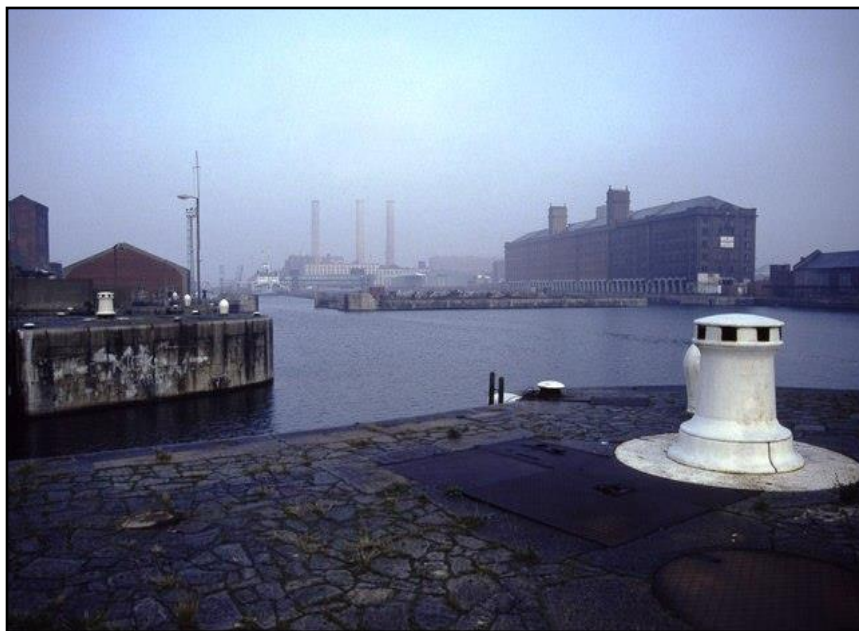


# LIVERPOOL FAMILY HISTORIAN



Volume 44 No. 4



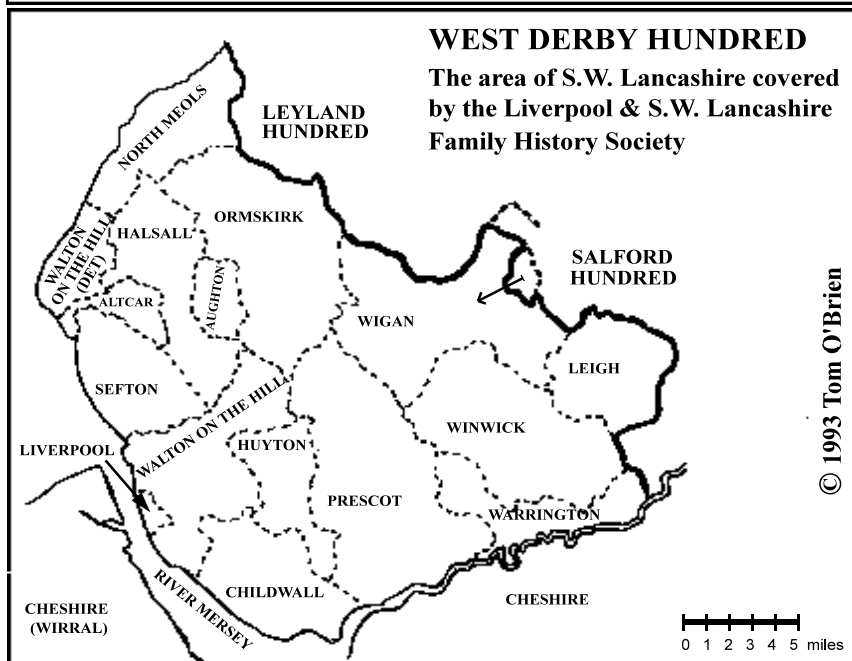
December 2022

# THE LIVERPOOL & S. W. LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Founded 27 May 1976

Covering

“the area of interest shall be that part of the ancient  
County of Lancashire known as the Hundred of West Derby.”



Website: [www.lswlfhs.org.uk](http://www.lswlfhs.org.uk)



**Front cover:** View of Liverpool's dockland, taken on 15 December 1991. Princes Half Tide Dock is in the foreground. The building centre-right, with the two towers, fronts the East Waterloo Dock and the three chimneys in the centre-distance belong to the now demolished Clarence Dock Power station (see **Interesting Items**). Image © [Chris Allen](#) at *Geograph* and licensed for reuse under [CC-BY-SA 2.0](#)

# Liverpool Family Historian

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# Editorial

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Welcome everyone to this, shorter than usual, edition of *Liverpool Family Historian*. It does seem impossible to me that we are at the festive end of the year already. It has been nice to see life returning to a more normal footing, as the threat from Covid-19 has faded. However, for many people the cost of living crisis will be sorely felt over the coming months and we can only hope that the recession and high inflation rates do not last as long as some in the media are predicting.

All of our Groups, with the exception of Widnes, are now offering a programme of meetings again (see News from the Groups). Please check details carefully, as there are changes to some of the times and venues. The programmes are still being developed, so please (if you can) keep up-to-date with any changes as detailed on our website. Also, our Help Desk services are beginning to return to normal: the Liverpool Group and Leigh Group Help Desks have returned to their normal face-to-face service and the Southport Group Help Desk is back at both Crosby Library and Maghull Library (although users need to book an appointment to use the services in Southport).

The Chair and General Secretary's reports to the AGM (held on 15 October) are included in the journal for information and call for volunteers to help with the smooth running of the society. Related to smooth running, I should like to remind you all to please keep your details up-to-date in the society's records (e.g. changes of email/physical address). Also, if you have signed up to Gift Aid your subscription renewals, remember to tell our Treasurer if your tax status changes.

We were very short of content for the journal this quarter, so please contribute when you can (I have no articles in reserve for the next edition). And finally... please don't forget to renew your membership for the year ahead. Subscriptions are due on 1 January 2023 and represent the usual excellent value for money. In the meantime, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Mike Paice, Editor

## News Items

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### Report on AGM & Conference - 15 October 2022

60 people were booked for the Conference & AGM held by Zoom from 10:00 BST on Saturday 15 October 2022. Amongst the 'audience' were some overseas members and some new members.

The conference opened (after a short delay) with a talk called *Viva La Revolution* by Roger Hull who is currently the Researcher at Liverpool Archives. The subject of his talk was how the internet has revolutionised family history research over the last 25+ years. He went through the revolution in chronological order and pointed out how much easier things are compared to when everything had to be done manually, although not everything is available. Amongst the many websites he mentioned were Ancestry/Find My Past and FreeBMD. I even learnt that there is a Crew List Index Project, which aims to list all UK seamen for part of the 19th Century from records held at the National Archives Kew. A very enjoyable talk.

After a short break the Society AGM was held - the minutes will be published in the Journal/on the Website later. The most important thing is that all the current committee were re-elected apart from the Journal Editor who has very kindly agreed to continue until a replacement is found but that is becoming very urgent. **PLEASE, PLEASE HELP. Can you or do you know anyone who can take over the position of Editor? Full training will be given. Please email me at the email address below if you do.**

After a break for lunch, we came to our second speaker, Carole Codd, Retired Superintendent Registrar for Liverpool, who fascinated us with a bit of the history of Civil Registration, which (probably to many people's surprise) actually goes back to the Civil War and Oliver Cromwell. The 'modern' system started on 1 July 1837. She also enthralled everyone with stories of some of the marriages she had presided over, including Ricky Tomlinson's.

Overall (apart from the initial problem) it was a very enjoyable day. My thanks particularly to Mary Allan who hosted the day, to the two speakers, and to everyone who attended.

Susan Atkins  
Chair, Liverpool Group & Society Chair  
Email: [chair@lswlfhs.org.uk](mailto:chair@lswlfhs.org.uk)

## **The Genealogy Show – Winter Event 2022**

The Genealogy Show Winter Event will run from **Friday 2 December to Sunday 4 December 2022**. Following the success of the organisers' various online events, this will also be hosted online with virtual stalls manned by family history societies, archives and other genealogical and related service providers.

Exhibitors at the Winter Event 2022 will include: MyHeritage, Who Do You Think Your Are? Magazine, the National Library of Wales, UKBMD, The Photo Alchemist, Railway Work, Life & Death Project, Histoires de Familles and various family history societies. 48 speaker events have been lined-up, allowing you to watch a new talk every hour, on the hour, with talks later going into the 'On-Demand' section of the event website. Speakers include: Sophie Kay (talking about DNA and genealogy); Daniel Loftus (using Twitter for genealogy); Brian Donovan (Irish family history); and, Else Churchill (Customs and Excise, Coastguards & Trinity House Records at the Society of Genealogists). The event will also include one-to-one consultations with genealogy experts, live chat with other guests, competitions etc.

Ticket prices for the Winter Event 2022 are £20 per person and at the time of writing, there was a general 25% discount available and a 50% discount available for students. Full details are available on the event website: <https://www.thegenealogyshowlive.com/>

## **The National Archives and British Association for Local History 20sStreets – Local History Competition**

Do you know of a fascinating local history story, or fancy having a go at unearthing one? The National Archives (TNA) and the British Association for Local History (BALH) are looking for entries for their new local history competition, telling fascinating local history stories.

Stories must have a link to the 1920s and relate to the areas covered by the 1921 Census of England & Wales (England, Wales, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands), but the rest is up to entrants. Applications are sought from individuals or groups and

the story doesn't have to be on the entrant's doorsteps, or relevant to them – if it's a tale worth telling, TNA and BALH want to hear it.

Prizes include a year's premium Findmypast subscription, with unlimited access to the 1921 Census, or a bespoke tour of TNA. The closing date for entries is 11:55 on Tuesday 31 January 2023, with winners and runners-up announced in May. Full details are available at: <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20s-people/20sstreets-local-history-competition/>

## The Family History Show Online 2023

The next iteration of The Family History Show Online will be hosted on **Saturday 18 February 2023**, between 10:00 and 16:00, and will include a wide range of virtual stalls from family history societies to archives and suppliers. Following the now familiar format, The Family History Show Online will feature an online lecture theatre, the popular '*Ask the Experts*' area (where you can put questions forward to specialists), as well as a host of stalls where you can ask for advice and/or buy genealogical products.

Many exhibitors are expected in the virtual exhibition hall including a wide variety of societies and companies. Participants will be able to talk to some of the stallholders by text, audio, or video from the comfort of their own home. With this facility you can ask them for advice, talk to them about your own research and purchase various items from their online stall. The virtual lecture theatre will also be in operation again, with presentations covering a wide variety of family history topics available throughout the day.

Tickets to attend The Family History Show Online were available at the time of writing for only £7.00 per person (but will cost £10.00 per person on the day). Further information can be found on The Family History Show website: <https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/online/>

## Ancestry update

Fourteen new datasets were added to the UK collection on Ancestry since the last edition of the journal. A further four UK datasets also had new content added to them during that period. The new datasets include an interesting selection of UK-wide sources that

includes coal mining accident records, post-mortem examination records and law examination records. The new datasets are:

- **Aberystwyth, Wales, Indexes to Crew Lists (1850-1914);**
- **Nottinghamshire, England, Church of England Baptisms (1813-1919);**
- **Nottinghamshire, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials (1538-1812);**
- **Nottinghamshire, England, Church of England Burials (1813-1994);**
- **Nottinghamshire, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns (1754-1937);**
- **St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials (1538-1934);**
- **UK and Commonwealth, Law Examination Records (1836-1946);**
- **UK, Coal Mining Accidents and Deaths Index (1878-1951);**
- **UK, Post Mortem Examinations and Case Books (1840-1920);**
- **UK, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve Service Records (1903-1922);**
- **UK, Wartime Records and Material (1914-1918, 1939-1945);**
- **UK, World War II War Diaries (1939-1946);**
- **UK, World War II Women's Land Army Index Cards (1939-1948); and,**
- **Web: Wrexham, Wales, Cemetery Burial Register Indexes (1876-2012).**

The updated UK datasets are as follow:

- **Lancashire, England, Electoral Registers (1832-1939);**
- **UK and Ireland, Obituary Index (2004-current);**
- **UK, Lunacy Patients Admission Registers (1846-1921); and,**
- **UK, World War II Alien Internees (1939-1945).**

The following select overseas datasets are either new or had new content added to them over the last three-months:

- **Aisne, France, Censuses (1794-1911);**
- **Alabama, U.S., Naturalization Records (1888-1991);**
- **Alabama, U.S., Wills and Probate Records (1753-1999);**
- **Alpes-de-Haute-Provence, France, Births, Marriages and Deaths (1532-1996);**
- **Arizona, U.S., State Court Naturalization Records (1869-1993);**
- **Arkansas, U.S., Naturalization Records (1907-1968);**
- **Aube, France, Birth, Marriage and Death Registers (1507-1929);**
- **Aude, France, Birth, Marriage and Death Registers (1553-1926);**
- **Australia and New Zealand, Obituary Index (2004-current);**
- **Australia, Newspapers.com Marriage Index (1800s-current);**
- **California, U.S., Federal Naturalization Records (1843-1999);**
- **Canada, Newspapers.com Marriage Index (1800s-current);**
- **Canada, Obituary Collection (1898-current);**
- **Connecticut, U.S., Federal Naturalization Records (1790-1996);**
- **Correze, France, Census (1906, 1911);**
- **Delaware, U.S., Naturalization Records (1796-1959);**
- **Florida, U.S., Naturalization Records (1847-1995);**
- **Georgia, U.S., Naturalization Records (1794-1993);**
- **Hamburg, Germany, Deaths (1874-1950);**
- **Haute-Vienne, France, Births, Marriages and Deaths (1792-1930);**
- **Hautes-Alpes, France, Census (1836, 1856, 1876, 1896);**
- **Hautes-Saône, France, Censuses (1836-1921);**
- **Indiana, U.S., Marriage Certificates (1960-2012);**
- **Iowa, U.S., Federal Naturalization Records (1856-1937);**
- **Ireland, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland Registers (1667-1920);**
- **Kansas, U.S., Federal Naturalization Records (1865-1984);**
- **Kentucky, U.S., Naturalization Records (1906-1991);**

- **Louisiana, U.S., Naturalization Records** (1836-2001);
- **Louisiana, U.S., Wills and Probate Records** (1756-1984);
- **Massachusetts, U.S., Boston Archdiocese Roman Catholic Sacramental Records** (1789-1920);
- **Massachusetts, U.S., State and Federal Naturalization Records** (1798-1950);
- **Massachusetts, U.S., Town and Vital Records** (1620-1988);
- **Michigan, U.S., Federal Naturalization Records** (1887-1931);
- **Missouri, U.S., Marriage Records** (1805-2002);
- **Montana, U.S., Federal Naturalization Records** (1870-1999);
- **Nebraska, U.S., Federal Naturalization Records** (1835-1987);
- **Nevada, U.S., Naturalization Petitions** (1956-1991);
- **New Jersey, U.S., Birth Index** (1848-1878, 1901-1903);
- **New Jersey, U.S., Death Index** (1848-1878, 1901-2017);
- **New Jersey, U.S., Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey, Church Records** (1700-1970);
- **New Jersey, U.S., Naturalization Records** (1878-1945);
- **New Mexico, U.S., Federal Naturalization Records** (1881-1983);
- **New York, U.S., Naturalization Records** (1882-1944);
- **New York, U.S., State and Federal Naturalization Records** (1794-1943);
- **Norway, Death Registers** (1928-1941);
- **Oregon, U.S., County Births and Deaths** (1855-1970);
- **Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection)** (1621-1968);
- **Queensland, Australia, Immigration Records: Passengers and Crewe** (1852-1899);
- **Rhode Island, U.S., State and Federal Naturalization Records** (1802-1945);
- **Somme, France, Censuses** (1816-1921);
- **South Carolina, U.S., Wills and Probate Records** (1670-1980);
- **South Dakota, U.S., Marriages** (1905-2018);
- **Tallinn, Estonia, Parish Registers** (1834-1911);

- **Tarn-et-Garonne, France, Birth, Marriage and Death Registers** (1750-1912);
- **Tennessee, U.S., Naturalization Records** (1888-1992);
- **Texas, U.S., Naturalization Records** (1852-1991);
- **United Nations War Crimes Commission Records** (USHMM);
- **Upper Austria, Austria, Catholic Church Registers** (1614-1938);
- **U.S., Naturalization Records** (1840-1957);
- **U.S., Newspapers.com Marriage Index** (1800s-current);
- **U.S., Obituary Collection** (1930-current);
- **U.S., Presbyterian Church Records** (1701-1970);
- **U.S., School Yearbooks** (1900-2016);
- **Virginia, U.S., Birth Records** (1912-2015), **Delayed Birth Records** (1721-1920);
- **Virginia, U.S., Death Records** (1912-2014);
- **Virginia, U.S., Divorce Records** (1918-2014);
- **Virginia, U.S., Marriage Records** (1936-2014);
- **1810 United States Federal Census**;
- **1860 United States Federal Census**;
- **1870 United States Federal Census**;
- **1890 United States Federal Census (fragment)**;
- **1901 Denmark Census**;
- **1930 United States Federal Census**; and,
- **1950 United States Federal Census**.

## **British Newspaper Archive update**

The British Newspaper Archive has digitised content from 67 new titles over the course of the last quarter, primarily from titles across Great Britain (although there are a few new overseas titles included). The new titles are as follow: **African Telegraph and Gold Coast Mirror** (1914-15, 1918-19); **African Times and Orient Review** (1912-14, 1917-18); **Andover Advertiser and North West Hants Gazette** (1862); **Barbados Herald** (1879-96); **Beaconsfield Advertiser** (1994); **Billericay Gazette** (1996); **Boston Gazette** (1861); **Bridgend & Ogwr Herald & Post** (1995); **Brighton Argus** (1910); **Building News** (1854-55, 1862, 1869-91); **Bury and Suffolk Herald** (1827-37, 1839-49); **Bury and Suffolk Standard** (1869-70, 1873-87); **Chicago Citizen** (1890-97);

**Christian World** (1857-90); **Church & State Gazette (London)** (1842-56); **Clyde Weekly News** (1994); **Coalville Mail** (1995); **Derby Exchange Gazette** (1861); **Dublin Evening Herald** 1846 (1846-53); **East End News and London Shipping Chronicle** (1869-1962); **Eastern Argus and Borough of Hackney Times** (1877-1912); **Ely Town Crier** (1993); **Exeter Leader** (1994); **Falkirk Express** (1882); **Halstead Gazette** (1858-59, 1869); **Haltemprice & East Yorkshire Advertiser** (1995); **Harrogate Advertiser and Weekly List of the Visitors** (1865, 1877, 1880, 1889); **Haverfordwest & Milford Haven Telegraph** (1865, 1877, 1880, 1889); **Holderness Advertiser** (1993-96); **Hornsey & Finsbury Park Journal** (1879-1915); **Ilkley Free Press** (1890); **Irish Christian Advocate** (1885-96); **Jarrow Guardian and Tyneside Reporter** (1872-80, 1898, 1909-10); **Kerry Reporter** (1883-1920); **Leeward Islands Gazette** (1893); **Leytonstone Express and Independent** (1877-1912); **Liverpool Shipping Telegraph and Daily Commercial Advertiser** (1846-49, 1851-72, 1874-76, 1880, 1885-97, 1899); **Loughton and District Advertiser** (1887); **Manchester Metro News** (1993-94, 1996); **Medway News** (1994); **Midland & Northern Coal & Iron Trades Gazette** (1875-84, 1886); **National Advertiser and Edinburgh and Glasgow Gazette** (1848); **National Independent and People's Advocate** (1878); **New Observer (Bristol)** (1994); **Northfleet and Swanscombe Standard** (1896, 1898-1907); **North Tyneside Herald & Post** (1996); **Official Gazette of British Guiana** (1893-1919); **Peebles News** (1896-1920); **Pembrokeshire Herald** (1854, 1865, 1871); **Plymouth Mail** (1861); **Potteries Advertiser** (1994); **Ramsbottom Observer** (1900); **Rhyl, Prestatyn Visitor** (1995); **Ruislip & Northwood Informer** (1995); **Skelmersdale Advertiser** (1991); **Staines Leader** (1994-95); **Surrey Independent and Wimbledon Mercury** (1882-1905); **Torquay Chronicle and South Devon Advertiser** (1862); **Trinidad Chronicle** (1864-85); **Tunbridge Wells Journal** (1862-1904); **Uckfield Courier** (1992); **Vale Advertiser** (1996); **Weekly Examiner (Belfast)** (1898); **Weekly Register and Catholic Standard** (1849-70); **West Hull Advertiser** (1995); **Wimbledon News** (1894-1915); and, **Worcester Daily Times and Journal** (1898).

The following select titles have had new pages added to them since the last edition of the journal: **Abergele & Pensarn Visitor** (1994-

96); **Aldershot News** (1945-49, 1952-53, 1955-57, 1959-61, 1963-67); **Beverley Advertiser** (1994-95, 1997); **Billingham & Norton Advertiser** (1988, 1994-95); **Birmingham Daily Post** (1910, 1996-98); **Birmingham Mail** (1963-64, 1967-71, 1974-76, 1978-80, 1982-85, 1997-98); **Birmingham Weekly Mercury** (1920, 1949, 1956, 1959, 1963, 1971, 1975, 1980-81); **Bootle Times** (1994-96); **Bristol Evening Post** (1952-62, 1966-69, 1975, 1980); **Burntwood Post** (1990, 1993-94); **Cambridge Town Crier** (1994-95, 1997); **Cannock Chase Post** (1993-95); **Cheltenham News** (1991, 1994-95); **Civil & Military Gazette (Lahore)** (1939-45); **Croydon Times** (1885-87, 1890); **Derby Daily Telegraph** (1888, 1898, 1951-56, 1958-70, 1973-75, 1977-79, 1981-82, 1984-85); **Dewsbury Reporter** (1889, 1897-98, 1900); **Dorset County Chronicle** (1875, 1877, 1889); **Dumfries and Galloway Standard** (1893, 1952, 1993-96); **East Kent Gazette** (1900, 1995-96); **Ellesmere Port Pioneer** (1920-36); **Erdington News** (1908-10); **Evening Despatch** (1904, 1919, 1930-31, 1936, 1946-47, 1955); **Football Post (Nottingham)** (1983, 1985, 1987); **Gloucester News** (1994-96); **Harrow Informer** (1994-96); **Hinckley Herald & Journal** (1994-96); **Hinckley Times** (1889-97, 1899-1914, 1916-25, 1927-33, 1936-42, 1945-49, 1951-52, 1954-64, 1966-81, 1983); **Hull Daily Mail** (1951-66, 1971); **Leicester Daily Mercury** (1874, 1878, 1880-88, 1891-97, 1899-1910, 1912-25, 1928-30, 1932-38, 1940-49, 1951-53, 1957-59, 1962-80, 1982-88, 1990-92, 1994-95); **Lichfield Post** (1993, 1995-96); **Lincoln Target** (1994-96); **Long Eaton Advertiser** (1891-92, 1902, 1904-09, 1911-12, 1949, 1953-54, 1999); **Maghull & Aintree Star** (1994-96); **Market Rasen Weekly Mail** (1857, 1862, 1889); **Monmouthshire Beacon** (1912-15); **Neath Guardian** (1994-96); **Nottingham Guardian** (1887, 1897, 1901, 1903, 1955-58, 1964-71); **Nottingham Review** (1811-17); **Nuneaton Chronicle** (1950-56); **Ormskirk Advertiser** (1995, 1997-99); **Reveille** (1949-53, 1955-56); **Richmond Herald** (1912, 1917, 1919, 1921, 1924, 1927, 1929, 1934, 1936, 1950); **Rossendale Free Press** (1994, 1996-97); **Royston & Widnes Herald & Post** (1994-96); **Rugeley Mercury** (1989, 1993-95); **Salford Advertiser** (1994-96); **Sandwell Evening Mail** (1975-84); **Scunthorpe Evening Telegraph** (1942, 1991, 1993-95, 1998-99); **Sevenoaks Chronicle and Kentish Advertiser** (1979-85); **Sleaford Target** (1994-96); **Southport Visitor** (1994-96); **South Western Star** (1950-62); **Sports Argus** (1981-82, 1984, 1987-88, 1990-91, 1993-

94, 1997); **Staffordshire Sentinel** (1859, 1861-62, 1865-66, 1871-72, 1882, 1885-86, 1888, 1893-96, 1902, 1950-74, 1976-85); **Staines Informer** (1995-97); **Stockport Times** (1994-96); **Sunday Sun (Newcastle)** (1928, 1960-61, 1963-65, 1968-75, 1977, 1979-83); **Surrey Herald** (1992-94); **Sutton Coldfield Observer** (1992-95); **Torbay Express and South Devon Echo** (1921-33, 1935-36, 1940-45, 1947, 1954-56, 1968, 1973-93, 1995-99); **Waltham Abbey and Cheshunt Weekly Telegraph** (1876, 1893-94); **Wellingborough & Rushden Herald & Post** (1991, 1993, 1995); **Wells Journal** (1991-99); **West Briton and Cornwall Advertiser** (1818, 1841, 1849-52, 1854, 1859-61, 1863-64, 1866-69, 1872, 1875-76, 1878, 1880, 1882-87, 1893-96, 1898, 1905-06, 1911, 1913-14, 1917-19, 1921-22, 1924, 1926-29, 1932-38, 1941-49); and, **Y Gwyllydd** (1884, 1888, 1890, 1893-94).

## Deceased Online update

Deceased Online announced on 27 October that the records from three cemeteries in Wolverhampton were available to research. The records date back to 1850 and cover the cemeteries of Merridale, Beacon Hill, and Danescourt. The press notice stated that the records from Bushbury Cemetery and Crematorium and Bilston Cemetery will be the released soon, adding to the collection of records available from the Wolverhampton area. Another upcoming release will cover records from an authority in the southeast of England.

The company announced on 18 August that it had released more than 200,000 new cremation records on its website. The records relate to the Gilroes Crematorium in Leicester. The crematorium is the second oldest council operated crematorium in the country and was opened in 1902. The records in this release cover the period from its opening in 1902 up to 2019 and comprise register scans. The company also added further Leicester records up to 2019.

## FamilySearch update

There were 14 new UK datasets added to the FamilySearch collection over the last quarter, covering the counties of Devon and Hampshire, as well as records for our own city of Liverpool. Several existing UK datasets had new records added to them over the same

period. There were many more additions also to the FamilySearch overseas records collections and some of these are detailed below. The new UK datasets are:

- **United Kingdom, England, Devon, Parish Registers (Devon Record Office) (1529-1974);**
- **United Kingdom, England, Hampshire, Portsmouth, Baptisms (1538-1940);**
- **United Kingdom, England, Hampshire, Portsmouth, Burials (1538-1926);**
- **United Kingdom, England, Hampshire, Portsmouth, Cemetery Records (1881-1918);**
- **United Kingdom, England, Hampshire, Portsmouth, Hospital Records (1878-1918);**
- **United Kingdom, England, Hampshire, Portsmouth, Marriages (1537-1930);**
- **United Kingdom, England, Hampshire, Portsmouth, Military Tribunals (1916-1919);**
- **United Kingdom, England, Hampshire, Portsmouth, Police Staff Records (1908-1924);**
- **United Kingdom, England, Hampshire, Portsmouth, Workhouse Registers (1879-1919);**
- **United Kingdom, England, Lancashire, Liverpool, Banns and Marriages (1557-1960);**
- **United Kingdom, England, Lancashire, Liverpool, Burials (1557-1968);**
- **United Kingdom, England, Lancashire, Liverpool, School Records (1845-1926);**
- **United Kingdom, England, Lancashire, Liverpool, Workhouse Registers (1800-1928); and,**
- **United Kingdom, Merchant Seamen Records (1918-1941).**

The following UK datasets had new content added to them between August and October:

- **England, Gloucestershire Non-Conformist Church Records (1642-1996);**
- **England, Lancashire Non-Conformist Church Records (1647-1996);**
- **England, Middlesex Parish Registers (1539-1988);**

- **England & Wales, National Index of Wills and Administrations** (1858-1957);
- **Scotland, Lanarkshire Church Records** (1823-1967);
- **United Kingdom, England, Deaths and Burials** (1538-1991);
- **United Kingdom, England, Devon, Ford Park Cemetery and Torquay Cemetery Burials** (1848-1974);
- **United Kingdom, England, Lincolnshire, Marriage Bonds and Allegations** (1574-1885); and,
- **Wales, Cardiganshire, Parish Registers** (1538-1912).

These select overseas datasets are either new or had new content added to them over the last quarter:

- **Australia, Albany, Inward Passenger Lists** (1873-1924);
- **Australia, Victoria, Wills, Probate and Administration Files** (1841-1926);
- **Australia, Western Australia, Fremantle, Inward Passenger Lists** (1890-1911);
- **Austria, Vienna, Jewish Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths** (1784-1911);
- **France, Calvados, Censuses** (1836, 1856, 1876, 1891);
- **France, Creuse, Parish and Civil Registration** (1568-1903);
- **France, Haute-Saône, Parish and Civil Registration** (1551-1872);
- **France, Hautes-Alpes, Census** (1872);
- **France, Indre, Parish and Civil Registration** (1564-1905);
- **France, Savoie, Parish and Civil Registration** (1500-1927);
- **Germany, Baden, Church Book Duplicates** (1804-1877);
- **Germany, Prussia, East Prussia, Catholic and Lutheran Church Records** (1551-1992);
- **Germany, Prussia, West Prussia, Catholic and Lutheran Church Records** (1537-1981);
- **Germany, Rhineland-Palatinate, Diocese of Mainz, Catholic Church Records** (1540-1952);
- **Germany, Saxony, Church Book Indexes** (1500-1900);
- **Ireland, Court of Chancery Bill Books** (1627-1884);

- **Ireland, Dublin, Poor Law Unions Board of Guardians Minute Books** (1839-1924);
- **Ireland, Dublin, Workhouses Admission and Discharge Registers** (1840-1919);
- **Ireland, National School Registers** (1847-1954);
- **Jamaica, Church of England Parish Register Transcripts** (1664-1880);
- **South Africa, Church of the Province of South Africa, Parish Registers** (1801-2004);
- **South Africa, Dutch Reformed Church Registers (Cape Town Archives)** (1660-1970);
- **South Africa, Johannesburg, Cemetery Records** (1840-2019);
- **South Africa, KwaZulu Natal, Vital Records** (1868-1976);
- **South Africa, Reformed Church Records** (1856-1988);
- **South Africa, Transvaal, Civil Marriages** (1870-1930);
- **South Africa, Western Cape, Deceased Estate Files** (1951-1958);
- **Spain, Catholic Church Records** (1307-1985);
- **Sweden, Stockholm City Archives, Index to Church Records** (1546-1927);
- **United States, California, County Birth and Death Records** (1800-1994);
- **United States Censuses** (1860, 1950);
- **United States, Florida, Deaths** (1877-1939);
- **United States, Florida, Divorce** (1927-1950);
- **United States, Indiana, Marriages** (1811-2019);
- **United States, Kentucky Death Records** (1911-1967);
- **United States, New Jersey, Reclaim the Records, Geographic Birth Index** (1901-1929);
- **United States, New York, Birth Indexes outside of New York City** (1881-1942);
- **United States, New York Land Records** (1630-1975);
- **United States, Tennessee, Deaths** (1914-1966);
- **United States, Utah, Utah County Records** (1850-1962);
- **United States, Virginia, Vital Records** (1715-1901); and,
- **United States, Washington, County Death Registers** (1881-1979).

## FindMyPast update

More interesting new records were added to the FindMyPast collection over the course of the last three-months, including browseable copies of the Genealogical Society of Ireland's journals and transcriptions of wills of Royal Navy & Royal Marines personnel. The following new UK record collections were added to FindMyPast's offering:

- **Britain, Marriage Licenses, 1557-1915** – 218,000 Norfolk marriage bonds were available to browse but have now been transcribed and can be searched within the Britain, Marriage Licenses collection;
- **City of York, Electoral Registers, 1848-1938** – this new dataset contains 1.76 million records, detailing name, place, district and address, and includes the original images to verify the transcriptions;
- **Wills of Royal Navy & Royal Marines Personnel, 1786-1882** – this new dataset contains transcripts of more than 20,000 original wills;
- **Yorkshire, Sheffield, Asylum & Hospital Admissions & Subscriptions, 1748-1937** – this collection details more than 17,000 admissions, spanning three centuries and sourced from the South Yorkshire Asylum admission register amongst other documents and registers;
- **Yorkshire, Sheffield, Crime Courts and Convicts, 1769-1931** – over 206,000 records make up this collection, each giving standard information like name, age, birth year and event date, together with details charges raised against each individual; and,
- **Yorkshire, Sheffield, Social and Institutional Records, 1558-1939** – this new dataset contains nearly 48,000 records drawn from a range of sources including: Settlement certificates, removal orders, Whiston indentures, Corn loan guarantors etc.

The following UK datasets have had further records added to them:

- **Derbyshire, Baptisms, 1768-1921** – more than 8,700 new records have been added to this dataset, which are drawn from parish records for Alfreton, Ashbourne, Melbourne, Hognaston, Yeaveley and Longnor;

- **Dorset Monumental Inscriptions, 1392-2022** – more than 10,000 new monumental inscriptions have been added to the collection, taken from monuments in Poole Cemetery;
- **Durham, Baptisms, 1664-1921** – more than 16,000 new records have been added to this dataset, which includes baptisms in Anglican, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian and Methodist faiths. It also includes baptisms at the Unitarian Free Church in Sunderland;
- **Durham, Marriages, 1696-1934** – this record update includes the addition of around 18,700 new records from the parishes of South Shields Holy Trinity, Durham St. Giles, Durham St. Margaret, Durham St. Oswald and the Coldstream Church of Scotland;
- **Hampshire Baptisms, 1813-1940** – over 2,500 new baptismal records have been added to this collection, taken from the parish of Selborne;
- **Lincolnshire Marriages and Banns** – nearly 40,000 new records have been added to this collection, taken from ten churches in the Isle of Axholme, North Lincolnshire;
- **Lincolnshire Monumental Inscriptions, 1392-2022** – 65,636 monumental inscriptions have been added to the collection, taken from 129 churches and chapels across Lincolnshire (and one church in Nottinghamshire);
- **National School Admission Registers & Log-Books, 1870-1914** – around 10,000 new records have been added to this collection, taken from seven different schools in Halifax (Queens Road Infants, Salterhebble Infants, St. Joseph Infants, St. Mary Infants, and Warley Road Boys' School) and York (Elmfield College);
- **Norfolk Baptisms, 1922** – thousands of new records have been added to the collection, from the parishes of King's Lynn, St. Margaret with St. Nicholas, Cromer, Diss, Great Snoring and Holt;
- **Norfolk Burials, 1997** – an unspecified number of burial records take from a number of parishes that include Edgefield, Middleton, Wilby;
- **Norfolk Marriages and Banns, 1938** – thousands more records, covering the parishes of South Lynn All Saints, Lowestoft, Wells-next-the-Sea, Norwich and Brundall;

- **Northamptonshire Burials, 1538-1813** – almost 60,000 new records from 86 churches and chapels have been added to the collection, with the largest collection of new records being from the Holy Cross Church in Daventry;
- **Northumberland, Baptisms, 1571-1921** – this record update includes the addition of around 9,500 new records and includes baptisms in Anglican, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian and Methodist faiths;
- **Staffordshire, Baptisms, 1566-1921** – over 141,000 new records from 28 Staffordshire churches have been added to this collection, courtesy of the Burntwood Family History Group;
- **Staffordshire, Marriages, 1566-1921** – a further 70,000+ new records, covering 19 Staffordshire churches have been added to this collection;
- **Suffolk Baptism Index, 1538-1911** – more than 307,000 new records, from the Suffolk Family History Society, have been added to this collection;
- **Surrey Baptisms, 1813-1825** – 2,324 new records, from All Saints' church, Kingston-upon-Thames, have been added to this collection;
- **Surrey Burials, 1813-1825** – 1,681 new burial records taken from registers at All Saints', Kingston-upon-Thames, have been added to the collection; and,
- **Surrey Marriages** – another 334 Surrey marriages have been added to the dataset.

And finally... The following select overseas datasets are either new or have had further records added to them:

- **Australia, Queensland, Funeral Notices, 1973-2003** – 33,000 were added to this collection, detailing full name, place of residence and death date;
- **Barbados Births & Baptisms, 1637-1891** – an unspecified number of new records have been added to this dataset, covering the years 1678 and 1679;
- **British West Indies Regiment Servicemen, 1915-1919** – almost 17,000 records make up this new collection, detailing rank, service number battalion and corps of members of the regiment;

- **Canada, McGill University Honour Roll, 1914-1918** – a new collection of records detailing graduates of the McGill University in Quebec, who served in WWI;
- **Caribbean Association Oath Rolls, 1696** – a new dataset, detailing British settlers in the Caribbean who pledged their allegiance to King William III. The majority of the records relate to individuals in Bermuda but other records relate to individuals in Barbados and the Leeward Islands;
- **Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Births & Baptisms, 1660-1992** – more than 20,000 new records, from Indiana County, have been added to the dataset;
- **Ireland, Waterford, Dungarvan Town Commissioners Records, 1851-1922** – this collection of records details trades and occupations, together with other financial information pertaining to staff and suppliers of the Town Commission;
- **Ireland, Waterford, Grand Jury Presentments, 1808-1899** – Grand Jury query and account books, assize presentments and contract details are available to browse in this collection;
- **Ireland, Waterford, Poor Law Union, Board of Guardians Minute Books** – some 38,500 new records have been added to this collection, from the Kilmacthomas Union. The records contain details of those seeking payments and maintenance, as well as staff and suppliers of the workhouses in the area;
- **Montserrat, Methodist Marriages, 1820-1841** – a brand new collection of records detailing Methodist marriages of black or mixed-race couples on the island, most of whom were enslaved prior to the Slavery Abolition Act 1833.

## The Genealogist update

The Genealogist announced on 21 September that it had completed its work of adding the **Lloyd George Domesday Survey** records for London to its system. Records for all the current Greater London boroughs, as well as the records for North Buckinghamshire are now available to be searched, with details of the surveyors' reports linked to large scale Ordnance Survey maps of the period.

The company announced on 31 August that it had added a further 100,000 new records to its **International Headstone Collection**.

Although it is unclear from where the latest additions originate, Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley's memorial was featured - suggesting that some of the new records are of UK headstones. This collection can also be viewed through The Genealogist's **Map Explorer** tool.

On 11 August The Genealogist announced that Starter and Gold Subscribers were able to access the georeferenced maps in its **Map Explorer** system to research the 1891, 1901 and 1911 census records. Those subscribers would also be able to use Map Explorer when using The Genealogist's **Image Archive** and its **Domesday Book 1086** records.

## Letters to the Editor

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Dear editor,

In the September 2022 issue, Midge Broadhurst writes about ancestors changing their surnames from German-sounding to English-sounding names - and references an article from the time, which suggested families '*no longer wished*' to use their German names after the sinking of the Lusitania. As ever, I wonder whether the newspaper reports tell the whole story!

I have this only from a family story, so can't yet document it, but: my g-g-grandparents were Schaeffers (Elizabeth Jane Schaeffer née Maddocks, 1864-1950, and Frederick Schaeffer, 1864-1952, both Liverpool), of course a very German-sounding name. The story goes that during the First World War, they were approached by Special Branch who strongly recommended they should change their name for their own safety (presumably, to something more English, amidst a rising tide of anti-German sentiment). Whether through misunderstanding or sheer bloody-mindedness, they did indeed change their name... from Schaeffer to Schaefer!

I wonder whether anyone else has heard similar stories - and I wonder whether the 260 British-born nationals all freely chose to change their name, as the newspaper report implies, or whether some felt they were pushed into it.

Yours,

Jo Breeze (9553)

# Chairman's Report to the Society

## 15 October 2022

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Welcome - Welcome everyone to the Liverpool & SWL FHS AGM for 2022 and a particular welcome to our President and Founder Member Joyce Culling. Without Joyce and her late husband Harold there would be no Society. Welcome Joyce and everyone.

Now to continue with the AGM:-

Chair Report - Has it really been a year since I was elected Chair? It has gone very quick!

There is an awful lot of work that goes on behind the scenes by all the volunteers that are involved in the running of the Society and running the various Groups and Help Desks. My thanks go to each and every one of them.

Without all the volunteers the Society would cease to exist.

My thanks also to the people who gave up their time to represent the Society at the Fair in Port Sunlight in March and at Old Christ Church Waterloo in August.

It has been a steep learning curve and I am sure the learning will continue long into the future.

**Susan Atkins**

Chair, Liverpool & South West Lancashire FHS

### ***Your Journal Needs You!***

Please send us your articles, pictures, help requests, website reviews etc. Our journal depends on your contributions, if we are to maintain the high standards we have all enjoyed for so many years.

#### **DEADLINES**

The cut-off dates for material to reach the editor, for potential inclusion in the next issue are:



|           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| MARCH     | Jan 15th  |
| JUNE      | Apr 15th  |
| SEPTEMBER | July 15th |
| DECEMBER  | Oct 15th  |

## General Secretary's Report to the A.G.M. 15 October 2022

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The last year has seen the Society slowly moving back to its pre-pandemic activities, at least insofar as it has been able to do so. We are now, though, operating in a hybrid situation where we have been able to resume many of our normal face to face activities – group meetings and Help Desks especially – but have also continued to utilize and develop the online activities, principally Zoom, that took us through Covid so that they too have become part of our normal way of working.

It was just under eighteen months ago that we embarked on our first programme of talks using Zoom, not knowing how successful they would be. Since then, these talks have become a staple part of what we do, and I would hazard a guess that many members will have probably attended at least one of these, especially given the range of topics which over the last year has ranged from **'Welsh Ancestors'** to **'Liverpool Cowkeepers'**; from **'DNA'** to **'Curious Tales of Liverpool'**; from **'A Disappearing Irishman in Lancashire'** to **'British Civilian Prisoners of War in World War One'** to highlight just a few. Feedback has been more than positive and generated an enthusiasm and support that we could not have predicted. Every one of these sessions have been very well attended and well-received, particularly from members who cannot normally attend physical meetings or are geographically distant.

At this point I think a word of thanks would be appropriate for Mary Allan, Shelagh Boardman and Susan Atkins and all those others who are involved in running this programme.

Work on the redevelopment of the website by our webmaster, Shelagh Boardman, has continued with it being given a new look and more information on individual Group activities being made more readily accessible. The latest phase of work has centred on re-organising the online shop with as many products as possible that were previously sold on CD being digitized and presented as downloads.

With the final relaxation of restrictions, the individual groups within the Society have begun to look forward to what hopefully

may become 'business as usual' though problems with venues have continued to impact what they do.

In Liverpool the group is still unable to hold its monthly meetings in the Central Library because rooms are not yet available although it is hoped that one will be available by January. There has, however, been a resumption of the Tuesday afternoon Help Desks in the Library on a face to face basis.

The Leigh Group, in what is now their 40th year, are fully back in action with a programme of monthly talks with topics as varied as **'Manchester's Victorian Underworld'** and **'The Scandalous case of Mrs Oldfield'** given in the refurbished Leigh library.

Likewise, the Skelmersdale Group have resumed their monthly meetings in their normal meeting place with guest speakers tackling such topics as **'Industrial Lancashire'** and **'The Royal Court Theatre'**.

The Southport Group also have been able to restart their monthly meetings, based as before at Lord Street West Church hall with refreshments and scheduled talks.

The situation with the Warrington and Widnes Groups has been more problematic with both losing their previous meeting places. It is pleasing to report, however, a successful re-establishment of the Warrington Group, led by Peter Jolliffe, which has acquired a new venue in Penketh and is in the process of organising their calendar of talks.

Unfortunately, our Group in Widnes is yet to find a new venue and restart activities. It is to be hoped that they are successful.

As another sign of normality returning the Society took part in both local Family History Fairs this year – one at Port Sunlight and the other at Waterloo. We also participated in the national Federation's 'Really Useful Family History Show' by hosting an online booth through the weekend. All three proved useful in publicising the Society and its profile as well as attracting new members.

Currently our membership stands at 1009, slightly less than this time last year when the figure stood at 1027. Encouragingly though, we are experiencing a steady, if modest, influx of new membership

applications throughout the year.

On the General Committee, all the current Officers have offered themselves for re-election with one exception. There is one other change in the composition of the Committee compared to last year and that is in the role of Membership Secretary. The previous holder of the role, Joe Devereux, has relinquished the position and responsibility for it has been taken on by Annette Urwin. Again, thanks to Joe for not only having taken on the role and executed it so well but also for the seamless transition from himself to Annette.

The one exception I have referred to is, of course, the position of Journal Editor. Our current Editor, Michael Paice, will be standing down in the near future and it is safe to say he will be sorely missed as he has been responsible for the production of a highly professional publication that is a stand-out product of our Society. My personal thanks, and those of the whole membership, go to Mike for all he has achieved.

This does, however, mean that very shortly we will be without a Journal Editor despite having advertised the vacancy for some months now. I know that the impending arrival every three months of the Journal through members' letter boxes is very much anticipated and welcomed but if that is to continue then quite simply we need a new Editor. May I ask all our members to consider whether they, or someone they are aware of, could take on this responsibility. It goes without saying that full support and training will be given for what is an important and fulfilling opportunity.

In closing, may I remind everyone that the Society exists only as far as the membership is willing to support it so, again, may I ask you all to consider carefully any vacancy that may be advertised, any request for help at local Group level, any plea for contributions to the Journal as something to which you may be able to contribute. Quite simply, your Society needs you!

**Barry Peacock**

General Secretary, Liverpool & South West Lancashire FHS

# From Leigh to Salt Lake City: A 19th Century Journey

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## Introduction

One side of my family came from the Bedford area of Leigh in Lancashire, and several years ago I started researching my great great grandfather's siblings. Two of his brothers, Allen and David **Hilton**, caused me problems. I found both of them on the 1851 census as coal miners in their early twenties, and I also found marriage records for each brother and birth records for David's children. However, after these events in the early 1850s the trail went cold. Family Search (Ancestral Files) did turn up death records in America for them both, but I just didn't believe this could be true. Then quite recently I decided to have another go at searching for Allen and David. I started with Findmypast's US Billion Graves Index, and found their deaths in America as before. This time I was more persistent and discovered that these two brothers had emigrated to America in the 1850s as members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS). I now wanted to try and find out as much as I could about them, about the church, and about their journey from Leigh to Salt Lake City.

The Mormon church which they joined was founded by Joseph Smith in New York in 1830, and right from the start there was trouble between Smith's followers and people already settled in the district. In the 16 years from 1830 to 1846, the LDS church tried to set up a number of stable bases in four separate states (New York, Ohio, Missouri and Illinois), but each one failed because of difficulties with local people and the authorities. Eventually Brigham Young (who became the movement's leader after the murder in 1844 of Joseph Smith) decided that the only way to escape the antagonism of fellow Americans was to set up a new headquarters where Mormons could work and live together in peace and security. Young chose the Salt Lake Valley, largely because it was undeveloped, and also because it belonged to Mexico rather than to the US, who he thought had failed to protect Mormons from violence and persecution. Actually the territory was ceded to the US

in 1848, but by that time groups of LDS church members had already started going to the area, and it was decided to press on with the plans to settle there. It's rather ironic that the Mormons originally travelled to the far west because they wanted to escape from other people, yet by developing the route to the Salt Lake Valley they actually opened the place up and therefore enabled more people to make their homes there. The late 1840s marked the beginning of a mass migration of LDS followers to Utah. First to go were people who had settled in Illinois but had to leave the Mormon base there; they were soon followed by many new converts coming directly from Britain and Europe, such as Allen and David Hilton. How did this come about?

### **The Mormons come to Britain**

Even before the Mormons first struck out for Utah, the LDS church had established a considerable following in Britain. It all started in 1837 when a small group of missionaries from the church arrived here with the aim of making converts to Mormonism. Beginning in Preston they travelled around the country preaching, and attracted enough support to establish branches of the church in many towns including elsewhere in Lancashire. The peak of membership in Britain was reached in 1851, when there were nearly 33,000 LDS followers. After this high point numbers declined dramatically, dropping to 5,000 in the 1870s and to fewer than 3,000 in 1890. This was undoubtedly due to the controversy over "*plural marriage*", which is where a man was encouraged (even instructed) by church leaders to have two or more wives. The LDS church tried to argue that far from being immoral, polygamy was a command from God, and would lead to greater fulfilment for all the participants both now and in the life to come. It had been talked of privately for many years before being openly advocated by the church in 1852, and was the aspect of Mormonism which most disturbed people, causing much of the widespread hostility felt towards the movement's followers.

### **The British emigrate to America**

The first British converts arrived in America in 1840, with British emigration reaching its highest number in 1856. Allen emigrated in 1853, with David following in 1855. The total number of British emigrants travelling between 1840 and 1890 is estimated at an

amazing 55,000. Add in emigrants from other European countries and the figure exceeds 80,000. Migration was a complicated and expensive business, superbly organised by the LDS church. Some people paid the full cost themselves, or relatives paid for them, but most used church schemes to obtain financial assistance to travel. The overwhelming majority of emigrants departed from Liverpool. Usually the church chartered whole ships, providing spaces for many hundreds of passengers on each vessel. Allen's ship held about 330 people, while David's had going on for 600. People embarked in organised groups under the protection and leadership of church elders. Once on board each large group was divided up and duties were laid down for them according to a timetable. Usually many additional activities were organised - talks, meetings, prayers, dances, singing. It all made for an orderly crossing, disrupted only by stormy weather and seasickness.

This level of organisation and support was truly impressive, and was not found on ordinary non-Mormon voyages across the Atlantic. However, this didn't alter the fact that everyone emigrating to America in the 1840s had to put up with some terrible conditions on board ship. In 1851 a House of Commons Select Committee was appointed to look into emigrants' experiences at sea; this was followed by a further committee in 1854, set up as a response to the realization that a large number of passengers were dying during sea crossings. Sickness arose because people were crowded together in tiny accommodation with poor light and ventilation; toilet facilities and arrangements for preparing meals were also inadequate. Diseases such as cholera posed a constant threat, and when an outbreak occurred, many lives were lost.

In general journeys for everyone improved from the mid 1850s onwards. There was greater reliability once steam replaced sails in the late 1860s, and these later ships were better designed for passengers. The enforcement of various regulations set out in a number of Passenger Acts also greatly increased travellers' comfort and safety.

Once the Mormon emigrants had disembarked in America, church officials were on hand to help with the organisation of the rest of their journey, including the acquisition of the required supplies. (Some people chose not to make this journey straight away, but

worked to get funds and equipment in place to enable them to travel onwards at a later date). Various routes to Utah were tried at different times, and could involve river journeys and crossings, transport by oxen-pulled wagons, and even walking with possessions piled into a handcart. People tended to travel in groups or “*companies*” and their leaders needed to consider the effects of weather and time of year when planning the journey. Where they had oxen or horses, would there be enough grass growing on the plains for the animals to be able to eat each day? Was there enough water for both people and animals? And where mountains had to be crossed, could this be done at an appropriate time of year, before heavy winter snowfalls? The terrain was harsh and unfamiliar to most of the travellers on this journey, and there was also the possibility of meeting indigenous Indian tribes or other pioneers making their own way west (maybe looking for gold), with whom there could be disagreements over scarce resources. The Mormons chose to develop a westwards route of their own, which came to be known as the Mormon Trail. This route was later used for the Union Pacific Railroad, and once this railway reached Utah in 1869, overland travel became easier. However, in the early days the journey west was certainly a long and hazardous undertaking, and anyone such as Allen or David who travelled to the Salt Lake Valley the hard way before the railroad to Utah was built, was revered as a Mormon Pioneer.

## **Allen and David**

Allen Hilton's journey with his wife Sarah started in January 1853 with a voyage from Liverpool to New Orleans taking 47 days. An account on the Saints By Sea website by John Isaac Hart, one of Allen's fellow travellers, states that a talk given to emigrants in Liverpool as a preparation for life in Utah contained an explanation of Mormon ideas about marriage and the practice of polygamy. Hart recorded that many people felt a little uneasy about this doctrine, which they were hearing about for the first time. What Allen and Sarah made of it is not known. They landed in New Orleans in early March, and travelled from there to St Louis, Missouri, where on 19 March 1853 Sarah gave birth to their daughter Mary Elizabeth. Unfortunately, Sarah's health was fragile, and as a consequence it took them nine long months to reach Salt Lake City. Sadly Sarah died there at the end of



# LIVERPOOL & S.W. LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No 512906

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

*About the Society:*

Founded in 1976

Worldwide Membership

Six groups holding monthly meetings at: Leigh, Liverpool, Skelmersdale,  
Southport, Warrington and Widnes

Details of each group's meetings are published in the quarterly journal  
and on the website

Regular help desks are held at several libraries in our area.

*Membership includes:*

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Online bookshop and Forum

Members' surname interests

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Preferential access to our Zoom talks

Annual membership: January to December

For further information contact:

General Secretary, E-mail: [secretary@lswlfhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@lswlfhs.org.uk)

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## **DATA PROTECTION - INFORMATION**

In accordance with the principles of the Data Protection Act, your details will remain strictly confidential with the exception of its use within the Society, and will not be used for any other purpose.

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New members joining after 30 September will be entitled to membership until 31 December the following year.

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## **MEMBERS' INTERESTS - INFORMATION**

Members may publish up to ten family names that they are researching on our website, [www.lswlfhs.org.uk](http://www.lswlfhs.org.uk) , and in the Journal. Once you have paid your subscription, you will receive the log-in details for the Members' Only Section. Should you not have access to the internet, you can complete the form which is published each year in the March journal.

## **DONATED CERTIFICATES - INFORMATION**

The Society currently holds over 3,000 certificates of birth, marriage and death which have been donated by members.

December, just two weeks after their arrival. I don't know what Sarah died of. It could have been complications arising from the birth of her baby, but equally she may have fallen victim to one of the illnesses like malaria, typhoid, cholera or dysentery which affected many people as they made their way across America. Or the harshness of the journey could have led to exposure or malnutrition for Sarah, causing her to develop a disease such as TB, pleurisy, or scurvy.

By the time David Hilton made his journey to Utah a couple of years after Allen, people were using a healthier route to St Louis. By landing on the east coast of America they avoided a long stretch along the Mississippi River, where there were conditions of extreme heat and danger from frequent epidemics. So David, with his wife Mary Ann and their two children Mary and William, sailed from Liverpool in March 1855, reaching Philadelphia after 35 days at sea. From Philadelphia they went by rail to Pittsburgh, then by steamboat to St Louis, Missouri, and finally on to Utah. However, at some point on their journey tragedy struck David's family when his one year old son William died. Again I don't know what he died of. The most common cause of death on the Mormon Trail was sickness of some sort, followed by accidents or weather-related incidents.

It must have been a relief to both Allen and David when they finally made it to Salt Lake City, though I imagine they also felt apprehensive about their new lives. New arrivals from Britain and Europe came with no experience of the American frontier. They would probably have expected the journey to be difficult, but problems didn't stop once they were at their destination. New skills had to be learned really quickly to tackle jobs such as building a dwelling of some sort, and growing food for themselves. Most emigrants came from urban areas in their own country, but even those from an agricultural background must have been dismayed at the problems facing them in Utah, where soil and climate were not the best for crop-growing and resources such as timber and water were in short supply. Many people lived in quite poor conditions at first, with some families having to make their home in a wagon. However, church leaders tried to ensure that there was an actual ceremony of welcome for the incomers, which hopefully made them feel valued and more able to settle. There would be lean times ahead for many of the emigrants before they found their feet, so

how did Allen and his brother David get on in Salt Lake City?

After Allen was widowed, he arranged for his baby daughter to be fostered with a Mormon couple, and she stayed living with them until her own marriage in 1874. In about 1856 Allen married Annie **Lyon**, who was originally from Scotland and had emigrated to Utah with her parents and some of her siblings in 1853. Annie's parents were early converts to the LDS church; both had been baptised in 1844, and before they emigrated Annie's father had been a travelling elder in England. Allen and Annie Hilton had nine children, three of whom died in childhood. Annie died in 1892, and in 1896 Allen married Ellen **Oxley** (born **Affleck**) who was a sister-in-law of his brother David. Allen died in 1898 at the age of 68.

Allen Hilton had worked as a miner when he was a young man in Leigh. On American censuses his occupation is given as “*teamster*”. Perhaps he learned how to control a team of animals when he was on the journey to Utah. Allen's record on the Billion Graves website says he had a team (of oxen?) and a wagon, and in his later years worked as a nightwatchman. It seems he was a good, solid member of the Mormon community.

David Hilton must have appreciated having a close relative living in the area when he arrived in Salt Lake City with his wife Mary Ann and their surviving child Mary. David and Mary Ann went on to have ten American-born children, four of whom died young. One of their sons, Thomas H. Hilton, followed a career in the police force, ending up as a chief of police. David, like Allen, had worked as a miner when he was living in Leigh, but again like Allen he didn't pursue this occupation in America. His obituary published in the Salt Lake Herald gives the information that as a young man he had been a stonemason and had worked on the construction of the temple in Salt Lake City. On the American censuses his occupation is given variously as labourer (1860), clerk in store (1870) and butcher (1880). The 1870 census records that David was able to both read and write (unlike Allen, who in 1870 was able to read but not write). David's wife Mary Ann died in 1901, and David himself died in 1904 at the age of 73.

### Why join the Mormon church?

It seems as if my family members settled well in America. There is

no indication in the records that they tried to return to Lancashire, nor have I found any other relatives with connexions to Mormonism. But what did being a Mormon entail? What was the appeal of the church, and how were church members viewed by other people? When someone wished to join the LDS church, the first step was to be baptised, after which he or she was referred to as a “*Saint*”. Following baptism, it was the duty of new converts to make their way to “*Zion*” (which was wherever in America the Mormons had their headquarters), in order to prepare for the imminent second coming of Jesus Christ. Given the church's difficult beginning in America, it must have taken some courage for people here to join such a movement, and to be prepared to consider emigration. But join they did, and emigrate they did, as shown by the fact that in 1870 British-born people made up one quarter of Utah's total population.

I think the Mormon church appealed to people on two levels. Firstly, the church's doctrines contained the promise of eternal life for followers, and secondly, people hoped that church membership would bring better economic conditions for them in this life. However, it's true to say that in general the LDS church was not well regarded. Popular culture often portrayed the movement in a negative way, placing an emphasis on any current controversies surrounding the church. An example of this is the first Sherlock Holmes story “*A study in scarlet*”, written in 1887 by Arthur Conan Doyle, in which a woman is kidnapped by Mormons and forced into marriage. Young girls being lured away from home and taken to Utah to be kept there in slavery was a favourite plot line in many works of popular literature, particularly dramas, during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

As a contrast to this, Charles Dickens was full of praise for the Mormons in his piece “*Bound for the Great Salt Lake*”. This was written in 1863 after he had spent a few hours on an emigrant ship as it was preparing to sail. Dickens admitted that he went on board just to see for himself what the Mormons were like, anticipating that he wouldn't reckon much to them. However, to his astonishment he was greatly impressed by their behaviour; they got on with what they needed to do in a disciplined and unhurried manner. He called them “*the pick and flower of England*”, and thought they exhibited such good qualities because of their faith.

Dickens appreciated the Mormons he met both as individuals and as a group, but not everyone agreed with him. Although LDS church members were not universally disliked as individual people, particularly if they were quiet, sober and hard working, and seen as good neighbours rather than troublemakers, I'm sure that taken as a group they were not liked at all. And when the crunch came the Mormons always acted together. The real fear in other people's minds was that LDS church members acting collectively would have enough power to alter how society functioned. The average American valued personal liberty above communal duty, leading to a preference for free enterprise in economic affairs, justice delivered in secular not church courts of law, a democratic political system separate from the churches, and minimal religious influence (seen as interference) in their personal lives. None of this applied to LDS members, who saw no need for separation between church and state. They regarded their church as the real authority and were seemingly content to follow the dictates of church leaders in all matters. Ordinary people must have wondered how far the Mormons might succeed in changing society's systems if their influence was allowed to go unchecked.

As regards the difficult subject of polygamy, people outside the church were alarmed by the doctrine's place in Mormonism, and this must have affected the general attitude taken towards church members. Many onlookers will have gone from viewing Mormons as a group of people with strange but probably harmless practices, to deciding that they were morally suspect and therefore dangerous. It wasn't until 1890 that the Mormons took their first steps in the process of renouncing plural marriage, but some people outside the church remained unconvinced that polygamy would be completely given up. Becoming a Mormon often caused tensions and splits within a family, and this certainly sits rather uneasily alongside the importance given to family togetherness in the church's teachings. Mormons believe that family ties - past, present and future - last for all eternity, which explains their interest in genealogical research. However, going to America would often bring about complete physical separation from the family of one's birth, which must have been hard for all parties to come to terms with (particularly the family left behind, who were possibly unsympathetic to the LDS church and its beliefs).

Having said that, the idea of starting afresh in America certainly had its attractions. It was a new country, with plenty of room for people in its wide-open spaces, and full of opportunities for them to achieve a better standard of living. Going there could be a great adventure, in stark contrast to life in industrial areas of Britain where ordinary people were trapped in poor conditions at home and at work. At the time when the Mormons were establishing their church in this country there was much social unrest, with strikes and the emergence of the Chartist movement. Although Chartism faded by the late 1840s, bringing to an end this period of working class militancy, people still felt dissatisfaction with the circumstances of their lives. So talk of emigration as a way to escape these problems began to circulate. If people wished to change their lives for the better, then Mormon America might look like a good place to move to. And if they were anxious about losing the closeness of existing family relationships, then maybe the church could act as a replacement community.

But why embrace this particular religion? Again maybe the answer lies partly in the atmosphere of the times. Mormonism was just one of many new religious movements in the 19th century, and people then seemed to be more receptive to the idea of joining one of these sects than we are today. Becoming a Mormon obviously gave someone a sense of security and belonging, but it also meant being willing to live by the church's rules. I can't see people emigrating under the auspices of the LDS church unless they were genuine believers, fully committed to its religious teachings. I think a big draw was the fact that the church preached a message of hope, believing as it did that the second coming of Jesus Christ would happen very soon. In order to be ready for this event, all Mormons were expected to make an active, personal contribution to the work of the church right from the word go. People therefore found themselves living in a hopeful and purposeful environment, where they felt valued. I feel sure that anyone coming new into this situation is likely to experience greater levels of happiness than before.

### **Some personal stories**

As so often with family history, I have unearthed only the bare bones of Allen's and David's stories; I don't know their real views on

Mormonism and its doctrines. However, a search in the Leigh Chronicle and Weekly District Advertiser has given me access to some contemporary personal testimonies. There's a piece about John Boardman **Maxwell**, a Wigan man who came home after several years in Salt Lake City because he was "*thoroughly disgusted with the practices of the Mormon high priests and their infatuated dupes*" (10 September 1859). However, Leigh emigrant Richard **Booth**, former bookkeeper from Bedford Coal Wharf, Marsland Green, rated the Mormons very highly saying "*for honesty, honour and integrity, give me the people in these Valleys*" (23 October 1858). Coal miner Oliver **Sutch** from Wigan was less happy. He observed some differences between England and America such as living in a more extreme climate, having to make his home in a small timber house or even in a tent, and finding it was normal for people to carry guns. Mr Sutch would love to be home again: "*life is so very different here*" (26 May 1905).

Finally we come to Richard **Bridge**, who wrote a number of letters to the newspaper defending the doctrines of Mormonism and describing his life in Salt Lake City. He expressed the view that "*it is the best country in the world for the working class*" and "*we can make a better living here, and do live better than in England*" (27 June 1884). Richard Bridge travelled from Lancashire to Utah in 1882 as a 20 year old, joining his parents and siblings there. Eventually he was able to buy land and build his own house in Salt Lake City. He obviously still wanted contact with the people and places he had grown up with, but he didn't miss "*the coal pits and factories of Chowbent*" (11 March 1887), and was clearly very happy with his life in Utah. For me the most powerful observation he made was when he reported his surprise on seeing his youngest brother John after they'd been apart for two years. John had been in Salt Lake City during that time and to his brother's astonishment had changed from a small sickly-looking lad into a boy full of health and vitality. It was a similar story with Richard's youngest sister Martha. I think this change in health is what settling in Utah could bring for many people. I hope that after the hardships of the journey to Salt Lake City and any early problems they faced, both my relatives Allen and David did come to feel this same level of satisfaction and contentment.

Jane Mason (8231)

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history.churchofjesuschrist.org (for Church History Biographical Database, which gives some personal details of Pioneers travelling between 1847 and 1868, including some photographs and particulars of their journey; also takes you to Family Search records)

saintsbysea.lib.byu.edu (for information on voyages; also some articles including W A G Armytage, "Liverpool, gateway to Zion", *Pacific Northwest Quarterly*, vol 48, 1957, pages 39-44)

**Liverpool Mercury**  
**Friday, November 21, 1823**  
***Births, Marriages, and Deaths***

**Died**

Friday, of a lingering illness, Mary, wife of Mr. Gilbert **Roskell**, cabinet-maker, in the 41st year of her age, leaving a disconsolate family to deplore their loss.

On Friday last, after a protracted illness, aged 26 years, Margaret **Roberts**, widow of the late Mr. William Roberts, and eldest daughter of Mr. Thomas **Helsby**.

Same day, of a consumption, at his mother's house, Little Woolton, Mr. James **Wainwright**, aged 37 years, late a timber merchant in this town.

Same day, aged 42 years, Mrs. Alice **Bulcock**, Springfield-street.

On Monday morning last, at his house at Everton, in the 56th year of his age, Nicholas **Waterhouse**, of this town, one of the Society of Friends, of which, as well as of society at large, he was a valuable and useful member. As in life he was universally respected, so in death he will be generally lamented.

## Some More Searches Using Search Engines

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I wrote in the September Journal ‘*Retracing my Steps*’ [Vol. 44, No. 3, pages 180-182] about never giving up the search for details of your ancestors. I have now keyed in the surname ‘McClellan, clockmaker, Deptford’ into the Google search engine. One result was from a PDF entitled “*Big Ben: The Great Clock and the bells at the Palace of Westminster*” by Chris McKay. It is a long article giving the history and details of tours at the Houses of Parliament. The paragraph mentioning my husband’s 2 x great grandfather is as follows:

*‘More Clockmakers Early in 1848, two further applications were received by the Commissioners from turret clockmakers requesting to be allowed to tender for the Great Clock. One was from an unknown clockmaker, Samuel McClellan of Greenwich, the other was James Manan of Cork in Ireland. Both requests were refused.’*

There is no reason given for the refusal but I did think it was quite an ambitious step to take from a watchmaker in Deptford. I do think that if he had been successful, I would have felt very proud watching the clock while waiting to enter the Great Hall to attend Her Majesty’s Laying in State. (My daughter and I walked for six hours, by the way, so were not too long compared to others.)

Another day I tried the website British Newspaper Archives and again keyed in McClellan, Deptford. Several entries are shown and I managed to retrieve this one:

*To the Editor of the ‘Kentish Mercury’*

*Sir – A very important local matter appears to me to be wholly lost sight of, viz., the affair of the Lewisham Grammar School – Colfe’s Charity. In April last, I was told that proceedings had been successfully taken against the Leathersellers’ Company in reference to this school (which, with its ample funds, ought to be one of the best in the country): and that a*

*scheme was expected to be presently agreed to by the master in Chancery, to whom the same had been referred by the then Lord Chancellor.*

*Perhaps, sir, you, or some of your numerous correspondences, could devise some means to hasten so desirable a result – the school being, at the present time, as I am informed, almost broken up.*

*I am, Sir,  
Your obedient servant  
Samuel McClellan  
3 Deptford Bridge, Greenwich, Feb. 3, 1853”*

I then, of course, researched the Leathersellers' Company, who I presume were to make contributions to the upkeep of the School.

Unfortunately, I cannot recall subscribing to the website and I think this may have been obtained as a freebie for registering on the website.

I will have to sit down and concentrate in order to put some more flesh on the bones of my husband's ancestors who seem to have been very involved in their local community.

Glenys McClellan (850)



## Don't forget.....

### Your subscription for 2023 becomes due on 1st January.

Make sure that you don't miss out on the March 2023 edition of the journal by returning your completed renewal form (centre pages) now, before the Christmas season gets into full swing.

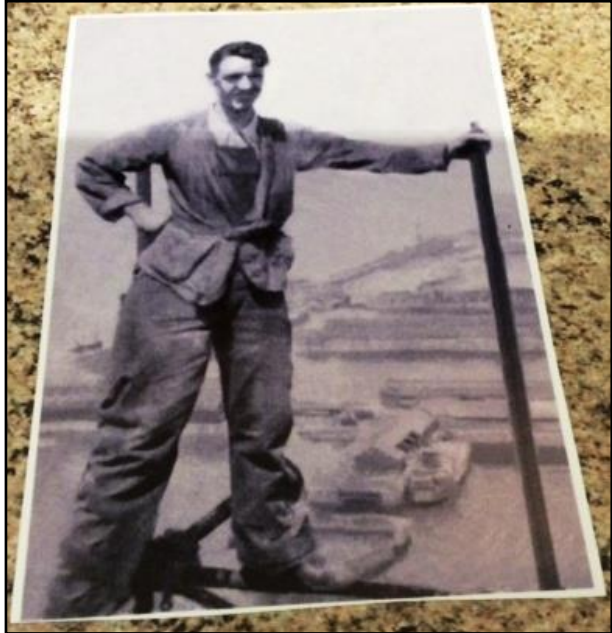
## Interesting Items

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### Clarence Dock Power Station

No doubt, many members will recall Clarence Dock Power Station and it's three chimneys, nicknamed "*The Ugly Sisters*".

My dad, John ( Jack ) Scott was a steeplejack when construction started in 1929 and this is a photo of him on one of the "*three sisters*". Health and safety, clearly was not a priority in those days. We had a very old print of this photograph, which had become creased



and cracked over the years and our daughter was able to get this superb reproduction.

Do any members know the actual height of the chimneys? I have tried to research without success.

Clarence Dock power station was obviously a great asset to our city and has now passed into history. There are so many things that surely would interest our younger members and I would be interested to read in our magazine about any memories they may have about the following:

The Overhead Railway  
New Brighton Tower & Ballroom

Hartley's Village/Jam Works  
Jacob's & Crawford's Biscuit factories  
Dunlop's at Walton & Speke  
Our great tram system

There are many more places where our ancestors would have worked and were great assets to the city of Liverpool and surrounding areas. I will look forward to any memories that our readers can recall.

Kind regards,

Bryan Scott (8616)

*Many thanks for sharing this with us, Bryan. Even with today's careful observation of health and safety practices in the workplace, being a steeplejack requires a head for heights and nerves of steel. I also support your call out for articles, photos and/or memories from members connected to these historic companies/employers. For example, do any members know about the records from any of these companies and where you can access them for research? -Ed.*

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## New Members & Members' Interests

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New and old Members' Interests detailed below consist of the membership number and interest in terms of **SURNAME and INITIAL, LOCATION and DATE**. **A maximum of only ten interests can be published for the sake of space. Anyone needing more than ten interests can see the extra numbers published on our website.** Members reading this section who identify an interest they are looking for, should note the membership number of the contributing member and contact them through the 'Members Only' area of our website: [www.lswlfhs.org.uk](http://www.lswlfhs.org.uk)

We welcome new members, **numbers 9547-9559**, who have joined most recently and wish them every success with their research.

**New Members:** 9547: P. GREEN; 9548: K. MOORE; 9549: I. WATKINSON; 9550: D. IDDON; 9551: J. McINTOSH; 9552: J. BLANCHARD; 9553: J. BREEZE; 9554: C. BYRNE; 9555: P. SEDDON; 9556: N. CHAMBERS; 9557: J. WARD; 9558: S. HART; 9559: G. KNEALE.

### **Members' Interests:**

|                                                               |                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 8202 BALLARD, Henry, LAN<br>1876-1961                         | 8202 FRYER, Luke, LAN/KEN<br>1867-1931           |
| 8202 BALLARD, Henry, LAN<br>1844-1912                         | 8202 KING, Michael, LAN<br>1832-                 |
| 9532 CLEMENTS, Daniel,<br>Derry, (LDY)/LAN<br>Liverpool 1821- | 9549 McGRANE, Mary,<br>LAN/Liverpool 1873-       |
| 9532 CLEMENTS, Hamilton,<br>LAN/Liverpool 1859-1917           | 8202 NEWTON, Henry, LAN<br>1900-1955             |
| 8202 CURLEY, Louis Patrick<br>LAN 1867-                       | 9556 PERRY, William, LAN/<br>Liverpool 1809-1861 |
| 9556 DIAPER, Henry, LAN/<br>Liverpool 1842-1895               | 9549 WILLIAMS, Joseph, LAN/<br>Liverpool 1909-   |

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## Christmas at the Workhouse (Liverpool Daily Post - 25 December 1871)

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As usual at this festive season of the year, the poor at the different Workhouses in Liverpool and its vicinity have been provided with the wherewithal to make Christmas enjoyable.

### **The Liverpool Workhouse**

The inmates of the establishment on Brownlow-hill will sit down to an excellent dinner of roast beef and plum-pudding at noon to-day, when several of the guardians and others who take an interest in the pauper portion of the community will be present. The dining-hall is very prettily decorated, as indeed is almost every portion of the gigantic building, special pains having been taken to make the surgical and infirm wards as attractive as possible. The church has also been decorated with evergreen and holly berries. In the evening the juveniles of the establishment will have buns, oranges, and confectionery distributed amongst them, and the ordinary discipline of the house will be so far relaxed as to allow the youngsters to indulge in a variety of amusements.

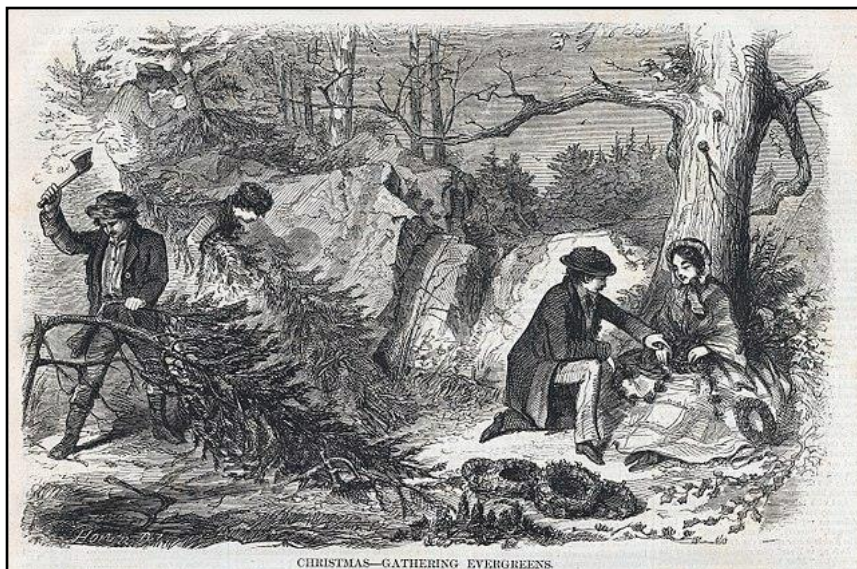
### **Toxteth**

At the Toxteth Workhouse the inmates, to the number of upwards of 400, including children, will be treated to the usual Christmas dinner of roast beef and plum-pudding. The adults will have the additional luxury of half a pint of ale, and the children, in the afternoon, will have a supply of nuts and apples. We believe the children will, sometime this week, have an additional treat of tea, followed by a magic lantern exhibition, provided for them at the expense of a lady who is in the habit of visiting the Workhouse, and who takes a deep interest in the welfare of the inmates.

### **West Derby**

To-day the inmates of the West Derby Workhouse, numbering 960 persons, will receive a good share of Christmas cheer. The breakfast will consist of a plentiful supply of cocoa and bread and butter – a

grateful change from the usual breakfast of gruel; and for dinner there will be roast beef and plum-pudding. Each adult will receive a pint of beer at dinner, and the children will be treated to new milk. Those of the old people who smoke will each receive an ounce of tobacco, and snuff will also be distributed. Oranges and apples will be given to the children. The evening meal for all the inmates will consist of coffee and bunloaf; and to add to the comforts of the day, they will be allowed to amuse themselves in the dining-hall during the afternoon. The dining-hall is most tastefully decorated with evergreens; and in fact no pains are being spared by Mr. and Mrs. **Goode**, the governor and matron, to make the people of the institution happy for at least one day of the year. Miss **Hornby**, daughter of the Vicar of Walton, has generously given to the aged females of the Workhouse presents of tea and sugar, and to the old men a quantity of tobacco. She had not been unmindful of the children, for she has sent for their amusement toys of all descriptions.



**Christmas - Gathering Evergreens**  
Harper's Weekly, Vol. II, 25 December 1858

## Birkenhead Workhouse

The inmates of the Workhouse and schools of the Birkenhead Poor-law Union, at Tranmere (numbering in the former establishment 250, and in the schools about 150) will be regaled to-day with a dinner of good old English fare – roast beef and plum-pudding, which we need not say they will most heartily enjoy. A course of Workhouse diet, liberal though it is at the Birkenhead establishment is not a bad appetiser for an occasion like this. Some of the guardians, members of the Workhouse committee, will be present as usual, and some visitors. No one can visit the house without being struck with the admirable manner in which it is kept by the master and matron (Mr. and Mrs. **Redding**), the several apartments and dormitories, and, in the hospital, the wards are in the highest degree neat and clean, and the inmates apparently well attended to. The same may also be said of the new schools, which are under the care of Mr. Edward **Thornton**, the master. Divine service was performed by the chaplains in each establishment.



Brownlow Hill Workhouse Infirmary

## Christmas Dinners in Workhouses (London Evening Standard - 28 September 1840)

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Since the passing of the New Poor-Law Amendment Act it has been the custom in nearly all the unions and parishes situated within the City of London and the metropolitan boroughs for the board of guardians of the respective unions to give to the inmates of the workhouse, upon Christmas-day, dinners of roast beef or pork, with plum pudding and a pint of porter. The expenses thus incurred have always been paid out of the poor-rates, and which item as far as we have been able to learn, has never been objected to by any ratepayer, whatever might be his political opinion, or however strongly he might advocate retrenchment. This gift to the poor inmates is however to be done away, and Christmas, in future, is to be no festival to them, as will be seen from the following letters; one from the auditor to the guardians of St. George the Martyr, Southwark, and the other a circular emanating from the Poor-law Commissioners at Somerset House:-

14, Upper Stamford-street, Sept. 4, 1840.

Gentlemen, I beg to send you, on the other side, a copy of a letter from the Poor-law Commissioners to their assistant commissioners, which I yesterday received from the commissioners, with directions to act on the instructions therein contained in the future audit of your accounts.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,  
J. CLARKE MEYMOTT, Auditor.  
To the Guardians of St. George the Martyr, Southwark.

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Poor-law Commission Office, Somerset House,  
March 18, 1840.

Expenses of Christmas Dinners in Workhouses.

Sir, The Poor-law Commissioners have perceived that on Christmas

-days, and other recent festive occasions, the guardians of various unions have provided for the inmates of the workhouse dinners which both in quantity and quality of food, in its cost, have greatly exceeded the usual diet of the workhouse inmates, and even of many of the less prosperous portion of the ratepayers.

The commissioners admit that they are very unwilling to interfere with the proceedings, owing to their respect for the motives which have given rise to them.

The commissioners, however, cannot but perceive the injustice of applying the proceeds of a compulsory tax, raised only to relieve destitution, to provide for the inmates of a workhouse luxuries which are beyond the reach of those by whom the tax is paid.

They have, therefore, determined to give positive instructions to their auditor, to disallow in the accounts any expenditure which shall henceforth have been incurred in this extra allowance which shall be furnished on the occasion above alluded to.

The commissioners have only to add, that where the indulgencies above-mentioned are supplied to the inmates of the workhouse at the expense of private individuals, the question assumes altogether a different form, and, if strictly confined to extraordinary occasions, seems not to require the interference of the commissioners.

Signed, by order of the Board,  
EDWIN CHADWICK, Secretary.  
To the Assistant Poor-law Commissioners

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## How a Newspaper Index/Report helped solve my Brick Wall

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I am undertaking a one-name study into the surname Scotchmer with Scotchmoor as one of the many variations. Scotchmer is my partner's surname and that of my children. It is a Suffolk name.

Many years ago (pre-internet - remember those days?) I looked at the Genealogical Research Directory (a printed book of surname interests) for anyone researching Scotchmer etc., and there was a lady in Canada researching Scotchmoor in Liverpool (where I live). I wrote to her and in due course I received a reply from the sister of the lady I wrote to. Their ancestor was **Samuel James Thomas Scotchmoor** (SJTS) who married Mary **Field** in London. The story in their family was that SJTS either fell downstairs and was killed when his daughter by Mary Field was a young child or that he was a bigamist. This was in the early 1840's. That was all they knew about him. I replied to Beth that I would keep her letter on file and let her know if I came across any information to help her. I actually found baptisms in Liverpool for children of SJTS and Mary Field which proved they lived in Liverpool albeit for a short time.

Then the internet came into being and I got my own PC. One of the first searches I did was to see if I could find out anything about SJTS. I came across a digitised index to the Times Newspaper and lo and behold – In September 1849 there was **James Thomas Scotchmoor** (JTS) in the index in relation to a court case at the Old Bailey for Bigamy. I then managed to get hold of the actual report and it turned out that JTS was taken to court by his second & third wives when they found out that he was still married to his first wife who he married in 1828. It appeared from the report in the Times (and later the transcript of the court case at the Old Bailey) that JTS took all the money he could from his (first) three wives and then left them destitute. He tried to claim that they were each having affairs with other men. His first wife's sister (Lydia **Reader**) appeared for the prosecution together with Ann **Cordell** (2nd wife) and Mary Field (3rd wife). JTS was found guilty at the Old Bailey on two counts of Bigamy with a sentence of seven years transportation on each count. I later found out through Colonial Office Records at National Archives Kew that he was

transported to Bermuda but in 1850 received a pardon from the Governor due to losing an eye and being partially sighted, having had an accident '*in the course of Public Service*'. He subsequently married two more ladies including one who died the day after the marriage. The last wife outliving him as he died in 1874.

I was able to let the lady in Canada know everything that I had found and she was very grateful that I had solved their family mystery. She sent the information round to the rest of her family. I received a thank you card signed by everyone in her family.

Susan Atkins (976)

Email: [scotchmer@one-name.org](mailto:scotchmer@one-name.org)

**Liverpool Mercury - *Married***  
**Friday, 27 February 1818**

Lately, in Chester, Mr. James **Thomas** to Miss Mary **Done**, of Cow-lane, in that city.

On Tuesday the 10th instant, at Bolton, Mr. John **Bamber**, timber merchant, to Mary, second daughter of Mr. **Seddon**, of the same place.

On Thursday the 12th inst., at St. James's Church, Piccadilly, Mr. R. S. H. **Potter**, of London, to Mary, eldest daughter of Mr. Charles **Noyes**, of this town..

On Thursday se'nnight, at Walton Church, Mr. Thomas **Roskell**, to Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr. Thomas **Whittle**, of Kirkdale.

On Tuesday the 13th ult., at Philadelphia, Anthony **Slater** Esq., son of the late Thomas Slater Esq., of this town, to Isabella, third daughter of Charles **MacListen**, Esq., of Philadelphia.

On Sunday last, at St. Anne's Church, Mr. Henry **Parkinson**, watch-maker, of this town, to Miss **Webster** of London.

On Wednesday last, Mr. Phineas **Nathan**, merchant, of London, to Miss **Yates**; and, Mr. Joseph **Hess**, silversmith, to Miss Sarah **Yates**, daughters of Mr. Samuel Yates, engraver, Lord-street.

## Thomas Moncas and Pontack's Coffee House on Water Street

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The first references to my Moncas ancestors in Liverpool are those for Thomas Moncas in the year 1756. His son Robert was born there on 5 May of that year and baptised on 16 May at the parish church of St. Nicholas. Three more sons followed - John (1763); Thomas (1765); and Joseph (1767) - and there were probably at least three daughters (Elizabeth, Hannah and another) born or at least baptised elsewhere. Thomas and his wife Hannah were the first of a confusing number of the family bearing these names.

The parish registers show that Thomas was originally involved in selling alcohol, recording him as an 'ale draper' in 1756, then variously as 'inn keeper', 'ale seller' and 'tavern keeper'. The earlier references give Chorley Street as the address but by the last one the family had moved to Water Street.

Thomas is mentioned in the Liverpool Easter Vestry minutes for 1768 as having supplied wine for St. Thomas' church to the value of £8-12s-9d. The same accounts contain entries for the Rector's salary (sic) of £110 and a payment to Mr. Harrison of £4-9s-5d for maintaining vagrants. The total expenses for the year (i.e. the parish and local government 'budget') were £993-4s-1d.

Although Thomas was still selling wine in 1767/68, his main business was running Pontack's Coffee-house on the north side of Water Street (*The Early Coffee Houses of Liverpool*, by A.H. Arkle (21 November 1912)) and he was listed as such in the very first Liverpool directory (Gore's) in 1766. English coffee houses had started to appear during the previous century and the name Pontack's was copied from a famous restaurant and coffee house in London's Lombard Street, later in Abchurch Lane, called 'Pontacks Head'.

These 18th Century coffee houses bore little resemblance to today's Costa Coffee, Café Nero or Starbucks outlets. Pontack's appears regularly in notices in local newspapers of the time, as a venue for auctions, often because of bankruptcy, and for the payment of

dividends related to individual bankruptcy cases. In 1768, a local surgeon, by the name of Girod, had returned to West Derby from London and was advertising his smallpox inoculation service in the Liverpool Chronicle, stating that anyone who wished to employ his services could do so by '*directing a Line to Pontack's Coffee-house*' and would be '*immediately waited on*'. The first meeting of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce was held at Pontack's on 17 June 1774 and its large newsroom meant that it was used as a meeting place by many merchants, businessmen and institutions. The current Chamber of Commerce dates back only to 1850 and it is interesting to think that if the original Chamber had continued, Pontack's (or perhaps eventually Moncas') might have become as famous as Lloyd's of London, which had begun in Edward Lloyd's coffee house at the corner of Lombard Street and Abchurch Lane.

One thing that is increasingly clear is that the Moncas family played a significant part in civic life in Liverpool. The Corporation of Liverpool noted in the ledger for 1775 that cash totalling £7-9s-10d was paid to Thomas Moncas on 18 October for his services in support of the ceremony of 'riding the liberties'. The ceremony was led by the mayor, who took a party of Bailiffs, officers of the Corporation and personal friends on horseback to ride around the limits of the town. The purpose of 'riding the liberties' was to ensure that disputes did not break out over the boundaries of demarcation between the borough and adjoining townships (plotted with boundary stones marked with the initials of the mayor in office at the time and with the year in which he served).

The 'riding the liberties' was quite an event, not just some dreary bureaucratic process. The mayor and his officials would be in full regalia and they would be accompanied by a band of musicians as they rode around the limits of the town on the Monday before Saint Luke's day (18 October). At the end of the ceremony the party would arrive at Low Hill, where a tent was pitched near the coffee house and a cold meal (informal, like a modern buffet) would be served. Typically, this cold collation would include: roast and boiled beef; hams; fowls; tongues; pies, both veal and pigeon; potted and fresh shrimps; and all washed down with a milk punch.

Thomas died on 15 April 1776 and was buried in St. Nicholas' church yard two days later. His will was dated 1 April 1776 and

was only proved two years later, on 15 April 1778. Whilst his age remains unknown at the time of writing, the birthdates of his children and the fact that his wife lived for almost thirty years after his decease suggests that Thomas may have been relatively young when he died. Hannah was the executrix of the will, which shows that Thomas leased Pontack's from Edward, 12th Earl of Derby (Liverpool's chief landowner) and that he was owed money on mortgaged property in Warmfield in Yorkshire. Thomas left his money to Hannah *'towards her support and maintenance and in order to enable her to educate and bring up any such children as I may have living by her at the time of my decease.'*

The properties in Warmfield, Yorkshire, were acquired on 4 August 1764 in a lease and release agreement made with a Wakefield-based inn keeper called Isaac **Popplewell**. The indenture makes interesting reading and seems to cover a reasonable amount of land and property:

'Indentures of lease and release bearing date respectively the Second and Third days of August in the year of our Lord one thousand, seven hundred and sixty-four and made or mentioned to be made between Isaac Popplewell of Wakefield in the County of York, Inn-holder, on the one part and Thomas Moncas of Liverpool in the county of Lancaster, Gentleman, on the other part, of and concerning all that messuage, cottage or dwelling-house, situate, standing and being in Warmfield in the County of York, formerly in the tenure or occupation of Abraham Woodhead but now in the tenure or occupation of William Eastwood or his assigns. And also one seat or sitting for one person in the Body of Kirkthorpe Church in the parish of Warmfield aforesaid to the said messuage, cottage or dwelling-house belonging the seat or pew now or late of Mr. Wilson on the East and a seat or pew of        on the West thereof and which said messuage, cottage or dwelling-house and seat or sitting in Kirkthorpe Church one Joseph Dennison purchased of the said Abraham Woodhead and Sarah his wife and also all that other messuage, dwelling-house or tenement divided into several dwellings and part thereof lately erected with two orchards or gardens to the same belonging, situate, and being at Warmfield aforesaid, in the several tenures or occupations of

John Whales and Richard Leak their assigns or under-tenants together with all and singular the outhouses, edifices, barns, stables buildings, ways, waters, watercourses, paths, passageways, easements, liberties, privileges, commons common of pasture, hereditaments, appurtenances, whatsoever to the said Messuages, Cottages or Dwelling-houses and premises or any part thereof belonging or appertaining to or with the same now or commonly demised, used, occupied or enjoyed or accepted, reputed, had taken or known as part, parcel or member thereof, or of any part thereof, and the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders yearly and other rents, issues and profits thereof and of every part and parcel thereof. Which said indentures are witnessed by John Moxon of Wakefield aforesaid, Gentleman, and Stephen White of the same place, clerk to the said John Moxon as witness my hand and seal, this third day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand, seven hundred and sixty-four. Signed and sealed in the presence of us} Isaac Popplewell, Jn Moxon, Stepn. White, sworn.'

After her husband's death in 1776, Hannah continued to run Pontack's until the mid-1780s. She was certainly listed in Bailey's British Directory for 1784 and is known to have moved to 2 Whitechapel (known as Frogg Lane until circa 1785) upon giving up on Pontack's.

Hannah died in 1807 (the Monthly Magazine or British Register, Volume XXIV Part II for 1807 - lists the death of Mrs Moncas in Liverpool, aged 80) and was buried in St Anne's churchyard, Liverpool on 22 July of that year - her will was not proved until 1809. This long and interesting document shows that she provided much for her maid, Mary Platt - 5 guineas to buy mourning and a twelve months' trial of the house and contents to see if she wished to purchase them and start a boarding house. Her money was divided equally between her unspecified grandchildren. Other than Joseph Denison, the only other one mentioned by name was Hannah the daughter of Elizabeth Dickenson, who was to have her grandmother's '*cloaths and wearing apparel*'.

There is much more work needed on this story. Did the Moncas family come from Yorkshire? I have yet to find any evidence of

where they were before 1756. Was Hannah's grandson Joseph Denison named after the Joseph Dennison mentioned in the indenture covering the property in Warmfield? If so, the marriage that led to young Joseph Denison being named in Hannah's will could be the key to further discovery. One day I hope to get around to it.

Mike Paice (8171)

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## Help Desks

Hit a brick wall with your research? Why not visit one of the Society's help desks?

**Liverpool Group:** The Liverpool group have volunteers who hold a weekly help desk each Tuesday, 1:30pm till 4:00pm, Liverpool Central Library, 3rd Floor, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EW.

**Leigh Group:** Monday 12:00 noon - 2:00pm at Wigan & Leigh Archives & Local Studies, Ground Floor, Leigh Town Hall.

### **Southport Group:**

- Crosby Library - First and Third Friday in month - contact Crosby Library for an appointment;
- Maghull Library - some Thursday mornings - contact Maghull Library for an appointment.

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## News from the Groups

### Leigh & District

**Chairman:** Margery Harrop

**Secretary:** Glenys McClellan

Meetings are held in the Derby Room, Leigh Library at 7:30pm on the third Tuesday of each month.

00 Dec      No meeting.

### 2023

17 Jan      AGM and Rags to Riches: The Life of Madame Ratcliffe  
- Tom McGrath

21 Feb      The Working Class Movement Library  
- Royston Futter

21 Mar      The Old Person's Guide to Nostalgia - Peter Watson.

### Liverpool

**Chairman:** Susan Atkins

**Secretary:** Joyce Culling

The Group meets on the 4th Floor, Central Library, William Brown Street, Liverpool, L3 8EW on the second Tuesday of each month, except July and August. Doors open 5:45pm for 6:00pm start and meetings finish no later than 7:45pm. £1 for refreshments.

00 Dec      No meeting.

### 2023

10 Jan      Group AGM and Members' Evening.

14 Feb      T.B.A.

14 Mar      T.B.A.

### Skelmersdale & Upholland

**Chairman:** Bill Fairclough

**Secretary:** Caroline Fairclough

The Group meets at Upholland Methodist Church, Alma Hill, Upholland, WN8 0NR at 7:00pm for 7:30 pm on the first Tuesday of each month - unless stated otherwise.

06 Dec      Christmas Meal.

### 2023

00 Jan      No meeting.

07 Feb      Photography Tells Stories - Jackie Mafi.

07 Mar      Tales From Merseyside - Andy Johnson.

### Southport

**Chairman:** Hilary Ambrose

**Secretary:** Diane Banahan

Meetings are held in the small hall at Lord Street West United Church, Lord Street West, Southport PR8 2BH on the second Friday of each month (unless stated otherwise). Meetings start at 7:30pm.

09 Dec      Christmas Quizzes and Refreshments.

#### 2023

10 Jan      T.B.A.

14 Feb      T.B.A.

13 Mar      T.B.A.

### Warrington

**Chairman:** Peter Jolliffe

**Secretary:** Keith Thompson

**[New Venue]** The Group meets in The Oaks Centre, Stocks Lane, Penketh, WA5 2UB. Meetings start at 7:00pm (doors open at 6:30pm) on the fourth Monday of each month, except July, August and December.

00 Dec      No meeting.

#### 2023

23 Jan      T.B.A.

27 Feb      T.B.A.

27 Mar      T.B.A.



A MERRY CHRISTMAS

# Officers of the Society

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## General Committee Officers

**President:** Joyce Culling      **Vice Presidents:** David Guiver & Joe Griffiths

## Trustees

|                               |                                                                                                               |
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| <b>Chairman:</b>              | <b>Susan Atkins</b><br>Email: chair@lswlfhs.org.uk                                                            |
| <b>Vice Chairman:</b>         | <b>Glenys McClellan</b><br>Email: vicechair@lswlfhs.org.uk                                                    |
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| <b>Editor:</b>                | <b>Michael Paice F.R.S.A</b><br>27 Mayfield Road, Enfield, Middlesex, EN3 7LS<br>Email: editor@lswlfhs.org.uk |
| <b>Internet Co-ordinator:</b> | <b>Shelagh Boardman</b><br>Email: webmaster@lswlfhs.org.uk                                                    |
| <b>Minutes Secretary:</b>     | <b>John de la Cruz</b><br>Email: minutessec@lswlfhs.org.uk                                                    |

## Other Officers

|                                  |                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Forum Administrator:</b>      | <b>Mary Allan</b><br>Email: forum-admin@lswlfhs.org.uk                                                             |
| <b>Membership Secretary:</b>     | <b>Annette Urwin</b><br>1 Merevale Avenue, Hinckley, Leicestershire, LE10 0PX<br>Email: membership@lswlfhs.org.uk  |
| <b>Strays Co-ordinator:</b>      | <b>Kathy Donaldson</b><br>Email: strays@lswlfhs.org.uk                                                             |
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| <b>Donated Certificates Sec:</b> | <b>Val Benson</b><br>Ailsa Craig, Russet Road, Weaverham, Northwich, CW8 3HY<br>Email: certificates@lswlfhs.org.uk |

**Plus one representative elected by each Group of the Society.**



## Wigan Pier and the Leeds & Liverpool Canal

Construction of the Leeds & Liverpool canal began in 1770, to improve trade links to the west of the country from Leeds. The original proposal missed Wigan, running further north along the Ribble valley and through Preston. A revised proposal led to the canal being routed via Wigan, which it reached in 1781 (making obsolete the Douglas Navigation, of 1742, to Wigan).

Wigan Pier refers to a long-gone wooden landing stage that facilitated the unloading of coal from colliery wagons onto the waiting canal barges. Surviving structures at Wigan Pier include the Wigan Terminus Warehouses and Gibson's Warehouse (a cotton warehouse), both built in 1777.

While the whole area retains much of its industrial heritage, the area and canal at Wigan Pier primarily support leisure and recreational activities but if any of ancestors worked here or on the canal, why not share their stories with the society?

Image © [Dave Green](#) at *Geograph* and licensed for reuse under [CC-BY-SA 2.0](#)



### **Radio City Tower, Liverpool**

This year's Christmas cover image features decorative lighting and the Radio City Tower during Christmas 2007. More commonly known as St. John's Beacon before its refurbishment in 1999, the tower is illuminated from the base with a festive lighting theme each Christmas. This image, however, frames the tower through Christmas lighting in the surrounding streets. Now 53 years old, the tower was Grade II listed in November 2020 - recognising this important local landmark, the design of which is a strong example of architecture influenced by the spirit of the Space Age.

On behalf of all the Officers of the Society, I'd like to wish all our members the very best for the Christmas season, with good health and happiness in the year ahead.

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