

CHESHIRE ANCESTOR



The Journal of the
Family History Society of Cheshire



In this edition

Cheshire to Canada and Back Again

A Farm Through Time (Part 1) ❖ *Baptised Twice!*

Women Lead the Way ❖ Family Occupations

Food Control in WWI ❖ *and more...*

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See Cheshire to Canada and Back Again, by the late Chester Guttridge, page 42.



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, a copy of which must be included.

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
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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.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Editor's Page

by Rosie Rowley



I am writing this in late April, during the run-up to the historic Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June. Queen Elizabeth II is now Britain's longest-reigning monarch, and she is also currently the fourth longest-reigning monarch in history, surpassed only by Johann II, Prince of Liechtenstein (70 years 91 days, from 1858 to 1929); King Bhumibol of Thailand (70 years 126 days, from 1946 to 2016); and King Louis XIV of France (72 years 110 days, from 1638 to 1715). Within just a few weeks our Queen will become the second longest-reigning monarch.

For many of us, Queen Elizabeth is the only monarch we have ever known – but I am sure some members will recall the day that King George VI died and Princess Elizabeth became Queen, seventy years ago on 6 February 1952. Perhaps more can remember the Queen's coronation the following year, on 2 June 1953, when the country celebrated with street parties, and the popular dish Coronation Chicken was created for the occasion by Rosemary Hume (Head of the Cordon Bleu cookery school) and Constance Spry.

Many people rented or bought television sets for the first time in order to watch the coronation ceremony, broadcast by the BBC and watched by over twenty million people – many crowded into their neighbours' homes to peer at a twelve-inch black and white screen! According to the *Radio Times* website: *Since there were only 2.7 million television sets, that meant an average of seven and a half people to a set, excluding children, who were not counted in the statistics.*

If you have any recollections of the Queen's accession to the throne in 1952 or the coronation in 1953, or anecdotes about these events which have been passed down the family, please do send me either a letter or a short article to share your stories with other members.

As usual, I want to thank everyone who sent letters and articles, and appeal for more to be sent. I have a few articles in hand but need many more to fill the next issue. I would also like to apologise to those who sent items by post in 2020 and 2021, during the time I was in the process of moving house. Unfortunately these letters were put into storage by mistake, but I have now found them and hope to print them as soon as possible.

Chairman's Jottings

by Alan Bennett



Your committee has re-invigorated their work on identifying the future strategy for FHSC. The initial topics being tackled include:

- Ensuring we meet our charitable aims in relation to education in relation to family history
- The ideal charitable structure for FHSC
- The difficulties in obtaining volunteers to fill vacancies
- Support for the Cheshire Record Office in the creation of two new offices in Chester and Crewe and how the FHSC can integrate into their operational model
- Maximising the benefits to members

If you have any suggestions on these or any other topics then please drop me a line by email or by post.

On a more ghoulish note, my recent research has revealed a cousin, Mary Elizabeth HANCOCKS, who in 1905 was murdered in Birkenhead by her own father, William; he was hung at Knutsford Gaol later that year. The full story is on my website at <http://familytree.cheshirealangenealogy.co.uk/p894.htm#i33052>, where an image of William's death certificate can also be seen. Apparently, William was initially buried in the grounds of Knutsford Gaol.

Chester Prison closed around 1872 and Knutsford Prison became the Cheshire County Gaol. From 1886, until it was taken over by the Home Office as an Army detention barracks in 1915, nine executions took place there:

22 Feb 1886: Owen McGILL, for the murder, near Birkenhead, of his wife Mary.

17 Aug 1887: Thomas H BEVAN, for the murder of his aunt.

08 Apr 1890: Richard DAVIES, for the murder, in Crewe, of his father Richard DAVIES.

22 Aug 1890: Felix SPICER, for the murder of his two children in New Brighton

09 Aug 1905: William Alfred HANCOCKS, for the murder of his daughter Mary Elizabeth HANCOCKS.

27 Nov 1906: Edward HARTIGAN, for the murder, in Stockport, of his wife Catherine.

12 Nov 1908: James PHIPPS, for the murder, in Winsford, of Elizabeth

WARBURTON age 10.

19 Mar 1912: John WILLIAMS, for the murder, in Birkenhead, of his wife Hilda Mary Josephine.

Finally, an update on my latest research relating to the findings I shared with you last time, when I reported my unexpected discovery in the newly-released 1921 census which implied a different mother for my paternal grandmother. Since then, I have carried out extensive research with the following results:

- all my recent research seems to confirm her previously known parentage
- the will of the suggested alternative mother contains no references to my grandmother
- a number of new DNA matches on Ancestry all confirm my relationship with them via my grandmother

As a result, I have concluded that the relationships shown in the 1921 census entry were either

- a mistake
- deliberately erroneous to support them living with the alternate mother
- or she was just a trouble maker!

Case closed.

Take care,
Alan

1922 News (1) From the Crewe Chronicle, 3 June 1922

MOTOR CAR OFFENCES - At Crewe on Tuesday, Reginald Langford Farnell, of Myrtle-street, Crewe, was fined 5s for not exhibiting his motor excise licence, and also 5s for failing to produce his driver's licence.

Percy Jenkins, of Whitchurch, was fined 5s for driving without a licence.

Herbert F Stubbs and John F Stubbs, Broughton-road, Coppenhall, were each fined 5s, the former for having the identification plate of his motor obscured, and the latter for aiding and abetting him.

Wm L Barnes, of Bedford-street, was fined 5s for having his identification plate covered, and Edwin Hardest, Bedford-street, was fined 5s for aiding and abetting him. Geo Henry Hall, Malpas, was fined 10s for not showing a red lamp at the rear of his vehicle.

Harry Betteley, of Nantwich, was ordered to pay 5s for not giving proper warning of his approach when turning a corner.

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.

1-Jun-22	Runcom Group	TBA
9-Jun-22	Bramhall Group	TBA
13-Jun-22	Northwich Group	Zoom - Charity, the Poor Law and Workhouse in the 19th Century
13-Jun-22	Sale Group	Unearthing our Quaker Community
14-Jun-22	Crewe Group	Face-to-face meeting (topic TBA)
14-Jun-22	Crewe Group	1921 Census
15-Jun-22	FHSC Zoom Seminar	Zoom - My Ancestor was a Liar
20-Jun-22	Alsager Group	TBA
21-Jun-22	Crewe & Nantwich Groups	Zoom - England's First Warranted Policewoman
21-Jun-22	Wallasey Group	Crossing the Mersey
27-Jun-22	Bebington Group	The Fab 5 Architects
28-Jun-22	Macclesfield Group	The Mainwarings of Peover Hall
30-Jun-22	Chester Group	Historical Research Using British Newspapers
11-Jul-22	Northwich Group	TBA

12-Jul-22	Crewe & Nantwich Groups	Zoom - A Grandmother's Legacy: My Great-Aunt Constance
13-Jul-22	Sale Group	Have You Got a Map That Covers.....?
14-Jul-22	Bramhall Group	TBA
18-Jul-22	Alsager Group	Afternoon visit to a place of interest (TBC)
19-Jul-22	Nantwich Group	Face-to-Face Meeting - note change of venue
19-Jul-22	Wallasey Group	AGM, followed by TBA.
20-Jul-22	FHSC Zoom Seminar	Zoom - A Plague on all Your Houses: Epidemic, Disease and our Ancestors
25-Jul-22	Bebington Group	Norman Thelwell, Artist and Cartoonist
26-Jul-22	Macclesfield Group	The Plague of the Twentieth Century
28-Jul-22	Chester Group	AGM, followed by Don't Forget Your Ration Book
8-Aug-22	Northwich Group	TBA
10-Aug-22	Sale Group	AGM, followed by a members' evening
11-Aug-22	Bramhall Group	TBA
16-Aug-22	Crewe & Nantwich Groups	Zoom - Peter Lockett
16-Aug-22	Wallasey Group	Zoom - Writing my family story
17-Aug-22	FHSC Zoom Seminar	Zoom - Marriage Law for Genealogists, 1836-1900
22-Aug-22	Bebington Group	AGM, followed by Down Below: Sewers and Public Health
23-Aug-22	Macclesfield Group	TBA
3-Sep-22	Executive Committee	Zoom
8-Sep-22	Bramhall Group	TBA
12-Sep-22	Northwich Group	TBA
13-Sep-22	Crewe & Nantwich Groups	Zoom - Society of Genealogists' Digital Collection
14-Sep-22	Sale Group	When I Grow Up I Want to be a Train Driver
17-Sep-22	Alsager Group	Nineteenth Century Maps, followed by AGM
20-Sep-22	Wallasey Group	Vikings in Wirral and the North-west
21-Sep-22	FHSC Zoom Seminar	Zoom - Birth and Death: The Hidden Secrets of Registration
26-Sep-22	Bebington Group	Long to Reign Over Us
27-Sep-22	Macclesfield Group	AGM
29-Sep-22	Chester Group	A Night at the Pictures: The Story of Chester's Cinemas
19-Oct-22	FHSC Zoom Seminar	Zoom - A Mining Disaster: The Story of the 1881 Explosion at Chatterley Whitfield Colliery
5-Nov-22	FHSC AGM	Zoom
21-Jan-23	Executive Committee	Zoom

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 six 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: Editor's Assistant

A volunteer is required to assist the editor. You do not need to live in Cheshire to carry out this role as everything is done by email. Access to email and MS Word and Excel, or equivalent, is needed. Ideally, the volunteer should also be able to resize images submitted for publication and convert them to greyscale format. Attention to detail is vital. Training can be given. Main tasks include:

- Review articles submitted for publication, liaising with authors to ensure articles meet submission guidelines.
- Type up scans of articles submitted by post.
- Carry out preliminary editing, checking for spelling and grammar errors, changing surnames to uppercase, and so on.
- Resize images and save copies in greyscale format.
- Create a list of society meeting dates in a spreadsheet.
- Proof-read the completed journal.

For information, please contact the editor, Rosie Rowley (editor@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)

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)

Obituary: Maurice Frank Littlemore

by Linda Wilding
Former Runcorn Group Leader



It is with deep sadness I have to report to you the passing of Maurice Frank Littlemore. He died peacefully in his sleep in April after a long illness.

Many members will remember Maurice as he was a very big part of the Runcorn group. He had been a society member for over thirty years.

When I was Group Leader for Runcorn Maurice was one of my treasurers; he was in this role for ten years, keeping our books ship-shape. The committee and I were sad when he retired but pleased that he stayed on as a committee member.

Maurice attended all the FHSC fairs at Northwich, along with Pat Eastup and me - we called ourselves *the three green amigos*. We were inseparable, going everywhere together promoting the Runcorn Group, attending all the local fairs and open days.

Maurice was full of life. He was a happy-go-lucky man - so full of fun, nothing stopped him; his presence was immense. To Pat and me, Maurice was more than a colleague, he was a very close friend. We, like his family and friends, will miss him greatly.

We send our condolences to his wife Pat and the family.

Obituary: Gordon Lomas

*by Dennis Whyte
Former Macclesfield Group Leader*



I was very sorry to learn of the death of Gordon Lomas in January at the age of 85. Gordon and his wife Pam gave me a lot of support when I was Macclesfield group leader. They helped at the family history open days we held at St. Albans Catholic Church in the 1990s and both of them were enthusiastic in their support when the Northwich Family History Open Days began in 1999, dressing up sometimes in a Father Brown costume, alongside the other historically-dressed FHSC members who manned the stalls. Gordon and Pam were there to support me when I opened the Research Rooms at Alderley Edge in March 1998 and were very involved in the setting up of the Alsager Group in May 1999.

Gordon was very interested in local history, especially around Brindley Fold and Biddulph, and wrote articles and books on the history of the area. He and Pam transcribed and published the MIs from the gravestones in St Lawrence's Churchyard, Biddulph.

Gordon had been an electrical engineer, and later in his career worked for a firm who made and maintained mine machinery, which involved working underground at times. His father had been a miner, and Gordon gave very interesting talks on mining, using boots and equipment that had belonged to his father. He also had a great love of the theatre, and music halls in particular, and had given talks on this topic too. Later in life Gordon organised his local Neighbourhood Watch, supported local football clubs and grew his own vegetables. Sadly he suffered ill health in the last two years of his life.

I am sure that many FHSC members will remember Gordon as cheerful, helpful and very positive in all he did.

My condolences to Pam from the FHSC. R.I.P. Gordon.

Ed.: I have very fond memories of Gordon, who cheerfully helped me to serve the tea and wash up afterwards at almost every Macclesfield Computer Club meeting during the time that my husband Howard and I were the group leaders, between 2008 and 2014.

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

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



The FHSC Seminar series has proved to be a phenomenal success, with speakers booked well into 2023; those who have heard of our initiative are very keen to take part. As the pandemic restrictions abate and more groups return to face-to-face meetings, especially in the summer months, the series will continue to be valuable to those members who live outside the county and, indeed, the country.

The last quarter has seen the author and creator of the *Moreton Farrier Forensic Genealogist* books, Nathan Dylan Goodwin, join us for an entertaining live Q&A session.

Over seventy FHSC fans of the books Zoomed in and took the opportunity to put questions to Nathan, who in turn was very generous and fulsome in both his replies and his time. February also saw professional genealogist and Irish expert Natalie Bodle join us. Natalie's talk was full of hints and tips on how to search for those elusive Irish records, and members eagerly took the opportunity to ask for further advice. I suppose a 'disaster' had to happen sometime, and it did in March when we were all set to listen to Sean Szmalc give his presentation *Titanic Honour and Glory: Revealing the Unforgettable Story of the Tragic Liner*, when we received a last-minute email from Sean's wife to say that he had unfortunately had a fall and was in hospital. We decided to have an ad-hoc evening with many members chatting about ancestors with links to the *Titanic*. It turned out to be a great evening with some fascinating stories, so every cloud has a silver lining! We wish Sean well and hope that he will be able to present his talk to us later this year.

There have been several in-person meetings as groups have tentatively returned to their local venues, with some having to find new meeting locations, including Runcorn, Tameside and Chester. Most groups began with a social evening in which they canvassed members about future plans, with many positive outcomes. Zoom talks also continued and as usual there was something for everyone. I listened to a wide range of talks, such as the many amusing happenings and odd things people do and say when filling in their marriage

certificate, the turnpikes of Cheshire, how to date old photographs, and the fascinating history of the Guide Dogs for the Blind. Education records, Commonwealth war graves, burial records and how to write up your family history were also Zoom meetings that I enjoyed. The fact that many groups are able to use local speakers is testament to the outstanding talent that can be found in Cheshire.

The online Genealogy shows have continued with FHSC having a presence by way of a *virtual booth* at these events. However, there has been huge excitement as events at sites across the county begin to reappear, which included the Wirral History and Heritage Fair which this year took place at Hulme Hall in Port Sunlight. Sheila Hamilton and Bob Wright from Wallasey and Bebington groups attended and reported a busy day with people genuinely pleased to be out and about - sentiments echoed by me and Jean Laidlaw from Macclesfield group when we represented FHSC at the Manchester and Lancashire FHS Family History in the City Fair at the Central Library in Manchester.

I think that you will agree that FHSC is a very active Society with lots on offer for members, from our daily social media feeds, monthly newsletter, the extensive content on the webpage and the wide-ranging talks and Zoom presentations to our highly regarded journal the **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**, which members can download from the website, including all the issues back to Volume 1 of December 1969, when additional copies could be bought for *two shillings plus P&P!*

Finally, please remember that as an FHSC member you can attend any of the Zoom talks or events hosted by any group, you do not have to restrict yourself to the group that you are attached to. Regularly check the *Events* page of the Society website (www.fhsc.org.uk/new-events); if anything grabs your attention then contact the relevant group leader to receive further information.

*Why not ADVERTISE your
Cheshire or Genealogy BUSINESS or PRODUCT
in this quarter-page space?
Just £14 per issue, or £50 for four consecutive issues
(see page 2 for full details)*

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.

1922 News (2) From the Crewe Chronicle, 10 June 1922

BARBERS' NEWS

WIRELESS FOR CUSTOMERS WHO HAVE TO AWAIT THEIR TURN

A firm of hairdressers in Leeds have hit upon a novel idea. From time to time customers who look in and find all the "operating" chairs full are wont to turn back with a "I'll look in later." They might go elsewhere, so the barbers have installed a "listening-in" wireless set.

Today, instead of "calling later" or reading much-thumbed newspapers and illustrated periodicals for the nth time, customers have only to take a seat and listen to the concert or news as it is sent out. Those who choose Sunday for their haircutting may hear the concert sent out from Holland. Barbers' poles carry the aerials.

Research Centre News

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

Mobberley Research Centre

by Joan Irving



It is good to see members returning to the Research Centre after the lockdowns and we hope more will come this summer. Our duty volunteers are eager to help members with their research problems.

Did your ancestors subscribe to the development of the new railways in 1845? At Mobberley we have an alphabetical list of the names, occupations and places for the thousands of people from all over England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland who took out a Railway Subscription Contract (i.e. invested money in a new railway company) in 1845 and 1846. One list gives the names of those who subscribed less than £2000 and another list names the people who subscribed more than £2000. It's interesting to see widows and spinsters subscribing to the railways! These records were a generous donation from a member. The Railway Subscription Contracts were deposited in the Private Bill Office and are part of the House of Commons archives. There are thousands of names in these records so it's definitely worth a look. Below are a few examples:

Amounts of £2000 and upwards, 1845

Donne, Edward	barrister at law	50 Upper Harley St	£2000
Dougall, James	tailor	West Nicholson St. Edinburgh	£2500
Downes, Thomas	merchant	3 Tooley St, Southwark	£2500
Doyle, Patrick	boot-maker	Newry	£2000
Draper, Thomas	solicitor	Banbury	£9000
Hudson Robert	seed-crusher	Leeds	£7700
Huggan, John	draper	2 Church St. Preston	£4500
Hughes, Emma	spinster	Glanymenai, Anglesey	£2500
Hugo, Wm Henry	surgeon	High St, Crediton	£2000
Hull, Rbt Pennyman	clergyman	Buxton, Derbyshire	£7500
Pattinson, Mary	widow	Liverpool	£2200
Pearson, James	silkman	Macclesfield	£2000

Amounts less than £2000, 1845

Allan, Alexander	engineer	Crewe	£750
Allan, John	accountant	135 Buchanan St, Glasgow	£250
Allen, Caroline	widow	Runcorn, Cheshire	£650
Evans, George Wyld	wine, spirit merchant	14, Lowgate, Hull	£250
Evans, Henry	perfumer	7 Gutter Lane, Cheapside	£1100
Evans, Thomas	esquire	Dowlais, Glamorganshire	£1250
Harrison, John	gentleman	Skipton	£200
Harrison, Mary	spinster	Woodside, Liverpool	£60
Hodgson, James	farmer	Sandholme, Thirsk	£30
Hodgson, John	general in army	63 Welbeck St, Cavendish Sq	£500
Hogan, William	victualler	6 Moor St Market, Dublin	£250
Hogg, Francis	wool salesman	New Wortley	£500

Crewe Family History Unit

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

I am pleased to say the FHU was finally able to reopen to visitors on 19th April. It has been a long wait and as I write this all the plans are in place with the promised return of our ever-helpful volunteers.

We will open on Mondays and Tuesdays as usual and I hope I can soon confirm opening one Saturday morning per month, as before. Please check the FHU page on the society website for any updated information. Volunteers are busy cataloguing new acquisitions; these are being added to the library list which will be updated on the website as soon as possible.

One of our computers has been upgraded and now has access to the *Find My Past Worldwide Edition*; the others have the standard UK edition. For the 1921 census, you can carry out an initial search but cannot view or download a transcription or original record because the library edition that we have does not have the facility for you to pay for the 1921 census records.

During the past two years that we have been closed, *The Genealogist* website has increased the data held, giving you another tool to explore, as has *Ancestry*.

We are looking forward to welcoming all volunteers and visitors, old and new.

Letters to the Editor

If you have any comments about any of the articles in the **ANCESTOR**, or any aspect of the society, please share them – I'd love to hear from you! Just send an email to editor@fhsc.org.uk or post a letter to the address inside the front cover, including your name and membership number, and tell me if you also want your email/postal address to be printed so other researchers can contact you.

Sixty Generations

I congratulate Peter Denny on his *Sixty Generations* article and the work behind it. There are many different challenges to getting back so far and I have only a little experience in some of them; I'm not going to count my lines since it is very much less than sixty generations. However, Peter's article got me thinking and web browsing.

If you have any local gentry in your tree then they are VERY possessive of their family lines, particularly if they are of the blood royal. Some of the claims to be descended from royalty are more mythological in nature but several fairly minor county families are in the blood royal book editions. They exist for Plantagenet descendants which is a huge number - several million in the UK alone, I understand - not least because they had very many wives, mistresses and hence descendants over such a long period of time. See

https://openlibrary.org/books/OL6959050M/The_Plantagenet_roll_of_the_blood_royal

There are fewer Tudor descendants because of a shorter time period and also fewer acknowledged children; the equivalent books exist, and these books are available for reference, e.g. the *Dictionary of National Biography* on Ancestry and elsewhere (www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/1981).

Once you are in Royal lines, going back to Charlemagne gives several potential routes; this is a lovely article about the present Queen's ancestors, and not just the inheritance that make her our monarch: www.tudortimes.co.uk/people/queen-elizabeth-iis-family-tree. I was surprised to find that her maternal line peters out in the mid-eighteenth century; that makes me much happier about my line having a 'huge leap of faith' before 1810. Even with that speculation I grind to a halt on my maternal line in the early eighteenth century (like many others). The Queen does in fact descend from Charlemagne in many documented ways. Geni and other websites have several views on Charlemagne's ancestors and I am not qualified to judge whether he does go back to Roman Senators at all - a professional early medieval historian's skills are needed there.

On my own tree I have found that the generations slip fairly easily over even a small number of generations, with women marrying younger than men on average, and older children sometimes producing children before their parents have stopped, but that will make little impact on the target of sixty generations.

I suspect none of us can compete with the documented records of the descendants of Confucius (551 - 479BC) www.chinadaily.com.cn/culture/2015-09/14/content_21851571.htm, where eighty-three generations of Chinese people can claim descent from him.

Judith Hankey

Membership no. 9147

The Mathematics of Sixty Generations

Peter DENNY's article in the March 2022 issue of the **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR** on the above subject made me think.

Sixty generations back to about 500 AD gives an average generation of twenty-five years. Going back 1000 years on this basis takes us back about forty generations to William the Conqueror. If William was Peter's 33xgreat-grandfather, that would be thirty-six generations back - close enough.

We all have two grandparents, four (2 squared) great-grandparents, eight (2 cubed) 2xgreat-grandparents, and so on - or in general (2 to the power n) (n-1)x great-grandparents. We thus have (2 to the power 34) 33x great-grandparents; and 2 to the power 34 is about 17,180 million, or over 17 billion!

The population of the British Isles in 1066 was about 3.5 million, with 2 to 2.5 million people living in England. Many of our ancestors would be distant cousins, sharing more distant ancestors. Even so, there is a great possibility that everyone in the country today could be descended from William the Conqueror! Of course, there are exceptions, e.g. recent immigrants and those living at the furthest extremes of the country from London, such as Scotland, the west country and north Wales.

So, what should surprise us is not that we are descended from King William, but that there are any records prior to 1538 to prove it; for that, we also need to be lucky in finding someone amongst our thousands of post-1538 ancestors who was high enough in the gentry to have their earlier pedigree recorded.

Ian Pidgeon

Membership no. 9481

An Opportunity Missed

I know it is a bit late, but I believe the 2021 census was an opportunity missed. I didn't fully come round to this view until later in the Covid epidemic. It struck me not only how much information the government holds about us but this information is often joined up. Thus they know who I am, how old I am, date of birth, NI number, NHS number and address - not to mention tax and state pension details).

The missed opportunity occurred during the 2021 census data collection. I believe that the hundred year secrecy is unnecessary. Much general data is released after thirty years and even some personal data is made public after fifty years. As all state pensioners are at least over sixty-five then we could have been asked after what time we would like our own census data to be released - e.g. after say thirty, fifty or seventy years instead of 100 years. This would mean that 1951 census data could be released for those who agree with an earlier date. The data for those who disagree could be redacted, as for the 1939 register.

This leaves two main questions. The first is what to do about those who have died or, for example, aliens who have left the country. The second is how to link people who agree with early release to people in the 1951 census.

This may be an oversimplification and difficult to implement but I believe it would have been worth the effort. As an aside, the same criteria could apply to the 1939 register.

Gren Dix
Membership no. 4174

For Whom the Bell Tolls....

Inspired by Margaret's talks on newspapers, I did a search for some of my ancestors and found the attached item in a copy of the *Chester Courant*, 8th February 1803. Sadly I don't think he belongs to my family and I wondered why he did it, and what all the wedding guests did while he was doing it!

Midge Broadhurst
Membership no 2218

On the 25th ult. at Great Budworth, Mr John Percival, of that place, to Miss Ann Jones, near Wrexham. After the ceremony the bridegroom rang eight hundred and twenty rounds, in an hour and three minutes, on the tenor bell, which weighs 1ton 3cwt 3qr. A similar circumstance is not remembered by the oldest man in that part of the country.

Comments on the March 2022 ANCESTOR

I am a lapsed member after many years as a member. I was born in Macclesfield on the day after D-Day and still live here. However, I spent fifty years working firstly in the Merchant Navy and then in merchant shipping around the world. I have had a couple of articles about Macclesfield and the sea published in the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR.

After reading the latest issue in the library can I add this comment. My 3x great-grandfather was Pharoah (recorded for his marriage as Farrow) HELLEWELL; he was born in Kirkburton in 1786 and died there in 1822. His son Richard married Hannah GOODWIN at Prestbury on 8 April 1840 and their daughter Hannah married John Thomas GASKELL in 1872. One of their children, Harriet (marr John BOOTH) was my grandmother. Apparently there were in the 18th-19th centuries four large GASKELL families in Rainow; I have two in my tree, are they there now?

There was a letter about transported criminals in families. In January 2015 I did a tour of Tasmania which was really interesting. In Launceston Museum there was a section devoted to transportation, including about ten photos of *typical criminals*. I was surprised to see one was a photo of James JONES alias BROCKLEHURST; his offence was *receiving a stolen fiddle*, date 1844, a native of Macclesfield, tried Chester, age twenty-two, a silk weaver.

David Booth, Master Mariner, Macclesfield.

Sue Taylor

Sue emailed to ask whether it was possible to obtain a copy of the September 1984 issue of the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR. As a result of Sue's enquiry, our chairman has added all the back issues of the ANCESTOR to the FHSC website, right back to 1969. Unfortunately I was unable to reply to Sue as my emails to her were rejected, so I hope she sees this and can now download the copy she needs.

Compliments

Peter H.: *Congratulations to all on such a magnificent production. I read it with great interest. It must be one of the best FHS editions in the country.*

Janet S.: *What a wonderful presentation from Gill Blanchard on Tuesday evening. I was unsure about attending but so glad I did, so much information and very interesting. I have really benefitted from the Zoom meetings. This is a great society, very helpful and friendly.*

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 were added between 30 January and 26 April 2022:

A`COURT, ALCOCK/ALLCOCK, ALLMAN, ARCHER

BAUGH, BENNETT/BENNET/BENET/BENETT, BIRCHENOUGH,

BIRTLES, BOOTH

DAWSON, DEAN, DELVES, DOBELL

EARLEM/IRLAM

FOWLER, FOXLEY

GLOVER, GOFF/GOUGH, GRANDIN, GRIFFITH-JONES

HARDING, HARVEY, HIDE, HOWARD

JEPSON, JOHNSON

KENT, KETTLE, KINSEY

LEA, LEIGH, LEWIS

MARTIN, MCGINTY

NEWTON

PEREZ PROS, POWNALL, PRESTON, PULFORD

ROBINSON

SHRIGLEY/SIGLEY, SMITH, STAFFORD, SWAN/SWANN

TAYLOR, THOMAS, TROUSDALE

VAUGHAN

WILD

YATES

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.

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 on the website 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.

Slaters Directory of Macclesfield and District 1890 - £2.00

With a List of the Gentry, and Alphabetical, Classified Trades, and Street Directories, and more.

Nantwich Wills 1603 to 1688 - £10.00

Includes typed transcriptions of several hundred documents ranging from a single page inventory to much longer and more detailed wills, transcribed from the originals held at Cheshire Archives by local historian Jack Cockcroft.

Woodhead St James Memorial Inscriptions - £1.00

A transcription of the memorial inscriptions.

Founded in 1724 as a chapel to Mottram in Longendale St. Michael. In 1840 it became the district church for part of the township of Tintwistle (previously served by Mottram in Longendale St. Michael).

Woodchurch Holy Cross Memorial Inscriptions - £4.00

A transcription of the memorial inscriptions.

A Stray Found in Warwickshire

Found By Jacqui Simkins in the parish burial register for Curdworth, Warwickshire:

January 1785, buried John RICHARDSON. Died at Minworth. Supposed to belong to Caringham in the county of Chester.

Minworth was then within the parish of Curdworth. *Caringham* may mean Carrington, near Sale?

Family History Events

For news of family history events, see these online calendars

<http://geneva.weald.org.uk/doku.php>
www.familyhistoryfederation.com/events
www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/online/genealogy/
<https://conferencekeeper.org/>

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

Advance tickets £6; early bird ticket offer - two tickets for £8

Each ticket includes a free goody bag worth £8

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

THE Genealogy Show Summer Event (online)

Friday 1st - Saturday 2nd July 2022 * FHSC will be present *

www.thegenealogyshowlive.com

10th U3A Peak District Family History Conference

Saturday 17th September 2022 at the Palace Hotel, Buxton

Speakers: Dr Janet Few, Debbie Kennett, Dr Nick Barratt, Helen Tovey

Family History Society stands etc * FHSC will be present *

Tickets £30 incl goody bag, talks, refreshments & two-course buffet lunch

For information contact Ian Taylor taylor.ian9@gmail.com

Online booking form at <https://forms.gle/UbSD4YzNVKUc0Zas6>

The Family History Show (London)

10.00am - 4.30pm Sat. 24th September 2022

at Kempton Park Racecourse, Sunbury-on-Thames, TW16 5A

Less than a mile from the M3; ample free parking

200 yards from Kempton Park station (40 mins from London Waterloo)

Ask the Experts - Talks - Family History Societies

Tickets £7; early bird ticket offer - two tickets for £10

Each ticket includes a free goody bag worth £8

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

Family History News

A selection of recent updates to websites, and other family history news. Remember, if you don't have a subscription to *Ancestry*, *Find My Past* or *The Genealogist*, our Research Centres have free access to these sites. You may also be able to access *Ancestry* or *Find My Past* through your 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

UK, Phone Book Indexes, 2001 and 2003

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62438/>

This collection includes names and addresses of subscribers listed in UK telephone directories. Remember that not everyone had a home telephone and some subscribers asked for their details to be omitted (ex-directory).

1950 United States Federal Census

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62308/>

Ancestry is indexing the census using handwriting recognition technology, checked by Familysearch volunteers. You can try searching to see if your ancestor has been indexed, or explore the maps in the district finder.

Prize Papers Project

<https://www.prizepapers.de/>

The National Archives and Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg in Germany have collaborated to create The Prize Papers Project. On completion, some 3.5 million digital pages documenting lives around the globe in the time of the European Expansion, Colonialism, and Resistance will be included. This open-access portal will allow researchers to search by name of a ship, ship's master, geographical area, or date.

Currently, the court records revealing the details of 1,500 ships captured during the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars are now searchable online for the first time.

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

Tree Search

<https://findmypast.com/help/sections/4426027347997-your-family-tree-data>

FindMyPast is introducing the ability to search other users' family trees. Tree Search is a new feature that will let you search for and view deceased ancestors from other members' trees. You'll also be able to add those details to your own tree, as you can from tree-to-tree hints. In the future, you will also be able to view the deceased ancestors on other members' trees. This has privacy implications - the default tree privacy settings will opt you in unless you uncheck the boxes (as is the case with Ancestry).

Women's Military Service

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/british-womens-royal-air-force-service-records-1918-1920>

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/british-army-womens-army-auxiliary-corps-1917-1920>

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/military-nurses-1856-1994>

FindMyPast now has records of women who served in the WRAF, the WAAC and as military nurses.

UK 2021 Electoral Register and Companies House records

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

FindMyPast has added the latest public data from the UK 2021 electoral registers and companies house records.

1950 United States Federal Census Images - Free access

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/1950-us-census-image-browse>

Images from the 1950 US census are available to browse free of charge - you will have to register with FMP but no payment is required. There is no index yet and you need to choose a location to start viewing the records.

Six people on every census sheet were asked further questions. If you find a name labelled *sample*, be sure to check out the additional information. Questions for people marked with *sample* included where they were living a year ago, how much taxable income they made and from which sources, and what class of worker they were. For more information, read the FMP blog at www.findmypast.co.uk/blog/new/1950-us-census

Cheshire Archives News

www.cheshirearchives.org.uk/latest-news-and-events

Cheshire's Archives: a Story Shared

In the summer we will be running some events in Crewe, including a drop-in session where you can get support researching your family and house histories, a cook-off with a heritage twist, and some crafty activities for the family. At all these events we will have information with us about the proposed history centre in Crewe which would be built as a result of the project to relocate and expand the archives service.

We will be organising similar events for Chester and bringing along some more details about our project and what the new history centre in Chester might look like. Keep an eye out for more information on our website and social media in the coming weeks.

Saturday Opening Returns

In May we will be restarting our Saturday openings. At present we are looking to see if there is any demand for this and will be trialling opening every two months throughout 2022. We will be open on 21 May, 16 July, 17 September and 19 November from 9am to 4pm. Please contact us if you would like to reserve a space.

Wirral Archives Service

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

The local history photographic collection previously held at Wallasey Reference Library has been transferred to Wirral Archives. The collection of historical photographs and albums of Wallasey includes images of people, streets and places, and photographs of the Blitz.

New York City Municipal Archives

<https://a860-historicalvitalrecords.nyc.gov/>

The NYCMA is undertaking a mass digitisation project to provide online access to 13.3 million historical birth, death, and marriage records dating from 1855 to 1949. At the time of going to press, 70% of the records had been digitised. Other records available online include photos of property, most dating from 1939 to 1941, used to assess property tax.

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. 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. To take full advantage and keep abreast of the updates to genealogical websites, follow the society on Twitter (@FHSofCheshire) or Facebook (www.facebook.com/CheshireFamilyHistory).

Medical Officer of Health Reports

<https://archive.org/details/medicalofficerofhealthreports>

More of a collection than an actual archive, this is a great resource. The reports were produced each year by the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) for each district and set out the work done by public health and sanitary officers. They provided vital data on birth and death rates, infant mortality, incidence of infectious and other diseases, and a general statement on the health of the population. The reports also allowed the authors to express the diversity of their local communities and their own personal interests, so sometimes contain unexpected topics. The link is the MOH collection page of *Archive.org* and if you type your area of interest in the *Search This Collection* box on the right, you can refine the results. For instance, when I typed in *Cheshire* there were some 363 hits; Stalybridge, Hyde, Congleton and Winsford are quite well represented.

Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC)

<https://dloc.com/>

The collection includes books, photographs, archives of Caribbean leaders and governments, legal documents, official historical documents, literature (novels, poetry, journals, and more), art, audio-visual materials, and historic and contemporary maps. Also included are Caribbean studies journals and scholarly publications and newspapers. The Digital Library of the Caribbean provides open access to all materials, and all materials are full text searchable with images that load quickly but can be zoomed for detail. Well worth a visit, you never know what you may find.

Rotterdam City Archives

<https://stadsarchief.rotterdam.nl/zoek-en-ontdek/themas/holland-amerika-lijn/>

There is a wealth of information on this site that is free to search and download, including passenger manifests such as those of the Holland-America Line (HAL) that have been recently digitised. Anyone can search for family members who travelled or emigrated with the Holland-America Line between 1900 and 1969. The HAL has played an important role in the migration from Europe to America. The site is in Dutch, but if you right-click your mouse anywhere on the page, a window will pop up where one of the choices is *Translate to English*. This will translate the website pages to English but of course not the actual records themselves. The link above is for the main passenger search page but there is a lot more to explore if you navigate to the main page.

The Elizabeth Roberts Working Class Oral History Archive

www.regional-heritage-centre.org

Brought to you by the Regional Heritage Centre at Lancaster University, this website hosts the transcripts of interviews carried out by Dr Roberts and her collaborators during the 1970s and 1980s. The interviews captured memories of working-class life in North West England – specifically in Barrow-in-Furness, Lancaster and Preston – and are focused on the period from the late nineteenth century to the outbreak of the WWII, and from WWII through to 1970.

Olive Tree Genealogy

www.olivetreegenealogy.com/index.shtml

The sad news of the sudden death of Lorine McGinnis Schulze stunned many genealogists, so I am highlighting her wonderful site – Olive Tree Genealogy. If you are searching for American or Canadian ancestors, this is your first port of call. Lorine created the site in February 1996 to bring free genealogy records to researchers; with more than 1,900 pages there is plenty to help you.

University of London Press: Open Access section

www.sas.ac.uk/publications/series/open-access-titles

The University of London Press is a non-profit press with a mission to support humanities researchers. Most books are open access to allow global access to their publishing programme. Many titles are available as free PDF files.

ICI Collection

www.catalyst.org.uk/museum/our-ici-collections

This collection has been made available via the Catalyst Archives which are housed at the Catalyst Museum in Runcorn. There are some gems online, including the ICI Magazine and other employee publications, indexes to Brunner Mond workers, and much more.

Heritage Gateway

www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway

The site is managed by Historic England and provides access to local and national records on the historic environment, including the following resources:

- Local authority records from over 70% of England's Historic Environment Records (HERs)
- National records from the National Heritage List for England
- Historic England Research Records (replaces PastScape)
- Records from the National Trust Historic Buildings Sites and Monuments Record
- The Excavation Index
- Information of historic parks, gardens, and historic landscapes
- Designation Decision Records

You can cross-search all the above resources on this website, including by using the map. Not all resources can display their results on the map, but all can be viewed in the results list. More local and national resources continue to be added to the website on a regular basis, so keep checking for updates.

The Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire

www.hslc.org.uk/archive

The archive page on this website represents a considerable and influential body of scholarly material on the history of the two counties. Some of the articles published in the nineteenth-century volumes now constitute primary sources for certain aspects of the history of Lancashire and Cheshire. All volumes of the journal from volume 1 - issued in 1849 - up to volume 157 for 2008 have been digitised and can be browsed or searched from the link. Volumes from 158 for 2009 are available to HSLC members via the Liverpool University Press website. There are some interesting papers on the site and it's well worth a look.

London Picture Archive

www.londonpicturearchive.org.uk

The London Picture Archive is one of London's finest picture archives. Managed by London Metropolitan Archives (LMA), it provides free online access to over 250,000 images of London from the collections at LMA and Guildhall Art Gallery, as well as over 1,000 maps from the LMA. The images provide an extraordinary record of London and its people from the fifteenth century to the present day. The whole of Greater London is covered, as are the adjoining counties.

Some highlights are: photographs of Victorian London; the sixteenth century 'Agas' map of London; Hollar's 1647 panorama; twentieth century posters for

London's tramways; the Cross and Tibbs photographs of WWII damage to the City of London; and the collections formerly held at the Guildhall Print Room. New content is regularly added and the site continues to develop descriptions and tags for the London County Council Photograph Library. Not all of the LMA images are available here - there are around two million photos, prints, drawings and maps in the strong rooms in Clerkenwell! If you can't find what you're looking for, contact the LMA via the website.

The Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure

www.campop.geog.cam.ac.uk

In the fifty years since it was founded in 1964, members of the group have made a spectacular series of discipline-transforming contributions to social science history, including work on historical demography and household structure, the interdependence of these with welfare systems, and on occupational structure.

1922 News (3) From the Crewe Chronicle, 3 June 1922

CREWE PROPERTIES: KEEN DEMAND

There was a large attendance at The Royal Hotel, Crewe, on Monday, when Messrs Manley and Sons submitted a freehold shop and dwelling properties in Crewe and Haslington, belonging to the late Mr R P Walley.

The shop and dwelling house, no 96 Mill-street, with a return frontage to Union-street, commenced with a bid of £300, and was sold to the tenant for £450. The three adjoining shops, Nos 98, 100 and 102 Mill-street, were withdrawn at £245 each, but were afterwards sold to the respective tenants at £240, £250 and £250 respectively.

The stable yard in Union-street, at the rear of the shop property, was put up at £200, and at £345 the Baptist Chapel trustees were declared the purchasers.

Eight modern dwelling-houses, Nos 105 to 119, Richmond-road (odd numbers) were put up in one lot. Commencing at £1,200, biddings quickly rose to £1,800, at which figure they were disposed of.

Three houses, Nos 16, 18 and 20, Pedley-street, were withdrawn at £345. The corner shop, No 17 Arthur-street, realised £200 to the tenant. Four houses in Arthur-st were withdrawn at £395.

A block of 14 houses in Bedford-st found a purchaser at £2,055, following the opening bid of £1,200. The last lot, a small cottage in West-st, Haslington, sold for £107 10s.

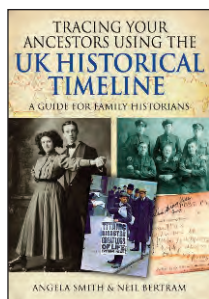
Book Review

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. Information correct at the time of going to press.

Tracing your Ancestors Using the UK Historical Timeline

By Angela Smith and Neil Bertram

Reviewed by Rosie Rowley



Despite the title, this book is not about how to trace your ancestors; instead, it is a reference of UK information and events in date order, from William the Conqueror in 1066 through to the “National Census” in March 2021 - although the census for Scotland did not take place until March 2022, due to Covid.

The book is set out using three columns on each page. The larger main column lists historical events for which records may exist - e.g., a new tax, a census, or the introduction of civil registration. The two smaller columns list major socio-cultural events such as inventions, weather and disasters; and state and church events such as wars, acts of parliament, and names of prime ministers and monarchs. Some events are local, such as the 1845 collapse of a bridge in Great Yarmouth which killed eighty people, and the construction of Manchester’s first cotton mill in 1780.

The book is ideal for giving context to your ancestors’ lives and discovering events which could have affected them, and it might prompt further avenues of research. The book is of general interest, too; I enjoyed simply opening a page at random and seeing what gems were revealed. There is an index, so you can use it to quickly find out when and where the first British cinema was opened (Clevedon, Somerset, 1912), or when Christmas became a national holiday (1835 - no wonder so many Victorian marriages took place on Christmas Day!)

A fascinating book, highly recommended.

Pen & Sword, 2021. Paperback, 168 pages, £12.99.
ISBN-13: 978-1399003322

Family Occupations

by Judith Hankey
Membership no. 9147

I don't know the identities of all sixty-four of my 4xgreat-grandfathers, simply because in some cases there is no baptism record showing the father's name. But where I can place both the person and his occupation they are listed below. The dates of birth range between 1754 and 1809, which is clearly two generations. About half of these men were from Cheshire, nearly all in my paternal lines, so I expected more farmers and agricultural labourers (ag labs) since Cheshire was mainly a rural county; but my paternal list shows only one farmer and one ag lab. The salt industry was well underway in mid-Cheshire then and that shows clearly in the occupations. Most of my farming ancestors are from Derbyshire.

It would be interesting to see the range of ancestral occupations of other members.

Paternal

Joseph	HANKEY	born 1760	Ches	salt miner
John	DALE	born 1761	Ches	farmer
Thomas	DIGNAM	born 1786	Ches	flatman
William	VERO	born 1753	Staffs	hat maker
Joseph	GANDY	born 1784	Ches	salt boiler
John	WALTON	born 1787	Ches	sawyer (carpenter)
Joseph	HARDMAN	born 1774	Lancs	soldier/marine Chelsea pensioner
William	DYSON	born 1783	Lancs	coal miner
William	SYMMS	born 1773	Ches	soldier then ag lab
James	CRANK	born 1793	Ches	labourer
George	PRICE	born 1809	Ches	salt boiler
William	ROGERSON	born 1806	Ches	salt boiler
George	DEAKIN	born 1785	Ches	carpenter
George	ASHLEY	born 1772	Ches	shoemaker
Samuel	GARRETT	born 1773	Ches	wheelwright
James	ANKERS	born 1769	Ches	linen draper

Maternal

John	WALL	born 1747	Derbys	farmer
William	BOOTH	born 1754	Derbys	farmer
Elias	OLDFIELD	born 1759	Derbys	farmer
William	GODBER	born 1774	Derbys	farmer
John	BUXTON	born 1772	Derbys	lead miner
William	STREET	born 1782	Derbys	publican
Joseph	BRAMLEY	born 1799	Derbys	butcher
German	HODGKINSON	born 1790	Derbys	farmer
Joseph	WHETTON	born 1763	Derbys	ag lab
Edward	BIRCH	born 1759	Staffs	ag lab
John	BATES	born 1761	Derbys	unknown
John	PARKER	born 1765	Derbys	ag lab
Nathaniel	ROGERS	born 1769	Salop	joiner (carpenter)
Unknown				
William	CATTRALL	born 1768	Ches	labourer
Unknown				probably a flatman

Flatman - operates a Mersey sailing barge known as a flat

1922 News (4) From the Crewe Chronicle, 3 June 1922

“LIGHT” OFFENCES

Thomas Abell, Whitening Farm, Bradwall, was fined 5s for not having a light on his horse and cart. John Prendergast, 10 George-street, Newcastle, was fined 5s for having no rear light on his motor wagon; James Jackson Phipps, 261 Lea Bridge, Leyton, was fined 10s for not having the rear identification plate easily distinguishable. 10s was the fine imposed on Walter Lyne, 2 Alfred-street, Crewe, for having an insufficient front light on his motor-cycle. He was also fined £1 for failing to stop when called upon to do so by P.C. Williams.

OTHER CASES

For not giving audible warning of the approach of his motor-car at Church Lawton, John Robbins, 4 Elm Cottage, Birmingham was fined £1. There were two summonses against George Forster, 17 Chapel-street, Sandbach, for using obscene language and he was fined £1. A fine of 10s was imposed on Thomas Johnson, Ettily Heath, for riding a bicycle without a light. For allowing five horses to stray on the highway William Ward, Park House, Brereton, was fined £1. He was also fined 5s for not having his dog under proper control.

Food Control in WWI

by Margaret Roberts
Publicity/Social Media Officer

Congratulations to FHSC member John Fallows, who was announced as a runner-up in the recent Family Photo Competition run by *Who Do You Think You Are?* magazine. John entered this wonderful photo into the *Dressing-Up* category of the competition.



The photo is of Florence (Florrie) Pownall Smith FITTON, born in Bolton in 1887, where John's family mainly lived. Florrie was a qualified seamstress, as is obvious from the magnificent costume. The photo was taken circa 1917. Florrie's mother was Caroline Hodkinson POWNALL, born on 22 December 1859 in Hursfield Road, Macclesfield; Caroline later lived in Lansdown Street.

John wondered about the background to the Food Control theme of the costume.

Food Control

In WWI, food became a major issue, not only for the military but on the home front too, and huge efforts were required of the civilian population. Rising food prices and shrinking supplies added to the burden of extra work undertaken in factories and on the land.

When war was declared, a rash of panic buying arose and fears about the availability of food initiated a hoarding culture which inevitably resulted in pressure on the food supply chain; we saw just this sort of thing very recently in the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic. There were reports in 1914-15 of food shops having to close due to having been emptied by worried shoppers.

In 1914 Britain relied heavily on imported food – 80% of wheat, 40% of meat and virtually all sugar was shipped in from abroad. At first the Government was not overly keen to get involved, hoping that the situation would resolve itself if the markets remained restriction free. Apart from establishing a wheat and a sugar commission, laissez faire reigned for the first few years of the war. However, by the summer of 1916 it became obvious that the Government would need to intervene. The main concern of the British public was the huge hike in prices, a 61% increase across the board between July 1914 and 1915 alone.

There were many who believed that people were profiteering from the war, with high prices, shortages and disparity of distribution being the biggest anxieties from 1916 onwards. The situation was exacerbated by poor harvests, resulting in staples like potatoes being in short supply. As these tended to be the only vegetable consumed by the urbanised poor, scurvy became common in the disadvantaged areas of large cities. In December 1916 the government responded to these concerns and created the Ministry of Food, appointing Lord Devonport as the first Minister of Food (or Food Controller), the post being completely distinct from that of the Minister of Agriculture. During the Great War, the Ministry sponsored a series of canteens known as National Kitchens which were established to feed up to 2,000 people per day people cheaply and economically.

A system of voluntary restraint was at first thought to be much better than rationing and with certain foodstuffs becoming so limited they were almost nigh impossible to get, something needed to be done. In April 1917 Devonport suggested that people should eat no more than 4lb of bread, 2½ lb of meat and ¾lb of sugar a week (1.8kg, 1kg and 340g respectively); this amounted to roughly 1,300 calories a day!

The escalation of the German U-boat campaign prompted a crisis in the spring of 1917 when the Government announced that the nation's food stocks had diminished to just three or four weeks' supply. Devonport resigned and his successor Lord Rhondda soon appreciated that the situation would never be resolved by individual voluntary efforts alone. Sugar rationing began in January 1918, half a pound per week, and although this worked well it was overshadowed by problems in obtaining other foods. The press soon began to report long queues for food, with examples of housewives waiting for hours for goods, which were often sold out before they reached the counter. Those on active service were aware of these problems and military leaders were concerned that this was affecting morale.

By April 1918 rationing had been extended to include the following weekly amounts:

- Butter and margarine - 5oz/140g
- Jam - 4oz/113g
- Tea - 2oz/56g
- Bacon - 8oz/226g (increased to 16oz/454g after July 1918)
- Fresh meat was rationed by price

Greater efforts were put into food production and the Dig for Victory campaign that we perhaps think of as a WWII slogan was also part of the home front effort during WWI. Lord Rhondda's management of food supplies - especially his commitment to limiting the prices of basic food stuffs - quelled the sense of outrage and injustice felt by the civilian population at the time. These policies were to prove particularly germane two decades later, when a key challenge of another war world would once again be hunger on the home front.

1922 News (5) From the Crewe Chronicle, 3 June 1922

SANDBACH - WORK AT FODEN'S

The number of men employed at Messrs Fodens is being gradually increased. For the month of May about 100 men were re-engaged. Former hands who have been out of work some time are being given the preference. We trust that this happy turn of events will continue, and that there will be greater prosperity.

A Farm Through Time (Part 1)

by Derek Pott
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Living in Thailand, I am fortunate to have online access to UK television broadcasts so was able to enjoy the *House Through Time* series. I spent my first twenty-seven years in Wirral and moved to Thailand over fifty years ago, so I have never lived in a house worthy of such research. However, I decided to see what I could make of a house and farm that no longer exist but where my ancestors once lived.

I'm referring to the farm that was once well-known as Orme's Farm in Offerton. It was located on what is today the Brookside Estate on Marple Road, about two miles from Stockport and at the brow of the hill leading down to Foggbrook. It used to cover over one hundred acres of cattle pasture, wheat fields and woodland.

The farmhouse featured as the cover picture of the late Ray Preston's book *Offerton - A Glimpse of the Past*, and was described in a paragraph in his other book, *Offerton - Marple Road Bicentenary 1797-1997*. He wrote that during its demolition in the 1960s, he walked through the ruins and was amazed to see ancient legged timbers with much wattle and daub. It was unbelievable that anyone could destroy what had been a superb example of sixteenth century architecture.

I corresponded with Ray by email in 2008-9 and he confirmed to me that it was likely that my 4x great-grandfather, David POTT, had lived at Orme's Farm. Sadly, Ray had passed away by the time I discovered that David was actually a nephew of Samuel ORME.

The story therefore begins with Samuel ORME, as I have no knowledge of any inhabitants of the farm before his time. Samuel was born in Rainow in 1730 and was the youngest son of Thomas ORME and Mary WATSON. Samuel had three siblings - James, born in 1723, Elizabeth, born 1726 and Peter, born 1727. On 21 April 1747, Elizabeth married William POTT of Rainow at Prestbury St Peter. They are known to have had two children but I've been able to find a birth record for only one - the aforementioned David POTT, who was baptised at Macclesfield St. Michael on 2 October 1748.

I can find no record of when either Samuel or David first moved to Offerton. Given their family connection, it's quite possible that it was at the same time. The earliest record I have is the Cheshire land tax collections for 1780 when Samuel paid an annual tax of £3 15s 6d on land owned by Henry Offley WRIGHT, the Vicar of Derby and owner of Offerton Hall, Mottram Hall and much other land in the district. In the same record, David paid £1 17s 4d on land owned by Sir George WARREN, another major landowner in the area. From the 1850 tithe maps, it is clear that the plots of land of both these gentlemen were in the same area, some of them requiring access from the other's land. Samuel continued to pay his tax annually until 1788. After that, his name no longer appears in the records, but a similar amount in respect of the land owned by Henry WRIGHT was thereafter paid by David.

Another of the early records I have seen is a notice that appeared in the *Manchester Mercury* of 28 January 1783, stating that if any of the thirty-five subscribers named therein has a horse, mare or other property damaged or stolen from him, they will set out in pursuit, making the strictest enquiry, and upon the least intelligence, continue such pursuit, in order to bring back the horse, mare and other property and the offender, or offenders, to justice. The subscribers from Offerton were Samuel DODGE, Samuel ORME, Ralph HYDE, William GASKELL and David POTT.

Samuel died in 1799, a widow and childless. In his will, he left the bulk of his assets to David POTT, David's eldest son Samuel POTT and his nephew, Samuel ORME. David continued to pay tax on the properties owned by both Henry WRIGHT (and later Lawrence WRIGHT) and Sir George WARREN (later Lord Bulkeley) until 1814, when he moved his abode to Bramhall. From around this time onwards, these two landowners leased their land to separate families, the Wright land being around seventy acres and the Bulkeley land thirty-four acres. In 1815 and 1816, the tax on the Wright land was paid by John FOSTER, of whom I have no information. Due to lack of space, this article will only describe the families who farmed on the Wright land.

David died on 30 January 1817 and left the bulk of his possessions to his eldest son, Samuel. Since Samuel POTT had his own farm in Brinnington, John ALSOP was the next tenant. He was born in Parwich, Derbyshire, in 1775; in 1807 he married Elizabeth FERNIHOUGH there, and their daughter Mary was born there in 1814. The family must have moved to Offerton not long afterwards, as the first land tax paid by John was in 1817.

In 1834, Mary ALSOP married Joseph FAULKNER at Stockport St Mary. Being aged around nineteen, she was described in the marriage register as a minor of

Offerton, married by consent of her father. Joseph was born in Lostock, Lancashire, in 1813. In the 1841 census, Potts Farm was specifically mentioned. Resident there were John and Elizabeth ALSOP together with Joseph and Mary FAULKNER. In 1851, the name of the farm had been changed to The Marrels where John, now a widower, was living with Joseph and Mary. In 1861, it was The Marbles (or appears to be from the handwriting) where the same three persons were still resident. John died in 1868 (on 10th April at the *Gilded Olive*, according to an announcement printed in the *Glossop Record* on 18th April 1868) and was buried in St. Peter's Churchyard, Parwich.

Joseph and Mary continued to farm the land and they both appeared in the 1871 census. Joseph died in Offerton in 1878. While I have been unable to find a record of Mary in the 1881 census, she appears in 1891, living alone in Offerton Lane, a widow, aged 76. Mary died in 1896 and was buried at Norbury Parish Church. The burial register referred to her abode as Offerton and her age as 83. After the death of Joseph, the tenancy was transferred to the BARLOW family, which will be described in part 2 of this article.

1922 News (6) From the Crewe Chronicle, 3 June 1922

CONGLETON LADY HONOURED – Miss Mary Sproston, daughter of Mr and Mrs G Sproston, West-road, Congleton, was one of the official accompanists at the recent musical festival at Alderley Edge. There were upwards of 1,000 entries.

CONGLETON PARK – The park is at present looking very beautiful, and hundreds of visitors from the Potteries and surrounding districts have visited and enjoyed themselves in boating, cricket, football, bowling, and other pastimes. The bands have given several concerts.

NIGHTINGALE VISITS MOW COP DISTRICT – Bird lovers of the North Staffordshire district have during the past few days been greatly interested in the report of the presence at Roe Wood, Mow Cop, of a nightingale which is filling the night with its lovely song. Hundreds of people are visiting the locality. It is unusual for the nightingale to migrate so far north.

GIRL CLERK WINNER OF CALCUTTA SWEEP – A FORTUNE OF £64,000 A Cheshire girl clerk, Miss Gwendoline Thomas, of Valkyrie-road, Wallasey, drew Captain Cuttle in the Calcutta Sweep and is the richer by £64,000. She sold half share in the draw for £3,000 or would have won £122,000. She was at work when the glad news came to her. When somebody asked her "What are you going to do now, Miss Thomas?" she answered, with a touch of feminine simplicity, "I want to get my work done, so I can get home to mother. We shall have a lot to talk about." It may be explained that Miss Thomas has been the main support of her widowed mother since the death of an older brother many years ago.

Ed.: £64,000 in 1922 is equivalent to about £2.5 million today!

The Family History Society of Cheshire

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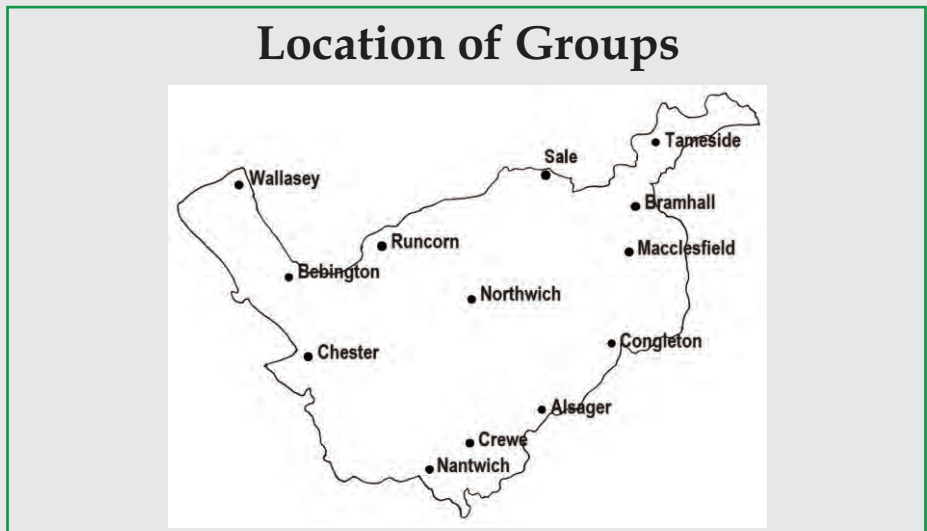
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Membership Team (Angela Moore & Kevin Dean)



Baptised Twice

by Gren Dix
Membership no. 4174

Has anyone else found an ancestor who was baptised twice?

I have seen people baptised:

- (a) twice on the same day in different churches
- (b) in two different churches on successive days (once by the same vicar)
- (c) a second baptism many years after the first

Below are transcriptions from the Lancashire Online Parish Clerk website (www.lan-opc.org.uk) for two baptisms for William INGHAM on 18 June and 28 July 1827:

Baptism: 18 Jun 1827 St Luke, Lowton, Lancashire, England

William INGHAM - [Child] of Peter INGHAM & Lydia

Born: 3 Jun

Abode: Kenyon

Occupation: Weaver

Baptised by: Jno. PENNINGTON, Curate

Register: Baptisms 1813 - 1834, Page 142, Entry 1131

Source: Original Parish Register

Baptism: 28 Jul 1827 St Mary the Virgin, Leigh, Lancashire, England

William INGHAM - Son of Peter INGHAM & Lydia

Abode: Kenyon, Winwick

Occupation: Weaver

Baptised by: J. TOPPING Vicar

Register: Baptisms 1825 - 1829, Page 141, Entry 1121

Source: LDS Film 1885649

These transcriptions can be verified by viewing the original register images on the Ancestry website.

Does anyone have any explanation for why a child might be baptised twice?

Cheshire Stonehewers Part 3: Transporting Millstones

by Michael Stonehewer
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Surprisingly, looking at the question of transporting millstones in the Middle Ages resulted in a variety of answers! The *PeakScan* website gives references to joining two millstones together with a wooden axle, then towing it out of a quarry uphill with horses, or even manpower. Liz Newman, a member of the *Stonehewer to Stanier Society*, tells me that her archaeology work on Roman sites led to a discovery that Romans rolled millstones by hand over distances of some sixty miles! Indeed, further enquiries reveal that in some cases rope was wound around the millstone and the millstone was then pulled by it to get it moving, but then taken over another rope to move it on the next stage. Another suggestion was the use of a horse and cart, but I have seen no mention of this, perhaps because security was an issue, especially as there are relatively significant costs involved in any delay in corn flour production.

One method that is consistently reported in history - for sound practical and security reasons - is transportation by water; many of the Peak District millstones were transported by water to Hull. But could that be the case for our Congleton Edge Stonehewer quarried millstones, being transported from south-east Cheshire to Runcorn in northern Cheshire? They could have been transported on the River Dane and then the River Weaver, transferring where the two rivers meet near Northwich.

During my search for early records I came across *The Historical Atlas of Cheshire*, published by the Cheshire Community Council in 1958. Regrettably, this is an organisation that appears to no longer exist; however, the maps shown therein are Crown Copyright Reserved, and a new edition was published by Cheshire County Council in 2002. In this book, you can see a map of Cheshire in the Middle Ages, showing the mills, quarries, rivers and coastlines at that time.

I have also purchased a copy of *Driven by the Dane*, by Tony Bonson, who has produced an excellent guide to all the mills that have been driven by the water from the River Dane. Needless to say, Tony is an expert in this field and is known internationally; at a local level he is Chairman of the Midland Wind and Water Mills Group.

Returning to the question of how the millstones were transported, Tony is not convinced that they travelled by water; however, he was kind enough to send me the following: *I do not think they used the Dane for moving millstones but took them overland. There is a document at Chester Record Office in the Wilbraham papers about a dispute about quarry rent which describes the quarrymen travelling through Rode to deliver a millstone.*

Numbers of Millstones Produced and used in Cheshire

You will recall that I have previously discussed various aspects of millstones such as the time taken to manufacture them and how long they can be expected to last. My discussions with Stephen Wood of the *Peakscan* website, and with others, leads to the general thought that it would take a *man and boy* a few days to cut out a millstone shape from rock such as that at Milstonbergh.

This simply means that a quarryman would produce about four or five millstones in a month - with three men, that would mean some 150 plus millstones in a year, allowing for cutting failures, unacceptable fractures and illness, and assuming there were boy labourers being employed. As for time in use, Tony Bonson says: *Evidence from the accounts of the Congleton Corporation during the seventeenth century shows that at the Congleton Town Mill they lasted about two to four years, probably grinding for about four hours per day, six days per week.* Hence with two stones per mill in use, this would mean some seventy-five mills could be supplied in a year. The *Historical Atlas of Cheshire* map shows nearly forty mills, which with millstones lasting up to two years implies that the quarry at Milstonbergh could supply nearly all the Cheshire mill owners with their millstone needs every year.

I was fortunate to obtain Tony Bonson's permission to publish items from his book. My next series of articles on the mill industry will be based on this excellent book and I will highlight my family's connections to the mills operating on the Dane for over 500 years, from the 1300s to the 1800s. The first family connections will be at the source of the River Dane in Staffordshire, and more family connections will be found as the Dane is followed into Cheshire.

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Cheshire to Canada and Back Again

by *Chester Guttridge*
Membership no. 9193

Annie was twenty-five years old when she set sail for Canada in 1886 with her new husband, her cousin Frederick Harvey FERNYHOUGH. How exciting it must have seemed at the time; what an adventure! Frederick had emigrated with his parents and siblings in 1882 and had returned to marry her and take her back to Cartwright, a pioneer settlement in southern Manitoba, six miles north of the US border and some 100 miles west of Winnipeg. The wedding took place on 27 January 1886 at St Silas Church, Pembroke Place, Liverpool. She was the third child of George and Elizabeth OWEN (née WILLIAMSON), born in March 1861, and would be a cousin of my mother when she was born thirty-six years later.

Had Annie and her cousin Fred courted by slow correspondence before the wedding? Had they previously planned to marry after he had established a home for her in Canada, or did his proposal just drop out of the blue through her Cheshire letterbox sometime in 1885? Was it a love match or a marriage of convenience, each wanting someone to care for, to share a home?

Fred was born to Charles and Sarah Musgrove FERNYHOUGH in 1862 at Trafford Mill, Mickle Trafford, where Charles was the miller, having taken over the mill from his father, Rupert. The water mill on the River Gowy (now a listed property) was less than half a mile from my great-grandfather's brewery at The Nag's Head, Bridge Trafford. Fred was baptised at the local Plemonstall (Plemstall) Church on 18 June 1862.

At the 1871 census, nine-year-old Fred was living at Irby Mill House, Greasby, Wirral with his parents Charles FERNYHOUGH (42) and Sarah (41), and siblings Rupert (14), Emma (10), Arthur (7) and James (4). The family must have moved from Trafford Mill some time between Fred's birth in 1862 and census day in 1871.

Fred's family emigrated to Canada in 1882, leaving Liverpool on 29 March. The Allan Line ship's passenger list records that Charles FERNYHOUGH, his wife, Sarah Musgrove and children Rupert, Emma, Fred and James disembarked from the SS *Circassian* on 8 April at Halifax, Nova Scotia. From there they probably caught one of the special trains that waited at the quayside to take

them to Winnipeg, described in the passenger list as their destination. Beyond Winnipeg they probably travelled the remaining 120 miles west on wagons pulled by oxen, the railway not reaching the area until 1885. Their final destination was Badger Creek, an area that was recruiting settlers at the time. Why the family embarked on the adventure is unknown. Charles was in his fifty-third year and possibly under pressure from his sons who may have visualised a prosperous future farming the cheap, fertile, prairie soils of Manitoba at a time when rural prosperity was at a low ebb in England.

The first pioneer settlers travelling west along the old Canadian trails arrived at Badger Creek towards the end of the 1870s. Robert BLACKWELL describes his journey to Badger Creek from Emerson in 1880 in *Memories Along the Badger Revisited*. He was twelve years old when he made the journey, walking the 125 miles behind an ox-drawn wagon with his family. He recalls his father bought a team of two oxen, a yoke, two chains and a wagon in Emerson for twenty dollars. They loaded the wagon with bedsteads and bedclothes, lumber, a stove, a spinning wheel, a few dishes, an old harrow, a breaking plough, a set of harnesses and a Bible. What they took is what they had. Upon arrival they built a log cabin 16ft by 14ft with one window, pressing clay and grass between the logs and making the roof of saplings, covered with hay, then clay. They fished, shot and trapped animals, gathered duck eggs, grew potatoes, parsnips, rhubarb and asparagus and broke five acres of virgin prairie for oats. Breaking prairie soil with a yoke of plodding oxen was slow, strenuous work for man and beasts and was followed by repeated harrowing to create a tilth suitable for seeding. An early photograph shows two cabins in the wooded area along the banks of the creek. I don't suppose the FERNYHOUGH's journey from Winnipeg to Badger Creek was very different from the BLACKWELL's, when they joined the small but growing community of pioneers hoping to make fortunes from the virgin soil.

In 1885, the year before Annie arrived in Manitoba, the small pioneering Badger Creek settlement was moved lock, stock and barrel a couple of miles south, close to the route of the Canadian Pacific Railway. They called the new place Cartwright, after a man they admired. It was there that Fred and Annie were to be found with their four daughters in the 1901 census.

The Norway Heritage website provides a wealth of information about emigration, notably in a reproduction of an Allan Line booklet entitled *Information & Advice for Emigrants, 1883*. Canada welcomed emigrants, particularly farmers, skilled farm labourers and skilled *mechanics*, such as blacksmiths, carpenters, tailors, shoemakers, masons, bricklayers, needle women, etc., especially those who could afford to set themselves up in business.

What they might expect to find on arrival is explained in the booklet. Three classes of travel were available: steerage, intermediate and cabin. The company emphasised that the intermediate class was no more than improved steerage and well short of cabin class. A sample of a week's set menus shows that intermediate class travellers might expect coffee, fresh rolls and butter, porridge twice a week, stew or other cooked meat for their 7.30am breakfasts, with *Lochfine* herrings on Fridays. Dinner, at noon, consisted of soup, a meat and vegetable dish, Ling fish with egg sauce on Fridays, followed by rice or bread and butter pudding. Rolls and butter with cold meats were provided with tea at five o'clock. Cheese, I note, is strangely missing from the meat-rich diet. Steerage passengers received much simpler food, with much less meat. Gruel was available for all at 8pm. Intermediate passengers were provided with *Beds, bedding, all necessary utensils, wash basins, etc.* Sample fares were: Saloon class, 12 to 21 guineas; Intermediate, £8; Steerage at low rates. Intermediate passengers were allowed 10 cu.ft. of luggage, plus one shilling per additional cu.ft. Stewardesses were provided to attend to the needs of female passengers and children. The booklet declares: *Assisted Passages to Canada are Granted to Mechanics, Navvies, Agricultural and General Labourers and their Families, and to Domestic Servants.* Canada was hungry for people and Manitoba, established as a province in 1870, was seeking immigrant settlers. Single 160 acre plots of land could be purchased in Manitoba for \$10 (equivalent to approximately £2 sterling) by British citizens, provided that they remain in residence for three years. Additional plots cost \$1 per acre. Transit hostels were probably available in Winnipeg when the FERNYHOUGH family arrived.

Fred and Annie were cousins, Fred's mother being Annie's father's sister. That Fred should return from Canada to marry a girl he must have known as a child makes sense, but why a Liverpool church for the wedding and not one near Annie's childhood home in Great Saughall? There, Annie's father could have organised and paid for the event and subsequent celebrations, Annie's siblings and friends could have wished her well, and her mother could have shed a tear. Perhaps Annie's parents didn't approve of their daughter marrying her cousin, or of his plans to take her over 3,500 miles away, much of it over hazardous north Atlantic waters. Annie's parents may not even have known that the wedding took place until later. The marriage was by banns, so at least three weeks' notice was given, but the witnesses were Catherine and Peter SENAR, who in 1881 was a soda water manufacturer of 44 Pembroke Place, the street on which the church of St Silas stood. Were they known to Fred and Annie, or did they ask the first people they saw near the church to act as witnesses?

Did Fred hold Annie's hand reassuringly as they watched England disappear over the horizon? Were any of her family or friends on the quay to wave a long

goodbye? Perhaps she had long wanted to go to Canada and Fred was her means. According to the Norway Heritage website, the Allan Line ship SS *Caspian* left Liverpool on 11 February 1886, and on 21 February, twenty-five days after the wedding, Fred and Annie disembarked at Halifax. From Winnipeg, Fred and Annie were able to travel on to Cartwright in reasonable speed and comfort on one of the two daily trains, the railway having reached the district a few months earlier.

I wonder what Annie found when she arrived in Cartwright? Winter snow such as she had never seen in Cheshire would still be carpeting the ground, unless she and Fred had lingered in Winnipeg until April. Hopefully Fred had built a cabin home for them before he left Canada, and her aunt Sarah may have stocked her larder with a few essentials. There would have been plenty to talk about. Perhaps Charles went out to shoot a prairie chicken (a kind of grouse) for a welcoming dinner.

After the celebrations, one imagines that Annie found life hard as she started married life and started raising four daughters. Her great romantic adventure surely evolved into days of dawn to dusk work at sink and stove and, when she had time to sit, making and mending with needle and thread. Olive Pattie Edna, born on 31 January 1887, was joined by Gertrude Annie on 15 October 1888, Edith Hilda on 4 December 1890 and Myra Blanche on 3 November 1895. None of them were to marry.

Cartwright Council was established in 1885. The first school, built in August 1888, served until replaced by a new one in 1896. The original building was sold to a Mr COLLINS who moved it to another site. The railway station was built in 1890. The first post office opened in 1882, saving people from travelling the thirty mile round trip to Clearwater to conduct their postal business and perhaps buy provisions from the store there. There was no general store in Cartwright until the 1890s, nor was there a telephone exchange until 1903, after Fred and the family had returned to England. Cartwright's first doctor, Dr LUCAS, practised from 1885 to 1895. Medical services had previously been provided by local women who are said to have made their services available day and night.

The Canadian census of 31 March 1901 shows Fred and Annie with four daughters in Manitoba, District Lisgar, Sub-District Louise. Fred's occupation was a farmer and employer. It erroneously records that Olive, Annie's firstborn, arrived on 31st January 1886 - four days after her Liverpool wedding! The census also records that Fred immigrated to Canada in 1881 and Annie in 1885, when both actually arrived one year later.

Fred and Annie returned to Cheshire with their four daughters in 1902, hopefully to a happy reunion with their families. Perhaps they had grown weary of the hot humid summers and cold, windy, snow-bound winters of Manitoba, and pined for the more equable climate of their childhood. Wheat prices had held up well during their sojourn in Canada so poverty is unlikely to have been a factor in their decision.

The 1911 census shows Fred farming in the Wirral in Ledsham Road (now the B5463), Ledsham, little more than a couple of miles from Annie's parents at Great Saughall. Olive was an assistant teacher at Egerton Council School, Chester; Gertrude was assistant teacher at Tarvin Council School; Edith helped on the family farm and Myra was attending a high school in Chester, perhaps travelling daily by train from Capenhurst Station. Their five-year-old son, Wilfred Charles, had been born at Great Saughall after the family returned. Across the 1911 family census page is written, *Children all naturalised British Subjects Oct. 3rd 1909. Having arrived back in England Oct 3rd 1902. All British Subjects by parentage.*

Gertrude was recorded twice in the 1911 census, the second entry as a boarder at *Tower View*, Hockenhull Lane, Tarvin; presumably she stayed here during the week while teaching at the school.

Annie passed away in July 1931, aged seventy years, at her home at Court Farm, Ledsham, south Wirral. She had been back in Cheshire for nearly twenty-nine years. Fred died on 5 August 1937 at Woodlea, Chester Road, Great Sutton and was buried with Annie at Holy Trinity Church, Capenhurst.

Olive, the eldest daughter, died suddenly in March 1936 at her home at Stocksbridge, near Sheffield; she had been appointed to the position of headmistress at Stocksbridge Church of England Infants' School five years earlier. She was also laid to rest at Holy Trinity Church, Capenhurst.

The three remaining sisters were recorded in the 1939 register living together at Woodlea, 875 Chester Road, Great Sutton. Gertrude, an elementary school teacher, was the breadwinner, with Edith and Myra listed as carrying out *unpaid domestic duties* and also existed on *small private means* – presumably they received a small legacy when their parents died. Gertrude died at Woodlea in September 1965, aged 76; Myra died at the same address in March 1972, also aged seventy-six. Edith died in Dorset eleven years later when aged eighty-five.

Fred and Annie's youngest child, Wilfred, was also a schoolteacher and married Marjorie PUMPHREY in Flint in 1935. By 1939 the couple lived at Castle

Cottage, Hawarden Road, Caergwrle. They do not appear to have had any children and later lived in Dorset. Marjorie died in Wimborne, Dorset in 1974 and Wilfred died in Ferndown, Dorset in 1981.

Footnote

Until the great European colonisation in the nineteenth century, the prairie areas of Manitoba were sparsely populated by the indigenous First Peoples, although there were a few French-speaking settlements along the banks of the Red River, north-east of the Cartwright area, inhabited mainly by French fur traders married to indigenous women.

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It's a Small World!

by Sue Rozitis
Membership no. 6672

My husband, Richard John ROZITIS, is the son of a Latvian immigrant, Richard Valdemar ROZITIS, and an English girl named Irene MOORES who was from Cobridge, Stoke-on-Trent.

Richard Valdemar ROZITIS was born in April 1918 in Koni, Latvia, his father Voldemars having died at the age of twenty-four of typhus during WWI. When he grew up, Richard worked as a locksmith. From December 1943 to May 1945, he was conscripted to serve with the Latvian Legion, 19th Division, a formation of the Waffen-SS consisting mainly of Latvian conscripts. The alternatives were a German slave labour camp, a concentration camp, or possible execution. The 19th division of the Latvian Legion fought against the Russian Red Army who were advancing on Latvia. He served for a harrowing and bloody seventy-five days, then later served for another seventy-seven days on the Baltic front. He was shot in his right shoulder at More, Latvia in September 1944 which heralded the end of his active service; he spent time in German hospitals thereafter. The 19th Division surrendered to the Soviets on 9 May 1945, the

Latvian soldiers becoming Soviet prisoners of war. After nine months in an English prisoner of war camp in Belgium, Richard was finally released after the Western Allies agreed that the Latvians were not Nazis, having been illegally conscripted. As Russia had taken over his home country, returning to his wife and two sons would mean being sent to labour in the salt mines in Siberia, or execution. Like many Latvians who fought in the legion, he did not return to Latvia. Instead, he initially lived and worked as a locksmith in Hannover, Germany for eight months, and in 1947 moved to England under a Government scheme named *Westward Ho*, as there was a labour shortage in England.

He arrived at Hull and was transferred to a Displaced Persons Camp in Preston, Lancashire. Finally, he was directed by the Ministry of Labour to work at Chatterley Whitfield Colliery on the outskirts of Chell in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire. His only possession was a box of official papers and treasured photographs. As the years passed, it became obvious that he could not return to Latvia for an indefinite time due to the Russian occupation; he came to the sorrowful decision to abandon his Latvian family and make England his permanent home.

Richard Valdemar ROZITIS met Irene MOORES of Cobridge, Staffordshire (1933-2008), a paintress at the Royal Doulton factory in Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire. She was sixteen years younger than him; nevertheless, they were married in 1954. Irene was the daughter of John William (aka Jack) and Hannah MOORES née KENYON (1900-1984). Hannah did not approve of her Latvian son-in-law and there was constant animosity between them. Hannah KENYON was the youngest child of Thomas (a potter's metal moulder) and Hannah KENYON née WILSHAW (1860-1932), who lived in Milton, Staffordshire. Hannah WILSHAW's parents were Enoch and Elizabeth WILSHAW née BROWNSWORD (1834-1914) from Brown Edge, Staffordshire. Enoch was a coal miner, beer seller, furnace man and dog racer.

My passion for family history was passed down to me by my maternal grandmother, Frances WOODWARD née HANCOCK (1904-1993), who was born and bred in Gillow Heath, Biddulph, Staffordshire. Her schoolteacher asked her parents if Frances could train as a teacher. However, finances would not allow and instead she worked as a fustian cutter - becoming adept at using two knives at the same time. The stories of my relatives Grandma told me were intermittent, sometimes she could remember, other times not.

One recollection was of her grandmother, Rachel HANCOCK née PASS (1844-1920), who was a local midwife, having herself given birth to twenty-two children, including three sets of twins who didn't survive and another two who

were stillborn. Later research revealed that Rachel was born at Moortop, Lask Edge, near Horton, Staffordshire, the youngest daughter of Daniel (1802-1851), a shoemaker and farmer, and Anne PASS née WILSHAW (1802-1883).

WILSHAW was a common enough surname, but found in both of our family trees. One family from Brown Edge, the other from Lask Edge, nearly three miles apart as the crow flies. Could they be linked? Wary of forcing a link between the two families, I put it aside for some time and forgot about it.

Revisiting my research at a later date I looked again at my husband's 2x great-grandfather Enoch WILSHAW (1834-1914), who was born in Brown Edge to Joseph (1800-1885) and Sarah WILSHAW née PLANT. Joseph was born in Biddulph Moor and was a farm labourer, later a coal miner. He was the second child of farmers Thomas (1772-1855) and Catherine WILSHAW née DOORBAR (1774-1852) of Wickenstone Farm, Biddulph Moor. Thomas and Catherine's third child, a daughter named Anne, was born in 1802. Anne appeared to be my ancestor. After more research I confirmed with two experienced family historians who were also descendants of Thomas and Catherine - of which there are many - that this couple were our mutual ancestors.

So, I think that makes my half Latvian husband my fourth cousin once removed. Recently we both took a DNA test with *23 and Me*. However, perhaps due to the distance of the relationship, no DNA match was found.

In the summer of 1978, Richard Valdemar ROZITIS, now a British citizen, and accompanied by his son, Richard John ROZITIS, took a considerable risk to visit Latvia whilst the country was still under Russian control, having been advised at the airport by the Foreign Office not to go as they could not guarantee their safety in Russia or a safe return to the UK. There were emotional meetings with his eighty-eight-year-old mother, now in a Russian old persons home, his ex-wife, and sons. Richard John ROZITIS and I first met later that year and the impact of this visit on him was clear. Little did we realise then that we were distant cousins! Richard Valdemar ROZITIS died in 1997 and the casket of his ashes was taken back to Latvia for burial by his Latvian family.

1922 News (7) From the Crewe Chronicle, 3 June 1922

HONOUR FOR SHROPSHIRE TERRITORIALS

General Berthelot, formerly Commander of the Fifth French Army, will arrive in Shropshire today for the presentation of the Croix de Guerre to the 4th Battalion of the Shropshire territorials for great bravery at Bligny, when they stemmed the German advance and relieved a critical situation, whilst serving with the Fifth French Army.

Women Lead The Way

by Gren Dix
Membership no. 4174

I have a striking parallel in two branches of my family where, in each case, a woman led the way and a sister and brother followed.

The first strand concerns the family of Mary and Henry DIX. For many years the family lived in Geddington, a small rural village near Kettering, Northamptonshire. The main occupations for ordinary families were agricultural labouring, forestry and labouring in ironstone quarries. In this village, Mary and Henry had nine children including Ann (born 1839), Alice (born 1847) and Henry (born 1850). Agriculture suffered a series of recessions. Ironstone quarrying left much to be desired.

Housing was pretty grim. The family lived in West Street, Geddington. A typical village cottage was made of stone with a thatched roof. The roof had a steep pitch and was overhanging, to deflect the water. The upstairs room, because of the pitched roof, had little headroom and was dark. The walls were damp and the houses sometimes flooded. The cottages typically had one room downstairs and one - sometimes two - upstairs¹. The upstairs was often accessed via a ladder through a hole in the downstairs ceiling; better houses had a staircase. Water was from a communal well. There were also communal latrines plus a night soil service. Concern had been expressed about the condition of the cottages. It is not surprising that the more adventurous sought to leave.

In 1851, seven of Henry and Mary's children were living with their parents in Geddington. By 1861 five of the children, including Alice and Henry junior, were still living with their parents in Geddington. Meanwhile, Ann was a domestic servant living with seven other servants over one hundred miles north, at 21 Market Place, Manchester.

In January 1862 Ann married Charles LEADBETTER, an ironmonger, at St John's Church, Manchester. By 1871 the couple had five children and were living at 75 Portland Street, Manchester; Charles had become a dentist. Incidentally, Charles had been born in Newcastle upon Tyne to a father who was from London and a mother from Bath. Ann's sister, Alice, had moved north and was living with them. Their brother, Henry junior, had also moved north

and was working as an ostler, living at the White Lion, Wilmslow Road, Withington (now a suburb of Manchester).

Henry junior married Ann JUDGE (born 1845 Ireland) at Manchester Cathedral in July 1871. Both stated their residence was 75 Portland Street, Henry's sister Ann LEADBETTER's home, and Ann LEADBETTER signed the register as a witness to the marriage. Henry had gone up in the world and was working as a waiter. Later that year Henry and his wife moved to Southport; she probably regarded Southport as her home town, since in 1851 she was living with her mother and others in Marshside (part of Churchtown), on the outskirts of Southport. Around this time concern was expressed about the living conditions of the Irish nationals who had fled the famine. In 1871, just before her marriage, Ann JUDGE was a domestic cook living in Moss Side and gave her place of birth as Churchtown. In 1881 she gave her place of birth as North Meols (which later became Southport); only in 1901 did she say she was from Ireland.

In 1876 at St Saviour's Church, Chorlton upon Medlock, Alice DIX, then living at 21 Plymouth Grove, married John SINGLETON, a pointsman of Newton in Makerfield - now more commonly known as Newton-le-Willows, near Warrington. The church was located at the junction of Plymouth Grove and Upper Brook Street; only the churchyard remains. The couple lived in Newton in Makerfield, and John was later promoted from pointsman - i.e. a man in charge of the points - to the position of railway signalman.

Thus one daughter led, a second followed and then a son followed his sisters.

The second example concerns the KIDD family. For generations they had lived in Larling, a small village - little more than a hamlet - in the depths of rural Norfolk. Robert KIDD, sometime ag. lab., coal porter and fishmonger, married Mary Ann BROCK in 1858. On the parish records her name was BROCK but on the GRO certificate her name was given as BROOK. A census transcription on Ancestry said that she was born in *Stommroket* (Stowmarket). They had fourteen children, of which twelve survived childhood. We will follow three of these children: Sarah Ann (born 1859), Samuel (born 1865) and Alice Louisa (born 1872).

By 1881 Sarah Ann had left Norfolk and was a domestic servant living at 18 St Paul's Road, Withington, Manchester. Edwin LANGLEY, her husband-to-be, was a print compositor, then boarding in Chorlton upon Medlock but born in Southtown, Great Yarmouth. On 24 November 1881 they married at nearby St Paul's Church, Withington.

By 1891 the couple had moved to Southport. Sarah Ann's sister, Alice KIDD, then aged eighteen, was living with them. Their brother Samuel was a visitor at a nearby riding academy, employed as a coachman, so he may also have moved to Southport by that date. Certainly, he made his home in Southport the following year when he married Cornelia Ruth Lilian BASEY, who had moved to the area from Ludlow.

Also in 1892 Alice KIDD was married, in Southport, to George BESTWICK, a bookmaker's clerk whose father moved to Southport from Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire.

By 1901 Sarah and Edwin had moved to Barrow in Furness, about as far from their birthplaces as it is possible to get without venturing into Scotland!

Again, a woman led the way and a sister and brother followed.

Both men, at some point, gave their occupation as dog trainer. Is this code for *Jack the lad*?

I am still not sure why a young woman would travel over 150 miles from a rural setting to a major metropolis but whatever the reason, I think that they were very brave.

Reference

1. *Geddington as it was, the Social History of a Rural Community*, Monica Rayne, Stryder Publishing, ISBN 0-9518775-0-X

1930s Women's Lib?

This Find My Past transcription from the 1939 register, sent in by Gren Dix, apparently shows a man doing the housework while his wife is employed as a sewing machine mechanic. Unfortunately the transcription is completely wrong, as confirmed by viewing the register image - the couple's occupations have been transposed.

Gren says, *Again, I get on my soapbox and tell people to look at the original images!*

First name(s)	Last name(s)	Birth date	Sex	Occupation
Alexander	Culsham	05 Dec 1872	Male	Unpaid Domestic Duties
Bertha	Culsham	28 Aug 1886	Female	Serving Machine Mechanics

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



I seem to be a little bit short of input for this issue. I was surprised not to receive any comments in response to the piece in March about *Managing Passwords - Another View*.

Fortunately, the 1921 census is generating a lot of thought from members, and aspects of DNA are a further area of activity. Gren Dix's piece highlighting variations in census page links might keep a few of you occupied, but the fact that all three of the sites he investigated have got it wrong does imply to me that the original census page material probably has something to answer for.

Getting a Bit More Free Data From the 1921 Census

By Ian A Worthington in the South of France

When you are looking at the index pages of the 1921 census on FMP and you hover over the transcript/image icons on the far right, you will see up to three first names of people in the household. It then might say *and 2 others* (or however many more people are in the household). To see all the full names, and place and year of birth of everyone in the household, take a note of the parish where the person is (don't try to copy/paste) and then clear the search (*Clear All*, on the same line as *Your Search*). Click on *Advanced Options* at the

very bottom of the page; this will open up a new form to fill in, which should have all the fields empty. Scroll down to the parish (about half way down) and add that from your note. The parish name should pop up once you have typed a few letters, so click on it, then go to the very bottom of the page and look for *Other Household Members*. There, type in the name of the person you were searching for originally. Click on the *View Results* button at the bottom, and you should see a list of all the people in that household, first name and surname, year of birth, place of birth and parish.

There has been some feedback from members who have tried the above and got a huge number of hits. It seems that the above works well for searches in smaller communities - villages etc - and with a less common surname. Those who have tried a common surname in a large city, where the household may be in a large building consisting of a number of flats or dwellings, have been faced with tens or even hundreds of hits.

How can you reduce this number, and is the information still useful even with multiple hits? The answer to the first question is to search for the exact name in the *Other Household Members* box. To do this ensure that the box *Include Name Variants* is unticked. This may reduce the number of the results somewhat.

The answer to the second question is yes. All the hits will be those households in that parish which includes someone by the name you entered originally when you began your search. To gain some useful information, you will need to sort the hits and build them into household groups. One of those groups should be the one you are looking for. If you know the identity of someone who should also be present, e.g. a spouse or child, you should be able to narrow down the households to check by hovering over the transcript/image icon and seeing if any of the names are familiar. If you have no idea who else should be present, then you will have to take the time to build the individual household groups - keep a note of those. They will be useful in the future when you can identify other family members by some other means. For example, a marriage in the GRO index which shows the spouse as Alice means you can look for Alice as one of those in the household groups (see examples below) - assuming Alice is at home on census night! So, the method still functions but involves a little more effort for searches in larger communities with more common names.

Example 1

Looking for Sampson BELLCHAMBERS b1844 in Norwich gives one result of Sampson, Victor, Francis William and five others in the household. Using the other household members search gives seven results, so Sampson, the person you used to make the search, does not appear on the results page; the others

are Victor STEVENSON b1897, Francis William WING b1899, Albert WARNES b1893, Albert WARNES b1920, Leah WARNES b1896, - GRIX b1835 and - SHIPPER b1897. I have no idea who these people are; perhaps it was a boarding house run by Albert and Leah WARNES. By buying the image I can find out more.

Example 2

Looking for Robert BELL b1887 in Salford, gives four results. The fourth entry is the most likely as we also know that Robert married an Alice and had a mother called Sarah. That entry shows Robert, Sarah, Alice plus two others. Using the method above we can establish that the household includes Robert BELL, Sarah BELL b1854, Alice DAVIES b1883, Edward L DAVIES b1907 and Horatio DAVIES b1909. We know that Sarah was the mother so that date of birth fits, but Alice seems to be a married sister and the other two are grandchildren rather than a wife and Robert's children. This cannot be the correct family.

Looking at one of the GRO marriage indexes, we can establish that Robert BELL married Alice HOWCROFT in Salford in 1913. Further searching on Ancestry or FMP gives an approximate year of birth for Alice of 1888. So back to the 1921 search, this time looking for Alice BELL b1888. The top entry is for Alice born in Salford but living in Wincham, Northwich. Hovering over the transcript/image icon shows Alice, Robert, William plus one other. The *Other Household Members* search reveals the fourth person is Robert BELL b1917, the others being Robert BELL b1887, Alice BELL b1888 (not on the list) and William BELL b1918, all born Salford but living in Wincham at the time of the 1921 census.

So even though the initial search threw up the wrong family group, a little patience and further research has relatively easily found the family elsewhere. Buying the image will reveal the actual address and some employment history, as well as indicating whether Robert and Alice had any other children under the age of sixteen living elsewhere. This of course will only work if you know the names of some or all of the others in the household!

A similar methodology can be used when you get a large number of results after searching for your ancestor who lived in a large parish or a building with multiple dwellings but one main address.

Example 3

You are looking for Henry or Harry HARRIS b1887 and resident in St Marylebone, London. You also know that Harry was married to Emily so she

should also be present. The first search returns seventy-five results; by hovering over the transcript/image icons on the top entry we find Harry, Emily, Mabel and one other. Clearing the form and moving to the advanced search, remembering the parish of St Marylebone and adding Harry Harris as the *Other Household Member* gives 168 results - but removing the tick against *Name Variants* reduces it to forty-three. By hovering over the transcript image icons again you can check for an Emily or Mabel (as we know they were on the same page as Harry). The first result, Amelia, cannot be correct as it includes Amelia, Goodman, Hannah and one other. The second for Dorothy and the third for Emily are indeed possibilities, and by a process of elimination and family group building you can work out who was in the same household as Harry HARRIS.

There are other Harris names on the list and it would be possible to note their family groups. They may be related to the person you were looking for, or perhaps they just happen to share the same surname. Whichever, it is useful information to have when building your own tree. We all know that excluding an option is valuable in genealogical research as it rules something out and allows you to narrow down your search to find the right person. Good luck!

Using Ancestry DNA in Family History Research

By Runcorn and Computer Club member Mike Hodgkinson

People who subscribe to Ancestry can take their DNA test and use the results to assist in their research. However, unless you are willing to share your tree, it will be of minimal benefit. My tree does not include any information about my children or grandchildren and all living people are shown as private.

DNA is a menu item on the Ancestry website. Click on *Your Results Summary* and you'll see three main boxes: *Ethnicity Estimate*, *DNA Matches* and *ThruLines*. My focus in these notes is on the DNA Matches. I have 259 4th cousins or closer who have taken an Ancestry DNA test and, when I click on *View all DNA Matches*, they are listed with all the other matches, starting with the closest relationships. The first two are second cousins, one of whom I knew as a child, and descended from the same sister of my maternal grandmother. Both have four percent shared DNA with me.

SECOND COUSIN A

4% shared DNA; 260cM across 15 segments

Unweighted shared DNA 260cM; longest segment 34cM

SECOND COUSIN B

4% shared DNA; 304cM across 16 segments

Unweighted shared DNA 304cM longest segment 56cM

Typically, second cousins share between 2.85-5.04% of DNA and 200-620 centimorgans. My results fall within these ranges. I met second cousin A as a child; his tree is online and he is the only blood relative I have met who has taken an Ancestry DNA test.

After this, it is more complicated and the records need to be filtered. Ancestry provides seven filters, which can be combined:

- Unviewed – allows you to inspect new records.
- Common ancestors – identifies matches in family trees, uses information in more than one family tree and shows the linkage. I find it very helpful.
- Messages – identifies people to whom you have sent messages; often to people who have private trees you would like to view.
- Notes – I use it to describe the common ancestors.
- Trees – there are four choices: all, private linked trees, public linked trees, unlinked trees. Public linked trees are available to all subscribers; private linked trees may only be seen by those to whom the tree owner has given permission.
- Shared DNA - this identifies the closeness of the relationship in terms of shared centimorgans
- Groups – these are the groups which you can identify with common ancestors by a colour based on tree matches.

A major problem is that although you may have a DNA and ancestor match, it may not be the match you think it is on your family tree. For example, if all your ancestors come from a particular area of Cheshire, this can be a problem. Testing one of your parents can differentiate between your mother's and father's ancestors, but mine died before DNA testing became available.

The shared matches option available for each individual can be compared with the people in the groups with two common ancestors. I have had limited success with this approach.

On her Data Mining website, Margaret O'Brien explains some of the confusion about shared matches: *It's important to know that the list on the Shared tab page is restricted to Ancestry's chosen CM threshold. The way they put it is that they only show you "fourth cousins and closer". That translates into matches above 20cM. Ancestry should try to make this a little clearer. When new members aren't aware of the threshold, it leads to the question: "why aren't shared matches working?"*

Link: www.dataminingdna.com/ancestry-shared-matches/#A_Common_Misunderstanding_Why_Arent_Shared_Matches_Working

Comments on Previous Issues

Saving the 1921 Census Address

Computer Club member John Fallows from Wilmslow observed a more simplistic method - he wrote:

I was just playing around with my 1921 census download and tried an alternative approach to overlaying the address... it seems simpler but am I missing something?

- 1 Download the occupants page.
- 2 Save it.
- 3 Go back to FMP and find and view (not download) the address page.
- 4 Use Snip & Sketch (or other) to take a screenshot of just the address box (into the clipboard). Adjust the zoom if required.
- 5 Open the downloaded main census page in IrfanView.
- 6 Draw a rectangle where the address should go.
- 7 Edit/paste the address (from the clipboard).
- 8 Save the edited file.

I believe this achieves the same result without needing any additional files and associated saving and deleting... but I may be missing something? This looks similar to the way Ian suggests for the Mac. The key to both seems to be drawing the box to hold the address - I didn't know you could do that.

GJ: Multiple ways of skinning cats! You're quite right, John. But the one thing you can't do by simplistic methods is improve the images before combining. Downloaded images can be very variable in both original writing tools and reproduction. At least one of the few 1921 images I've downloaded benefited greatly by using IrfanView's image adjusting tools. At least you learned how to draw boxes!

1921 Census – Good or Bad?

Bedfordshire member Philip Jones wrote to the Editor who passed his email on to me. He said:

I'm sure you will get lots of comments about the 1921 census but, in case it's of use to you, here are my initial thoughts. So, we have the 1921 census and like many others I imagine, I logged on and did a quick run to see what kind of facilities there are; I have to say my first impression was one of disappointment. If you are like me and you prefer to keep your records on your own computer then there are few features to let you download the information when you pay for it. I would have liked to have been able to download a PDF file but I just

couldn't find anything that would allow this. Being a bit of a computer whizz (nerd?) I thought that a *print to pdf* would be the answer because there is a *Print* button on the page showing the records. Then I noticed that the print format they offer glitches on the second page with several lines not being visible.

A good thing is that you can click on the name of each person in the household and see a more detailed record of all that was written about them, but then this is also a bad thing because again if you want to download the record (assuming the print formatting bug mentioned above gets fixed) you would have to do the *print to pdf* individually for each person.

Perhaps I'm being unfair; there does seem to be a system whereby your records are all kept in your FMP account, and maybe my fixation on downloading and storing locally is a bit old fashioned in the modern world of *everything in the cloud*. Perhaps someone who is more used to using FMP for their genealogy will be able to set my mind at rest about how reliable they are for keeping my records over time.

GJ: I sent Philip an advance copy of the March CHESHIRE ANCESTOR piece in NTS which explained how to bring all the information you want into one page. I wrote: Hi Philip, knowing that I am writing pieces for NTS about the 1921 census, the editor has passed your message to me. I totally support your preference for keeping records on my own computer and, unlike yourself, am finding the ability to download the full census page a simple and reliable process. If you click on the download button, it comes to you as a high-quality full colour JPG image file. I keep ALL my census pages as JPGs.

I'm sorry about your disappointment; I think that the presentation of the 1921 census is as good as any census has ever been. But there's much additional information in there and it's going to be a while before we fully understand what we can gain from it. Please be patient. I personally feel it's a credit to FMP that the whole system has not crashed through the heavy pressure that is being exerted upon it. Previous census releases have not been so fortunate!

So far, I've spent just under £20 downloading six pages. Four of these are from my father's family who were fragmented across four properties and a tent, having migrated from London to Warwickshire in the light of the depression. A further page gave me a much better clue as to when an ancestor that I've been seeking for the last ten years might have died. It reduced the death certificate options and a further £7 expenditure to the GRO produced the right death certificate! These are things I've been wanting to find out for over ten years and I'm very happy. Always go for JPGs and I think you probably will be as well.

I Don't Believe It!

By Gren Dix

The above phrase, from the sitcom *One Foot in the Grave*, came to mind during the hunt outlined below. It is an axiom of genealogy to always look at the original record. This is to make sure that it is the most likely record, and also it may contain information not given in transcripts.

In her recipe for rabbit pie, Mrs Beaton said, *First catch your rabbit*. In my case the rabbit was the 1851 census record for William COATES and his wife Maria (née BIRCH). They were both born about 1831 in Wigan, they lived in Wigan and married there in 1850. I have the 1841 and 1861 census records for them but had trouble finding them in 1851. The method of looking for them was: *Search, look at the transcription, and finally look at the associated image of the census record.*

Because of problems that will become apparent, I used Findmypast (FMP), Ancestry and The Genealogist. In all cases I searched for William COATES, born in Wigan about 1831 and living in Wigan.

Find My Past

The search gave three results. One was for a single man and was rejected. The first transcript stated the record was for HO107/2199/F458-P13:

Address: Millgate, Wigan

NICOL family...

William COATES, HeadM	20	Journeyman joiner	b Wigan
Maria COATES, Wife M	20	Joiner's wife	b Wigan

MILES family....

This looked fine when compared with the 1841 and 1861 censuses. However, the image link supplied me with the image for census page reference HO107/2199/F237-P54 with no William COATES on it.

The second search result said the transcription was for HO107/2199/Folio 13 and no page number. The transcription was for William and Maria alone.

Address: Millgate Wigan

William COATES, HeadM	20	Journeyman joiner	b Wigan
Maria COATES, Wife M	20	Joiner's wife	b Wigan

However, clicking on the image link gave exactly the same image - reference HO107/2199/F237-P54 - as above.

Ancestry

Gave no result for William COATES. I later found Maria's father and family - the next entry on that page was for William. That is, he lived next door to his wife's family.

The Genealogist

I searched the 1851 census for Lancashire with surname COATES and keyword Wigan and used event date 1851. This gave thirteen results but no William. Perhaps the event date should, in this case, have been the date of birth. I then removed the event date and this gave a result. The husband, William, was on the bottom of one page (page 13) and looking at the next page I found his wife, Maria, was the first entry (page 14 folio 459). The reference for William was HO107/2199 but with no folio number and page number 400. The image was for folio 25 and page 14. A search for Maria alone gave piece 2199, no folio number and page 400. The actual image was for folio 549 and page 14. From the page with William, I saw that his next-door neighbour was Thomas BIRCH and family, Maria's father. A search for him on FMP gave the correct result.

Overall, very little was correct. This is worrying. Banging one's head against a brick wall seems far more pleasurable than searching genealogical web sites.

GJ: It's very apparent here that all three have made a Horlicks out of these entries. I've wasted an hour or two trying to get sense out of it, to little avail. FMP look to have made the best attempt. However, I suggest that there's possibly a notable error or point of confusion in the original data sheets. It might be worth Gren sending a copy of this article to all three of them, and see what they can make of it

Ed: When viewing an image on FMP there is an icon at the top showing a triangle with an exclamation mark in it, to the left of the words Viewer Controls, for reporting an image error - one of the options is for the wrong image. I have reported this error.

From the Inbox

US 1950 Census

David Guyton tells me he's heard reports from the USA that Ancestry have been extracting and indexing information from the US 1950 Census using artificial intelligence to read the handwriting for the first time. If that's the case, and unless there is very substantial human involvement in checking of the results, we can look forward to the most glorious contortions of spelling and indexing!

Family Tree Maker Data and other data on CDs

David Guyton advised that, Dick Eastman recently wrote about family history data on CDs - see www.eogn.com/page-18080/12100862

One aspect that caught David's attention was accessing old Family Tree Maker (FTM) data CDs. He's sure he's not the only one who has a collection of them from years gone by. His personal solution has been to keep earlier versions of FTM – versions 3 (1995-1996 for Windows 3.1 and 95), 4 (1997 for Windows 3.1 and 95) and 2006 (Windows XP) – installed on his computer. All run problem-free on Windows 10, though version 3 requires a slightly different form of installation. Comments to the article provide a link to Family Archive Viewer (FAV) - available free from several sources, just Google Family Archive Viewer - which serves the same purpose for those who no longer have the earlier versions of FTM.

Family Tree Analyzer

by Paul Reeve

I decided the other day to use my Excel spreadsheet to get an up-to-date to-do list out of Family Tree Analyzer (FTA). It didn't work; I discovered the reason was that FTA had been updated to include the 1921 census. The updated version of my spreadsheet can be downloaded from https://bit.ly/FTAtodolistfilter_1921

Closing Snippet

Fred came home from University in tears. *Mum, am I adopted?* he asked. *No, of course not* replied his mother Mary. *Why would you think such a thing?*

Fred showed Mary his genealogy DNA test results. No match for any of his relatives, and strong matches for a family who lived the other side of the city.

Perturbed, Mary called her husband, John. *Fred has done a DNA test, and it looks as if he may not be our son.* John replied, *Well, of course he's not!*

What do you mean? gasped Mary.

It was your idea in the first place! You remember, that first night in hospital when the baby did nothing but scream, you asked me to change him. I reckon I picked a good one.

Don't forget I'm here - let's have some input or counterarguments to keep this forum active.

Keep the responses coming, please - GJ



Group News

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

Note: most future group meetings will now take place as actual meetings in person, unless specifically stated to be online Zoom meetings.

Please be aware that circumstances may change; if in doubt, please check the website before travelling to a meeting.

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 Zoom 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 Spate, Jean Laidlaw and Margaret Roberts

These talks, presented via Zoom and open to all members, take place on the 3rd Wednesday evening of each month. The waiting room will open at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. A newsletter will be 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 block 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 in another newsletter two days before the talk.

These Zoom talks have the option of closed captions (subtitles) if required - click on *CC* at the bottom of the screen to enable this function. Please note that the question-and-answer session at the end of each talk is by the Zoom *Chat* facility - 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:

15th June ***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.

20th July ***A Plague on all Your Houses: Epidemic, Disease and our Ancestors - Dr Janet Few***

Janet is the current President of the Family History Federation and Chair of Devon FHS. Janet is an experienced and qualified family, social and community historian who lectures regularly on these subjects throughout the UK and overseas. She has spoken at many national and international genealogical events and is also a well-known author. Janet makes a welcome return to FHSC with this presentation which examines the symptoms, prognoses, and treatments for a number of epidemic diseases, from the Black Death to the influenza of 1918. It mentions some of the relevant records and considers how our ancestors might have reacted.

17th Aug ***Marriage Law for Genealogists, 1836-1900 - Prof Rebecca Probert***

Rebecca currently holds a chair in Law at Exeter University and specialises in the history of marriage in England and Wales. She has published extensively and her monograph *Marriage Law & Practice in the Long Eighteenth Century: A Reassessment* is widely accepted among legal historians as having overturned previous understandings of the history of common law marriage. She has appeared on the popular BBC series *Who Do You Think You Are?*, drawing on her research to provide advice to Kim Cattrall, Martin Shaw, Maggie Beer and Olivia Colman on their ancestors' legal entanglements. She has also appeared on *A House Through Time*, *Historic Houses*, *Harlots*, *Heroines and Housewives*, and *Heir Hunters*. This presentation aims to help you unravel tricky points of legal history relating to divorce, cohabitation, and bigamy.

21st Sept *Birth and Death: The Hidden Secrets of Registration*
- Anthony Marr

Anthony is a retired police officer with many years of training experience, and a former deputy registrar of births, deaths and marriages. He is now a professional genealogist and Chair of AGRA (Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives). This talk will look at the complex rules of registering birth and death events, uncovering the complexities and hidden information these essential records of civil registration can contain, such as why a birth can be registered more than once in different years or why a single death registration could involve three different certificates.

19th Oct *The Second Annual Dorothy Flude Memorial Lecture:
A Mining Disaster: The Story of the 1881 Explosion at Chatterley
Whitfield Colliery - Ann Simcock*

This month marks a full year since the launch of the seminar series, which has gone from strength to strength. Dorothy Flude was a great champion for local history and local historians and this month we have one of our very own - the knowledgeable Ann Simcock - delivering this year's Dorothy Flude Memorial Lecture. Ann is a former history and drama teacher, even home-schooling her own son Gwilym, a professional musician. Ann later combined her life-long love of history, family, and local history with a love of drama to study for a degree in Theatre Studies. Over recent years Ann has begun to write articles and give talks. The story of the Chatterley Whitfield disaster is one that Ann has researched extensively, her work being included in the museum that has opened on the former site. Ann's talk looks at the background and causes of the explosion, which resulted in the deaths of twenty-four men and boys on a cold winter night back in 1881. Manslaughter charges were later levelled at the manager of the pit.

Alsager Group

by Hazel Rugman

Future meetings:

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

We returned to normal face-to-face meetings in April, held at our usual time and venue.

Future meetings:

27th June *The Fab 5 Architects - David Hearn*

25th July *Norman Thelwell, Artist and Cartoonist - Chris Thompson*

22nd Aug *AGM followed by*

Down Below: Sewers and Public Health - Michael Murphy

26th Sept *Long to Reign Over Us - Elizabeth Davey*

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:

9th June *TBA*

14th July *TBA*

11th Aug *TBA*

8th Sept *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

We have now changed our venue and future meetings will be at The Pavilion, Wealstone Lane , Upton, Chester CH2 1HD.

Future meetings:

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

28th July *AGM followed by*

Don't Forget Your Ration Book - Michael Murphy

AUGUST *No Meeting*

29th Sept *A Night at the Pictures: The Story of Chester's Cinemas
- Peter Davies*

Group meetings are held at 7.30pm on the last Thursday of the month at The Pavilion , Wealstone Lane , Upton, Chester CH2 1HD. Doors open at 7pm and there is plenty of parking space. 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 now established monthly face-to-face meetings and have met since

September 2021, as a result of interest from Members.

Congleton and Macclesfield Groups intend to continue to join together to host Zoom meetings at regular intervals. Please see the notices on the FHSC website; newsletters will advise.

There will be a face-to-face meeting in Congleton Library on 21st June; a newsletter will advise. There will be no face-to-face meetings in July or August.

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 Family History Society of Cheshire website or check the group pages on the society website www.fhsc.org.uk

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:

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

The subject will be the 1921 Census, as a result of the interest at our April meeting. Further details will be published on the FHSC website, by newsletter and on social media.

21st June *Joint Crewe and Nantwich meeting via Zoom*

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

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.

12th July *Joint Crewe and Nantwich meeting via Zoom*
A Grandmother's Legacy: My Great-Aunt Constance
- Jenny Mallin

Constance, born in 1898, was a woman of high social status, the wife of a British official. This is her own account of her life in Burma (Myanmar) and the story of thousands of civilians who in 1942 had to face an arduous trek across some of the world's most treacherous terrain, with monsoon-swollen rivers, jungles, steep mountain ranges and dangerous wildlife. We learn how the capital city, Rangoon (Yangon), was at that time the world's busiest immigration port, with millions arriving into this exciting destination. A one-hour talk, with time for questions at the end.

16th Aug *Joint Crewe and Nantwich meeting via Zoom*
Peter Lockett - Christine Wootton

A letter sent in 1942 by a prisoner of war in Colditz Castle started several years of research, including into his brother Peter who was also a prisoner of war held in Stalag Luft III, Zagan.

13th Sept *Joint Crewe and Nantwich meeting via Zoom*
Society of Genealogists' Digital Collection - Else Churchill

Else Churchill is the Genealogist at the Society of Genealogists (SoG) in London, and a member of the Lords Chancellor's Advisory Council on National Records and Archives. She has over thirty years of experience as a genealogist. Formerly a professional genealogical librarian and researcher, Else has worked for the SoG since 1994. In addition to providing a library and research facility for family history, the society holds some unique records and archives; the SoG is often an archive of last resort, providing a home for records that might otherwise be destroyed. Else will discuss the online digital collections of the SoG library, many of which are produced as a result of volunteer projects, which have been powering away at home during lockdown.

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

The FHU was finally able to reopen to visitors on 19th April.

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

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

Future meetings:

28th June *The Mainwarings of Peover Hall - David Young*

David talks about one of the leading Cheshire families in the Middle Ages - the Mainwaring family who lived in Cheshire from 1066 till 1919. Also discussed will be the architecture of Peover Hall which is one of the oldest brick buildings in Cheshire.

26th July *The Plague of the Twentieth Century - Lyndon Murgatroyd*

The history of Spanish flu from its original source to the end, highlighting the difference between viruses and bacteria and covering some of the effects on the population in Macclesfield. Finally, Covid is compared and contrasted with Spanish flu.

23rd Aug *TBA*

27th Sept *AGM*

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 some time we have been unable to meet in the usual way; instead we have been holding online Zoom meetings jointly with the Crewe Group.

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

If you wish to join one of the Zoom meetings, 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.

We will continue with this arrangement along with some face-to-face meetings. By the time you read this we will have already held one face-to-face meeting in May. If that goes well then we hope to have another one in July - see details below, and please note the change of venue.

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

- 21st June *Joint Crewe and Nantwich meeting via Zoom*
Edith Smith (1876-1923), England's First Warranted Policewoman
- Bob Knowles
- 19th July *Face-to-Face Meeting - note change of venue*
We hope to have a face-to-face meeting in July; if it goes ahead, we'll temporarily meet at a different venue - **Brookfield Hall, off Shrewbridge Road, Nantwich**. Shrewbridge Road is between Park Road and Waterlode Road. More information will be sent to our group members nearer the time, including details of the speaker and clear directions to this temporary venue.
- 12th July *Joint Crewe and Nantwich meeting via Zoom*
A Grandmother's Legacy: My Great-Aunt Constance
- Jenny Mallin
- 16th Aug *Joint Crewe and Nantwich meeting via Zoom*
Peter Lockett - Christine Wootton
- 13th Sept *Joint Crewe and Nantwich meeting via Zoom*
Society of Genealogists' Digital Collection - Else Churchill

Under normal circumstances, meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Nantwich Methodist Church Centre, Hospital Street, Nantwich

CW5 5RP. Doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. Admission £2 for members and £3 for non-members, including refreshments. Ample parking nearby.

Nantwich Family History Workshop

Workshops are held once a month from 2.00pm to 4.00pm on Mondays in the Local Studies and Family History Room on the first floor of Nantwich Library. A lift is available. Please come along if you need help to start your family history, have hit a brick wall, or need any advice. The library holds records including local newspapers, parish registers and many local history reference books, as well as free access to FindMyPast and Ancestry.

Future workshop dates are Mondays 27th June, 25th July, and 19th September.

Northwich Group

by Dave Thomas

Speakers will be booked for each meeting, which will be either at the church hall or online using Zoom. Details will be made available via newsletters and the events section on the society website. The decision on whether meetings will be at the hall or via Zoom will be influenced by attendance figures for our May meeting at the church hall.

Future meetings:

13th June *Charity, the Poor Law and Workhouse in the 19th Century:
When All Else Failed - Dr Michael Winstanley (Zoom)*

11th July *TBA*

8th Aug *TBA*

12th Sept *TBA*

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

Runcorn Group

by Peter Rowley

Runcorn are now holding face-to-face meetings at our new venue, St Edward's Church Hall, Ivy Street, Runcorn. We still meet on the first Wednesday of each month (except January) and the meetings start at 7:00pm.

At present we have no speakers booked, so we will announce each meeting by newsletter and the website.

Sale Group

by Marion Hall

Future meetings:

- 13th June ***Unearthing our Quaker Community - Claire Moores***
A peek into the archives of the local Society of Friends. We have a Quaker meeting house and graveyard on Park Road in Sale that few locals know about.
- 13th July ***Have You Got a Map That Covers.....? - Chris Makepeace***
A talk about Alan Godfrey maps and OS maps.
- 10th Aug ***AGM, followed by a members' evening asking Where did Your Ancestors Come From?***
- 14th Sept ***When I Grow Up I Want to be a Train Driver - Andrew Smith***
Both before and after WWII, one of the gifts hoped for at birthdays and Christmas was a train set. The presenter will talk about the more affordable trains of these times. The talk will be partly based on a slide presentation and will also include a demonstration of trains running on a layout. There will be audience participation!

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

By the time you are reading this we should have had our first face-to-face meetings, in April and May, at our new venue, the 4C Community Centre in Ashton-under-Lyne. You will find directions here: www.4cashton.org.uk/find_us.

We hope to have all the technical requirements worked out in order to deliver every other meeting as a hybrid meeting of Zoom and face-to-face. This has been complicated by the fact that we needed a new laptop. If everything has gone smoothly, we should now be able to start planning our future programme and to get back to an enhanced normal.

The centre is fully accessible, all on the ground floor, and there is a lovely cafe where you can have lunch before our meetings or a coffee and cake afterwards. We have booked sessions on the last Thursday of the month between 1.00pm and 3.00pm, to fit in with the centre's available slots and to allow members to avoid a lot of the school and rush hour traffic on the way home. We switched

to afternoons after a decision made at a meeting before Christmas - several of our members disliked driving in the evenings.

You can find out more about the centre on their website: www.4cashton.org.uk. Check our group page on the FHSC website for up-to-date information.

Under normal circumstances, meetings are held at 1.00pm on the last Thursday of the month at the 4C Community Centre, Ashton-under-Lyne.

Wallasey Group

by Dave Beck

NB - at the time of going to press, we planned to return to LIVE face-to-face meetings in April.

Future meetings:

21st June *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.

19th July *AGM, followed by short talk or members evening, TBA.*

16th Aug *Writing my family story - George Hall*

20th Sept *Vikings in Wirral and the North-west - Professor Steve Harding*

Wirral is the only place in mainland Britain with documented evidence of Norwegian Viking settlers. They arrived in 902AD and established a community with a clearly defined border (near Raby), its own language and customs, its own parliament at Thingwall, and its own seaport at Meols, where an impressive array of Viking age finds have been made, including a ship under the car park of the Railway Inn, Meols. A DNA project showed that up to fifty per cent of the DNA of men from old Wirral and West Lancashire families appeared to be Scandinavian in origin. The Wirral area was also possibly witness to one of the greatest battles in the history of the British Isles.

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.

The Society's Family History Research Centres

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 - OPEN PLEASE PHONE OR CHECK WEBSITE FOR CHANGES



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.

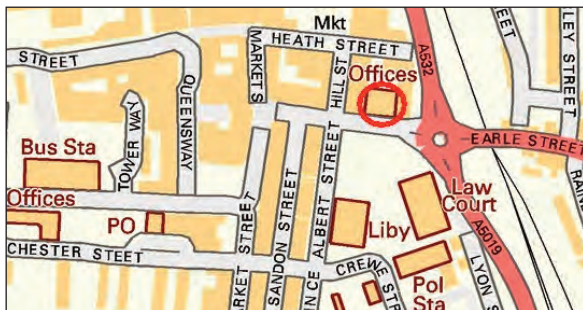
FREE access to *FindMyPast*, *Ancestry* and *The Genealogist*
Local parish registers on film - extensive library of books
Crewe and District and South East Cheshire local history archives
See the Crewe FHU Library Holdings lists on the FHSC website

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

Note - Saturday opening not yet confirmed.

For Saturday dates (TBC), 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.

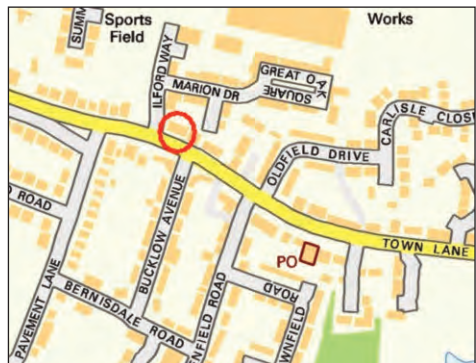
Usual opening hours: 10am-4pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

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.



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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



Salvation Army Sunbeams, Macclesfield, around 1928-30

Here is a group photo of the Salvation Army Sunbeams - a girls' club run by the Salvation Army for six- to ten-year-olds - which includes my aunt Lily BAMPFORD (1920 - 2004). Lily's father Samuel BAMPFORD was in the Macclesfield Salvation Army Band. In 1939 Lily was a probationer nurse at West Park Hospital, Macclesfield, and she married Richard JAMES in 1950.

From Jenni Gay, Membership no. 6080 (geniejen3@gmail.com)