

CHESHIRE ANCESTOR



The Journal of the
Family History Society of Cheshire



In this edition...

My Interesting Ancestor: John Daine
Christmas Memories ❖ In From the Cold Project
Family Tradition: a Wedding Cake Vase
A Double Life ❖ 1872 News and more...

Volume 53 December 2022 Issue No. 2

ISSN 1460-0277

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CHESHIRE ANCESTOR

Registered Charity: 515168

Society website: www.fhsc.org.uk

Contents

Items for the Cheshire Ancestor	2	My Interesting Ancestor	32
Editor's Page	3	Christmas Memories	33
Chairman's Jottings	4	A Double Life	35
1872 News (1)	5	Beyond the Grave	40
Society News and Notices	6	In from the Cold Project	41
The FHSC 53rd AGM	8	WW2 Childhood Memories Pt 1	43
Volunteer News	8	1872 News (4)	47
Society Vacancies	8	Finding a Thorneley Cousin	48
Obituary: Margaret Hughes	9	The Sudden Death of Joseph Ridgway	50
Members in the News	10	Who Was John Tither?	51
Margaret's Media Musings	11	1872 News (5)	53
Members' Lookup Service	13	Family Tradition: a Wedding Cake Vase	54
Research Centre News	14	A Kitchen Sink	55
Letters to the Editor	16	NTS: The Computer Section	56
1872 News (2)	20	Group News	65
Book Review	21	Location of Groups	65
Surname Interests	22	1872 News (6)	78
Family History Events	23	The Society's Research Centres	79
Family History News	24	Cover Photos: St Peter's Church, Swettenham	
Selected Archives of the Week	27		
1872 News (3)	30		
A (Dickensian) Fairey Story	31		

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

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Our society was founded in 1969—one of the first family history societies

ITEMS FOR THE CHESHIRE ANCESTOR

FINAL copy dates are the 10th day of January, April, July or October.

The earlier material is submitted, the more help it is to the editor.

Publication is at the discretion of the editor and is subject to space being available; unused items may be carried over to a later issue. Authors retain copyright of their own articles after publication but if an article is reprinted please state 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

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

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

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

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Editor's Page

by Rosie Rowley



As usual, I have enjoyed reading the member submissions included in this issue of the Cheshire Ancestor. One part of my job which I always look forward to is reading the newspapers of 100 or 150 years ago to find interesting snippets. Crewe and Nantwich groups have a joint Zoom meeting in February on the subject of *Breach of Promise to Marry*; quite by chance, the first newspaper I looked at had reports on three cases, so I have included two of them.

Keeping to the subject of marriage, this issue also includes a case of bigamy. Reading the story, it's clear that anyone could have a case of bigamy in their ancestry and be completely unaware of it. A third article on a similar subject is Margaret Roberts' story of a family tradition – a wedding cake vase which has seen thirty-seven family weddings since it was first used in 1939.

Members who are fans of Rootstech or online conferences in general will be pleased to hear that the Rootstech conference will be held again in March 2023, this time as a hybrid in-person and online conference. This is especially good news for those of us who are unable to attend the in-person event in Salt Lake City. I wonder whether online conferences would have been thought of, had it not been for the pandemic? If you have Internet access, do register for the event – it's free, so you've got nothing to lose and everything to gain. There are hundreds of talks so there's sure to be something of interest to you, and the talks are usually available to view for up to one year so you won't miss out if you're busy during the conference weekend, as long as you register in advance.

Please keep sending in your letters and articles. Do you have a family tradition or a treasured item which has been passed down through the family? If so, please write and tell us about it. If you have written but your item has not yet been published, rest assured you will see it in print one day!

Chairman's Jottings

by Alan Bennett



Last year's December Jottings started with a comparison with the previous year, and how things hadn't really changed. I think 2022 has turned out to be an even worse year due to the troubles in Ukraine, the issues with fuel costs and rising inflation.

Yet again there has been increased pressure on the money available to spend on hobbies such as family history. I have season renewals that haven't happened because of a lack of spare cash in household budgets. Rising costs are also hitting the society financially as we have seen a large loss, primarily due to the increased cost of printing and posting this journal. The other major expense is that for operating the research centre at Mobberley. As a result, we are running a strategic review of the operating model of the society; we may have to make some very tough decisions.

We lost another group this year when Bramhall folded due to lack of volunteers to run the group. My heartfelt thanks to all those who have managed the Bramhall Group over the years; it had been one of the most successful in the society. Additionally, we nearly lost the Runcorn Group were it not for the late agreement by Peter to take on the role of Group Leader with the support of Linda, a previous Runcorn Group Leader. Thank you both.

On a more personal front I can confirm that I have now retired and will be able to be more active in the operation of the society. My priorities for 2023 will be:

- A major revamp of the website prompted by the end of support for the underlying software version; I shall take advantage of the opportunity to increase the user-friendliness of the site. Please contact me with any ideas you may have.

- Complete the strategic review, including how we may take the opportunity to work more closely with Cheshire Records Office as they work on their strategy
- Work with the treasurer to balance the budget by the end of 2024.

Season's greetings to you and your families.

Alan

1872 News (1) from the Cheshire Observer, 21 December 1872

BREACH OF PROMISE OF MARRIAGE BY A LIVERPOOL MUSICIAN

On Tuesday, in the Court of Exchequer sittings at Guildhall, before **Mr Baron Martin** and a London common jury, the case of *Veall v. Grout*, which was an action brought to recover compensation for an alleged breach of promise, was heard. The plaintiff is a young lady, the daughter of a London licensed victualler, and the defendant a teacher of music at Liverpool.

Mr Powell, Q.C., said his client in this case was a young lady of good education and prepossessing appearance, and the daughter of an innkeeper and proprietor of the White Horse at Old Ford, and at that tavern he was in the habit of giving a weekly musical concert, and the defendant, **Edwin Grout**, was employed by him to play the pianoforte at the concerts, and also, some time after, to teach his daughter, **Miss Margaret Veall**, lessons in music... They were afterwards engaged, and he was introduced to her friends in Cambridge... He subsequently resolved upon going to Liverpool, where ... he had obtained a very lucrative appointment.... He went to town, but he did not see the plaintiff... He resided during his stay with the relatives of the young woman whom he afterwards married.

Sergeant Robinson here read a letter written by the plaintiff to the defendant at Liverpool, and the learned Judge ruled that from the terms of this communication he [the defendant] was exonerated from his promise by the express rescinding of the plaintiff herself.

Society News and Notices

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.

Date	Description	Subject
6-Dec-22	Crewe & Nantwich Grps	ZOOM: Auntie Kate's Life in a Devon Village
7-Dec-22	Runcom Group	Christmas Social
8-Dec-22	Bramhall Group	TBA
12-Dec-22	Alsager Group	Christmas Lunch
12-Dec-22	Bebington Group	Members' Christmas Social
12-Dec-22	Northwich Group	Buffet and Quiz
13-Dec-22	Crewe Group	Join us at the Wishing Well for a Christmas Social
14-Dec-22	Sale Group	TBA
21-Dec-22	FHSC Zoom Seminar	ZOOM: Christmas Food and Drink Through the Ages
9-Jan-23	Northwich Group	ZOOM: Members Discussion
10-Jan-23	Crewe & Nantwich Grps	ZOOM: My Grandmother's Disreputable Forebears
11-Jan-23	Sale Group	Open meeting - Mapping my Ancestors
17-Jan-23	Congleton Group	Face-to-face meeting, topic TBA

17-Jan-23	Wallasey Group	ZOOM: Virtual Quiz
18-Jan-23	FHSC Zoom Seminar	ZOOM: Searching for Adoption Records
21-Jan-23	Executive Committee	ZOOM
23-Jan-23	Bebington Group	Liverpool Overhead Railway
24-Jan-23	Macc & Congleton Grps	ZOOM: The Poor Law and Workhouses in Cheshire
26-Jan-23	Chester Group	Chester at Work
26-Jan-23	Tameside Group	TBC: Which Website and Why
1-Feb-23	Runcom Group	TBA
8-Feb-23	Sale Group	What did you do in the war Dad?
13-Feb-23	Northwich Group	ZOOM: Follow-up to the January meeting
15-Feb-23	FHSC Zoom Seminar	ZOOM: Using DNA for Family History
21-Feb-23	Congleton Group	Face-to-face meeting, topic TBA
21-Feb-23	Crewe & Nantwich Grps	ZOOM: Breach of Promise to Marry
21-Feb-23	Wallasey Group	ZOOM: It all Started with a Letter from Colditz
23-Feb-23	Chester Group	Members' Evening
23-Feb-23	Tameside Group	Workshop
27-Feb-23	Bebington Group	Lady Lever
28-Feb-23	Macc & Congleton Grps	ZOOM: Posted in the Past
8-Mar-23	Sale Group	Tatton Park Farm
13-Mar-23	Northwich Group	Family History Research Ethics
14-Mar-23	Crewe & Nantwich Grps	ZOOM: Researching Non-Conformist Ancestors
15-Mar-23	FHSC Zoom Seminar	ZOOM: Tracing the History of your House
21-Mar-23	Congleton Group	Face-to-face meeting, topic TBA
21-Mar-23	Wallasey Group	ZOOM: A tour around Wirral's 26 Conservation Areas
23-Mar-23	Tameside Group	TBC: Bawdy Courts
27-Mar-23	Bebington Group	Flaybrick Military Heroes
28-Mar-23	Macclesfield Group	J T Moore and the Whiston Family Connection
30-Mar-23	Chester Group	Think Beyond the Obvious
18-Apr-23	Crewe & Nantwich Grps	F2F: Transforming Lives: Primitive Methodists
19-Apr-23	FHSC Zoom Seminar	ZOOM: Trade Directories for Family History
25-Apr-23	Macclesfield Group	Ethics in Family History

Volunteer News

Society Vacancies

The society is seeking new volunteers for the following posts:

Wanted: Honorary Editor

Rosie Rowley has now served as editor for seven 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: 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 our digital journal is sent to participating societies and will receive and distribute digital journals from these societies to our website officer for uploading to our website.

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

The FHSC 53rd Annual General Meeting

As the AGM will be held a little later than usual this year, the reports were not available at the time of going to press so they will be included in the March issue of the ANCESTOR. Meanwhile, they can be found on the FHSC website.

Obituary: Margaret Hughes

by Dave Thomas

It is with deep regret that we report the loss of one of Northwich Group's most popular members, Margaret Hughes, who died on 22nd September. Ninety years old, she took up residence at Davenham Hall Care Home early this year, following a fall at home. I visited her there and was pleased when she told me that she was happy at the home, having fellow residents with whom she was able to hold good conversations.

Margaret was a great help to me when I took over as Group Leader in 2015. Committee meetings were held at her house, and she was a major contributor at each meeting. To use a well-worn phrase, she did not suffer fools gladly. She was a straight talker, putting me in my place on more than one occasion, and she had a wicked sense of humour.

Margaret, a former teacher at High Street Primary School, Winsford, gave much of her time to worthwhile organisations. In addition to her role as Ladies Fellowship Treasurer, she was also a Sunday School Teacher and a Church Steward – she was an active member of the Methodist Church. She was also a part of the Age Concern group, and taught computer skills for many years. Her knowledge of computer use proved beneficial in her capacity as Committee Member for Northwich Group, which she joined mid 2005.

The December meetings for our group have for many years consisted of a hot pot supper and quiz. Margaret would devise the quiz, and such was her commitment to providing a challenging set of questions, I honestly do not recall any team ever getting all answers correct. Her obvious delight in achieving this just added to the enjoyment.

In her younger days, Margaret was a keen photographer and she gave illustrated talks about her travels with her husband Bob, whom she married in 1984.

Margaret will not be forgotten.

Members in the News

The **Findmypast Community Award** recognises and celebrates the everyday heroes of family history. Find My Past asked members of the public to nominate the one person who has helped them the most on their family history journey. They received lots of nominations for this year's Findmypast Community Award and were moved and inspired by the stories.

The judge, Jessamy Carlson from The National Archives, shortlisted her three favourite entries. The public then voted for the winner and the results were announced during the Findmypast Fridays Facebook broadcast on Friday 12 August.

Winner: our own Margaret Roberts

Community member Sylvia nominated Margaret for her tireless efforts as Publicity and Social Media Officer for the FHSC. In Sylvia's words, *Margaret is "Wonder Woman", producing and delivering an endless stream of helpful articles, social media posts and talks. Despite her hectic schedule, Margaret always makes time to respond to individual 'brick wall' questions with great suggestions for overcoming the problems.*

A huge congratulations to Margaret for winning this year's Findmypast Community Award, and thank you for everything you do.

Another member of our society, **Paul Chiddicks**, was a runner-up. Paul's kindness, knowledge and wicked sense of humour are just a few of the reasons Ann has nominated him for the Findmypast Community Award. Ann is building a new career path and Paul has gone out of his way to support her in the development of her social media presence. Proving just how nice a person he is, Paul thinks he is undeserving of an award. Ann and many others wholeheartedly disagree.

The second runner-up was Chris Lang, one of the Findmypast Forum moderators.

Find My Past is on Facebook at <https://en-gb.facebook.com/findmypast/>

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

by Margaret Roberts
Publicity & Social Media Officer
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FHSC has been busy during the last quarter with online and in-person shows, as well as Group events and days out. Many Groups held their AGMs in which they planned their future programmes and there is certainly a lot for members both at home in Cheshire and across the country, and indeed the globe, to get involved in, so remember to look out for newsletters and keep your eyes on the Events page of the website.

The Genealogy Show Summer Event which took place at the start of July was another success for FHSC, with many visitors to the virtual booth. Crewe Family History Unit (FHU) volunteers were at Crewe library in August for the *Crewe Do You Think You Are* event and a few days later hosted representatives from the Ministry of Defence team. We are helping them to trial their new online project, *Apply for a Deceased Persons Military Record*, which they hope to launch before the end of the year. FHSC volunteers will be able to assist members immediately once the new website is launched and we were delighted to have been asked to support this project - huge kudos for FHSC. Many groups took part in various events connected with the Heritage Open Days project, although the sad death of Queen Elizabeth II meant that some of the events had to be postponed. In September Jean Laidlaw and Margaret Roberts represented FHSC at the High Peak U3A Family History Fair in Buxton.

Remember that as well as our two research centres, FHSC volunteers also staff help desks in local libraries. No matter what your level of experience, our knowledgeable volunteers across all our sites can offer advice and support. If you are just starting out on your family history journey, we can ensure that your

research starts off on the right path; and for the more experienced we can help reinforce your knowledge with supplementary information and practices.

The Seminar Series continues to prove popular, with attendance figures regularly in the hundreds. Despite battling with technology problems and power cuts in July we were delighted to welcome back Dr Janet Few who entertained us with her talk *A Plague on All Your Houses*, followed by an interesting Q&A session featuring a lot of gory family stories! Our August talk on *Marriage Law* was by Prof Rebecca Probert, who captivated us all with the many laws and how they have been understood – or misunderstood – over the years. Rebecca also went through some of the complex issues in a lively Q&A session. To complement this, in September Anthony Marr, a former Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths, expertly debunked the many myths and misconceptions relating to birth and death registration. Did you know that *Old Age* can legally be entered as a cause of death if a person is over eighty? I think all of us left the meeting having learnt something new. We are always very grateful to our seminar speakers for being generous with their time when it comes to the Q&A sessions, often offering help to members.

Group meetings have continued to offer an eclectic mix of talks, members evenings and workshops both online via Zoom and in person, and have included topics such as: Quakers and Non-Conformists, the People of the Wirral, Spanish Flu, Divorce Records, the artist and cartoonist Norman Thelwell, 1921 Census workshops, an evening of discussion surrounding Ethics in Family History, Writing your Family History, Palaeography, GI Brides, Murders in Altrincham and the Digital Collections of the Society of Genealogists. Quite a list I think you'll agree. FHSC activities are publicised via the website, our monthly newsletter, Cheshire Ancestor, Facebook and Twitter.

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 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 Group Leader for more information.

Members' FREE Research Lookup Service

Note that this is a free service for members only, and is subject to any changes to the Covid-19 regulations and time available to volunteers.

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.

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(see page 2 for full details)*

Research Centre News

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

Mobberley Research Centre

by Joan Irving
librarian@fhsc.org.uk



Now the summer is over, perhaps it's time to get back to researching your family history. Our volunteers are ready and willing to help you.

At Mobberley we have some archive guides along the top of the filing cabinets; perhaps more use should be made of them. Some of these archive guides are fairly old but they may hold information you need and haven't found on the internet. I regularly dip into my old Cheshire R.O. Guide as it is easy to follow and holds a wealth of information.

There are Record Office Guides to archives for many areas including Cheshire, Lancashire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Cumbria, London, Suffolk, Yorkshire and West Sussex. Amongst these are more specific places: Chester, Stockport, Tameside, Wigan, Bolton, Bury, Liverpool and Manchester.

We have some archive guides that you might want to delve into for information on estate records, deeds and leases. Some of the estate records cover people and places in nearby counties. A selection is given below.

Manchester, John Rylands Special Collection Guide 1999

Manchester, Index to Alan Dale's Records at John Rylands

Lancashire Record Office Guide 1962 and Supplement 1977-1989

West Yorkshire Archives 1992

Sheffield City Jackson Collection

Sheffield City Supplements 1 & 2 to Manuscript Collection 1956-1967

Leeds Archives Guide 1938-1988

Guide to Borthwick Institute of Historical Research 1988

Clwyd R.O. Denbigh Borough Records 1978

Various Staffordshire guides e.g. Estate Maps, Business Records, Diocesan Records

A couple of really interesting guides produced by Staffordshire are *Beginners Guide to Family History* and *Advanced Guide to Family History*. Although they relate to Staffordshire records, they give a huge insight into the kinds of records available for family history research. These books are very user friendly and explain aspects of research in an easy way – well worth a look!

It's easy to forget that archive guides can be a useful tool in your research. If you really want to discover your family history, you need to look beyond *Ancestry* and *Find My Past* - some of these guides could point you in a new and exciting direction.

Crewe Family History Unit

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

Thanks for your support; we are not yet back to pre-pandemic figures for use of the Family History Unit (FHU) but are hopeful for more returnees. It has been very pleasing to have a positive response from new members who have visited us, and we have welcomed new members with a range of experience in researching their family history, not forgetting someone who had stored his files but is now happy to continue. It really brings home to our volunteers all the information in paper and digital format that is constantly increasing.

If you are travelling some distance to visit us, please contact me in advance so that I can ensure that we have a computer for you to use.

The FHU is open on Monday and Tuesday from 10am to 4pm, but we recommend arriving no later than 3pm.

The FHU will be open one Saturday morning per month; please check the date for each month on the website as I am only able to arrange the Saturday openings one month in advance.

Letters to the Editor

If you have any comments about any of the articles in the CHESHIRE 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.

Unusual Forenames

In a belated response to the Editorial in the June 2021 issue, I am writing to tell you about two instances of unusual names in my family tree.

Exuperious

My 3x great-aunt, Mary BUTTFIELD (born 1781) married Exuperious TURNER/TURNOR on 26th December 1805. Mary was a Bedfordshire girl but they married in Chicheley, Buckinghamshire. The couple had four children and named their second son Exuperious. Their first son was named John, presumably after Mary's father, John BUTTFIELD, who died in 1821.

I had never before come across the name Exuperious (sometimes spelled Exsuperious) but have since discovered that St Exuperious was Bishop of Toulouse in the early 5th century. People familiar with the famous aviator and author Antoine de Saint-Exupery will spot the similar origin of his surname.

Offspring

My second example also comes from Bedfordshire. A HILL family ancestor married into the DEAR family. The DEAR family was one of a cluster of families in the village of Arlesley near Biggleswade, who used the name Offspring for their male children for several generations.

When I first came across Offspring as a name I wondered whether it had been used as a temporary name for birth registration purposes pending a "proper" first name being chosen by the family. However, the fact that it was used down several generations and across several families proved this was a deliberate choice of first name.

Further research on Find My Past revealed more instances of Offspring being used as a given name, with a noticeable cluster in the Biggleswade area. It was clearly used in successive generations of families with surnames such as DEAR, DEVEREUX, JEEVES, STREET, TOPHAM and WEBB. As far as I have checked, the other children in these families had more common given names. There is a very interesting and detailed article by John Partridge on the Offsprings of Arlesley in the *Bedfordshire FHS Journal*, Sept. 2021, pp10-13.

The earliest (national) reference I have found is for Of[f]spring BLACKALL (married 1693), son of Thomas BLACKALL. Thomas married a Martha OFSPRING in 1648 (born 1625, daughter of Charles OFSPRING). The family are listed in Boyds Inhabitants of London. Thomas was an Alderman Haberdasher. Offspring BLACKALL's siblings have common first names.

An Offspring BLACKALL (a.k.a. BLACKHALL) (1654-1716) became Bishop of Exeter (entry in the Dictionary of National Biography). One of his sons and a grandson also have entries in DNB. Find My Past indicates a strong Devon presence of BLACKALL surnames including some with the first name Offspring. I haven't established whether this Offspring BLACKALL is the same man as the one who married in 1693.

Clare Bostle

Membership no. 10353

Strange Names

Here are a few strange names, taken from the North Cheshire FHS Strays and Strangers index.

MUNDIFORD ALLEN, 1790

AMYATT ERNIE AMYATT, 1901

ADOLPH NELSON, Mariner, 1918

SIGISMUND ARTHUR, 1856

BARBARA BARBER, 1748

STANLEY LIVINGSTONE BARRY, 1872

CONWEL PORIS BARTON, 1916

HORATIO NELSON BEALE, 1855

HIWASSI BULLOCK, 1917

IDA HOPE, 1936

Tony Sant

Membership no. 9314

Christmas Postman

In the latest CHESHIRE ANCESTOR (September 2022) you published a letter from Elizabeth OSBORNE in which she refers to a postcard posted on Christmas eve 1904 by "Addie" to a lady in Alderley Edge, asking her to visit on Christmas Day. Elizabeth wonders if the postcard would have been delivered in time and states that there was no post on Christmas Day.

In fact this is not correct. I have a book called *Shropshire Days and Shropshire Ways* by Simon EVANS, published in 1938 by Heath Cranton Ltd. of Fleet Lane, London. Simon EVANS was a rural postman based in Cleobury Mortimer in Shropshire. The book contains various essays, many relating to his postal round, and he wrote at least three other similar books in the 1930s, had pieces published in the *Birmingham Mail* and *The Post Office Magazine*, and gave talks for the BBC.

Simon had a round of eighteen miles, done on foot six days a week, which he had been doing since the mid-1920s and which he credits with helping him overcome health problems resulting from his service in the First World War. He goes into detail about doing his round on Christmas Day, and says he had done eleven Christmas Day rounds at the time he was writing. In another essay he fantasises on how he would spend Christmas Day if he wasn't doing his postal round. I assume this would have applied throughout the country and before the First World War. Having said this, I think Addie must have expected the card to be delivered on Christmas Eve to give Miss WRIGHT sufficient notice to get to her friend's house in good time on Christmas Day.

On another tack, as usual I think this edition is a really impressive production, very clear and well-edited. I particularly enjoyed reading the article about the midwife, Ursula PHILLIPS, who comes across as an extremely impressive character and it is easy to understand why David PHILLIPS regards her as his

family hero (or heroine). As he says, it was probably abnormal that she was supported by male superiors in her complaints about some of the male doctors, but it is very gratifying to read that this happened. It was really uplifting to read about her and how she survived the tragedies in her life and had an outstanding career in such a worthwhile profession.

Thanks for producing the Journal.

John Langdill

Membership no. 10121

Ed.: This reminded me that, when I was a child in the 1960s, my father worked as a deliveryman for the local Co-operative store which served a large number of farms. He worked on Christmas day - I don't think it was every year - and we had to wait for him to finish his deliveries before we could open our Christmas presents and eat Christmas dinner. I suspect he started work extra early in order to be home by lunchtime. On one memorable occasion we waited a very long time for him to come downstairs for dinner after going up to change out of his work clothes - we eventually discovered he had fallen asleep!

Outdated Sayings

I was interested to read in the September 2022 CHESHIRE ANCESTOR of the fifty most "endangered" sayings and the percentage of respondents who never use the phrase. Well, here's ten more that could also have been listed; however, they tend to just be used in the Midlands, which is where I originate from.

1. We say: *You've got a face as long as Livery Street.*

What we really mean: You're looking glum, sad, upset.

2. We say: *He's got a face like a slapped ass.*

What we really mean: same as number 1 above.

3. We say: *Saves you going round the Wrekin.*

What we really mean: If you follow my advice you will get results faster.

4. We say: *He is half-soaked.*

What we really mean: He is slow-witted.

5. We say: *There are more islands there than Redditch.*

What we really mean: If you're thinking of driving there, be aware that the area has got a lot of traffic roundabouts.

6. We say: *Ta-ra a bit!*

What we really mean: Goodbye for now, see you soon.

7. We say: *Well I think it's time for me to o121.*

What we really mean: It's time for me to leave you for now to pursue other chores/ activities/ leisure pursuits.

8. We say: *Go and play up your own end.*

What we really mean: Stop making a nuisance on our street and go and have fun in your own neighbourhood.

9. We say: *He's got a right cob on him.*

What we really mean: Watch out because he's in a bad mood.

10. We say: *That was a bostin' game for the Villa or Blues* (depending upon your affiliation).

What we really mean: Aston Villa (or Birmingham City) played really well.

N.B. this phrase is not used very often – but maybe that could change now that Steven Gerrard is in charge of the Villa! [*Ed: I'm told this is no longer the case*]

I hope these will bring a smile to the members.

Ta-ra a bit! I think it's time for me to o121.

David Sewell

Membership no. 9185

1872 News (2) from the Cheshire Observer, 21 December 1872

MALPAS - SUDDEN DEATH

Mrs Elizabeth Denison, wife of **Mr Wm. Denison**, wheelwright, Well Street, Malpas, died very suddenly on Tuesday last. It appeared that Mrs Denison was engaged in household duties and while lifting a kettle she fell backwards, and in less than two minutes life was extinct... Mrs Denison always complained of giddiness in the head and pain in the left side of the chest and arm. An inquest was held on the body on Thursday last, at the Red Lion Hotel, Malpas.... disease of the heart was the cause of death.

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.

Secret Northwich & Around, by Adrian and Dawn L Bridge

Reviewed by Dave Thomas



Now semi-retired, locally born Adrian L. Bridge has a BA in history, along with other impressive qualifications, and has lectured in history for nearly 20 years. Dawn L Bridge is a history graduate, specialising in women's history. She has delivered a number of local history talks to Cheshire Women's Institutes.

This is the third book that I have reviewed by these authors, and my fears of repetition were unfounded. They have taken care to ensure that the content is fresh and interesting. They delve beneath the surface of the Northwich area's fascinating history, and focus on aspects of its past that are less well known but of considerable significance.

Among the subjects highlighted is the massive impact that slave trade money had on the local economy. They do not hold back, referring to members of the gentry whose status was derived (at least in part) from a decidedly murky slave-owning past. I particularly enjoyed reading about the Cholmondeley Lords of Delamere and their exploits in Kenya. Although not mentioned, I believe Maurice Egerton of Tatton could easily have been part of the story.

Other chapters look at local industries, people, power and controversy, and Victorian politics. The authors also explore hidden aspects of the locality's past, which include topics ranging from law and order to public health and poverty, religion and Queen Victoria's wars.

Illustrated throughout, with colour and archive images, this book will be of interest to local residents, visitors and all those with connections to the area.

Amberley Publishing, 2022. Paperback, 96 pages, 100 illustrations, £15.99

ISBN: 978-1-3981-0380-1

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 1 August and 27 October 2022:

BACKLER, BASKEYFIELD, BLEASE, BROADBENT, BROADBENT

CHAKES, CLIFF(E), COBB

DEARNLEY, DUTTON

FARRINGTON, FINNEY, FOWLER, FRASER

GANDY/GANDIE, GASKELL, GASKILL, GERRARD/GERARD, GIBBONS,
GREGORY

HARGREAVES, HEATH, HICKTON, HYDE

LEFTWICH

MAKIN, MALAM

OWEN

PLATT

SNELSON, SPARROW

TREVIS, TURKINGHAM, TURNER, TUSHINGHAM

VERNON

WARREN, WHITAKER, WHITTAKER, WOODYER, WOOLLEY

Family History Events

For news of family history events, see these online calendars

<http://geneva.weald.org/doku.php>

www.familyhistoryfederation.com/events

www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/online/genealogy/

<https://conferencekeeper.org/>

THE Genealogy Show Winter Event (Online)

Friday 2nd - Sunday 4th December

Expert Speakers - renowned Exhibitors and Sponsors

Articles, Games, Competitions + So Much More!

*** FHSC will be present ***

www.thegenealogyshowlive.com

The Family History Show (Online)

10.00am - 4.00pm Saturday 18th February

Ask the Experts - Talks - Exhibitors

Advance tickets £7 - on the day £10

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

Rootstech 2023

Thursday 2nd - Saturday 4th March 2023

Online (free) and in person (\$98) at Salt Lake City, USA

200+ NEW on-demand class sessions and classes

Booking now open at

www.familysearch.org/rootstech/event/rt2023

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

Go to <http://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/cardcatalog.aspx> for a list of all record sets, and click on *Sort by > Date Updated* to find the latest additions.

Go to www.ancestry.co.uk/cs/recent-collections for *Ancestry* news.

UK, World War II War Diaries, 1939-1946

www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62376/

This first release is of diaries for the period covering The Second Battle of El Alamein (23 October – 11 November 1942).

UK, Coal Mining Accidents and Deaths Index, 1878-1951

www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62506/

An index of people who were injured or killed while working in mines between 1878 and 1951. The entry includes a brief description of the event.

UK, World War II Women's Land Army Index Cards, 1939-1948

www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62020/

An index of women who served in the Women's Land Army (WLA). Records of those born less than 100 years ago are excluded.

UK and Commonwealth, Law Examination Records, 1836-1946

www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62335/

Registers of individuals who sat for their law exams in the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth between 1836 and 1946.

Find My Past (FMP)

Go to <http://search.findmypast.co.uk/historical-records> to see a list of all record sets. Go to www.findmypast.co.uk/blog/new for FindMyPast news.

1921 Census now included in a new Premium FMP Subscription

Find My Past now offers a new Premium subscription which includes unlimited access to the 1921 census. Those with an annual Pro subscription who have previously paid to access 1921 census records can upgrade their remaining subscription term to Premium on payment of £19.99.

British Royal Navy & Royal Marines Service and Pension Records, 1704-1919

www.findmypast.co.uk/blog/new/wills-west-indies

Transcriptions of over 20,000 original wills of men who served in the Royal Navy and Royal Marines. These new additions span 1786-1822.

British West Indies Regiment Servicemen, 1915-1919

www.findmypast.co.uk/blog/new/wills-west-indies

Discover nearly 17,000 WWI service records in this new and exclusive collection from the British West Indies Regiment.

Poole, Dorset Monumental Inscriptions

www.findmypast.co.uk/blog/new/wills-west-indies

Over 10,000 monumental inscriptions from Poole Cemetery in Dorset.

Lincolnshire Monumental Inscriptions

www.findmypast.co.uk/blog/new/school-records-marriage-bonds

Discover 65,636 monumental inscriptions, from 129 churches and chapels in Lincolnshire and one church in Nottinghamshire.

Northamptonshire Burials

www.findmypast.co.uk/blog/new/durham-derbyshire-northamptonshire

Nearly 60,000 records spanning 1538-1813, covering 86 churches and chapels across the county, with the largest amount being attributed to the Holy Cross Church in Daventry.

Cheshire Archives News

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

Discover Chester's Bawdy Court

<http://cheshirero.blogspot.com/2022/08/the-bawdy-court-at-chester.html>

Cheshire Archives and Local Studies (CALS) are fortunate in the range and volume of records of the Chester church court which they hold, dating back to the early sixteenth century. Meanwhile, Chester Cathedral has the only complete surviving consistory court room in England. One of the CALS researchers, Pat Cox, has begun to publish images and transcriptions on a website, so with new easy access to the court documents, the stories really come to life. This is her introduction to her project where you will find a link to the new website.

A Farmer's Life

http://cheshirero.blogspot.com/2022/08/a-farmers-life-diary-of-james-higginson_23.html

A small personal diary has inspired two instalments of *A Farmer's Life: The Diary of James Higginson aged 57 and a half*. Part One is an introduction to day-to-day life on an early 19th century Cheshire farm and includes national events that we're still familiar with today; and Part Two follows the trail through the archives to take a closer look at the lives of James and his family and covers a significant local event.

The Genealogist

Go to www.thegenealogist.co.uk/news/ for *TheGenealogist* news.

UK, 1910 Valuation Office Survey (National Archives series IR58)

www.thegenealogist.co.uk/featuredarticles/2022/snapshot-of-edwardian-london-revealed-in-land-tax-records-1616/

All the 1910 Valuation Survey records from The National Archives for London and North Buckinghamshire have now been released. These records are now searchable by name, address or location.

Selected Archives of the Week

by Margaret Roberts
Publicity & 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 before, 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).

Mid-Kent Marriage Index 1754-1911

<https://www.woodchurchancestry.org.uk/midkentmarriages/index.php>

A lovely little treat for those with Kent ancestry, the online Mid-Kent Marriages Index 1754-1911 is the work of local historians and genealogists David Hills and Gary Samson. David has painstakingly transcribed the marriage records of seven registration districts in the mid Kent area: East Ashford, West Ashford, Cranbrook, Elham, Hollingbourne, Romney Marsh, and Tenterden. Also included are marriages celebrated at Maidstone (All Saints) for this period. This searchable, web-based version of these transcriptions was produced by Gary Samson of the Woodchurch Ancestry Group.

The Local Mythstorian

<https://thelocalmythstorian.com/home>

A website that reveals the extraordinary local histories of Cheshire, Derbyshire, and Staffordshire. Created in 2020 and run by history enthusiast, writer, and podcaster, Eli Lewis-Lycett, who was born in Stoke-on-Trent and has lived in Cheshire for the past fifteen years, this multi-media project is dedicated to exploring the extraordinary local histories of Cheshire, Derbyshire, and Staffordshire. Born from his personal passion for local folklore and legend - or

more specifically, a drive to uncover the real histories which lie at the heart of their inspiration - the project presents original content based on fresh historical research, with a view to providing a new and unique insight into the strange and curious tales we find anchored throughout our landscape. With stories to read and podcasts to listen to, it's well worth a little exploration of the site; you can register for free to gain further access and receive updates into your inbox.

University College London [UCL] Press

<https://www.uclpress.co.uk/collections/open-access>

UCL Press has a huge range of books on Open Access, meaning that you can freely download them to your laptop/computer and read at your leisure. UCL Press is the UK's first fully open access university press. Based at UCL, they publish scholarly monographs, textbooks and journals in all areas. For instance, this book *Mapping Society: The Spatial Dimensions of Social Cartography* by Laura Vaughan or *Modern Luck: Narratives of fortune in the long twentieth century* by Robert S. C. Gordon are just a couple of examples. Link is to the Open Access books page, where you can browse the titles on offer or click on the links to access the rest of the site.

Brigham Young University [BYU]

<https://fh.lib.byu.edu/classes-and-webinars/>

There is a huge amount of genealogical information - some only accessible by BYU students and staff on this site - BUT there is also much more that is free to access by anyone. I wish to draw your attention to the *Classes and Webinars* page which has a veritable feast of online webinars, lectures, instructional videos and the like. Pop along to the link above to find the many videos you can watch.

How-to History

<https://howtohistory.substack.com>

How-to History is run by Joe Saunders, a freelance historical researcher and writer. He is a Vice-Chair of the British Association for Local History, an Associate Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, and an Associate of the Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives. He teaches history at the University of York, the Centre for Lifelong Learning and for Pharos Tutors.

The rationale behind the website is to help all types of historians, by explaining events, concepts, sources and share thoughts on the practice of researching, writing, and teaching history. Each 'How-to' is a short guide of under a thousand words which directs you to further resources. Subscribe to get each post straight into your inbox every Wednesday.

TuckBD Postcards

<https://tuckdbpostcards.org/>

Perhaps less of an archive and more of a rabbit hole! A free searchable database of antique postcards. Every card in this database was published by the now defunct Raphael Tuck & Sons, at one time the world's largest postcard publisher. The images span the entire globe and offer a unique visual history of life in the late 19th and early 20th century. During the London Blitz of the Second World War the company headquarters was destroyed, along with greetings cards, records, and original images. TuckDB is an attempt to recreate those lost records. TuckDB is non-profit and does not sell postcards.

Flea Market Love Letters

<https://www.fleamarketloveletters.com/>

The Flea Market Love Letters archive is a passion project that began in 2017. The present mission is to archive and preserve vintage ephemera (letters, postcards, photos etc.) which are often found at antique fairs, flea markets and the like. Collecting for the project is ongoing. There are now over 500 featured letters and close to three times as many yet to be shared in the archive. That number is ever increasing so pop back often to see what's new.

HistoryPin

<https://www.historypin.org/en/>

This site boasts more than 400,000 submissions of old photos from across the world, each plotted on Google Maps. Use this site to compare images of the past against a modern street view and better understand your ancestral neighbourhoods, identify old family homes or businesses, and see what historical properties remain today that may be worth visiting. Register free to contribute your own photos to this collaborative effort. Another great rabbit hole to get lost down, start your burrowing by clicking on the link above.

Prison History

<https://www.prisonhistory.org>

Based in the Centre for the History of Crime, Policing and Justice at The Open University, Prison History aims to transform our understanding of incarceration in the British Isles from the early modern period to the twentieth century through the publication of new, interactive resources. Prison History comprises two datasets. The first, *19th Century Prisons*, is a database of institutions used to confine those accused and convicted of crime in England between 1800 and 1899. The second, *Local Lock-Ups*, is a public engagement project which asks members of the public to contribute details of structures that they know existed in their community which were used to temporarily restrain those accused of crime.

1872 News (3) from the Cheshire Observer, 21 December 1872

CLERICAL SCANDAL IN LIVERPOOL

BREACH OF PROMISE BY A CURATE: £5,000 DAMAGES

A Sheriff's jury met at St George's Hall on Friday week to assess the damages in the action *Schneider v. Casey*, for breach of promise of marriage. The plaintiff was **Adele Mathilde Emily Schneider**, who is a teacher of music and languages residing in Liverpool, and the defendant was the **Rev Wm. Henry Casey**, formerly a curate at two Liverpool churches.

The declaration alleged that defendant agreed to marry the plaintiff, that a reasonable time for such marriage had elapsed, and that plaintiff had always been ready and willing to marry, but defendant had refused to marry her. The jury had therefore to assess the damages. The Assessor said, I have consulted with **Mr. Justice Lush**, who gave me his opinion [which] agrees with mine. I direct the jury to find a verdict for £5,000 upon the admission of the defendant's counsel that defendant is ready to pay the amount of damages claimed. Plaintiff could not recover more, and therefore it would be a waste of public time to inquire into the case...

The collapse of the case appeared to give great disappointment to a number of fashionably-dressed ladies who were in the Sheriff's Jury room.

A (Dickensian) Fairey Story

by Gren Dix

Membership no. 4174

This is not really a Christmas story. One of my ancestors married a FAIREY. There is nothing very special about them - the only thing worth commenting on is the number of children. I know some of our ancestors had large families, but this family is exceptional.

Jane SPRIGGS (1838-1881) married Jonah FAIRY or FAIREY (1835-1896) on 16 February 1858 in Lavendon, Buckinghamshire. They subsequently had the following children, all born in Lavendon and in the Newport Pagnell registration district. Death is in Lavendon unless otherwise stated.

Forenames	Born	Died	Comments
Lydia Esther	1858	1913	Islington
Kate	1860	1860	age 0
Joseph William	1861	1868	age 7
Gertrude	1862	1863	no age given
Frederick	1866	1866	age 2
Henry	abt 1865	-	only in 1871 & 1881 censuses
Jeremiah	1864	1866	age 0
Tryphena	1867	1884	age 17
George	abt 1868	-	according to 1871 census Not found in 1881
Harry	1870	-	death not found
Charles	1871	-	death not found
Ralph	1872	1949	in Exeter
Samuel	1874	1874	age 0
Milicent (sic) Jane	1876	1880	age 3
Wilfred George	1878	1878	age 0
Cecelia Annie	1879	1881	age 1

Jane had sixteen children over a twenty-one-year period but died two years after the last child was born. It is shocking to think that at least nine - and probably thirteen - children died before adulthood.

My Interesting Ancestor

by Joan Irving
FHSC Librarian

Previously published in the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR, September 1995.

Whilst researching my family I have heard how some researchers have traced their family back to the 1500s with ease, some who have found links with famous people and some who have wonderful pictures or artefacts handed down through generations. Alas! I have found none of these. True, I did find a legal dispute over some land in Crowley which made interesting reading – that is, the snippets my mother and I could glean amongst all the legal jargon! It would be nice to boast about an important person from the past – an inventor, painter, author – anyone would do. But all I can boast about is the occasion when my 3x great-grandfather, John DAINE of Dainewell Farm, Carrington – a tenant of not less than sixty acres – was awarded a silver medal, in 1790, by the Manchester Agricultural Society, for erecting the most substantial reservoir for the reception of dung! It adds light relief to conversations, and probably was an important and valued award, but why couldn't it have been for something with a bit more class?

I discovered this information at Altrincham Library, in a collection of local history gleanings under the pen name of Cedric II. I also discovered that my John DAINE had, in 1777, been awarded a premium and a cup, valued at seven guineas, by the Manchester Agricultural Society for having planted the largest number of apple trees, viz 610, in the year ending August 1777.

I wanted to know more about the Society and found it covered an area of twenty miles around Manchester. It was the pioneer of the agricultural shows we know today. There were prizes for farm produce, hay-trussing and practical improvements. The Society members included the gentry of Cheshire; in 1777 the Earl of Stamford was the President.

Refs. T942.71 CED and T942.71 CHE, Altrincham Library (correct in 1995)

Christmas Memories

by David Sewell

Membership no. 9185

Christmas: my experiences when I was growing up have coloured my perception of this time of year.



Here I am in the earliest photo I have of myself at Christmas - I look really, really happy. I believe it was taken in about 1962, in a shop called Henry's in Birmingham city centre. I am sure, like so many other children who were born in the 1950's, being taken to see Father Christmas each year sticks in your mind. It was truly a magical time of year.

Shops like the Birmingham Co-op made a big thing of visiting Father Christmas and I can remember one year everyone (after paying at a cashier) sat down in a replica spaceship with our parent or parents. Then there was some movement in the flooring of the 'spaceship' plus a picture show and then the next thing I knew we had arrived in Santa's Grotto. We all trooped off the 'spaceship' to collect a present from Santa Claus. It was quite magical, I have to say.

One year really sticks in my mind; not only was I given a wonderful clockwork train set as a present, but I caught mumps! The doctor came to visit me every day and so much fuss was being made of me that feeling poorly was more than made up for by being the centre of everyone's attention.

I am sure that I am not alone in this admission - yes, it's the proverbial searching for Christmas presents in the days leading up to the big event.

“David,” I can hear my Mum saying, “You haven’t been mooching around for presents, have you?” She caught me coming out of their bedroom just a few days before Christmas. “You know Father Christmas won’t leave you any presents if he hears you’ve been doing that!” “No Mum, I haven’t.” “Well, what were you doing? Now scam before I tell your father when he gets home. You’ll feel his hand on your bottom if I tell him I caught you in our bedroom looking for presents.”

Ah yes, who can remember buying a toy for their child and not checking that the batteries are included? I can clearly remember the year my parents bought me an electric train after much pleading from me because every other boy I knew had one. It was only a bit of white lie, wasn’t it, and you can’t be sent to hell for those sort, can you? My dad and I were on the floor together, desperately trying to get the train to work, but try as we might, there was just no way it would to work. I learned later that my dad had scoured many, many second-hand shops for a train set and had been assured by the owner that it worked, so he had bought it in good faith. He tried to get the shop to cough up for the engine to be rewired, but no such luck - despite telling the owner how disappointed I was when Santa left a dud!

Here’s a picture of me in a proper train at the Tallylyn Railway, North Wales with some school friends telling them all about the train set that just would not work.

So, there you have it - my memories of Christmas and the trials and tribulations that can surround this time of year.

This article was first published on the Curious Descendants

website: <https://curiousdescendants.co.uk/stories/christmas/>



A Double Life or Reading Between the Lines

by Sue Taylor
Membership no. 9979
twt.peopleton@btinternet.com

Whoever copied Samuel BOFFEY's census information into the enumeration book made a pig's ear of it. He got as far as writing BOFF for the surname of Samuel's married daughter Louisa before realising his mistake. He had to cross it out and squeeze BARKER between the lines. Then he made a further, but this time uncorrected, error by carrying down the name BARKER to Louisa's siblings, who were of course BOFFEYS.

On the night of the 1901 census, Sunday 31 March, Louisa BARKER was staying with her parents, Samuel and Julia Emma BOFFEY, in the Dunstall district of Wolverhampton. Samuel and Julia were my 2xgreat-grandparents and had left dairy farming in Cheshire to seek a new life. Samuel had got a job as a stoker at the nearby gasworks and his sons had found work in factories or the railways. Their daughter Louisa was heavily pregnant and had been married to Charles BARKER for just nineteen days. Curiously, her husband was not recorded at that address. Why? Were the newlyweds living apart until they could find a home of their own? Had Louisa chosen to give birth at her parents' home?

5		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
HOUSES		Number of Rooms occupied if less than 276	Name and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	Condition as to Marriage	Age last Birthday of		PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	
Inhabited	Not in Occup. Use.					Building	Male		Female
			Samuel Boffey	Head	M	57		Gas Stoker	
			Julia E. do	wife	M		53		
			Louisa R. BARKER	Daughter	M		29		
			Samuel do	Son	S	24		Boiler maker, Iron moulding	
			Rowland do	Son	S	20		Railway Shunter	
			Arthur J. do	Son	S	18		Plumber's apprentice	
			Frank do	Son	S	16		Wood worker Machine/Setter	
			Richard H. do	Son		12			
			Herbert do	Son		11			

BOFF was a simple error, corrected by an insertion between the lines. But it foreshadowed a revelation - one that that would devastate two families three years later.

Fast forward three years and we find Louisa again. It's Tuesday 26 April 1904 in Walsall, Staffordshire. This thriving industrial town is powered by its leatherworking and metal trades, producing everything associated with horses from saddles, bridles and harnesses to stirrups, chains and buckles. Louisa BARKER and her husband Charles close the door of number 74 and begin walking along Mount Street. Louisa has their young son Frank in her arms.

Meanwhile Beatrice, a thirty-two-year-old woman, fashionably dressed, arrives as a visitor to the town. She steps down from the train which has brought her to Walsall from her home a few miles away in the borough of Aston Manor near Birmingham. Her husband Charles BARKER, a foreman carpenter, has been working on contracts in Stafford for the last three years and only comes home at weekends. She has no financial worries because he is sending money on a regular basis to keep her and their two sons, a four-year-old and a two-year-old, in their comfortable home. A costumier by profession, she is protective of the business she spent years building up before her marriage. "Beatrice" is her trade name and not the name on her birth certificate.

Emerging from the platform onto Station Street, she is soon in the bustling heart of the town, where the premises of the most respectable and well-established ladies' and gentlemen's outfitters and fancy drapers are to be found. Ostrich feathers are all the rage. Heading south she finds herself in the Caldmore district, where a myriad of terraced streets are home to curriers and saddlers. Some of their neighbours are dressmakers like Beatrice, who work *on own account* and have clients come to their homes. She takes a turn along Mount Street and sees two figures approaching. They appear to form a couple and they look roughly her own age. The woman has a small child in her arms.

Beatrice stops. So does the man. The woman holding the child is confused. Without a word being spoken the man abruptly takes to his heels and the women are left standing. The child becomes agitated and, as the two women draw closer, Beatrice struggles to process one particular aspect of the scene

before her. The child, a little boy, bears a striking resemblance to her own husband. There is no etiquette for a situation like this.

Who are you? asks Beatrice. *I am Mrs BARKER, and that was my husband who just ran off* comes the reply from Louisa. The two women explain themselves and it becomes clear to Beatrice that her life with Charles BARKER is the companion piece to the life Louisa shares with him. In Beatrice's world her husband works away during the week and just comes home at the weekend. On the flip side, Louisa's husband lives with her during the week but *has the weekend to himself*. The contracts in Stafford as a foreman carpenter are a fiction. Charles has been employed as a builder's clerk here in Walsall the whole time. The two women have been duped by the same man for three years, both believing they are legally married. Their paths have never crossed – until now.

Louisa takes her son back to the house, gathers her thoughts and starts to pack. Three days later they are safe with her parents in Wolverhampton. She may not know it yet, but she is pregnant with her third child by the "husband" who has just run away from her. Their first boy, Charles, born shortly after their wedding, was lost to pneumonia at the age of sixteen months.

Beatrice wastes no time in alerting the police. The net closes in on Charles within days. On being caught in Walsall on 2 May 1904, he confesses to Detective Sergeant Wilson: *It is quite right. I cannot deny it. I have been a big fool. If you had not come for me today you would have been too late, as I was going away tonight. Another half-hour and I should have been gone.*

Three days later he appears at West Bromwich Police Court. Mr Hastings, Superintendent Registrar, produces the marriage certifications. Charles married Beatrice at Aston Register Office on 1 December 1897 and Louisa at West Bromwich Register Office on 12 March 1901. In both cases Charles described himself as a bachelor. On the second occasion he gave an address which did not match the one he shared with Beatrice at the time. However, there has been no flagrant attempt to deceive Louisa, such as giving a false name, that could constitute an aggravating factor. Louisa gives evidence, as a partner in a bigamous marriage is obliged to do, but confirms she did not institute the proceedings. Beatrice is not called as a prosecution witness as

spouses are not permitted to give evidence against one another. Having heard the charges of bigamy, Charles has no questions. He pleads guilty and is committed to Staffordshire Assizes. He does not apply for bail and, as he leaves the court to go to the cells, he leans over the rails and kisses Louisa.

In July 1904 Charles appears at Staffordshire Assizes. Sentence is deferred for four days. On his second appearance his case is considered alongside two more bigamy cases. Charles escapes with a much more lenient sentence than the other two offenders because he *had treated kindly the woman he had deceived and provided for her*. He is sentenced to twelve months hard labour. While Charles is in prison Louisa gives birth to their daughter Phyllis, brother to Frank and Charles. She does not name a father but Charles is nevertheless acknowledged in the birth record - the child is named Phyllis Barker BOFFEY.

Meanwhile, Beatrice and her two sons have found sanctuary with her family in nearby Handsworth, where her father and brother have acquired a row of three houses in which to run their tailoring business. Beatrice makes use of the middle house, a retail shop and store, to pursue her profession as a costumier and to live as an independent woman.

After his release in 1905, Charles, Louisa and their young family set sail on the SS *Tunisian* to make a fresh start in Canada. They settle in Toronto where their son William is born in 1912. Charles died in 1935 at the age of sixty-three; Louisa survives him by sixteen years and died in 1951 at the age of eighty. Never legally man and wife, they are buried together in a Toronto cemetery.

Rewind to the 1901 census entry: I found Louisa's missing husband, eventually. I had failed to identify a suitable candidate anywhere in the census as all the men with that name were either single, or living with a wife who wasn't Louisa. Naturally, I ruled them out. I was conditioned to expect only the most mundane of family arrangements.

The newspapers came to my rescue with their many reports of a *double-life* bigamy case. Finally, I found Charles BARKER, age twenty-nine, who was recorded as living with his legal wife and a one-year-old child in Aston Manor. On the day of his bigamous marriage, he had been expecting two children, a

son by his legal wife Beatrice and another son, Charles, by his bride, Louisa. As the ceremony was unlawful Louisa remained a BOFFEY. The struck-out name was the correct one after all!

Returning to the story, there is a final twist. In 1917, Beatrice is married again at the age of forty-six to a licensed victualler. She is described on the marriage certificate as a widow. Charles, however, was still alive in Canada. Could she have been successfully prosecuted for bigamy if Charles had made a reappearance? It would hinge on whether she could convince a criminal court that she had received no indications that her husband was still alive, and whether the prosecution could convince a court that she had not acted in good faith. We will never know. It was death that finally parted them, not the law.

Everything about this tale of bigamy is a matter of official record or taken from newspaper reports (the latter with the usual caveats). I have no evidence pointing to the motives of the protagonist. Bigamy was common at the time because of the difficulty and expense of obtaining a divorce. Leading a double life, however, was not common and it is remarkable that Charles got away with it for so long, given the short distance between the two homes - so short he had to invent a contract in Stafford to explain his absence for five days of the week.

I suspect, but cannot prove, that Charles was a man who genuinely cared for two women but found it easier to maintain an elaborate deception than make the painful choice that was required of him. He allowed events to determine the outcome for him and you can almost hear the relief in his words when he confessed to the policeman. Was he really planning to leave town to escape punishment or was he glad the game was up and matters had finally been brought to a head? I know what I think. But what am I doing? Well, reading between the lines, of course!

Sources

Findmypast: Articles from newspapers, May and July 1904

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Ancestry: 1901 & 1911 England censuses and 1911 Summary.

Ancestry: UK City and County Directories 1766 to 1946

Ancestry: Archives of Ontario; Series: MS935; Reel: 499; Ontario, Canada, Deaths, 1869-1938 and Deaths Overseas, 1939-1947

Ancestry: Archives of Ontario; Series: MS929; Reel: 224; Ontario, Canada Births, 1869-1913

General Register Office: Certificates of births, marriages and deaths

Divorced, Bigamist, Bereaved? by Rebecca Probert, Takeaway Publishing 2015

Beyond the Grave

by Gren Dix

Membership no. 4174

Andrew CAUNCE (1833-1861) was born on 15th January 1833 and baptised on 17th January 1833 at St Luke, Lowton. He married Sarah FORSTER (born about 1836 in Golborne, and possibly baptised at Winwick in 1835) in 1857 (GRO ref 1857Q3 Leigh 8c 221).

They had two children: Sarah Alice, born 17th November 1857 (not long after they married) and William Andrew, born 30th March 1861 (just over a week before his father was buried).

Andrew died in 1861 (GRO ref 1861Q2 Leigh 8c 101). He was buried aged 28 on 8th April 1861 at St Thomas Golborne, age 28, abode Golborne (PR page 43 entry 337).

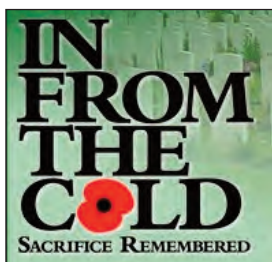
In the 1861 census Sarah is shown as a widow with two children (William Andrew having become John). So far, we have only an unfortunate death. However, in the 1871 census Sarah is shown, still as a widow of Golborne, but with a third child, Frank (born 27th November 1865, baptised 21st December 1866 at St Thomas, Ashton). In 1881 there is yet another child, Walter born 25th November 1877.

Has Andrew visited from beyond the grave?

In from the Cold Project

by Joan Irving
FHSC Librarian

In August I received a request for help from Mark Irvine, a volunteer with the *In From The Cold Project* (IFCP) about Harry GOODIER, who was killed on active service in 1944.

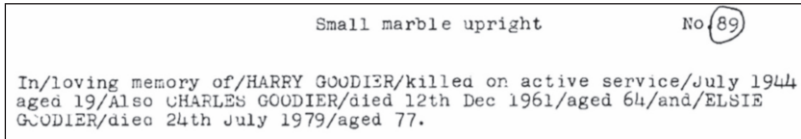


The IFCP was formed in 2006 by Terry Denham and John Hartley to research and help identify all service men and women missing from the official Commonwealth War Grave Commission list of casualties from WW1 and WW2. The IFCP has already processed over 7000 cases, men and women whose sacrifice had been forgotten or overlooked and who now have their due recognition alongside their comrades.

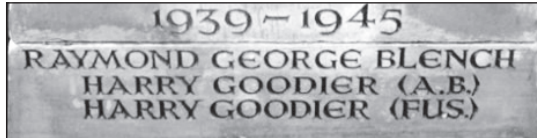
Mark wrote to say that Harry GOODIER, an Able Seaman aged 19, was killed on active service at HMS *Northney*, a secret training base at Burseldon, Southampton, on the 12th July 1944. His death was registered in Southampton, and he is named on the Plymouth Naval Memorial. However, his place of burial was not known.

Harry was born in Gawsworth, Cheshire in 1925. Mark had already written to Macclesfield Cemetery and they had suggested he contacted the FHS of Cheshire. Burial records for the 1940s are not available on Find My Past so a visit to Macclesfield Library was needed. Before that I checked the transcript of Monumental Inscriptions for Gawsworth St. James and found a grave inscription, though a grave inscription is not proof of burial and family members often included sons and daughters killed in action and buried elsewhere. The Gawsworth St. James War Memorial also listed Harry GOODIER. The CWGC website listed Harry but had no burial noted.

The Monumental Inscription



Gawsworth WW2 War Memorial



At the library I found a transcript of Gawsworth St James burials showing that Harry GOODIER was definitely buried in the churchyard.



I emailed Mark with the good news and told him that Cheshire Record Office had the original burial register for verification. Mark has since received that verification and Harry's information can now be updated by the CWGC.

Mark emailed back concerning the other Harry GOODIER on the War Memorial. Was it a coincidence there were two Harry GOODIERs who died in WW2? Yes, there were two men named Harry GOODIER with the second one being a fusilier who died in Preston Hill Hospital, Aylesford on 5th July 1940, aged 23. He too was buried at Gawsworth St. James. The CWGC does acknowledge that Harry GOODIER, fusilier, was buried at Gawsworth.

I was very happy to help Mark and have to say I had never heard of the IFCP before. The IFCP is always looking for volunteers to help. If you are interested in helping this worthwhile organisation, please visit their website www.infromthecold.org

WW2 Childhood Memories Part 1

by Neville Ledsome
Membership no. 6353

I was nine, going on ten, when war was declared on Sunday, 3 September 1939. I remember it vividly. Dad had been working on the Sunday morning and on returning home at around 1pm Mum greeted him at the door saying "it has happened". The Prime Minister, Neville CHAMBERLAIN, had spoken to the nation on the wireless at 11am to say that a state of war existed between Britain and Germany.

I had been aware that a war was in prospect. I had watched the preparations being made - the shelters being dug in the school fields; the gas masks being issued and tested, including a ghastly container for my younger sister Margaret; the ranting and raving of Hitler on the wireless, although, of course, we hadn't a clue what he was saying; and the preparation of blackout material for the windows. Initially, Dad had opted for wooden shutters which he made for the downstairs windows, but putting them up each night was a bit of a chore and eventually we changed to thick curtains. The blackout was treated very seriously and woe betide anyone who showed a light. At night, although we rarely ventured out after dark, it was pitch black because street lights were generally turned off and cars had the dimmest of dim headlights.

For people of my parents' generation and older, who remembered the First World War, the prospect of a second world war after only twenty-one years of uncertain peace was frightening. For my part as a nine-year-old boy, I was convinced that after about a week my father would disappear into the Army and I would never see him again. Of course, conscription took a little time to get under way. The younger men were called up first - Dad was then 36, and he was, in any case, in a reserved occupation - but I didn't understand any of this at the time. Uncle Chum, Auntie Freda's husband, was in the Territorial Army and was called up quickly. He served in anti-aircraft batteries throughout the war,

always in the United Kingdom, eventually attaining the rank of Sergeant. Uncle Tom was called up somewhat later, joining the RAF where he had a fairly undistinguished career. He was demobbed as a Leading Aircraftman, again never having left the UK. Indeed, for part of his service he was drafted into an aircraft factory, where, presumably, it was felt he might make a greater contribution to the war effort. Uncle Jack, mother's brother, worked at the shipbuilders Cammell Laird and he was not called into the services.

On the LED SOME side of the family, none of my father's brothers went into the forces but three of Auntie Annie's sons were conscripted into the army. Two of them, John and Arnold, returned from the war, but the third, Ken, did not. He disappeared under what seemed to be mysterious circumstances, because they were never spoken of and I thought it politic not to inquire.

In the first six months of the war there was little action on land and only a few skirmishes in the air. The main activity was at sea, where there were some naval losses, and merchant ships were sunk by U-boats, mines and surface raiders. In the early months of the war, the Royal Navy lost the aircraft carrier *Courageous* and the old battleship *Royal Oak*. *Royal Oak* was sunk at its moorings in Scapa Flow by a U-boat, which daringly and skilfully had worked its way through the defences to enter the naval base, sink the *Royal Oak* and escape without mishap.

With regard to the RAF, we had three airfields relatively close by: Speke, which was across the Mersey and the civil airport for Liverpool, Sealand near Chester, and Hooton Park which was the closest to us. Hooton Park, on the site of which Vauxhall's motor factory was subsequently built, was used for training. During the early part of the war, we saw mostly Avro Anson and Airspeed Oxford aircraft flying out over the Irish Sea on navigational training exercises. The training aircraft from Hooton were easily identified because they were painted yellow underneath. Rumours were rife right from the start of the war, and Auntie Ethel seemed to hear more than most. A few days after war had been declared a formation of three aircraft flew low over Bebington. They were said to be French! Goodness knows how this improbable story arose. Thinking about it later, I think they were Blenheim aircraft, probably en route to Speke.

Paradoxically, the earliest impact of the war was at school. Initially, the school had insufficient air raid shelters for the children so we attended school in shifts. In my class the cleverest children, including me, went in the morning and the less clever in the afternoon. My closest friend Roy BARCLAY, who lived in our road, was in the afternoon class, but by dint of hard work he was transferred to the morning shift - which meant more time for us to play together. But no sooner had he achieved this than additional shelters were completed and we returned to full time schooling. There were quite frequent air raid warnings during the day when we all trooped off to the shelters. There I learned to play knock-out whist! I suppose, certainly during the early part of the war, the authorities were being unduly cautious and there may have been German activity over the Irish Sea. But none of the warnings, with one exception which I shall mention later, led to any action which was apparent to us.

But the early months of 1940 brought tragedy. Schools were encouraged to adopt ships, and the children wrote letters and sent comforts to identified sailors. Stanton Road School adopted HMS *Exmouth*, an E Class Destroyer, and I established a correspondence with a Leading Seaman on the ship. He seemed to us all to be a very nice young chap. He wrote well, replying to my letters, and we sent him various luxuries and woollen garments which Mum knitted. However, at lunchtime on a bleak day in January 1940, a message came through that the *Exmouth* had been sunk with the loss of all its crew.

It later transpired that on 21 January 1940 the destroyer had struck a mine while on convoy duty in the North Sea. This had a devastating effect on the school and brought home forcibly all the consequences of war. The school subsequently adopted HMS *Warwick*, another destroyer but older than HMS *Exmouth*, which for a period was based in Liverpool. Although I wrote to a member of the crew of the *Warwick*, there was never the closeness which had been built up with the *Exmouth*. Some of us did in fact visit HMS *Warwick* at the Gladstone Dock in Liverpool. I remember the visit most particularly because the battle cruiser HMS *Hood*, the largest ship in the Navy, which was later sunk by the *Bismarck*, was in dry dock, and the battleship HMS *Barham*, again later to be sunk in the Mediterranean, was also in dock.

The phoney war, as it was called, came to an abrupt end in May 1940 when the Germans invaded Denmark, Norway, Holland, Belgium and eventually France, during which they swept all before them. What we knew of this came from the newspapers and the wireless. The measured tones of the news readers Alvar LIDDELL, Sidney PHILLIPS, Frank GILLARD, Bruce BELFRAGE and many others provided a reassurance for listeners as did Wilfred PICKLES, but he was dropped as a news reader because he had a Yorkshire accent! BBC announcers were expected in those days to speak Oxford English. But there were also rumours, including reports of German paratroops having landed in Southern England.

As the summer progressed there was the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force from Dunkirk, the continuing threat of invasion and the Battle of Britain with, as it turned out, the grossly exaggerated reports of German aircraft losses. But we were approaching the Blitz and the night bombing of Britain's towns and cities.

I am not sure how individual air raid shelters were allocated, but we did not have one. My grandmother at Bromborough had an Anderson shelter – so-named after the Home Secretary of the day. The Anderson shelter was constructed of corrugated iron panels bolted together. It was located in a dug-out pit with soil piled on top of it. In practice it could withstand most things other than a direct hit. Normally, bunks were installed and people would hopefully sleep in the shelter while battle raged overhead.

Not having an Anderson shelter, we elected to stay in the house, taking shelter in what were considered to be the strongest parts of the structure. We started by considering the suitability of the space under the stairs, but that was far too cramped. We decided then to sit on the floor alongside the chimney breast, which was where we were when we experienced our first taste of bombing. On this particular night there was the usual drone of bombers and crack of anti-aircraft gun fire, but then there was a fearful screech which seemed to go on forever until there was a crump as the bomb exploded. It had hit the hall of the Wirral Grammar School which was about 400 yards from us – it sounded much closer.

This bomb led to a reappraisal of our position. We decided that in future we would use the school shelters and for a period, as soon as the sirens sounded the alert, which was a warbling note, we picked up our bedding and other items and walked across to the school shelters. These were like large Anderson shelters, but with concrete floors and benches. We stayed there until the all clear, a single unwavering sound on the sirens was signalled. The shelters were not especially pleasant or comfortable. I never recall any particularly serious bombing incidents while we were using the shelters.

A further reassessment occurred when I contracted one of the childhood diseases - I think it was either chicken pox or mumps. My parents decided that it was neither fair to me, or more particularly to others, for me to continue to use the school shelters. We decided, therefore, that we must stay at home. Dad worked shifts - 6am to 2pm, 2pm to 10pm and 10pm to 6am. He worked in a continual process plant and therefore he could not leave his post until his relief arrived. This would have meant Mum, Margaret and me being left on our own because Dad would invariably leave to join the 10 o'clock shift at about 9.30pm when he was on nights, but when there was an air raid, he might not return when he was on the 2 to 10 shift until the middle of the night because his relief had not arrived.

Across the road lived the PRESCOTT family - father, mother, son Donald, who was younger than me, and a daughter older than my sister Margaret. We were in no sense close to them, but we had in common the fact that Harry PRESCOTT also worked shifts at Lever Brothers. Their children may also have been hit by illness; but for whatever reason, it was decided that we would get together during the weeks when Dad and Mr PRESCOTT were working the 2 to 10 and 10 to 6 shifts. *To be continued...*

1872 News (4) from the Cheshire Observer, 21 December 1872

GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY

A deputation of goods and passenger guards, ticket collectors, shunters, foremen, drivers, firemen and inspectors waited upon the general manager and superintendent of the Great Eastern Railway at Bishopgate Street Station this morning, requesting an increase of wages. A general advance was point blank refused, but a promise was given to consider individual cases.

Finding a Thorneley Cousin

by Aileen Brookfield
Membership no. 9314

In 2019, I wrote about my ancestor William THORNELEY, who was works manager and chief draughtsman for a prestigious engineering works in the Gorton area of Manchester in the late 1800s and the turn of the century. At that time Gorton built the majority of the locomotives that were exported overseas, to the Colonies – Australia, New Zealand, Africa – and also to locations further afield, e.g. South America.

His hard work and achievements were all the more remarkable considering that in 1879, when he was twenty years old, his mother was murdered by his father. On researching this further, it would seem that William's father Robert THORNELEY had either suffered a brain haemorrhage or perhaps had a brain tumour. He had to be carried into the courtroom for the trial, and was subsequently committed to Broadmoor, where he died a few months later. The notes made by medical staff make harrowing reading.

I sent for the paperwork relating to Robert's trial, illness and incarceration in Broadmoor, and with the papers were letters from his two brothers who had emigrated to America, due to the decline in the cotton industry in this country. They had settled in Rhode Island, USA, where there was a thriving (and more up to date) cotton industry.

I also researched that part of the family – I was unaware that anyone in my late father's family had emigrated. Only one brother was married; he took his wife and one child – a girl – with him, along with the other brother. From the census, it would seem that they all lived together. After settling in America, they had another child, a son, and so, of course, that made him American. He went on to have children and grandchildren. However, I really need to carry on with my research; I have heard that New England is beautiful in the Fall. Maybe a bit of research out there is called for!

When I finally had the courage to start looking at the THORNELEY family again, I noticed on one of the Ancestry website pages a panel down the right hand side of the page highlighting other subscribers who are also researching the person you are searching for. I clicked onto one of them, and amazingly found it was the same family tree, and that person was related to Robert also.

I decided to send a message via Ancestry, and received one back to state that it was the subscriber's wife Alison who was a THORNELEY (her name came down the male line, mine through the female line). I sent another message to state how I was related to Robert; he was my 3x great-grandfather, and Alison's 3x great-grandfather also. Strangely, I felt comforted that there was someone else out there related to Robert! We worked out that we are in fact third cousins.

After the *unfortunate incident* related above in the second paragraph, the eldest child living at home, my 2x great-grandmother Elizabeth THORNELEY moved with the rest of the children and a servant to the house next door to the aforementioned William, in Gorton Lane. William was living on his own at the time; he married a few years later. I imagine it made it easy for him to check that all his siblings were well. My 2x great-grandmother was aged only twenty at the time and she now had six children in her care, the youngest being only eight years old. One of those children was James, my newly discovered cousin Alison's 2x great-grandfather. Even when Elizabeth Ann married and became Mrs RENNEY, she still very kindly had James and another brother John lodging with them for a time. It is lovely to think that my 2x great-grandmother cared for my cousin Alison's 2x great-grandfather – what a connection!



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The Sudden Death of Joseph Ridgway

by Dave Williams

Membership no. 7539

The memorial to Eliza CROWE (CHESHIRE ANCESTOR, September 2022) is not the only interesting one relocated to Macclesfield Cemetery from St Paul's churchyard. Next to it is another memorial which bears a stark warning. It is now rather weathered and difficult to decipher, but the inscription reads:

To the memory of JOSEPH RIDGWAY Sexton of this Church

who was suddenly removed hence

by the falling in of an adjoining grave on May 15th 1855 aged 43yrs

READER beware lest he takes thee away with His stroke, Job xxxvi 18.

Saint Paul's burial register records the burial on 19 May 1855:

#1169 Joseph Ridgway of James Street age 43.

There is a note in the margin:

Sexton of this church who was killed in a grave by the earth closing in upon him.

It seems that Joseph's brother John should have taken heed of the warning! The following report appeared in the *Cheshire Observer* of 12 January 1856:

Singular Accident — A serious and well-nigh fatal accident occurred on Thursday last in St. Paul's Churchyard, Macclesfield. In the month of May last, the then sexton, Joseph Ridgway, received orders to prepare a grave 11 feet deep. He descended a grave for the purpose of lengthening it, and making room for the coffin, for which purpose he knocked away one of the "stretchers" or braces, when the surrounding earth fell in, burying him beneath it, and, though every exertion was used, he was not extricated till life was extinct.

On the death of this man, his brother, John Ridgway, was appointed to the office of sexton, and on Thursday last, he very nearly lost his life under similar circumstances.

Ridgway descended the grave to take out a stretcher when the earth fell in, forcing him back upon the coffin and completely covering him. The persons who were assisting him removed the soil from his head and face as quickly as possible, and thus were providentially enabled to save his life, though he was nearly smothered. Nearly three hours elapsed before he was rescued.

Who Was John Tither?

by Gren Dix

Membership no. 4174

Some families have children being born over a period of twenty-five years; by the end of this time the first-born children may have families of their own. A limited set of forenames is often used, causing problems for the researcher.

In the following I will use suffixes (A) and (B) to differentiate people with the same name.

Joseph (A) TITHER (1823-1884), one of nine children, a collier of Parr (near Sutton, just south of St Helens) married Mary ANDERS in 1849 and, at first sight, had thirteen children all baptised at Burtonwood. Their eldest child was Joseph (B) (1849-1917), also a collier of Parr, who married Sarah PARR at Parr on 21 August 1871.

Joseph (A) also had a son John (A), born in 1871.

It appears that his eldest son Joseph (B) also had a son John (B) in 1871.

In summary:

John (A)

born 6 November 1871

baptised 3 December 1871 to Joseph and Mary.

No GRO birth registration

Not found in any censuses

John (B)

Born 1871

No baptism

GRO birth registration 1871 Q4 Prescot 8b 606 mother PARR

Found with parents (B) in 1881 and 1891 censuses

When a John TITHER married Martha Ellen LIGHTFOOT at Golborne on 31 May 1893, I could not work out which of the two Johns it was, as both Johns had a father named Joseph who was a collier. The image of the marriage entry from the parish register is available on Ancestry and does not show the father, Joseph TITHER, as deceased, although it does show Martha's father was deceased. Joseph (A) died in 1884, before this marriage. However, marriage records do not always state that the father is deceased even if he is.

What steps should I take to decide which family this John belonged to?

I took another look at TITHER baptisms and found Joseph and Mary – i.e. Joseph (A) – had another son John, baptised at St Peter's Church, Parr on 26 July 1874 (born 20 April 1874). I do not know why all their other children were baptised at Burtonwood, a few miles away. This would indicate that the first John (A), if he existed, had probably died before 1874. I looked at burials and found only the burial of a John on 30 August 1874, aged 4 months, which would correspond with a John born in April 1874.

More importantly, Joseph (A) and Mary had a daughter, Martha, born on 18 April and baptised on 19 May 1872. This would mean that she was born just over five months after their son John (A). This seems to be most unlikely. On the other hand, the next child born to Joseph (B) and Sarah after the birth of their John (B) was Betty, who was born about twenty months later on 17 August 1873.

The above facts – census results, probable death of John (A), sister born less than six months later – make me think that there may be an error in the baptism. Instead of the John (A), baptised in 1871, being the son of Joseph and Mary, what if he was actually the son of Joseph (B) and Sarah?

This would fit, as

- 1 The baptism and GRO birth index dates match
- 2 There are no census records for a John (A) born in 1871
- 3 it is most unlikely that a baby could be born in the 1800s less than six months after the birth of a previous child, and survive to be baptised in church one month later

The final clue was found in the 1939 Register. Here there was only one John TITHER; he was living in Golborne with Martha E TITHER and his date of birth was 6 November 1871. This corresponds to John (A)'s date of birth in the baptism record.

I am convinced that John (A) is in fact John (B).

Do you agree with my supposition? What other steps could I take?

Sources

www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates

www.lan-ocp.org.uk

www.freebmd.org.uk

www.findmypast.co.uk

Ed.: This is a very plausible argument and the purchase of the birth certificate for John (B) may prove the case if he has the same date of birth.

1872 News (5) from the Cheshire Observer, 21 December 1872

EMIGRATION OF ENGLISH AGRICULTURISTS

The emigration of farm labourers from Liverpool to South America continues. The labourers go out indirectly under the auspices of the Emperor of Brazil, who is seeking to establish in his territory the English system of farming. In order to encourage the emigration of efficient labourers, the Emperor has appointed agents, who on his behalf pay for the passage. The steamer *Vanguard*, which sailed from the Mersey on Thursday week for Rosario &c., had on board a batch of emigrants, about 150, bound for Asuncion and the settlements in Paraguay. The emigrants came principally from the London area, though many were from Dorset.

Family Tradition: a Wedding Cake Vase

by Margaret Roberts
Publicity & Social Media Officer



When my maternal grandparents married in 1939, they had atop their wedding cake a pewter vase that held a small display of roses. I wonder if they realised the family tradition that this vase would eventually become?

My parents were married in 1960 and they had the vase on top of their cake; thus the custom started. My mother's four siblings also had a wedding cake that featured the vase and I, being the eldest grandchild, carried this on to my generation. I was followed by my sisters, brother and cousins - twenty-one in all! Now the great-grandchildren are continuing to use the vase and in September of this year I included it when I made a wedding cake for my niece.

I was very proud in January 2020 to have made the cake (right) for my parents' diamond wedding anniversary, when, of course, the vase was the guest of honour!

The vase has now seen thirty-seven family weddings and will eventually be passed down to me; I hope that my own grandchildren and grandnieces and nephews will carry on the tradition for yet another generation!

Ed: Do you have a family tradition? Write and tell us about it, whether or not it includes an item passed down in the family.



A Kitchen Sink

by Gren Dix

Membership no. 4174

When looking through various professions given on census returns, I have found some quite strange ones.

Many of the people on my family tree were in the shoe trade, so I have found a number of clickers and lasters. I suppose the highlights in my tree were a town crier and a professional footballer (in 1911).

While looking through other entries I came across a lamp lighter (but no knocker-up). One of the strangest was a widow, Ann Stokes, who was a mangle keeper (right).

And the title of this piece? Well, that is all some women are promised on marriage.

Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rent, Profession, or Occupation
			Males	Females	
<i>Henry [unclear]</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>5</i>		<i>Labourer</i>
<i>Fredrick [unclear]</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>21</i>		<i>House Servant</i>
<i>Elizabeth [unclear]</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>30</i>		<i>Mangle Keeper</i>
<i>Ann Stokes</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Wid</i>	<i>1</i>		
<i>James [unclear]</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Mar</i>		<i>2</i>	
<i>David [unclear]</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Mar</i>		<i>2</i>	

Net That Serf

The Computer Section

Compiled by Geoff Johnson

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

Contents

From the Desktop	56	My Bramley Ancestors	
1921 Census -		and use of MyHeritage	59
now on Subscription	57	DNA – Strange but true....	62
My Most Useful Peripherals -		From the Inbox	63
Printers, Scanners, Cameras	58	Closing Snippet	64

From the Desktop



Well, I'm very disappointed! As you'll see from this edition, I've had very little input from readers. I felt that Jan Keane's piece in September concerning the pleasures of Zoom might have stirred up some comment; either for or against.

Nonetheless, my thanks to those below who have helped.

I begin to sense that relatively few members are using the 1921 census until it becomes part of their subscription: that changes now, so let's have some reports please.

Use of MyHeritage, especially in DNA research seems to be proving more beneficial. Are you a user?

I've included a few other points of interest from regular contributors, but what about the rest of you?

1921 Census - Now on Subscription

By Geoff Johnson

In 2008–2009 the 100–year rule had been challenged, and the 1911 census was made available by Find My Past (FMP) around February 2009, with sensitive information such as details of infirmity and the children of women prisoners redacted until 2012, in line with more traditional 100–year rules about releasing census details. At first, it was only available on a pay–as–you–go basis, and 280 credits cost me £24.95. In October of that year, it became included in an increased subscription.

However, the 1921 and later censuses were covered by the 1920 Census Act. This legislation prohibits the release of personal information by the Registrar–General so, in line with government policy and the promise of confidentiality, any census data recorded after 1920 cannot be released until 100 years have passed; so the 1921 census couldn't be released until after the end of 2021.

FMP released this very different 1921 census to us on 6th January this year, charging Pro subscribers £3.15 a pop for household image downloads (£3.50 for other researchers). As I write this on 11th October, just nine months later, they've announced inclusion in a new higher tier Premium annual subscription, costing £199.99. Existing annual Pro subscribers can upgrade to the end of their current subscription period for just £19.95 – that works out to about nine or ten pay–as–you–go payments. I've joined up to that, and already downloaded more than ten in the last 36 hours!

At the foot of the search page <https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/1921-census-of-england-and-wales> you'll find a *Learn about these records* section, which I'd strongly encourage you to read: most particularly the *Search tips for the 1921 Census*.

My key point of advice is to **always** use the **Advanced Search**.

I've had a few comments concerning odd–ball results when using *Getting a bit more free info*, featured in the last issue. I'm unsure how much use will be made of this now, but it's not forgotten.

My Most Useful Peripherals - Printers, Scanners, Cameras

By Geoff Johnson

Back in August the subject of printers and ink supplies was raised at Computer Club. Once the discussion started it quickly appeared to be becoming endless. As one member apologised to me afterwards, he opted out as *discussions about printers and ink supplies can be like going down a black hole!* There seemed to be endless views about what to buy, whether to use original manufacturers supplies et cetera.

As I've said in previous NTS issues, nowadays I minimise the amount that I print, focusing on system storage for images wherever possible. Nonetheless one does need to print something occasionally.

I am blessed with the following kit:

A 17-year-old **HP LaserJet 3030 printer-scanner** that I purchased in October 2005, originally for business use. Should this device go wrong now, I probably wouldn't replace it. But it is a sound piece of equipment only requiring periodic laser cartridge replacement HP 12A. At today's rates, a new original HP cartridge costs in the order of £86, but the design level is so old, I can easily pick up sealed original ones for ten or fifteen quid on eBay!

A somewhat more modern **Canon iX4000 Pixma A3 inkjet printer**. This is a really super printer. It's perfectly happy with compatible cartridges. My old Epson inkjet used to moan like heck at non-original jobs!

A very neat Canon **CanoScan LiDE 400 flatbed A4 scanner**. It took me a while to get it set up, but it enables scanning good high-quality images and documents, supposedly at 4800 dots per inch! I find a flatbed scanner much better for scanning magazines and books.

Both the Canon devices were bequeathed to me following the death of a dear friend. They were my first introduction to Canon products; in the past I had always avoided this manufacturer. However, I must admit to being 'converted' and very pleased. Free acquisitions make them even more pleasant.

I also have a **Panasonic Lumix DMC-T270 camera** which takes excellent pictures: very useful in a record office. However, the rather fiddly and complex settings options tend to stretch the brain at times. I must admit that the camera option in my Samsung mobile phone is gradually becoming far more useful!

What *Most Useful Peripherals* can you offer?

Malcolm Upton told me that he bought a Brother HL2350 mono laser printer for £80 from Argos over two years ago. He said he'd got fed up with buying new inkjet cartridge sets each year when he had done mostly black and white, and was also fed up with the time an inkjet takes to clean heads etc. before it can print. He's very pleased with the laser's speed. I think that they're a bit more expensive now, Malcolm!

My Bramley Ancestors and use of MyHeritage

By Judith Hankey

This is a summary of the shaggy dog tale that I shared with the DNA sub-group in early 2022. I tested my Mum's DNA in 2016 with Family Tree DNA (FTDNA), and back then the company had no family tree link, but it did have a tie-in with MyHeritage for you to upload your tree. I uploaded a tree in May 2016 using a Gedcom, complete with all of my speculation and errors of the time.

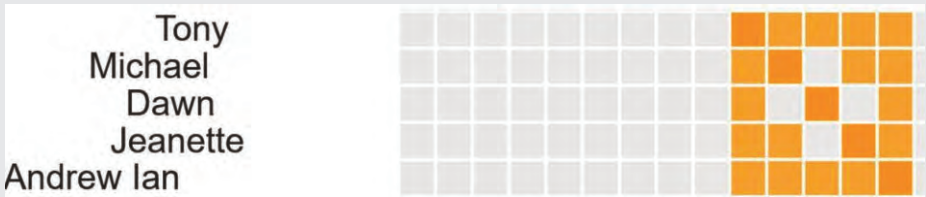
In December 2019 MyHeritage, who were offering DNA testing by then, had an offer of uploading your DNA and a tree for free. So, I took up the offer and uploaded both my DNA and my Mum's. It gave me the advantage of fishing in different DNA pools, and it gave their new customers of the DNA testing service more matches. I also uploaded two trees, one with 5000 people (for my Mum) and one with 7000 people for me. BUT MyHeritage allows people who use the site for free (like me, because of the historical FTDNA activity) to have only 250 people in their tree so my 12,000 people exceed this by a long way and I can make no further tree changes/corrections.

In 2019 a close cousin match to my Mum appeared - Tony, who was 2nd cousin or 2nd cousin once removed (according to MyHeritage) with a match of 134cM. However, Tony had no tree and I was invited to contact him. So roughly every

six months I did attempt to contact him, but he never replied. As more matches appeared there was a clue that he was a Bramley since some of our mutual matches had the surname BRAMLEY.

In Jan 2022 Tony DID reply and I was so pleased! His research interest was his paternal line, but he gave me his mother's full name (her maiden name was BRAMLEY) and date of birth, and his tree was on Ancestry.

My Mary Ann BRAMLEY was born about 1850 in the hamlet of Hartsay (near Ripley) in Derbyshire, married George BUXTON in Derby in 1870 and was my 2x great-grandmother. Tony was in a matching cluster with five other people in MyHeritage: they calculate that for you. This is on the Tony Cluster illustration below.



Two people in that cluster had attached trees online which went back to a common ancestral couple - Joseph BRAMLEY (1929-1873) and Ann HODGKINSON (1833-1878) - and that is exactly what a cluster should do: group descendants of a common couple. I followed Tony's maternal tree back and then saw that he also descended from that couple. So, I was forced to admit there was probably a mistake in my research.

I went looking for further information which was not available online back in 2016 - namely a GRO birth index transcription which gives you the mother's maiden name. Ancestry has images of Derbyshire marriage registers, which give you so much more information than transcriptions. From these I found that Mary Ann BRAMLEY was born in the September quarter of 1851, registered in Belper (near Ripley), and her mother's maiden name was HODGKINSON. When Mary Ann married George BUXTON, her father was Joseph and he was a butcher by trade. This showed that the family that I had found in the census in Ripley with Mary Ann, daughter of Joseph and Ann (a coincidence) was incorrect since that Joseph was a policeman,

So, with my tree corrections, Tony was actually a third cousin to my Mum. Joseph and Ann married on 28th July 1851 when Ann would have been carrying Mary Ann. I'd missed Mary Ann in the 1861 census because she was staying with her HODGKINSON grandparents, and she was said to be aged eight (not nine); by 1871 she was married.

Joseph and Ann are in many Ancestry trees, but all of the other trees miss Mary Ann because her next sibling was born two years later, and there is no online baptism record. But they, their ancestors and their cousins have many descendants and people who have tested with Ancestry. I don't add Thru-Line descendants any more (my tree is too large and untidy already) but I do add them all to the Bramley group in my Mum's DNA matches, if the lines are credible - I do check out the evidence offered.

The first Ancestry common ancestor hint appeared only twelve hours after I corrected my tree. This group is now the second largest (47 in Sept 2022) and the people are all UK-based. Incidentally Mum's largest group (55 in Sept 2022) is mostly of people who are USA-based and were descended from a family who joined the LDS church after emigrating in 1880s and had even larger families over the generations.

Other matches in my BRAMLEY cluster have also replied and a cousin who still lives in Derbyshire has given me photos of her family graves and the street where her STREET ancestors lived. The BRAMLEY family continued to run the butcher's shop in Heanor near Ripley for many generations.

I thought that the wrong family that I found in the census might be a cousin since they lived in the same area, and so I worked through the relationship. It turns out that the girl in the wrong family is my 7th cousin 4x removed, making the two girls 7th cousins, since the 4x removed simply describes the number of generations from me. In doing that I am indebted to the online resource of Sylvie Mason who has so carefully untangled the various family names to identify ancestors and relations of the men who were involved in the Pentrich rebellion: www.spanglefish.com/pentrichrevolution/index.asp?pageid=293040. As an aside, these few villages around Ripley were the centre of this revolution, and as many of my ancestors were from the same families, Sylvie's painstaking

work has been of great help to me. The following website or wiki will tell you more: <https://pentrichrevolution.org.uk/pentrich-revolution-the-revolution.html>

In the recent DNA sub-group Zoom meeting, Geoff asked me what had changed on the MyHeritage replies, and I think it was simply that MyHeritage changed their rules and allowed me to send messages.

DNA – Strange but true....

By *'names withheld to preserve anonymity'*

I took an autosomal DNA test in early 2021 using Ancestry, in the hope that it would help with my family tree research. I was not disappointed! In the interests of furthering my research, I asked my sister, my daughter and my sister-in-law if they would take DNA tests and allow me to manage their accounts once the results were known. They all agreed and with a lot of hard work chasing paper records and using the Dana Leeds method, etc, I managed to identify a number of matches. I am still working on several others.

There was one match, however, that was proving very hard to identify. This person matched my sister-in-law with 1945 centimorgans (cM) and my daughter with 767 cM. The 1945 cM match indicated a very close relationship: grandparent/grandchild, aunt/uncle/niece/nephew or half sibling, whilst the 767 cM match indicated a first or second cousin. The name on the Ancestry account indicated a male of perhaps French, Belgian or even French-Canadian origin, but although I found a small number of people with the same surname in different countries, none of them matched with the one I was looking for. The name could also have been an alias – we had no way of telling. My sister-in-law sent an email via the Ancestry website, but we soon discovered that he had not signed into his account for up to eleven months. We were stuck.

However, on 1st July, the match responded to the Ancestry email! It transpired that he was a member of a small tribe who live on a reserve around the American-Canadian border. He had a condition called Aplastic Anaemia. This resulted in his being given a stem cell transplant for his bone marrow in 2005, when he was eighteen years old. In cases such as this, the recipient often

inherits the DNA of the donor; so, we now needed to identify the donor! That was done within a matter of hours and it turned out to be a nephew of my sister-in-law and the first cousin of my daughter.

We followed up this question through the Ancestry website: they do not recommend that stem cell transplant recipients take a DNA test. Quote from the Ancestry website: *If you receive a stem cell transplant, your saliva will probably include your own DNA and the DNA of your stem cell donor. This combination of DNA can cause your results to be inconclusive or even report the results of your donor.*

There is still one more issue to deal with. Donors usually (if not exclusively) donate anonymously and have no idea whether their donation has been used. If a donor can be identified, as in the above case, using current DNA analysis, should the donor be told? In the above case the recipient has stated that if his donor is found, he would like to thank him for saving his life. I will leave that for further thought.

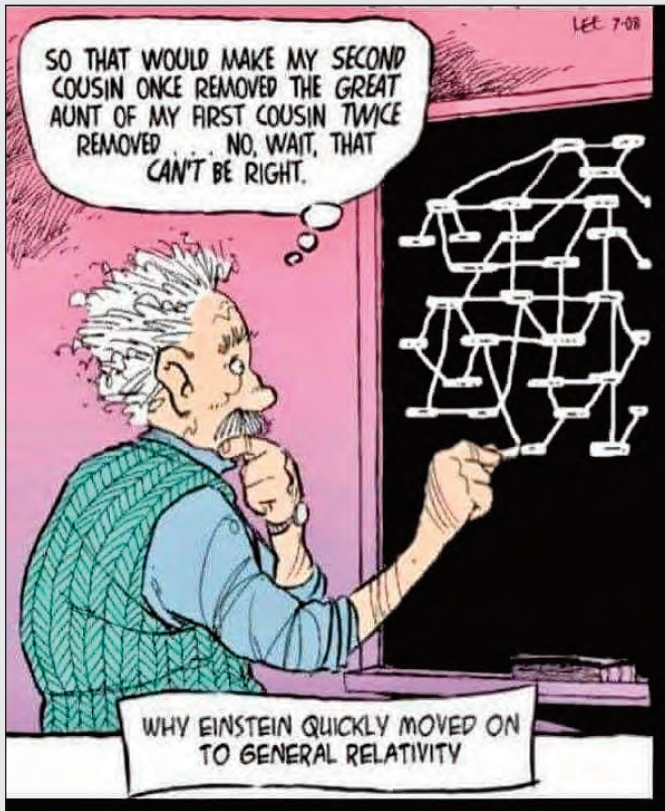
From the Inbox

Margaret Roberts reports: At our monthly meeting of the Newspaper subgroup, we were discussing how annoying the little blue box (highlighting the searched word) is when you want to save a snippet from the British Newspaper Archive. Members might like to know that there is facility on the BNA to remove this before you take a screenshot or snip a short article.

You can hide the 'blue box' on the search results on BNA (and also with Newspapers on Findmypast) by simply clicking on *Search Terms*, found at the bottom of the search for the BNA and at the top on FMP. *Search Terms* just clicks the blue box on and off. See below for an example.



Closing Snippet



With thanks to Jan Keane.

I rely on your input to keep this forum active, so 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, especially if the weather is bad.

Members may 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

Location of Groups



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 not sure how this works please email seminar@fhsc.org.uk and we will be happy to help you.

Future meetings: (All Zoom meetings)

21st December

Christmas Food and Drink Through the Ages – Simon Fowler

Simon Fowler is one of Britain's most experienced family history teachers, writers, and researchers. He worked for The National Archives on and off for over thirty years. He also edited *Family History Monthly* and *Ancestors* magazines. These days he makes his living from professional research, mainly on military topics and the records of central government. He has also written for *Family Tree Magazine* and *Who Do You Think You Are?* magazine, and has authored over a dozen books, mainly genealogical help guides. Simon sits on the council of the Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives. He is also an Associate Teaching Fellow at Dundee University, a tutor for Pharos Tutors, and a regular lecturer at the Society of Genealogists. So, enjoy some eighteenth-century mince pies during this entertaining talk, which could prove that everything you thought you knew about seasonal food and drink may be wrong!

18th January

Searching for Adoption Records - Dr Penny Walters

Penny has been a university lecturer for 30 years, teaching Psychology and Business Studies. She lectures internationally in-person, writes articles, and has authored the books: 'Ethical Dilemmas in Genealogy' and 'The Psychology of Searching'. Some girls or women feel unable to look after their baby or feel forced to give the baby up. Some babies were given to relatives to look after, others were fostered, adopted, or abandoned. Subsequently, people have gaps in their personal history and may want to find out about their biological family. This session will discuss the practical realities, and the excitement and pain of researching a 'new' family. Some relatives don't want to be 'found,' others have been desperately searching for years.

Most people can ask family for information about their relatives, whereas adopted people often can't. We will look at the invaluable information that can be revealed to adopted people through DNA testing, and the resultant matches and ethnicity estimates, to supplement any paper trail. Reunions may not go as well as expected, so some adopted people can find a lot of satisfaction in finding other relatives, or constructing an ancestral tree, all of which can help with identity and a personal narrative. Penny will reflect briefly on her own adoption story, and discuss the variety of ethical dilemmas that can arise when searching for relatives or ancestors and how people can sensitively help adopted people with their search.

15th February

Using DNA for Family History - Michelle Leonard

Michelle is a professional genealogist, DNA Detective, author & historian, who is very experienced in both the traditional and genetic genealogy spheres. Michelle runs her own genealogy and DNA consultancy business, Genes & Genealogy, specialising in solving unknown parentage, adoption, and all manner of unknown ancestor mysteries by combining DNA analysis techniques with traditional research methodologies. Her talk tonight will cover the basics of DNA research as well as some more detailed insights for those members who are more experienced with DNA – so something for everyone.

15th March

Tracing the History of your House – Dr Nick Barrett

Nick makes a welcome return to the FHSC Seminar series and hardly needs an introduction, but in a nutshell – Nick has been interested in history from an early age and although his training has taken him back to the thirteenth century, his professional career has seen him working on TV and allowed him to share the importance of history and heritage, be that national, community or personal, with a wide audience, showing people that an understanding of the past is even more important than ever for the future of our own lives and society. In this talk Nick will talk about how to trace the history of your house, what records are available and how to interpret them.

19th April

Trade Directories and Gazetteers for Family History Research – Dr Gill Blanchard

Gill Blanchard is a professional family history and house history researcher, writer, and tutor. She has academic background in history, sociology and politics to post-graduate level and has been a full time historical researcher since 1992, including six years at Norfolk Record Office. She set up her own research business called Past Search in 1997, qualified as an adult education tutor the following year, and is a full member of AGRA. She is also a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and is currently a part time research PhD candidate in Biography. This talk will encompass the use of Trade Directories and Gazetteers, how family and local historians can use them to find people and track their movements, as well as to learn more about the areas our ancestors lived and worked.

Alsager Group

by Hazel Rugman

Future meetings:

The next few meetings will be by Zoom, details to be advised nearer the time.

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

Future meetings:

- 12th Dec *Members Christmas Social*
- 23rd Jan *Liverpool Overhead Railway – Ron Martin*
- 27th Feb *Lady Lever – Gavin Hunter*
- 27th Mar *Flaybrick Military Heroes – Rob Dolphin*

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

We regret to announce that the Bramhall Group is being wound up because of a lack of volunteers to run the group. Members are welcome to attend meetings of any groups, the nearest being Macclesfield and Sale, or participate in any of the society's Zoom meetings.

Chester Group

by Helen Elliott

Future meetings:

- December *No Meeting*
- 26th Jan *Chester at Work – Stuart Shuttleworth*
- 23rd Feb *Members' Evening*
- 30th Mar *Think Beyond the Obvious – Margaret Roberts*

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 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.

Congleton Group

by David Smetham

We will have a mix of Zoom (jointly with Macclesfield) and face-to-face meetings. 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 Macclesfield groups, or check the group pages, on the Society website www.fhsc.org.uk

Future meetings:

December *No Meeting*

17th Jan *Face-to-face meeting, topic TBA*

21st Feb *Face-to-face meeting, topic TBA*

21st Mar *Face-to-face meeting, topic TBA*

There will also be joint Zoom meetings with the Macclesfield Group. Please see the Macclesfield Group for full details, and email macclesfield@fhsc.org.uk for the Zoom link.

24th Jan *The Poor Law and Workhouses in Cheshire – Mike Royden*

28th Feb *Posted in the Past – Helen Baggott*

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

Crewe and Nantwich Groups have decided that we will continue with our programme of meetings which will be in one of three formats.

- **Zoom** – an online meeting open to all members, joining link requested by an email to crewe@fhsc.org.uk – please add **Zoom** with the **date of the meeting** to the subject line of your email
- **Hybrid** – available via Zoom or by attending our usual venue. Those participating online should request the Zoom link as above.
- **F2F** – a face to face meeting held at our usual venue, at the time given. Admission charges apply for both members of FHSC and visitors.

Future meetings:

- 6th Dec **ZOOM: Auntie Kate's Sticklepath: Life in a Devon Village – Helen Shield**
Although based in Devon, Helen gives a wonderful talk on her One Place Study, with a bit of a twist as she demonstrates an interesting and amusing way to present a family photograph album.
- 13th Dec **F2F: Join us at the Wishing Well for a Christmas Social**
Everyone welcome, admission £2 to include refreshments and raffle. Share your family Christmas stories, heirlooms or tell us all about your recent research.
- 10th Jan **ZOOM: My Grandmother's Disreputable Forebears – Ann Simcock**
Our ancestors lived in different times, under very difficult conditions. Despite this, some people would condemn them because of the way they lived just in order to survive. The life story of Ann's grandmother, Julia YALE, contains more than its fair share of these less than desirable ancestors. Ann, like the rest of us with such ancestry, would have loved to have met them and heard the stories 'from the horse's mouth' rather than just through records.
- 21st Feb **ZOOM: Breach of Promise to Marry – Denise Bates**
The marriage day was fixed, the wedding dresses were bought, the wedding tour was planned, the guests invited. The day came but not the bridegroom... A talk linked to Denise's book of the same name; read more at www.denisebates.co.uk/breach.html

14th Mar **ZOOM: Researching Non-Conformist Ancestors – Jackie Depelle**
Many of our ancestors favoured a wide range of different denominations. Watch for signposts, discover where we might find their records and see what they can tell you.

18th Apr **Joint F2F at Crewe: Transformed Lives, Transforming Lives: The Story of the People called Primitive Methodists –Elizabeth Morris, Learning Officer, Englesea Brook Methodist Museum**
The presentation will include a brief history of Primitive Methodism with particular emphasis on the contribution and changing role of women in the movement.

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

Please see pages 79 – 80 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.

If you wish to participate in one of our Zoom meetings, please email macclesfield@fhsc.org.uk to request the Zoom link. The Zoom meetings will be held jointly with the Congleton group.

Future meetings:

December *No Meeting*

24th Jan **ZOOM: *The Poor Law and Workhouses in Cheshire – Mike Royden***

This talk will include information on Macclesfield Workhouse.

28th Feb **ZOOM: *Posted in the Past – Helen Baggott***

Using genealogical resources, Helen has researched hundreds of postcards sent during the early years of the 20th century.

28th Mar ***J T Moore and the Whiston Family Connection – Thelma Yarrall***

J T Moore was a folding chair manufacturer of Langley – were these the original deckchairs, so-called because they were used on the decks of ocean liners? The talk reveals his connection to the Whiston family of Langley, who were silk dyers and printers.

This meeting will take place at The Salvation Army Hall.

25th Apr ***Whose Ancestor Is It Anyway? Ethics in Family History***

– Margaret Roberts and Ann Simcock.

As family historians, it's important to consider the impact that your research has on others. Family history is not just a nice hobby; we often find ourselves in all sorts of situations that may need some reflection, many of which you may not have even considered. Join Ann and Margaret to discover some of the issues that you may come across in your research, especially in today's online world.

This meeting will take place at The Salvation Army Hall.

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*

Crewe and Nantwich Groups have decided that we will continue with our programme of meetings but they will be undertaken in one of three formats.

- **Zoom** – an online meeting open to all members, joining link requested by an email to crewe@fhsc.org.uk – please add **Zoom** with the **date of the meeting** to the subject line of your email
- **Hybrid** – available via Zoom or by attending our usual venue. Those participating online should request the Zoom link as above.
- **F2F** – a face to face meeting held at our usual venue, at the time given. Admission charges apply for both members of FHSC and visitors.

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.

Future meetings (all Joint Crewe and Nantwich Zoom meetings):

6th Dec **ZOOM: Auntie Kate's Sticklepath: Life in a Devon Village – Helen Shield**
10th Jan **ZOOM: My Grandmother's Disreputable Forebears – Ann Simcock**
21st Feb **ZOOM: Breach of Promise to Marry – Denise Bates**
14th Mar **ZOOM: Researching Non-Conformist Ancestors – Jacky Depelle**
18th Apr **Joint F2F at Crewe: Transformed Lives, Transforming Lives:
The Story of the People called Primitive Methodists – Elizabeth Morris,
Learning Officer, Englesea Brook Methodist Museum**

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 Workshops

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: 23rd January.

Northwich Group

by Dave Thomas

It is with deep regret that we report the loss of one of our most popular members, Margaret Hughes, who died on 22nd September at the age of ninety. A full obituary can be found in the Society News pages.

Meetings are now held face-to-face in the church hall unless otherwise stated.

Future meetings:

12th Dec ***Buffet and Quiz***

9th Jan ***ZOOM: Members Discussion***

'Out of Area' members are invited to talk about their connections with Cheshire. This may give opportunities for local members to offer research assistance or tips.

13th Feb ***ZOOM: Follow-up to the January meeting***

13th Mar ***Family History Research Ethics - Margaret Roberts and Ann Simcock***
Guidance and some useful dos and don'ts.

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 Johnson

At the AGM in August, Peter Rowley retired as Group Leader. We thank him for his hard work steering the group through the pandemic. Peter Johnson was elected as Group Leader.

We were saddened to learn of the death of Bernard Craft, a long-time member, and we send our condolences to Gwen and family.

Future meetings:

7th Dec ***Christmas Social***

January ***NO MEETING***

1st Feb ***TBA***

We meet on the first Wednesday of each month (except January) from 7.00pm to 9.00pm at St Edward's Church Hall, Ivy Street, Runcorn.

Sale Group

by Marion Hall

Future meetings:

December ***NO MEETING***

11th Jan ***Open meeting – Mapping my Ancestors***

Have you used any sort of map, cemetery plans, house deed plans, etc, to further your family history research?

8th Feb ***What did you do in the war Dad? – Liz de Mercado***

Illustrated talk on memoirs of Liz's father through the war, with his war diaries.

8th Mar ***Tatton Park Farm – Dave Thomas***

Dave is one of the *Learning and Interpretation* volunteers at the farm at Tatton Park. A few years ago, a project was launched to depict the farm as it was in the 1940s. Dave plays the part of a *Teamsman*, dressed in period costume and working with the heavy horses; the farm has one Clydesdale horse and three Shires. No horses will accompany Dave!

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

Future meetings:

December We meet on the fourth Thursday of the month, so there will be no meeting in December, but I am hoping to offer a nominal discount on some sort of informal social event – either Afternoon Tea in our Eclectic Cafe or a Christmas Carvery where we went last year.

26th Jan **TBC: Which Website and Why – Jackie Depelle**

A hybrid meeting which could turn into purely ZOOM depending on the weather.

23rd Feb **Workshop**

Tameside's boundaries straddle several county boundaries, which does make it difficult to decide which family history website to subscribe to. This is face to face, but can be converted to ZOOM only depending on the weather.

23rd Mar **TBC: Bawdy Courts – Colin Chapman**

A hybrid meeting discussing the 'Bawdy Court' – often sensational morality issues brought before church courts.

Check our group page on the FHSC website for up-to-date information.

Meetings are held at 1.00pm on the 4th Thursday of the month at the 4C Community Centre, Ashton-under-Lyne. www.4cashton.org.uk/find__us

Wallasey Group

by Dave Beck

In October we returned to Zoom meetings for the winter; face-to-face talks are expected to resume from April next year.

Helpdesks are cancelled at present.

Future meetings:

December *No Meeting*

17th Jan **ZOOM: Virtual Quiz Including a Photo Quiz Around Britain**

21st Feb **ZOOM: It all Started with a Letter from Colditz – Christine Wootton**

The story of the research into Charles LOCKETT, who was born in Childer Thornton, Cheshire, and was a WW2 prisoner of war, mainly held in Colditz Castle. It also includes the story of his brother Peter, who was also a prisoner of war but in Zagan where the Great Escape took place. It is a story that doesn't seem to end.

21st Mar **ZOOM: A tour around Wirral's 26 Conservation Areas
– Gillian Bolt**

As Secretary of Conservation Areas Wirral committee, Gillian hopes that, with the great variety of CA's on the Wirral, after the talk members will feel inspired to visit some of the lesser-known ones to find out more for themselves.

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.

1872 News (6) from the Cheshire Observer, 21 December 1872

PROTEST AGAINST THE INCOME TAX

A National Anti-Income Tax League was formed in London, on Friday, 13th inst., ... the Lord Mayor presiding. It was resolved, on the motion of Mr Massey, M.P., that the income tax is "*inquisitorial in its character, unjust in its operation, and demoralising to the national character.*" ... Mr S Morley, M.P., stated that he should be utterly opposed to any re-imposition of taxes on the food of the people as a substitute for the income tax.

ROYAL GIFTS

Her Majesty the Queen has sent 20 brace of pheasants each to the London Hospital and St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, and the Westminster Hospital, for the use of the patients of those institutions.

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.

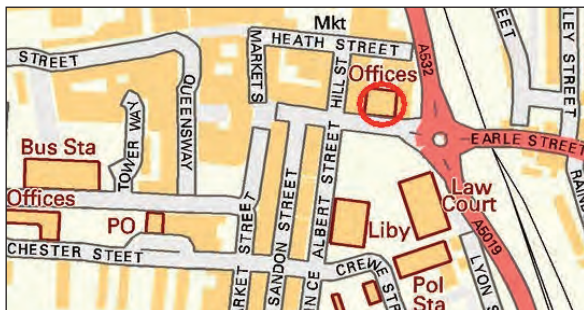
FREE access to *FindMyPast*, *Ancestry* and *The Genealogist*
Local parish registers on film - extensive library of books
Crewe and District and South East Cheshire local history archives
See the Crewe FHU Library Holdings lists on the FHSC website

Usual opening hours: 10am-4pm Monday and Tuesday

plus one Saturday morning each month (TBC)

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).

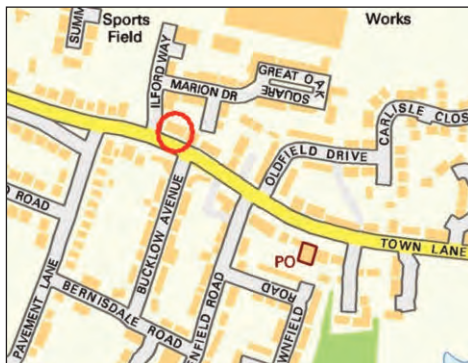
FREE help and advice from our experienced duty volunteers
FREE access to FindMyPast (World), Ancestry and The Genealogist
Local parish registers on film (some of which are not available online)
Extensive library of books on all topics, covering many areas of the UK
(See the Mobberley Library Holdings 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 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month.**

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), including FREE tea or coffee. Non-members please phone in advance. Suggested on-street parking on Ilford Way or Marion Drive. Bus stop (Bucklow Ave) nearby for the D&G Bus no. 88. See www.dgbus.co.uk.



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NOTE:

GL: Group Leader
GC: Group Contact

Swettenham Church, near Congleton



On 1st September 2022, the *Congleton Chronicle* reported that the baptism register of St Peter's Church, Swettenham was finally completed when the last entry was made in August, 132 years after the first baptism was recorded. The first name entered was **Charles Dakin Massey**, on 2nd May 1890.

Photographer Colin Park writes: It is said that an underground passage links the church with the nearby Swettenham Arms. The latter was once a nunnery.

The Ass's Head with a Coronet (seen on the north porch of the church) *Photographer Elliott Simpson writes:* This is the crest of the Mainwaring family. One of the Mainwarings of Peover was in the crusades. His horse was shot so he mounted a donkey or ass. As a consequence the ass's head became part of the armorial bearings and the motto *Forward if I can* was adopted.

