

CHESHIRE ANCESTOR



The Journal of the
Family History Society of Cheshire

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In this edition:

*Why Should We Remember? ♦ Focus on Middlewich
Miscellany ♦ William Warrington – A Fantasy Story
1921 Census Trap ♦ Who Else is Named in That Will?
Net That Serf ♦ Christmas Quiz and more...*

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Back cover photo: Queuing for Middlewich Bottom Lock, Cheshire
cc-by-sa/2.0 - © Roger Kidd - geograph.org.uk/p/2713643

Five narrowboats are queuing for lock 74, bottom in the flight of three on the Trent and Mersey Canal. Dominating the skyline is the tower of the Parish Church of St Michael and All Angels.



CHESHIRE ANCESTOR

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

Editor's Page

by Rosie Rowley



Many thanks to those who have sent in letters and articles during the last few months - please keep writing! Sending items by email is preferable as it means they are already typed into the computer, ready for publication. Please note, if you send items by post, postage rates were increased for the second time this year in October so make sure you put the correct postage on the envelope for its size and weight, and do not try to re-use the new barcoded stamps, even if they have not been franked. Each stamp has a unique barcode and the

Royal Mail computers check whether a stamp has previously been used when it passes through their sorting machinery; if it has been used, the recipient must pay a fee of £2.50 if they want the letter.

A year ago I attended the funeral of my mother's cousin, who lived in Suffolk. This gave me the chance to renew my friendship with several second cousins who lived there - I had lost touch with them after I left home in the 1970s. Over the last year we have exchanged many memories and old family photos, including one I had never seen before of myself as a baby, captioned '11pm - 30 minutes old'! So do try to get in touch with those distant cousins - you never know what you might find.

This issue will be published about three weeks after Remembrance Day, and so it includes articles about Remembrance, and Sapper Lindon Franklin Woodward of Crewe, who died during the Second World War after a road accident. The subject of the December Research Buddies Zoom meeting is Middlewich, and that is also the focus of this CHESHIRE ANCESTOR, which features ten items of news about Middlewich from various 1873 newspapers, with information about the town on the back cover. Net That Serf (the computer section) this time explains the many different subgroups within the Computer Club, all of which are free to join. This enables the club to cover a wider range of topics, some of which may be of interest to only a few members.

Finally, I hope you enjoy the Christmas quiz on page 52, and on behalf of the society I wish you all a happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

View from the Chair

by Margaret Roberts

I'm delighted to have been elected Chair of FHSC, at a time when the Society is on the verge of undertaking some major innovations and improvements to its systems and processes to ensure that all members get the full benefits of the Society. I should firstly acknowledge, of course, the significant contribution made by Alan Bennett during his long stint as Chairman of FHSC; we should all recognise that the Society would not be where it is today without his leadership.

Looking forward, the Focus Groups which have been established by the Future Strategy Committee to examine every aspect of the Society's procedures and working practices are due to report their initial recommendations in the new year. It will be my major task in collaboration with the Trustees to draw together their findings into a comprehensive and synthesised strategy for the direction of the society for the next decade.

This is truly an exciting moment at which to become Chair of FHSC and I look forward to working with each and every one of you during my term in office.

Middlewich News (1) from the Warrington Guardian, 24 May 1873

MIDDLEWICH – The anniversary of the opening of the Congregational Church, Middlewich, will mark a most important epoch... as the payment of the debt incurred in the erection of the handsome edifice which stands in Queen Street [has been announced.] The amount of the balance necessary... was £123...

On Wednesday a public tea meeting was held in the Town Hall, which had been kindly lent for the occasion. There was a large attendance, the tables... being gracefully presided over by the following ladies: Mrs Moss, Mrs Walker, Miss Moss, Mrs Dutton, Miss Dutton, Miss Jepson, Mrs Bostock, Mrs T Hulme, Mrs Cooper, Mrs Whitehead, Mrs Washington, Mrs Darlington, Mrs Bush, Mrs Carr, Mrs Bennett, Mrs G Bostock, and Mrs S Darlington. At the conclusion of the tea the party adjourned to the chapel in Queen Street, where a public meeting was held.

Important Message to all Readers

As you may already know, FHSC was set up in 1969 and, as a progressive family history society, we do not wish to stand still but with the input and support of our members we want to keep the society moving forward. With this in mind, we are conducting a long-overdue review of all the activities of the Society. The need for this review has been somewhat reinforced by the advent of Zoom-based meetings, allowing many more of our members, especially those outside of Cheshire - and indeed the UK - to participate regularly in our activities.

As part of this process, we really **do need** to hear your views on many basic items. For example, are the services the Society currently provides relevant? Do you use them? What is missing? Very basic questions, but they need asking to ensure we are giving you the services you need. In order to do this successfully we need as many members as possible to complete the questionnaire that we have compiled.

In the first instance we have set out to keep this opening survey as simple as we possibly can, but adequate to identify the areas where we need to delve into more detail at a later stage. Our plan then is to have follow up surveys on specific topics.

How will the survey be delivered? Primarily via a link to a section on the Society website, which will be notified to members by email. However, we also recognise that all members must have the opportunity to participate and paper questionnaires will be sent to members for whom we have no email address.

Everyone's research is different and requires different resources and help. Therefore, the views of all our members are of prime importance. It is also vital for the Society to encourage members of the public to join us and help maintain the viability of FHSC into the future. We shall therefore try to get as wide as possible circulation of the questionnaires through Archives, Libraries, and other like-minded organisations.

Please take the time to complete the survey so we can ensure that FHSC provides the appropriate help and resources, not only to our members, but so that the Society continues to be recognised as the first port of call to all those who seek information about people and places in Cheshire.

We look forward to working with you over the coming months. In the meantime, if you have any questions please contact us using this designated survey email address: ServicesFG@fhsc.org.uk

Society News and Notices

For the Society's Latest News

Keep up-to-date between journals by reading the society's email newsletters, or follow the FHSC on Facebook or Twitter (now known as X). Provided that you have given us your correct email address and permission to contact you, you should receive society news by email. Check which email newsletters you are subscribed to by clicking on *Newsletters*, then *My Newsletter Subscriptions*.

Society Diary Dates

Below is a list of events and meetings planned at the time of going to press; for full details, or for changes to seminars and group meetings, please see the FHSC website or contact your local group (contact details inside back cover).

Note: meetings are in one of three formats - online using Zoom (Z), face-to-face at a local venue (F), or hybrid, using both face-to-face and Zoom (H). If no format is stated the default is F - if unsure please check with the group.

Date	Group	Subject
6-Dec	Runcorn Group	F: Workshop
11-Dec	Bebington Group	Christmas Quiz Details TBA
11-Dec	Northwich Group	Our World Famous Hotpot Supper and Quiz
12-Dec	Alsager Group	F: Christmas Lunch (12.30pm) for members plus one
12-Dec	Crewe & Nantwich Grps	H: Christmas Get-together followed by Zoom talk on Grave Concerns - More than a Resting Place
13-Dec	Sale Group	Christmas Open Forum
19-Dec	Nantwich Group	F: Christmas Social (2pm)
20-Dec	Society Seminar	Z: Maternity Narratives and Your Family History by Dr Sophie Kay
30-Dec	Research Buddies	Z: Middlewich

3-Jan	Runcorn Group	TBA
8-Jan	Northwich Group	Z: Chance for out-of-area members to talk about their connections with the Northwich area, and for local members to share their knowledge.
10-Jan	Sale Group	Poynton: a Coal Mining Village by David Kitching
15-Jan	Alsager Group	Z: Nantwich on Fire by Graham Dodd
16-Jan	Congleton Group	TBA
16-Jan	Crewe & Nantwich Grps	Z: Join us on Zoom for a quiz, nothing onerous, lots of fun
16-Jan	Wallasey Group	Z: Social Evening
18-Jan	Society Seminar	Z: Walls Come Tumbling Down by Dave Annal
22-Jan	Bebington Group	Liverpool and Slavery by David Hearn
23-Jan	Macclesfield Group	Memories of Parkside by Dennis Whyte
25-Jan	Chester Group	Lost at Sea by Carolyn Barnwell
25-Jan	Tameside Group	TBA
27-Jan	Exec Committee	Z: Committee Meeting (2pm)
27-Jan	Research Buddies	Z: Runcorn
7-Feb	Runcorn Group	F: Workshop
12-Feb	Northwich Group	Z: Follow up to the January meeting
13-Feb	Crewe & Nantwich Grps	Z: Children in the North Staffs Pottery Industry in 1840 by Ann Simcock
14-Feb	Sale Group	Open Forum: Hatched, Matched or Dispatched?
19-Feb	Alsager Group	Z: Navigating the FHSC Website by Gay Oliver
20-Feb	Congleton Group	TBA

20-Feb	Wallasey Group	Z: Wills, Probate and Death Duty Registers by Joy Thomas
21-Feb	Society Seminar	Z: A Freemason in the Family? By Susan Snell
22-Feb	Tameside Group	TBA
24-Feb	Research Buddies	Z: Congleton
26-Feb	Bebington Group	Mersey Ferries by Ron Martin
27-Feb	Macclesfield Group	Streets & Buildings of Old Macclesfield by Dennis Whyte
29-Feb	Chester Group	Houses Through the Ages by Edward Hilditch
6-Mar	Runcorn Group	F: Workshop
11-Mar	Northwich Group	Captain Benjamin: The Landlord of the Pub in the 'Failed Elopement' by David Shaw
13-Mar	Sale Group	Early Resources for the Family Historian by Tony Bostock
18-Mar	Alsager Group	F: TBA
19-Mar	Congleton Group	TBA
19-Mar	Crewe & Nantwich Grps	Z: Sex, Sin and Probate: Church Court Records by Colin Chapman
19-Mar	Wallasey Group	Z: Saughall Massie, 1000 Years of a Wirral hamlet by Gillian Bolt
20-Mar	Society Seminar	Z: Researching European Ancestors by Julie Goucher
25-Mar	Bebington Group	China Farm Story by John Corfe
26-Mar	Macclesfield Group	Finding the Fifty Names Missing from Park Green War Memorial by Harry Carlisle
28-Mar	Chester Group	Estate and Manorial Records by Gill Campbell
28-Mar	Tameside Group	TBA
30-Mar	Research Buddies	Z: Wilmslow

Group News and Information



For the latest news from the Society's groups, please see the FHSC website or contact the Group. You can subscribe to emails from any group; go to the group's page on the FHSC website and click on *Add ... to My Groups*. Contact details for all groups are inside the back cover.

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 of each month. The waiting room will open at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. A newsletter is sent out on the first day of each month with details of the talk and how to register.

PLEASE NOTE - we do not record Seminar talks for later viewing.

Cheshire Research Buddies

By Margaret Roberts

Our online helpdesk which takes place via Zoom at 2pm on the last Saturday of the month (except October). This is the ideal opportunity for members

with research queries to talk to other members with local knowledge.

Please email Margaret Roberts on publicity@fhsc.org.uk with suggestions for future meeting topics.

Alsager Group

By Hazel Rugman

January and February meetings are held online via Zoom. Other meetings are usually held at 7.30pm on the 3rd Monday of the month (except August and December) at Alsager Library, Sandbach Road North, Alsager, ST7 2QH. Admission is £1 for members and £2 for visitors, including refreshments. A large car park is available behind the library.

Bebington Group

By Bob Wright

Winter meetings are held online via Zoom. Summer meetings are usually held at 7.30pm on the 4th Monday of the month (excluding Bank Holidays) at St Barnabas Village Institute, Church Square, Bromborough, CH62 6AH. Admission is £2 including refreshments.

Chester Group

By Helen Elliott

Meetings are usually held on the last Thursday of the month in the Pavilion, Wealstone Lane, Upton by Chester, Chester CH2 1HD. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Admission is £2 for members and £3 for visitors, including refreshments. On site car parking is available.

Computer Club

Meetings are held online via Zoom at 7.30pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, and are open to all members. Email computerclub@fhsc.org.uk for access details. The subject of each meeting is usually announced the week before, by email or on the Club's Events page on the FHSC website.

Congleton Group

By David Smetham

At our Group AGM the officers for the Group, David Smetham, Sue Parker, Lesley Smetham and Phil Walton were elected. Sue Tyers stood down as Treasurer; we thanked Sue for her work as Treasurer over 12 years and presented her with some flowers.

David Smetham will act as Treasurer.

Meetings are usually held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Congleton Library. Doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. Entry is through the lower door facing the bus station.

Crewe Group

By Margaret Spate

Crewe and Nantwich Groups will continue with our programme of meetings in one of three formats - Zoom, Face to Face (F2F), or Hybrid (a F2F meeting which can also be accessed via Zoom for those unable to attend in person).

ZOOM Crewe/Nantwich Joint Meetings open at 7.15pm and start at 7.30pm. Please register each month for the Zoom meetings - send an email to crewe@fhsc.org.uk in good time before the meeting. Please do not leave it to the last minute before you register.

Crewe F2F meetings are usually held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Jubilee House, St Paul's St, Crewe CW1 2QA. Doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. Admission is £2 for members and £3 for visitors, including refreshments. Nearby parking (free after 6pm) at the adjacent Victoria Centre Car Park, Crewe CW1 2PT.

Crewe Family History Unit

Please see elsewhere in this issue for information about the Society's research facilities.

Macclesfield Group

By Dennis Whyte

Jean Laidlaw has resigned as Macclesfield Group Leader because she is moving away, and Dennis Whyte, who was group leader for many years, is taking over again.

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

Nantwich Group

By Sheila Mitchell

Crewe and Nantwich Groups will continue with our programme of joint meetings - please see the Crewe section for details. Nantwich Group's F2F meetings are usually held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Nantwich Parish Rooms (ground floor), opposite St Mary's Church in the centre of Nantwich. Doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. Admission is £2 for members and £3 for visitors. Parking is available nearby.

Nantwich Group Workshops

At present we are unable to plan workshop dates because of the uncertainty about the plans for Nantwich Library. There is no meeting in December but we hope to have a

meeting in January. Please check the FHSC website for details.

Workshops are usually held in the Local Studies and Family History Room at Nantwich Library. A lift is available. Please come along if you need help with your family history. The library holds local records such as parish registers, newspapers, and reference books, plus free access to FindMyPast and Ancestry.

Northwich Group

By Dave Thomas

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 visitors are most welcome. Car park available.

Runcorn Group

By John Barlow

Meetings are usually held on the 1st Wednesday of the month (except January), starting at 7pm, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Clifton Road West, Runcorn WA7 4TE. Visitors are most welcome.

Sale Group

By Marion Hall

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

Tameside Group

By Gay Oliver

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

Tameside Group Helpdesks

We hold a helpdesk on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at Tameside Local Studies and Archives Library to help anyone who is stuck or who wants to start their family history research.

Wallasey Group

By Dave Beck

From October to March our meetings will take place online using Zoom.

In summer, face-to-face meetings are held from April to September at 7.30pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Wallasey Central Library, Earlston Road, CH45 5DX. Enter via the small car park to the right of the main building.

Wallasey Group Helpdesks

We hold a helpdesk every Friday from 10am to 1pm at the Wallasey Central Reference Library, Earlston Road, Wallasey CH45 5DX. Step-free access to the library is available via a ramp and internal lift. At these Help Desks we are able to give individual help with family history research. All members and non-members are welcome.

Society Vacancies

The society is seeking new volunteers for the following posts:

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)

Society Treasurer

The Treasurer's five-year term of office came to an end at the AGM in October and although David Smetham has agreed to continue in the post for one more year we do need a replacement to work alongside David and ultimately take over the position.

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

AGM News

by Sheila Jones
Honorary Secretary

The AGM reports were not available in time to be included in this issue of the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR, but here is a brief summary of the afternoon's proceedings.

The Society's 54th Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday 28th October 2023 via Zoom and was attended by 86 members. Margaret Roberts was elected as the Society's new Chair and Sheila Jones was re-elected as Honorary Secretary. No nominations had been received for the role of Honorary Treasurer but David Smetham was willing to stand for one further year and was duly elected.

A resolution that a summary of the Executive Committee's meetings should be posted to the Society's website after each such meeting was also approved.

A full report on the meeting will be printed in the March 2024 edition of the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR.

Middlewich News (2)

From the Warrington Guardian, 24 May 1873

ACCIDENT AT MIDDLEWICH – On Wednesday afternoon last a lad proceeding down the lane leading from Sproston's tannery in Middlewich released his hold of a hand-cart in his charge, and it descended the hill with great force, coming in contact with a man named **Arrowsmith**, who was travelling in Wheelock street in charge of a horse and cart belonging to the English Condensed Milk Company. The man's hand was very seriously injured, and he will be incapacitated for some time.

From the Cheshire Observer, 22 November 1873

BURIED ALIVE – On Monday morning a young man named **George Oakes**, residing with his parents at Over, was engaged in sinking a well on the estate of the Rev. **France Hayhurst** at Leighton, near Middlewich, when the sides gave way and he was buried alive, with about 30 feet of earth above him. A gang of men made every effort to rescue the poor fellow, whose cries for them to make haste could be heard up to three o'clock, but it was not until nine at night that he was got out, when he was found to be dead.

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

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



September saw two annual events that FHSC take part in, namely Heritage Open Days and the Peak District U3A conference in Buxton. Crewe Research Centre helped to celebrate 180 years of Crewe Works by presenting a series of talks, alongside Mike Esbester of the Railway Work, Life and Death project, as well as opening our facilities at the Municipal Buildings in the town for descendants of railway workers to view the unique railway records held and seek help with their research. Volunteers were also available during the Heritage Fair and performed sterling work promoting the society and assisting visitors with their genealogical brick walls. Tameside held a Discovery Day where group experts were on hand, helping locals to unearth their family secrets. A highly successful day with a lot of visitors in attendance.

The FHSC stall at Buxton this year was enhanced by the WWI quilt, which is on permanent display at the Crewe Research Centre. It certainly was a popular attraction and made the FHSC one of the most visited stalls of the day. It was fantastic to meet up with previous seminar speakers Penny Walters, Jackie Depelle and Dave Annal, who were three of the four speakers at the event.

The local groups have been on their summer programmes with face-to-face meetings, workshops and research evenings for those that can attend in person. There was a lot for our out of county/country members as well, with Zoom talks, Cheshire Research Buddies sessions, and online workshops, which I know are also a boon for members who for many reasons cannot travel to a group meeting.

The variety of subjects covered by the groups and the Seminar series are second to none across the Family History Society world. The themes covered included: the Parochial Library of Nantwich, the history of Oxton, child labour in the cotton mills, Marbury Hall camp, civil registration, memories of WWII, industrial Wallasey, the life of Lady Lever, and Slaters Chronicles. Workshops included breaking down brick walls, dating photographs, and my favourite ancestor. The

amount of work in bringing these events to you is enormous and group leaders are always looking for more help on their committees, so please don't hesitate to offer your help in whatever way you can.

The Cheshire Research Buddies scheme continues to be popular and once again school colleagues from over sixty years ago were united, the ladies concerned both attended Verdin High School and now live in Sussex and Oxfordshire. At the Sale meeting the shops along School Road were remembered and memories of ancestors who lived and worked there were shared as well as details of helpful books on the locality. The sessions are great fun and I've had lots of positive feedback. Please come along and join a session that involves an area you are researching or have knowledge of; the list of the next few meetings can be found in the Events section.

The Seminar series welcomed back Dr Janet Few, with an A-Z of the less well-known resources for family history - a huge amount of information, with a comprehensive handout for attendees. In August and September, we travelled way back in time, firstly to 13th century with Eli Lycett-Lewis, otherwise known as the Mythstorian, when we learnt all about Ranulf de Blondville, 6th Earl of Chester, and the Vale Royal Rebellion. This was a tale of murder, manipulation and struggle which gave an insight into a time when peasantry and nobility were unlikely allies, unified in opposition to the ambitious system of religious rule that was deconstructing the rural world. We stayed with the mediaeval in September with Dr James Wright, who destroyed some of the myths we have all heard, such as: ships planks from the Armada were used in buildings, all those secret passages from churches to manor houses, and lastly, spiral stairs in castles always turn clockwise to advantage the right-handed swordsman. We look forward to James returning next year with a talk on the works of Alan Garner, which are steeped in folklore, mythology and archaeology.

A lot of information is regularly posted on our social media feeds, so please follow FHSC on Twitter (now called X) [@FHSCofCheshire](https://twitter.com/FHSCofCheshire) or have a look at our Facebook page www.facebook.com/CheshireFamilyHistory. FHSC activities are publicised on a number of different platforms: the FHSC website, CHESHIRE ANCESTOR, our monthly newsletter, Facebook and Twitter (X). 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. If you need to register for the event, such as the Seminars or Cheshire Research Buddies, then please follow the relevant instructions.

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 1 May and 28 October 2023:

ADDISON

BASKERVILLE, BOLLINGTON, BOURNE, BRAMMALL, BULLOCK

CALVERT, CHAPEL/CHAPELE/CHAPPEL/CHAPPELL/CHAPPELLE, CORBISHLEY

DALE, DOWNES, ENNEVER

GALLEY, GRANTHAM, GRIFFITHS, GROOM

HARRISON, HITCHMOUGH, HOLLAND, HORTON, HOWELLS

JANNION, KEY

LAMBERT, LEECH, LOVETT, LUNT

MUSTOE/MUSTOW, NORBURY

OLLERHEAD, ORRETT

RUE, SHEARING, SNELL, SUDLOW, SWINDELLS

TAYLOR, VIGNAUX/VIGNEAUX

WALKER, WALMSLEY, WARREN

Middlewich News (3) from the Liverpool Weekly Courier 1 November 1873

MORE ADULTERATED TEA – On Tuesday, at the Middlewich Petty Sessions, Jos. Parrett and Matthew Dierden, of Winsford, were each fined £5 and £1 costs for selling caper tea, adulterated with metallic iron and other mineral matter; in the first case to the extent of 7 per cent and in the second 8 per cent. Geo. Stelfox, same place, was fined £1 and costs for selling caper tea adulterated with 2 per cent of metallic iron.

Members' FREE Research Lookup Service

Note that this is a free service for members only, and is subject to the time available to volunteers.

We will search our research resources (held at the Mobberley Research Centre) 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.

Lists of the resources held at Mobberley can be found on the FHSC website at www.fhsc.org.uk/new-mobberley-research/mobberley-holdings

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**
Sorry, this option is not available at present while the website is being updated
- **By post**
Please include your name, membership number, contact details and a correctly stamped, addressed envelope (at least C5 size - 162mm x 229mm).
Send to:
Family History Society of Cheshire Lookup Service, Mobberley Research Centre, Rajar Building, Town Lane, Mobberley, Cheshire, WA16 7ER.

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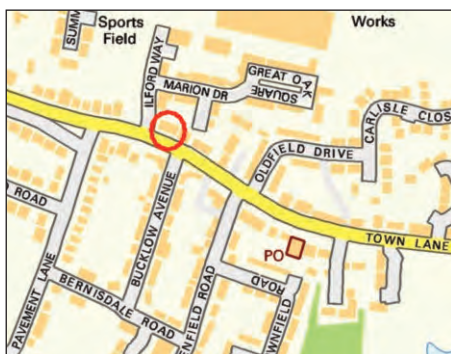
Research Centre News

Manned by experienced volunteers, visitors can obtain help and advice on family and local history research. Please see the FHSC website for holdings and up-to-date news about changes to opening hours, etc. If in doubt, please phone before visiting to ensure the centre is open and a computer/film reader is available.

MOBBERLEY FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH CENTRE

Rajar Building, Town Lane, Mobberley, WA16 7ER

Tel: 01565 872210



The Rajar Building is on the corner of Town Lane (A5085) and Ilford Way. The entrance is at the front on Town Lane, and the Research Centre is on the first floor (stairs only, sorry, no lift). Parking is on nearby streets. There is a bus stop nearby (Bucklow Avenue) for D&G Bus No. 88. See www.dgbus.co.uk

FREE access to *FindMyPast*, *Ancestry* and *The Genealogist*
Extensive library of books and films/fiche for many areas, not just Cheshire
Searchable computer archives * Small charge for printing/copying
Fiche/film scanning available

*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.
Please ring to check we are open before travelling if the weather is bad.**

Daily admission charge £3 for members, £5 for non-members (refundable on joining the Society on day of visit), including FREE tea or coffee.

Non-members should please phone in advance to book a place.

Mobberley Research Centre News

by Joan Irving
librarian@fhsc.org.uk



As winter approaches, please remember to phone before you visit if the weather forecast looks very wintry; some of our Duty Volunteers live in areas that can make travel very difficult in bad weather and may be unable to get to the Research Centre to open up for you. Hopefully the weather won't be too bad this winter.

I have at last catalogued 176 wills, mostly from Cheshire, that have been donated to Mobberley. There are copies of Wills - many with transcriptions - Inventories and Administrations. The earliest one, dated 1616, is for Richard LOWNDS, a husbandman of Mobberley who left a will and inventory. It would seem that his grandson Richard LOWNDS, a yeoman of Mobberley, also left a will and inventory in 1684. There are transcriptions for both of these wills and inventories, which can be found in the Trunkfield Collection.

Wills can be an important resource when researching family history as they can give a glimpse into life at that time, as well as proving family links. Check out the wills and associated documents held in the library at Mobberley. Also, don't forget the Wills and Beneficiaries Index we have on CD. It could unblock a brick wall - it did for me. My Thomas STELFOX of High Legh married Elizabeth? around the 1660s but the marriage was never found. The Wills and Beneficiaries Index showed he was the son-in-law of John GLEAVE of High Legh, and Elizabeth was his daughter. What joy! I could now research the GLEAVES of High Legh. The index was started by Anne COLE many years ago and lists all the people in a will with a different surname to that of the testator, and their relationship to the testator. It does not include all Cheshire wills but is always worth a check!

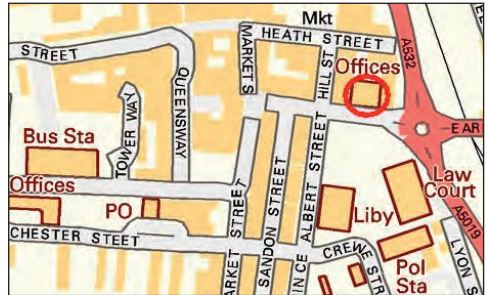
We hope to see you at Mobberley soon where our Duty Volunteers are ready to help with any family history problems you may have.

Middlewich News (4) from The Standard 10 November 1873

MEDICAL VACANCIES – Medical officer of health for the Altrincham, Congleton, Nantwich and Northwich rural, and Middlewich, Nantwich, Northwich, Sandbach and Witton-cum-Twambrookes urban sanitary districts combined (£800 per annum, for two years).

CREWE FAMILY HISTORY UNIT

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



The Municipal Building is situated near the market, opposite Memorial Square and the old library. Crewe Register Office is in the same building. All visitors must sign in and out at reception. A lift is available to take you to the 2nd floor.

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 (see website for date)

We recommend arriving no later than 3pm. For Saturday dates and changes to usual opening hours, please see the news below, or see the FHSC website.

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.

Crewe Family History Unit News

by Margaret Spate
crewe@fhsc.org.uk

Thanks to the members who attended the additional open days, on general research and the British Newspaper Archive. Both were busy days and we were pleased to meet people face-to-face after so many virtual Zoom meetings.

The *Crewe & District Local Historical Association* Archive has been added to our holdings. It contains a fantastic collection of local Crewe area photographs which are being digitised at present; the holdings list will be added to the website soon. Take a moment to check our holdings - you might find something to help you.

Family History Events

For news of family history events, see these online calendars

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

The Family History Show

Future Dates

Saturday 10th February 2024 - Online

Sat 16th March 2024 - Three Counties Showground, Malvern, WR13 6NW

Sat 22nd June 2024 - Knavesmire Centre, York Racecourse, YO23 1EX

Ask the Experts - Talks - Exhibitors - Archives

Tickets available at TheFamilyHistoryShow.com

Guild of One-Name Studies Working the Land Seminar (open to all)

Saturday 24th February 2024

Bearley Village Hall, Snitterfield Road, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 0SR

Booking essential at <https://one-name.org/events/>

RootsTech 2024 (In Person and Online)

29th February – 2nd March 2024

In person in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA (payment required)

or Online Worldwide (free of charge)

Registration now open at www.familysearch.org/rootstech/

Family History Federation Really Useful Family History Show - Live!

Saturday 20th April 2024

Burgess Hall, Westwood Road, St Ives, Cambridgeshire, PE27 6WU

In-Person Event - Speakers - Exhibitors

www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/2024-live

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.

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.

New Pricing Structure

FindMyPast has introduced a new pricing structure, offering three-monthly payment options for its Plus, Pro and Premium packages. In addition to the basic BMD and census records found in the Starter package, the Plus package includes access to the 1939 Register, British and Irish parish records, wills, electoral registers and education, occupation and travel records, special Irish records and military records. The Pro package also includes access to worldwide records and newspapers, while the Premium package adds the 1921 England and Wales census.

The cost of a three-month subscription is: £38.49 (Plus), £49.99 (Pro), £59.99 (Premium). If you do not wish to renew your subscription, remember to cancel it before the next payment is due. You can do this at any time and your subscription will remain active until the end of the period you have paid for.

FHSC members who are purchasing a new annual FindMyPast subscription can obtain a discount code from the FHSC - existing subscribers who are renewing their subscriptions already receive a loyalty discount from FindMyPast. For information, please contact Publicity Officer Margaret Roberts.

UK Electoral Registers update - 2016-2023

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

Twelve million records have been added to the Electoral Registers collection, covering the period from 2016 to 2023. Remember that these electoral registers include a public register opt-out so not everyone of voting age will be included.

UK Electoral Registers update - Greater Manchester 1820-1940

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/greater-manchester-electoral-registers-1820-1940>

This exclusive set contains 25,066,154 electoral register records - both transcriptions and images - from the city of Manchester.

FindMyPast Podcast

www.findmypast.co.uk/page/podcast

Find My Past has recently started a new podcast, *Step into the Past*, with award-winning historian, author and broadcaster Suzannah Lipscombe. In series one, introduces host Suzannah Lipscomb (and her ancestors). Then, Suzannah travels back in time at some of Britain's National Trust properties to uncover the lives of the people who lived and worked there.

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, Registers and Indexes of Births, Marriages and Deaths of Passengers and Seamen at Sea, 1891-1922

www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62598/

Records of births, marriages, and deaths of passengers and seamen while they were at sea, including information for British citizens and foreign-born passengers aboard British ships. Some records contain information about sailors who died while ashore.

UK, World War II Army Casualty Lists, 1939-1945

www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62623/

Images of casualty records for the British Army during the Second World War. The records have names and information about soldiers killed, wounded or missing. Not all WWII Army casualties are included in these records. These records are the same as those already available on Find My Past.

Tameside, England, Burials, 1844-2017

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/70936/>

Transcriptions of burial records created by Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council. The records may include name, age, address, death date, burial or cremation date and burial location.

Selected Archives of the Week

by Margaret Roberts
Publicity and Social Media Officer

FHSC social media feeds are always full of interesting blogs, unusual stories, useful websites and news of special offers. The various archives I highlight are free to access and are not just based in the UK. Many have proved to be very useful, if my inbox is anything to judge by. Here is this quarter's selection:

Masonic Periodicals Online

www.masonicperiodicals.org

Freemasonry is one of the oldest social and charitable organisations in the world and several periodicals produced for freemasons were produced. Masonic Periodicals Online enables the most significant masonic periodicals from the period 1790 to 1900 to be searched.

Libral

www.bahs.org.uk/LIBRAL

LIBRAL is the LIBRARY of Rural and Agricultural Literature, a free, public, open-access resource provided by the British Agricultural History Society. Here you will find digitized versions of the *General Views* of the 1790s and 1800s, an almost complete run of the *Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England* from 1839 to 1914, bulletins issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) from the 1920s to the 1960s, and many more. You need to sign up for a free account.

Vita Brevis

<https://vitabrevis.americanancestors.org/>

Vita Brevis is a resource from the New England Historic Genealogy Society and covers a lot of family history discoveries in that part of the world as well as news from the genealogical community. It's well worth a read even if you don't have ancestors from the USA.

The Ancestor Hunt

<https://theancestorhunt.com/>

Staying with America, this site curated by Kenneth Marks, started as a site to post links to free online newspapers but had grown to one that now, as Kenneth says 'helps people find stuff', he basically finds the links to free USA online collections so you don't have to. There are also quick reference guides, altogether a must for USA genealogical information.

David Rumsey Map Collection

www.davidrumsey.com

This map collection, started over 35 years ago, contains more than 200,000 maps. The collection focuses on rare 16th – 21st century maps of America, as well as maps of the World, Asia, Africa, Europe and Oceania. Items range from around 1550 to the present time, with the brand new ‘Search Text on Maps’ facility.

BT Digital Archives

www.digitalarchives.bt.com/Calmview

This online catalogue can be used to search thousands of documents, books, images, and films from the 1830s to the present date. The information covers everything from the birth of the electric telegraph to the explosion of the Internet and broadband Britain.

The Clergy of the Church of England Database (CCed)

<https://theclergydatabase.org.uk/>

This website makes available and searchable the principal records relating to clerical careers in England and Wales from the Reformation to the mid-nineteenth century. It provides a research tool for historians and genealogists who need to discover biographical information about clergymen or the succession of clergy in a particular place.

Remember that if you don’t have access to Ancestry, FindMyPast or the British Newspaper Archive, your local library or archives may well have a library edition with free access – or, if you live in Cheshire, why not come along to one of our research centres where you can use these websites and chat about family history with our friendly Duty Volunteers?

To take full advantage and to keep up abreast of the updates to the various genealogical websites, find the Society on Twitter by following @FHSofCheshire or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CheshireFamilyHistory

Middlewich News (5) from the Runcorn & Widnes Examiner 15 February 1873

DRUNKENNESS – Thomas and William Sant, of Middlewich, for being drunk at Davenham, on the 14th January last, were fined 5s and costs each; as were also Nathaniel Brennan and Anthony Tunney, of Northwich, for being drunk and disorderly at Northwich on the 24th January, and Samuel Burgess, of Barnton, for being drunk at Barnton on the 11th January.

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.

Rearing Supper

I am writing about the September issue, which, as usual, is really well produced and has some interesting items. I particularly enjoyed the piece about Over Peover and, as the author says, the band does look really impressive. It is a shame from your point of view that no-one has come forward to take over as editor, but thank you for continuing to produce such a good magazine.

On page 52 you quote a reference to a *rearing supper* and ask what this might have been. I think this is referring to a tradition that when a building is being constructed and the highest point is reached, which in the past would normally have been the ridge of the roof, the work stops for that day and the builders are given some kind of treat by the contractor. This would normally have involved them being treated to drinks, either on site or in a pub or hotel, and could involve more generous hospitality in the form of a meal or food of some sort.

I don't know if this kind of thing still happens today, but I vaguely remember, when I was working in the centre of Manchester in the early 1960s, a building on the other side of the street being *topped out*, as it was called, and the building workers having celebratory drinks on site and finishing work for the day. They may have gone somewhere else for further celebrations.

In the case you quote the liberality of the architect and contractors is referred to, which seems justified as it seems that everyone involved was treated to a slap up meal. I haven't heard the term *rearing supper* before, but I imagine this comes from the rearing of the building being completed, in the sense that it has reached its full height, even though the construction isn't finished. I will be interested to see if anyone else knows more about this.

John Langdill
Membership no. 10121

Rearing Supper

I am writing in response to the item on page 52 of the September 2023 issue of **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR** about something called a rearing supper being held in 1873 at Knutsford. As it happens, I've just been reading about the building of the new Town Hall in Leigh, Lancashire in the early years of the 20th century, and in this context I came across the term *rearing supper* for the first time. So I decided to investigate a little further.

The foundation stone for Leigh Town Hall was laid on 24th October 1904, and the building was officially opened on 24th July 1907. However, in the *Leigh Chronicle and Weekly District Advertiser* it was reported that a rearing supper in connection with the new Town Hall was held on 10th May 1906. This was clearly before the building was finished, so I imagine the event was to mark the completion of a particular stage in the work, such as perhaps the roof going on. The newspaper article says that the supper was organised by the architect and the various local authority committees concerned with the new Town Hall, and that it took place *on the occasion of the rearing of their new building*. Nearly 100 of the workmen attended, and as well as a good meal there were speeches reporting on how well the project had gone so far, with no serious accidents or disputes between employers and employees, and with the cost staying below budget. It was also stated that the residents of Leigh were well satisfied with how things were progressing.

A quick search for the keywords "*rearing supper*" in FindMyPast's newspaper collection brings up more hits spread over many parts of the country. Here are a couple of examples. Firstly, in London's *Richmond Herald* of 21st February 1948 is an item describing how the owner organised a rearing supper for all those who had helped to rebuild his bombed house. The article contains these words: *In the old days when houses or other buildings were completed there was always a rearing supper. They were given by the builder*. Secondly, nearer to home, the *Congleton and Macclesfield Mercury and Cheshire General Advertiser* of 13th January 1894 reported that *Mr Councillor Luke Burgess's new premises in Wagg-street nearing completion, a rearing supper in honour of the event was held in the commodious warehouse over the bakery*.

The Oxford English Dictionary defines "*rearing supper*" as *A celebratory meal given to workers on completion of (the roof of) a building*, with the term being in use from 1829. The examples above would suggest that while the phrase definitely refers to the organisation of a meal by the employer for the workforce, the actual timing of it could vary, meaning that the celebration might take place either at or

towards the end of the period of construction, or when a particular stage was reached.

I would finally like to quote from a piece I found in Birmingham's *Evening Dispatch*. On 1st June 1939 this paper's children's section (called "Uncle David's and Uncle Ernest's Children's Corner") took as its subject the tradition of the rearing supper and gave the following explanation for what this means: *One kind of feast seems to be passing out of existence in these days of rapid building, and that is what was known in my part of the country as the rearing supper. When the building of a house had proceeded to the point of putting on the roof you would see a small Union Jack flying from the chimney, and you would know that the owner of the house was so satisfied with the progress made in the erection that he was about to give a supper to all those who had taken part in the work of building the house.*

I've found it fascinating to delve into the usage of the term "rearing supper", as it was previously completely unknown to me. Thank you to the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR for bringing it to my attention.

Jane Mason

Membership no. 10508

janemason781@gmail.com

Parish Register Annotations

Your editorial in the last issue prompted me to check my records, as I have been through all the Mobberley parish BMD records, typing them into a spreadsheet and recall various comments in the registers. There are multiple entries concerning burials in wool, of course, and also referring to the Quaker Graveyard. I have picked out just a few.

The record for Sarah COOPER, wife of John COOPER, on 14th May 1776: *at this burying the congregation rebelled.* I wonder why?

Six children of Thomas and Mary HEYES of Warford were buried on the 1st, 3rd and 13th of December 1776: *These six children were all buried at Mobberley in thirteen days being all in perfect health three days before.*

Jonathon HILL of Toft was buried on 10th July 1733: *the same day the great hail-storm fell stones measured 10" and 11" thereabouts.*

Sarah BARROW, daughter of Peter and Ann of Cheadle was baptised on 14th September 1777: *earthquake in Cheshire*

There are many more but they are probably only of interest to those with a particular interest in the Mobberley families.

Alistair MacLeod

Membership no. 8805

Ed.: Natural events such as earthquakes can sometimes be confirmed by searching the newspapers on FindMyPast. For the 1777 earthquake, Adam's Weekly Courant of 16th September 1777 reports: In Manchester... the most awful scene that ever hung before human beings was certainly displayed this morning... at St John's... the Church was in motion, attended with a rumbling noise, when horror and surprise seemed to be imprinted on every countenance; and as the agitation continued for a great number of seconds, everyone made for the door, imagining that the building was falling... but, happily, no material accident happened, excepting the loss of shoes, hats, caps, gowns, &c. Various were the reports we heard as soon as in the church-yard... but it was soon sufficiently confirmed that it had been an earthquake, the same having apparently been felt in every part of the town.

We have likewise accounts from Nantwich, Sandbach, Minshull, Haslington, &c that the same concussion of the earth was felt in those places, with the like violence, and at the same instant.

A Fantasy Tree, and an Unlikely Journey

A rainy day has prompted me to send these two gems.

Whilst doing the obligatory search of public trees on Ancestry, when all other lines of enquiry have drawn a blank, I came across a promising-looking tree. There was indeed a reference to somebody I was interested in, and surprisingly, they had quite a few "facts" that I was totally unaware of, despite having researched this person for many years. Alas, the information that purported to belong to my person was, in fact, pure fantasy. Curiosity got the better of me so I decided to see if there were any other names that may be of interest to me. Big mistake! The tree owner proudly and publicly stated they had in fact got:

PEOPLE:	129,384
RECORDS:	89,363
MEDIA:	51,626

Regrettably, I can't re-find this tree to offer some additional facts and figures for you all e.g. how long she has been researching, where she lives etc.

I do have the name of her tree, but thought better of publishing it. Suffice to say I didn't bother wasting any more time.

Has anyone found a bigger tree? Or, indeed, would it be a forest for that many people!

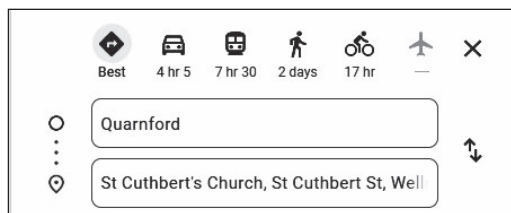
My next offering is aimed at the mathematicians and bookmakers amongst our readers, and my question is this: What are the odds that the following information/event is correct?

	Name William Warrington 5 sources
	Gender ♂ Male
1732 (AGE)	Birth 27 Sep 1732 • Flash Head Farm, Quarnford 2 sources
1732	Baptism 2 Oct 1732 • Wells, St Cuthbert, Somerset, England 1 source

QUARNFORD is a village and civil parish in the Staffordshire Moorlands district of Staffordshire, England. The village is in the Peak District, between Buxton and Leek, and approximately half a mile from the slightly better-known village of FLASH. QUARNFORD was, and still is, a very small, remote, moorland farming community situated approximately 1,500 feet above sea level.

The Church of St Cuthbert is an Anglican parish church in WELLS, Somerset, England, dating from the 13th century. It is often mistaken for the cathedral.

According to Mr Google and his collection of many maps, here are the 2023 route details between Quarnford and Wells.



Just to summarise, and help you make a considered opinion and answer, the journey is 165 miles, taking at least 58 hours on foot (non-stop – so no time allowed for sleeping or eating!) from giving birth to standing in St Cuthbert's Church in front of the font, just shy of 291 years ago.

Peter Lee

Membership No. 6151

Tuesday volunteer at Mobberley Research Centre

Who Else is Named in That Will?

by Joan Irving
Mobberley Librarian

Wills often include people with different names to the testator. These names can be other family members, married daughters or sisters, friends and servants, and can be a clue to finding additional information for our own family history. Names of servants and employees may help you discover where your ancestor worked and for whom. The Wills and Beneficiaries Index on CD may also help you find information about your ancestors.

The following will is a good example of the inclusion of names other than the testator. It was the earliest will in a recent donation.

The Will of Richard LOWNDS of Mobberley 1616

In the name of God, Amen, the eleventh day of June Anno Domini 1616 I, RICHARD LOWNDS of Mobberley in the county of Chester, Husbandman, being sick in body but of good, sound and perfect memory, thanks be to Almighty God, do ordain, constitute and make this my last will and testament in manner and form the following, viz

First and principally I recommend and bequeath my soul unto the hands of Almighty God my creator, saviour and redeemer hoping and assuredly believing to be saved by the mercy and passion of Jesus Christ, my saviour, and to rest with Abraham, Isaack and Jacob in his heavenly kingdom amongst the number of his elect in full assurance of a joyful resurrection and the last day, when both body and soul shall be raised together and live with him in all felicitie for ever.

And my body to be buried in the parish churchyard of Mobberley at the discretion of my executors hereafter named.

And concerning such temporal goods as Almighty God hath endowed me with all, I am minded to dispose as followeth, that is to say,

First it is my will and mind that my funeral debts and legacies should be paid and discharged out of my whole goods

Imprimis, I give and bequeath unto RICHARD HENSHALL my servant one cow and my best suit of clothes.

Item, I give to my God daughter MARGARET RADFORD eightpence and to all the rest of my God children sevenpence apiece.

Item, I give to my servant ELIZABETH ROYLE two shillings.

Item, I give and bequeath to THOMAS HENSHALL my nephew five shillings.

And the remainder of all my goods, debts, rights credits and chattels whatsoever I do give and bestow between MARGERIE LOWNDS, my wife, RICHARD LOWNDS my son to be equally divided between them.

And of this last my Will and Testament, I ordain, constitute and make my loving wife MARJORIE LOWNDS and RICHARD LOWNDS my son and lawful executors to see the same in all payments performed according to that trust I do all repose in them.

And also I do require Mr EATON parson of Mobberley to be my Overseer that this my last will be truly performed.

Item, I give and bestow upon ELLEN STRETTALL one bullock stirke.

Item, I give and bequeath to WILLIAM MOSS three shillings and fourpence and to RALPH BAGALEY two shillings.

Item to MARGARET HILL five shillings.

Signed, sealed and delivered as his last Will and Testament in the presence of

ROBERT EATON, Mobberley

RICHARD EATON

JOHN STRETTALL of Poole Bancke

RICHARD LOWNDS

JOHN STRETTALL of Town Lane

PHILIP BURGES

RALPH STRATTALL

HENRY SHAW of Pavement Lane

Debts owing to the Testator:

JOHN STRETTELL of Damhead

If your ancestor lived in a village it could be worth checking all wills for that village for a period of time to see if your ancestor was named, especially if you are having problems finding information on your family. Wills can prove to be very useful.

Why Should We Remember?

by Kate A Booth
Membership no. 10144

*Why should we remember? But how can we forget...
The two World Wars have given us the best TV films yet!*

... and that is how a sizeable group of people learn about the two World Wars. They rely on the media to 'educate' them as to the facts, they switch over to light entertainment on Remembrance Day rather than watch something 'boring', they no longer stand for just a minute at 11 o'clock on Armistice and Remembrance Days - probably not even aware of why they are thus called - they don't (or won't) wear poppies of whatever colour... what happened last century is nothing to do with them.

It has everything to do with them: children's education, the NHS, the United Nations, and the democratic structure of many countries are the direct result of the slaughter of millions in those and ensuing wars. The most extreme pacifist probably owes their very being to the result of conflict: Nazi Germany condemned not only Jews, but the mental and physical 'defectives' (and what a pejorative phrase that is), Travellers, various racial groups and those who dared to stand against them. That wasn't the only society to 'remove' those it considered different, and it still isn't! Whom do we ask to stand against the aggressors and bullies? Our armed forces; and when they are maimed or killed, we call it *a sacrifice* or say they have *laid down their lives* - when the reality was probably a horrible, slow death soaked in mud, urine and blood. The least we can do is ensure their names are remembered.

Following the end of the First World War, local Registrars were given the task of collating the names from their hamlet, village, town, city of those dead as a result of the conflict for inclusion on a War Memorial which would be the design of the area's choice. The interpretation of instruction for inclusion was up to the Registrar and led to names being missed and families ignored. For almost 100 years, families viewed a loved one's name being missed from their Memorial as a punishment of sorts. Nothing was farther from the truth.

Recovering from illness, I decided to use my time to research and write biographies of those who didn't return home or died later of wounds who had left the villages to the north-east of Stalybridge to enlist, or be taken as

conscripts, in the First World War. I spent hours reading and rereading the newspapers of the time in Stalybridge Library, later cross-checking my findings on the *Soldiers Died* CD. Sam Whitlock gave me the comprehensive list of those remembered on Stalybridge War Memorial... and that is when I discovered the Missing Men. Men (Stalybridge was fortunate in not losing women in the First World War) whose families were living out of area at the time; men whose close relatives couldn't reach the Town Hall because they were suffering from Spanish Flu'; a brother refused because he had died of illness after fighting whilst his sibling, who died 'in the field', was included; men who had died of wounds at home; a husband whose widow had remarried; families who had emigrated to try to escape the memories of war; relatives who objected to war, a memorial or both on moral or ethical grounds, or those who just couldn't be bothered as many reasons as there were the hundreds missed.

But the worst exclusion was that of the three MARSHALL brothers whose mother walked the three miles to the Town Hall from Carrbrook only to be told that the area where she lived with her husband and remaining six children (one had left for Canada) was actually under the provenance of Mossley. On the same day, she walked to Top Mossley, was turned down by their Registrar, and returned to Stalybridge only to be sent on her way again. When the Roll of Honour was commissioned by Tameside Council 90 years later, there were many tears from proud nephews and nieces relieved that at last their town remembered their three young men.

But we need all their names in stone... paper burns.

Reasons to remember? Possibly a great uncle, your grandfather's best friend, or just the seventeen-year-old who worked in the mill with his mates before going out to the Front and staying there trodden into the mud of France, left in a grave in Basra, buried at sea with his shipmates or left with shrapnel buried in his body living his life out as a permanent invalid.

And so, if you have a minute at any time of day, at any month of the year, please pause and remember your town's Fred BRADSHAW whose family lived for 90 years thinking he must have been shot at dawn, when in fact his wife was dreadfully ill at the time of Registration; remember your Harry KENYON who died of pneumonia in Salonika whilst his brother James, who died of wounds, was included on the Memorial; your MARSHALL brothers turned away by the cussedness of a registrar; your Alfred SMITH who worked and was a boarder in town for years though his family lived elsewhere; your many others including the ALLARD siblings who died in the Second World War. The family had escaped

from their native France in May, 1940. Phillip was killed training as a pilot - originally being buried in St James's Churchyard, and Esther, a member of the Corps Feminin Forces Aerieenne having been sent to France in September, 1944, died there in February, 1945. Both are now buried in Paris.

To see all their names in stone....

Thanks to Sam Whitlock (sadly no longer with us), Dr K W Mitchinson, the staff of Tameside Archives when based at Stalybridge, and the families of the Missing Men.

For Evermore

www.cwgc.org

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) has launched a new initiative to allow the public to add information and photographs to their records. Called *For Evermore: Stories of the Fallen*, memories and stories can be added for anyone who is named on the CWGC website. To add your story or photo, find the person on the CWGC website, copy or make a note of their full website address, then choose *For Evermore* on the menu followed by *Submit a Story*.

Middlewich News (6) from the Bucks Advertiser 14 June 1873

CONDENSED MILK – is somewhat explained by its name, as it is pure milk as drawn from the cow, with three-fourths of its bulk taken away by condensation. The portion removed consists of water only. The remaining part retains all the nutritive elements originally contained in the greater bulk, and in an unchanged condition. If it is desired to keep it a long time, sugar must be added; but without sugar will only keep in good condition for a few days. The condensed milk with sugar is that best known in England, and is what is usually sold by the grocers and chemists; but in America the unsweetened is largely used. [There follows] the process after receiving [the milk] at the works, as practised at Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, and Middlewich, Cheshire, by the English Condensed Milk Company... The farmers contract that the cows shall be fed with nothing that will impart an injurious quality or unpleasant flavour to the milk; that no milk from a diseased cow shall be sent in; that the milk shall be cooled immediately after milking;... that it shall be delivered at the company's works... within a limited number of hours after the milking.

Sapper Lindon Franklin Woodward (1911-1940)

by Margaret Roberts
Publicity Officer

The steam locomotive Stanier class 8F number 48773, which is now housed at the Severn Valley Railway (SVR), had a very distinguished career before retirement. She was built in 1940 to a standard London Midland and Scottish Railway design (many of her sister locomotives were built in Crewe) but she was, in fact built for the War Department with a view to her being used to support the British Army in France.

The fall of France led to her remaining in the UK but in 1941 she was sent to Iran (then known as Persia) to work in pulling supply trains to help the Russians. She subsequently worked in Egypt and did not return to the UK until 1952. She remained in the service of the Army until 1957 when she was bought by British Railways. She worked in various parts of the UK until the very last day of steam locomotives working for British Railways in August 1968.

She was bought by Stanier 8F Locomotive Society Ltd straight from British Railways service and went to the SVR, where she worked on for the next forty years. Since 2008 she has been waiting for repairs to enable her to return to work. She is presently on show in the Engine House Museum at Highley on the SVR. More details can be found on the Stanier 8F Locomotive Society's website at www.8fsociety.co.uk

In 1986, in recognition of her war service, she was formally dedicated as the official War Memorial engine of the Royal Engineers. She commemorates more than 300 Royal Engineer railwaymen who lost their lives in WWII. The locomotive carries commemorative plaques to this effect and the Society maintains an appropriate Roll of Honour giving details of those who gave their lives, along with details of their places of burial.

One of those commemorated is Sapper Lindon Franklin WOODWARD from Crewe and I was asked if I could research his life and perhaps find details of any of descendants are still alive. What follows is an abridged version of a narrative that will appear in the Stanier 8F Locomotive Society Ltd journal *Black Eights*, which I thought may be of interest to members.

Lindon was born on 23rd November 1911¹ to railway goods checker William Henry WOODWARD and his wife Alice née PENK. The couple, who were married at St Barnabas Church on West Street, Crewe the previous year, were living at Madeley Street in the town at the time of Lindon's birth², and he was their only child. William and Alice must have been very proud of their son, as they entered him in the Baby Show at the 1912 Crewe Pageant and Fete. Staff from right across the Works joined in creating floats and dressing up in fancy dress – the whole parade was quite a spectacle. Lindon was one of 63 babies under the age of 18 months who were entered into the show, which was judged by, among others, Miss ORR, the superintendent of the railway orphanage. The medical men on the judging panel were *much impressed with the physique, general development, and vitality of the youngsters... with the babies from the rural areas being only a little better than those from the borough*. The champion boy was Walter SCOTT, *a chubby nine-month-old child* whose parents lived in Madeley Street, so a neighbour of the Woodwards. Lindon was awarded one of the consolation prizes, an item of wearing apparel.³

Before the start of WWI, William and Alice had moved to Sydney Road in Haslington, where they can also be found in 1921; Lindon, aged 9 years and 6 months, is noted as being in full time education. William is listed as a railway goods checker employed by the London and North Western Railway Co (LNWR) at Gresty Road in Crewe, and Alice was occupied with 'home duties'.⁴

Lindon attended the Crewe Academy and in April 1927 was listed among the prize winners at the annual prize giving day, as a member of form VI.⁵ On leaving school Lindon took up employment in the Locomotive Accountant Dept at LNWR in Crewe. The next time we pick Lindon up in the records is his marriage to Hilda DORRICOFF on 18th September 1937. The couple were married at St Michael's Church on Crewe Green; the newspaper report states that the WOODWARDS were now living on Richmond Road, while Hilda and her parents lived in Walthall Street. Hilda was a clerk in the wages department of British Rail Engineering, where she had been employed since 1927,⁶ her father Enoch being a railway engine driver for LNWR.⁷ After a reception at the Earl of Crewe Hotel, the couple left to honeymoon in Bournemouth. Presents included a sewing machine and an electric fire from the staff of the Locomotive Accountant's Office.⁸

Lindon took part in many sports organised by LNWR. He was a keen cricketer, winning the Turnbull Cup and voted as secretary of the Bowls section in 1939. Hilda also played tennis, in the same year being runner up in the ladies' tennis handicap competition.⁹ The couple were blessed with a son, Roger, later that year and lived in Gainsborough Road.¹⁰

Lindon answered the nation's call when on 1st July 1940 he signed up, joining the Royal Engineers as part of the 7th Railway Company. His service, however, would be short-lived as he died on 30th November 1940 in the Emergency Hospital at Alton, Hampshire, following injuries sustained in an accident while on duty as a despatch rider. His body was brought back to Crewe for interment and his obituary, under the heading *Crewe Soldier's Death on Active Service*, gives a few details on his short life, including the fact that before he joined the Army he was on the LMS Accountants Staff at Crewe and was a popular member of the Permanent Way Cricket Club. The funeral was attended by his widow Hilda, his parents and mother-in-law as well as other family members, friends, and neighbours. Representatives from the Loco Accounts Office, the Railway Clerks' Association, and Crewe Permanent Way Cricket Club were also in attendance, while the coffin bearers were former workmates.¹²



Courtesy of Military Images

Lindon had not made a will but letters of administration were granted on 3rd June 1941 to his widow Hilda WOODWARD and his father William Henry WOODWARD, then a retired railway clerk. His effects were valued at £1,413 7s.¹³ His Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone, inscribed with a cross and the epitaph *God's Greatest Gift, Remembrance* can be seen in Crewe Cemetery, Section AA Grave 227.¹⁴

Hilda, on being widowed, returned to her previous job in the wages department of British Rail Engineering where she worked until her retirement, completing forty years' service in 1970.¹⁵

For many years after Lindon's death, poignant notices were posted in the memorial section of the *Crewe Chronicle* from Hilda and his parents,¹⁶ such as this one on the first anniversary of his death:

*In ever loving memory of my dear husband, Lindon, who was accidentally killed
On Nov 30th 1940, while serving with the Royal Engineers in the South of England.*

Also loving birthday remembrance for Nov 23rd.

'Those who loved him suffer in silent grief'

Sadly missed by his Wife and baby, Roger, 65 Gainsborough Road, Crewe.¹⁷

Notices in further years included this from his parents in 1945, to coincide with the end of WWII:

*In proud and loving memory of our dear and only son, Lindon, who lost his life while serving with the REs, Nov 30th 1940. Also birthday remembrance for (23rd Nov) Not just to-day, but always, we remember.
Mother and Father, 153 Richmond Road, Crewe.¹⁸*

1962 turned out to be a sad year for the WOODWARD family, when in March William died at the age of 79. He was cremated at Crewe on 7th March with his ashes scattered on the same day. Alice was herself in hospital and too ill to attend her husband's cremation. The funeral cortege left Gainsborough Road, from the house of their daughter-in-law, Lindon's widow, Hilda.¹⁹ His effects were valued at £2,227 when probate was granted on 15th May 1962, to be administered by Mrs Edith HODGKISS, Alice's sister who also lived in Gainsborough Road.²⁰ Alice died later that year at the age of 81 on 6th November at the Barony Hospital, Nantwich; her cremation took place three days later at Crewe.²¹ Her will was proved in April 1963 and probate was again granted to Edith, the effects being valued at just over £2,600.²²

Lindon and Hilda's son Roger followed his father, mother and grandfather into the railway industry – he was employed by British Rail as a technical assistant in the Civil Engineering Department in Crewe. In October 1966 he married Geraldine Ann HARVEY, daughter of the late Mr W and Mrs A M HARVEY of Remer Street, Crewe, at Christ Church in town.²³ Geraldine was a British Rail employee, working as member of clerical staff.

In later life Hilda, Lindon's widow, was an active member of the WRVS, where she volunteered for the Hospital Tea Rooms and the Meals on Wheels Service, as well as being on the committee of the Townswomen's Guild. She also kept herself busy writing poems and delivering talks and monologues for various local organisations on her work for the WRVS as well as her life in Crewe, such as her humorous tale *Things that have happen to me*.²⁴ In November 1988 her eighteen years of service with the WRVS was recognised with the Queen's Medal.²⁵

Hilda died aged 91 on 29th June 2002 and was interred alongside Lindon on 10th July; the burial registers at Crewe Crematorium show that the plot, noted as being a war grave, was transferred into Roger's name on the same date. A small plaque in remembrance to Hilda was placed in front of Lindon's headstone. Her obituary records the sad loss of Lindon in the first few years of their marriage and how Hilda became a constant help to others with her volunteer work with the WRVS.²⁶

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Photo: Courtesy of Military Images

www.militaryimages.net/media/lindon-franklin-woodward.105052

National Service 1958-1960

by Peter Rowley
Membership no. 3298

As a trainee pharmacist, my National Service was deferred until I had completed all my training. As a result, I was twenty-three years of age when I was called to attend a medical in Newcastle upon Tyne, where I was doing my post-graduate training. I was interviewed by a Lt-Colonel who asked if I was interested in joining the Army Catering Corp - I informed him that I wished to serve as a pharmacist.

I received my call-up papers and reported to the Royal Army Medical Corp's training barracks in Crookham, Hampshire. I was the oldest recruit in my squad and, having been away from home for the last five years, I was able to settle in quite quickly. There were some young recruits who were only just eighteen and had never been away from home; they cried themselves to sleep.

After six weeks square-bashing we were allowed leave and I went to see my fiancée, staying with my aunt with whom I had lived during the war. Unfortunately, my uncle died while I was on leave, so I arranged an extension to my pass and stayed for his funeral. I returned to camp to find that my fellow squaddies thought I had *gone over the wall!* The rest of training went smoothly and at the end we had another week's leave.

There were eight pharmacists in my intake and we were all told to report to the Army School of Dispensing to learn how the army ordered its drugs and equipment. Whilst there, we heard that if you volunteered to teach at the School of Dispensing you would receive a 'home' posting. At the time there was fighting in Cyprus against EOKA, in Malaysia against the communists, and in Kenya against the Mau Mau; being a devout coward, I applied.

When the postings came through, there were two to Hong Kong, two to Singapore, two to some other safe place and two home postings; I was one of those to get a home posting. We were allowed to choose between Glasgow and London, and I chose Glasgow, thinking it would be easier to get to.

However, when I arrived at Cowglen Military Hospital, I was told that I was to be promoted to Sergeant (squaddy to Sergeant in 102 days!) and to report to the HQ

of the Seaforth Highlanders at Fort George, Ardersier, which is just east of Inverness.

Here I spent an enjoyable fifteen months. After morning sick parade, the rest of the day was our own. We would go to the gym and play basketball or I would draw a .22 rifle from the armourer and practice from the ramparts. One of our other duties was to act as medical cover for Inverness airport and we would practice first aid there. We even entered the Scottish airports first aid competition and won, although the regular fire crew got the award. We also helped to organise blood donor sessions at the Fort every three or four months.

Even though it was a home posting, it took fourteen hours by bus and train to get home to St Helens. I took the 1.30pm bus from Ardersier to Inverness station, then the 4.30pm train from Inverness, changing at Perth, eventually arriving at St Helens Shaw Street station at 7.00 the next morning. All this travel on a ten shilling army ticket!

The local pharmacist in Ardersier was also secretary of the local branch of the Pharmaceutical Society and had to attend meetings in Edinburgh or London. I would run his pharmacy while he was away - and get paid for it.

Talking of pay, as a recruit we received 21 shillings a week (£1.05) and had to pay for all our cleaning kit and haircuts, but as a sergeant I was paid £6 a week. On the other hand, as a civilian pharmacist I would have earned £21 a week, so I lost £15 for every week I was in the army.

However, all good things must come to an end, and it was decided that I was surplus to establishment, as the regular army staff-sergeant who was second in command to the medical officer was an army qualified dispenser. So I reported back to Glasgow - but as a result, lost one of my stripes. I was then sent to various depots around Scotland to cover when the pharmacist went on leave. I had my trusty Lambretta scooter with me and would ride off to Aberdeen or Perth or Troon to spend two weeks with another Scottish regiment. When not out as a locum, I was night ward master and responsible for admissions during the night. As a result, I was excused parades etc and spent time doing my own thing.

Eventually my demob day arrived and I returned home to St Helens.

For me, National Service was a long holiday which I would rather not have done, but it made a break from education.

William Warrington – A Fantasy Story

Peter Lee

Membership no. 6151

Tuesday volunteer at Mobberley Research Centre.

You may recall from an earlier piece in this edition of the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR my account of a totally bizarre piece of research attributed to my wife's 4x great-grandfather William WARRINGTON. Well, I found more outlandish research on a public tree, again on Ancestry, confidently submitted by a gentleman in America. Settle back and I'll tell you a fantasy story.

The setting is a little village on the banks of the River Farm, in the Parish district of Saint Georges on the island of Montserrat, which is nestled in the Caribbean Sea with St Kitts and Nevis to the north-north-west and Antigua and Barbuda to the north-north-east. What is the background history of Montserrat? Many of the first Europeans who settled on the island in 1632 were Irish indentured servants, while the Africans came as slaves to work plantations that produced mainly sugar, sea-island cotton and lime.

So, on a sunny day in 1732, William WARRINGTON was allegedly born to parents William WARRINGTON Snr and Ruth MELLOR. Now, here we have a slight problem because they were both farmers at Flash Head Farm in Quarnford, Staffordshire England! Let's not dwell on this slight problem, for which I'm sure there is a perfectly reasonable answer....

It is unclear what type of a life William lived. Is he a slave? Is he a farmer? Or is he just another young man out of a job? In his early twenties he wakes up one sunny morning - it's nearly always sunny in the Caribbean - and thinks to himself, *I'm going to find myself a wife!* After careful consideration, he decides to go to England, presumably because the local lonely hearts club brochure has polarised his view that all the pretty girls live in England.

Bags packed, he sets off on the roughly 4,000 mile journey. Even my highly-tuned imagination can't offer a scenario of how this trip could have been planned, financed and executed, and even less how long this jaunt would have taken. If really pushed, I would probably say a Thomson's Holidays return flight to the UK, but that's only a guess.

William arrives in England, I know not where. It's cold, wet, miserable and he's thirsty. His first decision on English soil is a hard one. Is it a Costa Coffee or a pint in Wetherspoons while he decides in which part of this sceptred isle to search for his bride. He obviously went in 'Spoons and sampled several of their finest libations, as the place he chose was, you've guessed it, Quarnford!! The very small, remote, moorland farming community situated approximately 1,500 feet above sea level. The perils of drink have never more been brought into focus.

So intrepid William arrives in Quarnford, a foreigner knowing nobody except, yes, William WARRINGTON Snr his dad. Sadly his mum, Ruth MELLOR, had died several years earlier when he was about 17. What a small world!

He quickly settles down into a farming life, and, true to his aspirations to find a wife, hey presto it happens. At one of the local Young Farmers discos he meets Jane CHAPPELL, a nice young farmer's daughter. With the lure of a daily full English breakfast for William and the chance to ride round the fields on a Massey Ferguson for Jane, they decided to get married. Indeed, on 19 February 1757 in Alstonfield Parish Church, Jane CHAPPELL became Jane WARRINGTON. I've just smiled at what I have written as that was my wife's maiden name!

There is no record to suggest that William ever got his daily full English breakfast, nor Jane her own Massey Ferguson; however there is a record that confirms they had a junior farmer by the name of Philip.

Now for the weepy bit. In 1793, William's father, William WARRINGTON Snr died and was buried in the graveyard of St Paul's Church, Quarnford, Flash, Staffordshire. On 18 August 1813, William's wife Jane WARRINGTON died and was buried on 21 August 1813 in the graveyard of St Paul's Church, Quarnford, Flash, Staffordshire. On 23 November 1813, just three months after Jane, William died at Flash Head, Staffordshire, but guess where he was supposedly buried?

St Paul's Church, Quarnford, Flash, Staffordshire? NO.

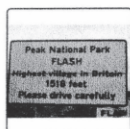
The Parish Church of Farm, Saint Georges, Montserrat? NO.

You'll never guess. It was Newington, London Borough of Southwark, Greater London, England. I know, this was a complete surprise, especially as I already knew he was buried on 26 November 1813 in the graveyard of St Paul's Church, Quarnford, Flash, Staffordshire.

To add another twist to this fantasy story, William and Jane actually had a further three sons and a daughter besides Philip, so *shhhh!* we'll keep that a secret and hope that the American researcher doesn't read the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR.

Now, I must come clean - not all of this story is strictly correct and there is a little artistic licence. Hopefully, although a little tongue in cheek, it serves to illustrate that when reading 'facts' from whatever source, the greatest attribute is common sense. Experience, knowledge and ability are all requisite components, but the ability to answer the most fundamental of questions such as *Does that sound correct? Is that feasible? and Can that be achieved in the timeframe?* is key. Attempt to put yourself in your ancestors' shoes and think to yourself, *How could I have achieved that, at that point in time?*

I hope you enjoyed this little story and remember, don't always believe what you read, especially if it's related to genealogical research done by someone else!



William Warrington

BIRTH 1732 • Farm, Saint Georges, Montserrat
DEATH 23 NOV 1813 • Flash Head, Staffordshire, England

Facts

Name

William Warrington

Gender

♂ Male

Age 0 – Birth

1732 • Farm, Saint Georges, Montserrat

Age 17 – **Death of mother Ruth Mellor Warrington** (1704–1749)

Aug 1749 • Staffordshire, England

Age 25 – Marriage

19 Feb 1757 • Alstonfield, Stafford, England

 **Jane Chappell/Chapel Warrington**
 (1734–1813)

Age 36 – **Birth of son Philip Warrington Sr** (1768–1843)

1768 • Staffordshire, England

Age 61 – **Death of father William Warrington** (1694–1793)

Nov 1793 • Flash, Quarnford, Staffordshire

Age 81 – **Death of wife Jane Chappell/Chapel Warrington** (1734–1813)

18 Aug 1813 • Flash Head, Staffordshire, England

Age 81 – Death

23 Nov 1813 • Flash Head, Staffordshire, England

Burial

Newington, London Borough of Southwark, Greater London, England

Family

Parents

 **William Warrington**
 1694–1793

 **Ruth Mellor Warrington**
 1704–1749

Spouse and children

 **Jane Chappell/Chapel Warrington**
 1734–1813

 **Philip Warrington Sr**
 1768–1843


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Millowners' Women

Kate Booth
Membership no. 10144

Rapacious. Greedy. Self-seeking. Cruel. Domineering.

We have read the novels of the times. We have seen the films. We have been to illustrated talks. We have visited their large estates and seen the profits in material form. We might have heard stories from grandparents. But how much was actually true?

We all view history through the eyes of the times we live in; what was acceptable even thirty years ago is seen as deliberate cruelty now.

One thing we can do is look at the lives of the wives and daughters of the millowners who, according to 'history', were 'forced' into advantageous marriages, and as dowagers were shuffled out of their homes into a lodge on the edge of the property. But on researching the womenfolk of some of our local millowners, as might be expected there were as many shades of behaviour as found in our modern entrepreneurs: some good, some bad and some the normal mix of human behaviour.

When Gay Oliver and I were researching our book on notable women of Tameside, there were many cases which disproved the above.

Bertha MASON was the daughter of Liberal politician and millowner, Hugh MASON, who was noted for his care for his workers: building homes for them, providing a reading room, swimming pool, gym, and public park. His own story is well worth researching; he married four times, and Bertha was the daughter of Betsy, Hugh's second wife, herself the daughter of a millowner.

Bertha was born in 1855 at Groby Hall, Ashton-under-Lyne. She was a Temperance worker, and a strong supporter of women's suffrage, organising branches of the Women's Liberal Society and Cheshire Union. By 1902, she was the Honorary Secretary of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, becoming a member of the Executive Committee in 1906. In 1912, her book 'The Story of the Women's Suffrage Movement' was published. Ahead of her time, in 1915 she advocated that female police should have the same status and powers as men, and supported women tram drivers. She was on the British Committee

of the French Red Cross. In 1916, she worked in a Rest Camp and in a British Hospital in France. She also supported returning POWs. By 1934, she was Vice-President of the National Council of Women in Great Britain and a member of the Women's Advisory Council of the League of Nations. She died in Surrey on 8th July 1939, having moved to London in 1904. She left monies to Ashton-under-Lyne District Infirmary and Children's Hospital, where beds were kept in memory of her father and sister, Edith.

Margaret ASHTON was the daughter of Thomas ASHTON, a millowner in Hyde. She was born in Withington on 19th January 1856, and grew up in Didsbury with six siblings. She was a pacifist, philanthropist and suffragist, a volunteer manager of Flowery Fields School and governor of Manchester Grammar School for Girls. She was the first woman City Councillor for Withington in 1908, serving on the Manchester Public Health Committee and Child Welfare subcommittee. In 1914 she co-founded the Manchester Babies' Hospital, promoting municipal mother and baby clinics with free milk for babies and new mothers.

She caused controversy at the outbreak of the First World War by signing an open letter calling for peace and starting the Manchester branch of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. In 1920 the Women's Farm and Garden Union was established with smallholdings in Surrey and she donated £5,000 to the cause. She died on 15th October 1937. Her brother Thomas was the 1st Baron ASHTON of Hyde; he was also an industrialist and philanthropist.

Ellen BARNES was the daughter of Stalybridge millowner John CHEETAM and had four siblings. She was born in 1841 and christened at Albion Congregational Church, Ashton, on 23rd September, her father's profession being given as Justice of the Peace. She grew up at Eastwood House, now part of the bird sanctuary. In 1864, she married James Richardson BARNES, the son of Thomas BARNES MP and spent most of her life in the midlands. She died on 23rd February 1920, leaving monies to the mayor and Aldermen of Stalybridge Borough. She was a committed supporter of local organisations and a committed educationalist. To honour her, in 1925 the Ellen BARNES Memorial Lectures were inaugurated; the instructions included 'for the benefit of the library at Stalybridge either in purchase of books, or in the payment of lectures on literary subjects as the council shall think fit'. The lectures ceased in 2012.

Kate BRADBURY GRIFFITHS was born on 28th August 1854 to millowner Charles T. BRADBURY and his wife Elizabeth. Kate was educated by a governess. For a time, her father was manager of the Buckton Vale Printworks, before moving to Riversdale Hall, Ashton-under-Lyne where the family made friends with

Egyptologist Aquila DODGSON. She was involved with the Egyptian Exploration Society and the Department of Egyptology at University College London (UCL). She accompanied Amelia EDWARDS on a lecture tour of America following her friend Aquila's death, establishing the Edwards Professor of Egyptian Archaeology and Philology at UCL, the first holder being Flinders PETRIE. She married Francis Llewelyn GRIFFITHS in 1896, living with her father at Riversdale Hall where she died on 2nd March 1902. Their legacies went to the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

Elizabeth Hannah KENYON was born in 1854 at Stonecliffe, Lancashire, to flyer maker Charles DARLINGTON. She married George Henry KENYON in 1875. By 1891 they were living in Dukinfield; in 1911 they were living on Currier Lane, Ashton-under-Lyne and George was an established rope manufacturer. In the First World War she was Chairwoman of the local Needlework Guild and as such provided each soldier with two shirts, two pairs of socks and other necessities. Following her husband's death in 1917, she took over his role of Mayor, and remained Mayoress until her death, being very active in political and public activities. In 1922 she was the first lady to be Chair of the Board of Guardians and was on many child and hospital committees. As Lady KENYON she was a J.P. in Cheshire and a Freeman of the Borough. She died on 20th November 1935 leaving £11,159.

Ada SUMMERS is probably the best known 'Lady Bountiful' from her era. Born in 1861, she was the daughter of textile mill owner George Kelsall BROOME. She grew up in Oldham before marrying John SUMMERS in 1881. They had four children and lived at Inglewood, Stalybridge. John SUMMERS J.P. of John Summers & Sons Steelworks was the owner of Globe Ironworks, their HQ moving to Shotton in 1908. John died in 1910 leaving her £192,093 which she was to use for the benefit of her local community. At the time, Stalybridge had the highest child mortality rate in the country and so she started a school for mothers. She bought a large Christmas tree and held a children's party with presents for all; she opened an unofficial employment centre in the ironworks, gave £3,000 for a nurses' home, and donations to the Infirmary including sponsoring a cot in the Children's Hospital. She started a Ladies' Society with picnics for nurses and convalescents, and she was President of Stalybridge Mechanics' Institute. But she is perhaps best known for her political involvement, being elected Liberal Party Councillor in 1912. She was the first British woman to sit as a magistrate, one of the first female J.P.s, the first female Mayor (1919) and Freeman (1939) of Stalybridge. She was awarded an OBE in 1918. Her other interests included the social and probation services. She died in 1944 leaving £65,943.

But probably the most outstanding was Hannah LEES. Born in 1764 to millowner John BUCKLEY of Oldham she married Samuel LEES Jnr on Christmas Day 1783 and lived at Park Bridge House. She had twelve children of whom six died before her husband died in 1804. He was the owner of Park Bridge Ironworks and left his business to his eldest son, but the Stamford Estate transferred the lease to Hannah and from then on, she administered the business. Unfortunately, the family fell under the influence of the prophet/charlatan John WROE by whom her daughter gave birth to a daughter, and not his promised messiah! When she died in 1831, Hannah was the owner of the largest ironworks in Manchester.

YOU WILL COME TO REALISE THAT THE HOUSING OF THE POOR,
THE PROTECTION OF INFANT LIFE, THE SAFEGUARDING OF WORKERS,
THE CARE OF THE AGED, THE MENTALLY AFFLICTED,
THE EDUCATION OF THE YOUNG,
ARE YOUR BUSINESS, YOUR CONCERN.... Bertha Mason 1903.

Miscellany

A Kinship Conundrum, from the *Guardian* by Alex Bellos, published in 2019.

One day it was my friend Olivia's birthday. Two days later her elder twin, Oliver, celebrated his birthday. How could this happen? Solution on the next page.

Motor Vehicles in Britain

In 1926 there were 1,715,000 motor vehicles registered and 4,886 road fatalities, giving a ratio of 2.9 fatalities per thousand vehicles.

By 2020 there were 40,350,714 motor vehicles, nearly 24 times as many. By contrast the number of road fatalities for 2019 was 1,752, giving a ratio of only 0.04 fatalities per thousand vehicles.

Found in the 1911 Census

Eric Stanley DORE, age 3 weeks, of Manchester, occupation *milk drinking*.

Elsie Iris AXTELL, age 9 months, of Bristol, occupation *eating, drinking, sleeping*.

Jim the CAT, age 1, of Doncaster, occupation *mouse catcher*.

Thomas THOMPSON, age 60, Stourbridge, *found by police sleeping in open air in a drunken state*.

Found on the Find a Grave website by Margaret Roberts:

This grave is located at Boylston Baptist Church Cemetery, Boylston, Guysborough County, Nova Scotia, Canada.



ARTHUR SPANKS
HIS WIFE
KATHERINE

Solution to A Kinship Conundrum
Oliver was born on March 1 on a plane flying eastwards over the Pacific. A few seconds later the plane crosses the International Date Line, and Olivia is born. She is thus born on February 28, making her the younger child, but with a calendar birth date one day before her older brother's. On leap years, however, Olivia will celebrate her birthday two days before her older twin.

***Middlewich News (7) from the
Chester Courant & Advertiser 24 September 1873***

AGRICULTURAL SHOW AT MIDDLEWICH – The annual show was held in a field near to Newton Lodge on Tuesday week... The entrances in various classes numbered 330, being 112 in excess of last year. The weather was very propitious... the receipts at the gates exceeded those of last year by £3, the amount realised being £29.... It was gratifying to observe that the quality of the cheese... came fully up to the "old Cheshire cheese" standard, though in point of quantity the show was not what we have seen [in the past]. This falling off is attributable to the recent erection in the neighbourhood of a factory by the English Condensed Milk Company, who buy up the greatest portion of the milk of the district. Mr George Prescott, of Sutton Hall, was the fortunate winner of the first prize for the best four cheese over 50lbs each. Mr Chas Jackson, of Clive, carried off the palm for butter.

Researching the Wellings Family

by Marion Hall
Membership no 9303.

This article was previously printed in the North Cheshire Journal in 2015.

As we all know, researching family history can be a frustrating occupation at times, then there is that special moment when suddenly something happens to make it all worthwhile.

Over a period of several years my husband David and I have researched the branches of our families and in many cases have gone back to the 17th century along the direct lines. Then I started to look again at the family of David's maternal 3x great-grandfather William WELLINGS, who was born in 1747 in Cressage, Shropshire. William and his wife Mary GRIFFITHS (born 1757) were married in the nearby village of Cound in 1776 and had fifteen children, eleven girls and four boys, at least five of whom died in infancy. Their tenth child and third son was David's ancestor Thomas, born 1794. On various censuses he was a publican, then a farmer in a nearby village of Cressage, and then he moved to Wolverhampton and was recorded as a gardener. Thomas and his wife Jemima BROWN had eleven children. Some of this branch of the family moved to and lived in Wolverhampton and is the place where David's mother was born three generations later.

Having found as much information on this direct line as possible, I decided to look at some of Thomas's siblings.

Thomas's older brother William WELLINGS was born in 1787 and married Elizabeth FRANCIS (born 1780) in 1815 in Shrewsbury. On the 1841 census his occupation was Ag lab but on the 1851 and 1861 censuses he is recorded as a *veterinary surgeon* or *cow leach man*. He and Elizabeth had two sons: William born 1817 and Richard born 1826. Richard's occupation was *moulder* in the 1841 census. In 1852 Richard married Margaret GORING, born 1830 in Ironbridge, and on subsequent censuses is recorded as *labourer in iron works* and *iron mill man*. Richard and Margaret had nine children, five boys and four girls, and lived in Little Wenlock, Shropshire. This area of Shropshire, and Ironbridge in particular, is said to be the birthplace of the industrial revolution. It was noted for the mining of both coal and ironstone, so it is not surprising to find occupations of

iron mill man etc instead of Ag lab. Of Richard and Margaret's sons, one died in infancy and the other four boys moved north, presumably to find work using their skills in iron working and the coal mines. On subsequent censuses they are in Warrington or Aspull near Wigan.

On the advice of my brother, I looked at a website called Roots Chat (www.rootschat.com) and searched for the name WELLINGS. Having scrolled through pages and pages of material, I eventually came across The Wigan Local and Family History Society, which up to that point I didn't even know existed, and someone was researching the name WELLINGS. An email was duly sent with outline information and I soon received a reply. It appeared that I had stumbled on another direct descendant of William WELLINGS who had been born in 1747.

Richard (born 1826) and Margaret WELLINGS' youngest child was Edward Walter WELLINGS (born 1873) who in 1896 in Wigan married Amelia Elizabeth RICKETTS (born 1876 in Gloucestershire). They had seven children, Margaret born 1901 being their third child; she married Charles William HEATON. My contact was Margaret and Charles HEATON's seventh child and youngest son, James (Jim).

After many emails, telephone chats and also a meet up, several gaps have been filled, in particular how the different branches of the family came to move around the country - one branch to the Midlands and one north to Warrington, Wigan and Yorkshire. David and Jim shared common ancestors in William WELLINGS and Mary, their 3x great-grandparents, and their 2x great-grandfathers were brothers, Jim's being William and David's being a younger brother, Thomas. I think that made them 4th cousins. Sadly Jim died in 2017 but we have some good memories of our family history chats.

Middlewich News (8) from the Northwich Guardian 19 Apr 1873

MIDDLEWICH – On Easter Monday a public meeting to advocate the principles of Good Templars was held in the Wesleyan School Room, Middlewich, Rev E Fison, Wesleyan Minister, in the chair. Addresses were delivered by Rev C Worboys, Messrs Woodcock, and John Thompson, of Northwich. Recitations were given by Messrs O Griffiths, John and William Austin. Miss C Moore, Miss S A Mills, Mr Thomas Wheedal, and Mr T Penny rendered some Templar Odes in a very pleasing manner. The choir was conducted by Mr Wheedal, Miss Forster presided at the harmonium... At the close of the meeting, 44 signed the application to the Grand Lodge of England for a charter to open a lodge in Middlewich, which is the only town in Cheshire without a lodge.

Christmas Quiz

Just for fun! Answers are on the last page.

- 1 Before turkey became popular in Victorian times, what was the traditional choice for Christmas dinner?
- 2 True or false - mincemeat for mince pies got its name because originally it actually contained minced meat.
- 3 What is the origin of “Stir-Up Sunday”, the last Sunday before advent?
- 4 Where is a boar’s head presented on a silver platter for Christmas?
- 5 On which day is St Stephen’s Day traditionally celebrated?
- 6 The Holy Days and Fasting Act of 1551 stated that every citizen must do what on Christmas Day?
- 7 The Hyde Park Boxing Day swim in the Serpentine started in which year?
- 8 True or false - for a Christmas to be classed as ‘white’, quarter of an inch of snow must fall on the Met Office HQ in London on December 25th.
- 9 In which month does Harrods usually open their Christmas department?
- 10 True or false - Stargazy pie is a dish that originates from Jodrell Bank.
- 11 Which hamlet in Wales used to attract thousands of visitors to its post office in December?
- 12 How fast do the reindeer need to fly to deliver all the presents on time?
- 13 What is the most popular meal to celebrate Christmas in Japan?
- 14 What is the best-selling Christmas song ever?
- 15 Which country started the tradition of the advent calendar by lighting a candle on each day in December?
- 16 What was printed on the front of the first commercial Christmas card?
- 17 Who created the first electric Christmas lights?
- 18 What is Yule?
- 19 In which country do people hide their brooms on Christmas Eve to stop witches stealing them?
- 20 The Christmas cracker was invented by the owner of which kind of shop?

1921 Census Trap

by Gren Dix
Membership no. 4174

One of the basic rules of genealogy is *check everything*.

In the 1921 census I found a branch of my family. There was the head, his wife, their three children (two girls and a boy), together with the head's sister-in-law and her family (husband, son and daughter). This gave nine people living in a cottage. My first thought was *job done, move on to the next task*.

Later, I thought that I would scroll through the adjacent images to see if there were any neighbours of interest. The next image was for the next schedule but was for the same address. There was one person on the record and this person was living in one room.

I knew that the cottage my family was living in had three bedrooms and two downstairs living rooms (and a kitchen). No bathroom in those days. Checking back in the household details, the record showed that my family occupied only four rooms.

If I had done my job properly in the first place I would have queried the fact that they occupied only four of the available five rooms.

Hence check all the facts - but also note that the same property can be covered by more than one census record for the 1911 and 1921 censuses which have one page per household.

Middlewich News (9) from the Warrington Examiner 31 May 1873

A RAID ON COCK FIGHTERS – On Friday afternoon last a number of the Cheshire constabulary, under Superintendents **Mayho**, of Tarporley, and **Rowbottom**, of Middlewich, from information received, made a descent upon the residence of **Mr W Marshall**, a Manchester merchant residing at Weaver Bank House, Weaverham, near Northwich. The police discovered a cock pit with traces of recent fighting; also two cocks nearly dead (and which did shortly afterwards die), and a large number of other cocks in and about the premises... All the spectators had made themselves scarce, the approach of the police having been announced by the blowing of a trumpet...

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 was shocked when I set out to create this issue to find that my folder *Net That Serf - Current Stuff* was empty: nobody had sent me anything of substance to create NTS from! What follows is quite a lot of input from myself and Computer Club subgroup leaders, along with some other pieces that result from a last-minute scrounge.

In the last issue I made praise of the fact that I was able to create the September NTS from members' own input. Perhaps I should never have said that!

Anyway, I've utilised the big blank space to promote the Computer Club, which is enlarging on the very successful additions that we have made in the last couple of years. So, here's a focus on how we're using small subgroups to allow members to spend a couple of hours just discussing their own specific interests.

The Computer Club and Its Subgroups

By Geoff Johnson

Formed in 1990, the Computer Club is monitored by only 17% of the Society's membership and, of that 17%, only about half of those attend our regular monthly meetings. So, how do the Societies family historians manage their searching and family tree information in a meaningful way? We are hoping to find out a little bit more in that direction from the current Society Survey.

Do you use computer technology to help you manage the ever-increasing amount of helpful information available? Have you ever considered visiting one of the club meetings? Increasingly, our newer members are realising that fellow members can often come up with very constructive thoughts and ideas to resolve obscure problems. The advent of Zoom technology has enabled us to spread meetings to members all over the country, and globally too. Over the past couple of years I have observed how new members connect to Zoom, then quietly observe meeting activity, seeing others happily raising what might seem to be simplistic questions, but then realising that matters are often much more complex than they first appear. Eventually they come to realise that they have similar problems or can even suggest solutions, and start joining the discussions.

Because of the wide range of technical topics we can cover, I started to become aware that not all members are interested in the wide range of computer programs or research methods used by others. So, in order to provide more specialised coverage for such programs or methods, we tried forming subgroups to cover specific items. The following articles are contributed by the team leaders managing those subgroups. The process has been very successful because not all members at a computer club meeting are interested in the intricacies of things like DNA research or the Family Tree Maker program. Within the subgroups the interested parties can chat away without boring the socks off those members in a full club meeting who are just not interested in those subjects.

Please sign up to the Computer Club, join us for a couple of our online meetings and see what we can offer to help you specifically.

I'm well aware that lots of our members are not comfortable with the transition to Zoom. Without that technology we could not operate on the scale or coverage that we now manage. Please, please take the trouble to try and set up a Zoom conversation with one or two other people to see how simple and beneficial it really is. We have people who will gladly help you 'cross the threshold'.

The Family Tree Maker Subgroup

By Bill Pearson

We don't feel the need to have monthly meetings for this group, and typically meet every three months. We use email between meetings to help with queries from members.

In recent meetings a variety of topics have been discussed in the Family Tree Maker Subgroup. Syncing Family Tree Maker trees with Ancestry has been an issue, but a recent software update has now fixed this. Members of the group find

that whilst it's very easy to compare your data with other information on Ancestry and Family Search, caution needs to be exercised when importing information from other researchers, who may not have the same high standards of research.

We have also discussed helpful ways of including custom reports and details in reports, and investigated potential errors in the data errors report. We have looked at Family Tree Maker Plugins. Some members use the Genelines plugin, and the Charting Companion (which now includes a DNA Matrix).

The Family History Recording Subgroup

By Christine Wootton

This subgroup of the Computer Club is a very informal group of people who share their experiences of recording, or thinking about how to record and possibly publish their family's history.

We meet on the last Monday of the month, via Zoom, at 2.30pm to share what family history recording we have done so far, and to help anyone who is still trying to start. The results have ranged from commercially printed books to simple stories, using such programs as Microsoft Word. We support one another by giving suggestions and encouragement. We do not have an agenda, but there has never been a problem so far in finding something to talk about.

Members usually share their stories at the meetings, so there is always something of interest to listen to and provide material for discussion. During the last meeting we had a very interesting talk and presentation by a group member on how to date old photographs. During a future meeting a member is going to talk about putting their family history on to a website, and another member is going to talk about using a similar program to Photoshop.

Everyone is given a chance to talk, or just listen if that is what they prefer. This has resulted in a very friendly helpful group. Everyone seems to take away something useful from the meetings, and we are always happy to have new members join us.

How is your hearing today?

By Jersey member John Reed

You may ask, *What does this have to do with Computers and Family History?* This question follows directly from a two-year journey of around twenty members of our Society who signed up to join the Mac User Subgroup of the Computer Club.

Surprised? Yes, I am too, I never thought that our Group would develop like this when I volunteered to help organise it back in 2020.

Anyway, back to our hearing problems. One of our Group was about to get a new mobile phone. Then another member piped up and said, *Make sure you get one with the latest version of Bluetooth on it, this will allow you to easily link your mobile phone to your new hearing aids.* Sounds like good advice!

But it didn't end there. A month later, with new phone and hearing aids working fine, there was still a problem with pairing/connecting these two devices and an Apple watch. The watch no longer worked as it could not link to the iPhone.

A quick Google search had not revealed an obvious solution. But all was solved by Apple Support who recommended shutting down Bluetooth on other devices before trying to connect the watch. Hey presto! This worked straight away, and then all the other Bluetooth items could be reconnected, too. The problem? An overload of Bluetooth.

No, that too was not the end, either! Another member then said they were having the same pairing problem. This had led them to put their Apple watch in a drawer and they had given up on it. A day or two later we heard that this watch was working again thanks to the help from our Group.

This is the essence of our Mac User Group – sharing our knowledge to help each other. This Bluetooth example is one of many tips that have been shared over the last two years since the group began. We meet monthly, have become online friends, and message one another at other times, should we need help.

The beauty of Zoom is we can all talk across the world. None of us were Zoom users in 2020; now we make it work and realise it is nothing to be scared of, as there is always someone there to help.

At least half of our members live nowhere near Cheshire, but we have a common bond of using our computers for family history and want to learn more. We even have some Windows users join us who are thinking of getting a Mac. We discuss iPads and iPhones, too.

Watch this space for more examples of our self-help Subgroup. Do email me, John Reed, if you would like to know more, on john@petitbeaulieu.com

Oh, I almost forgot, greetings too from one of our Subgroup mascots, Ariel the dog, who lives in France.

The DNA Subgroup

This group meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 7:30pm using Zoom. We usually have about 15 attendees. Although we do not include an 'expert' in our numbers, we can usually find solutions or suggestions to any problems our members encounter.

We have had discussions on all the types of DNA testing, with most of us having done an autosomal test, although a few have done the Y-DNA test - but the results seem difficult to understand!

We have watched several videos on various aspects of using our results to find matches and we will be examining all the tools available from the testing companies and other people.

So, if you are interested, contact us on computerclub@fhsc.org.uk and ask to be included in the DNA Subgroup mailing list. If you are not sure that it is for you, come along and see. There are no extra fees to pay, and you can leave the meetings at any time.

The Family Historian Subgroup

Some 26 members of the Computer Club have now joined this subgroup. We meet monthly using Zoom on the third Thursday. Family Historian (FH) is a very comprehensive tool that one can use in as basic or complex a form as one chooses.

It's often surprising to find that when a member shares the screen of his FH set up, we observe that he/she has found an entirely different way of doing something. We are learning all the time!

Some members' setups are very sophisticated and others much less so. It doesn't matter! We will often spend some time discussing the pros and cons, as well as the safe or dangerous methods of recording data.

Apart from attracting members from all over the country or world, anybody who has a particular problem can ask a question, share the FH screen page that they're having trouble with, and listen to others' views as to how to resolve the issue. Invariably in such activities the rest of us learn something as well!

If you are a Family Historian user you may have a technical understanding, difficulty, or a brilliant solution to a problem that you could come along and share with us. I'd be surprised if we cannot help each other.

Mapping Genealogical Information

By Bill Pearson

Whilst researching your family tree, you may have some information that you wish to display on a map. Many years ago this required a lot of skill, or a specialist program such as GenMap UK (www.archersoftware.co.uk/genmap01.htm).

Today many genealogy programs and apps have a mapping facility already built in (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Family_tree_mapping). For advice on using them, use your program's help section.

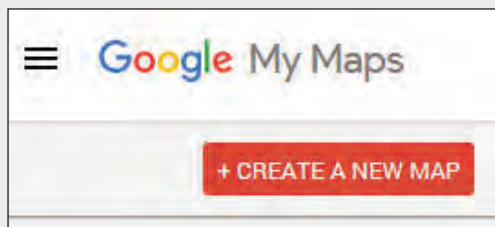
It helps to give complete locations, and to be consistent with locations. For instance, don't put 'Boston' as a place for your Lincolnshire ancestors, as your program may put them on the other side of the Herring Pond, in Massachusetts! Instead, entering 'Boston, Lincolnshire, England' is much better.

Sometimes you may wish to make your own maps, and control what information appears (and doesn't appear) in your maps. Also, if you have ancestors in obscure rural areas, you may know exactly where they lived, but find that your genealogy program puts them somewhere else!

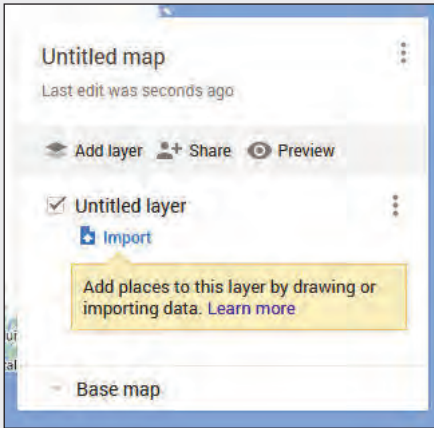
Google offers an excellent mapping service, which is very customisable. You will need a Google account to use it. *[If you don't have one, creating a Gmail account that you need never use should resolve that - GJ]*. The easiest way to populate it is to have the information that you want to map in a spreadsheet. Make sure that you have some headings with location information in them.

Creating a Custom Google Map

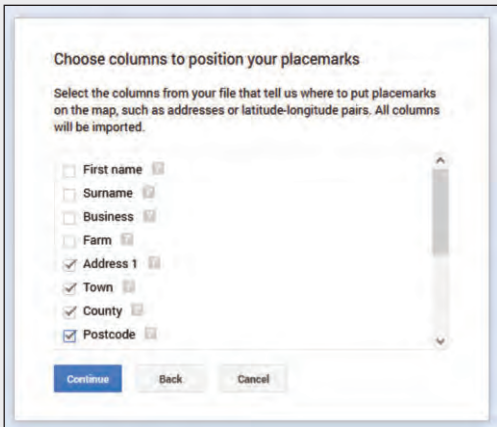
- 1 Log in to your Google account
- 2 Go to Google My Maps: www.google.com/mymaps
- 3 Select *Create a new map*:



- 4 Click the text *Untitled map* to edit the map title and description.



- 5 You then need to import your data. Click on the *Import* button and then *Browse* to find your spreadsheet file.
- 6 Next, tell Google which information is to be used to map the different locations.



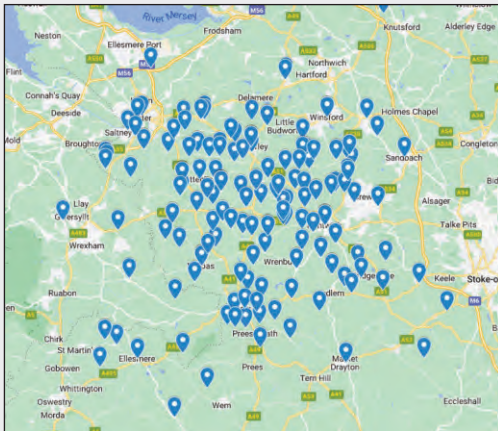
- 7 Now choose a title for each location. Note that in my example I am using a field called Full Name, which is the First name and Surname combined. I used the Concatenate function to quickly do this; for help with this function see <https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/excelformulas/using-concatenate-to-combine-names/1/>

Choose a column to title your markers

Pick a column to use as the title for the placemarks, such as the name of the location or person.

First name
 Surname
 Full name
 Farm
 Address 1
 Town
 County
 Postcode

8 You can then admire, and share, your map:



When you click *Preview*, a Legend will appear on the left-hand side. If you click on *All Items*, a list will appear with them below. If you click on an individual's pin on the map, additional information will appear (like full address or other fields that you have included in your database). That individual's location will be highlighted on the map. Alternatively, you can click on a marker, on the map, and the legend will then display information for that record.

You can also colour code the markers, for different sections of the family etc. If you include hyperlinks in one of your database fields, it can also take you elsewhere to web pages with more information (e.g. old wills, etc.)

Whilst this works reasonably well, the results may not always be as accurate as you would want. Google plotted *Madam's Farm* in the middle of Acton (as Acton

is included in the address) rather than on the Dorfold Estate near Acton. To get round this, I use a Location field, which I easily got from OS Maps. However, Google uses latitude and longitude, so I also have latitude and longitude fields. You can easily convert a map reference to latitude and longitude online. I use Nearby Coordinate Converter (www.nearby.org.uk/coord.cgi) to do this. I then (in the above Step 6) only used latitude and longitude to plot my data, which then shows people exactly where they should be.

From the Inbox

GRO Registration Districts and Reference Codes

Runcorn and Computer Club's Peter Rowley suggests:

When searching the GRO Indexes, it can be helpful to know the code for the Registration District. The GRO publishes a list of all districts, the effective dates, and the specific reference code.

Thus, Runcorn codes are:

19 from Sep 1837 to 1851; 8A from 1852 to Jun Qt 1946; 10a from Sep Quarter 1946 to Mar Quarter 1974.

Runcorn district was then abolished and named Halton, with the following codes: 35 from Jun Quarter 1974 to Dec Quarter 1996; 343 from 1997 to 2001.

For all other districts, type *GRO Registration District Book* into your favourite search engine. The top line result should be *GRO Registration PDF*. You download a neat PDF containing 33 pages. It's dated 2nd March 2015, which is up to date enough for our interests! You can save the file for future reference, then scroll down through the lists to your heart's content.

This useful list of the actual codes can readily be used alongside the UK BMD 'Registration Districts In England and Wales' data, created by our very own Brett Langston and found at www.ukbmd.org.uk/reg/ This includes the very comprehensive 'Index of Place Names for the whole of England and Wales' - GJ

Multiple Clipboard

Peter Rowley reminded me that he'd asked a question about using multiple clipboards at a previous Computer Club meeting; he got a brief answer from me - 'Ask Google'! So, he asked Google and here is the answer.

The Windows Clipboard can hold up to 24 items; follow these instructions to turn the feature on:

- go to *Settings*
- then *System*
- scroll down to *Clipboard*
- enable *Clipboard* by moving slider button to the right – to ON

To use it – Press *Windows Key + V*. This displays the last 24 Cut or Copy items you’ve clipped since startup. Select the one you want and paste it to the desired place.

The clipboard will hold up to 24 items, which are cleared when you close down your computer. A 25th item replaces the first item, and so on.



I depend on a regular supply of articles and rely on your input to help me keep this forum active, so capture or create anything you learn in the coming weeks and forward to me please – GJ

Middlewich News (10) from the Crewe Guardian 12 April 1873

HIGHWAY BOARD MEETING AT MIDDLEWICH – A meeting of the Northwich Highway Board was held at the Town Hall, Middlewich on Tuesday.

Present: *Randle Wilbraham, Esq., W R Court, Esq., (the names with stars attached are new members) Messrs George Slater, John Mayer, George Statham*, George Slater, William Dakin*, James Garner*, Thomas Venables, John Holland*, George Challinor Holt*, William Beckett, Henry Yoxall*, Thomas Buckley*, James Parry*, George Massey, John Hassall*, Edwin Foden*, John Williams, James Kennerley*, James Broster, Bradford Yarwood*, Joseph Dobell, Charles Newton Moreton, John Sutton, Thomas Darlington, Peter Percival*, John Siddorn, John Bayley, John Garnett*, John Thorley*, William Bayley*, George Millington, Samuel Carter*, Joseph Frith, Clement B Lea, Richard Dutton, George Prescott, Charles Dakin, John Harrison*, Robert Verdin*, Joseph Millington, John Lowe*, David Harding (clerk), Swinton (surveyor) and Massey (assistant surveyor). There were 32 new waywardens on the list, some of whom were absent.*

Christmas Quiz Answers

- 1 Goose.
- 2 True.
- 3 Its name is from the beginning of the collect for the day in the Book of Common Prayer, which begins, *Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord the wills of thy faithful people...* although it is now associated with 'stirring up' Christmas puddings.
- 4 Queen's College Oxford.
- 5 26th December.
- 6 Walk to attend a church service; the act has now been repealed.
- 7 1864.
- 8 False - only one snowflake is needed, and it may fall in one of several locations in the country.
- 9 July.
- 10 False - it originates from Mousehole, Cornwall.
- 11 Bethlehem, Carmarthenshire. The post office has now closed.
- 12 Approximately six million miles per hour.
- 13 Kentucky Fried Chicken.
- 14 'White Christmas' sung by Bing Crosby.
- 15 Germany - German protestants began the tradition with candles and/or chalk marks.
- 16 A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you.
- 17 Thomas Edison, to advertise electric light bulbs.
- 18 A festival celebrated by Pagans in Germanic countries between November and January.
- 19 Norway.
- 20 Tom Smith, a sweet shop owner, to promote sales of his sweets.

The Story of Stargazy Pie

The pie originates from the fishing village of Mousehole in Cornwall. As with many parts of Cornish heritage, a legend has appeared about its origins. The pie is served to celebrate the bravery of Tom Bawcock, a local fisherman in the 16th century. The legend explains that one winter had been particularly stormy, meaning that none of the fishing boats had been able to leave the harbour. As Christmas approached, the villagers, who relied on fish as their primary source of food, were facing starvation.

On 23 December, Tom Bawcock decided to brave the storms and went out in his fishing boat. Despite the stormy weather and the difficult seas, he managed to catch enough fish to feed the entire village. The entire catch (including seven types of fish) was baked into a pie, which had the fish heads poking through to prove that there were fish inside. Ever since then, the Tom Bawcock's Eve festival has been held on 23 December in Mousehole.

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Middlewich



The market town of Middlewich, about 20 miles east of Chester, is reputed to be founded by the Romans as *Salinae*, meaning *place where salt is made*. The Domesday Book refers to the town as *Mildestvich*; the Old English *wich* or *wych* means salt town, with Middlewich being the middle town between Northwich and Nantwich. The town had a population of 13,595 in 2011 and lies in the confluence of the rivers Croco, Dane and Wheelock. Transport links include three canals, the Shropshire Union, Trent and Mersey and the Wardle, as well as major roads such as the A533, A54, and A530. Middlewich station closed in 1960 but the line is still used occasionally for freight trains and diversions.

According to the 1868 *National Gazetteer of Great Britain and Ireland*, the town was lit by gas and had several narrow streets with many thatched houses. The town hall was of modern erection, the upper story being used for petty sessions, public meetings, the literary and scientific institute, and the savings bank, while the lower parts were used for provisions on market days.

The grade II listed parish church of St Michael and All Angels was founded in 1613. Parish registers dating back to 1613 are held by Cheshire Archives, with images on FindMyPast and microfiche available at FHSC's research centres at Crewe and Mobberley. An excellent history of the town can be found on the Middlewich Heritage website at www.middlewich-heritage.org.uk.