

CHESHIRE ANCESTOR



The Journal of the
Family History Society of Cheshire



In this edition

'LBSC' - Professional Name-Changer (part 3)
The Last Milk Round ❖ 1921 News
The Symms of Tarpорley ❖ Sixty Generations!
Margaret Ann Wood - the Miller ❖ and more...

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OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

CHAIRMAN

Alan Bennett
8 Barford Drive, Lowton
Warrington WA3 1DD
chairman@fhsc.org.uk

HONORARY SECRETARY

Howard Martin
2 Roxburgh Close
Macclesfield SK10 3QE
Tel: 01625 613310
secretary@fhsc.org.uk

HONORARY TREASURER

David Smetham
Little Trees
Gawsworth Road
Gawsworth
Macclesfield SK11 9RA
Tel: 01625 426173
treasurer@fhsc.org.uk

HONORARY EDITOR

Mrs Rosie Rowley
5 Davidson Avenue
Congleton CW12 2EQ
editor@fhsc.org.uk

JOURNAL DISTRIBUTION

Mrs Angela Moore
6 Woodlands Close
Stalybridge SK15 2SH
Tel: 0161 338 3129
magazines@fhsc.org.uk

CHESHIREBMD & UKBMD

Ian Hartas
webmaster@cheshirebmd.org.uk

MOBBERLEY RESEARCH CENTRE LIBRARIAN

Joan Irving
62 Orme Crescent
Macclesfield SK10 2HS
Tel: 01625 421545
librarian@fhsc.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP (RENEWALS)

Kevin Dean
7 Fields Drive
Sandbach CW11 1YB
renewals@fhsc.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP (ENROLMENT)

Mrs Angela Moore
6 Woodlands Close
Stalybridge SK15 2SH
(*new members only*)
membership@fhsc.org.uk

PUBLICITY & SOCIAL MEDIA

Margaret Roberts
social.media@fhsc.org.uk

WEB ADMINISTRATION

Gay Oliver
26 Woodville Drive
Stalybridge SK15 3EA
web.admin@fhsc.org.uk

PROJECTS ADMINISTRATOR

Lesley Smetham
Little Trees
Gawsworth Road
Gawsworth
Macclesfield SK11 9RA
Tel: 01625 426173

ELECTRONIC PROJECTS

Peter Davenport
Glenside, One Oak Lane
Wilmslow SK9 2BL
Tel: 01625 533936
electronic.projects@fhsc.org.uk

BOOK/CD SALES & OUTSIDE EVENTS

Vacant
Temporary Contact:
David Smetham
Little Trees
Gawsworth Road
Gawsworth
Macclesfield SK11 9RA
Tel: 01625 426173
book.sales@fhsc.org.uk

WEBMASTER

Alan Bennett
8 Barford Drive, Lowton
Warrington WA3 1DD
webmaster@fhsc.org.uk

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See Margaret Ann Wood, the Miller, by Emily Hudson, page 36.



CHESHIRE ANCESTOR

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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 sent letters and articles - please keep them coming; it makes my life so much easier when I have plenty of items of different lengths to choose from. I won't necessarily use every item in the next issue but rest assured, everything will appear eventually!

In the last issue of the **ANCESTOR** I asked members to help me by filling in a short survey. I have had a few responses but would love to receive more feedback. If you no longer have the form, please just email or write, telling me what you enjoy most about the **ANCESTOR**, and what you don't like or never read. Thank you.

At the time of writing, in January, everyone is excited about the release of the 1921 census. On that theme, I have included a lot of extracts from the 1921 newspapers to give an idea of what life was like in 1921. Important events include the miners' strike, which resulted in the census being delayed for two months, and the aftermath of the Great War, with war memorials being dedicated and the first Poppy Day taking place on 11th November, supported by the newly-formed British Legion.

The 1921 census was originally due to take place on Sunday 24th April, but because of the strike it was delayed until Sunday 19th June. The census forms had already been printed and so they show the incorrect date; also, by mid-June, many people were on holiday, so if your ancestors are not at their usual address you may find them in a boarding house at a holiday resort. If you find anything interesting in the 1921 census, please send it to me for the **ANCESTOR**.

Also in this issue is an article about researching back to the mists of early time by Peter Denny, who has a massive sixty generations in his family tree going back to before 355AD! How far back have you got? Another interesting article is from Brian Lea, who tells us about collecting milk in churns and taking them to the dairy to be processed. Do you have a story about bygone times? Pandemic aside, how does life today compare to when you were a child? No computers or mobile phones, maybe not even a telephone in the house - perhaps you joined a queue outside a public phone box? Write in and share your memories!

Chairman's Jottings

by Alan Bennett



Happy New Year, and welcome to our latest issue of the **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**.

There has been a significant release of the 1921 census on Find My Past since our last issue. I imagine that many of you have been using it to break down brick walls. My decision has been to make very little use for now, due to the fact I want to access hundreds - if not thousands - of records and the cost per image makes that prohibitive.

However, when I purchased the records for my paternal grandparents, just to see what the 1921 census records look like, I was surprised to find unexpected information! I found my grandparents in the index, which showed they were living with the FREETH family. This triggered me to buy the record. What I found was a shock, as my grandparents were listed as **daughter and son-in-law** of Ada FREETH, and **their son was her grandson**. This is at odds with all the information I previously had. My initial supposition is that this record was accurate - why else would Ada claim these relationships? I ordered Ada's will to see if this would clarify things but it didn't.

Ada was born Ada WILCOCK, the niece of the lady I thought was my great-grandmother. She wasn't married at the time of my grandmother's birth, so that could suggest a family coverup. They were staunch Methodists.

My next step is to use DNA to see if all my connections can prove the truth.

If you have found something interesting or surprising in the 1921 census, do share it with us by sending it to Rosie, the Editor of the **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**.

Over the Christmas break I have added lots more monumental inscription records to the online shop on the FHSC website. Please take a look to see if any can help you and your brick walls. Some are free, due to them being from very small cemeteries, and most are less than £5. A list of the latest records can be found elsewhere in this issue.

Society News and Notices

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

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.

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*. Contact details for all groups are inside the back cover.

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.

2-Mar-22	Runcom Group	TBA
9-Mar-22	Sale Group	<i>My Favourite Ancestor</i> - Terry Dean
10-Mar-22	Bramhall Group	TBA
10-Mar-22	Computer Group	TBA (Zoom)
14-Mar-22	Northwich Group	TBA
15-Mar-22	Congleton Group	TBA
15-Mar-22	Crewe & Nantwich Groups	<i>Dating Old Photographs</i> - Stephen Gill (Zoom)
15-Mar-22	Wallasey Group	<i>Researching House History</i> - Jackie Depelle (Zoom)
16-Mar-22	FHSC Zoom Seminar	<i>Titanic Honour & Glory: Revealing the Unforgettable Story of the Tragic Liner</i> - Sean Szmalc (Zoom)
28-Mar-22	Bebington Group	TBA
31-Mar-22	Chester Group	<i>A Brief History of Surnames</i> - David Guyton
6-Apr-22	Runcom Group	TBA
11-Apr-22	Northwich Group	TBA
12-Apr-22	Crewe Group	Face-to-Face social meeting
13-Apr-22	Computer Group	TBA (Zoom)

13-Apr-22	Sale Group	<i>Where did Your Family Come From? - Members</i>
14-Apr-22	Bramhall Group	TBA
15-Apr-22	Alsager Group	<i>The Mainwarings of Peover Hall - David Young</i>
19-Apr-22	Congleton Group	TBA
19-Apr-22	Crewe & Nantwich Groups	<i>Posted in the Past - Helen Baggott (Zoom)</i>
19-Apr-22	Wallasey Group	<i>Just a Bundle of Papers in a Charity Shop - Alison Williams; plus Castanets, Beaded Pink Feathered etc</i>
20-Apr-22	FHSC Zoom Seminar	<i>DNA Journey: Tales from the TV Programme - Dr Michala Hulme (Zoom)</i>
25-Apr-22	Bebington Group	TBA
26-Apr-22	Macclesfield Group	<i>Ten Thousand Years of Bling - John Wallace</i>
28-Apr-22	Chester Group	<i>The Colour of Heraldry - Tony Bostock</i>
4-May-22	Runcom Group	TBA
9-May-22	Northwich Group	TBA
10-May-22	Crewe & Nantwich Groups	<i>Overpaid, Oversexed, Over Here: The GIs in Britain - Rina Tillinger (Zoom)</i>
11-May-22	Computer Group	TBA (Zoom)
11-May-22	Sale Group	TBA
12-May-22	Bramhall Group	TBA
16-May-22	Alsager Group	<i>Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy - Olivia Smedley</i>
17-May-22	Congleton Group	TBA
17-May-22	Wallasey Group	<i>Before Parish Registers - David Guyton</i>
18-May-22	FHSC Zoom Seminar	<i>The Second County Asylum for Cheshire: Macclesfield - Kathryn Burtinshaw (Zoom)</i>
23-May-22	Bebington Group	TBA
24-May-22	Macclesfield Group	<i>Whose Ancestor Is It Anyway? Ethics in Family History - Margaret Roberts and Ann Simcock</i>
26-May-22	Chester Group	<i>The Golden Age of the Picture Postcard - Linda Clarke</i>
1-Jun-22	Runcom Group	TBA
8-Jun-22	Computer Group	TBA (Zoom)
9-Jun-22	Bramhall Group	TBA
13-Jun-22	Northwich Group	TBA
13-Jun-22	Sale Group	TBA
14-Jun-22	Crewe Group	Face-to-face meeting (topic TBA)
15-Jun-22	FHSC Zoom Seminar	<i>My Ancestor was a Liar - Dave Annal (Zoom)</i>
20-Jun-22	Alsager Group	TBA
21-Jun-22	Crewe & Nantwich Groups	<i>England's First Warranted Policewoman - Bob Knowles (Zoom)</i>
21-Jun-22	Wallasey Group	<i>Crossing the Mersey - Gavin Hunter</i>
27-Jun-22	Bebington Group	TBA
28-Jun-22	Macclesfield Group	TBA
30-Jun-22	Chester Group	<i>Historical Research Using British Newspapers - Denise Bates</i>

Volunteer News

Society Vacancies

The society is seeking new volunteers for the following posts:

Wanted: Honorary Secretary

Howard Martin has now exceeded the secretary's usual five-year term of office and the society is seeking a replacement. **For information, please contact the current postholder, Howard Martin (secretary@fhsc.org.uk)**

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)

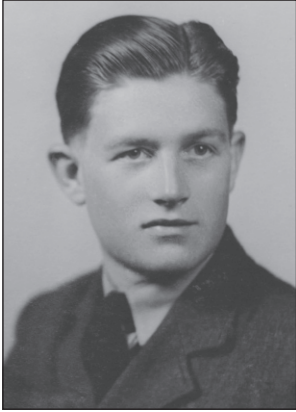
Wanted: Book/CD Sales Officer

We are looking for a volunteer to manage our book and CD sales. David Smetham is fulfilling sales until we find a replacement volunteer.

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

Obituary: Chester Guttridge

by Rosie Rowley
Journal Editor



Chester Guttridge, a society member and author of a great many interesting and entertaining articles for the **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**, passed away just before Christmas 2021 at the age of ninety-seven.

Chester was a prolific contributor to the **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**, submitting his first article - when aged ninety-two - around the time that I became the editor, in early 2016. Since then, I have produced twenty-five issues and these include a total of twenty-seven contributions by Chester. Some of his articles were rather long and had to be split into parts, but every issue published from March 2016 onwards, except one, contains at least one item by Chester. When I heard of his death, I still had a couple of Chester's articles in hand, and I obtained permission from his family to print them in this and future issues.

Although I never met him, I gradually got to know Chester through our email correspondence. He was a lovely man and had a terrific sense of humour; I shall miss his anecdotes pinging into my in-box.

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

by Margaret Roberts
Publicity & Social Media Officer
publicity@fhsc.org.uk



Once again FHSC members have been treated to an extensive range of Zoom and in-person talks, as well as the start of our innovative *Seminar Series*, which members will be pleased to know includes an optional subtitle facility. The series got underway with the inaugural Dorothy Flude Memorial Lecture, given by local historian and author Mark Potts, the subject of which was one close to Dorothy's heart - *The Russell Villers Twins* - and enjoyed by all who attended.

The guest speaker at the November seminar was Nick Barratt, who regaled us with his interesting talk *Behind the Scenes at WDYT YA*. In December, Martin Johnes took us through the Christmas traditions we hold dear, many of which turned out not to have originated in the UK at all.

Finally, just as the 1921 census hit the internet, the Seminar team was delighted to welcome FindMyPast's Myko Clelland who entertained over 200 members with an enjoyable and informative talk with a perfect mix of facts, figures, hints, and tips. I'm sure everyone who attended learned something new and a huge thanks must go to Myko who was more than generous with his time, spending almost forty-five minutes answering questions after the end of the talk. We were pleased to receive permission to record the talk which gave members who were unable to attend the live talk another opportunity to see it, and others had a second chance to assimilate the huge amount of information given.

The Zoom events hosted by the groups included talks by Sarah Webb, Diane Leitch, Tony Bostock, John Higgins, Dave Thomas, Margaret Roberts, Liz and Roger De Mercado, Ann Simcock and Rob Thompson, all of whom are local, showing that we don't need to go outside Cheshire to find excellent speakers. As always, the variety of topics continues to be outstanding and FHSC members cannot fail to be impressed with the work carried out by all involved to present such a diverse programme. Many groups also managed to squeeze in a Christmas get-together, either in person or on Zoom.

Remember that, as a society member, you can attend any of the events hosted by any group. Check the Events page of the website (www.fhsc.org.uk/new-events) and if anything grabs your attention then contact the group leader to receive the joining notification when it is released.

Since the last issue of the **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR** several podcasts have been released by the Family History Federation under the Really Useful Podcast banner. I have been part of a number of them, and the recordings can all be found at www.familyhistoryfederation.com/podcast

The Seminar team has just announced that the genealogical mystery crime writer and author of the *Moreton Farrier, Forensic Genealogist* books, Nathan Dylan Goodwin, will be joining FHSC for a live Q&A Zoom on 7th February. A review of Nathan's latest book *The Foundlings* is in this issue and a report of the event will be printed in the next issue of the **ANCESTOR**.

Members' FREE Research Lookup Service

Now that the Mobberley Research Centre has reopened, we are able to resume this service. Note that the service is subject to any changes to the Covid-19 regulations and time available to volunteers.

This is a free service for members only.

We will search our research resources (see the list on the FHSC website) for specific information about one named person. For example: a search for a marriage, baptism or burial record or a search for a memorial inscription. We will also check other indexes that we hold. We will respond as quickly as possible but please remember that the Research Centre is staffed by volunteers who also have other duties.

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

Requests can be submitted:

- **Online at www.fhsc.org.uk**

Log in to the website, then navigate to
SHOP > PRODUCTS > SERVICES > RESEARCH SERVICE.

- **By post**

Please include your name, membership number, contact details and a correctly stamped, addressed envelope (at least C5 size). Send to:

Family History Society of Cheshire Lookup Service, Mobberley Research Centre, Rajar Building, Town Lane, Mobberley, Cheshire, WA16 7ER.

Research Centre News

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

NOTE: At the time of going to press, Crewe FHU was still closed. Members will be notified on the website when we are able to reopen.

Mobberley Research Centre

by Joan Irving



By the time you receive this issue of the **ANCESTOR** many of you will have delved into the 1921 census and I hope you have had success in finding your family members. Unfortunately access to the census will not be possible for the time being at Mobberley as charges are being made to view the records; however, there are many more resources available to help you find your ancestors. Find My Past and Ancestry have added a lot more records for other counties and the two websites together cover many areas of England.

The library has continued to receive donations, including some local books from the late Mobberley volunteer Keith Plant, and a collection of wills from Keith and Marie Ball. An interesting book called *The Spanish Flu Epidemic and its Influence on History* (reviewed in the **ANCESTOR** in March 2021) gives an insight into the other great pandemic of 100 years ago, though you may feel you have had enough of the present pandemic to want to find out about the earlier one! Remember that most of the books which are reviewed in the **ANCESTOR** are subsequently available in the library at Mobberley, so do enquire if you read about a book that sounds interesting.

Peter Davenport has been very busy adding data to the external hard drive and it is definitely worth a look to see if any of the data is relevant to your research. It covers many other areas in addition to Cheshire.

We at Mobberley hope you will feel confident enough to come and visit us at the Research Centre by the time you receive this **ANCESTOR**. We truly hope the pandemic will soon be over and life will get back to normal. It has been a long and arduous journey. The Duty Volunteers would welcome more visitors; they are ready to help with your research, so please do come - remember that we are open on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday except bank holidays etc.

Crewe Family History Unit

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

I am sorry to say that at the time of writing this report we still do not have permission to reopen the Family History Unit at Crewe. I will continue to check for updates and notify all when the situation changes.

FHSC Website News

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

The website has had some improvements over the past few months; here are a few of the recent changes:

Events

You will notice that there are three different types of events; in-person, Group Zoom Meeting or FHSC Seminars. This means that members have a wide choice of talks and presentations to participate in.

- For the in-person events, you just need to make a note of the time and place and attend on the evening.
- Group Zoom Meetings - contact the group leader and ask to be sent the Zoom links for the meeting.
- FHSC Seminars - are organised slightly differently and you need to register beforehand via the website. Registration for each Seminar usually opens on the first of the month.

Simply log in to the FHSC website using your user name and password; Go to the Events page and scroll down to the seminar event; Click on the **blue title** and then click the **Join** button, followed by the **Save** button. You will shortly receive a confirmation email, and the Zoom links will be emailed to you two days before the meeting.

Document Library

Margaret Roberts, the Social Media officer, and I often upload new newsletters here from various organisations, as well as our own monthly newsletters.

Recent News

Margaret adds genealogy-related news items here almost daily.

Start-Up Guide

I have written a guide to help people, especially new members, to get started using our website and for all members to explore further. This guide can be downloaded using the link at the bottom of column two of our home page, under the heading **Why You Should Join**.

Forum

This is becoming more active, and members often reply to questions which are posted here. If you need some help with your research, go to the forum and ask a question – another member might know the answer!

1921 News (1) From the Runcorn Weekly News, 8 April 1921

THE COAL STOPPAGE

RAILWAYMEN AND TRANSPORT WORKERS AFFECTED INDUSTRIAL CRISIS – ECONOMY IN FUEL AND POWER

The collieries of the country have been closed for a week with the inevitable result that the communal life and industries of Merseyside, in common with every other district in the country, have been seriously affected. There is a conflict between the mine-owners and the Miners' Federation as to the points at issue... no more coal is being dug out to replenish the stocks... In the meantime, there have been the appeals for economy... The weather has been on the whole kind, and there is not the same need for the use of coal for warming dwellings and institutions; then two days after the miners ceased work summer time came into vogue, which brought a saving in light...

The misfortune of unemployment has its advantage in the fact that less than the normal amount of fuel is being used in the works. Emergency orders have been put into operation rationing coal for domestic purposes, the allowance being fixed at 1cwt a week. This amount is not adequate to the needs of the ordinary household, but it will obviate serious hardship...

RAILWAYMEN'S RESOLUTION

At a meeting of the Widnes branch of the National Union of Railwaymen, the following resolution was passed: "That this meeting... regrets the national lock-out of miners. We believe that... the miners are justified in resisting... [This] is a deliberate attempt to lower wages below a reasonable standard of living for the workers... We feel that the battle now being waged is not only one for... the Triple Alliance but for the whole of the organised workers in this country."

Help Wanted

If you are stuck on any aspect of your research, just send an email to editor@fhsc.org.uk or post a letter to the address inside the front cover with your name and membership number, and confirming that you agree to publication of your email and/or postal address so other researchers can contact you. Remember you can also ask a question on the FHSC website forum at www.fhsc.org.uk/new-forum/research-assistance

James BROWN of Chester

I am looking for any information or anyone who is researching or connected to my 3x great-grandfather James BROWN, born 1793, and his wife Mary EVANS, who were married in 1814 at St Oswald's Church, Chester. They had at least two children, James Heakes BROWN (1815-1900) and John Nathaniel BROWN (1820-1841). It is believed that they lived in Crooks Lane, Chester around 1815-20. Mary was at Northgate Street Blue School Alms Houses in 1841.

David Griggs

DaveGriggs@msn.com

Richard DELAHAY of Macclesfield

On 28 June 1767 Richard DELAHAY married Jennifer alias Jane EDDY at St Just in Penwith, Cornwall. The entry in the parish register reads, *Richard Delahay of St George's Macclesfield, Co Cheshire, Mariner*. I understand that St George's Church, Macclesfield was built in 1822. Was there one before this? Are there records? Richard continued to live in Cornwall and his name occurs in several later families. I should love to find his antecedents.

Susan Weeks

soodle.weeks@gmail.com

Ed.: the GENUKI website can produce a list of churches for a location, showing the opening and closing dates (if available), at www.genuki.org.uk/churchdb

You are correct in saying that St George's Church, Macclesfield was built in 1822; as far as I know, there wasn't a previous St George's church. There is a St George's Church in nearby Poynton, founded in 1723. Many Cheshire church records are available on Find My Past - see www.findmypast.co.uk/articles/world-records/search-all-uk-records/special-collections/the-cheshire-collection

Remember that the place stated in the marriage register was probably Richard's current place of settlement, not necessarily where he had been baptised.

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 between 1 November 2021 and 29 January 2022:

ALLMAN

BOYNE-BROWN

CARSON-CASH-CAWLEY-CLARIDGE

DERBYSHIRE-DREWETT-DUTTON

EVANS

GEE

HIGHAM

JANNYE-JOHNSON-JONES

KELSALL-KINGSTON

LEIGH

MARSHALL-MCDERMOTT-MORETON-MORT-MUMFORD

NIXON

OUSEY

PEARSON-POOLE-PULFORD

QUIGLEY

RAWLAND/RAWLANDS-ROWLAND/ROWLANDS-

RIDING/RIDINGS/RYDING-RYAN

SMITH-STAFFORD

TURTON

VATERS

WARBURTON-WHITEHEAD-WHITELEGG-WILD-WILKINSON-

WOODWARD

New Items in the Online Shop

Below is a selection of items that have recently been added to the FHSC online shop as downloadable files; some are free of charge, others cost under £5.

To buy, log in to the FHSC website at www.fhsc.org.uk, then click on *Shop>Products>Downloads*. Find the items you wish to buy, add them to your basket, then check out. You have to check out even if the items you want are free, but you will not need to supply payment details. To find the free downloads, click on the *Sort Product by* button, then click *Price (Low > High)*.

Note: prices are quoted as (*Excl. tax*) but VAT is not payable on these items in the UK, so for UK residents there will be no tax to pay.

The following are all transcriptions of Memorial Inscriptions:

Antrobus St Mark	Kelsall Methodist
Appleton Hill Cliffe Baptist	Kingsley
Appleton Thorn St Cross	Lach Dennis All Saints
Ashton Hayes St John	Lindow St John the Evangelist
Aston By Sutton St Peter	Liscard St Alban
Barnston Christ Church	Little Budworth St Peter
Barnton Christ Church	Marple Cote Green Methodist
Bebington Christ Church	Moreton Christ Church
Birkenhead Friends' Meeting House	Nantwich St Mary
Church Minshull St Bartholomew	Over by Winsford Congregational (United Reformed)
Congleton St James the Great	Over by Winsford St Chad
Daresbury All Saints New Churchyard	Port Sunlight Christ Church
Dunham Massey St Mary	Rock Ferry St Peter
Egremont St John	Smallwood St John the Baptist
Frankby with Greasby St John the Divine	Stockport High St Unitarian
Great Budworth St Mary	Stockport St Mary
Great Sutton St John	Stockport St Peter
Guilden Sutton and Hoole Assorted	Stockton Heath St Thomas
Hartford St John the Baptist	Thurstaston St Bartholomew
Haslington Cemeteries	Upton by Birkenhead St Mary
Heaton Mersey Congregational (The Church of the Upper Room)	Wallasey St Hilary
Heswall St Peter	Walton St John the Evangelist
Hollinfare St Helen	Wilmslow Quaker Burial Ground
Hoylake Holy Trinity	Witton St Helen
	Woodchurch Holy Cross
	Woodhead St James

Family History Events

For news of family history events, see these online calendars

*<http://geneva.weald.org.uk/>
www.familyhistoryfederation.com/events
www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/united-kingdom/genealogy/
<https://conferencekeeper.org/>*

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.

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. *FHSC will be present*

<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/next/>

THE Genealogy Show Spring Event (online)

12.00pm Friday 1st - 12.00pm Sunday 3rd April

Content available online for 30 days. *FHSC will be present*

<https://thegenealogyshow.uk/>

The Family History Show (York)

10.00am - 4.30pm Sat. 25th June 2022

at The Knavesmire Exhibition Centre, The Racecourse, York, YO23 1EX

Ample free parking - 1½ miles walk/taxi from York station

Ask the Experts - Talks - Family History Societies

Early Bird Ticket Offer: two tickets for £8; on the day £8 each

Each ticket includes a free goody bag worth £8 on arrival

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

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

Royal Air Force Operations Record Books (ORBs), 1911-1963:

www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62280/

Includes complete records for each squadron with names and service details of some servicemen. Also includes records for allied squadrons from other countries under British command.

The original records are held in series AIR 27 at the National Archives, Kew.

UK, Records of the Removal of Graves and Tombstones, 1601-1980

www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/61802/

Contains records from local authorities and Church Commissioners concerning the removal of burial sites. The burial sites include those from church, private, and public cemeteries.

The original records are held in series RG 37 at the National Archives, Kew.

UK, Military Baptisms, Confirmations, Marriages and Burials, 1813-1957

www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62113/

Contains registrations of baptisms, confirmations, banns, marriages, and burials for individuals who served in the British military, including those stationed overseas. The original records were recorded by military chaplains, so includes the level of detail you would find in parish records. While the Church of England is the official state religion of the United Kingdom, people of other faiths have been able to join the British military since 1793.

The original records are held in series WO 156 at the National Archives, Kew.

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

1921 Census

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/1921-census>

Records are only available using a personal login on a pay-per-view basis - you do not need to be a FMP subscriber to view the records, although you do have to register with FMP (free of charge). There is an automatic 10% discount on the purchase of records for those with an annual FMP Pro subscription. You cannot view 1921 census records at an archive or library using the library's FMP access, except at the National Archives, Kew, Manchester City Library, and the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, where 1921 census records can be viewed and downloaded free of charge.

Early feedback suggests that the transcriptions (£2.50) often contain errors, so it's well worth paying the extra £1 to view the actual image. Be sure to click on *Extra Materials* as these images include the address page and other useful information such as a description of the enumeration district. Access these pages later by searching for the same record and clicking on the image icon to go straight to viewing the image - you will not be charged again.

Some information can be gleaned by using the free search. Results from the person search give name, year and place of birth, and location in 1921; click on one of the last two icons on the line (record transcription and image) to pop up a window with the names of up to three people in the household (including the one you found). If you cannot find your family, but have an address, try the address search.

The Ogilby Muster: Cheshire Yeomanry archives

www.theogilbymuster.com

From the Cheshire Archives newsletter: The Ogilby Muster (TOM) is a First World War digital archive which launched on 3 November 2021. There are currently 75 participating collections and more set to join. You can search and view photographs, documents, letters and diaries covering 1900-1929 held in regimental museums and archives across the UK. The platform includes records from the Cheshire Yeomanry collection which Cheshire Archives holds on behalf of the Cheshire Yeomanry Regimental Association.

FamilySearch Library Lookup Service

www.familysearch.org/blog/en/library-lookup-service-fhl

With a free FamilySearch account, you can search the online database. Some books and other materials only have the index entry online - the image must be accessed at the Salt Lake City Family History Library, a Family History Centre or an Affiliate Library. Due to Covid-19, visiting one of these facilities is often not possible so, in an effort to serve the global FamilySearch audience, this free lookup service was created. Staff at the library will find a specific record that cannot be viewed online and send you a copy. Library Lookup is NOT a research service; you must identify the record that you want to see.

Geoff Johnson (Computer Club) says: *I've used this service and received a good jpg of a parish register page. It's not fast, but it works well.*

GRO Online Index Updated

<https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/login.asp>

The GRO has updated their revised online indexes, adding births and deaths for 2020. Note that gaps still exist in the revised indexes for births between 1935 and 1983 inclusive, and for deaths between 1958 and 1983 inclusive.

Thomas Cook Archive

<http://record-office-catalogue.leics.gov.uk/CalmView/>

Part of the Thomas Cook archive is now available on the Leicestershire Archives online catalogue. The collection includes minute books, staff records, posters, timetables, staff magazines, uniforms and some 60,000 photographs.

New MOD Online Ordering for Some Service Records

www.gov.uk/guidance/request-records-of-deceased-service-personnel

Some post-WWI Ministry of Defence service records - Royal Navy (including Royal Marines) from 1926 and RAF from 1920 - can now be ordered online. The fee is still £30 (free for a spouse or parent); a death certificate is needed if the person did not die in service, and processing the request can take a year!

Wirral Archives Service

www.wirral.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives/wirral-archives-service

Wirral Archives Service no longer charge visitors for the use of their own cameras or mobile phones to take images of documents.

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 remains a popular item. As in previous editions of the ANCESTOR, I am listing a selection of these archives so members who do not use social media don't miss out on the information. 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 be of interest to family historians.

Oral History Recordings Collection

www.bl.uk/collection-guides/major-national-oral-history-projects-and-surveys

Part of the British Library archives, this large collection of oral history recordings offer details about British life, work and families in the twentieth century. These collections are national in scope and many are useful if you are researching political and social issues, health, disability, ethnicity and immigration, religion, food, art, and British heritage.

ScreenOcean

<https://screenocean.com/>

This site provides unparalleled access to unique, film-quality content from around the world, captured from 1896 to the present day. With just one search, you can get results from multiple archives, including Reuters, Channel 4, BAFTA, Clips & Footage, and more. The site also hosts collections from Featured Associates, such as the Imperial War Museums. Featured Associates participate in the One Search platform, making it easier for researchers to find content in one place. When you select items from the search results, you will be redirected appropriately. You must check the copyright on anything before using it; there are some great Cheshire film clips dating from the 1900s onwards.

Boots Archive

<http://archives.walgreensbootsalliance.com/>

This digital archive holds around 57,000 entries and includes photographs, letters, advertisements, building plans, and colleague magazines. It gives anyone interested in the history of the business the opportunity to discover and study resources rich in detail. Click on *What's in the catalogue?* for more information about the content, or click on a search option to enter the catalogue.

North-East Wales Archives

www.newa.wales

Formed in April 2020 when Denbighshire Archives (Ruthin) and Flintshire Record Office (Hawarden) came together to offer a joint service collecting historical records relating to north-east Wales, including Flint/Denbighshire maps and images. The digital collection is constantly growing so it's well worth bookmarking and returning to check.

Nineteenth-Century Business, Labour, Trade & Temperance Periodicals

www.bl19.co.uk

The site, run by Professor Andrew King at the University of Greenwich, is concerned with helping us to understand the history of our concept of *work* – what it is, what values we associate with it, and where our ideas about work come from. There are some great blogs and free access to several periodicals.

Duke University Library

<https://repository.duke.edu/>

Perhaps a surprising inclusion as this university is situated in North Carolina, USA. However, the repository holds a good deal of information on Macclesfield and has started to digitise this; they also have information on Cheshire yet to be scanned, so keep an eye on the site or contact them for details - they told me they are happy to help where they can. Link is to the main page; once there click on *Digitized Collections* and then use the search box at the top; e.g. just type Macclesfield to see a list of Macclesfield documents.

The Children's Homes Website

www.childrenshomes.org.uk

This website lists the many and various orphanages and institutions that were home to thousands of children, there is such of lot of information on this site run by Peter Higginbotham.

The Blacksmiths' Index

<https://blacksmiths.mygenwebs.com/index.php>

If you have blacksmiths (or other related trades) in your ancestry then this page may be useful. Click on the county you are interested in to see a list of surnames with brief details of each person and a link to the researcher for you to contact. You can add your own details if you wish.

The Ryerson Index

www.ryersonindex.org

Something for those with Australian ancestry or connections. The Ryerson Index is a free index to death notices appearing in Australian newspapers. The date range covered extends from the *Sydney Gazette* of 1803 up to newspapers

published within the last week or so. The Index also includes many funeral notices, and some probate notices and obituaries.

The Skibbereen Heritage Centre

<https://skibbheritage.com/>

Of interest to members with Irish ancestry, especially in Cork. The site has some fabulous searchable databases under the genealogy section as well as some interesting articles and stores which are well worth a read, Irish ancestry or not!

These represent just a small selection of the archives cited on the FHSC social media platforms in my Saturday section. To take full advantage and keep abreast of the updates to genealogical websites, follow the society on Facebook (www.facebook.com/CheshireFamilyHistory) or Twitter (@FHSoFCheshire).

1921 News (2) From the Cheshire Observer, 18 June 1921

CHESTER & THE CENSUS - How it is being taken

Every householder in Chester this week has received the form of schedule which must be filled up for the purpose of the national census, and delivered to the official enumerators on Monday morning next. The census arrangements for the city are under the supervision of Mr Arthur Hughson, the registrar of births, marriages and deaths, for the Chester City Sub-district... Mr Hughson has been engaged upon it since September of last year.... It is probable that an increase in the population of Chester compared with the figures of 1911 will be recorded, notwithstanding the heavy losses sustained in the Great War. During the last two years or more, the city's birth rate has shown a remarkable increase. This is especially satisfactory, in view of a concurrent diminution in the death rate.

The city has been divided into 31 districts, with an enumerator for each... As far as possible, employment in that capacity has been given to ex-Service men, provided they have the necessary qualifications. Special forms applicable to hotels, clubs and boarding-houses have been issued. For the use of lodgers, who live separate from the household, or any other persons who wish their return to be private, a special "confidential return," Form A2, has been supplied. This form was available only to those who had made previous application, and cannot now be obtained.

Any persons, such as doctors, nurses, railwaymen and night watchmen, who may be absent from home on Sunday night, must be accounted for in their household form, if they return to their homes on Monday morning... Special arrangements have been made for tabulating particulars of dwellers in canal boats, and all possible care will be taken to include wanderers who sleep out.

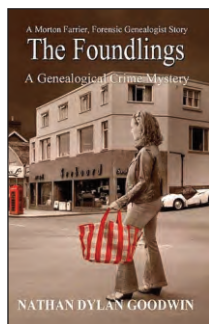
Book Reviews

Newly published items on Genealogical or Cheshire subjects in print or digital formats are welcomed for review. Please send to the editor (contact details inside front cover). After review, printed books are given to a society library. All pricing and other information is correct at the time of going to press.

The Foundlings

By Nathan Dylan Goodwin

Reviewed by Margaret Roberts



It is quite difficult to review this book, the ninth in the Moreton Farrier series by Nathan Dylan Goodwin, without spoiling the plot for you. This is a fast-paced story, which unfolds in the author's distinctive narrative style of moving between flashbacks and the present day, with enough twists and turns to keep even the most ardent Moreton Farrier fan guessing until the last page. Having read the whole series, I did feel as if I was returning to visit a family friend when I picked up this book, although it must also be said that each book can be read as a stand-alone story.

In his latest adventure, Farrier introduces DNA to his genealogical toolbox as he tries to discover the identity of the mother of three women, all abandoned as babies. The case soon becomes emotionally charged for Farrier, with his own family history so clearly embroidered throughout the tapestry of the story. It helps that the author is a family historian himself, with the descriptions of the various websites being exactly right; all family historians will find themselves relating to the online and archival records. You may even find yourself, as I did, second-guessing what steps Moreton would take. The explanations of the science behind DNA are not over-complicated, which they could so easily be, and the creative dexterity involved in drawing all the threads together to bring everything to a credible conclusion is sublime.

The Foundlings is on a par with the standard of previous books in the series and you definitely don't have to be a genealogist to enjoy this latest offering. I highly recommend it.

The previous books in Nathan Dylan Goodwin's Forensic Genealogist series are listed below in order of publication:

The Asylum (Prequel)

1. *Hiding the Past*
 2. *The Lost Ancestor*
 3. *The Orange Lilies*
 4. *The American Ground*
 5. *The Spyglass File*
 6. *The Missing Man*
- The Suffragette's Secret* (Short story)
7. *The Wicked Trade*
 8. *The Sterling Affair*
 9. *The Foundlings*

Independently published (28 Oct. 2021).

Paperback, 258 pages £8.99, Kindle £4.99 (other ebook formats are available).
ISBN-13:979-8481041421

Full details and purchasing information for all books by Nathan Dylan Goodwin, along with a free online story *Nathan in Lockdown*, can be found on the author's website www.nathandylangoodwin.com

1921 News (3) From the Runcorn Weekly News, 17 June 1921

NUMBERING THE PEOPLE

One of those little worries associated with civilisation will be experienced this weekend by the head of every establishment in the land, and there is no doubt that the "head" will call into the sharing of the burden all the other members of the family. It may thus be calculated that a hundred thousand persons on Merseyside will tomorrow and Sunday be endeavouring to understand the complicated census forms...

Imagine the official statisticians trying to gauge the employment conditions in Widnes, Runcorn and Garston from returns that will show half the working population as unemployed.

It seems it is the fate of the authorities to be in conflict with their subjects at census time. This year there is the industrial difficulty in England and Wales which will render the returns faulty, and the conditions in Ireland prevent any possibility of a census being taken there; in 1911 the militant suffragettes refused to fill up the forms; and in 1901 the country was involved in the South African war.

What problem will upset the calculations in 1931?

The Last Milk Round

by Brian Lea
Membership no. 10305

My father, George Samuel LEA, operated his final Cheshire milk round on 6th April 1966. It was the end of an era. His father, George Henry, had started with milk in 1928. But in all those thirty-eight years, they didn't lift a single bottle or milk crate. Their milk rounds weren't household deliveries; instead, they collected milk from farms and transported it in churns to a local dairy.

For most of those years, from 1933, the process was controlled and regulated by the Milk Marketing Board (MMB). Although by the 1940s the MMB operated their own transport fleet, a substantial amount of milk collection from farm to dairy was contracted out to private hauliers¹, my father being one of them.

In the early days, the churns would have been the large conical seventeen-gallon containers commonly seen in pre-war photographs. More manageable - and lighter - straight-sided cylindrical churns with press-on mushroom-shaped lids were introduced in the late 1930s. They held ten gallons, but the traditional technique of moving them by rolling them upright at a slight angle from vertical on their base rim was exactly the same. Half a million churns were being used in 1947¹. By the 1960s a sixty per cent rise in milk production² would have increased that number considerably. With a full ten-gallon churn weighing just over one hundredweight (cwt.), to ease loading, many farmers built raised platforms in the farmyard or at the roadside, although this wasn't by any means universal.

A short YouTube video from *thekinolibrary*, filmed in the late 1950s, entitled *1950s, 1960s UK Dairy Farm, Milk Collection*, provides a good illustration of the process and can be seen at www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQMVAIxfNNI. However, my recollection is that sterilised empty churns loaded at the dairy the previous day were unloaded first before the filled churns were loaded. As can be seen in the video, a label tied to each churn identified the farm and type of milk (ordinary or Channel Island). This would be retained by the dairy where the churns were unloaded and a "sniffer" would knock the lid off before the milk was inspected, weighed and poured into storage tanks. Milk rejected because of smell or other contamination would be relabelled and returned to the farmer. Emptied churns were sterilised and re-loaded on the lorry ready to be taken and exchanged for full ones on the next day's farm collection. Cows don't take

the weekend off, so it was a 365-days-a-year job for farmers, drivers and dairy workers. The C.W.S. lorry in the video was, of course, owned by the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

By the mid-sixties, churn collection was on its way out. It was less labour intensive and more hygienic to operate bulk collection by tankers, though for small dairy farmers producing up to thirty-five gallons a day (forty-six per cent of north-west dairy farmers)², investing in a refrigerated milk vat wasn't an attractive proposition. The changeover was a relatively slow process. Trialled by the MMB in Berkshire in 1955, within the next ten years just over a quarter of the milk produced in Cheshire was being collected by bulk tanker (nationally it was one-tenth). Finally, on 31st July 1979 the MMB ceased all milk churn collections³.



For as long as I can remember, going back to being a very young child, the milk lorry was driven by Alf WARD. Alf was born at the end of the nineteenth century at Peover Heath and lived for most of his adult life in a cottage at the Lower Peover end of Free Green Lane. In the early 1950s I vaguely remember that he drove an ex-WD Bedford OY wagon, which was replaced by a Seddon Mk 5. In the photograph, Alf is standing in front of his seven-ton Commer,

bought new by my father in 1960. Alf might not have completely agreed with the sales blurb claiming that ...*the layout of the cab and its fittings are more in keeping with a luxury car than a truck.*⁴ Nevertheless, for Alf, it was a far cry from the winter of 1917 when he was a half-frozen driver's mate on a Foden steam wagon.

My father always chose hardwood Keruing planks for the floor of the platform. Steel stanchions were slotted into the steel framework midway along the platform and at the rear corners. Instead of the usual chains, tubular steel rails with flattened ends were fixed to the stanchions with quick(ish)-release fastenings to hold the churns in place. These can be seen in the photograph. The raised headboard at the front end of the platform body protected the lorry cab and also helped support a raised section of stanchions and rails on which another tier of churns could be carried. The churns would be pulled tight to the headboard with a rope. A full load would be 120 churns. The photograph was taken in late summer when milk yields were lower than at their height in May and June², when the extra tier of churns would be needed. A full load of 120 churns would weigh-in at just under seven tons.

These are now distant memories from childhood, but as far as my brother and I can remember, the last milk round in 1965-6 was as follows:

No	Farm Name	Address	Family
1	Foxwood Farm	Off Grotto Lane, Over Peover	LEA
2	Woodlands Farm	Stocks Lane, Over Peover	STOKES
3	Daisy Bank Farm	Off Holmes Chapel Rd., Toft	GOOSTREY
4	Seven Sisters Farm	Off Holmes Chapel Rd., Toft	WILKINSON
5	Moss Bank Farm	Seven Sisters Lane, Toft	WILKINSON
6	Moseley Hall Farm	Chelford Road, Knutsford	MITCHELL
7	Brookhouse Farm	Chelford Road, Ollerton	LEECH
8	Bowden Bank Farm	Off Moss Lane, Ollerton	SPROSTON
9	Knowsley Farm	Chelford Road, Chelford	GLEDHILL
10	Astle Farm	Astle Lane, off Chelford Rd, Chelford	SPROSTON
11	Dumville's Farm	Bollington Lane, Monks' Heath	HEATHCOTE

The early morning circuit of pick-ups starting at Foxwood Farm and ending at Monks' Heath covered about thirteen miles. The first drop off point was five miles away from Dumville's Farm, up the A34 at The Wilmslow Creamery. This was situated on the corner of Manchester Road and Station Road in the block of buildings surrounded by Warham Street⁵. We think this may have been just

one or two churns of, we presume, Channel Island milk. We recall it was an awkward drop off at a busy junction with a narrow entrance. *The narrow entrance we had to back into at Wilmslow was a big problem with the added congestion of parked cars. The street was paved with square stone setts.*

From there, we turned north up the A34 Manchester Road and travelled across south Manchester for a further fifteen miles to the Co-op Dairy at Pendleton, Salford. The dairy stood at the corner of Ford Lane and Greenwood Street, opposite St. Thomas' Church⁶. My childhood memory is of entering the dairy just before the railway bridge on Ford Lane, driving round to the unloading dock, loading up with replacement churns, and exiting through the gate on Greenwood Street.

My brother remembers that the dairy workers became adept at moving the empty churns around: *They would spin one on each side of their body, keeping them spinning with the palms of their hands at a high speed. As a child, I always found this fascinating to watch. The churns would be offloaded onto a moving chain in the ground...the moving chain would take them to an automatic emptying machine. The churns then went to a steam cleaning plant that held them upside-down while they were sterilised; after this they would be put on another chain delivery to a loading bay where drivers loaded the emptied and cleaned churns ready for the next day. When the churns came back for loading the lids were replaced with a fairly loose fit on the top and the driver would then need to push-fit them into the churn properly. This didn't always happen. On one occasion coming back along the road by the Blue Bell Garage at Handforth, towards Wilmslow, one churn lid worked itself off and flew into the road. Luckily it didn't hit anything but the road surface!*

Earlier, I mentioned Channel Islands milk. Although a premium was paid by the MMB for milk from Guernsey and Jersey cows, it only accounted for about eight per cent of national milk production at this date². Predominantly, the dairy herds at the farms on the round were British Friesians, although I believe the WILKINSONS at Moss Bank Farm ran a herd of Ayrshires. How things change. Nearly sixty years later, British Friesians are an exception. Dairy herds are now dominated by Holsteins (a distinct breed developed originally from Dutch Friesian cattle imported into the United States c.1850) and Friesian/Holstein crosses⁷.

Change of a more tragic nature was to hit both Moss Bank Farm and Woodlands Farm in the 1960s when their livestock succumbed to foot and mouth disease in the outbreak that devastated many Cheshire dairy farms in the autumn of 1967. That November, the STOKES' lost forty-one cattle and twenty-two pigs and at Moss Bank the WILKINSONS thirty-two cattle were put down⁸.

Woodlands Farm specialised in rearing turkeys and was a roadside pick-up without a loading stage, so someone from the farm would come out when the milk lorry arrived and help lift the churns onto the lorry platform. Built in 1937, the farmhouse and land was one of sixteen holdings which formed the Peover smallholding estate. The sixteen tenancies were strung out along the south side of Stocks Lane between Furlane-ends and the *Whipping Stocks* public house. The Peover estate was one of forty-eight smallholding settlements in the county existing in the 1960s, which were developed and maintained by Cheshire County Council under the 1908, 1919 and 1926 Acts of Parliament⁹.

By the 1960s, well over half of all dairy farms in the country were owner-occupied, or owner-occupied with some rented land. In common with other counties, the large country estates with their tenanted farms which had dominated country life in nineteenth century Cheshire had been broken up during the first half of the twentieth century, and the farms sold off. An example of this was Brookhouse/Brook House Farm on the north side of the A537 at Ollerton, opposite BURGESS' smithy (later a garage). As an outlying farm on the Tatton Estate, it was sold off with its seventy-nine acres in October 1932¹⁰.

Many farms on the round had been farmed by the same family for many years. The WILKINSONs had been at Moss Bank Farm before the First World War and Joseph WILKINSON had been farming Seven Sisters since at least the 1920s. The SPROSTONs had farmed at Bowden Bank since 1940. The GOOSTREYs and the GLEDHILLs had been farming at Toft and Chelford prior to World War II, as had the SPROSTONs at Astle Farm and the HEATHCOTE family at Monks' Heath. I can't be sure, but it's possible that Leigh LEECH and his wife Ennis took on Brook House Farm after they got married in 1932. The LEA family at Foxwood were comparative newcomers to the farm, George LEA taking over from the VENABLES family around 1953. Arnold MITCHELL had taken over from John NORBURY at Moseley Hall Farm in 1954 or 1955.

Each farm pick-up was different. At Bowden Bank Farm my brother has memories of a long driveway leading to the farm buildings near the water tower and having the job of opening and closing gates for the milk lorry to pass through. At others, access to the farmyard could be a tight squeeze. At Moss Bank Farm on Seven Sisters Lane, you can still see the now bricked-up narrow roadside entrance between the farm buildings which required accurate reversing skills!

The GLEDHILL's farm - Knowsley Farm, with its buildings on the south side of the main road between Chelford roundabout and Monks' Heath - had a more colourful history than any of the other farms on the round. Before the GLEDHILLs farmed there, just before the outbreak of war in 1914, Knowsley

Farm was the scene of the nationally reported Chelford Farm Murder.¹¹ Eliza REEVES was found guilty of murdering William REEVES, her husband. A detailed report of the court proceedings was given in the *Manchester Evening News* of May 11th 1914. Later, at her trial at Chester Assizes, Eliza was found guilty and sentenced to be hanged. Nonetheless, the jury strongly recommended mercy and seventy-two-year-old Eliza's sentence was commuted by the Home Secretary to life imprisonment.

So, there we have it - a Cheshire milk round with no bottles or crates. I hope you've found it a fascinating glimpse into dairy farming in Cheshire from over half a century ago.

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1921 News (4) From the Macclesfield Times, 3 June 1921

VISITS TO FRANCE - A SALVATION ARMY ENTERPRISE

Always enterprising, the Salvation Army are arranging to conduct parties of relatives of deceased soldiers to the graves of the latter in Belgium and France. The first party from this district proceeds on July 27th, and there will be another party on September 3rd. If anyone wishes to make the journey other than at these times, efforts will be made to accommodate them. The charge is made on a graduated scale according to a person's income, and the trip is open to anyone, irrespective of religion. Arrangements are made to stay in London at one of the Salvation Army hostels on the night previous to the journey, and intending applicants have to present number, row and plot of the grave to be visited. Where a person is in poor circumstances arrangements are made to make the journey free of charge....

Two Wives named Starmer

by Gren Dix
Membership no. 4174

In 1878 Charles DIX, born 1859, married Ann STARMER, born 1861, in Kettering, Northamptonshire. I followed Charles through various censuses. Charles's father was an agricultural labourer. At the age of twelve Charles was also an ag lab. In 1881 he was an engine driver, and he was an engine fitter in 1891. By 1901 Charles, at forty, was an *engineer, mechanical* and in 1911 an *engineer, general*. Meanwhile, Ann was referred to in the records as Annie, Ann or Anney.

I looked at the 1939 register and found Charles. He was married - but the next entry was for Emma DIX, three years older than Charles and also married. Was she a new wife, or a relative of Charles? Where was Ann? A check in FreeBMD showed that Ann had died in Q1, 1925. Looking forward from 1925 I found that Charles had remarried in Q3, 1925. This was quick off the mark! But he was in his mid-sixties, so there wasn't much time to waste. His new wife was Emma STARMER. Was she a sister or cousin of his first wife Ann?

Ann was born Q2, 1861 (as Annie) so wasn't in the 1861 census. Ann's birth was in FreeBMD but I couldn't find her in the new GRO index. She was only in the 1871 census under her maiden name. I checked some of her siblings and found that her mother's maiden name was ASHBY, and she had married Ann's father in 1846. For my interest I traced the STARMER line back to 1841. There was no sign of the birth of an Emma. Who was she?

I found Emma in 1911, 1901, 1891 and 1881 living in Kettering with her husband John STARMER - she was born in Cold Brayfield, Buckinghamshire. A search of FreeBMD for the marriage of John STARMER and a lookup of their children in the GRO index showed that her maiden name was WESLEY. I found her in the 1871 census in the quaintly named village of Newton Blossomville, a few miles from where she was born. Looking at the previous census she was there with her family.

This still begs the question of whether Emma was related to Charles's first wife, Ann? I found that John STARMER had died in 1922. Following him back in the censuses gave a feeling of déjà vu. It turned out that her husband, John, was Ann's brother. Thus Charles married his sister-in-law.

The story is not quite over - I looked for Emma's birth. Two Emma WESLEYS were born in 1856 in the Newport Pagnell registration district, one registered in Q1 and the other in Q3. From the 1939 Register giving Emma's date of birth, my Emma was the second one. Emma died in 1941, and probate (for effects valued at £157) was granted to Charles Dix, *master engineer*.

Finally, in his own will, proved in 1943, Charles left just over £6000, about one-third of a million pounds in today's money. Not bad for the son of an ag lab!

Sixty Generations!

by Peter Denny

Membership No: 7278

peter.r.denny@btinternet.com

I have been intending to produce and submit this article for quite some time but somehow life got in the way; also, I was half expecting someone to beat me to it. I have been researching my family history for many, many years now, and I well remember that when I started, I was told on a number of occasions, *just don't expect to get back to William the Conqueror*. Well, I believe I have!

I have established a direct line to WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR, showing him as my 33x great-grandfather. I have then continued to see how much further I could get and have eventually come to a stop at MARCOMA, born before 355 AD. The line to MARCOMA shows him as my 55x great-grandfather and from him to my grandchildren gives me the grand total of sixty generations.

Tracing my ancestors this far was achieved in several stages using different kinds of research and sources.

The first stage was covered as far as I could by the normal route of trawling through civil and parish registers and the census, tramping through graveyards, and so on. This took me through twelve generations to a HOLLINSHEAD in 1620 and a FAIRBANKS in 1635.

To get much further back relies on a huge amount of luck from your ancestors, which of course is well out of your control. You really need a branch of the family of sufficient note and influence to warrant their life events and achievements being already recorded for you, such as their inclusion in *Burkes Peerage*, *Encyclopaedia Britannica* and other historical books or records.

My luck on this front was through my great-great-grandmother Sophia ARDEN (1835-1902). The ARDENs were a well-to-do old Cheshire family from Arderne Hall near Tarporley. This family took me through some twenty-two generations from Sophia to WALKELYN DE ARDERNE (1218-1255) and from there via the MONTALTS to HUGH DE KEVILIOC, Earl of Chester (1099-1181). Hugh was the grandson of KING HENRY I (1068-1135) and great-grandson of WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR (1028-1087), which completed the journey thus far.

The nature of the research changes again when going further back from William the Conqueror and now you need to look at previously researched established facts from historical documents, reference books, *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, etc, helped these days by the Internet. Also, because William was from Normandy, you are now out of the UK and into Europe which does complicate matters somewhat. It's made even more confusing because what we now understand to be the countries and boundaries of Europe were different in the past.

Going back from WILLIAM the CONQUEROR took me only six generations to ROGNVALD I, who was Earl of Maer in Norway in about 830. However, William's wife was MATILDA, Countess of Flanders, and this line took me a lot further. The next big step from Matilda was CHARLES the GREAT, known as CHARLEMAGNE (742-814), Emperor of the West and King of the Franks - at the time, the most important leader in the Western world. It has been said that virtually everybody in the Western world must have descended from him.

From CHARLEMAGNE, I went back through the Merovingian dynasty and the Kings of the Franks until I finally came to a halt at MARCOMA. I don't know much about MARCOMA other than he was born sometime before 355 AD and lived in Thuringia, which was, and still is, a small central state of Germany. From that small state the Merovingian dynasty swept out until they controlled the whole of central Europe for about 300 years.

This far back the level of detail does get rather sketchy but I have only included what I believe to be correct in terms of my family line. Although I managed to gather all the information, I then had to try and make sense of it and put it in the form of a family tree, which I have done using Family Tree Maker (FTM).

Our family research was started by my uncle, who did the original work on the family tree and researched back through the ARDENs. I joined in later and extended it further back as well as adding my part of the family. We started in the time before personal computers and the tree was drawn on an 8ft. x 4ft. sheet of plywood with typed labels stuck on it. It may sound archaic now but at least you could see it all in one go, which you can't do on a computer.

I was keen on computers and entered all the research into FTM, which meant all the information could be tied together and was easily retrievable, although it was still backed up with quite a few ring binders, folders and documents. Our family tree currently has some 9,787 names, including my wife's family, and some far-flung distant cousins which perhaps don't need to be there.

How to show the line through all the generations was a problem. I do have a roll of printer paper but neither FTM nor my current printer can handle this. So by printing sections from FTM on A4 sheets, and joining them into a roll, I have managed to draw the bloodline right through all sixty generations. This required eighteen sheets of A4 paper and is some fifteen feet long.

Of course, all this does not just apply to me, it also applies to all of my immediate blood relations, as well as to any other direct descendants of Sophia ARDEN. Many of these will have passed on long ago and there may be as many as 200 descendants still around, but as far as I know only my uncle and I have traced and documented our family history to show just how far we go back.

I cannot believe that we are the only ones who have got back to WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR and beyond - surely there must be others? Maybe this article will bring some out of the woodwork.

Ed.: A Reader Challenge – how far back have you got with your research? I have a few lines going back to the 1500s but stopped when it became difficult. If your family tree goes further back than the start of parish registers, do write and tell us how far you've got, and how easy or difficult the research was.

1921 News (5) From the Macclesfield Times, 24 June 1921

CHESHIRE WAR MEMORIAL - BRUNNER, MOND'S PROUD RECORD

Lieutenant General Sir Beauvoir de Lisle unveiled at Northwich on Saturday the memorial obelisk, guarded by four finely chiselled granite lions, to the 291 employees of Messrs Brunner, Mond and Company's Winnington, Lostock, Sandbach, Middlewich and Silvertown chemical works, and their Liverpool, China and India offices, who fell in the war.

Sir Alfred Mond, Minister of Health, said it was in the spirit in which the country entered the war that we must face and conquer the no less serious difficulties of peace.

Mr Roscoe Brunner declared that the company's record was a proud one: 2,688 men served in the forces; the firm manufactured half the high explosives used on every front, and refused to accept as much profit as was offered.

Margaret Ann Wood, the Miller

by Emily Hudson
Membership no. 10261
emilyjaneevans@hotmail.com

We all have our favourites from the list of names that are in our family trees and I'll tell you about one of mine.

I am fairly new to family history and decided to start with my maternal grandfather's family, as it was the side I knew the least about. I started with my granddad's parents and worked back meticulously. There are lots of labourers and gardeners so when I found a miller, he really stood out from the others. George WOOD was born around 1831 in High Legh, the son of a farmer; he was apprenticed to a relative at Arley Mill, near Arley Hall. In 1854 George married Margaret Ann DALE in Warrington and in 1856 he took on Crowton Mill at Ainsworth Lane, Crowton. The couple had five children - two daughters and three sons - and that seemed to be it. I made contact with my second cousins on the WOOD side and they had the same information about *George the Miller*.

However, something didn't sit right with me. In 1861 George, Margaret Ann and the children are at the mill with a lodger, who is a labourer. In 1871 George is away and Margaret Ann and the children are alone at the mill. In 1881 George is away again, leaving Margaret and her now adult children. I smelt a rat. Perhaps I was being too critical and judging George based on very little evidence; the census doesn't represent a ten-year period but actually just one night, listing who slept where on census night. After all, the 2011 census doesn't show me in the 'right' place at all. I parked my suspicion in my head and continued with researching other ancestors.

In the meantime I took an online course with the University of Strathclyde which taught me to have a critical eye. I looked again at Margaret Ann's 1871 census entry and something stood out - her occupation was not *miller's wife*, for her husband who was away that night; instead, her occupation was *miller*. Also, the lodger who was previously a labourer was *manager of the mill*. This all suggested that George WOOD was not the miller at all, but I still didn't know what had happened to him or where he was. It was only when I was searching in the newspaper archives for his son who has the same name - don't you just love it when your ancestors have the same names! - that I came across a listing in the deaths column of the *Northwich Guardian*, dated 22 December 1883. Sadly,

the listing is for George and Margaret Ann's daughter, Margaret, then aged twenty-seven. She had married on 1 Feb 1883, gave birth to a boy on 18 Nov 1883 and died fifteen days later due to childbirth complications. The death announcement described her as *the eldest daughter of George WOOD, formerly of Crowton*. The word *formerly* spoke volumes and confirmed my suspicion that George WOOD had gone - he had left Crowton and his family. When updating my second cousins, *George the Miller* was now known as *AWOL George*.

After researching the newspaper archives I found an article in the *Northwich Guardian* for March 1864 which stated that Margaret Ann had applied for protection against her husband George WOOD and that George was listed in the *Police Gazette* as being wanted for enquiries. I first thought this meant Margaret Ann was seeking physical protection but then realised that it meant protection from his debts. I sent off for the details of the case from the Cheshire Archives and it went on to say that George had begun drinking five or six years previously and had left Margaret Ann in January 1864. He'd disappeared for a couple of nights, drinking, and had regularly threatened to leave. He then sold a pig, appeared at the door in his best clothes, and said to a friend who was with her at the time, *You shall never see me again*, then left. The court papers report that Margaret Ann goes on to state *I am now carrying on the Mill ...I endeavour to maintain myself and my family at the Mill*. The order for protection was granted.

At this point Margaret Ann had five children under the age of eight; she was now a single mother with a mill to run. The lodger, Emanuel JOYNSON, who was with them previously stayed on - his father had run Crowton Mill before George and Margaret Ann. He continued to work for Margaret Ann and was promoted to mill manager. Margaret Ann's children were aged eight, seven, five, three and eight months old, so it's easy to imagine the pressures that she faced as a mother. George never appeared on a census with his family again.

I looked closely at Margaret Ann to try to get a sense of her character. Margaret Ann DALE was born in Aston by Budworth in 1832, the youngest of eight children. Her parents moved from Over Alderley to farm at Litley Farm, Cann Lane, Aston by Budworth. Litley Farm was a large farm of about 150 acres. Tragedy struck in 1843 - Margaret Ann's father John DALE died of asthma at the age of fifty-four, leaving his wife Hannah (née CARTER), who kept the farm going. On the 1846 tithe map and apportionment the land and farm is in her son's name - but, interestingly, she is described as *farmer* on the 1851 census.

I get the impression that Hannah was a strong woman at the helm and that she was inspiration to her daughter Margaret Ann who would later find herself

alone with a business to run, family to look after and a long list of physical laborious jobs to do just like her mother before her. But in 1851 when Hannah is in charge of Litley Farm, no one knew what lay ahead; at that time Margaret Ann was eighteen years old and must have had her eyes set on the twenty-year-old George WOOD, who was doing his miller's apprenticeship at Arley Mill, just two fields away from her family's farmhouse at Litley Farm.

As for George WOOD, I tried to get a sense of him by looking at his parents and family. They were farmers in High Legh. The newspaper archive showed that George's father Peter WOOD had had his spade stolen - not much of an insight. But there was also an affiliation case against Peter; this word was new to me, so led to further research. The case against him fathering a child as an extra-marital affair was strong and appeals were dismissed from the court. Peter WOOD, aged fifty, and married to his wife for twenty-eight years, was found by the courts to be the father of a baby boy born to Ann BROADHURST, aged just nineteen. Indeed, Peter's affair took place just a couple of years before George left his wife Margaret Ann.

After George WOOD left Margaret Ann in 1864 it is difficult to know what happened to him. The 1871 census shows him aged forty living with his parents at their farm at Rostherne and working for his father. One can only imagine the situation at the kitchen table: George living back with his mum and dad after leaving his wife and children at Crowton Mill and George's father Peter having had an affair which resulted in a child.

After that the trail goes cold, but on the 1881 census there is a George WOOD of the right age living in Lymm, and his birthplace of High Legh is the same as my *AWOL George*. This George says he is married but his wife is a Latitia WOOD. I can't find a likely marriage between a George WOOD and a Latitia and my hunch is that *AWOL George* and Latitia are living as a married couple without actually having gone through a marriage ceremony. Ten years later in 1891, a George WOOD and an L WOOD can be found in Stretford, Manchester, though the birth place for this George is Goostrey.

Meanwhile, Margaret Ann remained at Crowton Mill, and in 1891 she is in Northwich with her son Moses, who works as a grocer; Margaret Ann says she is *married* and not *widowed*. It isn't until the 1901 census, when Margaret Ann is living with her youngest son William, who is now the miller at Crowton Mill, that she is listed as a widow. It difficult to know what has happened to George WOOD but the nickname *AWOL George* has stuck and it's Margaret Ann whom I admire for her determination and strength. She is now referred to in the family as *Margaret Ann the Miller*.

The Goddard Family: 1842 Emigrants

by Ray Goddard
Membership no. 9349

Imagine that it is 2.00a.m. on a dark and cold spring morning, 26 May 1842. You are wrapped up against the cold in your coat and scarf with your hat or bonnet pulled down tightly. You are standing there in the mist on the deck of the 200-ton assisted immigrant sailing ship *Thomas Harrison* at Gravesend, a dock on the River Thames twenty-two miles downstream from London and eighteen miles from the open sea.

Sailors' voices are yelling out in the gloom of the oil lamps, the captain is barking out orders, and the officers are swearing at the crew. The ship's mate pipes *cast-off*, and the steam tug takes the strain and eases the ship out into midstream on the top of the ebb tide. You are away at last, to southern lands.

Cephas GODDARD, a twenty-six-year-old dyer from a family of spinners and weavers, later a master carpenter, had had enough of the industrial revolution - as had his wife's brother Charles CRAWFORD, who was also aboard. The steam engine had come into use in 1821, resulting in ever-decreasing wages at the mill as workers were laid off; the overcrowded town of Stockport, seven miles from Manchester, doubled in population every ten years, increasing unemployment and making crime a way of life. In 1841, the population of 395,660 was crammed into an area thirty by fifty-eight miles.

Cephas found out about the assisted immigrant scheme and had applied with his brother-in-law for the Government-assisted passage to transport themselves and their families free of charge to southern lands. Cephas was travelling with his twenty-one-year-old wife Martha, the daughter of a cotton spinner, and their two sons William, aged two, and Samuel, a babe in arms; Martha's brother Charles was on the same ship with his family. They had been billeted at the immigrants' overnight quarters near the dock and were taken aboard the next morning. The shock was palpable! Between decks, an eight-foot-wide shelf ran along each side of the hull, about two feet above the deck, allowing stowage beneath. The shelf was divided by a three-foot-high plank every six feet. This eight-foot by six-foot space, with the two-foot-high storage area below, was their world for the next two months and twenty-six days. The ship would have stopped mid-journey for provisions and water at Cape Town, South Africa.

The GODDARDs were among the first assisted settlers to the Land of the Long White Cloud, settling in Nelson, New Zealand. For two years they worked to develop the settlement for the New Zealand Company, but the Māoris became restless due to disputes over aspects of the 1840 Treaty of Waitangi. By then their third son, Henry, had been born. The family left New Zealand on Sunday 14 July 1844 on the 100-ton, Maitland-built schooner *Star of China*, travelling in steerage with twenty-nine others, alongside the cargo. Thirteen days later, on Saturday 27 July 1844, they arrived in Port Jackson, Sydney, New South Wales, docking at Grose's Wharf (at the end of Bathurst Street, Darling Harbour) as unassisted free settlers. The family settled in the Paddington area of Sydney.

Cephas worked as a master carpenter, helping to build several church steeples in Sydney, while Martha worked as a tailoress for many years, later working as a washer woman. They went on to have a family of ten children, two of whom died in childhood. Their surviving children married into various families who had been involved in the first discovery of payable gold, building the first gas tanks to provide Sydney with light, smelting the first iron in Australia, and supervising the carpentry work on the Sydney Rum Hospital, which is now the central part of the New South Wales Parliament House, Macquarie Street. Some of those families had convict beginnings, some were free settlers from England or assisted settlers from Germany (previously from Bohemia) and others were well-educated English gentry.

1921 News (6) From the Macclesfield Times, 12 August 1921

CHESHIRE'S MEMORIAL CHAPEL - THE DEDICATION CEREMONY

An impressive service was held in Chester Cathedral at noon on Saturday, when the Dean of Chester dedicated the Chapel of St George in the south transept of the Cathedral, the chapel having been given by the Cheshire Regiment in memory of its 8,417 officers and men who died in the war.

The chapel contains a beautiful reredos and shrine in marble and oak [designed by Sir Gilbert Scott, and executed by Messrs Farmer and Brindley, Ltd, of London]. In a recess is placed a book inscribed with the Cheshire Regiment's roll of honour. A martial setting was given to the scene by the presence of the depot troops, who wore freshly-plucked oak leaves (the Cheshire Regiment's emblem) in their caps....

*About 120 men of the regiment marched from the Castle with the depot band, under Captain **Scott**, Major **Freeman**, and Captain **Newman**, and on entering the Cathedral lined up in front of the memorial chapel.*

The Symms Family of Tarporley

by Judith Hankey
Membership no. 9147

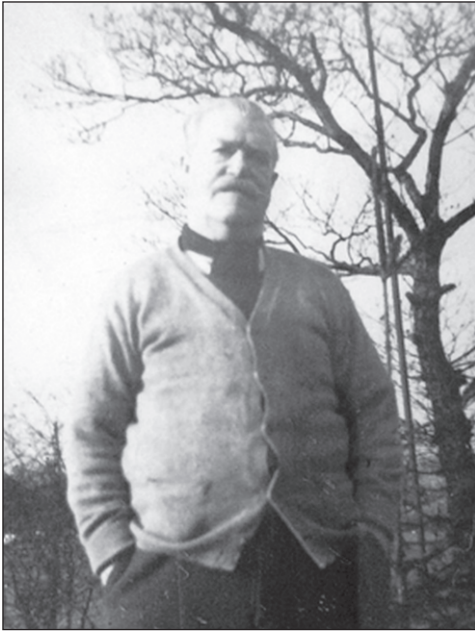
My paternal grandmother Sarah Jane SYMMS (right) lived most of her life in Rudheath, near Northwich, but she was born in Bucklow since her father, a police sergeant, was posted all around Cheshire. She was a very devout Christian and a lifelong member of the Mission evangelical church which used to be in Leicester Street, Northwich, opposite the former Marks and Spencer store now occupied by B&M.



According to my father's cousin, Sarah's father Albert SYMMS was described by her mother as virtually an orphan, but my grandmother never said that to me, as far as I can remember. In fact, I don't recall her telling any stories about the SYMMS family, only the DEAKINS. It is easy to see why Albert (1880-1964) seemed to be an orphan - his mother Elizabeth (PRICE) died when he was eight and his father Thomas later remarried. In the 1891 census, Albert, aged eleven, lived in Moulton near Northwich with his widowed father, a salt boiler, and three sisters Martha Hannah (born 1881), Mary (born 1884) and Sarah (born 1888).

I can find no sign of Albert (photo overleaf) in the 1901 census despite broadening the search, since Albert would have been a trainee police officer at the time and could have lived anywhere. Albert insisted that his surname was spelt with a Y and used that all of his life, but his birth was registered as SIMMS.

When Albert married Elizabeth DEAKIN in 1902 at Over near Winsford, his occupation was correctly recorded as a policeman, with his father Thomas's occupation as a farm labourer. Albert clearly had one relative who stayed in touch, his sister Martha Hannah SYMMS, who was a witness at his wedding.



I had already found Albert's father Thomas (1853-1932) in the 1901 census since he was the only Thomas SYMMS who was born at Utkinton (near Tarporley). He had remarried a woman called Mary (HARDY?) and had a second family.

The second family lived in Bridgmere (near Nantwich) where Thomas worked as a farm labourer. They had two young children - Elizabeth (born 1894) and John Thomas (born 1896) - but none of the children by his first wife lived with them. By the time of the 1911 census they had a further two girls living with them, Florence (born 1902) and a grandchild Ethel (born 1905).

I am unsure of the identity of Thomas' second wife since the GRO births index shows different mother's maiden names of SHAW and HERRIMAN - and no record for Elizabeth - for the mother of his second family, yet the 1911 census records three children within their marriage. A large investment in full marriage and birth certificates would help but I am reluctant to spend out on them all. Somehow it seems disloyal to all of the frugality I was taught as a child, to splash out on so many certificates.

Thomas (1853-1932) my 2x great-grandfather was the third son, named after his father Thomas (1820-1884) who worked as a farm labourer and, according to the censuses, was born and lived in Utkinton all of his life. My 3x great-grandfather Thomas was baptised in Tarporley in December 1820; his parents were William and Martha SYMMS. That was when my progress into the past ground to a halt on the SYMMS line - there were two men named William SYMMS in Tarporley at that time.

Meanwhile, I had started using DNA to pursue my family history. My mum tested with Family Tree DNA (FTDNA) as it was the only one being strongly marketed in the UK at the time. Following online advice of 'fishing in different pools' of DNA companies, I tested with 23andMe and uploaded my DNA to FTDNA to get some more paternal matches.

There I found a matching cousin named John, who lived in Canada but had a distinctly Cheshire surname. His grandmother was Elizabeth SYMMS who was born in Ashley (near Altrincham), Cheshire in 1882. FTDNA predicted that John and I were second to fourth cousins with a match of 82cM. I was pretty excited since there was an Elizabeth SYMMS in nearly every generation for me, so that reinforced a family name clue. I followed this Elizabeth SYMMS back to her grandfather William SYMMS (1809-1887) who was born in Bunbury and died in Altrincham. This would not be my 4x great-grandfather William, since he was too young. John's William was the son of Samuel SIMM of Bunbury and was baptised in Bunbury in April 1809.

Only one couple allowed these family lines to fit together, that of Thomas SYMMS and Anne GREENWAY of Tarporley, who married on 23rd February 1767. This couple had eleven children who all lived to adulthood, and nine of them were boys, including a Samuel and a William. They lived at Flaxyards Farm on the Eaton Road out of Tarporley which is still there today (photo below). I had looked at this couple previously and assumed that they could not be my ancestors because when they married Anne had signed very neatly; for a woman of that time it could only mean that they had property and I had no inkling of any riches at all in my path back.

With this one cousin match I speculatively put Thomas (1743-1815) and Anne (1747-1817) into my tree - one cousin match is not enough to prove a relationship, usually a minimum of three is used, hence it is called triangulation. Since then I have had many more DNA matches to this couple through their many children and they are the largest group - 25



different cousins - in my Ancestry DNA cousins. When a couple have eleven children in that period it does tend to lead to a good number of descendants around today. It turned out that my Canadian cousin John was not a second to fourth cousin at all but a fifth cousin once removed - a not uncommon feature of FTDNA which tends to be over-optimistic on the closeness of a match.

So my William (1773-1850) was the fourth son of Thomas and Anne and was baptised on 4th August 1773. He joined the army as a young man and did not marry Martha CLAYES until 1817. He had left the army with a pension in 1816 at the age of forty-two, but the army thought he was forty-four since he overstated his age by two years when he joined. Many soldiers left the army in 1816 after the war against Napoleon. William saw service in several places, including Canada.

When Thomas died in 1815 he left some land to his eldest son John but his possessions, valued in total at £300 and including cattle, were shared equally amongst his listed sons, one of whom was my William. When James, brother number five, died in 1835 he left a wonderful will; it is legible and clear in intent, and he left £20 to each of his nephews and nieces who were all named, together with the names of the brothers they were the children of. If only all wills were this useful! He also left his farms in Tarporley, Bunbury and Crowton and all of the contents to his youngest brother Robert - the total estate was worth three thousand pounds. So there was money in the SYMMS line! Each of the SYMMS brothers who had children named one of their sons William and my 3x great-grandfather Thomas (1820-1884) was one of the named recipients of £20.

The parish registers of Tarporley of this period make an interesting read. In 1790 Mary MULLOCK of Utkinton had a base (illegitimate) son named Samuel and the father was named as William SYMMS of Utkinton. In 1798 Ann DUGGHILL of Utkinton had a base son called William and the father was also named as William SYMMS of Utkinton. So the question is: how many William SYMMS were there in Utkinton at this time? Was only one man - perhaps my 4x great-grandfather - responsible? Having been born in 1773, he could have been chasing girls between the years of, say, 1788 to beyond 1800; at some point he enlisted into the army - was this to avoid the consequences? Any other would-be father would presumably be of a similar age. I found that only one William SYMMS was baptised within ten miles of Tarporley in the appropriate time period - my 4x great-grandfather - making him the likely culprit.

When I was not sure which William and Martha were the parents of my Thomas (1820-1884) I did not know how old his father was and so the base child William (born 1798) was also an option; I found he was not Thomas's father, but was a half brother! Other SYMMES brothers had the same girl-chasing hobby, since in October 1797 Sarah MOSFORD had a base daughter Mary baptised, the father being named as John SYMMES of Utkinton (the oldest brother). John left his possessions to his illegitimate daughter, who by the time of his death was married and a shopkeeper with ten children; John also provided for his housekeeper.

Thomas SYMMS (1769-1844) the second son left most of his belongings to his illegitimate son Thomas ASHTON, and provided an income for his wife until she re-married. I am convinced that I have read when browsing in the Tarporley baptism registers of this period, that the child's father was simply listed as SYMMS without stating which one of the brothers it was, but now, writing this article I cannot re-find that example - I should make better notes. Illegitimacy was not unusual at that time; there was nearly always one child per page of the baptism register and one page, May to August 1784, had three, with two of the fathers named. Given that the SYMMS boys seem to have provided for their offspring, claiming that the father was one of the SYMMS was better than someone else. My grandmother, who was very respectable, as well as being god-fearing, would have been horrified!

One last couple of thoughts on Tarporley, Cheshire. I took the photo of the farm when out on a walk for allowed exercise during the November 2020 lockdown. The ladies dress shops were of the type which showed no prices - *if you have to ask, you probably cannot afford it* - and a nice handbag was priced at £130. There were certainly plenty of signs of money about. In Tarporley High Street I saw the shops which were allowed to open, such as food suppliers, and cafes were selling the permitted take-away coffee and cakes; but I also noticed that a hairdressing salon and a knick-knack shop selling Christmas decorations were both clearly open. Perhaps the spirit of rebellion against conventions has been carried down throughout the generations to present-day residents?

1921 News (7) From the Macclesfield Times, 4 November 1921

HELPING THE EX-FIGHTER - FLOWER DAY- ARMISTICE REMEMBRANCE

On Armistice Day, November 11th, and also on November 12th, a flower day is to be held in Macclesfield for the benefit of local ex-service men who are in need. This decision was arrived at on Monday, when a meeting was held in the Town Hall in response to an appeal by Field-Marshal Earl Haig.

The Mayor stated that printed matter had been sent by the British Legion, who wished them to organise a poppy day on Armistice Day. The occasion of the anniversary of the signing of the armistice would be recognised as a day on which to pay tribute to the fallen. It had been suggested that a collection should be made in aid of the ex-service men's organisations which had amalgamated under the title of the British Legion. Mr Bloor read a good deal of correspondence for the holding of a poppy day, this flower was chosen because it was the one most associated with the war... it was looked upon by Earl Haig as a day of remembrance when people would wear a poppy as an expression of admiration for the men who had fallen... It was hoped the day would be universal and national, and it was intended to make it an annual event.

‘LBSC’ – Professional Name-Changer (Part 3)

by Geoff Johnson
Computer Group Leader

In parts 1 and 2, I wrote about the research an associate and I carried out into the early life of a writer, designer and model engineer known by the pen-name LBSC (the initials of the London, Brighton and South Coast railway), after reading a biography published in 1982 by Brian Hollingsworth. We concluded that it had some errors, possibly due to the difficulty of accessing genealogical data at the time. We established that this man had been born William Morris BENJAMIN, was known as William Morris MATHIESON after his mother remarried, was popularly known as *Curly* and later used the name Lillian LAWRENCE, despite having married Sarah MUNT - known as Mabel - in 1908.



1911 and 1921 Censuses

LBSC was one of my first searches on the release of the 1911 census, and I've just repeated the search in the 1921 census. The cover-up continues, because in both, he lied about his Mile End birthplace, citing Peckham! He gives his gender as male, but the 1911 census enumerator seems to have raised a query on this. Nonetheless, against the name Lillian LAWRENCE the enumerator has added *correct - male*. Against the male gender statement a similar insert says *This is correct*. LBSC and Mabel show they had been married for three years, which is correct, and that no children had been born. LBSC's occupation is given as *motor mechanic, motor vehicles* in the *motor manufacturing industry*.

In 1911 they were living at 3 Honor Oak Mansions, East Dulwich - a self-contained flat with four rooms. By 1921 they had moved to Norbury, where LBSC built his first garden railway. LBSC was then working for Shell Mex Ltd as a motor vehicle inspector, and again they stated that they had no children.

The American Visit

In 1921 LBSC and Mabel visited America, and in early research days I had often wondered how LBSC presented himself to the Passport Office prior to this US trip. In today's environment it seems unlikely that one could obtain a passport without presenting a valid certified birth certificate. The thoughts led on to how he would explain his name variations, let alone the male/female

implications! Records of issued passports in those times are understood to be somewhat incomplete and details apparently amount to little more than an index. Researching this seemed scarcely worth a visit to TNA at Kew. However, the following information seems to indicate that the couple did obtain passports and visas in their current names.

Online availability of passenger lists enabled me to establish that the Cunard Line's SS *Berengaria* left Southampton on 4th December 1929. LBSC and Mabel were passengers travelling as Lillian and Mabel LAWRENCE. LBSC is listed as a *Loco. Engineer*, Mabel as housewife. Both are listed as of *Scotch* race! LBSC lies about his age, saying he is 44 - he was actually 46. Mabel was supposedly 39 - she was almost 41.

It would seem clear that their travel arrangements must have been supported by a British passport and US Visa bearing the LAWRENCE surname, otherwise they wouldn't have been allowed on board. The Immigration Visa number 27814 was issued in London on 16th November 1929.

Their return journey took place just over six months later, departing New York and arriving in Southampton on 30th June 1930. They sailed in Cunard Line's SS *Berengaria* again. The same names and details were given on the passenger list, with Mabel a tad older at 40 - her birthday was in January, whilst she was away. Their proposed future address was 30 Sudbury Crescent, Bromley, Kent.

Hollingsworth's biography indicated temporary accommodation being taken in Bromley before they departed, so presumably they returned to this area until moving into their new and final house at 121 Grange Road, Purley Oaks, Croydon, where LBSC died in 1967 at the age of 84.

Confirming the truth

In September 2008 we established that LBSC had a nephew who was still alive and well. An octogenarian fund of information, Reg MATHIESON was the son of LBSC's younger brother Rudolf MATHIESON. Reg confirmed the accuracy of the above research and was able to add yet more information. We now know that within the family LBSC was always referred to as *Will* or *Uncle Will*.

There is increasing evidence of a family rift between LBSC and his father. It becomes apparent that his father, generally known as Henry MATHIESON, was an even greater enigma than LBSC. Around the time of LBSC's birth, Henry MATHIESON was a very clever lithographic printer, with significant ownership in a business known as The London Tinsplate Printing Company. He'd devised specialised processes and held patents for printing on to tinsplate.

It seems that the business entered a troubled period and it ended by literally going up in flames: a major fire destroyed the premises about a month after LBSC's birth! Henry MATHIESON then dabbled in pharmacy before eventually becoming a dentist operating from premises near Baker Street.

The London Tinplate Printing Company

A fire broke out early on Saturday morning at 93, Globe-road, Mile-end-road, on the premises of the London Tin Plate Company, of which Mr. H. Mathieson is the manager. The damage is thus officially reported:—"A building of two and three floors (used as workshops, stores, and office)—two upper floors burnt out and roof off, rest of building and contents very severely damaged by fire and water." The origin of the fire is unknown.

This press clip appeared in *The Times* of 5th November 1883 - an appropriate date for a fire.

That was not all! Searches covering the late 1870s show that Henry MATHIESON was convicted of felonious theft from his employer and was sentenced to twelve months' hard labour. It seems that the cause of the fire was never fully explained, and there are a number of Queens Bench and Lord Chancellors Court appearances concerning MATHIESON and the fire. In 1893 there is a further court case, where he is found guilty of obtaining goods by means of false pretences.

Most of these events occurred just prior to, or within the first few years after LBSC's birth. It seems likely that he learned of the general circumstances and was simply ashamed of his father. From that point onwards he clearly did everything he could to cut himself off from the family and its name.

Reg MATHIESON acquired two books on the death of his uncle that were originally school prizes won by LBSC in 1896 at the age of about thirteen. They are titled *The Universe* and *Discoveries and Inventions of the Nineteenth Century*. Both of these books are quite serious; the first is a superb publication about the animal and plant kingdoms, with four beautiful colour plates and gold on the page edges. The second is more appropriate to LBSC's interests, containing chapters covering steam engines (including valve gear), and information about lathes and threads, sawing machines and the like. LBSC could well have learned a lot from this book.

Removal of the crucial flyleaf/bookplate pages of both books is further notable example of LBSC definitely covering up his tracks. These pages would obviously have had a bookplate with his name and details of the prizes. However, under these removed pages are the year and name of the school he went to: St Mary, Newington Schools - that's Newington Lambeth, not Stoke Newington, Hackney! It seems that this was originally a charity-run endowed school which was incorporated into the state system at around the time LBSC received the prizes.

The Hollingsworth Biography

The author thoroughly recommends any reader who finds the subject to be of interest to read Brian Hollingsworth's book. It contains a wealth of good information about LBSC and his designs. The foregoing only sets down the facts that can now be accessed forty years after Brian Hollingsworth struggled to find that *hidden clue* I described previously, in part 1.

Conclusion

Although these new facts about LBSC, or Lillian 'Curly' LAWRENCE, might be interesting, they by no means alter the debt owed to him in the field of miniature engineering. His ability to describe technical and constructional information in easily understood terms has rarely been surpassed. He invariably described these as *words and music*. Apart from some changes in nomenclature, they remain as fresh as the day they were written. Perhaps it is a sign of this tremendous contribution that people are still interested in the life of this very private and somewhat elusive man - Lillian 'Curly' LAWRENCE, otherwise known as William Morris MATHIESON, otherwise known as William Morris BENJAMIN.

The story is not complete and perhaps never will be. I would be pleased to hear from anybody who can shed any further light on this subject, or has any reminiscences to recount. It would be a shame if any information about this remarkable man was lost to posterity.

Sadly, our one confirmatory source, Reg MATHIESON, passed away on 5th March 2010; it was his 89th year.

LBSC's Birthplace

In part 1, I stated that LBSC's birth certificate showed he had been born in 1883 at 31 St Peter's Road, Mile End Old Town. A fellow model engineer visited the London Metropolitan Archives in the city to do some personal research, and offered to also look at the detailed maps of Stepney/Mile End to see if the street layout was the same as in 1883. He reported that both the OS maps for 1869 and 1896 gave the same house layout, and the 25-inch to the mile map of 1896 gave the house numbers. He told me that the road's name had changed from St Peter's Road to Cephas Avenue, E1. St Peter's church is very close by, at the end of the road. The old house numbers were unchanged; LBSC was born in the third house down from the junction on the right-hand side. It appears that this end of the street was spared Hitler's revenge, town and country planning, Ken Livingstone and any other accident of fire, neglect or flood, and to him the architecture indicated the same house stood on this spot in 1883.

My subsequent investigation indicates that the street name change was listed in the London A to Z guide of 1938. It occurred in the 1936-39 period and seems to be related to the formation of the old London County Council.



My associate also sent photos of the location; number 31 is the house on the right with the dark red door. You can get a better idea of the locality by using Streetview on Google Maps.

I agreed with his comment that the house cries out for a proper blue plaque!

1921 News (8) From the Staffordshire Sentinel, 27 August 1921

CONGLETON MAN IN AIRSHIP DISASTER

*Among the victims of the R38 disaster is Flight-Sergeant **Harold Thompson**, of Astbury St, Congleton. Though only 25 years of age, he gained marked promotion in the Air Service, and was the chief mechanic on the R38. Leaving the Air Service at the conclusion of the war, he subsequently rejoined, and was first on the staff of the R34. In a letter written a few hours before the catastrophe (and delivered to his parents at Congleton on Thursday), Flight-Sergeant **Thompson** said the sun was shining brilliantly, and the airship was travelling well. He stated that he was writing the letter in the engine-room, and that being his last trip with the R38, he was looking forward to going to Ireland to complete his term with the Air Force... Twelve months ago he married **Miss Morris**, of Bolton, who also served in the Air Force during the War.*

Harold Thompson was the son of **Joshua and Emily Thompson**, of 70 Astbury St, Congleton. Harold married **Emily Morris** in Bolton in 1920, and he is recorded on the 1921 census at Eastcotts, Bedfordshire, which covers most of the site of RAF Cardington. His death is recorded by the CWGC and he is buried in a family grave at St Mary's Church, Astbury, Congleton.

At the time of its first flight in June 1921, R38 was the world's largest airship. During a test flight on 24 August it suffered a structural failure over Hull and fell into the shallow waters of the Humber estuary; only five of the forty-four crew members survived. The R.38 disaster resulted in the later R.100 and R.101 being the strongest airships ever flown [*Wikipedia*].

Tips on Searching Historical Newspapers

*by Margaret Roberts
publicity@fhsc.org.uk*

Addresses

If any of you came along to my masterclass on using the historical newspapers as a research tool, then you may remember that I advised you to search for every address that you have for your ancestor. Search as a phrase - in speech marks - both with and without a house number or name and always use the various abbreviations for street, road etc. It takes some time and a little patience but will pay off in the end.

- “Crewe Avenue”
- “64 Crewe Avenue”
- “Crewe Ave”
- “64 Crewe Ave”

Telephone Numbers

Have you thought of searching the newspapers for the telephone number of your ancestor? This is especially useful if they ran a business, and as more recent newspapers come online at the British Newspaper Archive (BNA) and Find My Past (FMP) then you may be lucky. Remember to include town abbreviations and search as a phrase:

- “Macclesfield 123”
- “Macc 123”

Friends, Associates and Neighbours

Widen the net and search for names in your ancestors’ FAN club - in other words, their Friends, Associates and Neighbours. Search for the witnesses to your ancestors’ marriages, or in-laws, or the neighbours on the census. You never know what will turn up; whatever it may be, it’s all worth knowing as these people interacted with your ancestor.

Hyphenated Words

Have you considered the hyphenated word when searching for a name, either of a person or a place? If, for example, your search term is Congleton, then the typesetter may have split the word over two lines, Congle- at the end of one line followed by -ton at the start of the next line. Try searching for Congle as a word on its own - you may come up with lots of extra results.

Female Names

Until the last few decades, a woman would be cited differently depending on her marital status and age. Young girls were often given their full name, so *Martha BROWN* would be referred to as just that in a report when she won a prize in school. She would be referred to slightly more respectfully as *Miss M BROWN* when in her twenties at her engagement to Joseph WATSON. However, as soon as she married, she would be named as *Mrs Joseph WATSON* or *Mrs JWATSON*, never *Martha WATSON*, and the couple would be called *Mr and Mrs J. WATSON* or *Mr and Mrs Joseph WATSON*. This is absolutely vital to bear in mind when looking for female ancestors; never assume that they were mentioned using their own Christian name throughout their life. The exceptions would perhaps be an obituary or if the woman was a widow.

1921 News (9) From the Macclesfield Times, 7 October 1921

MACCLESFIELD WAKES - Many Travellers Abroad

Macclesfield has had a strange wakes, quite different from the usual bright and happy autumnal holiday that used to be enjoyed. True, the fair has arrived in all its glory, the scenic railway has whirled around, and the roundabouts have pleased the youthful, but not a quieter wakes have we known. No one has very much spare cash to spend in pleasure, and the fair people here, in consequence, found their business dwindling... Many people went to neighbouring districts on Saturday and Monday and spent a day out. This is proved by the booking statistics issued by the railway companies. Crowds went by bus into the outlying districts and several char-a-banc trips to Chester and Liverpool were well supported... [but] people were not able to appreciate the occasion as they did when trade was good and the pocket full.

Bookings from the Central Station:

Great Central Railway – Bollington 1,527; Poynton 72; Middlewood 32; Rose Hill (Marple) 102; Hyde 65; Manchester 260; Buxton 60; Nottingham 16; Belle Vue 905. North Staffordshire Railway – Bosley 20; Rushton 64; Rudyard 57; North Rode 37; Congleton 160; Mow Cop 38; Leek 86; Potteries 120; Nottingham 13.

Bookings from Hibel Road :

Excursions - Belle Vue 950; Blackpool 143.

Ordinary Fares, Saturday – Stockport 55; Manchester 485; Liverpool 14; Sheffield 6; Bradford 6; Southport 7; Blackpool 92.

Ordinary Fares, Monday – Cheadle Hulme 15; Bramhall 9; Poynton 126; Adlington and Prestbury 127; Stockport 296; Manchester 787; Liverpool 11; Stalybridge 10; Oldham 8; Leeds 7; Blackpool 45; Sheffield 5; Rochdale 8.

North Staffordshire Railway

Saturday – Congleton 32; Crewe 6; Stoke 38; Birmingham 10; London 13; Rugby 5; Colwyn Bay 3; Stafford 6; Gloucester 5; Worcester 4.

Monday – Congleton 68; Leek 26; Stoke 32; Birmingham 5; London 27.

The Life and Death of Rebecca Williamson

by Chester Guttridge
Membership no. 9193



Rebecca DAVIES was born in 1813 in Sarn, on the border of south-west Cheshire and Wales. Although presumably living in Sarn, the DAVIES family owned fields in Tallern Green, a mile away. On 22 April 1834 Rebecca married my great-grandfather, George WILLIAMSON, at St Oswald's, Chester. According to the marriage record, Rebecca and George, described as a labourer, both made their marks. The WILLIAMSON family also hailed from south-west Cheshire.

Later records show George owned the *Queen's Head* tavern in Sarn. It became a major consumer of WILLIAMSON's ales and the rent provided a steady cash income.

The first mention of the area is in George's diary where he reports selling a cow to a Mr EDWARDS at Tallon (sic) Green on 15 April 1853. How the *Queen's Head* came into George's ownership is unknown, although it is possible, even probable, that it and the three fields at Tallern Green came via Rebecca, either on her marriage or when her father died. It was sold at auction to Messrs SOAMES of Wrexham for £675 and the fields to Thos LEDSOM for £280 on 13 July 1911. My son, John, and I visited it in 2017.

Rebecca produced six children over twenty years, three boys and three girls, my grandfather, George junior, being her fifth child. Both the Georges, father and son, were or became brewers, publicans and pub owners. The first nineteen years of Rebecca and George's married life were spent in Milton Street, Chester, where George ran first a beer house in Milton Street and later became tenant and licensee of the *White Lion*, 8 Milton Street. In late 1853 or early 1854 the family, for unknown reasons, moved to Bickerton, where George eked out a living for a year as a carter and occasional horse dealer with help from his eldest son, Charles. On 1 January 1855 George took up the tenancy of the *Red Lion* at Bickerton, thus resuming his career as a publican/brewer.

In 1861, George, Rebecca, their youngest daughter Martha, eight-year-old George junior and his younger brother John were back in Milton Street for another unexplained hiatus in George's career, this time of some fifteen months. In April 1862 the family moved to the *Nag's Head* at Bridge Trafford, where George was licenced to brew ale and sell it, as well as being licenced to sell spirits and tobacco. The following advertisement was printed in the *Chester Courant* of 30 April 1862:

NAG'S HEAD INN, BRIDGE, TRAFFORD

GEORGE WILLIAMSON, of Chester (successor to Mr Pearch) begs to inform the public that he has taken the above named Premises, and hopes, by his constant attention to business, to receive the same patronage which has for so many years been so liberally bestowed upon his predecessor.

April 24, 1862.

As George senior aged, he gradually handed over the brewing side of the *Nag's Head* operation to son George, and the bar duties to daughter Martha. George senior died on 14 February 1876 and was buried in Plemstall churchyard, where the family tomb still stands. He was sixty-five years old. Widow Rebecca stayed with George and Martha at the *Nag's Head* until George junior married my grandmother, Eliza Jane WRIGHT, on Tuesday 11 April 1882; shortly afterwards the couple moved to Mollington on the Wirral. Rebecca then moved to Sutton near Ellesmere Port on the Mersey.

Rebecca died on Thursday 6 May 1886 at Sutton and was interred four days later at Plemstall with her husband and father-in-law. She was seventy-three years old. My grandfather organised her funeral, burial and wake, keeping the receipts and a record of the costs. The larger bills are receipted over a young Queen Victoria penny stamp.

Costs of Rebecca Williamson's Funeral and Wake, May 1886.

	£. s. d
<i>Before Death</i>	
24th W.M Storrان, Physician & Surgeon, Sutton. March, April, May, To professional services with medicines to the late Mrs Williamson 6 visits, including medicine.	6 0 0
<i>The Funeral</i>	
24th Mrs Robinson, Laying out when dead.	0 5 0
10th John Chamberlain, Clerk. Burial fees 18s. bell fee 2s	1 0 0
10th Samuel Curbishley, Oak Coffin with furnisher Lineding (sic) & Plate.	2 10 0

11th	Sarah Barnes, City Road Livery Stable. Hearse and Coach to Sutton.	3 10 0
11th	Parry and Sons, Printers, Lithographers, Bookbinders. 4 doz Funeral Cards 12s. Envelopes 1s.	0 13 0
15th	C&A Davies, General Drapers, 49 Eastgate St. Shroud.	0 7 6

The Wake

8th	W Darlington, Butcher. Helsby & Bridge Trafford. 13lbs beef 9s.9d., 9lbs cheese 6s.	0 15 9
-----	--	--------

*William Darlington was Martha's husband, Rebecca Williamson's son-in-law.
His butchery was at Helsby.*

10th	Miss Susan Ivy, Gt Sutton. 1 quart Irish Malt 5s., 1 ditto Gin 4s.8d., 1 bottle old port 2s.9d., 1 ditto Sherry 2s.9d.	0 15 2
------	---	--------

*Susan Ivy supplied these items to Martha Darlington who was then living near Sutton.
George probably supplied bread and, being a brewer, ale as required.*

The Tombstone

William Haswell, Marble and Stone Masons:

15th	Mason and Labourers time taking down Tomb	0 9 0
22nd	Engraving and Painting fresh inscription, repainting 157 letters, old inscriptions, resurfacing & rubbing 2 panels, & cleaning monument.	0 12 4 1 3 3
25th	Masons & Labourers time fixing Monument. Sundry expenses	1 2 6 0 4 7

Total £19 8 1

To help cover these expenses, George WILLIAMSON junior withdrew
from Rebecca's savings account sums of £5 and £12 17 8 Total £17 17 8
Balance short £1 10 5

An earlier receipt from William HASWELL, dated 4 July 1877, for *Monument*
£20 0s. 0d., appears to be part payment of £52 12s. 0d., presumably paid when
the monument was originally erected after George WILLIAMSON's burial.

The church received £2 2s. 0d. for *the placing of a tomb stone in Plemstall Church*
yard.

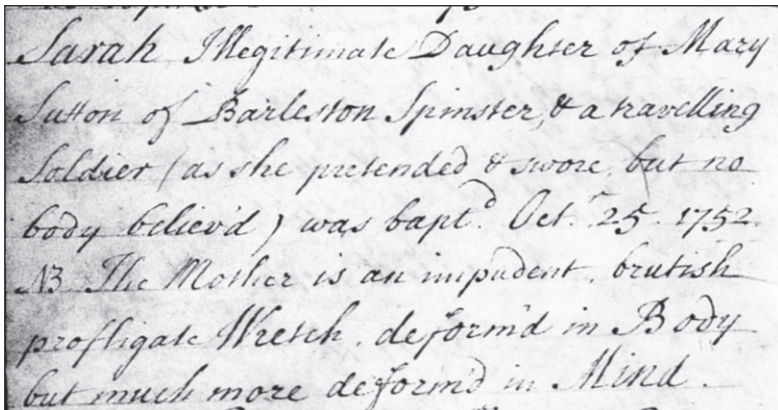
Why View the Original?

These examples show why you should always view the original document to check for information not provided in the transcription.

Both these baptisms are on Find My Past.

Sue Parker (membership no. 568) found this 1752 baptism in the parish register for St John the Baptist Church, Barlaston, Staffordshire. It reads:

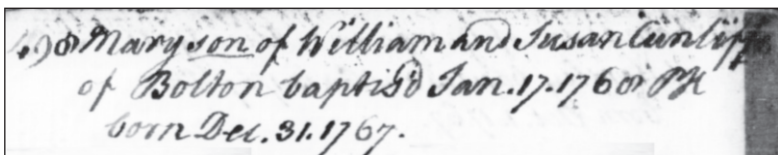
Sarah Illegitimate Daughter of Mary Sutton of Barleston Spinster, & a travelling Soldier (as she pretended & swore, but no body believ'd) was bapt. Oct 25 1752. NB The Mother is an impudent, brutish profligate Wretch, deform'd in Body but much more deform'd in Mind.



Gren Dix (membership no. 4174) found this 1768 baptism in the Bank Street Unitarian Protestant Dissenters Births and Baptisms register for Bolton-le-Moors, Lancashire. It reads:

1768 Mary son of William and Susan Cunliffe of Bolton baptised Jan 17 1768 born Dec 31 1767.

Gren commented, *When I saw the attached baptism I immediately thought of the Johnny Cash song A Boy Named Sue!*



Net That Serf

The Computer Section

Compiled by Geoff Johnson

Email: nts@fhsc.org.uk Tel: 01829 760422

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From the Desktop



Lots of bits in this issue, but the key subject around as I write is the 1921 census. We are learning quite a lot on this and I would anticipate that by June the picture will have settled.

I've assembled this with my right arm in a sling, after twice dislocating my shoulder. It's been a slow job!

Saving the 1921 Census Address

By Geoff Johnson

The pages of the 1921 census are rather like 1911 ones, but the location address is not shown at all on the main page. This is how I solved that problem. Search Find My Past and find your target census page, pay to view the image (not the transcription), and then you can see the main front page image. I'll call this page 1. At that point you can download it - the default format seems to be jpg. I shouldn't need to say this, but be sure to save the download in a specific place, NOT IN A PILE IN YOUR DOWNLOADS FOLDER!

Return to the FMP image and click the small arrow to the right-middle of your census image. As you hover your mouse pointer on it, it'll say *Next related image*. This gives you the reverse side of page 1, which usefully contains the

address of the family group. You will quickly see that about ninety per cent of the page is standard instructions and examples. All you need is the small rectangular box in which the address has been written. Download this page (page 2) into the same location as page 1.

- 1 From this point onwards I'm using my preferred Windows image viewer, *IrfanView*. It's a free world, and I know others will have their own preferred program, but the method I'm using is simply one of cropping, copying and pasting. Mac users - see the explanation below.
- 2 Open the two files in IrfanView. We covered this program in December 2020's NTS. In most cases, unless page 1 contains ten people, you should find a wide-open blank space below or alongside the names and details of your desired ancestors.
- 3 Use your mouse to create a rectangular box. The size is seemingly irrelevant (but it just identifies where your image needs to go).
- 4 Then switch to page 2 and use your mouse to draw a rectangle close to the address field, go to Edit and select Crop Selection (cut out). That gets rid of the rubbish! Then save it, clicking File, Save As and use its original name in the same folder adding 'Cropped'.
- 5 You've now got three files! Now return to page 1, check that your box is still there, click on Edit >Insert/overlay/watermark colour/image, then click on the bullet to Choose - insert overlay/watermark picture. Then go off to find and select your 'cropped' file (of the address). Before clicking OK, I recommend that you move the slider bar overlay transparency % fully to the left (equal 0). Then click on OK. Your desired address should then be overlaid onto page 1. Note that it is actually a watermark.
- 6 If you're happy with your work, make sure that you re-save the page 1 file: use Save (original folder) and either overwrite the existing page 1 or save it with a different name if you prefer.

You now have a bit of a file clutter. I'd suggest that you just delete the page 2 and the cropped files; you can always download them again if you need them.

A Mac user version by Ian Worthington

Further to Geoff's explanation, here is a method to do it if you are a Mac user by using the operating system with *Preview*.

- 1 Download the occupants page from the 1921 census; it will open in *Preview*.
- 2 Save the file (you can leave it as is, or name it however you like, I tend to add the name of the person I was searching for before the RG reference which should already be included).

- 3 Go back to FMP to the original page, choose Extra (address) and then choose address from the film strip at the bottom of the page, download that page.
- 4 In the downloaded address page, draw a rectangle around the address box (left click on your mouse), go to 'Tools' in the Preview menu bar, and choose 'Crop' (you should now have just the cropped image in front of you)
- 5 Draw a rectangle around this cropped image, go to 'Edit' and choose 'Cut' (you will be asked to agree to the cut image being converted from .jpg to .png)
- 6 Agree to the conversion; when you give permission the image will disappear
- 7 Return to the original downloaded page with the occupants on it, go to 'Edit' and choose 'Paste' from the Preview toolbar. The address box you copied will appear and you can move it around the page to a convenient spot using the left click on your mouse. Re-save it.

Done. You now have one image containing the occupants and their address on one page. As they say in a certain TV ad, *simples!*

Managing Your Passwords – Another View

By Crewe member Peter Denny

Like Geoff, I have been involved with computers almost since the year dot, well before the concept of a desktop computer - let alone having our own personal home computer - was even dreamed of. I have used a home computer almost from the time they came out, and for many years have used them on a daily basis as a member of local history groups as well as for family history. So, I thought it was about time I had something to say.

Quite a number of issues of Net That Serf have covered the topic of managing passwords. Clearly an important topic, but I worry that we seem to be getting over-cautious and even obsessive about the subject, and in danger of forgetting what we are trying to protect, and from whom. Geoff's almost scathing comments in the previous issue about relying on hand-written records to store passwords finally stirred me to respond, as that is exactly the method I use and am most comfortable with.

It seems to me the method we use to store and/or remember passwords must firstly take into account the way we use our computers, and where, and who uses them and has access to them, and then the threat from access via the

internet. I currently have two separate computers in use on a regular daily basis. I have a desktop upstairs in my office and a laptop downstairs for easier access. But the key thing for me is that I am the only user, nobody, but nobody else has or is allowed access to either of them. So, security at home for me is not such a big issue and the use of a hand-written password list works fine for me.

I know that the only way anybody else can access my password list is by physically breaking into my house and finding the list: (and no, it is not pinned on the wall above my computer). If my main threat is via the internet, then certainly I do not want to make this easier by actually lodging my password list on my computer, or even worse, on the internet itself. I also consider who would want to access my passwords/computers/information. I am not a multi-millionaire, nor am I a famous personality, so I think who on earth would want to hack into my computer or be interested in anything I have there. I do use internet banking but I do have plenty of security checks there.

If you use a laptop and/or mobile phone and are constantly on the move (with the added danger of leaving it on the train seat), or if you have other people accessing your computer, then clearly you do have a bigger issue and really do have to be more disciplined; but I still do not see that using a password management programme which then lodges your password list on the very computer you are trying to protect makes any sense at all - and even worse, to lodge it in a cloud somewhere that the whole world has access to makes even less sense.

As for creating a password, Geoff suggests making it as complex as possible. My experience shows that a common problem is in remembering a password, so I try to keep it simple and more personal, but one that somebody else is extremely unlikely to guess at. I use a relatively small number of passwords, and even use the same one for a number of my more trivial accounts.

Possibly the main threat to our computer security is allowing other people access to our computers. This particularly applies to members of the younger generation who, contrary to what we are continually told, do not know more about computers than we do; certainly not about the more important and serious issues, and have a very casual and carefree attitude with accessing the internet. Don't get me wrong, I am not trying to be flippant or lessen the importance of controlling passwords, but we do need to keep things in perspective and choose a method which works best for us as individuals.

Rosie (Ed.): I agree with a lot of these points. I keep a hand-written password list so that, in the event of my demise, my family can access social media and other accounts

if they need to. Also, a lot of websites I use, e.g. for knitting patterns, recipes and the like, insist on a fairly complex password which I feel is unnecessary since they do not hold any financial information and very little personal information apart from my name and email address. Why does this need to be protected? So for those websites I use the same, easily-remembered password.

An Introduction to AutoHotKey

By Kevin Dean, Membership Renewals

In the December 2021 issue of **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**, I wrote about a feature of Microsoft Office which converts a short piece of text to a longer text. It is an easy way to save repetitive typing but limited only to Office programs. This article explains *AutoHotKey* - a program that provides typing short cuts in any program on a Windows PC.

AutoHotKey is a free open-source program, available since 2003, which runs at initial start-up and monitors your keyboard and mouse input. When it sees text that you have chosen to have a special meaning, it replaces it with your chosen text, or carries out the actions you specified. Here are some examples of the entries I have set up to make my computing easier:

I enter:	These events happen:
Ctrl + Shift + e	Starts the Excel program
Ctrl + Shift + w	Starts the Word program
Ctrl + Shift + n	Starts the Notepad program
Ctrl + Shift + F12	Sends the PC to sleep
Ctrl + Shift + a	Starts the Excel program which opens a list of my direct ancestors
Ctrl + Shift + Space	Forces the current window to stay on top. Useful if you are updating a spreadsheet from selected items on a website. Repeating the shortcut cancels the effect.
Ctrl + Shift + F1	Starts a Google search for the text selected when the keys were pressed
@o1	Inserts an Outlook email address
@g1	Inserts a Gmail email address
2cmt	Inserts "To the committee of the Family History Society of Cheshire:"
3hs	Inserts the full address of 3 High Street with town, county and postcode, and newline characters between lines

I have chosen Ctrl + Shift as regular components of my shortcuts because they are easy to find and press, but you can choose any of the keys on the keyboard.

The AutoHotKey program makes the changes based on the contents of a script file with the suffix .ahk, which you link to the program at start-up time. You can edit the script file easily using the Notepad program that comes with Windows. You can make changes to the script file while AutoHotKey is running and reload the amended script for immediate use.

The AutoHotKey website (www.autohotkey.com/docs/AutoHotkey.htm) shows that it can do a lot more than the table above shows, and you may be daunted by the massive range of features. If you explore the many features available, you may find even more ways to make your life easier. However, if you ignore the advanced stuff and stick to the type of text expansion in my examples, you will have a convenient way of minimising your hand and finger activity.

Next Step

Because the space available for Net That Serf in the **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR** is limited, the instructions for installing AutoHotKey and setting up a script file are available for download on the FHSC website. Login and go to *Cheshire Ancestor > Net That Serf > Articles Too Long for Net That Serf*, then look for *Setting up AutoHotKey*

Which is the Best Search Engine?

By Bill Pearson

A knowledge of how search engines work is crucial for people wishing to carry out effective searches. Which is the best search engine, and what is the best way to use search engines effectively?

Google

With over ninety per cent of the search engine market, Google is clearly very effective and popular. A knowledge of how Google works may even improve your view of the effectiveness of Google.

For searching UK sites, www.google.co.uk is best. If you have relatives in different countries, a different version may help. For instance, for Japanese searches try www.google.co.jp; for Korean searches try www.google.co.kr

Hint: as Google is very good at tracking you, it may also pay to use a VPN (virtual private network) to pretend that you are in that country.

Changing the order of the words in your search can affect the results.

Google Advanced

Google Advanced www.google.co.uk/advanced_search is likely to improve the effectiveness of your search. For instance, doing a search for *John Davies* will find pages that contain both those words, but not necessarily together, so you may find a result about John Smith and Fred Davies. Wrapping it in quotes, searching for "*John Davies*", will find both those words together.

Google Scholar and Google Books

Google Scholar <https://scholar.google.com> is a way to search scholarly literature. Google Books <https://books.google.com> searches the world's most comprehensive index of full-text books. Both give very different results to the usual Google searches.

Google Image Searches

Google has a dedicated search engine - www.google.com/imghp - for image searches. The search by image option here enables you to upload your images and compare them with similar ones. This can be useful for identifying places or helping to date old photos.

Why shouldn't you use Google?

Google keeps track of your click behaviour, search history, and location, to guess which search results you'd like to see. There is a danger that Google may be feeding you stuff that you already know, without showing you alternative points of view. You also may not agree with your personal data being sold to third parties. Sometimes, trying a different search engine helps to find that elusive fact or document.

Bing

The second most popular search engine in the UK is Bing: www.bing.com. Bing often gives different results to Google and offers users more autocomplete suggestions. Bing is more likely to show established content that's gained lots of traffic, or has been live for a while. Bing is owned by Microsoft and, like Google, has paid-for advertisements.

Meta Search Engines

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_search_engines#Metasearch_engines

These search multiple search engines at once to find what you are looking for. As a result, they may find results that a single search engine doesn't. An example of a meta search engine is Dogpile www.dogpile.com

Private Searches

You may not be happy about your personal data being sold to third parties.

Some search engines claim not to track you, like Start Page www.startpage.com and Duck Duck Go <https://duckduckgo.com>

Genealogical Search Engines

There are some search engines specifically for genealogists; Cyndi's List provides some suggestions:

www.cyndislist.com/search-engines/genealogy-search-engines

Google itself can be used to search for ancestors. Be careful when using quotation marks, as you don't know how the name may appear in the text that you are trying to find. For instance, to search for Albert Neilson Hornby, I would search for "Albert Hornby" OR "Albert * Hornby" OR "Hornby, Albert", as well as "Albert Neilson Hornby".

Ecosia

Last, but not least, search engines consume a surprisingly large amount of energy. Ecosia www.ecosia.org claims to be the search engine that plants trees.

Windows 11 - first impressions

By Gren Dix

I updated my newish laptop to Windows 11. It took no longer than the usual monthly update. When installed, it asked a number of questions, e.g., do you want to link to an Android phone?

Windows Start button

When you click the *Windows Start button*, you get a new crisp screen. The first thing I noticed is that the *Power button* had moved from the left to the right. The *Power button* shows *sleep/shut down/restart* but not the other options. You can configure your laptop to sleep or hibernate when you close the lid.

Further, when you click the Windows button, you are shown a window of Microsoft apps. If, from this screen, you click the *more* button you get recent activities e.g., apps downloaded or files accessed - the list is double-spaced! If you click the disc icon and look at files, e.g. documents, they are all double-spaced. I have yet to find how to single-space them. If you highlight a file and right click, there is no sign of the words *delete/copy* etc. - however, there are icons at the bottom of the list. To see *delete/copy* etc then, after the right click, choose *Show more options* - and there they are.

The *Control Panel* seems to have disappeared. If you press the Windows button, at the top is *type here to search*. Enter *Control Panel* and the link to it appears.

The Settings Menu

One of the sneaky things is that *windows update* does exactly what it says on the tin - it updates Windows! If you want other Microsoft apps updated, or, say, BIOS updates, then go to *Settings > Windows Update > Advanced options*, choose *Receive updates for other Microsoft products* and set it to *On*.

Under *Additional Options* on the *Advanced Options*, you can look at *Optional Updates*. Out of curiosity, look at *Settings > Privacy & Security*. I found that when I reawaken my laptop from sleep, Wi-Fi is set to off! Look at *Settings > Network & Internet* and set Wi-Fi to *On*.

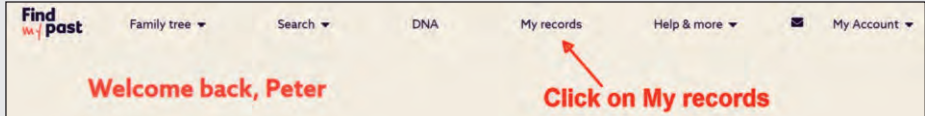
As I say, these are my first impressions. How are others getting on?

From the Inbox

Annoyances in Your Find My Past Records – from Peter Rowley

Did you know that FMP saves a copy of every record you have looked at? Why?

Login and look at the home page. You will be presented with something similar to the image below:



Depending on how long you have been a member, you will have a lot of pages, each listing twenty records that you have viewed in the past. My records went back to 2016 when they introduced this feature, and there were over 800 pages x 20 = 16,000 records, unsorted except by date. Every record you have viewed, whether it was relevant or not. (*GJ: Mine go back to 2010!*)

I started with the oldest records and started deleting them page by page because there did not appear to be a method of bulk deleting them. After deleting just over 100 pages I decided to contact FMP for further info. The answer soon came back: *We currently do not provide the option to bulk delete your My Records. Further to that, we don't provide the option to NOT have your My Records automatically saved!*

A 1939 Register Annoyance - another from Peter Rowley

You can stop the transcript box following you around while viewing the 1939 Register by clicking on the right-hand end button of *Options* - the sandwich-like one with the line through it (called *Toggle transcript pop-up*).

Closing Snippet

No matter how GRUMPY you may be right now this should change your mood:

Ten things I know about you:

1. You are reading this.
2. You are human.
3. You can't say the letter "P" without separating your lips.
4. You just attempted to do it.
5. You are laughing at yourself.
6. You have a smile on your face and you skipped No. 5.
7. You just checked to see if there is a No. 5.
8. You laugh at this because you are a fun-loving person and everyone does too.
9. You are probably going to forward this to see who else falls for it.

You have received this because I didn't want to be alone in the idiot category.



Have a great day. Laugh, and then sing *Oh, What a Beautiful Morning*, even when it's not.

Do not regret growing older. It is a privilege denied to many.

More comments and computer stuff required! I rely on your input to keep this forum active, keep it coming please – GJ

1921 News (10) From the Macclesfield Times, 23 September 1921

MACCLESFIELD WATER REPORTED "UNSATISFACTORY"

Alderman E Eaton was in the chair at a meeting of the Macclesfield Corporation Health Committee, when the Medical Officer reported the following notifications of infectious disease since the last meeting: Two cases of scarlet fever, two of diphtheria, one of erysipelas, two of dysentery, and one of pulmonary tuberculosis. There were 16 cases under treatment in the hospital.

The Medical Officer submitted the analyst's bacteriological reports upon three samples of water taken on the 25th ultimo: Mechanical Filters: This water must be regarded as of unsatisfactory quality. Town's Main: Judging on these results, this water cannot be regarded as of satisfactory quality. Hurdsfield private supply: The results show this water to be in an unsatisfactory condition.

Group News

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

We are hopeful that some future group meetings will take place as actual meetings in person. Several online group meetings using Zoom have taken place and it is hoped that many members will be able to participate in these. Members may attend or participate in the meetings of any group.

To receive email 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

These talks, presented on Zoom and open to all members, take place on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. The Zoom waiting room will open at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. A newsletter is sent out on the first day of each month with details of the talk. You can then register for that month's talk only - you cannot book all the talks. To register, simply sign into the FHSC website, navigate to *Events* and scroll down until you find that month's talk. Click on the title, then click on the *Join* button, followed by *Save*. You will receive an automated email confirming your registration. Zoom links and meeting protocols will be sent out via email newsletter two days before the talk.

These Zoom talks usually have the option of closed captions (subtitles) to assist anyone who is hard of hearing - click on CC at the bottom of the screen to enable these. Please remember to mute your microphone before joining the meeting - there is an option in the Zoom audio settings to do this automatically for every meeting, and another option to simply hold down the computer keyboard space bar when you wish to speak. Please note that the question-and-answer session at the end of each talk is by the Zoom *Chat* facility only - typing your message instead of speaking. If you are unsure of how this works then please email us on *seminar@fhsc.org.uk* and we will be happy to help you.

Future meetings:

16th Mar ***Titanic Honour & Glory: Revealing the Unforgettable Story of the Tragic Liner - Sean Szmalc***

Titanic is one of the most famous ocean liners in history; join our presenter who is dressed in full White Star Line uniform and step aboard the legendary liner as we take a riveting tour of the Titanic through story-telling, from her construction in Belfast, through to the maiden voyage and tragic sinking. Experience survivors' personal stories as told to the presenter, encounter rare historical artefacts from the Titanic as you view and learn the fascinating stories attached to them. All combined brings a fascinating insight into one of history's most famous ships, bringing history to life where the past is always present.

20th Apr ***DNA Journey, Tales from the TV Programme - Dr Michala Hulme***
Michala is an award-winning historian and professional genealogist, specialising in the period 1800-1950, with a particular focus on living and dying in Victorian Britain and the experience of the working classes, crime and street gangs. Michala will be talking about her work on the ITV's DNA Journey and some of the fantastic stories the programme revealed.

18th May ***The Second County Asylum for Cheshire: Macclesfield - Kathryn Burtinshaw***

Latterly known as Parkside Hospital, the Second County Asylum for Cheshire was built in Macclesfield in the 1870s. Kathryn has traced the identities and life outcomes of women who were sent there, and her talk will include how to use mental health records in your family history research.

15th Jun ***My Ancestor was a Liar - Dave Annal***

Dave worked for the National Archives at the Family Records Centre for many years and became Principal Family History Specialist after the move to Kew. He has written several family history books and is also a contributor to *Family Tree Magazine*. Sifting through the evidence to find the truth is a skill which all family historians must develop; information left by our ancestors is often misleading, inaccurate, or just plain wrong! As we become more experienced, we find that they had any number of reasons to be economical with the truth. Of course, sometimes our ancestors simply didn't know the answers to the questions thrown at them by the clerks, registrars, and enumerators. Using real examples, this talk will look at some of the reasons why our ancestors might have lied, and offers suggestions on how to recognise their varying degrees of ignorance, half-truths, and wilful deception.

Alsager Group

by Hazel Rugman

The Alsager group committee made a decision to have Zoom meetings until April 2022 with the first on 17th January. Following that we have booked two face-to-face speakers for April and May.

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

- 25th Apr *The Mainwarings of Peover Hall - David Young*
A talk about one of Cheshire's most important families, the Mainwarings, and the architecture of Peover Hall.
N.B. this is a change of date to the fourth Monday of the month because of the Easter Bank Holiday
- 16th May *Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy - Olivia Smedley*
Olivia will appear in costume to talk about Congleton's forgotten suffragist.
- 20th Jun *TBA*
- 18th Jul We hope to have our usual afternoon visit to a place of interest.
- August **NO MEETING**
- 17th Sep *Nineteenth Century Maps - Jonathan Pepler*
This will be followed by a short AGM.

We anticipate returning to Zoom meetings in October or November.

Unless otherwise stated, the Alsager Group meets at 7.30pm on the 3rd Monday of the month (except August and December) at Wesley Place Methodist Church, 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

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

Group members who have supplied their correct email address will receive full details of meetings by email a week before the event.

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

- 28th Mar *Details of speaker and venue TBA - check website*
- 25th Apr *Details of speaker and venue TBA - check website*
- 23rd May *Details of speaker and venue TBA - check website*
- 27th Jun *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

As soon as we can confirm when and where our meetings will be held, we will notify members by email. Please continue to check the FHSC website under the Groups tab for Bramhall for the latest information. Hoping to welcome back members in the near future as soon as we are able – thank you for your patience.

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

10th Mar TBA

14th Apr TBA

12th May TBA

9th Jun TBA

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

The majority of speakers over the past eighteen months have been willing to postpone their talks and we have arranged another full programme of meetings for the year. In order to make it safer and easier for attendees we will probably change our venue; we will confirm any changes by email as soon as possible. Please check the FHSC website under the Groups tab for Chester for the latest information. After this 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):

31st Mar *A Brief History of Surnames - David Guyton*

28th Apr *The Colour of Heraldry - Tony Bostock*

26th May *The Golden Age of the Picture Postcard - Linda Clarke*

30th Jun *Historical Research Using British Newspapers - Denise Bates*

At present, 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. In order to make it safer and easier for members and visitors to attend

we may change our venue; Chester group members will receive confirmation of date and location by email. 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. 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* page on the FHSC website.

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.

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

Congleton Group

by David Smetham

We have continued with face-to-face meetings since September 2021, as a result of interest from members. We met in September, October and November 2021 in Congleton Public Library.

Congleton and Macclesfield Groups have continued to join together to host Zoom meetings at regular intervals. For information please see the notices on the FHSC website or the groups’ email newsletters.

Updates and reminders about meetings are emailed to subscribers on our newsletter list. To be kept up to date with future meetings please sign up to the newsletters of the Congleton and/or Macclesfield group on the FHSC website (‘Follow this group’) or check the group pages on the website www.fhsc.org.uk

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

15th Mar *TBA*

19th Apr *TBA*

17th May *TBA*

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

As you will see we have planned a mix of both Zoom (jointly with Nantwich) and face-to-face meetings for the next few months. I will send a Crewe Group newsletter if there is any change to the planned face-to-face meetings.

Please note that the contact email for the Zoom 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.

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

15th Mar ***Dating Old Photographs - Stephen Gill (Zoom)***

How to tell a story about an old photograph and the clues that can help to date it. Stephen is a professional photographer of fifty years standing, a qualified photography teacher and has been awarded a Fellowship of the Royal Photographic Society.

12th Apr ***Face-to-face meeting held at Crewe (subject to Covid-19 rules)***

Refreshments will be provided; please bring any discoveries you have made in your family history research during lockdown.

19th Apr ***Posted in the Past - Helen Baggott (Zoom)***

Based on the books *Posted in the Past* and *Posted in the Past Second Delivery*, Helen reveals the true stories behind postcards sent in the early years of the 20th century.

10th May ***Overpaid, Oversexed, Over Here: The GIs in Britain***

and My Father's Wartime Experiences - Rina Tillinger (Zoom)

The heart-warming and humorous story of young, homesick American soldiers in Europe during WWII, and a plane-obsessed US Army Air Corps pilot from Detroit, Michigan.

14th Jun ***Face-to-face meeting held at Crewe***

The format of this meeting will be decided based on the response to the 12th April meeting. Please check all the usual notifications.

21st Jun ***Edith Smith (1876-1923), England's First Warranted Policewoman - Bob Knowles (Zoom)***

Wirral-born into humble beginnings, Edith worked as a nurse and a midwife until the outbreak of the First World War - a turning point in her life, as it marked the formation of the Women Police Volunteers (WPV) in London.

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.

London/Middlesex Group

by David Smetham (FHSC Treasurer)

The joint London branch of the Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society and the Cumbria Family History Society has invited members of societies belonging to the North West Group of Family History Societies to participate in their talks. This includes Family History Society of Cheshire members.

Currently there is a programme of Zoom talks which are free to our members who live in London and the Home Counties.

When the branch is relaunched for face-to-face meetings they are likely to be held on Saturdays at 2.00pm at Saint Stephens Church Hall, 48 Emperor's Gate, Kensington, London SW7 4RL.

For more information, please email David Smetham at info@fhsc.org.uk.

Macclesfield Group

by Jean Laidlaw

After Easter 2022 we are hoping to return to face-to-face meetings, but of course they are subject to alteration due to the pandemic.

For the latest news, please see the Macclesfield pages on the FHSC website.

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

26th Apr *Ten Thousand Years of Bling - John Wallace*

The story of swanky Alderley Edge, linking its modern footballers, WAGs and cocktail bar culture to over ten thousand years of surprising and fascinating history. (I have been assured there is very little bling and a great deal of history!)

- 24th May *Whose Ancestor Is It Anyway? Ethics in Family History*
 - Margaret Roberts and Ann Simcock
- 28th Jun TBA

Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of the month at The Salvation Army Hall, Roe Street, Macclesfield, SK11 6UT. Doors open at 7.15pm and meetings start at 7.30pm. Entry is through the main door facing the Churchill Way car park, and we meet in the ground floor room. Admission is £2 for members and £3 for visitors, including refreshments; members are also eligible to take part in a draw for a small gift.

To be kept up to date with future meetings please sign up to Macclesfield group newsletters 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.

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.

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

If there is an opportunity for a face to face meeting in the summer, I will let members know in due course.

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

- 15th Mar *Dating Old Photographs - Stephen Gill (Zoom)*
- 19th Apr *Posted in the Past - Helen Baggott (Zoom)*
- 10th May *Overpaid, Oversexed, Over Here: The GIs in Britain
 and My Father's Wartime Experiences - Rina Tillinger (Zoom)*
- 21st Jun *England's First Warranted Policewoman
 - Bob Knowles (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

Arrangements have yet to be made for March 2022 onward. Speakers will be booked, but we have yet to confirm whether meetings will be at the Methodist church hall, or via Zoom. Newsletters will go out in plenty of time with details.

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

14th Mar TBA

11th Apr TBA

9th May TBA

13th Jun TBA

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

Runcorn Group

by Peter Rowley

We have nearly finalised our new venue, which will be announced before the end of the month. Until then, we will continue to meet via Zoom on the 1st Wednesday of each month except January.

Please see the FHSC website for the latest information.

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

2nd Mar TBA

6th Apr TBA

4th May TBA

1st Jun TBA

Under normal circumstances, meetings are at 7.30pm on the 1st Wednesday of the month - venue to be advised. All will be made very welcome.

Sale Group

by Marion Hall

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

9th Mar *My Favourite Ancestor - Terry Dean*

A talk about textile entrepreneur James Kenyon.

13th Apr *Where did Your Family Come From?*

An evening of short talks by members. This is a follow-on from a

2019 meeting where not everyone had a chance to participate!
Following lockdowns, we may all have added to our knowledge of family beginnings.

11th May *TBA*

13th Jun *TBA*

Under normal circumstances, meetings are held at 7.30pm, for the talk at 7.45pm, on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at Trinity Methodist Church, Trinity Road, Sale M33 3ED. Visitors are always welcome. Admission is £2 for members and £2.50 for non-members.

Tameside Group

by Gay Oliver

Just before Christmas, fifteen members of our group met for lunch at the *Queens Arms* in Guide Bridge for a social meeting and also to discuss a way forward for our group as we move towards a hybrid pattern of meetings. We did have a plan, and then OMICRON came along, but even so we will stick loosely to it.

We have identified a new venue which would suit our numbers and budget; Angela and I will visit and I hope we can secure it. It looks ideal - a community hall with a subsidised cafe, an art and craft room, and three meeting rooms. These rooms can hold up to eighteen people, and two of them open up to double capacity. There is also a hall for larger events. Having refreshments on-site is a bonus. There is very easy public transport which stops directly outside and the premises has parking for about thirty-six cars and full disabled access (all ground floor). The venue is very new and looking for clients.

We also agreed to trial afternoon meetings, as many of our members no longer like driving in the dark or even coming out at night.

One of the main obstacles to face-to-face meetings now will be getting regular speakers, so we agreed to carry on with some Zoom meetings for those from outside Cheshire who have enjoyed being able to attend our presentations. Several of those at our lunch suggested having our face-to-face meetings as self-generating, e.g. workshops. I could even return to some teaching.

This is the broad outline we will be working towards and hope you will all be happy; other suggestions are welcome. I will keep everyone informed. At this stage I am not even able to give dates for our programme for this year.

Our Seminar Series of lectures will continue and all our society members can join these. The monthly newsletters produced by me and by Margaret Roberts will also continue.

Wallasey Group

by Dave Beck

NB - we hope to return to face-to-face meetings from April onwards.

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

15th Mar ***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.

19th Apr ***Just a Bundle of Papers in a Charity Shop - Alison Williams***

How a chance find in a Berkshire charity shop uncovered lost records for a New Brighton family and revealed a poignant tragedy.

and ***Castanets; Beaded Pink Feathered Panties; Gypsy Rose Lee Gown with Black and Pink Sequins; and a Riding Whip***

Why were these items listed in the inventory when Paul's (male) relative died?

17th May ***Before Parish Registers - David Guyton***

Family history research before the introduction of parish registers in the mid sixteenth century takes us into less familiar territory but quite a lot of information can be found if one knows where to look. The talk describes some of the main sources and shows examples from the Domesday Book onwards.

21st Jun ***Crossing the Mersey - Gavin Hunter***

For centuries the River Mersey and its estuary have presented a problem to travellers between Lancashire and Cheshire. From its source in the Pennines to its discharge into Liverpool Bay, this illustrated talk examines how people crossed the river in the past.

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

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

1921 News (11) From the Macclesfield Times, 8 April 1921

ARMY HUT AS CLASSROOM - ST GEORGE'S MEN'S BIBLE ASSOCIATION
The opening of the new classroom - or Army hut - in connection with St George's Men's Bible Association, Canton Street, took place on Sunday. In the afternoon the speaker was the Vicar of St George's (Rev. W. S. Coad)... There were about 300 present.... The hut has cost between £600 and £700.

The Society's Family History Research Centres

Note that at the time of going to press, Crewe Family History Unit is still 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 - CLOSED
PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE FOR THE LATEST NEWS



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

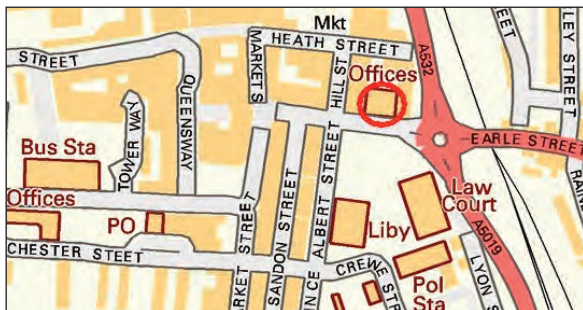
The Municipal Building is situated near the market and opposite Memorial Square and the old library. Crewe Register Office is in the same building. All visitors must sign in and out at reception. You will be directed to the second floor; a lift is available.

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 - OPEN
PLEASE PHONE OR CHECK WEBSITE FOR CHANGES**



**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.

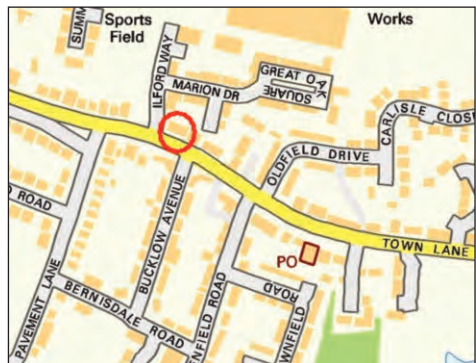
Usual opening hours: 10am-4pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

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. **Please ring to check we are open before travelling if the weather is bad; volunteers may be unable to get there.**

Daily admission charge (per person) £3 for members, £5 for non-members (refundable on joining the Society on day of visit). Non-members please 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 88* from Knutsford, Wilmslow, 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
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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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GROUP CONTACTS

ALSAGER GROUP

GL: Hazel Rugman
157 Sandbach Road North
Alsager
Cheshire ST7 2AX
Tel: 01270 876386
alsager@fhsc.org.uk

BEBINGTON GROUP

GL: Bob Wright
9 Lough Green
Bebington
Wirral CH63 9NH
Tel: 0151 334 6345
bebington@fhsc.org.uk

BRAMHALL GROUP

Temporary Group Contact
GC: Ian Cameron
bramhall@fhsc.org.uk

CHESTER GROUP

GL: David Guyton
Springfield
22 Lache Lane
Chester CH4 7LR
Tel: 01244 675978
chester@fhsc.org.uk

COMPUTER GROUP

GL: Geoff Johnson
Garth Nook, Well Lane
Little Budworth
Tarpurley CW6 9DA
Tel: 01829 760422
computerclub@fhsc.org.uk

CONGLETON GROUP

GL: David Smetham
Little Trees
Gawsworth Road
Gawsworth
Macclesfield SK11 9RA
Tel: 01625 426173
congleton@fhsc.org.uk

CREWE GROUP

GL: Margaret Spate
FHSC Crewe Group
Municipal Building
(second floor)
Earle Street
Crewe CW1 2BJ
Tel: 01782 659435
crewe@fhsc.org.uk

MACCLESFIELD GROUP

GL: Jean Laidlaw
47 Sycamore Crescent
Macclesfield
SK11 8LW
macclesfield@fhsc.org.uk

MIDDLESEX GROUP

Vacant
middlesex@fhsc.org.uk

NANTWICH GROUP

GL: Sheila Mitchell
FHSC Nantwich Group
c/o Crewe FHU
Municipal Building
(second floor)
Earle Street
Crewe CW1 2BJ
nantwich@fhsc.org.uk

NORTHWICH GROUP

GL: Dave Thomas
1 Arley Court
Wrenbury Drive
Northwich CW9 8RX
Tel: 01606 46938
northwich@fhsc.org.uk

RUNCORN GROUP

GL: Peter Rowley
2 Norton Tower Cottages
Norton Lane
Runcorn WA7 6PX
Tel: 07984 603936
runcorn@fhsc.org.uk

SALE GROUP

GL: Tony Sant
Correspondence to
GC: Angela Jenkinson
sale@fhsc.org.uk

TAMESIDE GROUP

GL: Gay Oliver
26 Woodville Drive
Stalybridge SK15 3EA
Tel: 0161 338 5241
tameside@fhsc.org.uk

WALLASEY GROUP

GL: Sheila Hamilton
10 Church Gardens
Wallasey
CH44 8HF
wallasey@fhsc.org.uk

NOTE:

GL: Group Leader
GC: Group Contact

Rear cover picture: Do you have a high quality 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), stating whether you agree to the publication of your name, membership number and email address.

MEMBER'S PHOTO



Cheshire Country Training College, Crewe [CCTCC]
Female Students Tennis Team 1920/21

Here is a photo of the Female Students Tennis Team for 1920-21. The ladies are all wearing glorious dresses - so elegant, but perhaps not so easy to play in.
Can a member name anyone in the photo?

From Margaret Roberts, Social Media Officer