

LIVERPOOL FAMILY HISTORIAN



Volume 45 No. 2



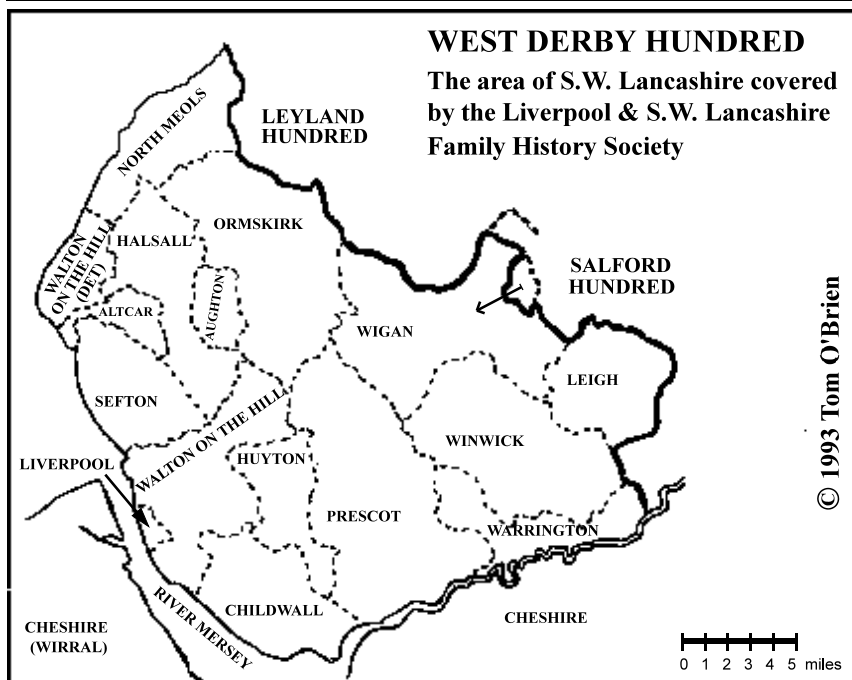
June 2023

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: The Clock Face public house occupies two buildings, the main one of which was the former dower house to the Knowsley estate. Both buildings were first listed Grade II in 1951, with the main dower house being known previously as West End House. Image © [Sue Adair](#) / Clock Face Public House, Prescott / [CC BY-SA 2.0](#)

Liverpool Family Historian

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Editorial

It is hard to believe that I am working on the June edition of our journal already - how time flies. With this in mind, I draw your attention to some early reminders contained in the News Items section. First, do please put a note in your diaries for the date of our conference and AGM in October, which this year will be hosted by the Southport Group. I have also included an early reminder about the Family History Show in London in September - as the event will be upon us by the time of the next journal, so if you are looking for 'early bird' savings do keep an eye on the organiser's website.

I also want to draw your attention to the Pass It On section, where member Jim Thomson offers a birth certificate copy free to a good home. Jim's offer comes with an interesting back story and reminder that we should '*check, check and check again*' with our research. It is also worth checking to see if a certificate you require is being offered through our Donated Certificates Search on our website (before ordering a copy through the GRO).

Whilst talking of our website, we now have quite a number of downloadable publications available in our shop:

https://store.lswlfhs.org.uk/uk_shop/digital

The advantages of these e-publications for instant access and storage are obvious and (of course) with no postage costs, our overseas members pay the same price for each publication as members based in the UK. Do have a look at what is available and check in from time-to-time, as more publications will be uploaded in the weeks and months ahead.

And finally... A flurry of activity took place on the internet in the winter, after Elon Musk successfully bought the Twitter social media company. This made me think about our Twitter feed, which I have neglected for far too long and I am looking into whether or not I should try to revive it. Would members value a revived and more active Twitter feed for the society? One outcome of Mr Musk's acquisition of Twitter was concern about how the social network would look in the future and many people started moving to other networks, one of which was Mastodon. I do have my own presence on Mastodon and wondered if any other members had set-up on this social network too? If you have a Mastodon presence, what are your thoughts about it and do you also/still have a Twitter presence?

Mike Paice, Editor

News Items

Society News

Conference and Annual General Meeting 2023

Our conference and AGM this year will be held on Saturday 21 October, hosted by our Southport Group. The venue will be the Lord Street West United Church Halls, Lord Street West, Southport, PR8 2BH. The programme will be available on the website soon and further information will appear in the September edition of the journal, so do save the date in your diaries and join us on the day.

The Family History Show (York) 2023

A reminder that this year's Family History Show at York Racecourse will take place on Saturday 24 June 2023. Organised by Discover Your Ancestors magazine and sponsored by The Genealogist, 31 exhibitors had confirmed their attendance at the time of writing (19 April 2023) including various family history societies, publication and postcard vendors, booksellers, the Yorkshire Group of Family History Societies and with many more exhibitors expected to confirm their attendance over the coming weeks. A schedule of free talks is also being prepared and 'Ask the Experts' personal sessions will be available to book.

Early bird ticket prices are at £8.00 per person, with under 16s attending for free. At the time of writing, you could also buy two tickets for £10.00. The 'at the door' ticket price will be £10.00 per person, with each ticket including a free 'Goody Bag' worth £8.00. The venue: The Knavesmire Exhibition Centre, The Racecourse, York YO23 1EX, has free car parking, is wheelchair accessible throughout and will have hot and cold food available all day. If travelling by train, the venue is a short taxi ride or half-hour walk from York railway station.

The Family History Show (London) 2023

An early reminder that the Family History Show at Kempton Racecourse in Sunbury-on-Thames, will run this year on Saturday 2 September, from 10:00 to 16:00.

At the time of writing, 20 exhibitors had already confirmed their participation, including: Discover Your Ancestors (organiser), The Genealogist (event sponsors), the Families in British India Society (FIBIS), the Family History Federation, Huguenot Society of Great Britain and Ireland, the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain, various family history societies and family history supply and service providers. The speaker events were still being worked-up at the time of writing, with details promised on the website soon. The event will also include the popular 'Ask The Experts' bookable personal sessions.

Ticket prices on the day will be £12 per person (with under 16s having free admission). Early Bird prices on the website at the time of writing were £8 per person or £12 for two tickets. At this event also there will be a 'Goody Bag' worth £8 given to each ticket holder on arrival. The venue is wheelchair accessible throughout and there will be free parking at the venue, for those who choose to drive to the event. There is a regular rail service from London Waterloo to the on-site Kempton Park railway station.

Wiltshire FHS – Family History Day

The Wiltshire Family History Society will be running its Family History Day at Michael Herbert Hall, South Street, Wilton, SP2 0JS, on Saturday 17 June 2023, from 10:00 to 15:00.

This year's participants include: South Wiltshire Industrial Archaeological Society, the Rifles (Berkshire & Wiltshire) Museum, Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre, Countryside Books and various family history societies. Hot and cold drinks will be available at the event. There is limited off-street parking but the venue is only a short walk from Wilton town centre and the organisers recommend visitors using the Wilton Park & Ride service to and from Wilton market square. Further information is available at: www.wiltshirefhs.co.uk

Ancestry update

There were nine new datasets added to the UK collection on Ancestry since the March edition of the journal, together with another three UK datasets that had new content added to them.

The new datasets are:

- **England and Wales, Girls' Day School Trust Records** (1873-1950);
- **Hampshire, England, Church of England Baptisms** (1813-1921);
- **Scotland, Burial Monument Inscriptions** (1507-2019);
- **Tyne and Wear, England, Non-Conformist Baptisms, Marriages and Burials** (1710-1960);
- **UK, British Air Force Lists** (1919-1922, 1938-1945);
- **UK, Criminal Records** (1780-1871);
- **UK and Ireland, Families of Historic Properties** (1222-1967);
- **UK and Ireland, Medical Registers** (1859-1943); and,
- **Westminster, London, England, Poor Law Registers** (1561-1900).

The updated UK datasets are:

- **Birmingham, England, Calendar of Prisoners** (1880-1922);
- **England & Wales, Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Registers** (1567-1936); and,
- **UK and Ireland, Obituary Index** (2004-current).

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

- **Alberta, Canada, Births Index** (1870-1900);
- **Alberta, Canada, Deaths Index** (1870-1970);
- **Alberta, Canada, Marriages Index** (1898-1944);
- **Canada, Obituary Collection** (1898-current);
- **Eure, France, Births, Marriages and Deaths** (1550-1912);
- **Indre, France, Births, Marriages and Deaths** (1534-1932);
- **Iowa, U.S., Marriage Records** (1880-1947);
- **Ireland, Apothecary Records** (1736-1920);
- **Ireland, Kirkpatrick Index of Physician Biographical Files** (1650-1952);
- **Netherlands, Newspaper Announcements Index** (1795-1945);

- **Netherlands, Population Register Index** (1720-1944);
- **Nova Scotia, Canada, Births** (1840-1921);
- **Nova Scotia, Canada, Deaths** (1864-1877, 1890-1970);
- **Nova Scotia, Canada, Marriages** (1763-1945);
- **Oregon, U.S., County Divorce Records** (1927-1948);
- **Oregon, U.S., State Births** (1842-1921);
- **Oregon, U.S., State Deaths** (1864-1971);
- **Oregon, U.S., State Divorces** (1925-1971);
- **Oregon, U.S., State Marriages** (1906-1971);
- **Seine-Saint-Denis, France, Births, Marriages and Deaths** (1562-1996);
- **Seine-Saint-Denis, France, Censuses** (1821-1911);
- **South Carolina, U.S., Birth Records** (1915-1920);
- **U.S., Obituary Collection** (1930-current);
- **Wanzleben, Germany, Birth Records** (1874-1909);
- **Wanzleben, Germany, Deaths** (1874-1984);
- **Wanzleben, Germany, Marriage Records** (1874-1940);
and,
- **1900 United States Federal Census.**

British Newspaper Archive update

The following details relate to 62 titles digitised in recent weeks by The British Newspaper Archive (BNA). It was not clear from the website whether these are new details added to existing titles (some certainly are) or whether they are a mix of new titles and new content for existing titles. It maybe that BNA is no longer distinguishing between new and existing titles when detailing new digitised content but I should know more by the time of the next journal. The new titles have had content digitised covering a period of three or more years: **Acton Gazette** (1940-50, 1952-66); **Bexhill-on-Sea Chronicle** (1887-89, 1896-97, 1912); **Billericay Gazette** (1986-87, 1998-99); **Bristol Evening Post** (1979, 1987-88, 1990-92); **Bristol Times and Mirror** (1913-20); **Buckinghamshire Advertiser** (1922, 1924-47, 1949, 1952-56, 1986, 1989-90, 1992); **Callander Advertiser** (1885, 1888-89, 1891); **Cardiff Post** (1997-99); **Daily Gazette for Middlesbrough** (1947, 1974, 1979); **Daily Malta Chronicle and Garrison Gazette** (1896-1904, 1909-18); **Derby Daily Telegraph** (1990-92); **Derbyshire Advertiser and Journal** (1851, 1872-77, 1889); **Drakard's**

Stamford News (1809-34); **Dublin Sporting News** (1897-1901); **Eastern Post** (1868-1921); **Egham & Staines News** (1898, 1901, 1904, 1906); **Essex & Herts Mercury** (1822-26, 1831-35, 1838-40, 1842); **Farnborough News** (1976-78, 1980-84); **Greenford & Northolt Gazette** (1977-80, 1982-84, 1986-88, 1990-92); **Grimsby Daily Telegraph** (1916, 1988-90); **Guernsey Evening Press and Star** (1897-98, 1900-09, 1911-16); **Gwent Gazette** (1969, 1971, 1975-76, 1981-84, 1998); **Hanwell Gazette and Brentford Observer** (1900-10, 1912-22); **Hertford Mercury and Reformer** (1897, 1963-64, 1967); **Hinckley Echo** (1900, 1903, 1906, 1909, 1912, 1914-15, 1917, 1919, 1921-24, 1927-41, 1943-51); **Hoylelake & West Kirby News** (1986, 1997, 1999); **Huddersfield Daily Examiner** (1879, 1890, 1899, 1924-26, 1929-33, 1935-36, 1938, 1940, 1944, 1946-48, 1953, 1960); **King and His Navy and Army** (1903-06); **Lady of the House** (1890-94); **Leicester Advertiser** (1842-43, 1862, 1986); **Lincolnshire Free Press** (1871, 1874, 1878-80, 1951-99); **Liverpool Daily Post (Welsh Edition)** (1978, 1986-90, 1992); **Manchester Evening Chronicle** (1950, 1956, 1958); **Manchester Evening News** (1868-69, 1896, 1898, 1908, 1911-13, 1922, 1924-25, 1927-38, 1952-53, 1956-57, 1959-61, 1963-74, 1976, 1984, 1986-92); **New Observer (Bristol)** (1980, 1986-87, 1991, 1995, 1998); **Newquay Express and Cornwall County Chronicle** (1925, 1927, 1931-32, 1934, 1945, 1954-55); **Northwich Chronicle** (1988-92); **Nottingham Guardian** (1861, 1905, 1950); **Pontypridd Observer** (1964-67, 1969-72, 1974); **Richmond and Twickenham Times** (1873-79, 1894-1915); **Rutherglen Reformer** (1890, 1986-87); **Sheerness Guardian and East Kent Advertiser** (1858-93, 1897, 1912); **Shepton Mallet Journal** (1975-80, 1986-90); **South Wales Echo** (1986-90); **St. Ives Weekly Summary** (1890-93, 1898-99, 1901-10, 1912-15); **St. Neots Weekly News** (1986-87, 1999); **Staines & Egham News** (1986, 1992, 1999); **Stratford-upon-Avon Herald** (1880-84, 1886-89, 1891-98, 1911, 1936-38, 1940-44, 1946-50, 1969, 1971-72, 1974, 1978-80, 1984-86, 1989-99); **The People** (1910-13, 1919-22, 1934-38); **Trotting World and Horse Review** (1902-11, 1917-32); **Truth** (1938-43); **Wales on Sunday** (1989-91, 1998); **Walsall Advertiser** (1864, 1866-67, 1869-75, 1877-78); **Walsall Observer** (1974, 1978-82, 1984-92, 1997); **Weekly Examiner (Belfast)** (1872, 1886-87); **Wembley Observer** (1986, 1998-99); **Western Daily Press** (1986-88, 1990, 1992); **Whitstable Times and Herne Bay Herald**

(1969, 1971-72); **Widnes Weekly News and District Reporter** (1986, 1988-92); **Wilmslow Express Advertiser** (1986, 1988-92); **Woking Informer** (1986-87, 1993, 1995, 1999); and, **Woolwich Gazette** (1911-13).

Deceased Online update

Deceased Online announced on 20 April that the records from two cemeteries in Reading, Berkshire, were available to research. The records date back to 1843 and cover the Reading Old cemetery and Hemdean Road Cemetery. The release includes digital scans of the original burial or grave registers up to 1993, information drawn from computerised records post 1993. The press notice stated that the records from Henley Road Cemetery and Reading Crematorium would be released soon, adding to the collection of records available from the wider Reading area.

FindMyPast update

Of the new records added to the FindMyPast collection over the course of the last three months, March saw more than 295,000 records added across four **English, Roman Catholic Parish** collections (Baptisms, Marriages, Burials and Congregational Records). These records relate to the **Nottingham Diocesan Archives** and cover a period between 1641 until 1913.

The following new UK datasets have been added to FindMyPast's offering:

- **Britain, Royal and Imperial Calendars, 1767-1973** – browseable images of The British Imperial Calendar and Civil Service List, detailing workers in government and other public service;
- **British Army, Local Armed Forces' Enrolment Forms, Anglo-Boer War, 1899-1902** – more than 64,800 enrolment records relating to the Second Boer War, records include details of enrollees, their next of kin and next of kin's addresses;
- **Civil Service Commission Appointments, Promotions and Transfers, 1871-1942** – a huge 872,439 transcribed records relating to the employment of permanent and

temporary workers in the Civil Service (with almost 500,000 of them relating to postal workers);

- **Lancashire, Barrow-in-Furness Shipbuilding & Engineering Employees, 1914-1918** – almost 96,400 records relating to employees and apprentices at the Vickers shipyard in Barrow-in-Furness during the First World War, including details of more than 1,300 women shipbuilders, engineers and apprentices;
- **Second World War Civilian Casualties In Britain, 1940-1945** – a collection of 64,339 records taken from a variety of sources and detailing home front casualties both civilian and servicemen at home; and,
- **United Kingdom, Commemorative Plaques, 1659** – this new dataset includes original images and transcripts of over 12,780 commemorative plaques erected around the country.

The following UK datasets have been updated:

- **British Army, East Surrey Regiment, 1899-1919** – over 41,000 records have been added to this dataset, relating to the Second Boer War and First World War;
- **British Army, Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment, 1901-1918** – 85,011 records have been added to this dataset, including transcriptions and original image scans;
- **Durham Baptisms, 1560-1847** – more than 12,600 new baptism records were added to this dataset in April, covering 11 different parishes in Northumberland and Durham;
- **Essex Baptisms, 1638-1922** – 122,464 new records were added to this dataset during April, taken from the records of 154 churches in the county;
- **Greater London Burial Index, 1540-1949** – around 52,900 new records were added to this collection, all from 22 churches in the Middlesex area;
- **Ireland Calendars of Wills & Administrations (Northern Ireland), 1858-1965** – a further 261,256 records were added to this collection, covering Belfast, Armagh and Londonderry between 1921 and 1965;
- **Kent, Folkestone District Monumental Inscriptions** – 6,000 new records have been added to this collection, taken from six churches in the area;

- **Lincolnshire Baptisms, 1754-1812** – more than 216,600 new records, from 269 Lincolnshire churches and chapels were added to this collection in late February;
- **Middlesex Monumental Inscriptions, 1839-2022** – over 6,200 new records, taken from the Hounslow Cemetery, have been added to this dataset;
- **Montgomeryshire Monumental Inscriptions** – around 7,400 new records were added to this dataset, taken from 16 chapels, churches and cemeteries across the county;
- **National School Admission Registers & Log-Books, 1867-1927** – over 5,700 new records from Halifax, West Yorkshire, have been added to this collection;
- **Northumberland Baptisms, 1571-1847** – 13,000+ new records have been added to the collection, from the churches of: St. Andrew (Bothal), St. Alban (Earsdon), St. John the Baptist (Edlingham), St. John the Baptist (Newcastle Upon Tyne), Birdhopecraig Presbyterian (Rochester), and Christ Church (Tynemouth);
- **Northumberland Burials** – 86 nineteenth century burial records, taken from Our Lady and St. Cuthbert church (Haggerston);
- **Northumberland Marriages, 1760-1771** – 384 new records from All Saints church in Northumberland have been added to the collection;
- **Northumberland & Durham Memorial Inscriptions** – around 5,300 new records, spanning a period of more than 500 years, from seven burial grounds: St. Cuthbert (Bensham), St. Andrew (Dalton le Dale), Holy Trinity (Southwick), St. Cuthbert (West Herrington), St. Mary (RC) (Hexham), St. Mary (Horton), and, St. Mark (Ninebanks);
- **Suffolk Marriage Index, 1813-1837** – nearly 52,400 new records, taken from 500 Suffolk churches, have been added to this dataset;
- **Sussex Burials, 1850-2012** – more than 46,567 new records have been added to this dataset, some of which include extra notes about titles, occupations, relatives' names etc; and,
- **1939 Register** – a further 90,809 previously redacted records are now available to search in this collection.

The following overseas datasets are either new or have had new

content added to them:

- **Ireland, Diocese of Dublin Marriage Licences, 1638-1858** – more than 98,400 new records have been added to this collection, covering the counties of Dublin, Wicklow, Laois, parts of Kildare and parts of Carlow;
- **Ireland, Diocese of Dublin Wills and Grants, 1270-1858** – over 34,400 new records have been added to this collection of wills and grants from the Anglican Diocese of Dublin; and,
- **Ireland, Inland Revenue Wills & Administrations, 1828-1879** – a brand new dataset that includes 261,256 images and transcriptions available to search.

ScotlandsPeople update

In its April newsletter, the team at ScotlandsPeople highlighted that the 1320 Declaration of Arbroath, which is preserved by National Records of Scotland, will be available to see at the National Museum of Scotland, in Edinburgh, from 3 June until 2 July 2023. This will be the first time in 18 years that the document will be on public display and so I thought members might want to be made aware. Admission to the museum is free and the exhibition will be staged in Gallery 2, Level 3, from 10:00 to 17:00 daily.

The Genealogist update

The Genealogist announced on 6 April the release of records detailing more than 56,000 wanted individuals from the **Police Gazette** in the years 1901, 1911, 1921 and 1931. The records also detail 20,802 aliases used by individuals of interest to the police. These records are searchable by keywords like name, alias and offence. As you would expect, the records include written descriptions of the individuals and some include photographic and artist created portraits of those being sought.

On 25 March, the company announced the release of 420,000 plots in 1830s Wales, linked to georeferenced tithe maps. These **Welsh tithe maps** cover the counties of Brecknockshire, Cardiganshire, Denbighshire, Flintshire and Monmouthshire and are searchable with The Genealogist's Map Explorer tool. Earlier in the month (11 March) The Genealogist announced that it had **georeferenced the**

1871 Census for England, Scotland and Wales, making it easy to see where ancestors' homes were in 1871 through the Map Explorer tool.

The company announced the release on 25 February of over 134,000 **Lloyd George Domesday** land tax records for **Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire**. The records cover the areas in and around Dunstable, Hemel Hempstead, Luton, St. Albans, Toddington and Watford.

Finally, The Genealogist announced back on 14 February that it had opened more than 342,500 previously closed records on the **1939 Register**. This means that researchers can now see all people on the register born in 1922, under the 100-year rule, along with those who have passed away since the last release. The Genealogist's 1939 Register records are also linked to its Map Explorer tool.

Member Bob Dobson of Blackpool

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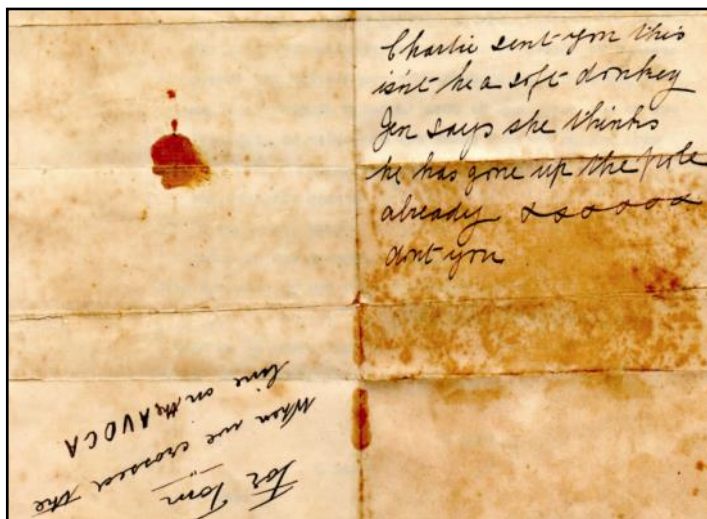
Help Requests

SS Avoca & SS Huayna

Does anyone in the society recognise these steam ships – the Avoca, British India Line in 1904, and Huayna, Booth Line in 1908? The ships' names sometimes changed as they changed owners; these were the names in 1904 and 1908 respectively.

My grandfather, Thomas Magnus **Thomson**, b. 3 March 1884 in Toxteth, was a sailor in his twenties, maybe until he married in 1912.

So far I have documentary evidence for two of the ships. On the SS Avoca he 'crossed the line' in October 1904, witness the summons from King Neptune to attend a Court of Trial 'on all and sundry who have presumed to attempt the crossing of the Royal Boundary' (see next page). On the reverse is a note to Jen, one of his sisters, saying 'Charlie sent this' (see below). Maybe Charlie was a fellow sailor.



The National Archives Kew has the ship's log for the SS Huayna's voyage from Liverpool to Pará (now known as Belém) in Brazil, up the Amazon to Iquitos in Peru and return, from May to August 1904. A Thomas Thomson is listed as Assistant Steward. Coupled with a very small newspaper cutting, I think from the Liverpool

O Yez:

O Yez:

O Yez:

To all ye sea-trippers

Let it be known that -

giater Mary walks like that.

That the eggs of the South African Rooster

hover in the immediate future

at four hard earned shillings

per solitary dozen!

That the nine thousand oysters of "Avoca" having been

permitted to appeal to the Royal smeller of His Most
Gracious Majesty Neptune, King of the Seas, God of the

Ocean, His Majesty has condescended so far to defile

his Royal and crumpled trilbys as to decide on a visit

to the firey untaxed British Indian "Avoca", and hereby

declares it His Royal Will and Pleasure that He will

trip aboard at four of the clock on the fifth day of

October 1904, as it is written in the scroll of the

Woodwright Majorious.

Know then all ye Dracons and Nor - folk, and other

Grogmovers, that His Majesty will hold a Court of Trial

on all and sundry who have presumed to attempt the

crossing of the Royal Boundary.

October 1st 1904

Echo, I am confident it is my grandfather. The cutting reads
*"HUAYNA - An owners' cablegram from Para, dated June 28 states
The steamer Huayna got off, and proceeded; no leakage; engines
working all right'."*

Ring any bells for anyone?

Jim Thomson (9564) (Email: atjimt@hotmail.com)

Some Memories of my Schooldays

Introduction

Leo Charles **Gillow**, my first cousin twice removed, was born in Seacombe, Wirral in 1903 to Charles Joseph Gillow and Elizabeth Margaret (**Ward**) and died in Hastings, Sussex in 1974. Leo came from a Roman Catholic family and became a Redemptorist Priest (a sister was a teaching nun). Leo was a Padre in WW2 but had a bad war and as a result left the Priesthood and married Joyce Mary **Vardon**, in Kensington, London in 1951. Leo became a journalist in Hastings but was ostracised by members of his family for renouncing the Priesthood.

Leo wrote this essay for his nieces and nephews recounting some history of the Gillow family and narrating his childhood in Seacombe which I hope may be of interest.

Mike Parker (3056)

When you read this part of Gillow history, you will see that my schooldays were very different from anything you experience. Indeed, even your Daddy and Mummy never knew a school like any I attended. You should consider yourselves lucky to be at school in 1969.

I started school when I was five – about 1908. All of us, except your grandpa and Great Auntie Addie, went to the Parish School. I remember much about it in detail.

There were two schools in playgrounds next to the church (St. Joseph's, Wheatland and Seacombe), which was about five minutes' walk from home. There was the Infants School and the Big School. The Infants School was quite new (in 1908); the Big School was much older.

In the Infants School each class had a separate room. All the rooms were alike: dark green walls, with the lower part covered with brown glazed tiles. The whole school had some peculiar smell – of what, I just don't know. But I remember that it smelt horrid. The Headmistress (Miss McMahon) was a frightening kind of

woman. She wore a black dress that touched the ground. She had hair that had been red but had turned grey. It was screwed back into a bun. She wore spectacles that were always crooked on her nose. At morning prayers, she used to walk round the children and if she found any with their eyes open, she'd clap her two hands together over the child's joined hands. I remember this happening to me. It hurt.... But I don't think it made me think of God.

Lessons were unpleasant affairs. We sat on backless seats in rows, with eight children to the desk. Each place on a desk had squares drawn on it (by the maker) so that we could learn how to count. There was also a rack of coloured beads to teach us.

Learning the alphabet was a painful business. The teacher would write a, b, c, d, e, f, etc., on the board and then with a pointer bang on the board while we 'chanted' 'A.... B.... C....' etc. The next step was to learn that capitals looked different from small letters. To learn this, we had to chant: 'Capital A, small a; Capital B, small b' and so on while the teacher banged out each letter on the board. While we were chanting, we used to rock ourselves in rhythm. At the end of the lesson, I used to have a quite sore throat.

I cannot recall how we learnt to make words from the letters we had learnt – but I know that I have never become a 'good' reader. I was not taught the right way.

After two or three years, I was moved up the Big School. Right from the start I became scared of the headmistress, Miss McKeon. She looked just like a monkey and when she spoke, she used to make a whistling sound with her teeth. Her hair was also grey and screwed back in a bun. She wore a long skirt made of cloth like the morning trousers my father wore on Sundays, and a striped silk blouse with buttons that look like glass marbles (which we used to play boy-games with in the playground). To me, she always seemed as if she was angry. She never joked with us. Always very, very serious and she seemed in a perpetual temper.

The other teachers I remember: Mrs. Sherry, a dwarf-like woman with fiery eyes and a temper to match. Miss Connolly was very young (just out of college I suppose). She was pleasant looking, but far from 'pleasant' in action. Miss Austin was very fat. She was generous and used to give us sweets. Unfortunately, she was also generous with the cane. She had a half-sister, Miss MacKay, who

also taught in the school. She was quite pleasant and had charge of the stock-cupboard. There was a niece of the headmistress, Miss Nelle McKeon. She was the horror of horrors. She had the most violent temper I've ever known a woman to have. When she used the cane, she was really savage. One teacher who taught me for two successive years was Miss McDonnell. When we heard that she was to teach us for a second year, we were pleased.

I feel I owe a great deal to Miss McDonnell. She taught me most of the arithmetic I know. She could explain things clearly. But she expected us to pay attention. That was not always easy, for in the same big room, there were four classes going on at the same time. Quite often I found that what the teacher was telling the class next to ours was more interesting than what we were doing. I can remember getting the cane 'for inattention'. The teacher of the top class was Miss Sheridan. She was a dear. Unfortunately, I was in her class for only two or three weeks – and then moved on to the Christian Brothers' School in Liverpool.

The Big School was mixed: girls and boys together. Sometimes I used to wish that I had been a girl because they got much less of the cane than we did. It was the practice to cane any boy who 'talked' during a lesson, who 'altered a figure or a letter' in an exercise. The 'rule' was that if we made a mistake, we had to leave it and re-write the number or letter correctly without 'alteration' or 'crossing out'. Sometimes we'd have altered or crossed out before we realised it. That meant the cane for us. Life was very hard.

Several incidents remain engraved in my memory. On two afternoons a week, the girls used to go for sewing. We boys had 'handwork' – i.e. making things like boxes from cardboard. I was never any good at that kind of thing and used to make an awful mess of my work. One day I was sent to sit with the girls and was given a bit of cloth and told to sew a button on it. (Cruelty to boys). I remember I just sat and cried.

One afternoon, our 'nice' teacher (Miss McD) was sick of the chatter in her handwork class and threatened she'd cane the next boy who spoke. I was that boy. (I suppose I can blame only myself.) How well I remember all the details of that afternoon. There was only one cane in the school and I was sent to bring it. I hated this because many of the teachers were friends of one or other of my sisters and I used to feel very self-conscious. I remember feeling terrible when I

took the cane to my own teacher. Instead of caning me at once, she kept me waiting until she was 'ready'. That wait was horrible – even worse than what she gave me when she was 'ready'. Looking back, when I recall that she had about 50 or 60 boys in her handwork class, I suppose that I'm not now surprised that she used to cane us so much and so hard. She had no mercy on us.

The worst thing that ever happened to me was on the day that the headmistress called the whole school together – all crowded together in the one big room. She gave the school a lecture on how unkind it was to call children by 'names' that ridiculed some physical deformity. She mentioned that one boy had called another 'Big head'. Unfortunately, that bad boy was me. I was called out and caned in front of the whole school. I was never a 'brave' boy, so felt very humiliated when I got eight strokes in front of the whole school. Perhaps I deserved it. Anyway, I know now never to be unkind.

The headmistress used to complain about all sorts of things to the Parish Priest – 'the Canon'. He was a good sort and understood boys. He annoyed the headmistress when all he would say was 'Ah well, boys will be boys.' Quite often he got us 'off' with that happy phrase.

One day, several of us went to the baths before evening prayers at school. The teacher missed us. Next day, we were 'paid'. And I could go on and on for ages. I was not a 'good' boy. But somehow, I managed to learn a few things.

At 11, I moved to the Christian Brothers' School. I did not like it. Some of the 'Brothers' were some of the most bad-tempered men ever to be found. As far as I remember, they taught us little. Lessons were spent hearing the homework we'd learnt. As I was, even then, lazy, I didn't do much homework, so I used to get the strap almost every day.

I left that school when I was caught playing truant (in Calderstones Park, Wavertree). A master called at home. Was I scared. He spoke privately with my father and mother. Then I was called in. I was told that the school would not take me back unless I was prepared to work hard. I was not. So, I left. – Some years later, I had to go to another school to learn Latin. That was a small boarding school. I enjoyed myself there and by that time I had learnt that the only

way to learn was to WORK. So, I worked.

Looking back, I see I could and should have worked at the Brothers' School. We all make mistakes when we are young.

Basement Bargains

This section will contain some remnants. Just like the bargains Mummy could buy at a big store after a sale. They will be just 'oddments' but they will help you to build up a picture of what school was like when I was a boy.

In our Parish School, there were many very poor children. Some even had no footwear and had to come to school in bare feet. Their clothes were very tattered. Many of them must have been hungry. Some must have had parents who didn't look after them properly. That may not have been the parents' fault. Perhaps they too had been brought up in very difficult circumstances.

It is very hard – almost impossible – for children brought up in comfortable homes like yours and mine, to know what it was like to live in the slums. (I have since done a lot of work among the very poor, so I understand better now.)

Even at school, I used to feel very sorry for poor children. They used to be given free soup at dinner-time, when I used to go home for a good meal. Auntie Minnie used to stay behind at school to help in serving the poorer children with their soup. Then she'd come home for her own dinner.

I remember that I used to feel that some of the teachers were very hard on some of the poorer boys. I used to think: 'It's all very well for you Miss.....; You had a good breakfast before you came to school. This boy – without any boots on – looks cold and hungry. No wonder he doesn't pay attention.' I used to think some of the teachers were really cruel.

As quite a small boy, I used to 'love' some of the girls in the top class – friends of Auntie Cis. I remember one in particular: May McEvoy. To my little-boy eyes she looked a dream. One day, she opened a cupboard near our class and out fell a pile of blue calico

sewing-bags. The poor girl. Her teacher grew very angry and shouted at her that she was 'careless' and sent her to bring the cane. I can remember wanting to go out to take her place and be caned for her. But really, I was not 'brave' enough to offer to. I watched as she cried. – Even today I feel terribly 'heavy' inside me when I see a girl being hurt by an adult.

There was a 'gang' in my school. To become a member, one had to be able to walk the full length of the playground on his hands. I was never able to do that, so never was allowed in that 'gang'. But some of us made a gang of our own, with rather less strict rules. We used to 'arrange fights' to take place on a waste-ground near home. Sometimes, I would get a terrible hammering from bigger boys.

At that time, I had a special friend: Billy Tomlinson. But my mother didn't like him. She said he was teaching me to 'pull nasty faces'. I had no more sense than to go and tell him I couldn't go out with him anymore and gave the 'reason'. An awful bother arose when his mother came to see mine at home.

Another school happening. There was a boy who was always troublesome. One day, he had done something 'bad' (I don't know what) and was punished by the headmistress. Later that day the boy's mother came up to the school to complain. Her name was Mrs. Herrian. She was a great fat lump who wore about six skirts – one on top of the other (see below *). This day, she started to shout at the headmistress who, I think, kept her dignity. Suddenly, in the middle of the 'interview', Mrs Herrian produced two kippers, one in each hand, and slapped them across the headmistress's cheeks. I remember my own reaction at the time: I was glad that someone had courage to do to the headmistress what I would have liked to (you see, I was really a horrid little boy).

*It was customary among the poor, for a woman to wear several skirts, one over the other. The explanation was that the skirts were her main possessions. If she needed money, she could take one off and either sell it or pawn it as a 'pledge' for ready cash. (Ask Daddy or Mummy to explain).

One Bonfire Night (Nov. 5), several of us boys went to the headmistress's house – quietly, of course. On the doorstep was the jug she'd put out for when the milkman called in the morning. It was covered with a saucer to keep dirt and insects out. We lifted the saucer and put a firework inside the jug. Then we ran away. Unfortunately for us, the headmistress was just coming in through her front gate as we were running away. She told us to come to see her on the following morning at school. You will guess what she did to us. But somehow, I never minded being punished for something I had done. What annoyed me was to be punished for what I had not done. – I can remember one day when something 'bad' had happened in our class and no one would own up. Our teacher told us that if the boy concerned did not own up, she would cane the whole class. I remember feeling how unfair that was. I wonder what you think nowadays.

As you'll know by now, I was something of a naughty boy. No one ever cured me. – Some years after the above incidents, when I was doing (supposed to be) chemistry at the Brothers' School, I used to mess about. One day when the chemistry master (not a Brother) was demonstrating something in a test-tube being heated over a Bunsen burner, I managed to slip a length of cotton round the burner and pass it behind several boys (all engrossed in the experiment). After a time, I began to pull the cotton... and the Bunsen burner began to 'walk' along the bench. I was not caught that time. – Another trick I liked was to blow down another Bunsen. That would put out the gas that the master was using.

When I'd learnt that trick succeeded, I tried it at home. My bedroom was next to the bathroom. One night when Auntie Minnie was taking a bath, I climbed up and blew down the gas bracket in my room. That put the gas out in the bathroom. Minnie screamed (so did I when it was discovered what I'd done). Now I see it was dangerous.

When I was at school there was no 'Eleven Plus' exam. Instead, we had what was called a 'scholarship' exam. That was a test to see if

we were clever enough to get a free place in a Secondary (Grammar) School. We used to go to school half an hour early to get an extra lesson and stay behind after school for another one. During those extra lessons, most of the teachers were 'very nice'. Much later, I asked one of the teachers about this change of attitude towards us. She explained that in that class she had the brighter pupils, the ones who wanted to learn, and so there was never any reason to become angry. – I spoke to the same teacher (i.e. when I was grown up) about how terribly 'hard' she was on us always. She replied: 'Well, look at you now'.

This next event stands out clearly. One day after her exams (present day G.C.E. – then 'Oxfords') Auntie Cis bought the morning paper. Her name did not appear in the list of successes. She was terribly upset and cried. Someone suggested that perhaps there had been a mistake. We went out to buy the other Liverpool paper (The Courier). Sure enough, we found Cis's name – with quite good results. It all goes to show: we should never become upset until we have checked all the possibilities.

At school, I did not like what they called 'Music'. It seemed to me that the women-teachers made us boys sing 'silly' girls' songs – 'Where the bee sucks, there lurk I' was an example. No boy likes a song like that, no matter if Shakespeare did write it. – Once I was told to stand on the teacher's desk and sing for the class. I said: 'I can't' – The teacher said: 'Can't means won't and you will'. I burst into tears and gulped just a couple of notes. She said that proved I could sing. Maybe. But it made me too shy ever to sing for enjoyment. Even yet, I sing only quietly for myself.

My memories of school days remain very mixed. Some are pleasant, but most (I think) are not.

One pleasant day was when we had a class outing. Our 'nice' teacher, Miss McDonnell, took us for a walk to Bidston. The path was from Poulton, along the Wirral Railway track. As we passed a signal-box the signals man leaned out and gave us news of the sinking of the huge ship 'Titanic' on her maiden voyage. In those days there was no radio. The signalman had heard by telephone

and called the news to us as we walked past.

You may find that things that happen in your life as a child will stick in your memory.

During summer weeks we used to have lessons in the playground. I didn't like that much as we had to stand round the blackboard. And the teacher was just as bad-tempered as she was indoors.

I shall end these 'Basement Bargains' with a story that you, in 1969, will find hard to believe. But it is true. This happening stands out in my memory. You will see why.

In our Parish School, every Monday morning the teachers used to mark the 'Mass Register' – i.e. they used to note in a book the names of children who had not attended Mass on the day before, Sunday. I didn't mind this because my parents always sent us all to Mass.

There were some children who never seemed to attend Mass. One such, whom I remember, was Ernest Graham – a very poor boy, ill-clad and dirty. One of the teachers grew tired of marking him 'Absent' from Sunday Mass. One Monday, she dressed him in a girl's pinafore and made him carry a slate round the school – a slate on which she had written: 'I am a Mass-Misser'. The boy had to go from class to class to show us all that he had missed Mass.

At the time, I felt sorry for him. Since I have grown up, I feel disgusted that any teacher could be so terribly cruel to an unfortunate boy. I often wondered if that boy became 'a good Catholic'.

Be very grateful that you never have to see things like that in your school. You are taught to love your religion. That is the only way to become like Our Lord.

Pass It On

MARTHA JACKSON, b. 14 FEBRUARY 1873, HALSALL

Free to a good and deserving home! The birth certificate of Martha Jackson, daughter of Henry Jackson, Boatman, and Ellen Jackson née Carrington. From the address, Morris Lane, Halsall, I guess he worked on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal.

For me a salutary warning to check, check and check again. I was aware my great grandfather might have settled in Toxteth after growing up in Shetland, but I had no documentary evidence of his birth (or death) just his two marriages in Liverpool. After about a four decade hiatus I was delighted to meet someone in New Zealand who told me about the Bayanne website for Shetland and North Isles genealogy. I was even more delighted quickly to find my grandfather, and my own parents. His wife's death, that's my grandmother, was correctly recorded, so I assumed so was her birth – don't suck your teeth. She was born Martha Eliza Jackson and I thought the Eliza was missed off at birth. I now know better – a few years later in Toxteth. Hey ho!

Jim Thomson (9564) (Email: atjimt@hotmail.com)

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

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 9591-9619**, who have joined most recently and wish them every success with their research.

New Members: 9591: B. HANKEY; 9592: L. JONES; 9593: F. LONGSWORTH; 9594: J. REILLY; 9595: C. ARCHIBALD; 9596: G. BESTWICK; 9597: C. REES; 9598: C. STEERS; 9599: J. HUGHES; 9600: P. WATSON; 9601: M. SMITH; 9602: A. TAYLOR; 9603: G. PUGH; 9604: R. GREENWOOD; 9605: P. LISETT; 9606: M. McARDLE; 9607: I. HODCROFT; 9608: P. PARSONS; 9609: G. McGUIGAN; 9610: D. WILLIS; 9611: I. BARR; 9612: A. STEPHENSON; 9614: R. OWEN; 9615: F. BREEN; 9616: E. & G. HILL; 9617: J. PARRY; 9618: N. LAMB; 9619: D. KELSALL.

Returning Member: 8847: G. TSIMBILAKIS*

Members' Interests:

9517	BRYAN, Thomas,	Blundell	1899-1982
	Liverpool, LAN 1854-1855	9562	LARKIN, Owen/Eugene,
9562	BURNS/BYRNE, John,	LAN	1916-
	LAN 1891-	9602	LOVELADY, Anne Ince
9562	BURNS/BYRNE, Julia,	Blundell	1800-
	LAN 1891-	9562	McARDLE, Henry, LAN
9610	CALLAND, Any, LAN		1921-
	Any	9562	McARDLE, Mary, LAN
9424	CASH, Johanna,		1921-
	Liverpool, LAN 1871-	9562	McARDLE, Sarah, LAN
9424	COX, Patrick, Liverpool/		1913-
	Ireland 1871-	9610	OSBORNE, Any, LAN
9562	DONNELLY, Patrick,		Any
	LAN 1913-	7231	ROBERTS, Isaac Chester
9602	HURST, Winifred Ince		1880-

*Correction from *Liverpool Family Historian*, Vol. 45, No. 1, March 2023, page 38, New Members.

The Mourning Brooch

By Jean Renwick



It isn't a beautiful piece of jewellery; at best you could call it handsome, perhaps striking. This mourning brooch I inherited in 1989 from my godmother, then living in Crosby. Containing a lattice of brown and grey hair, this curious gold brooch is inscribed on the back with the name of a deceased woman, her age and date of death. For years, it lay in a drawer, occasionally taken out to be worn on a tweed jacket. Finally, curiosity drove me to discover that the woman, Elizabeth **Addy**, who died on 3 January 1849 aged 39, had been the wife of a farmer living near Doncaster. So, how did the brooch arrive into the hands of Dorothy **Walker**, my godmother, who had lived all her life in Lancashire?

Using various on-line resources, I tracked Elizabeth's descendants. She died leaving two daughters: Mary-Ann aged five and Frances, known as Fanny, only six months old. And this is where my novel

begins. Research can be compulsive and following the lives of these two girls took me through several generations, from Yorkshire around England to Manchester and Lancashire, and on to the United States – Philadelphia, New York, California. I discovered that the elder daughter, Mary-Ann, married ‘well’ and had an exciting life; Fanny married a local farmer and things did not go so well. I reckoned that the brooch was handed down through the elder daughter, but I was wrong and in time I discovered that it was Dorothy, granddaughter of Fanny, who had inherited the brooch.



Dorothy Walker

Eventually, I identified over seventy people linked to the two sisters and soon these people developed in my imagination. So much so that I had the urge to give life to these characters in a novel; a family saga built upon real people and whatever facts I could unearth. My intention is for *The Mourning Brooch* trilogy to encompass the period from 1839, when Elizabeth married Joseph Addy, up to 1942 during World War II when my godmother inherited the brooch. Book One, published in 2021, covers the 38 years up to 1876, from Joseph’s courting Elizabeth, their wedding, her death and up to the marriages of their two daughters. Book Two, to be

published in the summer of 2023, runs up to 1912 and includes the life of my godmother’s father in service to Lord Derby at Knowsley Hall. Book Three will cover the First World War, ending in 1943 when Dorothy inherits the brooch. To continue the story further would encroach upon the lives of those within living memory and I feel uncomfortable about that.

Throughout the writing of this fiction-based-on-fact, I have been conscious that these were real people who should be treated with respect unless unwarranted. Consequently, I have vested in each character a personality, appearance, actions and spoken words that I do not claim to be true. However, thanks to the National Newspaper Archives, evidence of shadier and downright disgraceful behaviour has come to light. In consequence, Book One of *The Mourning Brooch* includes a description of a shocking divorce case involving one of the characters. Divorce for the ‘masses’ had only recently been possible and the only divorce court in the land attracted newspaper hacks like wasps to a honey-pot. A woman could only divorce her husband if there was violence linked to adultery. Adultery alone was insufficient. Imagine the toe-curling among the Willey family when reading in the national press the verbatim reports of the case involving one of their sons. Book Two will include a further scandal suggesting hanky-panky with a housemaid which eventually drove Elizabeth Addy’s granddaughter to leave Halifax where the drama and subsequent court case unfolded.

Another law which created heightened tension in the story was



Hanover Square, Bradford

Members' Interests

Members may publish up to ten family names that they are researching on our website **www.lswifhs.org.uk** and in our Journal, the '*Liverpool Family Historian*'. Please print in block letters those names you wish to be included, using Chapman County Codes (shown overleaf) for the location.

Name:

Address:

.....

Post Code:.....Mem.No:.....

E-Mail:

A/N	Name	Location	Date(s)
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

☐

Please tick this box to consent to the Society publishing your above details in support of your Members' Interests request.

Members Interests

When the Society was first preparing the Members' Interests database in 2005, there was concern about the lack of appreciation for the pre-1974 Chapman County Codes that Members are encouraged to use when giving place names for their ancestors. In one case the town name submitted was repeated over twenty times in an Index to Place Names in the British Isles.

To assist Members we have, since then, published a list of pre-1974 County Codes and would recommend the website link below to see the post-1974 County Codes that apply today, that some Members use even though their interests relate to dates earlier than 1974:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chapman_code

The present system is a continuous on-going service, with a restriction on the number of names put forward for publication to ten names published in the Journal. All Members can submit additional interests later, via this form or via e-mail, that will be published on the website.

E-mail addresses will be published (where included), when Interests are uploaded to the website and printed in the Journal. If you do not want this to happen please inform the Treasurer when submitting your interests. This is necessary to meet the Society's responsibility under Data Protection legislation.

It would also help if each Interest submitted was classified either as "New" or "Amended" so that the database is kept up to date, and does not include old and invalid information.

Good hunting.

CHAPMAN County Codes

England (ENG):

BDF	Bedfordshire	HRT	Hertfordshire	SOM	Somersetshire
BRK	Berkshire	HUN	Huntingdonshire	STS	Staffordshire
BKM	Buckingham	KEN	Kent	SFK	Suffolk
CAM	Cambridgeshire	LAN	Lancashire	SRY	Surrey
CHS	Cheshire	LEI	Leicestershire	SSX	Sussex
CON	Cornwall	LIN	Lincolnshire	WAR	Warwickshire
CUL	Cumberland	LND	London	WES	Westmoreland
DBY	Derbyshire	MDX	Middlesex	WIL	Wiltshire
DEV	Devonshire	NFK	Norfolk	WOR	Worcestershire
DOR	Dorsetshire	NTH	Northamptonshire	YKS	Yorkshire
DUR	Durham	NBL	Northumberland	ERY	Yks East Riding
ESS	Essex	NTT	Nottinghamshire	WRY	Yks West Riding
GLS	Gloucestershire	OXF	Oxfordshire	NRY	Yks North Riding
HAM	Hampshire	RUT	Rutland	IOW	Isle of Wight
HEF	Herefordshire S	AL	Shropshire	IOM	Isle of Man

Wales (WLS):

N.WLS	North Wales	S.WLS	South Wales		
AGY	Anglesey	DEN	Denbighshire	MON	Monmouthshire
BRE	Breckonshire	FLN	Flintshire	MGY	Montgomeryshire
CAE	Caernarvonshire	GLA	Glamorgan	PEM	Pembrokeshire
CGN	Cardiganshire	MER	Merionethshire	RAD	Radnorshire

Scotland (SCT):

ABD	Aberdeenshire	ELN	East Lothian	PEE	Peebleshire
ANS	Angus (Forfarshire)	FIF	Fifeshire	PER	Perthshire
ARL	Argyllshire	INV	Inverness-shire	RFW	Renfrewshire
AYR	Ayrshire	KCD	Kincardinsire	ROC	Ross & Cromarty
BAN	Banffshire	KRS	Kinross-shire	ROX	Roxburghshire
BEW	Berwickshire	KKD	Kircudbrightshire	SEL	Selkirkshire
BUT	Bute	LKS	Lanarkshire	SHI	Shetland Isles
CAI	Caithness-shire	MLN	Midlothian	STI	Stirlingshire
CLK	Clackmannanshire	MOR	Moray	SUT	Sutherland
DFS	Dumfriesshire	NAI	Nairnshire	WLN	West Lothian
DNB	Dunbartonsire	OKI	Orkney Isles	WIG	Wigtownshire

Ireland (IRL):

CAR	Carlow	KIK	Kilkenny	OFF	Offaly (Kings)
CAV	Cavan	LET	Leitrim	ROS	Roscommon
CLA	Clare	LEX	Leix (Queens)	SLI	Sligo
COR	Cork	LIM	Limerick	TIP	Tipperary
DON	Donegal	LOG	Longford	WAT	Waterford
DUB	Dublin	LOU	Louth	WEM	Westmeath
GAL	Galway	MAY	Mayo	WEX	Wexford
KER	Kerry	MEA	Meath	WIC	Wicklow
KID	Kildare	MOG	Monagan		

N. Ireland (NIR)

ANT	Antrim	DOW	Down	LDY	Londonderry
ARM	Armagh	FER	Fermanagh	TYR	Tyrone

Channel Isles (CHI)

ALD	Alderney	JSY	Jersey	SRK	Sark
GSY	Guernsey				

Publications List

Publications for sale by post, prices **INCLUDE** postage:-

Column 1 U.K.; Column 2 Air mail

<u>BEGINNERS</u>	£	£
BASIC RECORD KEEPING FOR FAMILY HISTORIANS (AN ANTIDOTE TO CHAOS)..... <i>and no computers!</i>	3.70	4.50
NUTS & BOLTS (Family History Problem Solving through Family Reconstitution Techniques)	4.10	5.00
<u>"AN INTRODUCTION TO"series</u>		
BRITISH ARMY TRADITIONS & RECORDS.....	2.50	3.75
BRITISH CIVIL REGISTRATION.....	2.50	3.75
FRIENDLY SOCIETY RECORDS.....	2.50	3.75
OCCUPATIONS.....	2.50	3.75
<u>"BASIC" series</u>		
CONTACTING RELATIVES.....	1.50	3.50
LATIN FOR FAMILY HISTORY.....	1.50	3.50
USING BAPTISM RECORDS.....	1.50	3.50
USING RECORD OFFICES.....	1.50	3.50
USING PICTURE POST CARDS.....	1.50	3.50
BASIC FACTS ABOUT ARCHIVES.....	1.50	3.50
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SOURCES FOR FAMILY HISTORY IN THE HOME.....	1.50	3.50
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QUARTER SESSIONS RECORDS.....	3.00	4.75
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MY ANCESTOR WAS IN THE BRITISH ARMY	12.60	16.00
MY ANCESTOR WAS A MERCHANT SEAMAN.....	8.35	10.10
MY ANCESTOR MOVED IN ENGLAND AND WALES.....	5.00	6.20
MY ANCESTOR WAS A POLICEMAN.....	5.50	7.00
MY ANCESTORS WERE BAPTISTS.....	5.40	6.55
MY ANCESTORS WERE MANORIAL TENANTS.....	4.00	4.85
MY ANCESTORS WERE METHODISTS.....	5.55	7.10
MY ANCESTORS CAME WITH THE CONQUEROR.....	4.35	5.50
MY ANCESTORS WERE JEWISH.....	3.40	4.35

that which banned a man from marrying his dead wife's sister. To me a cruel law, it meant that young children were prevented from having a loving aunt take their late mother's place. Defiance of this law had consequences. Again, an opportunity for drama in the story.

My research was largely on-line via Ancestry and newspaper archives but time was also spent in the archives of Doncaster and Bradford, both revealing important material including the legal papers of John-Henry Willey, retained by his solicitor. Currently, with the help of two enthusiastic researchers in the USA, I am delving into the archives of Philadelphia to find probate on John-Henry's American estate. Elizabeth Addy's elder daughter, Mary-Ann, had married John-Henry of the Willey family of Bradford wool merchants and they lived there for many years with their three children. Eventually they emigrated to Philadelphia, the textile centre for the US, and, in time, a surprising number of family members followed.



All Saints, Arksey, near Doncaster

There comes a point in on-line research when you have to leave the keyboard and go to see the lie of the land. Just before publication of Book One, I visited Bradford for the first time and was surprised to discover how hilly it is. After meeting owners of houses lived in by my characters, I needed to re-write several passages to add authenticity to the story. The visit to the beautiful Norman church in Arksey, near Doncaster, was very moving as the vicar showed me where Elizabeth Addy was baptised, married and buried. A poignant moment.



The story moves on in Book Two and Knowsley Hall features strongly. I attended one of their few open days to see the magnificently restored state rooms and was privileged to be allowed to see the area 'below stairs' where my godmother's father worked as under-butler in the early 1900s. I walked through the long corridor which runs the length of this large stately home and imagined it living up to its name of Bedlam Row as maids and footmen dashed hither and thither catering for the demands of the Earl's family and guests, which sometimes included Edward VII.

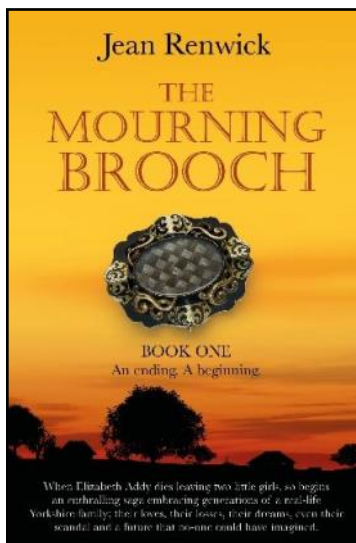


Edward VII's visit in 1905

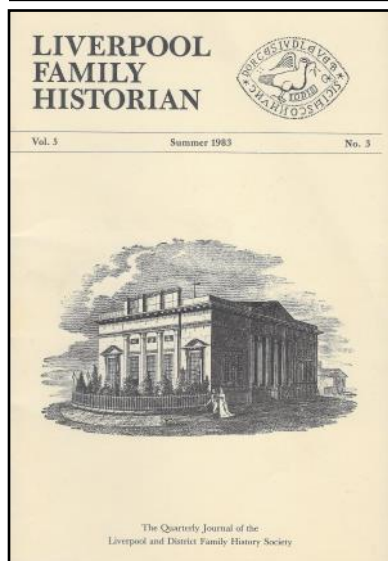
In writing *The Mourning Brooch* I follow the skeleton provided by dates of births, marriages, deaths and census records but with the help of newspaper archives and my imagination, I put flesh on the bones and dressed the characters to make them come alive again for the reader.

Book One of *The Mourning Brooch* is available for Kindle or as a paperback and can be bought on Amazon in many countries of the world including Europe, USA and Canada. My website, www.jeanrenwickauthor.co.uk provides background on the author and updates on publication.

(Membership no. 9491)



40 Years Ago in Liverpool Family Historian



The cover of the Summer 1983 edition of Liverpool Family Historian featured a wood-cut from 1810 of the Lyceum, in Bold Street. At that time, this was a rather new building. The Lyceum opened in 1802, as a gentlemen's club, newsroom and subscription library.

Described by Pevsner as '*one of the finest early buildings of Liverpool*', the Lyceum has not had an easy history and has been threatened with demolition on more than one occasion. In June 1983, we were celebrating the saving of the building after a proposal was approved to convert it into a

'speciality shopping centre' with wine bar and restaurant. In 1984, however, the Post Office bought it, quickly sold it and then leased a space within it from the new owners. Banks, building societies, bars and restaurants have all called the building home since then, with its current occupier being a Chinese restaurant. Let's just hope that the building's future is secure.

In other news... The journal editor observed that '*no convincing contender to claim descent from a Liverpool citizen of 1766*' (that is, one listed in the first Liverpool directory, published in that year) had yet been established from the membership. Although I wouldn't have known at that time, my 5x great-grandfather (Thomas Moncas) was indeed listed in the Gore's directory of 1766. Do any of you have descendants listed in the first Liverpool directory?

Our general secretary reported in his section of the journal that the society had '*actually made a profit*' and as a result, we were able to purchase the latest issue of the Mormon International Genealogical Index - and the society was also in a position, in the summer of 1983, to provide a microfiche reader for each of the groups.

- Ed.

Another Family at the Press of a Search Button

In the December 'Liverpool Family Historian' I mentioned using search engines to see if any new information has been added to any websites connected to any of my family history research.

Recently prompted by being asked to explain how we go about researching on the Help Desk at Archives: Wigan & Leigh, I decided to try again and inserted 'Samuel **McClellan** Deptford' in the search box. (I always include Deptford as otherwise I am directed to General Samuel McClellan of the American Revolutionary Army, no connection). Instead of Samuel McClellan appearing there was a Samuel **Barton**. I knew that my husband's McClellan family had married the daughter of a Barton and so found myself on the Barton Historical & Genealogical Society website.

This gave a Samuel Barton of Tanner's Hill, Deptford with lots of details i.e., date of birth, about 1785. The data included a Census entry listing him as Victualler at 'Royal George' and his place of death Anchor Cottage, Tanner's Hill. It also included the following:

4 Feb 1864

London, London, England

The Will with two Codicils of Samuel Barton, late of Anchor Cottage Tanners Hill in the Parish of St. Paul Deptford in the County of Kent, Victualler, deceased who died 6 January 1864 at Anchor Cottage aforesaid was proved at the Principal Registry by the oaths of Samuel Hughes McClellan of the Broadway, Deptford, aforesaid, Watchmaker, and Robert Slater of Church Street, Deptford aforesaid, Plumber the Executors. Effects under £1,000

Samuel Hughes McClellan is Samuel Barton's son-in-law and my husband's 2x great grandfather.

My next step was to search www.gov.uk and follow the instructions for a probate search. For £1.50 I was able to obtain Samuel

Barton's will online instantly. (I remember the days when that would have meant a letter, cheque, a stamped addressed envelope and then a wait for it to arrive.) Now I received 4 A4 pages of handwritten Will describing all the separate properties that Samuel Barton distributed to his children, including Mary, the wife of Samuel Hughes McClellan.

I googled the 'Royal George' on my phone, I was able to establish the exact place and then refer to the National Library of Scotland maps to find it on the maps of the about the 1860's. I could not identify Anchor Cottage but there is a mention of an orchard in the Will and I located a nursery on Tanner's Hill.

Obviously this means that I now have a complete new family of siblings of Mary. I will have to sit and study in more detail all the property mentioned in the Will of Samuel Barton. The probate was listed as 'under £1,000' which in today's money that is "£162,556".

My other search involved using the latest digital online version for birth entries at www.gro.gov.uk. For £2.50 another instant online result for my mother's birth entry.

You do have to create an account, then go to Order a Digital Image and follow the instructions. Births 1837-1922 and Deaths 1837-1887 are available in this service.

For the years not covered there is still the PDF version available for Births 1837-1934 and 1984-2021 and Deaths 1837-1957 and 1984-2021).

1913 December 1913	Amy	Full	Robert James Dean	Sarah Jane Dean formerly Harrison	Butcher	5th December 1914	Pemberton	Jeffery Baynes
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Everything there at the touch of a button. Family History made easy. Just remember that this is only a copy of the original entry that was made by the local Registrar who sent a copy of each entry to the General Register Office at the end of each quarter. This means that this is not the signature of my grandfather.

Glenys McClellan (850)

Police Court

Saturday, June 24, 1848

Introduction: Very often, it is our more badly behaved ancestors whose stories are the most interesting to tell and I think we probably all have one or two colourful characters in our family trees who had the odd brush with the law. Here at the Police Court (taken from The Liverpool Journal) are short summaries of the misdemeanours of some of our ancestors (one of whom was only nine years old) during the summer of 1848.

Mike Paice (8171)

A man named **Thomas Hughes**, a seaman on board the steamer **Prince of Wales**, was on Tuesday sent to gaol for seven days, for stealing a quantity of sugar from the cargo of that vessel.

Two notorious thieves, **William Baines** and **Thomas Brown**, were on Saturday committed for trial on a charge of plundering **William Wright**, a stranger, in Skelhorne-street, the previous night.

STEALING BELLS. **T. Collins** and **P. Naren** were committed at the Birkenhead Police-court, on Wednesday, for stealing bells from some unoccupied houses, the property of Mr. **Laird**.

On Wednesday, **William Minshull**, **S. Pownall**, and **William Sherlock** were committed by the coroner, for the manslaughter of **Thomas Evans**, with whom Sherlock, abetted by the two other men, had been fighting.

On Thursday, **Richard Rhodes**, publican, Chapel-street, was fined £5, or two months imprisonment in default, for assaulting police-officer **John Yates** (314) and ordered to pay 3s 6d for a window he had broken.

BEING IN POSSESSION OF SMUGGLED SPIRITS. On Thursday, **John Mooney**, the keeper of a notorious brothel in Finney-lane, was fined £100, for having in his house five-eighths of a gallon of contraband whiskey. The defendant did not appear.

On Thursday, a woman, named **Maria Harvey Orange**, was brought up, charged with having stolen from the house of **Ann Brenton**, Childwall-street, during the absence of the owner, a black satin dress and shawl, and a silver watch. As none of the property had been found, the prisoner was remanded.

A POLICE OFFICER STABBED. On Wednesday, a seafaring man, named **Thomas Fox**, was charged with inflicting several wounds on police-office 494, by stabbing him with a clasp knife. The evidence went to show that about four o'clock on Wednesday morning the officer was on duty near the Waterloo Dock, when the prisoner, without any provocation, rushed upon him, and stabbed him with a clasp knife several times in the neck and face. The surgeon to the Northern Hospital describes one of the wounds as dangerous, the vessels of the neck being separated. The prisoner, who said the officer had first struck him with a stick, was committed for trial at the assizes.

On Thursday, a man, named **William Crowsdale**, was brought up on suspicion of having stolen an anvil, stock, screw, and die, from the premises of Mr. **Edward Smith**, Newington-arcade. **Samuel Plover**, a second-hand tool-dealer in Liver-street, was also charged with having bought the screw, which was valued at £2, for 6d; and **John Falshaw**, of the same street, with having purchased the anvil, value 14s, for 2s. The three prisoners were committed for trial.

CHARGE AGAINST A MARINE STORE DEALER. On Wednesday, **John Beaumont** and **Thomas Robinson** were brought up, the former charged with stealing some lead, and the latter with receiving it. The prisoner Beaumont was an apprentice to Mr. **Crellin**, painter and glazier, and stole a quantity of lead from the Work-house, where he had been employed to do some work for his master. He was detected in the act of selling the lead to Robinson, who keeps a marine store in Franceys-street. Beaumont was sent to gaol for a month, and Robinson for two months, the license of the latter being at the same time revoked.

INGENIOUS SWINDLE. A stylishly dressed fellow, giving the name of **John Ogden**, was committed to trial on Monday, for having obtained money from Mr. **Levi**, silversmith, under false pretences, Mr. **L. Marks**, watch-maker, Paradise-street, and

others. The prisoner, it appeared, had sold to those parties parcels of “gold”, which he represented as the scrapings from china ware, and which had stood the acid test applied to it by the purchasers. Sixty shillings an ounce had been given for the metal, and it is needless to say it was not real, being merely a composition, with a sufficient overlaying of gold leaf to make it pass the test. A gang, it is said, is engaged practising this fraud throughout the country.

*Yesterday (Before Mr. **Rathbone** and Mr. **Turner**)*

Numerous parties were fined 5s. each for permitting their dogs to run at large after the caution issued by the mayor.

An old man, named **William Fowles**, a butcher, at Kirkdale, was bound over to keep the peace to his wife and the other members of his family, or to suffer two months’ imprisonment in default.

Mr. **Johnson**, the district building surveyor, summoned Mr. **Thomas**, of 68, St. James’s-street, for having placed above his shop a sign-board projecting two feet over the pavement, contrary to the provisions of the act. The defendant was ordered to take it down, and allowed three-days for the purpose.

A DRUNKEN REPEALER. A drunken man was placed in the dock, on the too common charge of “drunk and disorderly.” It appeared he had been shouting out in the streets “Hurrah for Smith O’Brien and repeal!” Mr. Rathbone said, “Mr. **Smith O’Brien** has made a great fool of himself, and so have you: go away and don’t come here again.”

ROBBING A TILL. **Walter Smith**, a young man attired as a sailor, was charged with stealing ten shillings from the shop till of Mr. **George Seddon**, Wellington-road. Mr. Seddon was in the parlour, when he heard someone in the shop, and on entering it he discovered the prisoner with both hands in the till. He was sent to gaol for a month.

A young woman, named **Jane Kelly**, was brought up having been stopped the previous night in Tarleton-street, hurrying away with a man’s coat under her cloak. The owner, it appeared, was insensibly drunk, and had been throwing his coat about. Apparent proof that the prisoner had no serious felonious intention was afforded by the fact that the man had £20 unmolested in his pocket, and she was discharged.

Three boys were brought up, having been found in St. Mathias' Church, (which our readers will remember, was a short time since nearly destroyed by fire) breaking up wood for the purpose of carrying it away. It appeared that the door of the church is unfastened and, on the ground of a temptation having been held out, Mr. Rathbone dismissed the prisoners, with a warning.

CHARGE OF STEALING A TABLE COVER. An elderly man, named **Thomas Arkwright**, was brought up on the suspicion of having stolen an oil-cloth table cover. The cloth, it appeared, had been stolen on the 5th of June, from the shop door of Mr. **Coates**, Lime-street, and was last week found in the house of the prisoner, who lives in a court in Albion-street. The article was not concealed, and the prisoner pleaded that it had been purchased of a hawker some time ago. He was discharged.

ACCOMMODATION FOR CARTERS. **Frederick Ackers**, a carter, was summoned for loitering with his lorry at the north side of Salthouse Dock. About sixteen other lorries, engaged to load off palm oil from a vessel, had taken up their position in the same place. Mr. **Yates**, solicitor, who appeared on behalf of the **Old Carrying Co.**, stated that as the stand at the Canning Dock was almost exclusively occupied by donkey and spring carts, there was no other place for the lorries to stay. Mr. Rathbone convicted in the usual fine, and directed Mr. Yates to memorialise the mayor on the subject.

STEALING SILK HANDKERCHIEFS. **Jane Kendall** and **Mary Williams**, two rather respectable looking women, were charged with stealing two silk handkerchiefs from the shop of **Messrs. Cook and Townsend**, Byrom-street. They had entered the shop, purchased a pair of stockings and a handkerchief, and Kendall was seen to put another handkerchief into her pocket: other two handkerchiefs were seen to drop from the dresses of one of the prisoners – which, the shopman could not say. Kendall has been four times previously committed; Williams was unknown. The former was sent for trial, the latter discharged.

A JUVENILE OFFENDER. A boy only nine years old, was placed in the dock, charged with having stolen a pair of stockings from the shop of a widow named **Ann Brown**. The prisoner, young as he was, had been previously convicted for stealing two whips. Mr.

Rathbone ordered his mother, who resides in Skelthorne-street, to be sent for. She pleaded that she had done her duty to the child by frequently chastising and beating him. Mr. Rathbone: But you must not do that; the devil may be beaten in, but can never be beaten out! After a friendly admonition, the worthy magistrate ordered the boy to be given up to his mother, who was instructed to take more care of him for the future.

SMUGGLING – **James Trot** and **Christina Halyger**, two coloured people, the latter most gaily attired, the steward and stewardess, we believe, of the *Anna Cropper*, from Calcutta, were charged with smuggling tobacco. The vessel is lying in the Albert Dock, and the female prisoner was stopped as she was leaving the dock with three-and-a-quarter pounds of cigars, and seven silk handkerchiefs upon her; two-pounds of cigars and a quarter of a pound of manufactured tobacco, belonging to the male prisoner, were found concealed on board the ship. They were fined 20s each, or fourteen days' imprisonment in default. - **Daniel Pender**, seaman on board the *Richard*, from New Orleans, for smuggling five-and-three-quarter pounds of foreign manufactured tobacco, was fined 40s, or a like imprisonment in default.

ASSAULT THROUGH JEALOUSY. A respectable-looking man, named **Isaac Davies**, residing in White Mill-street, Copperas-hill, was charged with a serious assault upon **Charles Bell**. The prisoner's wife, it appeared, was in a state of drunkenness, about twelve o'clock on the previous night, with a crowd about her in the street, when the prisoner came home. He attempted to get her into the house, but she struck at him, and mutilated a portrait of him that hung upon the wall. He went out armed with a poker, which he broke over the complainant, on whom he inflicted a serious wound beneath the eye. The prisoner pleaded that when he came home, he found his wife sitting with a man, whom he took to be the defendant, on a door-step, and that he was irritated by the circumstance. He was fined 40s. and costs, or fourteen days' imprisonment in default.

ROBBERY BY A FRENCHMAN, THROUGH STARVATION. A young man named **Louis Mari Bartlet**, a French subject, was placed in the dock, charged with having that night stolen a carpet-bag from the shop-door of Mr. **Hopkins**, Castle-street. Police Constable 200 saw the theft committed, followed the prisoner down

Lord-street, and took him into custody. The prisoner was unable to speak anything but French, and Mr. **Wybbergh**, the magistrates' clerk, acted as interpreter. He pleaded in defence that the consul had refused to pass him, and he was almost starved. Police Constable 49 corroborated the ground of defence, by stating that he had seen the prisoner in the neighbourhood of the docks at an early hour that morning, shrugging his shoulders, and saying "*Mangre, mangre*," words which the officer did not at that time understand. Mr. Rathbone directed the French consul to be sent for, that he might be made acquainted with the circumstances of the case.

PUBLICANS AND BEERSELLERS' CASES. Three publicans and four beersellers were summoned for infringements of the local act: - **Richard Williams**, publican, Kitchen-street. Inspector **Carruthers** stated that at a quarter to nine o'clock on Sunday morning, there were three men in the house, standing at the counter, with a pint of ale and a glass containing rum before them: fined £1 4s. 6d. - **Richard L. Lloyd**, publican, Frederick-street. Inspector Carruthers stated that at ten minutes passed nine o'clock on Sunday forenoon, there were in the house four men, with three mugs containing a small portion of whiskey on a table near to which they were standing: fined £1 4s. 6d. - **John Daft**, publican, Greenland-street. The same inspector stated that at a quarter past eight o'clock on Sunday morning there was a man in the house, standing at the counter, with a pint of ale before him: fined £1 4s. 6d. The following beersellers were summoned: **James Brookfield**, South-street, Toxteth-park, fined £2 4s. 6d; **James Chadwick**, South-street, Toxteth-park, £5 4s. 6d; **Margaret Murphy**, Chisenhale-street, £2 4s. 6d; and, **Henry Bloe**, Gilbert-street, £2 4s 6d.

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Liverpool & South West Lancashire FHS Downloadable Publications

Did you know that we have 45 electronic publications available for purchase and download from our online shop?

Over the past nine months we have been scanning books and converting CDs to provide digital products available for members (and others), which takes into account the move away from CD drives in modern computers. Producing these publications in electronic format also allows us to keep prices down, as there are no printing or postage costs. As there are no postage costs, the cost of our downloadable publications is the same for both UK and overseas members. These are all items that were previously published by the Society in various formats in the past.

A list follows of all the publications available at the time of writing and their download price. Purchases can be made from our online shop at: https://store.lswlfhs.org.uk/uk_shop/digital

PUBLICATION	PRICE
Billinge St Mary's MIs	£5.00
Eccleston Christ Church M.I.s	£5.00
Croft St Lewis RC Church MIs	£1.00
Dr Henry Park's Book of Genesis	£5.00
Eccleston St. Thomas MIs	£4.50
Everton Emmanuel Church Baptisms	£5.00
Grassendale St Austin's Marriages 1858-1895	£3.00
Gt. Sankey St Mary's Church MI's	£5.00
Liverpool Holy Cross R.C. Church, Marriages	£5.00
James Gibson's Liverpool Epitaphs	£5.00
Liverpool St David's Welsh Church	£5.00
Liverpool St Georges Presbyterian Baptisms	£5.00
Lowton St Mary's Church MI's	£5.00
Wavertree Our Lady of Good Help RC Marriages	£5.00
Liverpool Our Lady of Mount Carmel RC, Marriages	£5.00

Ashton in Makerfield, Park Lane	
Unitarian Chapel 1786- 1837	£5.00
Quaker Records, Hunter St. & Paradise St.	£5.00
Liverpool Sacred Heart RC Church	£5.00
Sefton Hall Chapel	£5.00
Skelmersdale St Richard's RC MIs	£5.00
St. Helens, Society of Friends, Hardshaw West	£5.00
Liverpool St Alban's Church - Marriages	£5.00
Liverpool St Andrew's Church, Renshaw Street	£5.00
Liverpool St Anne's Richmond	£3.00
Liverpool St Anne's Stanley	£5.00
Dalton St Michael's and All Angels MIs	£4.50
Westleigh St Paul's Church M.I.s	£5.00
Skelmersdale St Paul's M.I.s	£5.00
Liverpool St Peter's Church Baptisms	£3.00
Liverpool St Peter's Church Marriages	£5.00
Parr, St Peter's. M.I.s	£5.00
Ashton In Makerfield - St Thomas's Church	
Graveyard M.I.s	£5.00
Ashton In Makerfield - St Thomas Lower	
Ground M.I.s	£5.00
Melling, St Thomas, M.I.s	£5.00
Liverpool St Augustine's R.C. Church	£5.00
Halsall St Cuthbert's Church M.I.s	£5.00
Abram St John's Church M.I.s	£5.00
Liverpool St. Nicholas RC Church	£5.00
The Great Hurricane 1839	£2.00
Warrington St Paul's RC Church Burials	£3.00
Warrington St Paul's RC Church MIs	£4.00
Warrington St James, Friends Meeting House	
and St Albans (RC) MIs	£3.00
Widnes Borough Cemetery Burials	£5.00
Windleshaw Chantry	£5.00
Woolston St Peter's RC church - Baptisms	
1771 - 1834	£3.00

White Star Line H.Q. Liverpool

The earliest known reference to the White Star Line is from 1845 when it was founded in Liverpool by John Pilkington and Henry Wilson. Formed to focus on the UK Australia trade which greatly increased following the discovery of Gold in Australia.

On January 18th, 1868, Thomas Ismay, a Director of the National Line, purchased the White Star Line house flag, trade name and goodwill of the bankrupt company previously brought on by heavy investment in shipping which was financed by borrowing. However, the companies bank, the Royal Bank of Liverpool failed in 1867. The White Star line was forced in to bankruptcy of over £500,000.

It was Ismay's desire to operate large ships on the North Atlantic service between Liverpool and New York and thus together with the White Star Line name, a building, Albion House, was designed and constructed between 1896-1898 which would be the official Headquarters for the White Star Line.

The White Star Line began its Liverpool New York run with the 'Oceanic' class of ships. 6 in total: Oceanic, Atlantic, Baltic, Republic, Celtic and Adriatic.

One of the first great losses of the White Star Line was the sinking of the SS Atlantic and the loss of 535 lives near Halifax, Nova Scotia. While *en route* to New York from Liverpool amidst a vicious storm, the Atlantic attempted to make port at Halifax when a concern arose that the ship would run out of coal before reaching New York. However, when attempting to enter Halifax, she ran aground on the rocks and sank in shallow waters.

White Star Line continued to invest in its shipping, with Britannic and Germanic. Two new steamers which would both end up capturing the Blue Riband record (unofficial accolade given to the passenger liner crossing the Atlantic Ocean in regular service with the highest speed).

Further expansion of the fleet was Teutonic and Majestic. Larger ships with accommodation for nearly 1,500 passengers in three classes across four decks.

In the 1890's, the White Star line moved away from building the fastest ships to cross the Atlantic, they focused on the more luxurious fleet. The first step in this was with Cymric. This had been planned with both Passengers and Livestock areas, but after Director consultation, it was deemed that the 'Cattle' areas would be turned in to the Third-Class accommodation!

With the building timeframe of White Star Line HQ, Oceanic was also being constructed in 1897. However, Thomas Ismay's health was not good and started to decline. His health steadied enough for him to visit Oceanic upon her completion in Belfast and the Belfast officials awarded him with a Key to the City. Sadly, Thomas Ismay passed away in November 1899 just months after the completion of WSL HQ. In the immediate aftermath, control of the company was passed to his son, J Bruce Ismay.

In 1901, The White Star Line ordered a set of 4 new ships naming these 'the big four'. The Celtic, Cedric, Baltic, Adriatic. The last of these ships were scrapped in 1935. The biggest competitor to the White Star Line was the Cunard Line. To enhance their reputation, White Star Ordered the Olympic class Liners: Olympic, Titanic and Britannic. These would be the biggest and most luxurious ships in the world!

With the Olympic Class ocean Liners, Olympic, Titanic and Britannic, the Olympic was the only profitable liner for the company. Titanic sank on its maiden voyage, and Britannic was requisitioned by the government and used as a hospital ship during World War 1.

During the scrapping of the Olympic in 1937, parts were auctioned off. As this was a near identical version of The Titanic, (slight differences were that of enclosed promenade decking, and slight reworking on the starboard side for a new Restaurant), the fittings of the first-class lounge can still be seen to this very day in a Hotel in Northumberland. (see - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White Swan Hotel, Alnwick](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_Swan_Hotel,_Alnwick))

The Titanic

R.M.S Titanic was constructed and built in Belfast with the keel laid down for the Titanic in March 1909. The ship took 26 months to build. Titanic was 882 feet 9 inches long. A Maximum breath of

92ft 6 inches, and her total height measured 104ft. It had 10 decks (from top to bottom): The Boat Deck, Promenade Deck, Bridge Deck, Shelter Deck, Saloon Deck, Upper Deck, Middle Deck, Lower Deck, Orlop Deck, and the Tank Top were the lowest level of the ship. The total number of passengers were 2,453. 833 First Class Passengers, 614 in second class, and 1,006 in third class accommodation. Full capacity for both crew and passengers were 3,547.

Titanic was launched at 12:15pm on 31st May 1911 in the presence of Lord Pirrie, J Pierpoint Morgan and J Bruce Ismay.

During its maiden voyage, Titanic struck an iceberg just after 11:40pm on the 14th April 1912 and sinks at 2:20am on the 15th April 1912. 710 people survived the disaster after being rescued by the RMS Carpathia.

Aftermath

In 1927, the White Star Line was purchased by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. However, in 1932, RMSPC ran in to financial trouble and was liquidated. A new company, Royal Mail Lines Limited took over the ships of RMSPC and their lines including White Star Line.

However, in 1933 both White Star Line and their opposition, Cunard were both in serious financial difficulty. Falling passengers from the Great Depression, the Government stepped in to aid both companies if they agreed to merge their operations. The agreement was completed on 30th December 1933.

This created Cunard-White Star Line. In 1947, Cunard acquired the 38% of Cunard-White Star they did not already own and in 1949, acquired White Star's assets and renamed the company Cunard. The White Star line was to be no more 'in name' yet the White Star Line's Officers still exist in James Street, Liverpool.

The White Star flag is raised on all Cunard ships and on the Nomadic in Belfast, Northern Ireland every 15 April in memory of the Titanic disaster.

White Star Line HQ

Albion House, 30 James Street, White Star Line building, Pacific Steam Navigation Company – these are all names that people

associate with 30 James Street. However, 30 James Street is its official name, with the above names being associated with the building at different times of its tenure.

30 James Street was constructed between 1896 and 1898. Designed by Architects Richard Norman Shaw and J Francis Doyle, it was built for the Ismay Imrie and Company shipping company, which later became the White Star Line. Its design follows closely to that of the Architects earlier work of 1887, the former New Scotland Yard building in London.

After news broke on the sinking of the Titanic, crew members' families from Scotland Road came down to the building for further information. The sad news was shouted to them from the balcony above the entrance by White Star Line staff, too afraid to confront them personally.

During the Blitz of Liverpool in May 1941, Albion House was struck by incendiary bombs, and was burnt out. So much so that it was little more than a shell at the end of the Blitz. Only the two lower floors survived underground 'intact'. The rest of the building was gutted including the roof, the turret domes – but the clock survived the war!

The building, still owned by the Pacific Navigation Steam Company after the blitz, was restored 'on the cheap'. This was done to get the building back in use as quickly as possible. There are many subtle differences to the building pre and post the blitz. These are:

- The roofline structure is different to that of the original design.
- The metal topped domes either side of each turret are higher than the original designs.
- The complete front gable end has been removed and replaced with a far more simplistic design.
- The external clock has been removed and considered destroyed.
- The doors at either side of the turrets to walk on to the front balcony were bricked up to just window height.

The White Star Line Offices – Liverpool

The following description is taken just after the opening of the building in 1898: (Copyright Liverpool Record Office)

“A slice of New Scotland Yard” is the common criticism on the White

Star offices. Like most common criticisms, it is partly true and partly false. There is, undoubtedly, a certain similarity between the two buildings; the same materials are used; the scale is the same; there are the same angle turrets; and there is somewhat similar treatment of the apex of the gable. But there are enough points of difference to entitle the Liverpool building to be regarded as a fresh and original design.

The first point that strikes one externally, apart from the materials used, is its absolute simplicity. There is little or no carving; no ornamental. It is essentially an architectural composition, the result of a skilful use of material and a clever scheme of fenestration. As regards to the latter, it may be urged that the windows of the ground floor are too large, and that consequently a weak appearance is given to the lower part of the building. If these windows had been fitted with plate-glass then there is no doubt that this would have resulted; but broken up as they are by small panes and good big sash-bars, this defect is avoided.

It is true that these windows have a fault, and that is, that no 'camber' has been given to the flat granite arch over each. Partly owing to this, and partly to the heavy keystones, the arches appear to 'sag'. It is possible that in one or two there is slight settlement, but it is more likely that the somewhat unpleasant appearance is due to that optical illusion which the Greeks were so careful to correct in their best examples.

Some of these windows have also been spoilt by mahogany sun-blind cases. These, no doubt; were not originally contemplated, but the architects are none the less responsible, as it should have been patent from the first that they would be required. It is astonishing how few architects arrange in their designs for this small practical necessity, and how often the proportions and appearance of the windows of a building are spoilt by the want of a little forethought. The lower portion of the building is granite, the upper part, small Ruabon bricks and Portland stone arranged in irregular courses, and the roofs are covered with green slate.

The bond for the brickwork is that universally used in Liverpool, one row of headers to three of stretchers. A broad band of stone marks the transition between the lower part of the building and the upper, and on this band are the stone balconies to the large windows of the

first floor. This is a distinctive improvement on New Scotland Yard, where the brick, starting from granite, makes a hard line.

We well remember Mr Norman Shaw's remark when he showed the Architectural Association over that building, when it was repeated to him that someone had suggested a strong cornice or balcony was required all round to separate the materials: 'And they want a balcony, do they. Dear Me!'

Here this series of little balconies, one to each window, with their charming curved fronts of wrought iron work, form one of the most pleasant features of the building and prevent the appearance of flatness which otherwise would have been problematic. Above them there is a continuous, or almost continuous, balcony carried by simple but very effective stone corbels.

Although one hesitates to say that this is an improvement on the moulded cornice which occupies a similar position in New Scotland Yard, it is undoubtedly a more suitable arrangement for a building designed and used for city offices. The projecting eaves above this balcony are certainly much more effective than in the other design where there is little or no projection, and the effect, consequently, has always appeared mean.

The clock is carried on an iron cantilever which has been cased in oak. It looked better, we think, before it was cased. We were hoping that Mr Shaw would have the courage to let the skeleton stand and decorate it with colour and gilding only. It went very well with the plain railing of the upper balcony and did not look out of place beside the ornamental ironwork below. It is true that is a pretty enough feature as it stands, although the octagonal oak case to the clock itself is not very happy; but it has the interest which a more unusual treatment would have given it.

As regards to the internal planning of the building little need to be said; except at the entrance there is practically none. The private offices are at the front, or west end, and are divided from the rest of the building by a transverse wall, with chimney breasts back to back. The central portion has been fitted up differently on each floor, wooden screens in most cases separating the central passage from the offices on either side. The way in which the two huge chimney stacks are carried is characterised by the boldness which so often distinguishes Mr Shaw's treatment of these necessary features.

The flues that compose the stack in the centre only start from the mezzanine floor, the double chimney breasts on each side being carried on iron girders and stanchions. On the fifth floor from the mezzanine the flues for both these chimneys are carried over on arches formed of riveted girders of segmental shape. On these rest the two big stacks; but as a narrow passage down the centre had to be provided on the top floor, each stack is still divided into two until it passes through the roof. The two smaller stacks of the eastern gable contain the boiler and ventilating flues from the basement, and the fireplace flues from the offices above the vestibule.

It is difficult to understand, however, what flues are in the northern stack, as there are no rooms on this side of the building. Anyhow, on this east wall these chimney-breasts project from its face and run up in straight lines to the tops of the chimneys. There are no set-offs; neither is there any batter, and the effect, therefore, as seen coming down the street from the back, is decidedly top-heavy and clumsy.

In a building on a smaller scale no refinements to correct optical illusions would be necessary; but here, where everything is so large, they are undoubtedly needed. But this is, of course, a detail. The building is a fine piece of work, and if minor deficiencies are mentioned it is only because there is so little to find fault with. It rises higher than the water tower of the railway station behind it and makes everything round it look little and mean. This is not because of its size, for a building may be large, and yet ineffective, but because of the fine sense of scale which pervades it. It is a landmark from the river, and from the high ground at the back, on which most of the town is built. It teaches us how blocks of city offices should be designed and affords a lesson not only to the architects of Liverpool but also to their brethren in London and other large towns.

As regards the general arrangement of the building; Below the ground-floor, which is raised twelve steps, there are two basements. The lower contains the heating apparatus, coal cellars and is used for, we understand, for storing passengers' luggage. The upper basement and the ground floor are used by the White Star Line for their offices. The latrines are on the top floor but one, and the rest of this floor and the one over being used for caretaker's rooms.

It is possible to get out on to the open balcony in the apex of the western gable, and from it there is a glorious view of river and sea,

of Cheshire and the Welsh hills in the background.

The interior of the White Star offices on the ground-floor is chiefly interesting from the frank way in which the construction is shown. The panelled fireproof ceiling, specially designed by the architects and made by J. C Edwards, of Ruabon, looks remarkably well; the uprights and girders would look equally well if they were not painted so detestable a colour.

A cold French grey is not decoration, and it is hoped that this will be altered. The curved counter fronts of polished Hopton-wood stone, with a dark marble base, are very satisfactory. There is a great deal that is nice about many of the fittings inside the building. On the ground-floor the entrance screens and doors covered with leather and studded with brass-headed nails are very effective; but the copper balusters in front of the framework of the screens are already black.

We have before referred the planning of the entrance. All this portion is very dignified. A flight of twelve wide granite steps in the entrance vestibule, which is lined with granite ashlar, leads to the entrance-hall with its pavements of marble and stone and its walls and arches of polished granite. The two lifts open out of this, the wall in front of and above them being kept flush and carried right across, so that the whole of the east side is granite except where the doors of the lifts come.

Beyond the entrance-hall is the staircase-hall approached by four more steps. The staircase has a red marble dado with green marble capping. On many of the floors this cuts unpleasantly across windows, and is difficult to understand why this should be, unless the dado were an afterthought, as there is no reason whatsoever why the windows on this north front, which is unimportant and can never be seen, should not have been differently arranged. The staircase balusters are of suitably designed cast-iron with oak handrail and are painted the same objectionable French grey as the girders in the office.

One of the most effective features in the interior is the large octagonal well opening over the entrance-hall, which, starting from the first floor, pierces the five floors above, giving light to the halls at the different levels. This well is, in each case, surrounded by a balustrade similar in design to that of the staircase.

There are arches on each floor like those on the ground floor, the only difference being that the upper arches are not in plaster and not granite. One little practical point may be mentioned which is not often found in England, although we believe, it is practically universal in the tall office blocks in America. On each floor there is a letter box with a chute which leads to the main box in the entrance hall on the ground floor.

We have heard objections raised to this arrangement, but in this building, we believe it works well. A word of praise may be given to the paving's in the different halls. The entrance hall has already been mentioned. The floor of the Mezzanine has a narrow band of dark green marble, enclosing a centre of Portland stone with dark green marble in small diamonds.

On the other floors the diamonds are omitted, but the band is retained, and the result is extremely simple but very effective paving. The bands also serve to separate the Portland stone from the York stone of the landing and stairs.

It is difficult to over-estimate the good such a building as this must do in a town. That it is not universally admired is a tribute to its boldness and originality, and proof that it is a real work of architecture.

When prominent Members of Parliament regard New Scotland Yard as deplorably bad, it is not to be wondered at that some of the poor general public cannot see the beauty of the White Star Offices. They must be educated, that is all that can be said; and it is by these, buildings and some others that their education must be affected.

Designed on fresh lines, there is a difference between fresh and new – the White Star offices teach a lesson – to architects and others alike – of careful thought and ability conception; of suitability and honest building; and lastly, of what has been insisted upon before in this article, of the grand effects which can be produced by simple building, without the use of meaningless carving.

The building reminds one of the Italian palaces of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, although in many respects, it is quite different from them. There is the same bigness and yet the same delicacy that you find in the Farnese and Strozzi. There is the same happy use of

the mezzanine which is seen in so many other Italian examples.

There is the same simplicity and absence of ornamentation. The iron balconies do for the White Star offices what the bronze torch-holders and rings do for the Strozzi. The building is, as the others were in their day, especially modern. They were palaces for Princes; this is a block of offices for merchants, but built in the princely style, by one who was biggest of all the merchant princes on the banks of the Mersey – the late Mr J H Ismay.

With Norman Shaw in this building was associated Mr Frances Doyle, who superintended the carrying out of the work. This was no easy task. The natural foundations were by no means everything which could be desired; the floor of the bottom basement is, we believe, well below high water mark, and great difficulties were, we know, experienced at the south-west corner. It is no joke either to carry on iron girders two double chimney-breasts, each six stories high, with a heavy chimney stack on top. These are merely some of the difficulties with which the architects must have been confronted.

Mr Doyle, it will be remembered, collaborated with Mr Norman Shaw over the late Mr Ismay's private house, Dawpool. It must have been a great satisfaction to Mr Ismay, who for many years took such a keen interest in our art, to know that he had built the two finest examples of modern architecture in or near Liverpool.

Jonathon Wild (N/m)

[With many thanks to Jonathon for allowing us to use this article. – Ed.]

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Help Desks

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

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

Leigh Group: Leigh Group's Help Desk is now at Archives: Wigan & Leigh, Leigh Town Hall. Tuesday to Friday 10:00am to 1:00pm by appointment. Telephone: 01942 404430 for further details.

Southport Group:

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

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News from the Groups

Leigh & District

Chairman: Margery Harrop **Secretary:** Glenys McClellan

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

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 20 Jun | The History of the Leigh Girls Grammar School - Julie McKeirnon. |
| 00 Jul | No meeting. |
| 00 Aug | No meeting. |
| 19 Sep | Family History Sources & New Projects at Lancashire Archives - Alex Miller. |

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 6:0pm start and meetings finish no later than 7:45pm. £1 for refreshments.

- | | |
|--------|-------------------------------------|
| 13 Jun | My D.N.A Journey - John De La Cruz. |
| 00 Jul | No meeting. |
| 00 Aug | No meeting. |
| 12 Sep | 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 Jun | More Anecdotes of a Liverpool Registrar - Carol Codd. |
| 00 Jul | No meeting. |
| 00 Aug | No meeting. |
| 05 Sep | Welcome Back - Research and Help Night. |

Southport

Chairman: Hilary Ambrose **Secretary:** Diane Banahan

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

09 Jun	Town and County Records - Frances Taylor.
14 Jul	T.B.A.
00 Aug	No meeting.
08 Sep	T.B.A.

Warrington

Chairman: Peter Jolliffe **Secretary:** Vacant

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

26 Jun	T.B.A. - Louise Wade.
00 Jul	No meeting.
00 Aug	No meeting.
25 Sep	Wit and Wisdom in the Graveyard - David Guyton.

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 7:00pm and finish by 9:00pm.

28 Jun	T.B.A.
26 Jul	T.B.A.
30 Aug	T.B.A.
27 Sep	T.B.A.

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Plus one representative elected by each Group of the Society.



Prescot Watch Factory, Albany Road, Prescot

Built in 1889/90, this huge factory was meant to be Prescot's answer to the cheaper mass produced watches being made in American and Swiss factories. It was home to the Lancashire Watch Company and brought together under one roof all the processes and skills needed to manufacture complete watches.

Traditionally, from around the mid-18th century, English watches were collaborative affairs, with workers producing the many parts in small workshops attached to their homes. These parts were then bought up by watch movement makers and made into kits. The rough movements were all brought together by a watch finisher and sent to a watch case maker who would fit the movement to a gold or silver watch case.

Despite the huge investment and the production of around a million watches, the Lancashire Watch Company failed to make a profit. The author of *Lancashire Watch Company: History and Watches*, John G. Platt, notes that the factory closed in January 1911, with a nine-day auction of the equipment and fittings held in March that year.

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St. Mary's Church, Prescot

Thought to be on the site of a far older, pre-conquest, church, the current building can be reliably dated to 1610 but with parts of the chancel and north vestry thought to be of 15th century heritage. The tower and spire are both 18th century and the aisles widened during the first quarter of the 19th century.

There are a number of monuments in the church, including one to plantation owner William **Atherton**, whose widow, Elizabeth (née **Sephton**), gifted the church its organ in 1822.

The church was given Grade I listed status on 19 March 1951.

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