

LIVERPOOL FAMILY HISTORIAN



Volume 45 No. 4



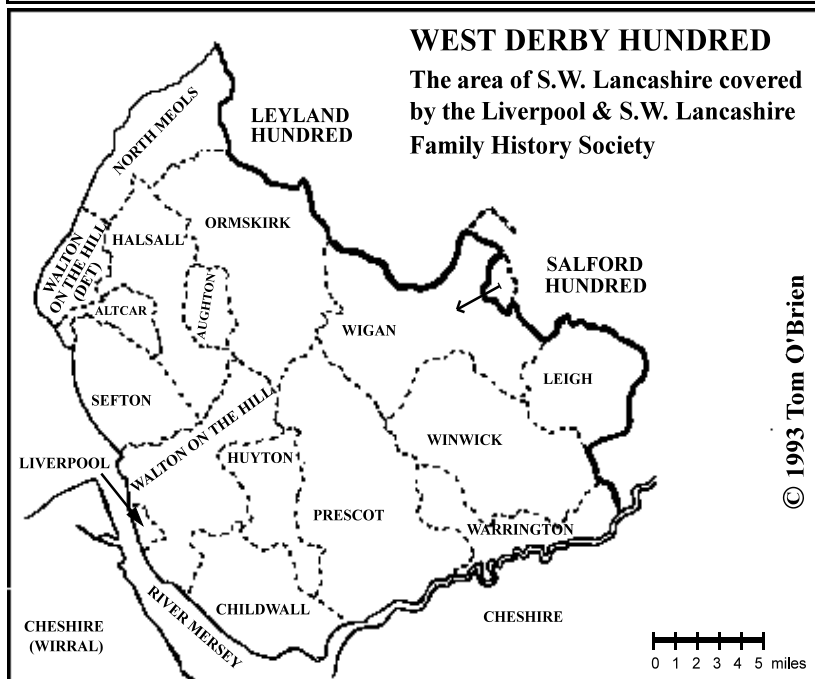
December 2023

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



Front cover: View of Liverpool's Albert Dock, taken on 14 December 2013. The **Royal Albert Dock** opened in 1846 and was the first cast iron, brick and stone structure in Britain with no structural wood and the first non-combustible warehouse system in the world. In 2018, it was granted a royal charter and had the honorific "Royal" added to its name. Image © [William Starkey](#) at *Geograph* and licensed for reuse under [CC-BY-SA 2.0](#)

Liverpool Family Historian

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Editorial

Hello everyone and welcome to the December edition of our journal. This edition has been a combined effort between Mike and myself (more Mike than me as he knows so much more than I do) as he has been showing me the ropes regarding what is involved in putting the journal together for publishing. I just hope I can remember everything and get it right when I fly solo for the next edition!

I have been a member of the Liverpool & SW Lancs FHS for quite a few years and have been digging into my family history for over 25 years now. I have debunked family stories and uncovered family members no-one knew anything about and along the way my daughter, Louise, has joined me in my hunt for new information.

We have journeyed far and wide in our quest to find long lost relatives from Ford Cemetery in Liverpool to Greenacres Cemetery, Oldham to Rathfriland Catholic Church graveyard in Co. Down, Northern Ireland where we hoped we wouldn't get arrested whilst looking for family names on the headstones in the pouring rain!

I have never had an article published before now but I volunteered to write an article about the Commemorative Bench outside the Liverpool Central Library. I have no idea what made me do it but I hope you enjoy the story of the bench if not the circumstances behind it!. I didn't find it as scary as I thought so I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to do the same. The journal needs your stories to share with our members so that we can encourage them to continue with their research and to show them that it is worthwhile continuing to pursue what is truly a worthwhile hobby/vocation/obsession – call it what you will.

We all hit a brick wall at some time – I know I have, indeed Louise and I are facing one right now, so I hope that someone will be able to help Irene Walsh with her request for help in the Southport area.

Please also look at the new information on the Help Desk page if you are thinking of going along to one of the libraries as some of the times and/or days have changed.

I would like to say 'Thank you' to Mike, not only for showing me around Publisher but also for his contribution to the Society for the years he has been the Editor. You have left me big shoes to fill, Mike!

And finally... please don't forget to renew your membership for the year ahead. Subscriptions are due on 1 January 2024 and represent the usual excellent value for money.

I would like to wish you all a very peaceful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Alison Anyon, Editor

News Items

Report from the Conference and AGM

This year's AGM and Annual Conference was held on Saturday 21 October hosted by the Southport Family History Group and they had to overcome not only Storm Babette but RAAC concrete as well. Unfortunately, 4 days before the AGM and conference, building work was started on the roof of the hall which was to be our venue for the event but as the builders progressed the work came to a sudden halt and everyone was banned from using the building. Not only that but the night before the event part of the ceiling in the corridor fell down so we were unable to use the Disabled facilities as well.

However, undaunted, the ladies from Southport, emerged triumphant and we exchanged the Community Hall for the Church itself, with it's own facilities, microphone on the altar and the porch served as our dining area for refreshments and lunch.

As a newcomer to the Committee I was made to feel very welcome and I certainly didn't feel like a stranger for very long.

We had a very interesting day with three speakers on a variety of topics.

Our first speaker was Mr Martyn Griffiths who gave a presentation of *Slides of Southport in Times Past*. For those people who were familiar with Southport it must have been great fun trying to spot familiar landmarks and there were lots of remarks and comments of how the landscape had changed over time. Most of the slides dated back to the 1800's and showed the transport of the time; horse and cart or donkey and cart as apparently, donkeys walk better on sand than horses. The clothing of the day, especially the ladies and in particular upper class ladies was very noticeable. They must have been so hot in the summer with all those underskirts and tight sleeves.

Our second speaker was Hilary Ambrose from the Southport Group and she gave a presentation on a local heroine whose name was on a plaque at the back of the altar in the church that we were presently in. Her name was Janet Lois Griffiths and she had died in WW1.

She was the daughter of a local businessman and Alderman, and by coincidence he came originally from Newport Shropshire, which is where I live now. He was a very ambitious man and he moved to Southport to apprentice under his uncle in his Ironmonger's business. Eventually, when his uncle died, he inherited the business even though the uncle had left a wife and son and they later on opened their own ironmongery business. Very strange.

The father appears to have been a very opinionated as well as upwardly mobile person and he didn't want his daughters to be anything other than decorative or to be married. However, his youngest daughter, Janet born 1877, must have had some of her father's temperament and determination, because she duly enrolled at Liverpool Royal Infirmary where she trained and graduated as a Sick & Maternity Nurse Trained Certificated. She then appears to have returned to the family home at 101 Manchester Street, Southport.

However, sometime after the outbreak of WW1, she enlists in the Queen Alexandria Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserves and undergoes training in Portsmouth before being despatched as a British Army Nursing Sister to Alexandria in Egypt in 1915 by which time she is no longer in the Reserves.

On 23 October 1915, on their way home from duty, she and her fellow nurses were in a waggonette travelling back to their barracks when the waggonette became stuck on a railway line. Seeing the danger, Janet jumped down to help the other nurses to escape but unfortunately, she was struck by the oncoming train and died. She had only been in Alexandria for three months. She was mentioned in despatches and is buried at the Alexandria (Chatby) Military & War Memorial Cemetery Q.537 in Egypt.

This was a very interesting and moving talk but also highlighted the difficulties that women of the day had in making decisions about their own lives.

Following this talk we had the AGM – please see the General Secretary's Report for further details. We then broke for lunch which gave us all an opportunity to move around and meet and greet each other.

We then had a presentation from Mr Tom Preston on 'The 1947 Dr Clements Murder Case' but really it should be murder cases. This was a rather complicated story, but it was very, very interesting as the said Dr Clements appears to have murdered 3 of his 4 wives. Suffice to say, that if you want to read about the story, you will not be disappointed and there will be plenty of articles on the internet. I will leave it there because if I tried to do the story justice, I would need to take up the whole Journal to do so.

A very enjoyable day and I am certainly looking forward to the next one.

Alison Anyon, Editor

Updates

Ancestry Update

There were 14 new datasets added to the UK collection on Ancestry since the last edition of the journal, together with 24 UK datasets that had new content added to them. The new datasets are as follows:

- **Belfast, Antrim, Ireland, Royal Victoria Hospital Register (1914-1916)**
- **Birmingham, England, Birmingham Cemetery and Crematoria Records (1836-2017)**
- **England, Wales, Scotland and Isle of Man, Old Series Maps (1805-1874)**
- **Ireland, Londonderry Corporation Minute Books (1673-1901)**
- **Ireland, Ulster, Dissenters Petitions (1775)**
- **Scotland, Gravestones and Memorials (1521-2020)**
- **Scotland, World War I Rolls of Honour (1914-1918)**
- **Tameside, England, Burials (1844-2017)**
- **UK, RAF Officer Service Records (1918-1919)**
- **UK, Wills of Royal Navy, and Royal Marines Personnel (1786-1882)**
- **UK, World War II Army Casualty Lists (1939-1945)**
- **UK and Allied Countries, World War II Registers of Prisoners of War and Civilians Held in Singapore (1942-1945)**
- **UK and Allied Countries, World War II Liberated Prisoner of War Questionnaires (1945-1946); and,**
- **Web: Ulster, Ireland, Ulster Covenant (1912).**

The updated UK datasets are:

- **Birmingham, England, Church of England, Baptisms (1813-1922)**
- **Birmingham, England, Church of England, Burials (1813-1964)**
- **Birmingham, England, Church of England, Marriages, and Banns (1754-1939)**
- **Carmarthenshire, Wales, Anglican Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (1560-1994)**
- **England, Criminal Lunatic Asylum Registers (1820-1876)**
- **England and Wales, Death Index (1989-2022)**
- **Fife, Scotland, Electoral Registers (1914-1971)**
- **Hampshire, England, Church of England, Baptisms (1813-1921)**

- **Hampshire, England, Church of England, Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (1536-1812)**
- **Hampshire, England, Church of England, Burials (1813-1921)**
- **Hampshire, England, Church of England, Marriages, and Banns (1754-1921)**
- **London, England, Church of England, Births and Baptisms (1813-1923)**
- **London, England, Church of England, Deaths, and Burials (1813-2003)**
- **London, England, Church of England, Marriages, and Banns (1754-1938)**
- **London, England, Selected Poor Law Removal and Settlement Records (1698-1922)**
- **Scotland and Northern Ireland, Death Index (1989-2022)**
- **UK, Absent Voter Lists (1918-1925, 1939)**
- **UK, Postal Service Appointment Books (1737-1969)**
- **UK and Ireland, Newspapers.com Marriage Index (1800s-current)**
- **Worcestershire, England, Church of England, Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (1538-1812)**
- **Worcestershire, England, Church of England, Births and Baptisms (1812-1922)**
- **Worcestershire, England, Church of England, Deaths, and Burials (1813-1997)**
- **Worcestershire, England, Church of England, Marriages, and Banns (1754-1938); and,**
- **Worcestershire, England, Electoral Registers (1837-1974).**

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

- **Aube, France, Censuses (1820-1921)**
- **Aude, France, Birth, Marriage, and Death Registers (1553-1926)**
- **Aude, France, Censuses (1810-1906)**
- **Australia, Army Militia Service Records (1901-1940)**
- **Australia, Coastal Passenger Records (1852-1924)**

- **Australia, Marriage Index (1788-1950)**
- **Calgary, Canada, City of Calgary Burials (1819-2023)**
- **Calvados, France, Births, Marriages, and Deaths (1450-1930)**
- **Deux-Sèvres, France, Censuses (1896-1911)**
- **Dordogne, France, Censuses (1831-1896)**
- **Gard, France, Births, Marriages, and Deaths (1791-1912)**
- **Germany, Lutheran Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (1500-1971)**
- **Ireland, Abstracts of Wills and Marriages (1620-1923)**
- **Ireland, Select Catholic Marriage Registers (1778-1942))**
- **Meath and Kildare, Ireland, Graveyard Collection (1554-2014)**
- **New South Wales, Australia, Immigration Records (1840-1902)**
- **New York, U.S., State Census (1855, 1865, 1875)**
- **New York, New York, U.S., Vital Records (1798-1903)**
- **North Dakota, U.S., Federal Naturalization Records (1868-1924)**
- **Norway, Foreign War Graves (1915-1947)**
- **Oregon, U.S., State Births (1842-1922)**
- **Paris, France, Births, Marriages, and Deaths (1555-1929)**
- **Pennsylvania, U.S., Birth Certificates (1906-1914)**
- **Poland, Central Committee of Jews (USHMM) (1944-1950)**
- **Poland, Jewish Survivors in Poland (USHMM) (1945-1947)**
- **Romania, General Directorate of Passports, Jewish Immigrants to Palestine (USHMM) (1940-1944)**
- **Rostock, Germany Births 1876-1911); Deaths (1876-1981); Marriages (1876-1941)**
- **Rostock, Germany, Cemetery Lists (1831-1959)**
- **Rostock, Germany, Emigration Lists (1855-1900)**
- **Rostock, Germany, Parish Register Transcripts (1580-1945)**
- **United States Federal Census (1950)**
- **U.S., Civil War Pension Index: General Index to Pension Files (1861-1934)**

- U.S., School Yearbooks (1900-2016)
- Utah, U.S., Birth Registers (1892-1944)
- Ukraine, Passport Applications of the Jewish Residents of Stanisławów County (USHMM) (1918-1938)
- Vienne, France, Censuses (1836-1901)
- Virginia, U.S., Birth Registers (1853-1911); and,
- Wanzleben, Germany, External Foreign Workers (1940-1945).

British Newspaper Archive Update

The British Newspaper Archive has digitised content from another 17 new titles over the course of the last quarter, including titles from across the borders in Scotland and Wales. The new titles are as follow: **Commercial Daily List (London)** (1869-70); **East Essex Advertiser and Clacton News** (1889, 1900-05, 1912); **Farnworth Chronicle** (1906-17); **Felixstowe Times** (1925-1936); **Kent Times, Tonbridge and Sevenoaks Examiner** (1858-59, 1861-62); **Llais Y Wlad** (1874, 1876, 1878-84); **Middlesex & Surrey Gazette** (1877-78); **Penzance Gazette** (1839-58); **Protestant Vanguard** (1935-47); **Schoolmaster and Edinburgh Weekly Magazine** (1832-33); **Scottish Cinema** (1919-20); **Skelmersdale Reporter** (1963, 1965-72, 1976-78); **Sutton & Epsom Advertiser** (1908-14, 1916-28); **Walthamstow Express** (1894, 1897-99); **Western Echo** (1899-1903, 1906-15); **Y Dydd** (1877-83, 1886-91); and, **Y Gwladgarwr** (1858-60, 1866, 1875, 1877-78, 1880-82).

The following select titles have had new pages added to them since the September edition of the journal:

Aberdare Leader (1991-96, 1999); **Airdrie & Coatbridge Advertiser** (1990-92); **Ballymena Observer** (1959-84); **Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette** (1771-77, 1779-91, 1793-1800); **Bath Journal** (1772-73, 1775-76, 1779-83, 1786-89, 1791-98, 1800-09, 1813, 1815-16, 1820-21); **Belfast News-Letter** (1952-53, 1957-58, 1962-84, 1986-93); **Birmingham Journal** (1833-34, 1836-38, 1841); **Cambridge Chronicle and Journal** (1770-1812); **Campbeltown Courier** (1876-79, 1893-1950; 1987-88, 1990-94); **Croydon Advertiser and East Surrey Reporter** (1986-92, 1994-99); **Derry Journal** (1886-90, 1925, 1943-49, 1956-90, 1992-94);

Edinburgh Evening News (1945, 1986-91); **Galway Observer** (1903-23, 1925-63); **Gloucester Citizen** (1991, 1994, 1996-98); **Heywood Advertiser** (1986-1990, 1992-94, 1996-99); **Holyhead Mail and Anglesey Herald** (1921-29, 1931-50); **Huddersfield Daily Examiner** (1970, 1972, 1977-79, 1983); **Huddersfield and Holmfirth Examiner** (1864, 1868-69, 1958, 1977); **Irvine Herald** (1976-78); **Kerry Evening Star** (1902-12); **Larne Times** (1900, 1925, 1956-84, 1993); **Leeds Evening Express** (1857-61, 1865-70); **Liverpool Daily Post** (1878, 1921, 1923, 1926-29, 1952-53, 1955-57, 1959-61, 1963, 1965-66, 1968-72, 1974, 1978-89, 1991-92, 1999); **Liverpool Daily Post Welsh Edition** (1957-60); **London Daily Chronicle** (1872-73, 1878-87, 1889, 1922-30); **Lurgan Mail** (1897-1914, 1916-25, 1927-84, 1989, 1993); **Macclesfield Times** (1933, 1943, 1952); **Manchester Evening News** (1962, 1977-79); **Middleton Guardian** (1996-98); **Ormskirk Advertiser** (1858, 1861-62, 1898, 1900, 1909, 1924, 1936); **Portadown News** (1956-82); **Rochdale Observer** (1904-05, 1920, 1932-33, 1951, 1961, 1966, 1972, 1979, 1983, 1986, 1991, 1996-99); **Sheerness Times Guardian** (1975-78, 1980); **Sherborne Mercury** (1744-47, 1749-69, 1772-88, 1790-95, 1798, 1801-26, 1828); **South Bank Express** (1914-40, 1948); **South London Observer** (1889-94); **South Wales Daily Post** (1989, 1991, 1993, 1996, 1998); **Southampton Observer and Hampshire News** (1889-91); **Southport Visiter** (1904-06); **Stalybridge Reporter** (1914-16); **Stornoway Gazette and West Coast Advertiser** (1946-47, 1954-66); **Streatham News** (1909-16, 1931-37); **Suffolk and Essex Free Press** (1949-59, 1961, 1964-65, 1974-75, 1979, 1981); **Surrey Mirror** (1952-53, 1955, 1957); **The Scotsman** (1951-2002); **Torbay Express and South Devon Echo** (1986-89, 1991-92, 1995-96); **Ulster Echo** (1892-96); **Widnes Weekly News and District Reporter** (1881-82, 1893, 1895, 1897-98, 1901-04, 1906-08, 1910-11, 1921, 1932-36, 1938-50, 1952, 1954, 1956-62, 1964-71, 1973-79, 1982); and, **Wokingham Times** (1977-80).

FamilySearch Update

There were no new UK datasets added to the FamilySearch collection since the last edition of *Liverpool Family Historian* and only two UK datasets had new records added to them. There were many :

additions to the FamilySearch overseas records collections, however, and many of those were potentially useful U.S. records. The following UK datasets had new content added to them:

- **England, Middlesex Parish Registers** (1539-1988); and,
- **Wales, Glamorganshire Parish Registers** (1538-1912).

The following select overseas datasets are either new or had new content added to them over the course of the last month:

- **Australia, Victoria, Wills, Probate and Administration Files** (1841-1926)
- **France, Calvados, Census** (1876, 1891)
- **France, Haute-Garonne, Census** (1896)
- **France, Manche, Parish, and Civil Registration** (1546-1912)
- **France, Pas-de-Calais, Parish, and Civil Registration** (1553-1902)
- **Germany, North Rhine-Westphalia, Wuppertal, Civil Registration** (1810-1930)
- **Gibraltar, Church Records** (1697-1991)
- **Gibraltar, Civil Records** (1777-1990)
- **Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers** (1740-1900)
- **South Africa, Dutch Reformed Church Registers (Cape Town Archives)** (1660-1970)
- **South Africa, Western Cape, Deceased Estate Files** (1951-1958)
- **St Lucia, Church Records** (1751-1793)
- **United States, California, County Birth and Death Records** (1800-1994)
- **United States, Connecticut, County Coroner's Records** (1883-1934)
- **United States, Connecticut, Naturalization Records** (1795-1945)
- **United States, Florida, Funeral Home Records** (1887-1971)
- **United States, Indiana Marriages** (1811-2019)
- **United States, Massachusetts, State Vital Records** (1841-1920)

- **United States, Missouri, County Naturalization Records** (1830-1985)
- **United States, Missouri, Naturalization Records** (1843-1991)
- **United States, New York, U.S. District and Circuit Court Naturalization Records** (1824-1991)
- **United States, North Carolina, County Marriages** (1762-1979)
- **United States, Ohio, Stillbirths** (1918-1953)
- **United States, Pennsylvania, Eastern District Petitions for Naturalization** (1795-1931)
- **United States, Pennsylvania, Middle District Court, Naturalizations** (1901-1991)
- **United States, Pennsylvania, Western District, Naturalizations** (1820-1930)
- **United States, Texas, County Birth Records** (1841-1955)
- **United States, Texas, County Marriage Records** (1837-1965)
- **United States, Virginia, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Birth Records** (1853-1896); and,
- **United States, Washington, County Death Registers** (1881-1979).

FindMyPast Update

FindMyPast was busy again over the last three months, adding new records to its offering of parish records including many new records from non-conformist churches. The company also added new details to its **Irish Army Census 1922** transcripts, which now include details like rank, address, attestation dates, marital status, next of kin etc. Two new UK datasets were added also, namely:

- **Ireland, Ulster Covenant 1912** – an index of the names of the 223,543 men and 221,058 women who signed the Ulster Covenant, in opposition to Irish Home Rule. The index links to a scanned image of the signatures, which include the signatories' addresses; and,
- **London, Lambeth Electoral Registers, 1832-1886** – more than 1,398, 800 records available to search as transcripts and images, which include details of name, address, district/ward, and qualification to vote.

The following UK datasets had new records added to them:

- **Berkshire, Baptism Records, 1538-1923** – 231,375 new baptism records were added to the dataset, transcriptions only, with the records including names, baptism dates, parents' names, residence etc.
- **Derbyshire Parish Records, 1510-2004** – over 231,000 new baptism, 108,015 burial, and 114,294 marriage records have been added to this dataset, taken from parishes across the county
- **Devon Parish Records, 1923** – more than 2,100 new baptism, 380 burial, and 2,609 marriage and banns records have been added to this dataset, all from the year 1923 and from parishes that include Lydford, Cornwood, and Eggbuckland
- **Dorset Parish Records, 1470-1993** – 38,800+ new baptism, 29,700 burial, and 52,600 marriage records have been added to this dataset from parishes across Dorset. The baptism records span 1568-1930, burials 1559-1993 and marriages 1470-1974
- **Gloucestershire, Baptism Records, 1518-1976** – 10,974 new baptism records were added to the dataset, which includes transcriptions and original record scanned images
- **Gloucestershire, Burial Records, 1518-1985** – more than 9,400 new burial records were added to the dataset, which includes the period of the Great Plague spreading from London in the 1660s
- **Gloucestershire, Marriage Records, 1518-1982** – over 82,000 new marriage records were added to the dataset and include the usual details of bride and groom's names, birthdates, occupations, names of witnesses and (sometimes) other notes
- **Greater London Burial Index, 1558-1901** – nearly 397,000 new records were added to the dataset and include the usual details of full name, age at death, birth and death year, burial date etc.
- **Herefordshire Parish Records, 1433-1959** – 231,270 new baptism, 300,517 burial, and 86,782 records from the parish churches across the county
- **Index to Death Duty Registers, 1796-1903** – over 1.1 million new or improved records were added to this dataset, with details including names, date of death and address number of parishes across the county

- **Leicestershire Parish Records, 1923-1998** – over 2,400 banns, 5,240 baptism, 169 burial and 1,546 marriage records from various churches across the county have been added to the collection. Baptisms are from 1923, marriages and banns from 1938, and the burial records are from 1998
- **Manchester Electoral Registers, 1820-1940** – more than 25 million new records were added via this new collection, with details including name, home address, township and ward
- **Norfolk Parish Records, 1923-1998** – 3,853 new baptism, 239 burial, and more than 9,700 marriage and banns records have been added to the collection. Baptisms are from 1923, marriages and banns from 1939, and the burial records are from 1998
- **Norfolk Memorials** – 30,149 new records were added to this dataset, with details including photographs of memorials, first name, last name, year of death and cemetery/churchyard
- **Oxfordshire, Baptism Records, 1524-1950** – almost 20,200 new transcription-only records were added to the collection, detailing full name, birthdate, baptism date and place, together with both parents' first names
- **Oxfordshire, Burial Records, 1558-1976** – 34,600+ new transcription-only records have been added to this dataset, with the records covering parishes across the county
- **Oxfordshire, Marriage Records, 1538-1936** – over 13,000 new transcription-only records taken from parishes across the county
- **Surrey, Southwark Baptism Records, 1801-1923** – more than 11,300 new records were added to the collection, taken from the records of Baptist, Congregational and Methodist chapel records across the borough
- **Surrey, Southwark Burial Records, 1781-1860** – over 1,900 new records taken from those of the Congregationalist (now United Reformed Church) chapels of York Street, Walworth and the Colliers Rents, Southwark
- **Surrey, Southwark Marriage Records, 1867-1939** – 896 new marriage records were added to the collection, taken from chapel records in Bermondsey, Borough, Camberwell and Peckham, amongst others

- **UK Electoral Registers & Companies House Directors, 2002-2023** – more than 12.2 million records have been added to this collection, with records detailing individuals' names, addresses and any company directorships
- **Wales Parish Records, 1923 and 1938** – over 15,400 new birth and baptism records, together with over 10,200 marriage and banns records have been added to the collection. The records are taken from around Wales, with Glamorganshire and Monmouthshire being the largest contributors. The birth and baptism records are for the year 1923, with the marriage and banns records covering the year 1938; and,
- **1851 England, Wales & Scotland Census** – 4,700+ new records have been added to this dataset, from the Yorkshire hamlet of Yapham.

The following overseas dataset is new to FindMyPast:

- **Ireland, Dublin, Church of Ireland, 1618-1865** – more than 23,900 new baptism, 44,100 burial, and 23,100 marriage records have been added to this dataset, which includes images and transcriptions. The baptism records span 1619-1865, burials 1618-1800 and marriages 1619-1800.

The Genealogist Update

In its newsletter dated 28 October 2023, The Genealogist announced that it had added a new collection of **Quarter Session Registers** to its **Court & Criminal Records dataset**. The records cover the period from 1590 through 1839 and detail the names of the indicted individuals, witnesses, and the Justices of the Peace. Charges include assaults, riots, running unlicensed alehouses, bastardy, not going to church on Sunday and witchcraft.

The previous month, on 30 September, The Genealogist announced that it had completed its **1910 Land Tax** records for the counties of Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. These records form part of the company's Lloyd George Domesday Survey records, which are fully searchable and can be viewed through its Map Explorer programme to see how properties related to their area over time.

On 16 September, the company announced the release of **Irish parish records** detailing more than 510,000 individuals. This new release is for **County Laois** (once known as Queen's County) and the records cover the years from 1556 to 1922. This newsletter also gave advance notice that **The Family History Show** returns next year with an extra date (16 March 2024) for a **Midlands** edition, which will be held in Severn Hall, Three Counties Showground, in Worcestershire (I will aim to bring you more details of the event, nearer the time).

In its newsletter dated 26 August, The Genealogist announced the release of new records, with details of judges, barristers and other legal officials included in **Lawyers Lists** between **1780 and 1911**. Included as part of the company's **Occupational Record** datasets, details available from the Lawyers Lists include addresses, biographical notes, educational background, and qualifications gained.

Earlier in that month (on 11 August) the company announced the release of **Lloyd George Domesday Survey** records covering the county of **Oxfordshire**. The release includes every head of household and property owner in the county between **1910 and 1915**. The records are taken from (IR 58) **Field Books** and the accompanying (IR 121 and IR135) **Ordnance Survey maps**.

Upcoming Events around the Country

Visits

The Society of Genealogists (SoG) have arranged a 1 hour visit to **the Parliamentary Archives** in London on **Thursday 7 December 2023**. It is aimed at people who are interested in archives. You must be physically fit as there are lots of stairs and you must have photo ID, or you will be refused entry.

Prices are £10 for non-members and £8 for members of SOG. More details can be found at www.sog.org.uk/events

Upcoming Fairs

27 January 2024 East Surrey FHS is holding a virtual online Fair.

20 April 2024 East Anglian Group of FHS and the Family History Federation is holding a **Really Useful Family History Show – Live!** At the Burgess Hall, Westwood Road, St Ives, Cambridgeshire, PE27 6WU. There will be lots of friendly Family History Societies and knowledgeable speakers and more. More details to follow shortly.

20 April 2024 the Register of Qualified Genealogists (RQG) will be holding a conference on ‘Sharing memories: Uncovering your Family History Through Storytelling’. The conference will be held at the Royal Armouries Museum, Armouries Drive, Leeds, LS10 1LT. Tickets can be bought online.

The Family History Show Online 2024

The next online show will be on **Saturday 10 February 2024** from 10am – 4pm. It will include experts Nick Barratt, Historian, Author, and Professional Genealogist; Donna Rutherford, DNA expert; Keith Gregson, Professional Researcher and Social Historian and Stephen Gill, Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society. You can book a one-to-one session with one of the experts and they cover subjects such as Military, DNA, House Histories, Social History, Brick Walls, and General Research.

For the Online event, you can submit your questions to the experts in advance and book a video chat session with them at a time suitable for you. You will then be able to discuss your question with the expert during your selected time slot. There will be talks but they are not yet available at the time of going to print.

There are many exhibitors listed as attending but they are too numerous to mention but they include a vast array of Family

History Societies from the UK, Ireland and Europe and as stated in last year's Journal participants will be able to talk to some of the stallholders by text, audio or video from the comfort of your 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.

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/>

The Family History Show Live 2024 Saturday 16 March 2024 10am – 4pm

However, I have saved the best for last! The return of **The Family History Show Live** in the Midlands.

This event returns on **Saturday 16 March 2024** at the Three Counties Showground, Malvern and is one of the largest family history shows in England. Exhibitors, archives, and companies as well as Family History Societies attend from all over England and Ireland and there is lots of local family history too.

The show is sponsored by **The Genealogist** and is partnered by **S & N Genealogy Supplies**. Exhibitors this year include: Arrow File, Census Detective, Devon FHS, Dorset FHS, FACHRS, FHS, FHS Online, GenFair, Herefordshire FHS, Midland Ancestors, Nathan Dylan Goodwin (Author), Nuneaton & North Warwickshire FHS, Oxfordshire FHS Quality Maps & More, This way Book & Cassini Historical Maps.

There is free parking, all-day refreshments and it is wheelchair friendly.

Early bird tickets cost £8 each if bought online or 2 for £12. On the day tickets will cost £12 and you will get a goody bag worth £10 on entrance to the show.

The National Archives

Secrets of The National Archives is a new monthly series showcasing some of the most notable documents and tales from their collections. Each month, delve into the fascinating stories behind the documents and learn straight from the experts. From iconic documents such as Magna Carta and Domesday, to hidden gems, discover The National Archives' unique and rich collection and explore history as it really happened. The next four talks are on:

2023

- **Friday 24 November at 2pm**
Tea & Sovereignty: British Response to the Boston Tea Party
- **Wednesday 29 November at 7pm**
From May to Etta
- **Wednesday 29 November at 7.30pm**
The Life and Lies of Charles Dickens
- **Wednesday 6 December at 7.30pm**
From Peace to pigs in blankets; the British Christmas from 1945 Onwards

2024

- **Friday 12 January 2024 at 2pm**
Censuses
- **Friday 16 February 2024 at 2pm**
The First Cabinet Ministers
- **Friday 15 March 2024 at 2pm**
The Index of Suffragettes Arrested
- **Friday 16 February 2024 at 2pm**
The First Cabinet Ministers
- **Friday 15 March 2024 at 2pm**
The Index of Suffragettes Arrested

If you miss an event or can't watch an event live then all events are viewable for 48 hours after the published date and time, which means that attendees who registered but were unable view the live event can catch up at their leisure.

You can also replay most of the talks on the Archives Media Player, where the playlists will help you find talks of interest. Please be aware that it can take up to three months for past events to appear on the media player.

Liverpool Mercury
Deaths
Tuesday, August 24, 1875

BOARDMAN—Aug. 18, at his residence, Omega Villa, Southport, in his 77th year, Joseph Boardman, Esq., late of Clayton, near Manchester.

FERGUSON—Aug. 21, at 22, Radcliffe-street, Everton, in her 4th year, Mary A. E. (Minnie), daughter of Mr. Edward Ferguson.

FOX—Aug. 23, at 8 Hunt-street, Breck-road, in his 33rd year, Mr. William Fox.

HILL—Aug. 22, at 51 Cranmer-street, aged 11 months, Arthur, son of John Leighton Hill.

PRIEST—Aug. 22, at the residence of her son, Mr. Henry P. Priest, Bebington, aged 76, Sarah, relict of Mr. William Priest, of Liverpool.

ROBERTS—Aug. 19, at 8, Duke's-terrace, Duke-street, aged 38, John Roberts.

SMITH—Aug. 21, at 52, Tennyson-street, Toxteth-park, Ethel Emily, infant daughter of William Smith.

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ZOOM Calendar

13 December 2023 - Christmas Quiz and Members Questions

8 January 2024 - The Mourning Brooch - Part 2 by Dianne Page

14 February 2024 - The lives of Families who Operated Cargo Carrying Narrow Boats on the British canals in the 20th Century by Cath Turpin

13 March 2024 - Wrecks off the Southport Coast by Martyn Griffiths

A request from our ZOOM Administrator

Has anybody completed a piece of research they would like to share with others? We are looking to fill our 2024 Zoom Calendar and would love to hear from you.

Typically, you may have photographs to illustrate your talk and these can be arranged into a PowerPoint file. Help can be given with this.

Drop me a note at zoom-admin@lswlfhs.org.uk and we can take it from there.

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

Chair's Report

AGM & Conference – 21 October 2023

Southport

First, a tribute to a longstanding Trustee and Committee member Joe Griffiths who sadly passed away this year. Joe had volunteered for the job of Publications Officer many years ago and represented the Society at Family History Fairs numerous times as well as dispatching books and other publications requested by members and non-members. He will be sadly missed. A minute's silence was held in his memory.

The Society would not function without the volunteers who give up their free time to keep the Society running behind the scenes. My grateful thanks to each and every one of them as they make my job easier.

Over the last year the Liverpool Group has gone back to physical meetings plus Warrington and Widnes are back up and running. Again, my thanks to all the volunteers who keep the various groups functioning by holding meetings and running the Help Desks.

The Society has been represented at Fairs at both Port Sunlight and Manchester plus attended two events at Old Christ Church, Waterloo. Again, my thanks to everyone who helped on those occasions.

Another successful year.

Susan A Atkins
Chair
Liverpool & SW Lancashire FHS

General Secretary's Report to the A.G.M. 21 October 2023

Since our last AGM all the restrictions and difficulties that were the legacy of Covid are now well behind us, with all our Groups and Help Desks back to operating normally.

The one legacy of Covid, of course, that has proven to be of significant benefit is our programme of Zoom talks. Twelve months ago, I remarked that they had become a staple part of our activities – now I would be tempted to say they are indispensable, giving, as they do, another avenue for all our members to be involved in the Society. Topics over the last twelve months have been as diverse and as interesting as the previous year with subjects such as ‘Churchyards and Gravestones’, ‘Irish Family History’ and ‘Researching Army Ancestors’ all proving to be both entertaining and of inestimable help.

Also, at last year's AGM I highlighted the need for someone to step up and take on the position of Journal Editor, as our then editor, Michael Paice, was retiring. This was soon followed by a need for another volunteer to take on another role as Webmaster, as Shelagh Boardman had also indicated her desire to step down.

Our first attempts to fill these roles were largely unsuccessful. However, a direct appeal to our wider membership earlier this year generated a much more positive response, such that we have been able to fill these vacancies at least twice over.

Your new Journal Editor is Alison Anyon, and your new Webmaster is Brian Whitehead. So, thank you to both for volunteering and to all those of our membership who also came forward and showed their willingness to be considered for these and future vacancies.

May I also take the opportunity to thank both Mike Paice and Shelagh Boardman for their hard work and contribution to the Society's operation and success over the years they have held these posts.

Today's vote on the election of Officers to the General Committee will confirm these new appointments. A further amendment to the make-up of the Committee is that the previous position of Forum Administrator has been split into two separate job titles – Zoom Administrator and Media Administrator – to reflect the changing nature of that responsibility.

These changes to the composition of the Committee will necessitate an amendment to the Constitution of the Society, which in turn will need to be reported to the Charity Commission. Hence the second vote on the agenda for today.

Looking at our membership now, we currently have 980 members, an increase from 962 at the end of 2022 but slightly less than this time last year. Inevitably, we will lose members but at the same time we are experiencing a steady influx of new applicants. Also holding its own is the number of overseas members, currently standing at 78, mainly from the USA and Australia but spread over thirteen countries.

As I have already noted, all the individual groups are back to normal operation. Both Widnes and Warrington have acquired new premises and renewed their programmes with Warrington also establishing a Help Desk at Warrington Library and attracting new members following a publicity drive.

Southport has likewise restarted its face-to-face gatherings and its Help Desk.

The Skelmersdale group has continued its programme of monthly presentations attracting a variety of speakers and covering a variety of topics.

Finally, the Leigh Group has also continued to host a wide variety of speakers, with attendances of between 20 to 40. Volunteers are continuing to research enquiries sent to the Group's Help Desk as well as helping others who are attending in person.

At Liverpool, the resumption of normal monthly meetings has been affected only by a change in meeting times, a constraint imposed by

the library, whilst around twenty or so regular attendees have enjoyed the programme of talks arranged by Kathy Donaldson. The group has also expanded its Help Desk with the addition of four new volunteers.

On balance then, the Society is in a reasonably robust position with the changes and challenges of the last year having been for the most part dealt with successfully. That is not, of course, a call for complacency. Rather, we should be looking to build on what we have. This could be by looking at ways to increase our membership, by getting actively involved in the Groups wherever and whenever you can, maybe by helping our new editor and contributing to the Journal.

Whatever, may I close by reminding you all that this is your Society and its future and good health rests with you.

Barry Peacock

General Secretary, Liverpool & South West Lancashire FHS

Liverpool Mercury
Married
Tuesday, May 11, 1847

On Saturday, the 10th ult., at St. Peter's Church, Mr. Charles **Jones**, of her Majesty's Customs, at this port, to Eleanor, eldest daughter of Mr. Thomas **Owens**, Groesffordd, Llansaintffraid, Glan Conway, Wales.

On Wednesday, the 28th ult., at the Catholic Chapel, Copperas-hill, Mr. James **Danson**, licensed victualler, Mulberry-street, to Mrs. Elizabeth **Conelly**, late of Clare-street, Islington.

On Monday, the 3rd instant, at St. Luke's Church, Mr. Abram **Ascroft**, youngest son of the late Mr. Edward Ascroft, solicitor, to Alice, only daughter of John **Hasam**, Esq.

On Wednesday last, at St. Luke's Church, by the Rev. B. A. Marshall, A.B., Mr. H. C. **Langton**, jun., of Hope-street, to Mary Anne, only daughter of Mr. G. H. **Howell**.

Investigation at Lydiate Hall

The hall land lies a mile north of Maghull and just off the road to Southport. The house had been in the Ireland family for generations, having been built before 1485. Its Tudor styled oaken timber frame sits on a base of red sandstone. The house over the years had experienced several refurbishments, but still retained its original character. The latest being a new roof in 1865 for the comfort of the resident priest. The hall sat sleepily inside a wooded area, looking like a smaller version of Speke Hall.

The following are three police reports from 1901 regarding damage to or theft from Lydiate Hall.

A gentleman, most likely an agent for Charles Weld Blundell Esq. of Ince Blundell Hall, in who's care Lydiate Hall was entrusted, reported to the police station at Ormskirk on the 19th November 1901 that he wished to report objects damaged or missing from Lydiate Hall. Superintendent Jervis decided to investigate and got in touch with Police Sergeant Nicholas Jolly no.647 at Maghull Police Station to meet up with them and the three could interview, at the hall, those who were working or had worked at the hall to gain some information.

The agent's report states that all three met up on 21 November 1901 and Sgt. Jolly informed them that he had *"visited the hall frequently but had never been inside. He said he had never known of anyone visiting or removing anything. He suggested seeing a Mr. Wilcock who had worked on certain repairs to the farm"*. The report explains.: *"We saw Mrs. Tickle (who lived in a wing of the hall as a caretaker), she stated "that no one had been allowed in the hall and she knew nothing of a lock being broken"*.

I then went along to see Father Powell (at the adjacent church, Our Lady's) and when he heard that I had come from Mr. Weld Blundell he said *"that he wanted to have nothing to do with me. He told Mr. Jervis that he had never lived at the hall, that he gave up possession of the key about 12 years ago, that no one had visited the hall by his*

permission and that he had not been in the hall for perhaps 12 years. He recollected the articles mentioned, except the carved bedstead and mentioned another panel supposed to be the head of Thomas Moore. He was not aware that they had disappeared”.

On 23 Nov. we went to see Mr. Kirby and Mr. Speakman. Mr. Kirkby could give me no information beyond the fact that the articles were in the hall when he carried out the restoration 12 years ago. Mr. Speakman told me that the articles were stored in the hall in July 1897. He had no recollection of their nature. William Billington tells me that he remembers all the articles very well except for the carved bedstead. The bosses and fretwork were taken down at the time of the restoration of the hall and placed with the panels against the wall of the upper south room. Some little bits of the fretwork were broken off. They are now in my possession.

There were 8 or 10 pictures and 4 wooden gilded candlesticks stored downstairs beside the heap of paneling. 2 of the candlesticks were taken by Speakman to the Formby yard. They are still there. All the other articles have disappeared. He states that the panels were too large to be removed by one man. Billington states that all these things were still in the hall in July 1897. J. Billington, H. Rimmer, P. Howard, and Tom Dickinson remember seeing the carved paneling and fretwork some years ago but cannot recollect the pictures. All the before mentioned men agree the panels were very large and heavy and that none of the articles were removed by the Estate men except some new doors and frames and pitch pine boards. I have endeavoured to see Roach who worked with Wilcock, but he is at present very ill and unable to see anyone. I have overhauled all the odds and ends at Ince Hall, the workshops and Formby yard but can find no trace of the missing articles.

Report from Police Sergeant Jolly no. 647 of Maghull Police Station. 24th Nov. 1901.

Re Damage at Lydiate Hall. I have seen Thomas Wilcock, son of the late George Wilcock, stonemason of Melling, both of whom were formerly in the employ of Charles Weld Blundell Esq. Thomas Wilcock states that about 7 years ago along with his father and a man named Richard Roach, a bricklayer of Formby, they were doing some repairs at Lydiate Hall and were there about 6 months.

During the whole of that time the back door of the old hall was unlocked and all of them frequently went inside. There were several oil paintings and a large quantity of old carved oak inside the hall, but he does not remember seeing any carved angels. He also states that he frequently made a fire in one of the downstairs rooms in which they had their meals, and he broke up several dozen pieces of old carved oak and burned it thinking it was of little value and took several pieces home, all of which he has since burned.

The agent made a further report after going to Lydiate on the 29 Nov. 1901. *"I took Sergeant Jolly along to see John Moorcroft at the Scotch Piper Inn. We asked Moorcroft if he had known or heard of anybody having removed carvings or pictures from Lydiate Hall. He stated that the only removal of which he had heard was when Father Johnson left the hall. He had heard (but did not know personally if it was true) that a lot of pictures and carvings had been taken across and stored in an empty room at the Presbytery"*.

Jolly and I then went along and saw a man named Sanders, gardener, and coachman to Father Powell and during his latter years to Father Johnson.

He stated that nothing had been removed from the hall except Father Johnson's personal belongings and he was very certain that nothing from the hall was stored in the Presbytery.

Jolly and I then endeavored to see Mr. Tickle, but he was not at home. We went again on 30th Nov. but were disappointed again. He will next be at home on 5th Dec.

As to the small carved bosses (about 6 inches diameter each) of the intersection of the ribs of the covered ceiling in the Great Hall they are all still in position apart from one which is missing.

The remaining ornament beneath the cove has disappeared.

This appears to be the end of the enquiry. These three reports were with other material at the Lancashire Record Office and had no connection. The hall appears to have been abandoned about this time (1901).



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:

Quarterly journal: "Liverpool Family Historian"

Online bookshop and Forum

Members' surname interests

Donated certificates service

Preferential access to our Zoom talks

Annual membership: January to December

For further information contact:

General Secretary, E-mail: secretary@lswlfhs.org.uk

www.lswlfhs.org.uk

LIVERPOOL & SW LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No 512906

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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.

If you fail to renew your membership for a period of three years, your details will be removed from our database. If you Gift Aid subscriptions, the records will be retained for six years after the last donation to comply with HMRC requirements.

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The current rates of subscription are:

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

Renewal Subscriptions are due on 1 January each year

Renewing members wishing to pay by Standing Order can request a form before 1 December from the Membership Secretary
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Please note we cannot accept foreign currency.

MEMBERS' INTERESTS - INFORMATION

Members may publish up to ten family names that they are researching on our website, 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.

I went along to the hall in the 1970's. The hall had disappeared except for the foundations, a gable end wall, a portion of the roof, a chimney stack and two fireplaces. The site was completely overgrown, with trees growing throughout the site.

What had once been a grand Tudor house had now returned to its woodland origin.

Don Higham (140)

Picture of Lydiate Hall 1894



My Great Uncle Bob and the Gentleman Who Ordered Him to be Killed

Great Uncle Bob, my grandmother's younger brother, was born 12 January 1915 in Bootle, Lancashire, now Merseyside. He was the sixth child of 14 and the second eldest of 7 boys, born to Samuel Robert Burton (1883-1939) and Sarah Emily, nee Hughes (1889-1953).

In 1937, just after his 21st birthday, he married Annie Mary Cowman. They had one son, John Henry, born 9th August 1939. At the outbreak of World War 2 Bob joined the Royal Artillery and was assigned to the Maritime division to begin his life as a gunner on merchant ships in the Atlantic convoys.

In 1941 he was aboard the SS Tregarthen, a steamship belonging to The Hain Steamship Company. Her home port was St Ives, Cornwall but in May/June 1941 she was sailing from Cardiff to Kingston, Jamaica with a cargo of 7,800 tons of coal.

On board were the Captain, Leonard Daniel, 41 crew members and 3 gunners, of which Uncle Bob was one. She had joined another 40 ships in Convoy OB329 which sailed from Liverpool on 31 May 1941 bound for various North American ports.

She had joined another 40 ships in Convoy OB329 which sailed from Liverpool on 31 May 1941 bound for various North American ports. It was escorted by, amongst others, the Royal Naval destroyer HMS Wanderer and the corvette HMS Periwinkle. On 2 June a lone wolf U boat attack was experienced but the German submarine, U147 was sunk off the North coast of Ireland.

The escort group left the convoy, as they left the Western Approaches on 6 June. This was usual as there were insufficient ships to provide port to port cover. The SS Tregarthen had already dispersed from the convoy and had travelled over 500 miles to the Southwest.

At 11.25 pm on the night of 6 June, some 430 miles west of the Dingle, Ireland, she was spotted by U boat U 48. The U boat fired

two torpedoes which hit the Tregarthen in the stern. She sank within three minutes with the loss of all 45 men on board, Uncle Bob, of course, among them.

U48 was commanded by Kapitanleutnant Herbert Schultze.

Herbert Schulze was one of the most famous and successful U-boat captains of WW2, with 26 Allied ships sunk. He had joined the Reichsmarine in April 1930 and had been on submarines since 1937. He became famous for sending the following message on 11 September 1939...

"...cq-cq-cq transmit to Mr Churchill. I have sunk the British steamer Firby. Posit.59.40 North and 13.50 West. Save the crew if you please."

This incident was referred to in an interview of 1939 undertaken by an American journalist. The following extract from the transcript of this makes interesting reading and hints at the humanity of the man.

"At midnight tonight I did a microphone interview with Germany's ace submarine skipper, Captain Herbert Schultze...He was a little afraid of his English, he said, and after listening to a specimen, I was too. In fact, I couldn't understand a word he said, and we had to converse in German. Someone suggested that his English would improve during the afternoon, that he was merely a little rusty. This offered hope, and I cabled New York that the interview was on for tonight. I put my questions to him, and the captain sat down to write out answers in German..."

*...The captain told a story of how he had torpedoed the British ship **Royal Sceptre**, but, at the risk of his own skin, had arranged rescue of those aboard by another British vessel, the **Browning**. Now, a few days before, I remembered, London had reported that the **Royal Sceptre** had been torpedoed without warning and that the crew and passengers, numbering sixty, had presumably perished. I wondered who was right.*

Captain Schultze, as we worked out our interview, also mentioned that he was the U-boat commander who had sent a saucy radio message to Mr. Winston Churchill advising him of the location of a British ship which he had just sunk so that the First Lord might

save the crew. But only a day or two before, Mr. Churchill had told the House of Commons that the German submarine commander who had sent him that message had been captured and was now a prisoner of His Majesty's government.

*I reminded the captain of that and asked him if he could give me the text of his message. His logbook was at Kiel, but we telephoned there and had the message read back to us. That made me feel a little better. Shortly before the broadcast this evening something else happened which made me feel better still. As we were leaving the Admiralty, an officer brought us a Reuter dispatch saying that the **Browning** had just landed at Bahia, Brazil, with the crew and passengers of the **Royal Sceptre** all safe.*

*... To my surprise, as our broadcast got under way, the captain's English did indeed improve, just as predicted. His accent was terrific, but in some way his words poured out very distinctly. You could understand every syllable. Most men of his type, I've found, when put before a microphone, read their lines mechanically. But to my delight he proved to be a natural speaker, talking as though we had never written a line." (Later the British Admiralty confirmed his version of both the **Royal Sceptre** episode and the saucy message to Mr. Churchill, including the fact that Schultze had not been captured). **

After the war he was employed by the Allies as Commander of the Naval College at Murwik. He rejoined the Bundesmarine in 1956 and finally retired after a number of high-ranking training college jobs in 1968. Herbert was something of an Anglophile and spent some of his retirement in England.

Herbert Schultze died on 3 June 1987 in Herefordshire.

RIP Robert Henry Burton (1915-1941) and Herbert Emile Schultze (1909-1987)

Alex De Gier (9632)

Felix MacDonogh - Man-midwife

The article below is of more general historical interest and my reason for presenting it was the discussion regarding the training of midwives following Marie Riley's talk on Liverpool and the Foundation of Modern Nursing on the 16 August 2023. However, there is a link to Liverpool through my Liverpool born mother's side of the family. She was Constance Cregeen, and her mother was born in Everton in 1881, her grandmother Caroline MacDonogh and her family also lived in Everton. When I began to research this part of my family line, I never realised just what I was to discover.

My Great grandmother Caroline Ann Mary Douglas MacDonogh was born in Cheadle, Staffordshire, 15 April 1860 and her father Charles Henry MacDonogh was born in the Cape of Good Hope on the 20 October 1830. Later I was to find out that Caroline's grandfather Henry Maxwell MacDonogh was a captain in the Royal Navy and had been baptised in the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Edinburgh and born on the 25 August 1799. Furthermore, Henry's father was the writer and essayist Captain Felix Bryan MacDonogh.

It was only later that I found out for certain that his father was another Felix MacDonogh who had come from Ireland to London and became a somewhat controversial Physician and Man-midwife. It is he that is the focus of the following article, previously published in *The Historian* (the magazine of The Historical Association) in the spring of 2017 with kind permission from the editor.

The eighteenth-century lying-in hospital and the unmarried mother

The late seventeenth and early eighteenth Centuries saw great developments in scientific learning and enquiry, especially following the founding of the Royal Society in 1660, and with it a more questioning approach to matters, religious and scientific. Ideas were being disseminated more widely through pamphlets and the growing number of newspapers, due to an increased degree of literacy. Alongside these developments came a growing concern

for the poor and needy, resulting in the setting up of voluntary institutions for the care of the sick.

Before this time the only hospitals already in existence in England, were St. Bartholomew's and St. Thomas's which had both been established before 1700. It was also at this time that many specialist hospitals were founded among which the Lying-in hospitals were some of the first, with most of these only treating the 'respectable' married women. There was a notable, if controversial, exception to this; the hospital that came to be known as The General Lying-in Hospital.

One of the reasons for this area of growth was that the knowledge of obstetrics was being widely disseminated at this time with many of the prominent surgeons and apothecaries of the day going to Paris to learn from the techniques practised at the Hôtel Dieu.¹ This was an institution where mothers were invited to be delivered of their babies, and where physicians taught midwifery. Many of these physicians were to become man 'mid-wives'.

The first hospital in Britain and Ireland to treat maternity patients was The Dublin Lying-in-Hospital, later known as the Rotunda. It was established in 1745 under the Mastership of its founder Bartholomew Mosse.² The history of the hospitals established later in London is not so easy to chronicle, especially as many of them were often begun in the physician's own house and moved locations many times. This is certainly true in the case of Felix Macdonogh's establishment which will be looked at in more detail. However we know that the distinguished obstetrician of the day, Sir Richard Manningham (c.1685-1759), set up a ward for lying-in-patients at the parochial infirmary of St. James's, Westminster, in 1739.³ His establishment, later housed in Jermyn Street, and his subsequent involvement in the Lying-in hospital at Duke Street, adds to the later confusion about whether they were one and the same establishment, from which sprung Queen Charlotte's Hospital.

The emergence of the man-midwife at the beginning of the eighteenth century demonstrates how obstetrics was beginning to be professionalised. Before this, midwives (all female) were uneducated and learnt on the job.⁴ However, this did not mean that the man-midwives actually delivered babies themselves, but

rather instructed the mainly female assistants in their hospitals in the art of midwifery and would only intervene in the most difficult of births. With growing medical knowledge about childbirth, many more surgeons and apothecaries sought instruction in midwifery. These qualifications were often acquired by becoming an apprentice, quite possibly the route that the subject of this article took.

Irishman Felix MacDonogh first came to notice in England when he placed an advert in a newspaper in 1752, for a series of lectures on midwifery that he was about to give. According to Sir John Dewhurst,⁵ Felix first appeared before the examiners of the Company of Surgeons in May 1757, and was listed in *The Universal Directory* in 1763 as a ‘Surgeon, Medicine’. So, in 1752 when he posted his advert promising instruction in midwifery, Felix was probably not fully qualified. However, an assertion in a pamphlet of 1768, mentioned below, quotes Felix as ‘Surgeon and midwife to the Lying-in Infirmary in Jermyn Street’ who had ‘first planned and set [it] on foot’. This claim from Felix’s Will of 1786, that he actually founded the Jermyn Street Infirmary, is discussed in some detail by Sir John Dewhurst.

Dewhurst’s article, in *The Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology: Felix MacDonogh, man-midwife, Paragon or charlatan?* (1987), cast doubt about Felix’s claim to be the founder of the hospital that eventually became Queen Charlotte’s. Dewhurst argues that the hospital had been founded by Sir Richard Manningham, and that it was more likely that the seemingly, as yet unqualified MacDonogh was merely one of his assistants. Manningham’s Infirmary, possibly in Jermyn Street, west London, moved several times and at some stage came to be known as the General Lying-in Hospital. Some authorities believe that Manningham’s establishment was closed down sometime between its inception in 1739 and 1752 when Felix MacDonogh posted his advertisements for his Lectures in midwifery, and therefore his hospital would have begun in 1752.⁶

Whatever the truth about the origins of the hospital, MacDonogh’s declared intention to treat ‘unmarried as well as married women’, changed the very nature of The General Lying-in Hospital.⁷ This decision caused much consternation amongst the Guardians of the Parish of St. George’s Hanover Square, not least because of the financial consequences of such a policy, given the support that they

were obliged to provide for the, often abandoned offspring of these mothers. By 1754 this new trend had become enough of a drain on the resources of the Vestry of St. George's that the Churchwardens and the Overseers of the Parish felt impelled to make a plea that the women be removed 'to the place of her last legal settlement'. And in 1765 they brought a case against Felix MacDonogh, first for turning his house into a hospital, and secondly for 'taking in and delivering lewd, idle and disorderly women who. . . 'deserted their children' causing them to be 'chargeable to the parish'.⁸ Lord Chief Justice Mansfield dismissed their case, asking, "is it criminal to deliver a woman when she is with child?"⁹

In the light of this, Dewhurst, whilst maintaining his belief that Manningham founded the Hospital in 1739, does acknowledge the part played by MacDonogh in carrying out this work. He said that MacDonogh may have been 'a "nuisance" to the Vestry of St George's' but, under his care the hospital flourished and remained solvent, and also 'must have provided much needed help for thousands of married and unmarried women'. For as Felix wrote in his will, 'of the said hospital' that 'was carried on and supported by my endeavours . . . and under the grossest Calumny and abuse . . . I have now . . . in a prosperous and flourishing state'.¹⁰ As Felix more than hints at in this statement from his will, the hospital had been subject to even more troubling scrutiny when complaints of neglect and cruelty were made by several witnesses at a Coroner's court held at the 'General Wolfe' in Oxford Street in 1766. It was then decided that the Hospital grounds should be dug up, which resulted in the discovery of several children's skulls and a woman's body. This was seen as an opportunity for the parish authorities to bring a case against the hospital for not using monies provided for decent burials to be carried out; however, owing to a reluctance of any witnesses to come forward the case was never prosecuted.

Soon after this, in 1768, the hospital produced a pamphlet entitled *An Account of the Rise, Progress and State of the General Lying-in Hospital, the Corner of Quebec Street, Oxford Road*. As well as singing its own praises it also set out to show how low their mortality rates had been compared to similar establishments. It was stated that in the 16 years covered by the report, out of the 8,768 women helped only 55 had died – a rate of 1 in 160. Given

the poor circumstances of many of the women, the figures seem unfeasibly low compared to those of Brownlee Lying-in Hospital (which only treated married women) that had a rate of 1 in 46 over 19 years.

Whatever the truth about MacDonogh's claims to be the hospital's founder he appears to be right in claiming that it is now 'in a prosperous and flourishing state', for as Dewhurst tells us; 'after his death, the charity went into a steep decline'. He also concedes that, although mired in controversy, MacDonogh's decision to change the usual admission policies of similar institutions, 'must have provided much needed help to married and unmarried women', and 'kept the hospital going in the face of formidable difficulties.'

Apart from one or two exceptions, there was a general reluctance to admit unmarried women to these establishments until well into the 19th century, mainly in order for them not to be seen encouraging vice. Whether Felix could be called a 'paragon or charlatan', is difficult to judge, but his decision to help unmarried women as well as married marks him out from most of the physicians of the day, despite this being a cause of trouble with the parish authorities. Perhaps wearied by the troubles besetting the hospital and suffering from the ills of old age,¹¹ Felix MacDonogh set off for the Continent, sometime during 1787.¹² He died at the Hôtel de Mirabeau in Paris, the home of his son-in-law, Gabriel Antoine de Becdelievre on the 29 November 1790.¹³

References:

- 1 Maternity Hospitals, by Alistair Gunn, from *The Evolution of Hospitals in Britain* ed. F.N.L. Poynter p78.
- 2 Ibid
- 3 Ibid
- 4 "It appears likely that the matron, her assistant, and her students managed about half of the difficult deliveries at the British Lying-in Hospital themselves." From *Living and dying in Georgian London's* Lisa Forman Cody, *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* No. 2 Summer 2004, 320-321.
- 5 Felix MacDonogh, man-midwife. Paragon or charlatan? By Sir John

- Dewhurst. Inst. Of Obstetricians & Gynaecology Trust.. Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (1987) 8. 99-103.
- 6 Much of the argument about who founded the General Lying-in Hospital hinges on whether Manningham's establishment, begun in 1739, had been closed before Felix posted his advertisement in 1752. J. E. Donnison's article Note on the Foundation of Queen Charlotte's Hospital (from the Journal of Medical History 15 (4) Oct. 1971 pp 398-400), says there is 'contemporary evidence' that proves it ceased to exist by 1749, but frustratingly doesn't say what it is!
 - 7 From a second advert posted by MacDonogh on the 17th February, 1753 in the Daily London Advertiser, (Dewhurst p100).
 - 8 Ibid
 - 9 Ibid
 - 10 Felix MacDonogh's Will of 1786: The National Archives.
 - 11 Letter to MacDonogh from H. Higgins, 19th February, 1788; who says that he "is pleased to hear that your health is much improved". Archives Nationales, Paris.(A.N.)
 - 12 Letter from George Boleyn Whitney, of Newpass House, County Westmeath, Ireland, August 23rd 1887; wishing Felix "bon voyage". A.N.
 - 13 Inventory of 22nd January, 1791. A.N.

Marie Paterson (9256)

The British Lying-in Hospital, Holborn

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_British_Lying-in_Hospital,_Holborn:_the_facade_and_an_al_Wellcome_V0013831.jpg



New Members & Members' Interests

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

We welcome new members, **numbers 9639-9657** who have joined most recently and wish them every success with their research.

New Members: 9639: C. FOTEINOU; 9640: M. WARREN; 9641 I. WALSH; 9642 R. READ; 9643: D. JOHNSTON; 9644: J. DWERRYHOUSE; 9645: K. SHARPLES; 9646: J. WARD; 9647: G. OWENS; 9648: S. WEBSTER; 9649: J. PLATTON; 9650: K. WALSH; 9651: E. DAVIES; 9652: J. PATERSON; 9653: K. BETTS; 9654: J. BERKLEY; 9655: R. JORDAN; 9656: T. WHITE; 9657: A. YODS.

Members' Interests:

9654 BERKLEY, All, LAN/Ormskirk, 1800-
9654 HOUGHTON, Richard, LAN/Scarisbrick, 1800-1900
9654 HUGHES, Annie, LAN/Netherton, 1870-1906
9654 HUGHES, John, Ireland/LAN/Liverpool, 1845-1893
9643 JOHNSTON/E, George, LAN/Liverpool, 1800-1860
9643 JOHNSTON/E, John Charles, LAN/Liverpool, 1830-1870
9654 RASBURN, All, LAN/Ormskirk, 1800-
9587 ROWSON, David, LAN/Liverpool, 1878-1940
9654 STARNTHWAITE, James Overton, 1750-1850
9654 STARNTHWAITE, Maria/Martha, LAN/Ormskirk, 1820-
9643 STEEL/E, Jane, LAN/Liverpool, 1830-1870
9643 STEEL/E, Isaac, LAN/Liverpool, 1800-1860

Fire at Mason Street Home for Fallen Women

By the 1860's the large houses built on the west side of Mason Street at Edge Hill by Joseph Williamson, the tunnel builder and philanthropist, had after his death in 1840, become vacant. Due to their size, they had been difficult to rent for the average family and partly because the more prosperous merchants had since moved out of town. They now became institutes, such as schools and store houses for the military.

One such house was number 52, which became a "Home for Fallen Women". It had been established in 1860 and in 1864 held 50 inmates. A Mrs Wilde was the Matron and a Miss Wallace the Workroom Matron.

The upper stories contained the dormitories for the women which were situated over the downstairs laundry.

On the morning of 9 September 1864 at 4am, one of the inmates, Ellen Johnson, smelt smoke and leaping out of bed she ran downstairs to discover that the furniture and floor of the laundry was in flames. Her prompt action resulted in her waking up all the inmates and running into the street she called two police constables who were patrolling on duty. The officers assisted in getting all the inmates from the building to safety and gathered them together in the large yard at the rear of the building.

The fire raged for two and a half hours but unfortunately due to the strong wind blowing the building was soon completely engulfed in flames. Fire engines arrived, one from Hatton Garden, one from Brownlow Hill and another from Olive Street fire stations and they were soon struggling to prevent the fire from spreading to adjacent properties. The building was soon completely burned out leaving only the walls standing. The women huddled in the large yard at the rear of the building were described by the authorities as "*praiseworthy*", which resulted in no-one having the slightest of injuries, but all were very confused.

Some of the women were evacuated to a school building in Islington and a Major Melly of the 4th Artillery Volunteers supplied

accommodation at the commodious military storehouse at 48 Mason Street. A Mr Brereton, a beerhouse keeper of 55 Mason Street took in the two matrons and a few other women. Messrs J&W Jeffery of Compton House supplied free of cost, beds, and bedding for each of the evacuated. Several gentlemen offered £100 and £50 each and it was anticipated

The general public would offer similar funding. Within 4 days the Liverpool Mercury reported that £1,200 had been raised for the distressed institute and double this would be extended.

Major Melly offered £50 towards the cost of building new premises to re-establish the institution, but on checking the 1871 Census Return although the house had been reinstated it had become another military storeroom. Obviously, the institute had moved on.

Checking the earlier Census Return for 1861 showed that the two previous matrons had moved on by the time of the fire in 1864. There were 42 inmates in 1861. Probably some of these women would have also moved on by 1864, but it is also likely that some 41 months later, many would still have been resident at the time of the fire.

The 1861 Census for 52 Mason Street is transcribed below:

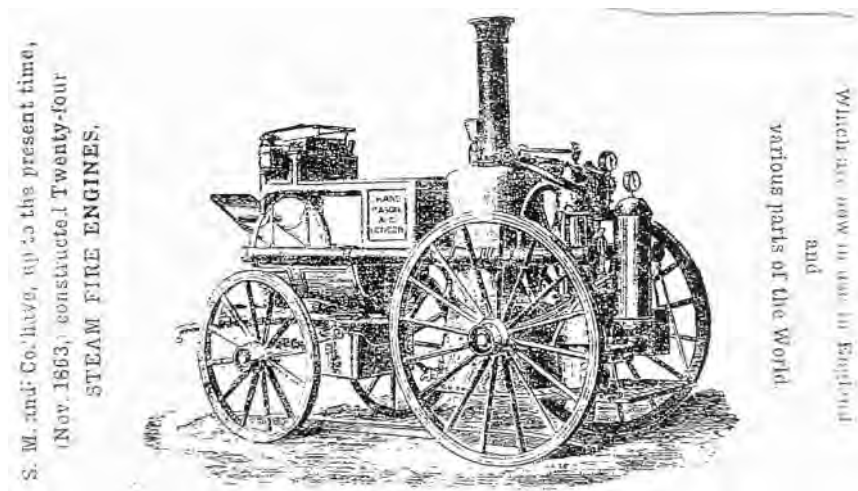
Census Return 1861 52 Mason Street Edge Hill Liverpool

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>POSITION/ OCCUPATION</u>	<u>WHERE BORN</u>
Mary Page	48	Matron	Liverpool
Jane Masie Smith	36	Matron	Liverpool
Maria Stewart	44	Laundry Matron	Ireland
Alicia Martin	30	Probation Matron	Ireland
Elizabeth Love	17	Dressmaker	Liverpool
Margaret Williams	21	Actress	Liverpool
Margaret Foley	24	Dressmaker	Manchester
Ann Jane Scott	21	Servant	
Lydia Jowett	20	Servant	Stratford-u-Avon
Francis Hales	20	Servant	London
Elizabeth Griffiths	17	Servant	Liverpool
Teresa Ragan	28	Servant	Liverpool
Mary Cleasom	30	Servant	Ireland

Mary Ann Green	20	Servant	Whitchurch
Esther MacAvoy	17	Servant	Liverpool
Annie Stewart	24	Servant	Glasgow
Elizabeth Cousins	17	Servant	Dumfries
May Wrath	17	Servant	London
Alice Roberts	20	Servant	Liverpool
Sarah Jane Shuttlefield	17	Servant	Liverpool
Ann Harmen	18	Servant	Liverpool
Elizabeth Leeson	23	Dressmaker	Ireland
Elizabeth Consel	22	Dressmaker	I.O.M.
Margaret McKenzie	28	Servant	Scotland
Sarah Makin	20	Servant	Liverpool
Alice Southern	22	Servant	Warrington
Mary Ellen Welsh	18	Servant	Liverpool
Margaret Hasseller	23	Servant	Liverpool
Eliza Raumdal	15	Servant	London
Ann Jackson	32	Servant	Liverpool
Ann Boyer	29	Servant	Cheshire
Ann Dellenger	19	Servant	Liverpool
Lausden Stavely	19	Servant	Wolverhampton
Elizabeth Heartless	26	Tassel-maker	London
Annie Hughes	24	Servant	Liverpool
Annie Grey	20	Servant	Ireland
Isabella Stacks	16	Servant	Manchester

4 staff and 42 inmates

Don Higham (140)



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Liverpool & S W Lancashire FHS Help Desks

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

Liverpool Group

Liverpool Central Library, Floor 3 every Tuesday 1.00 pm – 3.30 pm
It has been decided to cancel the Liverpool Group Meetings at Liverpool Central Library on 14 November 2023 and 12 December 2023. This is due to the Christmas Market being held in Liverpool which severely affects access on foot to the Library plus there would be no parking nearby either.

The Help Desk is also cancelled with effect from 14th November 2023 for the same reason.

The recommencement of both the Group Meetings and the Help Desk will be Tuesday 9th January 2024.

Southport

- **Crosby Library** 1st and 3rd Fridays 10.00 am – 1.00 pm bookable only
- **Maghull Library** Thursday morning depending on availability – phone to book

Leigh

Leigh Help Desk at Archives: Wigan & Leigh, Town Hall, Leigh
Tuesday to Friday 10.00 am. to 1.00 pm. by appointment.
Contact Search Room at 01942 404430 or alternatively complete the query form by email at archives@wigan.gov.uk

Warrington

Warrington Library, Museum Street
Family History Help Desk here between 10.00 and 12.00 pm
Saturdays—23rd September - 21st October - 25th November

For further details please email: warrington@lswlfhs.org.uk

Website

www.lswlfhs.org.uk

Help forum on the above site

Disclaimer

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Help Requests

Firstly, thank you for allowing me to join and I love receiving your Journals, which are full of interesting articles.

I am dropping you a line, as I have hit a Brick Wall, with one of my family tree searches. Wondering if it could go in the Journal to see if anyone can help.

Through submitting my DNA to Ancestry, I am now matched to a Lloyd family in Southport. I was initially looking for my biological father, who appears to be one of these siblings. George and Florence Lloyd had at least 11 children, I have managed to trace 10 of them, one girl I just cannot find.

I am hoping one of your members may be able to shed some light on her. She is Bertha Lloyd born at home at 12 Broome Road, Birkdale, Southport on 1st April 1926. I have her birth certificate, but nothing else. I just cannot find any further information out about her.

One small thing that is different with her certificate, is that her father registered her birth, when all the other babies born the mother registered them, this made me wonder if the mother on this occasion was not well enough to go and register the birth, if that was the case then maybe she had a difficult birth, and something happened with the baby.

I started to wonder if Bertha was a still birth, but if that was the case, I wouldn't have got a birth certificate, as they only started recording still births a year after Bertha was born.

I have other birth certificates for infants who died at a few months old, so I don't feel that is the problem here.

I have also researched the deaths and burials of all these children, and they are all buried in various graves in Duke Street Cemetery, but again no mention of a Bertha.

My last resort was wondering if she went overseas, but again I can't find any information to help with this. The rest of the family stayed around Southport apart from the eldest girl who moved to live in Essex.

I would love to know if any of your members know this family or can help in any way. I am stuck.

Thank you so much.

Irene Walsh (9641)

**Member Bob Dobson
of Blackpool**

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**Can we help you with
your brick walls?**

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Your Society hosts an online
forum
to help and you would be very
welcome to join in and also make
contact with other friendly
members around the world.

[https://forum.lswlfhs.org.uk/
forum](https://forum.lswlfhs.org.uk/forum)

Mary Allan
Email: forum-admin@lswlfhs.org.uk

The Commemorative Bench and *An Gorta Mor* or The Great Famine

We unexpectedly received a photo from Greg Quiry of the ***An Gorta Mor*** bench which is situated outside the Liverpool Central Library. For those of us that don't speak the language ***An Gorta Mor*** translates as **The Great Famine**.

Greg said in his email that *"The attached photo was taken outside the **Central Library, Liverpool** at the bench placed there by yourselves some 25 years ago to commemorate the Irish Famine. In the photo are members of the group currently working on a new research project on the Famine and its impact on Liverpool, managed by the **Liverpool Irish Festival** and funded by **Heritage Lottery**.*

*In the centre is **Greg Quiry** former chair of the **Liverpool Great Hunger Commemoration Committee**. That bench was such a good idea and has become a city landmark."*



Greg Quiery is a retired education consultant and senior manager in the Liverpool Education service. He is a former head teacher and community development worker, who has served as a manager within the community and voluntary sector. Having been a lecturer, Greg developed a series of Liverpool Irish heritage walks, an Irish heritage trail for the *Museum of Liverpool* and was former Chair of the *Liverpool Great Hunger Commemoration Committee*.

It is now 178 years since *An Gorta Mor – The Great Famine* which lasted for 8 years (1846-1852) in Ireland and led to a million deaths and the emigration of roughly 1.5 million Irish people across the world. Many made their way to Liverpool or passed through the port of Liverpool on their way to other countries such as America and Australia. Many stayed in Liverpool because they were attracted by our Poor Law system and although most stayed in Liverpool, others ventured further into Lancashire, Yorkshire and further on.

Lancashire, and particularly, the port of Liverpool, absorbed the greatest number of Irish emigrants because it was the primary destination for those leaving Ireland. Although migrants often arrived in Liverpool with the aim of continuing their journey to North America or Australia, many only had the resources for the first part of their journey. Others exhausted their fares for passage to America while waiting to depart, became too ill to travel, or fell victim to criminals who preyed upon their inexperience and exhaustion. These people became trapped in Liverpool and the Lancashire region and so stayed and settled in the area.

After analysis of the census returns for 1851, the Irish-born population in Lancashire, which had almost doubled in the previous decade to reach over 191,000, represented 10 per cent of the county's inhabitants. In Liverpool, the Irish-born population, boosted by Famine migration, similarly rose from 17.3 per cent of the total population in 1841 to 22.3 per cent in 1851. In 1871, despite a decrease in Irish emigration, Irish migrants still represented over 15 per cent of the population of Liverpool. Between 1850 and 1913 it is estimated that more than 4.5 million Irish men and women had emigrated.

It has been estimated that at least one-quarter of Liverpool's population was Irish-born by 1851. This would heavily influence the city's identity and culture in future years, earning it the nickname of "Ireland's second capital". Liverpool became the only place outside of Ireland to elect an Irish nationalist to Parliament when it elected T.P. O'Connor in 1885 and continuously re-elected him unopposed until his death in 1929. As of 2020, it has been estimated that three quarters of people from the city have an Irish background.

The L&SWLFHS involvement with the bench

The following paragraphs are excerpts taken from the minute books of the L&SWLFHS during the period 1996-1997-1998

Josie McCann first spoke to **Sheila Powell** about a Society Conference in 1996 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Great Famine in Ireland the following year. The proposed date was 26 April 1997 and would take place at the Bluecoat, Woolton. It would consist of three speakers; **Christine Kenealy** giving a general overview of the famine; **Luke Dodd**, Curator of the Famine Museum in Ireland to talk about the people who left Ireland and came to England; and Professor **Frank Neal** talking about the effects on this side. He was having a book published on the Famine "The Black 47".

The costs worked out as:

Venue:	£180 per day
Speakers:	£35-£50 each
Flight:	£55 possible flight & overnight stay for Mr Dodd)
Catering:	£6 per person

To break even they would need 60 people to attend but they were looking for 120 – 150 people.

By September 1996 **Mr Dodd** had pulled out and was replaced by **Triona Hilden** and she did not want the money that Mr Dodd had requested. Also, Josie and Sheila were getting the programme ready for inclusion in the December Journal.

Notice of the conference was mentioned in the Chairman's report at the AGM on 26th October 1996 (LFH p117, Vol 18, No 4)

*"Next year our society will remember the 150th anniversary of the Irish Famine and the mass immigration of our Irish ancestors into Liverpool in 1847. This will be in the form of a One-day Conference to be held Saturday 26th April 1997 at the Blue Coat School, Wavertree. There will be three speakers - **Emrys Evans**, Department of Celtic Studies, University of Manchester – **Frank Neal**, Professor of Economic and Social History, University of Salford, and **Mihail D. Evans**, University of Oxford. My special thanks to **Mrs Jo McCann** who has been completely involved in organising the programme for the day." (Mrs McCann was secretary of the former Anglo-Irish group of the Society.)*

(As you can see there is a discrepancy in the names of the speakers. Unfortunately, I can only report what is written down from the reports I have been given).

By the time of the event some 120 people had booked to attend the conference. It was **Frank Neal**, one of the speakers, who asked what the profit from the conference would be used for. He was concerned that money should not be made from others suffering and health and suggested that perhaps a memorial could be purchased. After some discussion it was agreed that a decision would be made later when it was known how much profit had been made. The president agreed to refer to this in his closing address.

Meeting on 28 September 1997

A memorial bench (cost £403) was purchased from the surplus from the conference. **Josie McCann** had made enquiries about the cost of an Evenload bench and a brass plaque with an inscription. The inscription to be along the lines of *"Donated by the Liverpool & SW Lancs Family History Society. In remembrance of all displaced persons who lived in or passed through the Port. Given on the 150th anniversary of the Irish Famine"*.

At a Group Committee meeting on 19 April 1998 Josie reported that she was waiting for a date from the LVRO when

the building alterations would be completed and then the bench can be installed.

Around **June 1998**, the bench, bought by the Society with the proceeds from the Commemorative conference for the “Irish Famine” in 1997, was finally placed within the confines of the Central Library, William Brown Street. About four weeks later, the brass plaque was fixed to the back.

Sometime in the near future we hope to officially ‘hand over’ to the library and will present with it some booklets of indices of burials in 1847, transcribed by our members and used by Prof. F. Neil in his book.

General Secretary's Report p87, Liverpool Family Historian Sep 1998 (Volume 20 N0 3)

"An Evenlode bench and brass plaque with an inscription has now been placed outside the Liverpool R.O. where it will be seen by all those who enter the LVRO. The inscription says, "Donated by the Liverpool and S.W. Lancs. Family History Society in memory of all displaced persons who passed through or lived in this Port on the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of the Irish Famine 1847-1997".

My thanks to **Barry Peacock** for hunting down the relevant pages from the minute books from 1996, 1997 and 1998 which were stored in his loft and also to **Greg Quiery** for sending in the photo of the volunteers sitting on the bench and reminding us of the tragedy which continues in the making of the wonderful city of Liverpool.

For anyone who is interested: **Professor Frank Neal's** book *Black '47: Britain and the Famine Irish*, which was published on 10 November 1997, is still available on Amazon ranging in price from £119.29 hardback and £57.94 paperback plus various prices for used copies.

To read more about the **Irish Heritage Trail** go to:

- **Liverpool Irish Festival** at <https://liverpoolirishfestival.com>
There is lots of information with sections on the **Liverpool Irish Famine Trail Map**, Book, online Lecture. They have a news section, events, a shop, an 'about us' section and a 'get involved' page.

More information about the **Irish in Liverpool** can be found at:

- **Echoes of Liverpool** – Irish Immigration - http://echoesofliverpool.com/?page_id=1157
- **Liverpool Museum** at: <https://images.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/2020-01/Liverpool-Irish-community-trail.pdf>
- **University of Liverpool, Institute of Irish Studies** <http://www.liv.ac.uk/irish/>
- **Irish Community Care Merseyside** – www.iccm.org.uk

Alison Anyon (6094)
Editor

A new Family History Search Resource in Birkdale, Southport

Birkdale Community Hub and Library has set up a local history reference section in their library room at Liverpool Road Methodist Church, Liverpool Rd, Southport, PR8 4PD.

They have 50 volumes of the Lancashire Parish Registers Society Transcripts, which were kindly donated by the Birkdale and Ainsdale Historical Research Society.

These volumes are detailed and accurate transcriptions of early parish registers, many of which are not currently online. The reference collection also includes local history books about the Liverpool, Southport, and Ormskirk areas.

At present the library room is open Monday and Friday 10am to 1pm and Wednesdays 10am to 4pm. They have a large table and comfy chairs to accommodate you while doing your research. There is a carpark at the church accessed from Sandon Road, with additional street parking nearby.

Buses: Stagecoach X2 (Preston to Liverpool – hourly) and Arriva 49 (Crossens to Woodvale every 15 mins) pass the church.

Trains: Hillside station (Merseyrail) is about 12 minutes' walk away.

To check current opening times and browse the catalogue go to <https://thestationmastershouse.co.uk> . To find out which volumes are held there, click on the Library catalogue button on the home page and enter Parish registers. You can then search within the results for the parish name.

If you want to know more about the Lancashire parish register society and the volumes they publish, please visit their website www.lprs.org.uk .

Many of the volumes published by the LPRS are also available at other libraries and record offices including:

- Lancashire Record Office at Bow Lane, Preston
- Liverpool Record Office
- Leigh Library
- Museum of Wigan Life, Wigan
- Crosby Library in Sefton

Please check the individual library catalogues to see which parish volumes they hold.

Sally Moss

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.

2024

17 Jan AGM and Real Life Scrooges—Homes & Hoarding in Victorian Britain - Tom McGrath

20 Feb Leigh between the Wars - Michael Caine

19 Mar The Manchester Martyrs— Joe O'Neill.

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.

2024

09 Jan Group AGM and Members' Evening.

00 Feb T.B.A.

00 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

2024

00 Jan No Meeting

06 Feb A Funny Old World

Andy Johnson

05 Mar Home Children Sent to Canada

Ian Monney

Southport

Chairman: Hilary Ambrose

Secretary: Diane Banahan

Meetings (venue TBC) are held on the second Friday of each month and start at 7:30pm.

00 Dec No Meeting

2024

12 Jan AGM & DNA & Your Family History—Sally Moss
The future of the Southport Group will be under discussion at the AGM so it is vitally important that all members attend the meeting.

Warrington

Chairman: Peter Jolliffe

Secretary: Vacant

The Group meets at The Oaks Centre, Stocks Lane, Penketh, WA5 2UB. Meetings start at 7pm (doors open at 6.30pm) on the fourth Monday of each month, except July, August and December.

00 Dec No meeting

2024

22 Jan AGM & A British Tommy

Peter Jolliffe

26 Feb TBC

Louise Wade

25 Mar Memorabilia Night

TBC

Widnes

Chairman: Claire Houlton

Secretary: Gill Scutt

Meetings are held at St John Fisher Church Hall, Moorfield Road, Widnes, WA8 3JA on the last Wednesday of the month—except December. Meetings start at 7pm and finish by 9pm.

00 Dec No meeting

2024

00 Jan TBA

00 Feb TBA

00 Mar TBA

Officers of the Society

General Committee Officers

President: Joyce Culling **Vice President:** David Guiver

Trustees

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Email: chair@lswlfhs.org.uk

Vice-Chairman: Mary Allan
Email: vicechair@lswlfhs.org.uk

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Plus one representative elected by each Group of the Society.



Paddy's Wigwam at Night

Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, officially known as the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King and locally nicknamed "Paddy's Wigwam", is the seat of the Archbishop of Liverpool and the mother church of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool in Liverpool, England. The Grade II Metropolitan Cathedral is one of Liverpool's many listed buildings.

The cathedral's architect, Frederick Gibberd, was the winner of a worldwide design competition. Construction began in 1962 and was completed in 1967. Earlier designs for a cathedral were proposed in 1933 and 1953, but none were completed.

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Liverpool Royal Infirmary Nurses 1930's

It was a tradition in most hospitals for nursing staff to go around the hospital wards on Christmas Eve and sing Christmas Carols to the patient's and staff on duty.

Liverpool Royal Infirmary was originally built on Shaw's Brow and opened on part of the site which is now occupied by St George's Hall on 25 March 1749. The second incarnation of the infirmary was opened on Brownlow Hill in September 1824. This building was renamed the Liverpool Royal Infirmary after a visit by Queen Victoria to Liverpool in 1851. William Rathbone VI, based on advice from Florence Nightingale, set up the world's first ever district nursing service at this building in 1862. This led to the formation of the Queen's Nursing Institute. The third incarnation of the infirmary, a much larger building, opened in Pembroke Place in November 1889 and the new out-patient building opened on 29 March 1911. The infirmary joined the NHS in 1948.

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