

CHESHIRE ANCESTOR



The Journal of the
Family History Society of Cheshire



In this edition...

Alfred Allsopp, Killed in a Railway Accident

George Braddock in the News

Edmund Brough of Wildboarclough & Worcester

WW2 Childhood Memories ❖ 1923 News and more...

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CHESHIRE ANCESTOR

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

ITEMS FOR THE CHESHIRE ANCESTOR

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

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

Publication is at the discretion of the editor and is subject to space being available; unused items may be carried over to a later issue. Authors retain 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 or TIFF 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 all the letters and articles you have sent – please keep them coming!

I am surprised by the number of times I receive articles with a similar theme. In this issue, members have written about the benefits of searching newspapers, and there is a long list of Cheshire newspapers which are now available online on the British Newspaper Archive and Find My Past websites (for Pro and Premium subscribers). If you do not

have a subscription which includes newspapers they can be accessed at our two FHSC research centres at Mobberley and Crewe.

In *George Braddock in the News*, Mike Hodgkinson relates how he learned of his great-grandfather's athletic prowess and First World War service (at the age of forty-four!) after finding a newspaper report of his golden wedding anniversary. Tony Sant has sent in a list of interesting death reports from newspapers, and two members wrote to share their newspaper discoveries.

Member Val Kennewell tells us about Edmund BROUGH of Worcester, who left £100 in his will, specifying that the interest was to be distributed to the poor of Macclesfield Forest and Wildboardclough. She carried out the research to find the link between Edmund BROUGH and Macclesfield Forest, where there is a benefaction board commemorating him in St Stephen's Church, also known as Forest Chapel.

Forest Chapel is the subject of the cover photographs for this issue. If you have a favourite Cheshire building, would you like to write a few paragraphs about it and email two or three good quality photographs, for use on the covers of a future issue? Specifications for submitting photographs are on the opposite page. I look forward to hearing from you.

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
1-Mar	Runcorn Group	TBA
8-Mar	Sale Group	Tatton Park Farm
13-Mar	Northwich Group	Family History Research Ethics
14-Mar	Crewe & Nantwich Grps	ZOOM: Researching Non-Conformist Ancestors
15-Mar	FHSC Zoom Seminar	ZOOM: Tracing the History of your House
20-Mar	Alsager Group	100 Years of Trains to Audlem
21-Mar	Congleton Group	F2F: TBA
21-Mar	Wallasey Group	ZOOM: A tour around Wirral's 26 Conservation Areas
23-Mar	Tameside Group	The Plague Doctor
27-Mar	Bebington Group	ZOOM: Flaybrick Military Heroes
28-Mar	Macclesfield Group	J T Moore and the Whiston Family Connection
30-Mar	Chester Group	Think Beyond the Obvious
5-Apr	Runcorn Group	Workshop
10-Apr	Northwich Group	F2F: TBA

12-Apr	Sale Group	Forum: What did your Ancestor do in the War?
17-Apr	Alsager Group	The Trial of Dr Tomanzie
18-Apr	Crewe & Nantwich Grps	F2F: Primitive Methodists
18-Apr	Congleton Group	F2F: TBA
18-Apr	Wallasey Group	Discovering Family History
19-Apr	FHSC Zoom Seminar	ZOOM: Trade Directories & Gazetteers for Family History
25-Apr	Macclesfield Group	Ethics in Family History
27-Apr	Chester Group	A Short History of Newton Hall, Chester
27-Apr	Tameside Group	F2F: Workshop
3-May	Runcorn Group	TBA
8-May	Northwich Group	Lives and Religion in Cheshire and Elsewhere
9-May	Crewe & Nantwich Grps	F2F/ZOOM: Researching our Marginalised Ancestors
10-May	Sale Group	Slide presentation of Sale in the 1960s
15-May	Alsager Group	The Egertons of Tatton Park
16-May	Congleton Group	F2F: TBA
16-May	Nantwich Group	F2F: TBA
16-May	Wallasey Group	1000 Years of History in a Mid-Wirral Landscape
17-May	FHSC Zoom Seminar	ZOOM: Researching your Scottish Ancestors
23-May	Macclesfield Group	The Fighting McKays of Macclesfield
25-May	Chester Group	A Beginner's Guide to Family History
25-May	Tameside Group	Trials and Executions at York
12-Jun	Northwich Group	Eyam, The Plague Village
13-Jun	Crewe Group	F2F: The Cheshire Roll of Honour
14-Jun	Sale Group	Southern Cemetery
19-Jun	Alsager Group	Memories and Mementos of the 1953 Coronation
20-Jun	Congleton Group	F2F: TBA
20-Jun	Crewe Group	ZOOM: Topic TBC
20-Jun	Nantwich Group	F2F: TBA
20-Jun	Wallasey Group	The Golden Age of the Picture Postcard
21-Jun	FHSC Zoom Seminar	ZOOM: Photogenealogy: An Introduction
22-Jun	Tameside Group	F2F: Workshop
27-Jun	Macclesfield Group	UK GDL and UK MFH Websites
29-Jun	Chester Group	My Genealogical Journey

2022 Annual General Meeting

The following reports were presented at the 53rd Annual General Meeting of the Family History Society of Cheshire, held online on Saturday 5th November 2022 via Zoom. Reports cover the year ending on 30 June 2022.

Full reports and minutes are available on the FHSC website at www.fhsc.org.uk/new-documents/agm-documents/agm-2022.

Treasurer's Report by *David Smetham*

Our books have been prepared by Heywood Shepherd.

Our financial year 2021-22 was a time of recovery following the pandemic. Our online delivery of benefits to members continued and we saw a return to face-to-face meetings in September 2021. Financial commitments, including delivery of 4 issues of the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR and rental for our use of the Rajar Building in Mobberley continued. Groups received their allocations to deliver online talks.

Our investments summary at end June 2022:

£50,000 invested for 3 years at 1.5%, 10 June 2020 (matures 10 June 2023)

£30,000 invested for 2 years at 1.1%, 5 December 2020 Hampshire Trust (matures 5 December 2022)

£20,000 invested for 1 year at 0.7%, 5 December 2021 Shawbrook (matures 5 December 2022)

Our balance in our Santander accounts at 30 June 2022:

Current account £4,052.32

Business Savings £10,511.06

The consolidated accounts (Income and Expenditure) for the year ending 30 June 2022 show a net deficit for the year of £3009. Last year we had a deficit of £1280.

Cash in the bank at end of June 2022 was £14,563.38; this includes advance

membership subscription payments. The balance in our Paypal account at end of June 2021 was £4109.72; this was mainly the balance of advance membership subscriptions for the year 2022-23. Sales income from our online shop via Paypal for the year ending 30 June was £1014.52 gross, £966.16 net. Publication sales via Genfair generated an income of £241.67.

The 13 groups are financially viable; total funds held by groups is £45,954 compared to £46,131.27 at the end of June 2021. The Group Allocation for 2021-2022 was £500 to each group.

The remainder of this report applies only to the 'central' funds.

Income for the year is £30,445 compared to £29,519 in 2021, gift aid in the year 21-22 was from 20-21 subscriptions, no claim has been made for 21-22 subscriptions. Income from Mobberley has been recovering. Subscription income is down on last year. Expenditure is £36,073 compared to £34,985 last year. This increase is mainly to do with writing down the value of our book stock in the book shop. There was a small reduction in printing cost for the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR but postage costs increased. Committee costs remain low.

A change in membership fee is not appropriate at this time; however, the option should remain open for discussion next year.

The independently examined accounts can be accessed on the FHSC website. They are also available on request to the Treasurer.

I would like to thank our accountants Heywood Shepherd for their work on behalf of the Society. I would also like to thank our Group Treasurers for their work in delivering the Group accounts.

Secretary's Report by *Howard Martin*

Secretary's Report to the 53rd AGM of the Family History Society of Cheshire, held 5th November 2022 using Zoom.

This has been the year when the Society began the return to normality after the pandemic although there have been some exceptions to this and some significant new developments.

Following the changes to the Society's Constitution approved at the 2021 Annual General Meeting, the Executive Committee has continued to meet online as this is more convenient for a committee that draws its members from all parts of the historic County of Cheshire. The Executive Committee has held three meetings. The Group Leaders' meetings, which deal with matters pertinent to Group activities, have also been held online. A small group of executive committee members has held meetings with Paul Newman of CALS (Cheshire Archives and Local Studies) to consider the implications for the Society of the bid for Heritage Lottery Funding for the Archives project. This work, outlined by the Chairman in his remarks, has been ably led by the Chester Group Leader, David Guyton. The Future Strategies Group's role has also been explained by the Chairman. They have met on three occasions.

The Mobberley Research Centre re-opened in September 2021 and the Society is grateful to the volunteers for the efforts they made to make this possible. The Crewe Research Centre re-opened in June 2022, again after careful preparation by Margaret Spate and her volunteer team. In both cases visitor numbers were inevitably low but are now beginning to move towards pre-pandemic levels. After the restrictions of the last two years, Groups have begun to return to face-to-face meetings, initially with varying levels of success but with growing support as the situation has eased. Most Group Leaders are planning a mixed programme of face-to-face meetings and online events because the Society has learnt that out of area members have appreciated the opportunity to link with the local group covering the part of the county they are interested in. Tameside Group has experimented successfully with hybrid meetings, and this is an avenue that the Society will have to explore further. Maybe next year's Annual General Meeting could take that format. The Computer Club has moved all its activities online and has spun off a number of sub-groups working on different topics. The Group Leaders play an important part in the Society's activities and we are grateful for the effective way they have kept their members involved during the pandemic years so that activities could recommence so successfully.

The exciting new development of the last year was the Seminar Series of talks and lectures. These began in October 2021 with the first Dorothy Flude Memorial Lecture. Margaret Roberts, supported by Margaret Spate and Jean

Laidlaw, devised a varied programme of speakers to entertain, inform and educate us. Talks ranged from the origin of Christmas traditions to Myko Clelland's virtuoso presentation on the 1921 Census which must have encouraged members to explore the opportunities that it offered for our research. All the talks were well supported by members and were welcomed by out of county and overseas members who were able to interact with the Society in a way that they could not in the past when their only link was the quarterly copy of CHESHIRE ANCESTOR. I would encourage members who have not yet followed up the Seminar Series to do so as the 2022-2023 programme seems as attractive and interesting as that of 2021-2022.

Rosie Rowley, as editor of the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR, continues to work her magic four times a year to produce a journal that gives members an interesting and informative read, and which many look forward to receiving either digitally or as a hard copy. Geoff Johnson's *Net that Serf* keeps us up to date with all the digital and technical developments that can support our research. The Society, however, lost and will miss the services of Suzie Woodward who resigned as CHESHIRE ANCESTOR proofreader in the spring. She had undertaken this role for many years and has been a constant source of advice and support for successive editors. Printing, digitisation and distribution of CHESHIRE ANCESTOR in its two formats are managed by Angela Moore and Geoff Johnson.

Margaret Roberts and Gay Oliver continue to organise the Society's online presence, a source of information for both members and non-members. Facebook pages, Twitter and the website are regularly updated so that they remain relevant and fresh. The monthly newsletter goes out to all members who have provided a valid email address and members who have not done so are encouraged to contact the Society with that information. Not only will they receive the newsletter but also information about the Seminar Series and the Zoom login code if they wish to attend. The web presence is partially about publicity. A Society leaflet template, to present a corporate image, has been designed by Margaret Roberts. One format provides general publicity and information about the Society and its activities; a second format is for Group Leaders to adapt for their specific needs.

The range of downloads for sale in the online shop continues to expand. Digitisation is done by Peter Davenport with David Smetham and Joan Irving carrying out the necessary checks before products go on sale.

Margaret Roberts and David Smetham have managed the Society's virtual presence at the various online Family History Shows and events that have taken place this year. This is another source of publicity for the Society and provides an opportunity to recruit new members. David Smetham continues to represent the Society at the North West Group of Family History Societies and Margaret Roberts has been appointed a trustee of the Family History Federation.

Maintaining membership numbers continues to be a challenge aggravated by the current cost of living crisis when discretionary spending can easily be cut. As of yesterday (4th November) the Society had 1340 members. This indicates a slowing in the decline of previous years and suggests that the Society's wide-ranging offer to members, old and new, is still attractive. Kevin Dean and Angela Moore have rationalised the membership process to make it easier for new members to understand.

The Society can only survive if volunteers come forward to take up key roles, to support Group Leaders, to help with the research centres or local help desks in libraries and other venues. The Executive Committee fully appreciates the support that members give to the Society and thanks them for their efforts and contribution whether at a local level or in a committee role. Many of those people have been mentioned in this report, and without them the Society would be the poorer. Looking to the future the committee would like more volunteers to help take the Family History Society of Cheshire forward.

The Committee also congratulates Margaret Roberts on winning the Find My Past Community Award for 2022. Nominated by a Crewe member, this was a well-deserved public recognition of the work that Margaret has done for the Society and its members over the last three years.

Finally, since this will be my last AGM as Secretary of FHSC I would like to thank the chairmen I have worked with - Paul Simpson, David Smetham, Victoria Doran and Alan Bennett - and all members of the executive committee for their encouragement, advice and support over the last eight years.

Brief Report of AGM Proceedings

Howard Martin, Honorary Secretary.

The Annual General Meeting was preceded by a talk from Dr Sophie Kay on *What's that Job*. Members were given guidance on the many ways in which our ancestors' jobs could be researched. In a knowledgeable and entertaining talk, Sophie focussed on Cheshire jobs in silk, salt and agriculture. She explained the meaning of unfamiliar and confusing job titles found in the census and other records and suggested ways in which more could be discovered about the actual work being done.

The Annual General Meeting

Alan Bennett, Chairman of the Family History Society of Cheshire, welcomed members to the meeting. He thanked Margaret Roberts for arranging Dr Kay's talk and Suzie Woodward who, after many years' service and support for successive editors, has resigned as proof reader. Alan then explained the role of the Future Strategies Group of the Executive Committee in reviewing the challenges facing the Society and the ways in which it could adapt to meet them. He also spoke of the Society's links with CALS in its application for Heritage Lottery Funding for the proposed new archive centres in Crewe and Chester.

The Honorary Treasurer presented his report.

The motion that the Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year 2021-2022 be accepted was carried.

The Honorary Secretary presented his report.

Election of Officers

- Alan Bennett was re-elected as Chairman for a further year.
- Sheila Jones, nominated by Bob Wright and Kevin Dean, was elected as Honorary Secretary.
- David Smetham, Honorary Treasurer, had expressed his willingness to continue in post for a further twelve months if there was no nomination for the role of Honorary Treasurer. No nominations having been received, David Smetham was elected Honorary Treasurer for a further year.

The motion to retain Messrs. Heywood Shepherd as Independent Examiners for 2022-2023 was carried.

Any Other Business

In response to a question from the floor, there was a wide-ranging discussion of the ways in which the Society publicised and advertised its activities, with suggestions of other opportunities that might be adopted.

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. 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)

Obituary: John Lord

We regret to announce the death of John Lord, a long-serving society volunteer who held the post of Journal Distribution Officer for sixteen years until September 2020. Before John became involved in 2004, the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR had been distributed by volunteers who manually packed the mailing envelopes. We then moved to using a mailing service and it was John's job to process the distribution from the printer to the mailing company for delivery.

John was a valued member of the committee for many years and will be sadly missed. We send our condolences to John's family and friends.

Northwich Group's January Zoom Meeting

*by Dave Thomas
Northwich Group Leader*

Since 2019, the use of the Zoom facility, forced upon us due to the Covid restrictions, has been a success on two counts. It has enabled us to maintain contact with members, but has also resulted in an increase in membership benefits for members living too far away to attend local meetings. However, now that these restrictions are no longer in place, we should endeavour to maintain some contact with these distant members. One suggestion has been to hold a couple of meetings per year via Zoom, perhaps in the winter time.

To this end, it was decided that the January meeting for Northwich group would be via Zoom. Rather than book a speaker, members living outside Cheshire were invited to say a few words about their connections with the county, their research and any particular problem they may have, the objective being that interaction with Cheshire-based members may help people with their research. This invitation was met with enthusiasm. Although several more indicated their wish to join the meeting, thirty-nine members attended; twenty-five lived outside Cheshire, eight of which lived overseas. For a large attendance such as this, in order to run the meeting well, it was crucial that we had a co-host and put rules and protocols in place regarding those who wished to speak.

Fourteen queries were raised with nine receiving helpful responses. Some useful sources of information not available on the online databases were highlighted, and there were even some close family connections with other attendees. Several attendees have been given each other's contact details and some of these had communicated with each other within a day of the meeting.

As the feedback has been positive, our February meeting will be a Zoom follow-up to the January meeting. However, members felt that the meeting would be more productive if discussion was restricted to the Northwich area. Maybe a similar format could be used by other groups in the Society for their areas?

FHSC Website News

by Alan Bennett
FHSC Webmaster



Here is a brief update on website updates that should already have been implemented by the time you read this.

Most activity has been in relation to preparing the site to move onto fully supported versions of Joomla (Version 4.x) and PHP (Version 8.1). This includes removal of components that won't work once the updates are made.

As a result, you should have seen some minor changes:

- Document libraries will have a different look but have the same documents.
- Editing of your profile details will have a different look but have all the same input fields.
- Committee members will see new-look reports for managing the society.

In the background I have been trying to remove all bespoke programming that I have implemented to allow for easier support by a larger support team going forward. This should also increase the stability of the site.

I did ask for input on changes people would like to see, but I have had minimal response. It's not too late to provide input as the site will be updated and improved over the next twelve months in small stages.

1923 News (1) from the Crewe Chronicle, 3 March 1923

RAILWAY AMALGAMATIONS AND THE PUBLIC
COMPETITION AS KEEN AS EVER

The **Hon. C N Lawrence**, speaking at the final meeting of the L and N W shareholders, said that the interests of the public were not being sacrificed in any way by the railway amalgamations, and there would be in no sense a monopoly. Competition would be just as keen under the new conditions.

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

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



The most exciting news for some time came at the beginning of December with the announcement that the collaborative bid between the two Cheshire councils and Cheshire Records Office to build two new History Centres in Crewe and Chester had been successful in its bid for a National Lottery Heritage Fund Grant. This new vision to re-house Cheshire's archives in two new state-of-the-art centres now awaits the requisite planning permission from both councils; hopefully these will be confirmed in spring 2023 and then the work can start. FHSC is very much looking forward to working with the records office on this fabulous project. Learn more about the project and keep up to date with progress on the Cheshire Archives website www.cheshirearchives.org.uk/about-us/about-us.aspx

The November Family History Federation Really Useful Show was a great success for us at FHSC. I manned our stall for the full two days and had 137 people visit the booth and chat. Some visitors were members and had specific questions while others were non-members wanting a little help with locating places in Cheshire or finding certain records. Twenty-seven people *Zoomed* into the booth – again, some were members just wanting to say hello, while others wanted to take the opportunity for a little one-to-one help, which I was more than happy to provide. Officers from other family history societies stopped by to ask about our Zoom Seminar lecture series and other questions about how we did things at FHSC, which was very satisfying.

October was Family History Month, with a number of national and local activities taking place; but of course here at FHSC every month is family history month - for over fifty years the FHSC has offered a warm welcome to those

wanting to explore the Who, When, Why, and Where of their Cheshire roots. Whatever stage you are at on your family history journey we can help; no matter what your level of expertise, we can offer advice and support and 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. We can also assist with your family history research no matter where your roots are based. FHSC offers a friendly point of contact for people right across the world who are interested in similar names, families, and places, by providing a wide range of facilities to support their research. Our virtual meetings mean there are no geographic barriers, and our many international members add richness and diversity to our events. Our research centres in Crewe and Moberley both have extensive libraries and access to online genealogical databases and are staffed by knowledgeable volunteers who can offer expert guidance and advice, and we also have helpdesks in local libraries.

The AGM took place on Saturday 5 November this year and was attended by eighty-eight members. It was preceded by a talk entitled *What's that Job?* delivered by Dr Sophie Kay and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Sophie was kind enough to have put a Cheshire slant on her talk and I'm sure that everyone went away to take another look at their research, armed with some fantastic new information. If you missed the talk or need a reminder, a handout connected to the talk can be downloaded from the Members' Documents area of the FHSC website. Here are just a few of the comments I received:

- *Sophie is a wonderful and engaging speaker*
- *Excellent – and inspiring! Can't wait to get stuck into research now*
- *Totally amazing talk. Masses of content, really interesting and enthusiastically delivered. Very enjoyable, thank you*
- *Incredibly useful. I had no idea how to use those number codes on the census form.*

The last quarter of 2022 and early 2023 saw our groups slowly moving into 'Winter' mode with many meetings reverting to Zoom. Once again, members have been treated to a wide range of talks and workshops. Subjects included: maps for family historians, the National Farm Survey, the fight for women's votes, Charles Tunnicliffe, burial records and M.I.s, Tabley House, railway

accidents and failed elopements! Information on FHSC events are publicised on the website, our email newsletter, **CESHIRE ANCESTOR**, Facebook and Twitter.

October saw our highly successful Seminar series celebrate its first anniversary, with the second annual *Dorothy Flude Memorial Lecture*, named after the former Mayor of Cheshire East who was a champion of historians and local history. With this lecture, FHSC aims to celebrate our home-grown historians and give further publicity to their research. This year FHSC member Ann Simcock told the fascinating story of the Chatterley Whitfield Mining Disaster, which she has investigated extensively, her work being included in the museum that opened on the site. Attendees were enthralled with Ann's story and her knowledge about the subject; her talk included a dramatic and poignant reconstruction of the voices heard during the inquest. As one attendee wrote afterwards:

Please thank Ann for her amazing talk. I was engrossed, she started off talking about this mine, then it suddenly became part of her own family history. I loved the way she put flesh on the bones, not names on a tree. It was sad, I would have liked a happier ending.

In November we welcomed Sarah Moody, the regional co-ordinator for the West Central Region of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC). Sarah gave a fascinating talk on the history, architecture, and conservation work of the commission, as well as the early challenges faced by those who set up the body. As usual at the Seminars, many stories from attendees were shared, this time regarding visits to many of the CWGC sites across the world as well as reminiscences and family stories of those men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice. If you have not visited the CWGC website to explore the many records, pictures, and stories, all freely available, then you have been missing out; visit the site at www.cwgc.org. *Christmas Food and Drink through the Ages* was the title of the talk in December, with husband-and-wife team Simon and Sylvia Fowler. What an interesting hour it turned out to be, with many myths regarding Christmas food and drink dispelled and the origins of various traditions explained - a very entertaining talk followed by a lively Q&A session. 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.

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.

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!

These names were added between 28 October 2022 and 28 January 2023:

ARDERN, BARTON, BILLINGTON, BRADSHAW, BRECK/BRECKE, BULLOCK
CLARKE, CLUTTON, CROSSLEY

DARLINGTON, DE-GRUCHY, DEWISON, DIKES

FRODSHAM, GEE, GLASSEY

HENSHALL, HIGNETT, HOCKENHULL, HODKINSON, HOLFORD,
HOLLINSHEAD

ISHERWOOD, JENKINSON

MANLEY, MASSEY, MEIR

NICHOLLS, NICHOLS

ORFORD/ALFORD

PRIESTNALL

RATHBONE, ROWE, RUNCORN

SAVAGE, SAYLE, STEVENSON, STEVENSON,
STRETTLE/STRETTELL/STRETTILL

UNWIN, WARBURTON, WHITEHEAD, WORTHINGTON

YEARWOOD/YARWOOD

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.

*Why not ADVERTISE your
Cheshire or Genealogy BUSINESS or PRODUCT
in this quarter-page space?*

*Just £14 per issue, or £50 for four consecutive issues
(see page 2 for full details)*

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*



I hope 2023 started with new names and new research material for your family history and a new enthusiasm to discover more. If you are new to family history, then I hope you will be encouraged to delve into the variety and wealth of records available at Mobberley. Our Duty Volunteers are eager to help you. We are constantly adding to our resources so it is always worth a check to see what's new that could give you the breakthrough you are looking for; Cheshire material can turn up in the most unusual places, as seen below.

Cheshire Deeds in the Vaynol Papers at Caernarvon Record Office

A recent donation of a section of the Vaynol Papers gives a list of Cheshire Deeds associated with the ASSHETON family of Ashley. There are thirty-one references to the ASSHETON family; other gentry surnames are BOOTH, BRERETON, LEGH, LOWND, MANWARING, MOTTRAM, TATTON AND WILBRAHAM.

This list includes other names, not all gentry and not all living in Ashley.

The table on the next page includes the names of some of the non-gentry together with the reference number, year of the deed and place and occupation. There may be more than one entry for these people in the Vaynol Papers and not all those listed give their occupation.

This catalogue of Vaynol Papers can be found with the Record Office and Library reference books on top of the filing cabinets in the library. It's definitely worth a look!

Name	Ref:	Year	Place	Occupation
Baxter, William	1514/5	1686	Upton	Yeoman
Blackburn, Peter	1458	1601	Nether Walton	Yeoman
Blacklach, Richard	1494/5/6	1674	Macclesfield	Woollen Draper
Brineston, John	1439	1677	Rostherne	Yeoman
Brooke, John	1494/5/6	1674	Chelford	Yeoman
Browne, Thomas	1546	1740	Bowden	Cordwainer
Brundrett, Jeremiah	1520	1699	Altrincham	Yeoman
Clarke, John	1545	1732	Bowden	Yeoman
Cookson, William	1489	1668/9	Ashley	Yeoman
Davenport, Randle	1481/2	1653	Macclesfield	Shoemaker
Davenport, Jonathan	1540	1718	Warburton	Husbandman
Fletcher, George	1542	1729/30	Ashley	Yeoman
Grantham, Richard	1461	1601/2	Hale	Yeoman
Hardy, William	1468	1603	Rycroft (Ashley)	Yeoman
Harrison, Joseph	1441	1687	Nether Knutsford	Clothmaker
Hawkinson, Robert	1441	1687	Ashley	Yeoman
Hesky, John	1455	1585/6	Ashley	Yeoman
Hewitt, John	1503/4/6	1761	Pool	Yeoman
Jackson, Samuel	1503/4/6	1761	Nantwich	Maltster
Janney, Richard	1469	1656	Ashley	Yeoman
Kelsall, Richard	1457	1598/9	Ashley	Yeoman
Leycester, William	1493	1673	Wilmslow	Yeoman
Low, George	1514/5	1686	Chelford	Yeoman
Royle, Richard	1533	1711	Altrincham	Gardener
Saunders, Nathiel	1543	1730	Bowden	Cordwainer
Sotheroy, Thomas	1450	1557	Over Whitley	Yeoman
Vrinston, Richard	1460	1601	Rostherne	Yeoman
Walton, John	1490	1668/9	Ashley	Husbandman
Warburton, John	1489	1668/9	Hale	Yeoman
Watts, George	1481	1653	Adlington	Yeoman
Wither, Richard	1453	1576	Hale	Yeoman
Wright, Richard	1440	1687	Ashley	Yeoman
Wright, Richard	1512/3/4/5	1686	Ashley	Cheesefactor
Wright, Joseph	1519/20	1699	Smallwood	Yeoman
Yarwood, Richard	1441	1687	Woburby	Yeoman
Yearwood, Richard	1516/7/8	1687	Mobberley	Yeoman

Crewe Family History Unit

by Margaret Spate
crewe@fhsc.org.uk

With the Family History Unit (FHU) back to our normal opening times we are pleased to welcome new and returning members.

Please note that at the time of going to press we do not have access to Ancestry, but we are trying to get this reinstated if possible.

The 1921 Census can now be accessed in full on all our computers, and we can also now access the British Newspaper Archive (BNA) website, which has a better search facility than Find My Past. We also have The Genealogist.

Cataloguing of new donations is ongoing and the holdings list that is available on the website will be updated soon.

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 also 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.

1923 News (2) from the Crewe Chronicle, 3 March 1923

SHAVINGTON - KEEN BOY COMPETITORS

The annual draughts and bagatelle contests in connection with the Boys' Village Council and Club have now been decided. The draughts championship, which is always considered the more important, has been secured by **Ben Owen**, who had the distinction of only losing one game. **W Atkinson** won the bagatelle championship with some excellent scores.

The following is the list of successful competitors.

Draughts: 1. **B Owen**; 2. **H Harding**; 3. **W Fisher**; 4. **G Woolrich**; 5. **J Harding**; 6. **S Francis**. Bagatelle: 1. **W Atkinson**; 2. **F Spencer**; 3. **T Harding**; 4. **C Doody**; 5. **J Maddock**; 6. **S Curd**.

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.

Newspaper Archives

I wish to thank Margaret Roberts for the members' email sent out on 25th November which contained a list of Cheshire newspaper titles included on the British Newspaper Archive and FindMyPast websites.

I have been researching for a few years an aunt and uncle of my next door neighbour. She told me stories that had been told in the family about Fanny EDGE and Leonard EDGE, but she did not know where they were buried. After receiving the email, I was prompted to have another look at the newspapers, as Fanny was involved in two major tragedies – she lost her husband in a shooting accident, and her child was scalded to death. I felt sure they must have been in the newspapers.

I found one new article about the child which solved the mystery of Fanny – and with just a little more delving, I even found a photograph of her grave which is at Chester, so she can go and visit it. I haven't solved Leonard yet, but I am hopeful.

Sylvia Mitford

Membership no. 7456

Manchester Agricultural Society

Referring to Joan Irving's article about the Manchester Agricultural Society in the last issue, I have a sterling silver teapot which was awarded to my 2x great-grandfather, Richard DOBELL of Leftwich, by the Manchester Agricultural Society in 1842 for the *Best Kept and Cultivated Farm*.

I also have a medal awarded to the same Richard DOBELL on 25th September 1850 for exhibiting the *Best Sample of Yellow or Red Wheat*. This medal was awarded by the Manchester and Liverpool Agricultural Society (Instituted 1847). This is presumably a merger of the two societies, which is now known as the Royal Lancashire Agricultural Society.

Anthony Dobell

Membership no. 8558

Found in the News

Whilst researching our family tree, my daughter came across the following public notice published by my great-grandfather, Robert DAWSON, in the Liverpool Daily Post of 22 August 1870:

DOG STOLEN – If the party who stole Mr. Dawson's DOG and COLLAR from his Lodge, Birkenhead Park, will call there he can have the KENNEL, as it is of no further use.

My daughter says she recognises the same warped sense of humour in me!

Bob Dawson

Membership no. 2697

rjd@bobdawson.plus.com

Cheshire Ancestor

I was very pleased to see that the latest issue of the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR for December 2022 has a clear space between the lines, which makes it much easier to read. Thanks for the great improvement.

Kathleen P.

Membership no. 3456

Ed.: We have received many more compliments on the change of typeface and line spacing, which members say is much clearer than the previous typeface. Deanprint has advised us that they print our journal using black ink on white paper and the printing process means it is not possible to make the print appear any darker. We have also received compliments on the new printing design for the envelope.

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/>

Rootstech 2023

Thursday 2nd - Saturday 4th March
Online (free) and in person (\$98) at Salt Lake City, USA
200+ NEW on-demand class sessions and classes
www.familysearch.org/rootstech/event/rt2023

What to do with your Family History (Online)

6pm - 7.30pm from Tuesday 18th April for 8 weeks, on Zoom
Each class is recorded and available to students for two weeks

Course costs £150/£120 for SoG members

<https://societyofgenealogists.arlo.co/w/events/257-what-to-do-with-your-family-history>

The last 4 weeks of this course can be taken as a stand-alone course, Sharing Your Family History, commencing 18th May, price £100/£80

<https://societyofgenealogists.arlo.co/w/events/352-sharing-your-family-history>

The Family History Show (York)

10am - 4pm, Saturday 24th June at York Knavesmire Racecourse

Expert Speakers - Exhibitors - Ask the Experts

Ample Free Parking - 1½ miles from York Railway Station

Early Bird Offer - 2 Tickets for £10

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

Family History News

A selection of recent updates to websites, and other family history news. Remember, if you don't have a subscription to *Ancestry*, *Find My Past* or *The Genealogist*, our Research Centres have free access to these sites. You may also be able to access *Ancestry* or *Find My Past* through your public library - and look out for offers of free access on special occasions such as Remembrance Day. **Bear in mind that record collections on the Internet may be incomplete.**

Ancestry

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, North Yorkshire Parish records

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62228/>

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62236/>

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62237/>

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62238/>

This collection includes records for selected parishes, dated between 1558 and 1995 (dates vary by record type and parish).

UK, World War II Alien Internees, 1939-1945

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/61665/>

Details of foreign nationals interned by the British government during WW2. Internment of Germans started immediately on the outbreak of war in 1939. This was expanded to Austrians in May 1940, and later that year to Italians.

UK, Navy Lists, 1888-1970

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/2406/>

The Navy List is the Royal Navy's official published list of officers in the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Queen Alexandra's Royal Nursing Service, Coast Guard, and other naval entities.

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.

Gibraltar Census Records 1871-1921

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/gibraltar-census-1871-1921>

From 1891 onwards, the Gibraltar census included vessels in the harbour, the port and in the Bay of Gibraltar. The British Army garrisoned in or in transit through Gibraltar was also enumerated in the 1871 Census. However, the British Army in Gibraltar at the time of the 1911 and 1921 censuses was included with the England & Wales censuses.

Gibraltar Military Deaths 1869-1914

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/gibraltar-military-deaths-1869-1914>

These transcribed records document 2,749 British military deaths in Gibraltar in the 45 years before the First World War.

Gibraltar Marriages 1802-1942

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/gibraltar-marriages-1802-1942>

Four record sets covering different event types and time periods. Some records include images

- Military Marriages In Gibraltar 1869-1914
- Civil Marriages in Gibraltar 1862-1920
- Protestant Marriage Licenses in Gibraltar 1802-1883
- St Andrew's Kirk 1843-1935

1939 Register Unlocked Records

Records for people whose deaths have not been confirmed are unlocked 100 years after their date of birth. Findmypast is the official home of the 1939 Register and release unlocked records in batches every three months, earlier than any other family history website. 65,000 records that have passed the 100-year rule within the last three months were revealed in December.

Cheshire Newspapers

The following newspapers are now available to view on Find My Past (Pro and Premium subscribers) and the British Newspaper Archive website.

Alderley & Wilmslow Advertiser: 1874-1940, 1942-47, 1949-77

Bebington News: 1986-92, 1994-97

Birkenhead & Cheshire Advertiser: dates between 1860 and 1951

Birkenhead News: dates between 1878 and 1997

Cheshire Observer: 1854-79, 1881-97, 1899-1989

Chester Chronicle (Frodsham & Helsby edition): 1995-96

Chester Courant: dates between 1747 and 1900

Congleton & Macclesfield Mercury: 1858-72, 1884-95

Crewe Chronicle: 1874-1978, 1980, 1982-84, 1986-99

Crewe Guardian: 1869-97, 1899-1910, 1912-13

Ellesmere Port Pioneer: 1920-36, 1950, 1986, 1988-96

Hyde & Glossop Weekly News, and North Cheshire Herald: 1860-82

Macclesfield Courier & Herald: 1829-44, 1857-59, 1861, 1877, 1889, 1891, 1911

Macclesfield Express: 1986, 1988-98

Macclesfield Times: dates between 1916 and 1950

Nantwich Chronicle: dates between 1945 and 1999

Nantwich Guardian: 1871, 1878-87, 1889-96, 1899-1900, 1914-18

Nantwich, Sandbach & Crewe Star: 1888-92

Northwich Guardian: 1861-96, 1898-1910, 1912-13

Northwich Chronicle: 1927 and 1982

Runcorn & Widnes Herald & Post: 1989-96

Runcorn Examiner: 1870, 1873-81, 1883-95, 1898, 1900-09, 1911-20

Runcorn Guardian: dates between 1875 and 1984

Runcorn Weekly News: 1913-33, 1936-76, 1986-96, 1998-99

Stalybridge Examiner: 1876

Stockport Advertiser & Guardian: a few dates between 1842 and 1981

Stockport County Express: 1893, 1911-12, 1925, 1965

Stockport Express Advertiser: 1986, 1988-94, 1996

Stockport Times: 1989, 1992-97

Wallasey News and Wirral General Advertiser: 1910

Warrington Advertiser: 1865, 1877, 1879, 1884, 1887, 1889

Warrington Daily Guardian: 1891, 1897

Warrington Evening Post: 1877, 1879

Warrington Examiner: 1869–81, 1883–95, 1899–1909

Warrington Guardian: 1859, 1865, 1873, 1877, 1888–89, 1903

Warrington Observer: 1889

Warrington Standard and Lancashire and Cheshire Advertiser: 1859

Warrington Times: 1859

Widnes Examiner: 1876–1920

Widnes Weekly News and District Reporter: 1880

Winsford & Middlewich Guardian: 1875–1911

Winsford Chronicle: 1942–67, 1971–78, 1987–89, 1992–99

If you prefer to look at actual copies of newspapers, the FHSC Research Centre at Mobberley holds a large collection of bound volumes of local newspapers for east Cheshire, with titles covering the Stockport, Macclesfield and Congleton areas – although the news reports are often from further afield. There are over 50 years of the *Macclesfield Advertiser & East Cheshire Gazette* dated between 1873 and 1979 and over 100 years of the *Macclesfield Courier & Herald*, *Congleton Gazette*, *Stockport Express & Cheshire Advertiser* dated between 1816 and 1952, plus several other assorted bound volumes.

Cheshire Archives and Local Studies (CALS)

New Record Office Funding

The plans to relocate from the present Cheshire Record Office to new centres in Chester and Crewe have been approved by The National Lottery Heritage Fund. The grant of £4.45 million will allow CALS to proceed with the project from Spring 2023, subject to planning permission. The new centres, at Lightfoot Street, Hoole, Chester, and on the site of the former Crewe Library at Prince Albert Street, Crewe, will provide for new and improved research facilities, new storage for the collections, new exhibition and event spaces and improved accommodation for the Archives and Local Studies team.

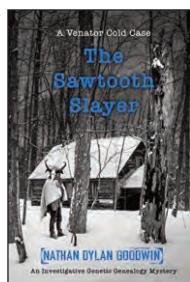
Book Review

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.

The Sawtooth Slayer – A Venator Cold Case, by Nathan Dylan Goodwin

Reviewed by Babs Johnson



I enjoyed the first Venator Cold Case book, *The Chester Creek Murders*, so much that I was keen to read the second one in the series, and wasn't disappointed. However, this couldn't really be called a cold case, as it deals with a live investigation.

Following the fourth of a series of murders of young, attractive females in the Twin Falls area, Idaho, the police are struggling to identify the perpetrator, despite having DNA samples. The investigation is made more challenging as it takes place in April 2020 during the early stages of the first Covid-19 lockdown.

Detective Maria González realises the importance of solving the case urgently as the murderer is likely to strike again, so requests the services of Venator, the investigative genetic genealogy company, to research the case using DNA matches. The company has only dealt with cold cases in the past and is hesitant to tackle this one, as it will be time-pressured during a period when employees are being required to work from home. However, the challenge is accepted.

The Venator staff work painstakingly through the generations of DNA matches, with the added complications of investigating records in Eastern Europe, Italy, the UK as well as America. The careful cross-referencing of research between team members has to take the form of Zoom meetings, as their offices are closed.

As in the first novel, we are drawn into the on-going problems in the private

lives of the Venator employees, some of which present conflicts between their professionalism and personal relationships.

The intermittent presentation of the mindset of the murderer, his actions and intentions, without knowing his identity, makes for a tense atmosphere. There were many sub-plots and investigative details to take in but, once again, I was totally absorbed in this novel.

www.nathandyngoodwin.com/home; Independently published, 2022.

Paperback, 348 pages, £8.99, ISBN: 979-8844327537. Other formats available.

Selected Archives of the Week

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

In response to many members asking about the various blogs that I draw attention to on our social media platforms, my column has a slightly different slant this time. I am aware that many members don't use social media and so the *Archives of the Week* section for this edition is a list of blogs for members to visit, read the interesting stories and help that they offer and perhaps even subscribe to some of them so that you will be informed when a new story is published. *Blog* is short for *web log*, which was originally a type of website for an online diary but is now often used for a collection of thoughts and stories, usually with a theme.

Each blog covers a range of genealogical, family, and social history-based topics and is free to access. These are just a few of the many blogs that are available, and my personal UK-based favourites, so not a definitive list.

Please let me know if you come across a blog you enjoy and I'll compile another list for a future edition. To keep up with updates to the various genealogical websites, follow the FHSC on Twitter at [@FHSCofCheshire](https://twitter.com/FHSCofCheshire) or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CheshireFamilyHistory.

A Few Forgotten Women

<https://afewforgottenwomen.wixsite.com/affw>

The creators of the *A Few Forgotten Women* project are a group of friends, known collectively as *A Few Good Women* and include some members of FHSC. Even without meaning to, family historians often focus on the male lines, and the females are overlooked. The project seeks to preserve the memory of some of those women whose stories might otherwise be lost.

All Those Before

<https://www.allthosebefore.org.uk/>

A family history blog written by FHSC member Jane Hough. Jane's husband was born in Cheshire, and she has recently started to research his side of the family.

Chiddicks Family Tree

<https://chiddicksfamilytree.com/>

Written by Paul Chiddicks, a member of FHSC who is best known for his *Dear Paul* column in *Family Tree Magazine*. Paul writes many thought-provoking blogs on all aspects of family history.

Genealogy Jude

<https://genealogyjude.com/>

Judith Batchelor is well-known to us at FHSC, having given Zoom talks to our groups. Judith started her blog section in 2020. It contains many exciting stories that illustrate what life was like for our ancestors and others that help you with your own research.

How-to History

<https://howtohistory.substack.com/>

How-to History is run by Joe Saunders and Ann Cusack. The rationale behind the blog 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.

The Parchment Rustler

<https://parchmentrustler.com/>

Members who attended our AGM in November will remember Dr Sophie Kay and this is her blog, so if you enjoyed her talk then you will enjoy her blog. We are looking forward to Sophie returning to speak to us later in 2023 for the Seminar series.

Past to Present Genealogy

<https://pasttopresentgenealogy.co.uk/>

Jane Roberts lives in Batley, West Yorkshire and she blogs not only on her own family history, thoughts and experiences but has also carried out a major research project on the local War Memorial. Jane spent three years finding out about the seventy-six names on the memorial, which is the subject of her One-Place study.

Railway Work, Life and Death

<https://www.railwayaccidents.port.ac.uk/>

Essential reading for those with railway ancestors. This blog is full of stories related to railway worker accidents in Britain and Ireland between late 1880s and 1939. There are many guest posts, including some from FHSC members.

Lifelines Research

<https://lifelinesresearch.co.uk/blog/>

Family historian, lecturer, and author Dave Annal writes this fascinating blog; with over forty years in the area Dave always has an interesting tale to tell.

The History Interpreter

<https://thehistoryinterpreter.wordpress.com/>

Another friend of FHSC, Dr Janet Few is a well-known researcher and her blog page contains, as she says, her ramblings about history, genealogy, and writing, as well as accounts of her various travels.

Who Am I?

<https://whoamiresearch.com/blog/>

Kelly Cornwall is a professional genealogist, and her blog contains musings and memories from her research.

George Braddock in the News

by Mike Hodgkinson

Membership no. 7929

Margaret Roberts urges us to look in the newspaper archives as you never know what you will find. I was certainly surprised by how much I found out about my great-grandfather after discovering just a couple of paragraphs in the *Staffordshire Advertiser*.

I probably met my great-grandfather but do not remember him as I was only two years old when he died in 1948, aged 77. George and his wife Sarah Ann (née DOXEY) lived in Leek, Staffordshire, and had five children including my grandmother Elizabeth. Their eldest son George became a Church of England vicar in Newark, Nottinghamshire, following a degree course at Durham University. He and his brother William married two sisters.

My grandmother Elizabeth BRADDOCK told me that her father was a silk twister, which was one of the jobs which required the most skill. She herself worked a long day in the silk mill and after her first shift went home for breakfast - but had to be back at the mill in half an hour. In the 1911 census Elizabeth was described as a lace reeler and her mother Sarah Ann was a braid picker. Apart from BMD and census information, this is all I knew about George and Sarah Ann BRADDOCK until I recently read the following press cutting from the *Staffordshire Advertiser* of 12 September 1942, which was attached to George BRADDOCK in an Ancestry family tree:

GOLDEN WEDDING

Mr and Mrs George Braddock, Angle Street, on Wednesday celebrated their golden wedding. Both natives of the town, Mr Braddock is 73 and Mrs Braddock 68. They were married at All Saints' Church, Leek on September 2, 1892.

Mr Braddock was employed by Messrs Whittles and Co., as a silk twister for

35 years and is at present working for Brough, Nicholson and Hall, Ltd. at the Bridge End Dyeworks. He was a runner in his youthful days and competed and won prizes at Macclesfield and Stoke and was a competitor for the half-mile event open to all England. He served with the 7th North Staffordshire Regiment throughout the Great War and did duty in the Dardanelles, Greece, Turkey, Egypt and India.

I knew the name of his employers from the 1921 census and the 1939 register. I did not know that he was a good half mile runner but think I must have inherited that gene as this was my best event; I represented my school and was second in the county.

Even more surprising was the fact that he had served in the First World War, as he would have been 44 years old in 1914. I checked his military record in The National Archives and found a George BRADDOCK from Leek who had served in the 7th North Staffordshire Regiment and was discharged in 1919. I then checked the record of this regiment in Wikipedia. It was formed in 1914 and took part in the Gallipoli Campaign between July 1915 and January 1916, when it was evacuated to Egypt. It then served in Mesopotamia from February 1916 to February 1918.

A short paragraph from an eighty-year-old newspaper has helped to make my great-grandfather so much more real to me.

1923 News (3) from the Crewe Chronicle, 3 March 1923

SUNDAY FOOTBALL AT WISTASTON

The following youths were summoned at Crewe County Sessions on Monday for malicious damage to a fence belonging to Mr **Geo H Crewe**, Church House, Wistaston: **Fred Nevitt** (16), Wistaston Cottage; **Frank Brereton** (17), Richard Street, Willaston; **Albert Thomas** (15), Wistaston Cottage; and **Wm Wood** (16), Wistaston Road. On Sunday Feb 4th defendants were playing football on Mr Crewe's land. When Mr Crewe went to them they ran away, and damaged the fence in making their escape. Each defendant was fined 4s and 1s towards the damages.

Robert Johnson, Former Ag Lab

by Gren Dix

Membership no. 4174

My 2x great-grandfather started out as the lowest of the low – an agricultural day labourer. When he died, in 1866, he left a house to each of his children and had some to spare. Not bad considering his start in life.

I traced his life in the parish of North Meols. The town of Southport grew out of the hamlet of South Haws in the parish of North Meols. Southport is now a separate entity and North Meols is now the area to the North and West of Southport. At the time the main village was Churchtown, about two-thirds of the way up the parish. The hamlet of Little London is about 1½ miles north-west of South Haws. It was a trading place for the sale of fleeces and rabbit furs to traders from London.

BALL, JOHNSON, WRIGHT or RIMMER – genealogists searching these names in North Meols will have cause to groan. I certainly did when hunting out my JOHNSON ancestors; after all, there were literally hundreds of JOHNSONs in the 1851 census.

Robert was one of seven children born to Thomas JOHNSON and Margery RIDING. He married Jane (Ginney) FAIRCLOUGH in 1808 at St Cuthberts, Churchtown, Southport. His abodes, jobs and religious convictions mark him out. We will trace his progress, mainly through the births of his children. St Cuthberts, in Churchtown, Southport, is the Parish Church.

The table below shows Robert's religious inclination changing from Church of England to Dissenter/ Congregationalist. Note that the Ormskirk Wesleyan church is some miles away.

Robert, his wife and some of his children were buried in East Bank Lane Congregational Church, which was on the corner of Eastbank St and Chapel St.

As an aside, there were words exchanged between the St Cuthberts and the Dissenters over the latter's desire to be buried in consecrated ground.

Year	Child's Name	Where Baptised	Father's Occupation	Abode
1809	Thomas	St Cuthbert's	-	Churchtown
1813	Margaret	St Cuthbert's	Daily Labourer	Churchtown
1815	George	St Cuthbert's	Labourer	Churchtown
1816	Elizabeth	(Baptism not found)		
1817	Robert	Ormskirk, Wesleyan	Labourer	Churchtown
1820	James	St Cuthbert's	Farmer	Little London
1822	Jane	St Cuthbert's	Farmer	Little London
1824	John	Southport, Dissenters	Farmer	Little London
1827	Hannah	Independent Congregational, Southport (IDS)	Farmer	Little London
1830	Job	IDS	Farmer	Little London

The various censuses give some more information:

1841: Farmer in Little London with wife and the six youngest children. Thomas and George, his older children, are also in Little London. Elizabeth married in Chorley and Margaret had died.

1851: In School St (now Bath St North, Southport) a cow keeper, as were the three sons living with him.

1861: In School St, a retired farmer. By this time the family were diversifying into milk dealing, dairyman and carriage owning.

The tithe map of the 1840s shows Robert renting various parcels of land in Little London. Also one house and outbuildings and two cottages.

The book *A descriptive History of Southport* (first published 1848) lists Robert as a cow keeper of Sea Bank Road (note School Street, off Seabank Road, was probably not formally named then). It is worth noting that the house, at various times, had at least three different numbers and the street, two different names.

Why the move from Little London to Southport proper? At this time Southport was expanding at a tremendous rate. This was in part due to people *taking the waters*. A number of Hydros were built – one now houses the General Register Office which supplies birth, marriage and death certificates. The census shows how the population of Southport increased over forty years from 1841 to 1881:

Census Year	Population
1841	7,700
1851	8,000
1861	14,600
1871	18,000
1881	32,000

Southport sucked in craftsmen from all over the country. The thousands of residents and visitors would want milk and other goods. Who better to supply them at a time before refrigerators? This was an astute move, being in the right place at the right time. Another need of the populous was transport. The family branched out into carriage ownership and driving. They had about three sets of stables. But that is the story of the next generation. At some stage Little London was absorbed into Southport and became just another housing estate.

Robert’s will was not straightforward, but he left a house to each child and the proceeds of other property to his youngest son. At modern house prices his property would make him a millionaire, but he wasn’t a social climber. He lived in a modest cottage for the last two decades of his life.

1923 News (4) from the Crewe Chronicle, 3 March 1923

WOMEN AND OVER-CROWDED TEACHING PROFESSION

Sir, According to the Chronicle, 24th February, there are 28 men students coming out of Crewe Training College in the near future. As there will not be vacancies for those young men in Cheshire, and as both their parents and the ratepayers of the county have spent ever so much on their education and training, I think that it is the duty of the county authority to find them posts. It may be asked, How? My answer is let the married women, whose husbands are working and can and should keep their wives, resign; or if they won’t then let them receive due notice.

Alfred Allsopp, Killed in a Railway Accident

by Carolyn Gander
Membership no. 10097

Alfred ALLSOPP was born at the Lying-in Hospital, Clifton Crescent, Birkenhead on the 29th March 1871. He can be found on the 1871 Census with his mother Jane, as -- *Allsopp aged 4 days*. He was the sixth child of William ALLSOPP and Jane, née GRIFFIN, two of whom had already died by the time Alfred was born. The family lived at 36 Back St. Anne Street, Birkenhead. There are various spellings of the name ALLSOPP/ALLSOP/ALSOP.

Alfred was my great-grandfather, and I can remember my grandad telling

me when I was a child that he never knew his dad. He had died in a shunting accident at Birkenhead docks when grandad was only two years old and his sister Constance was not yet born.

Alfred seems to have had quite a sad life in many ways. His father William, a labourer, died in February 1881 of pneumonia in the workhouse hospital, Birkenhead, when Alfred was barely ten years old. His mother, Jane, left with three children still at home, remarried in July of that year to James HENDRON, an Irish labourer. They were living at 132 Beckwith Street, Birkenhead.

Alfred and James HENDRON seemed to have had a reasonably good relationship. In 1886, when Alfred was fifteen, it was reported in the *Birkenhead News* that there had been an altercation between James HENDRON and his wife (Alfred's mother). Alfred intervened and James felt a blow, resulting in him suffering a minor knife wound. James refused to press charges against Alfred,



saying Alfred was his stepson who lived with him and he was a good lad, so the case was dropped.

In 1891, Alfred's mother died from chronic bronchitis and exhaustion at the family home at 140 Beckwith Street; Alfred was not quite twenty. Alfred's younger sister Hannah Jane (also known as Annie Jane) committed suicide the following year after an argument with a young man. Alfred gave evidence at the inquest, which was widely reported in local and national newspapers. One of Alfred's brothers also died around the same time at the age of twenty-nine.

On 14th November 1897, Alfred, then aged twenty-seven and working as a shunter for the London & North-Western Railway Company, became a member of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants. This membership lasted until 31st March 1902, when he was excluded from the union due to being in arrears with his membership contributions.

I have been unable to find Alfred in either the 1891 or the 1901 censuses. His stepfather James HENDRON was an inmate in Birkenhead Workhouse in 1901 and 1911. He died there in 1919 of pneumonia.

Alfred married Elizabeth Jane WOODWARD on 6th July 1902 at St Peter's Church, Liverpool. Elizabeth was known as Bessie and was the daughter of Thomas and Jane WOODWARD. They were both aged thirty and Alfred is recorded as a porter on the marriage certificate. Both stated that they lived in Duke Street, presumably in Birkenhead, near to Alfred's work. My grandad, Alfred Ernest ALLSOPP, was born on the 2nd December 1902 at 13 Neston Street, Birkenhead. Alfred was then employed as a railway shunter.

Tragedy was to strike on 17th January 1905. Alfred was involved in a terrible accident in Shore Road, Birkenhead Docks. Alfred was a shunter in charge of G.W.R. Company engine 1392, engaged in pushing meat vans into the lairages. Several of these had been attached to the engine, and the signal had been given for the driver to start when Alfred became jammed between the first van and a single wagon which was on the same line. He was extricated with some difficulty and was found to have been severely crushed, sustaining severe internal injuries. He was rushed by horse ambulance to the Borough Hospital

in Birkenhead but was found to be dead on arrival. An inquest the next day recorded a verdict of *Accidental Death*.

At the time of Alfred's accident, the family was living at 352 Price Street, Birkenhead. Young Alfred Ernest was just over two years old, and Bessie was expecting their second child. Bessie gave birth to a daughter, Constance Elizabeth, on the 11th March, sadly never to meet her father. Letters of administration were granted on 1st April 1905 as Alfred hadn't left a will. Bessie received a payment of £17, worth about £1,593.27 today.

Prior to their marriage, Bessie had worked as a servant. In the 1911 Census, she can be seen to be working as a waitress. Bessie's grandson, Roland, is still living and he remembers that she worked in a café but was very generous and would give food away to people who couldn't afford to pay. She obviously loved Alfred very much, as for many years she would place a memorial notice in the local newspaper, usually ending it *Gone but ever remembered*. Bessie had a lot of support from her sister Mary and her husband Alfred Sutcliffe ALLEN. In 1911, Bessie lived at 56 Argyle Street South, Birkenhead and Mary and Alfred ALLEN lived nearby at number 60.

On 4th August 1917, Bessie joined the National Union of Railwaymen when she was employed as a ticket collector for the Mersey Railway company, based at Rock Ferry. She obviously worked hard to maintain and keep her family together. Her son, Alfred, married in 1925 and was working as a seaman on the Mersey Ferries. Daughter Constance had married earlier the same year.

Bessie died from heart disease on the 4th March 1933 at the age of 61, and is buried in Bebington Cemetery. Alfred had been buried in Flaybrick Cemetery, Birkenhead in a public grave, apparently most likely arranged by the railway. I set out to find his burial place when I realised during my research that he and Bessie were not buried together. Recently, I have been allowed to place a plaque in Flaybrick Memorial Gardens (as it is now known), to commemorate both Alfred and his sister Hannah Jane.

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WW2 Childhood Memories Part 2

by Neville Ledsome
Membership no. 6353

In part 1, published in the December 2022 issue, Neville told us about life during the first year of WW2, which started in September 1939 when he was about ten years old. Neville and his family lived in Bebington, on the Wirral.

In addition to the Anderson shelter, a further indoor shelter had been developed. This was known as the Morrison shelter, after Herbert Morrison, a successor to Sir John Anderson as Home Secretary, and was essentially a steel box with mesh sides. The theory was that the shelter would withstand a house collapsing on it and save those inside. I think it was quite effective. We did not have a Morrison shelter but it was the inspiration behind Dad's idea of placing a double bed upside down on top of another double bed. The lower bed was on the floor and we slept in that when there was a raid, while in theory the bed above us was to provide protection if the house was hit. As can be imagined it was pretty claustrophobic sleeping in this contraption. However, it was felt that it gave some protection, although I suspect that if the house had fallen on top of it, it would have collapsed and we would have been suffocated.

We sought shelter in this with us at one end of the bed and the PRESCOTT family, who lived across the road, at the other. Mrs PRESCOTT was quite deaf and she always said she could gauge the severity of a raid by watching my mother's face. Unlike Dad, Harry PRESCOTT did not have to wait to be relieved and once his shift was over, he was free to go. It was comforting to have him there and he walked home on some terrible nights while the blitz was in full swing in order to be with us. He was a brave man. The bombing was not pleasant and the abiding memory was the noise. The tension started with the wailing of the siren of the alert; then the droning of the bombers as they passed overhead on their way to and from Liverpool, Bootle, Birkenhead or Wallasey, which were their principal targets; then the bark of the anti-aircraft guns; and finally, the crump of bombs.

A number of bombs fell quite close to us, including one which fell in soft ground opposite our house, between us and the PRESCOTTs. This was a curious incident. A stick of bombs was dropped, probably about eight or ten in number, all about fifty yards apart. Most were quite small but some were larger and a few people were killed and injured. After the bombs had been dropped, Dad went outside to see what had happened further down our road. It was only after he returned that he noticed the crater across the road. It had obviously been quite a small bomb. At the height of the blitz and with fires raging in Liverpool, the atmosphere was murky and fragments of bills carried by the wind from stores in Liverpool which had been bombed and set on fire, drifted down.

After a night raid, children would go out in the morning to recover fragments of shells and bombs. A good deal of shrapnel could be found from anti-aircraft shells but the more prized finds were fins from incendiary bombs, very occasionally a complete unexploded incendiary bomb, and sometimes green cord and fabric from the parachutes of land mines which were the most destructive form of high explosive used by the German Air Force in the blitz.

I never learned of any enemy aircraft being brought down by anti-aircraft fire, but there was one plane shot down in our area. On a dull afternoon on 8 October 1940, my friend Roy BARCLAY and I, who were playing together, were alerted by the crackling of machine gun fire. Looking up, we saw a German aircraft appear out of the mist, pursued by two Hurricane fighters. They then disappeared from view. We learned subsequently that the aircraft, a Junkers 88, had been shot down and landed near Bromborough Dock. The next day Mum and I, along with many others, went to see the crashed aircraft.

As the blitz progressed, brick-built shelters began to appear in the roads and one was built outside our house. They comprised brick walls and a concrete roof, but by the time the one in Harding Avenue was ready for use the blitz had come virtually to an end. However, it became quite useful in our games of cricket in the road because we were able to chalk the stumps on the end wall. This, of course, was not entirely satisfactory because there was invariably an argument as to whether the ball had hit the wicket. Cricket in the road was also not very popular with the neighbours because the ball had frequently to be

retrieved from their gardens. Two incidents spring particularly to mind which arose when I was batting. The first was when the ball hit Audrey WOOD on the head - Mr WOOD, who we boys thought was something of an ogre, was not pleased. The second was when the ball was sent crashing towards the windows of one of the houses. Fortunately, it hit woodwork between two panes of glass and rebounded without doing any damage.

The bombing ended, never to return. We were out of range of the V1 flying bombs and the V2 rockets which were directed at the south of England in 1944. The nearest V1s landed in the Manchester area, probably fired from Norway or released from aircraft. Indeed, in the last year of the war while the V1 and V2 attacks persisted, Merseyside became a reception area for children evacuated from the South East. I am not sure how many made the journey, but I recall one special train carrying evacuees arriving in Birkenhead.

The Oxford and Anson training aircraft at Hooton were eventually augmented or replaced by the more modern Blackburn Botha aircraft. The Botha had been developed as a land-based torpedo bomber, but it was underpowered and found to be unsuitable for operational service. It was, therefore, relegated to training duties. Quite a number of Bothas were based at Hooton. From time to time during the school holidays I cycled with friends to Hooton, where we congregated on the road at the end of the runway to watch the aircraft taking off and landing. One afternoon a Botha attempting to land overshot the runway and crashed through the perimeter hedge coming to a halt straddling the road. The aircraft did not catch fire and nobody was hurt, but it all happened very quickly and quite close to where we were standing.

During the war American aircraft were unshipped at Birkenhead Docks and then towed through the streets to, I think, Sealand where their assembly was completed and they were tested. It was, therefore, a relatively common sight to see Mustangs, Thunderbolts and Lightnings, minus their outer wings, being towed along the New Chester Road through New Ferry.

At school we played Rugby at the Fender ground. On the afternoon of 18 October 1944, which was dull and gloomy, as we were leaving the Fender a large aircraft, flying low, blew up in the air. It was a US Liberator bomber with 24 on board,

all of whom were killed. The cause of the accident never became common knowledge, but all one can say is that at one moment the aircraft appeared to be flying normally and the next there was a violent explosion and it fell to the ground in pieces. There was no obvious outside interference with the plane.

Rationing was introduced early in the war and as the war progressed it became steadily more rigorous and widespread. Food rationing was augmented with “new” foods including whale meat, not very attractive, and a fish called snoek. Rather more appetising, I considered, were processed meats - including Spam, Prem and Tang - imported from America. Dried eggs were another processed food. They were not very popular, but Mum made them into a kind of pancake which I quite enjoyed. There was considerable ingenuity shown in cooking and wartime recipe books were very popular. But eggs were in short supply and I recall a veritable feast which we had on Saturday evenings when we had bacon and egg. On many of these occasions this comprised a small piece of bacon each accompanied by a fried egg, divided in three with Dad receiving half and Mum and I a quarter each of the egg. The egg situation improved when we started to receive a supply of eggs, which originated in North Wales, organised through Auntie Ethel. Ethel had contacts in various places, but I have no idea how the Welsh egg supply was set up. It was probably the black market.

We were encouraged to grow our own food. I helped Dad in an allotment he had which was opposite the Wirral County School for Girls, and our front garden was dug up to grow vegetables. I remember a crop of onions had been grown there. The allotment produced some good crops. But in addition to conventional vegetables, I recall eating turnip tops which were rather like spinach. Fruit was in short supply and the exotic fruits were virtually non-existent. Indeed, Margaret, when presented with her first banana towards the end of the year, tried to eat it without peeling back the skin. We benefited from the supply of concentrated orange juice to which Margaret, as a small child, was entitled. Mixed with water it made a quite palatable drink.

Entertainment during the war was limited and confined largely to the wireless and cinema. We occasionally took short visits to places in the locality, and we twice went on holiday to Rhyl during the war. Tranmere Rovers continued to play in regional leagues during the war - often, like other clubs, fielding guest

players from service units stationed in the area. But perhaps surprisingly, Dad rarely went to these wartime games, and I never attended. In contrast, we did watch cricket on Saturday afternoons at Port Sunlight Cricket Club's attractive ground at the back of the Oval. At these games there were West Indian test cricketers - notably CONSTANTINE, ACHONG and MARTINDALE who, I think, worked in Liverpool on support and social services for West Indians coming to work and live in the UK. In addition to the West Indian players there were also county cricketers in the forces in the area or waiting to go overseas from Liverpool. Curiously, the ones I remember best were all from Sussex: COX, OAKES and PARKS.

Our cinema-going was a bit limited while Margaret was little, but for a period, as a half term treat from Birkenhead School, Mum, Dad and I went to the cinema in Liverpool. The Paramount cinema was a particular favourite and I recall seeing there *The 49th Parallel*, a wartime adventure set in Canada starring Eric Portman, *Hatters Castle* featuring the memorable collapse of the Tay Bridge, and *Wuthering Heights* with Laurence Olivier.

I suppose the greatest source of entertainment during the war was the wireless. Aside from the news bulletins the most popular programmes for us were Saturday night theatre, when I was allowed special dispensation to stay up late; various variety programmes; and, of course, *ITMA - It's That Man Again*. Whilst acknowledging the popularity of *ITMA*, I am bound to say that I was not personally all that keen on Tommy Handley, the star of the show.

I suppose life during the war was pretty humdrum for those outside the services once the blitz was over - work, sleep, school and little else. The boredom, if such it was, was relieved to some extent for Dad because he joined the Home Guard and had to attend regular parades. But once the Allies had landed successfully in Normandy and had fought their way through France and into Belgium and the Netherlands it was clear that the war was coming to a conclusion. Germany surrendered on 7 May 1945 which was declared VE Day - Victory in Europe Day. On the morning of 7 May we had gone to school in the usual way but when we arrived, and after chapel, we were sent home. I do not recall anything of the celebrations of victory which followed but there was a party in the road.

The war with Japan continued until atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki creating massive destruction and loss of life. The Japanese surrendered on 13 August 1945 and VJ Day was on the next day.

In retrospect, aside from the bombing which was not pleasant, we were not unduly affected by the war. Of course, movement was restricted and food and pretty well everything else was rationed, or in short supply, but we never went hungry. Since the war, a good deal has been said and written about the bombing of Germany: that it was ineffective and, in some cases, such as the attack on Dresden, unjustified. This fails to recognise the situation at the time, and is rather typical of the media and some sections of society who carry no responsibility, but are quick to display the wisdom borne of hindsight. The fact is the British people who had to withstand the blitz, and especially those in the cities which carried the brunt of the attack, were expecting the RAF and USAAF to pay the Germans back in kind. They would have considered that the air forces had failed in their task had they not done so. There was, therefore, a PR and morale issue to be kept in mind. The only doubt I had about bombing policy - largely with hindsight - was whether it was necessary to drop two atomic bombs to bring the Japanese to their knees. I have never seen any justification for this, particularly since only three days separated the two attacks.

So, the war came to an end. Hostilities ceased, the lights went on again, church bells could be rung - during the war they had been silenced because they were to be used to signal an invasion by the Germans - and party politics recommenced. The election of 1945 was long-drawn-out, because the votes of the service men and women overseas had to be collected and counted. I was, of course, at school but found the election fascinating. Public meetings were the key events in electioneering in those days, and Mum and Dad, but not me, attended meetings at Stanton Road School.

There were a number of high profile candidates in, and visitors to, the area. I recall that Quentin HOGG, later Lord Hailsham, came to speak for the Conservatives, while Frank SOSKICE, who was to become a prominent member of Labour Governments, was a candidate in one of the two Birkenhead constituencies. Both Birkenhead seats returned Labour MPs while Wirral

remained Conservative. Our member was Selwyn LLOYD who in the 1950s occupied important positions, including Foreign Secretary, in Conservative Governments.

Uninformed opinion expected Churchill to be forming the first post-war administration, in recognition of his role and leadership during the war. However, informed opinion knew that sentiment would not be enough, and the Labour Party was returned in a landslide result. Labour had a strong team of Ministers combining those who had gained experience during the war like Clement ATTLEE, Herbert MORRISON, Ernest BEVIN and Stafford CRIPPS, and clever up-and-coming young men, like Harold WILSON, Hugh GAITSKELL, Denis HEALEY, Douglas JAY and Aneurin BEVAN. At this time there were few women prominent in politics.

There was not immediately a great deal of change. Rationing and shortages continued and, indeed, in some respects got worse. But we were at peace and new institutions, like the National Health Service, and state industries such as the National Coal Board and British Railways, were on their way.

1923 News (5) from the Crewe Chronicle, 3 March 1923

PRUNING COMPETITION AT ASHTON HAYES

A competition in pruning fruit trees, organised by the Reaseheath School of Agriculture, was held by permission of the owner, at the orchard of Mr **Coleman**, Ashton Hayes, on Saturday. There was a good entry of competitors from different parts of the county, both amateurs and professionals. Unfortunately the competitors had to work in a downpour of rain. Each competitor was given an apple tree of fairly dense growth, about 12 to 13 years old, and a number of maiden and two-year-old trees. The tree pruned by the winner – Mr **Faulkner**, of Tarvin, earned high commendation from the judges, and narrowly missed receiving full points. The prize winners were: 1. Mr **S Faulkner**, The Nurseries, Duddon Road, Tarvin; 2. Mr **J Cornes**, gardener, Croxton Green, Cholmondeley; 3. Mr **R Hermon**, schoolmaster, Manley; 4. Mr **C R Elliot**, student at Cheshire School of Agriculture, Reaseheath. The judges were Messrs **Stoney** (Rodbaston, Stafford) and **Flack** (Cholmondeley).

Edmund Brough of Wildboarclough and Worcester

by Val Kennewell

Membership no. 10161

Some time ago, when searching for information about my 5x great-grandmother Alice COOPER (née BROUGH), I came across an intriguing reference to Edmund BROUGH on a benefaction board in St Stephen's Church, Macclesfield Forest. The board notes that Edmund BROUGH of the City of Worcester left a sum of £100 in his will dated sixth of September 1796. The interest from this was to be distributed to the poor of Macclesfield Forest and Wildboarclough on Candlemas day¹. According to the Charity Commission, this charity only ceased to exist in 1996.

As I live in Worcester I felt I was well-placed to investigate who Edmund BROUGH was and what had led him to settle a hundred miles away from the Cheshire hills. Birth, marriage and burial records are somewhat patchy for the Wildboarclough area in the eighteenth century, but by using other records, I was surprised by how much I was able to find out, although some of my questions remain unanswered.

Edmund died in Worcester in 1801 and his will was proved later that year. He was buried at St Martin's in the Cornmarket and I found a metal plaque on the wall inside the church recording his burial. *At the entrance by the front door lies interred the body of Edmund Brough who departed this life 26th July 1801 aged 88.*² As St Martin's has little in the way of a churchyard, most burials were in vaults under the church.

His will, written in 1796, with a codicil written in 1797, was proved in 1801 by Ann TURNER (spinster), Thomas CARDEN junior (woollen draper) and Stephen WILKINS (of the vinegar yard), all of Worcester. As he had no living descendents, this will is a family historian's dream (or possibly nightmare!) with several cousins, *half cousins* and the *children of his half sister's daughter* to be unpicked. As a Prerogative Court of Canterbury will, it is available to view on

Ancestry. Another will which was useful in constructing his family was that of Edmund's cousin Robert BROUGH of Ashbourne (1787). I also purchased copies of the documents relating to the case BROUGH v CARDEN (1804) from the National Archives. This was a case brought by James BROUGH, the son of Edmund's cousin John BROUGH, against the executors of Edmund's will. These documents contained information not in the will and included the accounts of the executors. The accounts gave names of beneficiaries and the amounts paid from and received by the estate. As Edmund's bequests included leasehold properties held with the Earl of Derby, I purchased copies of some relevant documents from the Lancashire Record Office.

Using the information from wills, the documents from the court case, the lease documents and searches of family history platforms, I have investigated Edmund's life. Robert BROUGH of Ashbourne describes his cousin Edmund BROUGH as the son of his uncle Edmund. An archive record in Birmingham relates Edmund BROUGH of New Street Worcester to the estate of Robert.

An Edmund aged nine is in the record for property 205 in the Lease Register of 1725 with parents Edmund and Sarah BROUGH. It seems very likely that his mother was Sarah OLIVER widow who married Edmund BROUGH the younger in 1713/14. Another name on this lease is Elizabeth CRITCHLEY aged 19 which I think could be the married name of the half sister mentioned in his will.

When his father added his name to the lease of property 70 in 1737, Edmund was said to be 21 years old and the other names are his father Edmund aged 50 and his grandfather Edmund aged 82. It seems highly likely to me that his great-grandfather was another Edmund BROUGH, who died in Wildboarclough in 1696 and whose eldest son was named Edmund. In this entry in the lease register for 1737, Edmund is described as being an innkeeper from Leek, Staffordshire. The defence in the BROUGH v CARDEN documents named his wife as Hannah and stated that Joseph MELLOR, her nephew, paid for her burial in 1789. This can be linked to Edmund BROUGH's marriage in 1734 to Hannah SYKES whose sister was Jane MELLOR. Edmund's two daughters, Elizabeth and Mary, were born at the Green Dragon in Leek in 1735 and 1739. Mary died there in 1739. It seems likely to me that Edmund and Hannah became estranged.

When Hannah was buried in Leek in 1789 it was after Edmund was recorded as being in Worcester.

In 1754 an Edmd. BROUGH witnessed the marriage of William BROUGH, the father of the *half cousins* mentioned in the will, but I have found no other records of Edmund between 1737 and 1764. Although his grandfather and possibly his father must have died since 1737, no names had been added to replace them on the lease for property 70 until 1764. Although uncorroborated, the several records relating to Edmund BROUGH, Chelsea Pensioner, could be his. One such record is a list headed *Private Gentlemen and Sarjeants from the Horse and Grenadier Guards who ...receive.. in addition to their out pension.*³

Edmd Brough aged 53, 26 years service 1st troop Horseguards, worn out, born near Macclesfield Cheshire Admission 15th Dec 1767

This does seem plausible as the dates and place seem right and he always signed himself Edmd. When he added names to the lease in 1764 he is described as *gentleman of Mayfair*.

His daughter Elizabeth was included as a name on the lease in 1764 and was replaced by her son and then her husband, Ralph BAGNALL, in 1770 and 1771. I have assumed that this was the daughter born in 1735 but the age does not quite match. Edmund continued to be described as a gentleman of Mayfair and an Edmund BROUGH was listed in the Electoral roll of 1774 as such.

I then lost track of him until he was listed in New Street as a gentleman in the 1788 Worcester Directory. I have made little progress in uncovering this stage in his life. I can find little trace of him in the archive catalogue other than a copy of his will. He did not appear to own or lease property in Worcester, but I am yet to search boxes relating to New Street and St Martin's in case his name was missed from the catalogue. He left bequests to the *women that work for us* but I have only seen him described as a gentleman so do not know if he had a business either in London or Worcester. Thomas GRAINGER, drawing master, swore that the writing in the codicil to the will was that of Edmund. Was he a business colleague? Was he associated with the GRAINGERS who were later prominent in Worcester porcelain production? The accounts from Edmund's

executors show that the estate received repayment for money lent for the construction of the House of Industry, which was built in 1794. I had hoped to see the minutes of the House of Industry committee but apparently they fell apart as they were being brought out for me to view in Worcester's Archive area. The accounts also showed a payment for rent and stamp to Mary WEST, who I thought might be his landlady, but I cannot find a WEST family in the archive catalogue.

He bequeathed the lifetime income from a property in Oxford Street London to Ann TURNER *that now lives with me*. I suspect Ann TURNER was more than just a housekeeper and I had hoped to find some reference to her living (or dying) in Worcester. When Ann died in 1804 (location unknown) this property was sold for £1076. I think this was the trigger for the court case. To me, it is unclear from Edmund's will what his intentions were for this considerable sum of money once Ann had died. In 1805 notices appeared in the London Gazette and various newspapers inviting members of the BROUGH family and creditors of Edmund to contact the court following the judgement.

One thing that was clear from his will was the statement relating to the money for the poor of Wildboarclough and Macclesfield Forest: *...provided they put a proper memorandum in the Forest Chapel of this charity otherwise this legacy to be void*. A bequest of £60 to the poor of St Martin's parish Worcester carried no such condition. This made me wonder if there was a scenario whereby Edmund felt he had to rescue his reputation in Wildboarclough and Macclesfield Forest, having left a poor impression on the local people by leaving his wife and child.

Notes and References:

1. No 157 in Memorial Inscriptions Forest Chapel (St Stephens) FHSC publication. An image is available on <https://sites.google.com/view/brough-family-organization/england-cheshire>
2. I sent a photograph of this to <https://sites.google.com/view/brough-family-organization/england-cheshire>
3. Date unclear here but dated 1767 in another document.

An Early Start

by Gren Dix

Membership no. 4174

Looking for Joseph UNSWORTH's family in the 1851 census, I found:

HO107/2205/485-25 Lee Lane, Tyldesley

Joseph	UNSWORTH	Head	m ar	70	Weaver cotton Parish Relief
					Little Hutton
Mary	UNSWORTH	wife	mar	69	- Manchester
Edward	UNSWORTH	Son	unm	27	Lab Ag Tyldesley
Joseph	PICKUP	Son in L		31	Ag lab Tyldesley
Ann	PICKUP	Dau	mar	27	- Newcastle on Tyne
Thomas	PICKUP	Gson		10	school Tyldesley
Elizabeth	PICKUP	Gdau		8	Tyldesley

I had not previously found Joseph's daughter Ann. I looked but couldn't find her birth or baptism but her immediate siblings were born in 1823 and 1826. I checked the 1861 census and found her as born 1823, her son Thomas was with her, as was a brother. From the 1851 census and the age of her eldest child, it would appear that her marriage occurred around 1840 when she was about 17. Having previously had my fingers burned by making assumptions I decided to look for the birth of her supposed children. I found

Thomas PICKUP born Q4 1840 Leigh 21, 490; mother's maiden name Unsworth

Thomas PICCUP baptised 17 Dec 1840 Top Chapel, Tyldesley, entry 25
son of Joseph & Ann, abode Tydsly (sic)

Elizabeth PICKUP born Q4 1843 Leigh 21, 490; mother's maiden name Unsworth

Baptism not found.

I searched for the marriage about 1840 (+/- 2 years) and found

Marriage 1 January 1839 at St Peter Bolton P70 E139:

Joseph PICKUP (X) full age, farm servant, bachelor of Great Bolton

Anne UNSWORTH (X) full age, spinster of Great Bolton

Groom's father Thomas PICKUP, occupation butcher

Bride's father Joseph UNSWORTH, occupation weaver

This indicates that Anne was about 16, and Joseph about 19, when they married.
But both were shown as **full age!**

Unusual Deaths in the News

by Tony Sant

Membership no. 9314

These were all found in the Macclesfield Courier and Herald:

Death at Leek, Staffordshire: MOTTERSHEAD, Joseph. On 4 Oct 1855 Age 74, Royal Navy. Served on *Victory* at Trafalgar with Nelson.

Death 10 Jan 1903: GRAY, Arthur, Captain. South African Constabulary. Killed by a fall from his horse. Of Lymm, Cheshire.

Death 24 Sept 1855 at Scutari, on board “Orinoco”, of epilepsy. Miss CLOUGH, lady nurse from Balaklava.

MANDEVILLE, Frederick, Captain. Lost at sea at the Cape of Good Hope 10 Jan 1855. Of Chester.

Death on 20 Oct 1855 (reported 17 Nov 1855) at Balaklava, Sister Winifreda of Liverpool Sisters of Mercy.

Princess SHAKHOVSKAYA, 1st lady aviator of the war, RFC. Ref 11 Dec 1914.

In HM Prison, Princetown, Devon. WHELAN, John, silk weaver, age 49, of Birkenhead, Cheshire (from the 1881 census).

Deaths – on 21 Jan 1817 at Knapdale Estate in St Anne’s, Jamaica, a female negro slave, the property of Robert MURRAY Esq., aged 120 (one hundred and twenty) years. On the 27 Jan in the same island, at the great age of 130, Lucretia STEWART, a free black woman.

Net That Serf

The Computer Section

Compiled by Geoff Johnson

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

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From the Desktop



I thank those who responded to my whinge in the last issue. It makes life a lot easier to have a varied amount of input. We have two pieces here praising the benefits of our ever-growing range of Zoom utilisation, and the most noticeable effect is the way that we are able to fully involve members not residing in the Cheshire area. It's bringing new interaction with members from all over the world.

I've just written a piece relating to the benefits of treating hints from our database suppliers with greater caution than previously. The resultant information for me came as a revelation, and it might shatter a brick wall. Unfortunately, space needs means hold until June.

Let's keep the flow of your thoughts and ideas coming please.

Computers for Family History Research

by Lesley Baxendale in North Wales

Hopefully this little piece will serve to fill a space in *Net That Serf*. It doesn't start off as being obviously computer-oriented, but please stick with it.

This morning, I was responding to an email from a group from one of the other family history societies I belong to. It was telling us that all their new transcription projects would be available by download only and that they were planning on transferring all the existing available CD/DVD's in due course. I think this is an excellent idea which will save a lot of currently non-recyclable plastic, as well as cutting costs for the society in question.

This set me thinking about how much and how quickly our hobby has changed since the advent of the IGI in the 1970's, due to the continuing development of technology. My late mum did all her research in person - she had to write copious letters and visit libraries, record offices and often churches (where they still existed). The availability of records outside regional record offices was sparse, and often difficult to access without a lot of travelling around and shelling out cash left right and centre. By the time I got interested in the 1990's, the IGI was available in many more places, but you had to visit a Family History Centre or library to access it. By this time, there was a lot more on microfiche and microfilm, but again, it was still a matter of travelling to a Family History Centre or library, unless you had access to a fiche reader. Things were slowly being transferred to CD and you could buy some census records - unindexed in most cases, but a boon to those who hadn't the time to traipse around record offices and libraries.

All this time, home computers were progressing steadily. We had a modem and dial-up Internet for the first time in the 1990's (at a time when phone calls were still charged by the minute!) I could then access the internet easily; if not quickly or necessarily cheaply. I seem to remember you could use Internet Explorer on Windows, and there was a choice of search engines - ours was Alta Vista for a while, then gravitated to Google when that was launched in 1996. Websites were appearing for searching births, marriages and deaths, with lots of volunteers in the background beavering away transcribing and indexing BMD records ready to go online. Then the LDS released 1881 Census transcription for England and Wales on a set of CDs. Everything seemed to change rapidly at that point. Suddenly, there was a lot more family history software available, with websites like Ancestry and Find My Past luring you in with the promise of very relevant search facilities. Slowly but steadily over the last thirty years,

everything has improved, got faster and cheaper; we can now research from the comfort of our homes, making a surprising amount of progress. The technology behind all this has improved exponentially, and the cost of Internet access has dropped so you can now stay connected for hours.

Over that time, we've also moved from 5.25" floppy discs and 3.5" not-so-floppy diskettes, to using CDs then DVDs; now we have easy downloads. We've also gone from having software programs to *apps* on our computers (tomarto/tomayto?) I find I'm still using the same family history software programme that I had originally in the early 1990s, namely, Family Tree Maker. I've tried many others over the years but keep coming back to FTM in its most current version. I suspect the main reason is familiarity and laziness, in not wanting to learn a whole new way of doing things. I don't upload my tree to the Internet as I don't like the idea that once it's out there it's not mine any more. I use Mozilla Firefox as my browser as I hated Internet Explorer, dislike Edge and again, can't be bothered trying any of the others long term. I might give a different one a go, at some point, if I get around to it!

Then there's the issue of which family history website should I subscribe to? They all seem expensive and I currently have a subscription to Find My Past, which seems to be by far the best for Cheshire records at the moment. I shared a subscription to Ancestry with my late father-in-law, but since his death I've let that lapse. Even though these subscriptions seem expensive, I still think that even subscribing to two or more of these websites is cheaper than the cost of travelling to the nearest places you could find the records you need to see. They enable us to do our research much quicker than previously, and allow us to go back over our research to check things, following lines we might not have considered had we been constrained by time and travel considerations. The Internet has certainly changed the way researchers can access information.

So for future issues of the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR/Net That Serf, I suggest you all have a think about how you started your family history journey using your computer. Do you use Windows or an Apple Mac? What's your favourite software, and why? Which web browser do you use? Have you any favourite family history-oriented websites we may have missed? Do you do much

research using a smart phone or tablet, and what are its limitations/benefits in your eyes? Do you have any hints and tips on using the various family history websites that we might find useful? I'm sure Geoff would be pleased to see what pops up. Too much is always better than not enough.

Well said Lesley – GJ

FHSC – A Society for Everyone with Cheshire Ancestry

by Geoff Gibson in West Sussex

I have been a member of the FHSC for a number of years, but as I live in Sussex, attendance at meetings of the Society has proved difficult. However, having many family history links in Cheshire, I looked forward every quarter to receiving the magazine Cheshire Ancestor, with its news items, articles, and computer section – Net That Serf.

Until lockdown due to Covid, I had never heard of Zoom, and was not greatly enthusiastic when I first did. I am the sort of person who only uses emails when I have to, preferring letter or telephone. Social media like Facebook is not my cup of tea, so I was very sceptical at first about yet another system. However, as lockdown made all actual meetings impossible, many of the organisations in my local area started to use the technique. So, purchasing a webcam for my desktop computer, I decided to try it out, and joined in once a few initial difficulties had been ironed out. After attending a few local meetings, I noticed that the FHSC also seemed to be very active in their use of Zoom for meetings. Looking on the website I found several meetings were being held by Zoom, so I then contacted the group leaders by email expressing an interest in joining future meetings. This very quickly prompted a telephone call from Geoff Johnson, as I had apparently not specified my interest in the Computer Club correctly, which he quickly sorted out, and I have been a regular attender at many of the meetings since that time.

I have had an interest in family history research for several years although I had not been actively pursuing it for some time, but after attending some really excellent talks organised by several of the groups in the Society this has awakened my interest again. All the group leaders I've contacted have been

incredibly helpful and friendly, as have other FHSC members I've met on Zoom. I have even benefited from an online tutorial of a couple of sessions, run by Sue Ritchie, showing how to use spreadsheets in the recording of family history information – something I really hadn't realised before. The range of subject matter for the talks has been huge, and the Society certainly arranges some really good speakers for the presentations. For me this innovation within the Society's meetings has only really been practical because of the use of Zoom. This is a notable feature of the Computer Club, whereby sub-groups have been formed, each one being on a particular aspect of family history. Some of these groups are quite small, but each is run by someone who really knows the subject matter (*or perhaps knows just a tad more than you do, Geoff! – GJ*). This allows lots of personal interaction between the participants. I joined three of these, and two of them now meet every month. There are several others, so if members are not aware of them already, I suggest they have a look at the Society's website for full details. In my opinion it is worth the amount of membership subscription just to have access to these sub-groups. Yet another feature of the Society is the production of an online newsletter, produced by Gay Oliver and Margaret Roberts; originally started in the early days of the lockdown, it is available to members via the website, and has now become a regular monthly feature.

As quite a lot of organisations are now back to face-to-face meetings, I wondered whether I would still be able to take part as much in the Society's activities. My fears have proved groundless. The Society now has a seminar by Zoom each month for members only, organised by Margaret Spate, Jean Laidlaw, and Margaret Roberts. The Computer Club, run by Geoff Johnson, seems set to continue on Zoom as well, as there are now so many out-of-county and out-of-country members at its monthly meetings. Many of the main groups are still holding some of their meetings on Zoom, and the Computer Club sub-groups really need to be by Zoom to encourage enough members with each specialist interest.

FHSC membership certainly gives very good value for money for anyone researching family history in Cheshire. The main reason that this is so, is because it is run and organised by a dedicated group of people who put in a huge

amount of work to keep the rest of us up-to-date, enabling us to receive all the benefits that membership brings. Although there are certainly further benefits of membership if you live in Cheshire, such as face-to-face meetings which have restarted, and the Research Centres, nevertheless it is now a Society which allows anyone from anywhere in the world to actively take part.

To Zoom or not to Zoom? - That is the Question!

by Maggie Littlejohn, Nova Scotia, Canada

I have been a member of the Family History Society of Cheshire for several years. As someone who lives outside the county - indeed, outside the country - attending a Society meeting has always been impossible. Being able to join meetings by Zoom has been a huge benefit. Like most of us, I had no idea how Zoom worked. I had so many questions. Would it be complicated to use? Would I find it intimidating to meet people I don't know, who may be far more experienced than me? Would I have to take part in discussions? Would the time difference (four hours for me in Canada) mean that I wouldn't be able to attend? Would the fact that my ancestral connection to Cheshire is quite distant be a problem? My 4x great-grandfather left Cheshire in the mid-1700s.

I'm pleased and relieved to say that none of my fears were realised. The basics of Zoom are quite simple. Firstly, find a quiet space where you and the other participants won't be disturbed by extraneous noise. You can use a desktop computer, laptop or iPad, (Windows or Mac) as long as it has a camera and sound. FHSC website has a list of all the groups in Cheshire. Some of them only have in-person meetings, but many have meetings by Zoom. After you have registered for a group meeting, a Zoom link is emailed to you a few days prior to the meeting. Make sure the sound on your computer is turned on. You can open a Zoom account (no cost) and enter the login instructions, or you can simply click on the link in the email. You will be given two options: *Don't connect to audio*, which means that no one can hear what you are saying, and *Turn off my video*, which means that no one will be able to see you. It's preferable to leave the audio and video on, but you can change the settings once you join the meeting. There are a few rules, which you would expect at any meeting: if you want to ask a question there is a *Raise Hand* option; wait to be

invited; stay on-topic; be respectful. There is also a *Chat* feature on zoom, where you can type a question or make a comment, either to the whole group, or privately to any individual attending the meeting.

Don't be or feel intimidated! You don't have to take an active part in the meeting, but you are guaranteed to learn something new, and eventually you will find that you have something to offer. Computer Club and other Group meetings are usually held monthly at 7.30pm London time. My concern that my connection to Cheshire is quite distant was irrelevant; much of the discussion does not necessarily pertain to Cheshire, but rather to family history in general. The computer group doesn't discuss the mechanics of computers, but rather computer family history software programmes, computer problems and much more. There are several sub-groups including *DNA; Family Historian users; Online Newspapers; Publishing your Family History; Family Tree Maker users; Mac & Reunion users; Windows users.*

Another advantage of Zoom is the ability to hear presentations by a variety of speakers. Many of the groups invite an expert to speak about their field of knowledge. These talks often give a fascinating insight into the lives that our ancestors may have experienced.

If you know someone who would be interested in joining a family history group, encourage them to become a member of the Family History Society of Cheshire, or any other Family History Society. In-person meetings are very important to societies, and a great way to meet and chat with other members. However, for those people who are unable to attend local groups, try Zoom. It's not difficult. So, to answer the question *To Zoom or not to Zoom?* the answer is a definite YES.

Census Transcription Errors

by Jim Livesey

FindMyPast first launched the 1921 Census records at the beginning of 2022. To keep my costs down, I initially restricted my searches to immediate family. The later offer to Pro members of unlimited access to these records for an additional fee of £19.99 was seen as a no-brainer, allowing much broader

searches at a reasonable cost. However, whilst conducting these in-depth searches I have found many transcription errors, which on occasion have resulted in a *No record found* message. Collating the results of specific searches from the census records of 1911, 1921 and 1939 indicate that such errors are not uncommon, but I seem to have reported more in the case of the 1921 census. Some errors relating to places of employment in the 1921 census may be explained, or excused, by a lack of local knowledge of the transcriber. Others are perhaps less excusable, e. g. the surname of the head of household being incorrectly recorded compared to that of the person submitting the census return (the head of household), suggesting a lack of cross-checking before publication. In this instance, looking for other members of the household was complicated by the fact that, whilst all were related, each had different surnames, through marriage, from that of the head.

In another instance the message *No record found* in a search of the 1921 census was correct, in that the household was not included in the filmstrip on FindMyPast, and hence could not be transcribed. The reason why is unclear, as the property is clearly recorded in the 1911 census and 1939 register, and occupied by the same family. This is also clearly not an isolated case as other properties are also missing from the filmstrip in question.

Probably the worst case of a transcription error recently encountered related to a search of the 1939 Register, where I found that members of two households had been mixed and the transcription for my great aunt totally omitted, again leading to a *No record found* message. Fortunately, the correct transcription was returned from a search on Ancestry, to which I was also subscribed at the time. I might add that this and other transcription errors reported to FindMyPast have now been or are in the process of being corrected.

Errors will of course always slip through, but I wonder whether my experience might indicate a lack of quality control within FindMyPast, with no crosschecking of transcriptions, and an over-reliance on members picking up such errors? I have made this comment to FindMyPast but have yet to receive a reply. The experience of other FHSC members, particularly with respect to missing records, would be interesting.

Notwithstanding the above, searching census returns through FindMyPast, and other genealogy platforms, certainly beats my previous experience of laboriously searching census returns recorded on CD, this being prior to the launch of 1837Online, the forerunner of FindMyPast.

An Unexpected Way of Fleshing Out your Tree

by Paul Reeve in Kent

I recently decided to create charts of various branches of my tree for possible inclusion in a book or blog. The idea was that there would be a page or so of text, followed by the relevant part of the tree. This would perhaps avoid the *glazed eyes* feeling that some people get when confronted with a full family tree, and it might be easier to work out who was who!

I decided to use the type of diagram that I had come across in trees containing some of my mother's ancestors, which I had found deposited in the Isle of Wight Record Office. Basically, the diagram starts with the initial person in each section at the top left, with children (if any and if known) on the next line, and so on. I created a spreadsheet in Excel with A3 landscape pages (easier to do if you select *print to PDF*), but there is no reason why it cannot be on any size sheets. Using A3, I can get at least three rows and six columns full size, and more by scaling the page in *page setup*.

The example below gives an idea. My paternal line comes from Norfolk via Suffolk, Gloucestershire, Berkshire, Japan (grandfather was a missionary there!) and back to Norfolk. 1730 is the farthest back I've been able to get due to some missing parish records.

Depending on the number of ancestors in the various generations, I put three or four generations on each page. Each generation is colour-coded, and I use bold blue text for direct ancestors. I intend to use a different coloured text for blood relations but haven't progressed to that yet. To save space, where more than one child died young, they are combined in one box – see the third row of the example. Generally, the contents are Name, Birth (Date and Place), Marriage (including birth/death dates of spouse if known), Occupation(s), Death and Burial.

And the fleshing out? This comes from good practice – which I seem to lack at times! When I found on entering the basic data in the spreadsheet that I was missing facts, I searched again. I have found at least four marriages and several extra children by doing this. This is probably down to the release of new data on the genealogy subscription sites.

Lastly, I have created an index worksheet, listing the families on each of the other worksheets. One day I will get to my (limited) and my wife's (rather more) Cheshire connections.

REEVE ANCESTORS FROM 1730 35																														
Generations in left hand column counting back from us																														
Blue bold text - direct ancestors; mauve text - some information missing/possibly incorrect																														
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From the Inbox

Useful Peripherals of Devon member **Godfrey Rhodes**

Although I haven't been able to spend much time in family history research for a while, I enjoy reading the magazine including the NTS articles and emails.

With regard to the piece on *My Most Useful Peripherals*, I second the response by Malcolm Upton on printers. Earlier in the year, I too recently purchased a Brother HL-L3270 colour laser printer which cost significantly more than £80! I had become fed up with inkjet printers some time ago, and graduated via a Dell colour laser printer (which developed terminal paper feed problems) to the Brother. I am very pleased with its speed and versatility, as well as availability of spares. I also have a Canon CanoScan 9000F scanner which continues to give good service.

I must make (and try to keep) a new year resolution for 2023 to devote more time to researching my Rhodes ancestors whom I have tracked down to the Manchester area as well as the villages surrounding Mottram in Longdendale.

Closing Snippet

If at first you don't succeed, search, search and search again. That's why it's called re-search.

Your input is crucial to keep this forum active, so please keep the articles and responses coming! – GJ



1923 News (6) from the Crewe Chronicle, 3 March 1923

NANTWICH CYCLIST IN TROUBLE AT CREWE

At Crewe County Sessions on Monday, **Wm G Bull**, of 13 Barony, Nantwich, was summoned for riding on the footpath in Coppenhall Lane, Woolstanwood. A fine of 10s was inflicted.

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 FHSC 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)

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 an 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 explain how family and local historians can use trade directories and gazetteers to find people and track their movements, as well as to learn more about the areas in which our ancestors lived and worked.

17th May

The Scottish Talk: Researching your Scottish Ancestors – Dave Annal

The seminar team is delighted to welcome Dave back to FHSC. He has worked for the National Archives at the Family Records Centre for many years and became Principal Family History Specialist after the move to Kew. He has written several family history books and is also a contributor to *Family Tree Magazine*. Most of the sources that we use to research our Scottish ancestors are the same or very similar to the England & Wales equivalents but there are some important differences. The key sources – the birth, marriage and death records (*Statutory Registers*), the censuses, the parish registers (*Old Parish Registers*) and the wills and testaments – are relatively easy to access, both onsite at the National Records for Scotland in Edinburgh and via the ScotlandsPeople website, but we've got a whole new set of dates to learn and a number of terms and concepts to get to grips with. This talk will consider the pros and cons of Scottish research, while examining the key sources in some detail. It will also look at records relating to land, property and taxation and will cover the key websites for Scottish research.

21st June 2023

Photogenealogy: An Introduction – Ann Larkham

Do you have old family photos? Are they organised and are they safe? Do you wish you could enjoy and share them? To help you address the issues raised by these questions, Ann Larkham will introduce you to photogenealogy – what it is and why you should do it. During this talk the organisation and care of both digital and physical photos will be outlined along with ideas for enhancing and

sharing your family photos. The talk will conclude with tips for creating a treasured and valuable photo legacy. Ann Larkham's career started in television, moved on to science communication and now is rooted in the emerging field of photogenealogy. Throughout this time, Ann has researched her family history and been a lifelong learner, achieving a BSc (Hons) and MPhil degrees in Ecology, and a PGCert in Genealogy from the University of Strathclyde. Several of Ann's articles have been published in *Family Tree Magazine*, including a recent six-part series about photogenealogy. Ann plans to offer photogenealogy services and to write a photogenealogy book with the aim of helping others find the joy in their family history photos. For more information, please visit www.photogenealogy.co.uk

Alsager Group

by John Higgins

Future meetings:

20th Mar ***100 Years of Trains to Audlem – Jeremy Nicholls***

Damsons to Manchester is an illustrated talk about the impact of the arrival of the railway on a village in Cheshire.

17th Apr ***The Trial of Dr Tomanzie – Angela Brabin***

This talk is about a Victorian doctor who was tried for murder after performing an abortion on a girl who then died.

15th May ***The Egertons of Tatton Park – David Thomas***

The talk covers the 360 years of ownership of Tatton from Sir Thomas Egerton, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, to Maurice Egerton, who died in 1958.

19th Jun ***Memories and Mementos of the 1953 Coronation***

Members will be invited to share photographs, mementos and memories of that historic day in an informal way.

Meetings are usually held 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:

27th Mar **ZOOM: Flaybrick Military Heroes – Rob Dolphin**

Due to the Civic Centre no longer taking evening bookings we are looking for an alternative venue. I will send everyone details via email once we have finalised things.

The March meeting will now be via Zoom and I will send out the link and details nearer the time. Sorry for the inconvenience but this is outside our control.

Meetings are usually held on the 4th Monday of the month (excluding Bank Holidays), commencing at 7.30pm.

Chester Group

by Helen Elliott

Future meetings:

30th Mar **Think Beyond the Obvious – Margaret Roberts**

27th Apr **A Short History of Newton Hall, Chester and its Residents**
– Chris Fozzard

25th May **A Beginner's Guide to Family History and Getting Started**
– Heather Butler

29th Jun **My Genealogical Journey – Tony Bostock**

Meetings are usually held on the last Thursday of the month in the Pavilion, Wealstone Lane, Upton by Chester, Chester CH2 1HD. Members and visitors are very welcome and there is car parking space. Doors open at 7pm and the meeting starts at 7.30pm. There is a small charge at the door – £2 for members and £3 for visitors – including refreshments.

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

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

There will be face to face meetings in Congleton Library on April 18th, May 16th, June 20th. Details will be sent out by newsletter, please make sure that you subscribe to the Congleton Newsletter.

Future meetings:

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

18th Apr *Face-to-face meeting, topic TBA*

16th May *Face-to-face meeting, topic TBA*

20th Jun *Face-to-face meeting, topic TBA*

Meetings are usually 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:

- 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 with Nantwich Group**
Transformed Lives, Transforming Lives: 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.
- 9th May **Hybrid F2F/ZOOM at Crewe**
The Ill, the Impoverished, the Illegitimate and the Insane: Researching our Marginalised Ancestors – Jane Few
 The many and fascinating records of workhouses, hospitals, asylums and the overseers of the poor will be explained.
- 13th Jun **F2F at Crewe: *The Cheshire Roll of Honour – Stephen Benson***
 Stephen will introduce his website, *The Cheshire Roll of Honour*, remembering all from Cheshire who have served in the armed forces from 1899 to the present day. www.cheshireroll.co.uk.
- 20th Jun **at 2.30pm ZOOM: *Topic TBC***

Meetings are usually 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.

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, held jointly with the Congleton group, please email macclesfield@fhsc.org.uk to request the Zoom link.

Future meetings:

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.

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. Join Ann and Margaret to discover some of the issues that you may come across in your research.

23rd May ***The Fighting McKays of Macclesfield: the Story of Six Soldier Brothers***

– David Hill

27th Jun ***UK GDL and UK MFH Websites – Ian Hartis***

Ian will introduce his websites which are invaluable to all family historians: *UKGDL – UK Genealogical Directories and Lists* and *UKMFH – UK Military Family History*

Meetings are usually 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 as stated above.

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

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

This meeting will take place at Jubilee House, St Paul's St., Crewe CW1 2PT. There is free car parking after 6.00pm at the top of the ASDA car park (next to the hall).

The following meetings will be Nantwich F2F meetings; the venue and speakers are still being arranged.

16th May **F2F: TBA**

20th Jun **F2F: TBA**

18th Jul **F2F: TBA**

15th Aug **F2F: TBA**

Meetings are usually 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. The next few workshops will be held on March 27th, April 24th, May 22nd, June 26th, July 24th.

Northwich Group

by Dave Thomas

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

Future meetings:

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

10th Apr ***Meeting at hall - TBA***

8th May ***Slater's Chronicles: Lives and Religion in Cheshire and Elsewhere***
- Audrey Woods

12th Jun ***Eyam, The Plague Village - Chris Green***

Meetings are usually 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

Please note we have a new venue and now meet at the Mormon Church (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints), Clifton Road West, Runcorn WA7 4TE.

Future meetings:

1st Mar **TBA**

5th Apr **Workshop**

3rd May **TBA**

We meet on the first Wednesday of each month (except January) from 7.00pm to 9.30pm at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Clifton Road West, Runcorn WA7 4TE.

Sale Group

by Marion Hall

Future meetings:

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

Dave is one of the *Learning and Interpretation* volunteers at the farm at Tatton Park and will talk about the project 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.

12th Apr **Open Forum: What did your Ancestor do in the War?**

Tell us what your ancestor did in either of the World Wars.

10th May **Slide presentation of Sale in the 1960s - Michael Riley**

14th Jun **Southern Cemetery - Emma Fox**

Emma is a Blue Badge guide and will come and give us some history of the cemetery.

Meetings are usually 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:

23rd Mar ***The Plague Doctor – David Bell***

David Bell retired to the village of EYAM in Derbyshire expecting a quiet life, but didn't reckon with the thousands of visitors each year and his developing interest in the Plague Village. A refreshingly different speaker recommended by hundreds of clubs and villages. He will not only surprise you but will also make you think and will certainly put a smile on your face.

27th Apr ***Face to Face workshop in the centre***

The topic will be based around Ashton Poor Law Union. A brief history and then some examples from the Poor Law correspondence papers at The National Archives.

25th May ***Trials and Executions at York – Karen Adams***

Karen is a Yorkshire-based archaeologist and historian. Discover where the gallows once stood and find out about some of the criminals whose trials took place in the city, those found guilty, and their executions.

22nd Jun ***Face to Face workshop in the centre***

On a topic to be decided in advance by our members.

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

Meetings are usually held at 1.00pm on the 4th Thursday of the month at the 4C Community Centre in the grounds of Christ Church on Taunton Road in Ashton-under-Lyne. www.4cashton.org.uk/find_us

Wallasey Group

by Dave Beck

Face-to-face talks resume from April, and we will probably return to ZOOM meetings between October and March.

Future meetings:

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.

18th Apr ***Hobby or Obsession? Discovering Family History - Heather Butler***

Heather will share her extensive knowledge, experience, hints and tips gained as a researcher, historian and tutor, as to the best way to get started in family history research - the family tree, recommended sources and websites.

16th May ***1000 Years of History in a Mid-Wirral Landscape***

- *Anthony Annakin-Smith*

A look at how Willaston's past is reflected in today's landscape. Much of the story can be related to other parts of the Wirral.

20th Jun ***The Golden Age of the Picture Postcard - Linda Clarke***

This was the decade before the First World War. Before the era of the telephone and with frequent postal deliveries, postcards became a universal form of communication—some just simple messages, some greetings from holidays or for birthdays and Christmas, some funny, some sad, some mysterious. Postcards were the social media of the day, and they can tell us so much! Linda Clarke is a retired librarian who worked most recently at Cheshire Archives & Local Studies.

Meetings are usually 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.

Help Desks

We hold a help desk every Friday from 10am to 1pm at the Wallasey Central Reference Library, Earlston Road, Wallasey CH45 5DX. At these help desks we are able to give individual help with family history research. All members and non-members are welcome.

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*, *British Newspaper Archive* and *The Genealogist*

Local parish registers on film - extensive library of books

Crewe and District and South East Cheshire local history archives

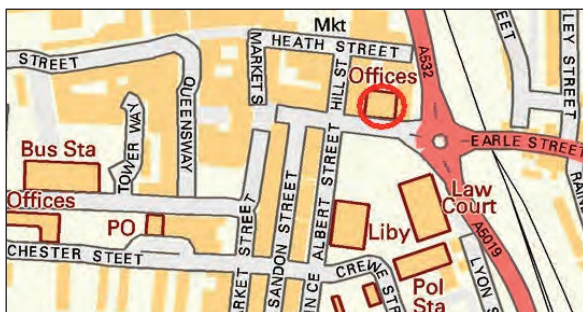
See the Crewe FHU Library Holdings lists on the FHSC website

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

plus one Saturday morning each month

For Saturday dates (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

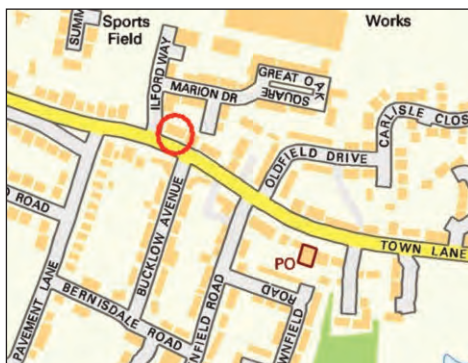
Fiche/film and A2 scanning available – please enquire.

**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:

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GC: Group Contact

The Family History Society of Cheshire

www.fhsc.org.uk

St Stephen's Church, Macclesfield Forest



St Stephen's Church, commonly known as Forest Chapel, stands in an isolated position in the civil parish of Macclesfield Forest and Wildboarclough in Cheshire, 4.5 miles (7 km) from Macclesfield. The original chapel was built in 1673, but it was almost entirely rebuilt in 1834. The original date stone was incorporated into the new building, above the entrance porch.

The old tradition of rushbearing still takes place at the chapel each August. Traditionally, rushes were strewn on the floor of the church to provide a clean, dry floor covering. In the summer, the old rushes were removed and replaced by fresh ones during a special Rushbearing Service.

Parish registers dating from 1666 are held by Cheshire Archives, as are other records relating to the parish. Microfilms of these records can be viewed at an LDS Familysearch library. The registers are available on Find My Past from 1666 up to the early 1900s. MIs can be purchased from the FHSC website shop for £1. See also www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/CHS/MacclesfieldForest

