

LANCASHIRE

VOL. 44

AUGUST 2022

No. 3



THE LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY & HERALDRY SOCIETY

Formerly Rossendale Society for Genealogy & Heraldry (Lancashire)

Inaugurated 1973. Registered Charity Number 513437

President: Stephen J. Ward

Vice-Presidents: Rodney Hampson, Terry Walsh, Tony Foster, Margaret Purcell, John Dalton

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Renewals are due on the 1st January. Cheques should be crossed and made payable to Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society and sent to the Membership Secretary.

MEETING VENUES

BLACKBURN & DARWEN

Ewood Park Working Mens' Club, 318 Bolton Road, Blackburn BB2 4HY
First Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm.

BURY

**St. Francis House, adj to All Saints Church, Throstle Grove, Brandlesholme,
Bury BL8 1DL – CHECK BRANCH NEWS
Second Wednesday of the month. Afternoons or Evenings.**

CHORLEY

Cunliffe Hall (Chorley Masonic Hall), Cunliffe Street, Chorley PR7 2BE
Second Wednesday of the month doors open at 7.00 pm.

FYLDE

St. Martin's Church, Fleetwood Road South, Carleton, Poulton-le-Fylde FY6 7NL
First Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm.

HERALDRY GROUP

LFHHS Resource Centre, 2 Straits, Oswaldtwistle, Accrington BB5 3LU

HYNDBURN

**Rishton Peoples Centre, (back of Library building) 4A School Street,
Rishton, Blackburn BB1 4LJ
Doors open 6.45pm ready for 7pm start.**

IRISH ANCESTRY GROUP

2 Straits, Oswaldtwistle BB5 3LU
Saturday Workshops 1 pm – 4.30 pm as per Branch Programme.

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE

Morecambe Heritage, Unit 29 Arndale Centre, Morecambe LA4 5DH
First and third Friday 11 am – 4 pm

LONDON & SOUTH

St. Stephens' Church Hall, 48 Emperors Gate, Kensington, London SW7 4HJ
Five meetings a year on Saturdays at 2.00pm (see Branch Programmes)

PENDLE & BURNLEY

PRESTON

Kingsfold Methodist Church, Padway, Penwortham, Preston PR1 9EJ
Last Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm.

ROCHDALE

St. Andrew's U.R. Church, Entwisle Road, Rochdale OL16 2HZ
Last Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm.

ROSSENDALE

Longholme Methodist Church (opp. Bus Stn) Bacup Road, Rawtenstall BB4 7NU
First Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm.

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Front Cover Picture: War Medals

Rear Cover Picture: Great Grandma Walker

If you have a drawing or photo suitable for the front cover, kindly forward to the Editor. Thank you.

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When sending items or articles for inclusion in the journal it is now necessary for you to give permission to print your e-mail or contact details. Thank you.

BRANCH PROGRAMMES

- 9 Aug ZOOM – A Grandmother Legacy: My Family History
A complete insight how five generations of a family lived as Domiciled Anglo Indians with British ancestry on both sides of the family for almost two hundred years in India during the British Raj. -Jenny Mallin
- 10 Aug Chorley – An Evening with Edith Rigby –
Judith Beeston
- 31 Aug Rochdale – Our Local Water (Ashworth and Greenbooth Reservoirs – Sylvia Walch
- 1 Sep Blackburn & Darwen – Military: A family history point of view. Bring your queries etc.
- 7 Sep Fylde – A Continuation from the previous month –
Updates and further research
- 14 Sep Chorley – Edwin Crew – Journalist and Philanthropist –
Andy Alston
- 28 Sep Rochdale – Unusual Forenames in the 19th Century –
Denise Bates
- 5 Oct Fylde – What did you discover during 'lock down'? –
Even more mysteries?
- 6 Oct Blackburn & Darwen – Catholic Blackburn circa 1550 –
1850 – Kate Hurst
- 12 Oct Chorley – Rivington Gardens Past Present and Future
Graham Gough
- 26 Oct Rochdale – The History and Education in the 19th
Century – Edgar Holroyd-Doveton
- 29 Oct London & South – to be advised – possibly face to face
- 2 Nov Fylde – St Kilda – A Social History and connection to
Fleetwood fishermen – Steve Halliwell
- 3 Nov Blackburn & Darwen – Around the world in four years
– John East
- 9 Nov Chorley – Local War Memorials – Stewart Clewlow
- 30 Nov Preston – Christmas Party and Jacobs Join
- 30 Nov Rochdale – Christmas Party
- 1 Dec Blackburn & Darwen – Christmas Party and speaker

7 Dec Chorley – Quiz and hot pot

7 Dec Fylde – Quiz Night

28 Dec Preston – No meeting

Dec Rochdale – No meeting

2023

4 Jan Fylde – Spellbound over Fylde and Wyre –
Countryside a stone’s throw from the seaside –
Gordon and Ann Sharp

11 Jan Chorley – Members Brick Walls

25 Jan Rochdale – Charles Hardwicke – Andrew Hardwick

1 Feb Fylde – Lancaster Castle – Dr Colin Penny

22 Feb Rochdale – Research Evening

1 Mar Fylde – AGM

SOCIETY VIRTUAL MEETINGS BY ZOOM 2022

Contact: Marian Crossley

e-mail: mariancrossley74@gmail.com

for more information or check our website.

The Society Zoom talks continue to be very popular. It is lovely to talk to our members from far distant places – even Yorkshire!

So far this year we have welcomed the year in with the history of Pantomime, following it up with a talk by Denise Bates on Breach of Promise in February, just before Valentines Day just in case anyone was thinking of any rash moves on the 14th. We were put on the right track with the Hallelujah Lasses in March and detoured by Country Houses in April. Gill Blanchard has helped us to trace our house’s history.

Looking forward to the rest of the year when we look forward to a number of extremely interesting talks. For full details go to LFHHS website/Branches/Society Virtual Branch.

Looking forward to seeing you online on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7.00pm.

RAMBLINGS FROM THE EDITOR

Recently an overseas member requested via the society forum, if her ancestors had shown up on the MIs of a local churchyard. She received a few replies :- no; the date of the funeral of the ancestor at that Church and the fact that we sell microfiche on different records of that same Church. Not everyone is buried where the funeral took place.

I have several ancestors buried in that Churchyard, and purchased all the microfiche produced by the Society years ago. Not only had the Preston Branch members done a project for the MIs, but they had also been allowed sight of all the parish registers. Later the registers were also researched and produced, and it was at the end of one of these that I found a plan of the Churchyard together with grave numbers and name of the purchaser or family belonging to that grave. I slowly went through the names and plot numbers, and to my surprise found about three advising 'no stone' or 'stone broken', and the name as well. Luckily one of these was the surname of the person our member was looking for. I was able to suggest that our member contacts the 'keeper of the records' requesting what information she is looking for.

These projects were carried out when our Society was still very young, and so far as I know they have not been brought up to date since. As other projects were carried out, updating MIs were not carried out. The burial records now contain more information where stones are missing or broken.

Anyone looking through the graveyards should remember that the surname of the person purchasing the grave in the first place, may not be the only surname on the headstone. Kerb stones around graves which also contained names were taken away thereby losing information.

My grandmother died young, and left a husband and 9 surviving children. Her parents had her laid to rest in their family grave, together with two young daughters, and great grandparents.

When my grandfather died there was only room for him left. His sons wanted to put up a small headstone, which they did, and it showed their surname at the top, and included grandmothers parents and great grandparents surname underneath, even though officially the grave belonged to them. Goes to show that things are not always what they seem.

MEMBERS' ARTICLES

MILITARY WEBSITES

**With thanks to Tony Foster and the
Federation of Family History Societies**

WW1 Research : The Long, Long Trail

<https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk>

The Great War Forum

<https://www.greatwarforum.org>

WW1 – PoWs

<https://grandeguerre.icrc.org>

Australian WW1 Records

<https://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au>

Canadian WW1 Records

<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/search.aspx>

WW1-VADs

<https://vad.redcross.org.uk>

Boer War

<https://www.angloboerwar.com>

Boer War Casualties

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/1912/>

Boer War Medal Roll

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/1686/>

Blackburn and Darwen – Wars

<https://cottontown.org/Wars/Pages/default.aspx>

Burnley in the Great War & Boer War – Roll of Honour / Survived
<http://www.burnleyinthegreatwar.info>

Darwen Cemetery – War Graves
<http://darwencemetery.org.uk/war-graves/>

Darwen History – Wars (Boer, WW1, WW2)
<https://darwenheritagecentre.org.uk>

Royal Army Medical Corps WW1
<http://www.ramc-ww1.com>

British Army
<http://www.armymuseum.org.uk>

Blind Veterans
<http://blindveterans.org.uk>

Caribbean Roll of Honour
<http://www.caribbeanrollofhonour-ww1—ww2.yolasite.com>

Commonwealth War Graves Commission
www.cwgc.org

Faces of the First World War
www.flickr.com/photos/imperialwarmuseum/sets/

Forces War Records
www.forces-war-records.co.uk

Official Military Notices
www.thegazette.co.uk

Imperial War Museum Collections
www.iwm.org.uk/collections

Lives of the First World War
Livesofthefirstworldwar.iwm.org.uk

Obtaining Military Service Records
War Diaries/Regimental Records
discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk

National Railway Museum WW1 Resources
www.railwaymuseum.org.uk/research=and-archive/our-research#first-world-war

Naval History
www.naval-history.net#ww1

Naval Biography Database
www.navylist.org

War Memorials by County
www.roll-of-honour.com

Royal Flying Corps

www.airwar1.org.uk

War Graves Photographic Project

www.twgpp.org

War Memorial Archive

www.iwm.org.uk/memorials

War Memorials Online

www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk

Western Front Association

www.westernfrontassociation.com

Royal Air Force Squadrons

Military-history.fandom.com/wiki/

[List_of_Royal_Air_Force_aircraft_squadrons](#)

Far East Prisoners of War

www.fepow.family

www.cofepow.org.uk/research-database

Military Tribunals Conscientious Objectors

[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/wp-](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Military-Service-Tribunal-survey-Dec-2015-copy.pdf)

[content/uploads/2016/02/Military-Service-Tribunal-](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Military-Service-Tribunal-survey-Dec-2015-copy.pdf)
[survey-Dec-2015-copy.pdf](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Military-Service-Tribunal-survey-Dec-2015-copy.pdf)

Unrecorded casualties In From The Cold Project

www.infromthecold.org

WW1 Trench Maps

<https://maps.nis.uk/ww1/trenches/>

<https://library.mcmaster.ca/maps/ww1/ndx5to40.htm>

GREAT GRANDMA WALKER

By Liz Hedley

“Grandma Walker – Widow of the late Charles Walker of Whitley Lower – born 24th June 1809, Died at Ivy House, Preston, 17th November 1883” is written by my grandmother Ascroft’s hand on the back of an 8” high portrait photograph – one of many family photos displayed on her sideboard (see rear cover). I have never separated the oval cardboard frame from the back which is sealed with some pale blue artists’ type sealing strip. It could well be a Robert Pateson photo. I have a portrait style similar size photo of her son-in-law, William Ascroft, who Emma

Hestlewood during her time at the Harris Museum, Preston, was convinced is a photo in the style of Pateson.

Christiana (always spelt this way) Walker, my great grandma on the Ascroft side, has been established by both Yorkshire Archives (long ago), and confirmed latterly from a lot of work by a colleague who has been on Find My Past, was born on 24th June 1809, the daughter of Thomas Fawell, a surgeon, and Hannah Smith. Work is still on-going for Christiana's siblings, if any, as well as documents (but no Will) over in Yorkshire. Christiana married Charles Walker of Whitley Lower of the Parish of Thornhill, in Leeds, on 31st May 1832. He was the son of Samuel Walker of Huddersfield and Mary Wilson. Christiana and Charles Walker, a Tanner, had four daughters.

The first daughter, born 6th October 1834 (baptised 11th November 1834 in Leeds) was also named Christiana. She married William Ascroft, Attorney, and J.P. of Preston, on 27th May 1858. Christiana and William, who was a passionate educationalist attaining the Presidency of the Harris Institute for 30 years, and later Knighted in 1908 for his dedicated work in education, had eight children. William Ascroft's mother had died when he was only three and his father had re-married so I always think this may have been an influence on his befriending the Walker family. Not only did he marry the eldest daughter of the Walker family but they all in old age ended up living in Ivy House, Preston. Ivy House was internally connected to Overleigh House on Garden Street, where the Ascroft family lived. They all died in Preston and are buried in the family vaults at St. Mary's in Penwortham.

Getting back to Christiana Ascroft's mother, great grandma Christiana Walker, we think she was widowed in December 1850 as she was left an annuitment of £800. Charles (age 45) and Christiana (age 30) had been in the 1841 census with three daughters (Annie yet to be born) but by the 1851 census Charles has gone leaving four daughters – aged 16, 11, 9 and 7. By the 1861 census Christiana Walker is described as a Landed Proprietor and she is living at Laburnum Cottage, Lower

Whitley, Dewsbury with just Hannah. In the 1871 census she has just Hannah and Annie living with her – at Fartown Green, Huddersfield.

There is no clue about when great grandma Walker came to live in Preston but by the 1881 census she and her other three daughters, Hannah, Sarah and Annie, who all remained unmarried, were all living with her in Preston. Iny House and Overleigh House must have been a bubble of activity of all ages. Five of the surviving seven children of William and Christiana Ascroft were girls so maybe the Aunts from Whitley Lower were usefully kept busy.

TWO BURNLEY WORTHIES **And some remarkable coincidences**

By Rex Watson

Email: rexwatson@ntlworld.com

Introduction

I used to teach maths in higher education, and specialised in probability. Probability theory tends to frown upon the word 'coincidence', but thinking something to be 'remarkable' is a subjective matter: things just strike us as 'remarkable', whether an 'expert' would agree.

So it is that I am writing here of two men with some remarkable similarities in their lives, but also many differences, in politics, in their working lives, and in economic circumstances.

One is my paternal grandfather Richard Bright WATSON, on whom I wrote a brief biography some years ago [1]. The other is James SUTCLIFFE, Mayor of Burnley 1925-7, for whom the main sources used are substantial obituaries in local papers [2]. In fact, both men are well represented in the Burnley newspapers, in relation to their work and public service.

To summarise briefly the main similarities. Both were born in 1868, and both started as half-timers in the mill (different ones!) at the age of ten. Both the fathers were tacklers. Both had connections, albeit very different, with Haggate Baptist Church. Lastly, both became Justices of the Peace in 1928.

Although in very different positions, the two men would almost certainly have come across each other in their working lives : a further connection is that Richard lived in Stoneyholme, where James was a Councillor.

It may be wondered how I came to be interested in James. The reason is revealed in the last section. **Please, no cheating !**

Richard

As noted above, I have already written at some length about my grandfather. His father was a staunch Liberal, and gave his son the middle name Bright in honour of John BRIGHT the famous politician. Richard was born just off Oxford Road in the southern side of Burnley, but his father and earlier generations lived at Cop Row above Lane Head, just in Burnley rather than Briercliffe, hence the Haggate Baptist connection.

Richard himself became an early Socialist, being involved often, in Burnley, in an organising role by the early twentieth century, chairman of meetings, etc. For instance, he worked alongside Dan Irving, long-time local councillor, and Burnley's first Labour MP. His own attempts to be elected to the Town Council did not succeed.

His father James, although at times a tackler, was principally a twister, and Richard took up this line of work also. In the 1880s, he studied at the Mechanics Institute, and in the next decade became Secretary of the Burnley branch of the grandly named Amalgamation of Beamers, Twisters and Drawers; his father had been the first President in 1878. In 1903 the secretaryship became a full-time post, which Richard retained to his retirement in 1931. He also served on the Executive of

the Amalgamation. Locally he was Secretary to the Burnley Trades Council from 1906 to 1912.

My father recalled that his father 'tramped all over' (Burnley), in his work. He would have to visit mills to help resolve disputes. It is more than likely that he would have personally known James SUTCHIFFE, a mill owner, in this way.

Richard had I know a reputation for attention to detail, and for being thorough and fair. He gave public service in a number of ways, for example Burnley War Pensions Committee, Court of Referees at the Employment Exchange, Burnley Insurance Committee, and as a borough Elective Auditor. Such service culminated in becoming a JP in 1928, not retiring until 1945. The retirement from work in 1931 was partly due to some ill health. His health is known to have improved, and he was able to indulge his lifelong love of rambling, climbing Pendle in his eighties, and living until 1963. He had lived in the same house in Stoneyholme for about fifty-five years. He left £1083.

James

James was born in the Lane Head area, and worked at Byerden (Barden) Mill for twenty years from the age of ten. He then formed with others the George St Manufacturing Company. In 1911 he took over the Wiseman St Mill, under the name Sutcliffe and Clarkson, which he maintained until his death in 1929. This business also had spinners at Whittlefield Mill.

Politically he was a Conservative, first gaining election to the Town Council in Fulfilledge ward in 1915, then after the war until his death in Stoneyholme ward. He served on many Council committees, namely Markets, Highways, Improvement, Education, Electricity, Finance, Gas and Tramways (though maybe not all at the same time!). In fact he was Chairman of the Improvement Committee for many years, and most notably was perhaps the leading light for the reconstruction of the Yorkshire St Aqueduct (the Culvert). He also oversaw the demolition of old property in St James St, followed by the

widening of the street, and promoted the construction of arterial roads.

He was elected Mayor for the period 1925-27, and was Deputy Mayor at the time of his death.

He was a keen supporter of the Victoria hospital, introducing a 'Mills and Workshops' scheme, whereby regular collections for the hospital and other charities were made in the workforce. He himself was a regular visitor to workplaces, giving speeches to this end. (This scheme was most successful apparently, notwithstanding some times of financial distress, for example during the General Strike of 1926.)

Although a member at Sion Baptist Church, he was buried at Haggate Baptist. Unlike Richard, he was sadly not to enjoy a retirement. He lived latterly on Queens Park Rd, and left the substantial sum of £13305.

Why James?

In 1971 I came with my family to the Cambridge area to take up a job in the city. We initially rented a house in a village just outside the city, prior to buying our own. Naturally we soon made contact with neighbours. Across the driveways to the adjacent semi was another family with two children (actually it was two more months before we reached two!). As soon as I spoke to the father I knew he was from Burnley, like me, or nearby, the accent is so distinctive on the Padiham-Burnley-Brierfield-Nelson-Colne axis. Actually, Noel was from Simonstone, and had been educated at the Grammar School in faraway Clitheroe! Our families got on well, and we remained friends after we moved to our own house in another nearby village; indeed, this remains so to this day, though Noel died a few years ago.

Now the denouement : Noel was a SUTCLIFFE. A common enough NE Lancs name of course. But you can probably guess what is coming. I did not find out for some time, but Noel's

grandfather was James. If that isn't a remarkable coincidence then I don't know what is!



References

1. Retrospect Vol 32, 2014, Burnley and District Historical Society.
2. Burnley News, and Burnley Express and Advertiser, both 16 October 1929.

Comments and queries welcome.

SEP SMITH – LAST OF GREAT CHARACTERS OF OLD BLACKPOOL

By Stephen Hall (8009)

E-mail: s.hall53@btinternet.com

I thought members may be interested in the following article by Kathleen Eyre from the Evening Post, 3 May 1962, regarding my grandmother's uncle.

He could talk faster than any man living. He was a builder by trade, a bachelor by inclination. He loved boats, bargains and babies, in that order. He had precious little schooling. He wore second-hand clothes ("What's th' use of paying all them guineas for a new suit?", and he died worth nearly £16,000. That was more than three years ago, time enough for most men to have faded out of memory – but not Sep. In thirty and three years, Blackpudlians will still be chuckling over his antics for he was, without doubt, the most colourful home-product of the century.

The story begins way back in 1795 when his maternal grandparents, George and Ann Steaventon, were born. Their eight children, listed in a faded leaf of the family Bible, were Ephraim, 1819; Sarah, 1822; Elizabeth 1824; Beriah, 182-; Jemima, 1831; Dorcas, 1834; Nimrod "born 20 minutes before 3 o'clock afternoon, March 31st 1836"; and the youngest, Zillah, born November 2nd 1838.

Zillah Steventon (the spelling had varied a little) married Henry Smith, son of an old Blackpool family who started off with a fish and poultry stall near the Foxhall and finished up with an oyster saloon on the promenade, near the Wellington Hotel.

Nimble wit

They had 14 children (several died young) and were partial to biblical names. Three of the boys were called Ephraim, Isaac and Manasseh and the seventh son (hence the name Septimus) was born with a caul over his face.

There used to be a superstition amongst old-time sailors that such a one would never drown and a midwife with a caul to sell found a ready market amongst seafaring men who believed that the shrivelled membrane, carried in the pocket, would preserve them from a watery grave.

Septimus, or Sep, came tumbling into the world on 14th August 1879, burdened with epilepsy, but blessed with a nimble wit and a lively tongue that got him into more scrapes than a few during his brief period of schooling. He went willingly enough to the old Victoria School (now Tyldesley Road Employment Exchange) until he was wrongly accused of some small mischief. Sep didn't pass over that lightly. He sat on the teacher, threatened her with a brick, and was expelled.

It probably caused quite a pandemonium at home. Poor Zillah would be clucking agitatedly over her strange seventh son, but Sep would be dismissing the whole thing with contempt and a hundred well-chosen sentences (probably in rhyme).

From the start he was interested in boat building, but because of his physical affliction he could not be apprenticed to the trade. Instead of being frustrated he set about carving model ships and so surely and skilfully did he practice his art that people came for miles to watch him at work. He challenged anyone to beat him for speed and his models found a ready market. "Sep Smith challenges the world – including Yorkshire," so ran the adverts.

Timber man

From his teens he lived an independent life, doing his own housekeeping and making a living as a builder. On the side, though, he would buy and sell literally anything from copper kettles to cart-wheels; he had enough assorted timber to set the world on fire; he made a packet during the war selling second-hand wooden garden gates to householders whose iron ones had been lifted for scrap; and newly-wed relatives always received an item out of stock – second-hand, of course – he didn't believe in throwing away good money on new!

It was said, times over, that with a good education Sep could have finished up a millionaire. Certainly, if they had ever discovered a one-legged human race, he would have made Gulbenkian look like a pauper, for his warehouses were packed with hundreds upon thousands of odd shoes.

From Ashton Road he branched out to Cowley Avenue (and locked horns with the town council mainly about its name which he insisted ought to be Manners-and-Sense Road). He built more warehouses, bought more plots and put up more houses, half of them out of oddments from his stock.

He was sadly put out when Sep Avenue was re-named Dover Road. He protested loud and long to the council and when that didn't avail, he stole out at night and replaced the new nameplate with the old. It happened time and again and Blackpool rippled with laughter.

Non-stop

By this time Sep was well established as a local character and an orator of extraordinary skill. He talked non-stop. He shot rhyming couplets off the cuff with such speed that no one could record them, even in short-hand, though heaven knows he had issued challenges enough.

Whether on the top deck of a bus, in the Magistrates' Court, or on the electioneering platform, he aired his independent views with all the force and vigour of a seasoned campaigner and all the comic asides of a top-flight comedian. Injustice or muddle-headedness roused him to action and he was always ready to right wrongs with a comical letter or a burst of verbosity.

Sep made several attempts to get on to the council. What would have happened, had he been successful defies the imagination for he was determined "to put the cat among the pigeons" and the solemn fuddy-duddies of his day would have been torn between apoplexy and mirth! He never got in, as it

happens, but he goes on record as the only candidate who ever made money out of his campaigns.

His election addresses (all in rhyme, of course) were sold to the crowds who rolled up to his meetings and laughed until tears ran down their cheeks. Free toilets for ladies, making uphill run downhill and vice-versa, and straightening all the corners on twisting roads were the main planks in his platform, but underlying his apparent nonsense were sound ideas, for developments and the putting through of new roads, which were later adopted, but for which the credit was never laid at Sep's door.

The wags were more intent on pulling his leg. "Hey Sep," shouts one, during question time (you've heard this before but it's worth repeating) .."How many tooaz ez a pig?"

"I don't know lad, but tek thi booits off and I'll count 'em." Always the snappy back answer, sharp but good humoured. Sep was a great one at the repartee.

Came unstuck

One time he knocked up a hand-cart out of oddments and a friend called in and admired it. "By gum, Sep," he says, "that's a good 'un. How've you med it?"

"Out of me head, lad. And there's enough wood left to mek another just like it".

If asked where he was going to leave his money, the reply was "Whittingham Asylum, made and if you're there first you'll get a share." He came unstuck once, though, when he spent weeks constructing a boat in the front room. It was big and beautiful and, when it was finished, he couldn't get it through the door. It had to be dismantled. These and similar stories kept Blackpool supplied with free entertainment for years.

But Sep Smith was no man's fool. All over the country he had friends in high places who welcomed his visits and looked out

for his hand-made rhyming cards at Christmas. He never drank, smoked or got married – although the late Lady Mountbatten’s mother had always promised to pay for his wedding ring. He did have one young lady friend once, however, and he loaded her up with presents; but when they fell out, he asked her for them back. That was his one and only venture into the world of romance.

Devoted, generous

The tales are legion of Sep the firebrand, the eccentric, the wit, the ambulant politician, but from his nieces, Mrs Evans of Bolton-le-Sands and Mrs Copeland of Marton, emerges a picture of a devoted, generous uncle and a lovable man.

He was a strange mixture of parsimony and extravagance. His home was comfortable, his table groaned with good food, but his carpets were threadbare. He combed Preston and Fleetwood markets for remnants and spent more than ever their value in postage sending them on.

His clothes were rough; sometimes he looked rather too jaunty in a feathered green trilby hat which he had picked up for sixpence; and once he was seen standing on the steps of a Marton polling station for 12 solid hours saluting the voters in the freezing cold and wearing neither coat nor socks.

New babies were his joy and an excuse for calling daily with parcels of toys; and hospital patients never lacked visitors while Sep was alive – he rolled up with his non-stop chatter and grapes wrapped up in newsprint. He always had sweets in his pocket to hand out to children and people he met on buses and he was sadly missed by the drivers and clippies for whom he had enlivened many a dull journey.

Many never realised that Sep took a great delight in the countryside. At lambing time he was there, helping the farmers round Weeton and Elswick .. and at the same time, no doubt, talking them into a good purchase, or to a standstill. He could be touchy (but then, who of us can’t): he would state his price

flatly and refuse to haggle; he loved buying food, and giving it away; he was always clean spoken; he did much good in quiet ways; and in his rough and ready style he was generous to a degree.

There will never be another like Sep, who died in December 1958. Kind and colourful he certainly was, and "A clever chap" says my Jane. "He'd a good head on him, and could he talk!"

Could he, indeed? Ask anyone in Blackpool!

EARLY DAYS OF THE 'LANCASHIRE' JOURNAL

By Judith Bourke

The Rossendale Society for Genealogy and Heraldry began publishing their journal *Lancashire* in 1975. Forty-seven years on, *Lancashire* is still being published, now as the journal of the Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society. In those early days before the internet, the journal was an important source of information, with its aims 'to assist and encourage members in the study of Genealogy and Heraldry. To locate, publish and distribute obscure records and to enthuse further preservation'. The Society has available back issues from 1975 through to 2004, all on three CDs. I recently bought these and find them fascinating – so fascinating in fact that I'm only up to 1977.

Something to think about in the first place is how much harder it was back then to put together an issue. This was well before home computers and word processing. Information for the articles had to be acquired by researchers travelling to libraries, churches and record offices. Their notes were either written in block letters or dictated onto tape cassettes (remember those?) to make the job of the volunteer typists easier. All content was typed onto stencils which were then run off on a Gestetner machine. I remember stencils; mine always looked like they had measles from liberal use of the pink correcting fluid.

Each issue not only had an extensive illustrated article about Heraldry, but also much family history information, most welcome when there was nothing online and nobody was online. For example, there were comprehensive lists of various libraries' holdings of genealogical resources and interesting snippets of censuses in which Lancashire folk featured. These are all readily available online now, but the documents transcribed for the journal that were in danger of being lost through deterioration, are not. The CDs of the back numbers are therefore a valuable supplementary source of information to that found online.

The first item so transcribed was the 'Blackburn Churchwarden's Report for 1753'. This was serialized over four issues, followed by the 'Blackburn Churchwardens' Report for 1751'. This latter volume was in better physical shape than the former, hence its later transcription. These two documents give a fascinating glimpse into the parish welfare system in the mid-18th century when over £150 a year was spent on relieving the poor and on parish business.

Many of the items were for small amounts of money to tide people over a bad time, from sickness or childbirth for instance, but some people received money regularly. A weekly amount could be one shilling or one-and-six. Some got four shillings a month, and the odd one was paid twelve shillings a quarter. While the weekly amount was actually a better deal, perhaps receiving the bigger sum monthly or quarterly meant that savings could be made by buying in larger quantities. Perhaps the weekly people couldn't be trusted to look after a larger sum. As well as money, 'meal' and coal were also provided as necessary.

The parish also made sure the parishioners were decently clothed, buying fabric and having shirts and smocks made up for the indigent. James Greenall was paid 3s 9d for four yards of cloth and thread, plus 6d for making two shirts for Grase Walton's boy. The occasion of a child's being bound an apprentice also necessitated new clothes. When Prudence

Starkie was apprenticed to Richard Smithis, William Roberts' son was paid 3s 4d for 3 yards and a quarter of cloth and thread for two shifts. A pair of stockings for her cost 9d. Later that year Prudence also received a gown and petticoat (9s) and a pair of stays (4s).

A small fee was required to bind a child as an apprentice, but if the master was out of the parish a hefty 'consideration' was required. It cost one guinea consideration money when John Bolton was 'bound an apprentice to John Whalley belonging to Broughton near Manchester', plus another shilling 'at binding the same boy'. The consideration money was even more for James Starkey bound an apprentice to Thomas Lowcock near Skipton: three pounds. Perhaps that's why 'the said boy' only received a 'second hand coat and a pair of britches' for 5s. 2d. His hat, shoes and stockings cost another 4s.½d.

I was surprised that there wasn't a standard cost for a pauper's funeral. It varied widely from a low total of 3s 7½d for the burial of Mark Benson's child to 13s 3½d for Betty Early's child. Coffins could cost from 2d to 4s 6d, but usually were 4s. Another variable cost, surprising to me, was for food and drink, sometimes listed as bread and ale. This was not always provided but could be up to 4s 6d or as little as 2d. This last amount was for the funeral for Betty Waddington's child who received the twopenny coffin. Church dues and grave costs were fairly standard; tolling and a bier adding to the cost of a few funerals. Two were allowed twopence for candles.

While most of the funeral expenses were fairly standard, additional expenses were incurred at the funeral of Lawrence Abbott. He had the works: church dues, bier, tolling and coffin, as well as candles and four shillingsworth of bread and drink 'at town'. Then the following expenses also seem to be related to this funeral: 'Paid for drink at Darwin - Moorgate, that went to Jos Pomfret for the carriers 2s - 10s; Paid Jos Pomfret for 2 weeks and 3 days meat for Old Lawrence Abbott, 6s; Paid the same for loss of time at the burial and attendance in his sickness and stoppage of house, 5s'. The total was £1.11s 5d,

not counting the eight shillings for coffin and bread and drink at town. Old Loll Abbott had been receiving cash and rent from the parish since at least 1751, though his rent at seven shillings a year was one of the lowest.

Marriages too were sometimes paid for by the parish. Much trouble was sometimes necessary to have a couple marry when a child was on the way. This was in order that a 'bastard' was not born who could be an expense to the parish for years. On 5 June 1751, the parish 'Paid for a warrant for Robert Eccles having a bastard fyliated on him by Peg Place, 2s 0d; Paid for fetching her to filliate it, 6d. Five days later on 10 July: 'Horsehire and expence to catch Robert Eccles having got Peg Place with child, 3s 0d; Paid for a licence for marriage of [Robert Eccles and Peg Place], £1.5s 0d; Paid marriage dues for [same], 6s 0d; Paid for meat and drink at marriage and keeping him and her all night, 5s 7d.' One wonders if such a forced marriage would be happy. A possible baptismal record is found on Ancestry of Bartholomew, son of Robert Eccles, Plodweaver, of Lower-fold at Great Harwood on 3 November 1751.

The Churchwardens' reports show payments for many different items, such as the cost of hiring a horse to go to Preston on parish business. Pairs of bed stocks and cording were sometimes bought, and chaff mattresses and bolsters. In the listing of poorhouse expenses, Old Law was treated to a shave four times. It cost fourpence to bleed Mary Cowborn twice. Groceries are listed: butter was 5d a pound, and nine pounds of treacle (tracle, trakol) cost 1s 7½d. 'Sope' cost one shilling. The poorhouse probably made its own beer as 5½d was spent on hops. An interesting item was 'Paid Ann Nabb for a Daffs Bottle for Mary Cowborn'. **What is a 'Daffs Bottle'?** It cost 1s 3d – more than some people's weekly allowance. Was this Daffy's Elixir?: The most important ingredients of this cure-all were alcohol and senna which may explain its long popularity from the 17th to the 19th century.

For genealogists and historians alike, these two documents are gems, offering so much more of the lives of these people than

mere names and dates. I am looking forward to reading more of these back issues of *Lancashire*, and would heartily recommend the purchase of these CDs. These are available from the shop at £4.50 each, listed under 'CDs Genealogy Miscellaneous'.

SOCIETY PEDIGREE DATABASE

By David Bretherton

The LFHHS Pedigree database is a live database hosted on the LFHHS website. It contains over 160 Pedigrees (40,000 names) submitted by members in the hope and anticipation that through the database contact may be made with other members researching the same families.

A person's pedigree is their direct line of ancestors. These generally double at each generation level so, starting with two parents, after eight generations there could be over four hundred names. It is not a Family Tree as branches from the direct line are not allowed, neither are step parents.

There should be a link to Lancashire, after all it is the LFHHS Pedigree database, but names with locations away from Lancashire are allowed. In the database there are a number of locations included throughout the British Isles with some names in USA and Australia as well.

Variations in spelling of place names can make searching the database difficult so the Pedigree coordinator tries to keep the place names in accord with the gazetteer of place names provided with Family Tree Maker software. Although that cannot always differentiate between such places as Bolton (4 of), Ashton (3), Claughton (2), Thornton (2) and so on.

Variations in surname spelling are also a potential source of miss matches and so there should be consistency of spelling within a pedigree, although this cannot be said for variations

across pedigrees, e.g. Haworth and Howarth are not the same family and so will not be matched.

Submission of a pedigree can be done at any time, although updating of the whole Pedigree database is only carried out periodically. Pedigrees can be submitted in any format. The simplest being through an electronic GEDCOM file which can be generated from most family history databases. A Pedigree can be submitted manually and forms are available on the website to help gather the information.

There are guidance notes on how data should be prepared for the LFHHS pedigree database. If the data does not conform then the Co-ordinator may ask you to re-submit but normally the conformity changes are made as it is being typed up.

PEDIGREE DATABASE INFORMATION SHEET

By submitting your information, you are indicating your willingness for your pedigree to be entered into a computer database where it will be compared with the pedigrees of other members.

PLEASE NOTE that apart from your initial, surname and membership number (necessary to be able to identify the pedigree for contact purposes), personal identity details will not be published on the pedigree database, neither will those of any of your ancestors who are still living.

Completing your Pedigree Chart

1. Please print clearly or type, using capitals for surnames.
2. Enter your name, address, membership number, email address and date of compilation in the heading.
3. Fill the chart according to the following pattern:
Print your own name on the line in space number 1 with your details below.
Print your father's name on the line in space number 2 with his details below.

Print your mother's name on the line in space number 3 with her details below.

Continue in this fashion, remembering that the male lines are even numbers, e.g. your grandfather on your father's side is number 4, and your grandmother on your father's side is number 5. If your ancestors were married more than once (quite common in the 19th century) show only the spouses from which you are descended.

4. Always use a woman's maiden name; if not known then substitute [...].
5. Dates are important and should preferably be given thus: 25 Dec 1878. Otherwise, year only or month and year are ok, approximate dates are also ok, e.g. abt 1856. The database recognises the double dates of the Julian period, e.g. 13 Feb 1729/30. If you only know the year and quarter from the General Register Index, e.g. quarter ending March 1842, this will be entered as Nar 1742.
6. Place names are very important and should be included to help identify your relative. They should refer to the historical county and thus be pre the 1974 council's re-organisation. Only include the name of the town or village; information on buildings i.e. church/cemetery should be included in the notes field. Please ensure that you have the full place name e.g. Poulton le Fylde, Lancs, don't just say "Poulton, Lancs" as there are three Poultons in Lancashire; the same is true for many other place names.
7. The first chart will take you back to your great-grandparents. If you have earlier information, please use the continuation sheets and enter the first person number as x reference. Fill in as many additional charts as are needed to complete your pedigree.
8. If you store your family history on a computer, you can:
 - 1) Produce a paper pedigree ensuring that your printer does not truncate any of the information and send to the address below. I will endeavour to type it up correctly.

- 2) Send your pedigree as a GEDCOM file. Most family history software will allow you to export your pedigree in the standard file format, known as GEDCOM, which was developed to allow the interchange of family history data between computers using different software. The LFHHS pedigree database requires only birth, baptism, marriage, death or burial dates and places of your direct ancestors (where these are available) as per the chart layout – all other details will be discarded. If you are unsure how to export a pedigree from your family history programme contact the Pedigree Database Co-ordinator for advice. If you send a GEDCOM of your family tree a pedigree will be extracted for inclusion in the database and all other names deleted.
9. Once entered into the database your pedigree will be compared with the pedigrees of other members. You will then be sent details of members researching the same family names in the same area. Sometimes one or other of your family names has not appeared in the index before or has not appeared before in the same area; this is disappointing. However, once your family names are in the database, new members who are researching the same names in the same areas will be sent your details. The intention is for mutual help and research. If you don't wish to enter into correspondence with other members please indicate this and your details will not be passed on to other members.
10. Unless you request otherwise, your pedigree will be published on the Members Only area of the Society's website, to facilitate searching others with the same name. The names will be referenced with your Membership Number only. Contact with other members researching the same names can only be made through LFHHS. Your pedigree will be withdrawn from the website if your membership is not kept up to date.

However brief your pedigree, do not hesitate to submit a pedigree as you are more likely to benefit from the information that can be made available to you from existing pedigrees in the database.

Send your completed form to the Pedigree Database Co-ordinator:

David Bretherton, 33 Towersey Drive, Thame OX9 3NR
Or by email to: pedigrees@lfhhs.org.uk

DEATHS NOTIFIED

Pat Sullivan - Hyndburn

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of the above.

BOOK REVIEWS ETC

Books for review in the journal should be sent to:
Ian White, 23 School Fold, Hesketh Bank, West Lancs PR4 6RE or ian.white4@live.co.uk

Have you had a book published and would like a review in the Society journal? Simply forward a copy to Ian White, address as above.

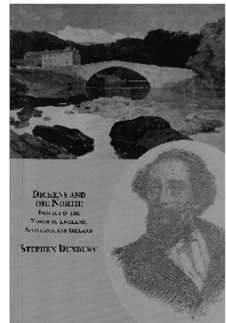
If you have reviewed a book, you have read and think it would interest some of our members, you may simply

**forward the review to
Hazel Johnson, editor@lfhhs.org.uk or
hazel.johnson2@btopenworld.com as usual. Thank you.**

**DICKENS AND THE NORTH – TRAVELS IN THE
NORTH OF ENGLAND, SCOTLAND AND IRELAND**
by Stephen Duxbury, Member No. 519

It is difficult to attain a comprehensive view of the inspiration the North had on Dickens little known travels to the North of England, Scotland and Ireland from his writings and biographies, but in this excellent book, Stephen Duxbury, a long-term member of this society, has produced the first comprehensive account of those travels and experiences together with details of Dickens itineraries and influences of important areas such as in Cumberland, Yorkshire and Lancashire, filling a gap giving in his literature. The author, a native of Nelson, aims at introducing a previously unknown peripheral family connection to Dickens, and to reveal other obscure details of Dickens life.

Along with Wilkie Collins, a decision was made to head for the hills of Cumberland having been struck by the details of Carrock Fell, fifteen miles to the south-east of Carlisle, but there was no doubt the intention was to head for Doncaster to make observations of the St. Leger Race Day for his publication '*Household Words*.' The choice of title for this adventure was '*The lazy Tour of Two Idle Apprentices*,' taking the train from London Euston on the 7th September 1857, arriving in Carlisle on a busy market morning (beautifully described by Mr Duxbury) but disparaging to Dickens opinion. Thus begins a tour of Cumberland, onward to Lancashire, the '*Idle Apprentices*' made their way to several towns and cities including Liverpool, Dickens favourite city outside London before the journey to Doncaster having experienced the industrial side of the North West.



It would be easy to paraphrase Mr Duxbury's words and carry on with an account of all the adventures of the '*Idle Apprentices*,' the volume of their travels and experiences is quite remarkable and must surely have absorbed him with access to a veritable library of Dickensia. The book of nearly 250 pages concludes with an afterword describing the authors tenuous links with Charles Dickens through his 3x great-grandfather Edward Alport Gratton. Edward Gratton's daughter, Mary married James Gilbert who became a business partner of Edward Gratton, and Edward was able to publish illustrations for '*The Pickwick Papers*' produced by Thomas Onwhyn (also known as Sam Weller).

A really interesting fact filled book of value to historians and officianados of Dickensian times, thank you Stephen Duxbury for the opportunity to review the book for our members.

Published by the Greywood Press, ISBN 978-572231-9-6

Reviewed by Ian White

I have received two small booklets from Rex Watson, a member of LFHHS No. 221, he has self-published which introduces –

**THE EARLY DAYS OF COLNE BAPTIST CHURCH
PARTICULARLY RELATING TO THE NEW MEETING
HOUSE OF 1788**

and

**MORMONS IN MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY
MIDDLETON (LANCS) AND VICINITY**

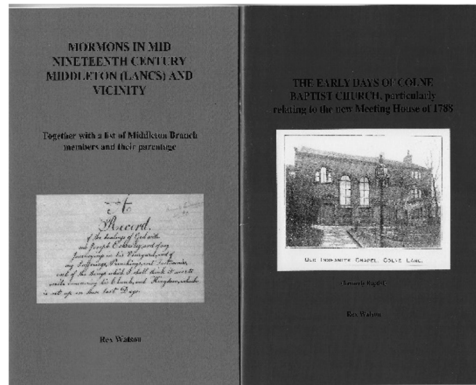
The Baptist Church in Colne was formed in the late 1760s or 1770s 'Particular', with Calvinistic theology, rather than 'General', with Arminian (the doctrine of Jacobus Arminius) theology. Quite a few other Baptist Churches in the area pre-dated Colne, and Barnoldswick, formed before 1700, and Haggate,

formed just a few years earlier than Colne, both had a part to play in its earliest days. Access to archives described as the 'Stuttard Papers' and a book 'Foundations' by Percy STOCK has enabled Mr Watson to build up a substantial record of the church's fortunes in the period around 1788, the year that the new meeting house was opened. Stock devoted his book the raising of funds for the new meeting house in Colne and this is the main theme of this booklet.

The second booklet, Mormons in Mid-Century Middleton, owes a great deal to the efforts in transcribing and indexing all manner of records, individual members of the church were encouraged to track down their ancestors, and indeed put them forward for church ordinances posthumously. Much has been written on the history of the Mormons, particularly of the emigration and westward movements in America, not surprisingly, often by American Mormons themselves. In this booklet a journal kept from 1841 to 1850 by a prominent church member Joseph ECKERSLEY, of the membership records of the Middleton branch running from 1842 to 1865 and the Minutes of the Branch Council meetings.

The booklets include bibliographies and appendices of members with indications of members who emigrated from Middleton. These are very useful resources for family and local historians and are available at £5.00 each inclusive of p&p from Mr Watson – rexwatson@ntlworld.com

Reviewed by Ian White



Julie Parker, member 10988 has kindly provided two books of her One-Name-Study (GOONS) as a gift for our library.

THE RIGMAIDEN STORY – A LANCASHIRE FAMILY

By Julie Parker – Member 10988

A little surprise came through the post the other day, two self-published books under cover of a lovely colour postcard introducing Mrs Parker's One-Name-Study of the Rigmaiden family, parts one and two, part three is in the making, inviting Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society to take the books into our library in view of their topicality.

(Coincidentally the Rigmaiden family also featured in a talk by Dr Michael Winstanley, well known academic of Lancaster University at the Cumbria Family History Society Summer Conference in Burton-in-Kendal).

Julie writes:

I decided to register a One Name Study for the name of Rigmaiden when I came across the name in my grandmother's family tree. Her grandmother, Catherine Almond, had married James Rigmaiden in Liverpool in 1861. Upon investigating further, I discovered the name originated in Cumbria in a place north of Kirby Lonsdale and the first occurrences were in the 1200s. Not long after the first occurrences of the name I then discovered that the family had been lords of the manor in a place called Wedacre, east of Garstang, for about four hundred years. The manorial records are held in a private collection belonging to the descendants of the Duchess of Hamilton who took the estate over after the Rigmaiden family declined there. There was a mystery surrounding the relationship between James Rigmaiden and my 2 x great grandmother, Catherine. I tracked James down in Australia in 1863 through newspaper reports and again some years later, but there is no further mention of him in records in the UK. So, I don't know what happened to him, nor do I know what happened to Catherine.

As I studied the Liverpool family and traced some descendants,

I became more interested. Although not from the top echelon of Lancashire families they still seem to have been involved in key moments in history. One of the family was a slave ship captain and later a merchant. One was a Royal Navy Commander. Another was an MP for Blyth in Nottinghamshire (in the 15th century) and in the 16th century, being Roman Catholics, they were subject to great persecution. Three became Benedictine priests and seem to have practised their vocation in England in a time when it was most dangerous to do so, indeed it was almost unheard of. Another was closely connected to the Henry who became Henry V when he was a young man, and afterwards.

One young man, a highway robber, was sentenced to death but reprieved and sent to Virginia as an indentured servant and where he became a schoolteacher. He would have been one of the last batches to have been sent to Virginia before convicts were sent to Australia. Another individual, of the Liverpool branch of the family, arrived in Louisiana (his earlier years and how he got there are sketchy but he was rumoured to have fallen in with pirates!) where he married and had a family. He had a small farm/plantation but did have at least one female slave called Felonease. The Rigmaiden family exists now in the United States and they are descended either from Thomas and his sons or from Felonease. His sons were involved in the American Civil War and at least one was killed. This Louisiana Rigmaiden kept a diary which still survives in a local archive which mentions many local families as well as his own.

In Lancashire, during their long history there, the Rigmaiden's married into many other Lancashire families many of whom had well known and long rooted Lancashire names. I have written up their story from the 13th century to 1600 in two publications which are available for £10 each plus postage. Anybody who might be interested in the family can contact me at julieparker88@hotmail.com I am currently writing up the third part which deals with the period 1700 to 1800. It seemed to me the best way to preserve the story of the family and the research I have done over the years. It may not be the perfect

way but at least the work won't be lost and I can feel that I have done all I can!

The books are available from Mrs Parker at julieparker88@hotmail.com, priced at £10.00 plus £1.85 postage each. The books cover the 15th and 16th century in England and part three will take this family history to the end of the 17th century at which stage the story moves to the United States. There is a valuable resource of family surnames available in the books and much potential for researchers of the Rigmaiden family name.

Reviewed by Ian White

ECONOMIC HISTORY OF ROSSENDALE (1927)

By G. H. Tupling

Published January 2022 by Carnegie Publishing, Carnegie House, Chatsorth Road, Lancaster LA1 4SL
Tel: 01524 840111

Limited edition hardback, 288 pages, £30
www.carnegipublishing.com

This history classic is available again. It has been brought back into print. A facsimile of the original, the book has a new introduction and guide to further reading by Professor Roger Richardson of the University of Winchester (author of many books on early modern England), who like so many historians regard the work as a landmark study.

Tupling (1883 – 1962) lived and worked in the Rossendale Valley for most of his life and wrote this pathfinding study of that region on the basis of intimate first-hand knowledge. In his highly original, probing and well-written examination of the long-standing dual economy of agriculture and industry there from the Middle Ages to the nineteenth century, he was way

ahead of his time in using fieldwork as well as written sources. This history classic still has much to teach historians today, more than ninety years after it was first published.

Copies of the original have long been very difficult and expensive to obtain, so an affordable reprint is long overdue and is sure to be warmly welcomed.

“This is local history of an altogether new kind” (Arthur Redford enthusiastically greeting the book when it was first published in 1927)

“remains essential reading for economic historians of any county (Jenny Kermode)

“probably the most knowledgeable Lancashire historian who has ever lived” (Prof. J. S. Roskell)

FOR MILITARY INTERESTS MEMBERS

By Mike Coyle

I recently came across a website with rentable (£2.99) videos, to watch online, to assist family historians in researching the Military and those who served.

It's at : [Military History – Family History TV \(family-history.tv\)](http://family-history.tv)

Well worth a look. The site also offers videos on other Family History, Social History and House history topics.

THE DEAD MAN'S PENNY

The World War One Memorial Plaque

By Ian White

Ian.white4@live.co.uk

Some years ago, in the happy days when I was an enthusiastically active member of the team of Family History Society volunteers attending Fairs and Conferences, (I still am pandemic restrictions permitting), I was always involved in helping fellow members and members of the public in their

family history research quest. From time to time I happened upon an item of interest, a particular medal or even an item or two that a visitor donated. After over a couple of decades of this endeavour, I now have a varied collection of miscellaneous items gracing my desk drawers, office shelving and walls. Particular amongst this collection is a 'Dead Man's Penny' together with two medals, the George V Silver 1914-1918, and the 1914-1915 Star, all the awards to Private James Alfred ROBERTS G/4025 of the 7th Bn, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) who died on Wednesday, 4th October 1916 following injuries incurred at Thiepval in the battle of the Somme. There are strong feelings that, though he was a member of a South of England Battalion, he would have close North of England family connections.

The **World War One Memorial Plaque** was made from Bronze, weighing 350gms and sized at 120mm, hence it was popularly known as the "Dead Man's Penny" among front-line troops, also becoming widely known as, the "Death Penny", "Death Plaque" or "Widow's Penny". 100 years ago, British soldiers were involved in the fierce fighting of the First World War's Battle of the Somme in northern France. The battle was one of the conflict's bloodiest, lasting for 141 days over a 15-mile front.

After the war, the family of every serviceman killed received this bronze plaque of condolence, also known as the 'Dead Man's Penny' or 'Death Penny' because of its resemblance to the coin. 1,355,000 were issued, made from 450 tons of bronze. No rank was stated, because there was no distinction made between the sacrifice of individuals.



It was in October 1916 that the British Government set up a committee for the idea of a commemorative plaque that could be given to the next of kin for those men and women whose deaths were due to the First World War of 1914-18. The first a family would know of the death of family member was the arrival of a telegram from the War Office. This would be followed by the World War One Death Plaque and any medals the serviceman would have earned serving his country. The original plaque was a 12-centimetre disk cast in bronze gunmetal, which included an image of Britannia and a lion, two dolphins that represented Great Britain's sea power and the emblem of Imperial Germany's eagle being torn to pieces by another lion. Britannia is holding an oak spray with leaves and acorns. Beneath this was a rectangular tablet where the deceased name was cast into the plaque. No rank was given as it was intended to show equality in their sacrifice. On the outer edge of the disk, it bears the inscription, '*He died for freedom and honour*'. The memorial plaque was posted to the next of kin protected by a firm cardboard purpose made folder, which was then placed in a white HMSO envelope.

Production of the plaques and scrolls, which was supposed to be financed by German reparation money, began in 1919 with approximately 1,350,000 issued. They commemorated those who fell between 4th August, 1914 and 10th January, 1920 for home, Western Europe and the Dominions whilst the final date for the other theatres of war or for those died of attributable causes was 30th April 1920. The next of kin of the 306 British and Commonwealth military personnel who were executed following a Court Martial did not receive a memorial plaque. Private Roberts is remembered at the Debt of Honour Register at the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France, full details are available from the CWGC. I would like to extend an invitation to anyone of James Alfred's family to make contact with me and I would be most happy to donate this valuable collection to the rightful family for their retention.

NOTES AND NEWS

SOCIETY HELP DESK AT TARLETON LIBRARY

Ian White and Jennifer Benson have restarted their regular help sessions at Tarleton Library. Everyone welcome.

FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH, 10.00 am to 12.00 pm

BRANCH NEWS

BLACKBURN & DARWEN

Branch e-mail: blackburn@lfhhs.org.uk

BURY

Secretary: Stephen John Ward

Tel: 07956 583818

Branch e-mail: bury@lfhhs.org.uk

Since returning to face-to-face meetings after the Pandemic Restrictions, we had our first meeting in our new home. This was caused by the old room being required by our landlords. We now meet at St. Francis House, adjacent to All Saints Church, Throstle Grove, Brandlesholme, Bury BL8 1ED

There is parking available in the Church car park. The entrance to the car park is on the left, under some trees about 20 yards after turning into Hebburn Drive from Throstle Grove.

Our first meeting there was our AGM in March, in which we discussed the future of the Branch.

It was decided that we would trial alternate afternoon and evening meetings through the summer period, with only afternoon meetings in the winter.

So, for anyone wishing to attend our branch meetings on the second Wednesday of each month :-

In the months of July and September we will meet in the evenings from 7.00pm to 9.00pm.

In the months of August, October and November 2022, we will meet in the afternoons between 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

There will be no meetings in either December 2022 and January 2023.

In the months of February and March 2023 we will be meeting in the afternoons from 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

We had our first afternoon meeting in June, the speaker being John Dalton who told us about the Lancashire Parish Register Society. A well received talk by all who attended. We actually had a few people who hadn't been coming in the evenings, so I hold out great hope that our trial will be well accepted, we will just have to wait and see.

Submitted by Stephen John Ward
Bury Branch Chairman

CHORLEY

Secretary: Steve Williams, 24 The Cedars, Eaves Green,
Chorley PR7 3RH

And

Bernard Cliffe, 6 Meadow View, Adlington,
Chorley, Lancashire PR6 9SH

Branch e-mail: chorley@lfhhs.org.uk

FYLDE

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In April we began the year with Bob Dobson bringing along a selection of his books, we also had donations from some members. It was enjoyable to get together again. We welcomed 3 visitors, one of whom as a new member of the Society.

June was celebration time and people brought souvenirs of the Coronation of our Queen. As with the rest of the country, families had bought a TV for the viewing of the event. My goodness, to think of the teeny screen, no colour. We used to go to the cinema to watch Pathe News in colour. We had visitors who had come to join, which was lovely.

In July we began with a presentation from Mike regarding the story of Uncle Bernard and continued with information on how to research ancestors who served in the military of any variation. He brought a hand out sheet to share information so that we could have help at hand when we were researching on our own at home. Avis had loaned a lot of documents relating to Uncle James who lost his life at the battle in which he gained the Military Medal. I was able to show everyone the copy of what became known as the "death penny" and other medals and an oak leaf. There were obituaries from Radcliffe Times for him, along with 2 other brothers who were also killed. James was taken prisoner by the Germans, when he died his body was handed back to the British Army. There was a lot more information and Mike and others had brought photographs and other family treasures to show. A very interesting evening. Sad to think of these events. Mike had just been given a huge book regarding a sailor who had lost his life.

August was when we had a family history workshop, help and advice etc for everyone and our 2 visitors were interested in asking for help. I remember when I did not understand all the

short forms, we have to go back to when we began and think of how we had to get our head around GRO etc. etc. We have further workshops in September and October. We hope to be able to continue to help those present to trace their ancestors further back and find information about where they lived and died.

In November we will have a visit from Steve Halliwell when he will tell us about St Kilda and a connection to Fleetwood fishermen and then we end the year with a Quiz Night and Jacobs Join.

We look forward to seeing members who have not returned since Covid and hope that no one has suffered the "Long" Covid and have fully recovered. Get well soon, if you are not well

HERALDRY GROUP

HYNDBURN

(covering Accrington, Altham, Church, Clayton le Moors, Gt Harwood, Oswaldtwistle & Rishton)

Secretary: Eileen Bullock, 51 Hawthorn Avenue,
Oswaldtwistle,
Accrington. Lancs BB5 3AE
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After a disappointing response to our trial of afternoon meetings the decision was taken to return to evening meetings but brought forward to the first Thursday of the month. As Bank Street is unavailable in the evening we agreed to use 2 Straits, Oswaldtwistle until a more suitable venue could be found – and now it has.

As from the first Thursday in August our meetings will be held in:

**Rishton Peoples Centre,
situated at the back of the Library building,
4A School Street, Rishton BB1 4LJ**

It is a ground floor room and suitable for disabled visitors. The doors will be open from 6.45pm ready for a 7pm start to proceedings and our first speaker will be the manager who will show us how to renovate old photographs.

Please come along and visit us in our new home. Details of our future programme will be posted on the website as soon as they are available.

Sadly all our news is not good. Pat Sullivan was one of the early members of the Society and was one of the founding members of Hyndburn Branch. She was the Secretary for many years and responsible for much of the research done by the Branch. She welcomed all new members and could always be relied on when help was required.

In recent years ill health meant she was unable to attend meetings and she was greatly missed but she has left us a wonderful legacy.

IRISH ANCESTRY GROUP

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LANCASTER & MORECAMBE

Morecambe Heritage Centre, Unit 29 Arndale Centre,
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Branch e-mail: lancaster@lfhhs.org.uk

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No detailed report this time I am afraid.

Our Chairman is having problems with his knees and is not able to drive. We have therefore cancelled our meetings for the time being.

LONDON & SOUTH

Branch e-mail: london2@lfhhs.org.uk
Saint Stephen's Church Hall,
48 Emperors Gate,
Kensington, London SW7 4HJ

Joint Cumbria/Lancashire/Cheshire/London & South

Dr James Ryan, an Irish lecturer and author based in Dublin, gave an online talk on 2 April on Irish records. What records are available depends on the social circumstances of your ancestors; the better-educated and wealthier will have left more records than poorer people, while the more affluent counties or regions have more comprehensive records than poorer ones, and urban areas than rural ones. There is a social and economic line from Limerick to Dundalk in County Louth with social conditions more comfortable below the line. To locate where your ancestors lived it is important to know the townland (not the same as a town but an area), civil parish and county as these are the areas within which the records are organised. Civil records were kept from 1864, and most are available online at www.irishgenealogy.ie up to 100 years ago for birth records, 75 years ago for marriages and 50 years ago for deaths. Images of the actual registers can be downloaded for free. Only the 1901 and 1911 census returns are available with remnants of the returns from 1821 to 1891. The origins are at the National Archives in Dublin but they can be viewed for free at www.census.nationalarchives.ie, which has a very powerful search engine. In addition to the standard information, such as name, relationship to head of household, the returns include religion, education (can they read and write), and if they spoke the Irish language. The 1911 return also includes the number of years couples were married, how many children born alive and the number still living. The three main religious denominations are Catholic, Church of Ireland and Presbyterian. Until 1860 very few records were kept for the Catholic Churches and the format was decided by the priest, but the mother's maiden name was always recorded. From 1860 pro-forma registers were kept for baptisms and these

give a lot of information, such as godparents' names. Many parish records have been indexed on FindMyPast and Ancestry. Digitised images of microfilm to 1880 are in the National Library of Ireland and can be viewed on-line; www.registers.nli.ie. Although the rules for the Church of Ireland stated that records should be kept, in practice this did not happen until the middle of the 18th century. Baptism records do not give the mother's or godparents' names. There is a current project to digitise the surviving records. The website www.ireland.anglican.org has a list of the Church of Ireland parish registers. Most Presbyterians were in Ulster. Baptismal and marriage records were not kept until the early 1800s, but information can be found in, for example, Kirk Session minutes and Communicants Roll Books. There is a significant collection in the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) and there is a Presbyterian Historical Society.

Land records are also a useful source of information. Tithe Applotments were paid by all qualifying people, regardless of denomination, to the Church of Ireland. The books are available at the National Archive for Ireland. Griffiths' Valuation was conducted between the 1840s and the 1860s. It lists the land occupiers and, in the absence of contemporary census returns, is useful for locating a family and getting an understanding of their status. The records are available at www.askkaboutireland.ie and on FMP and Ancestry. Rentals are part of the Estate papers of landowners. They include full details of the tenant and rents due. These can be found at the National Archives. Other sources include social and trade directories. Newspapers, which are held at the National Library of Ireland, can be viewed online at www.irishnewspaperarchives.com. Census substitutes, giving you an indication of where a person was living at a particular date, include lists of voters, freeholders, people attending meetings, etc. There can be difficulties in accessing Irish records due to place name and family name variations. The vast majority of place names are anglicised Gaelic names. Until 1851 there was no standard spelling of place names. Family names can differ slightly between parish records and civil

records. In Catholic parish records, names are often given in Latin. Although many census returns, original wills dating back to the 16th century and some Church of Ireland registers were damaged in the fire at the Dublin Public Record Office (PRO) in 1922, most people can hope to trace ancestors back to about 1820. The main depositories are all in Dublin. These include not only the National Library and National Archives for Ireland but also, for example, the Valuation Office and Representative Church Body Library. County libraries have a growing amount of information and there is plenty of information online, with more being added all the time, for example, monumental inscriptions. On 25 June our online talk by Dr Colin Chapman about 'Sex, Sin and Probate – Church Courts and their records'. The talks on Zoom have been successful and I have enjoyed meeting members from around the world, but I am aware that many members do not, or cannot, join a Zoom talk. We discussed about meeting in person this summer but people were not keen to travel into London so we will continue with virtual talks this year. Is there a talk or a speaker which you would like to hear which would be of interest to the North West Groups? Would you like to give a presentation? We do need people to help in organising the talks and bring new ideas and suggestions for talks. Please contact me at the e-mail address below, and if you would like more information about the talks.

Submitted by Helen Conchar, Member 7279
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PENDLE & BURNLEY

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PRESTON

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The Preston Branch has slowly recovered from the resignation of three of its committee in January, and attendance at the monthly meetings now is very encouraging for the new committee.

We have recently enjoyed a talk on Parish Records Online by Dr. Brenda Hustler, Preston's Town Hall by John Garlington and a return of Joanne Halliwell's 'Betsy' performances – this time about Witches, Wenches and Wise Women.

We have an engaging programme of speakers for the period to December which you will find on our Facebook pages. We meet at the Kingsfold Methodist Church, Hawksbury Drive, Penwortham, Preston PR1 9EN on the last Wednesday of the month from 7pm – 9pm and all are welcome.

Submitted by Ian White

ROCHDALE

Secretary: Mrs. Rosemary Fitton, 13 Bowlers Walk, Rochdale.
Lancs OL12 6EN
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We welcomed speaker Bryan Tenny to our meeting in April with his excellent talk 'Slides of Old Milnrow'. It was fascinating to see so many pictures of Milnrow's past and see how things have changed; quite a different view to today's Milnrow. Bryan's talk brought back many nostalgic memories for quite a few of our members, not just those with Milnrow connections. Thank you to all those who were able to attend the evening.

Stephen Gill gave a superb talk 'Understanding your old photographs and how to get the most out of them' at our May meeting. As a professional photographer and expert in the field of photo-restoration, he was able to explain not just the history of photography but some of the tricks of the trade and how we should look at old photographs differently to help us understand the reasons behind why they were taken. Photographs can be an excellent source for family historians, often overlooked they can give valuable clues to help us with our family history research.

We look forward to our meeting in August which will include a talk about 'Our Local Water – Ashworth and Greenbooth Reservoirs'. Members and visitors are welcome.

ROSSENDALE

Branch e-mail: rossendale@lfhhs.org.uk

Having entertained ourselves with our own members speaking for the first two months of the year, in April we had local speaker Lavinia Tod telling us about "The Seven Robert Peels". Like too many families, they were not very original with their Christian names, starting with the first, who was born in 1723 and set up a cotton printing works in Oswaldtwistle. That made the family a useful amount of money, and set them up for the next two centuries. The one most people know was the third Robert, who became Prime Minister, and after whom the first police were named, "Peelers". He was the man who pushed through the repeal of the Corn Laws, thus allowing the import of wheat and making bread cheaper when the home crop was poor. As is often the case, the later generations were much better at spending money than making it, and the family ended up selling the ownership of their manor house. The last Robert was killed in action in 1942 when his destroyer was bombed in Ceylon. Altogether a very interesting tale.

For May, Tony Foster told us about "The Mayor's Silver Cup". This was presented by a Darwen Mayor to families who had a

baby in a particular year, in order to encourage new mothers to get professional involvement and thus greatly improve the child's chances of survival.

Tony returned in June to explain about oddities in Registration certificates, and gave a number of examples he had found. We had asked members to fetch certificates from their own researches if they needed particular items explaining.

Stephen Ward was our speaker in July, telling us about his family researches and write-ups, and showing us ways to illustrate our own. As well as the obvious source of family photographs, he gave examples of the numerous places we could find pictures relevant to our own work.

We are returning to the "home-grown" idea for August, when members have been asked to prepare ten-minute talks on "My Childhood Holidays". The idea is to show how much things have changed within our own lifetimes.

Submitted by John Dalton

**PLEASE NOTE: THE DEADLINE FOR NEWS FOR THE
NOVEMBER 2022 MAGAZINE IS : 23 SEPTEMBER
2022 THANK YOU**

MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No Members' Interests available for publication in the journal this quarter.

**** IMPORTANT ****

Are your membership details up to date?

Have you changed your email address?

Please let us know any change of email address or any other personal contact details :

Sue Foster, Membership Secretary

Email: membership@lfhhs.org.uk

Text: 07963 132979

**Address: 18 Glencross Place, Blackpool FY4 5AD
Telephone: 01253 694783 (leave a message and phone number, please)**

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For opening times see www.lfhhs.org.uk

PLEASE NOTE:

It is regretted that requests for searches of ALL ONE SURNAME cannot be undertaken. Where a reply is required please enclose a stamped addressed envelope (or 3 IRC coupons). Changes of address and non-receipt of journals should be reported to **Membership Secretary**, 18 Glencross Place, Blackpool FY4 5AD. If you are aware of the death of any member kindly advise **Sue Foster** who will ensure that future magazines are not sent out. Thank you.



Grandmama Walker
Widow of the late
Charles Walker of
Whitley house.
Born 24 June 1809
Died at Joy House
Parson 17th Nov. 1883