

# CHESHIRE ANCESTOR



The Journal of the  
Family History Society of Cheshire



## In this edition:

*From Parchment to Pixels: 55 years of FHSC*

Ellen BYROM – An Indomitable Spirit

*Mormons in my Family* ❖ *My Elusive DUTTON Family*

*BESTWICK: a Name Changer and more...*

Volume 55 September 2024 Issue No. 1

ISSN 1460-0277

## OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

### CHAIR

Margaret Roberts  
4 Dunns Cottages  
Butterton Lane  
Oakhanger  
Cheshire CW1 5UU  
Tel: 07587 007217  
[chair@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:chair@fhsc.org.uk)

### HONORARY SECRETARY

Sheila Jones  
Broomhill  
11 Brancote Gardens  
Bromborough, Wirral  
CH62 6AH  
Tel: 07799 510373  
[secretary@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@fhsc.org.uk)

### HONORARY TREASURER

David Smetham  
Little Trees, Gawsworth Rd  
Gawsworth  
Macclesfield SK11 9RA  
Tel: 01625 426173  
[treasurer@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@fhsc.org.uk)

### HONORARY EDITOR

Mrs Rosie Rowley  
5 Davidson Avenue  
Congleton CW12 2EQ  
[editor@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:editor@fhsc.org.uk)

### PUBLICITY & SOCIAL MEDIA

Margaret Roberts  
[social.media@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:social.media@fhsc.org.uk)

### JOURNAL DISTRIBUTION

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

### CHESHIREBMD & UKBMD

Ian Hartas  
[webmaster@cheshirebmd.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@cheshirebmd.org.uk)

### MOBBERLEY RESEARCH CENTRE LIBRARIAN

Joan Irving  
62 Orme Crescent  
Macclesfield SK10 2HS  
Tel: 01625 421545  
[librarian@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:librarian@fhsc.org.uk)

### MEMBERSHIP (RENEWALS)

Kevin Dean  
7 Fields Drive  
Sandbach CW11 1YB  
[renewals@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:renewals@fhsc.org.uk)

### MEMBERSHIP (ENROLMENT)

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

### PROJECTS

#### ADMINISTRATOR

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

#### ELECTRONIC PROJECTS

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

#### BOOK/CD SALES & OUTSIDE EVENTS

Vacant; Temporary Contact:  
David Smetham  
Little Trees, Gawsworth Rd  
Gawsworth  
Macclesfield SK11 9RA  
Tel: 01625 426173  
[book.sales@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:book.sales@fhsc.org.uk)

#### WEBMASTER

Alan Bennett  
8 Barford Drive, Lowton  
Warrington WA3 1DD  
[webmaster@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@fhsc.org.uk)

#### WEB ADMINISTRATION

Gay Oliver  
26 Woodville Drive  
Stalybridge SK15 3EA  
[web.admin@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:web.admin@fhsc.org.uk)

### Front cover photo: Mersey Flat Barge, Askam-in-Furness

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Oakdale is a Mersey Flat grain barge, built at Runcorn in 1951, the last sea-going Mersey Flat. See *Ellen BYROM – An Indomitable Spirit* by Jim Livesey on page 34.

See also <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RoU44Zd-wwI> and

<https://liverpoolnauticalresearchsociety.org/index.php/2021/09/30/mersey-flat-oakdale/>



# CHESHIRE ANCESTOR

Registered Charity: 515168

Society website: [www.fhsc.org.uk](http://www.fhsc.org.uk)

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

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

# Editor's Page

by Rosie Rowley



**STOP PRESS** - By the time you read this, Cheshire Archives in Duke Street, Chester, will have closed and work will have begun on preparation to move to two new history centres in Chester and Crewe, due to open in early 2026. While you cannot access collections in person at the Record Office, the Archives team will continue to

- Answer enquiries about collections
- Offer short search and research services where possible
- Supply copies of documents where possible

For the latest news and to contact Cheshire Archives, see their website at [www.cheshirearchives.org.uk](http://www.cheshirearchives.org.uk). Online access is unaffected; search the online databases at [www.cheshirearchives.org.uk/what-we-hold/what-we-hold.aspx](http://www.cheshirearchives.org.uk/what-we-hold/what-we-hold.aspx)

Remember for family and local history help you can also visit our knowledgeable volunteers at our Crewe and Mobberley Research Centres - see pages 17 to 19.

In this issue we have two articles about converts to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints emigrating to Utah in the 1800s. I was astonished when I realised what great distances were travelled overland by cart or even on foot. Did your ancestor emigrate to another country? If so, please write and tell us when and where they went. I have ancestors who emigrated to Australia - one day I hope to find time to research their story and write about it.

## **ITEMS FOR THE CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**

*Articles and letters about family history or Cheshire local history for the Cheshire Ancestor are very welcome. Deadline dates are the 10th of January, April, July or October, but please send items as early as possible. Publication is at the discretion of the editor and is subject to space being available. **Articles should preferably be sent by email in Microsoft Word, Open Office Writer, or plain text, to avoid having to retype them;** or by post as a clearly-written manuscript. Suggested length of articles is 300-2000 words. Please write all surnames in CAPITALS. Illustrations must be your own, copyright-free images, not copied from a book etc. Please email images separately in a high quality (low compression) JPG format, minimum 300 dpi.*

## View from the Chair

by Margaret Roberts



On 28th June FHSC reached a significant milestone, our 55th birthday, and a short synopsis of the history of FHSC can be found on page 28. I'm looking forward to our Diamond anniversary in five years' time and hope we can organise an event that befits one of the oldest family history societies in the UK.

This happy news is tinged with sadness as at the end of our financial year both Wallasey and Nantwich groups have closed. The leaders of both groups have been in post for many years and decided it was time to step down; unfortunately, no one came forward to take up the running of these groups. I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Sheila Hamilton and Sheila Mitchell, together with their committee members, for all their hard work running the groups. Nantwich group is being subsumed by Crewe, the new group name being the Crewe & Nantwich group, under the leadership of Margaret Spate. Members of these groups are of course welcome to visit any of the events that FHSC hold, either in person or online, so please don't be strangers.

Speaking of events, a report from the Extraordinary General Meeting which took place on 20th July will be in the December edition of the journal as it took place too late to meet the editorial deadline for this issue. Meanwhile the events held during the second quarter of 2024 were as interesting as ever and included talks on topics ranging from Primitive Methodism, the Siberian Gulag, the servants of Erddig and Poor Law records to the Civil War, the massacre at Lidice, striking schoolchildren, photographers and photography, the Granelli family, Fort Perch Rock and various WWI-based talks. In addition to these there were many group visits, research evenings, and member events. Thanks as always to the group leaders for the work entailed in bringing these events to members.

The Cheshire Research Buddies sessions this quarter covered Tameside, Tarporley, Kelsall and Delamere, and Bebington and the Wirral. As is now the norm, a few brick walls were chipped away at and long lost 'cousins' traced, as well as some images of the various areas from years ago shared. These online sessions are becoming very popular with our overseas members, who are very

pleased with the local knowledge from attendees that have solved a few conundrums over the months. Please do come along and join any of the sessions that may be related to your area of interest. Details can be found in the Events listings on the website and on pages 9-12 of this issue.

We held three fascinating seminars this quarter; Richard Holt spoke to us about Apprenticeship records, the senior maps curator from the National Library of Scotland, Chris Fleet, took us through their amazing site - I never knew that there was so much more that you could do with all that data - and finally the Family History Federation Education Officer Ian Waller showed us that tracing your Ag Labs could involve looking at around eighty various types of documents, so there is hope! Thanks as always to our speakers for providing an entertaining and informative evening and for their time in answering the many questions that members had.

National Volunteers week took place at the beginning of June and so I would like to close by reiterating part of my newsletter at the time and expressing my appreciation and thanks to the army of FHSC volunteers - everyone from Trustees, Group Leaders, Research Centre volunteers, transcribers, those who assist at face-to-face meetings, those who write articles for the journal and everyone who helps out, no matter how small a role you think you play. Your presence matters and without the dedication and commitment of all our volunteers there would be no FHSC and in this, our 55th year, it's more important than ever that this generosity, time and effort is acknowledged. Thank you.

### *Farndon News (1)*

*from the Chester Chronicle, 3 January 1874*

*INCONVENIENT POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS - Our readers will be surprised to hear that... the village of Churton, containing no less than 500 inhabitants, according to the last census, is without postal delivery, and it is quite an ordinary thing for the farmers to pay 1d. for one, 2d. and 3d. for two or more letters to people who bring them at casual times to their houses. As further proof of the great inconvenience of the present arrangements, a registered letter was addressed to a farmer's son in Churton, and when the mail-cart driver passed through on his way to Farndon in the morning, he left a receipt with another person to get signed by the person to whom the letter was addressed and left, saying he could have the letter... when he returned with the mail-cart for Chester in the evening; thus taking the letter on to Farndon, keeping it all day, and depriving the owner of the chance of acknowledging the receipt of its valuable contents.*

## Notice of the 55th Annual General Meeting of the Family History Society of Cheshire

Following the success (and increased attendances) at the AGMs held via Zoom since 2021, the 55th AGM of FHSC will take place electronically using Zoom on **Saturday 26th October 2024 at 3.00pm.**

The business meeting will be preceded by a talk by **Sarah Pettyfer** entitled *A Practical Approach to Chancery Records*. The talk will begin at 2.00pm with login from 1.45pm. Members with a valid email address will be sent an AGM Newsletter to coincide with the publication of this Notice in **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR** and on the website. This will contain registration details for both the talk and the AGM. Members only intending to attend the Annual General Meeting should not start the login process until **2.55pm.**

Members who wish to attend the Annual General Meeting and talk but who do not have internet access, or do not wish to use Zoom, are invited to the Mobberley Research Centre where David Smetham will host a meeting linked into the AGM Zoom. Members who wish to attend this event should give advance notice to David at [treasurer@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@fhsc.org.uk) or by phone (01625 426173).

**Sarah Pettyfer** is the Vice Chair of AGRA (Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives), a qualified professional genealogist, family historian and house historian specialising in the early modern period (pre-19th century). She is also a solicitor (non-practising) and more information about her can be found on her website at <https://spfhhistory.co.uk/>. Chancery records are one of the most under-used resources for family history. Part of their difficulty is in actually finding the records, as many remain uncatalogued in the National Archives catalogue. With the records dispersed so that not all records for a case are held together, the aim of Sarah's talk is to demonstrate where to find and how to use finding aids to locate the various types of Chancery records.

To ensure that the meeting runs smoothly:

- The Hon. Secretary's Report, the annual accounts and Hon. Treasurer's Report will be available on the website two weeks prior to the meeting. Details of those persons standing for election will be available on the website from 8th October.
- The Reports will be also published in the March 2025 **ANCESTOR**.
- It would be helpful if members who have questions about the Reports submit them to the secretary at [secretary@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@fhsc.org.uk) prior to the meeting so that

they can be passed to the relevant officers for a response.

- Any member's resolution should be submitted to the Hon. Secretary by no later than 14th September.
- The agenda appears in this edition of Ancestor.
- The agenda and the minutes of the 2023 AGM will also be posted on the website.
- Any member unable to attend the AGM or who does not have access to the website may request a voting form and/or a copy of the agenda, minutes and details of those standing for election from the Hon. Secretary via email at [secretary@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@fhsc.org.uk) or by post to Mrs S A Jones, Hon. Secretary FHSC, 11 Brancote Gardens, Bromborough, Wirral CH62 6AH. If a hard copy is requested, a Stamped Addressed Envelope would be appreciated with the request. Hard copy voting forms will not be sent out after 19th October.

## Election of Officers and Trustees

Following the adoption of a revised Constitution at the EGM held on 20th July 2024, all Officer and Trustee posts are open for election. Ordinarily, Officers and Trustees will normally be elected for a period of three years. However, in order to ensure a 'staggering' of retirement dates for the purposes of maintain continuity of business, at this first election after the adoption of the revised Constitution it is intended that individuals will be elected as follows:

- **Chair (2 years)**
- **Honorary Secretary (1 year)**
- **Honorary Treasurer (3 years)**
- **Communications Officer (2 years)**
- **Membership Services Officer (3 years)**
- **Five other elected Trustees (2 for 3 years, 1 for 2 years, 2 for 1 year)**

Details of what is required for these roles, and a nomination form, are available on the website at

[www.fhsc.org.uk/governance-documents/roles-and-election-procedures.html](http://www.fhsc.org.uk/governance-documents/roles-and-election-procedures.html)

You will need to be logged in to the website to access this section.

Nominations, which can be self-nominations, should be completed and returned by no later than 30th September 2024 to the Hon. Secretary via email at [secretary@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@fhsc.org.uk) or by post to Mrs S A Jones, Hon. Secretary FHSC, 11 Brancote Gardens, Bromborough, Wirral CH62 6AH.



## AGM AGENDA

The formal business of the Annual General Meeting will be preceded by a talk

1.45pm: Login for the AGM opens

2.00pm: Talk by Sarah Pettyfer – *A Practical Approach to Chancery Records*

2.55pm: Login for members only intending to attend the business meeting opens.

3.00pm: Annual General Meeting

### Agenda for the 55th FHSC AGM commencing at 3.00pm

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2023 AGM
3. Chair's Remarks
4. Hon. Treasurer's Annual Report
5. Hon. Secretary's Annual Report
6. Elections

Following the adoption of a revised Constitution at the EGM held on 20th July 2024, all Officer and Trustee posts are open for election.

- (a) Chair (2 years)
  - (b) Honorary Secretary (1 year)
  - (c) Honorary Treasurer (3 years)
  - (d) Communications Officer (2 years)
  - (e) Membership Services Officer (3 years)
  - (f) Five other elected Trustees (2 for 3 years, 1 for 2 years, 2 for 1 year)
7. Appointment of Independent Examiner

### 8. Proposals

Under its Constitution, the Family History Society of Cheshire invites proposals from its members. The Constitution states that the membership present at the AGM has the opportunity:

*“To decide by simple majority upon any resolution which may be duly submitted to the meeting for consideration. No resolution, other than those relating to the adoption of reports and accounts, shall be moved at the Annual General Meeting unless a notice in writing, signed by the member who proposes to move it and stating its terms has*

been received by the Hon Secretary at least forty-two days before the date appointed for the holding of such Annual General Meeting.

The Chair of the meeting shall, at his or her discretion, and with the consent of the majority of the members present and voting, have the power to admit resolutions of which notice has not been given, if such resolution shall not involve any alterations of the Constitution. Such resolution shall be decided upon by a simple majority of members present and voting.”

## 9. Any other business relevant to the AGM.

# 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 3 May and 31 July 2024:

ADAMS, CHESHIRE, CLAYTON

DODD, DOWNES, DOWNWARD/DOWNWOOD

ELSBY/ELLSBY, FIELD, FIELDS, GREENHALGH

HARDING, HELSBY, HIGNETT, HUGHES

JOHNSON, KENDRICK, LUNT

MILLWARD, MOTTERSHEAD

PERRIN, STREET

WILD, WOOLLEY

### *Farndon News (2)*

*from the Chester Courant, 7 October 1874*

*DOG AT LARGE – Thomas Holmes, Farndon, was charged by P.C. Caldecott with allowing his dog to be at large in the public streets at Farndon, on the 4th August last. The defendant was fined 1s and costs 14s.*

# 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. Log in to the FHSC website to choose which emails you wish to receive.

## 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 please check on the Group pages which follow.

Date	Group	Subject
4-Sep	Runcorn Group	<i>My Ancestors</i> by Mike Hodgkinson
9-Sep	Northwich Group	<i>DNA for beginners</i> by Alan Turley
10-Sep	Crewe & Nantwich Grp	F: <i>The River Weaver and its Water: the Good, the Bad and the Ugly</i> by Helen Cooke
11-Sep	Sale Group	<i>Newspapers - 2nd Edition</i> by Sylvia Dillon
16-Sep	Alsager Group	Group AGM, usually with a short talk
17-Sep	Congleton Group	F: AGM followed by an open meeting: <i>Exploring the Role of Certificates in our Research</i>
17-Sep	Wallasey Group	<i>Wondrous Wirral</i> by Barry Humphreys
18-Sep	Society Seminar	Z: <i>Walking the Weirdstone: Archaeology and the Works of Alan Garner</i> by Dr James Wright
23-Sep	Bebington Group	<i>Romans on the Wirral</i> by Peter Jenkins
24-Sep	Macclesfield Group	AGM

26-Sep	Chester Group	<i>Coming of the Canal to Chester and the re-cutting of the Dee</i> by Mike Royden
26-Sep	Tameside Group	H: AGM followed by <i>Maps for Family Historians</i> by Adrian Brown
28-Sep	Research Buddies	Z: Wallasey
2-Oct	Runcorn Group	Research Evening
8-Oct	Crewe & Nantwich Grp	Z: <i>Explore the Parish Chest: Beyond the Registers</i> by Clare O'Grady
9-Oct	Sale Group	Open Forum: Was your Ancestor in Print? Come and tell us about family members who had their names in print
14-Oct	Northwich Group	Open Forum: Brick Walls - an opportunity for members to help each other
15-Oct	Congleton Group	F: TBA
16-Oct	Society Seminar	<i>A March Through Time - Democracy Through the Ages</i> by Dr Nick Barratt
22-Oct	Macclesfield Group	<i>Vera Brittain and the Lost Boys</i> by David Hill
24-Oct	Tameside Group	H: <i>Interpreting your DNA Results from your Ethnicity Results</i> by Hilary Hartigan
26-Oct	FHSC AGM	Z: 2pm talk followed by 3pm AGM
28-Oct	Bebington Group	<i>Lost at Sea</i> by Rob Dolphin
31-Oct	Chester Group	<i>History of Thornton Manor</i> by Gavin Hunter
6-Nov	Runcorn Group	TBA
11-Nov	Northwich Group	Open Forum: Record Keeping - chance to compare methods of record keeping.
12-Nov	Crewe & Nantwich Grp	Z: <i>The Genealogist Website</i> by Mark Bayley
13-Nov	Sale Group	Christmas at War by George Cogswell
19-Nov	Congleton Group	F: TBA
20-Nov	Society Seminar	<i>Photogenealogy: Date and Identify Family History Photos</i> by Ann Larkham
25-Nov	Bebington Group	TBA

26-Nov	Macclesfield Group	<i>Photos of Old Macclesfield from the Ollier Collection</i>
28-Nov	Chester Group	A Seasonal Miscellany
28-Nov	Tameside Group	F: Buffet and Social
30-Nov	Research Buddies	Z: Holmes Chapel, Cranage and Surrounds
Dec	Chester Group	No Meeting
Dec	Congleton Group	No Meeting
Dec	Macclesfield Group	No Meeting
Dec	Sale Group	No Meeting
Dec	Tameside Group	No Meeting
4-Dec	Runcorn Group	TBA
9-Dec	Bebington Group	TBC: Members Christmas Social – Members will be advised if this event is to take place
9-Dec	Northwich Group	Hotpot Supper and 'Margaret Hughes' Quiz.
10-Dec	Crewe & Nantwich Grp	H: <i>Suffragettes and Suffragists</i> by Debbie Bradley
18-Dec	Society Seminar	<i>Ancestors on the Margins</i> by Dr Janet Few
28-Dec	Research Buddies	Z: Ellesmere Port

### ***Farndon News (3)***

*from the Crewe Chronicle, 25 July 1874*

*FARDON RUSH BEARING - On Sunday last this ancient custom was observed here viz., dressing the graves in the churchyard, but owing to the dryness of the season there were but few flowers at command, consequently the scene was not so attractive as usual, and the inside of the church, which on former occasions had some prettily devised decorations, this year showed an entire absence of them. Collections were made on behalf of the choir funds, and a good amount was raised, equal to former years. It is intended shortly to substitute an organ for the harmonium, and to seat the singers in the chancel. This will be a decided improvement which is likely to take lace, after the bells in the tower, all thoroughly repaired, and the new clock (the gift of Miss Barnston, Crewe Hill) is fixed. If after these additions the building could be efficiently heated for the winter, the church, which has recently been restored, would bear favourable comparison with any in the neighbourhood.*

# Group News and Information



For the latest news from the Society's groups, please see the FHSC website or contact the Group. You can receive emails from any group; log in to the FHSC website to choose which emails you wish to receive. Contact details for all groups are inside the back cover.

## FHSC Seminars

*By Margaret Spate, Jean Laidlaw and Margaret Roberts*

These Zoom talks take place at 7.30pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. An email is sent out on the first day of each month with details of the talk and how to register.

PLEASE NOTE - we are unable to record Seminar talks for later viewing.

## Cheshire Research Buddies

*By Margaret Roberts*

Our online helpdesk 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 check the topic each month and join us

if you have local knowledge or a query.

**Register for Seminars and Buddies meetings** on the FHSC website. Log in, click on *Events* on the left-hand menu, find the event you want, then click the *Register [Individual]* button at the bottom left of the event details. You will receive a confirmation email and links will be sent out on the morning of the Buddies meeting.

## 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, ST7 2QH.

Admission is £1 for members and £2 for visitors, including refreshments. A large car park is available at the rear.

### **Bebington Group**

*By Bob Wright*

Meetings are usually held at 7.30pm on the 4th Monday of the month (excluding Bank Holidays) at our new venue, St. Barnabas Village Institute, Church Square, Bromborough, CH62 7AB. 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.

### **Chester Group Helpdesks**

We have a helpdesk in Storyhouse, Hunter St, Chester CH1 2AR 10am - 12noon on Tuesday mornings.

### **Computer Club**

Meetings are held online via Zoom at 7.30pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, and are open to all members. The subject of each meeting is usually announced the week before, by email or on the Club's Events page on the FHSC website. The club also has some sub-groups which meet via Zoom:

*Family History Recording & Publishing:*  
2.30pm, last Monday of the month

*DNA:* 7.30pm, 4th Monday

*Family Historian:* 7.30pm, 3rd Thursday

*Family Tree Maker:* quarterly, 7.30pm, 4th Wednesday

*Mac & Reunion:* 2pm, 3rd Monday

*Online Newspapers:* 2.30pm, 1st Friday

For information or to join, please email [computerclub@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:computerclub@fhsc.org.uk).

### **Congleton Group**

*By David Smetham*

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 & Nantwich Group**

*By Margaret Spate*

The Crewe & Nantwich Group will continue 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).

Crewe & Nantwich Zoom 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](mailto:crewe@fhsc.org.uk) in good time before the meeting. Please do not leave it to the last minute before you register.

Crewe & Nantwich 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 the FHSC website or elsewhere in this issue for information about the Society's research facilities.

### **Macclesfield Group**

*By Dennis Whyte*

Meetings are usually held 7.30pm-9.00pm on the 4th Tuesday of the month at The Salvation Army Church, Roe Street, Macclesfield, SK11 6UT, opposite Churchill Way car park in the centre of Macclesfield. Admission is £2 for members and £3 for visitors. We usually visit a place of interest in July, and there is no meeting in December.

### **Nantwich Group**

Nantwich Group has now merged with Crewe Group and all face-to-face meetings are held at Crewe.

### **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 £2, and visitors are most welcome. Car park available.

### **Runcorn Group**

*By Peter Johnson*

Unfortunately John Barlow has had to step down from his position as Group Leader. Peter Johnson has kindly stepped forward in the meantime and a new Group Leader will be voted in at

the Runcorn Group AGM on 7th August.

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*

Our open forums allow members and visitors to share their research with the whole group, and they have proved extremely informative for everyone.

Meetings are usually held at 7.30pm, for the talk at 7.45pm, on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at our **NEW VENUE (from September 2024) Sale Moor Community Centre, Norris Road, Sale M33 2TN**. 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](http://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

It is with much regret that we inform members that the Wallasey Group has closed after thirty years. However, members hope to continue to run the weekly helpdesk in Wallasey Central Library.

### 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 helpdesks we are able to give individual help with family history research. All members and non-members are welcome.

## Society Vacancies

The society is seeking volunteers for the following posts:

### Social Media/Publicity Officer(s)

As Margaret Roberts is now the society Chair we are looking for one or two volunteers to take over the Social Media and Publicity roles she previously held. Margaret is continuing to carry out these roles until replacements can be found. **For information or an informal chat, please contact Margaret Roberts ([chair@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:chair@fhsc.org.uk))**

### Book/CD Sales Officer

A volunteer is needed to manage our book and CD sales. David Smetham is fulfilling sales until we find a replacement volunteer.

**For information, please contact David Smetham ([book.sales@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:book.sales@fhsc.org.uk))**

### *Farndon News (4)*

*from the Chester Chronicle, 14 November 1874*

*LONGEVITY AT FARNDON - During the last week two residents of the above neighbourhood have each died at the age of 89. Only a few weeks back a poor old woman was interred at the age of 95, and we are told that there are several persons at present in the village... who have passed the term of 70 years, and look like living to be patriarchs of 100 years. With this show of longevity, Farndon ought to be a healthy spot. An old gentleman who had fixed upon Farndon as a spot to retire to for the remainder of his life, on coming to the village to look for a house met the village constable... the first question he put to him was whether there was a good doctor in the neighbourhood, to which the officer replied, "People never die here, except from old age or accident."*

## 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 or at the Crewe Family History Unit) 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 Centres are staffed by volunteers who also have other duties.

Lists of the resources held at Mobberley can be found on the FHSC website at *Research Centres > Mobberley Research Centre > Mobberley Holdings*

Lists of the resources held at Crewe can be found on the FHSC website at *Research Centres > Crewe Family History Unit > Crewe 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](http://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.*  
Or to: *FHSC, Family History Unit, Floor 2, Municipal Building, Earle Street, Crewe, Cheshire, CW1 2BJ*

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Cheshire or Genealogy BUSINESS or PRODUCT  
in this quarter-page space?*

*Just £14 per issue, or £50 for four consecutive issues*

*Please contact the Editor for full details*

## Research Centre News

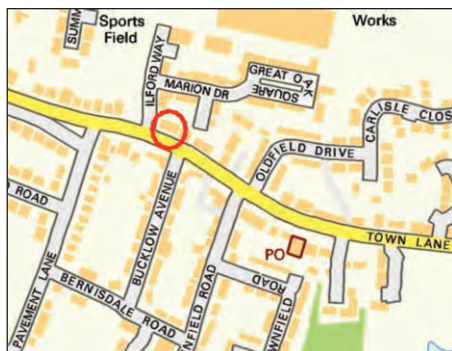
Manned by experienced volunteers, visitors can obtain help and advice on family and local history research. Please see the FHSC website for holdings and up-to-date news about changes to opening hours, etc. If in doubt, please phone before visiting to ensure the centre is open and a computer/film reader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

### MOBBERLEY FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH CENTRE

Rajar Building, Town Lane, Mobberley, WA16 7ER

Please note our new telephone number: 07712 103715

For non-urgent enquiries you can now email us on [researchcentre@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:researchcentre@fhsc.org.uk)



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](http://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.**

**If the weather is bad, please phone to check we are open before travelling.**

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 contact us in advance to book a place.**

## Mobberley Research Centre News

by Joan Irving  
librarian@fhsc.org.uk



As I write this report another local church is in danger of closing. Chelford St. John the Evangelist is holding a meeting to discuss its future. By the time this journal is published its fate may be known. The church was built as a chapelry of St. Peter Prestbury in 1679 and has conducted baptisms, marriages and burials for nearly 350 years.

As the population of the county grew, and with the introduction of nonconformism in the 18th and 19th centuries, many more churches, chapels and meeting houses were built. Religion was an important part of people's lives in these times. By the end of WW2 - despite further increases in population - religion had become less important in people's lives and congregations were seeing fewer members attending services. This trend continued throughout the 20th and 21st centuries. Many chapels have been converted into homes whilst the churches are often Grade I or Grade II listed and remain empty and symbols of past glory.

Chelford has church records dating back to 1679 so historians will still be able to access their records and make use of them. Sadly that is not true for many chapels and meeting houses that closed with their records lost forever. As family and local historians we feel their loss acutely as we desperately search for our 'lost' ancestors.

At Mobberley we have access to most Church of England Parish Registers, some nonconformist ones, and graveyard inscriptions. We also have lots of other records and books relating to Cheshire and many other counties in the UK to help in your search. With the Cheshire Record Office now closed for at least two years, we hope to see more of you at our Mobberley Research Centre. Our Duty Volunteers are ready to help so please come along, you will be made very welcome.

## Crewe Family History Unit News

by Margaret Spate  
crewe@fhsc.org.uk

As our monthly Saturday morning opening is not very popular we will still announce the Saturday date but ask anyone who intends to visit on that date to notify by email two days before the opening. If there are no requests for visits

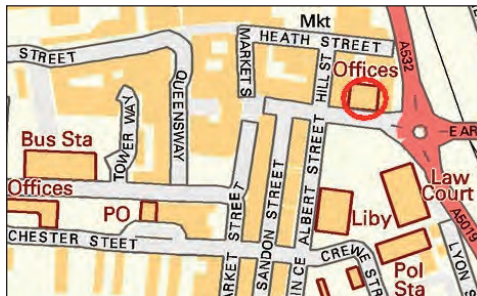
then we will not open that day. The Saturday date for opening will continue to be advertised on the FHSC website each month.

As part of Heritage Week (6-15 September) the FHU will be open to all on certain days and times. The programme will be advertised on the Crewe Town Council website [www.crewetowncouncil.gov.uk/whats-on-events/heritage-open-days/](http://www.crewetowncouncil.gov.uk/whats-on-events/heritage-open-days/) and on the Heritage Open Days website (see page 22).

The Crewe & Nantwich Group meeting on Tuesday 10th September, with a talk entitled *The River Weaver and its Water: the Good, the Bad and the Ugly* by Helen Cooke will also feature as a Heritage Week event.

### 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 *Ancestry*, *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 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.

## 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](mailto: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.

### CHESHIRE ANCESTOR, June 2024

I am writing in response to two articles in the last issue of CHESHIRE ANCESTOR.

#### **What an Amazing Age**

The burial register of St. Paul's Church, Macclesfield shows that Ann MITCHELL was buried 7 May 1854 aged 102.

In the following year, another entry that I was surprised to find shows that Charles Edward, Thomas and Alfred, a set of triplets, were buried together on 19 July 1855, aged five days old. But apparently, triplets were not as rare as you might imagine in Victorian times.

#### **The Value of Obituaries**

My grandfather Robert Thomas WILLIAMS died in Caego, a village now part of Wrexham, in December 1920. A report of the funeral appeared in the local paper. It begins rather melodramatically...

*A gloom was cast over the district of Caego, New Broughton, when the death occurred of Mr. Robert Thomas Williams, Caego Villa, eldest son of Mr. Thomas Williams, builder, Southsea. He was highly respected by all who knew him, and very popular. He leaves a wife and two children to mourn his loss. When the sad news was conveyed to relatives and friends, many telegrams and letters of sympathy were received...*

The article named over eighty people who were present or who sent messages. The list of names included the married surnames of various female members of the WILLIAMS family. A tremendous shortcut to finding several marriages for a very common surname!

You can also find useful family details in newspaper reports of weddings, although there may be several column inches of detailed descriptions of the outfits worn by the bride, her mother, and the bridesmaids.

It's also worth remembering that people named as being present on these occasions must have been ALIVE on that date.

**Dave Williams**

**Membership No. 7539**

## **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR, September 2022**

Hello Rosie

I am a member of the Liverpool & SW Lancs. FHS and recently read an article in the above issue of *Cheshire Ancestor*.

The article *Born Where?* states that Joseph RAMPLING's abode was "*Steam Engine in Ashton [in Makerfield]*". I can assure you that this is an actual address as it led to a cotton mill. It was a lane off Old Road and was still referred to as *Steam Engine* in the 1960s, despite the fact that no living people would remember the mill.

The 1849 Ordnance Survey sheet (via National Library of Scotland maps) shows the Steam Engine Factory as a dark shaded building to the right of the words, with the lane known as *Steam Engine* running along the side of the building. On a present day map (Google Maps) the lane is marked with a Millingford Brook footbridge marker.

I hope that you will be able to pass this information on to [the author of the article] Gren Dix, membership no. 4174.

Best wishes

**Glenys McClellan**

### ***Farndon News (5)***

*from the Chester Chronicle, 5 July 1924*

*Just now the air is sweet with the scent of strawberries in the Dee Valley at Holt and Farndon. The picking of the berries, now well begun, is a great business. In the lanes may be met hundreds of boys – healthy youngsters with bare knees, bare heads, and wearing jerseys – and not knowing who they are, one may feel amazed at Farndon's population of sturdy lads. The boys are, however, from the Barnes' Home, Manchester, and have come to augment the local labour in the strawberry fields. They live in a big camp in a roadside field at Churton, and a splendid time they have of work combined with holidaying in a beautiful part of Cheshire.*

**Ed.:** The Barnes' Home – [www.childrenshomes.org.uk/ManchesterBarnesIS/](http://www.childrenshomes.org.uk/ManchesterBarnesIS/)

## Family History Events

**For news of family history events, see these online calendars**

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

### Wirral Archives Monthly Workshops

**5 Sept:** History of the Wirral, from the Tudors to the Georgians

**3 Oct:** Port Sunlight Between the Wars

**7 Nov:** The History of the Wirral, from the Victorians to the Present

**5 Dec:** The Lives of Families who Lived and Worked  
on Canal Narrow Boats in the 20th Century

Workshops are at 2pm on the first Thursday of the month  
in the Search Room at Wirral Archives, Lower Ground Floor  
Cheshire Lines Building, Canning Street, Birkenhead, Wirral CH41 1ND  
[www.wirral.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives/wirral-archives-service](http://www.wirral.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives/wirral-archives-service)

### Heritage Open Days (HOD)

6th - 15th September 2024

Every September thousands of volunteers across England organise events to celebrate our fantastic history and culture. It's your chance to see hidden places and try out new experiences – all of which are FREE to explore.

The theme for 2024 is Routes - Networks - Connections.

Booking is required for some events. Find an event near you, or relating to the area your ancestors came from, on the HOD website.

[www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)

### Society of Genealogists present NextGENERation: Discoveries - Online

9.30am - 9pm Saturday 5th October 2024

A full day of talks by the NextGENERation of GENEalogists - pay what you can

<https://members.sog.org.uk/events/calendar>



## **All About That Place 2024**

Friday 27th September to Sunday 6th October 2024

Take part in an exciting free event guaranteed to take the genealogy world by storm! Join like-minded history lovers and 'put your ancestors in their place', all from the comfort of your own home. A pop-up Facebook Group and our YouTube channel will provide you with a plethora of free online bite-sized recorded talks from a wide range of speakers.

[www.subscribepage.com/allaboutthatplace](http://www.subscribepage.com/allaboutthatplace)

## **Merseyside Archaeological Society: Archaeology in Merseyside**

10.20am-4.30pm, Saturday 5th October 2024

at the Museum of Liverpool

Pier Head, Liverpool Waterfront, Liverpool L3 1DG

Eight talks, book sales, local displays and finds handling

Ticket price £16 (MAS members), £20 (MAS non-members)

Tickets and information at [www.eventbrite.com/e/archaeology-in-merseyside-2024-tickets-867334339357](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/archaeology-in-merseyside-2024-tickets-867334339357)

## **Cheshire Local History Association presents Cheshire History Day: The Future of Cheshire's Past**

9.30am-4.30pm, Saturday 19th October 2024

at The Grange Theatre, Bradburns Lane, Hartford, Cheshire CW8 1LU

Ticket price £15

*The Future of Cheshire's Archives: a story shared*

*Cheshire Archaeology: current revelations and development challenges*

*PAS: public finds, local heritage and enhancing community engagement*

Tickets and information at [www.cheshirehistory.org.uk](http://www.cheshirehistory.org.uk)

## **Cheshire Villages Great War Society Exhibition**

Featuring World War I and II casualties from Weaverham, Hartford and several surrounding villages, and WWI displays by local schools

10am-5pm on Saturday 19th October 2024

Lighthouse Hall, St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Weaverham, CW8 3NJ.

Admission is free and refreshments are available.

[www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100071050599568](http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100071050599568)

## **Pharos Tutors Course: In Sickness and in Death - Researching the Ill-Health and Death of your Ancestors**

Weekly from Monday 11th November via Zoom

Tutor: Janet Few - Length: 5 weeks - Cost: £58

This course will help you to set your ancestors' lives in context by looking at the illnesses, disabilities and diseases that brought about their deaths or had an effect on their well-being. We shall discover records that might provide information about ill-health or causes of death for specific ancestors.

[www.pharostutors.com/in-sickness-and-in-death-researching-the-ill-health-and-death-of-your-ancestors](http://www.pharostutors.com/in-sickness-and-in-death-researching-the-ill-health-and-death-of-your-ancestors)

Pharos provides a wide range of family and local history courses

## **RootsTech 2025**

Thursday 6th - Saturday 8th March 2025

In-person at Salt Lake City, USA, or participate virtually online. Talks are recorded and can be accessed on the RootsTech website for at least a year.

[www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/](http://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/)

## ***Farndon News (6)***

*from the Cheshire Observer, 23 August 1924*

*MESSRS BELLIS BROS. TRIP TO WEMBLEY - On Friday last week the employees of Messrs Bellis Bros were taken for a trip to the British Empire Exhibition. The party, which numbered about 108, left the Cross in chars-a-bancs, at about 11.30pm, for Wrexham, and travelled by the Great Western train from there at 12.30. Paddington was reached shortly after 5am on Saturday.*

*On arrival, the party were met by chars-a-bancs, and driven to see the principal sights in the western part of the Metropolis. Breakfast was served in Oxford-street at 7 o'clock, and shortly afterwards the employees were driven on a further sight-seeing expedition in other parts of London, and on to Wembley. Dinner and tea were partaken of in the Exhibition, and between times the party explored the wonderful home and Colonial exhibits.*

*Leaving Wembley in chars-a-bancs at 10.30pm, and entraining at Paddington, Wrexham was reached at about 5 o'clock on Sunday morning, the Holt contingent reaching home shortly before 6am. The arrangements for the enjoyment of the party were admirably conceived, and carried out without a hitch, and the trip was one which will be remembered with pleasure by all who took part in it.*

## 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](http://www.findmypast.co.uk/blog/new) for FindMyPast news.

#### British Home Children

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/home-children-enlistments-and-military-deaths>

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/home-children-burial-index>

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/home-children-hazelbrae-barnardo-home-index-1883---1923>

More records relating to British Home Children have been added to FMP, including details of 6,653 former Home Children who served in the military across the Commonwealth between the 1890s and the 1950s, burial information for over 7,000 Canadian Home Children, and 9,050 records of Home Children who were received at the Hazelbrae Barnardo Home in Ontario, Canada between 1883 and 1923. These records can all be accessed free of charge after registering for an account with Find My Past.

#### Coastguards 1801-1952

This set contains 212,426 images and transcripts of records from The National Archives series ADM 175, including Establishment Books and Service Records.

#### British Royal Navy and Royal Marines Service & Pension Records 1704-1939 and Women's Royal Naval Service Officer Records

Over 101,000 records from series ADM 139 from The National Archives, service records dating from 1853-1872, have been added, and images of the original National Archives records in series ADM 318 (officer files) and ADM 321 (appointments, promotions and resignations) for 59,448 Women's Royal Naval Service Officer records have been added to existing transcripts. Both collections cover the period between 1917 and 1919.

## 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](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/cs/recent-collections) for Ancestry news.

### **UK, Red Cross Volunteers During WWI, 1914-1918**

[www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/70927/](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/70927/)

Records of over 90,000 Red Cross Volunteer Aid Detachments (VADs) from Britain between 1914 and 1918. Documents in the collection were handwritten on index cards. As well as nursing, VADs took various roles including garment making, cookery, ambulance driving, and administrative work. Not all volunteers were women. Rather oddly, this record set is included in Ancestry's *Schools, Directories & Church Histories* category.

### **Lancashire, England, Non-Conformist Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1762-2005**

[www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62471/](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62471/)

Ancestry does not state explicitly how many records are in the collection or which churches are included, but there is a drop-down list of some 200 or more churches and chapels on the right hand side of the search page.

The original data is from Lancashire Archives.

### **UK, Military Roll of Honour, 1945-2022**

[www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/63070/](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/63070/)

The records in this collection were created by GOV.UK for the purpose of providing a searchable index for the Armed Forces Memorial Roll of Honour. The original data is from the website [www.search-armed-forces-memorial-roll-of-honour.service.gov.uk/details](http://www.search-armed-forces-memorial-roll-of-honour.service.gov.uk/details)

## The Genealogist

Go to [www.thegenealogist.co.uk/news/](http://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/news/) for *The Genealogist* news.

### **Obituaries from 1600s to 1800s**

Over 20,000 obituary records from publications by the Index Society, Musgrave's Obituaries and the Society of Friends have been added.

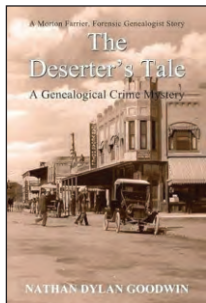
### **United States WWII Army Enlistment Records 1938-1946**

United States WWII Army Enlistment Records (1938-1946) have been added to the Free Records Collection.

## Book Review

by Margaret Roberts  
FHSC Chair

### *The Deserter's Tale* by Nathan Dylan Goodwin



In this captivating tenth novel in the forensic genealogist series, Morton Farrier embarks on a journey that intertwines past and present. When he accepts an invitation to speak at the RootsTech genealogy conference in Salt Lake City, he discovers that his co-panellist is none other than his former girlfriend, Madison Scott-Barnhart. As they reunite after twenty-six years, Morton also takes on a case involving his wife's mysterious great-grandfather, a man who deserted his Sussex family shortly after World War I.

Nathan Dylan Goodwin masterfully weaves together genealogical research, shocking revelations, and uncomfortable truths. As Morton researches the case, he uncovers secrets that hit close to home. The speakeasies and bootlegging history of America's original "Sin City" add an intriguing layer to the narrative.

Nathan's concise yet evocative writing style makes every page a pleasure to read. The characters come alive, and the historical backdrop enriches the storytelling. Whether you're a genealogy enthusiast or simply love a well-crafted mystery, *The Deserter's Tale* delivers.

Available via Amazon in paperback £7.99 or kindle version £3.49.

Signed copies and special offers can be purchased from Nathan's own website [www.nathandylangoodwin.com](http://www.nathandylangoodwin.com)

### *Farndon News (7)*

from the Chester Chronicle, 25 April 1874

**TITHE RENT AUDIT** - On Tuesday last, the tithe rents due to the Duke of Westminster were received at the Nag's Head Inn, Farndon. As is customary, the tenants partook of dinner, which was provided on a liberal scale by Mr Geo. Bennett(?), the host. Mr Samuel Beckett presided, and Mr R Powdrell occupied the vice-chair.

## From Parchment to Pixels: 55 years of FHSC

by Margaret Roberts  
FHSC Chair

The Family History Society of Cheshire (FHSC) was conceived by professional genealogist Bertram Merrell and is thought to be the first county society dedicated to tracing family histories. The inaugural meeting took place on Saturday 28th June 1969 at Stanley Palace in Chester. Bertram had featured on BBC's *Look North* and *Late Night Extra* the previous evening, where he explained how the first family history society came into being:

*I started doing the marriage index in 1968. In 1969, I felt a need to organise a society where people could get together and do it on a county basis. So, I put this note in the newspaper and got thirty people to show up. We organised a family history society of Cheshire, which would be the first county-based family history society. Thereafter, because it was the first one, I got different counties and people asking, "How do we go about doing the same thing for our county?" Consequently, over the years, we've now got a family history society for each county in England.*

FHSC was initially headquartered in Chester at the home of Bertram and his wife Victoria, the couple serving as president and general secretary/librarian, and attracted thirty-four attendees to its first meeting. The Society's primary goals were to preserve historical documents and compile family histories. To achieve this, regional groups were established in Altrincham, Stockport, Northwich, and Chester. Each region was organised by a local representative who set up a committee, lectures, discussion groups and projects. This organisational model is the one that we still use today, although the regions are now known as Groups and we currently have ten.

So, what of the intervening 55 years? FHSC, in addition to being a founder member of the Family History Federation, has achieved many significant milestones. The Society has gained charitable status, expanded its reach across the county, established two research centres, a website, computer club, and a social media presence. Hundreds of dedicated volunteers have played a crucial role by transcribing and scanning thousands of historical documents. They have meticulously compiled lists of gravestones and monumental inscriptions from churchyards, created detailed plans, as well as authoring books and guides covering various aspects of Cheshire ancestry. All these valuable manuscripts and texts have been made accessible not only to members but also to the general

public. In fact, in 1971 FHSC took part in 'Operation Tombstone', a national project to record the details on gravestones throughout the county to be compiled into a list and placed in the archives of local record offices. FHSC was the first society to win the Federation of Family History Societies Best Website award, as well as setting up the initial version of the Cheshire BMD, which consequently led to the creation of the Local BMD project, with 12 regions of the country then following our lead, using the software initially developed for Cheshire.

As technology advanced, so did FHSC's methods of dissemination. Initially, records were produced as simple duplicated sheets, followed by pamphlets and small in-house publications. Later, FHSC moved to CDs and, more recently, to PDF files downloadable from our website. Similarly, the journal, which was once painstakingly typed on a manual typewriter and copied using a hand-cranked duplicator, is now produced using a computer and professionally printed with a colour cover, and is also available as a digital download.

At our research centres, library helpdesks and group meetings, our ever-increasing army of knowledgeable volunteers have consistently extended a warm welcome to those seeking to explore the origins of their Cheshire heritage. Beyond assisting with local inquiries about the 'Who, When, Why and Where' of their roots, we also serve as a friendly hub for people right across the world who are interested in connecting with shared surnames, family histories, and places, by providing a wide range of facilities to support their research. We offer advice to all, no matter at what stage of their family history journey they are. We offer advice and support for every level of expertise; from starting your research off on the right path if you are a beginner, to reinforcing your knowledge with supplementary information and practices if you are more experienced. Moving forward, as always with an eye to the future, FHSC is currently negotiating with Cheshire Archives regarding relocating its research centres in the new Cheshire History Centre. This exciting development means that we can guarantee our continued support for family history researchers in Cheshire.

The biggest challenge faced recently by FHSC came when the Covid-19 pandemic hit. When the first national UK lockdown was announced on 23rd March 2020 we had little idea of how the adoption of Zoom would revolutionise our operations, making our knowledge-sharing, collaboration and community-building efforts more accessible than ever. Our Computer Club was way ahead and had already held online trials of Zoom by the start of March that year; it's perhaps not surprising that one of the country's first family history societies should be leading the way with this modern technology. At the beginning of May FHSC held its first Executive Committee meeting via Zoom, followed a week later by an

online Computer Club meeting attended by those who had regularly been at the face-to-face meetings. June saw a full Computer Club meeting, followed by more of our Groups offering online talks, at first delivered by local members. Mindful of a possible 'digital divide' among members (where, for a multitude of reasons, some found accessing Zoom a challenge), FHSC volunteers offered assistance in the form of private Zoom sessions to help members learn the technology. By the end of the summer we were in full swing – so much so that our 2020 AGM was held online. We also helped many other societies with their Zoom programmes.

Zoom has undoubtedly become an essential tool for FHSC and numerous other groups beyond the pandemic. Geographical barriers that had previously limited attendance to members who lived locally were effectively abolished. Our online meetings consistently draw participants from beyond our county borders, including regular attendance by international members. This inclusivity has cultivated a remarkable sense of camaraderie among our members, revealing an abundance of hitherto untapped knowledge and expertise, as well as new volunteers, research opportunities and diversity to our events.

Our virtual offerings have expanded to include our well-respected Seminar series that draws in renowned national and international speakers and experts, who previously had been beyond our reach for in-person engagements. This ensures that our members gain access to a wide range of expertise and diverse perspectives. Additionally, FHSC has launched virtual special interest groups covering the whole spectrum of family history research, from Mac enthusiasts to historical newspaper archives, along with workshops on publishing, DNA, mastering online databases, genealogical software and local research 'Buddies' sessions. Following lockdown, we quickly reinstated our face to face gatherings, which continue to provide a dynamic and vibrant social aspect for members, some of which are presented in a hybrid format so that remote members can also participate using Zoom.



FHSC continues to be the pioneering society that initially brought the idea of collaborative family history research to the fore, from presenting film shows at local village fetes in the early 1970s to taking part and providing speakers for international online events, far beyond what our founder, Bertram, would have envisaged back in 1969. I'm sure he would not only approve but would be very proud of his legacy.

*Left: Bertram Merrell (1938–2015)*



# My Elusive DUTTON Family

*by Sara Pearson  
Membership no. 3638*

Are there any members with DUTTON ancestors who can help me unravel my family tree? Whilst researching our family history we sometimes reach a brick wall, this is usually when we get stuck and no more information is forthcoming. However, my brick wall is because I have too many pieces of information and I do not know which path to follow. Each generation has its own mystery!

Starting with my great-grandmother Hannah DUTTON who was born in 1861, just in time to appear on that year's census<sup>1</sup> at the age of six weeks. She was the daughter of Charles DUTTON and Mary Ann FIELD who had married at St. Giles in the Fields in 1849. According to the marriage certificate, Charles' father is Thomas DUTTON.

During 1870 Hannah appears in both The Northern District School, Annerley and the Fulham Road, Westminster Workhouse. She is not registered as an orphan, although her mother had died three years previously, so her father must still be alive at this point in time. I cannot find any of the DUTTON family in the 1871 census (probably mis-transcribed somewhere) but by 1881 she is living with William Frederick STRACHE (a Prussian gentleman) and his wife Hannah (née FIELD, sister to her mother) at 60A Vauxhall Bridge Road, Westminster. Was Hannah in the workhouse in the intervening eleven years?

In the same house, apart from the STRACHE children and Hannah (niece) is Isaac DUTTON, nephew, aged twenty-three, a clothing cutter born in Middlesex, London. This is not a sibling of Hannah and so must be a cousin by a brother of her father. This is another sticking point as I cannot be sure I have found Charles' siblings. So where does Isaac fit into the family tree?

On the 1851 census<sup>3</sup>, Charles (aged twenty-six) states he was born in the East Indies and is living with his wife and son at 1 Avery Row. Not far away I found a Thomas DUTTON aged thirty, also born in the East Indies, living at 2 Jeffs Place in Marylebone - are they brothers? This Thomas has a wife, Emma.

Charles' family grew over the years but sadly, and all too commonly, Mary Ann DUTTON died in 1867 giving birth to her tenth child. The baby, a boy named Benjamin, died six months later. The elusive Charles DUTTON has now dropped

out of sight, and I know no more about him. I cannot find a death certificate entry for him – so when and where did he die?

Now we come to a possible Thomas DUTTON, father of Charles. Thomas DUTTON of the 24th Regiment of Foot in the East Indies was married to May (not Mary – maiden name unknown). Their son Thomas was baptised in Ghazapore on 10th August 1820<sup>5</sup> (the same Thomas as on the 1851 Census?) Charles is not named as another son and seems to be one of the numerous children who failed to be registered in the East Indies, so his parentage and date of birth are unconfirmed. Thomas DUTTON senior's discharge papers state that he was born in 1794 in Manchester. He was discharged on the 17th August 1823 at Portsmouth having completed his service in the East Indies. An entry can be found for Thomas DUTTON aged twenty-nine, in the *Royal Hospital Chelsea: Disability and Royal Artillery Out-pensions Admission books*<sup>6</sup> dated 30th September 1823.

However, I have found baptisms (all on the same day, 27th May 1827) for this Charles born 18th November 1821, a brother William born 21st April 1823 and a sister Sarah born 22nd January 1825 at Christ Church, Marylebone, Middlesex. The parents' names are given as Thomas and Mary DUTTON living at 36 Bell Street. Unfortunately place of birth is not usually given at a baptism and I was lucky to have the birth dates! Whilst Charles gave his age as twenty-six on the 1851 Census, his age was given as forty on the 1861 Census, which would fit better with an 1821 birth date stated at this baptism.

The 1841 census<sup>7</sup> has two families living in the same house in Lisson Street, Holborn with Thomas aged twenty and Charles aged eighteen, living with Thomas (a pensioner) and Mary DUTTON. Unfortunately, this is less than helpful. The birthplace for Thomas senior is transcribed as *Middlesex*, and the birthplace of his sons Thomas and Charles is shown as *Ireland* – the same as their mother. The five other children are all shown as born in *Middlesex*. This could be the right family if *Ireland* was a misunderstanding of *Indies*?

However, by the 1851 census<sup>8</sup> this Thomas DUTTON, now aged fifty-seven, is living in Lisson Street with three of his children Henry (19), Richard (17) and Emma (12). This correlates with the children on the previous census but Thomas' birthplace is now stated as *Manchester*! His status is married but there is no wife at home on census night. I have not found her on the 1851 census either. His occupation is given as *Pensioner*; could this be the Army pension referred to in the Royal Hospital Chelsea document? Is this the same family after all? I am now thoroughly confused!

The DUTTON surname seems to originate in the counties of Cheshire and Lancashire, which would tie in with a Manchester birth. However the East Indies and St. Giles/Marylebone/Westminster areas of London seem to be where my branch can be found. Is the Thomas who served in the East Indies the same Thomas who has a family in the parish of Christ Church, Marylebone, Middlesex or have I got two different families altogether? Is the Charles baptised in 1821 my great-great-grandfather or someone completely different?

I have found a Thomas with a son Charles, and a Charles with a father Thomas, but are they the same people? I cannot be sure and do not know where to search for a definitive answer. Whilst the pieces can conveniently be made to fit, they may not be right and to muddy the waters further, I have also found the following which may be of interest to other members' research:

- Thomas DUTTON baptised 22nd June 1794 Collegiate, Manchester, son of Thomas and Mary DUTTON. (A strong possibility for Thomas who served in the East Indies)
- Thomas DUTTON born 13th December 1784, baptised on the 25th December at Percy Chapel, Camden, St. Pancras, son of Thomas and Mary DUTTON.
- Thomas DUTTON born 30th August 1824, baptised 13th August 1825 at the United Parish of Christ Church and St. Leonard Foster in the City of London. His parents are Thomas and Catherine DUTTON (father's occupation stationer - probably not the man I am looking for)
- Thomas DUTTON aged forty-seven married to Elizabeth with son Thomas aged twenty-one living at Leadenhall Street, London on the 1841 census<sup>9</sup>
- Isaac DUTTON aged fifteen in the 1841 census<sup>10</sup> with parents Thomas and Margaret DUTTON both aged forty years. This family is living in Northwich near Knutsford, Cheshire. (the only Isaac I can find but wrong age/place).

I definitely have too much information! Have you “lost a DUTTON” from your family tree? Does any of this help you? If any member knows of these DUTTON family members and can put me on the right path, particularly if none of them are “mine”, I would be grateful.

Note: This is an amended version of an article previously published in *The Metropolitan*, the journal of The London, Westminster and Middlesex FHS, March 2019

## References

- 1 1861 Census RG9/52/35-36
- 2 1881 Census RG11/114/29-30
- 3 1851 Census HO107/1477/350
- 4 1851 Census HO107/1491/29
- 5 British Library Ref: N/1/11/413
- 6 The National Archives, Kew Red Class WO 116, piece 34
- 7 1841 Census HO107/677/32/56
- 8 1851 Census HO107/1490/7?
- 9 1841 Census HO107/721/11/5/2
- 10 1841 Census HO107/120/9/14

## Ellen BYROM – An Indomitable Spirit

by Jim Livesey  
Membership no. 6360

Ellen BYROM was my great-great-grandmother. In researching the LIVESEY ancestry I became fascinated by Ellen's life events and determined to find out more.

Ellen was the sixth child and third daughter of William BYROM and his wife Margaret. Born on 18 March 1832 at Copper House Row, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Ellen was baptized at the local church of St Thomas on 29 March 1832. The census record of 1841 shows Ellen, age nine, to be still living at Copper House Row with her father and her siblings, her mother having died of dropsy in 1835.

Whilst the 1851 census contains entries for Ellen's father and her siblings, nothing can currently be found of Ellen herself from census or church records beyond 1841, until her marriage to William HUNT in 1855. Ellen and William were married on 17 December 1855 at the Farnworth Chapel of St Wilfrid Church (later St Luke), Widnes. On the marriage certificate she is recorded as Ellen WILKINSON, widow of Widnes age 25 and daughter of William BYROM, collier, whilst William is listed as a widower and waterman of Widnes, age 54, son of James HUNT, waterman.

Their first son, Henry Thomas was born on 2 October 1856 but died on 5 November 1857 from hydrocephalus and pneumonia. The death certificate describes William's occupation as a *Waterman on Canal*. It is likely that William

worked on the barges used to transport coal from the collieries at Haydock and Parr to the chemical industries of Liverpool via the Sankey canal, which links with the river Mersey at Widnes Dock.

The birth certificate of their second son, Henry, born on 28 September 1858 in Widnes Dock, lists the mother as Ellen HUNT, nee BYROM, late WILKINSON. Unfortunately, husband William died on 8 April 1858, age 56, in the presence of Ellen at their home in Widnes Dock. So, William never lived to see his son. William died from a bowel condition, possibly caused by a tumour. He was buried at Sankey Chapel, Great Sankey, on 11 April 1858 alongside his son Henry Thomas.

The 1861 census finds Ellen, age 28, recorded as the wife of Thomas MORT, stonemason, aged 24, living in Wellington Street, Widnes with children James MORT, age five months, and Henry HUNT, age two, together with Ellen's sister Margaret BYROM, age 34. Ellen and Thomas were in fact married on 27 December 1863 at St James Church, Walton on the Hill, Toxteth Park, Liverpool. The church record lists Thomas as a stonemason and bachelor of full age, the son of James MORT, a labourer. Ellen HUNT was recorded as a widow of full age and daughter of William BYROM, collier. During their marriage Ellen and Thomas went on have a further three children, Sarah Ann (1863), Robert (1866) and Rebecca (1867). Sadly, Thomas died, aged 30, on 13 April 1868, with wife Ellen by his side, at their home in Sankey Street, Widnes Dock. The death certificate lists the cause of death as typhus fever and pneumonia. It is not known whether this was the result of a local outbreak of typhus - not to be confused with typhoid fever - or an indictment of the conditions under which the family were living at that time. In either case no other members of the family appear to have been infected. Thomas was buried at St Mary's Church situated in the West Bank area of Widnes.

Following the death of her husband Thomas MORT, Ellen then married Thomas ELLISON, a widower of full age, on 18 October 1869 at St Nicholas Church, Liverpool. At the time of the marriage the abode of Thomas was declared as '*onboard the boat "Sarah Ann" in Clarence Dock*', Liverpool, whilst Ellen was recorded as living in Pitt Street, Liverpool. Daughter Ellen ELLISON was born on 17 September 1870 at their home in Wellington Street, Widnes. The birth certificate records the mother as Ellen ELLISON, late MORT, formerly BYROM, and the father as Thomas ELLISON, waterman of Wellington Street, Widnes; the birth being registered by his mark. On the 1871 census Ellen ELLISON is listed as a mangle keeper, age 40 living at 29 Wellington Street, Widnes, with daughter Ellen, age seven months, and children from her previous marriage: James MORT age ten, Sarah Ann MORT age seven, Robert MORT age six and Rebecca MORT age three. No mention is made of husband Thomas. At the time of the census,

Thomas is assumed to be working away, possibly on the *Sarah Ann* or some other vessel in Liverpool.

Just a month after the census, on 27 May 1871, Thomas ELLISON was found drowned in Bramley Moore Dock, Liverpool. The death certificate describes him as a *Flatman* aged about 50. The term *flatman* indicates that he had worked on a flat-bottomed boat, commonly known as a *Mersey Flat*, used for transporting bulk cargo in and out of the port. A coroner's inquest was held on 30 May 1871 and, on the Coroner's Order, Thomas was buried in the Free Parochial Cemetery, Walton Park, Liverpool, also known as Liverpool Parochial Cemetery, on 31 May 1871. No mention is made of wife Ellen.

The next recorded event in Ellen's life was her marriage at St Mary's Church, Birkenhead, on 23 October 1876 to William Oscar ROBINSON, widower aged 45 of 36 Cottage Street, Birkenhead. She was recorded as Ellen ELLISON, widow, age 45 of 309 Brook Street, Birkenhead. Both solemnised their marriage with their mark.

George Oscar ROBINSON, son of William and Ellen, was born shortly after the marriage. The birth certificate lists him as *George Hosker ROBINSON* born on 29 December 1876 at Parr Flat, Parr, to mother Ellen ROBINSON, formerly ELLISON and father *William Hosker ROBINSON*, colliery labourer. The birth was registered by the mark of mother, Ellen, on 9 Feb 1877. The misspelling of George's second name, and that of his father William, as *Hosker* instead of *Oscar*, clearly indicates that details of the birth were recorded by the Registrar, rather than the mother. No evidence of George Oscar's baptism has been found to date.

Between 1877 and 1881 the ROBINSON family moved from Parr to Ashton-under-Lyne. The most likely reason for this move was the falling demand for coal from the Parr coalfields by Liverpool industry, and the corresponding increased demand by the cotton industry centred on Ashton-under-Lyne. The census of 1881 shows William Oscar ROBINSON, a coal miner age 49, to be living at 4 Arthur Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, with wife Ellen, a midwife, also age 49, and son George O, age four, together with stepson Robert MORT, a coal miner aged sixteen and stepdaughters Rebecca MORT, thirteen and Ellen ELLISON, ten.

William Oscar ROBINSON, a coal miner of Stalybridge, died of chronic hepatitis at the age of 56 on 18 January 1888 at the Union Workhouse, Ashton under Lyne. All the evidence points to this being Ellen's husband, but where was she at this time? Had the marriage broken down with them both living separate lives? These questions currently remain unanswered. Unfortunately, the Union's records of inmates were pulped during the Second World War so there is no surviving

evidence for when William Oscar entered the workhouse. William's place of burial is also currently unknown.

At some time prior to 1889, Ellen met Caleb Clark BALDWIN, a missionary and Elder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from America. The details of where and when this occurred has not yet been established. However, on 31 August 1889 Ellen and her son Oscar are recorded as departing Liverpool for New York on the SS *Wisconsin*, which was regularly chartered by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to transport converts, or *Saints*, from England to the USA. On this occasion the company comprised 172 Saints together with nine returning missionaries and ten visitors, all in the charge of Church Elder William P. PAYNE. After leaving Liverpool the ship called at Queensland, Ireland before sailing on to New York.

However, on reaching New York the sea was too rough for a port pilot to come out to the ship, and so the *Wisconsin* had to lay-by the Sandy Hook light ship just outside New York. A pilot was eventually transferred to the *Wisconsin* from a ship leaving New York and the company finally arrived in New York on Wednesday 11 September 1889. The party remained in New York aboard the *Wisconsin* until the Friday when they caught the ferry *Roanoke* to Norfolk, Virginia, where a special immigrant train was waiting to transport them to Salt Lake City.

Even this journey was not uneventful as the train on which they travelled over the Norfolk and Western Railway was wrecked early in the morning of 15 September when a bridge over a small stream collapsed, resulting in several of the passengers being hurt, but fortunately there were no fatalities. A temporary bridge was erected and a relief train provided by the rail company. If that was not enough, the relief train was hit in the rear by another train, but again all survived. The company finally arrived in Salt Lake City on 20 September.

Having arrived at Salt Lake City, Ellen then had to travel a further 200 miles to reach her intended destination of Beaver City. Whilst there is no record of this journey, it is known that Ellen wrote a letter to her daughter Rebecca some time later in which she recalled being chased by "Indians" during part of the journey. Disputes and skirmishes between Mormons and the local Native Americans continued well into the 1900s, the most notable being the Bluff War of 1915 and the Posey War of 1923, often referred to as *The Last Indian Uprising*.

It is unclear just when Caleb returned to the USA as he was not listed as a passenger on the *Wisconsin*. However, Ellen, age 59, married Caleb Clark BALDWIN, a widower, age 72, at the St George Temple of Jesus Christ of Latter-

day Saints, Washington, Utah, on 18 February 1890. It is noted that the marriage records refer to Ellen by her birth name, BYROM, not her last married name of ROBINSON.

The US 1900 census later shows Caleb, wife Ellen and stepson George to be living in Beaver, Beaver County, Utah. Interestingly, Ellen's date of birth is recorded as 18 March 1830, not 1832 as on her baptism record. Again, the census states that Ellen had been the mother of thirteen children, of which only three were still alive. These children would have been George Oscar ROBINSON, my great-grandmother Rebecca LIVESEY, nee MORT, and Ellen ELLISON. Evidence from census returns, birth and baptism records have currently only identified eight children born to Ellen through her various marriages. This census also records Ellen as being able to read and write. So, at some time between the birth of son George Oscar in 1877, which was recorded by her mark, and the US 1900 census, Ellen had clearly learned to read and write. This is also demonstrated by the letter to her daughter mentioned earlier.

Caleb died of '*old age*' on 2 January 1905 at the age of 87 and was buried in the Mountain View Cemetery, Beaver, on 6 January. Ellen returned to the UK after Caleb's death but details of her return journey are at present unknown. It is believed that she lived in St Helens for a time following her return from the USA, but this remains to be confirmed. However, what is certain is that Ellen BALDWIN died on 19 April 1909 at 11 Bradgate Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, in the presence of her daughter, Rebecca LIVESEY. The cause of death was listed as cardiac atony bronchitis, a weakened heart due to bronchitis. She was buried in a LIVESEY family grave in Dukinfield Cemetery on 24 April 1909.

There are clearly still some gaps in Ellen's life story and the search continues. The research to date also demonstrates that Ellen was a woman of indomitable spirit with a strength of character that helped her overcome the many difficulties that she encountered throughout her life. She was, without a doubt, one of life's survivors. To have emigrated to the USA at the age of 57, or 59 depending on which birth record is used, with a young son of eleven years old, must have taken real courage and determination. Her story also illustrates the plight of young widows in the 1800s in needing to find a new husband to support themselves and their children. Ellen herself was widowed five times prior to marrying Caleb Clark BALDWIN. Three of her husbands, Thomas HUNT, Thomas ELLISON, and William ROBINSON were themselves widowers, but there is no evidence that Ellen inherited any stepchildren from their previous marriages. In 1855, was it love or necessity that brought together a widow of 25 and a widower of 54?



Currently, nothing is known of Ellen's first marriage to someone called 'WILKINSON'. This raises the question of whether there was actually a formal marriage, or did she adopt the name WILKINSON as a 'common-law' wife, similar to her position in the 1861 census when she was recorded as the wife of Thomas MORT? There is also no evidence of any children from this relationship. The durations of her marriages to William HUNT, Thomas MORT and Thomas ELLISON were only three, five and two years respectively, each being cut short either by illness or accident. Ellen could not be described as lucky in love. However, her marriages to William Oscar ROBINSON and Caleb Clark BALDWIN were longer-lasting, at twelve and fifteen years respectively.

Unfortunately, no photograph of Ellen can be found but a photograph of her daughter Rebecca, who was herself a mother of ten children, may provide some idea of what Ellen looked like.

So, what of Ellen's son George Oscar ROBINSON? He became a US citizen on 4 September 1891 and served with the Utah Light Artillery Volunteers in the Spanish American War of 1898, enlisting in Salt Lake City on 8 July of that year. This war lasted only a few months and George was discharged on 21 December 1898 at Angel Island, California.



*Ellen's daughter Rebecca,  
my great-grandmother*

As noted earlier, the US 1900 census lists George as single, age 22, living with Caleb and Ellen in Beaver. At this time, he was working as a day labourer but in later documents he describes his occupation as a stockman and horse breeder. George later married and served with the Oregon Militia whilst living with wife Echo in Portland, Oregon. But that is another story.

### ***Farndon News (8)***

*from the Cheshire Observer, 22 November 1924*

*FARNDON WATER SUPPLY - With regard to the Farndon water question, the Clerk stated that when he was in London he saw Mr Brunt, the consulting engineer. The question now was whether it would be desirable to have a trial bore-hole to see if water of the quality required could be found in Farndon to supply the inhabitants. Information was being obtained as to other wells sunk in the neighbourhood. Mr Brunt would present a final report as to the best means of providing a water supply for the village, and as to whether it was worth while making a test bore-hole.*

## Mormons in my Family

*by Jane Mason*  
*Membership no. 10508*

I read Val Kennewell's article about the WHITTAKER family in the last issue of CHESHIRE ANCESTOR (Vol 54, Issue 4, June 2024) with a great deal of interest. I too have relatives who made the hazardous journey to Salt Lake City in the 19th century, and who settled there. Although they were from Lancashire, not Cheshire, their travel experiences will have been much the same, and in this article, I aim to describe some of the typical features of the journey undertaken by such emigrants.

First of all, my family. My great-great-grandfather had two brothers, both married and both working as coal miners in the 1850s. Allen, born in 1829, emigrated to Salt Lake City with his wife Sarah in 1853, and David, born in 1831, followed on with his wife Mary Ann and their two children in 1855. I don't know anything about the beliefs of other members of the family, or indeed whether they approved of the actions of these two brothers. Obviously, I don't know whether one of the two brothers took more of a lead than the other in this whole business of joining the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS church) and travelling to Utah. Certainly, this story was never talked about in my hearing, and I do wonder how widely it was known within the family.

Mormons, or members of the LDS church, were frequently regarded with suspicion by other people. Their beliefs seemed rather odd, to say the least. Although in some respects 19th century Lancashire provided fertile ground for visiting LDS church members who were looking for converts, there was some hostility shown towards this church by the local population; it was the same in America. Actually, Mormons felt unwelcome and persecuted when they tried to settle anywhere, so to counteract this they stuck together in their own tight community, and worked hard to develop a new home for themselves out of the way in Salt Lake City.

The 1850s was a boom period for emigrating to America. Thousands of people - many from Great Britain - threw in their lot with the LDS church and expressed the fervent wish to "gather" to Salt Lake City to start new lives there. But money was a problem. So many of the new converts were poor and couldn't possibly afford to pay their own travelling expenses. How were they to get to Utah?

In 1849 the LDS church set up what was called the Perpetual Emigrating Fund (PEF), which was initially to be used to relocate those Mormons who had been forced out of the former church headquarters in Nauvoo, Illinois to Salt Lake City. Once this had been achieved, sometime in 1852, the fund became open to anyone without the means to pay their own way. Under the scheme people borrowed money from the PEF to finance their journey; once they arrived in Salt Lake City, they were expected to pay it back either in cash, in goods, or by offering their time and skills.

What commonly happened in Great Britain was that converts sold what they could of their possessions and paid that money into the PEF, which in turn met their travel costs including any supplies needed as a loan. Some individuals were paid for through donations made to the PEF by relatives or friends already in Utah. The whole thing was a huge triumph of organisation, and in the lifetime of the programme (thirty-seven years or so), nearly 30,000 people were helped financially to emigrate.

However, paying back these debts didn't always happen; by 1877 over 19,000 people still owed money to the fund. In 1880 the church authorities wrote off some of this debt, and made some decisions about who should pay what (particularly where people were very poor), but in 1887 the scheme was forced to end through the passage of legislation designed to restrict some of what the LDS church was doing. It was mainly aimed at stamping out the practice of polygamy, but the legislation also brought about the dismantling of the church's arrangements for immigration, and led to the dissolution of the PEF company.

Once again, the Mormons were attracting hostility because of their beliefs and actions. The end of the 19th century saw many points of tension between Mormons and the rest of America; there was also a weakening of the LDS church's influence in Europe, and less emphasis on the necessity of converts to come to America. Eventually the LDS church renounced polygamy in 1890, which went a long way towards making it acceptable for Utah to become a member of the Union.

Allen lived till 1898 and David till 1904, so I wonder what they thought about these developments. Did they just carry on with their lives in their new home, without looking at the wider picture of the LDS church's place in America? As regards polygamy, one of Allen and Sarah's co-passengers reported that before they set sail they were given a talk about the church's ideas on marriage, which included an explanation of the practice of polygamy. I think this was probably the first time that these new converts had heard about the doctrine, and it caused

some unease amongst them. I do not know what Allen and Sarah thought about it all. There is no evidence to suggest that either Allen or David supported polygamy, but unfortunately, I have no way of knowing their views on this topic or indeed on any other - including the decision to come to America.

At the time when Allen and David were emigrating, the PEF wasn't the only way that people could finance a journey to Utah. Some paid for everything themselves, using places on various forms of transport organised by the Mormons, and sending money ahead to a church agent who would buy supplies and equipment on their behalf. In 1852 it was thought that an independent emigrant would need £20 to get from Liverpool to Salt Lake City. Obviously not many people could pay this sort of sum, and as the PEF started to struggle for cash, another emigration plan was developed. It was similar to the PEF, but had a separate accounting system. Called the £10 plan, it was announced on the 2nd October 1852 and was limited to British converts. For the purposes of this plan, it was reckoned that £10 was the minimum amount needed to pay for someone's journey (note that this was half the amount calculated earlier for independent travellers); later this amount rose to £13 and later still to £15, but such figures surely indicate that corners were being cut. In fact, under this scheme everything, including food, was supplied down to a bare minimum.

To join a £10 company you needed to send £1 to the Liverpool office for everyone in your party who was over one year old. Then for each person £5 would be sent on to the agent at the frontier who would use this money to buy the necessary equipment for the final overland journey to Utah. The remaining £4 was payment for passage to the particular outfitting station where the agent was, and this was due on arrival in Liverpool prior to boarding the ship. There was therefore an element of pre-payment under this scheme, but the main bonus for £10 passengers was that they actually owned the outfit supplied to them for the final leg of the journey to Salt Lake City, so people could raise a bit of cash by selling wagons and livestock once they'd arrived at their destination.

However, this plan was stopped in the mid-1850s. There were so many problems - increasingly high prices for outfits, inadequate supplies of food, and the ever-present threat of illness. There was just no slack in the system when things went wrong. But it was popular, and in the two years of its existence about a quarter of the British emigrants came to America this way.

Allen and Sarah travelled as £10 passengers. They were in a group of nine - all local people and including Sarah's sister - for which one deposit of £9 was recorded as having been paid. The four out of the nine who'd been in employment

at home in Lancashire had all worked at the same colliery, so must have been known to one another. David and family used the PEF company and records show that in 1877 there was no outstanding debt for them.

The journey to Salt Lake City fell into three parts – the sea voyage across the Atlantic, followed by the trip to an outfitting station, and finally the overland journey to the west. Travelling was a dangerous business; over the years hundreds fell ill and died. Not many people will have had prior experience of sea travel, so everything in this first part of the journey was new and strange. Most people sailed from Liverpool, where the PEF had its headquarters, and where church agents were on hand to sort out problems. Everything was organised for the passengers, and they were kept out of trouble in Liverpool from people seeking to exploit them. Usually the Mormons requisitioned an entire ship, and passengers were kept busy with chores, meetings and activities during the weeks spent on board. At first, ships landed at New Orleans, but eventually other ports were used, mainly in order to avoid lengthy trips on the unhealthy Mississippi River during part two of the journey. I imagine many people thought the worst of the journey to Salt Lake City was over once the sea voyage was done. Certainly there were problems at sea: in general, ships were very crowded, and if the weather was rough and no-one could go on deck, everyone was crammed into a small, uncomfortable and ill-ventilated space. Diaries written by people making this voyage give seasickness as the most common illness, but also to be feared was any highly contagious disease (such as measles, chicken pox, cholera, typhoid, TB). If people were stuck below deck for any length of time, standards of hygiene and sanitation couldn't easily be maintained. The risk was greater the longer the voyage took, and things could get really difficult if a ship was becalmed for any length of time.

Problems were not over once people disembarked. The second leg of the journey was to get from this port and to arrive at one of the so-called outfitting stations. The idea was that here people would be set up with the things they required for the third and last part of the journey, the long trek west to Utah. Typically, people needed wagons and oxen (or handcarts, from 1856-1860) for transport, cows for milk, supplies of food, tools and general equipment. This second leg of the journey could involve river journeys, river crossings, train journeys and plenty of hazards. The less time spent on or near the Mississippi River, particularly in its most southern parts, the better it was for people. Cholera was a real threat in this sort of environment, in that it is carried by a water-borne bacterium which thrives in warm, tropical bodies of water. Epidemics of cholera swept through groups of emigrants, often proving fatal.

Sometimes people chose to stay in an outfitting place, delaying their departure so as to earn money to help pay for the rest of their journey. I should think that in general these outfitting stations were buzzing with activity as preparations got under way for the third part of the journey, overland to Utah. It was a steep learning curve for those who hadn't handled animals or wagons before. Allen and David grew up on a small farm, and therefore were used to cattle and horses, but I'm sure oxen would have been new to them, and of course they had both spent their working lives as coal miners, not farmers. Travellers were organised into companies, and they made this third part of the journey together as a company. Just to give an idea of the size of these wagon trains, the one David and family travelled with had 45 wagons, 220 oxen, 48 cows, 3 horses and 402 people.

This third leg of the journey was tough. Although cholera remained a leading cause of death, it became less of a problem as they got closer to Utah and temperatures became cooler. However, there was still disease, and people started to suffer from what was known as "mountain fever", which was an illness probably caused by tick bites. Then there were problems arising from the mode of transport; wagons could overturn and animals could stampede. The terrain was harsh, meaning progress in a wagon train was slow. River crossings were especially dangerous, exposing people to the risk of drowning. Particularly towards the end of the journey food could start to run out, in which case the travellers would need to hunt wild animals to supplement their meagre diet. Not the sort of thing they were used to doing back home! Also, it was not unknown for these wagon trains to be attacked by native Americans. In general, things improved after 1869 when the railway to Utah was completed, and people no longer had to travel on foot or in wagons for the final leg of the journey. Most people wanted to get to Salt Lake City within the year. For this to happen, they needed to leave Liverpool between January and late March, so as to be at an outfitting station by the end of May. Then, after completing their preparations, it was best if they could leave the outfitting station no later than the end of June, so as to avoid being caught out by early snow.

Travelling from England to Utah was clearly a risky business. People could fall victim to any number of nasty diseases, including some which were highly contagious, and in addition to falling ill, there was also the possibility of getting injured in some sort of accident. So how was it for Allen and David? Allen and Sarah left Liverpool on the boat the *Ellen Maria* on 17 January 1853, bound for New Orleans; they landed there on 7 March 1853, after quite a stormy voyage. This must have been one of the last times that the New Orleans route was used. From New Orleans they had to travel up the Mississippi River to St Louis (a distance of

about 680 miles), and then take further river-boat trips to get to their outfitting station at Keokuk, Iowa (another 165 miles). After that, they would be heading out along the Mormon Trail to Utah (around 1,200 miles).

However, things didn't go exactly to plan for Allen and Sarah, because on 19 March 1853 their baby girl Mary Elizabeth was born in St Louis. Thereafter it looks as if Sarah was in poor health. They did make it to Salt Lake City, and the records show that they travelled with the Cyrus H Wheelock Company, but I wonder if it took them longer than the main part of the company (who left Keokuk on 1 May 1853, arriving in Utah on 6 October 1853). The biography I found for Allen says that they arrived in Salt Lake City in December 1853, and that sadly Sarah died shortly afterwards on 26 December 1853. So Allen was left with the problem of how to look after his baby daughter, while needing to work and still grieving for his wife. Mary Elizabeth ended up being fostered by another couple who had no children, but it sounds as if Allen kept in touch with her.

David also experienced tragedy on his journey, though it started well. The family left Liverpool on the *Juventa* on 31 March 1855 headed for Philadelphia, one of the newer, healthier routes. They landed in Philadelphia with no problems on 5 May 1855, and the following day carried on by rail to Pittsburgh (about 300 miles). Then they went by boat to St Louis (600 miles), and then on to Mormon Grove near to Atchison, Kansas (about 310 miles), to get fitted out for the rest of the journey. It was while they were travelling on the Missouri River that things turned nasty. Very many passengers became sick (probably with cholera) and died, including David's son William.

After this tragic loss of life, people just had to get on with things at Mormon Grove, and make their preparations for the final stages of their journey. David and his family were with the Richard Ballantyne Company, which like Allen's company was a train of covered wagons. After a stop at Fort Bridger, Wyoming (950 miles), they eventually arrived in the Salt Lake Valley (124 miles) on 25 September 1855, nearly seven months after leaving Liverpool. They were met by the Nauvoo Brass Band as a welcome.

I imagine the conditions of life in Salt Lake City must have come as a bit of a shock to the new arrivals. They immediately had to sort out accommodation, food and work for themselves. Many of them had never grown crops before, but now they had to learn how to farm in what was a very different environment from back home. Plenty of people found that the occupational skills they'd acquired for their jobs back in England weren't actually much use in America, so when it came to work, they were once again starting from scratch.

Allen married again in about 1856, and had a large family and a long marriage with his second wife. After her death he married for the third time, and died just a couple of years later at the age of 68. David and his wife also had a large American-born family. He outlived his wife Mary Ann by three years, and died at the age of 73. Both men had newspaper obituaries which were full of praise for them as men and as Mormons.

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### *Farndon News (9)*

*from the Chester Chronicle, 30 May 1874*

*FARNDON AMICABLE SOCIETY – On Whit Monday, the members of the above flourishing society held their 110th anniversary. As is customary, they assembled on the village green preparatory to attending divine service, from whence they formed a procession numbering over 250, a much larger attendance than any former year; and, preceded by the 3rd Shropshire Volunteer Band, marched to the church... On the return journey a complimentary call was made at the Rectory, where the band played a pretty piece, and after parading the principal street, they retired to the spacious marquee to enjoy the feast... This society not only boasts of being one of the oldest in the kingdom, but also (for its size) of being one of the richest, its total worth being no less a sum than £2,429, the bulk of which sum is invested in the Mersey Dock and Harbour Board at a good rate of interest...*



# BESTWICK: a Name Changer

by Gren Dix  
Membership no. 4174

While researching the BESTWICK family, working back from what I knew, I found the family in the 1861 census entry.

## 1861 Census

RG9/1935/55-3, 23 Salem St, Etruria, Shelton, Hanley, Stoke on Trent

George Bestwick	head, mar, 48	Iron Fitter	Derbyshire, Amber
Eliza Bestwick	wife, mar, 52	-	Derbyshire, Millford
Mary Ann Bestwick	dau, un, 26	-	Derbyshire, Derby
George Bestwick	son, un, 17	-	Staffs Etruria
Henrietta Chadwick	niece, un, 11	-	Scotland, Aberdeen

However, I could not find the 1851 entry. On entering information other than the surname I found the 1851 entry shown below - everything agrees apart from the surname. Did the enumerator have a 'senior moment'?

## 1851 Census

HO107/2005-406-14, Etruria, Stoke on Trent

George Holbrook	head, mar, 38	Steam engine fitter	Derbys, Amber
Eliza Holbrook	wife, mar, 42	-	Derbys, Millford
Mary Ann Holbrook	dau, -, 14	Dress maker	Derbyshire
Elizabeth Millward	M in L, wid, 72		Staffs, Colton
George Holbrook	son, -, 7	scholar	Stafford, Etruria

I could not find the family in 1841 but did find the marriage of George BESTWICK to Eliza MILLWARD in Derby in 1835.

I also found the baptism of Mary Ann BESTWICK on FindMyPast: *Mary Ann the daughter of George Bestwick of Parker St in the Parish of St Alkmund in the Borough of Derby, Whitesmith, and of Eliza his wife, who was the daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Milward, was born on the 8th January 1837 and was baptised... on the 5th February 1837 (at King Street Wesleyan Methodist Church, Derby).*

Interestingly, in the 1851 entry there is an Elizabeth MILLWARD, mother-in-law. This makes me even more sure that the 1851 entry is the correct family but with the wrong surname.

## The HUTCHINSON Family's Court Cases: Thomas James' Case

Sheila Jones

Membership no. 3981

secretary@fhsc.org.uk

Following on from my articles about the court cases of Maria HUTCHINSON (Cheshire Ancestor Volume 54 Issue 3) and John HUTCHINSON (Cheshire Ancestor Volume 54 Issue 4), I come now to the last of the HUTCHINSON's Court Cases, that of Thomas James, whom we first met as a witness in Maria's case.

Thomas James HUTCHINSON was the first of Thomas and Anne HUTCHINSON's children to be born in Cheshire. He was baptised at St Andrew's, Bebington on 1st August 1830, with the record showing that the family (then comprising solely of Thomas and Anne and their eldest child, Maria) was living in Tranmere. Eleven years later, at the time of the 1841 census, the family was in Warrington, with Thomas James listed as a scholar. Whilst we do not know where or how Thomas James was educated, the fact that by the time of the 1851 census he was an apprentice architect gives us some clues. Nathaniel Whitlock, writing in his book *The Complete Book of Trades: or the Parent's Guide or Youth's Instructor in the Choice of a Trade, Business or Profession* in 1842, suggests that *the youth desirous of becoming an Architect, should be liberally educated, and in addition to the Latin language, he should be master of French and Italian; have some knowledge of mathematics, geometry, and drawing.*

To whom Thomas James was apprenticed is also not known. In the 1851 census, he is listed as an *Architect and Surveyor apprentice*, living at 20 George Street, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire (his father's home town) as a lodger with the family of John HARRISON, a master tailor. Pigot and Co's 1842 *Royal National and Commercial Directory and Topography of the Counties of Derbyshire, Dorsetshire, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Monmouthshire, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, Somersetshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Wiltshire, Worcestershire* lists two architects in Newcastle-under-Lyme: Gilbert MACDOUGAL of 14 Marsh Parade and John and Charles TRUBSHAW of Brunswick Street. As George Street led off Brunswick Street, it is possible that Thomas James was apprenticed to the TRUBSHAWs. An advertisement in the *Wolverhampton Chronicle* of 13th April 1831 offered an apprenticeship to a different architect and surveyor, which stated that the pupil would *have an opportunity of acquiring a thorough knowledge of perspective and architectural drawings, and their practical application in Buildings,*

and will be engaged in the measurement and valuation of every description of artificer's work. It went on to state that a premium would be required. Nathaniel WHITLOCK, eleven years later, suggested that this premium could be as much as *two to five hundred pounds*, suggesting that Thomas HUTCHINSON may well have had to pay handsomely to establish his eldest son in the architect's profession. Thomas's will, made shortly before his death in 1854, divided his money into equal portions between his four surviving children, with the exception that Thomas James was to have thirty pounds less, perhaps in acknowledgment of the expenditure laid out on him in his youth.

Thomas James had completed his apprenticeship by 1853 when, on 30th March, he took out an advertisement in the *Chester Courant* in which he *most respectfully begs leave to announce to the Nobility and Gentry of Cheshire and the surrounding counties, and to his friends in general, that he intends immediately commencing and carrying on the professions of an ARCHITECT & LAND SURVEYOR, in all their various branches; and trusts, from the long and extensive experience he has had therein, together with the most unremitting attention and punctuality to business, combined with very moderate charges, to obtain a share of that patronage which it will ever be his most earnest study and desire to merit and deserve.* The advertisement gave his address as Barker Street, Nantwich, but it does not appear as if he was there for long. He married on 8th February 1856 at St Peter's, Stoke-on-Trent, giving his address as *Stoke on Trent* and his occupation as *Architect & Surveyor*. His wife, Sarah Jane DOWNS, was possibly a distant cousin as both her father, James DOWNS and Thomas James' mother, Anne DOWNS had been born in Newcastle-under-Lyme around 1800, though to different fathers.

By the time of their first wedding anniversary, Thomas James and Sarah Jane HUTCHINSON were living in Birkenhead. A number of advertisements in the *Ormskirk Advertiser* in January 1857 list *Mr Thomas J. HUTCHINSON, architect and surveyor* of 82 Chester Street, Birkenhead as an agent for the Royal Farmers' and General Agricultural and Commercial Insurance Company. He was also described as residing in Birkenhead when both he and Sarah Jane were called as witnesses for Maria HUTCHINSON at her breach-of-promise case in April of the same year.

Business seemed to be going well for Thomas James. By 1857 he could afford to have at least one employee; the *Liverpool Daily Post* reported on 20th May 1857, that the Knutsford Sessions had found guilty a *foreigner in trouble*, one Arthur CORANI, a well-educated draughtsman, who had admitted stealing a case of drawing instruments, a gold ring and several other articles *the property of Mr T.J. HUTCHINSON, his master.*

Although he had been at 82 Chester Street, the 1857 *Post Office Directory of*

*Cheshire* lists Thomas James as an architect and surveyor at Price Street, Birkenhead, and the *Liverpool Albion*, on 8th February 1858 (the couples' second wedding anniversary) announced the birth on 29th January 1858 of a daughter at 126 Price Street, Birkenhead. This daughter, baptised Caroline Emily HUTCHINSON on 3rd March 1858 at Holy Trinity, Birkenhead, was actually his second child. A son, also named Thomas James HUTCHINSON, had been baptised at St Mary's, Birkenhead on 30th March 1856, just a few weeks after their marriage!

Another daughter, Ellen Louisa HUTCHINSON, was born in Tranmere in 1860 and was living at Walker Street, Tranmere, together with her mother, brother Thomas James, sister Caroline Emily and a female servant when the census was taken the following year. Thomas James senior, however, was not then with the family as, with the first hint of things starting to go wrong, he was in Chester Gaol as a debtor. Following this, the family appear to have been peripatetic for a number of years. Another son, John HUTCHINSON, was born in Widnes, Lancashire, in 1862, and a further son, Harry, was born in Tunstall, Staffordshire and baptised at St John the Evangelist, Goldenhill, Staffordshire on 15th April 1866. This baptismal record lists the family's address as Latebrook House and, although Thomas James's occupation is still given as architect, this address appears on several websites as the home of the manager of the local colliery. This ties in with a newspaper article from 5th June 1869, in which the *Staffordshire Sentinel* reported that *Thomas James Hutchinson, of Newcastle-under-Lyme, in the county of Stafford, architect and surveyor, previously thereto of Latebrook, Goldenhill, in the parish of Wolstanton and county of Stafford, colliery manager, and previously thereto of Birkenhead and Liverpool, architect and surveyor, having been adjudged bankrupt on the 3rd day of June, 1869, is hereby required to surrender himself to Mr Robert Slaney, a Registrar of the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Newcastle-under-Lyme, at the first meeting of creditors to be held on the 19th day of June, 1869, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely by the County Court Office.*

By the time the 1871 census was taken two years later, the HUTCHINSON family was living at 9 Hightown, Monks Copenhall (i.e. Crewe), with Thomas James's occupation now given as *coal salesman* – something of a comedown for an architect, presumably! However, he clearly still had aspirations to be an architect and surveyor as he was listed as such in the 1871 *Morris & Co. Directory and Gazetteer of Cheshire* at Heath Field House, Crewe. Given that Heathfield Avenue leads on to Hightown, this may well, however, not have been much of a move. It may well also have been a little bit of wishful thinking on Thomas James's part given that, in both 1877 and 1878, he was yet again facing liquidation applications in the County Court, described as being a coal merchant of 29 Hightown.

In 1880, for a change, he was plaintiff in a court case. The 1880 *Morris & Co. Directory and Gazetteer of the Cheshire Towns with Wrexham* listed him as an architect, surveyor, and coal merchant at 63 West Street, Crewe. The *Chester Chronicle*, on 11th December 1880, reported that Thomas James had brought an action in the Crewe County Court against Messrs. H. R. Kirby and Co., oil merchants of Liverpool, to recover £11 5s. 4d. – money alleged to be due for wages and commission. Thomas James described himself as a commercial traveller, of Crewe, and it appeared that in April last he arranged with the defendants' firm to push the oil business in this neighbourhood. An agreement was come to between them that he was to start with £2 a week as salary and a commission on all orders obtained by him. He seemed to have got on so well at the outset that in a short time his salary was increased to £2 10s., but afterwards the oil trade became dull, orders fell off, and his wages was reduced to the original figure. On the 6th of August he received a letter intimating that from that time he must consider himself "off salary," offering him the alternative to work only on commission. This [he] refused to agree to, and the engagement terminated. He claimed £8 in lieu of a month's notice being given him, and the remainder was made up as a balance due to him on his commission account. For the defence it was contended that as the wages were paid weekly, and in the absence of any agreement as to giving a month's notice, [he] could not sustain his claim. Another point in dispute was as to the commissions. Defendants said that in respect of some of the orders received by [Thomas James], the accounts had not yet been paid, and, therefore, he could not recover his commission. He had already been paid the amount due to him on the actual total received by the defendants. The judge ruled in Thomas James's favour and also awarded him costs.

The HUTCHINSONS were still at 63 West Street at the time of the 1881 census, with Thomas James listed as an architect and surveyor. Since the previous census, two more children had been born to them, both in Crewe – Edith Gertrude (baptised at St Paul's Crewe on 7th July 1872) and Reginald (baptised at St Paul's Crewe on 5th December 1875). The two eldest daughters, however, were no longer living at home. Caroline was a nurse at the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary in Wigan and I have been unable to find Ellen in the 1881 census, but in December of that year she married Matthew LATHAM in Walton on the Hill, Liverpool. Thomas James's wife, Sarah Jane, died in 1883 – her youngest child was not yet eight. She was buried in Coppenhall Cemetery on 8th June 1883.

It seems that Thomas James's monetary problems may have continued and eventually led him to take ill-advised actions. A number of newspapers reported in June 1885 on what was to prove his final court case. The *Northwich Guardian*, on 3rd June 1885, reported that three prisoners had been charged on remand at the Crewe Police Court with *obtaining a tricycle, the property of Ralph Bennett of*

*Birmingham, by false pretences on the 11th July, 1884. The three were Alfred BOWYER, Benjamin COOKE and Thomas HUTCHINSON and they were further charged with conspiring along with another person to cheat and defraud by false pretences, between the 1st January, 1883, and the 5th May, 1885 twelve other individuals or companies. Alfred BOWYER and Thomas James were also charged with obtaining from Robert Setton and Francis Durward a quantity of hardware, on the 24th Feb., 1885, by means of false pretences.*

From both this initial remand hearing and then the subsequent trial at the Chester Quarter Sessions in early July, it emerges that Alfred BOWYER obtained the tricycle and numerous other goods from their suppliers on their understanding that he was a respectable trader who would pay for them on receipt, which he then failed to do. That they were happy to supply them without advance payment was largely because BOWYER submitted to them testimonials from Thomas James HUTCHINSON and Benjamin COOKE, representing him to be an honest man, prompt in his payments. The letters from Thomas James, who admitted writing them, were on headed paper describing Thomas James as a *rubber factor, oil and grease merchant, general colliery and mill furnisher, of 63, West-street, Crewe*. A number of the items obtained by BOWYER were sent to him at Thomas James's address.

Alfred BOWYER, however, was far from being an honest man. The Chester Chronicle (4th July 1885), reporting on the Quarter Sessions' case, noted that *Bowyer was a person who went to Crewe some 9 or 10 years ago, and there set up in a small business as a hairdresser... but by the year 1880 he seemed to have involved himself in very serious difficulties*. Over the following four years, he accumulated debts of £260 and had spent *the customary period of six weeks* in Knutsford gaol for those debts, emerging in April 1884 destitute. He had then started to send off for various goods, describing himself as *Alfred Bowyer, hairdresser, perfumer, tobacco, cigar, fancy goods dealer, Nantwich-road, Crewe. Washing, sewing, and wringing machines on easy payments. A complete assortment of sundries. Bicycles and tricycles on easy payments. Accounts settled monthly*. He gave both Benjamin COOKE and Thomas James HUTCHINSON's names as referees, together with a third person, Joseph WILLETTS. The prosecution said that *letters in Bowyer's handwriting were found in Hutchinson's office, signed in Hutchinson's name, with the addition, "per A.B.," and contending that Hutchinson must have been fully cognisant of Bowyer's penniless condition at the very time when he was answering enquiries and representing Bowyer as a strictly honest, prompt and straightforward business man. The explanation was that there was corrupt agreement between them to defraud by inducing people to send goods to Crewe.*

In Thomas James's defence, character witnesses were called, namely *Mr. Gallimore, formerly mayor of Wolverhampton, and now a member of the Town Council [who] said he had dealt with the prisoner Hutchinson for oil to a considerable extent, and always found him honest and straightforward in his transactions. Mr Moody, saddler of Wolverhampton, had known the prisoner all his life, and had many transactions with him in leather, oil, stripping, mackintosh, and other articles, and had always found him honest and straightforward. Mr. Joseph Williams, accountant and secretary of the New North Staffordshire Company, had known the prisoner for many years, and always found him honest in his dealings. The company owed the prisoner £200 and odd.*

Bowyer's lawyer submitted that *the business carried on by Bowyer was a genuine one, and that he was only in the fault of representing, like other business men, his business as better than it was; and as to Hutchinson there was no participation in the profits of the business, but who was proved to have carried on a bona-fide business of his own, and had only good naturedly written four letters saying that his neighbour had been honest in all his transactions with him, which was strictly true. The presiding judge, in summing up, however, pointed out that the letters of Hutchinson stating that Bowyer was prompt in his payments must have been written knowing the statement to be false; but, unless Bowyer was found guilty of a false pretence, Hutchinson could not be found guilty of conspiracy with him.*

Alas, for Thomas James, within half an hour of the jury retiring to consider its verdict, they returned to state that they found both BOWYER and HUTCHINSON guilty. Alfred BOWYER promptly pleaded guilty to a prior conviction at Northampton on the 16th of October, 1872, for obtaining goods by false pretence which led the judge to impose a sentence of imprisonment for 12 calendar months, upon which BOWYER bowed his head on the dock and wept. The judge went on to say that as to Hutchinson, the circumstances in his case were different, but he must have been fully aware of Bowyer's circumstances, and the sentence in his case must be imprisonment for six calendar months.

Thomas James was therefore committed to Knutsford Prison. He had clearly by this point given up trying to make a living as an architect and surveyor, but perhaps still had hopes of resuming business as a commission agent and oil and coal merchant once his sentence was passed; his son, John, was listed as a coal merchant in Crewe in the 1891 census suggesting that some sort of family business may have still been running. Thomas James had, however, finally run out of luck. On 18th December 1885, the *Stockport Advertiser and Guardian* reported that a prisoner named *Thomas James Hutchinson, formerly a coal merchant at Crewe, who was convicted at the Summer Quarter Session for complicity with Alfred Boyer*

[sic], of Crewe, in a series of frauds, and was sentenced to six months' imprisonment, died in the [Knutsford] gaol on Saturday. His term of imprisonment would have expired on Tuesday next. His death certificate states that he died on 13th December 1885 and, an inquest held two days later determined the cause of death to be apoplexy (that is, a stroke). The death certificate also named him as a commission agent and gave his address as Ford Street, Crewe, suggesting that this was perhaps an address to which his children may have moved since his trial. He was buried in Coppenhall Cemetery on 18th December 1885.

## A Nice Home in Liverpool

by Gren Dix  
Membership no. 4174

While researching Samuel WITHERS, a cotton broker in Liverpool, I found the following advert on Ancestry one weekend when access to Newspapers.com was free. It was printed in the *Liverpool Albion* on 2 December 1867.

### DESIRABLE RESIDENCE AT AIGBURTH.

By Mr. BRANCH,

THIS DAY, the 2d December inst., at two o'clock in the afternoon, at the Law Association-rooms, Cook-street, Liverpool, unless previously disposed of by Private Treaty, of which due notice will be given,

**A**LL that capital MESSUAGE, called "ROSEMONT," with the Outbuildings, Lodge, Gardener's Cottage, Gardens, and Close of Land thereto belonging, situate on the southwardly side of Elmswood-road, Aigburth, and now in the occupation of Mr. Samuel Withers.

The House is substantially built, and contains Dining, Drawing, Writing, Morning, and Billiard Rooms; Square Hall, with Fireplace, Cloak-room, Servants'-hall, Butler's Pantry and Bedroom, Kitchen, Two Sculleries, Larder, Dairy, Storeroom, and Two Closets, on the ground floor; and Twelve Bedrooms, Four Dressing-rooms, Bathroom, and Two closets, on the upper floor. The House is Cellared throughout.

There is Stabling for Eight Horses, with large Coachhouse, Saddle-rooms, &c.

The Gardens are tastefully laid out and in a high state of cultivation, and the Conservatories, Hothouses, and Greenhouses are very extensive and of the best construction. The Land, inclusive of the Gardens and the site of the House, contains about six acres.

The Tenure is Freehold of Inheritance.

For further particulars and orders to view apply to Messrs. NORRIS and SONS, Union-buildings, North John-street, Liverpool.



The property, called Rosemont, was situated on the south side of Elmswood Rd, Aigburth. It had five reception rooms including a billiards room, a kitchen, sculleries, servants rooms, twelve bedrooms, plus cellars, stabling for twelve horses and various outbuildings, gardeners cottage, etc. Oh, how the other half live! The stables would be more than big enough for me.

I then looked for further details of Rosemont and found that it later became part of Liverpool Zoo. The *Liverpool Daily Post* reported on 17 September 1931:

#### *LIVERPOOL ZOO PLANS – SCHEME FOR NEW PARK*

*Arrangements are now being made by Mr H E Rogers for the layout of the Zoological Park which he hopes to open to the public next Easter, in the extensive and beautiful grounds of Rosemont, Woodlands-road, Aigburth, Liverpool, and which will embody some novel ideas which will distinguish it from any other zoo in this country.*

*The underlying idea is to make the surroundings of the animals and birds as natural as possible. For example, the bears are to have a roomy outdoor playground, with a bath and central tree, and a cave of rocks to which they may retire from public gaze... visitors will see them, not through bars, but over a wall...*

Further information about the zoo was found on the webpage [www.thefootballvoice.com/2023/02/historic-liverpool-dwellings-rosemount.html](http://www.thefootballvoice.com/2023/02/historic-liverpool-dwellings-rosemount.html)

*Liverpool Records Office has a number of items under Liverpool Zoo all referring to Mossley Hill Zoo. There is a scrapbook that was kept by the proprietor of the zoo, Captain H. E. Rogers. It includes lots of interesting detail right from the moment Mr Rogers bought his large house and grounds in Mossley Hill called Rosemount (sometimes spelled Rosemont). This was in 1928, although the zoo didn't open until the 4th May 1932. The zoo ran for only six years between 1932 and 1938 and was situated where Rosemont Road housing estate now resides, off where Woodlands Road and Elmswood Road meet. On 14th October 1938 the Liverpool Daily Post had an article explaining Mr. Rogers' reasons for retiring and ends with a history of Liverpool zoos.*

### ***Farndon News (10)***

*from the Crewe Chronicle, 11 July 1874*

*WANT OF RAIN – FARMING PROSPECTS – Whilst we hear on all sides of the pleasant and continuous rains which have fallen of late, in Farndon and the immediate neighbourhood there has not been any since the early spring, with the exception of a twenty minute shower occasionally, and these have produced disastrous effects by bringing the young roots to the surface... to be killed by the following day's burning sun... we have numerous fallow fields where turnips should have been.*

# 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



Well, my whinge in the last issue certainly produced results, and I thank those who have contributed here for helping me out. We have lots of varied stuff for this issue, including several programs that are offered on a free basis. If you depend on your Ancestry family tree, please wake up to a possible Ancestry charge when cancelling your subscription.

This pretty much clears my Next Issue folder, and I'm going to need more articles for the December issue. So please get your thinking caps in action.

### Grabbing Images for Free

By Comp Club's Paul Reeve

Geoff has long sung the praises of screen-grabbing software Snagit. I had a look at it, but decided that paying for this type of software was not the best use of my resources, so I looked around for a free program.

I eventually settled on a software program called PicPick. I only really use it for recording results from the various genealogy programs which do not have images. But it can do all sorts of other things as well. It is free for personal use, a nag screen appears every so often suggesting you register, but does not detract. It is possible to capture full-screen, a user-defined region of the screen or a fixed region. Key combinations (hot keys) can be set up for any of these – I use shift control F10 to open the application with a user defined window, which you draw

with the mouse. You can't then re-adjust it, but you can redo if necessary. I then save the image to the relevant folder on my PC. Other facilities include a screen recorder (video of the desktop screen), colour picker/palette, pixel ruler, a protractor to measure angles and the ability to draw/add captions, arrows etc. to your images (or new ones). It has a magnifier, you can set it to automatically save captures (to another program if you wish), and it will work with multiple monitors. PicPick is available from <https://picpick.app/en/>

## Cloud Storage & the MS Office 365 Suite

by GJ, with much input by Mark Draper and Sue Ritchie

Since my early scepticism I find that I'm growing more confident about the use of Cloud storage: in my case particularly, Microsoft OneDrive. My current use is limited to just that of my OneNote application; enabling me to share ever-growing personal information between my desktop, my phone, and my laptop. The storage requirements for that are not excessive, but the benefit of immediate sharing, wherever I happen to be, is really growing on me. Confidence in Cloud storage is now causing me to think about increasing my personal Microsoft 5 GB limit. This would expand my backup storage and give me greater email flexibility.

Microsoft offers increased storage limits of OneDrive, dependent on the extent to which you use, or should I say pay for, their products.

Being very much 'old school', I've always been a bit 'anti' programs that are run from the internet rather than a fixed installation on my own computer. But reading and hearing what experienced user-members are telling me, I think I ought to consider trying it. Spending something less than 30 bob a week for free access to a set of professional programs, along with acres of storage space and the ability to share across multiple devices, must be worth consideration.

Some members already make use of the Microsoft Office 365 product; giving them access to all the Office Suite programs, and the added benefit of very large chunks of cloud storage in OneDrive.

Whitchurch and Computer Club member Mark Draper alerted me to the following: We've talked about Cloud storage options a couple of times in recent meetings. I've just renewed my *Microsoft 365 Family* subscription via an Amazon offer, which gives up to six people 1000 GB (or 1TB) of storage each for 15 months, with Norton 360 Deluxe for five devices included in the bundle.

Mark's offer price was - £49.99 all-in, that's just £3.33 per month! ☺

That was a stunning offer, and I can't see anything matching that on a current search, but it seems to be available for between £50 and £80 a year. Keep searching for the best offers! The *Microsoft 365 Family* product basically gives a one-year license for all the Microsoft 365 Office programs (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Microsoft Defender, OneDrive, Outlook, Editor, Clipchamp, and OneNote), which can be installed on your Mac, PC or mobile devices (up to five devices in all), plus 1TB of cloud data storage using the OneDrive program. Not only that, it's a subscription for up to six people, and each individual can install the programs on up to five devices and has their own private 1TB of data storage.

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/microsoft-365/p/microsoft-365-family/cfq7tcok5dm?activetab=pivot:overviewtab>

Sue and Iain Ritchie use the product extensively as well, making full use of the six-person membership amongst themselves and their children.

If you purchase a fixed-period license, the subscription will not be renewed automatically at the end of the year. You will receive an email reminder a month before the subscription ends - invariably these have special offers and ask if you wish to renew.

Mark went on to say that he'd bought 12 or 15 month license packs from Amazon ever since he retired in 2017. He is finding that the price is trending downwards, not up. He paid £65 in Apr 2023, and £70 in Jan 2022.

He says you can use this product to renew your subscription for one year (or 15 months, etc). Renewing is very easy; just enter the new license code into your MS Office account and it's done! A new installation of the software is not required. When you activate the license, the new time period will be added to the end of any existing subscription, so you do not have to wait until the day your existing subscription expires to avoid losing any time on a running subscription.

If you have a family or friends who could make use of such facilities just try Google searches for Microsoft 365 Family. You will find lots of offers for varying prices from different places that are, invariably, not direct from Microsoft. As usual, of course, just make sure the sellers are offering genuine licenses!

**Ed. (Rosie):** To keep track of prices on Amazon, I use a website called, rather oddly, Camel Camel Camel - <https://uk.camelcamelcamel.com/> Simply register for an account, search for the item you want to buy and the website will show you the price it has been on sale at over the last few years. You can set up an alert to receive an email when the price falls below the amount you wish to pay.

# Beware the Green Buttons - try Ninite

by Geoff Johnson and Michael Hume

I introduced a basic topic to Computer Club concerning the difficulties that can be encountered in following updates from excellent free software providers such as Irfanview or KeePass. Periodically they want you to download an update file from a file server, and that site is invariably beset by adverts; many of which possess little green buttons or similar, that will encourage you to download something else. In general terms these unwanted links just lead to advertising and the like. I was just trying to stress to members the importance of reading the download page, and making sure that you find the right thing to click.

In supplying you with free software, these excellent providers only have recourse to income by putting their information onto Web servers that will pay them through the advertising.

At this point Computer Club and Shrewsbury member Michael Hulme alerted us to this useful, lovely named, and free website called – Ninite <https://ninite.com/>

Ninite will enable you to install and update all your Programs at once. You can set it so that it will always keep things up-to-date, or run particular programs selectively. They say that “*Our website is free for home use money-wise, and it’s also free of ads and junkware. Their numerous professional users pay to keep Ninite running*”.

Please have a try and let me know how you get on.

## Family History Programs

Legacy Family Tree is now FREE

By member David Williams in Macclesfield

Legacy has made it to NTS before, but it seems that few people knew about its existence. It will be more familiar in USA.

If you google *best family tree maker 2024*, the website Tech Radar lists Legacy as second after Family Tree Maker, which is described as *quite pricey*. It is also second in the *genealogy software No 1 review list*.

I guess these reviews were before Legacy became free in the last few weeks. But Legacy has been in the lists of top five family tree software sites for many years, and even when you had to pay for it, it was only about US \$30.

Legacy is now owned by MyHeritage, and I guess making the software free is intended to boost subscriptions to MyHeritage. Download it from <https://legacyfamilytree.com/>

I have been using Legacy for about twenty years and am very satisfied with it - which means that I have not used any of the other family tree software available today, so I am not in a position to compare them.

### **Legacy highlights:**

Standard family view shows a 'marriage' - or at least a couple - with each of their grandparents above and their children listed below. The children of other pairings of man or woman are also shown, with the birth mother/father's name in brackets. (Despite what some of the reviews say, Legacy DOES allow same sex couples to be entered, although this is not often useful for genealogical continuity. It will ask you to confirm you want to enter a same sex couple.) You can easily navigate up or down by clicking on the name of an individual, or you can search a Name List (by surname or forename or reference number) or Marriage List. Or even Location List.

You can add Event/Facts to an individual (e.g. birth record, probate, census) and share these with others (e.g. parents, executors, household members). Own and shared events will be listed on a screen view of an individual.

You can choose to show hints from online sources, principally MyHeritage (surprise, surprise), FamilySearch, and Findmypast. Obviously, you can only see details of the hints if you subscribe to the relevant site, but it is free to subscribe to FamilySearch.

You can link directly to FamilySearch (if you have an account) with a split screen so that you can find a match (or scroll through various possible matches) to compare details of a person in your tree with those of a person in FamilySearch. And if you find a match, you can import missing event details (residence, birth, death, etc) from Family Search directly into Legacy AND vice versa. [I don't import data into Legacy without checking it.]

Legacy can generate a variety of charts - descendants, ancestors, bowtie, fan, etc and also many report options (pedigree, timeline, and descendant/ancestor books and even a "lines of multiple descent" report). You can customise the wording and formats used in reports. You can include photos of people or places, linked to individuals or events: (I like to show pictures of churches where people were baptised or married, surviving pubs, schools, etc as well as photos of individuals). You can include stories linked to individuals.

As you enter a new person, Legacy will look for potential matches already in the tree and ask you if there might be a duplicate. It will then allow you to see all the details entered for the two side by side, so that you can decide if they are the same person or not.

The limit of the number of people/events that you can include in your tree is probably only determined by the memory available in your computer. I have only about 17,000 people in the tree for my wife and I. There has been no noticeable difference on response time of the software as the tree size increases.

You can import and export GEDCOM files, and it seems from reviews that Legacy is better than most software at handling duplication/conflicts if you import GEDCOM data into an existing tree.

There is an extensive Help section and free demo videos are available. There is also an extensive webinar library - mostly NOT free - this is mainly aimed at American users. Sometimes these are offered free for a few days, and some are interesting for UK users. I have only viewed free videos.

But as Legacy is now FREE, why not download a copy and try it?

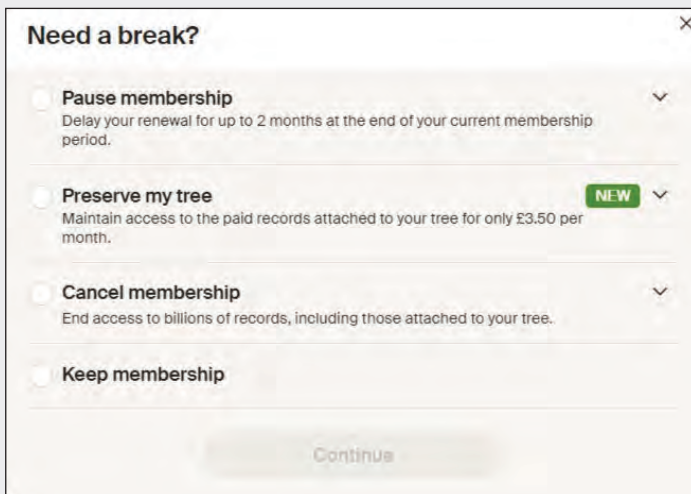
## Look After Your Family Tree in Ancestry

By Gren Dix and Editor Rosie Rowley

**Gren said:** recently my Ancestry subscription expired. I found an Ancestry charge of £3.50 on my credit card. I contacted Ancestry and was told *If you do not renew your subscription there is a charge of £3.50 to preserve the records you have attached to your tree.* I omitted to ask which records? Does this mean all but names would be deleted? How do we save our genealogical research after we have joined our ancestors?

**Rosie Rowley replied to Gren as follows:** I looked into the Ancestry charge of £3.50. I couldn't find anything about it until I attempted to cancel my own subscription, when this pop-up (on the next page) appeared.

It seems that, after cancellation, Ancestry will charge you £3.50 per month to allow you to continue to view their records which are attached to people in your tree. For example, images of parish registers, census records, etc. If you do not pay the £3.50 per month, your tree will still be there and you can still edit the tree if you wish, but you won't be able to see any of Ancestry's records. If you later restart subscribing to Ancestry, then you'll be able to see the records again. As you are no doubt aware this charge of £3.50 per month is a new thing and, as far as I can see, it's just a way for Ancestry to make more money.



If you have manually downloaded all the records you have found on Ancestry while building your tree then you don't really need to pay this monthly fee as you can refer to the records by looking at them on your computer; it's just not as convenient as looking at a person in your tree on Ancestry and clicking on a record to see what it says.

This Ancestry help page covers what you can and can't do after your subscription has ended: [https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/Ancestry-Accounts-after-Cancellation?language=en\\_US](https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/Ancestry-Accounts-after-Cancellation?language=en_US)

I have always got round the difficulty of not being able to see the records when I don't have an active subscription to Ancestry in two ways:

- 1 I always write a brief transcription of the record entry in the description area of a fact for a person.
- 2 I have a copy of Family Tree Maker 2019, and always synchronise my Ancestry trees to my computer every week or so.

I also make sure that I synchronise all my Ancestry trees just before my Ancestry subscription expires, if I am not immediately renewing it. I always include the media download, which downloads images of all the Ancestry records to my computer for me. But note, I have found that there are exceptions to this - only the first page is downloaded for records which consist of more than one page, such as WWI Army service records. This means I always have a backup of my Ancestry trees and all the associated records on my computer and, because I save the downloaded information to the cloud, I have another backup there.



Family Tree Maker currently costs £79.95 but I think they sometimes have special offers e.g. during the RootsTech event. It is about to be upgraded and I believe if you buy now, you will get the upgrade free of charge - but check this yourself, don't rely on my word in case I'm wrong!

## Imperial War Museums

By Colwyn Bay member Lesley Baxendale

I've been helping someone on one of the regional family history email lists. They wanted to find out a bit more about a war memorial in a tiny village on Anglesey. In the process, I had a look at the Imperial War Museum website. It's growing into a really good resource for those of us with any military connections.

Whilst looking for said war memorial record, it became very noticeable that the IWM database is far from complete as far as images of the memorials go. So, although it's not strictly computer related, I thought it would be a good idea to ask our NTS followers to have a look online, and see if they could possibly fill in any gaps.

You can upload a photo of a memorial to the website and there is a link to do that on each memorial page. A word of warning though - it must be your own photograph or you must have permission from the person who took it. Even the Park Green memorial in Macclesfield is missing, which I found very surprising! Unfortunately, I only have images from the internet and social media, otherwise I'd have uploaded one straight away. Between us we may be able to fill in a lot of gaps in the IWM War Memorials Database. This is the link to the IWM War Memorials Database search: [www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/search](http://www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/search)

**Ed. (Rosie):** I was surprised to learn that there are no photos of the Macclesfield Park Green memorial on the IWM Memorials database as I sent photos many years ago, along with some other photos of Macclesfield war memorials. I have enquired and it seems the IWM has updated their website and it is not displaying all the photos at present. The link for uploading photos is currently not in use.

## From the Inbox

**Snagit Library - Peter Rowley** recently watched a video about Snagit and discovered that if you log on to your Snagit editor and click on Library, you will be able to see ALL the Snagit images you have copied and didn't know that you had saved. He found 67 files going back to 2022 which can be sorted by Date modified, Date created, Name and Size. *(In my case there are over 1700! - GJ)*

It is possible to convert any old files to the new Snagit file format. Having just converted them, I now find that there are 551 images dating back to 2020. Next, I will have to find how to delete any unwanted ones. I tried to use Snagit to capture info from the library page, but it doesn't seem to work.

**Parish Mouse - Sue Gibb** (Northwich and Comp Club member) offers a little tip which might be helpful to some of you: check out the Parish Mouse website! Not only do they give lots of info on each parish, but they quite often have FREE PDF transcripts of parish registers to download! They don't have them available for every parish, but they have for a lot, especially in Bedfordshire! Sue saved herself a fortune this way, and she also found plenty of records which aren't currently available on FindMyPast or Ancestry. Obviously having the images is better, but I've found the transcripts super helpful. Just smashed through a brick wall that has had me stumped for the last ten years thanks to Parish Mouse! *Sue knows of my interest in Bedfordshire PR's! I'm already downloading a stack of them -GJ*

Sue observes that there are some annoying pop-up ads, but the site itself is 100% legit - no sign up is required, and it's totally free! See <https://parishmouse.co.uk/>

### **Genealogy Magazines available from Cheshire Libraries**

If you like reading magazines on a tablet/mobile device and don't want to pay for them, there are 4,912 titles available through Cheshire Libraries on the Libby app (most UK library services have a similar scheme, many using Libby or Pressreader apps). You can also read them on your computer on the Libby website <https://libbyapp.com/library/cheshire> All you need is your library card number and pin code to log in to Libby. Magazines include: *WDYTYA*, *Family Tree Magazine* (UK), *Family Tree* (US), *BBC History*, *BBC History Revealed*, *History Scotland*, and *National Geographic History*.

### **Tinstaafl Transcripts - Ian Hough** (Computer Club)

Anybody interested in Norfolk parish registers and the England and Wales Hardwick marriage index is advised to have a look at [www.tinstaafl.co.uk](http://www.tinstaafl.co.uk). I understand that a small group of dedicated people is creating and managing this site, and that it is a work in progress. For the curious, the name is derived from *there is no such thing as a free lunch!* It only provides transcripts of the data but I understand it is ever-growing. The Bedfordshire data is said to be complete. The organisers are looking for help with the transcription work if you've got an interest in that sort of thing.

***I rely on your input to keep this forum active, so keep the responses coming please - GJ***

## GROUP CONTACTS

### ALSAGER GROUP

GC: Hazel & Peter Rugman  
157 Sandbach Road North  
Alsager  
Cheshire ST7 2AX  
Tel: 01270 876386  
[alsager@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:alsager@fhsc.org.uk)

### BEBINGTON GROUP

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

### CHESTER GROUP

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

### COMPUTER GROUP

GL: Geoff Johnson  
Garth Nook, Well Lane  
Little Budworth  
Tarporley CW6 9DA  
Tel: 01829 760422  
[computerclub@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:computerclub@fhsc.org.uk)

### CONGLETON GROUP

GL: David Smetham  
Little Trees, Gawsworth Rd  
Gawsworth  
Macclesfield SK11 9RA  
Tel: 01625 426173  
[congleton@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:congleton@fhsc.org.uk)

### CREWE & NANTWICH GROUP

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

### MACCLESFIELD GROUP

GL: Dennis Whyte  
29 Thirlmere  
Macclesfield  
SK11 7XY  
Tel: 01625 617557  
[macclesfield@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:macclesfield@fhsc.org.uk)

### NORTHWICH GROUP

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

### RUNCORN GROUP

GL: Peter Johnson  
[runcorn@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:runcorn@fhsc.org.uk)

### SALE GROUP

GL: Angela Jenkinson  
41 Keswick Road  
Timperley WA15 7DU  
Tel: 07970 174388  
[sale@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:sale@fhsc.org.uk)

### TAMESIDE GROUP

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

### NOTE:

GL: Group Leader  
GC: Group Contact

**Back cover:** *Farndon Bridge, from the west* by Joopercoopers at English Wikipedia (CC BY-SA 3.0) [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Farndon\\_bridge.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Farndon_bridge.jpg)  
The bridge, which was built in the mid-14th century, is recorded in the National Heritage List for England and by CADW as a designated Grade I listed building and scheduled monument. It is built from locally quarried red sandstone.

## Farndon



*Farndon Bridge, from the west. Photo: Joopercoopers*

The village of Farndon is situated on the banks of the River Dee just south of Chester and forms part of the England–Wales border, with the Welsh village of Holt directly across the river, the settlements being linked by the Farndon Bridge. Archaeological assessments suggest the presence of a Roman villa or a small military outpost in the area, implying that the village was inhabited during the Roman occupation of Britain. The name Farndon, meaning *Fern Hill*, was first recorded in Old English in 924AD, with the village being known by various names over time, including *Fearndune*, *Farndune*, and *Ferentone*. Given its proximity to the England–Wales border, it is known as *Rhedynfre* in Welsh.

The historic parish church of St Chad's in Farndon boasts a fascinating past. Some sections of the church are believed to date back to the time of Sir Patrick de Bartun, a knight who served under King Edward III and whose effigy rests in the nave. During the English Civil War, St. Chad's suffered damage, but it was subsequently restored. The church now houses a remarkable Civil War memorial window. Among its intriguing features is an image thought to depict William Lawes, the renowned court musician who tragically lost his life at the Battle of Rowton Heath.

There are several listed buildings in the village, many of which can be seen on Mike Royden's website, which also has some interesting links to the history of the area: [www.roydenhistory.co.uk/farndon/village/photoarchive/archive.htm](http://www.roydenhistory.co.uk/farndon/village/photoarchive/archive.htm)