

Issue 91
July 2023

*The Magazine of the
Ormskirk and District
Family History Society*

The
Ormskirk
and District
Family Historian

The ODFHS Useful Information Page

Ormskirk and District Family History Society was inaugurated in 1980.

Registered Charity (No. 1004895). Member of the Family History Federation.

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Could You Contribute To Our Magazine?

Articles for the Ormskirk and District Family Historian are always welcome. If you'd like to send something for publication, please contact the Editor using the e-mail or postal address above, with your name and membership number. We will do our best to look after all items (and will return them on request) but we suggest that you retain any original documents.

The Ormskirk and District Family Historian

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"Not to know what happened before we were born is to remain perpetually a child. For what is the worth of a human life unless it is woven into the life of our ancestors by the recording of history." - Cicero (106-143BC) sent in by Jean Haikalis (1946-2017)

View From The Chair

I've never welcomed you to our Magazine with a quotation, but I recently read one from John F. Kennedy that seems to sum up ODFHS perfectly just now: "*Change is the law of life.*" At our AGM in May, Sally Dean stepped down as our Treasurer (after ten years) and our Membership Secretary (after five). Her efforts and practical advice have been invaluable to your Society, and I hope you will join me in wishing her an easier future as an "ordinary" member of our Executive Committee.

Lately, there's a distinct sense of needing to share the load within the Society, so you may not be surprised to hear that Sally's previously combined role is now being divided between two people. I'm delighted to introduce Keith Broadbent as our new Membership Secretary, and Colin MacDonald as incoming Treasurer. Both are busy learning the ODFHS systems, and both have shared their plans to put their own stamp on their role; for instance, Keith has introduced what promises to be a regular e-newsletter sharing Society news, events and help requests from members that come and go in the four months between each Magazine.

I already expect next year's AGM to bring another "end of an era" moment. Pam Richardson has been our Secretary since 2004 (a huge achievement in a voluntary role), and in 2024 she intends to hand over her duties to someone new, a choice I fully understand and support. I encourage any members who are interested in becoming our new Secretary to contact ODFHS for more information. Please be assured that you will have any assistance you need.

Doubtless, you can see why I've been prompted to re-evaluate my roles within the Society. In addition to being Chair, Magazine Editor and Social Media Manager, I host our monthly Zoom Chats, represent ODFHS at events and regional meetings (in-person and on Zoom), and produce our YouTube videos and virtual talks (something I really enjoy), but I'm still in my thirties, with an increasing day-to-day workload, so I need to make my ODFHS duties more manageable. Fortunately, supported by the Committee, I've formed a plan!

Recently, some of you have offered your assistance to the Society - and some opportunities for you to help in whatever way suits you are on the horizon. In June 2023, Norma Gregson and I resumed our churchyard survey of Christ Church, Aughton; as each section is photographed, we can send the digital images to volunteers via file-sharing systems like Dropbox, to be transcribed at your convenience. If this would interest you, please e-mail me at chairman@odfhs.email for more details. After July 2023, our Zoom Chats will be quarterly (rather than monthly), and we're planning at least one Zoom talk later this year.

To call this spring at ODFHS "busy" is an understatement! Turning this page takes you straight to a report on our Research Library Open Day in March (a perfect excuse for a YouTube video!). On page 29, you'll find out about a fantastic donation of photographs that can now be seen (with other new additions) on our website's Gallery. If that wasn't enough, we've even set up a Twitter account (details on pg.28) and boat families website hit another milestone - soaring past the 60,000-person mark on 8 June 2023!

Please indulge me if I use this space to share an idea I've had about the final article in this issue. Richard Cocker, the subject of the piece, is one of six 1790s traders featured in the downloadable colouring book in our online Parish Chest shop. I've found enough material for a feature on Frances Higginson (post mistress), but I'd love to follow that up with articles on Ann Anderton (tea dealer), Catherine Booth (mantua maker), Robert Moorecroft (proprietor of a "*Staffordshire-ware shop*") and James Gregory (gingerbread baker). If they're in your family tree and you can help, please let me know.

As always, I hope you enjoy our latest Magazine; if it prompts you to contribute some material, I'd love to see it!

Kate Hurst
June 2023

Research Library Open Day

11 March 2023

In June 2007, ODFHS moved its collection of local resources into an upper room of the 1st Ormskirk Scout Headquarters. Since then, our Research Library has been enhanced by donations of books, photos, records collected by members and other donors and a host of other material that can help family and local historians alike. On Saturday 11 March 2023, the Society held an Open Day to share some of these treasures with the community.

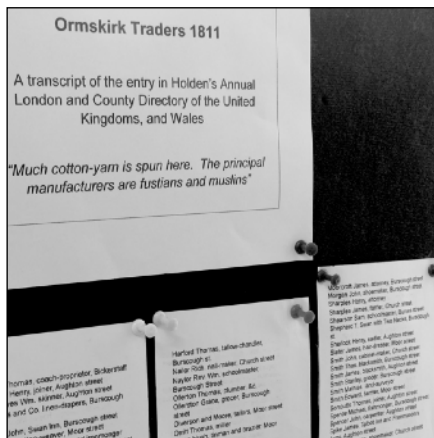
Assisted by other members of the Committee, our Librarian Kathryn MacDonald devised a wonderful series of displays, themed around mystery photos, house history, local families, and the ODFHS boat families database.



Newspaper extracts from the 1850s to the present showed the rich variety of material available to add details to our ancestors' stories. Photos offered a glimpse of buildings that have long since been demolished. Extracts from an 1811

directory of Ormskirk listed many traders and professionals, and even local pubs, like the Plough, the Wheatsheaf, and the Swan with Two Necks.

Class photos from various schools were complemented by items from the library relating to local education, and a host of pictures of May Queens and Rose Queens were carefully labelled to help visitors trying to spot a relative.

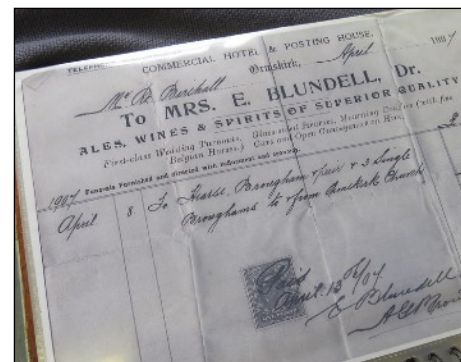


Receipts about renting a church pew, a model of a 1790s street scene inspired by a trade directory and an indenture documenting a teenage boy's apprenticeship with an Ormskirk tailor in 1871 were perfectly complemented by work from local artist Angie Thompson, including a beautifully illustrated 3-D model (shown right) of the market cross and the old trades and occupations of Ormskirk.

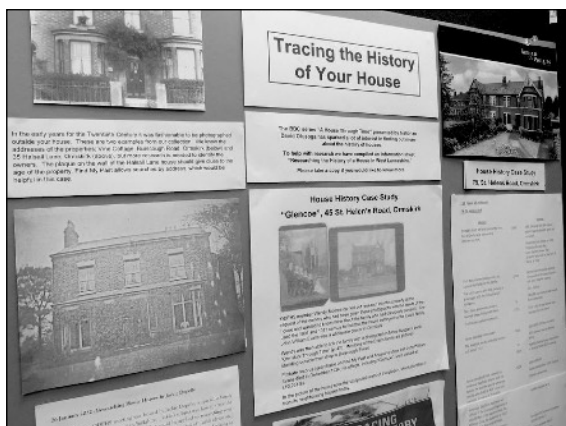


Norma Gregson's research on the houses on Long Lane, Aughton (as described on the 1911 census) inspired one display. "An Enumerator's Walk" combined information about residents, photos of Swanpool House, Trafalgar House and even the Friends' Burial Ground at Bickerstaffe. (Pictured left).

The new Society postcards were available for sale; featuring Ormskirk Parish Church, St. Anne's RC Church, Ormskirk, St. Cuthbert's Church, Halsall, Holy Trinity Church, Bickerstaffe, St. Thomas and the Holy Rood, Melling, and Holy Trinity, Tarleton.



We've received many positive comments about the event, and some visitors even joined the Society. A wonderful day - all made possible by our volunteers. We particularly appreciated the assistance of the 1st Ormskirk Scouts, who provided tea, coffee and tempting freshly baked cakes, scones and other sweet treats.



A video of moments from the day, *ODFHS Research Library Open Day | 11 March 2023* can be found on our YouTube channel ODFHS SocialMedia.

The Unsolved Murder of Elizabeth Threlfall *Part Two*

by Dot Broady-Hawkes (H117)

On Tuesday 6 May 1851, at the Ormskirk Magistrates Court, principal witness Richard SHAW swore before Mr. Richard BRANDRETH that, on the night of 15 October 1832, whilst lying in the cabin of his brother's boat, known as *The Collier*, he heard scuffling. He got up to the door and saw THRELFALL throw his wife into the canal. Richard BRANDRETH ordered that there was enough evidence to remand THRELFALL to Kirkdale gaol on a charge of murder to await trial at the assizes.

On Wednesday 27 August 1851, the trial began. The prosecutor was Mr. MAWLE, and the defendants' solicitors were Joseph POLLOCK and Mr SOWLE.

The first witness called was Thomas BALL, farmer at Halsall. He said he was on his way to work with a woman named Jane BRADSHAW, who was now deceased, (Jane died in 1841, aged 61). They saw a woman's body in the canal, Robert SHAW's boat was there and the body was ten to fifteen yards to the stern. A handkerchief or scarf was tied around her neck two or three times with two or three knots. One eye was strangled with blood. He pulled her out of the water and took her to the house of William MARTIN. She was left there until night, when she was removed to Halsall Warehouse machine-house; Richard SHAW helped to carry her.

The second witness was James KIRBY, farmer. He swore under oath that on 16 October 1832 he fetched the Coroner, as he was the Parish Constable at the time. On 17 October, he fetched Thomas THRELFALL from one of Edward THRELFALL's fields asking him to come and identify the body, '*as a few had got talking and thought she was his wife*'.

Thomas THRELFALL at first objected to going with KIRBY, but KIRBY said he would make him go. As soon as he saw the body he exclaimed that it was his wife. Thomas did not go into the machine house, he stayed at the door. KIRBY told the court he didn't think THRELFALL seemed troubled at that point, and also there was no change in his demeanour.

A third witness was called. Mary HALL (nee WOOLFALL) was the daughter of Thomas WOOLFALL, the tenant landlord of the Black Bull, Aintree in 1832. Mary stated to the court that she had seen Thomas THRELFALL twice at the Black Bull, whilst he was separated from his wife.

One day Elizabeth asked for time off to go with THRELFALL to Halsall to see her boys; she came back the same night between 9 and 10 pm. Mary went on to state that, two weeks later, Elizabeth went out to someone, and came back between 10 and 11 pm. Also, one washing night, she went out between 6 and 7 pm. A friend

of Elizabeth's, a Mrs. HUDSON, brought Mary a message from Elizabeth about that absence. The following Wednesday, Elizabeth's brother Thomas ORRITT came to say his sister had been found drowned in the canal.

Another witness in court was Robert RIMMER, a labourer who said he had known Threlfall for twenty-three years, but had not seen him after riding with him from Liverpool to Edward THRELFALL's farm at Halsall eighteen years before. On that ride, THRELFALL told RIMMER he wanted to call at the Black Bull to speak to his wife. RIMMER recalled much of the conversation between THRELFALL and Elizabeth. Thomas asked Elizabeth to go and live with him again, saying "*I will be as good to you as ever I have been bad*".

Elizabeth apparently agreed to go and live with him again, if he would take a cottage, and they might live by themselves. Thomas assured Elizabeth he had taken one at Churchtown, in Halsall, and asked if she would come on Sunday night.

RIMMER stated that Elizabeth said she could not go on Sunday night, as she had washing to do on the Monday, but that she would get up early, get it done and come to Halsall on Monday night. They made plans to meet at Lydiate Hill, but she was to keep on the left bank of the canal, and if they did not meet at Lydiate Hill, she was to keep on and he would meet her. On the Tuesday, RIMMER heard of her death.

Richard SHAW, the principal witness at the Ormskirk hearing, had deteriorated in health and he was unfit to attend the Assizes to give evidence. His surgeon, Mr. BIRDWELL read out the prepared witness statement from SHAW:

'About 18 years ago I was sleeping in my brother's boat, the Collier of which my brother was Captain, on the Leeds Liverpool Canal at Halsall. Between 12 and 1a.m. I heard a great bustle on the bank, a woman shrieked, the woman screamed for help then I heard a plunge into the canal. I got up and looked through the porthole and saw Thomas THRELFALL ducking a woman in the canal. The woman scratched at the stern of the boat. Then one of Kenworthy's Flies came up. He spoke to THRELFALL by name and said, 'Now you must run or be taken'. THRELFALL ran away and Kenworthy's man ran after him but came

back. The man's name was BECKETT. I didn't dare stir and did nothing until morning. I only spoke of it now because I cannot rest. I saw THRELFALL 3 or 4 years ago in Liverpool and he was a policeman.'

Witness John BECKETT was called. He had worked on the Kenworthy Flies as Captain on the canal back then, but was now a potato dealer. He said he knew Richard SHAW from working on the canal. BECKETT, however, could not remember hearing of a woman being drowned in the canal at Halsall-Hill, and said that Richard SHAW never mentioned the incident to him. That closed the case for the prosecution, with all prosecution witness statements being heard.

Before presenting his case for the defence, THRELFALL's solicitor Mr. POLLOCK asked if he could address the Jury. The Judge allowed him to proceed. POLLOCK told the Jury that present in the court room were several people, including two clergymen, the head of the Liverpool Police and the Chief Superintendent of the Liverpool Constabulary, who were there to give THRELFALL the highest character recommendations and testaments possible.

The Judge immediately declared THRELFALL exonerated of the charge, and free to go. He lived until 1880, settling in Shropshire.

To be noted:

Richard SHAW was inconsistent in his statement about what he saw and where he observed it from. Firstly, he said THRELFALL threw the woman into the water, then he said he was ducking her under the water. He said initially he looked from the door of the boat, then later said he looked through the port-hole. Richard is a potential suspect. There is no mention of whether his brother Robert was also on the boat that night.

BECKETT denied hearing of a woman being drowned in the canal, but she most certainly was, and in his job he would have heard about it; the boats from the John KENWORTHY Company were up and down from Leeds to Liverpool all the time. BECKETT is a potential suspect.

National Events

Mary HALL of the Black Bull had separated from her own husband for many years before the trial, and lived with her widowed sister at Lydiate Hill, next to the canal. She was only a few years older than Elizabeth. Mary made no mention of her own marital situation, nor her familiarity with the left hand canal towpath in her statements. In 1842, Mary's only son James had married Sarah HARRIOTT (nee TWIST), the daughter of the family who ran the Buck I'th Vine, Ormskirk. At the time of the 1851 trial, Sarah was running the Black Bull in Aintree. Mary's statements in 1851 seemed to suggest Elizabeth had been behaving inappropriately in 1832. Mary is a potential suspect.

The description of the handkerchief/scarf tied two or three times around Elizabeth's neck with two or three knots sounds possibly the work of a nautical person. It would have been quite cold along the canal bank in October, but Richard SHAW places the couple on the bank between midnight and one in the morning. Elizabeth must have been somewhere for several hours before she was put into the water as she intended to set off walking to Lydiate/Halsall late in the afternoon, after the washing was done, and she knew Thomas would probably only set out to meet her after he had finished work.

The machine house belonging to the Halsall Warehouse is probably now part of the Saracen's Head pub. The warehouse would have been used by the canal traffic, possibly even the John KENWORTHY Company.

The Liverpool Police Constabulary was only formed in 1836, the year that Thomas THRELFALL joined. If he did murder his wife, it seems a good place to hide. It is down to motive. If he really did want her back with him, and she was making demands he was not willing to meet, he may have lost his temper.

The Liverpool paper that reported on the case in 1851 brought up another aspect not mentioned at the court. Elizabeth was rumoured to be in the habit of receiving money on account of a female friend, and it may be that she was attacked for that money. No female friend was ever interviewed, except Mary HALL. This may well be the oldest unsolved murder in West Lancashire.

North Meols FHS Open Day and Heritage Weekend

DATE: 9 September 2023

VENUE: The Parochial Hall, St. Cuthbert's Church, Churchtown, PR9 7NN

OTHER DETAILS: Please see <https://nmfhsouthport.co.uk/whats-on/> (the new North Meols FHS website) for further details.

Bristol and Avon FHS Family History Fair 2023

DATE: 23 September 2023, 10a.m. to 4p.m.

VENUE: BAWA Leisure Centre, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol, BS34 7RG

OTHER DETAILS: Free entry. Help and advice from Family History Societies, Archives Offices and other local and national organisations. Books, postcards, old maps, family history CDs and more from Commercial Exhibitors. Free talks and presentations. More details at <https://bafhs.org.uk/bafhs-family-history-fair-2023>

Oxfordshire FHS Family and Local History Fair

DATE: 7 October 2023, 10a.m. to 4p.m.

VENUE: The Cooper School, Churchill Road, Bicester, Oxfordshire, OX26 4RS

OTHER DETAILS: No additional information available as we went to press; please see www.ofhs.uk/events/category/events for further developments.

Suffolk FHS Fair

DATE: 14 October 2023, 10a.m. to 4p.m.

VENUE: The Hold, 131 Fore Street, Ipswich, IP4 1LN

OTHER DETAILS: No additional information available as we went to press; please see <https://suffolkfhs.co.uk/index.php/pages/view/society-fair> for updates

Huddersfield and District FHS Family and Local History Fair

DATE: 14 October 2023, 10a.m. to 4p.m.

VENUE: Cathedral House, St Thomas' Road, Huddersfield, HD1 3LG

OTHER DETAILS: Advice, help and computer searches from Huddersfield and District FHS researchers, members and committee members. The Society's full

range of parish register, census booklets and CD data available. Other family history societies will attend. Fee parking (including provision for the disabled). Café open all day. Further details at <https://hdfhs.org.uk/the-family-history-fair/>

Family History Federation Really Useful Show (ONLINE EVENT)

DATE: 17 November 2023 (10a.m. to 10p.m. GMT); 18 November 2023 (10a.m. to 6p.m., GMT)

OTHER DETAILS: Interactive workshops, a variety of talks, and family history societies will attend. For tickets and full details, visit www.fhff-reallyuseful.com/ £15 per ticket; the discount code SOCIETY23 will reduce the price to £12.

Talk Reports

22 February 2023 - Skelmersdale From The Domesday Book To The New Town by Mark Boardman

Around forty members and visitors gathered to hear a talk by Mark Boardman, who has been Chairman of Skelmersdale Heritage Society since 2018, and grew up in the old part of Skelmersdale. In the tenth century many Vikings, who had originally settled in Ireland, crossed the Irish Sea and settled in Lancashire, in places such as Ormskirk, Bickerstaffe and Skelmersdale, which were probably sparsely populated. The name Skelmersdale has Scandinavian origins; “Skelmar” meaning “shield horse”, and “Dale” meaning “valley”. As well as the Vikings there is evidence of a Roman settlement; Roman coins have been found locally.

In the twelfth century, William the Conqueror commissioned the Domesday Book, which described Skelmersdale as being between the Ribble and the Mersey. The area was said to be mainly marsh and woodland, with a value of 2s. 7d. (£640 in today’s money). Uted was the Lord of the area at that time.

By the sixteenth century, Skelmersdale was the property of the GERRARD Family. References to recusancy laws indicate that a church existed in the area. In 1666 the Churchwardens Accounts of Ormskirk Parish Church mention a cost for extermination of vermin at Skelmersdale in the Chapel of Ease. Hearth Tax records from the same time mention nine homes in Skelmersdale with more than three stoves, suggesting large houses. In 1732, Thomas ASHURST gave land for the building of a school, now known as Crow Orchard School, which was also used to hold the Court Baron, and deal with town matters.

In 1751 Sir Thomas BOOTLE was Lord of the Manor, and in 1776 there is a record of a Chapel of Ease being built. Skelmersdale became a separate parish in 1859, and the present Church was endowed in 1906. The 1839 Tithe Map gives details of farms, mills, coal pits, and over forty houses. The population increased with the growth of the coal industry and the advent of the railway (opened in 1858). Miners migrated to the town from places such as Wales, Stafford and Ireland. The 1841 census listed one shopkeeper; by 1871 this had grown to 30 shops, and 27 public houses. However, conditions were poor, with bad housing, poor drainage and a lack of fresh water. Illnesses such as diphtheria and scarlet fever were common causes of death in early childhood.

Things began to improve with the advent of a gas supply in 1878, fresh water in 1879 and in 1884 Skelmersdale became an Urban District Council. A catastrophe came when the River Tawd burst its banks following heavy rain in 1897, causing the Tawd Vale Colliery Disaster; two men were killed, and many others thrown out of work. This was followed by WW1 in 1914. New industries came to the town after the War, but it was women that they employed. The mining industry was in decline, and the General Strike of 1926 dealt another blow to the town. In 1927 Glenburn Colliery closed, followed by Whitemoss Colliery in 1939. WW2 did bring some much needed employment on the farms. The railway station closed in 1956.

Following the War the National Government began a policy of slum clearance and rehousing, and on 9 October 1961 Skelmersdale was designated a “New Town”. The talk brought Skelmersdale to life for the audience, and generated interesting

questions and discussion.

Talk report by Pam Richardson.

22 March 2023 – Not Just The 3 “R”s – Life in a Lancashire School by Louise Wade

Louise could not have known what she had let herself in for when she was the sole volunteer offering to help celebrate the two hundredth anniversary of Shevington Community Primary School in 2014.

The school, known as Broad o’th’Lane, was established in 1814, according to a plaque on the wall of the original school room and headmaster’s house. It was most likely championed by Richard Perryn (Vicar of Standish) and a number of voluntary subscribers listed on the original lease which Louise tracked down in the Lancashire Archives. Benefactors included Richard Gerrard Perryn, Gentleman of Trafford Hall, Sir Thomas Dalrymple Hesketh, 3rd Baronet of Rufford, Edward Wilbraham Bootle, Edward Holt, Gentleman of Ince Hall and Rev. Streynsham, rector of Croston.

Initially, Louise was given just an hour to work through the school’s extensive archive of admission registers, attendance registers, punishment books, log books, stocks and stores book, records of sales of work and schemes of work; the oldest dating to 1850. She spent the next two years photographing, transcribing and indexing every page. A chance conversation with the school’s caretaker led to the discovery of an “Honour’s Board” in a shed, which listed all children who went on to further education; it had been destined for the bonfire.

The history of the school was related in the context of the national education picture and Louise outlined key educational dates, starting in 1698 with the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge and moving on to the Sunday School movement, followed by the establishment the first Ragged Schools in 1844. The 1880 Elementary Education Act meant that children under thirteen could not be

employed unless they had their School Certificate.

In Victorian times, the school was part of a rural community, many of the children were from farming or canal families. Children from farms would often travel a number of miles to get to and from school, and attendance often dropped if the weather was bad, or during harvest time.

In 2017, just over two hundred years since it opened, Shevington Community Primary School closed its doors for the last time, much to the regret of the local families whose ancestors had been educated there.

Talk report by Kathryn MacDonald.

26 April 2023 – Royal Connections to West Lancashire by Kathryn MacDonald, Kate Hurst and Dot Broady-Hawkes

Our April meeting was a few days before King Charles III’s Coronation, inspiring three of our committee members to share what they had discovered about royal visits to the West Lancashire over the centuries. Kathryn MacDonald began by describing an event on 8 October 1872, when Princess Mary Adelaide Wilhelmina Elizabeth of Cambridge, cousin to Queen Victoria, made a brief appearance at Ormskirk Station on her way to Lathom House, where she stayed as the guest of Lord Skelmersdale. The purpose of her visit was to lay the foundation stone for what became the Cambridge Hall in Southport (now known as the Atkinson). Princess Mary was very popular with the public and was known to be a hard-working royal. There were often reports in the newspapers about her public appearances, and she has been termed “*The First People’s Princess*”.

Although Princess Mary’s visit was more of a reception than a full blown tour of Ormskirk, the residents decided to make the most of the occasion. The Ormskirk Advertiser said, “*Royal visits are such a rare occurrence in this town that the inhabitants may fairly be excused for making a hearty display of their loyalty*”. The preparations were

extensive and elaborate; many workers in the town took a half day holiday to enjoy the spectacle from viewpoints on the railway bridge, Derby Street and Greetby Hill.

Just after 3.30p.m., the Royal Train pulled into Ormskirk station, Princess Mary and her husband, the Duke of Teck, alighted and after formalities including an address by Mr. R. WARING, a steward, the royal party made their way by carriage to Lathom House via Derby Street, waving to the crowds. School children with flags and banners lined the route as far as Bath Springs Brewery.

Kate Hurst covered a royal visit that didn't go exactly to plan. In September 1882, Queen Victoria's eighth son Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany, was expected to come to Ormskirk with his bride, Princess Helen of Waldeck-Pyrmont. Leopold was a haemophiliac, and shortly before the planned visit, an attack left him unable to travel. By chance, Victoria's cousin Prince George, Duke of Cambridge (brother to Princess Mary Adelaide) was visiting the Preston Guild celebrations; Ormskirk was quickly added to his schedule.

The Ormskirk Advertiser reported the reception committee included well-known locals, e.g. Drs. ANDERTON and SYMONDS, Samuel BRIGHOUSE, Crimea veteran James NUNNERLEY, William HUTTON (printer of the Advertiser) and five clergymen. Ormskirk's railway platform draped with scarlet cloth as crowds and aristocrats (including Lord Skelmersdale and the Earl of Sefton) waited to welcome Prince George. Kate used the Advertiser's descriptions of businesses and private residences decorated with flags, banners and "trophies", and census records, to plot the decorated sites on an old map of Ormskirk, and ended by describing the public fireworks display given at Lathom House that night.

Dot Hawkes began her segment by explaining that the red telephone box on Derby Street, Ormskirk (outside the Brighthouse solicitors' office) was a Grade II listed 1953 Coronation phone box - and still in working order. An illustrated whistle-stop tour of royal visits to Ormskirk followed, starting with the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) in 1885. The Prince travelled to Ormskirk by train and went on to stay at Lathom House for a shooting party. His mistress was housed in Crane's Lane. In 1913, George V and Queen Mary made a trip to Ormskirk following their

stay at Knowsley Hall, and in 1921 another Prince of Wales (Edward VIII) visited in the company of Lord Derby, speaking to Crimean and Boer War veterans.

Dot referenced a short YouTube clip showing King George VI and Queen Elizabeth driving down Church Street on their way to Wigan past huge crowds and local shops such as Ablett's, Clucas' and Swift's. On 23 May 1963 Princess Margaret visited the town, following the opening of a new hall of residence at Edge Hill. Dot remembered the occasion and the lemon coloured dress the Princess was wearing. Prince Philip also paid a visit to Edge Hill in the 1970s.

Charles and Diana, Prince and Princess of Wales, visited Digmaor Sports Centre, Skelmersdale in 1986. They met Ken Vincent, Mayor of West Lancashire, who later commented that the Princess seemed miserable and sad. In 2016 Prince Harry made a private visit to Applecass, a charity in Newburgh, which helps children learn about horticulture.

The evening was rounded off by Jean Gidman who read an excerpt from the Stanley Poems which appear in her book, *The Man Who Wasn't There: the Career of Sir Thomas Stanley, First Earl of Derby*.

24 May 2023 – AGM followed by Short Films from the ODFHS YouTube Channel

The May meeting began with our AGM, when Sally Dean formally stepped down as our Treasurer (after ten years) and Membership Secretary (since 2018), and was presented with a bouquet and a card as a token of the Society's appreciation for her time and effort. We welcomed Colin MacDonald as our incoming Treasurer, and Keith Broadbent as incoming Membership Secretary; as of 31 March 2023, membership stood at 143.

The past year has seen many developments for the Society's Research Library and Digital Library, with an emphasis on making resources more accessible. The Library Catalogue (available on the website) has been updated, and Alan Cooper

(Website Manager) has developed a full text search engine. The Gallery section of the website is accessible to non-members, and has recently been enhanced by a generous donation of digital images featuring the CROPPER, HEYES and RIGBY families, as well as autograph books of local interest.

Around 130 items from the Research Library have been added to its digital counterpart, including Oddfellows Annual Reports, parish magazines and school magazines. The Library resources were highlighted at our July 2022 and January 2023 monthly meetings - the latter included Emma Davison's presentation on her work to create a searchable database of ODFHS publications - and in March 2023, the Society hosted a Research Library Open Day at the 1st Ormskirk Scout HQ. (See pg.6-8 for a full report.) Kathryn MacDonald, our Librarian, was praised for her tireless work.

During 2022-23, over £450 was raised through publication sales; the move towards digital downloads saw most of these come via Parish Chest, with the rest being sold at public events. A new addition is a set of six postcards of local churches.

The Ormskirk Library Help Desk resumed in September; these run on the first Monday of the months (except Bank Holidays), with committee members assisting on a rota basis. Kathryn MacDonald, Norma Gregson, Sally Dean and Keith Broadbent were thanked for their involvement. Kate Hurst (our Chair) has continued to run monthly Zoom chats, which are appreciated by overseas members and those beyond the north-west.

Alan Cooper continues to manage our website; routine tasks include additions to the Gallery and Library Archive, digitising library items to improve our online offerings, and updating the magazine and exchange magazines. He has also introduced a more comprehensive search facility using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) to allow browsing of text from scanned documents. A longer-term plan to create a website management manual is underway. Alan's diligent work is much appreciated.

Keith Jenkins has added another 3,000 names to the boat families website, taking

the total to almost 60,000. Overseas connections to Nicolai FAGERSAND, a Norwegian mariner who married a Yorkshire waterman's daughter, and Hugh YARWOOD (transported to Tasmania as a convict in 1823) have been made. Further links came after the 1905 Midwives Roll was published in Issue 89 of our Magazine. Keith's work ensures that the boat families site remains an invaluable resource.



Our usual routine of publishing three magazines a year continues; between April 2022 and March 2023, Kate (our Editor) was able to include 37 features sourced from twelve members, as well as newspapers, publishers, a school magazine and the University of Manchester. The Platinum Jubilee (July 2022) and "Medicine, Doctors and Midwifery (November 2023) were particularly successful; the drafts of the Autumn 2023 and Spring 2024 issues are already in progress. Kate hopes to begin a series on the traders in our 1790s colouring book; anyone with material on Ann ANDERTON (tea-dealer), Catherine BOOTH (mantua-maker) or Robert MOORECROFT (Staffordshire-ware shop) is asked to contact Kate.

Facebook continues to be invaluable for sharing updates to the Website Gallery, useful resources, events and our forthcoming meetings, and photos from our Research Library Open Day have led to enquiries about the resources we hold. Kate is always keen to hear from members who can provide content e.g. links to their own family history research websites, online photos.



Sally Dean was presented with a bouquet, to thank her for her service as our Treasurer.

The ODFHS YouTube channel now hosts 61 videos, including six new releases since May 2022. The most popular recent addition is *Haskayne and Downholland | People and Places* (featuring images donated by members and supporters). Other short films include the seasonal virtual talk, Christmas Beef In Burscough, and Alan Cooper's pre-recorded *The ODFHS Website | A Guide to the Members' Area* (which allowed distant members to hear an extract from one of our meetings). There is potential to expand the "People and Places" series to cover other places on our map (e.g. Scarisbrick, Aughton, Hesketh with Beconsall); any members who can contribute digital photos of past or present views, relatives, events etc, are asked to contact Kate at editor@odfhs.email

Our monthly meetings are increasingly popular, gaining an average audience of 22. Jean Gidman's talk on the Stanley family drew an impressive crowd of thirty-two, closely followed by Mark Boardman's interesting talk on Skelmersdale (30), and Dot Broady-Hawkes' intriguing murder mystery in Halsall (with 26). Special thanks go to all members and guest speakers for preparing their talks, and to Dot, for her efforts as our Programme Secretary.

Additional thanks were given to Emma Davison (an Edge Hill University student who has assisted us since May 2022, and is doing sterling work on a searchable database of our publications. The benefits of Zoom meetings for the executive committee were noted; these allow Alan Cooper (in Glasgow), Kate Hurst (in East Lancashire) and Keith Jenkins (in London) to be involved without incurring travel expenses. Both Alan Cooper and Keith Jenkins are keen to hear from anyone who could act as their understudy in maintaining the websites, to ensure their long-term future, and the need for volunteers to transcribe documents and photographs, scanning material, and assisting to spread the workload of the committee was stressed.

Jackie James and Julie Broadbent were also thanked for their excellent efforts to supply refreshments at our meetings; these are always appreciated!

Following the AGM, Kate Hurst introduced a selection of short videos from our YouTube channel, including a new release documenting the 2023 Ormskirk

Mediaeval Weekend, followed by the photo compilation videos *Faces of Westhead*, and *Ormskirk and District People and Places*, set to light classical music. Several members commented that they had enjoyed seeing these short films for the first time.

Ormskirk and District Family History Society *Income and Expenditure 2022/2023*

<u>Income received since 1 April 2022</u>	<u>Income Received in</u>	
As at 31 March 2022	<u>2021/22 re.</u>	<u>2021/22 re.</u>
	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2022/23</u>
Subscriptions to date	1600.00	129.00
Sales of publications	84.47	142.00
Sales of CDs/DVDs	369.85	
Visitors at Meetings	139.80	
Refreshments	43.31	
Donations/Grants	24.70	
Magazine Adverts	48.00	
Outside Events	88.45	
Talks by ODFHS Speakers	0.00	
Miscellaneous	55.00	
HMRC Gift Aid	<u>179.64</u>	
	2633.22	
Opening Balance at Bank	<u>17145.39</u>	
	<u>£19778.61</u>	<u>£129.00</u>
		<u>£142.00</u>

Expenditure Paid Out since 1 April 2023
as at 31 March 2023

General Admin	663.16
Chair's Expenses	56.00
Treasurer's Expenses/Petty Cash	117.50
Magazine Editor's Expenses	0.00
Guide Hut Rental	112.00
Scout Hall Rental	650.00
Postages	331.47
Speaker and Visit Expenses	55.00
Refreshments	26.94
Magazine Printing	885.00
Publication Purchases	36.23
Society Equipment Purchases	0.00
Booking Fees	0.00
Outside Events Costs	0.00
Miscellaneous	<u>20.00</u>
	£2953.00

Notes re. the above Accounts since the last Bank Statement

Opening amount in a/c (1 April 2022)	£17145.39
	£16825.31
Change	-£ 320.08

Current Account Bank Reconciliation - £19778.61 - 2953.30 = £16825.31

Expenditure Paid Out
2021/22 re. 2021/22 re.
2022/23 2023/24

Notes regarding the 2022/23 Accounts

The total amount of money taken during 2022/23 and relating to that year is:
£2633.22 - £2953.30 - £129.00 - £142.00 = £333.08

being Income plus Subscriptions received 2021/22 less Expenditure less Subscriptions paid in 2022/23 for 2023/23.

The total subscriptions received for 2022/23 is:
£1600.00 + £129.00 - £142.00 = £1587.00

Ormskirk and District Family History Society

Cash in Hand Year End Balances re. 2022/23 carried forward to 2023/24

Treasurer's Petty Cash Float	£15.42 plus: -
	0 x Ordinary First Class Stamp
	14 x Ordinary Second Class Stamp
	1 x Large Second Class Stamp
	2 x 26p Stamps

Monthly Meetings Refreshment	
Money Float	£8.20
Refreshments Ingredients Float	£27.27

Ormskirk and District Family History Society Treasurer's AGM Report 2022/23

After the previous two years of falling membership, due in large part to the Covid restrictions during that period, membership returned to an upward trend during the year, increasing from 123 to 143. Income from membership subscriptions therefore increased, boosted by gift aid reclaimed on 65 memberships. Sales from publications and downloads also increased healthily. Total expenditure was however higher than the previous year, commensurate with general rates of inflation.

Our bank balance is very healthy, due in large part to Bill Huyton's very generous bequest of £10,000 received in 2021/22, however overall funds reduced over the year, with total income £320 lower than expenditure. This broadly follows the 3-year trend (the average reduction in funds is £438 p.a. over that period, not including extraordinary donations). Ongoing costs for next year continue to rise, with recent increases to postage, printing costs and a small increase to the Guide Hut rental due to their heating bills rising.

After many years of amazing work as our treasurer and membership secretary, Sally decided to step down from those positions and on that basis (and with her help) I took over her role from March onwards, including preparation of the end of year (to 31st March) accounts. Please ask any questions regarding the financial summary circulated, which I hope are self-explanatory. They have been audited by our long-standing auditor, Ian White whom I would like to propose as our auditor again for the 2023/24 accounts. We intend to split the role of treasurer and membership secretary for 2023/24.

Thank you all for being here this evening.
Colin MacDonald
24th May 2023

Ormskirk Mediaeval Festival 13 and 14 May 2023

This May, the ODFHS team attended the very popular Ormskirk Mediaeval Festival on Coronation Park, where the Historia Normannis re-enactment group set up camp on Coronation Park for the weekend . . . allowing everyone to step back into the twelfth century. Sally Dean, Keith and Julie Broadbent, Jean Gidman, Norma Gregson, Emma Davidson, Kate Hurst and Kathryn MacDonald all gave up part of their weekend help out on the ODFHS stand, talking to the public, and offering assistance with family history research puzzles.



(left) Jean Gidman, Emma Davidson, Sally Dean and Norma Gregson ready to help out on the Saturday.
(Photo by Kathryn MacDonald.)

So many of our information leaflets were handed out that one of our team offered to return home to make more copies! Although our selection of local church records in CD and DVD format is dwindling as we switch to digital downloads, we were delighted to sell some of our remaining discs. Sales raised £22.00 in total, with a further £8.77 being given in donations.

Kate Hurst, making use of her homemade costume for yet another year! (Photo by Kathryn MacDonald.)



A table-top selection of display boards featuring material from our recent Research Library Open Day added an extra dimension to the ODFHS stall, allowing visitors to browse catalogues of the many resources that we can offer to our members and other researchers. It was a great weekend for all involved, and we've been advised that another Ormskirk Mediaeval Weekend has been planned for May 2024. ODFHS have every intention of being there!



(left) wooden tableware and provisions in the mediaeval camp on the park;
(right) soldiers in hand-to-hand combat as the rain set in on Sunday

ODFHS Digital Round-Up

Thanks to a suggestion from Emma Davidson (who has been volunteering with us since summer 2022) Ormskirk and District FHS is now on Twitter. You can find us by searching for ODFHS SocialMedia or @OrmskirkDFHS

Additionally, we have recently added two new videos on our YouTube channel:

- *ODFHS Research Library Open Day | 11 March 2023* (published 13 March 2023)
- *Ormskirk Mediaeval Weekend 2023* (published 16 May 2023)

ODFHS Website - Major Update to the Gallery

In March 2023, ODFHS was contacted by Martin Bell, who had discovered a huge quantity of photographs amongst his late mother-in-law's possessions. Martin kindly supplied digitised versions of the pictures to our Society, and was very happy for us to add them to the Local Families section of the Gallery on our website.



Raymond, Vernon and baby (with nursemaid?), 1924; from Batch Eight

Listed under the title *Cropper, Heyes and related families*, the collection consists of over 150 photos (dating from c.1850 to the twentieth century), divided into eleven batches. They include farming scenes, holidays, weddings, groups, professional photos, and informal snapshots of people from the West Lancashire area, and one collection (Batch Ten) features books annotated with the name of the owner.

Alan Cooper (our Website Manager) has designed the new gallery so that visitors can scroll through each set of pictures. Martin's notes suggest that a number of

relate to people named ALCOCK, ASHTON, BROSTER, CROPPER, FITTON, HEYES, JAMIESON, PRESCOTT and SIMMONDS.

The mount cards for the professional portraits include the names Ellis EMPSON (Waterloo, L'pool); LAUDER (37a Manchester Street, Liverpool and 4 Preston New Road, Blackburn); Parisian Studios (27 Church Street, Liverpool); VAN RALTY; VANDYKE (Liverpool). Batch Eleven is notable because it contains fifteen pictures of unidentified people or groups, dating from c.1850 to c.1920. For your interest, a selection are reproduced on page 30.



Unknown lady, c.1860-1870;
do you recognise her face?



Two couples, or maybe a sibling group,
in a garden or yard, c.1900-1910?



Could these young men be brothers?
Possibly aged 12 and 15 or 16, c.1900.



A man and a woman with horses,
by a gate, c.1900-1910

What's Coming Up?

Summer/Autumn 2023

In-Person Meetings and Events

- 9 July 2023 ODFHS will attend the Ormskirk Gingerbread Festival in Ormskirk Town Centre. 9am to 3pm. Free Event.
- 26 July 2023 **The Archives of Edge Hill University** by Dan Copley
- 23 August 2023 **Workhouse Ancestry** by Louise Wade
- 27 September 2023 **Is It Art? The Creative Branch of My Family Tree** by Kate Hurst
- 25 October 2023 **Clothing The Skeletons** by Ernie Savage

Our in-person talks are held at the Guide HQ, Moorgate, Ormskirk, and begin at 7.30p.m. All welcome; non-members are requested to make a £2 donation. Refreshments available.

Zoom Meetings

- 12 October 2023 ZOOM Family History Chat 6p.m. (BST)
- 6 December 2023 **Is It Art? The Creative Branch of My Family Tree** by Kate Hurst. 2p.m. (GMT) and 7p.m. (GMT)
- 11 January 2023 ZOOM Family History Chat 12 noon. (GMT)

If you have not yet received access details for our Zoom meetings but would like to attend, please contact Kate Hurst (ODFHS Chair) at chairman@odfhs.email

Interesting News

ORMSKIRK SCHOOL TO CREATE NEW ARCHIVE

Ormskirk School Academy and the Ormskirk Cross Hall High School/Wigan Road School Alumni Association are working in partnership to create an archive charting the history of the school. They hope to gather memories, stories and history from former pupils, teachers and staff to create a permanent display at the Wigan Road site. Donations of school items (e.g. uniform, books, pictures) are also welcome. To participate, please write to Ormskirk Cross Hall High School Alumni Association, % Ormskirk School, Wigan Road, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 2AT. Alternatively, please e-mail Tom Denning at T.Denning@ormskirk.lancs.sch.uk or visit www.facebook.com/OrmskirkCrossHallHighSchool

ODFHS MEMBER PUBLISHES BOOK ON YORK'S SHOPS

Society member Christine Waddington has recently advised us that a new edition of *A Shop On Every Corner*, her book about the Leeman Road area of York, will be published as an e-book in the near future. The 52-page paperback book was initially published independently in 2021, and we understand that some copies can be found online.

NEW WEBSITE FOR HUDDERSFIELD AND DISTRICT FHS

In late May 2023, Huddersfield and District FHS launched a brand new website, incorporating forthcoming events, application forms for loans and research requests relating to the Society's library, submission forms for journal content, the Society's online shop and more. The site can be found at <https://hdfhs.org.uk/>

KIRKLEES OFFICE OF WEST YORKSHIRE ARCHIVES RE-OPENS

On 15 May 2023, West Yorkshire Archives Services re-opened their Kirklees office, which is now located in the former Argos unit on Victoria Lane, Huddersfield. 7,000 volumes, 2,500 loose items, 1,500 new boxes of records, and 1200 plans of varying sizes have been boxed or individually packaged, and each of the 8000 boxes used to store them have been barcoded, to assist in locating items for researchers.

The Kirklees searchroom is open on Mondays and Tuesdays, 9.30a.m. to 12p.m. and 1p.m. to 4.30p.m.; visitors are asked to book appointments by e-mailing kirklees@wyjs.org.uk or phoning 0113 535 0150.

MARKFIELD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Thanks to Leicestershire and Rutland FHS, we recently heard of the existence of Markfield Local History Group. They usually meet at 7.30pm on Tuesdays, at the Methodist Church Rooms, Main Street, Markfield, LE67 9UU. Their website contains material on various subjects, including trade directories, war memorials, transport, churches, photographs and more. Please see www.markfieldhistory.org for further details.

LDS FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY IN SWANSEA OPEN TO VISITORS

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints' Family History Library, on Cockett Road, Swansea, SA2 0FH is now open to visitors by appointment, from 7p.m. to 9p.m. every Tuesday evening. To make an appointment, please contact Dawn Morgan on 07981012064. (Thanks to Dyfed FHS for this information.)

USEFUL RESOURCES FOR ST. KEVERNE ANCESTORS

St. Keverne Local History Society is dedicated to the history of a village on the Lizard Peninsula, Cornwall. Their website includes transcribed baptism, marriage and burial registers (c.1600-1900), genealogies and histories for local families, hearth tax records, muster rolls, land tax assessments (1798-1800), Protestation Returns and more. Please see www.st-keverne.com/history/home/index.php

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT PROVIDES AU\$33M TO MAINTAIN TROVE

Family historians may be aware of the recent uncertainty about the future of Trove, the National Library of Australia's free website containing digitised newspapers, archived websites and other collections to aid those researching family, social and local history in Australia. In April 2023, the Australian Government committed AU\$33M to maintain Trove over the next four years; a further AU\$9.2M of funding will follow from July 2027. To explore Trove free of charge, please visit <https://trove.nla.gov.au/>

Richard Cocker

by Kate Hurst (H101)

Our March 2013 magazine included an extract from the Ormskirk section of a trade directory. Taken from the multi-volume *Universal British Directory* (published from 1791 onwards), it's a fascinating read. I wonder whether my ancestors sought help from William BIBBY or Henry WATKINSON (both styled themselves as a "surgeon and man-midwife"), bought toys from Peggy FAIRCLOUGH, visited Catherine BOOTH to order a stylish new mantua¹, or chose "Staffordshire-ware" from Silvester MOORCROFT?

In 2018, ODFHS attended a child-friendly open day at Ormskirk Library. Hoping to appeal to the younger visitors, I chose six names from the directory, drew a simple image of each "character", and made a set of colouring-in sheets. One of my chosen traders was Richard COCKER, a "bookseller and bookbinder".

During the pandemic, I was in constant need of material to post on the ODFHS Facebook page. I decided to refine my original "1790s" drawings, added a simple biography of each trader, and made a week's worth of posts - and then something struck me.

In 1997, ODFHS member Alan Hankin kindly forwarded a transcript of the Ormskirk section of *Holden's Annual London and Country Directory of the United Kingdoms, and Wales, in three volumes, for the year 1811*, which was reproduced in Issue 14 of our magazine. The traders included Richard COCKER, "printer and bookseller" . . . was it the same man? I wanted to find out!

It began on 11 August 1754, at St. Wilfrid's Church, Standish, with the marriage of John COCKER and Ellen FARRER. Although both were "of this parish", their children were christened at St. Laurence's Church, Chorley; Thomas on 11 June 1755, and Richard on 18 November 1759. Chorley is only sixteen miles from Ormskirk.

A few years ago, ODFHS published land tax assessments for Ormskirk; these showed an Ellen COCKER living on Moor Street in 1781. The land tax due on her accommodation was assessed at 5s. 8 ¼d. A year later, Ellen was still at Moor Street, but the tax had been reduced to 4s. ½d.

Richard isn't named in the land taxes until 1785, suggesting that he might have lived with his mother until he married Jane BROOKS on 20 July 1784 at St. Peter and St. Paul's Church, Ormskirk; his landlord was John IRVING. The 1785 land tax assessments also state that a Jane COCKER rented property, firstly from Peter LEA, and then from Ann LEA. This "duplication" continues until the end of the first set of land tax records:

Year	Proprietor	Occupant
1786	John IRVING	Richard COCKER
1786	Ann LEA	Jane COCKER
1787	Anne LEA	Jane COCKER
1787	Miss RIGBY	Ellen COCKER
1788	Ann LEA	Jane COCKER
1788	Mr. OLVERSON	Rd. COCKER
1788	Miss RIGBY	Helen COCKER
1789	Ann LEA	Jane COCKER
1789	Miss RIGBY	Helen COCKER
1789	Mr. OLVERSON	Richard COCKER
1790	Ann LEA	Jane COCKER
1790	Mr. OLVERSON	Richard COCKER

Perhaps Richard's entry concerned his bookshop, whilst Jane's related to their home? Our second collection of Land Tax records covers 1799 to 1805, where we find:

Year	Proprietor	Occupant
1799	Henry LYON's Exors	Ellin COCKER
1799	Wm TUNSTALL	Richard COCKER

1800	Henry LYON's Ex	Ellin COCKER
1800	Wm TUNSTALL	Richard COCKER
1801	Robt. LYDIATE	Ellin COCKER
1801	Wm TUNSTALL	Richd. COCKER
1802	Robert LYDIATE	Hellen COCKER
1803	Robt. LYDIATE	Helen COCKER
1803	Wm TUNSTALL	Richd. COCKER
1804	Wm TUNSTALL	Richd. COCKER
1805	Richd. HATTON	Richd. COCKER

Ellen COCKER (a widow) was buried at Ormskirk on 16 December 1810. Her absence from the land tax records after 1803 could indicate that she moved in with her son Richard, his wife Jane and their family.

Richard and Jane had six children baptised at Ormskirk; John (chr. 16 December 1785; burial date not confirmed), a second John (chr. 5 August 1787; bur. 20 Aug 1787), Ann (chr. 14 December 1788), Henry (chr. 16 March 1791; bur. 28 January 1792), Mary (chr. 9 May 1792) and Richard (chr. 5 September 1794; bur. 24 July 1798). Jane's burial record, dated 15 August 1807, confirmed that she was the wife of Richard COCKER, so we might infer that Richard was left to raise his teenage daughters.

In 1811, *Holden's Directory* showed that Richard was still working in Ormskirk. Not long afterwards, on 4 November 1812, Richard's unmarried daughter Mary had her son (also named Richard) baptised at St. Peter and St. Paul's Church, but what became of them after that?

On 11 December 1819, the Lancaster Gazette announced a wedding: "*Lately, Mr. Thos. GOORE, cabinet-maker, to Miss COCKER, second daughter of Mr. Richard COCKER, printer, both of Ormskirk.*" Subsequent baptisms for three GOORE children at the parish church confirm that James (28 May 1820), Ann (16 November 1823) and Thomas (16 January 1826) were the children of Thomas (a cabinet maker) and his wife Mary, who lived in Ormskirk.

Richard COCKER died on 15 February 1821, and was buried three days later, at St. Peter and St. Paul, Ormskirk. The burial register gives his age as sixty-two, making it likely that the 1759 baptism record at Chorley was the right one.

Baines' Directory of 1825, Volume 2 notes that an Ann COCKER was a bookseller and printer on Church Street, Ormskirk. She appears again in *Pigot's National Commercial Directory of Cumberland, Lancashire and Westmorland* (1828), one of three "*booksellers, stationers and printers*" in the town that year. Subsequently, the 1841 census shows a fifty-year old bookseller named Ann COCKER on Neville Street, Southport; perhaps she was Richard's daughter?

Having found no evidence that Richard COCKER remarried after the death of his wife Jane, I couldn't resist viewing his will at the Lancashire Archives; sure enough, Richard did "*authorize and empower my Daughter Ann to continue and carry on the several businesses which I now follow or any of them if she thinks it will be conducive to the interest of my family until my grandson Richard COCKER attains the age of twenty one*".

On 10 November 1835, Richard COCKER junior married Elizabeth MARSDEN at St. Peter and St. Paul's Church, Ormskirk, but they didn't stay in Lancashire. The 1851 census shows them living at 25 St. John's Street, Islington, London, with their children Margaret (b.1837 Ormskirk) and Mary Ann (b.1839 Wigan). Like his grandfather, Richard junior had become a bookseller . . . and lived next door to a printer!

1. The Oxford English Dictionary defines a mantua as "a woman's loose gown of the 17th-18th centuries".

A full transcription of the will of Richard COCKER will be published in a future edition of the Magazine.

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All payments to the Society should be made by cheque, postal order or international money order, crossed and made payable to Ormskirk and District FHS. Regrettably, payments made directly to the Society can only be accepted in Pounds Sterling.

To pay by Bank Transfer:

Sort Code 77 57 01
 Account Number 00007974

Please quote your Surname and ODFHS Membership Number

Society Facilities

Research Library

Located in the Scout Hall, Wigan Road, Ormskirk, a short walk from the bus and railway stations, and local car parks. The Research Library is now open to visitors by appointment; please contact Kathryn Macdonald at macdonald6465@gmail.com if you would like to arrange a visit.

Meetings

These are held at the Guide HQ, Moorgate, Ormskirk on the fourth Wednesday of each month (except December); please e-mail chairman@odfhs.email for details.

Ormskirk Library Help Desk

Our Help Desk at Ormskirk Library, Burscough Street, Ormskirk runs from 10.30am to around 11.30a.m. on the first Monday of each month (except UK Bank Holidays).

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