview of Parkside and allow for in-depth research using the data created.

## Wirral Archives

### Funding award

The National Archives has announced the successful applicants who have received funding from the COVID-19 Archives Fund, including Wirral Archives. The fund, which was allocated £500,000 from HM Treasury, will allow archives to secure physical and digital records that are at risk of being dispersed or lost. This government support comes at a time when many organisations are struggling to deal with issues related to their collections which have arisen as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The records management and archives services of Wirral Council have recently been assessing records from a number of council buildings across the Wirral. In the Treasury Building in Birkenhead, in two long-abandoned basement rooms, they found old financial records that had over the decades gone extremely mouldy. Most of the records were of no value, but amongst them were fifty-two rate books and eleven superannuation registers, which are archival records and of interest to those researching house history and family history. The Covid-19 Archives Fund grant will allow these records to be conserved and transferred to Wirral Archives for research.

## 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.

### Online Genealogical Index

<https://ogindex.org/>

This is perhaps more of a search engine than an archive but nevertheless very useful as a simple, free and efficient way to find genealogical data online. If you need help with finding a site that may hold your ancestors records then look no further. Just type in an English, Welsh or Isle of Man name place together with an approximate year and this online genealogical index will generate a list of sites for you to research. Don't just take my word for it - pop along and give it a go

### The Victorian Web

[www.victorianweb.org](http://www.victorianweb.org)

A fabulous research site of Victorian history, literature and culture. Originally created back in 1987 as a means of helping scholars and students see connections between different fields, the site today has greatly expanded the kinds of connections one can find. For example, commentary on the works of Charles Dickens which are then linked to his life and contemporary social and political history, drama, religion, book illustration, economics, and so forth. There is a lot on offer, you just need to spend some time exploring its delights.

### Trade Union Newspapers and Journals

[https://warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc/archives\\_online/digital/unionjournals](https://warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc/archives_online/digital/unionjournals)

Part of the previously highlighted Modern Records Office at the University of Warwick, this section includes a range of Trade Union publications including

*Railway Review, the Dockers Record, Firefighter and the Land Worker.* There is a wide range of dates available across the range, but some titles do only have a short run. There is a lot of social-historical information in these journals and if your ancestors worked in one of the industries covered it is well worth going to this website in order to get a feel for the conditions under which they worked.

### **Archives New Zealand**

<https://archives.govt.nz/>

<https://archives.govt.nz/search-the-archive/what-we-have/whats-been-digitised>

A great site if you have ancestry or just an interest in New Zealand. This website holds some seven million archives created and used by the New Zealand Government, dating from around 1840 to the recent past. There are two ways of searching this site, the first link below is to the main page but you may prefer to jump straight to the page that lists what has been digitised, such as Education, Law, Employment, Health and Images. Some records can only be searched in situ so that may be a good excuse to arrange a trip to New Zealand! Of course, some records are closed due to the 100 year rule, but you can still find whether the records exist or not.

### **Middling Culture: The Cultural Lives of the Middling Sort, Writing and Material Culture 1560-1660**

<https://middlingculture.com/>

This site is a major new Arts and Humanities Research Council-funded project that aims to transform our understanding of how reading, writing, and material culture fitted into the everyday lives of England's "middling" people - neither the very rich nor the very poor - in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. These were the literate, urban households whose members engaged with a variety of cultural forms for work and beyond. The site contains lots of blogs and interesting sections as well as the new status calculator - after filling in the questionnaire I found I was apparently of *Upper Middling* status [get me!!]

### **The Huntley Film Archives**

[www.huntleyarchives.com](http://www.huntleyarchives.com)

This site has been created by a dedicated team of film archivists. The collections are vast and varied, the sum of over fifty years of service to production and film archiving. The footage dates from around 1895 and covers places and people of the twentieth century both comprehensively and globally. Although aimed at those wishing to use film in a project, this site is well worth a look just for the social context alone. You can set up a free account to view and download watermarked vintage film footage - I found a lot of Cheshire content. You can also buy films or clips for projects

## The Dúchas Project

[www.duchas.ie/en](http://www.duchas.ie/en)

This is an Irish-based website with the objective of digitizing the National Folklore Collection (NFC). The site has three sections:

The *Main Collection* which consists of 2,400 bound and paginated volumes, approximately 700,000 pages of material relating to fourteen key subject areas of Settlement and Dwelling, Livelihood and Household Support, Communications and Trade, The Community, Human Life, Nature, Folk-Medicine, Time, Principles and Rules of Popular Belief and Practice, Mythological Tradition, Historical Tradition, Religious Tradition, Popular Oral Literature and Sports and Pastimes.

The *Schools Collection* is approximately 740,000 pages (288,000 pages in the pupils' original exercise books; 451,000 pages in bound volumes) of folklore and local tradition, compiled by pupils from 5,000 primary schools in the Irish Free State between 1937 and 1939.

The *Photographic Collection* includes some 80,000 photographs, the majority of which were taken by members of the Irish Folklore Commission (1935-70) and its successors, including staff of the National Folklore Collection. If you have Irish ancestry this site has a lot of information not available elsewhere AND you can volunteer to help transcribe as well.

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).

### ***From The Dunlop Book, Revised post-war edition, 1919 (3)***

*KNUTSFORD The place-name derives from "Knut's" (or "Canute's") Ford. Annually on May Day here is a hearty celebration of the coming of Spring. The streets are elaborately cleaned and each householder carefully sands the portion in front of his house with a fine red sand, distributing it from a funnel, in fanciful patterns. Much dancing and pageanting take place throughout the day.*

**Ed.:** May Day is still a big festival in Knutsford, and *sanding* still takes place at certain locations. It is linked to King Canute, who is supposed to have sat down to shake sand out of his shoes after crossing a ford whilst a bridal party passed by; the King wished them as many children as there were grains of sand. See [www.knutsford-royal-mayday.co.uk/knutsford-royal-may-day/sanding](http://www.knutsford-royal-mayday.co.uk/knutsford-royal-may-day/sanding)



# Ancestry's Criminal Records

by Linda Trim  
Membership no. 9315

Ancestry has recently added two new record sets: UK, Calendar of Prisoners 1868-1929 and UK, Registers of Habitual Criminals and Police Gazettes, 1834-1934. These records have significance for me because I discovered that my 2x great-grandmother, Mary PROFFITT, was convicted of performing an abortion.

Mary LATCHFORD married John PROFFITT on the 29th May 1854 at St. Peter's Church, Prestbury. This, to me, is the oddest marriage of all my antecedents because John was a seventeen-year-old weaver and Mary was just sixteen at the time of their marriage. They are the only couple in my family to wed so young. Mary was seven months pregnant at the time of the marriage, so it is obvious why they married; however, it would be interesting to know more.

This marriage and family does not appear to have been good one, and was certainly dysfunctional. Despite having several children, John disappeared sometime in the 1870s, never to be found again - at least by me!

Only one daughter seems to have had a normal life. One daughter, Ann PROFFITT, and her husband Emery Leicester McALL also managed to make their whereabouts unknown by the time of the 1881 census. Eventually I found the two daughters of this union, but could only find good records for one; the life of the other daughter is still mostly hidden. One son died in his forties, and he was apparently overly fond of his drink. Another daughter, Mary PROFFITT, was an alcoholic prostitute in Manchester. A son, John's namesake, left his first wife, took up with another woman and ran a boarding house in Earby, Yorkshire, where they lived as man and wife. In all fairness, he did marry his paramour after his wife died. For some very odd reason he named two of the offspring of his second wife, Annie BRIDGE, Freddy and Willie - despite already having a Freddy and a Willie by his first wife.

John PROFFITT, besides being a weaver and living in Macclesfield was also a Sergeant in the 2nd Royal Cheshire Militia. Since I do not know where he went after leaving his family, I can only speculate whether he supported his children. In any event, his wife Mary was tried in Chester on 28th July 1888, the charge being: *At the Borough of Macclesfield, on the 26th April 1888, with intent to procure the miscarriage of Matilda BURGESS, did feloniously use a certain instrument.*

She was found guilty and sentenced to seven years in prison. She sounds a bit pathetic - no doubt she was not dissimilar to many others of the time - as she was described in the Habitual Criminals Register as 4 feet 11½ inches tall, with grey hair and eyes, and had but one tooth left. She was a weaver and lived in Macclesfield until her imprisonment.

On the same page as Mary's court case, a man was sentenced to only eighteen months in prison with hard labour for attempted carnal knowledge with a five-year-old girl. Obviously, abortion was considered to be a worse crime than trying to have intercourse with a five-year-old.

I am glad that the rest of my family was relatively normal as this part of the family was certainly not, but I suppose that not everyone's family was perfect!

#### **Sources:**

UK, Registers of Habitual Criminals and Police Gazettes, 1834-1934  
[www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/61812/](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/61812/)

UK Calendar of Prisoners, 1868-1929  
[www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/61808/](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/61808/)

### ***1921 Runcorn Births, Marriages and Deaths***

From the Runcorn Weekly News, 3rd and 10th June 1921, with some abbreviations (original newspaper may be seen on Find My Past or British Newspaper Archive websites).

#### **BIRTHS**

SWALE - *On Monday, 30th May 1921, at 23 Park Avenue, Widnes, to Mr and Mrs Thomas Swale, a son.*

#### **MARRIAGES**

LANGSTON-PAGET - *On 3rd June 1921, at Young Methodist Church, Winnipeg, Canada, Mr Frank Langston, Calgary, late of Widnes, to Miss Eva Paget, of Winnipeg, Canada, late of Reading, England.*

#### **SILVER WEDDING**

CALVERT-SPENCER - *On June 9th 1896, at Castlecroft Congregational Church, Bury, by the Rev J Calvert, father of the groom, assisted by the Rev R G Leigh, Mr A E Calvert, Widnes, to Miss Annie Spencer, daughter of Mr James Spencer, of Bury.*

#### **DEATHS**

WICKHAM - *On 8th June 1921, Lillie, aged 15, daughter of Mary and Martin Wickham. Interment at Borough Cemetery on June 11th - 21 Oakland St, Widnes.*

## A Trip to Canada (Part 2)

by Dave Williams  
Membership no. 7539

In March 1904, my grandfather Robert Thomas WILLIAMS went to Canada with his brother Evan. Although I don't know exactly what happened, it is clear that there had been a major disagreement in the family business of *Thomas WILLIAMS & Sons, (Building and General Contractors, All kinds of Repairs to Property, Joinery and Carpenters work promptly attended to, Funerals Completely Furnished, Coffins made on the Shortest Notice)*. The company offices were at Plas Power (railway) Station. Thomas had originally been a joiner, and his five sons all worked in the building trade: Robert Thomas, John William and Arthur were joiners, Evan was a bricklayer, and Stephen was a surveyor and draughtsman. Stephen had been bronchitic as a child and was probably more suited to a desk job. He emigrated to Canada in 1910 and remained in North America until 1932, apart from a spell in France in WWI with the Canadian Expeditionary Force, where he was gassed a couple of times and finally invalided back to Canada as *unfit for further war service* just a month before the Armistice.

It seems clear to me that it had been the intention of Robert Thomas and Evan to start up in business on their own account rather than to work for somebody else as tradesmen. At that time in Winnipeg, houses were still being built in the traditional bricks and mortar fashion, rather than the timber-frame style more usual in North America today. But for reasons unknown, it didn't work out. Towards the end of 1904 they decided to return to Wales, and Robert Thomas kept a diary recording how they made the 1900-mile journey from Winnipeg to New York, exploring a number of cities along the route, with a relatively short description of the transatlantic journey - no sea sickness this time! - and the final short hop from Liverpool to Wrexham.

Following their return, the two brothers set up in partnership as building contractors, working in the Wrexham area but also travelling across northern England. But after not much more than a decade they had to dissolve the partnership as Robert Thomas became unable to work on account of the tuberculosis that finally killed him on 27 December 1920 at the age of 46. Evan died in 1936, but Stephen survived until 1951. When Steven returned from Canada to Wrexham for the last time in 1933, he travelled with his wife and five children.

But to go back to 15 November 1904. As the brothers had originally intended to stay in Canada, they had to complete US immigration procedures as they prepared to board the train at Winnipeg. It looks as though this was done right at the last minute because only one of the two forms needed was fully completed. Robert Thomas made a copy of the travel documents in his diary:

*Immigrant Certificate Formula 1534*

*US Immigration Service Winnipeg Manitoba no 17438*

*This is to certify that Evan Williams a native of Wales who arrived at the port of Halifax by Ionian March 27 1904 has been duly inspected and regularised and will be admitted into the US upon Presentation, proper identification and presentation of this certificate to any Immigration Officer at the frontier.*

*The description of the holder is as follows: age 28, height 5ft 8, weight 145 colour of hair brown, of eyes grey*

*Remarks indicating special features such as blemishes, deformities -*

*Destination N.Y. via Suspension Bridge NY via Pembina ND*

*Robert Hatch? US Commission of [illegible]*

*Surrendered at its Inspection CNR 1.45 pm*

*The other is similar, differ in age and height*

*No 17439*

Note - Suspension Bridge was the name of the border crossing at Niagara Falls and Pembina was the border crossing into North Dakota from Winnipeg. CNR 1.45 was the Canadian Northern Railway train departure time

The *List or Manifest of alien passengers applying for admission to the United States from foreign contiguous territory* (available on e.g. Ancestry and Find My Past) gives further details:

Line 4. Robert T Williams; age 30; male; single; carpenter; can read and write; Nationality N Wales, Welsh; last permanent residence Wrexham Wales; final destination New York, has ticket, paid by self; in possession of \$315; has not been in US before; in good health, not deformed or crippled; landed at Halifax 27 Mar 1904 on ship Ionian 2nd cabin; date of examination 14 Nov 1904.

Line 5. Evan Williams; age 28; male; single; bricklayer; can read and write; Nationality N Wales, Welsh; last permanent residence Wrexham Wales; final destination New York, has ticket, paid by self; in possession of \$300; has not been in US before; in good health, scars on eyes, not deformed or crippled; landed at Halifax 27 Mar 1904 on ship Ionian 2nd cabin; date of examination 14 Nov 1904.

So between them, even after buying their tickets, Robert Thomas and Evan were carrying the equivalent of about £12,000 in today's money!

The following diary extract covers the first half of their journey home, from Winnipeg to Chicago.

*1.45 Canadian N Railway<sup>1</sup> Nov 15 1904 Left Winnipeg Canada for the States. Before starting we were compelled to be thoroughly examined by the American authorities and questioned before could receive a Pass to admit us into the States from Canada, which cost 2 dollars. When arriving at a certain place called Emerson near the border line had to show same and also had our luggage examined.*

*Arrived at Minneapolis<sup>A</sup> on Wednesday morning, had breakfast. Afterwards visited the city then left by streetcar 10 miles distant for St Pauls, another city, which cost us 10 cents. By doing this we were able to see the country which was very nice, something similar to the old country and not like Canada which is so level and no hills to be seen. St Paul; arrived there in the evening on Wednesday. After having dinner went around the city where there was a good deal to be seen and was a very busy place.*

*Left in the evening at 7.10 for Chicago<sup>B</sup>, arrived there Thursday morning. about 9.30 left our hand bags in the depot and went into the City. Walked up and down. Went into a German restaurant and had breakfast etc. Then walked up and down and came across a likely place to board for a few days, in which we board. After making ourselves comfortable through having a wash and change of clothes, had lunch and went out to see places of interest in this very busy city of Chicago. The traffic on the overhead electric railway and the underneath electric streetcars and other [vehicles?] is worth seeing; reminds one of been in London.*

*Today Thursday at 12 o'clock we are resting in Lincoln Park looking out onto Michigan Lake, which is a very pretty place There is a cannon to be seen here that was taken from one of the Spanish ships in Santiago harbour at the time when they were defeated by the Americans, called a trophy of 1898<sup>2</sup>.*

*After sitting to rest our wearied limbs we went and had dinner at a German Restaurant opposite the park which we enjoyed but cost us 45 cents<sup>3</sup> each. Afterwards resumed our walking in the park it being a large one. Contains a zoological garden all kinds of animals and birds, in which we were interested. Many people here visiting and sightseeing same as ourselves. The weather is like summer here and makes everything look so pretty, many monuments to be seen. There is*

also a Rotten Row, something similar to that in Hyde Park London, on which you see the wealthy folk riding. At present its about 4.30 in the afternoon and we feel very tired and far from our hotel. Intend making a move towards there; it was getting dark so we had to hurry up in case we got lost, which was very easy for a stranger to do so. But we managed it all right and had our suppers which we enjoyed.

In the hotel in which we stay the chamber maid is a black young woman, so this is a new experience. The avenue in which we stay is a fine one, very aristocratic. There is an open space opposite with walks where one can go in his leisure time and sit down alongside this. There is a great deal of traffic, such as carriages, automobiles of all descriptions, and where you see most of the Wealthy people pass along.

Also in this avenue you see the large and magnificent buildings such music halls, hospital, hotels, library, and which are of the best where you see porters, or butlers as we call them, standing at the entrances to assist the better class inside the music halls and hotels, and also to assist into their carriages and automobiles. Going along the avenue when they come out of same, you will see it packed with carriages and motors [of] all kind waiting to take home them that are in the music hall and operas. We notice here that there are more blacks in this City than what we expected to see. You see them driving their automobiles and in their carriages.

[Generally?] near all the Hotels you see blacks as servants and porters. All shops close at six in the evening except Saturdays. When you walk along the streets in the evening its pleasant to see all places of business to inspect the goods clothes. Dry goods are as expensive as what there were in Winnipeg.

Today Friday we did a good deal of walking, went in the opposite direction to what we did yesterday so we can say we have walked from one end of the city to the other. We give a rough guess 10 miles in length. After dinner we went walking and asked the constable which was the theatre that went on fire last year where there was so many lives lost<sup>4</sup>, and he tells us 4 blocks after turning on the left, so we found it. The name has been changed, now called Temple Theatre. Also did a little shopping in a dry goods store. Afterward bought a newspaper and went out of the busy streets and sat down on one of the benches that is provided close to the broad Avenue where one see so much. After a while walked towards our hotel and prepared for supper after. Then we went to the Cleveland Theater Saturday night, a fine place, every convenience, in which we enjoyed ourselves. Afterwards went to our hotel and to bed.

*Sunday morning there was an excursion 50 cents return to Zion City<sup>5</sup>, about 60 miles out of Chicago, where we had the opportunity of listening to Dr Dowie addressing the audience. His own people numbered 5000 and the rest about 3000. The place would accommodate about 10,000 and it was a fine sight to see them going through their ceremony; to see the Choir arriving out of the vestries into the hall dressed in white and black caps, the young folks and adults in black parading the aisles, which was two on both sides of the hall, and keeping in step and singing at the same time until they all occupied their seats, which was picturesque indeed. Afterwards came the officers and others that were in office in the church, and reporters also were seen prepared to take down in writing what was taking place, and last of all came the so called First Apostle of Christ, John Alexander Dowie, and then we had singing before the Apostle acknowledged the people all round and then prayed. Had the announcement from another official, singing, and Dowie then proceeded with his address in which he said a good many [things?].*

*There was two Orchestra Bands. The offering was collected by 64 men, they all had their uniforms. There would be two boxes to one man so you could really guess there would be a good collection The excursion returned 30 minutes after the service. The service commenced at noon, 2.30 and concluded about 5.30. Zion City is a large place, a kind of park containing many acres in which houses are build here and there on same. In time will be a large place. They do all their own book printing, publishing. Banks, hospitals<sup>6</sup> libraries and for their convenience a railway running to the park, all belonging to Dowie. You are not allowed to smoke in the grounds nor in the Train, so it was really hard on us. They tell us he is a very wealthy man has factories<sup>7</sup> etc., all his own capital and he's doing well. We arrived home to Chicago at about 8 o'clock and enjoyed a good supper which was the second meal that day. When coming home through the city the theatres are open here, which was something new to us.*

## NOTES

A: Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada to Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA is 456 miles

B: St Paul, Minnesota to Chicago, Illinois is 400 miles

1. The Canadian Northern Railway was incorporated in 1899 as a result of the amalgamation of two small Manitoba branch lines. It was built up over the next twenty years to be a 16,000 km transcontinental railway company. However, the cost of expansion plus financial difficulties during WWI meant that it had to be nationalised in 1918 and was eventually merged into the Canadian National Railway.

2. The battle of Santiago de Cuba fought between Spain and the United States on 3 July 1898 was the largest naval engagement of the Spanish-American War

and resulted in the destruction of Spain's "Caribbean Squadron"

3. about £8.50 today

4. The Iroquois Theatre fire in which 602 people died occurred on 30 December, 1903. The theatre had only opened six weeks before and was located at 24-28 West Randolph Street, on the North Side between State Street and Dearborn Street in Chicago, Illinois. The Oriental Theater now occupies the site. Four blocks away is Jackson Boulevard which may be the *broad avenue* where Robert Thomas and Evan stayed.

5. Zion City was founded in 1901 by John Alexander Dowie. Born in Scotland in 1847, Dowie came to the United States from Australia in 1888 and settled in Chicago in 1893. Dowie wanted Zion City to be free of crime and vice and instituted the *Zion City Lease*, which forbade gambling, theatres, and circuses, as well as the manufacture and sale of alcohol and tobacco. In addition, the lease banned pork, dancing, swearing, spitting, politicians, doctors, oysters, and tan-coloured shoes. Whistling on Sunday was punishable by imprisonment. Dowie especially opposed alcohol, having signed the temperance pledge at age six, and Zion City remained dry into the late twentieth century. The Zion Tabernacle was built in the early 1900s and burnt down in 1937.

6. There may have been hospitals, but doctors were not allowed in Zion City. Many of the original settlers, primarily of Dutch, German, and Irish origin, had been attracted to the community because of Dowie's reputation as a faith healer.

7. The Zion Department Store and the factory of Zion Lace Industries together employed as many as 3,000 workers. But by 1905 Zion's local economy was in shambles. Despite new leadership after Dowie's death in 1907, industry never flourished in Zion City.

### ***1921 Macclesfield Births, Marriages and Deaths (1)***

From the *Macclesfield Courier & Herald*, 21 May 1921 (original newspaper may be seen at Mobberley Research Centre when it reopens).

#### **DEATHS**

FALCONER - *On the 9th inst., at 6 Brown St, Charlotte, aged 77 years*

FERNEYHOUGH - *On the 13th inst., at 11 Nelson St, Joseph, aged 40.*

HEATHCOTE - *On the 8th inst., at Ivy House, Hurdsfield Rd, Nancy, widow of the late James Heathcote, in her 83rd year.*

HOCKENHULL - *On May 11th, at Middle Moss Farm, Gawsforth, Lucy, widow of the late William Hockenhull, in her 82nd year.*

HULSE - *On the 15th inst., at 42 Love Lane, Stockport, Mary Jane, aged 66 years.*

PERKIN - *On the 9th inst, at Parkside Asylum, Fanny, aged 73.*

STEELE - *On May 6th, at Lingards Farm, Henbury, Elizabeth, in her 90th year.*



## Researching Flemish Ancestors

*by Allan F. Windelinckx  
Membership no. 6045*

In about 2009 I started on an unbelievable journey to try to trace my Belgian family. I have a family photograph taken in Wilmslow in 1914 giving some information about the WINDELINCKX family, which I hoped would help with my search. I knew my father had been born in 1910 in a small town called Aarschot, which lies about 45km north-east of Brussels, and my grandparents had married there as well. Not knowing how to start, I began by using Google and found a website which explained how to obtain permission to visit a local archive which would perhaps have the information that I required.

As my family originated in Aarschot, this meant contacting the Chairman of the judges which met in nearby Leuven, where I would hopefully obtain permission to examine any documents held at Aarschot. It took over a year, due to having to wait for the results of various meetings, but eventually permission was given.

Accompanied by my wife Margaret, I travelled to Aarschot with the relevant documents to spend a couple of days perusing the details of births and marriages held in the library. I don't think they'd had people visiting them to research their family before.

The documents at Aarschot were wonderful - we had never seen such beautiful papers. As we did not speak, read or write in Flemish, the staff helped us to get a large amount of information, going back as far as 1806. One thing which aided the research is that all females in Belgium and the Netherlands keep their family surname even when they marry.

I later found more websites relating to Belgian research, including archive offices available both in the Flemish and the Walloon areas of the country. I found one in Leuven (Flemish), which really helped as I wanted to find more out about the WINDELINCKX family if I could. On the website for Leuven I found the email address for the archives; I contacted the department and they said they would be delighted to see us. The archives in Leuven, like the library in Aarschot, had only details of the records back to 1806; again the staff at Leuven could have not been more helpful and, indeed, did more research for us, discovering that my forbears came from another village some distance away.

Whilst at Aarschot and Leuven I found that my grandmother's parents were married in Aarschot and their marriage certificate showed that her father, whose surname was FRANS, came from a small town near Antwerp; this led me to the archives in Antwerp (Flemish). Again, I obtained the email address of the Antwerp archives and have visited many times. Yet again with the help of the staff I have been able to trace the FRANS part of my family back to the early 1600s. Before the 1600s everything was written in early Latin which even the staff were unable to read!

So far in my research I have been very surprised by the amount of information that is available to enable people to find their ancestors in Belgium and earlier in the Netherlands, especially as both countries have been overrun by Spain, France and Germany over the years.

Unfortunately, the Covid virus has halted my research but I hope to be able to return to Belgium to see if I can continue following the WINDELINCKX family in another area, taking me back to the 1700s.

#### **Notes:**

I must point out that so far I have only concentrated on my main two families - the FRANS and the WINDELINCKX direct lines - but there so much more I would like to find out.

Before 1831 Belgium was part of the Netherlands.

You can obtain details of all the archives in Belgium, both Flemish and Walloon, on the State Archives of Belgium website at [www.arch.be/index.php?l=en&m=practical-information&r=our-reading-rooms](http://www.arch.be/index.php?l=en&m=practical-information&r=our-reading-rooms)

The archive branches I have used so far are Leuven and Antwerp whose staff could not have been more helpful and friendly to me. There is a small charge to visit each branch; the last time I was there the cost was 10 Euros for the week.

#### ***From The Dunlop Book, Revised post-war edition, 1919 (4)***

**STORAGE OF PETROL** *Petrol may be stored in quantities up to 60 gallons without a licence, provided it is not for sale. A special licence is required to sell or store a larger quantity of the spirit. The petrol must be safely locked up in a receptacle situated a clear 20ft. from any building "where people assemble." Thus it may not be kept in a garage within 20ft. of a dwelling house. An iron bin at the end of the garden is ideal. Except in the car, not even a pint of petrol may be kept in the garage unless it be 20ft. clear from every other building.*

# WWI Red Cross Volunteers

by Michael Stonehewer  
Membership no. 3649

Our editor's request for articles led me to think of a series of articles I wrote for the STONEHEWER to STANIER Society's quarterly journal. In issue number 56, published in the winter of 2017 – 2018, I wrote an article about British Red Cross volunteers in World War I. I had searched for the volunteers bearing our society family names and found eleven female and one male STONEHEWER volunteers, three STONIERS, and two STANWAYS, but no STANIER or STONIER volunteers.

Over 90,000 people volunteered for the British Red Cross at home and overseas during the war. Search for your family's personnel records and discover what Red Cross volunteers were doing in your local area one hundred years ago. If you know that a person from your family volunteered but is not listed then the Red Cross would like to hear from you and they welcome any information or photograph you may have. To find out more visit [www.redcross.org.uk/about-us/our-history](http://www.redcross.org.uk/about-us/our-history). Unfortunately the link to the WWI volunteers on that page was not working at the time of going to press, but FindMyPast has transcriptions of the same records.

As I have already mentioned, there were twelve STONEHEWER volunteers. To give an example I chose a volunteer from Cheshire – the more I looked at her, the more interesting it became! Below is a transcription of her record. However, on the Red Cross website, clicking on the name gives a copy of the record card, which is usually double-sided and coloured pink.

Surname Stonehewer 8 MAY 1919  
Christian Names Bertha (Miss) (Mr., Mrs. or Miss)  
Permanent Address: High Green, (Cottages) Leek, Cheshire  
Date of Engagement Oct. 1914, Rank Pay  
Date of Termination During War, Rank Pay  
Particulars of Duties Knicker.  
Whether whole or part time, and if latter No. of hours served  
Previous Engagements under Joint War Committee, if any, and where  
Honours awarded

PERIOD OF SERVICE, Etc.		
From	To	Commission or Department or County
		Cheshire Branch Bucklow Division
Working party, not registered Mrs Bertha Stonehewer		
Each Christmas did certain amount of work in own home (such as shirt making, knitting socks, mufflers etc.) + for two Red Cross Sales in 1917 + 1918 gave time - what money could be spared, garden produce + knitted garments.		

MISS BERTHA STONEHEWER

COUNTY: Cheshire

DATE OF ENGAGEMENT: 10/1914

AGE WHEN ENGAGED: N/A

Text extracted from 'Pink' record card:

Address: Hough Green (Cottage), Ashley, Cheshire.

Date of Engagement: Oct. 1914.

Date of Termination: During War.

Commission: Bucklow Division, Cheshire Branch.

Working Party: Not registered.

Duties: Knitted. Each Christmas did certain amount of work in own home (such as shirt making, knitting socks & mufflers etc.) and for two Red Cross sales in 1917 & 1918 gave time and what money could be spared, garden produce & knitted garments.

Needless to say Bertha caught my attention as she lived in Cheshire! Her home was at Hough Green which, coincidentally, is just north of Mobberley, the location of the FHSC Research Centre.

A look at the 1911 census determined that Bertha was born locally and was still living with her parents:

*John STONEHEWER, Head, 58, Mar, Cowman on Farm, b. Macclesfield, Ches.*

*Ann, Wife, 62, Mar 39 yrs, 8 children, 8 living, no occupation, b. Ollerton, Ches.*

*William, Son, 25, Single, Railway Platelayer, b. Ashley, Ches.*

*Bertha, Daughter, 22, Single, General Servant (Domestic), b. Ashley, Ches.*

*James, Son, 17, Single, Clerk to Coal Agent, b. Ashley, Ches.*

*Frederick NODEN, Boarder, 25, Single, Signalman on Railway, b. Winsford, Ches.*

## Note

You can see that Bertha's father was born in Macclesfield, which is where my own ancestors are also found; however, I have not found any record of a direct link with Bertha's family on my own tree.

## Sources

Find My Past databases:

British Red Cross Society Volunteers, 1914-1918

British Red Cross & Order of St John Enquiry List, Wounded & Missing, 1914-1919

British Red Cross Register of Overseas Volunteers 1914-1918

Register of The Royal Red Cross, 1883-1994

## Recollections of John Hadfield

*by John Yates*

*Membership no. 7142*

*[jyatesmacc@aol.com](mailto:jyatesmacc@aol.com)*

This is an exact transcription of a handwritten recollection by my great-grandfather John HADFIELD (6 April 1898 - 14 Nov 1945) about his early upbringing in a coal mining family in Hazel Grove and Bredbury. John mentions his grandmother, my 3x great-grandmother BASKEYFIELD - one of my brick walls which I plan to write about in a later article.

*HADFIELD family sprang from Derbyshire. Two brothers came from there in middle of 18th century settled in Bullocks Smithy as Hazel Grove was once known, so named because a man of that name had a smithy & shod stage coach horses on the way from London/M/c.*

*There was one Joseph HADFIELD Coal Dealer in an old business directory 1783. My Grandad & his brother Thomas were coal dealers in Hazel Grove up to Dad being 11 yrs old. Grandmother HADFIELD's maiden name was BRIERLY & that family came from Glossop. Her mothers maiden name was HOWARD. That is all I know of the HADFIELD family.*

*My mother was born at Congleton, Cheshire. Her name was WRIGLEY. Her mother's name was BASKERVILLE. My grandmother on this side was brought up*

*a lady by wealthy parents & used to be ride about Macclesfield in a carriage drawn by a pair of horses, which was the means of distinguishing the gentry in those days. Grandmother married a man so much beneath her socially that her parents would have nothing more to do with her.*

*Like most people who have been waited on hand and foot by servants she was a very helpless sort of woman. I remember her sitting in her chair by the fire in the little cottage in Cow Lane Hazel Grove looking frail helpless & hopeless. She must have been very beautiful when young, for she was beautiful then in all her poverty. Indeed when she lay dead at 70 years of age, she looked nice in spite of her troubles (for John WRIGLEY was not a good husband to her) she had not a grey hair in her head, it was thick and black like our Edith's and shone in spite of her age. Looking at her as she lay there she made a big impression on me, because of her beauty.*

*I was born in a little cottage (2nd on the left as you enter) Smithy St Hazel Grove in the parish of Bosden on April 7th 1868. A few things I remember about Hazel Grove:- Being taken for a walk and seeing a railway train pass under the footbridge on which we stood, the engine having a huge branch of oak fastened on the roof. I imagine this would be in commemoration of King Charles hiding in an oak tree. Another day I remember my father's uncle Tom picking me up & putting one in his empty cart and going for a long ride towards Chadkirk.*

*It was a great treat to look over the front of the cart, watching the horse a grey one, by the way, plodding through the country roads but the thing that pleased me most was seeing the horse go right through the river Goyt at Offerton Green over a ford, that had no doubt been in use long before the bridge at Otterspool close by was built. I never saw this ford again until one day whilst living in New Bank Street Tyldesly I took our Edith for a days outing to Hazel Grove and then across country to Woodley. Now the road that takes you round and over Otterspool Bridge does not go within sight of the ford. But I said to Edith, when we were at Offerton Green there's a ford not far from here & a little further along the road we were on, I saw an old disused country Lane. Come on, Edith, I exclaimed I'll bet that ford is down here; we went a short distance and came to it. It was nothing much to look at but I was pleased as Punch to have seen it once more.*

*A troop of horse soldiers passing through Hazel Grove made a great to do in the village. They looked fine and smart, no wonder I remembered the sight. They could have been troops passing from North to South of England as the Franco-German war was in progress at that time.*

*My life nearly ended in Hazel Grove. In those days mothers drugged children to sleep with paregoric. Well one night mother was just about to give me a dose when there was a loud knocking on the door it was a question should they answer the door, or dose me first. Good job they answered the door. The druggist had come to tell my parents he'd sold them Laudanum by mistake. First narrow escape for John!*

*It was in Hazel Grove that I saw a curious kind of vehicle. It had 4 wheels & a man was seated somehow in the centre of them propelling the strange object by means of 2 hand levers. Of course I can't describe the mechanism of the thing, but to my young eyes it seemed wonderful. All the vehicles I'd seen up to then were either horse drawn or man pushed.*

*Years after we left Hazel Grove my father went to the Jubilee of christening Bullocks Smithy into Hazel Grove and there were old Bullocks Smithy-ites from all over the country. There was a big procession & several bands & my father told me then when they played Far from the old folks at home there was not a dry eye to be seen. All the old villagers crying like children.*

*We went to live at Bredbury on leaving H. G. & moved to Dark Lane, to Bents Lane & onto Red House Lane before we'd been in Bredbury long. Colliers were doing well about this time & my first impressions of B-d-y were of men fighting, wrestling dog- racing & skittle playing in the yards attached to the 2 pubs at the end of Br – y. Some of the Colliers dressed themselves extravagantly in silks velvet waistcoats, double breasted & low cut. A few had threepenny & fourpenny silver bits bored & used for buttons.*

*Then came a slump & from men getting £5 or 6 per week, they had to work jolly hard to earn 30/- per week. Some pits were on short time bringing the wage down to £1. Then the men attempted to form trade unions & soon were trying the strike weapon. They generally lost their fight with the masters, whom I've since learned were up against it themselves for a time. The owners of Bredbury Colliery had to shutdown, in spite of cutting costs, it could not be made to pay.*

*In spite of times being so hard children kept being born at our home and by the time my brother Joe, the eldest, was 12 my parents had 8 children. You may guess living was pretty thin. Often enough it was tea-sops for breakfast. That was simply weak tea sweetened with very little milk & bread broken into it. For dinner we had rice porridge till I was heartily sick of it. This was simply boiled rice (in water) with a little milk and treacle. Bread & butter & weak tea for tea & perhaps a 'butty' & a drink of water at bed-time. We never saw meat except at week-ends and occasionally for dinner in the week time boiled beans & bacon. Other times a kind of hash, with*

*a pastry crust on top, (not cooked in oven but boiled) & called Sea- pie. Very tasty & a welcome change. My father & mother tried their best to feed us all during the last few years in Bredbury, but it was an impossible task under the circumstances to feed us properly.*

*When our Joe reached 10 years of age he began to work in the steel works across the road from our house in Red Lane. This was in Feb & in April of the same year I began work at the rope works in Bents Lane. I remember well I drew my first wage on my 9th birthday 1/6 per week & 1d for myself, which I also had to give up. Joe got 4/- per week, & his employer paid his school money. The money we to earned helped things a bit at home.*

*I'll just tell you an incident here. My mother used to make me get up when Joe did on Sat. mornings & start cleaning. The living part of the house was a large one & one Sat. morning I got up as usual to mop & stone this large kitchen. We used yellow stone & smoothed it over with the damp cloth to leave it even all over. I was just finishing at 8 a.m. & heard mother coming downstairs & somehow sensed she was in a bad temper. I had just got to the last bit near the door, when she stood there & said, do you call this mopping & stoning. I said I'd done my best she knocked me over, (I was still on my knees) for speaking back, & when I got up she was wiping her feet all over my work. My temper rose, young as I was, & I took two 2 paces back & then a running kick at the bucket & sent the dirty water all over the floor. Then I ran out and didn't stop till I got to my Grandmother Hadfields. I believe if my mother had followed me my granny would have easily killed her & as you know she was big enough to do it.*

*After dinner, I went to Mr Byrne the owner of the rope walk & asked for a job. Luckily, he was needing a lad & told me to start on Monday. As there was no steam driven machinery boys could be employed under 10 years old. As I thought, finding this job would let me off the thrashing I expected & it did. It was dreary work so at 10 years old I got on at the Steel Works without consulting my parents. I liked the work there immensely & have often thought with my gift for maths and drawing, I should have got on well*

*..... Coming to Tyldesley .....*

*Our Joe began to work at Red Lion pit as soon as he was 13. He was a little mite for his age. I remember he used to fetch flour from Garrett Mill and one day we weighed each other on the platform scales & Joe was two stone 12 lbs. Just imagine 52 pounds at 13. I weighed 10 pounds more though I was 14 months younger. Just think what it would look like going down the pit that weight.....*



# The Family History Society of Cheshire

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We look forward to receiving your renewal subscription.

**Kevin Dean, FHSC Membership Renewals Officer**

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

## The Second Oldest Profession

*by Ian Pidgeon*  
Membership no. 9481

In his article with the same title (*CHESHIRE ANCESTOR*, Dec 2020) Gren Dix discusses the term mistress in census records. Typically, a mistress would be described in a census as a housekeeper, or even a wife. Here is one where she was said to be the wife, although her occupation is given as *concubine*! It is in the 1881 census for London, at 10 Queen Ann's Gate, Westminster.

NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of		Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION
			Male	Female	
H. Labouchere Henrietta	Wife	Mar	29	33	Journalist Concubine

The initial H stands for Henry. This was Henry LABOUCHÈRE, a well-known journalist and Liberal MP for Northampton. His *wife* was Henrietta HODSON, an actress who was actually married to Bristol solicitor Richard Walter PIGEON.

Born at Long Ashton near Bristol in 1832, Richard was a first cousin of the famous cricketer W. G. GRACE – Richard's mother and W.G.'s father were siblings. In 1857 Richard married Harriet May KEMBALL and three children followed, the youngest of which died in 1861 when only a few weeks old. Soon afterwards, Harriet contracted TB and died in a sanatorium in 1863. While his wife was dying, Richard was cavorting with a young actress in London, and in 1864 he married her. This was Henrietta Ellen HODSON, who was born at Lambeth in 1841 and described as *petite, pretty, exceedingly graceful as a dancer, and sang burlesque ditties with much taste and charm of manner* by the *New York Times*. She retired from the stage on marrying Richard, and their son, George Walter Noel, was born the following year. But it was not long before life in Bristol as the wife of a solicitor and mother of a small child took its boring toll. She returned to London and the stage, and the name of Mrs PIGEON soon became associated with that of Mr LABOUCHÈRE.

In 1869, Richard sued for divorce, citing grounds of adultery with the correspondent Henry LABOUCHÈRE, and claimed £5000 in damages from Henry. Henrietta did not actually deny adultery, but claimed that if any had taken

place, it had been condoned by Richard, and he had committed *legal cruelty* against her. The arguments in court went on for several months, Richard being granted custody of young George, but in early 1870, the court ordered Henry to *peremptorily file his answers ... within 3 weeks*. It was at this point that matters went quiet, and the divorce was never finalised. Word passed down the PIGEON family that Henry had paid Richard £10,000 to *shut up and go away*.

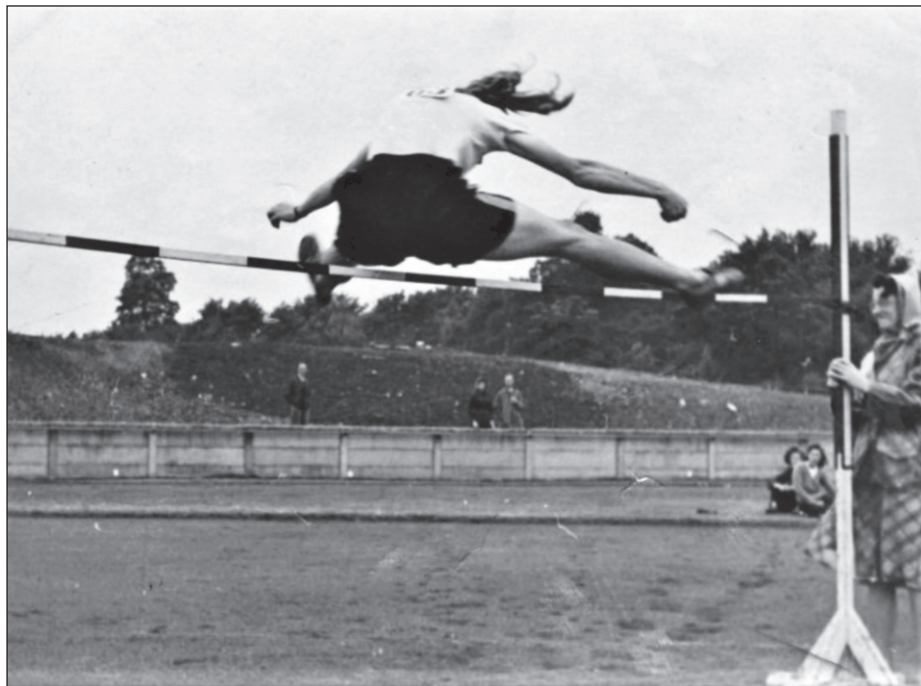
This was at a time when Henry, during a break in his parliamentary career, was reporting as a journalist on the siege of Paris by the Germans. The only way to get messages out of Paris was by carrier pigeon, which were collected by the French and forwarded to England. But many such messages fell into the wrong hands and were destroyed. Henry's messages, however, were not addressed to a newspaper, but to Miss Henrietta HODSON, and so they all got through, via her, to the *Daily News*.

Henrietta continued to live with Henry as his mistress, or concubine, for many years. In Henrietta's obituary it was stated that she had returned to the stage *after the early death of her husband*. But Richard died only in 1887, and Henry and Henrietta were legally married just five weeks later.

## **Bertha CROWTHER, Britain's First Pentathlon Champion**

*by Margaret Roberts  
FHSC Social Media Officer*

The Alsager Campus of the Crewe and Alsager College of Education, later part of Manchester Metropolitan University, attracted many Olympians over the years, keen to access the expertise provided by sports science academics. Athletes such as Steve BACKLEY, Paula RADCLIFFE and Sarah STOREY as well as international rugby and football players, swimmers and world-class boxers were frequent visitors to the faculty. However, I wonder how many students who attended the Alsager Training College back in the 1960s and 70s knew that the unassuming and quietly spoken Bertha CROWTHER, appointed as Physical Education lecturer in 1963, was in fact Britain's first female international combined-event medallist, and a 1948 Olympic high jumper and hurdler? Her well-merited pentathlon success in 1950, which was very poorly documented in the popular press, is made even more remarkable because it would not be emulated by a British man until Guyana-born Clive LONGE won a decathlon silver medal for Wales at the 1966 Commonwealth Games.



*Bertha in action (Author's private collection)*

Born in Wembley on 9 December 1921, Bertha grew up in the shadow of the Empire Stadium, home to the 1948 Olympic athletic competitions. As a schoolgirl, she was determined to be an Olympic athlete, cycling after school to the local park for training sessions with two hurdles strapped to the back of her bike. In 1937, at the age of 15, she competed in the high jump at the Women's Amateur Athletic Association (WAAA) annual championships, finishing fourth to the 1936 Olympic silver medallist Dorothy ODAM (later TYLER), thus beginning a rivalry that would continue into the 1950s.

Bertha attended Wembley County School - where in later years she would become the Physical Education mistress - and won many local and county competitions in her favourite events, 80m hurdles and high jump. She was also very proficient with the javelin, an excellent long jumper, and played hockey to county level. Bertha was 5ft 9in; not very tall when compared with modern high-jumpers, but still able to clear 1.6m using what today would be considered a rather primitive technique, the scissors kick, going over the bar in a sitting position. High jumpers in those days vaulted into sand and injuries were commonplace; landing in wet sand could be especially painful and Bertha's family recalled the many bruises she sported while in training.

After a lot of hard work Bertha, who by then was married, triumphed at the Southern Counties and eventually came to national prominence when she took the WAAA 80m hurdles title in July 1946, as well as coming third in the high jump. In 1947 the WAAA championships attracted about 150 athletes, many of whom were considered potential candidates for the following year's British Olympic team; observers were also present to select a team for a continental tour due to take place that summer. Bertha failed to defend her 80m hurdles title, finishing third behind eighteen-year-old Maureen GARDNER, but by coming second in the high jump she sealed her place on the forthcoming European tour.

By 1948 Bertha was teaching at her alma mater in Wembley, which at the time of the Games provided accommodation for some sixty competitors and officials,



*Bertha resplendent in her Olympic uniform  
(Author's private collection)*

who bedded down in classrooms hastily converted into makeshift dormitories, while the school gymnasium became the training base for boxers, weightlifters and wrestlers. Bertha added another Olympic connection for the school when she was nominated as part of the British Olympic contingent as the team masseuse. However, following another excellent performance in the WAAA and the Southern Championships, she was selected to represent her country in both the 80m hurdles and the high jump, meaning that, ironically, she lost the post as masseuse.

The 1948 Olympics were a far cry from those of today. With no funding, Bertha travelled from her nearby home to the stadium on public transport. At the Games she failed to qualify for the second round of the 80m hurdles and after reaching the high jump final was placed sixth overall. Bertha later recalled having her own personal cheerleaders when girls from her



school wildly applauded her every move. The event was won by Alice COACHMAN, who was the first black woman to win an Olympic gold medal, with Dorothy TYLER claiming the silver.

Bertha soon became a local celebrity and found herself in demand for prize-giving duties at many sports clubs and schools. She continued with her own athletic career as well as undertaking coaching of female athletes and when, with an eye to the future, the WAAA staged its first multi-event competition for women in the 1949 Championships, she was keen to enter. This pentathlon event consisted of high and long jumps, 80m hurdles, 200m sprint and the weight. Bertha won the title, thereby becoming the first British national pentathlon champion and record holder. Further acknowledgement of her abilities was demonstrated when she was one of the first of a select group of female athletes to be invited to represent England at the 1950 Empire Games, held in Auckland, New Zealand.

Bertha's career in education was also on the rise; she was now working as an assistant lecturer in the physical education department of Birmingham University. Chosen to contest the sprint hurdles, high jump and javelin at the 1950 Empiad, she won silver in the high jump behind her teammate, reigning Empire Games Champion and perennial rival Dorothy TYLER - in fact both women cleared 5ft 3ins, equalling the Games record, with Bertha losing gold on count-back.

After the Empire Games, the WAAA was keen to develop a women's coaching scheme by providing a panel of female athletic coaches throughout the country. The very first national coaching course was held at Bisham Abbey in April 1950 with Bertha among the honorary instructors. Later that year she successfully defended her WAAA pentathlon title and represented Britain at the White City stadium in a triangular match between Great Britain, an American team and representatives of the Benelux countries, where her performance merited selection in both the pentathlon and high jump in the European Games.

Bertha made a rather inauspicious start on her European Games debut, lying in last place after the first event, the shot put. However, after winning the third event, the high jump, Bertha was in fourth place, just thirty-eight points behind the leader. A strong performance in the hurdles saw her move up to third and finally she eased herself into silver medal position with a long jump of 16ft 10<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>in and a final score of 3048 points. The winner was Arlette BEN HAMO from France who scored 3204 points. Bertha returned from Brussels as Great Britain's very first female international combined-event medallist.

1951 saw Bertha once again taking part in the WAAA coaching scheme and as honorary WAAA coach she was entrusted with delivering the inaugural three-part coaching course held in Leamington, which was open to women over seventeen who were *interested in athletics and concerned with coaching in schools and clubs*. Bertha returned to White City in September to defend her WAAA pentathlon title but failed in her attempt, coming second to Dorothy TYLER. At the time, Bertha was recovering from an injury to her knee caused by an accident while on a skiing holiday; even so, her total score was only one point less than the previous year.

The following summer Bertha resigned her position at Birmingham University and moved with her husband Denys to Calveley, near Nantwich, taking up a post at Tarporley Grammar School before moving to Alsager Teaching Training College as senior physical education lecturer in 1963. Whilst in Calveley, Bertha added a new string to her bow and, along with her husband, joined the local amateur dramatic society. Her stage debut in November 1952, playing the part of Mrs Charles Pentwick in the farce *Love's a Luxury*, was very well received. Obviously bitten by the acting bug, Bertha appeared on stage with the group on many occasions over the next few years.

Sport and athletics were still very much part of Bertha's life and she became involved with the Crewe and Nantwich Athletic Club, where as a coach she was instrumental in training many athletes to success. She was also, over the ensuing years, elected President of the Cheshire Women's AAA, vice-president of the Northern Counties Women's AAA and sat as a member of the National Executive. In 1970 she was one of only three candidates that were awarded the Northern Counties Hockey Association 'B' grade qualification, which allowed the umpiring of matches to county championship level.

During her fourteen years as senior lecturer at Alsager College she helped numerous students and local youngsters, including her own daughters, to enjoy sport, and successfully guided many college teams to glory. She enjoyed working in grass roots athletics - the most important aspect of the sport in Bertha's mind, and one that she was keen to concentrate on in her retirement.

Bertha died on 8 August 2007, just a few years before the Olympic Games returned to London. In her will she left a £500 legacy to the Cheshire Amateur Athletics Association, and to this day many of the association's individual clubs award an annual Bertha Crowther Trophy to the most outstanding newcomer of the season. In the numerous retrospectives of the 1948 Games produced to celebrate London 2012, Bertha was relegated to the shadows, just a short mention as an also-ran in the high jump to Dorothy TYLER. British female high

jumping went through a golden era during the late 1940s and early 1950s, with TYLER and Sheila LERWILL (née ALEXANDER) both breaking the world record, resulting in Bertha never winning the WAAA title in her favoured event; however, in 1950/51 she was still ranked in the British top ten.

Bertha was a versatile and determined athlete who was devoted to passing on her knowledge to the younger generation; during her time at Alsager Training College very few would have known about her distinguished athletics career. Sadly, the arc-light of publicity that shines brightly on Britain's successful pentathlon and heptathlon history rarely settles on Bertha. While the likes of Katarina JOHNSON-THOMPSON follow in the highly documented footsteps of Jessica ENNIS-HILL, Denise LEWIS, Mary PETERS and Mary RAND in winning international honours and setting new records, Bertha CROWTHER, the first British national pentathlon champion, record holder and Great Britain's first ever international combined-event medallist of either sex is sadly almost lost to sporting memory.

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## A Jane Eyre Moment

by Gren Dix  
Membership no. 4174

In 1867 John Moss BRANDRETH (b. 1844, Preston) married Jane TATTERSALL (b. 1839, Clitheroe). The forenames *John Moss* appear many times in the family; there are occurrences in South Africa and in Australia. The couple had four children, but two died as infants. Jane, the surviving daughter, trained as a missionary, returning to the UK when she was in her sixties. The surviving son, George, joined the merchant navy at fifteen and later settled in South Africa.

Looking at the 1871 census, John was a linen draper in Preston. His wife was with him but no children, the first two having died. Ten years later in 1881 he was a life insurance agent in Kidderminster, with his two surviving children and two of his sisters. The entry says that he is a widower - what has happened to his wife? I couldn't find her in 1881, but in 1911 John said he was married.

I couldn't find John in the 1891 census. However, I did find his wife - in St Mary's Home, Coalfell Hill, Caldewgate, Cumberland. She was registered as a *penitent* and was employed in *laundry work for the benefit of the institution*. I do not know the nature of the institution.\* Her age was wrongly given as 43. In 1901 John and his son George were in Dublin. Jane was at the Diocesan Home for Women in Coxlodge, Gosforth, listed as an inmate, aged sixty, a *sewing maid*.

The 1911 census lists John as a retired insurance superintendent and married. Jane was found, aged 71, an *inmate of the institution* at the Diocesan House of Mercy, Salters Road, Gosforth.

Jane died on 1st January 1928 and was buried in Gosforth. John died 28th May 1928 in Southport but was buried with his wife. The final tragedy is that their son, George, died in South Africa but was buried with his parents.

And Jane Eyre? Well she and Rochester of Thornfell Hall fell in love. They were about to be married but it was revealed that he was already married to a woman whose mental stability was in doubt. Later there was a fire at the hall and he tried to save his wife, showing that he still had feelings for her. John and George must have had strong feelings for the estranged wife and mother.

\*Ed.: *St Mary's Home for Penitent Women was formerly the Caldewgate Workhouse - see <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/b4d107d2-e626-4546-9432-5a3cd93f8c10>*

## Upstairs, Downstairs

*by Brian Lea*  
*Membership no. 10305*  
*Email leabandc@gmail.com*

Unsurprisingly, our family trees contain few centenarians. Mine is no exception - it contains just one. Her name appears on the census returns for 1881, 1891, 1901 and 1911<sup>1</sup> and, presumably, all the following returns up to and including 1981. She died in August of that year.

My mother's mother, Ellen WEBB (nee WARREN), was born in the middle of a short row of cottages opposite Stone Pail (or Stone Pale), Gatley, on 26th September 1880. She was the eldest of thirteen children, three of whom died in infancy. Like many thousands of her generation, on leaving school she went straight into domestic service, eventually becoming cook to a household in Didsbury before her marriage in July 1907.

Ellen's time in domestic service coincided with the increasingly popular pastime of sending and collecting postcards. Fortunately, a number of her cards have survived and have for many years given the family a fascinating glimpse into the life of Ellen, her family and her fellow workers in the early years of the twentieth century. I have chosen three cards to share with you.



The first is a postcard showing (arrowed) the house where Ellen was born, opposite Stone Pale Hall. Stone Pale Hall (right of picture) had been converted into three cottages by the late nineteenth century. The name derived from the stone palings, or slabs (foreground, bottom

right) which were placed in front of the cottages by the PIMLOTT family, and dated 1714<sup>2</sup>. An earlier generation of the WARRENS lived in the nearest of the three Stone Pail cottages in the 1890s. The three cottages were demolished in November 1969.

I find dating unused cards is always problematic, but a quick search on the internet can sometimes narrow things down a bit. The unused card is printed with the following information: *A halfpenny stamp for inland. One penny for foreign.* The postcard rate of a halfpenny for this size of postcard (5½"x3½") was introduced on 1st November 1899 and lasted until the charge was raised to one penny on 3rd June 1918<sup>3</sup>.

Fashion is a closed book to me, but not to others - a reference book on my shelf<sup>4</sup> indicates that the hats and dresses probably show the photograph was taken between about 1907 and 1910.

Picture 2. By 1904, Ellen was employed as cook in the household of Frederick Leo SCHUSTER, a prosperous woollen cloth merchant. Schuster, Fulda and Company had branches in both Manchester and Bradford, although when Fredrick retired in 1906 to live in Cheltenham, the business was dissolved.<sup>5,1</sup>



Oatlands had six live-in domestic staff in Ellen's time there.<sup>6</sup> The house itself was set in a large plot of over 2½ acres on the south side of Macclesfield Road, Alderley Edge, close to The Edge and bordering open countryside. The house itself was demolished sometime in the 1950s or early 60s and is now the site of seven high-end properties and a converted lodge.<sup>7</sup>

The card, postmarked *Alderley 8pm May 1904*, carries a message from Ellen (Nellie) to her mother:

*Oatlands*

*Dear Mother,*

*Thought you would like this card. We have had them done between us. They are not so nice as they might have been. We have got the vacuum here spring cleaning. It is a patent machine and does the cleaning with the carpet down. The noise it makes is simply deafening. I had a nice long letter from Winnie this morning. Best love to all. Ever your loving N.W.*

I wonder how common a practice it was for the servants to club together to have postcards printed showing where they worked?

The horse-drawn vacuum cleaner was cutting-edge technology for the time – and hiring a Booth’s patent vacuum cleaner didn’t come cheap. According to the Science Museum website the cost was the same as a year’s wages for a junior housemaid (about £15-£20). The same article hints at the noise mentioned by Ellen: Booth had to contend with a number of lawsuits citing disruption caused by frightened horses.<sup>8</sup>



The last picture is a postcard sent by my grandmother in her final year of domestic service. Postmarked *West Didsbury, 12.05pm, Feb 13 07*, the card was sent to her sister Annie (b. 1886) with the message:

*Dear Annie,*

*Can you come tomorrow, Thursday? I am washing the cuffs etc of black blouse and thought you could fit the yolk right at the same time. I got G's letter alright on Monday. Best love to all, your loving sister Nell.*

This is one of several examples of postcards being sent as we would send a text or WhatsApp message today. Posted the day before, Ellen (Nell) was confident that her sister would receive the message early the next day. G was probably her eldest brother, George (b. 1883). Annie was a sewing maid before emigrating to Canada with one of her brothers in 1913.

The impression from the picture is that of a wealthy family. In Ellen’s time there as cook, head of the household was Sebastian Clementine, the Baron De SOUSA

DEIRO. In 1904 the Baron became an honorary member of the Portuguese Royal Household.<sup>1.9</sup> Large scale O.S. maps<sup>10</sup> show Fair Oak to be a substantial house on a large plot at the corner of Spath Road and Palatine Road in West Didsbury. The Baron also gave his address as The Badminton Club, 100 Piccadilly, London. He was a director of Goodwin, Ferriera & Co. and described himself on the 1911 census as a *merchant and shipper*, to which the enumerator has added *Manchester goods* (Household linen and cotton goods).

The time my grandmother was his cook may have coincided with the height of his affluence, because by the autumn of 1911 he was being named at the London Bankruptcy Court as having unsecured liabilities of £120,000.<sup>11</sup> According to the website *thisismoney.co.uk*<sup>12</sup> this is the equivalent of about £14¼ million today.

When Ellen left Fair Oak and married Sam in the summer of 1907, she went to live in a small rented terraced house in Openshaw. In later life, she spoke of preparing caviar for the Baron - but on the other hand, Sam never owed anyone fourteen million pounds!

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# Net That Serf

## The Computer Section

*Compiled by Geoff Johnson*

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### **From the Desktop**



With the advent of the society's 51st year, I can now reveal some history of the Computer Club. The research process also made me realise that for the last thirteen years, I've been driving it!

Interest in DNA seems to be steadily growing, and has caused us to create a Computer Club sub-group.

Inputting one's data into Lost Cousins is worthwhile but laborious, and there are a couple of ways here to help us, but we need some adventurous testers.

Zoom meetings are now proving popular throughout the Society. This is enabling our far-flung members to join in, and from comments received they're greatly appreciating it.

### **The Computer Club is 25!**

By Sue Ritchie and Geoff Johnson

In the 1990s, computer usage was becoming more popular in the home environment, and useful genealogical data began to appear on the internet. Some FHSC members had started to discuss setting up a new group,

specifically to help people using computers in their research. In 1996, society members were asked to confirm their interest in such a group: seventy-five members responded positively. Of these, about twenty-five described themselves as beginners, seven were experts and the rest were somewhere in between.

The FHSC Computer Club held its inaugural meeting in June 1996. That meeting took place in Hartford Methodist Church Hall, with thirty-six members attending. In those days, Geoff's predecessor, Graham Fidler, was one of the leading lights for all things computing within the Society. At least three of our current Computer Club members were in attendance that evening! So in June this year we will be celebrating our 25th Anniversary!

At that first meeting we agreed to meet regularly on the second Wednesday of each month in Hartford - an event which has continued on the same date in the same place for all of this time (until 2020 of course). However, in those days most of us were working during the day, so our meetings started at 8pm and continued until 10pm. We were a mixed bunch, from novices thinking about buying their first computer to those who knew a lot. As our purpose was to help people to use computers we ran some beginners' sessions, separate from the main meeting, when I was able to show a few people how to use a mouse, use keyboard shortcuts and organise their research files into some semblance of order.

Graham started to produce a news sheet for the Computer Club, with Newsletter #1 being published in July 1996. The comment at the foot of the first Newsletter was:

*Finally, for those interested, this Newsletter was produced using WordPerfect 6.0 for DOS, on a 486-DX66, with 16MB of RAM, and printed on a LaserJet IIIP. (Graham Fidler - 4 July 1996) Happy days!*

At the same time, we were starting to use the internet more, although FHSC didn't yet have its own website. Another member who was an experienced computer user was Brett Langston, and it was towards the end of 1996 that Brett started to set up a website for the society. Brett's articles *Brett on the Net* are an interesting record in those early newsletters, showing how our website came into being. So, our website will also be twenty-five years old this year.

During the first year of the Computer Club, we discussed at length Graham's move to Windows 95, having used DOS for thirteen years. Many people dared to follow suit and started using Windows for the first time.

We had a detailed demonstration of two high-end genealogy programs - *Family Tree Maker* and *Reunion* - both of which are still going strong. A recurring theme of Computer Club meetings and articles in the newsletters was... **backups** - still a regular pitch from Geoff twenty-five years later!

Then a key point arose, from Newsletter #4 in February 1997:

JOKE (?) OF THE MONTH - Courtesy of Roger Needham.

Overheard at a family history fair advice desk:

Question: *I understand that I have ancestors that were Medieval agricultural labourers. If I go on the Internet will I be able to find them?*

Answer: *Certainly Madam. When the FHSC Computer Club has completed the indexing of ag labs, and when Brett has put them on the 'Net, then you'll be able to sit all day surfing the 'Net, and netting your serf!*

And that's where *Net That Serf* came from! Graham purloined the term but mis-titled Newsletter #5 NET THAT SURF, just that once. It's been *Net That Serf* ever since.

As a reminder of some similarities between now and twenty-five years ago, two snippets from *Net That Serf* Vol 2, Issue 2 in December 1997:

One letter from the Postbag is entitled *Anyone can get a virus!* - nothing new today then!

A still pertinent comment in Joke (?) of the Month section was *Windows: just another pane in the glass.*

We're well and truly into Windows and Apple Macs these days; how things have moved on in twenty-five years.

Sue has original copies of the journals and I'm slowly scanning them for the NTS archive.

## Current Computer Club Activity

Since the various Covid-19 restrictions, Computer Club meetings have continued online using Zoom. We only missed one meeting, in April 2020. Once we'd got to grips with it, Sue Ritchie, our Treasurer, funded a year's *Zoom Pro* subscription. Since then, we haven't looked back. Zoom meetings are enabling members from afar to join in, and attendance numbers to club meetings have increased greatly.

In recent weeks we've set up a number of sub-groups within the club. I'd realised that at some sessions we were digging deeply into very specific technical topics that don't interest everybody. For instance, a lengthy debate about *Family Tree Maker* will inevitably just go over the heads of *Family Historian* or *Reunion* users. We've started to run sub-groups for Family Tree Maker, Family Historian, Online Newspapers, Windows, Book & Booklet Publishing, Reunion & Apple Mac Users, FamilySearch, and DNA Interests. The meetings take place as and when required, but at times and dates different from the Club's main second Wednesday of the month sessions.

## Cheshire DNA on Facebook

By Judith Hankey

Back in December Judith wrote to me asking:

*Just a quick question. I applied to join a Facebook group called Cheshire DNA a couple of days ago. I have no idea how useful (or otherwise) it will be, but I would love to know how you or anyone else had any experience of it?*

My discussions with Margaret Roberts, our society Facebook guru, indicated little or no knowledge. The penalty for asking was my suggesting that Judith should have a go, and below is a DIY review on what she found.

*Cheshire DNA* is a private Facebook group of 368 members (Dec 2020) according to the *About this group* information, and following the instructions from the group using Google documents for an Excel sheet and GEDmatch was straightforward - but I only found two matches.

To see the instructions in the link below you must first join Facebook and register with the Cheshire DNA Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/notes/cheshire-dna-genealogy-matching/dna-matchfinder-instructions/264497224840253/>

Then submit your GEDmatch number.

Then follow the matchfinder tool on <https://bit.ly/3f1BrhA>

Main limit found so far is that only eight surnames are allowed, whereas I could enter many more with documentary and DNA evidence.

After following these instructions, I had two matches (see the diagram on the next page).

I think I may have seen Blackrod before on Ancestry trees.

Copy of Cheshire DNA - Matchmaker v10f

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Add-ons Help Last edit was seconds ago

100% Arial 14

GEDmatch number	Kit Name	Total DNA	Largest DNA	Number of Generations	Facebook name	Name on Kit	Research Names
T851244	Blackrod	23.2	16.0	4.6	Margaret Southgate	Aldred, Clark, Darbyshire, Pashton	Yes Please
H514958	john heaton	14.6	14.6	5.0	John Heaton		Yes please

Neither of these matches is large and in cM (longest length 16 and 14.6cM respectively), and I have learnt from painful previous experience that such matches may be deep in pre-BMD history, or the tree owner has not gone back far enough to find our common match.

The Facebook group has grown a bit fairly recently and although the admin Julie S Preston, a Kiwi, works hard, and there are some other posts, none has grabbed me so far. Far too many had matches of 6-8cM.

This was a post from August 2020:

*WE ARE GROWING very slowly. We now have 238 members and 176 kits in our database.*

*Have you added yours yet? <https://tinyurl.com/ufgbxu8>*

*Our Ancestor Project has 179 Members and 260 Kits.*

*Run your Matchfinder and Gedmatch reports (remember that not all users on Gedmatch are group members).*

*YOU NEVER KNOW WHO YOU MAY FIND.*

Looking at the two Facebook prompted kits on GEDmatch in turn: on *Blackrod* I recognised none of the matches we had in common, and on *john heaton* I noticed that *Blackrod* was in the matches in common too. Again, no lines I knew, but I did recognise the name of one lady from Australia that I had corresponded with previously although we'd had no success in finding our common ancestor.

Reviewed again in April 2021: The group now has 440 members and they are more active. Since writing the above, I have made contact with both my matches, which, with match lengths of around 25cM, are not close cousins. Both of the matches are on my dad's side, whose lines are mostly Cheshire. For one cousin we currently have no idea how we match, and for the other we both have direct ancestors in the small Lancashire village of Blackrod (between Wigan and Bolton) and I have a missing father there, too. So that connection is probably not Cheshire DNA after all.

Other people have found many more matches than I have when comparing themselves to others in this Cheshire group, and others again have pasted large extracts from their GEDmatch match lists which is overwhelming to read. Clearly it has been useful for some contributors, but like all tools it needs a large number of people, with good trees, to make it useful.

## Backup Types

By Gordon Tuff

Those of us who use *SyncBack* are familiar with the distinction between mirror and backup, but every user needs to decide how best to use how these two formats. My own preference is to use the *Backup* process most of the time because it is quick, but to use the *Mirror* process a couple of times a year.

The *Backup* process copies files in one direction: from the source – usually files in your working computer system – to the destination – usually an external memory, separate from your working computer memory. You may decide not to back up every file every time, and also the backup process ignores any changes you may have made to your file structure since the previous backup.

For example, being a one-name researcher, I work with a lot of files. I always look at the new collections of data issued by FindMyPast every Friday, check the available downloads and copy any information relating to my surname into my computer. I create a new Excel file for each set of data. I've been doing this for some years so the list of files gets bigger every week. Every so often, I group the individual files into new folders and give the folders names to make it easier to find stuff. Occasionally over time, I may change the number of folders or their names. If the data in an individual file becomes particularly relevant to a line of research I happen to be working on, I may sometimes make additions in the downloaded file. (Asking for trouble, I hear you say! *Not necessarily if you really know what you're doing, Gordon*).

The regular backup process happily ploughs on, backing up files in the newly created folders; but it doesn't delete the old versions of the files left over from before I created the folders. So sooner or later the back-up structure no longer reflects exactly what I have in my computer. This is where the *Mirror* process comes in. Every few months I perform a *Mirror* back up which absolutely reflects the structure of what is currently in my working computer and faithfully copies the current version of the files and the folders they are held in. So, before I overwrite the previous mirror, I take the opportunity to look back at the changes I have made and make sure that the new mirrored version will capture the documents correctly.

One further benefit of keeping a medium-term mirror is that I can easily revisit my starting point if I think I may have inadvertently messed up my data.

*GJ: For clarification I extracted the following descriptions from SyncBack Help*

### **Backup**

*A Backup is where files are copied one-way from the Source to the Destination. The backup process prohibits files being copied the other way round (see also Mirror and Synchronize).*

### **Mirror**

*Mirroring is the process whereby the source is copied in its entirety to the destination. During this process, extraneous files are also deleted from the destination until it is identical to the source.*

### **Synchronize**

*The Synchronize operation is when files are copied to and from the source and destination. The aim of this process is to maintain identical copies of the data on both machines, regardless of which side the data changed. One of the caveats of using this method is the possibility of collisions (conflicts). For example, if the same file is changed on both sides SyncBack will prompt the user for a decision, or it can be configured for an automated action for convenience. After synchronization, the source and destination should contain the same files and directories, i.e. are a mirror of each other.*

## **FTAnalyzer Input to Lost Cousins**

### **FTAnalyzer and Input to Lost Cousins**

Like me, Judith Hankey was really interested to learn that this was a possibility. She asked if I'd made any progress with using Family Tree Analyser as a tool to upload cousins to the Lost Cousins website. She went on to say, *I have 200 entered by the manual (slow and tedious) way so something more automatic would be great. How does it cope with people you have already entered, for instance?*

I responded, highlighting that, as I spend far too much time with Computer Club, writing NTS and helping out members, my own research is right at the bottom of the pending tray! So, has anybody else ventured to try this facility?

### **FTAnalyzer and GED files - Victoria M L Doran**

Last NTS had an article about my experience with FTAnalyzer. When I wrote it, I had noticed no problems at all. Shortly afterwards I tried another of my trees, and when I attempted to upload to Lost Cousins it came up with a large number of *Invalid Census reference* errors. The reference field actually contained the *description* field for the address.

I contacted ShammyLevva, the guy who maintains FTAnalyzer. Much investigation revealed that this was due to a historic error in Ancestry. Here is the detail from ShammyLevva:

*Thanks, I'd never seen that sort of recording of census reference before. Instead of the reference appearing in the source text with a link it was on the source line.*

*1 RESI 46 Frank Street; drainer*

*2 DATE 1901*

*2 PLAC Preston, Lancashire, England*

*2 SOUR Class: RG13; Piece: 3950; Folio: 11; Page: 13.*

*Instead of the line being*

*2 SOUR @s1@*

*and having a source block to point to source 1 for instance...*

*0 SOUR @s1@*

*1 TEXT Class: RG13; Piece: 3950; Folio: 11; Page: 13.*

The Windows version of FTAnalyzer was amended by the end of December 2020; however, due to Covid, he is working from home at the moment and does not have access to a Mac; so, the Mac version fix will not be done until he is back working in his office, and then may take a while.

Ancestry clearly has a database underlying everything and they must, for a period, have coded in this odd way. I think it will have been around 2011 to 2014. When they changed to the normal coding, they did not go round every Ancestry tree and change our data; instead, they hard-coded a fix for the problem. Family Tree Maker (which Ancestry owned at the time) was also hard-coded with the fix.

On both Ancestry and Family Tree Maker the data displayed to you is always correct - it is only when uploading to LostCousins that the problem arises. I proved that by removing the link to the census on Ancestry, and then re-linking to the census - the problem disappears. Unfortunately for me, I now know that over all my trees I have about 2000 instances of the problem!

I have always understood that GEDCOM files can be loaded into any family history program and will work, at least for all the basic information. However, what I found would certainly have led to a loss of some basic data if a file containing this error was loaded into any program other than Family Tree Maker. Unless, of course, all the other Family History programs also have hard coded fixes for all the known issues! I suspect that FTAnalyzer has also been fixed for other issues with incorrect GEDCOM files from various sources.



If you leave your research to someone else by means of GEDCOM files, at the very least it would be a good idea to also leave them a copy of whatever family history software you use, so they will see it exactly as you do. My largest tree is currently shared with the son of a second cousin, but it is registered on Ancestry as my tree. He is a guest editor. Fortunately, he already uses Family Tree Maker, so I can leave him the GEDCOM file with a clear conscience. For two of my other trees (I have one for each grandparent), I will detach and re-attach the relevant census records on Ancestry, as the likely recipient of the GEDCOM files, although interested in family history, has never done any actual research. I have never identified anyone to leave my fourth tree to, so I will leave it as is.

Maybe we should all try loading a GEDCOM file from our favoured program into another family history program just to check it is all in order.

*GJ: My prime argument for using Family Historian is its stated compliance with GEDCOM Standard 5.5 - the latest version. Family Historian was designed from the ground up to be 100% GEDCOM-compatible and 100% GEDCOM-complete – that is, it can load all GEDCOM 5.5 fields and can save all of its data to the GEDCOM format. Most importantly, Family Historian uses GEDCOM as its own native file format - in other words, the Family Historian data file is already formatted as a GEDCOM file. Calico Pie and the Family Historian User Group have found the need to go to enormous lengths to provide conversion tools enabling GEDCOM importation from most other FH programs – often with great difficulty and complexity, due to other programs' modified GEDCOM standards!*

## **DNA Test Comparisons**

By Mike Hodgkinson

When I gave a talk to the Computer Club on tracing ancestors using DNA, I mentioned five different companies which carry out DNA testing. I had found Ancestry DNA helpful and had also taken the test supplied by Living DNA which is linked to FindMyPast. I am now able to compare these two tests for their ability to help me with family history research. The table on the next page is a summary of my findings.

Recent ethnic origin is of limited use in family tree research but could show a surprising ethnicity. My known ancestors come mainly from Northumberland and Durham or Staffordshire, East Cheshire, Shropshire and Derbyshire with outliers in Norfolk, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The tests extend this area and suggest the origin of some earlier generations. There are no surprises.

	Ancestry	Living DNA	Comments
Cost	£79	£79	Similar Cost
Ethnic Origin	55% England & N.W. Europe - mainly in the Midlands & Yorkshire 32% Scotland incl. Northumberland & Durham 4% Norway 3% Wales 2% Germany 2% Ireland 2% Sweden	29% N.W. England - old counties of Cheshire & Lancashire 19% Northumbria - S.E. Scotland, Northumberland & Durham 15% S.E. England 8% East Anglia 9% Central England 6% Northern Ireland & S.W. Scotland 4% South Wales 4% Yorkshire 2% Ireland 2% Cumbria 2% Europe	Birthplaces of 4xgg-grandparents are: 39% S.E. Northumberland & N.E. Durham 34% North & Mid Staffordshire 6% Shropshire 6% East Cheshire 6% North Norfolk 3% West Derbyshire 3% Scotland 2% Ireland
Linkage with cousins	Identifies names of people with whom you have a DNA match and the relationship e.g. 2nd-3rd cousin and the size of any linked family tree which you can examine	Identifies initials and nationality of people with whom you have a DNA match and relationship e.g. 2nd-3rd cousin	A family tree which is available to view is very useful, giving Ancestry a major advantage <u>provided</u> users pay for a subscription.
Correspondence with other people	Can send a message	Can send a message	
Shared DNA	Quantifies % and number of centiMorgans of shared DNA	Quantifies % and number of centiMorgans of shared DNA	
Common Ancestor	Identifies common ancestor using information in more than one family tree and allows you to group people with the same ancestor.	<i>The Living DNA family tree builder is under development.</i>	

The linkage with cousins can be very helpful if the other person is willing to collaborate. When I started my research, I was helped by other people. This rarely happens now. I find that people copy some of my research but it does not bother me.

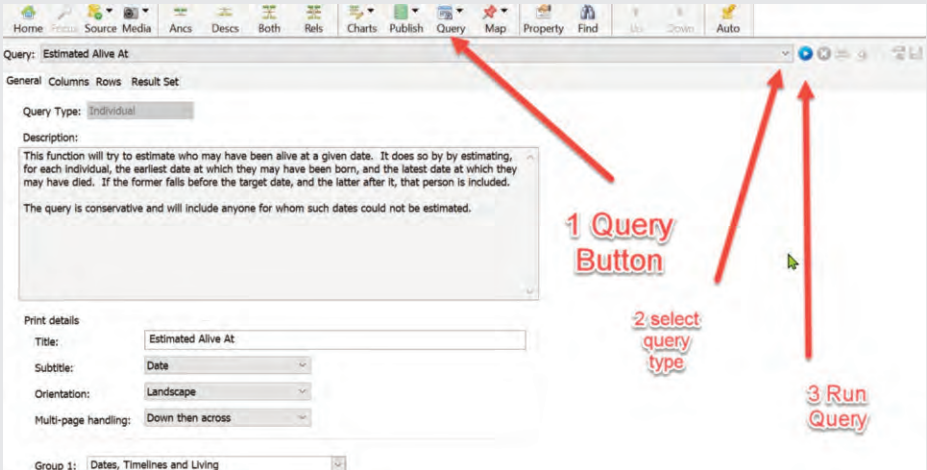
Many of the family trees in Ancestry contain branches which are either speculative at best or clearly incorrect when there is no geographical cohesion. People did move around the country, but evidence, from a census for example, is needed to add the information into a family tree. Sometimes Ancestry places an English county in the USA but this is easily rectified.

Although FindMyPast advertises LivingDNA on its website, I am not aware of any further collaboration.

# Create a Work List in Family Historian to enter 1881 Census Data into Lost Cousins

By Peter Rowley

Peter Calver, the CEO of Lost Cousins, says that your best chance of making contact with a cousin is through the 1881 Census, so one should enter as many ancestors as one can find from that census. However, finding them all can be a problem, even from one's own tree. Here is a possible help to find those ancestors, using the Queries facility in Family Historian.



1. On the toolbar, click on the *Query* button, which is just to the left of the red map pin. Then click *Query Window* at the top of the list.
2. To select query type, click on the down arrow in the top Query box which initially shows *age at death*. Scroll down the list to select the *Estimated alive at* option.
3. Then click on the blue button to run the query. Enter a year - in this case I chose Jun 1881 - then click on OK.

A list of individuals who ought to be present in 1881 now appears. Click on the column *birth known* - the list is then sorted by date. Select a likely candidate and find the 1881 census reference for this person. Use the reference to find a copy of the relevant 1881 census page. Now it is just a matter of entering those family details into Lost Cousins.

This technique can also be used for the 1841 and 1911 censuses. Note that you can easily delete the list and re-run the query by closing the yellow box in the Navigation Bar.

## From the Inbox

At Computer Club we've been discussing what might happen when we shuffle off this mortal coil. Some ideas came up, but also lots of concerns. Peter Butler reported that he'd enjoyed the Zoom meeting, and commented:

*On the question of what happens to the information that I have gathered when I have gone, I suspect my sons' glazed looks when I mention family history may change when they get older. I was in my fifties before I started my research. I have the promise from my younger son that he will save my records after my departure, in case one of my grandchildren becomes interested. In any event I shall be beyond caring!*

## Closing Snippet

Appropriate to the current scenario!

A friend had his second dose of the Covid vaccine at the vaccination centre, after which he began to have blurred vision on the way home. When he got home, he called the vaccination centre for advice, and to ask if he should see a doctor, or be hospitalised. He was told NOT to go to a doctor or a hospital, but to just return to the vaccination centre immediately and collect his glasses!



I need your help to keep this section of the journal working, so your input and responses are needed – GJ

### ***1921 Chester Births, Marriages and Deaths***

From the *Cheshire Observer*, 4 June 1921 (original newspaper may be seen on *Find My Past* or *British Newspaper Archive* websites).

#### **DEATHS**

BAILEY - On 1st June 1921 Thomas, husband of Martha, of the Castle Inn, Hawarden, in his 77th year. Interment on Saturday at 3.30.

BANKS - On 25th May 1921, at Kensington, Liverpool, very suddenly, William Banks, late of Chester, aged 58 years.

BAYNES - On 28th May, 1921, at 22 Bradford St, Chester, Louis, dearly beloved husband of Alice Baynes, aged 40 years.

BLADON - On 1st June 1921 at Brussels, aged 18 years, after an operation for appendicitis, Carmen, wife of H R Bladon.

## 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*

At the time of going to press the Alsager group has nothing planned for 2021 but, if our meeting venue opens, we propose to 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:*

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

We have arranged a programme of online Zoom meetings for the next few months. Please check that the society has your correct email address so I can send you the details you need to join the Zoom meetings.

28th June *Birkenhead Tramways - Rob Jones*  
26th July *Commonwealth War Graves - Marlene Downey*  
23rd Aug *AGM followed by Speaker - Speaker TBA*  
27th Sept *TBA*

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:*

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

8th June *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.

- 13th July *Muck, Medicine and Mortality: Health and Housing in the 19th century - Michael Winstanley*  
Michael Winstanley, retired Senior Lecturer in History at Lancaster University, will talk about water, sewerage, housing, hospitals and medicine and how the Victorians coped with squalor and disease.
- 12th Aug *Educating Cheshire: The Cheshire County Training College, Crewe from 1908-1974 - Margaret Roberts*  
This talk tells the rich history of teacher training at Cheshire's very own Training College in Crewe. Using material from the campus archive as well as her own extensive collection, Margaret describes life for both staff and students from the inception of the college through two world wars and beyond.
- 14th Sept *A double-headed talk by Margaret Roberts and Gay Oliver*  
This talk will demonstrate how to make the most of our society website and social media accounts.  
This talk will be offered to the whole society.

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 in-person 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.

- 24th June *Historical Research Using British Newspapers - Denise Bates*  
29th July *AGM followed by Estate and Manorial Records - Gill Campbell*  
August *No Meeting*  
30th Sept *Chester at Work - Stewart Shuttleworth*

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.  
All meetings are online using Zoom.**

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 are hoping to resume face to face meetings as soon as that is allowable and practical, but in the meantime Congleton and Macclesfield Groups are joining together to host Zoom meetings at regular intervals.

*Future meetings:*

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



For additional details see the Macclesfield Group report.

- 22nd June *Family Search - Ian Waller*  
27th July *Which Website and Why? - Jackie Depelle*  
24th Aug *A Grandmother's Legacy: my Family History - Jenny Mallin*  
28th Sept *Preyers on the Public: The Art of the Con in the Nineteenth Century*  
*- Claire Moores*

A monthly update and reminder about meetings is emailed to subscribers on our newsletter list. To be kept up to date with future meetings please sign up to the newsletters of the Congleton and/or Macclesfield group on the FHSC website, or check the group pages on the website. [www.fhsc.org.uk](http://www.fhsc.org.uk)

Under normal circumstances meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Congleton Library. Doors open at 7.15pm and meetings start at 7.30pm. Entry is through the lower door facing the bus station.

## **Crewe Group**

*by Margaret Spate*

*Future meetings:*

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

Crewe and Nantwich will continue to hold joint Zoom meetings for all dates listed here. Please note that the email contact to request joining instructions for these meetings is [crewe@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:crewe@fhsc.org.uk)

- 15th June *The History Of Townsend House and the Walled Garden of Nantwich- Helen Cooke*  
20th July *Tabley House and the Clever Boy Next Door - Sarah Webb*  
How redecorating a dining room revealed untold life stories.  
10th Aug *The With(i)nshaws : a long standing Cheshire Family*  
*- Dr. Diana Leitch*  
This talk by Dr Leitch has not been given to the FHSC before.  
21st Sept *Mapping Nantwich - Keith Lawrence*

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*

We are hoping to resume face to face meetings as soon as that is allowable and practical, but in the meantime Congleton and Macclesfield Groups are joining together to host Zoom meetings at regular intervals.

It is with regret that I have to announce the deaths of two of our members, Roy Percival and Win Greenwood. Both regularly attended meetings and will be missed. Win was a very keen local historian; she knew a great deal about Macclesfield history and was always happy to share her knowledge.

### *Future meetings:*

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

**All meetings are online using Zoom.**

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.

27th July *Which Website and Why? - Jackie Depelle*

Comparing and reviewing main-stream websites which potentially provide identical information - or do they? Developing analytical skills for transfer to other online source material.

24th Aug *A Grandmother's Legacy: my Family History - Jenny Mallin*

Jenny starts from her earliest ancestor dating back to 1732 in Yorkshire and details the ancestors right through to the end of the British Raj days.

28th Sept *Prayers on the Public: The Art of the Con in the Nineteenth Century - Claire Moores*

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

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 including refreshments and a ticket for the FHSC members-only draw for a small gift.

For the latest news, please see our pages on the FHSC website [www.fhsc.org.uk](http://www.fhsc.org.uk) A monthly update and reminder about meetings is emailed to subscribers on our newsletter list. If you would like to be added to our newsletter list go to the Macclesfield page on the website and click on *Add Macclesfield to My Groups* or send a request to [macclesfield@fhsc.org.uk](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 online via Zoom. If you wish to join our Zoom meetings, held jointly with the Crewe group, please register with Margaret Spate at [crewe@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:crewe@fhsc.org.uk)

*Future meetings:*

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

**All meetings are online using Zoom; for details please see Crewe Group.**

15th June *The History Of Townsend House and the Walled Garden of Nantwich- Helen Cooke*

20th July *Tabley House and the Clever Boy Next Door – Sarah Webb*

10th Aug *The With(i)nshaws : a long standing Cheshire Family  
- Dr. Diana Leitch*

21st Sept *Mapping Nantwich – Keith Lawrence*

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*

In April we held an online meeting via Zoom. This consisted of an excellent talk given by Margaret Roberts, entitled *It's NOT What You Research, it's the WAY you Research it: Hints & Tips for using Online Historical Newspapers*. This option will be considered for future meetings.

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

We are unable to confirm meeting details for June onward before the deadline for this issue of the ANCESTOR. Therefore, please be aware that it is our hope that in-person meetings will be possible from June, so check the FHSC website.

We will circulate by email details of meetings 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 news.

**Our usual meeting dates are:**

14th June *TBA*

12th July *TBA*

9th Aug *TBA*

13th Sept *TBA*

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):*

Sale group is hoping to restart meetings in June and we look forward to seeing members and friends face-to-face again, all properly socially distanced and sanitised. Please check the FHSC website or emails, etc for confirmation.

9th June     *An open meeting, when members and friends can share the family history research they have managed to do during the lockdown.*  
14th July    TBA  
11th Aug     TBA  
8th Sept     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*

I am continuing to write my Lockdown Newsletters which I hope you have enjoyed and would really love some feedback.

All back copies of our Lockdown Newsletters are available via our website: [www.fhsc.org.uk](http://www.fhsc.org.uk). Click on Document Library, then Members' Documents. Please get in touch if you are having problems logging in.

Why not visit our website [www.fhsc.org.uk](http://www.fhsc.org.uk) and click on SURNAMES. There is an increasing collection here to help you with your research. Add your own surname interests and check if anyone else is researching the same families.

Our group is now twinning with the Bramhall group to deliver a series of online Zoom meetings with talks and presentations. We will be presenting an alternating programme.

*Future meetings:*

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

- 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.
- 13th July *Muck, Medicine and Mortality: Health and Housing in the 19th century - Michael Winstanley*  
Michael Winstanley, retired Senior Lecturer in History at Lancaster University, will talk about water, sewerage, housing, hospitals and medicine and how the Victorians coped with squalor and disease.
- 12th Aug *Educating Cheshire: The Cheshire County Training College, Crewe from 1908-1974 - Margaret Roberts*  
This talk tells the rich history of teacher training at Cheshire's very own Training College in Crewe. Using material from the campus archive as well as her own extensive collection, Margaret describes life for both staff and students from the inception of the college through two world wars and beyond.
- 14th Sept *A double-headed talk by Margaret Roberts and Gay Oliver*  
This talk will demonstrate how to make the most of our society website and social media accounts.  
This talk will be offered to the whole society.

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.

## Wallasey Group

by *Dave Beck*

### *Future meetings:*

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

- 15th June *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....

- 20th July *AGM, followed by  
Why so few? Where are the memorials to Women? - David Hearn*  
By far the majority of memorials in this country are to men; of the small percentage that are to women, most of them are to Queen Victoria. David looks at some of the memorials to women, both locally and nationally, and why this disparity exists.
- 17th Aug *E Chambre Hardman: Liverpool photographer - Richard Jackson*  
The life and work of one of Liverpool's most acclaimed photographers.
- 21st Sept *Wallasey's Forgotten Privateer Hero - Gavin Chappell*  
In the Mediterranean of the eighteenth century, one man struck fear into the heart of the French. His name was Fortunatus Wright, born in Wallasey, who fled an unhappy marriage to settle as a merchant in Tuscany. When one of his ships was plundered by a French privateer, he vowed to take revenge, and so began a private war against the enemies of the Crown...

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.**

### ***1921 Macclesfield Births, Marriages and Deaths (2)***

From the *Macclesfield Courier & Herald*, 21 May 1921 (original newspaper may be seen at Mobberley Research Centre when it reopens).

#### **DEATHS**

*SOUTH - On the 9th inst., at Parkside Asylum, John, aged 79 years.*

*TINSLEY - On May 13th (suddenly), Albert, the beloved husband of Mary E Tinsley, aged 69 years - 6 Chancery Lane, Bollington.*

*TRUSS - On the 19th inst., at Knutsford, the Rev William Nicholas Truss in his 87th year (formerly chaplain His Majesty's Prison).*

*TWIGG - On the 15th inst., at 84 Prestbury Rd, Thomas, aged 73 years.*

*WIGGINS - On the 9th inst., at 76 Peel St, Sarah, aged 81 years.*

*WARDLE - On the 14th inst., at Tuberculosis Pavilion, Hyde, Joseph, aged 40.*

#### **IN MEMORIAM**

*SNAPE - In loving memory of my dear wife Hannah, who died May 21st 1919. Worthy of remembrance. - Noah Snape, 87 Peel St, Macclesfield.*

## 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**

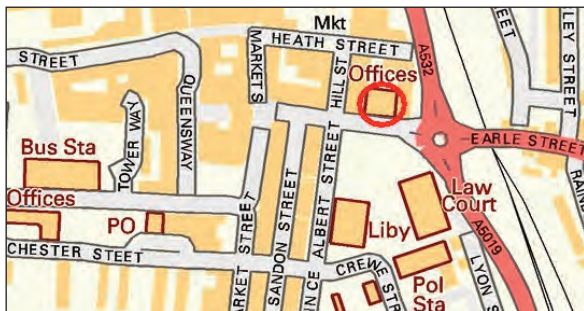
The Municipal Building is situated near the market and opposite Memorial Square and the old library. Crewe Register Office is in the same building. All visitors must sign in and out at reception. You will be directed to the second floor; a lift is available.

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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*(see below for full details)*

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

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

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

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

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

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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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 state whether you agree to the publication of your name, membership number and email address.

The Family History Society of Cheshire

www.fhsc.org.uk

## Location of Groups

(see inside back cover for contact details)



## MEMBER'S PHOTO



**The LLOYD Family, Bangor-on-Dee.**

My husband's great-grandparents, Fanny FEARNALL (b. 1857) and Francis LLOYD, were married in 1878 and had seven sons and seven daughters. This family photograph was taken, I believe, in the grounds of The Plassey (their home farm), Bangor-on-Dee, near Wrexham. Sadly I do not have the date of the photograph, nor can I identify who's who, other than Francis and Fanny. See also my letter to the editor on pages 11 and 12.

**From Judith Newell, membership no. 4311**