

# CHESHIRE ANCESTOR

CELEBRATING  
**50** YEARS  
OF FAMILY HISTORY

*The Journal of the*  
**Family History Society of Cheshire**



## **In this edition**

*Golden Moment Competition Winner: Barthomley & a Bradshaw Tree*  
*The Adventures of Thomas Burgess* ❖ *An Expensive Easter*  
*Genealogical Tips* ❖ *Cheshire Quarter Sessions Records*  
*Was Joseph Askiss a Bigamist?* ❖ *Net That Serf - and more...*

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*Cover picture: Christ Church, Macclesfield, undated postcard (from the Editor's collection).*

See *Barthomley and a Bradshaw Tree* by Sue Johnson on page 39.



# CHESHIRE ANCESTOR

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

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

**Please send items for possible publication to the editor by post or email (see page 3).**

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

## ITEMS FOR THE CHESHIRE ANCESTOR

For advertising rates and information, please see last page.

FINAL copy dates are the 10th day of January, April, July or October.

*The earlier material is submitted, the more help it is to the editor.*

Publication is at the discretion of the editor and is subject to space being available; unused items may be carried over to a later issue. Authors retain the copyright of their own articles after publication but if an article is reprinted please mention that it was previously published in the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR.

Articles are accepted by email (in Microsoft Word, Open Office Writer, or plain text format, using any font type or size), or by post as a manuscript. Suggested length 300-2000 words. Please write all surnames in CAPITALS.

**If you have typed your article on a computer, please consider the Editor's workload and submit it by email to avoid the article having to be re-typed.**

Illustrations must be your own, copyright-free images and not copies of images or photos found online or in a book, unless you have written permission from the copyright holder.

Please **email** images (two or three max.) as separate files in JPG format, preferably scanned at 300dpi. Please **do not post images printed on normal paper** as they will not reproduce well; and **never post original photos**.

Please include your name, membership number (if a member), and postal or email address. **Please state** if you DO want either or both of your postal or email addresses to be published, otherwise they will be omitted, to comply with GDPR regulations - which means potential 'cousins' cannot contact you.

### **GENEALOGICAL ODDITY**

I noticed the other day that my great-great-uncle, a Cheshire-born policeman, had one sister who married a Ball and another who married a Bull; he himself married a young woman who was half Bell, and the police force he served in was the Liverpool Old Bill.

Sadly, he couldn't find a way of fitting Boll into his life.

*Ian Cameron, Bramhall Group Website Administrator*

## Editorial

by Rosie Rowley



I was pleased to receive an email from Janet Phillips (page 27) saying how much she enjoyed September's **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**, because I rarely receive feedback and, like Geoff (page 52), sometimes wonder if anyone actually reads the journal! If you have enjoyed an issue, or have a comment to make, please get in touch; and of course, we're always grateful for any articles, short or long. If you're stuck for ideas, why not submit a good quality photograph for the back page with a brief description, or join in the occasional challenge to find the largest family, oddest name, etc?

Ian Cameron's tip on page 29 struck a chord with me; for a long time I was uncertain whether an ancestor's father was a *Tailor* or a *Sailor* but eventually found evidence confirming the latter.

Advertised on pages 6 and 7 are a number of vacancies for society officers and volunteers; please help if you can. Remember that the society cannot function if sufficient help is not forthcoming.

## Chairman's Jottings

by Alan Bennett



Hello everyone,

Welcome to the first Chairman's Jottings of my second tenure as chairman of this great society. I decided I wanted to start by trying to ensure that you are all getting as much value as possible for your membership fees.

The main benefits we provide are:

- The quarterly **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**, either as a digital or printed publication
- The research centres at Mobberley and Crewe

- The meetings run by the various groups
- The website and all its contents and facilities

Everyone is entitled to read the **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR** but not everyone does. I know from the statistics available to me that some digital subscribers haven't even provided an email address so can't access what they have paid for. Others can log in to read it but haven't done so. This means that not all our members will see these jottings. I am going to resolve this by sending them a copy of the jottings in a letter.

The website operation, and smooth management of the society, depends on you providing a valid email address (if you have one) and keeping it up-to-date. The website is the best way for you to check and update your personal details. Please be assured we take data security seriously and NEVER expose your details beyond the committee and yourself. I ensure that even committee members are restricted to data that is essential to their role. I am aware that many of you have email addresses but are afraid to share them with us because of your concerns about security, but this restricts your membership benefits.

Accuracy of your personal data is very important as on many occasions we need to contact members to sort out issues we have uncovered. Too frequently we find no valid email address, no phone number and the member has moved from the recorded postal address. There is a button at the bottom right of the home page of the website (once you have logged in) where you can review and update your data. If you can't log in then contact Gay Oliver ([web.admin@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:web.admin@fhsc.org.uk)) to get your issue resolved. If you have no computer access then please write a letter to our membership team or pass the details to your local group leader.

In the times before computers and the Internet we relied heavily on group meetings. These still exist and continue to run interesting meetings and projects. Many groups are suffering from lack of attendance, but more importantly a lack of volunteers. Even successful groups can fold if no one volunteers to help in its operation. This should not be an onerous task, just a few hours a month. Help could even be provided remotely from the local area of the group, for example by writing news items or managing projects. Please talk to or email a group leader if you can provide any assistance.

When you join the society, you are encouraged to name a main group that you can be affiliated with. In the past this was used to generate funding to that group based on the number of affiliations. We now operate a flat funding structure to groups and so this usage is no longer important. What is now important is that we can use this selection of a group to enable improved communication from

the group to members who are either local to that group and could attend meetings or have a research interest in that area of Cheshire. So, don't think you need to be registered as unaffiliated just because you won't be attending group meetings. If there are multiple areas of the county that you are interested in, then you can register on the website to *Follow* all those groups and receive their email newsletters.

We need to understand what we must do to encourage improved attendance at group meetings and this will be covered as part of a wide-ranging survey of members later in the year. We are keen to understand how we need to evolve to provide members with what they need over the next ten years and onwards, and prevent membership numbers falling.

For those of you with computer access there are lots of additional benefits that you can receive via our website. Most of you can access the website but don't, for some reason. On the website, included in your membership fee, is access to:

- Digital copies of Cheshire Ancestor (soon to include all issues over the last 50 years, since the Society was founded).
- Digital copies of many exchange journals shared with us by other societies in the UK and across the world; this would otherwise cost you hundreds of pounds a year to obtain.
- Members' interests, where you can share your surname interests in order to attract contact from other members or offer help to other members who are researching the same name. Contact is via email, but the website and any emails sent via the website WILL NOT reveal your email address, so there is no need to be concerned about privacy and security.
- Research advice, including links to useful websites and free publications.
- A forum where you can ask for help, and give help to others.
- A calendar of events.
- News posted by the society.
- An online shop where you can order data files for immediate download to your PC/tablet, some of which are free to members.
- Request the Mobberley research centre to undertake simple lookups.
- Contact members of the committee.

I will be endeavouring to visit all the groups this year to talk in more detail about all the topics covered in these jottings. I also intend to investigate the running of online clinics to aid members who can't get to meetings.

Best wishes  
Alan

## Society Diary Dates

For Group meeting dates, see the Groups pages at the end of this issue.

For changes and up-to-date news check the website [www.fhsc.org.uk](http://www.fhsc.org.uk)

Sat 2 May	Exec. Committee Meeting, Jubilee Hall, Little Budworth, 1pm.
Sat 22 Aug	Exec. Committee Meeting, Rajar Building, Mobberley, 1pm.
Sat 31 Oct	AGM, Macclesfield; full details to follow.
Sat 16 Jan 2021	Exec. Committee Meeting, Jubilee Hall, Little Budworth, 1pm.

Members who do not have access to the Internet should contact their local or affiliated group for up-to-date information about meetings, etc.  
Contact details for all groups are inside the back cover.

## Society Notices

### Vacancies

The society is seeking volunteers for the following posts:

#### Honorary Secretary

The secretary's five year term of office ends at the AGM in October and the society is looking for a new secretary. **For information, please contact the current postholder, Howard Martin** ([secretary@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@fhsc.org.uk)).

#### Honorary Editor

The editor is still seeking a replacement, due to ongoing family commitments. **For information, please contact Rosie Rowley** ([editor@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:editor@fhsc.org.uk)).

#### Unwanted Certificates Organiser

A new volunteer is needed to process members' unwanted GRO certificates, details of which are printed in the journal. The role entails:

- Receiving certificates by post (or email if pdf)
- Sending details of certificates to the journal editor every three months
- Replying to email and postal enquiries
- Storing certificates securely (both paper and pdf files)

**For information, contact the chairman Alan Bennett** ([chairman@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:chairman@fhsc.org.uk)).

#### Mobberley Research Centre Duty Volunteers

For information see page 10.

## Social Media Officer

Social Media is increasingly being used by organisations to advertise events and notify members of news and special offers. The society has a Facebook page and Twitter account, and some groups have their own; we now need a Social Media Officer to coordinate strategies.

We need someone who is proficient with Facebook and Twitter to:

- post regular updates to Facebook and Twitter on behalf of the society
- manage and moderate the society's Facebook page and Twitter account
- advise local groups with their own Facebook/Twitter accounts
- suggest local social media opportunities for advertising society activities

**For more information, please contact the Assistant Website Manager, Gay Oliver ([tameside@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:tameside@fhsc.org.uk))**

## Volunteers for Family History Helpdesks

If you've enjoyed researching your own family history, you might like to help others discover their family's past. Several local groups in the Family History Society of Cheshire run family history helpdesks at their local libraries or heritage centres. These include:

Chester	Nantwich	Tameside	Mobberley
Crewe	Runcorn	Wallasey	

Cheshire Libraries and the FHSC would like to expand coverage of helpdesks to other libraries in the county. Places mentioned so far are:

Barnton	Blacon	Chester	Ellesmere Port
Frodsham	Hope Farm	Helsby	Great Boughton
Lache	Little Sutton	Neston	Northwich
Upton	Winsford		

More locations are likely to be identified in East Cheshire.

Volunteers can choose when and how often the helpdesks are open: once a quarter, once a month, once or twice a week, morning or afternoon or both. There is also complete flexibility to share the role between people. The libraries offer free online access to Ancestry and Findmypast which volunteers can use for their own research when there are no visiting members of the public.

If you would like to join an existing helpdesk, or would like to consider starting a new helpdesk, please get in touch. This is an interesting and rewarding opportunity to help others and your contribution would be greatly appreciated.

**For more information, please contact David Guyton ([chester@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:chester@fhsc.org.uk))**

## Chester Group's 50th Anniversary

The Chester group celebrated its 50th anniversary in November. The group was formed in 1969 and held its first meetings at Stanley Palace. During that year the group joined with another family history group in Sale to form the Family History Society of Cheshire which was one of the earliest county family history societies in the country.

At the November meeting celebrating the anniversary, Chester group leader David Guyton welcomed members and a number of special guests including two whose membership dated back to the formation of the Society in 1969, two former Chester group leaders, and other Society representatives including chairman Alan Bennett, who also happened to be chairman when the Chester group celebrated its 40th anniversary.



David Guyton gave a short talk highlighting some interesting and amusing items discovered during the course of family history research and showing some photographs of Chester fifty years ago. It was striking just how much the shopping scene has changed and how dated the City of Chester buses and private cars of the period now looked.

Following the talk, Alan Bennett cut a ceremonial cake specially decorated with Chester's coat of arms, and members and visitors took part in a family history quiz and enjoyed some festive food and refreshments.

### **FHSC Commemorative Pen Refills**

[www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/B01BNPZD4I](http://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/B01BNPZD4I)

The FHSC commemorative pens will accept refills such as the "Reception Ball Point Pen Refills Black Ink Length 107mm by SMCO" sold by Amazon at £2.15 for ten including delivery, found using the above link. These are actually about 1mm longer than the original but are still suitable.

*Note - this is just a suggestion for suitable replacement refills, correct at the time of writing, and not an endorsement of Amazon or the refill manufacturer.*

## FHSC Bookshop Sale

The FHSC Bookshop is currently offering 20% off all books, maps and CDs.

Please contact David Johnson for an updated stock list (contact details inside front cover).

N.B. The offer does NOT apply to the online shop on the website.

## Members' FREE Research Lookup Service

**This is a free service for members only.**

Upon request we will search our research resources (see the list on the FHSC website) for specific information about one named person. For example: a search for a marriage, baptism or burial record or a search for a memorial inscription.

We will also check other indexes that we hold.

We will respond as quickly as possible but please remember that the Research Centre is staffed by volunteers who have other duties.

**Please note** we cannot undertake in-depth family history research. Members wanting that sort of service should engage a professional genealogist.

**Requests can be submitted:**

- **Online at *www.fhsc.org.uk***  
Log in to the website, then navigate to  
SHOP > PRODUCTS > SERVICES > RESEARCH SERVICE.
- **By post**  
Please remember to include your name, membership number, contact details and a correctly stamped, addressed envelope (at least C5 size).  
Requests should be posted to:  
*Family History Society of Cheshire Lookup Service, Mobberley Research Centre, Rajar Building, Town Lane, Mobberley, Cheshire, WA16 7ER.*

## Research Centre News

*Information about our research centres can be found at the end of the journal.*

### Mobberley Research Centre

*by Joan Irving*



This year, 2020, is the start of the new decade - or is it? Some argue that the new decade begins on the first day of January 2021 as there was never a 0 year. Well, whatever you believe, hopefully this year will be the year that you make good progress with your family history.

Looking back to when our first research centre opened at Alderley Edge in 1997, our library consisted mainly of fiche and books. Family History Societies produced census indexes but you had to visit archives and libraries to see the actual records. When we opened at Mobberley in 2012, fiche had been overtaken by CDs and the Internet was an important source of research records. Now, parish registers and wills are available online for many counties.

I expect the 2020s will give greater access to all kinds of records for family historians, all at the touch of a button - progress, you might say, as you can discover so much more in such a short time. Of course DNA matching will become a more important aspect of research in the 2020s, bringing together distant cousins from around the world. However, much of the camaraderie between members has been lost; these days, family history is a more solitary hobby, which is sad. Visiting the record offices and enjoying the thrill of handling the original wills and parish registers is no longer possible since they are frequently only available as scanned images. Books have become less valued as a source of information - yet they often contain significant reports of local people and events which can further enhance your family history.

Whatever the 2020s bring to family history research, we at Mobberley are here to help you 10am to 4pm Mondays to Fridays, now opening every Wednesday again. Our volunteers would like to see more of you visit; they give their time each week to open up, ready to help, so please call in with your research.

More duty volunteers are needed to cover morning sessions (10am - 1pm) or afternoon sessions (1pm - 4pm). Training can be provided. For information, please contact Kay Brown on 01614 855579 or email [kaybee35@talktalk.net](mailto:kaybee35@talktalk.net)

## Closure Dates

Mobberley Research Centre will be closed on bank holidays Friday 10th and Monday 13th April, Friday 8th May and Monday 25th May.

## Crewe Family History Unit

*by Margaret Spate*

It is really helpful if members who are travelling long distances are able to notify us in advance of their visit. We can then reserve a computer for them to use during their visit.

The team of volunteers is always there to help.

In addition to our usual Monday and Tuesday openings we will open on

Sat 14th Mar	9.30am - 12.30pm
Sat 25th Apr	9.30am - 12.30pm
Sat 16th May	9.30am - 12.30pm

### What's new at the Family History Unit (FHU)?

A new library list is now available on the FHSC website. A photo, film and slide scanner, purchased by Crewe & District Local History Association and stored in the FHU, is available for our use. The computer chairs have been replaced.

### Closure dates

The FHU will close at 4pm on Tuesday 7th April and reopen after Easter on Monday 20th April. We will also be closed on bank holiday Monday 27th May.

## Proofreading and Copy-editing Services

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**Suzie Woodward**

*Volunteer proof reader for the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR*

Tel: 01856-831533 or Email: [vestlaybanks@btinternet.com](mailto:vestlaybanks@btinternet.com)

## Family History Events

For news of family history events, see the online calendars at  
<http://geneva.weald.org.uk/>  
and [www.familyhistoryfederation.com/events](http://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/events)

### Family Tree Live

Friday 17th - Saturday 18th April

Alexandra Palace, north London

Huge choice of free workshops and lectures (pre-booking essential)

Admission £15 on the door - various discounts for advance booking

Free parking - Free bus from Wood Green/Alexandra Palace stations

[www.family-tree.co.uk/information/family-tree-live](http://www.family-tree.co.uk/information/family-tree-live)

### Guild of One-Name Studies Conference & AGM: Sources and Resources

Friday 24th - Sunday 26th April

Jurys Inn, Godstow Road, Oxford OX2 8AL

Optional visit to the Bodleian Library on Friday

Booking essential - Non-members welcome

<http://one-name.org/events/guild-conference-agm> Tel: 0800 011 2182

### Sheffield & District FHS Family History Fair

10.00am - 4.00pm Saturday 2nd May

Crowne Plaza Royal Victoria Hotel

Victoria Station Rd, Sheffield, S4 7YE

[www.sheffieldfhs.org.uk/events](http://www.sheffieldfhs.org.uk/events)

### Chesterfield & District FHS Family History Fair

10.00am - 4.00pm Saturday 23rd May

Chesterfield Football Club, PROACT Stadium, Sheffield Rd, Chesterfield

Theme: Old and Curious Occupations

displays - stands - helpdesks - two free talks

Free Parking; Admission £3, accompanied under-16s free

[www.cadfhs.org/2020-family-history-show-case-event](http://www.cadfhs.org/2020-family-history-show-case-event)

### **The Family History Show, York**

10.00am - 4.30pm, Saturday 20th June 2020

Knivesmire Racecourse, York, YO23 1EX

Free parking - free shuttle bus from York railway station

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

### **THE Genealogy Show**

Friday 26th - Saturday 27th June 2020

The NEC, Birmingham, B40 1NT

Adjacent to Birmingham International railway station

Onsite car parking with free shuttle bus from car park to venue

[www.thegenealogyshow.uk](http://www.thegenealogyshow.uk)

### **Register of Qualified Genealogists (RQG) Day Conference**

**“Genealogy and Social History: Know your Ancestors”**

9.30am - 5.30pm, Saturday 26th September

The Science and Industry Museum, Manchester

Refreshments and hot buffet lunch included

Booking essential - Non-members welcome

[www.qualifiedgenealogists.org/2020-conference](http://www.qualifiedgenealogists.org/2020-conference)

## **Family History News**

A selection of recent updates to websites, and other family history news. Remember, if you don't have a subscription to *Ancestry*, *Find My Past* or *The Genealogist*, our Research Centres have free access to many of these records.

**Bear in mind that record collections on the Internet may be incomplete.**

### **The Museum of Policing in Cheshire**

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

The museum is located in Warrington, adjacent to Bank Quay railway station. As well as police service records, the museum has marriage records, photos, newspaper cuttings and more; much of it is indexed and can be searched online. Further details can be obtained on payment of a research fee. Click on *Collections* to learn more about the museum's holdings.

## Deceased Online

*www.deceasedonline.com*

Records from three cemeteries and two crematoria from Salford in Greater Manchester are available, dating back to 1879. Agecroft, Peel Green, and Swinton Cemeteries, and Agecroft and Peel Green Crematoria are available now. Their records comprise digital scans of the original burial and cremation registers, cemetery maps showing the section in which the grave is located, and grave details for each of the graves and their occupants.

More than 330,000 burial records for Salford's Weaste Cemetery will be available in the near future.

## Ancestry

To see a list of all record sets included on the *Ancestry* website, go to <http://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/cardcatalog.aspx>.

Click on *Sort by > Date Updated* to see the latest additions.

To find out what's new at *Ancestry*, see [www.ancestry.co.uk/cs/recent-collections](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/cs/recent-collections)

### **Scotland, Ireland and Wales, Militia Attestation Papers, 1800-1915**

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/61643/>

### **UK, Officer Service Records, 1764-1932**

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/61807/>

These two military record sets were recently added. However, although the records can be searched and a small amount of transcribed data viewed with an *Ancestry* subscription, the full records are stored on the *Fold3* military records website (owned by *Ancestry*) and an additional subscription to *Fold3* is needed to view them.

To view records on *Fold3* you can take out a seven day free trial; you must supply credit/debit card details but can easily cancel the trial via your account on the website and no payment will be taken. After cancelling you can continue to use the site until the free trial ends so there is no need to wait until the last day and risk forgetting to cancel. Remember to download copies of the records you are interested in to your computer for later viewing.

### **England & Scotland, Select Cemetery Registers, 1800-2016**

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/9041/>

Includes transcriptions from burial registers from councils and record offices for some cemeteries in Liverpool, London, Manchester, Staffordshire and elsewhere (scroll down the web page for the full list).

## Find My Past (FMP)

To see a list of all record sets included on the *FindMyPast* website, go to <http://search.findmypast.co.uk/historical-records>.

To see what's new at *FindMyPast*, go to [www.findmypast.co.uk/whats-new](http://www.findmypast.co.uk/whats-new) or <https://blog.findmypast.co.uk/latest-records/>

### **Burma Star Association Membership Forms**

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/burma-star-association-membership-forms>

Search over 53,000 membership forms of the Burma Star Association. To become a full member of the Association, an ex-serviceman, ex-servicewoman or nurse must have been awarded the Burma Campaign Star for service in Burma during World War II for the necessary qualifying period, or the Pacific Star with Burma Clasp.

### **Britain, The Great War, I Was There magazine**

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/britain-the-great-war-i-was-there>

The magazine was a weekly periodical which aimed to capture personal memories of the 1914-18 war. It mainly consisted of first-hand accounts and previously unpublished images. Edited by Sir John Hammerton, its 51 editions ran from 29 September 1938 to 19 September 1939, ending due to the start of WWII. The search should find all instances of a word or phrase and entering a name is optional, so you can search by location or another word if you wish.

### **Prisoners Of War 1715-1945**

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/prisoners-of-war-1715-1945>

The records are diverse and comprise original images from The National Archives as well as transcript-only records from other sources. The records include military personnel and also civilians, diplomats, missionaries and merchant seamen. Included in the collection are some WWI registers from POW camps in Germany whose records can also be found via the International Red Cross - a useful alternative to the scanned card index provided by the Red Cross on their website at <https://grandeguerre.icrc.org/>

### **British & Irish Newspaper Update**

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search/british-newspapers>

With over 195,000 new pages recently added, there are a variety of new and updated titles available to search, including a new title, the *Warrington Advertiser*, for the years 1865, 1877, 1879, 1884, 1887, 1889.

## The Genealogist

To see what's new at *The Genealogist*, go to [www.thegenealogist.co.uk/news](http://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/news)  
To see a full list of holdings, go to [www.thegenealogist.co.uk/coverage](http://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/coverage)

### Colour Tithe Maps for Warwickshire and Bedfordshire

*The Genealogist* has released colour digitised tithe maps sourced from The National Archives (TNA) and Warwick County Record Office.

### Lloyd George Domesday records for the Borough of Hackney

These records make use of the powerful new Map Explorer™, so you are able to see the district as it was in 1910-1915.

### Norfolk Parish Records

Baptism, marriage, and burial records plus some bastardy records have been added for a number of Norfolk parishes.

## The British Home Children Registry

[www.britishhomechildrenregistry.com](http://www.britishhomechildrenregistry.com)

A free register of over 82,000 children who were sent to Canada between 1869-1939 (research still ongoing). An estimated 100,000 children were sent. *Information from the Society of Genealogists monthly newsletter.*

## The National Archives

### Changes to document ordering from 31 March 2020

From Tuesday 31 March 2020, as part of a six-month trial, readers at The National Archives at Kew will be able to order a maximum of 12 documents for the same day, plus up to 12 documents ordered in advance (a maximum of 24 documents per reader per day). There will be five document ordering slots available each day and you can order as many of your 12 same-day documents as you wish in any of the slots. You will not need to finish your advance orders before ordering more documents for the same day. Documents will be delivered at set times each day.

Same-day document ordering will start at 9.45am and finish at 3.30pm each day. Advance ordering for the next day will also close at 3.30pm.

For more information see the TNA website at [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/news/changes-to-document-ordering](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/news/changes-to-document-ordering)

# Certificate Exchange

*by Jean Jones*

This service enables members to share Birth, Marriage and Death certificate information. Due to current legislation, only information from certificates over 100 years old can be supplied. Members can obtain a **transcription** of a certificate by sending your name, membership number, and identifying the required certificate from the published list:

- by email to [editor@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:editor@fhsc.org.uk) (marked for the attention of Jean Jones, Certificate Exchange)
- by post (please include a stamped self-addressed envelope) to Jean Jones, 2 Lytham Rd, Ashton in Makerfield, Wigan WN4 9RU.

Unwanted certificates should be sent to the above address. Please ensure you use the correct postage rate for the envelope size and weight. If in doubt, please ask at your local Post Office. Certificates over 100 years old will be listed in the **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR** as soon as possible after receipt. Other certificates will be held until such time as legislation allows them to be listed.

Thank you for donating unwanted certificates to the FHSC.

Certificate type: B= birth; M=marriage; D=death

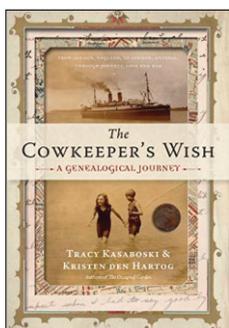
HEAPS	John D	B 1853 Dec 6	To Thomas & Susannah formerly Heaps	LIVERPOOL
HEAPS	Mary	B 1851 Aug 15	To John & Alice formerly Sandbach.	LIVERPOOL
MILHEACH	Betty	D 1895 Jan 13	Age 74 yrs. Mark of Clara Nield, dau.	Saddleworth YRK
JENKINSON	Arthur	M 1904 Dec 24	To Mary E. Lightfoot. Son of Mathew Jenkinson.	Prescot LAN
LIGHTFOOT	Mary E	M 1904 Dec 24	To Arthur Jenkinson. Dau of James Lightfoot.	Prescot LAN
CALLEN	Edward R	D 1882 June 25	Age 40 yrs.	Camberwell SRY
BEECH	Frank	B 1881 Mar 24	To Joseph & Elizabeth formerly Jackson	Congleton CHS
JONES	David	M 1885 Mar 22	To Susan C Wilson. Son of James Jones.	Birkenhead CHS
WILSON	Susan C	M 1885 Mar 22	To David Jones. Dau of Robert Wilson.	Birkenhead CHS

FRANKLIN	Frederick C	M 1920 Oct 16	To Katherine M Sheppard. Son of George Franklin.	LONDON
SHEPPARD	Katherine	M 1920 Oct 16	To Frederick C Franklin. Dau of John L Sheppard.	LONDON
BROWSE	Francis A	M 1906 May 27	To Harriett M Heaps. Son of John Browse, Dec.	LIVERPOOL
HEAPS	Harriett M	M 1906 May 27	To Francis A Browse. Dau of John D Heaps.	LIVERPOOL
McKAY	John	M 1916 May 17	To Hannah A Jones. Son of Wm McKay, Dec.	Birkenhead CHS
JONES	Hannah A	M 1916 May 17	To John McKay. Dau of David Jones.	Birkenhead CHS
CONDLIFFE	George	M 1891 Aug 8	To Emma Clowes. Son of James Condliffe.	Congleton CHS
CLOWES	Emma	M 1891 Aug 8	To George Condliffe. Dau of William Clowes, Dec.	Congleton CHS
WEBB	Peter	M 1885 Apr 6	To Alice Clowes. Son of William Webb	Congleton CHS
CLOWES	Alice	M 1885 Apr 6	To Peter Webb. Dau of William Clowes.	Congleton CHS
WHITTINGHAM	James	M 1881 Aug 15	To Margaret E Morris. Son of John Whittingham, Dec.	MANCHESTER
MORRIS	Margaret E	M 1881 Aug 15	To James Whittingham. Dau of Ralph W Morris	MANCHESTER
LIGHTFOOT	Rex	M 1904 Nov 19	To Lilian Newton. Son of Thomas Lightfoot.	Northwich CHS
NEWTON	Lilian	M 1904 Nov 19	To Rex Lightfoot. Dau of John Newton.	Northwich CHS
BROWN	George	M 1869 Dec 20	To Elizabeth Heath. Son of John Brown.	Northwich CHS
HEATH	Elizabeth	M 1869 Dec 20	To George Brown. Dau of Samuel Heath	Northwich CHS

## Book Reviews

*Newly published items on genealogical or Cheshire subjects are welcomed for review. Please send to the editor (contact details inside front cover). After review, items are given to a Society library or group. All pricing and other information correct at the time of going to press.*

***The Cowkeeper's Wish: A Genealogical Journey*, by Kristen Den Hartog and Tracy Kasaboski**  
**Reviewed by Jean Laidlaw**



In the 1840s, a young cowkeeper, Benjamin Jones, and his wife, Margaret Davies arrive in the borough of Southwark in London having walked 250 miles from coastal Wales with their cattle. They hope to escape poverty, but instead they plunge deeper into it, and the family remains in poverty for generations. *The Cowkeeper's Wish* follows the couple's descendants in and out of slum housing, bleak workhouses and asylums, through Victorian and Edwardian England, World War I and the depression. It is told in a narrative interweaving family and social history covering nearly one hundred years – eventually ending with a great-granddaughter moving from London, England to London, Ontario, Canada.

In *The Cowkeeper's Wish*, Kristen den Hartog and Tracy Kasaboski - two sisters - trace their ancestors' lives from Wales to Canada. Starting with a few family stories, a collection of yellowed photographs and a family tree, the sisters scoured archives, newspapers and maps to track down streets, pubs and factories that no longer exist, trace their ancestors' lives and write about them.

The book is a good example of how to write a compelling family history, although it was 431 pages long and needed a lot of concentration not to confuse family members. The notes section at the end of the book listing the sources used is very comprehensive and an example to us all!

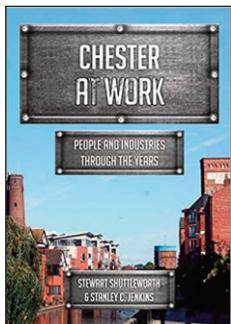
Douglas & McIntyre, 2018. Hardcover, 448 pages, £12.99.

ISBN: 978-1-77162-202-8.

Kindle edition also available, £12.34.

Website: <https://thecowkeeperswish.com/>

*Chester at Work*, by Stewart Shuttleworth and Stanley C Jenkins  
Reviewed by David Guyton



Mention Chester and most people today think of the Romans, the rows, the races and probably the zoo as well. But over the centuries Chester has been home to an unusually wide range of occupations and businesses.

In the middle ages it was a busy port with links to Ireland and the continent and with shipbuilding, watermills for milling grain, and salmon fishing on the River Dee. By the mid-fifteenth century there were around two dozen guilds covering a wide variety of trades with leather goods and glove-making being particularly prominent. Progressive silting of the river accompanied later by the rise of Liverpool resulted in the loss of port trade and customs revenues but shipbuilding continued into the early twentieth century. Construction of a canal in the late eighteenth century linked to the national network, followed by new railway lines in the 1840s, greatly improved connections with the rest of the country and enabled the growth of numerous manufacturing businesses from the time of the Napoleonic Wars, through the nineteenth century and up to the Second World War. A cloth processing mill, a tobacco factory, lead manufacturing, an iron foundry, metal working and engineering businesses, two large railway workshops run by competing companies, two motor manufacturing businesses, as many as thirteen breweries, a gas works, one of the country's earliest hydroelectric generating stations on the River Dee and another steam-powered electricity generating plant were just some of the industries which grew and flourished for a time and led to the growth of the city, and new factories and housing outside the medieval walls.

Rising population and prosperity coupled with Chester's longstanding role as administrative and judicial centre for the county of Cheshire supported wealthy merchant families and expansion of the retail trade. Epitomised by Brown's departmental store, which was hailed as *Harrods of the North*, Chester became the predominant shopping centre for the region and by the 1950s it was said that retail spending per head of population was the highest outside London.

But, as they always have done over the centuries, economic circumstances and businesses change. Manufacturing businesses have now almost entirely disappeared and have been replaced by financial services, leisure and tourism, and an expanding university campus. Shops are closing and in their stead is an increasing variety of coffee shops, restaurants and hotels.

All these businesses and more are well covered in this book which includes an excellent range of historical and contemporary pictures, many in colour. Altogether, this is a thoroughly researched and well produced book by a local author and a colleague with wide experience in local history which will be of interest to everyone with Chester connections past or present.

Amberley Publishing, 2019, Paperback, 96 pages, £14.99

ISBN: 978-1-4456-9143-5 (Paperback)

ISBN: 978-1-4456-9144-2 (E-book)

Website: [www.amberley-books.com](http://www.amberley-books.com)

***Great British Family Names and their History*, by John Moss  
Reviewed by Peter Ramsden**



The history of Great Britain has been largely defined by powerful and influential families, or so argues the author, many of whose names descend from Celtic, Danish, Saxon or Norman ancestors. Iconic names like Wellington, Nelson, Shakespeare, Constable, De Montfort and Montgomery – as well as innumerable other less well-known names.

The book provides short profiles of several hundred family names, looking at the derivation of the name and what is known of the more influential individuals of that name through the centuries to the present day. Divided into ten regional chapters, that on the north-west includes, for example, the ACKER family of Little Moreton, the GROSVENORs of Eaton Hall, the ORMERODs of Whalley and Ormerod and the SHRIGLEYs of Macclesfield. Elsewhere in the book, you can read about the OGILVY family of Angus, the SACKVILLEs of Knole, the BERKELEYs of Gloucestershire and the FITZROYs of Suffolk to name but a few.

There is a detailed index listing all the family names that are profiled in this interesting and readable book, together with a smattering of historical events that are highlighted in the family profiles. This is not a reference book; it's more of a browse for holiday reading or a quiet night at home. The list of references is short but includes a list of useful websites on surname history.

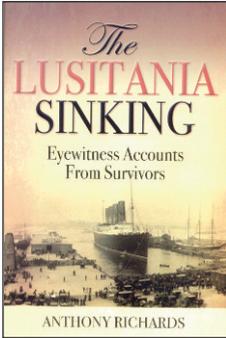
Pen and Sword Books, 2019. Hardcover, 314 pages, £19.99.

Also available in paperback and Kindle formats.

ISBN: 978-1-5267-2280-5

Website: [www.pen-and-sword.co.uk](http://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk)

*The Lusitania Sinking: Eyewitness Accounts from Survivors*, by Anthony Richards  
Reviewed by Peter Ramsden



Many books and articles have been written about the sinking of the Lusitania, torpedoed by a German submarine on 7th May 1915. The maritime disaster influenced the decision by America to engage in World War I, which eventually turned the tide in favour of the Allies.

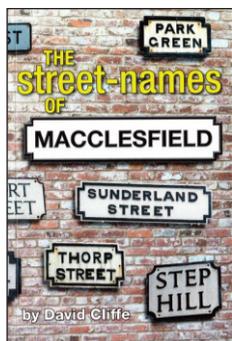
This book adopts a rather different approach to others, that of a family seeking information on their son's death. On 1st May 1915, Richard Preston Prichard embarked as a second-class passenger on the Lusitania, bound from New York to Liverpool. He was a 29-year-old student. Sadly, he drowned along with 1,197 others when the ship sank after a massive explosion caused by a single torpedo. Preston's mother wrote hundreds of letters to survivors, in an attempt to find out more about what happened. This book recounts events through the words of those who were actually there. Almost two hundred replies to Margaret Preston survive, now in the archives of the Imperial War Museum (IWM), and these are supplemented by other documentation and oral history interviews conducted in the years after the sinking of the ship.

Giving a very interesting and personal account, the book is just over 200 pages in length, sufficient to narrate events without overwhelming the reader. History comes close when events such as the sinking of the Lusitania are recounted by those who experienced them. The author, who worked at the IWM, acquired Margaret Prichard's correspondence files for the museum when they appeared for sale at a Sotheby's auction.

Cheshire has connections with the tragedy, including Florence Wallace Watson (née Stancliffe), who was born in Sutton, Macclesfield. She married William Wallace Watson, a Canadian sugar refiner, at St George's Church in Macclesfield and emigrated to Canada in 1888. Florence was returning to Britain for her parents' golden wedding anniversary celebrations when she became a victim of the tragedy in 1915. Her body was recovered from the sea and she was buried at St James' Church, Sutton. More information can be found at <http://macclesfieldreflects.org.uk/1915/05/07/watson-florence/>

Greenhill Books, 2019. Hardcover, 214 pages, £19.99;  
ISBN: 978-1-78438-301-5

*The Street-Names of Macclesfield*, by David Cliffe  
Reviewed by Peter Ramsden



This is the first published book which attempts to explain the naming of all of the roads, streets, lanes and alleys in the old borough of Macclesfield (as it was up to the year 2000). It describes where a thoroughfare is (or was), when the name was first recorded and whether the name has changed over time. Then it attempts to explain the reason for the name – which is sometimes a matter for conjecture!

The book includes chapters on the growth of the town, how names were allocated and changed (sometimes by the borough council and sometimes through common usage), the differences between a road, a street and a lane, the names of areas within the town and the names of watercourses. The main body of the book is then an alphabetical gazetteer of Macclesfield's streets with a commentary on the likely origin of their names. It includes over fifty archive photos and small maps.

The author, born and brought up in Macclesfield but now living in Reading where he was formerly the local studies librarian, outlines his aim as being *to examine the street names of Macclesfield and see what they tell us about the history of the town and the history of England*. The book is intended for the general reader and does not assume any specialist knowledge in, for example, old English or dialect. It is readable and entertaining to browse through familiar, and unfamiliar, names in Macclesfield's landscape. Well referenced, and containing lists of local directories and maps, it is a very useful resource for both local historians and family historians seeking to discover more about the town in which they live or in which their ancestors lived.

Published in 2019 by the author from his home at 1 Priest Hill, Caversham, Reading RG4 7RZ, and currently on sale at the Visitor Information Centre in Macclesfield.

Paperback, 195 pages, £12.00  
ISBN: 978-0-9957431-0-6

**Ed.:** readers may also be interested in the English Place-Name Society, some of whose publications are being made available free as downloadable PDF files. See [www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/epns/index.aspx](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/epns/index.aspx)

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

**DOROTHY FLUDE**

Thank you to the FHSC “Golden Moments” competition judges for awarding my entry the winning prize. It was a great surprise and I am honoured to receive it. Members of FHSC in Crewe have been a great help to me in my family history quests and I hope to encourage others to use the research facilities. I attended the funeral of Dorothy Flude (1945-2019) in late December 2019 and would like to reflect on her work for FHSC in Crewe and the county. Without her actions between 2010 and her death I may not have been in a position to write my article.

Dorothy touched so many lives in so many ways. I knew little of her family history although she helped the FHSC Crewe group in the background. She is definitely an “unsung hero” of The Family History Society of Cheshire. We should be ever grateful to her for her sterling work in keeping a family history research facility in Crewe. In 2010 it was announced that Manchester Metropolitan University was pulling out of its Alsager site. Housed within this complex was the South Cheshire Family History unit, now a part of FHSC. This had developed and thrived with the addition of local resources and was the centre for the transcription projects related to Cheshire BMD, and the early censuses. When I first knew it in the early 2000s, there were volunteers working on a project to transcribe all the baptism records for Crewe churches. Where was this thriving research group going to find a home? Step forward Crewe Councillor, and FHSC member, Dorothy Flude.

How she managed to fit in time with her busy council schedule to carefully negotiate the rapid removal and re-housing to a room in the old Crewe Library is a testament to the persistent, but charming lady that she was. After five years, during which the library had been refitted and the unit closed for three months, the popular facility was again homeless as the new Life Style Centre forced the closure of the old library.

Cheshire East’s inception had not only reorganised the libraries but also the council offices. The wonderful Municipal Building now had some unused rooms. Dorothy sought not only to rehouse the FHSC unit there but also to try to bring together in one place the resources of other local history groups. Crewe and District Local History Association and the FHSC Crewe group moved into

rooms on the second floor of the Municipal Building in 2016. Research goes on apace, people from all over the world are helped to seek family history records both on computers and with the local expertise of volunteers. What will happen when Cheshire Archives in Duke Street, Chester closes? If Dorothy's hopes are to be fulfilled, some of the Cheshire East records would be moved to Crewe and find a new home there along with the FHSC resources. This should create a lasting and fitting memorial for Dorothy.

Not only did Dorothy have the contacts, negotiating skills and drive to get these things done, she had vision for the future of Crewe, the home town which she cherished and served. All sorts of history records are now available in the centre of Crewe looking out over the square with the War Memorial and gardens (an area dear to Dorothy's heart), but they are freely available to anyone who is interested, in a congenial environment where people come together to discuss their family roots within a town with a distinct and unique industrial and social ethos. Dorothy often nipped in on a Monday or Tuesday on her way to one of her many council commitments! Latterly, and unfortunately lastly, her project had been the creation of a proper museum for the town and its people at Crewe Heritage Centre. All this must be remembered as an apt memorial for such a dear friend to us all.

Mrs Sue Johnson  
Member no. 6446

*In the last issue a 'Help Wanted' request from Jean Laidlaw (Macclesfield group leader) was printed, seeking relatives of Charles Edwards who died in Chester in 1918. Former Macclesfield group leader Dennis Whyte had found some memorabilia relating to him and wanted to return the items to a family member.*

Dear Editor,

### **CHARLES EDWARDS (1882-1918)**

I was very surprised to receive an email from Jean Laidlaw on 3 January following an article she had written recently for the **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR** journal in connection with a soldier, Charles EDWARDS, who had died in Chester in 1918. Whilst doing some research Jean noticed that I had created a family tree on *Ancestry* which includes a Charles EDWARDS (1915-2009) of Chester and asked me if he was the son of the earlier Charles EDWARDS the soldier.

I replied explaining that my relative, Charles EDWARDS, who died in 2009 and was known in the family as Charlie, was indeed the son of Charles EDWARDS

the soldier who had died in 1918. My grandmother, Annie DAVIES from Halkyn, North Wales, had married Charles EDWARDS in 1913 in Chester and they had a son, also Charles, who was born in 1915.

Following the death of her first husband in 1918, my grandmother married Charles BURGESS in 1920 with whom she had two sons, one of whom was my father Howard, born in 1922. Howard and his half-brother Charlie were very close throughout their lives.

Charlie married Cissie in 1943 and did not have any children but my sister, late brother and I saw a lot of them as we grew up in Chester from the early 1960s. By the time Cissie died in 2003 they had been married nearly sixty years. Charlie moved into residential care for the last few years of his life where I visited him. I arranged his funeral when he died in 2009, as he had outlived both his brothers.

Jean has set out Charles EDWARDS' background and his military service during the First World War. When his father died in 1918 Charlie was less than three years old but I remember that he always attended the annual Remembrance Day parade and service held on the Town Hall Square in Chester, out of respect for his late father.

The purpose of Jean's article had been to try to trace extended family to return some items which had been found at a refuse tip some years ago including two First World War medals, newspaper cuttings and photographs. I had inherited the only papers and items left by Charlie after his death in 2009 so it was wonderful to travel to Macclesfield to meet Jean Laidlaw and Dennis Whyte and collect this family memorabilia. I have been able to identify many of the people in the photographs and have now been able to put everything with the other family papers.

I would like to thank Dennis Whyte for looking after the items since they were discovered and Jean Laidlaw for writing her article and taking the trouble to contact me. An exciting and totally unexpected start to 2020!

**David Burgess**



Dear Editor,

## CONVICTS IN THE COLONIES

I was delighted to receive the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR celebrating fifty years of family history - what a good read it is. I have a surprising link to the book *Convicts in the Colonies* which was reviewed in the last (December) issue.

My husband David and I had the holiday of a lifetime last year which included visits to Singapore, New Zealand and Australia. We cruised round New Zealand, then to Tasmania and ended our travels in Sydney, Australia where David and I met a couple of his cousins.

While we were in Tasmania I did some research on the transportation of a distant relative of mine who was sent to Van Diemen's Land. He was sentenced at York Assizes to fifteen years' transportation for stealing seven sheep. As he was a butcher, finding the sheep in the back of his cart was obviously very incriminating. He sailed out on the convict ship *Anson* on 23rd September 1843, arriving nearly five months later on 4th February 1844.

My ancestor led an extraordinary life as an orchardist and one wonders what his life might have been like had he not been caught stealing sheep in a Yorkshire field that night in 1842. His sheer hard work and determination coupled with the ability to seize opportunities as they came along meant that he was able to build a life and legacy from which his family and the wider community would benefit. His great-grandson now owns a distillery near Hobart and the bottles of apple brandy bear a picture of his great-grandfather.

While we were in Hobart we took a trip to Cascades Female Factory mentioned in the book. This is a World Heritage Site and one of the best tours that we have been on. We found the visit informative but very emotional, considering how the women and children were treated.

I decided when we got to Sydney that I would like to know more about transportation so went to Dymocks which is a lovely big bookshop. As you can imagine there were lots of books to choose from and I must admit we bought a few. Back at our hotel, I found to my surprise that one of the books I chose was a Pen and Sword book written by a historian from Liverpool - it was *Convicts in the Colonies*. To top it all, as I took off the Aus \$34.99 (about £18.25) price label on the back, I noticed that the price in the UK was just £12.99! Not to worry as the book is an excellent read and one to which I was able to relate.

**Janet Phillips, Bramhall Group**  
**Member no. 9243**

## Help Wanted

### STOKES - LONDON; ANDERSON - BUCKLOW DISTRICT

I would really appreciate any help anyone can offer. If you stay with the little pen-portrait I have written below you will come to the Cheshire connection at the end – Bucklow to be exact.

I have a Ruby STOKES in my family and being a fan of the BBC programme *Heir Hunters* I was very excited to notice that same name on the Bona Vacantia register of unclaimed estates. It wasn't that I was seeking a fortune, rather that I love filling in the pieces of the jigsaw of my endless family tree. Well, finding her illegitimate birth in 1917 London I thought I was uncovering another war-time romance with a lost soldier – we already have one in the family that took me fifty years to solve and I felt confident enough to continue.

Monica Ruby STOKES (known all her life as Ruby Monica) was born to a housemaid called Katherine Elizabeth STOKES on 18th October 1917 in Queen Charlotte Hospital, London. The mother's home address was 35, Rolls Road, Bermondsey, London and, as expected, no father is named on the certificate. The birth was registered 25th October 1917.

In the Bona Vacantia register, Ruby Monica STOKES died on 12th March 2000 with no known next of kin and unmarried. There was something strange to be discovered. I then turned to the 1939 register and found out what was going on. Ruby, aged only 12, was an inmate at Darenth Park Hospital, Kent and was said to have been of *limited intellect*. By this time I knew that this was not my own family but I had come this far and felt my heart strings tugged for this little girl, so I determined to re-unite the memory of her with her birth family if I could. There are very few extant records available for asylums at this date and their access is not yet possible for members of the public. I paid an archivist at the London Metropolitan Archives to look at the admissions register for Darenth Park, to see if any more could be revealed. All that could be found was the following:

*Ruby Monica Stokes, aged 12 was admitted to Darenth Park on Friday 29th August 1930 from London CC. Hers was a direct admission and her religion was said to be C of E.*

*Ref. 9H61/DA/B/01/003, London Metropolitan Archives*

Knowing that Ruby's mother Katherine Elizabeth STOKES was not my ancestor I thought she would be hard to trace but was very surprised to find that this was a rather unusual name and only a few existed. The most likely match was a Katherine Elizabeth STOKES born in Ireland on 8th September 1891, who married Francis Dominic LEAVY in 1926 and died as Katherine Elizabeth LEAVY on 27th October 1962 when living at Collingwood House, Dolphin Square, London.

If this was Ruby's mother then, at the time of the marriage, Ruby would have been nine; ten when her half-sister Norah Katherine LEAVY was born in 1927, and eleven when her other half-sister Hilda Marian LEAVY was born in 1929. Ruby was placed in the home in 1930, so if she does belong to this family one might understand that they were making the best decision for her and for the other little girls at the time.

I have evidence of Hilda and Norah LEAVY travelling to New York and Canada for work as secretaries and then I lose track of Norah. Hilda, however, returned and married James E ANDERSON in the 3rd quarter of 1962 in Bucklow, Cheshire. As far as I can tell they had no children, so Hilda ANDERSON may be the only next of kin of Ruby STOKES if she is still alive, being her half-sister.

After the marriage in Bucklow I wonder if there is any local knowledge of her. I would love to bring the story full circle and re-unite Ruby with her family.

**Elly Babbedge**  
**elly.babbedge@hotmail.co.uk**

*Ed.: The official Government Bona Vacantia unclaimed estates list can be found at [www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/unclaimed-estates-list](http://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/unclaimed-estates-list)*

#### **GENEALOGICAL TIP**

Does one of your early Victorian ancestors stick out like a sore thumb as a *lawyer* among the humble ag. labs. and labourers in his family? The chances are that in fact he worked in a shallow pit with sawdust falling on him for much of the day. In those days the capital letters S and L were all but indistinguishable in the handwriting of many enumerators, registrars and clergymen, and your man is far more likely to have been a *sawyer*.

For many years a group of us interested in the name Longhurst in Surrey were up against a brick wall in every direction we looked. It eventually turned out that our 2x great-grandmama was in fact a Songhurst.

*Ian Cameron, Bramhall Group Website Administrator*

## Into the Royal Air Force - Part 3

by Chester Guttridge  
Member no. 9193



*Chester previously related how he was conscripted into the RAF in 1943 and sent to Skegness for training. His first posting was to RAF Withybus, and in November 1943 he was posted to RAF Cosford for a sixteen-week mechanics course, after which he returned home for one week's leave before reporting to RAF Mepal, Cambridgeshire.*

RAF Mepal was a satellite bomber station of Waterbeach, near Cambridge, first operating in 1943. It was built mostly of Nissen huts, large, medium and small. The wash houses and ablution blocks were of brick with asbestos cement roofs. Beside the NAAFI Nissen hut stood a brick and asbestos toilet building with rarely used cubicle seating for some twenty-four airmen at a time. I used it occasionally, but never with company. The education hut was a little further away beside the concrete road to the airfield. I was often to be found there when work was done.

I arrived initially at Ely railway station with some others. A RAF lorry picked us up and took us to Mepal, passing near Whitchurch, Waterbeach's other satellite station, and dropped us at the guard house, manned by RAF police. These *red caps* were not our mates and kept to themselves. They represented discipline and were issued with arms. In the last resort they were there to defend us. When a German plane dropped anti-personnel bombs on the airfield they disposed of them; until cleared, the airfield was out of bounds for the rest of us. No one was killed or injured.

That day, I was issued with a bicycle, three blankets and a pillow and was told which Nissen hut was to be my billet. I found an unused bed, inevitably near the door, but gradually worked my way up towards the central stove as airmen left on postings. One chap, who specialized in long fruity farts which he announced to all when an eruption was imminent, fortunately slept at the other end. He had been a cowman and was at the lower end of our limited cultural range. Formalities were minimal - we were there to do a job. I remember only

one kit inspection, although we unmade our beds every morning just in case. I acquired a large soft blanket, which I folded to serve as top and bottom sheets. I never traded it in for clean blankets as required every few months. All our clothes were marked with our RAF number, shirts, collars, underclothes, etc. Laundry was collected weekly. I once sent a rag and got back a handkerchief.

Next day I was drafted to a wing of four aircraft and to a small corrugated iron dispersal hut near a Lancaster bomber. It was to be my work place until I left the RAF. For most of my time at Mepal, I and my colleagues serviced aircraft S Sugar of 75(N.Z.) Squadron. There were five of us: Corporal Jim COOPER, engine mechanic; Max BARNES, engine mechanic (known as Binnie after the film star Binnie BARNES); bespectacled Corporal SHUFFLEBOTTOM, airframe rigger, Stan HANKINS, airframe rigger, also bespectacled, and me. Binnie was in the same billet as me, eventually in the next bed. I got to know him well. All four colleagues had been in the RAF longer than me and knew 'the ropes'. Jim COOPER had been a postman in Sheffield before call-up, Stan a house decorator in his father's business in Hove and Binnie, I recall only that he lived and worked in Ormskirk.

I also became friendly with Corporal Alec BALFOUR from 3 Little Chapel Street, Aberdeen. Alec and I had a week's holiday together in the Lake District after the war. Again after the war, I stayed for a weekend with Jim COOPER and his wife, Enid, in his terraced house in Sheffield, the smoky city of steel. I was appalled by the black smuts floating in the air and the grime everywhere, even in the park where we went for a walk on Sunday afternoon with seemingly half the population seeking greenery and fresh(er) air. I corresponded with Max and many years later he came to stay with us at Nailsea, but by then he had a heart condition. He died a few months later. Things did not go well for him after the war. Although his pre-war employer took him back as required, they sent him to work away from home, a circumstance that led to him divorcing his wife and selling the family home.

The day I arrived at the flight hut, the Lancaster on our concrete standing ground and the three others in the flight area were all new. They had arrived the day before me, after all the Halifax bombers had flown out. The Halifaxes had four radial engines, the Lancaster's four in-line Rolls Royce Merlins. Sergeant BURKITT, an engine man, was in charge of all four planes and their ground crews. He was a regular, having joined the Service before the war. Above him was the Engineering Officer with the rank of a Flying Officer, one step above the lowest ranking Pilot Officer. Few, if any, of the ground staff were New Zealanders.

Our jobs were to carry out daily inspections of engines and airframe and do minor servicing operations, then sign a chart recording completion. Stan and his corporal checked that the control surfaces, rudder, ailerons, etc were working properly and that the outer skin of the aircraft was undamaged, patching it if necessary with dope and canvas. Stan cleaned the inside. Having made visual inspections, we mechanics ran up the engines, one at a time, to check their operation and that of the variable pitch propellers. It was some months before I was allowed to do this, after instruction. I liked having so much power (c.1500 h.p.) at my control. We checked the performance mainly by checking the rev. (revolution) counter and, of course, the oil pressure and temperature gauges. Merlins were fitted with two independent magneto ignition systems, a) in case one should fail and b) to improve engine performance. Two sparks ignited the petrol-air mixture in the cylinders faster than one, thus increasing power output. By observing the drop in revs when one ignition set was switched off one could tell if there was a faulty plug. In which case we changed all 24 plugs and tested the engine again.

Specialists dealt with the guns, the radio, the H2S (ground mapping radar) and the automatic pilot. From time to time specialists 'swung' the aircraft to determine the deviation of the compass caused by magnetic metal on the plane, presumably mainly the engines.

When Mepal was scheduled for a raid, armourers hung bombs in the bomb bay and loaded the Browning machine guns with ammunition while we filled the tanks with the specified quantity of petrol. To do this we had to climb on to the wings. Before take-off time, which was usually in the evenings around dusk, one of us ground crew, as detailed, had to remove the cover from the pitot head (air speed indicator), remove the canvas engine covers, then, when all was ready and the air crew aboard, climb on to the wheels in the undercarriage nacelles, connect the cable from the supplementary battery trolley, and pump priming petrol into the engines. When the flight engineer (second pilot) in the cockpit signalled that he was ready we pressed the starter button on the supplementary battery trolley. Finally, upon a signal from the pilot, we removed the chocks and guided the plane from its standing ground by hand signals. We had to remain on the station until called by Tannoy to receive our returning plane.

The Station's Commanding Officer visited every crew in his service Austin Eight as they waited to board. The planes lined up on the perimeter track waiting their turn to take off, loaded with enough petrol for a twelve-hour flight (flights of such duration were unusual) and bombs to the weight limit. With four engines on full power they struggled to take off, and the heavy, low pitched drone continued for perhaps half an hour before they were all away.

Silence fell over the fens when the last of the planes disappeared into the distance. They would still be climbing as they crossed the North Sea to danger. Upon our plane's return we guided it into its place with hand signals (holding torches in darkness), put chocks against the wheels, covered the four engines by again walking on the wings, then lacing them up underneath. The whole operation took some thirty to forty minutes. We went inside to check that the crew had left everything switched off and safe, gathered up any sweets they had left for us, jumped out, locked the door and cycled back to our huts, perhaps stopping at the mess for a mug of hot cocoa. If late getting to bed we were allowed to sleep in until lunchtime next day.

We were glad to see our plane back and its crew safe. We lost two aircraft over the twenty-two months I was at Mepal, hoping the crews had managed to bail out or had crash-landed safely somewhere else, but we never heard. Had their bombs that night fallen on some German factory or marshalling yard or killed civilians sleeping in their beds, we never knew. Accuracy was hard to achieve in high-level bombing. Night bombing was dangerous and aircraft losses were heavy. The crews were being shot at two or three times a week or more; I was in danger only of falling off the wing or walking under a spinning propeller.

Next morning there was much to be done. All the engines had to be inspected, the sides and top cowlings removed and the engines examined for cracks, damage, oil leaks and oil levels. When all was checked the engines were run up for rev. tests. These jobs took all morning and usually into the afternoon as well. Corporal COOPER once spotted a small crack about half an inch long on an engine casing that I had missed. The plane was towed by a David Brown tractor to the servicing hanger for fitters to change the engine. It was there that engines underwent major service after the specified number of flying hours. When he got a chance HANKINS painted another yellow bomb symbol on the fuselage just below and forward of the cockpit, one for every raid.

Sometimes our plane dropped something we called *Windows* as well as, or instead of bombs. *Windows* were strips of silver-lined paper which, if I recall correctly, varied in size from about 8 inches x ½ inch to 18 inches x 2 inches. When floating down from the aircraft they were said to confuse enemy radar. Members of the crew threw it out of the aircraft's door.

The largest bomb our plane carried was a 4,000 pound blockbuster. After being fitted with modification bomb doors, Sergeant BURKITT's plane was loaded with a 8,000 pounder on a couple of occasions. Usually our planes were loaded with 500 or 1,000 pound bombs and/or incendiaries.

*(To be continued.)*

## The Adventures of Thomas Burgess, Part 2

by *Howard Lawless*  
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*In the previous issue, Thomas Burgess of Stockport became a sailor and travelled around the world on various ships including Charles Darwin's ship, HMS Beagle.*

On his return to Stockport from his travels on HMS *Beagle*, Thomas BURGESS (1810–1882) had to find work and in 1836 he joined the forerunner of what eventually became the Cheshire Constabulary. How he came to join the force is of some interest. He clearly did not just walk into the local police station and volunteer. As he was to relate in a letter to Charles DARWIN written some thirty-nine years later, he enlisted the assistance of Sir Salusbury DAVENPORT who was then living at Bramall Hall. Sir Salusbury had seen service in the Royal Navy during the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, and the war of 1812, rising to the rank of Rear-Admiral.

No doubt, upon his return to his home town, Thomas became something of a local celebrity and it is possible that he was invited to Bramall Hall to relate his adventures. Sir Salusbury had by that date retired. Born in 1778, Salusbury Pryce HUMPHREYS married Maria, the illegitimate daughter of William DAVENPORT of Bramall Hall in 1810, and lived at Bramall Hall long before he succeeded his father-in-law. He became widely respected in the Stockport area, but following his succession to the estate in 1829 there were disputes from other members of the DAVENPORT family who claimed a right to the property. Edmund DAVENPORT, who claimed ancestry from Thomas DAVENPORT, the third son of Peter, unsuccessfully contested the succession in two different courts and was imprisoned for failing to pay the legal fees. HUMPHREYS was knighted in 1834 for his services, and in 1838 changed his name to DAVENPORT, in an effort to continue the DAVENPORT line.

Whatever the circumstances of their meeting, Thomas later admitted it was due to Sir Salusbury DAVENPORT that he entered into the service of the old Cheshire Constabulary sometime during 1836.

Two years later, 1838 was to prove another eventful year in Thomas's life. On 26th February 1838 he married Hannah FLETCHER at Cheadle Parish Church. Hannah was originally from the village of Peak Forest where many Fletchers

lived at the time, being employed either in agriculture or in lead mining. Less than three months after the marriage a baby was born; Thomas was the father, but it was not Hannah who gave birth. Thomas had obviously been two-timing his new bride for some months prior to the wedding.

Thomas had apparently met up with a girl named Mary Ann HADLEY who lived just around the corner from his father's shop in Heaton Norris. The result of their liaison was the birth of a daughter, named Selina, who was born on 20th May 1838. It seems clear from the subsequent records that Thomas was reluctant to take responsibility for the child and Mary Ann HADLEY had to seek financial assistance from the Poor Law Guardians in her parish of Heaton Norris. By the time of his marriage Thomas had moved away from Heaton Norris and was living and stationed in the Edgeley area of Stockport.

The Poor Law Guardians were not prepared to pay maintenance without attempting to recover their expenses from Thomas. Their efforts resulted in Thomas being taken to court on the 6th March 1839. The subsequent order stated that the Claimants, being the Overseers of the Poor of Heaton Norris, were satisfied that Thomas BURGESS, a constable, had been found to be the father of the female child born on the 20th May 1838 to Mary Ann HADLEY who by the 15th February 1839 had been unable to provide for maintenance. This had fallen on the Township. The case was adjourned to the next available General Quarter Sessions at Salford. The eventual outcome is not known.

However, three years later, as disclosed by the 1841 census, Thomas and his young family had moved further out into the more rural area of Handforth cum Bosden, a township then attached to Handforth but later forming part of Hazel Grove. Thomas was described as a police constable living with his wife Hannah and two young daughters, Mary aged two and Eliza, who was only three months old. A son, Israel, was born there, baptised at Stockport's Hanover Street United Reform Church on 7th January 1844.

The most interesting event to have occurred to Thomas in his capacity as a police constable that has so far been discovered took place on 30th September 1841. Details were found in a lengthy article appeared in the *Times* on Tuesday 5th October 1841 under the heading *Death from Fighting*.

The article, based on the Coroner's inquest held at the *Grapes* public house in Norbury, Hazel Grove, describes in detail how Thomas, stationed at Hazel Grove, heard that certain local men were planning what was described as an *up and down fight* – in other words, a bare knuckle fight. He knew it was to take place between John HADFIELD and Samuel PERRY, both aged about 22.

The fight had been postponed on at least two previous occasions, possibly due to local concerns of police interference, when Thomas heard that it was going to take place on the evening of Wednesday 29th September. When he arrived on the scene, a field in Torkington, he found a crowd of several hundred people, with the two combatants in the centre, stripped to fight. On seeing Thomas (the only police officer present) they both ran off in the direction of Dan Bank, Marple. He disturbed them again that evening but did not catch up with the pair. He gave evidence to the coroner that he understood HADFIELD and PERRY had fought later on the Wednesday evening.

This apparently did not solve the dispute between the pair as Thomas heard the next evening that they were to continue the fight in a field near Button Lane, Norbury. On arrival, Thomas found several hundred men, women and children gathered. He discovered HADFIELD and PERRY on the ground, naked except for their shoes, stockings and a cloth around their loins. John HADFIELD was on top with his arms clasped tight around Samuel Perry's neck. On seeing Thomas, John got to his feet, but Samuel PERRY was found to be dead.

The *Times* news article is far more detailed but too long to quote here in full. At the conclusion of the inquest, the jury, after a short consultation, returned a verdict of manslaughter against John HADFIELD as principal in the first degree. Also charged were the James TRAFFORD, John PLATT, James PERRY (brother of the deceased) and John BOLD (who was still at large), as principals in the second degree. These individuals were acting as the seconds for the two fighters, or were holding the money the crowd had bet on the outcome.

The four accused had to wait until the Spring Assizes in 1842 before they would know their fate. On 2nd April they were brought before the court and each convicted of manslaughter. James HADFIELD, who gave his age as 20, as the principal involved, received a sentence of six months. The remaining three, James PERRY aged 27, John PLATT aged 21 and James TRAFFORD aged 57, were each given a sentence of three months. Bearing in mind that even now the maximum sentence for this offence is life imprisonment, it seems that the four got off very lightly indeed.

Due to Thomas's occupation in the police force, the family then moved further out into Cheshire and lived for a short time in Poynton, where Israel and Eliza Harriet died within two days of each other and were buried together on 23rd March 1846. A son named Thomas was born a few months later and baptised there on 2nd August 1846. However, before he was two years old his father had been moved on again, this time to Wilmslow, then little more than a village.

Thomas set up the family home, which probably functioned as the police station as well, in Swan Street, then one of the main streets in Wilmslow. The railway had arrived in 1842 - less than six years before the family moved into the village. At that time it appears that the length of road from the station to the centre of the village at the junction of Church Street was known as Swan Street, although that name is now used only for the stretch from the Manchester Road traffic lights to Church Street, the remainder being known as Station Road.

Thomas was very much on his own. There appeared to be no proper police station and he was the only officer in the parish. It was only after he had moved on from Wilmslow that the authorities appointed a police sergeant and increased the number of constables to two.

In the summer of 1848 daughter Alice was born, followed two years later by a son, Arthur, born on 4th May 1850. Three years later, in the last few months of 1853, their last son, Henry, was born at Swan Street. However, Henry was still only a toddler when the family moved yet again. From the rapidly developing village of Wilmslow, Thomas, Hannah and their five living children moved some ten miles away to the village of Rainow, on the road from Macclesfield to Whaley Bridge.

The family took up residence in the Toll Bar Cottage on Hawkins Lane - the main road through the village, opposite what used to be the *Rising Sun Inn* - where Hannah was appointed to the position of Toll House Collector while her husband continued with his duties as the local policeman. It was at this cottage that their last child, Ann, was born in about 1856.

On Christmas Day in 1857 Thomas was found by his Sargeant to be absent from his conference points. A search was undertaken by the Sargeant who found his missing constable in a cottage, drunk. Thomas was fined ten shillings by the Chief Constable.

Rainow was a very different village to Wilmslow. It was in the foothills of the Pennines and was a rather long village straggling along the toll road. There had previously been many pack horse trails and tracks over the hills which used to be used for the transport of goods but since the road was turnpiked in the 1700s most traffic had kept to the rather better maintained road and the pack horse trails were left to deteriorate. In Rainow the toll gate was in fact an iron chain stretched across the road.

On 12th October 1860 Thomas was again in trouble with his superiors. On this occasion he was found in a public house - possibly the *Rising Sun*, which was

yards from his front door on the other side of the road. It would not have caused any comment had he not been on duty. Again, he was fined ten shillings.

Thomas's last misdemeanour took place on 25th November 1863 when he allowed a prisoner to escape. The prisoner had apparently been arrested for arrears of bastardy payments. Perhaps, because of his own similar problems in the year of his marriage, he had some sympathy with the man. For this offence Thomas was ordered to pay all costs but the amount of these is not recorded.

However, less than four years later, in August 1867, Thomas reported a case under the Dogs Act to the Excise Board and for this he was awarded a reward amounting to £2. 4s. 0d.

After Thomas retired from the Police Force on 20th April 1870, he and Hannah remained in Rainow. His annual pay prior to retirement was £57. 7s. 0d and he subsequently received a pension of £32 per annum.

In 1881 Thomas and Hannah were living further along the main road from the Old Toll Bar, at Brook House Bank, Rainow. It was here that Thomas died on 20th March 1882, having suffered from heart disease for some fifteen years.

Thomas is buried at St George's Church, Poynton, alongside his children who had died young and his wife Hannah, who died four years later. The gravestone inscription reads:

*In Memory of Israel Burgess  
son of Thomas & Hannah Burgess  
who departed this life  
March 20th 1846, aged 2 years  
Also Eliza Harriet their daughter  
who died March 22nd 1846 aged 5 years  
Also Thomas their son  
who died January 26th 1867 aged 20 years  
Also the above Thomas Burgess  
who died March 20th 1882 aged 71 years  
Also Hannah his wife  
who died June 6th 1886 aged 72 years*

Source: FHSC Macclesfield District Memorial Inscriptions CD.

*Ed.: The Macclesfield District MIs can now be purchased from the FHSC website shop as individual files for each burial ground or cemetery.*

# The Family History Society of Cheshire

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**Peter A Mellor, FHSC Membership Renewals Officer**

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IN FAVOUR OF THE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY OF CHESHIRE**

Signature.....Date.....

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Under the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) that came into force in May 2018, the Society is required to obtain your positive permission to use the contact details you have given. For instance, to email you about news and events, send **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR** to you, etc.

We have policies in place that satisfy the regulations and ensure that we will not misuse your information, and your contact details are only passed to a third party if you have a printed copy of **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**, when we must, of course, pass your address to the company that handles the distribution for us. We have checked that that company itself is GDPR compliant. Your information will be deleted at a reasonable interval after you cease to be a member, or immediately when you leave if you so request.

This renewal form contains a new box for you to confirm that you agree with us using your contact details to run the Society.

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**If you are a recent new member**, you will have given permission on the membership form or website when you joined.

## Barthomley and a Bradshaw Tree

by Sue Johnson  
Member no. 6446

*This article is the winning entry in the FHSC 50th anniversary "Golden Moment" competition.*

There I was, standing with my husband in the main square of Stafford on a Saturday morning in 2005. Our daughter had married the previous year, we had just returned from an exciting holiday along the West Coast of the USA and I had decided to call time on my teaching career. What to do now? Just by chance we noticed there was a Family History Fair in the Guild Hall. I went in and there started a new "career".

My mother was Lena BRADSHAW (1907 to 1983), the youngest of twelve children born to Elizabeth (née BOVINGDON) and Helon BRADSHAW. Before she died, one of her last wishes was to visit the birth village of her father, Barthomley, in Cheshire. This was achieved with the help of her brother-in-law who drove her to Junction 16 of the M6 and navigated the Cheshire lanes to arrive outside the *White Lion*. Mum declared that although one of her great-grandfathers had been an inn and shopkeeper in the village this was NOT the pub. His pub was called the *Punchbowl*. What puzzled my dad was how she knew this, as she was only eleven years old when her father died and the family rarely seemed to speak of him.

As the youngest member of this large family, I had inherited all the family photographs and always knew that someday I would get to grips with sorting out the photos and memorabilia, and make sense of it for anyone who was interested. There in the Stafford Guild Hall was a lady selling transcribed parish registers for Barthomley; I bought the orange booklet for a very reasonable sum. Armed with record cards and highlighters, I spent the weekend sitting at the dining table devouring the information and learning how to decode it. Since that day I have been very grateful to members of Audley Family History Group who undertook the transcribing of the Barthomley registers.

I thought that I had deciphered the BRADSHAW history in Barthomley. My grandfather was Helon BRADSHAW. This name, pronounced Chailon, is one of the twelve Tribes of Israel, taken from the Old Testament of the Bible. I have no idea how he got his name; I guess that my great-grandmother learned to



*Helon Bradshaw, 1903*

read from the Bible and the name seemed attractive. In the parish register it is spelt correctly but in the transcription this was deemed a mis-spelling of Helen and granddad became a daughter! Helon was born in Barthomley on 3 June 1859 and baptised on 13 November. Although I have no BRADSHAW family bible, my grandma kept a birthday book which contained all the family birthdays. I was on fertile ground to start my tree.

From the baptism record I could see that Helon was the son of Henry and Eliza BRADSHAW, so I searched for Henry in the transcribed register. At this stage there were few Internet records so it was a matter of fitting together a few pieces of the jigsaw and coming up with something which seemed

plausible. This gave me my first brick wall - no Henry BRADSHAW was christened in Barthomley or married to an Eliza there. There were loads of BRADSHAWs, though.

I arranged and re-arranged the record cards and eventually came up with a tree which seemed to lead back through James BRADSHAW (1804-1874) and his wife Elizabeth BROWNSWORD (1802-1875). James was the eldest son of William BRADSHAW (1771-1851) who was a shopkeeper and innkeeper in the village. Was this mum's great-grandfather? The trouble was that William and his wife Mary FARRALL (1772-1818) had two sons, James and William (1809-1866). Both had married and had children but because no Henry appeared in the parish register, I didn't know who was Henry's father. I determined to get the BRADSHAW family as far back as the transcriptions allowed.

The first baptism of a BRADSHAW mentioned in Barthomley was John, the son of Henry BRADSHAW, a sawyer, and Sarah his wife in 1791. The very helpful curate had noted John's birth as 21 Mar 1791 and listed his parents' antecedents. I was now fairly certain that my 4x great-grandparents were Henry (1749-1826) and Sarah BOUGHEY (1746-1825). Furthermore, I learnt that Henry was the son of Henry BRADSHAW of Norton and his wife Dorothy KENT from Buttertton; and Sarah was the daughter of Samuel BOUGHEY of Talke and his wife Sarah - a good weekend's work, I felt. Where to go from here? I desperately needed Volume 1 of the transcribed Barthomley registers.

After a phone call to the lady who had sold me Volume 2, I went along to an Audley Family History group meeting in St James Church Hall one afternoon. As a geography graduate and teacher, I was particularly interested in the area I now knew my ancestors had come from. I was brought up in Stockport, where my parents were born and, after completing university in London, had followed my husband's jobs around the country, so I knew little about this area of South Cheshire. I had never heard of Audley! I planned a route in the car (no SATNAV then!) which took me to Barthomley and thence to Audley. I looked around Barthomley churchyard, had lunch in the *White Lion*, then drove via Balterley to Audley.

Here I had a stroke of luck. At Audley Family History Group I met Margaret Spate, now Crewe group leader and organiser of the Crewe Family History Unit. While I was busy writing down information from Volume 1 of the Barthomley transcriptions, Margaret stuck an address label on the front of Volume 2 and wrote directions to Alsager College, where there was apparently a vast store of other potentially useful information. That afternoon I completed Henry and Sarah BRADSHAW's family and found our innkeeper William was their eldest son, born a year after their wedding in Barthomley St Bertoline on 27 Dec 1770. I was five generations back just by using a transcribed set of parish registers. I now had to fill in some of the missing pieces.

I needed to find my great-grandfather Henry before the birth of my grandfather in 1859. My first idea was to visit Staffordshire Record Office in Stafford and search through the IGI records there, which showed that my Henry was baptised in Christ Church, Macclesfield in 1825 with James and Elizabeth as his parents. My guess is that James was a journeyman joiner and in Macclesfield on a job when his first child was born. I needed proof of my theory because BRADSHAW is not an uncommon name in Cheshire. I had always been told of Judge John BRADSHAW, of Marple Hall, Stockport, who oversaw the conviction of King Charles I in 1649, and there were already links to North Staffordshire. Henry was duly connected to his nine brothers and sisters on the record cards and then I had to find his marriage to Eliza.

The first mention of Henry and Eliza's children in Barthomley parish registers was their baptism on 19 Oct 1852. As there is no indication of their births, they were either twins or one was older than the other. I needed to see censuses for 1841, 1851 and 1861 to find out more. Here's where the second golden moment occurred. I remembered the advice of Margaret Spate, got out the orange booklet and arranged to visit the Alsager College Unit. Calling again at Barthomley en route, I had a very successful day of searching all the available Barthomley censuses. Now all my families were completed. My only niggles

was that because Barthomley is a village, the censuses did not record actual addresses; but you could get some idea of the locations because the rectory was recorded. Henry and Eliza were obviously married elsewhere and arrived in Barthomley in late 1851 or early 1852. I had a hunch that this was related to the death of Henry's grandfather William in 1851. Now to find their marriage and more about Eliza.

On the 1861 census Henry and Eliza were living in Barthomley with their four children. At that time, Helon was the youngest, with the oldest being ten-year-old Sarah Ann who was born in Staffordshire, Hanley. It seemed a search of the 1851 census of Hanley was needed, fulfilled by a visit to Stoke-on-Trent City Archives in Hanley. The family, with nine-month-old Sarah Ann, was living at Old Hall Terrace in Hanley. I found Sarah Ann born in the September quarter of 1850 and both parents were listed; from this I assumed that Henry and Eliza had married some time prior to 1850. In the first place, and being new to both the area and this kind of research, I thought that they had married in a nonconformist chapel in Hanley, and that led me to look at Bethesda Chapel. The link also seemed a possibility as the Primitive Methodists were active in Engelsea Brook not a great distance from Barthomley. However, I searched all the churches in Hanley with the extensive local knowledge of an assistant in Hanley Record Office and turned up a marriage certificate at St John's, Hanley - a chapelry of St Peter ad Vincula in Stoke - for Henry and Eliza on 11 July 1847. Coincidentally this was the date forty years later that Henry married his second wife Ann CLARKSON SHARRATT. I now had the name of Eliza's father, Thomas CARTWRIGHT, a tailor. Believe it or not this is still my brick wall, and I'm hoping for another auspicious *Golden Moment!*

I now had my roots firmly established in Barthomley. Information from old photographs seemed to be sadly lacking so I took my own and broadened my research to include the village and its history. Searching the Internet revealed a book written by a former rector, Edward HINCHLIFFE (1800-1878): *Barthomley; in letters from a former rector to his eldest son*, published in 1856. Where could I buy an affordable copy of this book? In desperation I went back to Alsager and asked if anyone knew where I could at least see the book. This was *THE Golden Moment* - Margaret said that the unit had a photocopy of it which I could see that morning!

Within the pages of these letters were six drawings by HINCHLIFFE; the second was of the *Punchbowl Inn*, in front of the church and with the *White Lion* clearly shown on the left. Mum was correct all along! A description of my 3x great-grandfather and his family is found in Letter XI which describes him as not only the shopkeeper and innkeeper of the village but a gifted cellist and

organist who ran the St Bertoline Church choir. It even describes him as having a head shaped like his self-made cello. He was obviously a showman, playing music by Handel, Haydn and Mozart with *ludicrous facial contortions*.

There are many other references to William in the letters and I suppose that Edward HINCHLIFFE held him with some regard and indeed affection. During his lifetime William was obviously the 19th-century entrepreneur of the Barthomley BRADSHAWs. I never thought I'd find that the



*The Punchbowl, Barthomley, 1847*

BRADSHAW heritage in Barthomley was based on public houses! William had married Mary FARRALL in 1799 in Barthomley and further research showed her to be the daughter of the keeper of the *Nag's Head* in Bunbury. When she died in 1818 aged 45, her father James FARRALL was still alive in Bunbury. He left money to his two oldest grandchildren, James and Hannah BRADSHAW of Barthomley. With this money the two children must have felt "set for life". Hannah BRADSHAW (1800 - 1866) made a good marriage on 11 Jan 1821 in Barthomley to a farmer, John FOX of Pear Tree Farm, Oakhanger. I wonder if I am related to Richard FOX at Plantsagogo in Engelsea Brook? James BRADSHAW (1804 - 1874) married Elizabeth BROWNSWORD in Barthomley on 26 Aug 1824. I think that Elizabeth must have been working with a relative at the *Broughton Arms* at the time.

The Cheshire tithe maps show that both William and James were tenants of property in Barthomley village owned by Lord Crewe. My assumption is that they bought the lease to these three holdings. James and Elizabeth started their family life in Barthomley about 1826 in one of these properties which is now the site of White Lion Cottages. Another of mum's gems was that she believed this land had been divided by the building of the M6 - in fact, the A500 has devoured the more northerly of James' leasehold properties, which could well be the one which Henry and Eliza used in 1852 on their arrival in Barthomley.

Many people get so caught up in the family that they forget to see how it developed. This may be because we do not like talking about death but it is surprising because old churchyards are the first port of call for most family

historians when researching on the ground. Unfortunately, the churchyard at Barthomley has not been well mapped but my first search did reveal the grave of William and Mary and their son James. This is by the north door just north-west of the graveyard extension which destroyed the *Punchbowl Inn* in the 1860s. I like to think that William lived and died within the church grounds! James died in White Lion Cottages. Eliza is definitely buried in the churchyard as her death card describes but I fear in an unmarked grave. Henry, after his second marriage, moved to live with Ann's daughter in Alsager. He was moved to the Arclid Workhouse as a Cheshire resident in 1895 and died there in February 1896. Ann collected his body and buried him in Christ Church churchyard, Alsager. The grave is unmarked but thanks to the team from Alsager group who are busy mapping the graveyard, in 2017 I found where he was laid to rest.

In writing this I am struck by how much I have learnt not just about my family but also about the general geography and history of South Cheshire and North Staffordshire. I also had forgotten how hard-won some of this information was in the old pre-Internet days of family history research. Nowadays all this information is available at the flick of a switch by visiting a family history website, all without having the pleasure of meeting new people, or, indeed leaving the house. However, the advantages of the new technologies should not to be scorned. I have now linked with BRADSHAW family members in Australia, Canada and USA who have added to and shared my knowledge. I have learnt about the HINCHLIFFE and CREWE families in Barthomley and beyond, and developed an interest in Methodism in Britain, Quakerism and the woollen industry in Somerset, blacksmithing in Devon, Lincolnshire and within the railway industry, and much about census terminology.

Most importantly, I am grateful to Margaret Spate for introducing me to what is now the Crewe Family History Research Centre. The skills learnt in packing and unpacking the Research Centre twice since 2006 stood me in good stead when moving my growing resources to Somerset. With their guidance I have been able to develop my transcribing skills so that others can learn more about their families and have their own *Golden Moments*.

### **Sources and Acknowledgements.**

- 1 The two volumes of the Barthomley Parish Registers were transcribed by Audley and District Family History Society and published in 1997.
- 2 My grandmother's birthday book was given to her in 1880. It contains all the family BOVINGDON birthdays as well as those of myself and all the BRADSHAWs. Worth nothing - but a priceless mine of family information.
- 3 I visited the Alderley Edge Research Centre (now at Mobberley) to find my great-grandfather's baptism place. Since then I have purchased the Christ Church Macclesfield CD, first produced in 2010 by the Macclesfield Group of FHSC.

- 4 *Barthomley – in letters from a former rector to his eldest son* was originally published in 1856 by the Reverend Edward Hincliffe. As a portrait of a village and its people and culture it is a superb social history of its time. It has been reprinted by the British Library, but a free digital copy may be downloaded from Google Books. The book, *Barthomley -The Story of an Estate Village*, edited by Robert Speake and published by the University of Keele in 1995, adds further research.
- 5 Cheshire Archives provided papers connected with Crewe Hall, wills, booklets on Cheshire villages and the book *At the Crossroads* by Marlene and Graham Langley, published in 1993, giving information about Arclid Workhouse. Cheshire Archives' online title maps enabled me to see how James BRADSHAW's land disappeared into the cutting for the A500 on the single carriage-way section near Junction 16.
- 6 *A History of Weston* by Charles Fairey gave me the idea of Elizabeth BROWNSWORD having worked with her relation at *The Broughton Arms* there.
- 7 Arclid Workhouse is also mentioned in Cyril Massey's book *History of Sandbach and District*. Cyril Claude MASSEY (1891-1971) turned out to be related to me through the BRADSHAWs and was my third cousin once removed.
- 8 Thanks to Crewe Family History Research Centre, and the Alsager Group of FHSC who, under the auspices of Mike GROSE, were mapping the Alsager Christ Church graveyard when I visited in 2017 to look for my great-grandfather's grave.
- 9 Sue Church's *Public Health Maps of Nantwich* CD helped to locate cousins there.
- 10 Finally, thanks to the village of Barthomley for putting up with me taking masses of photos; and to Pam Freeman, the former St Bertoline Parish Clerk, who gave me a copy of the engraving of the *Punchbowl*.

#### ***GENEALOGICAL TIP: Missing from the 1841 Census and 1939 Register***

It would seem that parts of the 1841 census didn't survive, and *FindMyPast* has listed them as *Census for England, Wales and Scotland: missing pieces*. They are listed by county, and the longest list is for Cheshire. However, having read about the existence of this article, I found it difficult to locate. I finally reached it by going to the FMP A-Z index and looking up the 1841 census, then scrolling down to *Useful Links and Resources*. The link is

[www.findmypast.co.uk/articles/census-for-england-wales-and-scotland-missing-pieces](http://www.findmypast.co.uk/articles/census-for-england-wales-and-scotland-missing-pieces)

There is a similar list (still in progress) for the 1939 register at

[www.findmypast.co.uk/articles/world-records/full-list-of-united-kingdom-records/census-land-and-surveys/known-missing-places-from-1939-register](http://www.findmypast.co.uk/articles/world-records/full-list-of-united-kingdom-records/census-land-and-surveys/known-missing-places-from-1939-register)

If you go directly to the *Articles* page, it will take you to lists of the vast number of holdings on the FMP website, which I had no knowledge of until the other day. This is hardly surprising because there is no hint of their existence on the home page, or the drop-down list from the *Search* tab. Fearing I might have missed something obvious, I emailed the company and they confirmed this was so. To see these lists, go to [www.findmypast.co.uk/articles](http://www.findmypast.co.uk/articles).

*Ian Cameron, Bramhall Group Website Administrator*

# Churchyard Chatter

*by Constance Church*

*This article is from the Cheshire Ancestor published fifty years ago in March 1970.*

## **Old Gravestone Carvings**

In the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries the favourite motifs were hourglasses, cherubs and skulls, and crossed bones and hearts. In St Helena's old churchyard, Knutsford, are to be found some crossed bones, faces and single hearts. Hannah Toft, who died a spinster in 1728, has a stone inscribed with a skull and two hearts.

## **Churchyard Yew**

This could be found on the south side of the church and was regarded as a symbol of immortality by pagans and Christians alike.

## **Churchyard Cross**

Before the Reformation every church had a churchyard cross, adjacent to the yew tree. Many of the plainer crosses still exist but a large number have only the socket or broken shaft. If the cross is still in its original position it represents the centre of the churchyard, with the church to the north of it.

## **Sundials**

The horizontal sundial came into vogue in Elizabethan times and it was sometimes used as a convenient replacement for a 'decapitated' cross. Older, vertical sundials can sometimes be found engraved on a stone built into the south wall of the church. Saxon sundials are marked into five main divisions.

## **The Watch-House**

This was a small building erected in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century to watch for body snatchers, or resurrection men, who exhumed newly buried bodies to sell to doctors for medical research and teaching.

## **Churchyard Gate**

A mounting block may be found here for the use of the farmer's wife who once rode pillion to church. She would be seated behind her husband on horseback and the mounting stone enabled her to mount and dismount more easily.

A roofed gate, or lychgate (from the Old English *lich*, meaning corpse), was once used to deposit the bier while part of the funeral service was read.

## DNA - a Cautionary Tale

*by David Williams*

A family friend, now sadly suffering from Alzheimer's, asked me to help trace his father. He asked me to do this a few years ago, before his dementia became very apparent.

Our friend knew that he was illegitimate, born in what is now called London Docklands. As a child, he knew nothing about his father, but later in life it became apparent that other members of his extended family (and even some former neighbours) knew more details, but for whatever reason, had said nothing to him.

Finally, he challenged some of them and discovered a story that his father had been a sailor from the Shetland Isles and that he had died in a shipwreck off the south coast of England. I found a merchant seaman's card on *FindMyPast* which matched the name we had been given. The card bore a photograph, which seemed to show a family resemblance. After a long search a grave was found in Shetland. Local records confirmed that this was the sailor who had died in a shipwreck in the English Channel.

The records did not reveal how or by whose intervention the body had been taken to Shetland for burial. But our friend was satisfied that he had found his father (although, of course, there was no documentary proof of the relationship). He was at that time fit enough to visit the grave.

It sadly often seems to be the case that children brought up in a "broken home" have difficulty in later life in forming strong family relationships. Our friend has been married at least twice. Fortunately his present wife is well-equipped to be his carer now. He can still function in many ways, but needs her to be his memory backup. His daughters have also had relationship problems. Not just marital breakdowns, but two of them no longer communicate with each other except occasionally through him - or more accurately through his wife, who is not their mother.

It is perhaps understandable that one of the daughters wanted to find more about where she came from. I could imagine that she felt particularly alone. She persuaded her father to get his DNA tested by Ancestry. The results came

back with a first cousin match to someone in the USA. Initially this was all very exciting. But after a short while, the American family stopped answering queries. It seems that the *wife in every port* scenario was not the sort of heritage they had been hoping for. Our friend also would prefer to push this information aside. He knows that he no longer has the mental resources to deal with all this new data.

I don't know what our friend's daughter thinks. It probably hasn't been a very positive experience for her.

*Ed.: Researching your family history, especially when DNA testing is involved, may throw up some very unexpected results.*

## Cheshire Quarter Sessions Records

*by Sue Parker*

A 163-page pdf file containing 1,758 extracts from Quarter Sessions records dated Epiphany 1731/32 to Midsummer 1746 held by Cheshire Archives can be found on GENUKI at [www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/CHS/poorlaw](http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/CHS/poorlaw)

Many poor law documents may be found in Quarter Sessions Records and this file is the result of a painstaking search of a microfilm copy of the original documents at the LDS Library in Lincoln over roughly three years. None of the work has been checked by a second party and because of the poor quality of some of the documents complete accuracy is not guaranteed.

Below are just a few examples of the sort of information that can be found. It might lead to a new avenue of research for those who have not looked at these records before, and they certainly show how hard life was before the welfare system was introduced. The number at the start of the extract is the sequence number in the pdf file; the reference number at the end of the extract should enable the full document to be viewed at Cheshire Archives if you wish.

**51 BASTARDY RECOGNIZANCE** dated 10 May 1731.

Mother: Mary LEAH of Henbury singlewoman. Putative father: Isaac BARNES of Henbury husbandman. Henry and Thomas BARNES of the same, husbandmen were his sureties. See also BASTARDY CERTIFICATE dated 30 June 1731. Male child. **[QJF 159/2/98 and 136]**

**81 BASTARDY EXAMINATION** dated 1 Oct 1731.

Mother: Mary POINER of Lappington in the county of Salop. She was delivered of a child at Audlem on or about the 10 Sep last; Edward MINSHULL one of the Overseers of the poor of the township of Audlem about four days after she was delivered forced her and her child out of the township of Audlem by bringing her and her said child on horseback against her will to the township of Nantwich and then *turned this Examinant and her child down and pulled his hatt over his face and rode away on the gallop, for fear of being discovered.* [QJF 159/3/85]

**87 RECOGNIZANCE** dated 14 Sep 1731.

Samuel CHEERES, lately a constable of the township of Little Saughall lately apprehended Joseph MOORES who had been charged upon oath to be the reputed father of a bastard child begotten by him on the body of Elizabeth LATHAM and Samuel CHEERES did afterwards wilfully & voluntarily suffer the said Joseph MOORES to escape out of his custody. [QJF 159/3/116]

**101 VAGRANCY PASS** dated 22 Dec 1731.

James HOWARD about the age of 83 years apprehended in the Burrough of Congleton there wandering and begging, to be conveyed to Whitehaven in the county of Cumberland where he was born and his settlement is. [QJF 159/4/61]

**140 APPRENTICESHIP** [not dated].

Rd[Richard?] BROOK the younger bound an apprentice to Isaac CLIFFE of Nantwich shoemaker - bound above two yeares & halfe since - But one indenture and that in the masters hands for 7 yrs. Order for the apprentice to be discharged the master being absconded & left his family. [QJF 160/1/133]

**206 CERTIFICATE of marriage** between Charles BRINDLE & Martha WOODWARD both of the parish of Whitegate, 6 Jan 1732/3. Thomas BILLINGTON maketh oath that the sd Martha is not yet delivered of the child whereof the above named Charles was charged & reputed to be the father till after their marriage above mentioned. [QJF 161/1/43]

**260 VAGRANCY PASS** dated 8 Dec 1733.

Mary DAWSON about the age of 30 apprehended at Whitchurch in the county of Salop for vagrancy. It appears that she was born at Smeaton near Yarme in the North Riding of the county of York and she is the wife of one William DAWSON who told this Examinant that he was born upon the seas and it appears that Mary DAWSON has not gained any legal settlement since her birth. Mary DAWSON with James her child to be conveyed to Smeaton she having the punishment the law allows excused on account of her sucking child. [QJF 161/4/108]

#### **474 MISCELLANEOUS:**

Paid to Jane WRIGHT for maintaining a bastard child for the County of Chester £2 12s. Jane WRIGHT pd for a bottle of rum for the child by Mr HALL's orders 3s. Paid for his schooling 4s. Order allowed to Robt WRIGHT. [QJF 164/2/54]

#### **482 BASTARDY - CALENDAR OF PRISONERS** dated 5 Oct 1736.

John DOMBILL committed 16 June for not finding surity for his appearance this sessions being the sessions after the birth of a bastard child charged on him by Elizabeth DANIELS of Wharton. Discharged by security given to the town. [QJF 164/3/40]

#### **1156 VAGRANCY PASS** dated 14 June 1742.

Mary wife of William BEARD and one child apprehended in the township of Middlewich as vagabonds, to be conveyed to Rockadown Wood in the county of Salop. **SETTLEMENT EXAMINATION** dated 14 June 1742. Mary wife of William BEARD a soldier in Colonell BLITHE's regiment of foot. She hath heard her said husband say that he was born in a place called Rockadown Wood in the county of Salop and that he served an apprenticeship to his father in the said town or parish of Rockadown Wood for seven years his said father being a coalminer and that her said husband had gained no settlement since as he believed. Mary X BEARD. [QJF 170/2/75&76]

#### **1172 BASTARDY CERTIFICATE** dated 27 April 1742.

Thomas GOOSTREE of Nether Alderley singleman father of a male bastard child of which Hannah BIRTLES singlewoman was lately delivered in the township of Nether Alderley has given bond to the township of Nether Alderley to pay ten shillings expended on the said Hannah BIRTLES during her lying in childbed and also eight pence weekly for the term of twelve years towards the maintenance of the said bastard child. [QJF 170/2/102]

#### **1181 VAGRANCY PASS** dated 24 January 1741/2.

George GOODWIN apprehended in the township of Midlewich as a vagabond, to be conveyed to the burrough of Macclesfield. [QJF 170/2/163]

#### **1395 SETTLEMENT EXAMINATION** dated 24 December 1743.

Daniell ROBINSON. He was born in the parish of Ransence in the county of Wicklow in Ireland and that his fathers name was James ROBINSON and this examinant saith that he hath not gained any legall settlement elsewhere since his birth as he believes. Daniell X ROBINSON. **VAGRANCY PASS** dated 24 December 1743. Daniell ROBINSON was apprehended in the township of Midlewich as a vagabond, to be conveyed to the House of Correction at Midlewich then to Ireland. [QJF 171/4/66&67]

## An Expensive Easter

*by Gren Dix*  
*Member no. 4174*

I was looking for Martha THATCHER (1836-1907), an ancestor on my tree. In 1860 she was married in Dudley to William EASTER (snr), who died in 1870, aged 35. One of her children was also a William, who married Lois PEAKE. I subsequently built up a tree of about sixty descendants, sat back and thought, *what a good genealogist am I.*

One fly appeared in the ointment. On *Ancestry* there was a tree which had William married to Elizabeth KNOWLES.

I then started doing my proper homework and looked for the birth of William EASTER. I found two William EASTERs.

One William's birth was registered in Q3 1870 and the other in Q3 1871, both in West Bromwich.

One married in 1892 and the other in 1895.

One died in 1926, aged 56; the other died in 1927, aged 56.

I looked in various censuses to see if I could work out which was which. They were both somewhat cavalier in giving their ages. One (for a given wife) would appear the elder in one census then the younger in the next census. Looking at the names of the mothers of their children wouldn't help distinguish between them. From the censuses one had a father named William, the other had a father named Thomas. As they both married between censuses, I couldn't find which was mine by looking for one with his wife and the other at his parents' home.

After some head scratching, I decided the only way to distinguish between them was to pay out hard cash and buy a marriage certificate for one of William/Lois or William/Elizabeth to find if the father was William or Thomas. But which to choose? In the end I settled for the one given in the online tree; but I could have just tossed a coin. I handed over my piece of silver and eventually received a copy of one marriage certificate. The online tree was right and my original research was wrong.

This particular EASTER proved to be expensive.

# Net That Serf

## The Computer Section

*Compiled by Geoff Johnson*

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### **From the Desktop**



Well, that was hard work! I received no comments from December's issue, and have had to press several previous contributors for stuff, and then just rely on items from my inbox. Did anyone read NTS last time?

I've got a piece showing steady progress for an index to NTS, and searching down my inbox and sub-folders I found the piece regarding a beautiful 1821 census article for Orkney that had been misplaced, and should have been in December.

I strongly recommend DNA fans to look at the video from the 2018 RootsTech conference that we've been alerted to. It's really good and I reckon I might have to start some careful use of social media sites!

Plans for the 2021 census may interest some of you; and I remind you to please consider carefully if you are persisting in using an older version of Windows on a computer connected to the Internet.

Mind mapping is definitely an area to explore, and may help to organise your thoughts and ideas.

The Inbox was a bit of a saviour for me, and provides a few things for your consideration.

# An Index for Net That Serf

By Joe Dunn

## Background

Some years back, Geoff decided that an index of Net That Serf (NTS) articles would be a useful tool to help in his ongoing editorial work. The idea was that he could quickly search the index to see what (if anything) had previously been already been published on a subject, and by whom.

Geoff created a rudimentary index in an Excel spreadsheet, starting from when he took the job over. That broadly covered the years 2008 to 2011. Ongoing familiarity with NTS development, and a relatively low need, meant that it didn't progress any further after 2011. (*A notable increase in my health management around that time created other priorities! – G*)

Last year, Geoff realised he was missing the more recent data, and that made NTS creation harder. He also recognised that such an index could be just as beneficial to all NTS readers as well as himself. So he asked for volunteers to help to revive the project. Stephen Hawkes and I are the two members who volunteered.

The task before us was to add to the index by going through all the published quarterly magazines and adding the relevant data. We were also to work on the premise that we were to aim to provide a facility that could be used by all members, if possible.

We were able to clarify that using Excel as a means of creating and holding the data, as well as creating a test application with a search facility that would prove useful, was the correct path to follow. However, we do eventually need to migrate this data (and create a search facility) to the Society website if we are to deliver a useful facility that all the members can benefit from.

## What have we done so far?

We have created the Excel application which holds the data originally provided by Geoff (i.e. 2008 to 2011) and demonstrated the application. The Excel worksheet contains an entry for all the articles included in NTS for the period mentioned.

Each entry has the following information:

- The month and date of the magazine in which the article was published
- The author or authors of the article

- A category for the article (e.g. browsers, hardware, software, census related)
- A link to the relevant quarterly magazine in PDF format
- A page number where the article begins in the PDF

### **What can the application provide?**

The user can search on one or more of the following:

- Word(s) in the article title
- An author's name
- A category

Or the user can simply ask for all the articles published in a given quarterly publication. In either case, the results that match the search criteria are displayed.

If the user wishes, he/she can select one of the results and get the application to display the beginning of the relevant article (in PDF format). This feature provides the user with the means to search for articles that match his/her needs and display the chosen article in PDF format. I believe that this will give the members a powerful and flexible tool that will prove to be genuinely useful.

### **What needs to be done now?**

In the Excel format, we now need to add the data to bring the records up to date - i.e. from 2012 up to present date - and continue to add records as each new quarterly magazine is published. This should not take too long because we are talking about around sixty entries per year of publication. The categorisation will be the hardest part - we need relevant and obvious categories for the entries. (*Agreed: One person's 'obvious' isn't always the same as another's! -GJ*)

The major work to be done is on the website. I believe that everything provided on the Excel worksheet application can be provided on the Society's website. However, we have additional considerations to be covered on the web facility, e.g. providing a secure extension to the website without compromising on security, learning the widely different programming languages, and constructing the updating process so that we can safely and efficiently add new records every quarter. The application must be safe, efficient and maintainable.

**Note:** This search facility could be extended to cover the rest of the **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR**, non-NTS articles quite easily; it would just need a few willing hands to transcribe the articles into the index!

## Comments on Previous Issues

Disappointingly, I received none!

### The 1821 Census - Orkney

by Suzie Woodward, volunteer proof-reader for the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR  
(GJ's apologies, this should have been in the last issue!)

Two friends alerted me to the fact that Find My Past (FMP) now has the 1821 census on their site for Burray and South Ronaldsay, parishes in Orkney; they told me mainly because I live there!! On emailing my thanks to both, I added, as gently as I could, that the 1821 census was already available on another specific Burray and South Ronaldsay website which I had used some years ago. It is still there and I can recommend people having a browse. It is a labour of love for sure. See [www.southronaldsay.net/1821](http://www.southronaldsay.net/1821)

Geoff asked me if I would do a short piece on the comparative accuracy and ease of use between the South Ronaldsay data and the offering from FMP. So, this is what I found.

On FMP's *What's New* email, there is a direct link to the 1821 census for Burray and South Ronaldsay on FMP. This produced a search page. I typed in the surname ANNAL because I knew that was a common surname in the parish. This brought up 65 results. I went to the first one. FMP displays a transcription of the census and an image of the census page. The details on the image are very basic; the transcription gives the same basic stuff:

#### FMP Transcription Details

Surname: ANNAL  
First Name: Alexander  
Age: 41  
Birth year: 1780  
Census year: 1821  
Place: East Side  
County: Orkney  
Occ: Farmer  
Residence: C Hame.

FMP also listed household members:

Isobel LOUTTIT  
James ANNAL

John ANNAL  
Bell ANNAL

Neither the image nor the transcription noted relationships.

**Lisa Conrad's site** (as it is known up here) at [www.southronaldsay.net/1821/](http://www.southronaldsay.net/1821/)

I went to the surname index and found Alexander ANNAL. Clicking on his name brought up a wealth of additional information, not only on Alexander ANNAL but all others in the household too. So, on this site we learn that...

Alexander ANNAL was a farmer, living at Cauldhame on the East Side of the parish.

His parents were named as William ANNAL and Margaret GUNN.

Alexander was born between 1776 and 1780. Noted as 41 years old.

Alexander married Isobell LOUTTITT on 17 Dec 1801. Witness was John DASS as shown in the OPRs.

Isobel was the daughter of William LOUTTITT and Margaret CHRISTIE

Alexander ANNAL died 17 Sep 1861 at Dyke End aged 85.

He was the widower of Isabella [sic] LOUTTIT; and he was a farmer.

The informant of death to the registrar was William WARDS, grandson.

This is a wealth of additional information! We are told Alexander's parents' names; then we are given his wife's name and the date of their marriage, plus the name of his wife's parents. Finally came the death date and age at death, the fact he was a widower and even the name of the informant after his death, his grandson.

### **Alexander's wife - Isobel LOUTTITT**

We already knew the names of her parents but we learn she was born about 1772 and noted as aged 49; and that she died on 28 June 1856 at Cauldhame aged 84. She was married at death but the spouse's name was not noted in the register. The informant for this death was their son, James ANNAL.

Details of the three children of Alexander and Isobel are also given. We are given in each case the birth date and baptism date including any witnesses as noted in the OPR. So, for example, we learn the following:

...James ANNAL was not married when he died on 27 June 1880 aged 74 at Cauldhame.

...John ANNAL married Charlotte GROAT, dau of John GROAT and Mary MUDIE on 21 Sep 1843.

...John was an ag lab when he died aged 46 at Eastside on 1 Dec 1855.  
...Daughter Bell (Isabella) married John WARDS, son of John WARDS and Ann ROSS, on 3 Mar 1836.  
...witnesses are noted too.  
...Isabella died aged 83 at Dyke End.

The home address of the website is [www.southronaldsay.net](http://www.southronaldsay.net). The home page has an index of everything that is on the site. There are transcriptions of births, baptisms, marriages and deaths, loads of photographs and stories, and of course the 1821 census. There are sub-websites within the main one; there are lists, indexes and names galore. Everything on there is also linked. I would recommend this site to anyone. By all means, find your ancestor first on FMP and then go to Lisa's site. In no time at all, you will be immersed in Orcadian family history of the best kind!

## DNA Guidance

We all get frustrated when trying to follow a DNA match where the person has not provided a tree. Computer Club Secretary Peter Rowley alerted me to this video, from the 2018 RootsTech conference, and highlighted to him through January's copy of Family History Magazine. As Peter says, it's about 55 minutes long, but what an eye-opener!

[www.rootstech.org/video/a-dna-match-with-no-tree-no-problem](http://www.rootstech.org/video/a-dna-match-with-no-tree-no-problem)

It features two excellent presenters, Diahan Southard and Lisa Louise Cooke. The opening caption says: *Frustrated by finding a DNA match but no linked tree? Their tree is probably not the only tree that includes the matching ancestor, and with persistent sleuthing, it can be found.*

It's very logical, and lots of information and ideas will come pouring at you. I'd recommend watching the whole thing through; taking odd notes as you go. Then watch again, clicking the 'II pause button' as required and consolidating notes. If you jot down how far you are into the video, you can go off and do a bit of related research and then jump back in.

With a little bit of cunning searching of RootsTech I've found the original two-page handout for this presentation:

[https://static.coreapps.net/rootstech2018/handouts/cd45755ecc2382d8eb3dbd42beab0575\\_1.pdf](https://static.coreapps.net/rootstech2018/handouts/cd45755ecc2382d8eb3dbd42beab0575_1.pdf)

Your review reports would be appreciated.

# Webinars

by Jenni Gay

Jenni is a resident of Adelaide, South Australia, whose BAMFORD and HEANEY ancestors are from Macclesfield. She'd be pleased to hear from members by email at [geniejen3@gmail.com](mailto:geniejen3@gmail.com)

I'm sure that many of you are enthusiastic users of webinars for your continuing education in genealogy but in case you're not, this article is for you. While I find they are a perfect way to while away a day stuck at home when it's 42 degrees outside, I imagine that for those of you in the northern hemisphere, it would also be a great way to spend the time inside in winter.

Personally, I find it's a great way of continuing to learn about the latest in genealogy without having to travel to meetings or conferences, although I do still do that from time to time. Often webinars are free but if not, I consider that the cost is generally affordable. I have recently been learning about DNA and webinars have been an essential part of that process. It's the enthusiasm, passion and knowledge of the presenters that makes them so useful.

I often watch Legacy Family Tree <https://familytreewebinars.com> webinars by presenters from around the world. You have two options with this site. You can register to attend a webinar for free or watch it for free in the following seven days - which is perfect if it was streamed in the middle of the night where you live. You can also join for an annual subscription of about £38 or \$50 US and then have access to their library of over one thousand webinars - this also gives you access to the presenters' handouts, which I think is great value.

Can't get to RootsTech in Salt Lake City or London? They stream some of their talks and you don't feel like you're missing out quite so much. Some are free; for others, you need to buy a digital pass to watch live, but all filmed sessions are eventually available to watch free of charge in the RootsTech video archive at [www.rootstech.org/video-archive](http://www.rootstech.org/video-archive).

A couple of years ago, a group of genealogists from around the world set up the Virtual Genealogical Association (<https://virtualgenealogy.org/>) and for an annual fee of around £15 (\$20US) you can watch their webinars; if you miss the actual time, then you have a year to catch up. They also run an annual virtual conference in November.

You'll find that many archives, genealogical and national libraries have their own webinar programme, too.

Of course, *YouTube* is a veritable mine of genealogy webinars put on by respected genealogists like Paul Milner, US DNA guru Blaine Bettinger, genealogy software companies and the *International Society for British Genealogy and Family History*.

*Ancestry* has its own channel on *YouTube* with over 300 offerings:  
[www.youtube.com/user/AncestryCom/videos](http://www.youtube.com/user/AncestryCom/videos)

*Findmypast* also have their own channel at [www.youtube.com/user/findmypast](http://www.youtube.com/user/findmypast).

In checking out *YouTube* for this article, I found another useful channel I didn't know about - *Genealogy TV* ([www.genealogytv.org](http://www.genealogytv.org)) which is presented by US genealogist, Connie Knox. I can see she has a large number of very useful webinars. Most are pretty short, which appeals to me.

*FamilySearch* also has a *YouTube* channel: [www.youtube.com/user/FamilySearch](http://www.youtube.com/user/FamilySearch). This has many interesting videos about using *FamilySearch*, plus many other topics and also *RootsTech* videos.

*Family History Fanatics* run by the Lee family from the USA has its own *YouTube* channel at [www.youtube.com/channel/UCmkKepHoafldMRZ4UNt0AkW](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmkKepHoafldMRZ4UNt0AkW) - and how refreshing it was to see that the video I'd chosen was presented by a younger member of the family.

My final *YouTube* discovery is the collection of webinars offered on the Brigham Young University (BYU) channel [www.youtube.com/channel/UC7hqNOQt-2AfeVEpDuc7sCA](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7hqNOQt-2AfeVEpDuc7sCA). These are made by the Family History library of the private university owned by the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints (also known as the Mormons).

## Mind Maps

At the last couple of Computer Club meetings in 2019 we discussed the topic of Mind Maps. This followed an interesting lecture that I attended at *RootsTech* London in October, given by Linda Hammond M.Sc., a knowledgeable and excellent presenter. Mind Mapping techniques, together with the name Tony Buzan, were something that I'd learned about on training courses in my 1970s management days. I have occasionally considered making more use of this technique, and this presenter made very clear the great benefits for family historians. This link should take you to the lecture handout:

[https://content.churchofjesuschrist.org/bc/content/rootstech/lanyon-sessions/Mind\\_Mapping.pdf](https://content.churchofjesuschrist.org/bc/content/rootstech/lanyon-sessions/Mind_Mapping.pdf)

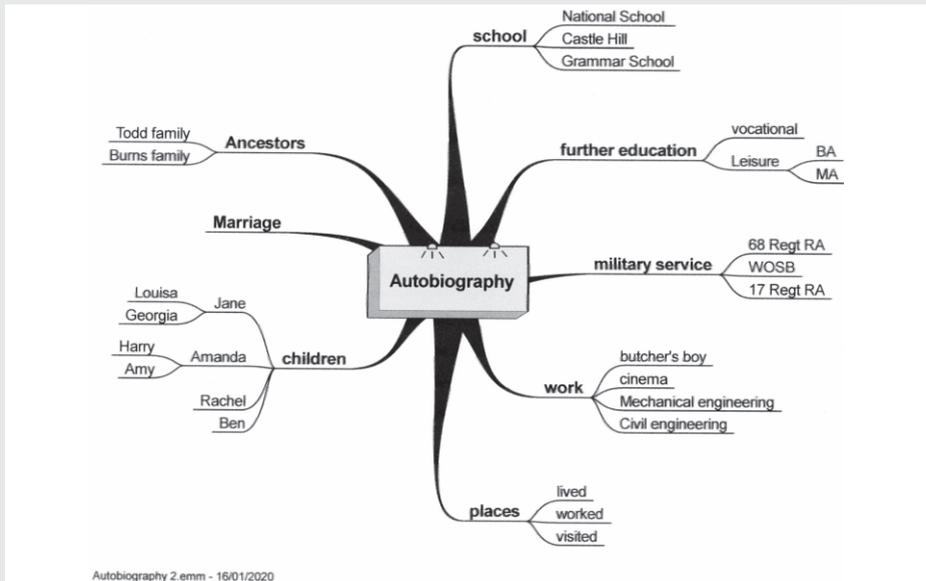
We haven't taken the subject very far yet, but I was searching for something else in old copies of the ANCESTOR, and spotted the following item in 2007's *Net That Serf*. In those days NTS was still under the ownership of my predecessor Graham Fidler. Mind maps were obviously mentioned in Computer Club meetings over ten years ago, and Richard Todd had written the following article. I pitched it back to Richard and he's carried out some editing to bring it up-to-date. - GJ

### Mind Maps by Richard Todd (updated from 2007)

At the computer club a while ago the subject of mind maps was mentioned, and I noticed that Graham didn't seem to know what these were. If a 'savvy' chap like Graham didn't know, then it seems reasonable to suppose that lots of other people don't know. They are missing a very useful tool which can help with lots of different problems.

In the early 1970s Tony Buzan (Google him) devised a method for note taking, revision and organising one's thoughts which he called Mind Mapping - sometimes called *the Swiss army knife of the brain*. His brother Barry developed the idea for preparing lists and reports; he says Mind Maps separate the thinking from the writing.

I found out about the technique when I was sent on a course by the County Council to learn how to improve my letter and report writing skills and I have used it extensively ever since.



On the previous page is a mind map I threw together to show what the maps look like and to give an idea how they might be used. It isn't complete by any means; just an outline to illustrate the idea.

One of my daughters, who is a Special Needs teacher, tells me that children use mind maps today for all sorts of project work, including story writing. In this case the various 'arms' might be: plot, vocabulary, setting, characters, time period and, perhaps, genre (for older children). Each of these 'arms' could then be developed perhaps as choices e.g. time period could be ancient past, recent past, present, near future or far future.

Once you are satisfied with your map you can use it to arrange a list of chapter headings and to organise what you are going to say or write. It is also a way of showing where more research is needed. The advantage of a map over a straightforward list is that you don't decide the hierarchy until you have finished the map. I used mind maps extensively when I was at work and I found that reports and letters almost wrote themselves; the thinking and research had gone into the map, as Barry Buzan said. The method was intended by Tony Buzan to be used to take notes at lectures and as a memory aid; the pictorial representation is thought to be remembered more easily than a plain list. I haven't used them in this way.

I have several mind maps lying around in my home office. Subjects include reorganising my office, writing a history of nineteenth-century Tarvin for my web page, and jobs and projects around the house and garden - although perhaps I should leave that one to my wife. On a website I found a list of uses for mind maps which included: organise study notes, answer a complex question, prepare a report, make a presentation, create and organise a check list, and numerous others which are pertinent to everyday living and family history as well as the world of that four letter word - work.

You can draw the maps by hand, and this is a quick way, if the problem isn't too complex, but difficulties arise if the map gets big, and if one part begins to overlap another. This is where the computer-generated mind map comes into its own; you can move bits around to make room. It is sometimes helpful to use colour, which is very easy to do on the computer.

There are lots of computer programs to help you draw your map but most are quite expensive or have limited access, e.g. a seven-day trial or only three maps. However, *Freemind* ([http://freemind.sourceforge.net/wiki/index.php/Main\\_Page](http://freemind.sourceforge.net/wiki/index.php/Main_Page)) and *MindMups* ([www.mindmup.com](http://www.mindmup.com)) are free; I think *FreeMind* is the best. There are several tutorials for *FreeMind* on *YouTube*, and that is probably the best place to start. A lot of the mapping is repetitive and the basics are soon learned.

Have a go anyway, even if you only try the hand drawn version, perhaps to help you decide where to take your next holiday. If the project proves too big, then break it down into several smaller maps. For example, you could do a map for cruises (Caribbean, Fjords, Med); rivers (Rhine, Nile); when, which ship etc. I haven't used mind maps for family history, but that is a lack of imagination on my part; there are lots of possible projects out there. Go for it - they will exercise your mind, if nothing else.

## 2021 Census

by Geoff Johnson

You may recall the piece we had in *Net That Serf* last June concerning the upcoming census. We mentioned that there were going to be opportunities for staff, presumably temporary, in order to carry it out. I somehow don't anticipate them using the name *enumerator* in today's environment - it'll be something far more exotic!

If you wish to learn more, the Office of National Statistics (ONS) is encouraging people to register their interest. To do this simply email [census.jobs@ons.gov.uk](mailto:census.jobs@ons.gov.uk) quoting your full name, preferred email address, and your full postal address. There's also a lot of general information about the census at:

[www.ons.gov.uk/census/censustransformationprogramme/consultations/the2021censusinitialviewoncontentforenglandandwales/updateon2021censusforenglandandwales](http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/censustransformationprogramme/consultations/the2021censusinitialviewoncontentforenglandandwales/updateon2021censusforenglandandwales)

## From the Inbox

### Are you a Windows 7 user?

This one actually came from my letterbox! It was in the *Telegraph* on 13th January. The strapline read *Windows 7 users face risk of cyber-attack says Microsoft*.

GCHQ has warned people not to do any Internet banking or use emails on computers operating under *Windows 7* from 14th January. *Microsoft* intends to stop supporting *Windows 7* so that the company can focus on 'newer technologies'. It indicated that as a result, *Windows 7* users will no longer receive the all-important security updates and patches that keep their machines safe. It'll be interesting to see if that really is the case. Nonetheless I'd advise that you should only use systems which operate on *Win 7* or earlier (are you still on *XP*?) for working offline.

**Windows 7 to 10 free Upgrade** (see NTS September 2019 p66) still works. I've had a number of positive comments from members.

## PERSI

Use the *Periodical Source Index (PERSI)* to track down journal articles. You can access it via *Findmypast* or *FamilySearch*. In FMP search category for Newspapers, Directories and Social History, you will already have encountered *PERSI* in the *A-Z index of Record Sets*. *Findmypast* describes it as *a comprehensive index of articles and records in historical, genealogical and ethnic publications*. In my opinion it's far from comprehensive. If you search for **CHESHIRE ANCESTOR** it will identify key articles in the various years and issues. It even goes back to Volume 1! However, I suggest that the listed items are quite selective in the mind of the transcriber. This gives quite a good overview of *PERSI*: [www.rootstech.org/blog/using-persi-for-genealogy-success](http://www.rootstech.org/blog/using-persi-for-genealogy-success)

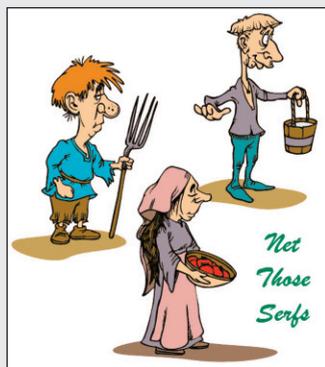
## OGI

A free non-profit website. It tells you which websites have records for your place/date of interest. A simple and efficient way of finding genealogical data online which seems easy to use. <https://ogindex.org/>

## Genealogy on Facebook

This will tell you about *Facebook* information concerning a location of interest to you. I'm not a big fan of *Facebook* but it may be useful to some. The list is accessible without a *Facebook* account, but you'd need one to look at results. <https://moonswings.files.wordpress.com/2019/05/genealogy-on-facebook-may-2019.pdf>

Come on members - please show us that you read this stuff! Try things out, and give us some feedback, preferably in the form of a short article.  
- GJ



### GENEALOGICAL ODDITY

Found in the 1826 register of banns at St Bartholomew, Wednesbury, Staffordshire:

John WISE and **Comfort FELLOWS** both of this parish.

1st time 27th Aug; 2nd time 3rd Sep; 3rd time 10th Sep.

With a name like this what more can you say?!

*Jean Laidlaw, Macclesfield Group Leader*

## Group News

For changes and up-to-date news check the website  
*www.fhsc.org.uk*

### Alsager Group

by Hazel Rugman

#### *Future meetings:*

- 16th Mar *Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy - Olivia Smedley*  
Olivia, who will be in costume of the period, will talk about Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy, Congleton's forgotten suffragist.
- 20th Apr *The Mainwarings of Peover Hall - David Young*  
The story of one of the leading Cheshire families in the Middle Ages and the architecture of the hall, near Knutsford, built in 1585.
- 18th May *Nineteenth-century Maps - Jonathan Pepler*  
Jonathan, former county and diocesan archivist at Chester, will talk about his special interest in these maps.
- 17th Jun *Ernest Wakefield's Diaries 1890-1914 - Edward Hilditch*  
Ernest Wakefield was employed by Foden's of Sandbach and kept a detailed diary throughout his life. Edward, his grandson, will share the entries for the period leading up to WWI.

Alsager Group meets at 7.30pm on the 3rd Monday of the month (except August and December) at Wesley Place Methodist Church Hall, Lawton Road, Alsager, ST7 2AF. Admission is £1 for members and £2 for non-members. Refreshments are served after the talk, when there is an opportunity to discuss family history with other members. There is a large car park (free) opposite the church. Visitors are most welcome.

### Bebington Group

by Bob Wright

#### *Future Meetings:*

- 23rd Mar *Life in Higher Bebington in the 19th century - David Casement.*
- 27th Apr *The Daniel Adamson - Speaker TBA*
- 18th May *Norman Thelwell - Artist and Cartoonist - Chris Thompson.*
- 22nd Jun *Jessie Hartley, Liverpool Dock Engineer - David Hearn*

Meetings take place on the 4th Monday of the month (excluding Bank Holidays) at Bebington Civic Centre, Civic Way, CH63 7PN, commencing at 7.30 pm. Entrance £1.50 for members, £2 for visitors, including refreshments.

NOTE - we no longer do helpdesks.

## **Bramhall Group**

*by Janet Phillips*

### *Future meetings:*

- 12th Mar ***Wills and where to find them - David Guyton***  
Where to look for wills, and what makes them so interesting.
- 9th Apr ***A round trip with the seed man from Sale - Liz de Mercado***  
Samuel Ryder, the seed man, led an extraordinary life of success and engagement with his business ventures, community, family and pastimes.
- 14th May ***What I learned from Great-uncle John - Hazel Rugman***  
A talk about the Reformatory System in the 19th and early 20th centuries.
- 11th Jun ***Studying the "Three Rs" - Claire Moores***  
An introduction to school and education records for family history.

Meetings are held at 7.30pm on the second Thursday of each month in the United Reformed Church Hall, Bramhall, SK7 2PE (corner of Robins Lane and Bramhall Lane South). Admission charge £2. All visitors are most welcome.

## **Chester Group**

*by David Guyton*

### *Future meetings:*

- 26th Mar ***Transportation To Australia - Carolyn Barnwell***
- 30th Apr ***The Colour of Heraldry - Tony Bostock***
- 28th May ***The Golden Age of the Picture Postcard - Linda Clarke***
- 25th Jun ***The History of Thornton Manor and its Residents - Gavin Hunter***

Group meetings are held at 7.30pm on the last Thursday of the month in the Church Hall, All Saint's Church, 2 Vicarage Road, Hoole, Chester CH2 3HZ. There is a small charge for admission and parking is available. All members and visitors welcome.

We have a family history helpdesk at Grosvenor Museum - opening times are 10.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 4.00pm on Tuesdays and Fridays.

There is another helpdesk at Chester Library at Storyhouse on Tuesday mornings between 10am and 12noon.

## Computer Group - The Society's Computer Club

by Geoff Johnson

Meetings and topics are seldom pre-arranged. Our preferred practice is to discuss new websites, members' own current problems, or generally educating members on getting the best from their computers. We are here to help and learn! The proposed subject of each meeting is usually announced the week before, by email or on the Club's events web page. Notes on topics from past meetings are made and displayed on the Society website, go to Groups > Computer Group > Computer Group Documents and look for Past Meetings; or use the link <https://www.fhsc.org.uk/computer-group-documents/past-meetings>

Meetings take place at 7.30pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at Hartford Methodist Church Hall, Beach Road, Hartford, Northwich, CW8 3AD. There is no charge - even the tea and biscuits are free! Open to ALL members, we focus on a wide range of genealogy and computing topics. Discussions are informal and audience participation is encouraged. Access to all the main family history websites is available at our meetings. With all attendees suggesting search ideas, members often go home with some family history information they have been struggling to find.

## Congleton Group

by David Smetham

### *Future meetings:*

- 17th Mar ***The Primitive Methodist Story as it was told in Victorian times - Margaret Veal of Englesea Brook.***  
Includes a short session of the Victorian Sunday School with a few people helping by taking part as pupils (costume provided).
- 1st Apr ***Meet the Chairman FHSC - Alan Bennett***  
The FHSC website - how can I use it to help my research?
- 19th May ***Family Search Update*** - provisional topic
- 16th Jun ***Brick Walls: Finding a way round them - David Guyton***  
General problems and approaches, and a case study illustrating them.

Meetings take place at 7.30pm on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at Congleton Library. Non-members are welcome. There is ample parking nearby and access to the Library is by the lower entrance.

## Crewe Group

by Margaret Spate

### *Future meetings:*

- 10th Mar ***Where there's a Will, there's a way – Margaret Roberts***  
How Margaret has used wills and letters of administration to trace her family tree once parish records have been exhausted.
- 21st Apr ***Joint meeting with the Nantwich Group at their venue, change of date for Crewe Group.***  
Details also under Nantwich Group news.  
***1914–18: The Home Front - Edward Hilditch.***  
The second in a series of talks about extracts from the diaries of his grandfather, an Elworth man working at Fodens.
- 7th May ***Lidice 1942: its destruction and the part played by Staffordshire people in its rebirth – Steve Booth***
- 9th Jun ***Motoring in the Edwardian North West - Dr Craig Horner***  
In the late 19th century and early 20th century the very first cars had the same design as a horse drawn carriage and petrol was bought from chemists, who sold it as a cleaning product!

Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Jubilee House, St Paul's St, Crewe CW1 2QA. Suggested parking at the adjacent Victoria Centre Car Park, CW1 2PT where there is free parking after 6.00pm. Please check the Crewe pages on the FHSC website for further information on meetings.

### *Crewe Family History Unit*

Please see pages 78 - 79 and elsewhere in this issue for details of the Society's research centres.

## Macclesfield Group

by Jean Laidlaw

### *Future meetings:*

- 24th Mar ***Studying the "Three Rs" – Claire Moores.***  
An introduction to school and education records for family history.
- 28th Apr ***What did he die of? - Sylvia Dillon***  
Exploring causes of death and where you might find death records.
- 26th May ***Women of Macclesfield - short talks.***  
Some you may have heard of and others may be new to you.
- 23rd Jun ***Tabley House - Claire Pye.***

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of the month at

The Salvation Army Hall, Roe Street, Macclesfield, SK11 6UT. Doors open at 7.15pm and meetings start at 7.30pm. Entry is through the main door facing the Churchill Way car park, and we meet in the ground floor room. Admission is £2 for FHSC members and £3 for non-members, including refreshments.

For the latest news, please see our pages on the FHSC website [www.fhsc.org.uk](http://www.fhsc.org.uk). A monthly update and reminder about meetings are emailed to subscribers on our newsletter list. If you would like to be added to our newsletter list go to the Macclesfield page on the website and click on Add Macclesfield to My Groups or send a request to [macclesfield@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:macclesfield@fhsc.org.uk).

## **Middlesex Group**

*by Alan Bennett (FHSC Chairman)*

We are trying to set up a joint North-West FHS Group in the London area with the Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society and the Cumbria Family History Society. If you live within range of central London, keep an eye on our website to find out about meetings.

## **Nantwich Group**

*by Sheila Mitchell*

### *Future meetings:*

- 17th Mar ***Joseph Paxton (1803-1865) - David Cooke***  
The busiest man in England, as gardener, architect and Victorian visionary!
- 21st Apr ***A Joint Meeting with the Crewe F.H. Group at Nantwich  
The Home Front during WWI (1914 - 1918) - Edward Hilditch***  
A Cheshire diary: personal recollections of his maternal grandfather.
- 19th May ***Where there's a Will there's a way - Liz de Mercado***

Family History Workshops at Nantwich Library are on Mondays from 2.00pm on the following dates: March 23rd, April 20th, May 18th. Anyone with a query, needing help with a 'brick wall' or starting their family tree is very welcome.

Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Nantwich Methodist Church Centre, Hospital Street, Nantwich CW5 5RP. Doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. Admission is £2 for members and £3 for non-members including refreshments. Ample parking nearby.

## Northwich Group

by *Dave Thomas*

### *Future meetings:*

- 9th Mar *Time Traveller 2 - Paul Hurley*  
13th Apr *No meeting - Easter Monday*  
11th May *Living with Funerals - David Shaw*  
8th Jun *Slater's Chronicles (Lives & Religions in Cheshire) - Audrey Woods*

Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of the month at Hartford Methodist Church Hall, Beach Road, Hartford, Northwich CW8 3AB. Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. Admission is £1, and non-members are most welcome. Car park available.

## Runcorn Group

by *Peter Rowley*

### *Future meetings:*

- 4th Mar *History of the River Mersey - Bob Roach*  
1st Apr *Liverpool's Welsh Connections - Ritchie the Ranger*  
6th May *British Home Children - Alison Williams*  
3rd Jun *Researching the RAF - Geoff Simpson*  
1st Jul *AGM*

Meetings are at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of the month (except January) at Churchill Hall, Cooper Street, Runcorn, WA7 1DH. All will be made very welcome. Refreshments - tea, coffee and home-made cakes, parking available. We have speakers occasionally, but encourage group participation in helping others to knock down their brick walls. We have parish records available to view, please ask a committee member.

## Sale Group

by *Marion Hall*

### *Future meetings:*

- 11th Mar *There are Trams in the Park - Andrew Smith*  
A story of the Heaton Moor Trams  
8th Apr *Who was Jones, Welsh surnames - Alister Williams*  
13th May *Visit to Stockport Air Raid Shelters*  
10th Jun *Cheshire Inn Signs - Tony Bostock*  
8th Jul *My Favourite Ancestor - Terry Dean*  
A talk about James Kenyon, a textile entrepreneur

Meetings are held at 7.30pm, for talk at 8.00pm, on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at Trinity Methodist Church, Trinity Road, Sale M33 3ED. Visitors are always welcome. Admission is £2 for members and £2.50 for non-members.

## **Tameside Group**

*by Gay Oliver*

### *Future meetings:*

- 11th Mar ***Medicine and Magic - Peter Watson***  
Peter comes recommended. His talk will also include old family remedies.
- 8th Apr ***Members' Evening***  
Questions and answers, lookups, and short talks.
- 13th May ***VE Day Celebrations and Sadness***
- 10th Jun ***Family History on a Budget - Gill Rossini***

Meetings are held in the Old Chapel Schoolrooms, Dukinfield - doors open at 7.00pm. There is disabled access and both members and non-members are welcome. Admission is £2 for members and £2.50 non-members. Visit our website [fhsc.org.uk](http://fhsc.org.uk) and click on RESEARCH to discover an increasing collection of resources to help you with your research.

We run helpdesk sessions in Tameside Local Studies and Archives Centre 2pm - 4pm on the first and third Tuesdays each month. Our team of experts can help you to break down those brick walls or to get started from scratch.

## **Wallasey Group**

*by Dave Beck*

### *Future meetings:*

- 17th Mar ***A View from the Past - Sheila Hamilton and Mike Bygate***  
Local scenes from 100 years ago viewed the way of our ancestors - through a magic lantern.
- 21st Apr ***The History of Registration - Angela Marquiss***  
A talk about the work of a Wirral registrar.
- 19th May ***A look back at the 1950s and 60s - Ray O'Brien***  
A nostalgic and humorous look back, including TV programmes and much more. A reminder of our youth through rose tinted spectacles.
- 16th Jun ***Serendipity - Hilary Watmough***  
The talk is based on chance encounters that have led to some important family history discoveries. Good luck has often helped.

Meetings are held at 7.30 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month except December at Claremount Methodist Church, Claremount Road, Wallasey CH45 6UE. Access via car park in Taunton Road. Visitors are always welcome.

We hold a helpdesk from 10am to 1pm on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month at the Wallasey Central Reference Library, Earlston Road, Wallasey CH45 5DX, where we are able to give individual help with family history research. There is access to the library via a ramp and internal lift for those who are less mobile or using a wheelchair. All members and non-members are welcome.

## Was Joseph Askiss a Bigamist?

*by Gren Dix  
Member no. 4174*

In 1938 Jennie YAPP (b 1918) married Joseph ASKISS in West Bromwich. Initially I thought that ASKISS was a rare name and that you didn't get many Joseph ASKISS's to the pound.

In the 1939 Register Jennie, married, was found but she was on her own in West Bromwich. I then looked for Joseph using a wide range of possible birth dates. The only Joseph that I could find was one born 16 October 1907 - but he appeared to be living in Oldbury with a wife and children (remember the 1939 register does not give relationships). Was this bigamy? Was there dirt to dish?

I looked for possible births for Joseph ASKISS (on FreeBMD) over a wide time span. There were none for a while, then, like buses, along came three together in 1908-1911. The next one was not until 1939. I then searched for matching deaths. Thus Joseph 1 (below) was the one I found in 1939 with a probable wife, Joseph 2 died young; and Joseph 3 (assumed to have married Jennie YAPP) was missing in 1939. The situation can be summarised as shown:

	Birth	Marriage	Death	1939 register
Joseph 1	1907Q4	1933	1979Q2, dob 16/10/1907	Found with wife.
Joseph 2	1908Q1	-	1908Q1 age 0	n/a
Joseph 3	1911Q1	1939	1979Q3 dob 13/12/1910	Not found.

Hence there is no bigamy and no dirt. The lesson, even with rare names, is to always do a thorough check on BMDs.

# Membership

Angela Moore



New Members

*If you receive a printed journal, the label on the mailing envelope shows your membership number and subscription renewal date. The additional numbers are "sort numbers" used by our mailing agency. If you change your contact details, please update them on the website or advise Peter Mellor.*

Peter Mellor



Renewals/Changes

If you do not wish your address to be stored on the Society's computer database, please inform Peter Mellor (see inside front cover).

*The "M" Team*

## Obituaries

It is with regret that we announce the deaths of two members and volunteers. The society sends its condolences to their families and friends.

### **Dorothy Flude**

Dorothy was a member of the South Cheshire Family History Society and, after its amalgamation with the FHSC, served on the committee of the Crewe Group as group leader, treasurer and programme secretary. Dorothy was tireless in the work that she undertook within Crewe; she supported and represented the Crewe Group and the Family History Unit for many years. Her death is a great loss to the society as well as to the town of Crewe; she will be greatly missed. See 'Letters to the Editor' on page 20.

### **Len Davenport**

Len played a key role in the FHSC for twenty years, selling our data CDs, DVDs and microfiche until ill health prevented him from continuing. He was also our GENFAIR representative for many years, and a dedicated supporter of the society.

See 'Presentation to Len Davenport', *CHESHIRE ANCESTOR* Dec 2019 issue, page 76.

## New Members

We welcome the following new members to our society and wish them success with their research:

#10133	UN	Miss Catherine S	SIMMINS	Australia
#10135	NA	Mrs Margaret	HUTCHINGS	Cheshire
#10136	UN	Mr John	WYNNE	Cheshire
#10137	UN	Mr Jerry	MOORS	USA
#10138	UN	Mrs Gillian M	BRENT	Australia
#10139	TS	Mrs Shelagh	ABBOTT	Cheshire
#10140	UN	Ms Allinson R	HOWARD	Canada
#10402	UN	Mrs Caroline	MANGNALL	Cheshire
#10143	NO	Mr Peter	HODKINSON	Cheshire
#10144	TS	Miss Kate	BOOTH	Cheshire
#10145	MA	Mrs Eileen	CLAYTON	Cheshire
#10146	UN	Misses Patricia and Allyson	FAULKNER	Greater Manchester
#10147	UN	Mrs Jane	McHARRY	Cheshire
#10148	CO	Mrs Valerie	MOSS	Cheshire
#10149	CR	Mr Edward	LYSTER	Cheshire
#10150	UN	Mr Brian	SKIDMORE	Yorkshire
#10151	UN	Mrs Jan	KELLY	New Zealand
#10152	UN	Mrs Helen	ROSS-BROWNE	Australia
#10153	WA	Mr John Trevor	THOMPSON	Cheshire
#10154	NO	Mr Lee	TURNER	Cheshire
#10155	NO	Miss Karen J	WARD	Cheshire
#10156	NO	Mr Chris J	MUTTON	Cheshire
#10157	UN	Mrs Marian R	JOHNSON	Nottinghamshire
#10158	MA	Mr Lennart D M	DAMM	Sweden
#10159	UN	Mrs Sandra F	HAYWARD	Australia

## The Society's Family History Research Centres

Both locations offer free access to *FindMyPast*, *The Genealogist* and *Ancestry* websites, and hold a large collection of microfilms, microfiche, books and documents. Manned by experienced volunteers, visitors can obtain help and advice on family and local history research. Do you have your own microfiche but no reader? Bring them to us and view them using our fiche readers!

### CREWE FAMILY HISTORY UNIT



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

The Municipal Building is situated near the market and opposite Memorial Square and the old library. Crewe Register Office is in the same building.

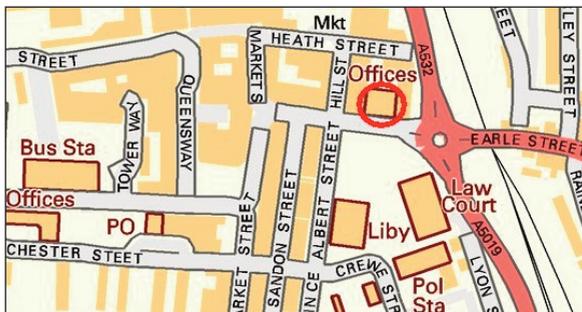
All visitors must sign in and out at reception. You will be directed to the second floor; a lift is available.

FREE access to *FindMyPast*, *Ancestry* and *The Genealogist*  
Local parish registers on film - extensive library of books  
Crewe and District and South East Cheshire local history archives  
See the Crewe FHU Library Holdings lists on the FHSC website

**Usual opening hours: 10am-4pm Monday and Tuesday  
plus one Saturday morning each month**

For Saturday dates, and changes to usual opening hours, please see this issue's *Research Centre News* or the FHSC website [www.fhsc.org.uk](http://www.fhsc.org.uk).

Non-members visiting for the first time will be offered (for a small donation) time with a volunteer to explain the facilities available and advice on family history research. Membership of the Society is encouraged for further visits.



## MOBBERLEY FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH CENTRE



**Rajar Building, Town Lane,  
Mobberley, WA16 7ER  
Tel: 01565 872210**

The Rajar Building is situated on the corner of Town Lane (A5085) and Ilford Way. The entrance is at the front of the building on Town Lane, and the Research Centre is on the first floor (access by stairs - no lift).

FREE help and advice from our experienced duty volunteers  
FREE access to *FindMyPast (World)*, *Ancestry* and *The Genealogist*  
Local parish registers on film (some of which are not available online)  
Extensive library of books on all topics, covering many areas of the UK  
(See the Mobberley Library Holdings lists on the FHSC website)  
Searchable digital archive of family history magazine back-issues and data  
Nominal charge for printing and photocopying  
Fiche/film and A2 scanning available – please enquire.

**Usual opening hours: 10am-4pm Monday to Friday.**

Closed on bank holidays and over the Christmas-New Year period.

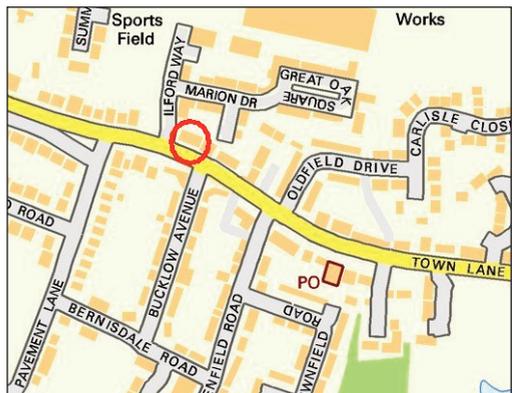
For changes to usual opening hours, please check this issue's *Research Centre News* or the FHSC website.

**If travelling some distance, please ring first to confirm the centre is open.**

Daily admission charge (per person) £3 for members, £5 for non-members (refundable on joining the Society on day of visit). Non-members preferably should phone in advance. FREE tea and coffee provided - sandwiches etc may be purchased at nearby shops.

Suggested on-street parking on Ilford Way, Marion Drive, and on Pavement Lane, across the road from the Rajar Building.

Bus stop (Bucklow Ave) nearby for the *D&G Bus Services* 88/89 from Knutsford, Wilmslow, Northwich, Macclesfield and Altrincham.  
See [www.dgbus.co.uk](http://www.dgbus.co.uk).



## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES

UK INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP with a <b>printed CHESHIRE ANCESTOR</b>	- £18.00
UK INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP with an <b>electronic CHESHIRE ANCESTOR</b>	- £13.00
UK FAMILY GROUP MEMBERSHIP (all at the same address)	

Above rates plus £2.00 per family

OVERSEAS MEMBERSHIP with an electronic <b>CHESHIRE ANCESTOR</b>	- £13.00
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Special arrangements will be made for overseas members who need a printed copy.

The Society year commences on 1st July.

Membership commences on the day of receipt of an application.

- New members joining between 1st July and the following 31st March inclusive will receive all four journals of that society year; renewal date is 1st July following joining date.
- New members joining between 1st April and 30th June will receive a complimentary journal; renewal date is 1st July the following year.

*Cheques, etc., should be made payable to "FHS of Cheshire".*

*Please ensure your payment date on your standing order is set to 1st July.*

New member applications should be sent to Membership Enrolments:

Mrs Angela Moore, 6 Woodlands Close, Stalybridge, SK15 2SH

Renewals, or changes of address, should be sent to Membership Renewals:

Mr Peter A Mellor, Tan-Y-Celyn, Rhos Isaf, Rhostryfan, Caernarfon, LL54 7LY

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*Note: final copy dates for adverts are TWO MONTHS prior to publication date, i.e. 1st January for the March issue and so on.*

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### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**Rear cover picture:** Do you have a high quality landscape format photo of your ancestors? If so, to be considered for publication please scan a copy (**at least 300dpi**) and submit it **by email only** to the editor with the names, location and date, including whether or not you agree to the publication of your name, membership number and email address.



The Family History Society of Cheshire

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

## Location of Groups

(see inside back cover for contact details)



## MEMBER'S PHOTO



### May Day, Astbury, near Congleton

An undated postcard, included in a bulk purchase of Cheshire postcards; the reverse has *4 Crescent Rd Congleton* in small print, and hand-written information. Kitty BRADBURY was either the May Queen or a maid of honour.

Attendants were E. HEATHCOTE, D. FERN, A. WINTERTON and M. HILL.

If anyone has any information about the event or people please get in touch.

From Rosie Rowley, member no. 2119 ([editor@fhsc.org.uk](mailto:editor@fhsc.org.uk))