

LIVERPOOL FAMILY HISTORIAN



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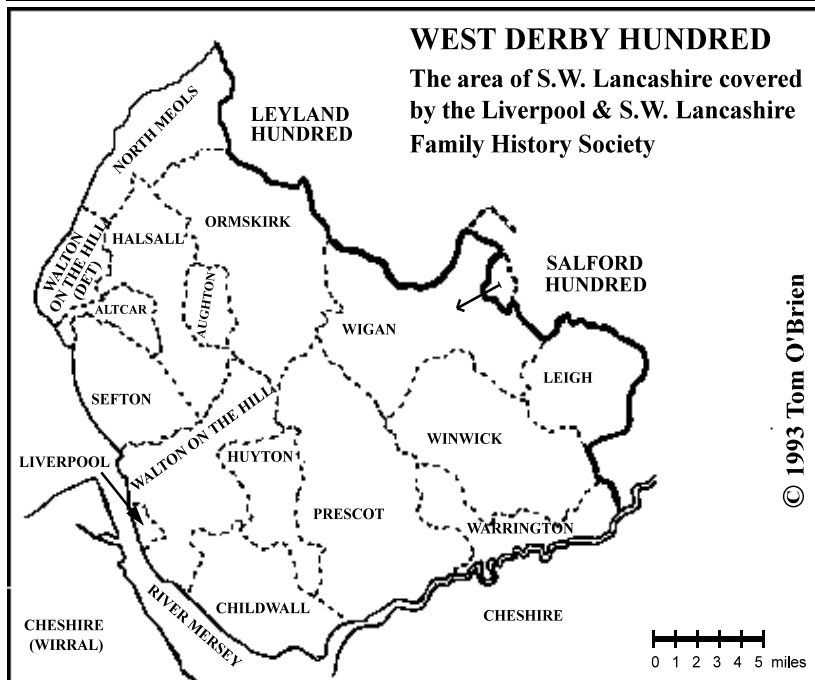
June 2024

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: Southport Town Hall was built in 1852–53 in the Palladian style, and extended to the rear on three occasions later in the century. The town hall is a designated Grade II listed building. It ceased functioning as a town hall in 1974 when the Metropolitan Borough of Sefton was formed and the new administrative base moved to Bootle.

Photo taken by Alexander P Kapp under [CCA-SA 2.0](#)

Liverpool Family Historian

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Editorial

As I sit here writing this I am waiting for my daughter, Louise, to return from a Park Run somewhere in Essex prior to her participation in the London Marathon. It will be the second time that she has taken part but the first time that the family are here to support her and we are so excited to be here for her.

I'm also excited to say that she has joined the Society as she is as avid a Genealogist as I am which is lovely as we can share the journey's ups and downs....and we have plenty of both! She has even offered to write an article for the Journal so watch this space.

After my appeal in the last Journal for more articles, I am very pleased to say that I had a very good response from our members. Some were short articles, some were very long and some were tragic in their content but needless to say I found them all to be fascinating and I hope you will find them interesting as well. As ever, though, I will need more articles for the next Journal so please keep them coming.

As I feel that I am now getting my feet under the table, as the saying goes, I think that now is the time to ask you for your suggestions as to what you would like to see in the Journal. Are you happy with the content as it is now? Or would you like to see other/different items included or certain items replaced? Please let me know and I will see what I can do to accommodate everyone. It may not be possible but if you don't ask, I won't know if I can do it.

There were so many updates on the various genealogy websites that I was unable to list them all, so all I can say is the lists are not exhaustive. I have done my best to include as many as possible but my advice is that it might be worthwhile checking the websites for yourself if you are looking for a particular record.

We have had lots of new members join us, so I would like to welcome them to the society and wish them luck with their research. If you run into any problems or brick walls (as we all do) please use one of our helpdesks at the various libraries around the local area or look on the website.

Best wishes

Alison Anyon, Editor

News Items

Society News

Conference and Annual General Meeting 2024

Our conference and AGM this year will be held on **Saturday 12 October 2024**, hosted by our Skelmersdale and Upholland Group.

The venue will be **Four Lane Ends Mission, Skelmersdale Road, Bickerstaffe, L39 0EZ**. 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) 2024

A reminder that this year's Family History Show at York Racecourse will take place on Saturday **22 June 2024**. Organised by Discover Your Ancestors magazine and sponsored by The Genealogist, the following exhibitors had confirmed their attendance at the time of writing (29 March 2024).

Airedale & Wharfedale FHS
Arrowfile
Agra
Census Detectives
Commonwealth War Graves Commission
East Yorkshire FHS
Family and Community Historical Research Society
Family History Federation
FHF-Online
GenFair
Huddersfield FHS
Metcalf FHS
Millston Postcards

My History
Newtown Design Services
Northumberland & Durham FHS
Nuneaton & North Warwickshire FHS
Ormskirk & District FHS
Quaker Family History Society
S&N Genealogy Supplies
University of Strathclyde

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 £12.00. The 'at the door' ticket price will be £12.00 per person, with each ticket including a free 'Goody Bag' worth £10.00.

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.

Go to www.familyhistoryshow.com/york/ for more information

FHF Really Useful Family History Show **East Midlands Live 2024**

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Family History Federation they are teaming up with other East Midlands Family History Societies on **Saturday 15 June 2024.**

The event will be held at the University of Nottingham, Kings Meadow Campus, Lenton Lane, Nottingham, NG7 2NR, conveniently located off the Nottingham Ring Road from 10am to 4pm.

As at all these events there is free access, it is wheelchair friendly, there are disabled toilets, free onsite parking and refreshments are available all day.

Confirmed exhibitors as at 29 February are:
Family History Federation and Nottinghamshire FHS (Co-Hosts)
Derbyshire FHS

Leicestershire & Rutland FHS
Lincolnshire FHS
Chesterfield & District FHS
Nuneaton & North Warwickshire FHS
Family Tree Magazine
Nottinghamshire Archive & Record Office
University Manuscripts & Collections
Families in British India Society
Romany & Travellers FHS
Arundel Books Alan Dance (Nottingham Author)
'A Few Good Women' Society

Go to <https://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/2024-live> For more information

The Family History Show (London) 2024

Another early reminder that the Family History Show at Kempton Racecourse in Sunbury-on-Thames, will run this year on **Saturday 5 October** from 10:00 to 16:00.

At the time of writing, the following exhibitors had already confirmed their participation, including:

Discover Your Ancestors (organiser)
The Genealogist (event sponsors)
S&N Genealogy Supplies (Partner)
Arrowfile
Australian Convict Research (London)
Census Detectives
Commonwealth War Graves Commission
Families in British India Society
Family and Community Historical Research Society
Family History Federation
FHS-Online
GenFair
Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain
My History
Nathan Dylan Goodwin (Author)
Quality Maps and More

Surrey History Centre
The Crafty Genealogist and
This Way Books and Cassini Historical Maps.

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 £10 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.

There are free talks featuring Mark Bailey, an online genealogy expert, Keith Gregson, a professional researcher and social historian and Nick Barratt, historian, author and professional genealogist.

'Ask the Expert' features Nick Barratt, Keith Gregson and Donna Rutherford who is a DNA expert.

Updates

There have been updates to the following websites:

- North West Film Archive
- North West Sound Heritage
- UKBMD
- Parish Chest.com

There were numerous new datasets added to the UK collection by Ancestry since the last edition of the journal and most of them are listed below:

Ancestry Updates

Aberdeenshire, Scotland, School Admission Registers (1852-1927); Aberdeenshire, Scotland, World War II Related Records (1940-1945); Aberdeenshire, Scotland, Police Records (1818-1948); UK, Battle of Jutland Crew Lists (1916); Blacksmiths and Related Trades Index (1720-1940); London, England, Stanfords London Maps (1890); Aberdeen and North-East Scotland, Index to Memorial Inscription Booklets (1500-2021); London, England, Parish Maps (1860-1880); UK, Imperial Gazetteer Maps (1900); Northern Ireland, Street Directories (1819-1900); UK, Admiralty Records of Marriages and Baptisms (1754-1878); Northern Ireland, Headstone Index (1658-2018); Hampshire, England, Church of England Baptisms (1813-1921); Hampshire, England, Non-Conformist Registers (1835-1921); Hampshire, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials (1536-1812); Hampshire, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns (1754-1921); Hampshire, England, Church of England Burials (1813-1921); UK, Wartime Records and Material (1914-18, 1939-1945); UK, Electoral Registers (2011-2018); Armagh and Londonderry, Ireland, Absent Voters Lists (1918); Westminster, London, England, Electoral Registers (1902-1970); UK and Allied Countries, World War II Liberated Prisoner of War Questionnaires (1945-1946);

Select new datasets from around the world include:

Ireland, First Edition Map (1856-1862); Ireland, Guinness Trade Ledgers (1860-1960); Ireland, 2nd and 3rd Edition Map (1899-1905); Ireland, Dublin Coopers Society and Brewers' Guild Records (1702-1945); Ireland, Guinness Employee Records (1799-1939)

US New Datasets are as follows and in no particular order:

Oklahoma, US, Voter Registration Records (1960-2023); Blacksmith & Related Trades Index (1720-1940); US Baptist Missionary Records and Sailing Cards (1814-1970); North Carolina, US, Voter Registration Records (1900-2023); Florida, US, Voter Registration Records (1942-2023); Oklahoma and Indian Territory, Dawes Census Freedmen Rolls (1898-1914); Duluth, Minnesota, Obituary Index (1904-2023); Vermont,

USA, Death Index (2008-2019); Connecticut, US, Voter Registration Records (1800-2023); Ohio, US, Voter Registration Records (1900-2023); New Orleans, Louisiana, US, Arrest Records (1805-1865, 1881-1935); Accomack County, Virginia, US, Births (1853-1865); Danville, Pennsylvania County, Virginia Births (1853-1896); Fayette County, West Virginia, US Births (1866-1880); Smyth County, West Virginia, US Births (1885-1896); Augusta County, Virginia, US Births (1880-1887); Leavenworth, Kansas, US, Leavenworth Times Obituaries (1954, 1958, 1967-1978); Clarke County, Virginia, US Births (1878-96); Fayette County, West Virginia, US Births (1881-1887); Accomack County, Virginia, US, Births (1866-1873); Rockingham County, Virginia, US, Births (1866-1884); Pulaski County, Virginia Births (1853-1884); Pulaski County, Virginia Births (1853-1893); Smyth County, Virginia, US, Births (1875-1878); Chesterfield County, Virginia, US Births (1875-1878); Hanover County, Virginia, US Birth Records (1853-1881); North Carolina, US, Birth Indexes (1800-2000); Chesterfield County, Virginia, US Births (1872-1877); Princess Anne County, Virginia Births (1881-1896).

Australia and New Zealand

Blacksmiths and Related Trades Index (1720-1940); Australia and New Zealand, Newspapers.com™ Stories and Events Index (1800s-current); Queensland, Australia, South Sea Islanders Index (1867-1908); Queensland, Australia, Boer War Indexes (1899-1902); New South Wales, Australia, Yewens Directory of the Landholders (1900);

The updated UK datasets are:

**Hampshire, England, Will and Probates (1398-1858)
 UK and Ireland, Newspapers.com™ Marriage Index (1800s-current)
 UK and Ireland, Obituary Index (2004-current)
 UK, Historical Photographs and Prints (1704-1989)
 Global, Find a Grave R Index for Burials at Sea and other Select Burial Locations (1300s – current)
 UK and Ireland, Find a Grave Index (1300s-current)
 UK, Royal Navy Medical Journals (1817-1856)
 UK, World War II War Diaries (1939-1946)
 UK and Ireland, Newspapers.com™ Obituary Index (1800s-current)**

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

Texas, US, Voter Registration Lists (1867-1869); **US, Newspapers.com™ Marriage Index** (1800s-current); **US, Obituary Collection** (1930-current); **US, Cemetery and Funeral Home Collection** (1847-Current); **US, Find a Grave® Index** (1600s-current); **Web; Minnesota, US, Marriages from the Minnesota Official Marriage System** (1850-2022); **1880 United States Federal Census; US, Civil War Draft Registrations Records** (1863-1865); **New York State, US, Death Index** (1957-1972); **Washington, US, Arriving and Departing Passenger and Crew Lists** (1882-1965); **Canada, Newspapers.com™ Marriage Index** (1800-current); **Canada, Obituary Collection** (1898-current); **Canada, Find a Grave® Index** (1600s-current); **Canada, Newspapers.com™ Obituary Index** (1800s-current); **Australia and New Zealand, Newspapers.com™ Marriage Index** (1880s-current); **Australia and New Zealand, Obituary Index** (2004- current); **Australia and New Zealand, Find a Grave® Index** (1800s-current); **Queensland, Australia, Immigration Indexes** (1848-1972); **Australia, Convict Records Index** (1787-1867) ; **New South Wales, Australia, Unassisted Immigrant Passenger Lists** (1826-1922);

British Newspaper Archive Updates

New Titles from the **British Newspaper Archive** are as follows:

Country Life (1897-2009); **Daventry and District Weekly Express** (1886-88, 1990-91, 1993, 2001-2002); **Lincoln Leader & Country Advertiser** (1896, 1899-1911, 1913-1929); **Matlock Mercury** (1986-88, 1990, 1992-94, 1996, 1998, 2000); **Bedworth Times** (1875-1876); **Foleshill & Bedworth Express** (1874-1876); **Piercy's Coventry Gazette** (1778); **Coventry Graphic** (1911-1921); **Gainsborough Evening News** (1954-83, 1987, 1992-94, 1996); **Deeside Piper** (1986, 1988-1994); **Pontefract & Castleford Express** (1889, 1901, 1911); **Midhurst & Petworth Observer** (1889, 1893, 1952); **Sleaford Standard** (1961-63, 1988, 1992-96, 1998).

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

Ripon Gazette (1877, 1879, 1889, 1987, 1990-95, 2001-02); **Forfar Dispatch** (1959-1984); **Fleetwood Weekly News** (1992-93, 1995-98);

Montrose Review (1818, 1839, 1844-45, 1978-1985); **Market Rasen Weekly Mail** (1986, 1995); **Mid Sussex Times** (1982, 1984, 1986, 1989); **Morpeth Herald** (1928-34, 1955-70, 1996-99); **Scarborough Evening News** (1889, 1993-98, 2000); **Coventry Standard** (1747-48, 1751, 1755, 1757, 1759-94, 1798-1811, 1814-1831); **Northamptonshire Evening Telegraph** (1955-56, 1987-88, 1990-91, 1993-95, 1997-98, 2001); **Market Harborough Advertiser & Midland Mail** (1993, 1995-96, 1998); **Melton Mowbray Times & Vale of Belvoir Gazette** (1887-93, 1943-60, 1994, 1996-99); **Edinburgh Evening News** (1947-50, 1995); **Stornoway Gazette & West Coast Advertiser** (1967-71, 1975-85, 1988); **Rugby Advertiser** (1855, 1960-68, 1984); **Eastbourne Gazette** (1988); **West Sussex County Times** (1983, 1986-87); **Hartlepool Northern Daily Mail** (1982, 1985-87); **Leamington Spa Courier** (1984-87); **Derbyshire Times** (1986); **South Yorkshire Times & Mexborough & Swinton Times** (1983); **Morecambe Visitor** (1988, 1990-91, 2001); **Brighouse Echo** (1986); **Retford, Worksop, Isle of Axholme & Gainsborough News** (1992-95, 1997-98); **Hemel Hempstead Gazette & West Herts Advertiser** (1982); **Northampton Mercury** (1989-90, 1992-94); **Shields Daily Gazette** (1988); **Wolverhampton Express & Star** (1966-68); **Northampton Chronicle & Echo** (1992-93); **Banbury Guardian** (1961-63, 1978, 1980-81); **Alnwick Mercury** (1965-68, 1993-97); **Berwick Advertiser** (1840)

Deceased Online Updates

Deceased Online added the following records to their database on 8 February 2024:

Halton Cemetery, 2227 records from 1886-2020

Widnes Gardens, 44820 records from 1886-2020

Runcorn Cemetery, 40783 records from 1860-2020

The records comprise digital scans of the burial registers or computerised records and grave details for each of the graves and their occupants.

FindMyPast Updates

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

Warwickshire, Coventry, Vehicle Registrations (1921-1944) This brand

-new collection allows you to find out more about car-owning ancestors and so much more.

With these records, you can discover where and when your relatives worked and unknown stories about their lives. The unique collection also shines a light on fascinating historical insights. You'll find Sir William Lyons, co-founder of the Swallow Sidecar Company. After the Second World War his brand changed to the now world-famous Jaguar due to the 'SS' connotations in its name.

Warwickshire, Coventry, Company Directories and Publications

(1908-1966) Over 20,000 pages from various publications can help you discover what it was like to live and work in Coventry.

In these records you can find where family members worked, achievements they picked up and how they lived their lives. The collection includes publications that cover soldiers from the First World War, birth, marriage, death, and retirement notices, accounts of holidays and trips and so much more.

Women's Land Army Service Cards (1939-1950)

With the 128,440 service records in this brand new collection, discover women's contributions to the Second World War in more detail than ever. Originally set up in 1917, the Women's Land Army was reformed in June 1939 in preparation for the Second World War and these records will tell you all about your ancestors' time with the Land Army, including name, marital status, date of birth and details about their enrolment.

Malta, Monumental Inscriptions (1829-2022) This brand-new collection of grave records from Malta covers almost 200 years, from 1829 right up to 2022. There are 6,026 images and transcriptions for you to explore, from the follow cemeteries:

Ta'Braxia Cemetery
Sliema War Memorial
Pembroke Military Cemetery
Malta Memorial
Imtarfa Military Cemetery
Kalkara Cemetery
Valletta Cemetery

Whether you've got Maltese roots or your ancestor fought abroad during

either of the World Wars, you may find a familiar name or two amongst the many military graves in this set.

Manchester Electoral Registers (1820-1940) The biggest update comes to the Manchester electoral registers. Spanning 120 years, there are over 1.2 million new additions to discover.

You may be able to discover the names and addresses of your Manchester ancestors with these 1,285,051 new transcriptions and images.

Manchester Rate Books (1820-1940) Yet another big Manchester addition, in the form of 384,785 new Rate Book records and they may help to illuminate key details about the lives of your ancestors in the North West of England.

Scotland, Mental Health Institutions Registers & Admissions (1858-1921) A brand new set of 220,7317 Scottish mental health institutional records have been added, spanning 1858 to 1921.

Scotland, Court & Criminal Database Over a million Scottish court database transcriptions have been added to this existing collection, making it easier than ever to uncover those criminal connections within your family's history. These records are taken from the Court of Sessions, Crown Counsel Procedure Books and the Scottish Prison Records Index.

Scotland, Poor Law & Poor Lists (1845-1930) If your Scottish ancestor received Poor Law relief between 1845 and 1930, their name may appear within these 7,906 new records.

Registers from **Wigtownshire** and the **Scottish Borders** have been added to this existing collection, meaning it's easier than ever to locate your Scottish ancestors within the records.

Ireland, 1766 Religious Census Although the original documents were lost when Ireland's Public Records Office was destroyed in 1922, these extensive transcripts were recorded by antiquarian and genealogist Tenison Groves prior to the fire.

From these records, you may be able to learn the name of the head of the household, the year, their religion, the parish and the county. The information recorded varies widely, because different enumerators

Ireland, Census of Protestant Householders (1740) Secondly, they have also added transcriptions of a census that was taken of Protestant householders in 1740. The 15,957 records within this new set are from parishes in the counties of **Antrim, Armagh, Derry, Donegal, Down and Tyrone.**

Map of Ireland, c.1716. Also created by Tenison Groves, these transcriptions contain details like a name, year, barony, parish and county.

Ireland, 1755 Dissenters' Petitions This is a collection of historic petition records. It contains approximately 4,000 names, of people who protested the **Church of Ireland's** sacramental tests in 1775. The petitions consist of dissenters' names categorized by parish, congregation, town, neighbourhood, or, in one case, barony. Occasionally, members of the Established Church also signed the petitions. The lists typically specify whether signatories were dissenters or Established Church members. In cases where no denomination is indicated, the list contained names of both dissenters and Established Church members without differentiation.

While available for all **Northern Ireland** counties **except Fermanagh**, these records are most extensive for areas in **Counties Antrim and Down.**

Belfast & Ulster Directories (1831-1900) In addition to the three brand new Irish record sets, there has also been a significant update to an existing Irish collection. 951,127 Belfast and Ulster directory records have been added to this collection, with both transcriptions and original images is available for you to explore.

These new additions span 1831 to 1900, and contain over 900,000 names. With almost 70 years of history covered, they offer a detailed glimpse into what the North of Ireland was like in the 19th century.

Ireland Land Commissions (1891-1920) Next there is another brand new record set, Irish Land Commissions which includes 741,255 records.

Covering 1891 to 1920, these records contain details of tenants who were able to buy the farm they occupied from their landlord and will contain the names of both parties, as well as where the farm was and how much was paid.

Northamptonshire Militia Lists (1726-1819) Another addition sees 13,351 records added to our existing Northamptonshire Militia Lists. Militia lists were recorded annually and sent to either the Justice of the Peace or the Lord Lieutenants and include information such as name, occupation the year the record was taken.

The British Home Children Collection (1860s-1970s) Between the 1860s and 1970s, over 130,000 children were sent to live in overseas dominions by the British government. Known as British Home Children, many of their stories have been lost to history.

Canada, Home Children Inspection Reports (1913-1932) This brand new set - which contains 25,534 images and transcriptions - is taken from the inspection report cards used by Canadian immigration officials to record key information about Home Children.

Covering between 1913 and 1932, this collection is key for determining where a child was living at a particular point in time. Between the transcription and the original record image, you can expect to learn the child's name and age, as well as the year of their emigration and the sending organisation.

Canada, Home Children Board of Guardian Records Our second new Home Children collection is taken from workhouse registers. There are 10,678 transcriptions and images, covering 36 years.

Each record will typically tell you the child's name and age, the place where they were taken into care in England and the organisation that sent them overseas. There is an additional section for notes on each record - so be sure to check the detail-rich image for any details that the transcription may have missed.

Lancashire, Liverpool, Children Sent to Canada (1883-1925)

Spanning 1883 to 1925, this new set contains 466 records which identify Home Children that were sent from Liverpool to Canada.

The registers that these records are taken from are organised by religion, but you can search them by name, date and optional keywords. You'll typically be able to glean a name, birth year, age at time of immigration, workplace and religious denomination.

Britain, Children's Legislation Correspondence Lastly, we've also added an interesting collection of documents which relate to the passing of the **Children's Act in 1908**, available to browse only. With rich sources like letters between government officials and pamphlets produced by children's organisations included, these 2,062 documents provide important context for researching Home Children.

1871 – England & Wales Census The largest update sees improvements made to 22,808,909 records from the **1871 Census** for England and Wales, making finding your English and Welsh ancestors easier than ever before. Previously untranscribed, occupations and places of birth have been added to over 22 million records, so not only will you see this information on the transcriptions, you can now search by these fields using the Advanced Search page.

England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment (1770-1935) The next update sees 62,569 new records adding to the existing collection of England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment records. These new records cover 1915 to 1923 and will give you all the juicy details of your criminal ancestors. Be sure to check the original images for extra information, including a remarks column where you may find occupations, relations or references to another case they were involved in.

Teachers' Registration Council Registers (1914-1948) We also have 612 new records in the dataset, plus improvements to over 100,000 existing records. On the transcriptions, you will now see where your ancestor trained as a teacher and if you check the original images, you will also find extras such as any attainments they received and a full history of the schools they worked in.

National School Admission Registers & Log Books, Kent (1870-1914) Our collection of Kent school records also saw a significant update this week, with over 270,000 images and transcriptions added. Spanning 1870 to 1914, this existing collection consists of admission registers and log books from across the country.

Yorkshire Parish Records, St Michael Le Belfrey, York, Baptisms, Marriages (1650-1950) and Burials.

40,193 parish records, from an Anglican church in York's city centre - **St Michael Le Belfrey** have been added to the Yorkshire Parish Records. If you've got roots in North Yorkshire, your ancestor may be listed within these baptisms, marriages and burials.

The first of the additions is baptism adding 13,385 transcriptions and images to this existing collection, taking the set's total record count to a whopping 9.2 million.

Secondly, also added is 13,423 marriage records, also from St Michael Le Belfrey. These images and transcriptions span from 1650 to 1950, so there are three centuries of history for you to discover.

Thirdly, also updated is the collection of Yorkshire Burials, with 13,385 St Michael Le Belfrey records added. With both images and transcriptions included, these burials cover 41 years of York's history.

ScotlandsPeople Updates

4,865 individual National Coal Board (NCB) statutory working plans have been released onto the ScotlandsPeople website. These plans can be searched on the [maps and plans section](#) of the website.

The Genealogist Updates

On 12 April the latest release contains over 10 million new individuals recorded in directories from the first two decades of the 20th Century. This virtual book shelf stacked with volumes from the early 1900s to 1929 includes publications from all over the United Kingdom and Ireland. These directories are filled with listings of people, their addresses and details of the places they lived in. Other directories list businesses and offer a fascinating glimpse into ancestors from this time.

Also released is over 1,769,000 individuals to the Irish Catholic Parish Record Collection, covering over 80 parishes in County Tipperary. Also making up the releases are over 1,263,000 Irish Wills.

For the many family historians with Irish ancestors, these latest records will be a welcome addition to the records.

Over 120,000 individuals recorded in **Worcestershire Parish Records** were released in time for The Family History Show, Midlands on Saturday 16th March 2024.

This welcome addition to the growing collection of parish records brings the total Parish Records for Worcestershire up to 2.65 Million Individuals. The records include transcripts of early entries stretching back to Tudor times.

Released in association with Malvern Family History Society, this is the latest fruit of an ongoing collaboration where high-quality transcripts of Parish Records are being made available on TheGenealogist, as well as FHS-Online.

Records from the following parishes are included in this release:

Abberley, Abbots Morton, Alfrick with Lulsley, Alvechurch, Areley Kings, Astley, Bayton, Belbroughton, Bengeworth, Beoley, Berrow, Besford, Birlingham, Birtsmorton, Bishampton, Bockleton, Bredon, Broadway, Bromsgrove, Chaddesley Corbett, Church Honeybourne, Church Lench, Churchill with Blakedown, Claines, Cleeve Prior, Clifton on Teme, Cofton Hackett, Colwall, Daylesford, Leigh with Bransford, Lindridge, Mathon, Pershore Holy Cross, Pershore St Andrews, Pontardawe, Redmarley D'Abitot, Shipston on Stour, Shipston-on-Stour, Teddington, Warndon, Welland, Whittington, Wick, and Wolverley.

Over 142,000 new individuals to the **War Memorial** collection, bringing the total number of fully searchable **War Memorial Records** on TheGenealogist to over 1,688,000. These fully searchable records have been transcribed with their location plotted on Map Explorer™ so you can find the names of ancestors who made the ultimate sacrifice.

These **War Memorials**, from a variety of places in the UK, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States, can be used to find ancestors and reveal organisations, churches, towns and communities that they had belonged to.

Also released were thousands of extra historical pictures added to the Image Archive. These often fascinating and atmospheric drawings and

historic photographs have also been geolocated with pins on the Map Explorer™. Having found an ancestor's address in a record such as the census and seeing it located on the map, researchers can then view pictures of the neighbourhood as it had once looked when our ancestors lived there.

This resource has been boosted with the addition of some great locational views, including over one thousand beautiful engravings for places of interest in the capital from Old and New London by Edward Walford. There are now over 12,000 geolocated images viewable on Map Explorer™.

John Lee Wood (1772-1842)

Upon retirement 13 years ago I decided to trace my family tree. My first stop was Ancestry.com and I thought I could spend many a happy hour searching. I was a bit disappointed / pleased when a link popped up and I found a 1st cousin had already started building the tree! She had gone back as far as John Lee Wood, our 4th great grandfather. I decided to then concentrate on him to see if I could go back any further.

John Lee Wood was born in 1772 but I am unable to establish where. He was married on March 28th 1805 to Maria Parr at St Nicolas Church in Liverpool. JLW was registered as a Mariner.

His first son Henry was born in 1806 and christened in Parkgate on the Wirral. JLW was also the licensee of the Red Lion in Parkgate from 1822-1841. The Wood family owned the Red Lion for 75 years and before that it was John Parr, my 5th great grandfather, also a mariner. I now know where I get my taste for beer from!

JLW died in 1842. Upon searching local church registers I managed to find a family grave in St Marys and St Helens church in Neston, 1 mile from the Red Lion. I found it quite emotional upon clearing the headstone to find 5 ancestors of mine buried there. I was especially moved when I read the last inscription on the headstone.

Red Lion ph The Parade Parkgate	
1788:	John Parr
1822-28:	John Wood
1848-73:	Lee Wood - also a joiner
1873-78:	Mrs Elizabeth Wood - she died in 1881
1881-97:	John Wood
1889:	Philip Sulley's <i>The Hundred of Wirral</i> described the Red Lion as one of two fully licensed houses in Leighton (The Red Lion was in Parkgate)
1897:	Bought by Peter Walker and Son Warrington
1898-99:	William McDowell
1900:	Elizabeth McDowell
1900-24:	Alfred George Humber
1924-29:	Mrs Sarah A Humber
1929-31:	Andrew Charles Brown
1933:	Charles Howe
1933-40:	Joseph Moore
1940:	Malcolm Campbell
1940-46:	Rose Victoria Campbell - she took over from her

A list of owners of the Red Lion, Parkgate, Neston

*"Go home Dear children and shed no tears,
for you I've laboured many years,
I've always strived to do my best, and now it's come to take my rest"*

Buried there are:

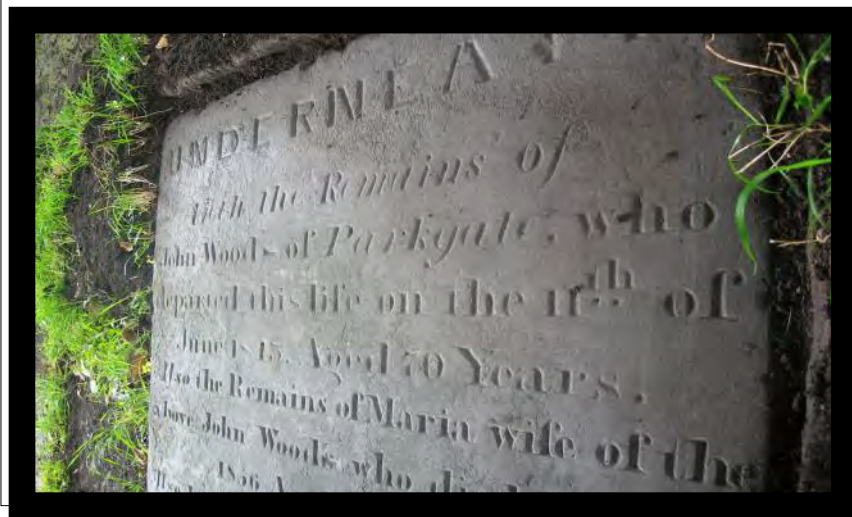
John Lee Wood 1772-1842

His wife Maria Wood (nee Parr) (1770-1846)

Their 2nd son Lee Wood (1811-1873)

Lee's wife Elizabeth Wood (nee Trought) (1809-1881)

Sarah Wood (nee Miller), Lee's daughter in law (1841-1893)



What has all this got to do with Liverpool I hear you ask?

Whilst Parkgate was an important port from the start of the 18th century gradual silting of the Dee estuary meant that it was superseded by Liverpool as a port. JLW was a mariner so it is not surprising he retired to run a pub there. Especially after marrying the landlord's daughter!

What does surprise me though is that whilst he was mainly living in Parkgate he was married in Liverpool and in his will he left property in Mersey Court, Liverpool to his eldest son, Henry. Since then my direct family has all been from Liverpool. Despite both my parents being born in Liverpool I have completed the circle by being born back on the Wirral. (Wallasey)

So, was he actually from Liverpool? I cannot find any trace of him before his marriage to Maria Parr but as a mariner he could have come from anywhere. In the 1841 Census he is not listed as being born in the County of Great Neston parish, as is his wife, so I can assume he is not from the Wirral.

City or Borough of _____
Parish or Township of Great Neston 8

Enumeration Schedule.

PLACE	HOUSES		NAMES of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night.	AGE and SEX		PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS.	Where Born	
	Uninhabited or Building	Inhabited		Males	Females		Whether Born in same Parish	Whether Born in some other Parish, County, or Foreign Part.
Parkgate			Harriet Pollard	10				Y
			Mary do	8				Y
			John do	8				Y
			George do	4				Y
			Joseph do	2				Y
Red Lion			M J John Hoagel	64		Publican ✓		M
			Maria do	40				Y
			John do	9				M

Any help or advice would be appreciated to get me over the brick wall.

Ron Wood (8833)

The Royal Humane Society

During my research I came across a Charles Algernon Burrows who was a 4th cousin born in Toxteth, Liverpool in 1886. The 1901 census showed him as an apprentice joiner. He enlisted in the Royal Marines in 1904. I also discovered that he had been awarded a Bronze Medal by the Royal Humane Society.

Naturally I wanted to find out more and I found that the records were held at the London Metropolitan Archives. When I was able to travel up to London from Devon, I visited the LMA and discovered a book with information on all of the awards made - gold, silver and bronze medals and testaments. The Bronze medal was awarded for *“courage and promptitude in saving life from drowning or asphyxia in wells or mines etc under circumstances of danger and personal risk to the salvor or salvors”*.

The details of Charles’ bravery were as follows: -

“At 11.15pm on the 1st of June 1911 a boat belonging to HMS Penguin with 6 men on board was capsized in Sydney Harbour the night being dark and the water cold. Pte CA Burrows, RMLI and WH Colmer, AB who were of the party, exerted themselves to help their comrades and succeeded in saving 3 of them, the fourth being drowned”.

Further information indicated that Charles swam 300 yards through shark infested waters to an island from where he got a boat to save the three men. Mr Colmer swam 200 yards to an island but was “fished up” by a boat.

At a Humane Society committee meeting on 8 August 1911, both men were awarded the Bronze Star for their bravery.

Looking through some other awards I found the following with a Liverpool connection: -

- John HS Kitchen attempted to rescue a woman who was drowned in the Egerton Dock, Birkenhead on 17 April 1911

- A Spencer rescued a woman and child from the Mersey at Egremont 19 Sep 1911

The above named were awarded a 'testament on vellum' for their actions. (The testimonial on vellum is **awarded where someone has put themselves in considerable danger to save, or attempt to save, someone else**).

Awards were made throughout the world including in India and St Helena.

I am proud of Charles Burrows and would urge anyone who comes across a mention of a Humane Society award to investigate any details they can find.

Gwen Davis (1994)

What about the Children?

Dilemma in a Protestant-Catholic Marriage

Those of us with family lines that pass through Victorian Liverpool often find we have Irish ancestors. The Irish had been coming to Liverpool since the early 1800s, many were in transit to North America, but a significant number stayed. The Great Famine of the 1840s saw the biggest increase in Liverpool's Irish-born population when it rose from 17% at the start of the decade to 22% by the end. With it came an increase in marriages between the mainly Protestant Liverpudlians and the mainly Catholic Irish.

One such instance was my second great grandfather, Edward Gidman, who was baptised in an Anglican church in Liverpool in 1836, and at age 20 married Elizabeth Phillips, who was born in Ireland, and was most likely Catholic.

An indication of how Edward and Elizabeth managed their religious differences can be seen in the family's baptisms and burials.

Edward and Elizabeth married in an Anglican church, but only three of their ten children received only an Anglican baptism - another three received only a Catholic baptism and the remaining four received both!

Table 1: Births & Baptisms of Edward and Elizabeth's Children

Name	Date of Birth	Anglican Baptism	Catholic Baptism
Martha Elizabeth	12 July 1856	29 July 1856	21 Feb 1867
Catherine	8 April 1858	-	21 Feb 1867
Annie	1 Feb 1860	3 Nov 1862	8 Jan 1863
Edward*	30 Oct 1861	-	8 Jan 1863
Elizabeth	7 Feb 1864	21 Feb 1864	-
James Hugh	24 April 1866	-	20 Feb 1867
Thomas	15 July 1869	12 Jan 1873	27 Nov 1872
William Henry	19 Jan 1872	25 Oct 1876	27 Nov 1872
Alfred Walthew	1 Jan 1875	7 Feb 1875	-
Joseph	17 June 1877	18 Aug 1878	-

For some unknown reason Edwards birth is recorded as 22 October 1862 on his baptism record.

The Catholic baptisms of Martha, Catherine and James in February 1867 may have been prompted by the death of their younger sister, Annie, the month before.

Both Martha and Catherine were baptised 'sub conditione', a term used when there's uncertainty whether the child had been baptised before; perhaps not surprising as Martha was ten and Catherine nine. That may explain why they weren't baptised the day before with James, who was an infant. The Catholic baptisms of Annie and Edward also took place on the same day as did those of Thomas and William. That said, there was no consistency or pattern.

The family burials were as follows:

Two of the children died in infancy: Elizabeth in 1866 and Annie the following year; they were both buried in the Anglican part of Anfield cemetery in public graves.

Edward's wife Elizabeth died in 1900; as she was likely a Catholic, it's notable that Edward purchased a grave in the Anglican part of Anfield Cemetery in which hers was the first burial. Edward was buried in this grave (in 1915) as were three of their children:

- Martha, who didn't marry, in January 1908;
- Catherine, who died before her husband, in December 1908; and
- Edward, who died before his wife, in 1924.

Edward and Elizabeth's remaining five sons all married and had offspring. Each was buried in his own family grave - three were Anglican and two Nonconformist.

While no family members received Catholic burials, it must be noted that cost, practicality or surviving spouses may have overruled the religious preferences of the deceased.

What, if anything, does this imperfect analysis show? Perhaps only that compromise featured strongly in Edward and Elizabeth's 44-year marriage, as it does in all lasting relationships, and that a Catholic marrying into this Protestant family had little or no effect on its religious affiliation.

Bill Haygarth (9250)

Sources

"England & Scotland, Select Cemetery Registers, 1800-2016." *Ancestry*.

"England Roman Catholic Parish Baptisms." *Findmypast*.

"Lancashire Baptisms." *Findmypast*.

England & Wales. Registrar General. Birth, Marriage & Death Certificates/PDFs. General Register Office, Southport.

William Henry Rideing

When I began my research into the maternal line of my family history my mother could only give me the name of her father Patrick, who lived until I was twelve years old and her grandfather Charles who had died before my mother was born. She thought her grandfather had died young during the Spanish Influenza pandemic but this I discovered was slightly wrong.

My research began in pre-internet times and involved visits to the Family History Centre at a local Church of the Latter-Day Saints to plough through microfilm records. Without any addresses to work with, I soon hit a roadblock and little progress was made. One reason was that at that time the 1871 and 1881 censuses covering the densely populated streets of Kirkdale was on unindexed microfiche and eventually I put the re-search to one side.

When I resumed my research about ten years ago the number of genealogical records available was now enormous and the fact that, in many cases, they had been indexed was transformational. An additional resource was available to help me that I had ignored: The Society's knowledgeable and helpful members. They quickly responded to a query posted on the society's web providing me with crucial information that solved by immediate question and new branches of my family tree.

As a result of the new information, I have now traced the Ridings back to 17th century West Derby. On the way there have been other apparent roadblocks such as the fact that the family surname underwent several variations in spelling; breaks caused by early deaths; a change of religion, and a remarriage that led to the farming out of a child.

This article though is not going to set out the full story of my Riding ancestors, interesting though that is but instead will focus on one man, William Henry Rideing, one of my 3 x great grandfathers and his role in fighting a catastrophic fire that resulted in great destruction and the loss of life in Liverpool in 1842.

William was baptised at St Mathew's Church, Liverpool on 6 June 1801

and is recorded as the son of John Rideing, a Grocer and Eliza (nee Higson) who lived in Old Hall Street, Liverpool. He was the second of their twelve children and one of only five who survived to adulthood. At some point William joined his father's grocery business as a co-director.

William married Henrietta Edwards at Christ Church; Liverpool on 14 February 1827 and his occupation is given as a Merchant in the marriage register. The witnesses were Eliza Rideing and Henry Laffon. A notice of the wedding appeared in a number of newspapers stating that *'Yesterday at Christ Church the Rev Jas Aspinall married William Riding Esq, of this town to Henrietta Edwards, daughter of the late Captain Edwards and Granddaughter of the late John Edwards Esq of Kelsterton, Flintshire.*

However, William and John's business ran into problems soon after the wedding and a notice was placed in the press announcing that *'The Commissioners in a Commission of Bankrupt, awarded and issued forth against John Rideing and William Henry Rideing, both of Liverpool, in the County of Lancaster, Merchants and Co-partners, Dealers and Chapmen, intend to meet on the 13th day of November next, at One o'clock in the Afternoon, at the Office of Mr. Thomas Mawdsley, Solicitor, at Lord Street, in Liverpool aforesaid, in order to Audit the Accounts of the Assignees of the separate estate and effects of William Henry Rideing, both of Liverpool, in the County of Lancaster, Merchants and Co-partners, Dealers and Chapmen, intend to meet on the 13th day of November next, one of the said Bankrupts, under the said Commission'.*

William and his father were declared bankrupt on 2 June 1829. A notice of the bankruptcy was issued in The News (London) on 7 June 1829 by Messrs Adlington, Gregory and Faulkner of Bedford Row, London informing readers that meetings were to be held in the Clarendon Rooms in South John Street, Liverpool.

Later, a notice from the Commissioners of the bankruptcy appeared in the press stating that they intended to make a further dividend of William's estate and effects where the creditors, who had not already proved their debts could do so after which all claims not proved would be disallowed. A press notice by Mawdsley, a solicitor, concerning a session of the Insolvency Court held in the Sessions House notes that William was discharged from his bankruptcy on 31 March 1834.

After he was discharged from his bankruptcy William seems to have joined the Liverpool Docks Police as an Inspector. Along with his colleagues, William transferred to the Liverpool Borough Police on its formation in 1836. By the time of the 1841 census William is recorded as a Superintendent of Police, aged forty, and married. He is living with his wife, Henrietta, aged thirty-nine, of independent means, born out of County and their four children. A servant, Ann Hughes aged eighteen also lived at the address.

Despite extensive searches William was missing from the 1851 census although I found his wife and two of their children lodging in Tranmere. I searched the death records between 1841 and 1851 and discovered that William's death had been registered in Seacombe rather than Liverpool and I ordered the death certificate. This confirmed that William, a Police Superintendent, had died on 4 May 1846 aged forty-five. The cause of death was given as 'suicide while in a state of insanity'.

I wanted to know more about the background and tried to find the coroner's records of the time but was told that they had been destroyed. I then contacted Merseyside Police who hold the records for the old Liverpool City Police force and its predecessor Liverpool Borough Police, and I was informed that the register of Superintendents for that period had been lost at some point. I thought I had hit another road-block until I remembered the British Newspaper Archive. After a simple search I found a report on William's suicide which also led me to discover his involvement in a major event in Liverpool's history of which I had no previous knowledge.

In 1842, a fire broke out in Crompton Street, formerly Wood Street, at the north end of the town near the docks. To understand the scale of the fire it is certainly worth reading the newspaper reports either on-line or at the Liverpool Record Office. The press reports are in the sensationalised style of the time as can be seen from the headline, **'MOST DESTRUCTIVE FIRE LOSS OF LIFE IN LIVERPOOL.'**

helpful with moving my research forward. It is not my intention to reproduce the press reports in full but to report the momentous events that led to William's eventual death.

The **Liverpool Mail** report began, *'We lament to say that one of the most destructive fires broke out in the northern part of this town at an early hour yesterday morning, which we remember to have occurred since the memorable conflagrations and the Goree Piazza both of which have long since, comparatively speaking, formed portions of the annals of this great borough. The present calamity will doubtless form a sorrowful page in the future annals and cannot fail to form a source of the most poignant regret in the minds of many of those who had the misfortune to witness the dreadful occurrence. Perhaps, if property alone were destroyed upon this occasion, enormous though the extent and value of that property happens unfortunately to be, that our regret would undergo some mitigation, and our sorrow for the sufferers would (be) proportionably tempered, but when to the destruction of property to vast amount, we have add(ed) the destruction (of) human life, and that under circumstances of nature to more than sufficient to harrow the feelings of (the) most hard-hearted, we feel that we are only expressing the general sentiment when we say that general gloom pervades the inhabitants at large, occasioned by this calamity, that time will not speedily efface'.*

The fire began in Crompton Street, formerly Wood Street, at the north end of the town near the docks and its cause was unclear although two probable causes were speculated on in the Mail. The initial report of the fire was by a watchman, Bernard Coyle, who had been employed to guard a Mr Penneston's premises during the night. He discovered that a fire had broken out in that gentleman's engine-room and immediately alerted police-officer twenty-four, who relayed the news to the Fire Police Station. The fire engines quickly reached the scene, accompanied by Mr Whitty, the head constable, and others but despite the speed of their arrival the fire had gained considerable strength aided by a strong breeze from the north-west.

The principal streets contiguous with the fire included Crompton Street,

Members' Interests

Members may publish up to ten family names that they are researching on our website **www.lswlfhs.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:.....

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.

Email addresses will be published on the website to enable other members to contact you, however the '@' in your email address will be amended on the website to read (at) for your protection. This is 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	Ile of Wight
HEF	Herefordshire	SAL	Shropshire		

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	Kincardineshire	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	Dunbartonshire	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				

Isle of Man

IOM	Isle of Man
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Publications List

The publications list is currently under review and is unfortunately Unavailable to print at this time.

However, there are digital publications available to purchase on our website as well as maps.

Useful websites:

www.lswlfhs.org.uk

www.liverpool.gov.uk

www.liverpool.ac.uk/library/sca

www.liverpool.ac.uk/centre-for-archive-studies

Liverpool Record Office

Liverpool University

Liverpool University

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

www.thegenealogist.co.uk

www.ukbmd.org.uk

www.familyhistoryfederation.com

www.parishchest.com

www.familyhistorybooksonline.com

www.fhf-reallyuseful.com

www.familysearch.org

www.findmypast.co.uk

www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

www.deceasedonline.com

www.ancestry.co.uk

www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

www.myheritage.com

www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com

www.mmu.ac.uk

North West Film Archive

www.northwestsoundheritage.org.uk

North West Sound Heritage

Formby Street and Neptune Street all nearly opposite the Borough Gaol. They ran east and west between Great Howard Street, where the borough prison stood, and Waterloo Road, which runs parallel with the docks. The Mail reported that those three streets and their boundaries, east and west, occupied an area of from six to seven acres, the whole of which presented one large mass of flame during most of the time the fire lasted.

Contemporary reports stated that as the fire raged, Commander Bevan, RN, sent a corps of marines from HMS Aetna (Etna), anchored in the Mersey, to the assistance of the magistrates and the police force, in case the gaol caught fire, in which case they would have been employed to escort the prisoners elsewhere. Happily, their services were not required as the danger to the gaol was overcome.

A number of men from HM's steamer Redwing, under the direction of Mr Ladd, assisted in supplying the fire engines with water. The supply of water from Great Howard Street was at first scanty as there was no main in the neighbourhood; but a sewer was opened in that street, through which ran the overflow of the canal.

This, together with the fire police watercarts and hoses laid from Waterloo Dock to Waterloo Road provided sufficient supply to work the fourteen engines deployed on the occasion. The large water tanks which were each drawn by six horses contained eight tons of water and were kept busy throughout the day. Also, a breach was made in the wall of the Waterloo Dock which meant further water was obtained with greater ease and rapidity.

Many of the warehouses had been constructed in the previous two years and like the yards they contained vast quantities of flammable materials, such as oil, pitch, turpentine, and logwood. The reports stated that *'these blazed furiously for some time, illuminating the whole town, and creating considerable alarm in the minds of persons at great distance from the scene of the devouring element.'* The flames spread from Wood Street to the back of some large warehouses which were mainly stored with cotton. These were quickly enveloped in clouds of smoke although the

'*awful fury*' as warehouse after warehouse caught fire and soon presented a dense mass of flame which illuminated the night sky.

Ultimately, the whole of the warehouses on one side of Formby Street were ablaze. To those involved it must have seemed to be a hopeless task to fight the fire, but the press reported that the Fire Police's positioning of their equipment helped to prevent the fire from spreading to the surrounding buildings. At the same time torrential rain was falling and was said to have encouraged the hope that this would help. Unfortunately, the strong onshore wind increased the strength of the flames, and a nearby cooperage caught fire. The spectacle was reported to be '*truly grand and awful.*'

The attention of the firemen then switched to the north side of Formby Street, with a view to saving some of the grand warehouses there. Despite this, their well-directed efforts were hampered partly to the narrowness of the street, but mostly because of the power of the wind. The south side was, in its turn, soon ablaze and the whole of the warehouses there ignited. Shortly before six o'clock, '*the walls of the building where the fire originally presented itself fell with a great crash, and thus contributed in a slight degree to check the ravaging effects of the element in that quarter.*'

An oil and colour store in the street soon caught fire, as well as many small and crowded workshops of millwrights, and smiths in that area. By eight o'clock the fire in Formby Street and Great Howard Street raged with such ferocity that it heated the atmosphere making it uncomfortable for those fighting the fire. Despite this, they attempted to prevent the flames from reaching the top houses in Formby Street but the houses on the north side caught fire, perhaps caused by the intensity of the flames of the nearby burning warehouses and the materials which the Mail estimated were piled to a height of 80 to 90 feet.

As time progressed the high walls of the warehouses collapsed with a deafening crash exposing the interiors which presented a mass of burning cotton. The report said that '*Some of the bales, being charred,*

and some resembling red- hot rocks, the whole forming the appearance of pyramids of an immense height and extent.’ Inside a warehouse in Formby Street the cotton was said to have reached almost white heat. In a brief time, the entire range of sheds at the top of the street, which were used for bonding cotton and as cooperages caught fire. However, a great quantity of staves, poles, and hoops were carried out of the buildings to nearby vacant ground.

A later assessment of the damage found that the immense range of warehouses on the north side of Formby Street were entirely gutted, and almost levelled with the ground with only a few unstable gable walls remaining. A fire-proof warehouse occupied by a Mr Sudlow caused a temporary respite but later caught fire resulting in great anxiety locally. It was reported that the poorer residents in the neighbourhood became alarmed for the safety of their possessions but managed to remove them to safer areas.

The flames, besides extending to the warehouses at the back, proceeded up Wood Street igniting a number of bonded warehouses opposite to the Borough Gaol until it came near to some cottages, where it, for a time at least, ceased. On the north side of Formby Street, the flames extended to the yards of a man named Gray which were destroyed. About eight o'clock the flames burnt through one of the large warehouses on the south side of Formby Street and spread to a new warehouse at the back, before running from Neptune Street, the lower part of which was occupied by a Mr Knight and adjoining the yard of Messrs. Grayson and Bannister, which was stocked with timber. *As soon as this was noticed, the efforts of the police were directed (to) the spot, and a hose being carried along, inside the warehouse, the engines played up in excellent style, whilst carts were busily engaged removing the rice from the warehouse’.*

Shortly after nine o'clock the gable end of the warehouse next to the fire-proof one collapsed inside, but no injuries occurred. However, the flames from the cotton inside were carried by the wind to a nearby bonded warehouse, a new building, and other bonded rooms, which were soon destroyed. The flames then reached Mr Lythgoe's cooperage, bonded rooms, which were soon destroyed. The flames then reached Mr Lythgoe's cooperage,

the spars, and staves in which were soon on fire. Considerable alarm was felt, seeing that the destructive flames were proceeding up Neptune Street threatening the Borough Gaol which was crowded with prisoners. As soon as danger was recognised a number of men were placed on the roof, and all the wooden parts of the building were covered with wet blankets, which were well soaked with water. The lead on the front of the building was at one time melting but from the speed in which the risk had been recognised all fear of any danger to the building quickly subsided. It was felt that should the wind continue its then position then greater vigilance would be required.

At about eleven o'clock, the fire appeared to have been well under control in Wood Street North and the engines then began to play on the burning embers. The only concerns at this period were in Neptune Street, where the burning cotton was in close proximity to a wooden workshop in Grayson and Bannister's yard, and here the engines began to pour volumes of water with the view of preventing the ignition of the timber. A number of carpenters succeeded in pulling down a wooden building, which stood in an extremely dangerous position, not only for its safety, but for the safety of the warehouses adjoining, which it would have acted as a sort of train. This seemed be the only point from which danger was then to be seen. The warehouse owners on the opposite side of the street were on the alert at this and subsequent periods of the day, and buckets of water were being continually poured upon the woodwork in front.

About one o'clock the flames seemed to have run their course and to be rapidly subsiding. The scene was described as '*a very melancholy, and in some respects a very singular aspect.*' It now became apparent the fire would be confined to the buildings already noticed; but that the whole of the goods they contained, except for a comparatively trifling quantity, had been destroyed.

The row of dwelling houses at the top of Formby Street were, as stated above, saved though with great damage to their interiors but the fire communicated from them to the floors and roof of a lodging-house on the corner of that street and Great Howard Street. The house at the opposite corner was also saved. The yard and brickfield opposite to Poole's cotton-sheds, on the other side of the street, were littered

with bags and heaps of loose cotton, bags of flour, and furniture. The interior of Poole's presented a mass of burning cotton, and the outer wall was in such a dangerous state from the floor and joists having been burned through, that the police were active in keeping people away in case a fatal accident should occur. The scene in passing down the northern boundary of the fire, Compton Street, was described as '*painfully interesting*.'

The site of the yards, smithies, and other workshops, where the fire originated, still enclosed by a wall on the north, presented a large area of burning materials and ruins, not, however, rising to any great height in that area. The remains of the bone-grinding steam-engine, the chimney of another small engine to the eastward of it, heaps of paint that had been in barrels were all burnt out, leaving only a few of the iron hoops and other materials, to form the foreground of the picture for any observer. Further behind were two burning mountains of cotton, one on the site of Denniston's (called Rayner's) large warehouse, and the other in Taylor's. That on the west side was about 60 to 70 feet in height, burning and flaming all over, and described as resembling a volcano shortly before an eruption. From the door of a shed, a little lower down, and the whole of which had fallen internally a most imposing view of the general conflagration was obtained. Even here, though to windward, the heat was very great.

Indeed, the gusts of hot air that passed along all the neighbouring streets were at times said to be almost stilling '*like the breath of a furnace*,' and filled with motes, dust, and sparks, which could be harmful to the eyes. Some high portions of the ruins rose in "*majestic isolation*" behind and had a truly romantic appearance. Sudlow's free cotton-shed, in the same line a little below, was saved, as were the buildings facing Waterloo Road on the west. The sheds at the top of Neptune Street on the north side, except for the corner just opposite the Borough Gaol, were all burned to the ground. Some staves, hoops, etc., were saved from the yards above, but a great deal of cotton in other sheds was consumed; many of the bags retaining their shape though red hot and reduced to tinder. The north wall of a warehouse lower down had fallen due to the effects of the fire and the burning mountains of cotton could be seen through it to the north. A large quantity of rice in bags, was lowered and taken away in

A fire-proof warehouse near the bottom of Formby Street withstood the flames. It closely adjoined one of the warehouses in the east, the contents of which formed the largest "Vesuvius." Men were employed hoisting buckets of water into it to cool the walls, which were as hot as might be expected. The wall of the next-door warehouse was burned down, but the gable end of the fire-proof building still stood and gave some protection from ignition by a large pile of red-hot cotton which was blazing against it. The premises of Messrs. Grayson and Bannister, shipwrights, and smiths, were severely damaged as were those of other smiths a little lower down. Men were deployed to carry the timber and other combustible materials out of those premises. One shed, between two other sheds which had ignited, didn't catch fire and it was later found that it was filled with "guano" manure.

The flames during the fire were intense, and at times described as terrific. On occasion it was reported that they rose to the height of 150 feet or higher. The heat and sparks were so intense that the eyes of those in attendance were so affected that they needed to frequently turn away and wash their eyes before they could distinctly see. The whole of the police, including Mr Whitty, and Mr Hewitt, of the fire-police, *"were so covered with dust, mud, water, flour, and other materials, and their faces (were) so begrimed that they could scarcely (be) recognised by their most intimate acquaintances. Numbers of the fire brigade had their eyes and faces severely scorched in consequence of their being compelled to be in close proximity to the flames. Several of them were almost blinded for a time, and it was only after adopting remedial measures that they were enabled to resume their labours."*

The Mayor and the chairman of the Watch Committee attended the fire early on and aided the officers of police in their efforts. Mr Parker, Common Council member for St. Ann's Ward, noticed that the gable, or front wall, of a warehouse in Crompton Street, was tottering and in a dangerous condition while between thirty and forty people were close beneath it and gave notice to the police and warned others who were present. Luckily, his advice was taken, and the crowd withdrew just before. The wall fell with a tremendous crash and the whole street was filled with masonry.

The fire police were described as having behaved admirably, *"and their*

exhausted condition bore evident testimony to the exertions they must have used in the fruitless attempt (of) the progress of the fire. So intense was the heat that hundreds of yards from the spot the eyes suffered severely, and what the poor fellows must have endured who were immediately in front of the fire can only (be) conceived by those who attempted to obtain a close view of the scene of destruction."

Superintendents Quick, Leverett, Ryding (sic), and McDonald, were early in attendance and their instructions cleared the way for the uninterrupted work of the firemen. One difficulty was getting the engines into the best positions for playing their hoses on the flames, owing to the number carts and lorries, which were left lying around in the back streets by their owners and the officers were useful in clearing them away thereby creating unobstructed access. It was said that no one could have doubted the real efficiency of the police's efforts. This included removing 20cwt (hundredweight) of tallow from a shed near the top of Formby Street that might otherwise, it was believed, have ignited the Borough Gaol. The police were, moreover, active in preventing plunder from being committed; and, in one instance, they succeeded in apprehending a respectable-looking female in the act of walking off with a teapot, which had been thrown from the window of a lodging house in Formby Street.

The Mail reported that '*Much, however, as we regret the immense loss of property, the most painful part of our task yet remains; to record the death of several individuals. One of them was named Hodgson, officer 117, who bore a most excellent character in the force, and many of our readers may recollect him when they are told that his beat was in Castle Street, opposite the coach-stands*'.

About half-past six, he, along with officers Tuck and Bates, were holding their hoses opposite a warehouse, near the top of Formby Street, when Tuck said to the men, "*That wall is going to fall.*" They watched for a moment or two as Hodgson walked up the street. A large bale of burning cotton fell into the street and Hodgson stopped for a moment to put it out because it was blinding all around, and he had just completed that task, and entered the burning building with the hose in his hand, when the wall fell with a tremendous crash, burying Hodgson in the ruins.

At that moment Tuck seized hold of Bates, pulled him away, and by the greatest miracle, both escaped unhurt despite the hose being knocked out of Tuck's hand by part of the wall as it fell.

Further down the street, the wall of a Mr Gray's yard gave way just as three labourers were removing some timber, and they were buried in the ruins. The Mail reported that Inspector Ryding (sic) was also at this spot, and the falling of the wall resulted in his ankle bone being dislocated. He was lifted by a number of men, and taken to the Northern Hospital, as were also several other men who were severely injured. One of fire police, John Rogers (No. 215), was close to poor Hodgson when the latter was struck down by the ruin and killed on the spot. The hose was cut off by the falling mass and the piece near the pipe (which Hodgson held) and was buried with him. At nine o'clock, when nearly the whole of Formby Street was one mass of fire, hundreds of blazing bales of cotton were strewn over the body of the unfortunate policeman Hodgson.

By the falling of one of the walls, one of the engines was crushed to pieces, another was rendered entirely useless, and several of the firemen were severely injured. When part of the wall fell from Mr. Horsley's warehouse, one poor fellow was killed; his head was almost torn from his body, and another had his legs almost drawn from his body, just above the knees. Several others were injured, and are now in the Northern Hospital, along with those noticed above.'

'So far as was correctly known last night only one police-officer (Hodgson) had lost his life. Another named Fish was, however, missing, and it was feared he might have met a fate similar to that of Hodgson; but no attempt can yet be made to extricate bodies in order to ascertain the number, if indeed the bodies have not already been consumed by the burning fragments, we intimated before'.

The Illustrated London News reported on the fire relying heavily on the content of the Liverpool papers, as does this article, but contained a reference to the fact that Inspector Riding was transferred to the Northern Hospital with a broken leg after being trapped by the collapse of a warehouse wall.

William died on 4 May 1846 and his death certificate gives the cause of

death as 'suicide while in a state of insanity'. He was buried at the now demolished St Thomas Church, Park Lane, Liverpool on 8 May 1846. There may have been a family plot at St Thomas' because William's sister Henrietta (1813), Mary (1809 - 1813) and his brothers Thomas (1800) and Benjamin (1803 - 1804) were also buried in the graveyard.

The background to William's suicide was set out in detail in a press report of the inquest into his death. The events prior to his death may explain what may have driven him to commit suicide. The findings in summary were that on the previous Monday, William Henry Riding, one of the Superintendents of the Liverpool police-force, committed suicide by taking poison.

A witness at the inquest, Joseph Rigg, a druggist of Paradise Street, Liverpool, said, on Monday, between eleven and one o'clock, the deceased came to him, and complained that he had been much troubled with the toothache, and asked for few drops laudanum. He gave him a few drops in a piece of lint, which he put into his mouth. He then asked for some in a bottle, as he was prevented from sleeping at night. He gave him an ounce in a phial. At that time William appeared "perfectly sensible and sober, and conversed with him for some time about the weather." The deceased had told him that he resided at Seacombe, and that it was inconvenient for him to obtain laudanum there. Rigg therefore dispensed a further six pennyworths of laudanum in a phial for him.

Bridget Heeley said she was "*servant to deceased, with whom she had resided for the last two years, said that William had lived in Seacombe for upwards of three years, and although of rather delicate constitution, had not been ill lately. He crossed the water every morning about nine. Was a married man, and had live children, four of whom are at home, and one at sea. She had 'never observed anything queer about him and although he occasionally got drunk, this had not happened more than usual lately. Recollected seeing him on Sunday but did not notice that he appeared at all depressed. He had left home as usual on Monday morning about nine and came back again at half-past two. At that time, he did not complain of toothache, but refused to have dinner, and he then said he would have a glass of water and go to bed, which he accordingly did. Bridget saw no more of him until Mrs. Riding, who had been over to Liverpool the greater portion of the day, came home. This was about half-past six. Bridget then went with her mistress into the bedroom, who, on seeing the glass,*

exclaimed, "My God! He has taken poison." The doctor was immediately sent for, but death ensued about half-past nine."

In her evidence Bridget said that William and his wife had lived together very happily, and on the best terms, so far as she could see. There was nothing to show that the deceased was straitened in circumstances, everything appeared comfortable and plentiful.

The bottle that had contained the poison was found under the pillow; and the glass which had contained the water was on the table. She had never heard him make any threat that he would destroy himself and while she had heard him say he could not live; she had no idea that he meant to commit suicide.

Mr. Dowling, Head Constable of Liverpool, who had been, together with Superintendents Quick and Reding, also of the Liverpool force, present during the whole of the proceedings, 'begged to suggest to the Coroner a question or two because he had been acquainted with the deceased for a number of years, and felt great interest in the proceedings'.

In reply to these questions Bridget said she did not remember that the deceased and his wife had been separated and although she remembered that the deceased stopped out one night, about two or three months ago, but could not say for what. That night he stayed in Liverpool but came home about six o'clock the following evening and she did not recollect him stopping out before or since. Never saw deceased's wife the worse for liquor but knew that she took a glass. When sent for drink for her mistress, the deceased was always there. Had heard deceased chide her mistress for being the worse for liquor. This was about a week ago, but it was not then that deceased said he could not live under it. Deceased's dinner was generally ready when he came home, but when it was not some words took place.

Dowling then said that although it would appear out of place, he had some evidence to give which would probably throw some light upon the unfortunate affair, and probably clear up the mystery which the preceding witness had thrown over it. Surprisingly, despite Dowling himself suggesting it may be out of place to speak, he was sworn in and gave his views.

In evidence he said he had known the deceased for the last thirteen years; the first four years of which William was an Inspector of the docks Police under his command and then for nine years William had been engaged as Superintendent of the town force. Dowling then claimed that during the whole of that time William's conduct was very unsatisfactory and irregular, and at the same time he had been involved in difficulties and debt. During that period Dowling alleged William was sometimes absent from duty in consequence of drink. Frequently saw him in a state of great excitement, approaching delirium tremens, consequent upon his own misconduct.

About three or four weeks ago, the witness took the deceased very seriously to task for neglect of duty, and then told him that he was endeavouring to raise four hundred pounds, with which he intended to pay his debts, and, if he did not get it, he did not know what he should do. At that time, he was much excited. The reason he had been kept in the force was that, about four years ago, he was exerting himself at a fire in the north end of the town, when he was severely injured in the leg or ankle. Since that time, he had been incapacitated from following his ordinary duty as Superintendent, but had acted as clerk in the office, and another Superintendent appointed.

Since the accident, the deceased had been lame. He was, also, (a very unusual thing) allowed to reside at Seacombe for the benefit of his health. His full salary had been continued, which amounted to £156 per annum, and a suit of clothes. Dowling also understood that Mrs. Riding had a yearly allowance of £40, and it was upon this that the £400 was intended to be raised. Mr. Dowling would not wish to say anything to injure or wound the feelings of Mrs. Rideing, but he had recently heard the deceased say that it was in consequence of her conduct that his difficulties had been brought about.

In reply to a question from one of the jury Dowling said that a day or two before the suicide a person had applied for the loan of £3 on behalf of the deceased, but for what purpose was he was not aware. The jury man said that it was reported that the £3 was to pay the fees of the Bankruptcy Court on the day the deed was committed. Superintendent Reding of the Liverpool Police-force, said that he conversed with the deceased on Friday last, but he appeared to be in an extremely excited state. During

the conversation, which lasted about a quarter of an hour, deceased said his leg had contracted about half an inch since it was last measured.

John Halliday, surgeon, proved the cause of death, and the jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased had committed suicide whilst labouring under temporary Insanity.

As a postscript, on Thursday 4th March 1852 Head Constable Dowling and Superintendent John Towerson were dismissed from Liverpool City Police for removing a report from a bridewell book and replacing it with another. The report had been submitted by a Sergeant Tomlinson over an incident at the Holy Cross Chapel, Standish Street in February 1852. A meeting was held in the Chapel that attracted many members of the public, during the course of which a roof beam cracked and fearing the building was about to collapse, the congregation ran out of the Chapel. Police in attendance mistook the evacuation as being a large-scale disturbance and baton charged the crowd injuring many. Sergeant Tomlinson tried to prevent the other police officers from using such violence and in his report, he identified those officers who used force.

Head Constable Dowling and Superintendent Towerson persuaded Sergeant Tomlinson to alter his report, leaving out the identity of the officers concerned and playing down the fact that they had used batons. During an investigation into the Chapel incident the cover up was discovered.

Dowling was shown to have scant regard for the truth when recording evidence and dismissed from the force. Earlier in his career, Dowling joined the Metropolitan Police, where his behaviour resulted in Sir Robert Peel instructing that he should be dismissed from the force, although this doesn't seem to have been acted upon.

Obviously, I am biased but Dowling's behaviour in the Holy Cross incident and earlier with the Metropolitan Police does make me wonder if his evidence on William's character should have been relied upon at the inquest.

Peter Mason (9486)

References:

- 1 St Mathews Church baptism records
- 2 Christ Church, Liverpool marriage records.
- 3 Gore's Liverpool General Advertiser on Thursday 15 February 1827,
- 4 Liverpool Albion on Monday 19 February 1827 and the Manchester Courier and Lancashire Advertiser on 24 February 1827.
- 5 The London Gazette Issue:18620, Page:1907 27 May 1827.
- 6 The Bankrupt Directory for December 1820 to April 1843.
The notice also appeared in the The News (London) on 8 June 1829; The Sun (London) on 3 June 1829; the Morning Herald (London) on 3 and 4 June 1829; the Morning Chronicle 3 June 1829; the Liverpool Albion on Monday 8 June 1829; the Liverpool Mercantile Gazette and Myers's Weekly Advertiser on Monday 8 June 1829; and the Liverpool Albion on Monday 29 June 1829.
- 7 1841 Census: Vine Street, West Side, Liverpool (HO107 Piece 561 Folio 23 Page 9 Schedule 1720)
- 8 William's death certificate dated 7 May 1846
- 9 The Liverpool Mail of 24 September 1842 in September 1842. The report heavily relies.
- 10 The Illustrated London News September 1842 page 328
- 11 St Thomas 's Church Burial Register.
- 12 The Liverpool Mail of 9 May 1846
- 13 Liverpool City Police website
<https://www.liverpoolcitypolice.co.uk/chief-constables/dowling>.

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

Help Requests

We have 2 help requests this month from Jean Alker. One for her husband and one for herself. I hope someone can help them.

OAK ALYN HALL, CEFN-Y-BEDD

My husband was evacuated to **OAK ALYN HALL, CEFN-Y-BEDD**, near Mold/Wrexham during c1942 age 7, and wonders if there is any member of the Family History Group who was also there during the war years.

He remembers there were around 12 children from the Liverpool area. He visited there a few years ago and met up with the people who ran the hall when he was there, subsequently he went to "Aunt Sally's" funeral.

I am filling in gaps (or trying to!) for his family history, and he often talks about Oak Alyn Hall, his long walks to school in Gwersallt/Gwersyllt, etc.

It would be great to hear from anyone who was there at that time though I realise it is a long shot.

The 2nd help request is:

I am reading a book called MAIDEN VOYAGES by Sian Evans and on page 186 there is mention of a Liverpool pub called The DOCK TAVERN where seafarers got together when looking for employment in the 1930s.

I have searched on line and cannot find any reference to it, or its location. Can anyone help? Maybe the name was changed and/or it has been demolished.

I highly recommend the book though, it covers Liverpool and Cunard shipping etc. and the women who worked on them from mid 1800s.

Looking forward to the next journal.

Regards

Jean Alker (1030)

The third help request is from Jane Barrett who is looking for information on some of her mother's friend's.

The photo displayed below (overpage) shows my mother Lilian May Filson (on left no hat) sitting next to her friends Muriel Langley, Sylvia Burns and Margaret Davies.

The picture was taken around 1938 and I believe the girls are wearing the school uniform of Evered Avenue central school. As I wrote in the article in the Liverpool Family Historian in March 2020 Lilian was evacuated from Liverpool with the school in 1939 to Newburgh village.

I have gathered some information about the other girls as shown below but would be interested in contacting anyone who knows these girls or has any relationship to them.

Lilian May Filson was born 2nd April 1926 to James Andrew Filson and Elsie Radcliffe. She married Leonard Sidney Frank Walter in 1947. She died in 2015.

Muriel Langley was born on 30th January 1926 to James H Langley and May V Litherland. She married Gordon H Evans in 1949. She may have died in Brighton in 1997.

Sylvia Burns was born on 13th December 1925 to Thomas Harrison Burns and Lucy Ann Langford. She had an elder brother Andrew born in 1923. She married Alexander Williams in 1952 and died aged 60 in Liverpool in 1986.

Margaret Davies was probably also born in 1926 but I have no more details.

Jane Barrett (7273)

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in the Journal

The Tragic Story of Lilian Lamb

I came across the story of Lilian LAMB by chance a few years back whilst researching a family history for the husband of a work colleague. The heartbreak of her fate and that of her tiny children has stayed with me ever since.

Lilian was born on 26 September 1897 in Lilley in Yorkshire. She was the daughter of Mark LAMB (1864-1919), a shoeing blacksmith and wheeler (he made wagon wheels - not the chocolate type), and his wife Ellen SPENCER (born Wavertree, 1871), who married in St Mary's, Wavertree on 6 July 1891. Their eldest child, Nellie, was born in Wavertree circa 1893, the family then moved to Mark's native Yorkshire where Lilian and her sister Dorothy (died as a child), were born, before returning to Liverpool where their youngest children, Margaret Eveline (died aged 3), William Mark, Margery Jane, and Florence, were born.

Lilian was in her early thirties and had not been married previously when in 1929 she wed 56-year-old divorced father and grandfather William Henry WRIGHT. William Henry, who was a haulage contractor, treated Lilian with "every kindness and consideration, always showing great love and affection for her" throughout their married life, but it would seem she had longstanding mental health issues and had been suffering from delusions even before they wed which worsened afterwards. Lilian became depressed, everything worried her, she suffered massive anxiety over the most trivial things and thought her husband considered her to be "cuckoo" and wanted to have her "put away".

They had two children together. The first, Audrey Lilian, was born a week or two before Lilian and William Henry's marriage. Sadly, it would seem that Audrey Lilian's illegitimate birth exacerbated Lilian's existing illness pushing her over the edge with tragic consequences. Her "mental condition became disturbed", she became convinced her late father had put a curse on herself and her new daughter and that the baby would never grow up. She said William Henry would finally believe her if he came home one day and found them gassed.

Lilian's condition worsened further after the birth of a son, Lawrence Henry in 1931, and she became "even more strange in her manner".

On several occasions she threatened to commit suicide, and thought her husband was trying to poison her when he gave her medicine or brandy. William Henry bought a house with a garden in Menlove Avenue, Calderstones, in the hope that her condition would improve. However, she deteriorated further causing William Henry to become frightened and to decide to rent rooms in Dumbarton Street, Walton, where the landlady, Mary HOLDEN, who had known Lilian since childhood, lived on the premises and would be able to keep an eye on her. And so it was that on 11 April 1933 the little family moved into the upstairs rooms of the terraced house.

Four days later, on the morning of Saturday 15 April, Lilian stared at William Henry and told him to be careful as she feared he would not live long. He laughed it off as “one of her moods”, arranged to meet her in town at half eleven, kissed her and the children goodbye, and at ten o’clock left for work. When Lilian didn’t turn up for their meeting, William Henry returned to his office and then went home, arriving before two o’clock to be met by a police officer and a scene of absolute horror.

An hour after William Henry left for work Lilian had gone to a shop to buy an old-fashioned straight razor, telling the shop assistant she wanted it to cut her corns. She returned home and went upstairs with her two children. A little while later the landlady heard a weak voice calling, she and her daughter rushed upstairs and found the two children lying on the bed with their throats cut, and Lilian sitting on the bed with a serious wound to her own throat still holding the razor to her chest.

Constable Frank WAUGH from Westminster Road Bridewell was sent for and arrived at the house at the same time as an ambulance. Describing the grim scene that greeted him Constable WAUGH told the inquest that he saw Lilian struggling in the middle of the bedroom with Mary HOLDEN and said:

“I noticed that she [Lilian] was bleeding profusely from a wound in the neck and I grabbed hold of her. When I made her sit down on the bed I saw two children lying there with wounds to their throats and they were apparently dead. On the floor of the bedroom I found an open blood-stained razor. I took the mother and both children to Stanley Hospital where Dr Walker certified that the children were dead and detained the mother for treatment.”

Lilian was in a serious, semi-conscious condition when she arrived at the hospital but was still able to talk. She told Dr Kathleen SLANEY that she wanted to die because her husband had sold their house and was going back to his first wife's children, the youngest of whom was twenty-five years old by that time.

William Henry was overcome with grief when he identified the bodies of his tiny children - Audrey Lilian who was almost four and Lawrence Henry who was not quite two - and was in a state of collapse when he left with friends to stay at the home of a relative. Later that same night William Henry visited his wife in hospital where a police officer kept vigil by her bedside. By then she was unable to speak and her condition was considered serious. She wrote on her husband's notepad "Are Audrey and Laurie dead? Will you please bury them in Church Road near Dad? I would not leave them. I love them. Bury me with them". William Henry, who did not expect his wife to survive, promised that he would.

Lilian did survive but was in hospital for five weeks while doctors battled to save her life. At some point she was transferred from Stanley Hospital to Smithdown Hospital (later Sefton General) during which time a Coroner's inquest was opened. William Henry was called to give evidence but in the witness box he was once again overcome with grief and needed time to compose himself before he could answer any questions.

Lilian was discharged from hospital on 24 May and immediately detained by detective sergeant Murdock SENACLES (great name), who took her to the main Bridewell to be charged with the wilful murder of her two children and attempted suicide. In reply to the charges Lilian said "I would rather wait until I get legal aid. No, I'd rather not say anything". Lilian appeared at the Liverpool Police Court that same day with her throat still bandaged and was remanded in custody for seven days.

She appeared before the magistrates at Dale Street Police Court on Wednesday 31 May 1933 defended by a Mr E. LYNSEY. On being asked if she wanted to say anything Lilian replied, "I am not guilty". When questioning sixty-year-old William Henry, Mr LYNSEY asked him how old he was. Given that in reply under oath William Henry knocked seven

years off his own age by claiming to be only fifty-three, before going on to testify that his wife was delusional, I do wonder if perhaps she wasn't the only one. Lilian was committed to appear at Liverpool assizes.

On 14 June 1933 at the Assize Court at St George's Hall, Lilian stood trial for double murder and attempted suicide. She entered a plea of not guilty and was defended by Mr Basil E. NIELD. Mr Maxwell FYFE prosecutor for the Crown, said that Audrey Lilian was born a week or two before the

accused woman's marriage and went on to explain "I mention that because you will hear from her husband that the accused had often said there was a curse on the child, and she would not grow up". There was little else in the local press regarding the trial but the *Calendar of Prisoners at the Assizes* in Liverpool Record Office states:

WRIGHT Lilian, 35, married woman. Committed from Liverpool 31 May 1933 received in prison 24 May 1933, offence murder. Tried before the Hon Mr Justice MacNAGHTON date 14 June 1933. Verdict: guilty but insane at time of the act. Order of the Court – to be kept in custody as a criminal lunatic until his Majesty's pleasure be known.

I don't believe she would have been found guilty of murder in the same circumstances today and it's likely she would be found unfit to plead. But for poor, sad, mad Lilian the tragedy continued. No doubt her suicide attempt had been made in an effort to escape her demons and find peace. In failing, not only did she lose her children, but she made her own life a million times worse. The insane verdict saved her from the noose but whether that was a mercy or not is debateable as I found her in the 1939 records for Broadmoor Asylum for the Criminally Insane. With an open-ended sentence who knows how long she was incarcerated for in that hellhole. Probably the rest of her days.

Clearly, Lilian had been mentally ill and in need of help for quite some time. She was anxious, suicidal, paranoid and psychotic, her condition undoubtedly exacerbated by untreated postnatal depression. If perhaps treatment had been available, and if perhaps her husband hadn't laughingly dismissed her paranoia on that fateful morning as "one of her

probably haunted poor, bereaved William Henry until the day he died.

William Henry was my work colleague's husband's great grandfather, but disappointingly I received no feedback (or even thanks) from him when I handed over fifty-plus hours of printed and bound free work. But I didn't forget Lilian and the children, and I was left wanting to know if William Henry had kept the promise he made to Lilian to bury their children near her father.

It was important to me so periodically I would see if I could find them in the records. Once, I visited the churchyard where I thought perhaps her father's grave might be, and searched all the accessible and legible headstones, an impossible and ultimately unsuccessful task.

Eventually I found their burial recorded in the burial register for West Derby Cemetery, in their father's family plot. I have visited and there is a headstone, but the children's names aren't included on it. So, William Henry hadn't kept the promise he made to his wife, but who can blame him? Certainly not me.

As for tragic Lilian, the 1939 register is the last time I found any record of her, so I don't know where or when she died or where her grave is, I just know that she isn't buried with her two little children.

Elaine Meadows (2072)

Disclaimer

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Members intending to purchase goods or services from advertisers should make their own enquiries and arrangements regarding payment before agreeing to pay for services.

Help Desks

Have you 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, at the **Liverpool Central Library**, 3rd Floor, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EW.

Leigh Group:

Leigh Group's Help Desk is now at the 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 - 10am to 1pm. Please contact Crosby Library for an appointment.

Maghull Library - Thursday mornings depending on availability. Please contact Maghull Library for an appointment.

Warrington Group:

The helpdesk is based at **Warrington Library**, Museum Street, Warrington on Saturdays between 10am and 12 noon

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

The Liverpool and South West Lancashire FHS Website:
www.lswlfhs.org.uk

ZOOM Talks

As always if anybody has a desire to share their research, please get in touch at liverpool@lswlfhs.org.uk and help will be given, if required. Talks planned so far will take place at 7pm on a Wednesday evening:

June 2024	Taking a break
17 July 2024	From the Pasig to the Mersey: Liverpool's 19th and 20th Century Filipino Community - John De La Cruz
21 Aug 2024	Mental Illness and the Victorians: The case of Alice Hadfield Petschler by Joanna Williams
11 Sept 2024	Women in Aviation by Jess Boydon-Juckes

Our Zoom Talks are very popular and one member recently sent in an email saying *'just wanted to say what an interesting and informative talk it was tonight. I have discovered lots of different places to search and my curiosity has reawakened so to speak. Many thanks again, can Mr Nesbit please return at a future date?'* Jean A

Instructions for Joining Zoom Talks

For the first time of using Zoom please go to the website <https://zoom.us/> and choose the link to "Sign Up Free" Next step is simply to enter your birth year - and continue It's easiest if you use your email address - and continue A verification code will be sent to your email address, enter this in the next page and - verify Next page needs your name and you will need to create a password, save these details to use whenever you log in to attend one of our talks.

Each month except June, you will receive an invitation to one of our talks. The orange Register button in the invitation will take you to Eventbrite where you can register your place.

A day before, or even on the day of the talk you will receive an email from zoomadmin@lswlfhs.org.uk which will have the link to join the meeting. Please ensure that this email address is in your Contacts so that your invitation doesn't go in your spam folder. If you don't receive the email, please check your spam folder.

The email will have in its heading "This Is Your Ticket" - Click the link
First time a pop up should show asking you to "Allow this site to open the zoommtg link with Zoom Meetings?

You need to Open the Link but to use Zoom regularly, it's better to check/tick the "Always allow etc." .

You can then Launch Meeting but you will get the message that you are "Waiting for the Host to Start the Meeting"

In the meantime you can test your Speaker and Microphone using the link
At the appointed time the host will allow you into the meeting where you can either use your webcam or microphone, and the icons for these will be at the bottom of your screen.

Don't forget that if you miss a talk, very often our speakers allow us to record it and the link to view will be in the Members area of our website. Simply log in using the details the Membership Secretary sent you when you joined/renewed and then check under Downloads/Recordings
I look forward to seeing you at our talks.

Mary A

zoom-admin

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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 9680-9706**, who have joined most recently and wish them every success with their research.

New Members:

9680 G JONES; **9681** D LAWRENSON; **9682** W FERGUSON; **9683** S RIGBY; **9684** R MERCER; **9685** M SOWERBY; **9686** PTAYLOR; **9687** J SMARTT; **9688** D ASPINALL; **9689** R LEWTON; **9690** N BAIRD; **9691** D SIMPSON; **9692** S HOLLAND; **9693** P REIS; **9694** A MOORE; **9696** R SMITH; **9697** L PATTERSON; **9698** P HOLT; **9699** C EDWARDS; **9700** P RIMELL; **9701** K GRUNDY; **9702** J OULTRAM; **9703** G HOWARTH; **9704** S SCULLY; **9705** B Cox; **9706** A Rowland

Members' Interests

9487 MANSER Albert Frederick LAN 1884-1970; PROSSER Ellen CHS 1884-1965; WELSH Edward CHS 1920-1931; LOGAN Agness CHS 1920-1930; **9486** RYDINGE Hugh LAN/West Derby 1550-1700; **9689** LEWTON Thomas LAN/Liverpool 1900-1920; KIRK Robert LAN/Liverpool 1900-1908; GARLAND Mary Ann LAN/Liverpool 1875-1950; BROWN John LAN/Liverpool 1874-1961; PARR Anne Dorothea LAN/Liverpool 1843-1918; SPEAR Lucy Emma LAN/Liverpool 1858-1910; **9696** SMITH LAN/Liverpool/ABD 1880-1905; FURBY LAN/Liverpool 1870-1960; FURBY MDX <1870; BRYAN LAN/Liverpool 1861-1973; BRYAN LAN/Southport/Ormskirk 1901-1921; BRYAN IRL <1861; HALSALL LAN/Liverpool 1861-1994; HALSALL IOM 1715-1974; HOWARD LAN/Liverpool 1841-; HOWARD AGY 1827-YOXALL LAN/Liverpool 1865-; YOXALL STS <1861; YOXALL CHS 1751-1901

News from the Groups

Leigh & District

Chairman: Margery Harrop

Secretary: Glenys McClellan

From May 2024 meetings will be held at **Leigh Town Hall** at 7:30pm on the third Tuesday of each month.

21 May	Bravery Without Fear	Julie McKiernan
18 Jun	'Madness': The History of Mental Health Care	Louise Wade
17 Sep	Ladies of Leigh by	Julie McKeirnon

Liverpool

Chairman: Susan Atkins

Secretary: Joyce Culling

Meetings are held in Room 2, 4th Floor, Liverpool Central Library, William Brown Street, Liverpool, L3 8EW on the second Tuesday of each month, except July and August. Doors open 5:45pm for 6:00pm start and meetings finish no later than 7:45pm. £1 for refreshments.

14 May	Central Library and Archives—A refresher about what is available in the Archives	Helena & Sarah
11 Jun	Postcards	Linda Clarke
10 Sep	Members Evening	General

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.

04 Jun	Into the Woods—The Heritage of Tawd Valley Park by Mark Boardman
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Skelmersdale continued:

03 Sep Welcome Back—Research and Help Night
01 Oct AGM

Southport

Chairman: Shelagh Boardman **Secretary:** Ian Cooper

Meetings are held Birkdale Station Master's House on the second Friday of each month (unless stated otherwise). Meetings start at 7:30pm. Coffee/Tea and biscuits from 7.15pm.

14 Jun Criminals in the Family Group Event
12 Jul Group visit to Lancashire Archives
 Please website for more details

Warrington

Chairman: Peter Jolliffe **Secretary:** Vacant

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.

24 Jun TBA
22 Jul No meeting.
26 Aug No meeting.
23 Sep TBA

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.

26 Jun TBA
31 Jul TBA
28 Aug TBA
25 Sep TBA

Officers of the Society

General Committee Officers

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

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Email: chair@lswlfhs.org.uk

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Donated Certificates Sec: **Val Benson**
Ailsa Craig, Russet Road, Weaverham, Northwich,
CW8 3HY
Email: certificates@lswlfhs.org.uk

Plus one representative elected by each Group of the Society.



Up Holland (or **Upholland**) is a village close to Skelmersdale and civil parish in the West Lancashire district, in the county of Lancashire, England, 4 miles (6 km) west of Wigan.

It is situated on a small hill that rises above the West Lancashire Coastal Plain. There are views towards St Helens and Liverpool in the south-west, Ormskirk and Southport in the north-west and towards Wigan, Manchester and on to the High Peak of Derbyshire in the east.

The place-name is first seen in the Domesday Book of 1086, where it appears as *Hoiland*. It appears as *Upholand* in a Lancashire Inquest of 1226. This is from the Old English *hohland*, meaning 'land on or by a hoe or spur of a hill'. The name Up Holland differentiates it from another place locally called Downholland, 10 miles to the west (on the other side of Ormskirk). The manor of Holland was a possession of the Holland family until 1534, from where it may be presumed they derived their name.

The Priory of St. Thomas the Martyr of Up Holland was previously a Benedictine Monastery, and there was a Catholic seminary, St Joseph's College, used for training Catholic priests, once based in Up Holland. The college closed down in 1987 after over 150 years of serving the northern Catholic dioceses of England, and its extensive buildings are now derelict.

Attribution: *The Methodist Church, Alma Hill, Up Holland* by David Dixon
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Widnes Town Hall is a municipal building in Victoria Road in Widnes Cheshire, England. The town hall, which was the headquarters of Widnes Borough Council, is a Grade II listed building in the Renaissance style, with terracotta dressings.

The design involves a symmetrical main frontage with nine bays facing onto Victoria Square with the end bays slightly projecting forward; the central bay, which also slightly projects forward, features a doorway with brackets supporting an open pediment containing a carved tympanum.

The doorway is flanked by twin pilasters supporting griffins bearing shields; there is a central sash window on the first floor and a smaller sash window on the attic floor, above which there is an inscription "MDCCCLXXV" (1885).

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