

CHESHIRE ANCESTOR



The Journal of the
Family History Society of Cheshire



In this edition

'LBSC' - Professional Name-Changer

The Misses Satterthwaite ❖ Transported to Australia

A Preacher's Life ❖ Early Cheshire Stonehewers

Reaching Beyond the Grave ❖ and more...

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Cover picture: Fairfield Moravian Church, centrepiece of the Moravian Settlement in Droylsden; opened 1785, with manse to the left. Fairfield was the last of the Moravian settlements in England established in the 18th century and was planned and built by members of the Moravian congregation who had been previously located in Dukinfield. Several of the buildings are Grade II listed.

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See A Preacher's Life by Michael Hannah, page 49.



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CHESHIRE ANCESTOR

Society website: 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

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, scanned at minimum 300dpi (higher resolution is required for small photos to allow for enlargement). 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.

ADVERTISING RATES

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

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

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

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

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

Final copy dates for advertisements are TWO MONTHS prior to publication date, i.e. 1st January for the March issue, and so on.

Editor's Page

by Rosie Rowley



Thanks to all who wrote letters or submitted fillers and articles since the last issue. I now have a few items in hand, ready for the December **ANCESTOR**. Please do continue to send your letters and articles as soon as possible, preferably already typed and sent by email; it makes my life so much easier when I can start the journal early and take my time, instead of having to rush to get it ready in just a couple of weeks between the deadline date and the end of the month.

As usual, details of the FHSC Annual General Meeting are included in this September issue. The information takes up several pages this year because of a proposal to make a major change to the wording of the constitution, in order to allow future AGMs to take place in other ways than the traditional face-to-face meeting in a hall. Of course, when our society was first established in 1969 there was no other way of holding a meeting, and it's right that we should bring our constitution up-to-date and allow members to 'attend' the AGM and other meetings virtually via the Internet, now such technology exists. Perhaps something positive has come out of this pandemic.

At the time of going to press, we have some good news - we are finally planning to reopen our Mobberley Research Centre in September (page 17). Please check on the website or by telephone before travelling to ensure we have been able to go ahead with our plans. Crewe FHU is also hoping to reopen before too long, but this has not yet been confirmed. Finally, even though our groups are making plans to return to in-person meetings towards the end of this year or early next year, the benefit to members of virtual meetings has been acknowledged and a series of society-wide FHSC Zoom Seminars has been arranged - see page 13.

I am looking at ways to save on the cost of posting the printed copies of the **ANCESTOR**; one way might be to reduce the print size so that fewer pages are needed for each issue and therefore the weight would be reduced. As a test, this page has a smaller print size - please compare it to the other pages and let me know what you think.

This issue of the **ANCESTOR** includes the last part of *A Trip to Canada* (page 31) and an article about a man who was *Transported to Australia* (page 36). Learn about the life of a Moravian minister in *A Preacher's Life* (page 49), how Geoff Johnson unravelled the mystery of a man's many name-changes in the first part of 'LBSC' - *Professional Name-Changer* (page 41), and read my 'confession' in *A Rookie Error by the Editor* (page 37). Whatever you have learned while researching your family tree, please share it with others by writing something for the **ANCESTOR**.

Margaret's Media Musings: Out and About with the FHSC

by Margaret Roberts
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Once again, our groups have offered a fabulous miscellany of talks on Zoom over the last few months. I have tried to attend as many as possible and enjoyed presentations on topics such as the London & North Western Railway Company's philanthropic sporting activity in Victorian Crewe, Cowkeepers of Liverpool, Birkenhead Tramways, Townsend House and the Walled Garden of Nantwich, Edwardian Motoring in the North-west, and the early days of New Brighton. I also learnt more about Welsh ancestry, the website FamilySearch, educational records, 'ag labs', and finally what records are available to research from 1911 to date.

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. Having represented the society at a number of online genealogy shows recently, I can confidently say that the FHSC offers one of the most comprehensive ranges of talks available to family history society members across the country. To see what is on offer, look in this journal at the Society Diary Dates (page 5) and Group News (page 66), or check for the latest updates on the Events page of the Society website (www.fhsc.org.uk/new-events); if anything grabs your attention then contact the group leader to receive the joining notification when it is released. Our events are now also listed on the Family History Federation website (www.familyhistoryfederation.com).

David Smetham and I were present at both recent online genealogy shows and were pleased with the number of people who came along to the FHSC virtual stall to chat, ask questions and join the society. Although not the same as a face-to-face event, the numbers of presentations, workshops and exhibitors which attendees have access to is impressive - and all from the comfort of your own sofa. Talks are even available for several days after the event (or longer), so there is plenty of opportunity to watch at a later date if you can't fit everything in on one day, making it well worth the attendance fee. The Family History Events section (page 24) gives details of upcoming genealogy shows.

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

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

Below is a list of meetings planned at the time of going to press; for full details of seminars and group meetings, please see the Group News pages towards the end of this issue, or check the FHSC website.

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.

4-Sep-21	Executive Committee	Zoom; start time 2pm
8-Sep-21	Computer Group	Computer Group Meeting (Zoom)
8-Sep-21	Sale Group	Family History Question Time
13-Sep-21	Northwich Group	A Mixture of Mysteries - Graham Sutherland (Zoom)
14-Sep-21	Bramhall & Tameside Joint	A talk by Margaret Roberts and Gay Oliver (Zoom)
20-Sep-21	Alsager Group	TBA, followed by AGM
21-Sep-21	Congleton Group	Congleton Members' In-person Meeting
21-Sep-21	Crewe & Nantwich Joint	Mapping Nantwich – Keith Lawrence (Zoom)
21-Sep-21	Macclesfield Group	(TBC) Macclesfield Members' In-person Meeting
21-Sep-21	Wallasey Group	Wallasey's Forgotten Privateer Hero - Gavin Chappell

27-Sep-21	Bebington Group	Lottie Dod, Bebington Sports Star – Margaret Roberts (Zoom)
28-Sep-21	Congleton & Macclesfield Joint	Preyers on the Public: The Art of the Con in the Nineteenth Century - Claire Moores (Zoom)
30-Sep-21	Chester Group	Chester at Work - Stewart Shuttleworth
10-Oct-21	Computer Group	Computer Group Meeting (Zoom)
11-Oct-21	Northwich Group	TBA
12-Oct-21	Bramhall & Tameside Joint	Fletcher Moss and His Travels - Dr Diana M Leitch (Zoom)
13-Oct-21	Computer Group	Computer Group Meeting
13-Oct-21	Sale Group	Cheshire Inn Signs - Tony Bostock
17-Oct-21	Alsager Group	TBA
19-Oct-21	Crewe & Nantwich Joint	WWI Transport – Rob Thompson (Zoom)
19-Oct-21	Wallasey Group	Estate and Manorial Records - Gill Campbell
20-Oct-21	FHSC Zoom Seminar	The Dorothy Flude Memorial Lecture: Crewe and Nantwich Remembers - Mark Potts
25-Oct-21	Bebington Group	Details of speaker and venue TBA – check website
28-Oct-21	Chester Group	The Canal Duke - Bernard Dennis
30-Oct-21	Society AGM	Zoom; start time 3pm - see next page for full details
8-Nov-21	Northwich Group	The Lusitania Disaster of 1915 - Dr Colin Chapman (Zoom)
9-Nov-21	Bramhall & Tameside Joint	Researching House History - Jackie Depelle (Zoom)
9-Nov-21	Crewe & Nantwich Joint	Knocking Down Brick Walls and Searching for Problem Ancestors - Dr Judith Batchelor (Zoom)
10-Nov-21	Computer Group	Computer Group Meeting (Zoom)
10-Nov-21	Sale Group	Our Family at War - Liz and Roger Mercado
16-Nov-21	Wallasey Group	Wirral Watercourses - Gavin Hunter
17-Nov-21	FHSC Zoom Seminar	Behind the Scenes of Who Do You Think You Are – Dr Nick Barratt
21-Nov-21	Alsager Group	TBA
22-Nov-21	Bebington Group	Details of speaker and venue TBA – check website
25-Nov-21	Chester Group	A Seasonal Miscellany
7-Dec-21	Crewe & Nantwich Joint	The History of English Traditional Pantomime - Dr Claire Robinson (Zoom)
7-Dec-21	Tameside Group	Tameside Members' Social evening
8-Dec-21	Computer Group	Computer Group Meeting (Zoom)
8-Dec-21	Sale Group	TBA
9-Dec-21	Bramhall Group	Bramhall Members' Social Evening
13-Dec-21	Alsager Group	Christmas Lunch (TBC)
13-Dec-21	Bebington Group	Details of speaker and venue TBA – check website
13-Dec-21	Northwich Group	Our World Famous Hotpot Supper and Quiz! (Provisional)
15-Dec-21	FHSC Zoom Seminar	Christmas and the British – Prof Martin Johnes
18-Jan-22	Crewe & Nantwich Joint	Cheshire Turnpikes - Paul Hindle (Zoom)

NOTICE OF THE FHSC 52nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**The 52nd Annual General Meeting of the FHSC
will be held at 3.00pm on
Saturday 30th October 2021**

At their meeting held on the 8th May 2021 the Executive Committee decided that because of the risks and restrictions arising from the Covid-19 pandemic, and the uncertainty at that time, the 52nd AGM of FHSC will take place electronically using Zoom on Saturday 30th October 2021 at 3.00pm. The waiting room will be open from 2.45pm.

Members who have supplied a valid email address to the society and have agreed to email contact will receive an AGM Newsletter in September with full details and the login information. The Newsletter will also include an important announcement about a speaker the Society is hoping to engage to make a presentation before or after the AGM business.

The information will also be posted on the FHSC website; members without an email address or internet access can obtain copies on application to the Secretary or Treasurer.

To ensure that the meeting can run smoothly:

- The secretary's and treasurer's reports and the accounts will be posted on the website two weeks prior to the meeting, and will be published in the December issue of the **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**.
- It would be helpful if members who have questions about the reports or the accounts could submit them to the secretary at secretary@fhsc.org.uk prior to the meeting so that they can be passed to the relevant officers for a response.
- The agenda, together with the details of important amendments to the constitution proposed by the trustees and the executive committee, appears in this edition of the **ANCESTOR**. The changes are required to ensure that the new meeting formats adopted during the pandemic to conduct Society business are compliant with Charity Commission regulations.
- The agenda and the minutes of the 2020 AGM will also be posted on the website.

Note, the constitution requires that:

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

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

AGM AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2020 AGM*
3. Chairman's Remarks*
4. Hon. Treasurer's Report and Accounts*
5. Hon Secretary's Annual Report*

*All the documents and reports will be available on the website before the AGM. Reports for the 2021 AGM, abridged if necessary, will be published in the December 2021 issue of the ANCESTOR.

6. To Approve the Amendments to the Constitution Recommended by the Trustees and Executive Committee.

Acting on advice from the Family History Federation that family history societies should review their constitutions to ensure that meeting formats - virtual and hybrid - which were adopted during the pandemic are compliant with Charity Commission regulations, the trustees and executive committee recommend the following changes to the constitution. The main proposals concern the format of meetings held by the Society, and the management of the AGM. **The proposed amendments to the constitution follow in italics:**

9. General Meetings

A. "Meeting" in this constitution means a General Meeting of the Members of the Society including where the context so admits an Annual General Meeting and also an Executive Committee or Sub-Committee Meeting. No business shall be carried out at the Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting unless a quorum is present. A quorum shall be thirty members of the Society present who are entitled to attend and vote upon the business conducted.

B. Any Meeting may be held (a) physically (b) online as a virtual meeting or utilising some other facility enabling all people participating in the Meeting to communicate interactively and simultaneously with each other (c) by telephone conference or (d) as a hybrid meeting combining attendance in person and online or by telephone conference as the circumstances allow and the Executive Committee decide.

C. A Meeting shall take place at the physical location specified in the Notice of Meeting for the holding of the Meeting or if the Meeting is called as an online virtual Meeting

or by telephone conference, the Meeting shall take place at the electronic or virtual platform used by the Society to host the Meeting or if called as a hybrid meeting the physical location where the Meeting is to be held and the electronic or virtual platform used by the Society to host the Meeting and the Notice of Meeting shall specify such platform and host.

D. "Present in person" a person entitled to attend and vote at a Meeting may participate by being physically present at the location of the Meeting stated in the Notice of Meeting or if it is held virtually online or by telephone conference or as a hybrid meeting participation in the Meeting called by the Notice of Meeting shall be taken to be present in person at the Meeting. Persons present in person shall count towards the quorum required for the relevant meeting.

E. A person attending a Meeting virtually shall have the same rights to receive notice, speak, vote and otherwise participate in the Meeting as they would have if attending the Meeting in person.

F. Where arrangements have been made for a Meeting to be held virtually or as a hybrid meeting the Notice calling the Meeting shall state that fact and include details of the means by which a person may attend the Meeting virtually.

G. The Chairman of a Meeting being held virtually or as a hybrid meeting if the virtual or hybrid meeting platform experiences technical issues, including the ability for the Chairman to postpone or adjourn the Meeting without seeking the consent of the Meeting, may adjourn the Meeting from time to time and from place to place, but no business shall be transacted at any adjourned Meeting other than the business left unfinished at the Meeting from which the adjournment took place.

H. Any resolution which may be duly submitted to the meeting for consideration shall be decided by simple majority. At any Meeting a resolution put to the vote of the Meeting shall be decided on a show of hands or for those attending the meeting virtually online or by telephone by voting electronically (if the facility is available) and in accordance with the voting procedures notified prior to the Meeting. A declaration by the Chairman that a resolution has on a show of hands or electronically been carried unanimously or carried by a particular majority, or lost, and an entry to that effect in the book containing the minutes of the proceedings of the Society shall be conclusive evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour or against such resolution.

10. AGM

A. An Annual General Meeting of the Society shall normally be held within five months of the end of its financial year except in exceptional situations beyond the Society's

control which prevent proper preparation, notice and convening of meeting.

B. This meeting shall be managed under the rules in Section 9 of this Constitution.

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

D. To elect the Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and other Society officials for the ensuing year.

E. To appoint an Independent Examiner or Auditor.

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

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

H. At least twenty-eight days before the Annual General Meeting a detailed notice of such meeting shall be sent, by circular or otherwise, to every member of the Society at his/her last known address.

11. Extraordinary General Meetings

A. An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society shall be called by the Secretary at the request of the Committee or on the requisition of at least fifty members of the Society.

B. This meeting shall be managed under the rules in Section 9 of this Constitution.

C. At least seven days' notice shall be sent to every member prior to such meeting, and such notice shall specify the business to be transacted at such meeting.

The Trustees and the Executive Committee have also used this review as an opportunity to clarify the wording in other parts of the Constitution. In making these amendments it has been necessary to re-number and re-order the different parts of the Constitution. A 'tracked' version of the proposed amendments which will make the changes clear will be found on the website in the Annual

General Meeting section. Members without access to the internet who would like a copy should contact the Secretary.

Resolution: That this meeting approves the changes to the Constitution of the Family History Society of Cheshire recommended by the Trustees and the Executive Committee.

Proposed by: David Smetham

Seconded by: Dave Thomas

7. Elections

Election of Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary.

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

Howard Martin's fifth consecutive term ended in October 2020 at the AGM. Nominations are therefore sought for the role of Hon. Secretary. In the absence of any other nominations he has expressed his willingness to stand under the terms of Part 6, Section F of the Constitution as approved at the 2020 AGM.

8. Appointment of Independent Examiner

9. Proposals

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

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

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

10. Any other business relevant to the AGM.

FHSC's New Zoom Seminars

by Margaret Roberts
Publicity & Social Media Officer
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Exciting news from the FHSC!

During the last twelve months as the pandemic took hold and lockdown was imposed, face-to-face group meetings had to be suspended. Fortunately, most groups rose to the challenge and embraced the online meeting software Zoom, thereby maintaining contact with members. This shift to online delivery had the added benefit of enabling many members - both overseas and in the UK - who could not usually attend meetings, to join in with the activities, feel part of the FHSC community, and add to the richness and diversity of our meetings.

There is no doubt that the whole process has been a learning curve for group leaders and attendees alike, but the experience has been almost universally positive for most members. With the relaxation of lockdown restrictions on the horizon, many groups are looking forward to returning to the traditional meeting format at local venues but are also keen to carry on with occasional Zoom talks, so a hybrid meeting set-up is planned to get the best of both worlds.

In addition to the normal group meetings the committee has decided to stage a regular, centrally-organised monthly seminar open to all FHSC members. Called the *Family History Society of Cheshire Seminars*, these talks will feature well-known national and local speakers addressing both general family history and specific Cheshire-focussed subjects. To date, we are pleased to announce that we have already booked the following:

- **Nick Barratt:** best known as a genealogical consultant for *Who Do You Think You Are?* Nick has also appeared on *House Detectives*, *Hidden House History*, and *Tracing Your Roots* for Radio 4. His talk is called *Behind the Scenes of WDYT YA?*
- **Mark Potts:** Mark is a well-known local WWI historian, author, and co-ordinator of the *Lest We Forget/More Than a Name* project in the Crewe area. His books include *Where the Fallen Live Forever* and *The Villiers Russell twins: Crewe's Most Commemorated Great War Casualties*. Mark will be talking about *The Fallen of Cheshire*.

- **Prof Martin Johnes:** Historian of modern Wales and British popular culture. Martin has written and presented on both TV and radio including the BBC2 series *Wales: England's Colony?* Martin will be delivering the December talk on Christmas traditions in the UK, based on his best-selling book *Christmas and the British: A Modern History*.
- **Dr Michala Hulme:** Historian and professional genealogist who has appeared on *How the Victorians Built Britain*, *Great Canal Journeys*, *Heir Hunters*, *Who Do You Think You Are?*, *Great British Towns*, and along with Nick Barratt co-presents Ancestry's *Behind the Headlines of History* podcast. Michala will be discussing her work on the TV programme *DNA Journey*.
- **Natalie Bodle:** Natalie is a professional genealogist from County Antrim and an expert of over twenty years' experience in Irish genealogy; her talk is called *An Introduction to Irish Ancestry*.

These seminars will take place on the third Wednesday of each month and will get underway in October with the inaugural *Dorothy Flude Memorial Lecture*, delivered this year by Mark Potts. The seminars will be advertised in the usual way at the start of the group news towards the back of the **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**, on the *Events* page of the FHSC website, on our social media platforms and by newsletter. The talks will be hosted on behalf of the society by Margaret Spate, Jean Laidlaw, and Margaret Roberts, who will be in regular contact with members regarding registration for each talk and announcing speakers as they are confirmed.

The *Family History Society of Cheshire Seminars* form part of the service provided by the society to its members and are included within the normal annual membership subscription. Another good reason, as if you needed one, for renewing your membership when it becomes due. After all, why pay up to £10 to watch a single virtual speaker when your annual FHSC membership will give you at least one Zoom presentation a month from a renowned speaker, in addition to all the usual society benefits – what a bargain!

1871 BMDs (1)

From the *Nantwich Guardian*, 30 September 1871

DEATHS

Sep 27, at his residence, Brindley Cottage, aged 75 years, Mr GEO ALLWOOD.

Sep 15, at Norley, aged 53 years, MARGARET MERCER.

Sep 19, at the residence of his nephew, Mr Samuel Cowap, Yew Tree Farm, High Leigh, aged 93 years, Mr THOMAS WALTON, late of Minshull Vernon.

Volunteer News

Society Retirements

by David Smetham

The following volunteers have recently retired from their roles with the FHSC and have been presented with a commemorative FHSC paperweight as a token of our appreciation.



Maurice Stokes (left) took over the Membership Renewals role in June 2005 and retired in 2018 after thirteen years. During his time as Membership Renewals Officer, Maurice improved our control of subscriptions and also brought in valuable gift aid donations. Maurice supported his replacement, Peter Mellor, and also Kevin Dean when he took over from Peter. Maurice is finally stepping back to enjoy researching his own family history. Thank you, Maurice, for all your support.

Pictured on the right is Peter Johnson, whom we thanked in the previous issue of **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**.

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)**

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)

Wanted: Exchange Journals Officer

We are looking for a volunteer to manage our exchange journals activity. We currently exchange digital family history journals with thirty-five other societies and these are made available in the members area of our website. We would like to increase the number of societies with which we exchange journals.

The officer will ensure that the digital version of our journal, the **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**, is sent to participating societies and will receive and distribute digital journals from these societies to our website officer for uploading to the members' area of our website. There are opportunities to streamline this process and the officer will make sure that the system runs smoothly.

For information, please contact the current postholder, David Smetham (exchangejournals@fhsc.org.uk)

1871 BMDs (2)

From the *Northwich Guardian*, 2 September 1871

BIRTHS

Aug 31, at Northwich, the wife of Mr WILLIAM SMITH, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES

Aug 31, at the Wesleyan Chapel, Bold-street, Warrington, by the Rev James Smith, Mr RICHARD COOKE, reporter of the Crewe Guardian, late of the South Durham Herald, Stockton-on-Tees, to ISABELLA, second daughter of Mr J H PARKINSON, of Bay Cottage, Warrington.

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 still closed. Members will be notified on the website when we are able to reopen.

Mobberley Research Centre

by Joan Irving



As a result of the Government lifting restrictions on 19th July, we expect to be able to reopen Mobberley Research Centre to members on Monday 6th September. Please check on the FHSC website before making a journey, or phone the centre on 01565 872210 during opening hours.

Before we reopen we will carry out a risk assessment and make any necessary arrangements for the safety of our volunteers and visiting members. We will have hand sanitiser and wipes available for tables and computers. Please bring a mask with you and, if you wish, disposable gloves. We are unsure if the kitchen facilities will be open so you may need to bring a drink. Toilet facilities will be open as usual. The centre will be kept well ventilated.

The Mobberley Committee and Duty Volunteers look forward to reopening the Research Centre and welcoming members back to continue their research.

Crewe Family History Unit

*by Margaret Spate
crewe@fhsc.org.uk*

Thank you all for your patience; unfortunately at the time of writing I do not have any definite news to give regarding reopening. I hope that by the time you read this, in September, I will have been able to notify you of our reopening date, days and hours. I will send this news in a newsletter to all, and contact volunteers as well as regular users of the Family History Unit. If there are still restrictions on the numbers visitors may have to book a time slot.

I am sorry that I cannot be more specific at present; I realise that many of you are looking forward to returning and we will reopen as soon as we can.

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.

Bertha Crowther, Britain's First Pentathlon Champion

I would just like to thank you for publishing my article in the last issue of the ANCESTOR. It was nice to see Bertha's life story in print, and as a result of this publication I have been contacted by a number of people who have shared stories and personal reminiscences with me, enabling me to add further colour to an important but somewhat overlooked story in the annals of British women's athletics. I would encourage all FHSC members not to be shy but start writing – publication of your family story may lead you to further information from another reader!

Margaret Roberts
FHSC Publicity & Social Media Officer

Unusual Forenames

Ed.: *On the Editor's Page* in the last issue, I listed several unusual forenames from my own family tree and asked if readers had found any surprising names during their research.

The most unusual first names in any of my trees belonged to **Alphonsus Turibius DOYLE** (1860-1924), a first cousin of my paternal great-grandfather.

No idea where either of these names came from, nor what he was actually called!

Victoria M L Doran
Membership no 8426

Ed.: I understand that Alphonsus and Turibius are names of Catholic saints. Alphonsus was canonised in 1839 and is the patron saint of confessors. Perhaps your ancestor was born on the feast day of one of these saints? See Wikipedia for more information.

The prize for the most unusual forename on my family tree has to go to my 2x great-grandfather. His actual birth date is unknown but on 3rd March 1815 at Old Swinford Parish Church, Stourbridge, he was baptised **Waterloo**, the second son of Eleanor (née WOOD) and Thomas HATTON. Like his father, Waterloo lived in the Old Swinford area, working - as did many other members of the family in the early 1800s - in the making of spades, shovels, and probably many other agricultural implements. At Old Swinford on 13th December 1835 he married Eliza SWINGFORD, who lived there with her family but had been born in Warrington. Her father, William, was then employed as a glassmaker; his growing family was resident in the Bank Quay area. The SWINGFORDs in fact returned to the Midlands after an absence of five years or so.

Waterloo's marriage record cites his baptismal name and it similarly appears on the 1841 and 1851 census documents. He changes to the forename *Walter* for the purposes of the 1861 and 1871 censuses, but other records find him using *Waterloo* as a matter of course. For instance, when his youngest child, Ann, married George DUKES, (another spade-maker!) on 25th September 1870, the bride's father's correct name is entered on the marriage certificate. It also appears eight years later on Waterloo's death certificate (18th July 1878) - either from his or familial choice.

Unfortunately, it hasn't been possible to unearth the reasons Waterloo's parents had for choosing this name for their infant son. The battle was of course a very important one, which ended once and for all the Napoleonic Wars, but it had occurred nearly six months before the christening. Perhaps the latter event had been delayed, or perhaps it was some form of commemoration for a close family member who had died either in the conflict or subsequently. Efforts to connect the dots as yet have failed and may remain insoluble - but one lives in hope! Incidentally, attempts to find a similar example of naming a child *Waterloo* have been so far unsuccessful!

As a postscript, Waterloo's daughter Ann and her husband George DUKES renewed the family's brief acquaintance with the Warrington area with a permanent move to Stockton Heath in the 1890s - George in his previous occupation as a spade and shovel maker in the Stockton Heath Forge.

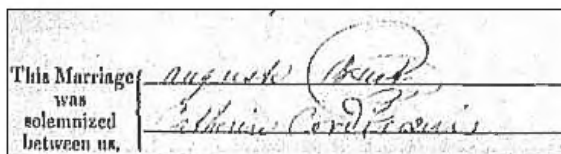
Frank Cooper **Membership no. 3278**

Ed.: Searching the 1851 census on Find My Past, I found two people with the forename Waterloo and four with Waterloo as a middle name, including Louisa Waterloo FRANCE, who was born in 1818 at Mons, Belgium, but was a British subject.

Researching Flemish Ancestors

I found the latest edition very interesting in many respects. The article about researching Flemish ancestors caught my eye.

My husband's 2x great-grandfather was Auguste BUET born about 1807 in France - what a pity he was not more specific on the census! On the 27th June 1848 he married Catherine CORDICXUIS (difficult to read on certificates) at St Mary's Catholic Chapel in Chelsea. She was born about 1820 in Belgium - again not very specific! Her father was Jean CORDICXUIS, a gentleman.



Until I read the recent article I'd assumed that the surname was just badly heard/spelt, but now I realise that Flemish surnames do have such endings.

When she marries again in 1857 as a 'widow' - Auguste doesn't die until 1870, but also 'remarries' - her father is named as John CORDICXUSSE, deceased.

So far I've had no luck in adding to this branch of our tree, but I may now look into Flemish records in more detail.

Judith Rye

Membership no. 4350

Email castleview61@tiscali.co.uk

1871 BMDs (3)

From the *Northwich Guardian*, 2 September 1871

DEATHS

Aug 27, at the *Crown Hotel*, Northwich, SARAH, infant daughter of Mr THOMAS HASLAM.

Aug 29, at the residence of his step-daughter, *Grange-view*, Weaverham, aged 69 years, Mr RICHARD BARKER.

Aug 29, at *Castle Northwich*, aged 2 years, CHARLES FREDERICK, son of Mr SAMUEL SADLER.

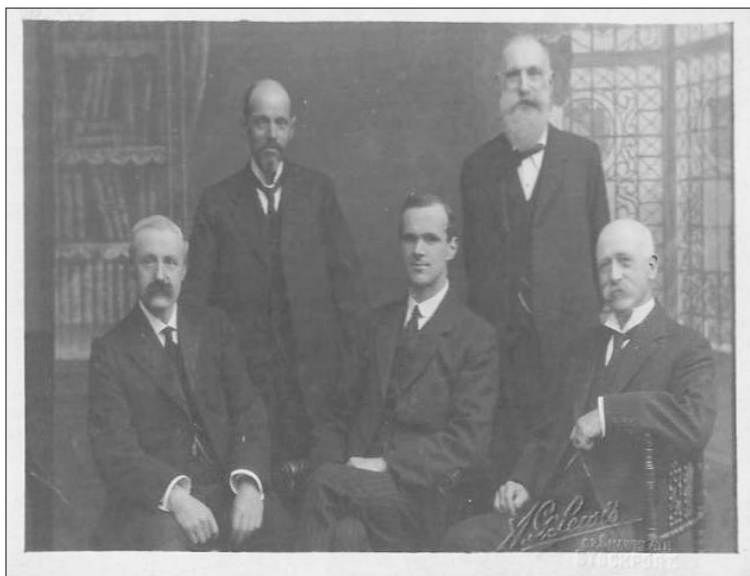
Aug 23, at *Witton*, aged 4 years, EMILY, daughter of Mr THOMAS METCALF.

Aug 21, at *Timperley*, ERNEST FRANK, youngest son of H C BODDINGTON.

Help Wanted

Deacons of the Welsh Chapel, Stockport

This photograph, recently sent to the society, is of five deacons of the Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Chapel in Wellington Street, Stockport. I guess that it was taken around the early 1900s. Can anyone identify any of the men in it?



It sparked an interest in me so I carried out some research and found that the Welsh Chapel in Stockport closed some time ago and has now been demolished. I also now know that the chapel's archives are held at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth.

A photograph of the chapel can be found on the *Pinterest* website at <https://i.pinimg.com/originals/64/f0/25/64f0254c8daa9d1fd2ea5c3453c00716.jpg>

Angela Moore
Membership Enrolment Officer
membership@fhsc.org.uk

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!

The following names have been added since this series of surname interests began in December 2020.

ALLITT/ALLETT/ALLYTT-ANKERS-ANTROBUS-ARDERN/ARDERNE/
ARDEN-ASHLEY-ASHTON

BAILEY-BARBER-BARDSLEY-BARLOW-BARNETT-BATE/BATES-BAUGH-
BEARDWOOD-BIGWOOD-BLEASE-BODEN-BOOTH-BOTTOMLEY-
BOUGHEY-BOWDEN-BOWKER-BRACEGIRDLE-BRADBURN-BRADDOCK-
BRADLEY-BRERETON-BROAD-BROADBENT-BROCK-BROCKLEHURST-
BYERS

CATERALL-CATTRALL-CHEERS-CHESWORTH-CLAYES-CODY-
COOKSON-COOPER-COULL-CRANK-CRANK-CROSS

DALE-DAVENPORT-DAVIS-DAWSON-DEAKIN-DEAN/DEANE-DIGNAM-
DOWNES-DOYLE-DUCKWORTH-DUTTON-DYSON

EATON-EDGE-EDWARDS-EGERTON-ELSBY-FAIRURST-FALLOWS-
FARRINGTON-FAULKNER-FERRYMAN-FISHER-FLETCHER-FURFIE/
FURVEY-FURNESS

GANDY-GARRETT-GELLION-GIBBON/GIBBONS-GILBERT-GILLETT-
GLOVER-GOODWIN-GORST-GOSLING-GRATTAN-GREENHALGH-
GREENWAY-GUDGEON

HACKNEY-HALLIDAY-HALSALL-HANKEY-HARDMAN-HARGREAVES-
HARROP-HART-HARTLEY-HASSALL-HATTON-HAZLER/HASLER/
HAZLEHURST-HIGHAM-HOLLAND-HOLLINGSWORTH-HOLT-
HOULDING-HULSE-HUNTINGFORD

JOHNSON-JOYNSON

KIRK

LAKE-LAMB-LAMONT-LANCELYN-LANG-LANSLEY-LARGE-LEES-
LEICESTER-LEIGH-LEWIS-LITTLE-LITTLEMORE-LOCKETT-LOMAX

MADDERS-MADDOCKS-MADDOX-MALBONE-MANLEY-MARTIN-
MASON-MOLYNEUX-MOSS-MOSSFORTH-MURRAY-MYTON

NEWALL

OAKES-OCEGO-OSBALDESTON

PALIN-PARRY-PENNANCE-PERCIVAL-PERRIN-PINNINGTON-POTTS-
PRICE-PROCKTER/PROCTER/PROCTOR

RAVENSCROFT-RAINSCROFT-RAWSTORN-RHODES-RIDGWAY-
ROBINSON-ROGERS-ROGERSON-ROSCOE-RUTTER-RYLE

SAGENT/SEARGENT/SARGEANT-SALMON-SCULLY/SCULLEY-
SHATWELL-SHAW-SHIRT/SHERT/SHIRD/SHERD-SHUFFLEBOTHAM-
SMITH-SOUTHERN/SOUTHEN-STAFFORD-STOCKTON-STOUT-SWAIN-
SYMMS

TAYLOR-THORLEY-THORNELY-TIPPING

VALENTINE-VENABLES-VERO-VEROUGH

WALKER-WALL-WALMSLEY-WALTON-WARBURTON-WARD-
WASHINGTON-WEBB-WESTON-WHATMORE-WHITFIELD-WILCOCK/
WILLCOCK-WILKINSON-WILLIAMS-WILLIAMSON-WILLIS-WILSON-
WOOD-WOODHOUSE-WOODWARD-WORSICK/WORSWICK-WRENCH

YOU D

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Family History Events

For news of family history events, see these online calendars

<http://geneva.weald.org.uk/>
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 (online)

10.00am - 4.30pm Sat. 25th September 2021

Ask the Experts - Talks - Family History Societies (including FHSC)

<https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/london>

Register of Qualified Genealogists Conference (online)

Genealogy and Social History: Know your Ancestors

from 10am on Saturday 25 September 2021

This free conference, limited to 500 places, is for EVERYONE interested in genealogy and family history; main speakers are Professors Helen Johnson and Heather Shore, Melanie Backe-Hansen and David Annal.

<https://www.qualifiedgenealogists.org/2021-conference>

FHF Really Useful Show (online)

6pm-10pm Friday 12th and 10am-6pm Saturday 13th November 2021

Exhibitors - Talks - Family History Societies (including FHSC)

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

RootsTech 2022 (online)

Thursday 3rd - Saturday 5th March 2022

Following on from the success of RootsTech 2021, RootsTech 2022 will again be entirely virtual and FREE.

www.familysearch.org/blog/en/rootstech-connect-2022

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 public library, and look out for offers of free access on special occasions such as Remembrance Day.

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

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

Staffordshire, England, Church of England records:

Baptisms, Marriages and Burials 1538-1812:

www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62248/

Births and Baptisms, 1813-1900: www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62292/

Marriages and Banns, 1754-1900: www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62293/

Deaths and Burials, 1813-1900: www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62294/

No images - records are indexes from registers at Staffordshire Record Office.

Forces War Records Joins the Ancestry Family

Ancestry has acquired Clever Digit Media, owner of Forces War Records (FWR). It is not known whether FWR will continue as a stand-alone website, as is the case with the American military website Fold3. A list of datasets held by FWR is at www.forces-war-records.co.uk/collections/.

Jameson Distillery Bow Street, Dublin employee records

www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/61942

Over a million records which include name, occupation, hours worked, and wages paid, spanning over 100 years from 1862 to 1969.

UK, Postal Service Appointment Books, 1737-1969

www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/1933/

Records show when a person began working for or started at a new position within the Post Office (including Telecommunications). The Postal Museum explains the abbreviations in their Family History Guide:

www.postalmuseum.org/ftp-content/uploads/2018/03/Family_History_Research_Guide.pdf

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

Australia, Inward, Outward & Coastal Passenger Lists 1826-1972

Discover your ancestors' immigration to and travel around Australia with over 25,000 additions to a collection of passenger lists and migration records.

England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935

Discover your criminal ancestors' mugshots, prison registers, visitors' details and more with over 800,000 additions to this fascinating collection.

Britain, Campaign, Gallantry & Long Service Medals & Awards

Discover decorated military ancestors in thousands of new medal records. The latest additions cover

- Indian General Service Medals 1854-1895, 1908-1935 and 1936-1939
- China War Medal 1900
- Second China War Medal 1857-60
- General Service Medal 1918-1962
- India Medal 1895-1902

WWII British Army Service Records

Exclusive Scots Guards' service records from WWII and beyond - some documents even include photos. The records range from a couple of pages to complete service histories. This is the first time this important collection has been published online and it's only available at Findmypast.

New and Updated Newspapers (some issues may be missing)

Staffordshire Newsletter 1907-1915, 1917-1933, 1934-1971 and 1973-1985

American Settler 1880-1892 (for British emigrants moving to America)

Myra's Journal of Dress and Fashion 1875-1912

FamilySearch

To see what's available for your name or location of interest, check the catalogue: www.familysearch.org/search/catalog

Free indexes to Find a Grave and Billion Graves have been added.

Find a Grave - www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2221801

Billion Graves - www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2026973

Selected Archives of the Week

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

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

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

The Seaman, 1914-1918, Index of Names

https://warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc/research_guides/family_history/seamen/ww1names/
This index is from the University of Warwick, Modern Records Centre and provides information about individuals who were named in the pages of *The Seaman*, the newspaper of the National Sailors' and Firemen's Union, for either meritorious service or death between September 1914 and December 1918.

International Bomber Commander Centre (IBCC) Losses Database 1936-1966

<https://internationalbcc.co.uk/history-archive/losses-database/>
This site records the details of 58,438 Bomber Command deaths throughout its existence (1936-1968), including pre-war and post-war losses. It provides one of the most comprehensive records of these losses in the world, including an ever-increasing amount of biographical information and photographs. The link to search page is above but do have a look around the rest of the site, as it contains a vast array of useful information and notification of events.

Layers of London

www.layersoflondon.org

A map-based history website developed by the Institute of Historical Research. Layers of London brings together, for the first time, a collection of digitised historic maps, photos and crowd-sourced histories. This website allows you to interact with and contribute to many different layers of London's history, from the Romans to the present day. These layers include historic maps, old pictures of buildings, films, recordings, as well as stories about people who have lived and worked in London over the centuries.

Ireland's Military Archives

www.militaryarchives.ie/en/home/

The Military Archives has been the official place of deposit for records of the Defence Forces, the Department of Defence and the Army Pensions Board since 1990, as defined in the National Archives Act, 1986. The brief is to collect material from the foundation of the State up until the present day, including records from overseas missions. From as early as 1924, the National Army, recognising the importance of the War of Independence, undertook to preserve historical documents from that time. Some of the earliest collections preserved by the Historical Section include the Collins Papers, Civil War Operations and Intelligence files and Captured Documents (Civil War up to 1925), which continue to be made available today.

The latest May 2021 release is the tenth release of records from the Military Service (1916-1923) Pensions Collection (MSPC). The files relate to claims lodged by 1,120 individuals/veterans or by their dependants and contain new information on the War of Independence and the Civil War. This release contains over 2,500 new files and brings the total of fully digitised files relating to individual claims to 34,500, representing over 11,840 individual entries on the MSPC database.

London School of Economics (LSE) Collections

www.lse.ac.uk/library/collection-highlights

This collection has a raft of interesting holdings, including:

- British Political Archives covering 20th century politics and politicians
- Charles Booth archive, including the famous poverty maps of London
- Feminism and Religion
- Women's Suffrage movement
- Labour, employment and working lives
- The Women's Library, with some very rare digitised books

and a whole lot more

Hidden Lives Revealed - A Virtual Archive

Children in Care 1881-1981

www.hiddenlives.org.uk

Although Hidden Lives Revealed has information on children's homes up to the 1980s, the site focuses on the period 1881-1918, and includes unique archive material about poor and disadvantaged children cared for by The Waifs and Strays' Society. The Society cared for children across England and Wales - in both the densest urban conurbations and some of the smallest rural villages.

To give an example of how many children The Waifs and Strays' Society looked after in its early years, about 22,500 children were cared for between 1881 (when the Society was founded) and the end of the First World War in 1918. The Waifs and Strays' Society became the Church of England Children's Society in 1946 and is now known as The Children's Society.

The site features a range of archive material, most not previously accessible by the public, as well as articles and learning resources that help interpret these stories for a modern audience. No other Internet archive gives you the opportunity to browse through such unique material - a kind of resource which has the type of information not recorded elsewhere. This site features the full contents of around 150 case files of children in the care of The Waifs and Strays' Society from Victorian and Edwardian times. Even though some of these cases are from over 100 years ago, they have been fully anonymised to prevent the children's identification. Each case is summarised, and linked to pages about the actual homes they lived in.

Photographs from The Children's Society archives illustrate some of the grinding poverty of the time and show how children's lives were turned round when they entered the Society's care. Also featured on the site are the full browsable texts of various Society publications - these include the supporter magazines *Our Waifs and Strays* and *Brothers and Sisters* as well as the organisation's Annual Reports.

Catholic Burial Records Database

<https://catholicburials.weebly.com/>

From the middle of the sixteenth century until the late eighteenth century, the Roman Catholic faith was illegal in the United Kingdom and Catholics had no churches or burial grounds. Even well into the nineteenth century this was the case. Many Catholics were buried in the local Anglican churchyard as there was frequently nowhere else. This can make finding Catholic burials very difficult.

It was quite common for parish incumbents who were thorough in their work to indicate the religious affiliation of the deceased in their burial registers. The Catholic Family History Society (<https://catholicfhs.online/>) has now launched a database of such burials. The society hopes that family historians who find Catholic, Papist or Recusant burials will add their findings to the website.

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) or Twitter (@FHSoFCheshire).

Reaching Beyond the Grave

by Michael Hannah
Membership no. 10355
mikeh3055@gmail.com
New Zealand

It was 1774 and Thomas SWAIN of Bosley – my 6x great-grandfather who was probably then in his seventies – wrote in his will that he was *of weak body but sound memory and understanding*. It appears to be a standard opening for wills of the time, and it turns out we can take the *weak body* with a pinch of salt.

Thomas dutifully went about dividing his estate between his wife - her maintenance to be met by interest on principal investments - and his son John, who got *all my Househould goods and husbandry*, minus what Thomas' wife required while still alive. Standard fare for an eldest son. When Thomas' wife died, son John was to receive half the remaining moneys, the other half to go to his daughters Dorothy RATHBONE and Ann SHUFFLEBOTHAM, my 5x great-grandmother, to be *divided betwixt them share and share alike*.

It all seems quite amicable – but there was a debt to be recovered. Dorothy's husband, William RATHBONE, owed five pounds each to John SWAIN and an unnamed son-in-law – probably my ancestor Ralph SHUFFLEBOTHAM, as Ann is the only daughter named in the will. Thomas instructed his executors to dock Dorothy and William's inheritance by £10. But he also required their remaining inheritance to be invested, and Dorothy and William were to receive only the interest from the investment. Once Dorothy died, her children were to be given her inheritance.

No such caveat was slapped on other inheritances, so clearly Dorothy and William's fiscal mismanagement and lack of familial responsibility had seriously rankled. Things must have festered in the family for Thomas to reach from beyond the grave to sort out a squabble over £10, though that amount would have been worth about £1540 nowadays.

Ironically, John and Ralph may have had to wait longer for their repayment. The irresponsible son-in-law William died in 1778 or 1781, while Thomas, despite his *weak body*, seems to have lived on till 1788, to the ripe old age of 90.

Source:

Findmypast: Cheshire Wills and Probate

A Trip to Canada (Part 3)

by Dave Williams
Membership no. 7539

My grandfather Robert Thomas WILLIAMS and his brother Evan left their home in Wrexham to travel to Winnipeg, Canada in 1904. It was intended to be an emigration but it didn't work out and they returned home at the end of 1904. Most of this part of the diary records the time they spent in New York.

I didn't know of the existence of the diary until I returned to UK after living and working in Belgium and France for almost twelve years. Thinking of how I explored towns and cities in Belgium, and how I found that they and their inhabitants were in some ways rather different from places I knew in the UK, I can see echoes of the sense of discovery that my grandfather wrote about. Perhaps it's in the DNA?

Today Monday after the morning walking we come for dinner and are preparing to resume our journey to Buffalo, New York. Leaves Chicago 3 o'clock this afternoon. Chicago I should say would come next to London in many respects. We handed over our passes to Inspector Millia at Detroit - Mr [???] Frances at Suspension Bridge⁸. After travelling for about 8 hours came to a town called Detroit^c, passed several other towns but Detroit we stopped & the whole train was put on a boat to cross the lake^d to the other side to Canada again. While preparing to go on the boat There came an Inspector to us US. In office having a little conversation together, we found that he was a Welshman and he took us out of the train and [I] was surprised to find that we and the train was on the boat. and he explained to us a good many things which was very good on his part He wanted to know if we would come back. If so he recommended the States as a far better place than Canada for wages. It seems to me they would like to have all they can of young healthy respectable men in the States. The reason perhaps is to populate the country and make soldiers of them so as to compete [with] others. It was a fine sight on the lake to see us leaving the States and landing on [Canadian] ground.

It was about midnight. Arrived at Buffalo City 7.30 in the morning Tuesday. Had breakfast at a Temperance Hotel, 25 cents each. Afterwards went up city and took streetcar out into the city limits which costs 5 cents each. Changed into another car for Niagara Falls which is a distance of about 24 miles each way and cost us 50 cents return each, which was a lovely drive through the country into the small town of Niagara. Afterwards took street electric car around the Falls and rapids. The scenery was magnificent and the way the track was laid for the car to run on looked to be dangerous,

but quite safe after all. When the car was on one side of the rapids it was in the United States and the other side in Canada British Territory. The height from below to the top of falls I should say is about 200 feet⁹. To stand and look at same fall down into the water below is picturesque. You would think the water was boiling - a kind of mist like steam after the fall below.

The water of this river flows rapidly that here it gets the name rapids. Up above from where the water falls, all places where the public can go is railed so as they will not fall over. But notice foot prints beyond the rails where someone reckless had been so that he could say how near he had been to over look same. There are islands also were one can go, and also a park in which you can enjoy yourself. It is one of the Wonders of the World. There is many made a purpose journey from the far ends of the earth to see it. We [have] seen all that was to be seen. As I said before the car takes you all round except islands which cost you a dollar return and its cheap. If you take those rigs or buggies that are by the depot same as every were else of interest, it will cost you a great deal more and [you] won't have seen half; they will deceive you. We left there for the city at 3.30 arrived about 5.30 in the evening. We had dinner at Niagara which cost us 50 cents each.

We spent the day at [Niagara] Falls. Had a wash, supper, walked about the city, then went to bed. Following morning had breakfast, left there by the 10.0 o'clock train for New York. Went through many stations one called Utica [E]. Arrived at NY 8.30 left our bags in the Baggage [Room?] and went to seek lodging. Into a coffee house, had a lunch and he recommended us to an Hotel called Parkview Hotel¹⁰ in which we put up.

Following morning after breakfast we went around the city. Afterwards to the docks, called in a restaurant for a meal and then made for our hotel in the evening, which was very difficult to find being that we were strange to the place. We had a long ride on the overhead railway There are a good many things to be seen. It was a general holiday through the country called Thanksgiving day . There was a kind of a carnival, young men and women and children dressed in all kinds of dresses that were laughable to them looking on and the children would be asking the public for some coins. This is our first day in New York City and now are preparing for bed. We have a fine room to sleep in and are comfortable. It is a large restaurant and hotel combined, and situated opposite the park called 42nd St¹¹.

Friday we travelled by the overhead electric railway which is above the height of buildings in the city, which is a grand concern. One is able to see down into the streets and also above the city. All streets here go by numbers and when you are in the train the guard calls out numbers of streets so that passengers may know when to go out. Also we went into the park out of the city, which was a large one, arriving back in the evening. We had supper at a strange restaurant. Afterwards we thought we should like to go to the theatre as we felt a little tired[?]. So we went to one where Miss Edna May

the English actress¹² was taking the principal part, which was very nice and interesting indeed. Afterwards retired to bed. Following morning, Saturday, we made for the new Subway which is underneath the streets, which is nearing completion¹³ but traffic was carried on, mainly passengers. Going through these makes one open his eyes to see such workmanship, trains passing each other at a terrific rate by electric. They say it is the finest subway in the world. We've seen nothing like it before. Besides, it is cheap to travel by; 5 cents take you as far as it goes which is a great thing to passengers. I should have said that the same rate and convenience is to the overhead electric railway. Also the street cars are in motion, automobiles, cabs and to look at all these going backwards and forwards is surprising. One would say "Where do all the people come from?"

Saturday afternoon we walked a good deal about the city; down in the lowest quarters where you see the poorer classes in all conditions. We have walked about in these American cities so much that I don't think there is any one visitor done more. We have even had our feet sore after same. By going through these places we came to what they call Brooklyn Bridge that crosses the river from this city to Brooklyn town, the finest piece of engineering I have seen in my days. It takes half an hour to walk along same. They commenced to build same 5 years ago and it is not quite completed yet.¹⁴ Heavy traffic can go along; electric cars in double lines on each end. Public walks in centre and also in the sides. It's very likely cars will run on the tops of same. The span of same is so long¹⁵ it's wonderful how it holds its own weight, which is of iron and hung by strong chains encased in large tubes same this principle.

They say there is no other that will compare with it. After visiting this place we were very tired and went to the theatre called Americana. The play was called "His Last Dollar"¹⁶. It was a large place and very pretty made and held many people. When coming out of these places it's a sight to see. Opposite the theatres, carriages, automobiles, cabs waiting for their occupants. The public houses or hotels here are open on week nights up to 1.0 o'clock in the morning, Saturday night up to 12 o'clock, and night closed on Sunday.

Sunday morning it was late when we got up from bed and when we looked out it had been snowing so we did not turn out until evening and then went to an evening concert which was very interesting.

Monday after breakfast went down to the docks in part of where the White Star line pier etc is situated and we had a good view from a distance of the large boat ie "Baltic" in which we are going to Liverpool. Afterwards went into the park and went through the menagerie of wild beasts that was there, and returned to our lodging and had supper, and then rested ourselves. Made a fire in our room which was prepared and only wanted igniting and was comforting. About 10 o'clock went to bed. Following morning had breakfast then went as usual visiting the city, down to the docks to see about our luggage, and then went from there to the chief offices in Broadway and had

some money changed into English money. Afterwards went to the well known street called Wall St, a kind of stock exchange where one sees such large buildings such as Trust Company, Brokers, Banks, Pierpoint-Morgan Building. Had some tea and made our way towards our hotel and prepared ourselves for the morrow to sail on the "Baltic".

We left the hotel about 8.30 and took overhead railway for a good distance and the streetcar to the docks. Arrived there 9.30. We walked about a little and then went on board and was surprised to see so many people there, especially steerage passengers¹⁷. The boat sailed at 11 o'clock prompt that morning to a good deal of cheering and farewelling. It was a sight to see the crowd when the boat was leaving the docks, many relatives to be seen crying, having to part from their friends and it made one feel deeply. The Stars and Stripes could be seen by many of them. The ships sail under two flags, Union Jack and Stars and Stripes. Also there was a fellow playing a cornet while the boat was starting out. The first day on board in the evening we felt a bit queer but it wore off as a good job we managed to enjoy our meals all right, which was a good thing up to the present.

This is our third day. First two days has been very fine. Today Friday we have had sleet, rather cold. The boat travelled first day 333 miles and from yesterday dinnertime to today dinnertime 376 miles. Today, Friday, we saw a steamer at a distance. Today Saturday it is very rough having sleet and rain. Boat speed up to today dinnertime 375 miles. From yesterday up to today dinnertime 355 miles. We are having very rough weather. Today Sunday morning we had Divine Service at 10.30 am Church of England service. The text was about the rich young man that came to Jesus Christ and asked what was he to do to inherit the Kingdom of God, etc. We sang one hymn that is familiar to me now. The words Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty. A collection was made to aid the Sailors' Orphan Fund. Also we had service in the evening and address and some singing. Seen several steamers passing Sunday night. The weather still keeps rough. But our boat has gone a little more than what she did yesterday, she has done 370 miles. From yesterday Monday dinnertime to today Tuesday dinnertime she has made 374 miles. Today Tuesday is a very nice day, weather favourable. From yesterday 12 o'clock to today 368. Today Thursday morning at 4.30 we stopped at Queenstown, South of Ireland, for about an hour so as the passengers and mail could be left there. Afterwards continued its journey up the Irish Channel. Its a nice day. We have seen several vessels different kind passing by and also seeing a good deal of land. Thursday night we entered the Mersey. The boat was anchored for the night and early Friday morning made for the Liverpool docks arriving there 9 o'clock.¹⁸

After breakfast at 7 o'clock we prepared to leave the ship and it was a busy time with the crew and [others?] in unloading luggage. Afterwards we had to see about our own luggage which was carried to a place to be examined by the Customs Officer. After we got them inspected we took them to the station and prepared for leaving there for Wrexham at 4.35 train from Birkenhead. Arrived in Wrexham 5.30 pm in the evening,

left our luggage in Wrexham [left luggage] room until morning, and walked home - arrived there 7 o'clock Friday night.

NOTES

C: Chicago IL to Detroit MI 280 miles

D: Lake Erie - the journey from Detroit to Buffalo is about 300 miles.

E: Niagara Falls to Utica 210 miles - Utica to New York about 250 miles

8. The suspension bridge at Niagara Falls, which was the first such to carry railway traffic, was built in 1855, but was replaced by the Steel Arch Bridge in 1897 - by this time trains had become much heavier. The bridge crossed the Niagara River, which was and is the border between Ontario, Canada and New York State, USA. Suspension Bridge is a neighbourhood on the US side, previously a separate village, but merged with the village of Niagara Falls in 1892 to become the city of Niagara Falls. The name Suspension Bridge was retained for many years to refer to the border crossing-point.

9. Actually about 175 feet, so not a bad guess.

10. Not the present Park View Hotel which is on 110th Street next to Central Park.

11. Probably Bryant Park on the corner of 42nd Street and 6th Avenue

12. Probably Edna May (Petty) an American-born actress popular both in England and USA, who played the part of Lillian Leigh in *The School Girl*. This was playing at the Herald Square Theater in October 1904 and may well have been still running when the brothers went to the theatre. Herald Square is at the corner of 34th Street and 6th Avenue, less than half a mile from Bryant Park.

13. This was Saturday 26 November 1904. The first line of the subway had only opened 27 October 1904, so the brothers would have been among the first Welshmen to have travelled on the NY Subway!

14. In fact, construction of Brooklyn Bridge began in 1870 and the bridge was opened for use on 24 May 1883. It seems more likely that Robert Thomas is describing the Williamsburg bridge, which connects the Lower East Side of Manhattan with Brooklyn about a mile further to the east. Construction of the latter bridge began in 1896 and it opened on 19 December 1903.

15. At the time it opened Brooklyn Bridge, at about 6000 feet, was fifty per cent longer than any other bridge in the world. The Williamsburg Bridge is 1000 feet longer again.

16. The play, written by Baldwin G Cooke and David Higgins opened on 7 November 1904 at the American Theatre, 250 West 42nd Street. (It was made into a short 1910 film starring Mary Pickford, and a longer 1914 movie starring her brother Jack Pickford.)

17. 904 passengers in steerage, 211 in 2nd class and 146 or more in 1st class (there appears to be at least 1 page missing from the incoming passenger list). Robert Thomas and Evan were travelling 2nd class.

18. The *Baltic* left New York Wednesday 30 November 1904 and arrived at Liverpool on Friday 9 December. It seems that the journey back across the Atlantic was much more comfortable than the journey out had been on the *Ionian*. The weather may not have been as bad, but the *Baltic* was more than twice the size of the *Ionian* and fairly new - its maiden voyage had been on 29 June 1904. Eight years later - on 14 April 1912 - the captain of the *Baltic* sent a telegram to a sister ship warning of the presence of icebergs; but we all know what happened to the *Titanic* a few hours later.

Transported to Australia

*by Mike Hodgkinson
Membership no. 7929*

In my family history research, I normally limit my research activity to direct ancestors, although I make an exception if there is an interesting story about a sibling or a cousin of an ancestor.

Subscribers to Ancestry will be aware that there are hints attached to many people in a family tree on the Ancestry website. These identify BMD records, census records, parish records and other sources of information which may be relevant to an individual. All UK and Ireland records held by Ancestry are available with an annual subscription but access to information from elsewhere requires a worldwide subscription. As none of my known direct ancestors were born or died outside the UK, I was unwilling to pay for worldwide access.

Ancestry hints suggested that Abraham MALLABAR, the younger brother of my 4x great-grandmother Phoebe, had been transported to Australia where he died, but I had no other information from outside the UK. However, a couple of months ago, Ancestry gave worldwide access to its UK subscribers for a couple of days. I took the opportunity to find out more about Abraham.

Abraham was born in 1787 in Hanbury, Staffordshire. His father Thomas was a husbandman - a tenant farmer with a small plot of land and a few animals. He was convicted of receiving stolen cheese at Stafford Quarter Sessions in January 1825 and sentenced to transportation for fourteen years.

Abraham was the third son to reach adulthood and would not have inherited. He was married in 1812 to Joyce SHAW and at the time of his sentence, he also had three young children. I have been unable to find any further information on the fate of the family he left behind.

I know that Abraham was first sent to a prison hulk in Woolwich. He was transferred in March 1825 to Liverpool from where he sailed on the ship *Minstrel* to Sydney. There is a schedule of all the prisoners, giving their names, the date and location of each trial, their sentence and former trade. Abraham is said to *plough fields and make cheese*. He is described as aged forty, five feet six inches tall with a brown complexion, grey hair, dark hazel eyes and *very willing*.

In 1832 Abraham was given permission to stay in Parramatta - a short distance from Sydney, New South Wales - where he worked as a gardener. Four years later he was given his *Ticket of Leave*, a system of parole, and allowed to remain in the nearby town of Liverpool. In 1847 he married Ann RILEY as a free man. Whether his first wife whom he had married thirty-five years earlier was still alive, I suspect no-one knew or, apart from possibly Abraham, even cared.

I know from a Sydney newspaper report that the MALLABARs had a boarding house in Clarence Street (adjacent to Darling Harbour) and that on 17th March 1857 James CHAWBY was charged with obtaining under false pretences the sum of £7 10s from the wife of Abraham MALLABAR. On another occasion, various items were stolen from their boarding house. In these cases, Abraham was a victim of crime, but there is no information about any conviction or sentences.

Abraham died in Parramatta, New South Wales in 1865 aged 78. I would like to know more about Abraham's original conviction. How much cheese was he supposed to have "received"? Did he know it was stolen or was he duped? Whatever the facts, the sentence seems unduly harsh.

A Rookie Error by the Editor

I was recently reminded of a mistake I made in my early days of family history research and thought it might serve as a warning to other newcomers to our hobby against making assumptions. I obtained the birth certificate of an ancestor and searched for the marriage of his parents prior to his date of birth, as his mother gave her husband's surname and her maiden name in the usual way for a married woman. The child had been born in London, many miles from the birthplaces of his parents.

I unsuccessfully searched every quarter of the GRO marriage index microfiche for both names over many years prior to the birth, back to before the minimum legal marriage age of 14 for a male and 12 for a female (as it was in Victorian times). Who can remember borrowing from the society a wooden box full of these fiche, holding ten years of indexes for births, marriages or deaths, along with a microfiche reader, so you could research in the comfort of your own home? How times have changed! But I digress. I eventually concluded that the couple had in fact never married, or the marriage was missing from the records for some reason.

Years later, when online indexes became available, I found the marriage - two years after the birth of this child, and just over three weeks after the bride had turned 21! Presumably she did not have parental consent to marry, but was afraid to go against her parents' wishes even though she lived a long distance away and was happy to mislead the registrar about her marital status when registering the birth of her child!

The Misses Satterthwaite

by William M Hartley
Membership no. 7720

I had known the SATTERTHWAITES for some years; the last of the sisters, Lettie, died in 1986. They had lived in a large Edwardian house, called Stonehurst, in Green Lane, Buxton, Derbyshire, since 1916. Lettie had always said *the family was well-connected* and there were references to Dalton Hall and the Earls of Derby. She also said that trying to sort out her family was difficult as both her father and her mother had the same surname.

It was not until 2017 that I decided to research the family. Dalton Hall was easy to find; the website showed that the HORNBY family of Dalton Hall had connections with the Earls of Derby. Edward HORNBY had married the sister of the 13th Earl in 1796 and the 13th Earl had married Charlotte Margaret HORNBY of Dalton Hall in 1798. This did not get me any nearer to finding a connection between the SATTERTHWAITES and Dalton Hall, but a copy of Lettie's parents' marriage certificate did. This showed me that Lettie's mother, Gertrude Mary Charlotte SATTERTHWAITE was married at Disley, and that Gertrude's father, Charles James SATTERTHWAITE, was Vicar of Disley.

The books at Mobberley Research Centre now proved their worth. I found in a copy of *Who's Who 1897-1916* that Charles James SATTERTHWAITE was Vicar of Disley and a Canon of Chester Cathedral, and had married Victoria Susan HORNBY of Dalton Hall, near Burton-in-Kendal, in 1861. Census returns showed Victoria Susan's father to be a nephew of the Earl of Derby; indeed, the 1851 census showed him staying that night at Knowsley Hall, the Earl's seat near Warrington. Victoria Susan SATTERTHWAITE was thus a great-niece of the Earl of Derby. Through this maternal grandmother Lettie could certainly claim, albeit at a distance, to be *well-connected*.

I couldn't help but look further at the HORNBY family; they were distinguished. One, James John HORNBY, was headmaster of Eton College from 1868 to 1884, another was Admiral Sir Phipps HORNBY who had had a successful naval career in the nineteenth century, serving briefly with Horatio Nelson's flagship HMS *Victory* in the Mediterranean before being posted to HMS *Excellent* with Nelson's recommendation. There were other admirals and military men and a very impressive tablet at St Oswald's Church, Winwick,

near Warrington, commemorates Admiral Phipps HORNBY's feats. Evidence indeed of good connections!

Having ascertained the aristocratic connection of Lettie's maternal grandmother, it was appropriate to look at her maternal grandfather, the Rev. Charles James SATTERTHWAITE. There is a village in the Lake District called Satterthwaite and I felt that the churchyard might yield some clues; it didn't! His entry in *Who's Who* stated that his father was James Cornelius SATTERTHWAITE of Lancaster. I decided to combine a visit to Lancaster with a trip to Overton, outside Morecambe. Lettie had left money to the church there for the upkeep of the graveyard. Sure enough, there were many SATTERTHWAITE graves, including that of James Cornelius SATTERTHWAITE who had obviously been important in Lancaster; so then to Lancaster I went. The 1841 census showed that James Cornelius had been resident there, was of independent means but was a merchant too. I wondered where his money had come from.

I had left my contact details at the church at Overton. A few days later a gentleman telephoned me, said his mother was a SATTERTHWAITE, and explained that the family money had come from trade. The ladies in Buxton had regarded themselves as being socially above anything to do with trade, but perhaps it was the manner of trade that was regarded as a *dark secret*. It transpired that the SATTERTHWAITE name was well known in Lancaster. The Judges Lodgings - formerly a town house and now a museum - held a portrait of John SATTERTHWAITE, painted by George ROMNEY. It was clear from information there that John SATTERTHWAITE had been a trader with the island of St. Kitts and had married the daughter of a plantation owner. I have no evidence that John SATTERTHWAITE was engaged in the slave trade but he would no doubt have profited from his father-in-law's activities. At the time, before the silting up of the river Lune, Lancaster was a busy port.

I needed to establish that James Cornelius SATTERTHWAITE was a son of John SATTERTHWAITE, and whilst I was pretty sure that Lettie's father was descended from John SATTERTHWAITE, I had no proof of that. The Lancashire Archives, housed at Preston, held a copy of John SATTERTHWAITE's will. He had died in 1807. This confirmed that James Cornelius was indeed a son of John SATTERTHWAITE and so Lettie's maternal forebears were now confirmed.

It was now time to look at Lettie's paternal side and see what connections that might yield. Her father, John Arthur Sheridan SATTERTHWAITE, had died in 1915, aged 56. His probate document showed that he had been a Lloyds Underwriter and a Director of Thames Steam Tug and Lighterage Co. Ltd. This

certainly explained the pictures of tugs at Stonehurst, two being respectively called *Letty* and *Maud*, the latter being Lettie's elder sister. This suggested a connection with transport and thus my suspicion that the paternal line was connected with John SATTERTHWAITE of Lancaster. It was easy enough to find the birth of Lettie's father in 1857 showing that her paternal grandfather was Charles Sheridan SATTERTHWAITE, who had married Arabella Gore JONES in 1854; her brother, incidentally, became an Admiral!

The Lancashire Archives provided the final connection. There had been court proceedings in 1821 in connection with the will of John SATTERTHWAITE. The benefit of such proceedings to the researcher is in the preamble to the decision. This listed all the children of John SATTERTHWAITE, including James Cornelius, and set out that a son, Charles SATTERTHWAITE, had died in 1815 leaving two infant children, one of whom was Charles Sheridan SATTERTHWAITE, who had been born in 1811. The names and dates tallied; this was Lettie's grandfather.

So, all the pieces of the jigsaw fell into place. Lettie's great-great-grandfather on her paternal side was John SATTERTHWAITE of Lancaster. Her great-great-grandfather on her maternal side was the same John SATTERTHWAITE.

But what, you cry, is the relevance of the name *Sheridan* in the name of Lettie's grandfather Charles Sheridan SATTERTHWAITE? The name is connected to the playwright Richard Brinsley Butler SHERIDAN (1751-1816). Mobberley Research Centre showed its worth; a gentleman there overheard me puzzling, and within minutes I was referred to the descendants of Colonel Charles LYONS of Ledeston, Westmeath, Ireland (1690 - 1780). This revealed a marriage between his descendant Letitia Christiana BOLTEN and Charles Francis SHERIDAN, the brother of the above Richard Brinsley Butler SHERIDAN. Letitia and Charles had several children, one of whom - Frances Anna Georgiana SHERIDAN - married Charles SATTERTHWAITE about 1811.

My quest, and stories about the SATTERTHWAITE household, are in my book *Secrets, Skeletons & Pedigrees* which was published just before the Covid lockdown.

Secrets, Skeletons & Pedigrees: The Extraordinary Satterthwaite Sisters by William M Hartley, available from booksellers or Carnegie/Palatine Books. Paperback, 128 pages, £9.99, ISBN 978-1-910837-25-2.

‘LBSC’ – Professional Name-Changer (Part 1)

by Geoff Johnson
Computer Group Leader

Apart from family history, another of my interests is model engineering. As with all such hobbies there are a number of magazines supporting the interests. In this case, a prime and long-standing publication is *Model Engineer*, which was founded in 1898, and is still published today.

It’s my unproven belief that in August 1902 the very first article by an author known as *JMW* was published. Further occasional articles appeared under a pen name *JM of Peckham*, and by 1921 regular articles under the name of *LBSC* - or sometimes *L Lawrence* - were printed. In 1924 a weekly series commenced using the title *Shops, Sheds and Road*.

By the time of his last article in 1967 this man had generated and published the designs for dozens of model steam locomotives and associated facilities. He became internationally famous for his works and eventually died in 1967. A blue plaque adorns the front of his home in Purley Oaks, Croydon.



But who was he? The pen-name *LBSC* simply relates to the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway. We knew from his writings that he’d been an engine cleaner in his younger days; the *LBSC* railway would have been his local railway network. The name given in present-day correspondence is *Lillian Lawrence*. In principle that is a girl’s name, and it was well-known in later years that our man had a propensity for wearing women’s clothing. This enigmatic engineer was also popularly named *Curly*, stemming from his early years when he had a head of fair, curly hair. This affectionate name is still known throughout the hobby to this day.

Following his death, a biography, *LBSC his Life and Locomotives* by Brian Hollingsworth, was published in 1982. It set out all that was known of his life. I obtained a copy around 2004 and, having read the authors suppositions as to how *Curly* came into this world, I changed hats from model engineering to genealogy.

In the twenty years since the author's assumptions about LBSC's early life, things could more properly be investigated, with information more recently available - especially in the 1881, 1891 and 1901 census returns. On reading them, I felt that his suggestions about LBSC's early life were very much misplaced. The one useful fact that he did get right is that the name of LBSC's mother was Eleanor EVERETT, which he'd learned from various other writings.

In his book, Brian Hollingsworth suggests that LBSC was born Lillian LAWRENCE on 12th December, 1882 at 12 Devonport Mews, and that his mother Eleanor EVERETT used the name LAWRENCE instead of her own to disguise the fact that she was unmarried; also that, although male, LBSC had been mistakenly identified as a female and carried the name Lillian LAWRENCE for the rest of his life.

I had by then become acquainted with a fellow engineer and genealogist. We had both read Brian Hollingsworth's book about LBSC's life, and independently considered that his suppositions of LBSC's childhood years were very questionable. Each of us had initially researched the subject alone and considered our own research methods to be sound, accurate and provable. We then came together through contacts and worked to expand the detail and refute this assumption. There is no record of a Lillian LAWRENCE of suitable age in the 1901 census; certainly not one born in Paddington and working for the London Brighton and South Coast Railway as would have been the case with LBSC. We were able to confirm those doubts relatively easily, as the

1908. Marriage solemnized at St. Peter's Church, in the County of London

Column	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Qualification.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Fuller's Name and Surname.	Rank of Profession of Father.	
291	29th Dec 1908	Lillian Lawrence Mabel Munt	24 19	Bookbinder Spinster	Wife-driver —	24 B, Queen's Road, Peckham 1, Oldman Street	Student	Henry Mathison Thomas Munt	Student Labourer	

Marrried in the year 1908 according to the Names and Surnames of the Parties, solemnized by me, at after hours by me.

This Marriage was solemnized at the residence of the bride, in the presence of the Minister of the Gospel, and of two Witnesses.

Lillian Lawrence
Mabel Munt

Thomas Munt
Thomas Munt

GRO death index shows that the poor Lillian LAWRENCE referred to by Brian Hollingsworth and assumed to be LBSC, had in fact died from convulsions on 28th October 1883 when she was only ten months old!

Initial Findings

So, if he wasn't born Lillian LAWRENCE, what were LBSC's origins? The first big clue came with his 1908 marriage certificate, where his father's name is given as Henry MATHIESON (see previous page).

Using this name as a search parameter in the 1901 census we easily identified a family living at 17 Calmington Road, Camberwell and matching many of the facts mentioned by LBSC in his writings. The father's name was Henry MATHIESON, occupation chemist-drug; wife Eleanor; eldest son William aged 17, working as a railway engine cleaner; a daughter Clemence, and younger son Rudolph. From these facts it appeared reasonable to conclude that the eldest son William MATHIESON was almost certainly LBSC. The census also records that William was born in Bow, London and, from his given age, he would have been born in 1882 or 1883.

Working backwards, the 1891 census shows the same family living at 35 Loder Street, Camberwell. Father Henry MATHIESON is a lithographer. There is no Rudolph, as he had not yet been born. Key points that we clarify later are that William has a middle initial of M and a birthplace of Mile End (adjacent to Bow). A further 1891 resident is Louisa EVERETT aged 60 - Eleanor's mother and LBSC's granny! Throughout his writings LBSC talks of his granny more than any other person.

These two census entries seemed to clarify to us some of the mystery surrounding his birth, but there was a lack of confirmation from other record sources. In particular, we could find no record of the birth of a William MATHIESON around the relevant date, nor the birth of a Clemence MATHIESON, nor is there any record of a marriage between Eleanor EVERETT and Henry MATHIESON. The MATHIESON family seemed to have appeared out of thin air.

Finding the Hidden Clue

To solve this problem, we trawled through the marriage records around the relevant period. We searched for any marriages involving an Eleanor EVERETT, as we knew this was LBSC's mother's maiden name. Eventually we found that there was a Mile End Register Office marriage on 6th December 1882 between Eleanor Adelaide EVERETT and Morris BENJAMIN, whose occupation was lithographer - the same occupation as one of those ascribed by

LBSC to his father. At the time of their marriage, they were both living at 31 St Peter's Road, Mile End Old Town. Eleanor, who was born in 1856, gave her age as 24 rather than 26. Additional facts about their relationship can also be gleaned from the 1881 census which shows Eleanor EVERETT living with her widowed mother, Louisa, and a lodger Morris BENJAMIN, employed as a tinsplate worker. It would appear that Eleanor moved out to live with this lodger and then married him.

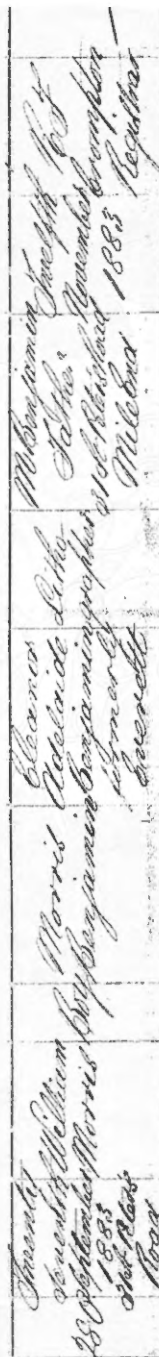
The BENJAMINS

The records of births go on to show that on 27th September 1883, ten months after their marriage, the couple had a son William Morris BENJAMIN, born at their marriage address in the Mile End Old Town Eastern registration sub-district. The eastern side of Mile End is adjacent to Bow and Poplar. See birth certificate (right).

On 17th January 1886 a daughter, Clemence BENJAMIN, was born to the same couple, at 153 Queen's Road, Peckham. Could these children be the same as those listed in the 1901 Census under the MATHIESON name? Perhaps Morris BENJAMIN died and then Eleanor married Henry MATHIESON, with the children taking his name. This possibility is given some credence, as there is no entry for Morris BENJAMIN in the 1901 census. On the other hand, in the period up until 1901, we could find no record of his death. Nor could we find any remarriage of Eleanor EVERETT or BENJAMIN to Henry MATHIESON. The BENJAMIN family seems to have disappeared, to be replaced by MATHIESONS!

The MATHIESONS

It appears that, for some reason, Morris BENJAMIN changed his name to Henry MATHIESON, and his whole family took on that new identity. This theory can be substantiated from the 8th August 1894 birth certificate of LBSC's brother Rudolph. His surname was given as MATHIESON and he has a second Christian name - Benjamin. Rudolph's father is named as Henry MATHIESON. The certificate describes him as a master lithographer and lists his full name as Henry Morris Benjamin MATHIESON. Morris BENJAMIN and Henry MATHIESON were indeed one and the same person.



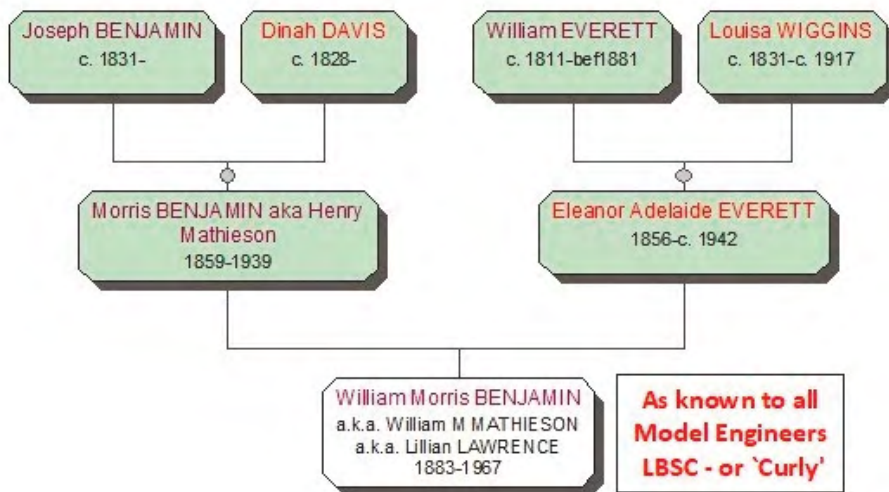
Rudolph's birth must have occurred around the time that Morris/Henry started using his new name.

Further proof of this name change comes from an unexpected source. LBSC had said that his father was often away from home and had died in Scotland when he was young. There must be some doubt about this as LBSC's marriage certificate records his father's name as Henry MATHIESON and there is no mention of him being deceased. Tracing through the GRO death index shows that, rather than dying young, Henry MATHIESON died in 1939 at the age of 80 (although recorded on the death certificate aged 83) at 80 Asylum Road, Peckham, the same house where his wife Eleanor died three years later. The death certificate records his name as *Henry Morris BENJAMIN, otherwise MATHIESON* - yet more proof of the change of name. Interestingly, his occupation is given as *former dentist*: this was another occupation LBSC had mentioned for his father.

The Benjamin - Mathieson Link

So why did LBSC's father, Morris BENJAMIN, change his name to Henry MATHIESON? The records show that Morris BENJAMIN was born in Southwark on 13th December 1858. His father was Joseph BENJAMIN, a general dealer, and his mother was Dinah BENJAMIN, formerly DAVIS. Joseph BENJAMIN and Dinah DAVIS were married in the Great Synagogue Chambers, Dukes Place, London on 9th September 1849 *according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Jewish Religion*. By the 1861 census they had a family of seven children and Morris, then aged two, had a seven-month-old brother. But in the 1871 census none of the BENJAMIN family can be found.

Much searching led to the discovery that by the 1871 census Joseph BENJAMIN had died and his widow Dinah had remarried or lived with a Thomas MATHIESON! The BENJAMIN children, including Morris, are all recorded with the MATHIESON surname in this census. Thus, MATHIESON then became the adopted name of LBSC's father. However, as shown already, ten years later in the 1881 census, and just prior to his marriage with Eleanor, Morris had returned to his original BENJAMIN surname; but by 1891, husband and father Morris BENJAMIN returned to using the name Henry MATHIESON and abandoned his birth name for the rest of his life. The reason for reversion to the MATHIESON name may be that Morris BENJAMIN wished to distance the family and himself from the Jewish connection that was implied by his surname; although he was born into a Jewish family, his wife Eleanor, whom he married in a Register Office in 1882, was not. In the meantime, William and Clemence had both been born and registered as BENJAMINs. I present a simplified family tree on the next page.



William BENJAMIN/MATHIESON to Lillian LAWRENCE

The above information provides incontrovertible proof that LBSC was born on 27th September 1883 as William Morris BENJAMIN and that, after his father's decision to change his own and the family's name around 1894, he became William Morris MATHIESON. It was only later that he took the name Lillian LAWRENCE.

I will enlarge on further aspects of this enigmatic family in part two: LBSC's name change to Lillian LAWRENCE, the fact that his wife Mabel changed her name too, and I've subsequently learned of significant family rifts, gaol terms for Henry MATHIESON, and some insight into both father and sons' notable technical and engineering skills.

1871 BMDs (4)

From the *Northwich Guardian*, 2 September 1871

DEATHS

Aug 31, at Bunbury, after a short but severe affliction, aged 57 years, MARY ANN, wife of Mr WM. SPEED.

Aug 31, at Greenway-road, Runcorn, aged 61 years, Mr THOMAS HANDLEY.

Aug 26, at Crewe-green, near Crewe, in his 16th year, JOSEPH, second son of Mr RICHARDS, farmer.

Aug 27, at London, aged 45 years, ALFRED FREDERICK, second son of the late WILLIAM BENNING ST AUBYN, formerly of Chester.

Early Cheshire Stonehewers (Part 1)

by Michael Stonehewer
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I knew that my father was born in Salford, educated at Manchester Grammar School during WWI, and married my mother in south Manchester, so when I mentioned that I was going to live in Cheshire, it came as surprise when he said his family was from Macclesfield! Subsequently I took up the hobby of family history and formed the *Stonehewer to Stanier Society* along with its own quarterly journal. Needless to say, this led to much research into our family name, including this piece on our Cheshire STONEHEWERS.

Our earliest recorded Cheshire STONEHEWERS were quarry men in the 13th and 14th centuries in Congleton. An extract from the *History of Congleton* states:

There is little trace of medieval industrial development in the manorial accounts but one important source of income was a quarry called 'Milstonbergh' situated in Congleton Wood. It provided supplies for local use but it was also a source for the surrounding areas. In 1370-1 John BURGH, the bailiff of Whitley, spend £1 16s on the purchase and transport of two millstones from Congleton for the water mill at Whitley; it was ordered that two of the best grindstones were to be carried to the castle of Halton in 1378-9, and a further two millstones were to be sent to Whitley, Halton and Runcorn in 1397-8.

The lord of the manor did not work the quarry himself. It was leased to Richard BRODOK for three years in 1356-7 for an annual payment of 13s 4d. It was worth £1 2s 4d in 1365-6, £1 in 1369-70, and £1 4s 4d in 1372-3, when it was leased to William BACOUN, Richard BACOUN and Thomas STONEHEWER for six years. The same three men obtained a ten-year lease of the quarry in 1377-8 for a rent of £2 a year which was increased to £2 2s by the end of the fourteenth century. It was still being leased at the same rent in 1423-4 when Roger STONEHEWER, Richeard KELYNG and Thomas GRANT obtained a six-year grant, and it was worth £2 1s in 1428-9. But its value also declined towards the end of the fifteenth century and it was said to be worth nothing in 1475-6 and only 3s 4d in 1477-8.

But where exactly is 'Milstonbergh' Quarry? A footnote in *Stevens History of Congleton* points us in the right direction:

The phrase 'millstoneburgh in Congleton Wood' means 'the millstone-grit hill in Congleton Wood' and this refers to Congleton Edge. By Elizabethan times the wood next to the present [Congleton] Park was being used and this, as the Borough Order Book for 1584 shows, was called 'the town wood' or 'the acre wood'. It is of interest to note that the 'millstoneburgh quarry' site was still being referred to in 1866.... Today, ordnance survey maps do currently mark three quarries on Congleton Edge. There are two between Astbury and Biddulph and another, the most southerly one, is called Mow Cop; this was worked until the 1930s, and smaller local quarries next to Mow Cop were used later than this for providing building material for roads.

The Mow Cop quarry is well documented on the Internet at www.mowcop.info/html/industry/stonequarries.htm.

By now I am sure that you will have realised that Thomas and Roger STONEHEWER were making mill wheels or grindstones between approximately 1372 and 1430. Whilst it is unlikely that we will be able to confirm their relationship, it seems highly likely that they were related - perhaps father and son?

However, what more can we find out about their life and work quarrying and cutting the millstone grit, where did these millstones go – and why? Also, why were they supplying mill wheels as far away as Runcorn in north Cheshire with all the implications of transporting such heavy items over such distances by horse and cart? Similarly, if they delivered such distances, where else could they have delivered mill wheels to? From where else would there have been a demand – and why?

Such a subject also raises questions regarding how long it took to produce a mill wheel at the quarry? How were they able to get it from the quarry and down Congleton Edge? Similarly, how long did mill wheels last in the process of grinding corn? Which in turn prompts the question – could our Millstone Grit quarrymen keep up with supply and demand? Finally, where did our quarrymen, Thomas and Roger get their surname STONEHEWER from, and how could they have learned their quarrying skills? A fair number of questions, partly interrelated – read more in part two!

Acknowledgements

I am indebted to the chairman of the Congleton History Society, Peter Aston, for kindly giving me permission to use extracts from the excellent *History of Congleton*, edited by W B Stevens and published in 1970 by Manchester University Press on the occasion of the 700th anniversary of the granting of a charter to the town.

A Preacher's Life

*by Michael Hannah
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Background: The Moravians

Also known as the United Brethren or Unitas Fratrum, the Moravians were founded in 1457 in the Czech regions of Bohemia and Moravia. They were influenced by the writings of the Czech reformer Jan Huss (1369-1415), who himself followed John Wycliffe's thinking in England (about 1320s-1384), rather to his cost as he was burned as a heretic. The original Moravian church went underground after the Catholic counter-reformation, before being revived in Prussia in 1722 by Count Nicolaus von Zinzendorf.

Members of the Moravian Church first came to England in 1728 and 1734 to establish good relations with the Church of England, and to help organise missionary work in the American colonies. In 1738, a Moravian Society was established at Fetter Lane, London, with which John Wesley and his brother Charles were associated before the Methodist movement was founded.

In the eighteenth century, the Moravian Church established 'settlements', or largely self-contained communities. These usually had a chapel, houses, schools, and an inn, and might have their own doctor, bakery, shop, farm, shoemakers, glovemakers, and carpenters.

Moravians aimed to evangelise, but not actively seek to convert from other churches. They set up scores of religious societies around Great Britain and Ireland, and were leaders in overseas missions among Caribbean slave and North American indigenous communities and British colonies. Their website shows thirty-one congregations still exist in Britain.

Christian Ignatius LA TROBE (1758-1836) was a clergyman, artist, musician, and composer, a friend of Haydn's, and promoter to English audiences of the church music of composers such as Mozart, Haydn, and Pergolesi. His father, Benjamin, was a leader and charismatic preacher in the Moravian church in Britain, Germany, and the US, founding the Yorkshire Fulneck Moravian Settlement in Pudsey, near Bradford. His brother, Benjamin, was architect of the US Capitol in Washington - famous now for the storming by protesters following the defeat of Donald Trump in the 2020 Presidential election.

He was a friend of William Wilberforce, providing a report that Wilberforce used in Parliament in support of slave emancipation *by describing the good results of Moravian work among the slaves*. His son, Charles, was first Lieutenant-Governor of the State of Victoria, Australia.

Ralph Shufflebotham, 1764-1827

Marriages proved to be turning points for my Cheshire ancestor, Ralph SHUFFLEBOTHAM, taking him from farming near Prestbury to harvesting souls as an evangelical preacher across England in the early nineteenth century. His story revolves around a reformist European sect that predated the Protestant Reformation by a century, but which suddenly won appeal in Industrial Revolution England.

Ralph, my 4x great-grandfather, married twice, and both marriages show a deepening involvement in a rapidly expanding movement, the Moravian church. His connection with nonconformity is not apparent at his baptism in 1764 at St Michael's Anglican church in Macclesfield. A baptism would have given a clue to religious allegiance, as it was free of the pre-1837 requirement that all marriages had to be conducted in Anglican churches to be legally recognised, regardless of the religion of the bride and groom.

When Ralph married Mary HALL in 1792 at St Mary's church in Stockport, the link with the nonconformist Moravians is evident only in the fact that the marriage required a licence, rather than being preceded by banns in the Anglican parish church. A licence could be required for other reasons – pregnancy, different social status or religion of bride and groom, haste – but there are strong reasons to believe it was nonconformity in Ralph's case.

Ralph was described in the Stockport parish marriage register as a farmer *of this parish*. He was the son of a Bosley couple, yeoman Ralph SHUFFLEBOTHAM and Ann SWAIN, with family roots I can trace back in the district at least another two generations on both sides. Mary HALL was born in Pudsey, a market town between Bradford and Leeds in west Yorkshire.

Pudsey and Stockport were prominent among the Moravian communities founded in England from 1738. So was Dukinfield, which is where we find the couple two years after their marriage when their first child, Mary Ann, was recorded in the Fairfield, Droylsden Moravian baptism register in 1794. A son, Ralph, was baptised at the same place the following year.

The religious shift had other implications for Ralph. At the baptisms of his two children by Mary, he is recorded as a shopkeeper in Dukinfield. Why he left

farming is unknown. The name Ralph SHUFFLEBOTHAM appears as both a proprietor in the Macclesfield Hundred land tax records in 1786-1813, and as an occupier in 1784-1795. If the farm was owned by the family, being the elder son, he would have stood to inherit it. If the family were tenants, he may still have been able to stay on.

Perhaps his move could have been driven by changes or upheavals in a rapidly changing district – silk mills were being built at an astonishing rate around Macclesfield at this time – but likely it was related to settling with his new wife in a Moravian congregation.

Mary died at the age of 37 in 1801, just nine years after their marriage, and was buried at the Fairfield Moravian settlement. Ralph, also 37, remarried quickly, but in London, to Elizabeth DEACON, a single woman 10 years his junior. That Ralph married again just eight months after Mary *departed*, as the Moravian register puts it, was understandable given he had been left with the care of two young children. That he married in London was an indicator of things to come for their family, as they wouldn't return to Cheshire.

Elizabeth came from the original English Moravian chapelry of Fetter Lane. She and Ralph also married by licence and the wedding took place round the corner in Fleet Street, in the Anglican church of St Dunstan in the West. It was conducted in the presence of two of the leading lights of the Moravian church renowned in Britain, Europe, and the United States: Christian Ignatius LA TROBE and Bishop Thomas MOORE. It would be difficult to imagine a more significant Moravian blessing for Ralph and Elizabeth's marriage.

Following his marriage, Ralph was appointed minister to a new congregation at Plymouth Dock, where Elizabeth bore their first child, who was baptised in 1804 with La Trobe a witness. Ralph remained minister at Plymouth Dock until 1808, and his baptisms included two more of his own children. His work was recognised by Moravian historian, Rev. H Klinesmith, writing in 1831 (p299):

... by the favour of God, he and his successors saw the work prosper in their hands. The word of reconciliation found acceptance with the hearers, and brought forth fruit of faith and repentance, and the congregation increased in saving knowledge and in the number of its members.

A vague shadow hung over Ralph's tenure at Plymouth Dock, as Klinesmith refers to *Some unpleasant occurrences, which took place in the sequel* to the founding of the congregation, but he trusted that they would *continually be over-ruled for good*. Perhaps the Moravian records say more?

In August 1808, Ralph disappears from the Plymouth Dock church registers, but appears three months later as minister at the Moravian chapel in Woodford, Northamptonshire. The family expanded again here with two more daughters, including my own 3x great-grandmother, Anna Mary, who was born in 1812. Ralph conducted his last baptism here in December 1814, then appears seven months later as minister in the Moravian register at Baildon, near Bradford, Yorkshire, where a congregation had been founded only six years earlier.

After thirteen years' service in Baildon, Ralph died in 1827, aged 63, and was buried there. He left an estate, which the probate records show was less than £100 (now worth £11,000). Perhaps there was a private income? One possibility is that, if Ralph retained a farm in Prestbury, it could have provided a rental income when he became a Moravian minister. He would have needed it. One imposition on a Minister's family was his paltry income. By the Moravian Church's own accounts, their ministers were overworked and underpaid. As Hutton noted:

They had generally five or six services to hold every Sunday; they had several meetings during the week; they were expected to interview every member at least once in two months; they were entirely without lay assistants; their wives held official positions, and were expected to share in the work; and yet, despite his manifold duties, there was scarcely a minister in the Province whose salary was enough to enable him to make ends meet. At one time the salary of the minister in London was only £50 a year; at Fulneck it was only 8s. a week; in other places it was about the same.

There was no proper sustentation fund; and the result was that nearly all the ministers had to add to their incomes in other ways. In most cases they kept little schools for the sons and daughters of gentry in the country districts; but as they were teaching five days a week, they could not possibly pay proper attention to their ministerial duties.

If the minister had been a single man, he might easily have risen above his troubles; but as he was compelled by church law to marry, his case was often a hard one; and at the Provincial Synod held at Fulneck, the Brethren openly confessed the fact that one of the chief hindrances to progress was lack of time on the part of the ministers {1835.}.

Ralph SHUFFLEBOTHAM married twice, fathering six children that I know of. Despite what seem now to be severe restrictions of lifestyle imposed on Moravian congregations, the disciplines must have appealed at the time, and had some advantages, including an education for his children. Ralph appears to have left a mark on his congregations. He had served in the only three English communities where the Moravians turned their preaching *religious societies* into formal *congregations* – Woodford, Baildon, and Devonport.

Yet, for all the passion Ralph and Elizabeth presumably brought to the Moravian cause, their family loosened the ties soon after Ralph's passing, and a number of their children realigned with the Anglican church. That included my ancestor Anna Mary SHUFFLEBOTHAM, who married a hatter, Charles HAGUE, and baptised her children in the Anglican church.

Scores of Moravian societies were eventually abandoned, among them their chapels at Pudsey in Yorkshire and Plymouth in Devon, where the SHUFFLEBOTHAMS had lived.

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Chester: in the Footsteps of Henry James

by Chester Guttridge
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Beside me is a paperback edition of *English Hours* by Henry James. It is a collection of articles about English places, originally written for American magazine readers. Some of the articles were published in book form in 1875, as *Transatlantic Sketches*. In 1905 James published a slightly altered English edition entitled *English Hours*. My copy was published in 1981 with an introduction by Leon Edel, James' principal biographer. It brims with James' novel descriptions, poetic metaphors, lateral associations and, according to the back cover blurb, is *a literary masterpiece*, not a guidebook. I found it difficult to read initially but rewarding, adding greatly to my mental picture of late Victorian England. I gradually warmed to its romantic charm.

The chapter reporting James' visit to Chester is eight and a half pages long. It is descriptive, a tourist's report, with no emotional involvement. As for the later chapters, written in 1877 and 1879, I have dipped and skipped, noting gems like *It was probably a mistake to stop at Portsmouth, and ... but even the high breeze was good-humoured and only wanted something to play with ... the pearly morning mists ... over Abergavenny. Also I was warned away from church, on Sunday, by my mistrust of its mediaeval chill ... and It is quite possible to absent one's self from London without a sense of sacrifice, - to escape London fogs of a thickness that draws down the smoke of the house tops ... in impenetrable density...*

This last description reminded me of one foggy winter evening when I rode in a Greenline coach out of London, led by the conductor walking for several miles in front with a newspaper tied on his back to reflect the coach headlights. Visibility cannot have been more than three or four yards. Eighty years after James' comment, the problem was solved by the Clean Air Acts, following the deaths of prize bullocks at Smithfield Christmas Meat Market, human deaths apparently not being sufficient incentive.

James was born on 15 April 1843 in New York and was to spend much of his adult life in England, with extensive periods in France and Italy. He died an Englishman in Chelsea in 1916, having relinquished his American citizenship the previous year, never having married. He was one of America's 19th century

literary giants, writing twenty-two novels - perhaps the best known being *The Turn of the Screw* and *Daisy Millar* - sixty short stories and novellas and numerous other writings. Except for parts of *English Hours*, I have read none of them, nor have I read any Victorian novels, except *Pickwick Papers* and *Great Expectations*. When I was a child, my father took me several times to his bookcase, picking out half a dozen or so of his favourites and exclaiming *Oh, Chester, you'd love this* or *That's a good story*. He had read them all. At least I learnt the names: Elizabeth Gaskell, George Elliot, Thackeray, Charles Kingsley (referred to below), Trollope, Hardy, Dickens and Sir Walter Scott, whose novel *Ivanhoe* caused me much angst when I was eleven years old and given it to read as an Easter holiday task. I struggled through little more than a tenth of it. The only book I knew my father to read during my childhood was Dale Carnegie's *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, the second most widely-sold book in the world after the Bible, I understand. I read it too.

In Paris, James met contemporary French literary greats, including Alfonse Daudet who has for me a special significance, being the author of *Lettres de mon Moulin*, a collection of short stories of rural Provence, unfortunately written in French. I was in my sixth year at grammar school, confronted at the Easter examinations with having to translate a Daudet story into English. I learnt later that it was about a cow that jumped on to a cottage roof to graze upon the grass thereon. I was handicapped by not knowing that *vache* was French for cow and *toit* was French for roof, nor was I aware of the remarkable agility of French cows or that cottage roofs were covered with turf. My failure resulted in me leaving school at the age of fifteen with no qualifications, the headmaster and my form master agreeing that my chances of matriculating were zero, a pass in a foreign language being essential. I started working on a poultry farm soon after the Second World War was declared in 1939.

After an extensive tour of England and parts of Europe, James, an inveterate traveller, returned to America in 1870, where he spent time writing and travelling his home country. With money from his father, he set sail again for England in May 1872 with his twenty-four-year-old sister Alice, and Aunt Kate to escort them on a five-month tour of England and Europe. Their first visit was to nearby Chester, the first destination of many New World travellers who arrived in Liverpool. James wrote of the city, *If the picturesque be measured by its hostility to modern notions of convenience, Chester is probably the most romantic city in the world*. Measured praise indeed! James starts the chapter with a fifty-eight-word sentence describing the Atlantic crossing as adding *an emphatic zero in the sum of one's better experience*, although it had not been a difficult crossing. It is followed by a page and a half describing the city's medieval wall from which Cestrians can view their city from all directions. *The gentlest and least offensive*

of ramparts [makes an] adventurous circuit; now sloping, now bending, now broadening into a terrace, now narrowing into an alley, now swelling into an arch, now dipping into steps, now passing some thorn-screened garden, and now reminding you that it was once a more serious matter than all this by the extrusion of an ivy-smothered tower ... enfolding the place in a continuous ring, which, passing though innumerable picturesque vicissitudes, often threatens to snap, but never fairly breaks the link ...

I remember walking the city wall in my childhood with my father - or at least the northern half of it - descending at the Eastgate, nearest my grandmother's house on Dee Banks. I climbed the steps to King Charles' Tower, from which Charles is supposed to have watched the defeat of his troops at the battle of Rowton Moor, some two miles to the east, in 1645. As a result, the Royalists failed to lift the siege of what was their last remaining port.

In one place the wall overlooks the Roodee, site of Chester Races, thought to be the oldest racecourse in the world in continuous use. My aunt Gerty went there to flutter a few bob of housekeeping money every year, and did so on one of my family's 1930s visits to stay in Chester with grandma and her daughters, Gerty and mentally-challenged Ada. Aunt Gerty, with teeth securely emplaced, donned her coat and cloche hat and set off to the Roodee after lunch. It was her one annual escape from her domestic harness, grandma having *done her bit* and retired to her fireside rocking chair. I remember sitting at the kitchen table with Ada, my parents and younger brother and grandma rocking nearby, awaiting Gerty's return. It seemed that the household couldn't function without her. It was long past her expected time of return and I remember someone suggesting that perhaps she had lost her bus money home and was having to walk. Eventually she arrived, took off her coat and hat and took charge. Household life resumed. I remember the atmosphere of relief when she arrived, sensitive as children are to grown-ups' mood.

The Chester streets below the wall, James records, provide *that delightful element of the crooked, ... a feast of crookedness - of those random corners, projections and recesses ... architectural surprises ... unfamiliar to the American eye*. Of its houses he writes, *Every third house is a "specimen" - gabled and latticed, timbered and carved, and wearing its years more or less lightly*. He doesn't mention Chester's innumerable public houses and hotels and makes only a passing reference to poverty and squalor.

James continues, *next after the wall - possible even before it - Chester values its Rows, an architectural idiosyncrasy that must be seen to be appreciated*. As a child I walked one of the Rows with my father to deliver a roll of film from his box camera to a chemist's shop to be developed. We collected the prints a few days later. My

insistence on climbing the concrete slopes within every bay to peep through the parapet at the street below slowed our progress until dad could tolerate it no longer.

James, of course, visited the Cathedral, *modestly as it stands on the roll of English abbeys. It is of moderate dimensions, and rather meagre in form and ornament, spoilt by the attentions of the ruthless renovator, Mr Gilbert Scott.* James listened, one Sunday, to a sermon by Canon Charles Kingsley but was unimpressed. *The sermon, beneath that triply consecrated vault, should have been of as fine a quality as the church. It was not; and I confess that a tender memory of ancient obligations to the author of Westwood Ho and Hypatia forbids my saying more of it.* Later in 1873, Kingsley moved on to be a canon of Westminster Abbey, dying soon afterwards. An energetic, immensely capable man, he had a dazzling career in university and church as well as being among the greats of Victorian writers, one time chaplain to Queen Victoria and an ardent Christian Social reformer.

I count myself privileged indeed to have seen and grown to love the city that lent me her name.

Sources

The 1893 edition of *Transatlantic Sketches* can be obtained free of charge on the Internet from Google books (and no doubt other websites) at www.google.co.uk/books/edition/Transatlantic_Sketches/B7EyAQAAMAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=0

English Hours may be downloaded in several different formats free of charge from the Project Gutenberg site at www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/58938

1871 BMDs (5)

From the *Nantwich Guardian*, 30 September 1871

MARRIAGES

Sep 25, at the Congregational Church, Sandbach, Mr WILLIAM WEBB to Miss HANNAH COOKE.

Sep 25, at the Congregational Church, Sandbach, Mr THOMAS ALLCOCK to Miss RHODA BAGLEY, both of Sandbach.

Sep 19, at St Chad's Church, Over, JOSEPH, son of the late ROBERT WOOLSTENCROFT, Esq., of Manchester, to ELIZABETH ELLEN, second daughter of Mr BRATT, Elm Bank, Winsford.

DEATHS

Sep 22, at Darnall Bank, Fulshaw, Cheshire, ANN, wife of Mr JOSEPH PIDDUCK.

Sep 23, at Bradwell, aged 59 years, Mr WILLIAM WILLIS.

Sep 18, at Hartford, aged 61 years, Mr JAMES STRETCH.

Net That Serf

The Computer Section

Compiled by Geoff Johnson

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From the Desktop



I'm not pleased! NTS readers could do better! Apart from Gren's piece and a few follow-up and inbox items, I've had to generate over sixty per cent of this issue from my own noddle.

Fortunately, Gren Dix's input reminded me of the Password Manager topic. I'd had background intentions to do this for some time, and receipt of his piece prompted me to raise it at Computer Club. The understanding of the degree of poor password management gained there has spurred me on. Password Management is therefore the main theme in this issue.

Where are my Keys?

By Gren Dix

I have a habit of misplacing my keys. The family bought me a dongle to attach to my key ring. It had a separate controller; on pressing the controller, the dongle buzzed. Needless to say, I don't use it! Now and then a smart phone gets misplaced. Note I that I said *a* phone, not *my* phone. The missing phone can usually be found by ringing it.

Even before lockdown I was getting buried in keys, access codes, passwords etc for various websites and services. Some sites are sneaky. They give you a sixteen-character access code which is displayed in four sets of four characters separated by spaces. When you try to input the code, you find that you must not include the spaces. Other sites ask you to set up a password which contains letters, numbers and special characters. But they don't tell you which special characters are permitted!

Inputting dates can be a nightmare. Do they want DDMMYY, DDMMYYYY or the days, months and years separated by slashes? Even worse, some American sites - although supposedly designed for the UK - use the American date format, with the month first. Better sites use DD etc as a watermark and also move the cursor to the next field.

My bank, amongst others, asks me to give a *memorable phrase*. You then have to input some subset of it. Long ago my bank sent me a *security number*. For ages this was never asked for; I was tempted to file it under R for Rubbish. Fortunately I kept it as, at a later date, I was asked for selected digits from this number in order to sign in online.

Then come the security questions, e.g., *What was your grandfather's occupation?* Not much use for a founding. *What was the name of your first pet?* I don't think *Dog* would be accepted. Some people give you a user number. This too can be sneaky, as they may also want an account number or customer number. For *number read code*, as some aren't actually numbers. If buying software to be delivered online, you may require an activation code, and also a serial number. Once used, you probably forget the activation code, but beware - you may need it if you have to reinstall the software.

How do you keep track of all these codes and keys? One way is to keep a notebook and scribble in some details. Cross out the old values when you change them, and put in the new values. You could keep them somewhere on your phone (not a good idea). The Computer Club has considered the question of storing your passwords and other information securely. Suggestions include the software LastPass or KeePass for example. I now use KeePass (which is free), and currently have over eighty entries; the beauty of it is that you only have to remember one secure password.

Now, where did I put the key?

Managing Your Passwords

By Geoff Johnson

At recent Computer Club meetings, I've raised the issue of the ever-growing importance to use good passwords, and to securely manage how you remember them. Gren's piece above caused me to refocus on the topic. Several members came up with various programs that they used and extolled their differing views. I was pleased that they had taken steps in the right direction, but I really didn't want to go into a wide range of different programs. The program you use to manage your passwords is a personal choice, and much less relevant than just having a proper management tool.

I wanted to focus on those members still using small coloured notebooks, bits of paper, sticky notes or ailing brains. That practice is dangerous! At our July meeting, out of sheer curiosity, I posed an anonymous poll question for the thirty-six attendees:

1. Do you rely on handwritten notes to store passwords?
2. Do you successfully use a password manager?

The result dumbfounded and astonished me: about half of the members still use option 1.

I'm therefore setting out to encourage non-users to try out a password management program. A place to store your passwords, together with your usernames, special details and associated memorable words. It should also include account numbers and the like. All the stuff needs to be presented in an orderly fashion. All the organisations and companies we must login to require something different!

The real benefit comes about by using the password manager to directly, accurately and quickly input your login details to the website concerned. All required sites can (and should) have different passwords. You can get at them by just knowing one! An added bonus is that the password manager can enable you create really good passwords of varying length and content: passwords that you won't have to remember. There are now dozens of password management programs, due to the enormous growth in online portable devices and, as I see it, the vast majority of those new ones use cloud storage. I ask that you simply try a password manager. Set up half a dozen of your more common login details and give it a try. It's my guess you won't go back!

Which Program to Use

This has to be your decision. Gren's piece mentioned LastPass and KeePass; there are many others! LastPass stores your data in the cloud, whereas KeePass stores it within a folder in your own system. Your decision is probably going to depend on whether you are content to manage your passwords on your own system at home, or whether you really have a need to share your passwords across all your mobile products - laptop, tablet, mobile phone or other toys! That implies that your password data will need to be stored in the cloud, so it's easily and seamlessly shareable. In my opinion, this cloud or PC storage factor is the key thing to consider.

My own needs and thoughts are quite simple: I wish to retain the bulk of my password data within my own system. I'm just not happy for someone or something else to have possession of my highly important data. Now that I've got a smart phone though, I can see that a further cloud-based password management app may be required for it. But that system will be separate from my main one, only for storing passwords that are really necessary to be used in such online devices. That definitely excludes anything financial!

Password Managers were last covered by the late Richard Todd in NTS on page 46 of the **ANCESTOR** dated September 2015. You'll find a more up-to-date overview below, covering my own preferred application called KeePass.

Thoughts on Creating a Master Password

In general, password management programs necessitate your remembering one good password; I understand that some look for two! Being able to easily remember that password allows you into a small database that contains details of every website, program or other devices that you may need to log into. In my case, my password manager has some 240 entries. I can access all of these using just one master password. To remember that password, work with something you know closely: an item within your general knowledge. You need to be able to recall how to remember it. If you make it too long and complicated, you'll have difficulty remembering it reliably. Hobbies and other interests for things you know easily will help. I'll throw in a few ideas for you. Make them unusual: use upper and lowercase, add numbers, special characters as well as punctuation. Switch the characters around to make it easy for you to input, but be as complex as possible.

Here are some thoughts and ideas. Pick things that you can easily call to mind. For a while you could place a picture of the item on your computer desk. My other hobbies include model engineering and gardening, so I can easily relate to specific tools or devices. I don't collect stamps, my wife does much of the

cooking, and I definitely don't sing - but here are some ideas which include the required capital and lower case letters, numbers and special characters:

Password reminder

I've got lots of drills and reamers:

Stainless steel garden tools:

First stamp and when issued:

My wife cooks and has:

Painting and decorating:

Choral society (one for Eileen!):

Password

1/2"DrillMT2

9"Handfork3TineSS

18Black-Penny40

8&1/2"Sponge-Tray

1.5"HarrisBluebrushH

15MenonaDeadMan'sChest

Once you've worked out a good, memorable master password be sure to record it - write it down! If you lose or forget it, you're going to be in trouble! I suggest keeping it somewhere safe - perhaps with your will? Once you've created your password database the application will usually allow you to print it. A safe copy with your will, or somewhere for your executor or next of kin is a good idea.

Comments on Previous Issues

Malcolm Upton raised these iPad points following the piece in the March issue on page 52.

Having just re-read the article on iPad issues, I thought I would try and download the March issue to my iPad. When I got onto the website and found where the magazine was kept, I had no trouble clicking the download button - but where did it go? At first, I could not find where the download had gone, but eventually I realised that there was now a circular button with an arrow in it, pointing downwards, at the top of my screen! I clicked on this and **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR** popped into view. Very easy to read, with very clear photos accompanying some of the articles. Normally I would save anything like this into iBooks, by clicking the rectangular button with an upward pointing arrow, which gives options for sharing via various methods, including email and social media. When a document is saved into iBooks it is automatically converted into a PDF if it is not already in that format. Maybe Sue Ritchie can add some extra hints for iPad users?

GJ: No, she couldn't, Malcolm! Sue tried the steps you mentioned, but her iPad doesn't work in that way. Therefore, she guesses it might be better for Gay to elaborate on her original instructions rather than give out-of-date info! Any other takers?

The KeePass Password Manager

By Geoff Johnson

Since I started using KeePass over fifteen years ago, a proliferation of alternative programs and apps have appeared. Nowadays, if you do a search for *best password managers* it's quite likely that you won't see KeePass in the list.

I can assure you that KeePass is still there and thriving at <https://keepass.info>. Above all, the program is free and well supported. From time to time, I personally use the *Donate* link on the *Help* tab to continue supporting its development. I have no reason to change from its use. KeePass is a Windows application, but there are versions that run on Android and on Mac OS under something called *Mono*. For these versions read the notes on the website's download page. You must realise that virtually all the other programs that use cloud storage may offer a limited service for free, but in the main you will have to upgrade to pay for extended use of their cloud service.

Due to its freeware status, downloading the program has a tendency to lead you into advertising paths. Go to the above link, read the notes and click on *KeePass 2.48 (2.48.1)* release. You then get taken to the download page. Sometimes, the main download site *SourceForge* will download it immediately, but I invariably find that the process stops with a count of five in a circle - as I see it, they want you to cast your eye around the rest of the webpage! If so, clicking on *Problems downloading?* takes you to an option to *please use this direct link*. That usually does the trick. Then look out for the download link in the bottom corner of screen, click the drop-down arrow and *Open*. This takes you to the program install process.

Eventually, you will be taken to a *New Database* sub-window, warning you about all the things I've said above. Think carefully after this to make sure you know which folder things are going into - it's best to set up a specific KeePass folder. You should then be taken to set up a *New Master Key*. Do that and make sure you don't forget it! In fact, the process quickly leads you into the opportunity to print the setup data.

I set up an NTS Demonstration file and was presented with two sample entries under the main heading. You're on your own from that point. I'd suggest that you click the *Internet* subfolder and enter your first user name and password details for your login to Ancestry or FMP as a starter. While you're there, also enter the URL link from the Ancestry Login page. After that just be sure that every time you create a new login, you do it via your KeePass program!

Now Use It!

Find the desired website in KeePass, right-click your cursor on it and select URL. Follow the drop-down to select *Open*. On the login page, click to put your cursor in the *Username/Email* field, move back to KeePass, right-click and select *Perform Auto-Type*. On most sites it'll just put the details in for you and log you in. Sometimes, depending on the website owners' quirky methods, you may have to copy and paste each field from KeePass into the login fields. As your confidence grows, start creating complex new passwords for those important sites such as banks, credit cards and utilities.

The Tools Options

As installed, KeePass should work fine for you, but you will inevitably find certain little personal annoyances. The programme has a plethora of options. You can use these to make it more comfortable for your own preferred usage. Experiment with it! Click on the *Tools* tab in the top menu, followed by *Options*, and think about the desirability of the various functions. I find that once I've opened the program, I leave it open: it's set to *minimise to tray instead of taskbar*, as well as *dropping to background after copying data to the clipboard*. Under *Tray Icon*, I find it useful to choose *single-click* instead of *double-click* for default tray icon action. Experiment with these options to help make your use of the software easier.

Windows 11 is on the Horizon

Input from Tony Broadhurst and Geoff Johnson

Recent news indicates that Microsoft intends to introduce Windows 11 *later this year*; they're indicating that support for Windows 10 will continue until 2025. Windows 11 will introduce various changes that will include security upgrades, implying that it will only operate on later processors or motherboards that have Trusted Platform Module (TPM) capability, i.e., Intel processors from 8th generation onwards, and AMD Ryzen processors. TPM provides a secure cryptoprocessor that seems to focus on security. Wikipedia is reasonably informative.

TPM is being built into current motherboards. I've established that it is available on my PC but it will need a small TPM plugin processor to enable it. Older machines are likely to be no-goers! It may also be necessary to change settings in the Bios to enable the TPM function. There is, or was, a full compatibility list on Microsoft, or you could run the Microsoft PC Health App; however, Microsoft temporarily removed it and plans to get it back online before Windows 11 becomes generally available.

Club discussion suggests that it will take some time to introduce the new version, but some members may have questions so I felt the need to alert you. We advise not getting too excited for now, and there's certainly a need to wait until many others have tested the water.

From the Inbox

Tip for Evernote from Peter Rowley

When you sign up for Evernote, you are given an email address with which to forward an email or file in order to save it in a new note. In your email inbox, select the email, click on Forward, add the Evernote address, and click Send.

Microsoft Office Programs Online for Free

Thanks to Chester's David Guyton, here's an extract from the latest issue of Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter which David thought might be of interest to readers of NTS. If you have a Microsoft account - it's easy and free to create an account - you can access any of the popular Office programs online, free of charge. Your account grants you free access to Word, Calendar, PowerPoint, OneNote, Excel, and others, and you can sign up here: www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/free-office-online-for-the-web

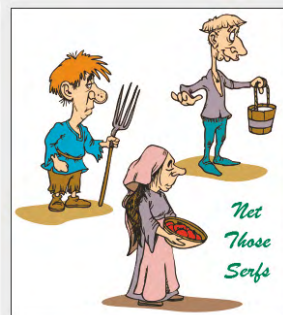
FamilySearch releases GEDCOM 7.0

Thanks to Margaret Roberts for highlighting this item, found in a recent *Who Do You Think You Are?* magazine.

Since its introduction in the 1980s, GEDCOM file structures have steadily improved, but until now have been limited to text format. We understand that GEDCOM 7 should enable improvements to transfer of genealogy files between systems, by including stored images using *zip* technology. Notes have also been expanded, making them more versatile, and it should all enable easier transfer from one package to another. Sources will be able to include internet URL links as well as local files.

GJ: I suspect it'll be a while before the main family history program makers can catch up with this one.

Come on now, members, I rely on your input to keep this forum active, so let's have some informative stuff for December please! - GJ



Group News

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

Note that at the time of going to press, some in-person society meetings are planned, subject to Covid regulations - check with the FHSC website or your local group leader

It is possible that some future 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". Members 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*

FHSC Seminars

By Margaret Roberts, Margaret Spate and Jean Laidlaw

This new series of talks, exclusively presented on Zoom and open to all members, will be hosted on behalf of FHSC by Jean Laidlaw, Margaret Spate and Margaret Roberts. The seminars will be a permanent fixture in the FHSC diary, taking place on the 3rd Wednesday evening of the month throughout the year, so make sure you keep that day marked in your diary. The Zoom waiting room will open at 7.15pm, ready for a 7.30pm start.

We have an exciting line-up of well-known national and local names, speaking on a varied range of topics. The series will commence in October, beginning with the inaugural **Dorothy Flude Memorial Lecture**.

A newsletter from our new email address *seminar@fhsc.org.uk* will be sent out two to three weeks prior to each seminar; if you are interested in attending a talk then please send an email to register your interest, stating the date and title

of the talk you wish to attend. You will receive joining instructions a few days before the talk itself. It is not possible for members to 'block book' all the talks.

Future meetings:

- 20th Oct **The Dorothy Flude Memorial Lecture**
Crewe and Nantwich Remembers - Mark Potts
Mark is a well-known local author and together with Tony Marks has published titles including *Crewe and Nantwich The Great War Years, Where the Fallen Live Forever*, and *The Villiers Russell twins: Crewe's Most Commemorated Great War Casualties*. He was also the co-creator of the *Lest We Forget Roll of Honour* which is housed in the Municipal Building at Crewe and of which Dorothy Flude was an instrumental and significant supporter. Mark's presentation will encompassing many of the stories he has uncovered during his research into the fallen of Crewe and Nantwich.
- 17th Nov ***Behind the Scenes of Who Do You Think You Are - Dr Nick Barratt***
Nick is an author, broadcaster, and historian, perhaps best known for his work on the popular BBC programme *Who Do You Think You Are?* His talk will explore the huge impact the show has made on the way we research our family stories, as well as giving an insight into how the programme was first conceived and produced.
- 15th Dec ***Christmas and the British - Prof Martin Johnes***
A renowned historian of popular culture in modern Britain, Martin has published many books on a range of subjects from politics to pop music and disasters. At the heart of his research is the question of identity and how people think of who they are and their place in the world, culminating in his landmark 2019 BBC series *Wales: England's Colony?* This talk centres around Martin's best-selling book *Christmas and the British: A Modern History*, in which he illustrates how Christmas and its traditions have been lived, adapted, and thought about in Britain since 1914. An entertaining look at how we celebrate the season.
- 19th Jan ***Topic to be confirmed - Myko Clelland***
Myko is a genealogist, spokesperson and regional licensing manager for FindMyPast, regularly discussing family history on television, radio, online and in print. He holds a masters degree in genealogy and is a qualified adult education teacher. Myko has links with our county, having ancestors from the Cheshire/Welsh border villages of Kinnerton and Dodleston. We hope to hear about the 1921 census, subject to the project's progress, but whatever the topic, Myko's talk is sure to be informative and entertaining.

Alsager Group

by Hazel Rugman

We have heard that our normal venue, Wesley Place Church Hall, Lawton Road, Alsager, will probably be open from the beginning of September. We are investigating whether it might be possible to boost their Wi-Fi so that members who are unwilling or unable to attend in person can use Zoom.

We are proposing to have an in-person meeting with a speaker (to be arranged) at 7.30pm on Monday 20th September 2021 at Wesley Place, following which we shall hold our AGM. Our December meeting will be a Christmas lunch at a local pub or restaurant, probably on the 13th December (subject to Covid restrictions at the time).

We are approaching all those speakers who had been booked for 2020 and then cancelled to rebook them for the 2021 - 2022 programme; details will be on the Society's website in due course. Regular members will be contacted personally by email or post. We hope that we shall be able to hold in-person meetings from September until the end of the year.

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

20th Sept *TBA, followed by AGM*

17th Oct *TBA*

21st Nov *TBA*

13th Dec *Christmas Lunch (TBC)*

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:

Meetings may be online via Zoom, or in person - please check the website.

Please check that the society has your correct email address so I can send you the details you need to join the Zoom meetings.

27th Sept *Lottie Dod, Bebington Sports Star - Margaret Roberts (Zoom)*

25th Oct *Details of speaker and venue TBA - check website*

22nd Nov *Details of speaker and venue TBA – check website*

13th Dec *Details of speaker and venue TBA – check website*

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

Our group is continuing to twin with our Tameside group until November to deliver an alternating programme. These meetings will all be on Zoom.

Future meetings:

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

All meetings are online using Zoom.

14th Sept *A double-headed talk - Margaret Roberts and Gay Oliver (Zoom)*

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.

12th Oct *Fletcher Moss and His Travels - Dr Diana M Leitch (Zoom)*

The talk illustrates the early explorations by bicycle and train in the early twentieth century by this historian and his photographer companion, and is based on his seven books of *Pilgrimages to Old Houses*. Fletcher Moss visited many places in Cheshire and Shropshire, Staffordshire and North Wales.

9th Nov *Researching House History - Jackie Depelle (Zoom)*

Taking over a family-built property prompted focused research of people, place and contents. Jackie draws on an extensive collection of sources, both online and awaiting discovery in archives, which provide information on properties as well as their inhabitants.

9th Dec *Bramhall Members' Social Evening (In-person meeting)*

Bramhall group's first in-person meeting for almost two years will take the form of a social evening for members to share their news and family research undertaken during lockdown.

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

In-person meetings have been suspended during the pandemic but we are planning to resume as soon as it is safe and practical to do so. At the time of writing we are becoming more hopeful that we can resume in September and we will endeavour to notify members by email when the situation becomes clearer. Please check the FHSC website under the Groups tab for Chester for the latest information. After what has been a very long break we are looking forward to welcoming everyone back as soon as we can be confident about proceeding.

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

30th Sept *Chester at Work - Stewart Shuttleworth*

28th Oct *The Canal Duke - Bernard Dennis*

25th Nov *A Seasonal Miscellany*

December *No meeting*

Under normal circumstances, group meetings are held at 7.30pm on the last Thursday of the month in the Church Hall, All Saint's Church, 2 Vicarage Road, Hoole, Chester CH2 3HZ. The church is on the left hand side of Hoole Road coming into Chester from the north east from the M56 and A41. The entrance to the church hall and car parking area is behind the church and access is immediately on the left off Vicarage Road. All visitors and members welcome - there is a small admission charge of £1.50 for members and £2 for visitors.

Computer Group - The Society's Computer Club

by Geoff Johnson

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

Meetings start at 7.30pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, and are open to all FHSC members. Contact *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 in September subject to these being allowed and practical. During the pandemic, Congleton and Macclesfield Groups have joined together to host Zoom meetings at regular intervals. Meetings on Zoom have been held through the summer and on September 28th we have a Zoom talk by Claire Moores "Preyers on the Public" The Art of the Con in the Nineteenth Century. Please join us.

For 21st September we are hoping to hold a face-to-face meeting at Congleton Library at 7.30pm. This will be subject to demand, we will ask Congleton members by newsletter and email if they would like to join such a meeting. This meeting is to catch up on our research since we last met and to plan for future meetings to be held in October and November.

Future meetings:

For additional details see the Macclesfield Group report.

21st Sept ***Congleton Members' In-person Meeting***

28th Sept ***Preyers on the Public: The Art of the Con in the Nineteenth Century***
- Claire Moores (Zoom)

October ***TBA***

November ***TBA***

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, or check the group pages, on the FHSC website *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 until January 2022. All speakers have been booked on this basis.

Please note that the contact email for these meetings is crewe@fhsc.org.uk; please add **Zoom** with the **date of the meeting** to the subject line of your email when you register your interest in attending. Thanks.

- 21st Sept *Mapping Nantwich - Keith Lawrence (Zoom)*
- 19th Oct *WWI Transport - Rob Thompson (Zoom)*
- 9th Nov *Knocking Down Brick Walls and Searching for Problem Ancestors
- Dr Judith Batchelor (Zoom)*
Dr Batchelor writes as Genealogy Jude (<https://genealogyjude.com/>)
- 7th Dec *The History of English Traditional Pantomime
- Dr Claire Robinson (Zoom)*
Dr Robinson is an associate lecturer at the University of Chester and expert in theatre and pantomime history, especially that of the north-west.
- 18th Jan *Cheshire Turnpikes - Paul Hindle (Zoom)*
Paul is a historical geographer and author.

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 making arrangements for a face-to-face meeting on Tuesday 21st September (the third Tuesday of the month) at the Salvation Army Hall, Macclesfield, at 7.30pm, but at the time of going to press we cannot confirm this until nearer the date, depending on local and national circumstances. I will keep members informed via the email newsletter and the FHSC website.

Congleton and Macclesfield Groups will again join together to host a Zoom meeting on 28th September. From October 2021 a regular, centrally-organised series of monthly Zoom talks open to all FHSC members - the *Family History Society of Cheshire Seminars* - will replace the Zoom talks organized by the Congleton and Macclesfield groups. These talks will feature well-known national and local speakers addressing an impressive selection of family history topics. For more information, see the first page of the group news.

Future meetings:

21st Sept *To be Confirmed - Macclesfield Members' Face-to-Face Meeting*
28th Sept *Prayers on the Public: The Art of the Con in the Nineteenth Century*
- Claire Moores (Zoom)

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 group pages on the FHSC website www.fhsc.org.uk.

To be kept up to date with future meetings please sign up to the newsletters of the Macclesfield group on the FHSC website www.fhsc.org.uk, go to the Macclesfield page of the website www.fhsc.org.uk/about-the-group-macclesfield-2 and click on *Add Macclesfield to My Groups*; or send a request to macclesfield@fhsc.org.uk.

Middlesex Group

by Alan Bennett (FHSC Chairman)

We are trying to set up a joint North-West FHS Group in the London area with other societies.

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 and include **Zoom** with the **date of the meeting** in the subject line of your email.

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.

- 21st Sept *Mapping Nantwich – Keith Lawrence (Zoom)*
19th Oct *WWI Transport – Rob Thompson (Zoom)*
9th Nov *Knocking Down Brick Walls and searching for Problem Ancestors
- Dr Judith Batchelor (Zoom)*
7th Dec *The History of English Traditional Pantomime
- Dr Claire Robinson (Zoom)*
18th Jan *Cheshire Turnpikes – Paul Hindle (Zoom)*

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

It is looking likely that we will not be arranging physical meetings before the year end. Efforts will therefore be made to book speakers for the remaining months of this year to give their talks via Zoom.

We will circulate by email details of meetings that are being held as soon as confirmed. This is in addition to the email newsletters and website information.

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

- 13th Sept *A Mixture of Mysteries – Graham Sutherland (Zoom)*
Historic mysteries, some of which remain unsolved, e.g. who was the man in the iron mask?
11th Oct *TBA*
8th Nov *The Lusitania Disaster of May 1915 – Dr Colin Chapman (Zoom)*
Background, outcomes and consequences.
13th Dec *Our World Famous Hotpot Supper and Quiz! (Provisional)*

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):

At the time of going to press no physical group meetings have been arranged. We are waiting for Halton Borough Council to confirm we can return to in-person meetings at our usual venue.

Please see the FHSC website for the latest information.

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):

In July we had our first in-person meeting for sixteen months, back in our venue and actually meeting people - it was really great. We hope to be able to continue in this way, but we are still in the planning stage for speakers.

8th Sept ***Family History Question Time***

A panel will try to answer your family history questions. Please email any questions in advance to mariondavid.hall@gmail.com

13th Oct ***Cheshire Inn Signs - Tony Bostock***

10th Nov ***Our Family at War - Liz and Roger Mercado***

World War II Prisoners of War in the Far East, and the National Memorial Arboretum.

8th Dec ***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. I would really love some feedback or suggestions of anything members would like to include.

All back copies of our Lockdown Newsletters are available via our website 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 and click on SURNAMES. There is an increasing collection here to help you with your research. Add your own surnames and check if anyone else is researching the same families.

Our group is still twinning with the Bramhall group to deliver an alternating programme of Zoom meetings of talks and presentations.

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

There will be no physical group meetings until December.

14th Sept ***A double-headed talk by Margaret Roberts and Gay Oliver (Zoom)***

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.

Margaret will also be announcing the society's exciting new Zoom programme starting in October.

12th Oct ***Fletcher Moss and His Travels - Dr Diana M Leitch (Zoom)***

The talk illustrates the early explorations by bicycle and train in the early 20th century by this historian and his photographer companion, and is based on his seven books of *Pilgrimages to Old Houses*. Fletcher Moss visited many places in Cheshire and Shropshire, Staffordshire and North Wales.

9th Nov ***Researching House History - Jackie Depelle (Zoom)***

Taking over a family-built property prompted focused research of people, place and contents. Jackie draws on an extensive collection of sources, both online and awaiting discovery in archives, which provide information on properties as well as their inhabitants.

Who needs David Olusoga?

7th Dec ***Tameside Members' Social evening (In person)***

I am hoping that by December we can meet in person; this will be a brilliant excuse to all get together for a social lunch or evening and find out what everyone has been up to during lockdown.

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*

We are hoping that by September we will again be able to meet in person.

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

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...

19th Oct ***Estate and manorial records - Gill Campbell***

We've all heard about manor houses and the Lord of the Manor but do we all know about the records kept within a manor?

Gill will tell us about the types and locations of records that might help with your family history.

16th Nov ***Wirral Watercourses - Gavin Hunter***

A fascinating illustrated tour of the streams and rivers that serve the Wirral peninsula from West Kirby to Shotwick and from Wallasey to Ledsham.

December ***No meeting***

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

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

Family History Podcast

Part 1 of a podcast on Family History Societies by our own Margaret Roberts (Publicity and Social Media Officer), recorded for the Amateur Family History podcast series, can be found at

<https://amateurfamilyhistory.com/2021/07/28/episode-30-family-history-societies-part-1/>

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**

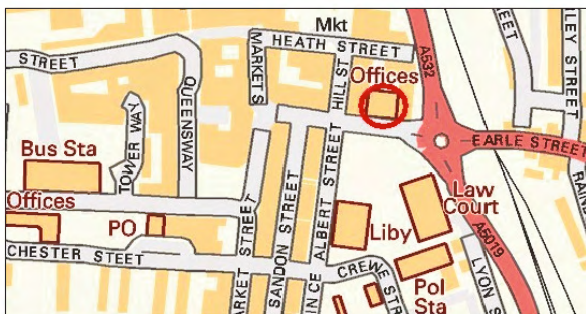
The Municipal Building is situated near the market and opposite Memorial Square and the old library. Crewe Register Office is in the same building. All visitors must sign in and out at reception. You will be directed to the second floor; a lift is available.

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.

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.



Location of Groups



ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES

UK INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP with a printed CHESHIRE ANCESTOR	-	£18.00
UK INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP with an electronic CHESHIRE ANCESTOR	-	£13.00
UK FAMILY GROUP MEMBERSHIP (all at the same address)		
		Above rates plus £2.00 per family
OVERSEAS MEMBERSHIP with an electronic CHESHIRE ANCESTOR	-	£13.00

Special arrangements will be made for overseas members who need a printed copy.
Membership commences on the day of receipt of an application.

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

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 page 2 for full details)

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.

MEMBER'S PHOTO



The LEA Family, Allostock.

It's early May 1935 and a dapper-looking young driver, my father, stands by a recently purchased Bedford 3-ton lorry. The lorry has been spruced up and decorated, ready to take part in the King George V Silver Jubilee celebrations.

A sheeted-up Foden traction engine and a threshing box are in the background because the photograph was taken in the yard at Boots Green Cottage, Allostock, where the family business of threshing and road haulage was based. The lorry would normally have been used to carry churns of milk from local farms to the dairy and also salt from the New Cheshire Salt Works at Wincham; the headboard above the cab advertises its product, Selva Table Salt.

For me, there is a certain poignancy to the picture. My grandfather, George Henry LEA, died shortly before the photograph was taken, and my fifteen-year-old father, George Samuel LEA, was about to give up his place at Altrincham Grammar School to help run the family business.

From Brian Lea, membership no. 10305