

CHESHIRE ANCESTOR



The Journal of the
Family History Society of Cheshire



In this edition:

Nineteenth Century Social Mobility

The Great Hollingworth DNA Mystery

Mormon Emigration ❖ *The Pidgeons of Stockport*

Nantwich News and more...

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Front cover photo: Battle of Nantwich Re-enactment, January 2015

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The King's Guard march onto Mill Island for the Sealed Knot re-enactment of the Battle of Nantwich. See the back cover for more information about Nantwich.

See also www.battleofnantwich.org and
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Nantwich



CHESHIRE ANCESTOR

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

Editor's Page

by Rosie Rowley



In response to articles in the last issue about Mormon emigration, I received an email from member Carole Robinson who found accounts of early Mormon journeys from the UK to Salt Lake City on her relative Margaret Ann CLEGG's Billion Graves website burial entry. The description of sixteen-year-old Margaret's harrowing three-month journey on foot across America, along with a photo of her in later years with the hand cart she had to pull, really brings home the trials and tribulations of these early settlers.

By a strange coincidence we have four articles relating to one-name studies of surnames which all have a connection with Cheshire: HOLLINGWORTH, PIDGEON, WARBURTON and WORTHINGTON. If you have one of these names in your tree, please do get in touch with the author of the article, especially if you have the name Hollingworth (or a variant) and are interested in helping with their DNA study. Ray Warburton has written a really interesting article in which he describes how, in the early 1800s, his family progressed from being farmers to doctors in just two generations. He has included some wonderful family photos as well.

If you have anything to share - perhaps an article about your family history, or just a letter commenting on something you read in *CHESHIRE ANCESTOR* - please do send it to me, preferably by email so you don't have to pay postage and I don't have to type it in! Wishing all readers a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

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



As I write this report the Society is preparing for the 2024 AGM, and I found myself reflecting on my year as Chair. The main focus of this year has been the completion of the work of the Focus Groups and the analysis of the membership survey, both of which have resulted in changes which will represent a new era within the Society. In consequence of this hard work by many people, the revamped Constitution and updated Governance Structure were ratified at the Extraordinary General Meeting which took place in July, (see page 5 for details). I'm looking forward to a raft of new initiatives and events that will continue to see FHSC as one of the leading Family History Societies in the UK. A full report of the 2024 AGM will appear in the March ANCESTOR.

The third quarter of 2024 saw FHSC taking part in the annual Heritage Open Days Week, with events at the Crewe Research Centre and attending the Heritage Fair, where several interesting contacts were made for future collaboration – watch this space! Unfortunately, due to that being such a busy week we were unable to attend the Buxton U3A Family History Fair this year.

Transcription projects are continuing at both Crewe and Mobberley, with some of the outputs appearing in the shop shortly. Thanks to everyone concerned with this important work. Members who subscribe to my newsletter will have received notification of the Cheshire parish records that Ancestry have digitised, which are more far-reaching in terms of coverage and time scope than those on FindMyPast. There is more to come with Trade Directories and Court Records in the pipeline. I will of course inform members when these are available.

The building phase of the new History Centres in Chester and Crewe has begun with the contractor, Keir, starting onsite this autumn. I am holding regular meetings with Cheshire Archives and the plans to have a FHSC Hub in Crewe and a helpdesk in Chester are progressing well. We are always in need of volunteers, so please don't be shy if you feel you could spare time to help at either site, or even at our current research centres in Crewe and Mobberley. The current planned opening date for the History Centres is April 2026.

August saw many of our Groups taking a summer break but although there were fewer events, they certainly didn't lack in educational and entertainment value, with an excellent mix of talks by local speakers as well as those more nationally known. Topics included DNA for beginners, an insight into the River Weaver, Mersey Pilots, migration stories, postcards of old Macclesfield, researching newspapers, industries in Manchester and research evenings. Thanks as always to the group leaders for their work to bring these events to members.

The Cheshire Research Buddies sessions this quarter covered Chester, Northwich, and Wallasey. These Saturday afternoon sessions prove very popular with our overseas members, who enjoy a trip down memory lane, as well as the chance to speak to those who live on the doorstep. A lot of local knowledge is shared in these meetings, which are very friendly and a joy to chair. Please do come along and join any of the sessions that relate to your area of interest; details can be found in the Events listing of the website and on page 8 of this issue.

The Seminars this quarter were, as always, well received by members. In July we were joined by the Devon Family History Society to listen to Dr Sophie Kay. Sophie's presentation *Genealogical Marshmallow, Will Power and Bias in Family History* certainly gave us something to think about, with many of us considering returning to our earlier research with fresh eyes and an enlightened perspective. *And now for something completely different...* was certainly the order of the evening when Chris Broom entertained us with *Humour in Genealogy*. His presentation not only brought back great memories of 1960/70s TV comedy stars but also contained some hilarious misquotes and mis-transcriptions from genealogical sources. Many of you sent me your own examples to pass on, which I have duly done. Dr James Wright returned in September with something very close to home, *Walking the Weirdstone*. James enthusiastically described his attempt to walk in the footsteps of the characters in Alan Garner's famous trilogy. This triggered wonderful memories among attendees and many of you have picked up the books to read again. The Seminar series is now entering its fourth year and statistics show that almost half of the FHSC membership have attended at least one of the talks in the series, which is amazing - I thank you all for the support. The programme for the next few months can be found on page 8.

That's it for this quarter. By the time you read this, the Society will have a new Board of Trustees who will already be planning the future programme for FHSC, with much that is new and exciting. Please continue to support the Society in any way you can. Your presence is invaluable.

Thank you, have a lovely Christmas and a peaceful 2025.

Report of the Extraordinary General Meeting of the FHSC held on 20th July 2024

The meeting commenced at 2:00pm at which point 48 members were present, including three members joining the Zoom call through a single login at the Mobberley Family History Research Centre.

The Chair welcomed attendees and noted that many of them had contributed to the development of changes through involvement in the Focus Groups and the Committee Structure Group in particular, details of which appeared in the March Ancestor and had then followed through into the proposed constitutional revisions. The Executive Committee, at its March meeting, had accepted these revisions without dissent and so the current Trustees supported these proposals, which were seen as necessary to take the Society forward for the next decade at least. As far as possible, options had been kept open within the Constitution in order to avoid being too prescriptive about frequencies, methods and procedures which related to operational matters.

A draft revised Constitution, together with a covering rationale for the proposed changes had been made available prior to the meeting and a number of suggested amendments made by members in advance of the meeting were added to the version presented at the meeting. A number of questions were also taken from attendees.

(i) Why did the changes not take effect immediately?

Because if that were the case, then all Trustees including the Officers would immediately need to resign and elections be held. By postponing the date on which the changes came into effect, the current Trustees and Officers could continue to operate including putting in place arrangements for elections to be called to take place at the next AGM. The notice for the AGM, including the call for nominations for Trustees and Officers, would be published in the September edition of the Ancestor.

(ii) Should electronic voting include an option for members to indicate that they wish to abstain from a vote?

It was noted that allowing members to indicate that they wished to abstain made it very difficult to decide how to record the decision of members who are in attendance at a meeting but do not cast any vote. It was therefore **AGREED** that there should be no option for members to indicate that they wish to abstain from a vote and, instead, the number of abstainers should be considered to be the

difference between those attending minus those voting for or against a resolution.

(iii) Under clause 5(A), what would happen should the Board of Trustees agree a budget based upon an assumption that membership subscription rates would be increased but the members then voted against an increase in such rates at an AGM?

Following some discussion, it was **AGREED** that the wording of clause 5(A) should not be altered. It would fall to the Board of Trustees to be able to justify to the members any proposed increase in subscription rates, including the fact that the Trustees have obligations to ensure the good financial standing of the Society. In the event that members did not approve the increase, the Board of Trustees would need to consider whether the budget could be adjusted by other means and, if not, the Trustees might consider it their duty to resign.

Two resolutions were put to the members attending the meeting and were carried without dissent. Accordingly, the meeting approved the continuation in post of the current Officers, with authority to act on behalf of FHSC where necessary, between 1st September and the following AGM and approved the adoption of the revised Constitution as presented at the EGM. Subsequent to the meeting, the revised Constitution was submitted to the Charity Commission and accepted. The full minutes of the EGM and the revised Constitution are available on the Society's website under the Governance section.

Nantwich News (1)

from the Crewe Chronicle, 27 December 1924

NANTWICH ISOLATION HOSPITAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL - At the Nantwich Rural Council on Saturday, Mr L G S Haighton made an appeal on behalf of the children under treatment in the hospital. He said they had made provision for the Christmas entertaining of the children in the workhouse, and mentioned that last year, when this provision was overlooked, the matron, out of her private purse spent £5 in making up this deficiency. He hoped they would not allow that to occur again, and that something would be done by members of the Council and others to brighten the hours of patients on Christmas Day.

In reply to Mr Jos. Furber, Mr Haighton said the majority of the patients were children of parents who were not well off.

A collection was made in the council room on behalf of the children, and it was hoped that contributions might be made by people outside.

Volunteers Wanted

The Society is run entirely by volunteers, without which it could not function. Please consider whether you might be able to offer your help in some way.

The society is seeking volunteers for the following roles:

Journal Editor

Rosie Rowley has now been producing the journal for nine years and intends to resign by the end of 2025 at the latest. It is therefore vital that a new editor is found by October 2025 to allow time for training during the production of the December 2025 issue (or earlier if possible).

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

Mobberley Research Centre

Unfortunately, due to a lack of volunteers we have had to temporarily close Mobberley on a Tuesday. If you are interested in joining the band of volunteers then please **contact the Mobberley Research Centre directly on 07712 103715** and leave a message.

Operational Teams

Following the adoption of the revised Constitution at the EGM in July 2024 and the election of new Trustees at the 2024 AGM, we are now looking to establish Operational Teams to support the work of our Officers and Trustees. These are the *Financial Operational Team*, the *Education and Research Operational Team*, the *Membership Operational Team* and the *Communication Operational Team*.

Details of the remit of these teams are on the **FHSC website under the Governance Documents section** and we invite anyone who would be interested in volunteering as a member of any of these teams to fill in the application form which can also be found in that section. Applications should be submitted by 31st December.

A fifth *Local Groups Operational Team* is also being established but Local Group Leaders will be contacted directly about this.

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
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	Christmas Social
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	Alsager Group	Members and their guests only: Christmas Lunch at the Wilbraham Arms (booking essential)
10-Dec	Crewe & Nantwich Grp	H: <i>Suffragettes and Suffragists</i> by Debbie Bradley

18-Dec	Society Seminar	Z: <i>Ancestors on the Margins</i> by Dr Janet Few
28-Dec	Research Buddies	Z: Ellesmere Port
Jan	Runcorn Group	No Meeting
7-Jan	Crewe & Nantwich Grp	Z: Quiz Night
8-Jan	Sale Group	F: <i>Studying the 3 R's</i> by Claire Moores
13-Jan	Northwich Group	F: TBA
15-Jan	Society Seminar	Z: <i>The Enumerator Strikes Back</i> by Dave Annal
20-Jan	Alsager Group	Z: <i>The Home Front in Cheshire during WWI</i> by Mike Royden (FHSC members only)
21-Jan	Congleton Group	F: TBA
25-Jan	Research Buddies	Z: Farndon/Shocklach and Tilston
27-Jan	Bebington Group	<i>Wirral Smugglers and Wreckers</i> by Gavin Chappel
30-Jan	Chester Group	<i>Benjamin Blake - A Life on the Road</i> by Carolyn Barnwell
5-Feb	Runcorn Group	F: TBA
10-Feb	Northwich Group	F: <i>Bring Something Ancestral</i> - picture, object or just a memory for discussion
11-Feb	Crewe & Nantwich Grp	Z: <i>Oh dear What can the Matter Be? Auntie Jo is Lost in the Family Tree</i> by Margaret Roberts
12-Feb	Sale Group	F: TBA
17-Feb	Alsager Group	Z: <i>Treasures from the Staffordshire County Collections</i> by Helen Johnson
18-Feb	Congleton Group	F: TBA
19-Feb	Society Seminar	Z: <i>Transported to Tasmania</i> by Kelly Cornwall
22-Feb	Research Buddies	Z: Nantwich
24-Feb	Bebington Group	<i>It's Not What You Research, it's the Way You Research It</i> by Margaret Roberts
27-Feb	Chester Group	<i>Welcome to Chester 1824</i> by Chris Fozzard

10-Mar	Northwich Group	F: <i>Britain After WWII</i> by David Walmsley
11-Mar	Crewe & Nantwich Grp	Z: <i>Advancing Your Family History Research using DNA</i> by Jane Hough
12-Mar	Sale Group	F: TBA
17-Mar	Alsager Group	F: <i>Chasing Paper Skeletons</i> by Marion Armstrong, a retired registrar.
18-Mar	Congleton Group	F: TBA
19-Mar	Society Seminar	Z: <i>Charles Booth Maps</i> by Indy Bhullar
22-Mar	Research Buddies	Z: Frodsham
24-Mar	Bebington Group	<i>The Beautiful Buildings of Birkenhead</i> by David Hearn
27-Mar	Chester Group	<i>Remembering the War Dead: The CWGC</i> by Alan Robinson

Nantwich News (2)

from the Crewe Guardian, 5 December 1874

CHILD BURNED TO DEATH AT NANTWICH - An Inquest was held on Tuesday at Mr Wright's, the Red Cow Inn, Beam-street, Nantwich, before Mr Churten, coroner, touching the death of a child named Walter Owen, the infant son of Richard Owen, labourer, of Cow Fields. Margaret Nield, wife of Charles Nield, labourer, a neighbour of the Owen's, said that on Thursday morning, about a quarter to twelve, she heard a screaming from two little boys who were in Owens' house. She ran in, and found the deceased child in the middle of the kitchen floor with its clothes on fire. The mother was away at Stubbs's (the Rifleman), where she was engaged in consequence of the death of Stubbs, and was nursing one of the inmates there. Witness got hold of the tablecloth, and put the fire out as quickly as she could; the child was burnt under the arm and ears and about the face. There was a small fire in the grate. The mother came in, and Dr Munro was sent for, and dressings were applied. The child died at 20 minutes to eleven on Friday night. It was a year and nine months old. The Owens had ten children, only one of whom was married. A lad of Owen's was questioned, and said that while he (the lad) was drying the potatoes, the deceased child was behind his back and was playing with straws, but he did not know how he caught fire. Verdict: "Accidental death." The Coroner again recommended, as on former occasions, the use of small wire fire guards, which he said were becoming very general in this part of the county, with the result that a much less number of children were burnt to death than formerly.

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 a day or two before the meeting.

Alsager Group

By Hazel Rugman

January and February meetings are held online via Zoom for FHSC members only, and are free of charge. Face to face 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 £2 for FHSC members and £3 for visitors. Light refreshments are available. A large car park can be found at the rear.

Bebington Group

By Bob Wright

Meetings are held at 7.30pm on the 4th Monday of the month (excluding Bank Holidays) at St. Barnabas Village Institute (Church Hall), Church Square, Bromborough, CH62 7AB. Admission is £2.

Chester Group

By Helen Elliott

Meetings are 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.

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).

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 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

Although Nantwich Group has now merged with Crewe Group, members continue to run a free helpdesk at 2pm on the 3rd Monday of every month in Nantwich Library. All welcome. Please check the FHSC website for full details.

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

At the AGM in August Peter Johnson was elected as the Group Leader.

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 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

From the New Year our group is changing; we will be more like a club and hold informal meetings via ZOOM. It has been almost impossible to get enough people to attend face to face meetings, so we rarely met the cost of room hire. I have been group leader for twenty years, and following an accident and stay in hospital I must reduce my commitments. I really hope we can make a success of our online meetings; it will mean anyone in the world can attend. I will send out more

details in early January 2025.

I will still compile our monthly society newsletters and will still visit Tameside Local Studies Library to help people with their family history.

I really want to thank our committee members for their help over the years.

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

Although Wallasey Group has now closed, members continue to run 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. All members and non-members are welcome.

Surname Interests

Are you researching any of these names? If so, log in to the FHSC website and click on *Research*, then *Search Surnames*, to contact the person or people who registered the name as one of their surname interests.

If you haven't already registered your surname interests on the FHSC website, why not do it today? You may make contact with someone who holds the key to your brick wall!

These names were added between 1 August and 4 November 2024:

Battersby, Bowden, Bradley

Cope, Cummings

Dain, Dawson, Edge, Eglin

Foley, Gaskill, Gerrard

Hallam, Hawkes, Hough

Johnson, Lowndes/Lownds

Moseley, Motteram

Needham, Oulton

Perry, Pott

Risley, Royle, Ryle

Sanders, Tunncliffe

Wakefield, Warburton, Wilde, Woodcock, Worthington Ryle

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**
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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Please contact the Editor for full details

Research Centre News

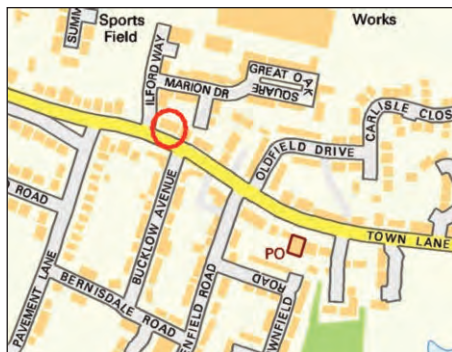
Manned by experienced volunteers, visitors can obtain help and advice on family and local history research. Please see the FHSC website for holdings and up-to-date news about changes to opening hours, etc. If in doubt, please phone before visiting to ensure the centre is open and a computer/film reader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



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

FREE access to *FindMyPast*, *Ancestry* and *The Genealogist*

Extensive library of books and films/fiche for many areas, not just Cheshire

Searchable computer archives * Small charge for printing/copying

Fiche/film scanning available

**Usual opening hours: 10am–4pm Monday, 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



It's winter again with the prospect of poor weather so if the forecast is uncertain, please phone beforehand to check the Duty Volunteers are able to get to Mobberley to open up, as some live in the hills.

I wonder how many ancestors you have discovered during your research. Of course there may be hurdles along the way, lost records, missing documents or illegible handwriting but some are lucky and find a continuous set of evidence for their ancestors. Most researchers will find some family names that go back several generations whilst other names are brick walls that are hard to penetrate. If you can latch on to an aristocratic family, especially one going back to the Norman Conquest or Royalty, then you can be lucky enough to link into many generations – if Danny Dyer of Eastenders can do it, then you might too!

With each generation doubling the number of family members you can see the possibilities.

1	1 YOU
2	2 parents
3	4 grandparents
4	8 great-grandparents
5	16 2x great-grandparents
6	32 3x great-grandparents
7	64 4x great-grandparents
8	128 5x great-grandparents
9	256 6x great-grandparents
10	512 7x great-grandparents
11	1,024 8x great-grandparents
12	2,048 9x great-grandparents
13	4,096 10x great-grandparents
14	8,192 11x great-grandparents
15	16,384 12x great-grandparents
16	32,768 13x great-grandparents
17	65,536 14x great-grandparents
18	131,072 15x great-grandparents
19	262,144 16x great-grandparents
20	524,288 17x great-grandparents
21	1,048,576 18x great-grandparents

So how many ancestors are there in your Ancestry? It might be fun to find out this winter!

Mobberley may just have the information that can help, so come along, you will be made very welcome.

Please note that due to a lack of volunteers the Mobberley Research Centre will not open on Tuesdays for the time being. Opening times are 10am to 4pm every Monday and Thursday, and the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month.

Please check the FHSC website for changes to opening days over Christmas and the New Year.

Crewe Family History Unit News

by Margaret Spate
crewe@fhsc.org.uk

As previously announced, the monthly Saturday morning opening has not been very popular. The proposed date of opening will still be announced but anyone wishing to visit on that day **must email crewe@fhsc.org.uk at least 2 days in advance** to notify me that they wish to visit (between 10am and noon). If no notification is received, we shall not open on that Saturday morning.

The dates for a monthly Saturday opening can only be arranged a few weeks in advance and are posted on the website. Please also check the FHSC website for changes to opening days over Christmas and the New Year.

The Heritage Open Days were a success and we were pleased to welcome visitors for their first visit, along with receiving offers of volunteering.

The Wills with some corresponding Will Books are of interest especially when accompanied by a British Newspaper Archive search. The library list found online or via paper copy in the FHU could help.

Nantwich News (3)

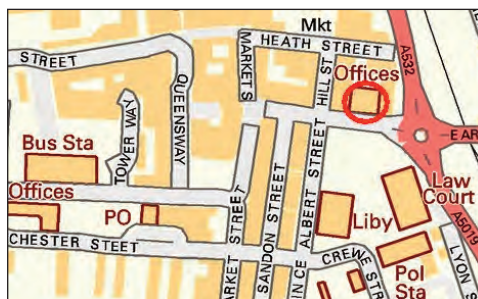
from the Chester Chronicle, 6 December 1924

MOTOR ACCIDENT AT NANTWICH: YOUTH INJURED - William Dutton, a youth living at Wall-lane, Nantwich, is suffering from injuries caused by a motor-car on the Barony, Nantwich, on Saturday. He was attending to the chain of his bicycle in the darkness when a motor-car, driven by Mr John Parsonage, knocked him down. He was severely cut about the face and head, but is going on satisfactorily.

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.

N.B. Anyone wishing to visit on a Saturday morning (between 10am and 12 noon) **must email crewe@fhsc.org.uk at least 2 days in advance** to confirm their attendance. If no notification is received, the FHU will not open on that Saturday.

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.

Nantwich News (4)

from the Chester Chronicle, 20 December 1924

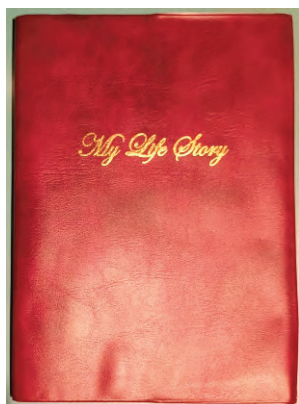
Marriage: HOPLEY-TAYLOR - At St Paul's Church, Kandy, Ceylon, on the 8th November, 1924, **John Bartlem Hopley**, son of the late Mr J B Hopley and Mrs Hopley, of Willaston, near Nantwich, to **Frances Ellen Audrey Taylor**, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs E E Taylor, Trowbridge, Wiltshire.

Letters to the Editor

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

'My Life Story' Booklet

A long time ago I attended a Society history fair in Northwich and I bought copies of *My Life Story*, designed and published in 2001 by Robert Wright from the Wirral.



Contents	
Introduction	4
Personal Details	8
Childhood Memories	9
Young Memories	31
Adult Memories	47
Spouse and Marriage	55
People	63
Thoughts and Other Items	77
Notes	91

It was a lovely book you could write in at random and also add photos. It was about 90 pages long, bound in a red case. The chronological questions were quite detailed and acted as prompts about family relationships, friends, television, food, special events, etc.

Now I am older I would appreciate being able to dip in and answer some of the questions asked. I can also see the value of having a small book, like a photo album, to take with me when visiting relatives, particularly for the first time, and I think it is something my immediate family would find initially more accessible when I am gone.

I know it is highly unlikely, but if I don't ask I won't ever know – are copies still available to purchase? Or is something similar being, or might be, produced? It would be particularly nice to be able to buy something that supports the Family History Society of Cheshire.

Sue Fryer

Membership no. 7079

Mormon Emigration

I found accounts of early Mormon journeys from the UK to Salt Lake City on Margaret Ann CLEGG's Billion Graves entry. They are principally from Margaret Ann GRIFFITHS CLEGG but also from her fellow wife (of Henry CLEGG) Ann LEWIS CLEGG and other relatives. I'm sure some other members like me, having read the recent articles about Mormons, would find these accounts of the journey interesting, especially the terrible ordeal of sixteen-year-old Margaret Ann GRIFFITHS and her family, and also the photo of her with her handcart which she had to pull all the way. On the web page *Family Search, Margaret Ann GRIFFITHS 1840-1929, Memories* there are lots of photos and information about her history and life as a 'partner' (second) wife.

I came across them when following up a DNA match. I have GRIFFITHS relations in the North Wales area, where Margaret's family comes from, but the connection turned out to be through the husband of the two women, Henry CLEGG, whose mother was a CARDWELL from Lancashire.

Carole Robinson

Membership no. 4932

Ed.: The accounts and photo referred to above can be found on page 28.

Nantwich News (5)

from the Crewe Chronicle, 6 December 1924

FANCY DRESS BALL AT NANTWICH - Miss Dean, of Nantwich, held her annual juvenile fancy dress ball on Monday in the Parish Hall. There was a fairly large attendance of dancers and many spectators who were greatly interested in the young dancers. The following characters were represented: Mollie Bell (Riviera Rose), Annie Bean (Fairy), Dorothy Davies (Ballet Dancer), Mary Woods (Columbine), Bessie Hall (Fairy), Vera Gregory (Gipsy Boy), Olive Morris (Balloon Boy), Hilda Cornes (Folly), Joyce Bethel (Tambourine Dancer), Ursula Hall (Columbine), R Clough (Fairy), Sybil Gregory (Buttercup), Doris Malken (Gipsy), and others. The first prize for fancy dress, senior section, was awarded to Doris Malkin, second prize winner being Bessie Hall. In the junior section the winner was Olive Morris and the second prize was awarded to Ursula Hall. Prizes were given also to Dorothy Davies and Mary Woods. Lucky spot prizes were won by Bessie Hall and Annie Bean. The M.C. duties were capably undertaken by Miss Sybil Dean and Mr F Wildsmith. Special merits were won by Molly Bell, Dorothy Davies and Bessie Hall.

Family History Events

For news of family history events, see these online calendars

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

www.familyhistoryfederation.com/events

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

<https://conferencekeeper.org/>

The Family History Show (Online)

10am - 4pm, Saturday 8th February 2025

Talks - Exhibitors - Ask the Experts

Lectures and live streams will be available for 72 hours

You can submit your questions to the experts in advance

Advance tickets £7.00, with a FREE virtual goody bag (worth £15) on the day

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

RootsTech 2025

Thursday 6th - Saturday 8th March 2025

In-person at Salt Lake City, USA, or participate online free of charge

Talks are recorded and can be accessed on the RootsTech website

200+ new online sessions in over 26 languages

Chat online with other attendees worldwide

Download digital handouts

www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/

The Family History Show (Midlands)

10am - 4pm, Saturday 15th March 2025

at Severn Hall, Three Counties Showground, Malvern, WR13 6NW

Talks - Exhibitors - Ask the Experts - Free parking

Advance tickets £8 each or two for £14

Receive a FREE goody bag (worth £15) on entry

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

The Guild of One-Name Studies 'Gateway to the World' Hybrid Conference

Friday 25th – Sunday 27th April 2025
Holiday Inn, Lime St, Liverpool L1 1NQ

Between 1830 and 1930 around nine million people set out from Liverpool for new lives, mainly in North America, Australia, and New Zealand. This conference will celebrate the city's position as the 'Gateway to the World' and look at those who lived in or passed through the city in the past.

The conference is open to both Guild members and non-members, and those who wish to stay in the hotel can share their room with a non-delegate partner at a reduced rate for dinner, bed and breakfast only.

<https://one-name.org/mc-events/gateway-to-the-world-conference/>

Nantwich News (6)

from the Crewe Chronicle, 26 December 1874

THE WATER SUPPLY - Mr William Forster, of Shrewbridge Hall, had written a letter to the board... stating that as the water did not run at all times at his place on the level, there must be some defect, and he requested that the cause of this might be ascertained. As the want of water, besides the inconvenience, was attended with great damage, he trusted that until the defect was discovered and remedied, he might have the water turned on at night. A similar letter was also read from Mr William Oates, of the Lamb Hotel, in which he stated that in consequence of the scarcity of water during the last two months, he was compelled to ask if the board could do anything to give a more regular supply.

Mr Cawley thought the board ought really to do something for Mr Forster, whose family was placed in great danger at times from the fact that when his kitchen boilers were not supplied with water they were liable to explode. The Chairman remarked that if the water was allowed to remain on in Pillory-street all night, there was such a waste of water that they could get no pressure on the following day.

Mr T Wood, jun., said Mr Oates resided in a different district to Mr Forster, and he was afraid that if the board granted certain privileges to these two gentlemen, the water would have to remain on all night in every part of the town.

Mr Cawley wished to know if there was any defect, as Mr Forster's letter seemed to imply. The Surveyor thought not. The water main was only an eight-inch one, and of course they could not avoid that. He further explained that at times the air got in the pipes, on account of the water being taken faster than they could supply 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 for FindMyPast news.

England Directories

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/england-directories>

Click on *Discover more about these records* to see a list of the directories.

British Home Children: Colonial Office, Emigration To Canada Enclosures

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/colonial-office-emigration-to-canada-enclosures-to-reports>

Over 1,888 transcriptions and images from the Canadian Colonial Office, from The National Archives series MH 19/11. These reports document children who emigrated from Britain to Canada between 1887 and 1892.

British Army, Northumberland Fusiliers 1881-1920

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/british-army-northumberland-fusiliers-1881-1920>

Transcripts created by Graham Stewart, from over 70 sources.

The Genealogist

Go to www.thegenealogist.co.uk/news/ for *The Genealogist* news.

1841 Census on Map Explorer

The 1841 census, the earliest widely-available census for England, Scotland and Wales, has now been added to Map Explorer. See Net That Serf in this issue for a warning about Map Explorer.

1910 Valuation Office Survey records for Wiltshire

Also known as the 1910 Lloyd George Domesday records, these images are now available with geolocated maps for the entire county of Wiltshire.

Ancestry

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

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

Index to Polish Air Force in Great Britain, 1940-1947

www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/63126/

This index includes over 16,000 Polish aviators and other Polish personnel who served in Great Britain during WW2. The data was processed by British officers, and is written in Polish, so misspellings may have occurred.

UK, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Service Records, 1942-1959

www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62682/

Records of those who served in the REME (officers excluded) and were born over 100 years ago. More records will be added annually.

British Army World War II Medal Cards, 1939-1945

www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62862/

Index to WW2 service medals awarded by the British Army. Several regiments have no surviving records, and many who served did not apply for their medals.

UK, Selected Smaller Units Service Records, 1921-1959

www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62683/

Service records mainly relating to the discharge of over-age personnel who served during WW2. This collection includes records from the following Corps: Royal Army Air Corps, Army Veterinary Corps, Royal Military Police, Royal Army Pay Corps, Royal Army Physical Training Corps, Military Provost Staff Corps, Royal Corps of Army Music, Royal Army Education Corps, Royal Pioneer Corps, Intelligence Corps, Officer Training Corps, Non-Combatant Corps.

UK, Cheshire, Non-Conformist Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1800-1948

www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62786/

Images of parish member lists and registers recorded by non-conformist churches in Cheshire. Baptisms after 1923, marriages after 1948, and burials after 1999 are excluded. *Ed.: But the date range given above is up to 1948, so it's not clear whether burials are to 1948 or 1999.*

Ancestry has also released Cheshire Church of England baptisms (1538-1923), marriages and banns (1538-1939) and burials (1538-1998) covering a wider date range and more parishes than presently available on FindMyPast, and Cheshire Roman Catholic baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and burials 1783-1913.

Book Reviews

Sunday Best: A Pictorial Reference Book of Victorian and Edwardian Family Photography, by Stephen Gill

Reviewed by Margaret Roberts, FHSC Chair



This book is a captivating journey into the visual history of family life during the Victorian and Edwardian eras. It is not just a collection of photographs; it is a meticulously curated guide that offers insights into the evolution of photography and the social customs of the time.

The book is divided into several sections, each focusing on different aspects of family photography. Gill begins with an introduction to the various photographic processes used during the Victorian and Edwardian periods. This section is particularly useful for those interested in the technical aspects of photography, as it explains the differences between daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, tintypes, and early paper prints. The detailed descriptions and high-quality images help readers understand the nuances of each process.

Gill then delves into the social context of family photography, exploring how photography became an integral part of family life, documenting everything from formal portraits to candid moments. The author provides a fascinating look at how families used photography to preserve memories, celebrate milestones, and convey social status.

One of the standout features of *Sunday Best* is its visual appeal. The book is filled with over 300 beautifully reproduced images that capture the essence of the era. Each photograph is accompanied by detailed captions that provide context and background information. Gill's careful selection of images ensures a diverse representation of family life, from the affluent to the working class.

For genealogists and family historians, *Sunday Best* is an invaluable resource. Gill includes practical tips on how to date and identify old photographs and addresses common challenges, such as identifying unknown individuals and distinguishing between original prints and copies.

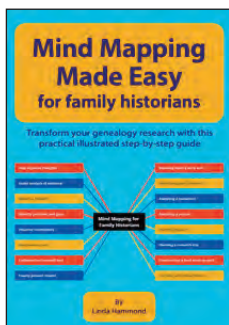
What sets *Sunday Best* apart from other photography books is the author's personal touch. Gill shares his own experiences and discoveries, adding a layer

of authenticity and warmth to the narrative. This personal connection makes the book more than just a reference guide; it becomes a journey shared between the author and the reader.

Available as a download from Stephen Gill's website, price £10.99: www.photo-consult.co.uk

Mind Mapping Made Easy for Family Historians, by Linda Hammond

Reviewed by Tony Cox, Runcorn Group member



Mind maps provide a visual way to organise our thoughts and ideas. By using visual connections, mind maps mirror the way that our thoughts link together and our brains process that information. This makes it easier to understand the information that we are dealing with, and the problems that we are trying to solve. Mind maps became popular in the 1970s and were extensively used to assist problem solving and creative thinking in academia, industry, and education. Although popularised in the 1970s, mind maps have been used by great thinkers throughout history, the earliest example of a mind map being created by the Greek philosopher, Porphyry of Tyre, in about AD300.

Linda Hammond, a Qualified Genealogist and a tutor in the University of Strathclyde's Postgraduate Genealogical Studies Programme, has recently produced an excellent book: *Mind Mapping Made Easy for Family Historians*.

The book is clearly written and richly illustrated with high quality colour mind maps. These show how mind mapping has assisted the author to resolve complex problems in her own genealogy research; she states: Once you've used mind mapping techniques, you'll wonder how you ever managed without them!

ISBN: 978-1-916599-04-8, A4 format, 70 pages, new imprint published September 2024. Available from the Family History Federation bookshop at www.familyhistorybooksonline.com, price £9.95 + £2.65 UK P&P

NTS Editor, GJ: We have previously referenced *Mind Maps in Net That Serf* in **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR** dated March 2020, page 59.

Mormon Emigration: Margaret Ann Griffiths CLEGG

*by Carole Robinson
Membership no. 4932*

Margaret Ann's memories:



We landed at Boston, U.S.A. and took the cars and came on to Florence, Iowa and camped there four weeks till our handcars were ready for us, then we started to cross the plains. It was the first day of Sept, and we arrived in Salt Lake the same year on the last day of November 1856, making it three months traveling. We were as happy a set of people as ever crossed the plains, till the snow caught us. We would sit around the camp fire and sing and were as happy as larks.

Well after the snow caught us we had a pretty hard time. My father took sick and he had to ride in one of the wagons, that had provisions. One day he felt a little better and thought that he would try and walk, but he could not keep up as he had rheumatism so bad he could not walk, and he took hold of the rod at the end gate of the wagon to help him along and when the teamster saw him, he slashed his long whip around and struck father on the legs and he fell to the ground. He could not get up again, and that was the last wagon for the handcarts had gone on before. As I was pulling a handcart I did not know anything about it till we got into camp, and then I went back about three miles to him, but could not find him, so I went back and I was nearly wild. I thought the wolves might have him.

But there was a company called the Independent Company led by Jesse HAVE[N] and they were camped in another direction from us, and my father saw their tracks and crawled on his knees all the way to their camp. He was so badly frozen when he got there, they did all they could for him. Two of the brethren brought

him into our camp about eleven o'clock that night. He was never well after that. My sister Jane and I and two brothers, named John and Herbert, pulled the handcart till my brother John died (age 12 year old). That was 50 miles the other side of Devil's Gate. We camped there two weeks and all we had to eat was four ounces of flour a day. With having so little to eat and so cold, for the snow was so deep we could not go any further, was I think, the reason he died. He froze to death. At the end of two weeks the horses came running into camp with no riders and we thought they were Indians' horses, but they went back again and about two minutes after, they came back with riders. They were David KIMBALL and I think the other was Joseph YOUNG. They told us there would be ten wagons come into camp in the morning, from Salt Lake, loaded with provisions. That was good news, but they did not wait until morning but came in that night. They called a meeting but it was too cold so we went to bed.

In the morning we had a little more flour and then moved from there to Devils Gate. (Before the provisions arrived, the company had used up all of their supplies and had rinsed the flour sacks and drank the water.) and camped there in some log houses for a week to recruit up a bid and then we left there and went to Independence Rock on the Sweet Water [Sweetwater] and camped there another week. We left our handcarts and came on with the teams that came from Salt Lake. I think there were about seventy wagons.

With two and three span of horses and mules to each wagon, which we were pretty thankful for, all the sick and frozen rode in the wagons, while those that were well walked as long as they could, and then they all rode. I buried my brother Herbert, six years old at Independence Rock, frozen to death.

My sister Jane lost the first joint of her big tow and I was terribly frozen up myself, I was laid up nine weeks in Salt Lake, because my feet had been so badly frozen. (After I was placed into the wagons and the frost left my feet, large bags of water formed at my heels.) My father died the next morning after we got in to Salt Lake. He was frozen to death, He was 47 years of age. He died the first day of December, After that we were pretty well scattered.

There are many more memories written by family members on Margaret Ann CLEGG's Billion Graves web page.

Sources

<https://billiongraves.com/grave/Margaret-A-Clegg/2141578>

<http://cclegg.com/family/history/automargann.htm> (accessed 21 March 2006)

<http://history.lds.org/overlandtravels/trailExcerptMulti?lang=eng&pioneerId=19041&sourceId=15676>

Nineteenth Century Social Mobility

by Ray Warburton
Membership no. 3638



The above photograph shows Dr Henry Hulme WARBURTON, M.D. and his wife Catherine sitting in the centre with their three sons behind, surrounded by various other family members. This is the start of the WARBURTON dynasty in California. A photograph of their home, in Santa Clara, California, is shown on the next page.

Henry Hulme WARBURTON, M.D. was born in Betley, Staffordshire in 1819. He was a third generation doctor whose father John, and grandfather Arnold, were born on a farm in Dunham, Cheshire. This article traces the evolution of a medical dynasty that began when Arnold, a farmer, began to use skills learned treating his animals on humans.



Arnold was born into a farming family in Dunham, a township in the parish of Bowdon. He was baptised in the parish church on May 3rd 1767. His first wife was Anne HULME and they had three girls and three boys. John was their eldest child, born in 1792.

In two generations, the family progressed from farmers to doctors. A clue as to how this was achieved can be found in an article from the *Morning Chronicle* of November 4th 1819, the year Henry was born. The article, entitled *Empiricism*, describes an action to recover penalties of £20 against John WARBURTON for practicing as an apothecary in the town of Macclesfield when not duly qualified to do so.

A trial had taken place the previous spring before the Honourable Baron GARROW at Staffordshire Assizes. This was Sir William GARROW, who made his name as an advocate of the adversarial court system, and who is credited with introducing the phrase *innocent until proven guilty*. He is known to British TV viewers from the BBC series *Garrow's Law* which is based on his early life as a barrister. After a period in parliament, he was by 1819 an Assize Judge.

John WARBURTON had claimed the Judge had misdirected the jury and requested a new trial. The article is based on the report of the Appeal Judges which was read out by Mr Justice BEST, and which rejected the appeal.

The background to the trial was an Act of Parliament passed in 1815 which required those practising as an Apothecary to be suitably qualified. The Act included an exemption for anyone who was already practising before August 1st 1815. John's defence was that this was the case and it was shown that he had indeed prescribed remedies to various patients, but the Judge's summing up had declared that *everyone who practised physic, by running about the country as a quack and empiric* was not entitled to exemption, and the Jury had to decide if John had practised in accordance with the Act's definition of an Apothecary, the main element being the ability to make up the prescriptions of others.

Much of the report was centred on the evidence of John's father Arnold and this gives a fascinating insight into the history of the family. Arnold stated he had followed the practice of medicine for fifteen years. During cross-examination he was very reluctant to admit his profession prior to that but eventually admitted he had been a farmer, and was the son and grandson of farmers.

In 1804 Arnold was 37 years old. He initially practised in Dunham, and then Stockport before moving to Macclesfield in 1811. In Stockport he had taken his son John into the business. John had originally tried weaving as an occupation, and spent a few weeks in two different factories, but he didn't like it. He then joined his father in his business whilst he was practising in Stockport, and had now been with him for about ten years. He attended his father's patients, administered to them, and took payment.

When in February 1815 Arnold moved again, to Newcastle-under-Lyme, he left John to continue his practice in Macclesfield, but later that year asked him to help in Newcastle.

At the time of the trial Arnold had three surviving children, a son and two daughters, and was married to his second wife. His wife had moved with him to Newcastle, while the daughters stayed in Macclesfield with John, until they also moved to Newcastle. John was a principal in his father's business at Newcastle for over 12 months until he married the daughter of Reverend PENNINGTON and moved to Betley. Arnold then took an apprentice, Master HAYES, who married his daughter Ellen (also known as Elizabeth) in 1817.

Arnold was closely cross-examined. He described himself as a surgeon but proved unable to spell the word. He had learned from his brother-in-law, Dr HULME who *practised the same as the Whitworth doctors who were regular physicians*. However, when asked where the doctors got their degrees, Arnold said they had no degrees and were not physicians, only doctors who doctored cows and other things, and sometimes humans, as had Arnold.

The reference to the Whitworth doctors is probably a reference to the TAYLOR family who practiced in Whitworth, near Rochdale from the 1750s to the 1870s. The first of the family to practise was John TAYLOR, a blacksmith who gained a reputation for treating animal fractures. It is said that his reputation began when he built a tin case to heal a cat's broken leg. The family later began to treat humans, gaining a widespread reputation as bone-setters. They were also famous for their treatment of cancers using an ointment called *keen*. A liquid known as *Whitworth red bottle* was applied to sprains and bruises. By the late eighteenth century, vast numbers of people were coming to Whitworth to be treated. In all, eighteen members of the family practiced as doctors, but although they gained an almost mythical reputation, only the later ones were formally trained, and they were considered quacks in some circles.

At John's trial poor Arnold was forced to admit that he couldn't make up a medicine from a doctor's prescription, and although he was aware there were sixteen ounces in a pound he did not go by regular weight, but mixed his medicines by hand. Although he bled patients with a lancet, he could not name particular arteries.

John's defence was that he had practiced as an Apothecary before August 1st 1815, and his level of skill was irrelevant. However, Baron GARROW directed the jury that by the terms of the Act an Apothecary should be able to make up a prescription and the Jury had to decide whether there was any opportunity for John to have learned this skill. He declared that *if it could be shown that John had even been a footman to an Apothecary and afterwards practised before the appointed time, he would have taken him to have acquired a knowledge of his profession*. However, his only source of learning was his father, *a man more ignorant than the most ignorant that they had ever before examined in any Court*.

The Appeal Judges agreed that Baron GARROW had been correct in so directing the Jury, and so refused the appeal. Mr Justice BAYLEY had referred to Arnold as *a cow-doctor and a horse-doctor*. *It was true that such a doctor might administer medicine to biped patients; but his Lordship thought in such a case, the applications of such persons for relief would fairly entitle the defendant to the additional degree of ass-doctor*. This statement produced general laughter in the Court.

Thus, a medical dynasty was founded from very inauspicious beginnings. John acquired a proper medical training. In censuses he is careful to identify himself as a Licentiate of the Apothecary Company, who studied at the London Hospital, in addition to his occupation of Surgeon, or General Practitioner. His sons were also properly trained.

It is difficult to assess how effective Arnold's ministrations were. He seems to have begun with animals, and maybe like the TAYLORS in Whitworth, he had sufficient success to attract human patients. He was also clearly influenced by, and learned from, his father-in-law who had a similar practice. It is tempting to think his frequent relocation of his practise was to leave behind unfavourable reactions, but the fact he left John to run his Macclesfield practice, until he quickly needed his help in the new Newcastle-under-Lyme practice suggests he was able attract a fair amount of trade, and he did not leave too much of a mess in Macclesfield.

Arnold only lived three years after the trial so it is unlikely he changed his ways. But it is clear from the census entries that the trial had a major effect on John. At that time, he had already started his practice in Betley, where he remained for the rest of his life.

In all John had two wives and sixteen children, all but three reaching adulthood. Henry was the eldest son to reach maturity. John was head of an extensive medical family. His brother-in-law and two nephews, six of his own sons, and three grandsons all became doctors. In addition, one daughter and two granddaughters married doctors. The only son who didn't become a doctor became a lawyer.

Henry was educated at Giggleswick, Yorkshire, England, trained as a doctor at the London Hospital Medical Institute, and then practiced with his father until 1844, when he emigrated to America. He practiced for a



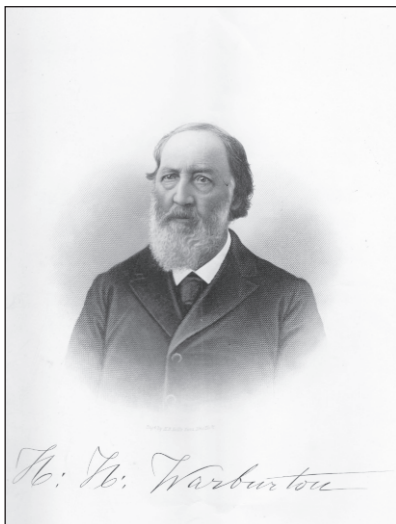
*John Warburton, aged about 70.
He died in his 86th year.*

while in New York but in the autumn of 1845 he went to New London, Connecticut, and embarked as a surgeon in the whaling vessel *Corea*, under

Captain Benjamin HEMSTEAD. His voyages took him to the northwest coast of North America, the coast of New Zealand, and the Sandwich Islands. In 1847, at San Francisco, he resigned his commission and tried his hand at gold prospecting before settling in Santa Clara in 1848. Here he established his practice, one of only three in the whole of California at that time. He continued to practice for the rest of his life.

Henry Hulme WARBURTON, M.D., (pictured right) married Mrs. Catherine PENNEL, née LONG, a daughter of Peter and Hilah Long, in 1855, and had seven children, two of which died in infancy. He visited friends and relatives in England in 1870, and died in 1903, aged 83.

Henry and his family were significant figures in Santa Clara. Warburton Avenue was named after Henry. His grandson, Austen Den WARBURTON (1917-1995) was a lawyer and significant local historian who had a park named after him.



Acknowledgements

to David HARTLAND and Peter WARBURTON for photos.

The full article from the 4th November, 1819 edition of the *Morning Chronicle* can be obtained from The British Newspaper Archive or Find My Past.

Ray WARBURTON is a member of the Guild of One-Name Studies, researching the name WARBURTON; his website, with an expanded version of this article, is at <https://warburton.one-name.net/?p=744>

Nantwich News (7)

from the Crewe Chronicle, 20 December 1924

NANTWICH COTTAGE HOSPITAL - At a meeting of the committee of management on Monday, Mr Henry Tollemache presiding, reference was made to the retirement of Dr F Mathews. Dr Mathews had been a member of the hospital staff since the hospital was founded. The committee expressed its appreciation of the excellent work he had done at the hospital, and the hope was expressed that he would continue, whenever occasion arose, to give the institution his help.

Which is the Parish Church?

by Gren Dix

Membership no. 4174

We have all looked at parish records (PRs) for births etc. Some pages have the parish and church names, some just the parish name and some don't tell you anything. In the last two cases, how do you find out the church name?

I was researching Cornelius BASEY; he was born in Norfolk but married and had three of his children baptised in Richard's Castle between 1855 and 1862, while living in nearby Overton. Overton is a hamlet a few miles south of Ludlow, while Richard's Castle is a small town a bit further south. When driving, blink and you will miss it. The town straddles the Herefordshire/Shropshire border. This is Welsh Marches country, home of the Mortimers and the Selwyns.

The church, St Bartholomew's, is near the top of the hill, about a mile uphill to the north west, and was built in the early 1300s. It is unusual in that it has a separate bell tower - one of only six in the country - which was built in the 1400s. A short distance further uphill are the ruins of one of the few remaining pre-Norman motte-and-bailey forts. The bell tower has no openings in the direction of the motte-and-bailey. Inside the church, in the sunlight, the stone is mellow. The font looks as if it has been there since the year dot. There are remains of, probably 1400s, fortifications near the church. The church is now disused.

The current parish church, All Saints, is in the hamlet of Batchcott, a mile or so to the north. So in which church did the marriage and baptisms occur? Further research elicited that St Bartholomew's was declared redundant on 1st August 1982; but All Saints Church didn't open until 1892, so the marriage and baptisms of the 1850s and 1860s must have taken place at St Bartholomew's.

After leaving the church, I was halfway back to the village of Richard's Castle when I got speaking to a local. He said that there was a story that one of the rich families had to cross another family's land. This annoyed them, so they funded another church in the parish to avoid crossing the other family's land. I do not know if there is any truth in this.

The Great HOLLINGWORTH DNA Mystery

*by Randy Hollingsworth
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In the northeast corner of Cheshire, in the Longdendale Valley, is the ancestral home of the HOLLINGWORTH family, originally spelled DE HOLLYNWORTH. The earliest documented Lord of the Manor of HOLLINGWORTH is Thomas, who was known to be alive between 1211 and 1246. The manor was held by subsequent Thomas descendants until the early 1300s, when John HOLLINGWORTH and then his son John were away fighting in France. During this period, a priest named Henry PAYNE assumed Lordship of the manor and paid the taxes on the manor. On his return from France before 1350, the younger John re-assumed Lordship of the manor, and it was held by the family until the 18th century. The HOLLINGWORTHS were the leading family in the area for over 500 years.

HOLLINGWORTH Hall was the seat of the manor. It is likely that the original HOLLINGWORTH Hall in the town of HOLLINGWORTH was built in the 1200s, and was then modernized in the 1640s. Later, the family also owned the lesser manor of the Old or Nether Hall. At its peak, the family owned over 700 acres of land and five farmsteads. Sadly, the family's fortunes declined in the late 1700s, leading to the sale of HOLLINGWORTH Hall, and by 1800 the Old Hall estate was also sold. HOLLINGWORTH Hall was briefly back in the family in 1831 when purchased by Captain Robert de HOLLYNGWORTHE of the 6th Dragoon Guards, who retained it until his death in 1865. The property was left to his brother, who sold it a year later. It eventually passed to the Manchester Corporation Waterworks in 1924. During WWII, it was proposed to be opened as a recovery facility for wounded soldiers, but to avoid the cost of renovating the property the Waterworks demolished the building in 1943. Fortunately, the Old Hall still stands, but is no longer property of the family.

For generations, researchers of the HOLLINGWORTH family and its many derivatives (HOLLINGSWORTH, HOLLINWORTH, etc.) believed that they were all descendants of the HOLLINGWORTH family from Hollingsworth and Mottram-in-Longdendale. This included the three major branches of the family that we know were using the HOLLINGWORTH Coat of Arms. The HOLLINGWORTH Hall and Old Hall families were documented in two different Heraldic Visitations, in which their right to use the arms was validated. This coat

of arms consists of a shield of blue with a bend argent (silver) including three holly leaves. It was also verified by these Visitations that the Lincolnshire branch of the family, verified descendants of the Hollingworth/Mottram families, used a differenced coat of arms with a sable (black) shield. Finally, it was also verified that the branch of the family that shows up first in County Armagh, Ireland in 1630 also used the same coat of arms, based on the wax seal on a land document. This led to further the belief that this Irish branch, likely there as a part of the Ulster Plantation, was also descended from the HOLLINGWORTH family of Hollingworth and Mottram.

Then along came DNA testing which showed that all of the years of assumptions regarding the genetic relationship of the three family branches **were totally wrong!** The Holling(s)worth DNA Test program began many years ago and today has over 500 participants from around the world, including many from the UK. Early testing was limited in scope, but even with the limited data it was clear that there were some differences in the DNA of these three family lines. However, with the availability of the BigY YDNA tests, which looks at thousands of locations on the Y chromosome passed from father to son, we were able to identify the specific branch of the human genetic family tree each family was on and when their last common ancestor was.

Our first shock was to find that the last common ancestor of the Irish branch and the Hollingworth and Old Hall branches was **over 6,500 years ago!** *Thus, they were not closely genetically related at all.* This was followed by an even bigger shock – the last common ancestor of the Hollingworth Hall and Old Hall families was **over 2,500 years ago.** Hence, even these two families, closely linked by history, *were not closely genetically related either!* How could these three family branches share the same surname and the same coat of arms and yet not be closely genetically related? This is the Great Holling(s)worth DNA Mystery!

There are multiple theories on how this could occur, but to date, despite exhaustive searches of available documents, we can find no written records to validate one over the other. The first theory is that the connection is through a maternal line. It was common practice at the time that a man marrying into a family with no male heir would assume the surname of the family and take ownership of land, titles and family funds. The second possibility is that these families, with different DNA, assumed their place name (i.e. Hollingworth) when English families began to use surnames around 1200 CE. The final possibility is that the DNA shift occurred due to an illegitimate child (who would have an outsider's DNA but take the Hollingworth name) being raised as a member of the family. Our challenge is to determine which of these scenarios applies to each of

the three families and to try and pinpoint when and where this change occurred.

To that end we have launched an initiative to significantly expand the pool of DNA test results for male HOLLING(S)WORTHS in England. A collection of researchers from these HOLLING(S)WORTH families from around the world have come together to sponsor this HOLLING(S)WORTH DNA initiative. We are offering to any male HOLLINGWORTH (or any derivative family name like HOLLINGSWORTH, HOLLINWORTH, etc.) resident in Cheshire or surrounding counties (or who has documented roots in those counties) a free basic DNA test to see if the test results place them in the genetic line of one of the three families. We can only afford to offer a limited number of these free tests at this time, so the offer will generally be on a first come, first served basis. Some latitude will be exercised by the initiative researchers to authorize tests that seem to best ensure DNA data is received for all three family lines.

We would ask that the individuals receiving the test agree to let their DNA test results be shared in strict privacy with our HOLLING(S)WORTH DNA program coordinator to validate if they match one of our candidate families. If it does, we ask that they be willing to work with our pool of researchers to establish their family tree back as far as we can take it to see what clues it may provide as to where and when these DNA shifts took place. More information regarding this initiative can be found on our Facebook page **HollingworthDNAMystery** www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61557098334018

We would ask that if you are a HOLLING(S)WORTH male and would be willing to assist us in solving this mystery that you email our Yorkshire-based UK contact (Gerard Hollingworth, gerardfireman@virginmedia.com) and learn more about the easy to do DNA test that only requires a swab to be rubbed inside the cheek to collect cells that contain the DNA. Our initiative will provide this test through *FamilyTreeDNA*, a leading DNA testing company used by our HOLLING(S)WORTH DNA Test Program since its inception. If your DNA signature matches one of the three families, we may be willing to provide you with access to an advanced DNA test that will reveal exactly where your place is on the Holling(s)worth and human family tree.

If you accept our offer, you will learn just who you are genetically and with our help, hopefully find just who your English ancestors were. If your surname is not HOLLINGWORTH or one of its variants, then we ask that you spread the word on this free DNA test offer to any of the HOLLING(S)WORTH families that you may know. Without their help this longstanding mystery cannot be solved.

An Unusual Family History Record

by Mike Hodgkinson
Membership no. 7929

In a recent article I described how I had used Burke's *Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland* as a source of information. Information taken at the time of a heraldic visitation, compiled on behalf of the College of Arms about living people and their close ancestors, is probably reliable, but information on earlier ancestors must be used with caution.

The Staffordshire Record Office provided me with the handwritten draft dated 29 April 1667 used by a herald when he visited the BULKLEY family at Stanlow Hall near Leek. My ancestor James BULKLEY, who was sixty years old, and his eldest brother John were alive. The information that their mother was Joyce ASHENHURST from the hamlet of Ashenhurst near Leek and had married their father Arthur BULKLEY must be accurate.

I looked for references to the ASHENHURST family in John Sleigh's *History of the Ancient Parish of Leek* published in 1862. This states that Ashenhurst was the ancient seat of the ASHENHURST family and mentioned John ASHENHURST who died in 1597, and his first wife Joyce. However, the most useful record was a drawing of the Ashenhurst Brass which is on an interior wall of St Edward's Church in Leek (next page).

The plaque shows that John ASHENHURST Esq. had four wives, four sons and six daughters. It names the four wives and the children of each wife; my ancestor Joyce, the daughter of John's first wife Joyce, is named.

On the internet, I viewed a copy of the 1583 Visitation of Staffordshire made by Robert FLOWER, Somerset Herald. This included a pedigree of ASHENHURST of Ashenhurst. It expands some of the information on the brass plaque and includes John ASHENHURST's parents and paternal grandparents. It also states that John's daughter Joyce married Arthur BULKELEGH of Stanlow in Staffordshire.

Image Source:

A P Baggs, M F Cleverdon, D A Johnson, N J Tringham, 'Leek: Bradnop', in *A History of the County of Stafford: Volume 7, Leek and the Moorlands*, ed. C R J Currie, M W Greenslade (London, 1996), British History Online <https://prod.british-history.ac.uk/vch/staffs/vol7/pp169-175> [accessed 10 November 2024].



Nantwich News (8)

from the Crewe Guardian, 26 December 1874

A NANTWICH RURAL POST CARRIER RETIRES FROM THE ROAD - Wm. Potts, at present a letter carrier between Nantwich and Faddily, who having reached the age of 68, has just received an intimation that he will be superannuated at Christmas, when he will have completed his 23rd year in the service of the Post-office. Formerly he was on the Walgherton and Basford round; and for seven years he walked his 20 miles a day, summer and winter, Sundays included. For... [five years] he walked to Wybunbury, Weston, and Crewe, 22 miles a day, seven days a week, but for the last eleven years the severity of his task has been lessened to 14 miles a day with a Sunday rest, on the Ravensmoor, Faddily and Brindley round. During all the 23 years, he has scarcely missed a fortnight's work. Allowing a fortnight for absences, his total distance walked during the 23 years to Christmas next will be 139,046 miles, rather more than five and a half times round the earth! Bravo, friend Potts!

The PIDGEONs of Stockport

by Ian Pidgeon

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Ian is researching the PIDGEON surname as a one-name study. He has a website dedicated to the PIDGEON name, and this article was first published on his website at https://pidgeon.one-name.net/PIDGEON/Trees/Tree_Stockport.html.

A 200-year Story of Town Folk

Stockport, Cheshire grew up on the south bank of the confluence of the Rivers Tame and Goyt, which join to form the River Mersey. In the early 18th century, the spinning and weaving of silk developed in towns such as Manchester, Macclesfield and Stockport. The first water-powered textile mill in the north-west of England was opened in 1732 on a bend in the River Mersey at Stockport. More mills were built over the next 100 or more years, and when silk gave way to cotton, Stockport was well placed to benefit from the industrial revolution. Another industry of Stockport is hat making.

On either side of the river, the banks rise up over 100 feet. When the new railway line from Manchester to Birmingham was built in 1840, the valley was spanned by a brick-built viaduct, with over twenty arches. It is still in use today, and has featured in many of L S Lowry's paintings.

I was born in Stockport, and my PIDGEON family have lived there for over 200 years. The story of how I discovered where they came from is told in an article in *CHESHIRE ANCESTOR* of March 2024 (vol.54, no.3) called *Wearing Silver Buckles*.

Devon Origins

Henry PIDGEON was born at Cullompton, Devon four days before the new year of 1759. His parents John and Joan were married in 1748, and he already had three older sisters and a brother: Mary, Elizabeth, John junior and Sarah. There had been another child, also called Henry (who would have been eight), but he had died just one month before his fourth birthday. Sadly, Sarah also died just before her fourth birthday, but three more children were born afterwards, William, another Sarah, and Joseph.

Henry's father John PIDGEON was a corn miller and operated the higher mills on the leat at Cullompton. The eldest son, John junior, was trained to take over the

mill, but Henry, William and Joseph found jobs elsewhere in the town. Henry and William both worked at the local tannery. Henry became a skinner, learning to skin the animals as well as how to treat the resulting hides. William took up a less odorous job, learning to dress the leather and make gloves.

By the mid-1780s they would both be fully qualified in these trades, and it was then that their father John ran into financial difficulties and was imprisoned for non-payment of his debts. Was this why Henry left Cullompton? Did he quarrel with his father over the latter's debts, or was there another reason, such as a woman or simply a sense of adventure, which induced him to leave? We shall never know. Nor shall we know how he travelled north, nor why he settled at Stockport, Cheshire. We only know that he did, and that he arrived there sometime before the summer of 1792.

Stockport

Henry PIDGEON, bachelor married Ann BASKETFIELD, widow, in St Mary's Church, Stockport on 13th August, 1792. That is what the record says. However, we now know that Ann was not a widow, but the unmarried daughter of David BASKERVYLE and Anne WASHINGTON née BEDWORTH (who really was a widow) of Goostrey, Cheshire. Ann was born in 1767, lost both her parents by the time she was fifteen, and gave birth to two illegitimate children at Over Peover, Cheshire: Thomas in 1786 and Sarah in 1790. She then found her way to Stockport to look for work anonymously as a 'widow' with two small children to support. This was where she met and married the skinner Henry PIDGEON.

Over the next seventeen years, now married to Henry, Ann PIDGEON gave birth to eight more children. Four died as infants or young children, but four survived into adulthood, as did her illegitimate children. Both the BASKERVYLE children were married at Great Budworth, so whether they grew up with the PIDGEON children isn't certain, but it seems that at some point they made their way back into the Cheshire countryside. The elder child, Thomas BASKERVILLE, was the ancestor of Steve BASKERVILLE, a retired history professor from De Montfort University, Leicester, who unearthed this part of the story.

The eldest of the surviving PIDGEON children was John, born in 1798 and named after Henry's father, following the family tradition. Then came William, born in 1803, Joseph in 1806 and finally Martha on Boxing day of 1809. By the time these children had grown old enough to work, Stockport was developing from a silk town to a cotton town, with many new mills springing up close to the Goyt, Tame and Mersey rivers. All three PIDGEON lads, John, William and Joseph, found work in the mills as cotton spinners, and in 1828, all three were married.

John married Sarah WHITAKER, and their son Henry (named after John's father) was born two years later. However, John died in 1831 leaving Sarah to bring up young Henry on her own. Henry first worked as a cotton weaver, but later became a baker. He married Margaret CARTWRIGHT (née PICKFORD) but they had no children, and this branch of the PIDGEON family died out. Sarah died in 1861, Henry in 1865, and his wife Margaret in 1890 in the Stockport workhouse.

In total contrast, William and Joseph had large families which still thrive today.

William and Alice

William married Alice MORTON from Bolton in Lancashire. The wedding took place in Manchester Cathedral, not because they were a couple of high standing, but because it was easier to arrange a wedding there when the couple came from far-flung parishes. Eleven children were born between 1829 and 1846 – Henry (after William's father), Hannah, Mary, Sarah, Joseph, Elizabeth, Robert, Alice, William, James and John – and all but Joseph survived infancy and eventually married. The family flourished, but went through a difficult period in 1841.

During the 1830s William and Alice lived at various addresses in Stockport. Soon after they were married, they lived in John Street, then moved to Portwood, then to Sandy Brow and finally to Duke Street where Elizabeth, Robert and Alice were born. Most of these streets can be found on the Alan Godfrey Old Ordnance Survey Maps of Central Stockport and Stockport (South).

The cotton industry suffered from many cycles of “boom and bust”, and 1839 was a particularly difficult year. Perhaps as a delayed result of this, William PIDGEON was either out of work or suffering a reduction in wages, so that in June 1841 the family found itself in the workhouses. William was living on his own at Shaw Heath, close to the Stockport workhouse so that he was near most of his family. His wife Alice was in the Stockport workhouse, together with Henry (11), Hannah (10), Elizabeth (4), Robert (3) and Alice (1), while Mary (9) and Sara (6) were across the River Mersey in the workhouse at Heaton Norris.

A year later, however, they were out of the workhouse and living at Brentnall Street where William junior was born in 1842 and James in 1844. In 1846 John was born at 66 Higher Hillgate, and in 1851 all the family except Hannah (who had married) were at 68 Higher Hillgate. (Had they moved next door, or had the house been renumbered?) Some time between 1846 and 1851 William PIDGEON retired as a cotton spinner and became a tripe dresser, and in the 1850s he moved across to the other side of Higher Hillgate and acquired two houses which would remain in the family for about fifty years.

Leaving the Nest

In 1851, five children of William and Alice were cotton weavers. They had ten children, but the older ones were already starting to move out of the home.

William and Alice's eldest daughter Hannah married Charles HURDSFIELD on Christmas day of 1850. They lived in nearby Brooke Street. Charles was a weaver but became a rug maker.

In 1853, their eldest son Henry married Ann BAILEY. They first lived in Queen's Street (Portwood), then moved to Brentnall Street. About 1860 the family left Stockport and moved first to Burnley in Lancashire and then to Macclesfield, Cheshire where Henry died at the age of 42 in 1871. The eldest three children remained in Macclesfield, but Ann returned to Stockport with three younger daughters and lived at Thomas Street East until she died and the daughters married, all in the early 1880s.

Daughter Elizabeth married George FARRINGTON in 1854. George was a weaver but became a hatter. The family lived in Swallow Street, Hempshaw Lane and Hindley Street. Many FARRINGTONs who are descended from their nine children still live in Stockport.

In 1855 daughter Mary married Robert TATE. They lived in Lancashire, had no children, and after Robert died at Oldham in 1879, Mary lived with her sister Sarah at Chadderton. After Sarah married, Mary returned to Stockport to live with her widowed mother.

In 1859 daughter Alice married John SMITH from Knutsford. He worked as a brewer, a carter and a labourer. In 1861, Alice and their first child were living with her parents while John boarded across the road. Eventually they found a house in Hempshaw Lane, but after the birth of five children John and Alice appear to have separated. Alice and the children returned to live with her parents. John went to live at Cheadle, and died as a pauper in Stockport workhouse.

William junior married Elizabeth MELLUISH from Somerset in 1865. William was an overlooker (or supervisor) in a cotton weaving factory. Initially, the couple lived in the house next to his parents on Higher Hillgate, but in the 1870s they moved south to Hazel Grove where William was employed at Wellington Mill in the Bosden valley, living in one of the Nelson Street cottages built for the mill employees – see *The Pidgeons of Hazel Grove*, to be published in a future issue of CHESHIRE ANCESTOR.

In 1866, son James married Elizabeth Isabella YULE who had been born at Boulogne, France. James was a tin and copper smith. Their son Robert was born

in 1870, and a family bible which claims to be 'Robert Pidgeon his book' lists the births of Sarah Alice, Robert and Edith Ellen. Sarah died at the age of fifteen months, and Ellen when only 25 years old, but Robert grew up to be a brewer's labourer, married when he was 23, and had a daughter Edith Ellen. In 1871, James, Elizabeth and baby Robert were living at 88 Higher Hillgate, across the street from James' parents. In 1881, Robert was living with his grandparents William and Alice, but James, Elizabeth and their daughter Ellen appear to have left the country. One wonders if they were, perhaps, in France, visiting the place of Elizabeth's birth. Ten years later, James was a widower, but no trace of Elizabeth's death can be found, and James and Robert were living with James' widowed mother Alice (his father William had died in 1882).

James remarried in 1892. His new wife was Elizabeth Ann WALKER, the widow of Charles ADAMSON and mother of several children. They all lived at Ardern Grove, Stockport before moving to Salford, Lancashire, where James died in 1913.

William and Alice's youngest son John married Susannah Fowden FLETCHER in 1869. John was a felt hatter. They lived at first with John's parents on Higher Hillgate before moving into a house of their own in John Street. In 1879, with three children (and two more to come) the family moved out of Stockport into a newly built house on Bramhall Lane (now Bramhall Moor Lane), Hazel Grove – see The Pidgeons of Hazel Grove, referred to above.

In 1876, William and Alice's son Robert married the girl next door – Hannah STARKEY – at Prestbury. Her father Richard STARKEY was a clogger, but all his children who were old enough, including Hannah, worked in a cotton factory. Actually, they lived two doors from William PIDGEON senior and family, with William junior and family living in between. After William junior moved to Hazel Grove, Robert and Hannah took over his home on Higher Hillgate, next door to their parents, before moving to Heaton Norris, where Hannah died at the age of 45 in 1892. Alice PIDGEON died about the same time, so Robert moved back to Hillgate to live in the family home, gave up cotton weaving and ran the grocer's shop. His two surviving children were married in 1911: James Morton to Alice WALKER, and Sarah Ann to Ernest COOKE. Ernest and Sarah went to live at Bolton and had no children. James was a coal merchant, remained in Stockport and fathered one son Alfred Walker PIDGEON. Alfred suffered from a mental disease, and died at the age of 39 in Park Hospital, Davyhulme. He was a certified mental patient of Parkside Mental Hospital, Macclesfield.

Finally, the last of William and Alice's children to marry was Sarah, who married John William Spencer in 1881. Sarah had worked most of her adult life as a cotton

weaver and occasionally as a confectioner. Now, at the age of 45, she married a widower with two children of his own. John was an iron moulder and had been lodging on London Road (now Buxton Road) near Cherry Tree Lane. After the wedding, they lived at 71 Higher Hillgate, almost next to the PIDGEON shop.

Higher Hillgate

The PIDGEONS nested at 68 Higher Hillgate in 1851, but by 1861, they had flown across the street and occupied two houses (or perhaps a house and shop) at 123 and 125 Higher Hillgate. In the 1870s the houses were renumbered to 75 and 77, (as evidenced by their position in relation to the nearby *Star Inn*, which changed from number 107 to number 59). All the houses on this side of the street had their number reduced by 48, as if 24 houses had been removed lower down the street. Interestingly, these houses, from 77 down to the pub, still stand, although the *Star Inn* has been renamed the *Star and Garter*. You can see this block of houses as they were in September 2023 on the Google Street View website at <https://maps.app.goo.gl/HnAK72KZAtfYfLCHA>; Alice and William occupied the two houses at the right end of the block, the end one being used as the shop.

In 1861, William was still dressing tripe (and presumably selling this ‘delicacy’ to the locals), and six children still lived at home, five of them working as cotton weavers, including married daughter Alice (who had a six-month-old daughter). The exception was sixteen-year-old James, an apprentice tinplate worker.

In 1871 the only children living with William and Alice were Robert and their youngest son John and his new wife. Robert was still single and a cotton weaver, while John had recently married Susannah FLETCHER, and was now a hatter, probably working at nearby Christys, while Susannah was a dressmaker. It seems the tripe business had expanded to selling other kinds of foods as William was now a provisions dealer. Next door at no. 127 (later to become no. 79) were William junior and family. He had married Elizabeth MELLUISH in 1865, and they now had a son and a daughter. Also living with them at no. 127 was William junior’s sister Sarah; she and Robert were the only two of the ten siblings still unmarried. William junior was still working in a cotton factory but had been promoted to overlooker, while Sarah was now a confectioner. At no. 129 was the STARKEY family, which included Hannah, aged 23. She and Robert PIDGEON would marry in 1875.

In 1881, after the houses had been renumbered, William and Alice were living at 75 Higher Hillgate. Number 77 was uninhabited, and presumably this was their shop. Living with them was a grandson Robert, daughter Alice SMITH and her three children, and also a lodger – quite a large household if none of them was

living above the shop. William, now 77, still worked as a provisions dealer. Next door to the shop at no. 79 were Robert and Hannah who had moved in after William junior and family moved to Hazel Grove. They now had two sons James Morton and John Morton, named after Robert's mother. Also living with them was Hannah's eighteen-year-old brother Alfred STARKEY, a hatter. Both Hannah's parents had died during the 1870s.

William senior died in 1882 at the age of 78, so in 1891 Alice was living and working as a widowed grocer at 75 and 77 Higher Hillgate. Living with her were her widowed daughter Mary TATE, her widowed son James and his son Robert. Two doors away at 71 Higher Hillgate Alice's daughter Sarah was living with her husband John William SPENCER. They had married in December 1881 after John was widowed, and were living with two sons of John William from his previous marriage.

Alice PIDGEON died in late 1892 at the age of 87. In 1901, 75 and 77 Higher Hillgate were occupied by her widowed son Robert (who was now the grocer), his nephew Robert (James' son), and John William and Alice SPENCER – sister Sarah's stepson and his new wife. Sarah and John William SPENCER senior were still at number 71, with John's unmarried son Alfred SPENCER. The younger Robert PIDGEON had married Sarah Louise JONES in 1895, but after the birth of a daughter Edith Ellen, Robert and Sarah appear to have separated. Sarah and Edith were living at 12 Cecil Street, Edgeley with Sarah's mother Sarah JONES.

By 1911, after living there for over 50 years, the PIDGEONS had flown from Higher Hillgate. The cottages of 75 and 77 Higher Hillgate were occupied by separate families of a hat manufacturer and a hatter. Robert PIDGEON senior was then 72 years old, and living in the Stockport workhouse, where he died six years later. His nephew, the younger Robert, was living with his aunt Hannah HURDSFIELD and her son Charles at 21 Brook Street, and working as a fireman at a hat works. His wife Sarah and their daughter Edith, now 16, had moved to 6 Herbert Street (near Edgeley Park), still living with Sarah's mother, and both working as cotton mill winders.

This part of the PIDGEON family, the descendants of William and Alice who had remained in Stockport, was dying out. Young Robert's daughter married John HARKER in 1934 but died childless in 1940. Her mother died in 1935, and Robert himself in 1952 at the age of 81. Other survivors were called HURDSFIELD, DAVIES, HIGGINBOTHAM, FARRINGTON or SMITH, all descended from the daughters of William and Alice.

Joseph and Elizabeth

Joseph, the third son of Henry PIDGEON and Ann BASKERVYLE, married Elizabeth LEE in 1828. Four of their five children were born between 1830 and 1839 – William, Mary, Martha and Henry Lee – and then Joseph Edward arrived somewhat belatedly in 1853. Initially, they lived on Chestergate, before moving to Daw Bank, Wood Street and finally Queen Street West. This was a family which witnessed the building of the new railway viaduct in 1840, as they lived almost right underneath it.

Joseph was the first of the brothers to stop spinning cotton and was a shopkeeper by 1839. Perhaps this change of occupation was also brought upon by the depression in the cotton industry at that time. He was a provisions dealer, grocer or corn dealer. His youngest son Joseph Edward was an assistant in the shop until his early death in 1871, at the age of 18. His daughter Martha married Samuel BARROW, a house painter in 1855 and lived for most of her married life in Greek Street. They had six daughters and a son George, who followed his father in the painting trade.

Joseph's eldest son William married Anne PARKIN in 1853. Ann was the daughter of a cotton mill overlooker from Yorkshire, and her family lived in Edward Street. The wedding, however, took place in Norbury Church at Hazel Grove. William and Anne settled in Hamilton Street, Heaton Norris, north of the River Mersey in Lancashire, where a large residential area was being developed alongside new cotton mills in which William worked as a millwright. They were blessed with five children: Elizabeth, Joseph, Sarah Jane, Mary and Alice Ann. Three of these daughters (Elizabeth, Sarah and Mary) never married, but lived together for many years after their parents died, running a confectioner's shop on Manchester Road. By 1911 they had moved to West Gorton in Manchester, and then to Rusholme, Manchester by the 1920s. The youngest daughter Alice married James CLARKSON in 1897 and went to live in Nottingham, where her descendants live to this day.

William and Anne's son Joseph was a joiner and became a patternmaker in an iron foundry. In 1885 he married Mary Amelia CORBETT and a son William Owen was born soon afterwards – their only child. Initially, Joseph and family lived next door to his parents in Hamilton Street, but after they both died in 1895, Joseph moved into his parents' house. Later the family moved to Bryn Drive, Reddish, where Joseph died in 1915. His widow Mary survived until 1934, when she died at her home on Reddish Road. Their son William Owen married Florrie GOULD at Ashton-under-Lyne, where Florrie was living with her brother and sister after the death of their parents. Florrie would live to the ripe old age of 105.

William and Florrie also had only one child. William was an accountant, and his occupation took him to Kidderminster in Worcestershire, and this was where their son Frederick Joseph, known as Joe, was born in 1915. Joe was a pilot in Coastal Command during the second world war, flying Sunderland aircraft. I was very lucky to meet him shortly before he died, because he had in his possession documents which linked the Stockport PIDGEONs with Cullompton in Devon, and to the BASKERVYLEs of Cheshire.

Henry Lee was the other son of Joseph and Elizabeth PIDGEON. In 1862 he married Elizabeth CHOLLERTON from Drayton near Derby. Henry was a corn dealer and baker. At first they lived at 42 Great Underbank, Stockport but later moved to 178 Wellington Road North, one of the big houses just over the railway bridge in Heaton Norris (on the Lancashire side of the River Mersey). His first two sons died young, Robert Henry at the age of two years, and Charles William at the age of 17, but two younger children survived: Thomas Edward and Sarah Eliza.

In the 1880s the family moved to Northenden, and Henry Lee died there in 1888 at the age of 49. In 1894, Sarah married John NICKSON who was helping her brother Thomas to run a baker's and confectionery shop. After living with her mother for a short time, John and Sarah moved to Chester. Elizabeth died in 1892 at the age of 56. In 1894, Thomas married Emma HODGKINSON from Winster, near Matlock in Derbyshire. They had three children, the youngest of whom was Arthur, born in 1899 just two years before his mother died in 1901. Although he grew up with his father, losing his mother when so young may have influenced his decision in choosing his own wife. In 1925 he married Alice HODSON who had been orphaned when six years old and had grown up in a home for young girls at Clacton-on-Sea, Essex.

By 1911, the only PIDGEONs descended from Joseph and Elizabeth living in Stockport were grandson Joseph, his wife Mary Amelia, and their son William Owen – and he would leave within four years. All the others had moved to Manchester and Northenden. There were, of course, the families of daughters and granddaughters: BARROW, TRAVIS and ALLCOCK.

Martha GREAVES

Martha PIDGEON, the daughter of Henry and Ann, married a cotton mill overlooker Joseph GREAVES about 1829. They had six children, but only three daughters, Alice, Mary and Maria, are known to have survived childhood. Alice and Maria worked in cotton mills and married cotton mill workers. Mary died a spinster after working as a hat binder and a confectioner.

Joseph died about 1846 or 1847, and in 1849 Martha was remarried to a cotton spinner named John COOPER. It was as Martha COOPER that she was mentioned with her brothers and nephew in the Agreement of 1857, which mentioned their grandfather of Cullompton, Devon.

Irish PIDGEONS

About 1880 another PIDGEON family moved into Stockport, quite unrelated to the above. Robert T was a twenty-six-year-old labourer who had been born in Ireland. His thirty-year-old wife, Elizabeth FROGGATT, came from Uttoxeter in Staffordshire. Where they married is unknown, so perhaps it was in Ireland (or not at all). They came to Stockport from Manchester. In 1881 they were living at 99 Chestergate, Stockport with their two-year-old son John William, who was born in Hulme, Manchester, and two-month-old George Henry, born in Stockport. Both Robert and George Henry died later that year, and in 1894 Elizabeth was married again, to James AINSWORTH.

John William grew up with his mother and stepfather in Chapel Street, Edgeley. In 1900 he married Frances HEAPS, and they had six children, three of whom died in infancy. The survivors were Florence who married Tom BROADHURST, James who married Lucy LITTLER, and John William junior who married Sara BARLOW. Members of his family still live in Stockport, although some moved to Hazel Grove in the 1960s.

Nantwich News (9)

from the Cheshire Observer, 20 December 1924

MISCELLANEOUS CASES - Frank H Alexander, Basin End, Nantwich, who did not appear, was summoned for failing to stop his motor cycle when requested, with driving a motor cycle without a front light, and with not having his identification plate illuminated. P.C. Walker said on Nov 16th he saw a motor cycle driven by defendant at Hatherton, with a pillion passenger. There were no lights on the machine, and witness shouted to defendant to stop. He slowed down, but when he got past witness he accelerated, and went on, ignoring the whistle. Defendant told witness he kept his lights low on account of the fog, and that they must have "jolted out." Witness told him that he shouted down his ear. Defendant was fined £1 in the first case, and 10s in each of the other cases.

John W Clowes, Bradwall Smithy, Sandbach, was fined 5s for failing to illuminate the identification plate on a motor cycle. Sergt. Dix said defendant had a flashlight attached to his machine, but it was an insufficient light.

For driving a motor car without a rear light, Arthur Burrows, of Church Minshull, was fined 5s.

A Missing Baptism

by Gren Dix
Membership no. 4174

In 1855, Cornelius BASEY (referred to in the article *Which is the Parish Church?* elsewhere in this issue) married Hannah Eliza DAVIES, (father John), a spinster; he was 29 and she was 26. In the 1861 census Cornelius was a gamekeeper and appeared to have a son Benjamin, aged twelve. As Cornelius only married in 1855 it appears likely that Benjamin was a son of Hannah and that he was unlikely to be the son of Cornelius. The 1861 census said that Hannah was born in Lingen, a village not too far away.

Having found where she was born, the 1851 census showed Hannah at home with parents John and Mary. Mary was born in Leintwarden (a few miles west of Ludlow). Hannah's supposed son Benjamin DAVIS was found to be a nursing child with another family in Lingen. The Parish Registers for Lingen were not on Ancestry or FMP. This meant going to a county record office (in this case Shropshire) and examining microform of the PRs - not everything can be found online. The search gave the baptism of Hannah (baptised as Hannah DAVIS) and her siblings. The register also supplied the baptism of Benjamin, son of Hannah, *a single woman*, and the marriage of Hannah's parents:

31 December 1819 page 5 entry 13, John DAVIS married Mary Hyde PREECE.

The 1851 census, as stated above, shows that Hannah's mother was born about 1790, in Leintwarden. A search of the Leintwarden PRs for the birth of Mary Hyde PREECE (or variations) was unsuccessful. However, I assumed that Hyde may have been Mary's mother's surname. Thereafter I found a marriage

26 April 1790 at Leintwarden Richard PREECE married Ruth HIDE

No other male PREECE marriages around this time were found. I went back to the PRs and found a page of churchings that included:

20 March 1791 Churching of Ruth wife of Richard PREECE

There is a belief in some societies that childbirth rendered a woman as ritually unclean due to the presence of blood, etc, at the birth. This was part of ritual law not moral law. A churching ceremony or thanksgiving for the birth of a child marked the end of a period of seclusion (or lying-in) after childbirth.

So, although I couldn't find a baptism for Mary, I assumed that Mary was born in early 1791 (no PREECE baptism found around this time) based on the churching and the censuses.

Postscript

It was only when assembling this document that I looked on Familysearch and found:

Baptism 25 February 1791 Mary Hide PRICE (not PREECE) father Rich, mother Ruth

Thus my assumption was correct.

WORTHINGTON Family History Society

Ian A Worthington

Membership no. 5669

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My WORTHINGTON roots lie in Cheshire. I was born in Stockport and my paternal line has been resident in Stockport, Bramhall, Woodford and Adlington going back to the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

I have always believed that beyond this date my family hailed from the Wilmslow area. When I had the opportunity to become involved in the Worthington Family History Society some twenty-odd years ago, and in particular their 17th century project, I was excited as I believed that I would at last be able to 'join the dots' from the late 16th through the 17th and into the 18th centuries. I hoped I would be able to prove my hunch that my family was one of those five or six groups of WORTHINGTONs centred around the hamlets and settlements of Wilmslow: Morley, the Hough, Styal, Quarry Bank and Dean Row. But alas no, I have not yet managed to do that, despite the many years of research, indexing, compilation and examination of pedigrees, not only in Cheshire but in England and Wales as a whole.

The WFHS is a small family history society, which initiated its 17th century project in 2005. Since then, eleven volumes of references to the name WORTHINGTON have been written. Each contains one hundred pages of information gleaned from parish records, estate and family papers, wills, probate documents, education, chancery, manorial and even royal records et cetera, all

researched and collected over more than two decades. The eleven volumes have also been fully indexed.

From these references we have been able to compile about eighty individual family pedigrees divided into three volumes of work. The first volume was published in 2020 as a hardback book entitled *The Worthington Families of the 17th Century*; it is still available for purchase from the WFHS or from Amazon. It deals with the WORTHINGTON families which originated in Lancashire: The first known WORTHINGTONs were armigerous and lived at Worthington Manor near Standish, Wigan at the time of the Norman conquest. The second volume comprises those WORTHINGTON families from elsewhere in England, with the exception of Cheshire. There were groups of WORTHINGTONs in the Midlands, in particular around Leicester, and as far south as Dover in Kent. We are aiming to publish this volume online (with an option for a small print run) towards the end of this year or early 2025. The third volume, comprising Cheshire and North Wales will again be published online, hopefully sometime later in 2025.

Dear readers, have any of you got WORTHINGTON family roots or connections in your trees? Have you traced them as far back as the 17th century? Even if you haven't got back that far, maybe you have come to a stop sometime during the 18th century, but would like to 'bridge the gap'. If so, please get in touch and join us. Membership is currently free and all we ask of new members is that they agree to share their own research and perhaps help develop the project into the early and middle parts of the 18th century and towards that period where there are more easily accessible family history records, either online or already researched, examined and proven.

Please visit our website for more information: www.worthingtonfhs.org

Nantwich News (10)

from the Crewe Chronicle, 5 December 1874

NURSE WANTED - The Guardians of the above Union require a NURSE for the Workhouse. The salary will be £20 per annum, to be increased annually in the course of three years to £25 per annum, and maintenance in the Workhouse. Candidates must be single women or widows without incumbrance, able to read and write, have had some experience in Nursing, and must be prepared to make herself generally useful under the direction of the Matron. Applications, stating age and previous occupation, accompanied by recent testimonials, to be sent to me immediately. Candidates selected will have notice to attend before the board.

By Order of the Board, James Pick, Clerk to the Guardians.

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



With a bit of member help we got here! Thanks to all those who responded to my cry for help.

We have interesting articles about building your own website, map exploration, record hunting away from the regular sources, and a reminder about mind maps.

The computer club committee suggested that we should enlighten all Society members about the many varied topics that we discuss during our meetings. In transcribing one topic that we went on to discuss at Computer Club in October, I accidentally deleted the name of the person who alerted me to the Find My Past mother's maiden name 1911 restriction being altered. I was unable to give credit! I'd like to know who it was- a quick email from the member concerned would ease my conscience.

Easy Ways to Create a Website

by Computer Club and Crewe & Nantwich Group member **Bill Pearson**

Most of us have some of our family history information stored online these days, using sites like Ancestry, and Find My Past etc. There are also some specialist sites that allow you to include additional information, like stories about your ancestors, etc. Members of the Computer Club's Publishing Subgroup regularly discuss how to collect, write and publish your family history. However, you may

also like to have your own web presence, where you decide what goes on, and how it is displayed.

Website creation is a vast subject; far too big for a NTS article. However, there is a relatively easy way to create pages, using WordPress (<https://wordpress.com>). Many sites are built using WordPress. WordPress is the most popular content management system (CMS) in the world: around 478 million websites are built on WordPress. Most of these are self-hosted (the site owner stores the website content on their own platform or third-party host). This process can be quite complicated. However, if you wish to try developing your own site, you can have a free one, which is quite easy to create, using WordPress hosting.

Some of the advantages of this method are:

- It's a relatively easy way to get started
- It won't cost you a penny
- Your site will continue to function, even if you die!

Some of the disadvantages are:

- Your URL (website address) will end in .wordpress.com (unless you pay for your own address)
- As it's free, you will have adverts on the website
- You can get more functionality on a self-hosted website
- Space is limited, so if you add lots of big files, you may have to start paying a fee. However, WordPress does give you 1GB free of charge, which is probably ample for many users.

This page shows details of the cost of potential upgrades:

<https://wordpress.com/support/space-upgrade>

Your site could be as simple as a single "this is me" type of page, in which you could put links to your other online presences like on Ancestry and Find My Past, and other items of interest. You can also upload pictures, and have separate pages to write about specific people or places, for instance. You can also easily upload PDFs, which some family tree programs create when you make a report.

There's plenty of help online, e.g. <https://wordpress.com/support/getting-started-with-wordpress-com>

Whilst I personally prefer WordPress, here are many other alternatives to WordPress such as Google's Blogger: <https://www.blogger.com>

There's plenty of help online about the pros and cons of different sites. If you have not tried creating a web site, why not give it a go?

Machine Gun Corps Database Collection

by Aylsham, Norfolk member **Clare Bostle**

As part of my research into a great-uncle who fought in the First World War, I recently re-ran my Discovery Catalogue search on the National Archives website. I was delighted to discover that a new resource had been added, namely *The Machine Gun Corps Database Collection*. This is a digital database held by the Vickers Machine Gun Collection & Research Association but, importantly, it has been made freely accessible and searchable through the Discovery Catalogue. The catalogue descriptions are very detailed, often including census entries and some linking to a photographic collection. In the case of my great-uncle, the description included details of his injuries when captured, and his personal statement about how his capture came about. This statement is the closest I have come to hearing his own “voice”, as he died when I was a young child.

The MGC Database Collection is a terrific resource and I do recommend it to anyone wanting to find out more about their ancestors who served in the MGC. It is largely the work of one man, Graham Sacker, who has spent over twenty years accumulating information from manual and computerised sources. His aim was to identify as many as possible of both enlisted men and officers who served in the MGC. The database is not complete, but work on it continues. As I discovered, there is a massive amount of information to be found in it already. Details of the sources used to build the database and how to search it effectively are available at <https://vickersmg.blog/about/research/mgcdatabase>. This includes links to YouTube videos explaining how best to access and use the data.

Map Explorer by The Genealogist – Caution Required

by CHESHIRE ANCESTOR Editor, **Rosie Rowley**

The Genealogist recently announced that the 1841 census has been added to their Map Explorer tool. While I think that the Map Explorer is a great idea in theory, in practice I urge caution – please don’t rely on it to pinpoint the exact location of the property your ancestor lived in at the time of the census.

I use as my example the village of Thorney, in Cambridgeshire, where I grew up. In the 1960s, most of the houses in the village were strung out along the main road, called Wisbech Road. The earliest properties were clustered around the crossroads in the centre of the village. Later properties were built in the 1850s along the north side of the road and were numbered consecutively from east to west, with the highest numbers close to the crossroads – not what you might expect! Still later, short rows of houses were built on the south side of Wisbech

Road and each had their own name and numbering system, e.g. Bedford Place and Parkside. I believe that at one point there were at least five houses along Wisbech Road with the number 1.

There was some concern that the confusing numbering system could cause difficulty for the emergency services who were not familiar with the village. As a result, in the late 1960s or early 1970s a decision was made to renumber all the properties in Wisbech Road in a more conventional manner, starting from the crossroads and heading east, having even numbers on the north side of the road and odd numbers on the south side. Thus, the house where I lived with my family changed from number 74 to number 36, while the house my grandfather had lived in as a young man changed from number 5 to number 180. Most of the census records for Thorney had no house numbers, but the 1871 census does, and The Genealogist's Map Explorer has attempted to show these house numbers on the map in the locations where those numbers are now, and not where they would have been in 1871. I did send a message to The Genealogist to point out the mistake and offered to tell them where the house numbers should be but my offer was not taken up.

So, if you use Map Explorer on The Genealogist, try to check whether the street you are interested in has been renumbered since the census was taken.

What We Cover at Computer Club Meetings

The FHSC Computer club meets online by Zoom at 19:30 UK time on the second Wednesday of each month. We are a group of mixed ability and experience. No-one is an expert and no-one is a dimwit!! But collectively we have some knowledge about using computers for family history research purposes. We are all willing to help others, where and when we can. Every meeting, we all learn something new or a more efficient way of completing a task, no matter what our experience may be. Questions are asked and none are too simple nor 'daft'. There is a mix of those who use PCs (Microsoft and Windows) and others who prefer Apple and their Macs. Quite a few also use iPads and/or iPhones. Participants do not have to say anything if they do not wish to; many simply listen and learn. But questions or clarifications are always welcome from any participant.

October 2024

This month's meeting lasted about 90 minutes, and the following topics were discussed. Some had been proposed in advance by members, but mostly they came up during the meeting, and were posed by participants on the night. A summary of these is below:

1. There has been an update of the Zoom software we use for our meetings, which now has a feature 'multi-speaker' view. This highlights those speaking in larger windows at the top of your screen, whilst everyone else is in smaller windows below. Particularly useful for those managing the meeting.
2. The FindMyPast website continues to warn that there are no mother maiden names transcribed before 1911, but they are now featuring the mother's maiden name on an increasing number of birth registration listings prior to September 1911. It is a work in progress. It was noted that FreeBMD records do not have this facility, and nor is it expected to be so in the near future. You can do some good searching by adding the maiden name into the Optional Keywords box.
3. Ancestry has recently added many parish registers from Cheshire. Traditionally FindMyPast was the main source of such records online. It was noted that while many were already available on FMP, some members had found new registers (especially those from non-denominational churches).
4. Last month a discussion began on how best to set up and use multiple screens with a single (or multiple) computer(s). This topic continued this month with participants explaining how they manage their configurations, with or without special software, on both PCs and on Macs.
5. We had a demonstration on how to register on the FHSC website for the various newsletters produced by the Society, including Margaret Roberts' monthly issues and those newsletters produced by individual geographical Groups.
6. Mention was made of the ability to change the size and colour of your mouse cursor to make it more visible (especially when using multiple screens). It was noted that this is easy to set up on PCs and Macs, and had been demonstrated at a previous meeting.
7. There were demonstrations by two members, one who had created a searchable, updatable index of articles and features in Net That Serf and more generally in the Cheshire Ancestor. The other was able to demonstrate how this could be used online (having created a site especially for that purpose). Both of them demonstrated how the index and search engine works. Impressive! There was general acclamation and approval, agreeing that such a searchable index was a very valuable and time-saving tool. There was wholehearted support to extend this so it would be available online directly through the FHSC website, and the sooner the better!
8. We discussed the merits of the Lost Cousins website; created and managed by Peter Calver. It was agreed that the more of your cousins you feed into the growing database, the better the chance you would have of finding someone

searching the same family line as you. And, unlike Ancestry, it was noted that you are more likely to get a response given that Lost Cousins members tend to be more committed family historians.

9. The use of VPNs (Virtual Private Networks) to protect your privacy when on line. One member raised the issue/problem faced by Windows users who have installed Bit Defender and have a Wintun network. While not resolved on the night, there were some helpful comments and pointers on how best to deal with such problems. We will no doubt find out next month if they worked!

10. The use of and value of AI (Artificial Intelligence) when doing your family history. It was generally agreed that this was a remarkable and helpful tool. ChatGPT and Claude were two software programs which some members had used. It was stressed, though, that AI should be treated as your helpful, speedy, virtual assistant and tasked with doing things which might take you hours and hours in a matter of a minute or two or even seconds. But it is NOT to be regarded as a replacement for you; the family historian, and it's important to ensure that its accuracy is verified before you add any data to your research as proven fact. The question of data protection and privacy while using such tools was raised, and no doubt this is a subject the group will return to again at future meetings.

11. The use of the snipping tool and clipboard and how this had changed between Windows 10 and 11 was raised. Members were able to suggest solutions (e.g. saving as a jpeg to the photos/pictures facility on your PC).

So, there you have it. Quite a wide spectrum of topics and a typical Computer Club evening. If you wish to join us, please get in touch with the Club leader or one of the committee, details of which are all on the FHSC website. You will be made very welcome. Sorry, but we do not record meetings.

Archived Historical Records

by Runcorn Group member **Mike Hodgkinson**

Archived historical records can provide useful family history information. They are usually held in the National Archives or record office of the relevant county. However, records collected by a landowner are usually held in the county in which the landowner who deposited the records had his principal home.

The National Archives website at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk lists many documents held by county record offices. The National Archives catalogue allows you to find records held by National Archives plus more than 2,500 other archives. I was interested in records from Bradnop, Staffordshire. I created a

search specifying Bradnop, Staffordshire between 1500 and 1650 in all archives. A list appeared which identified documents held by more than one archive.

I was interested in obtaining three documents held by Derbyshire County Council. One was a petition by common rights holders; a second was a power of attorney record; a third was a record of a land sale. I emailed Derbyshire Record Office with the catalogue references and the brief descriptions given in the catalogue and asked for a quote for digital copies of the documents.

In response I was given a quote and a link for payment. The cost was reasonable as the alternative for me would be a 63-mile return trip. Digital copies can be enlarged, which is necessary with many 450-year-old records. I usually use a PC for the document and a laptop for the transcription.

Earlier this year I used this method to obtain a marriage settlement document which broke down a brick wall and identified an ancestor from landed gentry whose family held BMD records earlier than the available parish records.

From the Inbox

Godfrey Rhodes, a Devonshire member, observed:

Following on from previous articles about screen-grabbing apps, I am surprised that I have not seen any mention of the MS Snip tool. I discovered it several years ago, downloaded a copy and have found to be very useful.

GJ: The Snipping Tool is part of Windows. Apparently, it was introduced with Windows 7! You access it by pressing the Windows logo key + Shift + S. The snipped item goes to your clipboard; you can then paste it anywhere you wish. Don't forget that by pressing Windows key+V you can recover the last ten items you've copied.

Closing Snippet

Thanks to **Gren Dix**

A friend forwarded the following to me:

For those of my generation who do not, and cannot, comprehend why Facebook exists, I am trying to make friends outside Facebook while applying the same principles. Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom. I give them pictures of my family, my dog, of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch, etc. I also listen to their

conversations, give them a 'thumbs up' and tell them I like them. And it works just like Facebook! I already have four people following me:

- two police officers,
- a private investigator
- and a psychiatrist.

An old one but still good! – GJ

If those of you who responded but weren't able to donate pieces for this issue would please remember to follow-up for the March issue I'd be grateful. Your input to keep this forum active is very important. – GJ



Eviction in the 1800s

*by Gren Dix
Membership no. 4174*

Before showing an eviction order and its appeal we shall first take a brief look at poor laws, parish relief and workhouses.

Poor Laws

This refers to government and ecclesiastical action to relieve the poor. Overseers, two from each parish, were appointed to collect money to be distributed to the poor.

The Poor Act 1575 introduced a system of support for those willing to work. Paupers could be employed to erect a 'house of correction' in every county for punishment of those who refused to work.

The Poor Relief Act 1601 lasted until 1834 (a watershed year in so many ways). This made each parish responsible for supporting the legitimate needy. As some parishes were more generous than others the Poor Relief Act 1662, known as the Settlement Act, was passed. This created sojourns, people in settlements that were not their legal one. The Settlement Act allowed such people to be removed.

The Poor Relief Act 1601 presented a method by which people could gain settlement in a different parish

1 People who could not work were cared for in an almshouse or poorhouse

2 Able-bodied poor were sent to a 'house of industry'

3 Idle poor and vagrants were sent to a 'house of correction'

The Poor Relief Act 1722 introduced a 'workhouse test' whereby a person wanting poor relief had to enter a workhouse.

Workhouses

The first mention was in 1631 although their origin can be traced back to 1388 when there were labour shortages following the Black Death.

The New Poor Law of 1834 attempted to overcome problems with the existing system following mass unemployment after the Napoleonic Wars (1815), a series of bad harvests and the introduction of 'New Technology' which replaced agricultural workers.

In time, workhouses became refuges for the elderly, infirm and sick rather than for able bodied persons. In 1929, legislation allowed Local Authorities to take over workhouse infirmaries as municipal hospitals. As a young man I can remember an elderly person being apprehensive at going into one of these establishments because they remembered it being a workhouse.

Eviction

Below is an 1832 eviction order removing a family from Pilkington, the parish they were living in, back to their 'settlement' parish of Walley. This is followed by an appeal. Normal type indicates the printed part and italics the handwritten part.

Eviction Notice

To the Churchwardens and Overseers of the poor of the Township of Pilkington in the said county

Whereas you have made complaint into us, whose names are unto set and seals affixed, being two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace and quorum in and for the said county, that *Reuben Patefield, Lydia his wife, and their four children, Ruth aged six years, Mark aged four years, David aged three years, and Mary aged eighteen months*, have come to inhabit in your said Township, not having gained legal settlement there, nor having produced a certificate allowing them to be settled elsewhere, and the said *Reuben Patefield, Lydia his wife, and their said children* having become actually chargeable to your said Township, we the said Justices upon due proof made thereof upon oath and likewise upon due consideration had of the premises, do adjudge the same to be true, and we do likewise adjudge that

the lawful settlement of them the said *Reuben Patefield, Lydia his wife, and their said children* is in the Township of *Walley* in the County aforesaid. We do therefore require you the said churchwardens and overseers of the poor, or some one of you, to convey the said *Reuben Patefield, Lydia his wife, and their said children* from and out of your said Township to the said Township of *Walley* and them together with this our order, or a true copy thereof, to deliver to the churchwardens and overseers of the poor there, who are hereby required to receive and provide for them according to Law.

Given under our hands and seals the tenth day of September in this the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-one.

Appeal Entd. Respd.

Signed by *J Watkins (LS)* and *W Gearot (LS)*

Appeal

Quarter Sessions 1832, Order Book, Residence: Pilkington

Upon the Appeal of the Inhabitants of the township of *Whalley*

In the said County

The Order made by *James Watkins and William Grant*

Esquires two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace and Quorum in and for the Said County of Lancaster, under their Hands and Seals, bearing Date the *tenth Day of September* last, for the Removal of *Reuben Patefield Lydia has wife and their four children Namely Ruth aged six years Mark aged four years David aged three Years and Mary aged eighteen months*

Poor Persons out of the Township of *Pilkington* in the said County of Lancaster, into the Township of *Whalley* aforesaid, the same Order is by this Court *ratified and confirmed*.

Nantwich News (11)

from the Chester Chronicle, 13 December 1924

NANTWICH WESLEYAN CIRCUIT: ADVERSE VOTE - *At the quarterly meeting of the Nantwich Wesleyan Circuit on Monday, which was one of the largest meetings ever held, the question of union with the United Methodist and Primitive Methodist Churches was voted upon. It was agreed that there should be no discussion, and the vote should be by ballot. The result of this voting was that 46 representatives voted for union and 57 against.*

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Back cover: *Churche's Mansion, Nantwich* by Espresso Addict (CC BY-SA 3.0) at English Wikipedia <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=2855589>
Built for **Richard Churche**, a local merchant, and his wife **Margerye** by **Thomas Clease** in 1577, Churche's Mansion is one of the few buildings to have survived the Great Fire of Nantwich of 1583.

Nantwich



Churche's Mansion, Hospital Street, Nantwich. Photo: Espresso Addict

Nantwich is a market town with a rich history that dates back over a thousand years. The earliest recorded mention of Nantwich was during the Roman occupation of Britain (AD 43–410). The area, located near natural brine springs, became a centre for producing salt, essential for food preservation and animal husbandry. In the Domesday Book of 1086, Nantwich was recorded as 'Wich Malbank' – 'wich' indicating a place associated with salt production.

During the medieval period, salt was one of Nantwich's most important exports, with 'wich-houses' for salt boiling, and a sophisticated trade network. In 1583 a devastating fire ravaged the town, destroying many structures. Queen Elizabeth I responded by granting a fund to aid the town's reconstruction, which helped to give rise to the iconic timber-framed buildings that define Nantwich today. The Battle of Nantwich in January 1644 saw the Parliamentary forces successfully defend the town against Royalist troops.

As Britain entered the industrial era, Nantwich moved from its salt-dependent economy to other industries, becoming an agricultural market town known for its high-quality cheese. The arrival of the canal network in the 1770s enhanced the town's connectivity and economic prospects. Today, Nantwich hosts numerous cultural events, such as the Nantwich Show and the International Cheese Awards, celebrating its agricultural roots and long history of cheese production. The town's annual Holly Holy Day reenactment of the Battle of Nantwich provides a unique glimpse into the town's Civil War heritage.