Cheshire Ancestor

The Journal of the
Family History Society of Cheshire

In this edition:

Furnivalls of Sandiway and Overton
Simpson and Rance of Lostock Green
Tragic Causes of Death ❖ *Memories of VJ Day*
Java - An Unusual Family Name *and more...*

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Front cover photo: Astbury, St Mary's Church, Southern Aspect
© Michael Garlick (cc-by-sa/2.0) *geograph.org.uk/p/6135995*

The church is a Grade I listed building and was described by Pevsner as *one of the most exciting Cheshire churches*. The west end of the nave is forty feet wide - exceptionally wide for a parish church, and slightly wider than the nave of Chester Cathedral. See *Furnivalls of Sandiway and Overton* on page 35.

CHESHIRE ANCESTOR

Registered Charity: 515168

Society website: *www.fhsc.org.uk*

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

Editor's Page

by Rosie Rowley

I would like to thank those who have risen to my challenge and sent in articles for the journal. I have almost enough for the December issue, but it would be good to have a few extra articles in hand so it's not a race against time to get the next issue ready for printing in the three weeks between the deadline date and the end of the month. Have you any comments or feedback on anything you have read in the Ancestor? Perhaps you've got a research tip or made an exciting discovery that you'd like to share with other members without writing a whole article about it? Just send a letter instead - all contributions are very welcome.

How did you get on with the quiz in the last issue? We have another quiz on page 33, with the answers to both sets of questions on the last page of this issue so you can see how you did straight away instead of waiting for the next issue.

Don't forget the FHSC AGM on Saturday 25th October, which this year is preceded by a talk entitled *Bringing it up to date: Research in the 20th Century*, by Dave Annal. Tracing our more recent ancestors can often prove more difficult than tracking down those from earlier times. Dave's talk will look at the sources available to us and how we can use them to piece together the stories of our 20th Century ancestors. See page 14 for full details of the AGM.

ITEMS FOR THE CHESHIRE ANCESTOR

Articles and letters about family history or Cheshire local history are very welcome. Deadline dates are the 10th of January, April, July or October, but please send items as early as possible. Publication is at the discretion of the editor and is subject to space being available. ***Articles should preferably be sent by email in Microsoft Word, Open Office Writer, or plain text, to avoid having to retype them****; or by post as a clearly-written manuscript. Suggested length of articles is 300-2000 words. Please write all surnames in CAPITALS.* ***Illustrations must be your own images, not copied from another publication or website.*** *If using images of official records and documents, please check that you have publication permission. Please email images separately in a high quality (low compression) JPG format, minimum 300 dpi, and include the name of the copyright owner and source of the image. Please include your membership no. and say whether you want your email address to be published.*

View from the Chair

by Margaret Roberts

The year rolls inexorably on and thoughts turn to the AGM. I am delighted to announce that the guest speaker will be Dave Annal; full details of Dave's talk along with all the AGM information can be found on page 14.

In April FHSC was invited by Peter Calver of the Lost Cousins website to give a presentation about the Society, which Trustee Ian Worthington and I took part in. The talk went down really well and included a lot of the history of not only FHSC but everything we offer members. We were also able to answer questions live from attendees. The following month Society Secretary Sheila Jones attended the Wirral History and Heritage Fair and a few weeks later joined me at the Family History Fair at Aintree Racecourse, where we were kept very busy on our stall all day. If you are one of the new members who joined the Society either as a result of the Lost Cousins talk or the Aintree show, I hope you are enjoying your membership. I have spoken to many new members who have attended our various Zoom events, and it was a pleasure to see you on my screen.

The Crewe Research Centre volunteers have settled into their new 'home' at the Brierley Business Centre. Our opening event on 10th June was well attended by both familiar faces and new. As we move towards our permanent occupation of space at the Cheshire Archives Crewe, we are selling many of our duplicate books and those items that are non-Cheshire related. Members are welcome to pop in and browse the books and guides we have for sale, and we can take payment in cash or by debit card. To keep up to date with the building works and all the related events see *www.cheshirestoryshared.org*

The Local Groups have, as always, offered an eclectic range of talks and events, which included the story of Gertrude Meadows, who for four years masqueraded as a man and was called up to serve in WWI, the history of the King's School, Macclesfield, the Servants of Erddig Hall, Families at War, Lord Hardwicke's Marriage Act, Queens of Crime and the Detection Club, Anecdotes of a Registrar, the story of Ursula Phillips and how the Royal Daffodil got its name. There were also research and discussion evenings, so huge thanks to the Group Leaders for providing members with talks that are both entertaining and educational.

The Seminars are always well attended - in fact in preparation for the end of year reports I collated the statistics which show that almost 50% of the membership have attended at least one Seminar during the year. In April we had the chance to learn all about our Welsh Ancestry with the knowledgeable Gill Thomas, who also fielded the many questions that followed her presentation for almost an hour. May saw the return of Helen Baggott who entertained us with the stories she has uncovered from the postcards our ancestors sent, both interesting and heart-breaking tales. I was amazed to discover how many of us have police in our family tree when Tom Andrews was our guest speaker in June. Tom took us through the history of the police force in England and Wales, with many hints and tips on where you might find more information.

The various Discussion Groups have been popular, from Research Buddies, which covered Wilmslow, Ellesmere Port and Crewe, to the DNA, Publishing, MAC users, Family Tree Maker, Family Historian and Historical Newspapers. These groups are aimed at getting members together to share hints and tips, success stories and of course failures and are very chatty and friendly. The wide-ranging 'Zooming in on Family History' meetings have featured a veritable smorgasbord of subjects and I have enjoyed hosting the sessions. To find out how to join any or perhaps even all of the Discussion Groups, please see pages 9-10.

It is with sadness that I close my report with the news that our journal editor Rosie Rowley has decided to retire at the end of this year. Having overseen the production of the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR since November 2015, the time has come for her to concentrate more on her own research and her family. If you are interested in joining the ANCESTOR team, please let me know; it may well be that the role could easily be shared and we do already have an editorial assistant. On behalf of us all – thank you Rosie for all your dedication and hard work over the last almost ten years.

As we head into Autumn perhaps you may find yourself with some spare time on your hands. We are always looking for volunteers to help at all levels of the Society, from publishing the journal, assisting at fairs, social media posts, joining one of our Operational Teams or helping out at a group meeting - as they say, many hands make light work. Thank you to everyone for your continued assistance in helping FHSC remain the friendly and supportive Society it is well-known for within the family history community.

Society News and Notices

For the Society's Latest News

Keep up-to-date between journals by reading the society's email newsletters, or follow the FHSC on Facebook, Blue Sky or Twitter (now known as X). Provided that you have given us your correct email address and permission to contact you, you should receive society news by email. Log in to the FHSC website to choose which emails you wish to receive.

Society Diary Dates

Below is a list of events and meetings planned at the time of going to press; for full details, or for changes to seminars and group meetings, please see the FHSC website or contact your local group (contact details inside back cover). To join a Zoom meeting, please see the instructions in the Group News and Information pages which follow this Diary Dates section.

Note: meetings are in one of three formats - online using Zoom (Z), face-to-face at a local venue (F), or hybrid, using both face-to-face and Zoom (H). If no format is stated please check on the Group News and Information pages which follow, or see the FHSC website *www.fhsc.org.uk*

Date	Group	Subject
3-Sep	Runcorn	Brick Walls by David Guyton
5-Sep	Discussion Grp	Z: Historical Online Newspapers (2pm)
8-Sep	Northwich	AGM followed by a talk: Knutsford Prison by Jenny Collis
9-Sep	Crewe & Nantwich	F: Foden Ladies Football Team by Margaret Roberts
10-Sep	Sale	Open Forum: School Days Remembered (please bring memories etc)
15-Sep	Alsager	Review of the year followed by a short talk TBA
15-Sep	Discussion Grp	Z: Mac & Reunion Users (2pm)
16-Sep	Congleton	AGM, followed by discussion: Information from Published Family Trees
17-Sep	Society Seminar	Z: Elizabeth Gaskell by Diane Duffy
18-Sep	Discussion Grp	Z: Family Historian software (7.30pm)

22-Sep	Bebington	Local History - Rock Ferry and Surrounds by Ian Diamond
22-Sep	Discussion Grp	Z: Publishing your Family History (2.30pm)
22-Sep	Discussion Grp	Z: DNA (7.30pm)
23-Sep	Macclesfield	The People of Paradise Mill by The History Hunters
24-Sep	Discussion Grp	Z: Zooming in on Family History (7.30pm)
24-Sep	Discussion Grp	Z: Family Tree Maker software (7.30pm)
25-Sep	Chester	A House, a Family and an Architect by David Guyton
27-Sep	Research Buddies	Z: Tattenhall and Beeston
1-Oct	Runcorn	Research Evening
3-Oct	Discussion Grp	Z: Historical Online Newspapers (2pm)
8-Oct	Sale	The Case of the Missing Body-live (The Turin Shroud) by Tony Cunliffe
13-Oct	Northwich	How Swinging Were The Swinging Sixties? By David Walmsley
14-Oct	Crewe & Nantwich	Z: Surnames, Language and Identity in Cheshire by Dr Harry Parkin **(Note 2pm start)**
15-Oct	Society Seminar	Z: Twisters, Slashers, Spinners and Others of that ilk by Hilary Blandford (Dorothy Flude Lecture)
16-Oct	Discussion Grp	Z: Family Historian software (7.30pm)
20-Oct	Alsager	TBA
20-Oct	Discussion Grp	Z: Mac Users (2pm)
21-Oct	Congleton	TBA
22-Oct	Discussion Grp	Z: Zooming in on Family History (7.30pm)
25-Oct	Society AGM	Z: See page 14 for full details
27-Oct	Discussion Grp	Z: Publishing your Family History (2.30pm)
27-Oct	Discussion Grp	Z: DNA (7.30pm)
27-Oct	Bebington	Jules Verne and Friends by John Lamb
28-Oct	Macclesfield	Bygone Breweries of Macclesfield by Paul Wreglesworth
30-Oct	Chester	Cheshire Women Photographers in the Infancy of Victorian Studio Photography by Linda Clarke

October	Discussion Grp	Z: Family Tree Maker software - No Meeting
October	Research Buddies	No Meeting due to Society AGM
7-Nov	Discussion Grp	Z: Historical Online Newspapers (2pm)
10-Nov	Northwich	The Egertons of Tatton Park by Dave Thomas
11-Nov	Crewe & Nantwich	Z: Salt-making in Cheshire & Staffordshire by Sue Wilkes
12-Nov	Runcorn	Beginners' Guide and Advanced Members' Discussion (note change of date)
12-Nov	Sale	Airfields of Manchester by George Cogswell
17-Nov	Alsager	TBA
17-Nov	Discussion Grp	Z: Mac Users (2pm)
18-Nov	Congleton	TBA
19-Nov	Society Seminar	Z: The Genealogist Website by Mark Bayley (Head of content at The Genealogist)
20-Nov	Discussion Grp	Z: Family Historian software (7.30pm)
24-Nov	Discussion Grp	Z: Publishing your Family History (2.30pm)
24-Nov	Discussion Grp	Z: DNA (7.30pm)
24-Nov	Bebington	The Great British Christmas by Barry P. Humphries
25-Nov	Macclesfield	Researching UK Military Medals by Peter Ramsden
26-Nov	Discussion Grp	Z: Zooming in on Family History (7.30pm)
26-Nov	Discussion Grp	Z: Family Tree Maker software (7.30pm)
27-Nov	Chester	A Seasonal Miscellany - a Talk, a Quiz and Seasonal Cheer
29-Nov	Research Buddies	Z: Alsager, Church Lawton, Rode Heath, and Oakhanger
3-Dec	Runcorn	Research and Mince Pies!
5-Dec	Discussion Grp	Z: Historical Online Newspapers (2pm)
Dec	Alsager	Christmas meal at a local restaurant during week beginning Monday 8th
8-Dec	Northwich	Our World Famous Hotpot Supper and Quiz
8-Dec	Bebington	Christmas Social - details TBC by email

9-Dec	Crewe & Nantwich	H: Christmas Social at the Wishing Well, 6.15pm start. Quiz will be hybrid via Zoom, 7.30pm start
17-Dec	Society Seminar	Z: Tracing your Nursing Ancestors by Jude Rhodes
18-Dec	Discussion Grp	Z: Family Historian software (7.30pm)
December	Congleton	No Meeting
December	Discussion Grp	Mac Users - No Meeting
December	Discussion Grp	Publishing your Family History - No Meeting
December	Discussion Grp	DNA - No Meeting
December	Discussion Grp	Zooming in on Family History - No Meeting
December	Discussion Grp	Family Tree Maker software - No Meeting
December	Macclesfield	No Meeting
December	Research Buddies	No Meeting
December	Sale	No Meeting

Surname Interests

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

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

These names were added between 30 April and 31 July 2025:

Astle, Beech, Blackburn, Bloor, Bolshaw, Brierley/Brierly, Brown

Dale, Dobson, Dowler

Eddowes/Eddowe/Eddow/Eddoe/Eddo/Edoe/Edo, Edge

Gaskell, Hague, Heaps, Hill, Holinshead, Kendrick, Lander

Priddis/Priddice, Rowbotham

Simpson, Smallwood, Spruce, Strangeman, Stubbs, Sumner,

Taylor, Tebay, Tevenin, Webb, Wooldrdge*

*This name is printed as it was entered on the FHSC website

Group News and Information

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

FHSC Seminars
By Margaret Spate, Jean Laidlaw and Margaret Roberts
These Zoom talks take place at 7.30pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. An email is sent out on the first day of each month with details of the talk and how to register.

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

Cheshire Research Buddies
By Margaret Roberts
Our online helpdesk takes place via Zoom at 2pm on the last Saturday of the month (except October). This is the ideal opportunity for members with research queries, photograph requests or 'brick wall' questions to talk to other members with local knowledge. Please check the topic each month and join us if you have local knowledge or a query.

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

Discussion Groups
By Margaret Roberts
The Discussion Groups are open to all members to 'dip in and out'. The title of each group is self-explanatory, while *Zooming in on Family History* is a wide-ranging chat session which

members can attend for help with research, share success stories or just generally chat about family history. To join the mailing list for any of these Discussion Groups, simply log in to the FHSC website and click on *Discussion Groups* in the left-hand menu. In the window that opens click on *Subscribe* alongside the group you are interested in; you will then receive the Zoom links for each meeting and any news from that group.

2pm, 1st Friday: *Historical Online Newspapers*, led by Margaret Roberts
2pm, 3rd Monday: *Mac computers*, led by John Reed
7.30pm, 3rd Thursday: *Family Historian*, led by Geoff Johnson
2.30pm, 4th Monday: *Publishing & Disseminating our Family History*, led by Victoria Doran
7.30pm, 4th Monday: *DNA*, led by Peter Rowley
7.30pm, 4th Wednesday: *Zooming in on Family History*, led by Margaret Roberts
7.30pm, 4th Tuesday of alternate months: *Family Tree Maker*, led by Tony Cox

Alsager Group
By Hazel Rugman
All meetings, unless otherwise indicated, currently take place at 7.30pm in Alsager Library (postcode ST7 2AF) and admission is £2 for FHSC members and £3 for visitors.

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

Chester Group
By Helen Elliott
Meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month in the Pavilion, Wealstone Lane, Upton by Chester, Chester CH2 1HD. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Admission is £2 for members and £3 for visitors, including refreshments. On site car parking is available.

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

Computer Club
Meetings are held online via Zoom at 7.30pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, and are open to all members. The subject of each meeting is usually announced the week before, by email or on the Club's Events page on the FHSC website.

For information or to join, please email *computerclub@fhsc.org.uk.*

Congleton Group
By David Smetham
Meetings are usually held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Congleton Library. Doors open at 7.15pm for a

7.30pm start. Entry is through the lower door facing the bus station. Updates about meetings are emailed to subscribers on our newsletter list. Please sign up to the newsletters of the Congleton group on the Family History Society of Cheshire website, or check the group pages on the FHSC website.

Our Group AGM is on 16th September, followed by an open meeting when we will discuss picking up information from published family trees.

Crewe & Nantwich Group

By Margaret Spate

Crewe & Nantwich F2F meetings are usually held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Jubilee House, St Paul's St, Crewe CW1 2QA. Doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. Admission is £2 for members and £3 for visitors, including refreshments. Nearby parking at the adjacent Victoria Centre Car Park, Crewe CW1 2PT (NB charges now apply after 6pm). To join a Zoom meeting, please email Margaret Spate, the Crewe & Nantwich Group leader.

Crewe Family History Unit

Please see the FHSC website or elsewhere in this issue for information about the Society's research facilities.

Macclesfield Group

By Dennis Whyte

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

Nantwich Group

By Sheila Mitchell

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

Future Helpdesk Dates:

22nd September, please check website for future dates.

Northwich Group

By Dave Thomas

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

Runcorn Group

By Sue Bowden

Meetings are usually held on the 1st Wednesday of the month (except January), from 7pm until 9pm, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Clifton Road West, Runcorn WA7 4TE. Visitors are most welcome.

Our AGM was held on 2 July 2025 and the following nominations for the committee were agreed:

Sue Bowden - Group Leader
Linda Wilding - Deputy Group Leader

Jackie Kayll - Treasurer
Verina Atkins - Secretary
Pat Eastup - Committee member and Librarian
Jenny Taylor - Committee member
New Member
Tony Cox - Committee member

We encourage everyone to bring along their own laptops as you can access *Family Search Centre Documents*, *Ancestry*, *Find My Past*, *Geneanet* and *Puzzilla* free of charge when at the Church with your own laptop. We can also use the Group's laptops and the Church desktop computers. We can also use a disabled desk which has a desktop connected, which rises and falls to help anyone who may need this facility. The building is also very disabled user-friendly.

Sale Group

By Marion Hall

Our open forums allow members and visitors to share their research with the whole group, and they have proved extremely informative for everyone. Meetings are usually held at 7.30pm, for the talk at 7.45pm, on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at Sale Moor Community Centre, Norris Road, Sale M33 2TN. Visitors are always welcome. Admission is £2 for members and £2.50 for visitors.

Tameside Group

By Gay Oliver

We regret to announce that the Tameside group has now closed and thank members for their support over the years. Members will continue to run a helpdesk from 2pm to 4pm on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at Tameside Local Studies and Archives Centre - all are welcome.

Wallasey Group

Although Wallasey Group has closed, members continue to run a helpdesk every Friday from 10am to 1pm at the Wallasey Central Reference Library, Earlston Road, Wallasey CH45 5DX. Step-free access to the library is available via a ramp and internal lift. Everyone is welcome to come along.

Alsager News (1)

from the Northwich Guardian, 29 May 1875

New Road at Alsager *- **Mr Massey** produced the amended plans of the new piece of road at Alsager, by which the route was to be considerably shortened. Tenders were read as follows: - **Mr Drewitt**, of Alsager, £229; **Mr Frank Mitford**, of Odd Rode, £203.*

*The surveyor, in answer to a question, said he calculated the whole of the work to cost £300: roughly it would be £200 for Lawton and £100 for Alsager. **Mr Lawton**, of Lawton Hall, giving the land on condition of receiving the old road. **Mr Mitford**'s tender was accepted.*

Governance Notes

by Sheila Jones
Hon. Secretary

The Board of Trustees met in July and a summary of business from the meeting is on the Society's website at *www.fhsc.org.uk/governance-documents/summary-of-business.html*. The main topics of discussion were a financial governance review, governance of Local Groups, costs (particularly relating to the printing and distribution of the ANCESTOR), arrangements for the AGM, closure of the Tameside Local Group and revisions to the format of the monthly digital newsletter. The decision was also taken to cease claiming Gift Aid as, following lengthy discussions in recent years whilst claims had been suspended, independent advice has now confirmed the Trustees' opinion that the Society's membership services do not qualify it to claim Gift Aid.

In the period April-July, the Communications Operational Team and the Financial Operational Team were the only two Operational Teams which met, although business relating to the other three teams has been ongoing. There are still vacancies on all of the Teams, except the Local Groups Operational Team, and details and an application form are available on the Society's website at *https://www.fhsc.org.uk/governance-documents/operational-teams.html*

Communications Operational Team
The team has identified a need for some joint meetings with the Membership Operational Team and the Local Groups Operational Team because of overlap of issues. Alan Bennett (webmaster) has attended and confirmed changes already in place; discussions will continue, including changes to the welcome page. The Social Media Policy has been updated (and approved by the Trustees) and will be reviewed annually. Concerns with the font and size of communication have been addressed and the format of the monthly digital newsletter has been revised.

Financial Operational Team
The team has discussed various financial and operational matters, including the creation of an AI summary, the potential for a mobile phone contract, and the financial situation of the Society. They have also discussed the need for internal financial controls and the decision not to claim Gift Aid. They have also considered the need for an improved application form for membership and the importance of reviewing protocols.

Notice of the 56th Annual General Meeting of the Family History Society of Cheshire

The 56th AGM of FHSC will take place electronically using Zoom on **Saturday 25th October 2025 at 3.00pm**. The business meeting will be preceded by a talk by **Dave Annal** entitled **"Bringing it up to date: Research in the 20th Century"**. The talk will begin **at 2.00pm with login from 1.45pm**. Members with a valid email address will be sent an AGM Newsletter to coincide with the publication of this Notice in the ANCESTOR and on the website. This will contain registration details for both the talk and the AGM. Members only intending to attend the Annual General Meeting should not start the login process until **2.55pm**.

Dave Annal, who is a member of the FHSC, is a popular lecturer and is well-known on the family history circuit. In 2019 he was awarded a Fellowship of the Society of Genealogists (*www.sog.org.uk*) and in 2022 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society (*https://royalhistsoc.org/*). He regularly gives talks on a wide range of family history topics. Dave is also a respected and successful author; he has written a number of family history books and is a regular contributor to *Family Tree Magazine* (*www.family-tree.co.uk*). Tracing our more recent ancestors can often prove more difficult than tracking down those from earlier times. Dave's talk will look at the sources available to us and how we can use them to piece together the stories of our 20th Century ancestors.

To ensure that the meeting runs smoothly:

- The Hon. Secretary's Report, the annual accounts and the Hon. Treasurer's Report will be available on the website two weeks prior to the meeting. Details of those persons standing for election will be available on the website from 8th October.
- The Reports will be also published in the ANCESTOR.
- It would be helpful if members who have questions about the Reports submit them to the secretary at *secretary@fhsc.org.uk* prior to the meeting so that they can be passed to the relevant officers for a response.
- Any member's resolution should be submitted to the Hon. Secretary by no later than 13th September.
- The agenda appears in this edition of the ANCESTOR.
- The agenda and the minutes of the 2024 AGM will also be posted on the website.
- Any member unable to attend the AGM or who does not have access to the website may request a voting form and/or a copy of the agenda, minutes and

details of those standing for election from the Hon. Secretary via email at *secretary@fhsc.org.uk* or by post to Mrs S A Jones, Hon. Secretary FHSC, 11 Brancote Gardens, Bromborough, Wirral CH62 6AH. If a hard copy is requested, a Stamped Addressed Envelope would be appreciated with the request. **Hard copy voting forms will not be sent out after 18th October**.

Election of Officers and Trustees

The following posts are open to election this year, all for a period of three years:

- **Honorary Secretary (3 years), vice Sheila Jones**
- **Two other elected Trustees, vice Peter Davenport and Geoff Johnson**

All three are eligible for re-election should they wish to stand. For information, in the one year of their initial appointment, their attendance at Board of Trustee meetings as at July 2025 has been as follows:

Sheila Jones: Attended 4 out of 4 meetings
Peter Davenport: Attended 2 out of 4 meetings, with apologies tendered for one of the others
Geoff Johnson: Attended 4 out of 4 meetings

Details of what is required for these roles and a nomination form are available on the website at *https://www.fhsc.org.uk/governance-documents/roles-and-election-procedures.html* (you will need to be logged in to the website to access this section). Nominations (which can be self-nominations) should be completed and returned by **no later than 30th September 2025** to the Hon. Secretary via email at *secretary@fhsc.org.uk* or by post to Mrs S A Jones, Hon, Secretary FHSC, 11 Brancote Gardens, Bromborough, Wirral CH62 6AH.

AGM AGENDA

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

1.45pm: Login for the AGM opens.
2.00pm: Talk by Dave Annal – "*Bringing it up to date: Research in the 20th Century*"
2.55pm: Login for members only intending to attend the business meeting opens.
3.00pm: Annual General Meeting.

Agenda for the 56th FHSC AGM commencing at 3.00pm

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **Approval of the Minutes of the 2024 AGM**
3. **Chair's Remarks**
4. **Hon. Treasurer's Annual Report**

5. **Hon. Secretary's Annual Report**
6. **Elections**

   The following posts are open to election this year, all for a period of three years:

   (a) Honorary Secretary
   (b) Two other elected Trustees

7. **Appointment of Independent Examiner**
8. **Proposals from the Trustees**

   (a) Amendment to the Constitution

   In order to streamline business at the AGM, it is proposed that, with effect from the 57th AGM in 2026, elections to the posts of Officers and Trustees should be carried out prior to the date of the AGM and the results declared at the AGM. To enable this, an amendment to the Constitution would be required to allow elections to be conducted online and postally in advance of the AGM. The Membership is therefore invited to approve the following amendments (in italics) to the Constitution:

   First sentence of Clause 6 (D): All members of the Board of Trustees shall be elected by the members of the Society for a period of three years, normally *with effect from* an Annual General Meeting but, exceptionally, also at an Extraordinary General Meeting.

   Clause 11 (D): The Annual General Meeting shall elect Trustees to any vacancy. Those standing for election shall be required to declare their intention to stand in advance of the Annual General Meeting. Their declarations should then be made available to the membership in advance of the Annual General Meeting to enable *all members to vote in advance of the Annual General Meeting by electronic or postal ballot, the results being declared at the Annual General Meeting*.

   (N.B. The current wording of the Constitution is available at *https://www.fhsc.org.uk/governance-documents/constitution-regulations-policies-and-other-governance-documents.html*)

   (b) Increase in Annual Subscriptions and Cessation of Family Memberships

   The Trustees propose that the following increases in annual subscriptions should take effect from 1st July 2026. The proposal is made following consideration that subscriptions have not been increased since July 2015 but that costs to the Society have significantly increased in recent years.

UK Individual with Digital Ancestor increase of £2 to £15
UK Individual with Printed Ancestor increase of £5 to £23
Overseas Individual with Digital Ancestor increase of £2 to £15 (plus any payable VAT)
Overseas Individual with Printed Ancestor no increase (remains at £33 plus any payable VAT)

9. Proposals from the Membership

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

"To decide by simple majority upon any resolution which may be duly submitted to the meeting for consideration. No resolution, other than those relating to the adoption of reports and accounts, shall be moved at the Annual General Meeting unless a notice in writing, signed by the member who proposes to move it and stating its terms has been received by the Hon Secretary at least forty-two days before the date appointed for the holding of such Annual General Meeting.

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

10. Any other business relevant to the AGM

Alsager News (2)

from the Chester Courant, 2 June 1875

Impudent Case of Horse Stealing *- A most impudent case of horse stealing took place at Congleton on Wednesday last; a valuable pony, belonging to* ***Mr Arthur Solly****, being stolen from a field almost in sight of* ***Mr Solley****'s house between the hours of one and two in the afternoon. The thief took the pony... to Alsager, and was there offering it for sale. Fortunately he attracted the attention of* ***Police-constable Goss****... who, although he had not received information of the robbery, and notwithstanding a most plausible explanation of ownership, detained the man, and eventually discovering where the pony came from, took it at once to* ***Mr Solly****'s, arriving about eleven o'clock at night. The prisoner,* ***James Brookhouse****, of Sandbach, was brought up at the Congleton Petty Sessions on Monday last, and committed to the Chester Assizes.*

Volunteers Wanted

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

Digital Newsletter Editor and/or Editorial Assistant

One person could carry out both of these roles.

A volunteer is needed to put together news for the new version of the monthly society email newsletter. This will have a lead article of between 1000-1500 words plus snippets from around the various Local and Discussion Groups, as well as family history news and events; much of the content will be supplied and just needs to be checked and formatted into the newsletter.

A volunteer is also needed to help the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR editor with tasks such as resizing images and converting them to greyscale, and collating meetings information into a spreadsheet.

For more information, please contact Margaret Roberts (*chair@fhsc.org.uk*)

Book/CD Sales Officer

A volunteer is needed to manage our book and CD sales. David Smetham is fulfilling sales until we find a replacement volunteer. **For information, please contact David Smetham (*book.sales@fhsc.org.uk*)**

Mobberley Research Centre

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

Crewe Family History Unit

More volunteers would be very welcome, to work either in the Research Centre at Crewe or at home working on projects. **For more information, please contact Margaret Spate, Crewe Group Leader (contact details inside back cover).**

FHSC Governance Team Members

There are still vacancies on all of the Teams, except the Local Groups Operational Team, and details and an application form are available on the Society's website at *https://www.fhsc.org.uk/governance-documents/operational-teams.html*

Obituary: Alan Burgess

By Margaret Spate
Crewe Group Leader

I am sorry to have to report the death of one of the volunteers at Crewe Research Centre, Alan Burgess. Alan has been a volunteer for over twenty years, first working for South Cheshire Family History Society and continuing after amalgamation with Family History Society of Cheshire. He has undertaken various jobs at each of the three venues used by us.

Alan was always willing to help members and guide them in their research as well as taking on the responsibility of being the lead volunteer for the day. We owe him thanks for taking images for projects and transcribing records, and he was the lead in continuing a project during the Covid pandemic. Alan organised a band of volunteers, sent out files for transcription and meticulously recorded their return. This in turn brought a purpose for the volunteers who were isolating.

A Crewe man with an exception knowledge of the town, its history and the railway, Alan was always happy to share this with our visitors. The Crewe Chronicle Obituary index available in the research centre and on the website is also his work.

I would like to record my thanks for the support that he has given to me as a Crewe Group member and also as Group Leader.

Alan was a very important member of the team and is greatly missed by family, friends, volunteers and members of the society.

Alsager News (3)

from the Cheshire Observer, 11 September 1875

Sandbach Brewster Sessions *– **Ambrose Bibby** and **David Shufflebotham** were each fined 20s. and costs for being drunk and riotous at Alsager on the 19th ult.; **Edward Berresford**, of Congleton, was fined 20s and costs for furiously driving his horse and trap at Church Hulme on the 20th ult.; **Henry Weedall**, of Winsford, was fined 40s. for furiously driving his horse and cart at Elton on the 23rd ult.; **Frank Dimilow**, alias **Leah**, was fined 40s for being drunk and assaulting the police at Arclid on the 5th inst.*

Members' FREE Research Lookup Service

Note that this is a free service for members only, and is subject to the time available to volunteers.

We will search our research resources (held at the Mobberley Research Centre or at the Crewe Family History Unit) for specific information about one named person. For example: a search for a marriage, baptism or burial record or a search for a memorial inscription. We will also check other indexes that we hold. We will respond as quickly as possible but please remember that the Research Centres are staffed by volunteers who also have other duties.

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

Lists of the resources held at Crewe can be found on the FHSC website at *Research Centres > Crewe Family History Unit > Crewe Holdings*

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

Requests can be submitted:

- **Online at *www.fhsc.org.uk***
  Sorry, this option is not available at present.
- **By post**
  Please include your name, membership number, contact details and a correctly stamped, addressed envelope (at least C5 size - 162mm x 229mm). Send to: *Family History Society of Cheshire Lookup Service, Mobberley Research Centre, Rajar Building, Town Lane, Mobberley, Cheshire, WA16 7ER.*

  Or to: *FHSC, Family History Unit, Units 3 & 4, Brierley Business Centre, Mirion Street, Crewe, CW1 2AP*

Why not ADVERTISE your

Cheshire or Genealogy BUSINESS** or **PRODUCT

in this quarter-page space?

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

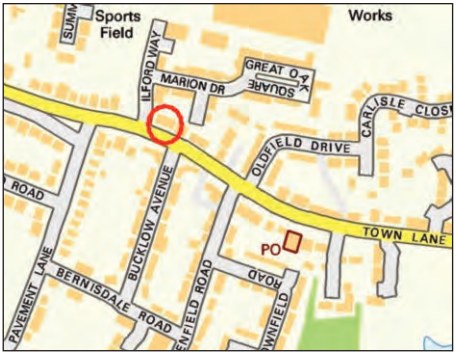
Please contact the Editor for full details

Research Centre News

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

MOBBERLEY FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH CENTRE

Rajar Building, Town Lane, Mobberley, WA16 7ER
Tel: 07712 103715
For non-urgent enquiries you can now email us on *researchcentre@fhsc.org.uk*



The Rajar Building is on the corner of Town Lane (A5085) and Ilford Way. The entrance is at the front on Town Lane, and the Research Centre is on the first floor (stairs only, sorry, no lift). Parking is on nearby streets. There is a bus stop nearby (Bucklow Avenue) for D&G Bus No. 87/88. See *www.dgbus.co.uk*

FREE access to *FindMyPast*, *Ancestry* and *The Genealogist*
Extensive library of books and films/fiche for many areas, not just Cheshire
Searchable computer archives * Small charge for printing/copying
Fiche/film scanning available

Usual opening hours: 10am-4pm Monday, Thursday and 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month.

Closed on bank holidays and over the Christmas-New Year period.
If the weather is bad, please phone to check we are open before travelling.

Daily admission charge £3 for members, £5 for non-members (refundable on joining the Society on day of visit), including FREE tea or coffee.

Non-members should please contact us in advance to book a place.

Mobberley Research Centre News

by Joan Irving
librarian@fhsc.org.uk

Nonconformist Baptisms

Are you missing a baptism in the Stockport area 1709-1793? Check out the *Rev. Peter Walkden's Diary and Early Nonconformist Baptisms* ref: REL 40 at Mobberley. The diary was first published in 1866.

Another source worth checking is the *Register of the Old Chapel, Hillgate Independent 1709-1793* held at Cheshire Archives ref: RG4/2023. This register is available on Ancestry. It is likely these two sources are the same.

In 1837 when the Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths became law the General Register Office asked for all non-parochial registers to be surrendered. However not all registers were surrendered but those that were are listed in the List and Index Society volumes 266 and 267 at Mobberley. They refer to all counties of England and Wales ref: RG4 and RG8. The list gives the dates of the registers, births, baptisms, deaths and burials and includes all nonconformist chapels. Many of these chapels have closed but the registers could give important information about ancestors. These registers may be available on film or fiche at local libraries and record offices. We have some pre-1837 registers on fiche at Mobberley, mostly transcribed by the North Cheshire FHS (this society has now merged with FHSC).

It is always worth checking our library catalogues online or visiting Mobberley Research Centre to find out more about your nonconformist ancestors.

Ed.: According to information on the RootsChat website and elsewhere, these registers were the results of two ministers, father and son:

Registers of Rev Peter Walkden of baptisms at several churches (1709-1769):
Garsdale c1709-1710
Chipping and Newton c1710-1722
Hesket Lane and Newton c1722-1739
Holcone "and occasionally" 1739-1744
Stockport "and occasionally" c1744-1769
Bramhall, Newton and Littlemoor c1723, 1747-1768

Registers of Rev Henry Walkden of baptisms of several churches (1747-1793):
Tintwhistle "and occasionally" c1747-1758

Heaviley Hall near Stockport c1760-1761
Stockport "and occasionally" c1761
Wymondhouses, Newton and Hesket Lane c1761-1793

Wymondhouses (an old farm in the south of the parish) was purchased in 1667 by the Nonconformist preacher Thomas Jollie. He had a meeting place licensed in 1672, later building a chapel that was still in use until the 1860s.

Crewe Family History Unit News

by Margaret Spate
crewe@fhsc.org.uk

Thanks again for the help and support with all aspects of our move to new temporary home. I am pleased to be able to report that the response from our visitors has been overwhelmingly positive. The wait for an internet connection has meant more time for volunteers and members to revisit or make new searches for physical records amongst the collections which are held. You may find a missing piece of information during your visit.

Some changes have been made to the catalogue; there are no omissions, but the placement of books has changed. This is in preparation for the next move, so please ask for help if needed.

We are fortunate to have welcomed five new volunteers onto the team in Crewe during the last year. They are already undertaking work on projects and offering help to other members, but we still have room for more volunteers, whether to work in the Research Centre or at a distance with projects.

I am sorry to report the death of one of our volunteers, Alan Burgess. His obituary can be found on page 19.

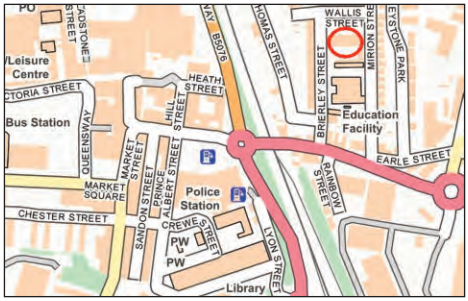
Alsager News (4)

from the Crewe Guardian, 19 June 1875

Fatal Accident at Alsager *- On Monday morning a number-taker of wagons, named* ***Parratt****, for the North Stafford Railway Company, stationed at Alsager, near Crewe, was in the act of jumping on to some wagons when in motion for the purpose of going from the station to the Audley Junction, when he became entangled in the wheels, and was dragged a considerable distance before the train was stopped. It was then found that his injuries were of so serious a nature that the poor fellow died immediately afterwards. The inquest was held... at the Alsager Arms, before* ***Mr Dunstan****.*

CREWE FAMILY HISTORY UNIT

Units 3 & 4, Brierley Business Centre, Mirion Street, Crewe, CW1 2AP
Tel 07352 454501



The Business Centre is situated on Mirion Street, about six hundred yards from our previous location in Crewe Municipal Buildings.

The Business Centre has free parking with disabled parking spaces.

We occupy units 3 and 4 on the ground floor. Press the doorbell button for FHSC and one of our volunteers will come to the door and let you in.

FREE access to *Ancestry, FindMyPast, British Newspaper Archive*
and *The Genealogist*
Local parish registers on film - extensive library of books
Crewe Collection (formerly Crewe and District Local History Archives)
For full details of our holdings, please see
the Crewe FHU Library Holdings lists on the FHSC website

Usual opening hours: 10am-4pm Monday and Tuesday
plus one Saturday morning each month (see website for date)

We recommend arriving no later than 3pm. For Saturday dates and changes to usual opening hours, please see the FHSC website.

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

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

Family History Events

For news of family history events, see these online calendars

http://geneva.weald.org.uk/doku.php
www.familyhistoryfederation.com/events
www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/online/genealogy/
https://conferencekeeper.org/

Wirral Archives History Workshops

4 September: *Birkenhead's Alwen Reservoir Water Supply* by Roger Ellison
2 October: *Wirral and the Cold War* by William Meredith
6 November: *Maritime Stories Relating to Graves in Bebington Cemetery* by Angela Branch, Friends of Bebington Cemetery

For further information, or to book a place, please contact the Archivist, William Meredith, on 0151 606 2922, or e-mail *archives@wirral.gov.uk*

Wirral Archives also has an exhibition marking the centenary of the unveiling of the Birkenhead War Memorial in Hamilton Square, until Remembrance Day.

www.wirral.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives/wirral-archives-service

Davenport Gathering

For anyone with Davenport ancestry
3pm on Sunday 7th September 2025
at Binley Woods Village Hall, Rugby Rd, Binley Woods, Coventry CV3 2AX
and afterwards from 5.30pm at the nearby Roseycombe pub for a social meal.
Please confirm attendance by email to *june.bird@hotmail.co.uk*
There is a Premier Inn under a mile away if accommodation is needed

The National Archives
'Tracing your Railway Ancestors'

online at 2pm on Friday 12th September 2025

Discover our collection of the surviving records of private railway companies before nationalisation in 1947. The presentation is followed by a live Q&A. Free, but booking essential at:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tracing-your-railway-ancestors-tickets-1363053913949

The Halsted Trust Conference
'Secrets & Lies: More Hidden Voices of Our Ancestors'

Friday 19th – Sunday 21st September 2025
at the Holiday Inn, Peterborough West

This event will delve into the lesser-known stories of our ancestors — stories of mystery, hardship, and resilience that have shaped the history of the British Isles.

https://secretlives.org.uk/

The Family History Show (London)

10am - 4pm, Saturday 4th October 2025
at Kempton Park Racecourse,
Staines Road East, Sunbury-on-Thames TW16 5AQ
Talks - Exhibitors - Ask the Experts
Kempton Park railway station on site - Ample free parking
Advance tickets £8.00 each or two for £14
https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/london/

The Guild of One-Name Studies
DNA Seminar 2025

9.30am - 4.45pm on Saturday 18th October 2025
at Beauchamp College, Oadby, Leicestershire LE2 5TP

Our team of expert speakers will help members with varying levels of knowledge make the best of DNA technology. The seminar is open to both Guild members and non-members. Booking essential.

https://one-name.org/mc-events/dna-seminar-2025/?mc_id=2607

The Society of Genealogists:
Visit: The Royal Mail Archive, London

10.30am - 11.30am, Thursday 11th December 2025

The records of The Royal Mail at The Postal Museum (*www.postalmuseum.org*) cover all of the UK and, up until 1920 Ireland too, and are a rich resource for family historians. This visit will enable you to learn to research your ancestors who worked for the British postal service and try out the resources.

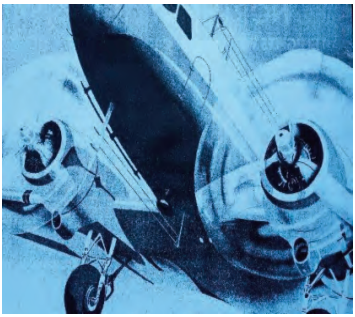
Booking essential - £10 - non-members welcome
https://portal.sog.org.uk/Event/view/375190

Cheshire Local History Association

HISTORY DAY 2025

MOVING CHESHIRE

(How humans changed the face of our County)



Tarporley Community Centre
High Street, Tarporley CW6 0AY

Saturday October 11th, 2025

9.00am – 4.30pm

Ticket price £16

SPEAKERS	
Alan Crosby	*Going with the Flow*
Keith Lawrence	*Roadways Networks*
Mike Blackburn	The Coming of the Iron Horse
Colin Schroeder	*Reaching for the Skies*

For more information and booking details **see**
www.cheshirehistory.org.uk

Family History News

A selection of recent updates to websites, and other family history news. Remember, if you don't have a subscription to *Ancestry, Find My Past* or *The Genealogist*, our Research Centres have free access to these sites. You may also be able to access *Ancestry* or *Find My Past* through your public library - and look out for offers of free access on special occasions such as Remembrance Day.
Bear in mind that record collections on the Internet may be incomplete.

The Genealogist

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

International Bomber Command Centre (IBCC): Losses Database
The IBCC Losses Database includes detailed records of over 67,000 Bomber Command casualties, capturing personal details, aircraft information, missions, and circumstances of death.

Ancestry

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

Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Parish Records, 1538-1997
www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62609
www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62618
www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62619
www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62620

Ancestry has recently added images of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Parish registers from Cambridgeshire Archives' two record offices at Ely and Huntingdon. Some registers are held by Wisbech Museum; these have been digitised by the Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire FHS (CHFHS) and are available on the CHFHS website.

Suffolk Parish Records
It has just been announced that the Suffolk parish registers will also be on Ancestry by the time this issue of the ANCESTOR has been published.

***Ed.**: At last! Images of the parish registers for my ancestors. Nothing beats seeing the real signatures of your ancestors on a marriage register.*

Find My Past (FMP)

Go to *http://search.findmypast.co.uk/historical-records* to see a list of all record sets. Go to *www.findmypast.co.uk/blog/new* for FindMyPast news.

Britain and Ireland, Incoming Passenger Lists 1878-1960
https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/britain-and-ireland-incoming-passenger-lists-1878-1960
Delve deeper into your ancestors' journey by searching over 16 million passenger lists held by The National Archives. These records were digitised from the original series held at The National Archives as BT 26, Board of Trade: Commercial and Statistical Department and successor: Inwards Passenger Lists and include images of the original documents.

Britain, Naturalisations 1844-1990
https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/britain-naturalisations-1844-1990
These transcription records are abstracted from archive record series HO 334 and HO 409 held at The National Archives in Kew. Series HO 334 contains naturalisation certificates (rather than case papers), while HO 409 is certificate index entries.

Find My Past Workspaces
https://www.findmypast.co.uk/my-research
Find My Past has created a new way of organising your research online, called Workspaces. You can create separate Workspaces for people, families, places, or anything else, and can save record transcriptions and newspaper clippings alongside your own notes in dedicated folders and sub-folders. Workspaces allow you to gather and reflect on records and newspaper clippings without attaching them to your family tree. This is ideal for when you are unsure about an ancestor or a record, or if you're researching a topic outside of a family tree, such as local history or a one-name study.

Heritage Open Days

www.heritageopendays.org.uk

Don't miss England's annual Heritage Open Days events taking place from 12th to 21st September - this year's theme is Architecture. You'll be able to visit many National Trust properties free of charge and also gain entry to many historic locations which are not normally open to the public, although places may be limited and pre-booking may be required.

Historic England

https://historicengland.org.uk/

Historic England is the body responsible for listed buildings and other heritage sites in England. There are currently two projects which may be of interest to local historians.

Missing Pieces project
https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/missing-pieces/

The Missing Pieces Project invites you to share your pictures and stories of the unique, significant and memorable places on the National Heritage List for England (otherwise known as 'the List'). The List is a register of all nationally protected historic buildings and sites across England.

Your view of a place is as unique as you are, so every snapshot and story you add is an important piece of the picture. Share your images, from phone snaps to scans of vintage photos and architects' drawings; and stories, from memories of holidays, school trips and family events to information about grand openings and transformations.

Photos must be ones you took yourself, from public land or rights of way, or with permission from the landowner.

Local Heritage Hub
https://historicengland.org.uk/local/

The Local Heritage Hub includes pages for every county, district, city, major town, and national park in England, allowing users to explore aerial photos, listed buildings, archive material, videos, podcasts and local stories, all in one place. It is designed for local people to connect with the places they know and love in new and surprising ways.

Alsager News (5)

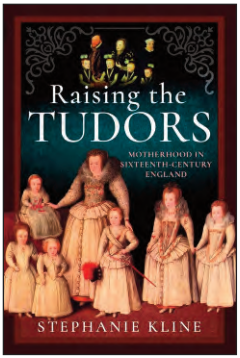
from the Crewe Guardian, 30 October 1875

Proposed Local Board for Alsager *- We understand that active steps are being taken in Alsager for the formation of a Local Board of Health, the place being very sadly in need of sewerage. Alsager has grown very rapidly of late years, and is in fact a very handsome suburb of the Potteries, composed mainly of villas and mansions occupied by gentlemen in business.*

Book Review

by Margaret Roberts
FHSC Chair

Raising the Tudors: Motherhood in Sixteenth Century England
by Stephanie Kline



Stephanie Kline's *Raising the Tudors: Motherhood in Sixteenth Century England* offers a compelling and deeply researched exploration of Tudor women's experiences from adolescence through to old age. Rather than focusing solely on royal figures or political dramas, Kline shifts the lens to the everyday lives of mothers, illuminating how societal expectations, medical beliefs, and personal narratives shaped their roles.

The book is structured chronologically, beginning with the onset of fertility and continuing through marriage, pregnancy, child-rearing, and into the later stages of life. Kline delves into the prevailing medical theories of the time, such as the Four Humours, and examines how these influenced women's health practices and perceptions. She also highlights the emotional and social aspects of motherhood, including the bonds formed with children and the evolving responsibilities as they matured.

Despite focusing primarily on higher social classes, the book provides significant insights into the lives of women who have often been overshadowed by the more prominent political narratives of the Tudor period. While some might wish for more representation of women from lower social strata, *Raising the Tudors* is a must-read for those interested in women's history and the nuanced roles they played in shaping the Tudor period.

Pen and Sword, 25 Jun 2025, Hardback, 232 pages, ISBN 978-1399039376, £20

Pen & Sword: *www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/Raising-the-Tudors-Hardback/p/52734*
Amazon UK: *www.amazon.co.uk/dp/1399039377*

Members' Family Photo: ASHMORE

by Judith Rye
Membership no. 4350
castleview61@tiscali.co.uk

This photograph shows my 2x great-grandfather Daniel ASHMORE (born about 1831) and his wife Mary Ann nee STUBBS (born about 1831) who married in 1853 at Astbury. Daniel worked his way up to become Gamekeeper for the SHAKERLEY family at Somerford Hall near Congleton until he retired to run the *Castle Inn* public house at Dane in Shaw, Congleton. They had thirteen children in total.

Christopher, on the back row, took over the *Castle Inn* after his parents died, but he died of tuberculosis at the age of 45. He is the spitting image of my late uncle.

Daniel won many prizes for shooting with the 5th Cheshire Rifle Corps. The family also possesses an illuminated scroll presented to Armourer Sergeant D. ASHMORE by the 5th Volunteer Battalion Cheshire Regiment in respect of over 32 years of service.

This photo must have been taken before September 1892 as Mary Ann was injured in a horse and cart accident and lost her right arm, after initially having just her thumb amputated.

Cryptic Cheshire

by Sheila Jones
Hon. Secretary

How did you get on with the cryptic clues to Cheshire places in the last edition? Our format is slightly different for this edition!

Answers to these questions, and to the questions in the June issue, can be found on page 64.

What, where, or who in (historic) Cheshire links the following?

1. Bollington, Lower Peover, Malpas
2. Mrs Bourne, Burt's, Joseph Heler
3. Ermentrude of Claremont, Constance of Brittany, Elen ferch Llywelyn
4. Eastgate clock, Jodrell Hall, St John the Baptist's Church, Hartford
5. Eddisbury, Helsby, Oakmere
6. Great Budworth, Port Sunlight, Styal
7. Astbury House, Fisher House, Sumner House
8. Brains, Pudding, Rabbit Burrows
9. St Alban's Macclesfield, St Anne's Rock Ferry, St Mary's Warrington
10. River Croco, River Dane, River Wheelock

Tragic Causes of Death

by Joan Irving
FHSC Librarian

17 Mar 1892 Wm Stanley NOLAN 4m of Bollington, accidently overlain whilst asleep with parents.

15 Aug 1895 Hannah LEIGH 5y 3m of Adlington, found drowned in canal.

28 Nov 1842 John HUNTER 37y 8m of Manchester, poisoning with arsenic.

14 June 1839 John MILLETT 13m of Sutton, Macclesfield, teething.

7 Sep 1890 Ann Elizabeth WRIGHT 1y of Bollington, effects of accidently being scalded.

5 Jul 1914 Colin FURNESS 1y of Bollington, shock due to severe injuries to his brain caused by falling from a roof of a coal house into a yard.

9 Mar 1842 Thos HARRISON 86 of Lymm, accidently killed by falling from a cart.

28 August 1910 Labon ATHERTON 45 of Medway, Kent, exhaustion from starvation and exposure.

12 Aug 1839 Richard BULLOCK 29 of Heaton Norris, cut his throat being of unsound mind.

24 Feb 1888 James WALTERS 12 of Adlington, accidently knocked down and killed by a coal wagon in Anson Pit, Poynton.

14 Sep 1890 Emily LEIGHTON 13 of Bollington, tetanus produced by wounds sustained by accidently caught in machinery of a cotton mill.

23 Oct 1908 Charles Wm PEG 20 of Bollington, shock and haemorrhage through severe cut on arm caused by falling on a broken glass bottle

21 Jul 1892 James SNAPE 40 of Bollington, poisoning from carbolic acid gas and other gases - death due to misadventure

15 Nov 1878 Thos Wm BENNIT 33 of Knutsford Prison, fracture of skull by accidental fall from wall whilst engaged in pulling down prison chapel.

2 Oct 1966 George JONES 70 of Lymm, asphyxia due to drowning caused when accidentally fell into the Bridgewater Canal at Lymm and was drowned.

FURNIVALLs of Sandiway and Overton

by Jane Fraser
Membership no. 10213
and Peter Havercan
Membership no 11014

How on earth did a professor in Colorado and a software engineer in Hampshire come to share an interest in a Cheshire farmer who occupied Overton Hall?

Peter has close family roots in Lancashire and Cheshire, worked for a decade at Daresbury Laboratory near Runcorn, but eventually moved to Hampshire to work as a software engineer for IBM. He started to study family history seriously in 2001 after the publication of the 1901 Census - he found that the HAVERCAN surname is a rare Irish name from Co. Roscommon. By about 2007 he had discovered his ancestor Daniel FURNIVALL from his marriage and burial in Astbury Parish Church, near Congleton, but any clues to Daniel's birth or baptism remained stubbornly hidden.

Jane, with roots in Scotland, England, and Ireland, was born in New Jersey, USA, was an engineering professor for 41 years, and now lives in Colorado. From her great-grandmother's middle name, she guessed that she had FURNIVALL roots: Emily Furnival DUNLOP was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1869. Jane traced that thread back to John FURNIVALL, whose 8 February 1775 will in Astbury listed ten children, including a son named Dan.

Finding Daniel

In 2022, Jane found Peter's detailed webpage on his FURNIVALL research (*https://roots.havercan.net/furnivall/*), reached out to him via Ancestry messaging, and shared the information about Dan being mentioned in John's will. This Dan was likely Peter's Daniel, since the will also mentioned John's daughter Ellen BOOTH. Peter had already found that Daniel FURNIVALL married Anne BOOTH and Ellen FURNIVALL married John BOOTH in a double wedding in Astbury in 1767 (brother and sister married twin sister and brother), but a baptism record for Daniel was still missing.

The other nine children in John's will (plus one not mentioned in the will since she died young) had baptism records in Weaverham (1731, 1732, 1734, 1736, and 1738), Middlewich (1743, 1745, 1747, and 1750), and Astbury (Jane's ancestor, William, in 1752).

Following Jane's discovery of John FURNIVALL's will, Peter renewed his effort to discover Daniel's baptism record. Using the wildest of wildcards on FamilySearch (*Da* Fu**), he eventually turned up *Danuel Furin* baptised in 1740 in Middlewich. Based on Jane's research on other members of the family, it seemed possible that this unlikely looking name was in fact the missing Daniel. His baptism date (1740) and location (Middlewich) fit neatly into the records already found for the other nine children. Peter's delight at finally finding Daniel's baptism record led to an impromptu and happy Zoom call for Peter at 3:30 am in England and Jane at a more reasonable 8:30 pm in Colorado.

The FamilySearch record did not contain an image, but Jane was able to find an image of the baptism record by searching for *Daniel Furin* on FindMyPast. This record, from 1740, could now be read as:

Dannel Son of John ffurnifull of Wimbersley farmer was baptised Nov 16

and the identification was complete, after fifteen years!

Peter's path to John FURNIVALL was through his paternal grandmother, Ada SENIOR (who was, by the bye, a niece of the shipbuilder Isaac PIMBLOTT of Northwich). Ada's grandfather William SENIOR died in Leftwich Workhouse. His wife was Mary Ann BENNION from Wharton (now in Winsford). Mary Ann's mother was Martha FURNIVALL of Moreton-cum-Alcumlow, baptised at Astbury on 24 December 1797. Martha's father was Joseph FURNIVALL, who was the son of Daniel.

Jane's path to the common ancestor was through her great-grandmother Emily Furnival DUNLOP and Emily's mother Jane FURNIVAL. Then the FURNIVAL line continues for three male generations: William (born in Liverpool), his father Samuel - a grocer in Liverpool who went bankrupt and went to the US in 1822 with his wife and their three children – preceded by another William (born in Astbury), and finally John.

Peter and Jane share a 6x great-grandfather and thus are 7th cousins.

The FURNIVALL children

We have found information on some of the children mentioned in John's will and continue to research the others.

John and Elizabeth's first daughter, Rose, is identified in John's will as *Rose at London*, so it was in London that we had to search for her. We found that she married Samuel WITHERS on 14 May 1750 in a "Clandestine Marriage" in the

Fleet district of London. She and Samuel were both living in the Bishopsgate district. Rose was 19 years old. Some clandestine marriages were also known as "Fleet marriages", because they originally took place in the chapel of the Fleet prison, outside the restrictions of Canon Law. This meant that the participants could be married underage without parental permission, and without the need to read Banns. But, by 1711, wardens were forbidden from allowing marriages in the prison chapel, and a marriage industry had built up within the buildings surrounding the prison. Clandestine marriages were banned completely by 1754, when the Clandestine Marriages Act 1753 - or Lord Hardwicke's Marriage Act - came into force.

Samuel WITHERS was a cheesemonger, or seller of cheese. No doubt his business took him to the dairy farms of Cheshire, but it is not known whether he originated from Cheshire or from London. We don't know what happened to Samuel, but Rose married again. On 1 May 1761, she married Joshua TIPPING at Saint Lawrence Jewry, London. They had two daughters: Margaret TIPPING (1761) and Charlotte TIPPING (1763). Rose may have been married again to Samuel WHEATLEY on 6 November 1778 in St James, Piccadilly. No wonder that John didn't specify Rose's surname in his will.

John and Elizabeth's second daughter Elizabeth married farmer John MORREY of the parish of Wybunbury in 1755 in Middlewich. He died in 1763 and she married William WALLEY in 1771 in Warmingham. Since Elizabeth was shown as from the parish of Astbury on her second marriage, we speculate that she moved home after being widowed. The WALLEYs had two daughters (Ellen in 1772 and Sarah in 1774) while living in Somerford Radford. Elizabeth is mentioned as Elizabeth WALLEY in her father's will.

Their third child was a son, John, baptised 6 January 1734 in Middlewich. We cannot confidently identify a marriage for him. The fourth child, son Joseph, married Ann HAWORTH in Astbury in 1768. They had previously been married in Scotland. They had six children. Peter has been in contact with one of their descendants.

The fifth child, daughter Mary, married Thomas HULME in 1759 in Astbury. They lived in Somerford Booths and had eight children. We have been in touch with a descendant of this marriage.

As already mentioned, Daniel and his sister Ellen married twins Anne and John BOOTH in 1767. Ellen and John lived in Odd Rode and had at least ten children between 1768 and 1783. Daniel and Ann had three children: Joseph (1768, in

Smallwood) and then Ann and Hannah (1769), who were also twins. Joseph is Peter's ancestor. Ann FURNIVALL married John MORREY in 1787. Hannah FURNIVALL married John GUEST in 1791, and there is some suggestion that they emigrated to Indiana.

We have found nothing more about sons Thomas and James. Their father's will states:

Also I will that if Thomas or James FURNIVAL shall not come from a Broad Either one or Both to Demand these partes of money within the Space or term of twenty years after they [hear?] from, then there shares or share of Either one or Both [40 pounds to Thomas and 50 pounds to James] be Equally Devided amongst all the Brothers and Sisters then Living or their heirs.

The youngest child, William, took over his father's farm. He married Hannah WOOLRICH in Audlem in 1778 and they had six children before her death in January 1789. William married Ann BIRTLES in Astbury on 24 November 1789 and they had five children. Ann died in May 1795 and William married his third wife Mary on 29 December 1795. Two of William's sons, half-brothers Samuel (Jane's ancestor) and Daniel, moved to Liverpool about 1810, where each married and had children and where together they failed as grocers. Samuel emigrated to New York City in 1823 where he became a successful rope maker (rope made from hemp) and, about the same time, Daniel and his family moved to upstate New York.

William's third wife was Mary SALMON, the widow of the brother of Rev Richard Lowndes SALMON, the Vicar of Sandbach. We have been unable to find Mary's birth name. She lived in Overton Hall, and allowed Wesleyan prayer meetings to be held there. Mary's connections with the SALMON and LOWNDES families deserve an entire article to themselves.

John FURNIVALL's will mentions only one grandchild, Hannah, the daughter of Daniel and his wife Ann, baptised 26 November 1769, despite John having at least sixteen other grandchildren by the time of his 8 February 1775 will, some of whom were born before Hannah and one of which was Hannah's twin, Ann. We speculate that John may have been fond of the granddaughter with the name of his only child who had died. John's daughter Hannah was baptised 30 December 1747 and buried 26 November 1750, both events in Middlewich.

We think that John's wife was Elizabeth LEA. They married on 3 September 1730 in Frodsham. Their first children were baptised in John's parish, Sandiway, less than ten miles from Frodsham. If we have identified the correct name for his

wife, she is likely to be the Elizabeth LEA baptised 1 December 1706 in Tarvin, matching her age at death on her gravestone, and the possibility that she named her son Daniel after her father, Daniell LEA of Ashton (now Ashton Hayes).

Moving from Sandiway to Overton

The baptism records of his children show that John FURNIVALL lived in Sandiway, where he was born and worked as a farmer, until about 1736, when he moved to Weaverham Wood. By the time Daniel was baptised in 1740, the family had moved to Wimboldsley (then called Wimbersley) near Middlewich. But when their youngest son William was baptised in 1752, the family was living in Overton Hall, Smallwood. Overton Hall had previously been the property of Thomas LOWNDES, who had bequeathed it in 1748 to the University of Cambridge.

Thomas Lowndes – entrepreneur and philanthropist

Thomas LOWNDES is often described as an astronomer, but there is no evidence that he owned a telescope or did astronomical research. But, at his death in 1748, he did bequeath much of his considerable wealth to found the Lowndean Professorship of Astronomy and Geometry at the University of Cambridge. Because John FURNIVALL was most likely the first tenant of Overton Hall after the University took ownership, his rental must have been a major contribution to that Professorship. The first professor was Roger LONG, who published an astronomy textbook and built an early planetarium.

Thomas LOWNDES was born in Overton Hall, long owned by the LOWNDES family, but he spent his childhood in Legh Hall (now Lea Hall) in Wimboldsley, inherited by his mother Elizabeth LOWNDES. Both estates eventually passed to Thomas's niece Sarah LOWNDES, but Thomas bought back Overton for £4000, and his younger brother Robert LOWNDES bought Lea Hall. Thomas LOWNDES was at one time Provost Marshal of South Carolina, although he never visited the colony. He famously invented a recipe for the production of salt from brine, for use by the Royal Navy.

John's last child, son William FURNIVALL (Jane's ancestor) took over the rental payments by 1791 (and probably much earlier) and continued paying them until his death in 1823. He paid rent to the holders of the Lowndean professorship, first to Dr John SMITH (according to Wikipedia, *He did not seem to have left any scientific papers or given any lectures*, and a 1911 article in The *Observatory* stated *Perhaps someone else may be able to tell us something about him*) and then to Dr William LAX (according to Wikipedia, he contributed to efforts to solve the problem of finding longitude at sea).

A visit to Astbury Churchyard

In October 2024 Peter was able to visit Astbury Churchyard, hoping to discover the graves of our ancestors. Armed with FHSC's *Astbury St Mary Burials and MI* document, his first visit was unsuccessful, but a second attempt found the grave of Elizabeth and John FURNIVALL, and the family grave of their son William FURNIVALL immediately adjacent to it. They are in section OB, one of the oldest sections of the graveyard, and lie beneath a small yew bush near the porch. The gravestone of John and Elizabeth is badly contaminated with moss and lichen, but with the help of the MI transcription Peter has been able to pick out the relevant words digitally. The inscription reads:

Here
lie the remains of Eliſabeth
Wife of John Furnivall late
Tenant of Overton Hall in this
Parish who departed this Life the
20th Day of October 1773 aged
67 years
Alſo the ſaid John Furnivall who
departed this Life the 18th Day of
October 1775 Aged 78 Years

An adjacent stone gives information on the family of John's youngest son, William:

In memory of
Mary Daughter of William and
Hannah Furnivall of Overton Hall
in Smallwood who departed this life
April the 3rd 1785 Aged 3 Years.
Alſo Eliſabeth Daughter of the ſaid
William and Hannah Furnivall
who departed this life April the 10th
Aged 4 Years.
Alſo Thomas Son of the ſaid William
and Hannah Furnivall who departed
this life Novr the 15th 1788 Aged 14 days.
Alſo Hannah his Wife who departed
this life January the 8th 1789 Aged 36.
Alſo Ann his ſecond Wife who departed
this life May the 3rd 1795 Aged 44 years.

Here
lie the remains of Elisabeth
Wife of John Furnivall late
Tenant of Overton Hall in this
Parish who departed this Life the
20th Day of October 1773 aged
67 years
Also the said John Furnivall who
departed this Life the 15th Day of
October 1775 Aged 75 Years

William and his third wife are not mentioned on this stone although burial records indicate that both were buried here (Mary in 1810 and William in 1824). Also, John and Elizabeth's son Daniel (died 1800) and his wife Anne (died 1814) are buried at Astbury, but no MI was recorded. Some of Anne's BOOTH ancestors and relatives do have visible stones at Astbury.

DNA disappointments

We are disappointed that, despite documentation showing that our common ancestor is John FURNIVALL, our DNA results do not show any shared segments. However, a negative result is unsurprising, given how remote our connection is.

The International Society of Genetic Genealogy Wiki has charts at *https://isogg.org/wiki/Cousin_statistics*, based on reported relationships and reported amounts of DNA overlap. For seventh cousins (as we are), 23andme gives only a 1.1% probability that enough DNA will be shared to be detected; Ancestry gives 3.2%, still a low probability. The same ISOGG page cites a simulation study for the theoretical result that 6th cousins have an 89.90% probability of no detectable DNA relationship; the probability would be higher, of course, for 7th cousins.

Another useful chart for those using DNA in their research is the Shared cM Project at *https://dnapainter.com/tools/sharedcmv4*. Note that any relationship has an average cM overlap (cM is centiMorgans, a measure of the DNA in common between two people) but also a considerable range. For example, the Project has found an average overlap of 887 cM for great-grandparent and great-grandchild, but a range of possible overlap from 485 to 1486. The Project has found that 7th cousins have an average overlap of 12 cM, with range from 0 to 50 cM.

Advice to others

Based on our experience we have these pieces of advice for genealogical researchers. We are sure that you have heard many of these before, but we think they merit repeating.

- Reach out to others researching the same surname, especially if you detect a connection. Also, please answer such contacts.
- Don't depend only on Ancestry for information. Findmypast, the Cheshire Archives (*www.cheshirearchives.org.uk*) and many others are also useful.
- While the basic records are always birth/baptism, marriage, and death/burial records (and census records for later years), be sure to look for other records. John FURNIVALL's will was exceptionally helpful to us because of its list of all of his surviving children.

- Use wildcard searches. It is truly amazing how badly spelled some records and some transcriptions can be. More generally, sometimes you just have to become obsessed and put in the hard work and long hours (even into the wee hours of the morning).
- Pay attention to middle names. Some families and some areas of the UK have strong traditions of using the mother's birth surname as the middle name for one or more of her children.
- DNA can only go back so far in showing relationships, especially autosomal DNA tests.
- Cite your sources. Without naming and shaming, we had an episode during this research where Peter's results that he reported on Wikitree appeared shortly afterwards on Find-a-Grave without any attribution. We share freely and want others to use what we have found, but it is nice to credit those whose work you use.
- Use Wikitree. We have been placing the results of our research on Wikitree because of its high standards for citations. It's also free to view and free to join. We support the creation of one shared tree and we support the adherence to genealogical standards. See our page on John FURNIVALL at *https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Furnival-174*.
- Go down those rabbit holes. We have greatly enjoyed researching all the side stories associated with our FURNIVALL roots.
- Work with collaborators to share findings and to share enthusiasms. It's just great fun.

Jane and Peter can be contacted by email on *janemfraser@hotmail.com* and *peter.havercan@gmail.com*

Alsager News (6)

from the Crewe Chronicle, 3 October 1925

Visitor's Sudden Death *- Coming to Alsager on Friday on a visit,* ***Mr Wright Ainsworth*** *(69), 3 Bath-street, Werneth, Oldham, was taken ill on the way from the railway station. When* ***John Ogden****, milkman, was called to the man's assistance, he saw that [it was] his father-in-law. After being taken to* ***Dr Lynd****, and removed to Ogden's house, deceased passed away...*

An inquest was held at the Alsager Police Station on Monday by ***Mr H C Yates****... **Dr Lynd** said death was due to muscular degeneration of the heart.*

Memories of VJ day

by Renee Brown
Membership no. 9187

Unlike on VE day in May, in August 1945 there were no obvious celebrations in our street. My mother said that Jimmy was safe but would not be home for a long time. Jimmy was my brother serving in the Royal Navy on a ship in the Pacific. So we waited and waited.

I had my third birthday and my other brother, who had fought with the army in Italy, came home. He brought presents of silk, bakelite objects and a huge bag of nuts in shells. For me he brought a doll. It was thin and stiff and dressed in clothes. I immediately disliked it and never ever played with it. My dolls were chunky and naked.

Christmas came and went, the New Year rolled over into 1946 and still we waited. Then Jimmy finally came home. He was in full naval uniform and only stayed two weeks. I don't know how he got home but it was via Australia. He brought me three presents. The first present was disappointing as I didn't know what it was. It was the size of a large football and yellow - it was a huge hand of bananas. I had never before seen even a single banana.

The second present was much more exciting. It was several rolls of silver ribbon. The ribbon was about an inch wide and very shiny on both sides. Later I heard, or rather overheard, Jimmy telling my mother what it was. When the ship was being attacked by aircraft, bundles of this ribbon would be fired from the ship up at the planes. It was hoped the sunlight shining on the ribbon would confuse the pilots and distract their bomb aimers.

The third present was by far the best one. It was a soft and cuddly koala bear. I called him Digger and he was the toy I carried around with me all the time. In 1960 when I was going to university I realised he couldn't come with me as he was disintegrating and had to be thrown away. I must have known he was made from the skin of a real bear but at the time there was no general feeling against killing animals. This was to come gradually. Years later I had very mixed feelings when we went to Australia and had to go to a sanctuary to see koala bears; they are now an endangered species due to loss of habitat and, many years ago, being hunted for their fur.

What Happened to the Wife?

by Gren Dix
Membership no. 4174

In 1872 George Henry GRIFFITHS (1849-1925) married Sarah Matilda READ (1852-1929) in The English Baptist Chapel, Newport. Looking at the 1881 census I found:

Geo Hy	Griffith	head	married	32	Carpenter	Newport
Ada M	Griffith	wife	married	29	Tailoress	Newport

Had George married a new wife? I searched for the death of the first wife and the re-marriage of George. I could find neither. I then looked at the 1891 census and found:

George H	Griffiths	head	married	42	Coal Merchant	Newport
Sarah M	Griffiths	wife	married	29	Tailoress	Newport

and in 1901:

George H	Griffiths	head	married	51	Collector Insurance	Newport
Sarah M	Griffiths	wife	married	50	Tailoress	Newport

So what happened in 1881? I noted that Sarah Matilda had a younger sister, Ada. I think the enumerator had a 'senior moment' as everything but the first forename of George's wife agrees with later censuses.

Alsager News (7)

from the Crewe Chronicle, 1 August 1925

Funeral of Mr A H Maddock *- The funeral of* ***Mr Arthur H Maddock****, of the Cedars, Alsager, on Saturday, was the largest that even the oldest residents of the village can remember. The workpeople of* ***Messrs John Maddock and Sons****, Ltd, both at Newcastle-street, Burslem, and the Dalehall Works, attended in large numbers. They travelled in charabancs, in motor buses, and by train to the number of between 200 and 300, and it was not only the present workpeople, but old workpeople who had quitted the service of the firm, who were present.... At different points in the procession were three horse-drawn lorries, all containing floral tributes...*

The PIDGEONs of Hazel Grove

by Ian Pidgeon
i.c.pidgeon@ntlworld.com
Membership no. 9481

Ian is researching the PIDGEON surname as a one-name study. He has a website dedicated to the PIDGEON name at https://pidgeon.one-name.net/index.html

Bullock Smithy

As a village, Hazel Grove in Cheshire is unusual. It was never a cluster of houses surrounding its parish church. Before the 18th century, it hardly existed at all. It was probably between 1730 and 1750 that a village began to grow on either side of the Manchester to London highway, when stage coaches began to run From Manchester to Derby and other places. By chance, these houses were on the edges of four different parishes – Bosden, Bramhall, Norbury and Torkington, not to mention Stockport just to the north, but as the village grew it took its name from an old smithy which had been built there in 1560 by Richard BULLOCK – Bullock's Smithy.

With no influence from a parish church or other authority, Bullock Smithy grew into a kind of "No Man's Land", where bull-baiting, cock-fighting, prize-fighting and other degrading sports were carried out with impunity. Should the constables from one parish intervene, it was a simple matter for those concerned to walk over the boundary into another parish.

This state of affairs was noticed by the Rev. David SIMPSON, the incumbent of Christ Church, Macclesfield, on his journeys from there to Manchester. About 1775 he built a chapel at Bullock Smithy, but found it too difficult to maintain services there, so far from Macclesfield, and so he handed it over to the Methodists in 1786. It was opened as a Methodist Chapel by John Wesley himself, who subsequently visited it on a number of occasions. On 9th April, 1788 he recorded in his diary, *At noon I preached in the Chapel at Bullock Smithy, one of the most famous villages in the county for all manner of wickedness.*

Under the influence of the Methodists and others, the situation in the village improved, and within fifty years its residents no longer wished to be associated with so infamous a name, and decided to change it. In 1836, Bullock Smithy became Hazel Grove, but with such a short history, most residents of Bullock

Smithy and Hazel Grove were incomers. Even old 'Grove' families such as ADSHEAD, BENNETT, DANIELS, HALLWORTH, MARSLAND, PENNY, etc. arrived no earlier than the 18th century when the village became a popular place to live for coal miners from Poynton and silk weavers from Stockport.

Pidgeons of Stockport

The name PIDGEON was first recorded in Stockport when Henry PIDGEON from Devon married Ann BASKERVYLE in St Mary's church in 1792. Their story is told in *The Pidgeons of Stockport* (published in the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR Vol. 55 Issue 2, December 2024.) One of their sons William married Alice MORTON from Bolton, and settled in Higher Hillgate, Stockport with five sons and five daughters. All ten siblings eventually married, mostly in Stockport. Two of their sons, William and John, moved to Hazel Grove with their families in the 1870s.

Bosden

William PIDGEON junior was born in 1842 at Brentnall Street, Stockport. His father William was a cotton spinner, and when he grew up he, too, found work in one of Stockport's many cotton mills as a weaver. In 1865 he married Elizabeth MELHUISH from Stawley, Somerset and four children were born shortly afterwards: Frederick in 1866, Frank in 1869, Henry in 1871 and Florence in 1873. By 1875, however, the three youngest children had died - Frank at the age of five, Henry and Florence at the age of about 15 months. The industrial atmosphere of Stockport was none too healthy, and before his remaining son Frederick succumbed to it, too, William decided to move out of town.

By 1871, William had risen to be an overlooker, or supervisor, in the mill. Just a few miles away at Hazel Grove was a large cotton mill which had been built in 1836 by David MOSELEY. This was Wellington Mill, situated in the valley at the bottom of Commercial Road, across the brook from Bosdenfold Farm, in the Handforth cum Bosden part of the village. Next to the mill were about a dozen cottages in Cooper Street and Wellington Street, but just below the farm, quite separate from the mill, were 24 cottages in Nelson Street. All these cottages were built by David MOSELEY for the mill workers. In 1881, William PIDGEON, his wife Elizabeth and fourteen-year-old son Frederick were living at 2 Nelson Street. William was still an overlooker at the mill, but Frederick was working as a clerk in the Union Office.

Bramhall

Meanwhile, William's younger brother had also moved to Hazel Grove. John was born in 1846 at 66 Higher Hillgate, and married Susannah Fowden FLETCHER of Stockport in 1869. John was a felt hatter, probably working at Christys. Their

John & Susannah Pidgeon, about 1890, with their children: (left to right): Susannah, Thomas, Joseph, Walter & Florence

first child, christened John William Fletcher died at six months, but a further five children survived: Walter born in 1874, Susannah in 1876, Thomas Fletcher in 1878, Florence Alice in 1881 and Joseph in 1884.

Horse-drawn buses had been running between Stockport and Hazel Grove since 1873, and this made it possible to live in Hazel Grove and work in Stockport. When a row of cottages called The Oaks was built on Bramhall Lane (later Bramhall Moor Lane) in the late 1870s, John and his family moved into number 77. Recently this was a sandwich bar and takeaway, and is now the Malabar Convenience Store, opposite Stepping Hill Hospital, on the corner of Grenville Road. This was the Bramhall part of Hazel Grove.

During the 1880s, William quit Nelson Street, and possibly his job in the Wellington Mill too, and moved to a house across the road from his brother John at 34 Bramhall Lane. In 1891 he was still an overlooker of cotton weavers, and was possibly working in Stockport again. By now, horse-drawn trams were plying between Stockport and the Bulls Head Hotel on the corner of Torkington Road. In 1889, his son Frederick married Martha Ann HOLT, the daughter of a railway platelayer. Fred and Martha lived in one of the new houses being built

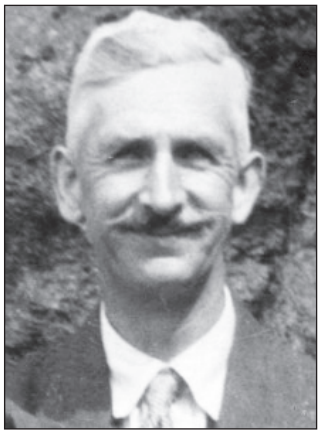
on Davenport Road, first at number 17, and later at the slightly larger house of number 25. Fred continued to work for the Poor Law Union, and became a Clerk to the Board of Guardians, as well as a Clerk to the Urban District Council of Hazel Grove. He and Martha had four children: Helen in 1890, Marian 1894, Frank Holt 1898, and Freda 1905, before Martha died of TB in Macclesfield Lunatic Asylum in 1907. Frank Holt became a miner, and eventually died at Jos, Nigeria in 1956. In 1909 both Fred's parents died. William reputedly died at 55 Brewers Green - there isn't a number 55, and I suspect this was actually 55 Mount Pleasant, the last house on Mount Pleasant before the road becomes Brewers Green, where his niece Florence Alice lived many years later. He must have retired there from Bramhall Moor Lane. Six months later, Elizabeth died at the home of her son Fred in Davenport Road.

Death also struck the family of John and Susannah PIDGEON. John himself died suddenly of a burst stomach ulcer in 1892 at the age of 46; his daughter Susannah died of TB in 1900 at the age of only 23. Worse was to come.

Joseph Pidgeon

One day in May 1918, Joseph PIDGEON, the youngest son of John and Susannah, received an official letter through the post. He was told to report at Stockport Market Hall for an examination by the Medical Board, prior to being enlisted for military duty. Joseph, then 34 years old, had married Edith POTTS in 1907, and they lived in Cheadle, where Edith ran a sweet shop. As a married man he had not previously been expected to enlist, but after a setback in the war in March 1918 the government extended the range of conscription. Joseph was alarmed. He had no desire whatever in becoming a soldier. Nevertheless, on Friday morning, May 31st he duly went to the Market Place to report. He found it full, with men milling around everywhere. So he left and went to visit his sister Florrie at Hazel Grove, intending to return in the afternoon. Florrie later reported that he had seemed quite normal and cheerful. He did not return to Stockport, but set off to walk home to Cheadle across Bramhall Moor. He never arrived.

His body was found on the following Sunday evening by a farmer, Mr BRADLEY of Pepper Street Farm, in a pit at the rear of his farm. An inquest was held the following day, at which evidence was given that Joseph had not been well for the past nine or ten years, and that he had recently undergone an operation and spent time in a nursing home. A verdict of suicide whilst temporarily insane was returned. The cause of death was given as *Haemorrhage from a wound in the throat. Suicide by cutting his throat with some sharp instrument.... while of unsound mind.* His funeral took place on the Tuesday, and he was buried in Norbury graveyard.



Joseph's two older brothers were also both married, and both lived in Hazel Grove. Walter, the eldest had married Elizabeth ADSHEAD in 1900 and initially lived next door to his parents at 75 Bramhall Moor Lane, but later moved to Argyle Street, and finally to Lever Street. A daughter Marion was born to them in 1906. Walter worked as a book binder.

The other brother Thomas married Mary Jane DAVIES in 1902. Mary and her sister Annie worked as domestic servants in Hazel Grove, although their parents and younger siblings lived at Bredbury. The family came from St Martins, near Chirk in Shropshire in the 1890s. In 1901 the sisters both worked for Elizabeth READ, the widow of a cotton manufacturer and mother of solicitor Percy READ at Southwood, 150 London Road. After they were married, Thomas and Mary lived at 60 Commercial Road. Their first child was named John Fletcher – John after Thomas's father, and Fletcher, the maiden name of his mother – but he died after sixteen days. Their second son they named Thomas Lloyd, after Thomas himself, and the maiden name of Mary's mother. To avoid confusion, he was always known as Lloyd. Finally, in 1908 came twin boys who were named Stanley Davies and Harold Leslie (my father).

Thomas was a bricklayer, and during the first world war was assigned to work on munitions at Shotton between Chester and Flint in North Wales. Mary Jane and their eldest son Lloyd shared his digs in Shotton. Harold was looked after by his grandmother Susannah PIDGEON and his aunty Florrie (Florence Alice) PIDGEON, while Stan stayed with a Mr and Mrs PERKINS with whom he remained friendly for the rest of their lives.

After the war, Thomas progressed to become a foreman bricklayer. But in July 1931 he had a problem while working on the erection of a building in the yard of the Hazel Grove Co-operative Society's Stores on London Road. He had been working on this job for twelve weeks, and according to his employer Joseph SMITH, it was easy work for a man of his experience. However, between 1.30pm and 2.00pm on Wednesday, 22nd July he was missed by his colleague Samuel TOMLINSON of Station Road. When the men stopped work at 5.50pm a general search was organised to try to find him. Samuel TOMLINSON went into the basement of the Cooperative Stores, and found the body of Thomas lying in a pool of blood, with his throat cut. *I went into the boiler house, and saw Pidgeon*

lying on the floor, he said. *An open razor was near his left hand.* He said Thomas had spoken to him during the morning and said, *This little bit of a job is worrying me. It is not the boss's fault, I cannot get my mind working.*

A note was found in Thomas's jacket pocket, which said, *Dear All, Forgive this mad act. I cannot get on with my job. It's terrible the way it worries me. I know nothing about the drain.*

An inquest was held the next day. The widow Mary Jane PIDGEON said that her husband had had an operation for appendicitis in 1924, and his health had never been good since. His brother Walter said that the *deceased had latterly worried over trifles.* This was sufficient for the coroner to record a verdict of suicide while of unsound mind. *I am satisfied that his mind has not been stable for some time,* he said. Thomas was buried on Friday, 24th July 1931 in Norbury graveyard.

Aftermath

What strikes me about these two suicides is how important it was to ascertain the state of mind of the two men, and to find a reason why they might be unstable. Until 1961, suicide was a criminal offence, and those who failed in the attempt could be prosecuted and imprisoned. Those who succeeded, like Joseph and Thomas, were often refused funeral rites and burial in a church cemetery. Any recent medical condition, which might possibly affect the state of mind of one who committed suicide, was used as evidence that the mind was unbalanced, so that the act could be forgiven. The other noticeable feature is how quickly both the inquest and the funeral could be organised.

After Thomas's death in 1931, there was talk about whether suicide was *in the blood*; today we would talk about it being *in the genes*. In the 1930s all three of Thomas's surviving sons were to marry, but two had no children. – were they affected by their father's death?

Thomas Lloyd PIDGEON married Mary RIDGWAY of Hazel Grove in 1935. In 1971 his disappearance caused a hue and cry. After a lorry driver reported to the police that he had hit a man on the A6 at High Lane, a massive police search of the nearby fields and footpaths was started. His body was found nearly a month later in undergrowth by children looking for firewood.

Stanley Davies PIDGEON married Annie Wood BENNETT, the granddaughter of Cecil WOOD who was famous in Hazel Grove for his herbal remedies. After Cecil's death in 1922, the business in Lever Street was carried on first by his son James WOOD, then by Annie's father Frank BENNETT who had married Cecil's daughter

Martha Ellen WOOD, and finally by Stan PIDGEON until its closure in 1968. After her marriage, Annie Wood BENNETT was proud to become the only Wood PIDGEON in a family of PIDGEONs.

Cecil Wood's premises in Lever Street, Hazel Grove

Fortunately for me, Harold was not influenced by any talk of what might be in the blood. After marrying my mother, they had three sons, (one of whom still lives in Hazel Grove). In 1953 the family moved into a house in Lawrence Road, where he lived until he was 95 years old. The house is now occupied by one of his granddaughters, Julie, and the photo below was taken there after she married her partner Mark in 2009.

Alsager News (8)

from the Crewe Chronicle, 15 August 1925

Children's Garden Party *– With the object of forming a junior branch of the Primrose League for Alsager, a children's garden party was held in the grounds of Milton House, the residence of* ***Mr Ernest Craig, M.P.*** *and* ***Mrs Craig****, the Ruling Councillor and Dame president of the Habitation... the membership increased by 97 as the direct result of the gathering.*

SIMPSON and RANCE of Lostock Green

by Joan Irving
FHSC Librarian

Recently a collection of letters, photographs and memorabilia was sent to me. They all relate to Lostock Green, and Rose Cottage in particular. They are connected to the SIMPSON and RANCE families and cover early 1900s to 1999.

To find out more about the two names I looked at the 1939 Register, as the letters were dated in the early 1940s. I found:

1939 Rose Cottage, Lostock Green
SARAH ELLEN SIMPSON born 8 Dec. 1885 a widow
MARGARET A SIMPSON born 30 Dec. 1917 a confectioner

In 1921 at 3 Lostock Green:

WM EDW SIMPSON head 34y 10m born Lostock Green a chemical worker at Brunner Mond.
SARAH ELLEN SIMPSON wife 35y born Budworth Heath
OLIVE SIMPSON daughter 6y 8m born Lostock Green
MARGARET ANETTA daughter 3y 6m born Lostock Green

There were other related Simpsons in Lostock Green at this time.

From around 1951-1973 a WILLIAM PETER RANCE was living at Rose Cottage but there didn't seem to be any RANCEs living in Lostock Green prior to that. It looked as though the SIMPSONs of Rose Cottage had died out or left so I checked the graveyard inscriptions for Lostock Gralam St. John the Evangelist and all became clearer. In grave number E9/25 I found the link between the two names:

TMO WILLIAM EDWARD b h of SARAH ELLEN SIMPSON wd 7 Jul 1927 a40y
Also SARAH ELLEN b wf of WILLIAM EDWARD SIMPSON wd 4 Jun 1971 a86y
Also HENRY RANCE their son-in-law b h of ANNETTA & f of PETER d 11 Dec 1975
Loved for ever

So the SIMPSONS and RANCES of Rose Cottage, Lostock Green were related.

If you have family links with these names please get in touch with me and I will pass the collection on to you.

Alsager News (9)

from the Crewe Chronicle, 5 September 1925

Child Killed at Alsager *- Stepping from behind a horse-drawn lorry in Lawton-road, Alsager on Monday,* ***May Hudson*** *(4), daughter of* ***Douglas Whitby Hudson****, engine driver, Wesley-place, Alsager, was knocked down and killed by a motor-car owned by* ***Major-General Heath-Caldwell****, of Linley Hall, Alsager... There were no passengers in the car, the driver of which was* ***Alfred Brown****, chauffeur to the Major-General.*

JAVA - An Unusual Family Name

by Gren Dix
Membership no. 4174

When I started family history (BC – before computers) I thought that the rural populace rarely moved, or at most only a day's journey away. I forgot that in the 19th century we had an empire to run - one on which the sun never set. Later I found that people moved in search of work. Depression in agriculture and the rise of the industrial revolution added to the movement. Some made a once in a lifetime movement by emigrating. In this piece I will look at one family and how a particular middle name persisted down the generations.

This family was unusual. The head, David STRONGMAN (born 1803) was an agricultural worker. However, at some point he travelled to New Brunswick where one daughter was born in about 1840. A son was born at sea in 1843. David returned to Cornwall in about 1843, and in 1854 the family emigrated to Australia.

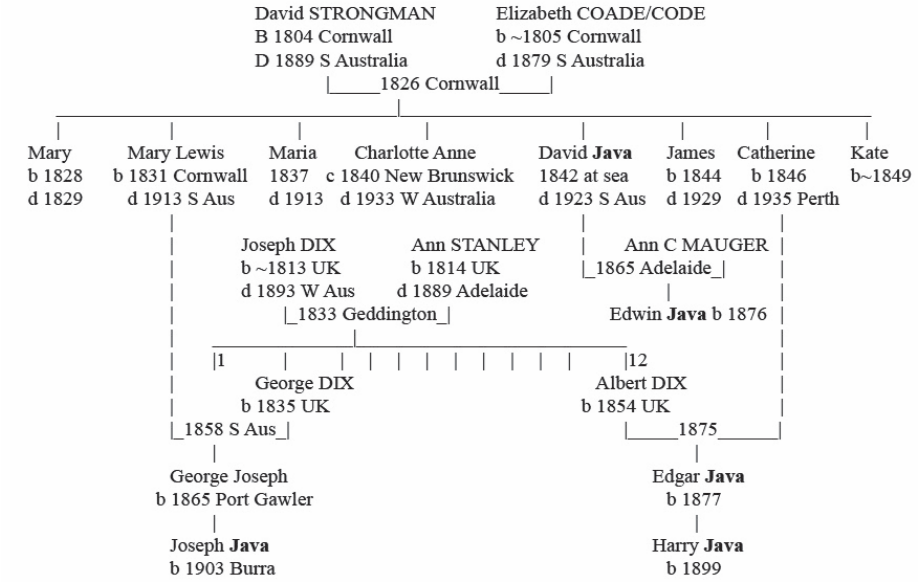
The lot of someone emigrating was not an easy one. Some logs of journeys gave the number of passengers (and sometimes their ages), the number of births and the number of deaths. I was surprised at the number of births at sea.

I am interested in a ship, the Java, in the mid-1800s. At this time there were a number of ships of that name. The one that is probably 'mine' had a horrendous write-up. The Java, built in Calcutta, departed London late October 1839, called at Plymouth and sailed to Adelaide where it arrived about fourteen weeks later. There were notoriously poor conditions aboard which led to much suffering among the passengers. Between thirty and fifty of the approximately 500 passengers perished from disease, malnutrition and starvation. There was a near mutiny by the crew. There was an uproar and an enquiry when the ship docked.

The family mentioned above, headed by David STRONGMAN, is of interest to me. I could not find them in 1841 (they were probably still in the Americas) but I found them in Cornwall in 1851. As mentioned above, according to the 1851 census a daughter, Charlotte, was born in about 1840 in New Brunswick, North America and a son, David Java, was born in 1843 at sea on the Atlantic Ocean, on board the Java Transport. Family tradition is that he was named after the ship that they were travelling on. I have no details of this journey, but the words Java Transport imply that the family was travelling back from North America on a troopship.

Wikipedia states that in 1841 Java was sold to Joseph SOMES, London. He chartered her to the British government as a troop carrier visiting North America, the West Indies, South Africa and New Zealand. For more information, please see *https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_(1811_ship)*

As happened more frequently than I thought, two girls from this family married two brothers from another family. Below is an abridged family tree showing how the name Java was passed down the generations.



Alsager News (10)

from the Crewe Chronicle, 9 September 1925

***Orchard Raided** - **Stanley Smith** (16), 8 Wesley-street, Kidsgrove, and **Harry Rafferty** (16), 4 Church-street, Rookery, Staffs, were summoned for stealing eleven pounds of apples, value 1s 3d, from the orchard of **Ernest Boffey**, Green Farm, Church Lawton. **Constable Lloyd** said that on the 4th August he saw defendants in the orchard adjoining Green Farm, Church Lawton. They were gathering apples from a tree. Crossing the field to the orchard, he saw defendants get over the fence. They then bolted, but he overtook them. **Smith** had 6lbs of apples and **Rafferty** 5lbs... The Chairman (to **Rafferty**): You have been in trouble before... You will be fined £1... As to you, **Smith**, we feel you were led by **Rafferty**. Your fine will be 5s.*

Net That Serf

The Computer Section

Compiled by Geoff Johnson

Email: nts@fhsc.org.uk Tel: 01829 760422

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From the Desktop

Due to unforseen circumstances, Geoff is unable to produce Net That Serf for this issue of the CHESHIRE ANCESTOR so Rosie is standing in for him.

On Geoff's behalf, I would like to make a plea for letters and articles to be sent as soon as possible, ready for Geoff to prepare for the December issue. If you have any comments or questions about the following articles, or anything else computer-related, please email Geoff. Thank you.

Is the Leaf a Liar, a Lure, or a Legend?

The Dangers of Relying on Ancestry Hints
by Margaret Roberts

When it comes to family history research, platforms like Ancestry can feel like a vast forest of potential connections, with the iconic leaf symbol offering suggestions, all based on algorithms, that tantalizingly point you towards long-lost ancestors. These hints seem like gentle guides, whispering secrets from the past, but just like a leaf carried on the wind, they can sometimes lead you astray, blowing you off course and away from the truth. So, is the leaf a liar, a lure, or a legend? To answer that, we need to explore the dangers of relying too heavily on these automated suggestions and the path they may lead you down.

The Leaf as a Liar: Misinformation on the Breeze

Ancestry hints are designed to be convenient. They promise quick connections to historical records, potentially saving researchers hours of digging through

archives. However, convenience comes with a price; the leaf may be nothing but a fraud, an unreliable guide that leads you into mistaken conclusions. Ancestry's algorithm generates hints by matching names, dates, and locations in its vast databases, but it doesn't always account for the nuances of family history.

For example, if two people share the same name and live in the same town, the leaf might suggest they are the same person, yet that assumption might ignore differences like occupation, family relationships, or even cultural backgrounds that should be considered - key differences that would have helped you realise the match was flawed. The leaf, in this case, is a liar, presenting you with a false connection that, if accepted blindly, could lead you down an entirely wrong branch of your family tree, just as a breeze can gently pull you in the wrong direction without you even realizing it.

The Leaf as a Lure: The Temptation of Quick Answers

The allure of the leaf is undeniable. It promises easy connections, making genealogical research seem effortless. It's the lure of convenience that many researchers fall prey to. You see the leaf and feel the excitement of discovering a new piece of your family history without lifting a finger. Nonetheless, convenience and sometimes the sheer volume of hints can create a false sense of security and can cloud your judgment.

When the leaf leads you to a new record, it might seem like a perfect match at first glance. But the temptation to accept it without further investigation can be dangerous. By ignoring the painstaking process of verifying each record, you might fall into the trap of building a family tree that's based on surface-level information. The leaf lures you into thinking you've uncovered something significant, when in reality, you may be missing crucial details that would expose inaccuracies. The truth may be elsewhere, hidden among other records.

The Leaf as a Legend: The Myth of the Perfect Match

The leaf also represents a kind of myth, an ideal vision of genealogical discovery where every connection effortlessly falls into place. It's the idea of finding a perfect match with little effort, like an ancient story where everything fits neatly and without conflict. But genealogical research is rarely that simple. The idea of the 'perfect match' is more of a legend than reality.

In truth, family history is messy. People's names change, dates are often inaccurate, and the records available might not fully represent someone's life. The leaf, as a legend, sets up unrealistic expectations, tempting you to believe that all the answers to your family history can be found with a few clicks.

However, these so-called perfect matches often crumble under scrutiny, leaving you with a tangled heap of inaccuracies. True genealogical discovery is an exploration filled with uncertainty and complexity, not the clean-cut, straightforward process that the leaf might suggest.

Census records, for example, are invaluable but also prone to errors. Names might be misspelled, relationships might be incorrectly listed, and birth dates might be wrong. If you accept these records without verifying them through primary sources, you risk making mistakes that will propagate through your family history. Similarly, user-generated family trees can be a goldmine of potential connections but are often built on shaky foundations. Without rigorous verification, you might inherit inaccuracies from others who have fallen for the same misleading hints.

How to Navigate the Leaf: Using Hints Responsibly

To avoid falling for the lies, lures, or legends of the leaf, you need to approach it with a critical eye. Here's how to use hints effectively:

- **Always Verify:** Don't take hints at face value. Cross-check every piece of information with primary records, such as birth certificates, wills, and other original documents.
- **Look for Consistency:** Compare multiple records and sources to check for consistency in names, dates, and relationships. If a hint doesn't match other verified information, question its accuracy.
- **Question Convenience:** The leaf offers convenience, but convenience doesn't guarantee accuracy. Always question the ease of a hint and make sure it's backed by credible evidence.
- **Embrace the Process:** Genealogical research is a journey that takes time and effort. Use the leaf as a starting point but do the necessary research to verify and confirm the connections.

Is the Leaf then a Liar, a Lure, or a Legend?

The leaf can be all three: a liar, a lure, and a legend. The leaf may be alluring, but it can deceive, mislead, and offer false promises of easy answers. But when used responsibly, it can also be a valuable tool in your genealogical journey. The key is to remain cautious, sceptical, and committed to thorough verification. Family history is full of variations, names change over time, and different records may list slightly different details. These discrepancies are part of the research process,

digging deeper, questioning assumptions, and discovering the truth behind the hints. So, the next time you see that leaf flutter by, ask yourself: Is it a liar, a lure, or a legend?

Genealogy is often a winding path, not a straight line. When the leaf suggests a perfect connection, it's tempting to stop there, but the true journey lies in embracing the complexities and uncertainties of history. The leaf can point you in the right direction, but it's up to you to do the hard work of untangling the myths from the truths.

Google Drive – What a Mess!

by Rosie Rowley

I have a free Google Drive account by default because I have a Gmail email account. Google gives you a generous 15GB of cloud storage free of charge, shared between Gmail, photos and files. As a comparison, Microsoft's OneDrive gives you only 5GB of free storage, and Dropbox, one of the first cloud storage companies, only 2GB! I use my Google Drive to store emails and also as a backup for my photos, taken with the camera on my phone. I have a Microsoft OneDrive account as well, as a backup for my computer files and all my photos – as photos are so precious it seems sensible to have them backed up in two places!

I also use another free Google Drive account for the email account I use for the FHSC journal editor, and for the editor's files. I thought it would be a good idea to keep all the editor's emails and files completely separate from my personal email and files, so it would be easier to hand everything over when I retired from the role, or if an emergency arose.

Over the last few months I have been receiving messages from Google, telling me that my personal Drive account is over 80% full. I have spent some time trying to delete old emails, unwanted photos and so on but this seemed to have little impact on the amount of space I was using. I then discovered that a lot of the files used by the FHSC editor were assigned to me – Google had set them up with my personal account as the owner and the editor's account as a user. This meant that the files were taking up space in my personal Google Drive, even though they were stored on the editor's Google Drive.

I was baffled as to how this had happened. I was running the Google Drive app on my desktop computer, logged in to it as the editor, and thought this was how Google decided who was the owner of the file when synchronising to the cloud from the editor's Google Drive space on my hard drive. However, after some

searching, I discovered that Google doesn't do anything as obvious as that! No, the way it decides who owns a saved file, even when it is saved to another account's Google Drive, is by which account was last used to log in to Chrome - I kid you not! So, because I am always logged in to Chrome with my personal Google account on my desktop PC, all the files that I have ever saved to the Editor's Google Drive from my PC are 'owned' by my personal account. This means they take up space in my personal Google Drive, even though they are saved on the editor's Google Drive, because Google has designated me as the file owner.

Now, there are thousands of these files, because I set up this arrangement soon after I became journal editor almost ten years ago, and it was easier to handle the editor's emails on my own computer most of the time rather than get the FHSC laptop out every time I wanted to check my FHSC emails. This means that nearly every article or photo I have downloaded to the editor's Google Drive over the last ten years (almost) has been assigned to my personal Google account and taken up the space in my personal account.

That's bad enough, but there's more. Guess what happens when the editor deletes one of these files? You would hope that the space taken up in my personal Drive account would be released, wouldn't you, as the file was never even stored on my own Google Drive? Oh, no, it's not like that at all! That file is still assigned to space on my Google Drive even though the file has never been on my Drive and no longer exists. Worse still, because it's not actually on my Google Drive I can't even see it!

The only way to find these files and release the space taken up by them is to go to my personal Google Drive in Chrome and carry out a search for all the files which are shared with the FHSC Editor. I will then have to delete any files which are no longer needed (even though they may have already been deleted by the editor's account) and make the FHSC editor the owner of all the files which the editor needs to keep.

To do the latter, I have to select a batch of files, then choose the option to say I want to make the editor the owner of those files. Google then sends an email inviting the editor to click on a button to accept ownership of the files and the editor has to be logged in to Google Drive for the acceptance to work. The files will not become the editor's until the editor has accepted the transfer of ownership. I can see I'm going to be busy for the next few weeks....!

Windows 10 Support Extension

by Rosie Rowley

Most people are aware by now that support for Windows 10 is supposed to end this year – on 14th October, to be precise. But what can you do if, like me, Microsoft says your computer cannot be upgraded to Windows 11 due to not passing the hardware requirements test?

1. Do nothing.

Your computer will still work, just as those who decided to stick with Windows 7/8/etc have found. However, it's not the best course of action (or inaction) since you will no longer receive security updates and you'll leave yourself open to attack by malware if you keep your computer connected to the Internet for browsing the web or receiving email; plus you may find that new/updated programs don't work correctly. But if you just want to keep it as an independent, standalone PC to run your favourite (old) family history program or use as a word processor, you'll be fine.

2. Install Windows 11 on your "Unsupported PC" anyway.

If your PC is just a couple of years old and fails the hardware test on a minor point, e.g. the processor is not quite up to scratch, then, providing you are confident with creating a boot drive and updating your PC operating system (and know what to do if it all goes wrong) you may be able to convince Windows that your PC is fine and install Windows 11 anyway. Here is one website that tells you how to do it *https://theintelligence.com/30601/upgrade-an-unsupported-windows-10-pc-to-windows-11-the-easy-way/*

3. Pay Microsoft for continued support of Windows 10.

Yes, it seems that Microsoft plans to allow users to pay for Windows 10 support for a year after the free support ends. It did this for Windows 7 but only for businesses; this time individual users will be able to pay for continued support (Extended Security Updates, or ESU) for one year, at a cost of $30 per computer. Alternatively, there will be two ways of obtaining this extended support free of charge. The first is if you use OneDrive to backup your Windows settings; the second is by redeeming 1,000 Microsoft Rewards Points.

Now, I had never heard of Microsoft Rewards Points but it seems Microsoft is using this as a way of encouraging people to use Microsoft products. You can earn 500 points at a stroke by downloading the Bing app to your mobile device. Further points may be gained by using Bing to search for things, play games, etc.

See *https://rewards.bing.com/* for more information about Rewards Points - you'll probably have to log in using your Microsoft account details - and for full details of the ESU program and how to enrol, see *https://support.microsoft.com/en-gb/windows/windows-10-consumer-extended-security-updates-esu-program-33e17de9-36b3-43bb-874d-6c53d2e4bf42* Note that you can enrol in the ESU program at any time from when Microsoft opens enrolment up until the end of the ESU program in October 2026, but of course you won't get any security updates after Windows 10 support ends until you have enrolled.

4. Change the operating system completely.

A drastic course of action, but you may decide to move away from Windows and install another operating system entirely, such as Linux or Chrome OS Flex. You can usually split your hard drive (partition it) and install a second operating system alongside Windows, just to try it out. However, bear in mind that most software written for Windows, e.g. family tree programs, are not compatible with other operating systems so you'll need to either keep the Windows partition or run a Windows emulator within Linux to continue using your favourite Windows software.

If you have an unsupported PC or have just decided not to upgrade to Windows 11 for some reason, do write to Geoff and let him know what you have decided to do, and why.

Closing Snippet

We end with a snippet found on Facebook, from the *Observer* newspaper, dated 27th April 1930:

Strict rules, which have been approved by the Hertfordshire County Council, are to be imposed by the Hyde Institute Library, Barnet Vale.

LIBRARY USERS IN FUTURE MUST NOT:

Enter the library if their faces are offensively dirty.
Fall asleep on the tables.
Eat their lunches whilst reading papers, books, etc.
Smoke in the building.
Leave their business cards behind.
Make themselves a nuisance.
Bring dogs within the portals.
Tell lies to the librarian.
Enter when they are in an inebriated condition.
If they have smallpox.

Cryptic Cheshire Answers

Previous (June) issue questions and answers:

1. An Oxbridge academic who doesn't work	**Duddon**
2. Sounds as if a sailor has been taken a bit ill	**Tarporley**
3. Crossed the rough ground on horseback	**Rode Heath**
4. Inter a sweet roll? But what makes you do it?	**Wybunbury**
5. Grandmother with a definite tic	**Nantwich**
6. Continue to take part in a play	**Acton**
7. Annoyed clergymen	**Vicars Cross**
8. Entrance into a grand estate	**Parkgate**
9. Where Hazel or a monkey might cross the river	**Knutsford**
10. Go out on one?	**Lymm**

This issue questions and answers (questions on page 31):

What, where, or who in (historic) Cheshire links each of the following trios?

1. Bollington, Lower Peover, Malpas
   St Oswald (dedication of parish church)
2. Mrs Bourne, Burt's, Joseph Heler
   Makers of traditional Cheshire cheese
3. Ermentrude of Claremont, Constance of Brittany, Elen ferch Llywelyn
   Wives of medieval Earls of Chester
4. Eastgate clock, Jodrell Hall, St John the Baptist's Hartford
   John Douglas designed all of them
5. Eddisbury, Helsby, Oakmere
   Iron Age Hill Forts
6. Great Budworth, Port Sunlight, Styal
   Purpose built (model) villages
7. Astbury House, Fisher House, Sumner House
   University of Chester student accommodation blocks
8. Brains, Pudding, Rabbit Burrows
   Names of lanes in Tarporley
9. St Alban's Macclesfield, St Anne's Rock Ferry, St Mary's Warrington
   Augustus Pugin designed all of them
10. River Croco, River Dane, River Wheelock
    Middlewich (confluence of all three rivers)

Answers to Cryptic Cheshire questions from page 33.

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Cottages in Bibby Street, Rode Heath, facing the Trent and Mersey Canal.

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Rode Heath

Cottages in Rode Heath © Dave Dunford (cc-by-sa/4.0)

Rode Heath is a village located in the civil parish of Odd Rode, in Cheshire East. Its history is closely tied to the broader agricultural and industrial development of the Cheshire Plain. Originally a rural farming community, the village's name *Rode* is thought to derive from Old English, meaning *a clearing in the forest.*

During the 18th and 19th centuries, the expansion of canal networks was a significant influence. The Trent and Mersey Canal, completed in the 1770s by engineer James Brindley, runs through the village and played a crucial role in transporting goods such as salt, coal, and pottery between the Midlands and the northwest ports. The canal not only boosted trade but also led to the growth of local employment and modest population increases.

The industrial era saw a shift in the region's economy, but Rode Heath retained much of its rural character, avoiding the large-scale industrialization seen in nearby towns like Stoke-on-Trent. In the 20th century, Rode Heath gradually evolved into a residential community, favoured for its quiet setting and proximity to urban centres such as Crewe and Congleton.

Today, Rode Heath is known for its scenic canal-side walks, its well-regarded primary school, and its active community. Though modern in amenities, the village maintains a connection to its past through heritage buildings and the canal, which remains a popular attraction for boating and leisure.

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