

LIVERPOOL FAMILY HISTORIAN



Volume 45 No. 1



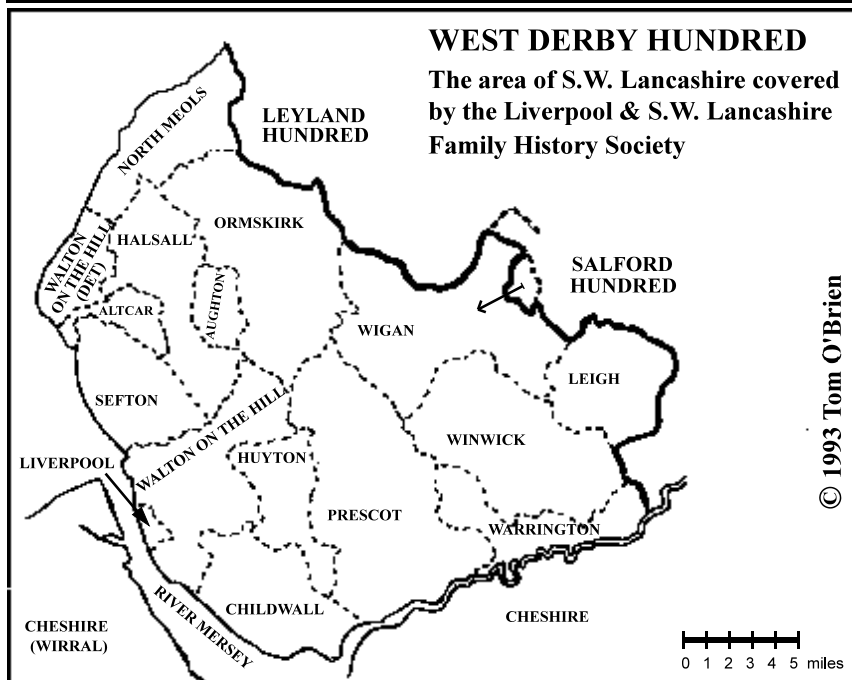
March 2023

THE LIVERPOOL & S. W. LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Founded 27 May 1976

Covering

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



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Front cover: Acquired by Alderman Thomas Rigby around 1852, Rigby's Buildings stand at 21-25 Dale Street, Liverpool. This Grade II listed structure was remodelled by Rigby in 1865.
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Liverpool Family Historian

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Editorial

As I write this, the days are already becoming noticeably longer and some of the first signs of spring are now well underway here in Enfield. The winter was something of a challenge for me, with hospitalisation in November/December and surgery in January, and so these early signs of the new season are most welcome. I should apologise, at this point, if the journal has arrived a little later than usual but my surgery and recovery time coincided perfectly with the dates I schedule for the journal's completion.

One of the good things about the March edition of *Liverpool Family Historian* is that it publishes the results of our 'Best Articles' competition. As usual, I would like to add my personal congratulations to the winners and to thank everyone who sent in the contributions that made last year's journal such an interesting read. As ever, please keep sending your articles to me, they are always needed and appreciated - with the copy deadline for the June edition of 15 April 2023, being not that far away at all.

We have another interesting range of articles this quarter. First, we have the story of a Liverpool based Commission Merchant & Forwarding Agent in the mid- to late-19th century. This is followed by an account of the Open-Air School movement in the early-20th century and Leigh's embracing of the concept. Next, we are bang up-to-date with an article highlighting useful online resources for researching ancestors in the wider Lancashire region. And finally, we have an uplifting article recounting the life and legacy of one James Magee, who was sent to Tasmania in Australia as a convict in 1830.

Our regular group meetings are developing further, with all groups (bar Widnes) having scheduled full programme dates. Leigh, Skelmersdale and Southport groups already have their talks detailed here and on the website, whilst Liverpool and Warrington have their dates set but are still busy lining-up speakers for their meetings. Please support the Groups by attending these meetings whenever you can and keep an eye on the website for updates on forthcoming themes and speakers.

That's enough from me, other than to say that we are still looking for someone to take on the Journal Editor role in the longer term and if that could be you, please consider volunteering.

Mike Paice, Editor

News Items

Competition for Best Article in Liverpool Family Historian – 2022 Winning Articles

In September 2017 we announced an annual competition (Vol. 39, No. 3, page 147) where the contributor of the best article published in each edition of Liverpool Family Historian would win a year's free membership of the Society. We have run the competition ever since and I am pleased to announce that the winning articles for 2022 are as follow:

St. Peter's School Evacuation, Liverpool and Hoole, 1939-1943, by Catherine Sing (3106) (Vol. 44, No. 1, pages 27-41, March 2022);

Elsie Radcliffe: A Girl's Early Life in 20th Century Liverpool, by Jane Barrett (7273) (Vol. 44, No. 2, pages 106-113, June 2022);

Wartime Recollections in Liverpool, by Colin Weir (8101) (Vol. 44, No. 3, pages 176-179, September 2022); and,

From Leigh to Salt Lake City: A 19th Century Journey, by Jane Mason (8231) (Vol. 44, No. 4, pages 221-232, December 2022).

Congratulations to all the contributors of our winning articles for 2022 and a big "Thank you" from me to all those of you who were able to contribute. The competition will continue this year and I look forward to reading more of your articles as we progress through the year. -Ed

RootsTech 2023

This year RootsTech will run from **Thursday 2 to Saturday 4 March 2023**. For the first time, the show will be hosted live and online with the aim of uniting families, traditions, communities and experiences globally. The in-person event returns to Salt Lake City with: speakers, vendors, and other participants; keynote speakers and entertainment on the main stage celebrating family and

traditions; 180 classes promoting the development skills for undertaking genealogical research; various interactive, hands-on activities and products in the Expo Hall that can help attendees with their research; and, access to experts at the FamilySearch Library. The online programme allows participants to: connect with millions of people from around the world through a dedicated chat feature; choose from 200 online classes from experts in the field; explore the Expo Hall online, and connect with products and features to help you with your research; and, watch keynote speakers on the virtual main stage. You can register for the online event for free at:

<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/registration/>

Wirral History Fair 2023

The Wirral History & Heritage Association will be holding its annual fair on Saturday 25 March 2023, at Hulme Hall, Port Sunlight Village, Bolton Road, Bebington CH62 5DH. Admission to the event, which will run from 10:00 to 16:00, is free and refreshments will be available throughout the day. The event is family-friendly and the venue has free parking and disabled access.

There will be many history and heritage stalls with 57 exhibitors registered at the time of writing, including local history societies and family history help desks, together with new and second-hand bookstalls etc. Displays around the venue will celebrate Wirral's museums, historic buildings and landscapes.

The Wirral History and Heritage Association website also has a useful 'Future Local Events' page, which details events run by many local organisations and societies. The website address is:

<https://sites.google.com/site/wirralhha/future-events?authuser=0>

Ancestry update

There were eighteen new datasets added during the winter months to the UK collection on Ancestry and a further nine UK datasets had new content added to them. The new UK datasets are as follow:

- **Berkshire, England, World War II Civil Defence Records (1939-1945);**

- **Berkshire, England, World War II Evacuation Records** (1939-1945);
- **Berkshire, England, World War II Home Guard Records** (1943-1958);
- **Berkshire, England, World War II Related Miscellaneous Records** (1939-1971);
- **East Sussex, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials** (1538-1812);
- **East Sussex, England, Electoral Registers** (1705-1963);
- **Hampshire, England, Wills and Probates** (1398-1858);
- **Kensington and Chelsea, London, England, Poor Law Records** (1695-1921);
- **Lancashire, England, Police Staff Indexes** (1836-1937);
- **North Yorkshire, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials** (1558-1812);
- **North Yorkshire, England, Church of England Deaths and Burials** (1813-1995);
- **North Yorkshire, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns** (1754-1937);
- **North Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms** (1813-1921);
- **UK, London Gazettes World War II Military Notices** (1939-1945);
- **UK, Navy Lists** (1888-1970);
- **Wales, World War I Book of Remembrance** (1914-1918);
- **Web: Scotland, Sheriff Court Paternity Processes or Case Papers** (1752-1921); and,
- **West Sussex, England, Electoral Registers** (1832-1963).

The following UK datasets had new content added to them over the last three months:

- **Kensington and Chelsea, Church of England Parish Chest Records** (1597-1950);
- **Lancashire, England, Index of Wills and Probates Proved at Richmond and Chester** (1600-1858);
- **UK and Ireland, Obituary Index** (2004-current);
- **UK, Mechanical Engineer Records** (1847-1938);
- **UK, Women's Royal Naval Officers' Service Records** (1917-1919);

- **Web: Scotland, General and Admission Registers for Asylums** (1858-1918);
- **Web: Scotland, Prison Records Index** (1828-1878);
- **Web: Scotland, Sheriff Court Paternity Decrees** (1792-1922); and,
- **1861 England Census.**

The following select overseas datasets are either new or had new content added to them since the last edition of the journal:

- **Australia and New Zealand, Obituary Index** (2004-Current);
- **Berlin, Germany, Births** (1874-1908);
- **Berlin, Germany, Deaths** (1874-1955);
- **Berlin, Germany, Marriages** (1874-1936);
- **Canada, Obituary Collection** (1898-current);
- **Charente, France, Births, Marriages and Deaths** (1791-1912);
- **Flensburg, Germany, Birth Index Cards** (1874-1910);
- **Flensburg, Germany, Marriage Index Cards** (1874-1940);
- **Georgia, U.S., Compiled Marriages** (1851-1900);
- **Idaho, U.S., Birth Records** (1861-1919), **Stillbirth Index** (1905-1967);
- **Idaho, U.S., Death Records** (1890-1971);
- **Idaho, U.S., Divorce Records** (1947-1969);
- **Idaho, U.S., Marriage Records** (1863-1971);
- **Louisiana, U.S., Compiled Marriage Records** (1851-1900);
- **Marseilles, France, Marriages** (1810-1915);
- **Maryland, U.S., Compiled Marriages** (1667-1899);
- **Mississippi, U.S., Compiled Marriages** (1826-1900);
- **Missouri, U.S., Compiled Marriages** (1851-1900);
- **New Jersey, U.S., Birth, Marriage and Death Records** (1711-1878);
- **New Jersey, U.S., Compiled Marriage Records** (1684-1886);
- **New Zealand, Birth Index** (1840-1950);
- **New Zealand, Civil Registration Birth Index** (1840-1902);

- **New Zealand, Civil Registration Death Index** (1840-1972);
- **New Zealand, Civil Registration Marriage Index** (1840-1901);
- **New Zealand, Civil Registration Stillbirth Index** (1901-1942);
- **Paris, France & Vicinity Marriage Banns** (1860-1902);
- **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S., Church Records** (1709-1760);
- **South Carolina, U.S., Death Records** (1821-1971);
- **Teltow-Fläming, Germany, Births** (1874-1910);
- **Teltow-Fläming, Germany, Deaths** (1874-1990);
- **Teltow-Fläming, Germany, Marriages** (1874-1938);
- **Texas, U.S., Select County Marriage Records** (1837-1965);
- **U.S., Carded Service Records of Hospital Attendants, Matrons and Nurses** (1861-1865);
- **U.S., Cemetery and Funeral Home Collection** (1847-current);
- **U.S., Obituary Collection** (1930-current);
- **U.S., Select Crew Lists and Manifests** (1903-1962);
- **Utah, U.S., Select Marriage Records** (1860-1944);
- **Vienne, France, Births, Marriages, and Deaths** (1792-1930);
- **Virginia, U.S., Compiled Marriages** (1851-1900);
- **Virginia, U.S., Federal Naturalization Records** (1901-1938);
- **Wisconsin, U.S., Birth Records** (1812-1921);
- **Wisconsin, U.S., Compiled Marriages for Select Counties** (1835-1900);
- **Wisconsin, U.S., Death Records** (1959-2004);
- **Wyoming, U.S., Marriage Records** (1869-1971);
- **1901 Census of Canada.**

British Newspaper Archive update

Included here are the details of 18 new titles added to the British Newspaper Archive's digital content in recent weeks, featuring several titles from our local and wider area of interest in Lancashire. The new titles are as follow: **Bangor, Anglesey Mail**

(1993); **Blackpool Times** (1901-02, 1904, 1918-19, 1933); **Brackley Advertiser** (1960); **Cannock Advertiser** (1923); **Cobham News and Advertiser** (1970-71); **Comet for Hornsey, Crouch End and Highgate** (1889); **Grimsby News** (1904, 1906, 1908, 1916-17, 1923, 1928-30, 1935); **Horwich Chronicle** (1889); **Isle of Man Examiner** (1905, 1916); **Lancaster Observer and Morecombe Chronicle** (1919); **Liverpool Weekly Mercury** (1889, 1892); **Melton Mowbray Times and Vale of Belvoir Gazette** (1918); **North Middlesex Chronicle** (1874, 1880, 1889, 1899); **Salford City Reporter** (1889); **South Durham Herald & Post** (1999); **St. Helens Newspaper & Advertiser** (1902-03, 1916, 1918-19); **Wandsworth Borough News** (1914); and, **Wilmslow Express Advertiser** (1981).

The following select titles have had new pages added to them since the last edition of the journal: **Airdrie & Coatbridge Advertiser** (1994); **Axholme Herald** (1993, 1996, 1999); **Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette** (1770, 1792); **Bath Journal** (1762); **Birmingham Daily Post** (1901, 1912); **Birmingham Mail** (1918, 1981, 1992); **Bristol Evening Post** (1984, 1996, 1999); **Burntwood Post** (1998); **Cannock Chase Post** (1998); **Chatham Standard** (1960); **Chiswick Times** (1904, 1909, 1911, 1913, 1916); **Coleshill Chronicle** (1982); **Coventry Evening Telegraph** (1980, 1988); **Croydon Advertiser and East Surrey Reporter** (1956, 1967, 1982); **Daily Gazette for Middlesbrough** (1881); **Eastern Mercury** (1889); **Esher News and Mail** (1970-71, 1974, 1994-95, 1999); **Finsbury Weekly News and Chronicle** (1909); **Gateshead Post** (1968, 1977, 1982, 1984-85); **Gwent Gazette** (1987); **Harrow Informer** (1998); **Hinkley Herald & Journal** (1999); **Holderness Advertiser** (1999); **Hounslow & Chiswick Informer** (1979, 1982-83, 1985); **Huddersfield Daily Examiner** (1997); **Hull Daily Mail** (1987, 1989, 1992-93, 1997-98); **Kensington News and West London Times** (1911); **Leicester Journal** (1762-78, 1780-82, 1786-1804, 1809, 1819-27, 1837, 1842, 1850); **Lincolnshire Echo** (1952, 1954-55, 1965-66, 1987, 1994, 1999); **Liverpool Daily Post** (1904, 1916); **Liverpool Daily Post (Welsh Edition)** (1962, 1965-67, 1969-70, 1972-77); **Liverpool Mercury** (1904); **Nantwich Chronicle** (1982); **Newcastle Daily Chronicle** (1923-24); **Newcastle Evening Chronicle** (1938); **Nottingham Evening Post** (1967); **Nottingham Guardian**

(1877, 1909); **Ormskirk Advertiser** (1985); **Richmond Informer** (1992); **Rugeley Post** (1999); **Ruislip & Northwood Gazette** (1995); **Salford Advertiser** (1999); **Sandwell Evening Mail** (1998); **Sevenoaks Focus** (1988); **South Wales Echo** (1983, 1991, 1995-96); **Staffordshire Newsletter** (1987); **Sunbury & Shepperton Herald** (1994); **Sunday Sun (Newcastle)** (1967, 1984-87, 1991, 1993-95); **Surrey Advertiser** (1904-08, 1910, 1921, 1924-26, 1928, 1930, 1934-38, 1946, 1948-49, 1951, 1953-54, 1956-58, 1962, 1965-66, 1968-73); **Surrey Mirror** (1969-70, 1998); **Surrey Herald** (1999); **Walton & Weybridge Leader** (1994); **West Hull Advertiser** (1998-99); **Western Daily Press** (1963-64, 1966-69, 1974-75, 1984); **Westminster & Pimlico News** (1988); **Widnes Weekly News and District Reporter** (1889); **Winsford Chronicle** (1968-70, 1990-91); **Wishaw Press** (1994); and, **Wokingham Times** (1997).

Deceased Online update

Deceased Online announced on 10 November that the records from Bushbury Cemetery and Crematorium and Bilston Cemetery had been added to its collection. The records for Bilston Cemetery date back to 1855 and has quite a large (111) number of Commonwealth War Graves relating to the two world wars. Bushby Cemetery and Crematorium is a younger establishment, with the cemetery opening in 1949 and the crematorium opening a few years later in 1954. This release completes the uploading of records provided by Wolverhampton Council and includes grave details for each of the graves and their occupants. Digital scans of the original burial registers are included and most records include cemetery maps, showing the section in which a grave is located. Many of the early burial registers for Wolverhampton also include the person's cause of death or occupation.

FamilySearch update

There were six new UK datasets added to the FamilySearch collection over the last quarter, including more records for our own city of Liverpool. Several existing UK datasets had new records added to them over the same period. There were many more additions also to the FamilySearch overseas records collections and

some of these are detailed below. The new UK datasets are:

- **United Kingdom, England, Lancashire, Liverpool, Baptisms (1557-1919);**
- **United Kingdom, England, Lancashire, Liverpool, Church of England Confirmations (1734-1930);**
- **United Kingdom, British India Office, Births and Baptisms (1712-1965);**
- **United Kingdom, England, Lancashire, Liverpool, Roman Catholic Parish Records (1709-1968);**
- **United Kingdom, England, Military Pension and Service Records (1702-1933); and,**
- **United Kingdom, Royal Airforce Service Records (1912-1945).**

The following UK datasets had new content added to them between November 2022 and early February 2023:

- **England, Lancashire Non-Conformist Church Records (1647-1996);**
- **England, Surrey Parish Registers (1536-1992);**
- **United Kingdom, England, Cumberland Parish Registers (1538-1990);**
- **United Kingdom, England, Lancashire, Liverpool, Banns and Marriages (1557-1960); and,**
- **United Kingdom, England, Lancashire, Liverpool, Baptisms (1557-1919).**

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

- **Australia, Victoria, Wills, Probate and Administration Files (1841-1926);**
- **Austria, Catholic Church Records (1565-2007);**
- **Austria, Vienna, Jewish Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths (1784-1911);**
- **France, Ardennes, Parish and Civil Registration (1585-1892);**
- **France, Calvados, Censuses (1876, 1891);**
- **France, Hautes-Alpes, Census (1876);**
- **France, Indre, Parish and Civil Registration (1564-1905);**

- **France, Manche, Parish and Civil Registration** (1546-1912);
- **France, Savoie, Parish and Civil Registration** (1500-1927);
- **Germany, Bavaria, Catholic and Lutheran Church Records** (1591-1963);
- **Germany, Bremen, Catholic and Lutheran Church Records** (1746-1970);
- **Germany, Lübeck, Catholic and Lutheran Church Records** (1797-1961);
- **Germany, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Catholic and Lutheran Church Records** (1639-1943);
- **Germany, North Rhine-Westphalia, Wuppertal, Civil Registration** (1810-1930);
- **Germany, Prussia, Catholic and Lutheran Church Records** (1580-1974);
- **Germany, Prussia, West Prussia, Catholic and Lutheran Church Records** (1537-1981);
- **Germany, Saxony, Catholic and Lutheran Church Records** (1653-1939);
- **Germany, Württemberg, Catholic and Lutheran Church Records** (1818-1915);
- **Ireland, Betham Genealogical Abstracts** (1179-1830);
- **Ireland, Original Will Registers** (1858-1920);
- **Jamaica, Church of England Parish Register Transcripts** (1664-1880);
- **South Africa, Cape Province, Civil Records** (1840-1972);
- **South Africa, Church of the Province of South Africa, Parish Registers** (1801-2004);
- **South Africa, Dutch Reformed Church Registers (Cape Town Archives)** (1660-1970);
- **South Africa, Johannesburg, Cemetery Records** (1840-2019);
- **Spain, Catholic Church Records** (1307-1985);
- **Spain, Civil Records** (1475-2003);
- **Sweden, Stockholm City Archives, Index to Church Records** (1546-1927);
- **United States, California, County Birth and Death Records** (1800-1994);

- **United States Censuses** (1840, 1900, 1940, 1950);
- **United States, Florida, Deaths** (1877-1939);
- **United States, Indiana, Marriages** (1811-2019);
- **United States, Maine, United States Naturalization Records** (1918-1991);
- **United States, Massachusetts, Births** (1636-1924);
- **United States, New York, County Naturalization Records** (1791-1980);
- **United States, New York, Southern District, U.S District Court Naturalization Records** (1824-1946);
- **United States, Tennessee, Deaths** (1914-1966);
- **United States, Texas, County Deaths** (1860-2005);
- **United States, Virginia, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Birth Records** (1853-1949);
- **United States, Virginia, Vital Records** (1715-1901);
- **United States, Washington, County Birth Registers** (1873-1965);
- **United States, Wisconsin, County Naturalization Records** (1807-1992);
- **World, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Perpetual Emigrating Fund Company Financial Accounts (Worldwide)** (1849-1886); and,
- **World, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Record of Members (Worldwide)** (1836-1970).

FindMyPast update

A varied and interesting selection of new records has been added to the FindMyPast offering over the last three-months, including some sound recordings of British prisoners of war during WWI. The largest new collection covers wills and probate records from the Archdeaconry of Norfolk. The following details relate to new UK record collections added to FindMyPast's offering:

- **British Army, Honourable Artillery Company, Cardew-Rendle Roll of Members, 1537-1908** – this new dataset contains biographies for 17,000 members of this unit;
- **England & Wales, Paupers in Workhouses, 1860** – House of Commons ordered report published in 1861 and detailing 14,216 long-term residents of the workhouse (those aged over 16 who have been resident for five or more years);

- **Norfolk Wills & Probate, 1301-1858** – over 257,000 records from the Archdeaconry of Norfolk make up this new dataset, with the records relating to 14 separate deaneries;
- **Prisoners of War, General Correspondence, 1915** – a collection of government documents, reports and personal letters from loved ones to British prisoners of war;
- **Prisoners of War Sound Recordings, 1916-1918** – an interesting collection of 56 sound recording of WWI servicemen in German prisoner camps, recorded in an attempt by the Germans to understand British regional dialects;
- **Protestation Returns, 1641-1642** – this collection records men, age 18 and over, who signed an oath stating that they were Protestant. Each entry includes the name and parish of residence of the oath-taker; and,
- **Royal Navy Officers' Service Record Cards & Files, 1840-1920** – almost 6,000 officers record cards make up this newly released collection, which also includes details of Royal Naval Reservists together with Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and Women's Royal Naval Service records.

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

- **British Army, Coldstream Guards, 1800-1981** - more than 48,477 new records have been added to this dataset, which are drawn from various twentieth-century sources including attestation books, transfers, discharges, rewards, deaths, casualties, honours and awards;
- **British Rolls of Honour and Nominal Rolls, First World War** – a further 251 records from Coventry have recently been added to this collection;
- **British Royal Navy & Royal Marines Service and Pension Records, 1704-1939** – over 122,000 records covering the period 1925-1939 have been added to this collection and include some servicemen who joined pre-1923 but continued their service through and beyond 1929;
- **England & Wales Deaths, 2007-2021** – more than 184,000 new death records have been added to this collection, covering the period from November 2020 to November 2021;
- **Ireland, Northern Ireland Deaths, 1998-2021** – around 2,050 new records have been added to this collection, also

covering the recent period between 202 and 2021;

- **Kent Baptisms, 1864-1900** – 2,655 new records from St. Paul's Church, Devon Drive, Kent were added to the collection;
- **Kent Burials, 1815-1925** – 7,795 new records have been added to the collection covering the places and dates as follow: Greenwich Royal Hospital, 1815-1830; Stone-next-Dartford, 1899-1925; and, Swanscombe, 1895-1925;
- **Kent Marriages and Banns, 1864-1900** – more than 2,800 new records have been added to this collection, all relate to St. Paul's Church, Devon Drive;
- **Lincolnshire Baptisms, 1754-1862** – over 144,000 new records have been added to this collection, covering more than 100 parishes, including Louth, Spalding, Crowland and Winterton;
- **Middlesex Monumental Inscriptions, 1485-2019** – 1,731 new records have been added to this collection (all with images) and cover; Feltham Prison, St. Mary's church Hampton, Victoria Lane Burial Ground (Hayes), St. Mary Magdalene (Littleton), and the Quakers burial ground in Staines;
- **National School Admission Registers & Log-Books, 1870-1914** – 7,859 records have been added to this collection, all from the Halifax, Yorkshire, area. The schools covered are: Warley Road – Girls, Warley Road – Boys, Warley St. John, West Vale – Boys, Central St. Hebden Bridge, Cottonstones National (Sowerby), Ripponden Zion Evening (Soyland), Cloughfoot Evening (Todmorden), Cornhole Board (Todmorden), and, Old Town Evening (Wadsworth);
- **Norfolk Marriages and Banns, 1702-1923** – over 65,000 new records have been added to this collection since the last edition of the journal;
- **Scotland, Modern and Civil Deaths & Burials, 1855-2021** – a total of 13,886 new records, from the 2020-2021 period, have been added to this collection;
- **Scotland, Occupations & Professions, 1581-1890** – 16,000 new records were added to this collection, including records from: A history of the Society of Writers to Her Majesty's Signet, 1890; Fife Shopkeepers and Traders; Merchants Matriculat in the Company of Merchants of

Edinburgh, 1687; Scotland, Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons 1581-1873; and, Scottish Seafarers Index;

- **Scotland, Poor Law & Poor Lists, 1816-1901** – a further 16,820 new records have been added to this collection, relating to: Dregghorn Poor Relief, 1872-1901; Inverness Poor Relief, 1846-1894; Stirling & Perthshire Poor Relief, 1816-1899; and, Wick Poor Relief, 1870-1887;
- **Surrey Burials, 1813-1825** – 4,700 new burial records transcribed from Croydon in the Past (published in 1883), have been added to the collection; and,
- **1939 Register** – another 65,000 new records from the 1939 Register have been opened.

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

- **Gibraltar Census, 1871-1921** – a new dataset that covers six decades of the Gibraltar census and contains a total of more than 113,300 individual records, with similar information to UK census records;
- **Gibraltar Marriages, 1802-1942** – a further 4,420 records have been added to this collection and detail: Military marriages 1869-1914, civilian marriages 1862-1920, and Protestant marriage licences 1802-1883;
- **Gibraltar Military Deaths, 1869-1914** – more than 2,700 British military deaths are recorded in this new dataset. The deaths recorded are generally not as a result of conflict and the medical details included are ‘quite vivid’;
- **Ireland, Licences to Keep Arms, 1832-1836** – this collection of records details over 6,300 individuals licenced to keep arms and the details of the arms they held; and,
- **United States, Philadelphia Genealogy Abstracts** – an unspecified number of records comprising BMDs, letters, newspaper clippings etc, relating to families that made significant contributions to the development of Philadelphia predominantly during the 18th and 19th centuries.

The Genealogist update

The Genealogist announced on 28 January that it had added a further 2.4 million records from **RAF Operations Record Books**

to its offering. This release now brings the total number of searchable RAF records available from The Genealogist to more than 13.6 million. While most of the records date to the post WWI period (and continue up to the 1960s) some early squadron records relate to the period between 1911 and 1918.

January 14 saw the company release 371,400 **Roman Catholic Parish Registers** for **Kildare**, in the Republic of Ireland. The registers cover baptisms, marriages and burials, from this town in the eastern part of Ireland. Records of more than 29,000 individuals recorded as **Irish Tithe Defaulters** were also released at this time. The records date from **1831** and can be a useful stand-in for the 1831 Irish census which was almost completely destroyed in 1922.

The last release of records by The Genealogist in 2022 (23 December) covered 185,000 new **Lloyd George Domesday** land tax records for the counties of **Berkshire** and **Buckinghamshire**. With these records, researchers can review the size, state of repair and value of the property in which an ancestor lived (or been the landlord for) between 1910 and 1915. As always, these records have been linked to large scale contemporary Ordnance Survey maps that can be viewed using The Genealogist's **Map Explorer tool**. Earlier that month (10 December) the company had released more than 629,000 records for **Chelsea Pensioners** (for the period **1702-1933**), including high quality scans of the original document pages. The records include registers, admission books, ledgers etc., that relate to army pensioners and the payment of pensions to those individuals.

And finally... 12 November 2022 saw the company release almost 50,000 records that were originally published in 1923 by the **Committee of the Irish National War Memorial**. The records cover all those included in the original eight-volume set of Ireland's memorial records for the 1914-1918 war, with each entry giving the individual's name, regiment, rank, date and place of death, and sometimes date of birth and next of kin.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Change of surname in WWI

In previous issues there has been correspondence regarding the changing of German sounding names during the First World War. Of course, the most well known family to do this was the Royal Family in July 1917. They changed their German name Saxe - Coburg Gotha to Windsor. This was mainly in response to public anger over air raids in London in particular the bombing of a school in the East End. Perhaps "Special Branch" were involved in that decision!

My mother's family name was **Hauenstein**, she was a young girl living in Liverpool during the war. She had bad memories about this period; the family suffered hostility, verbal abuse and bricks thrown through the window, especially after the sinking of the Lusitania in May 1915. This was a local tragedy as many of the crew were from Liverpool. Public outrage led to acts of violence against anything or anyone German, and the hostility spread to other cities.

Her father Julius Hauenstein was born in Liverpool, the son of German immigrants who had come to Liverpool in the 1870s with three young sons born in Germany; the rest of their children were born in Liverpool. One of the three German born sons was Charles (Karl) Hauenstein, as an adult he was living in Liverpool with his family. Charles would not have been able to change his name as under the Aliens Restriction Act a change of name was not allowed, except with special permission. Classed as an enemy alien he was interned in the Isle of Man, his family left to fend for themselves.

Despite the hostility, the extended Hauenstein family (that I know of) did not change their names during the First World War. They would have had their own reasons for not doing this, but as the working class housing of Liverpool mainly consisted of streets of terraced housing, everyone was well known in the neighbourhood so changing your name would not have made any difference. I know this because I grew up in the 1940s and 50s in the same house my mother had grown up in.

However, with the outbreak of the Second World War they all changed their names. My mother's family changed their name to **Houston**; on the 1939 register my grandfather Julius even changed his first name to John, but he did start to use his original name after the war. Some family members from Liverpool made it more official by changing their names to Houston by deed poll; in the London Gazette November 1939 they stated they were "natural born British subjects" and that they had "renounced and abandoned the name Hauenstein"

On the 1939 Register Charles Hauenstein had changed his name, but still classed as an enemy alien he had to attend a tribunal, but probably because of his age and poor health in October 1939 he was issued with an Exemption From Internment certificate.

The extended family of my mother's generation during the Second World War were all British born and of an age for military service. All males and females were in the armed services or working in munitions and other vital services.

In the second conflict with the same enemy in just over twenty years, it would have been far more convenient for them not to have a German sounding name.

Barbara Russell (6636)

Liverpool Mercury, Friday, February 10, 1871 ***Marriages***

MacANDREW—MORICE - Feb. 7, at the parish church, Streatham, by the Rev. W. D. Morice, vicar of Longbridge, Deverill, Wilts, assisted by the Rev. J. K. Nicholl, rector, George MacAndrew, Esq., of Liverpool, youngest son of Robert MacAndrew, Esq., of Isleworth House, Middlesex, to Flora Valentina, eldest daughter of James Farquhar Morice, Esq., of The Shrubbery, Streatham.

O'BRIEN—MORTON - Feb. 4, at St. Peter's, Everton, by the Rev. S. B. Sutton, B.A., Mr. James O'Brien to Miss Helen Morton.

Henry Diaper, Commission Merchant & Forwarding Agent of Liverpool 1842-1895

THE RISE AND FALL OF HENRY

I think many of us searching our family tree come across a distant, often 'married in' relative who turns out to be more interesting than anyone in our direct lines. I found just such a person in amongst scores of miners, ag labs and weavers in Henry Diaper, the husband of a second great-grandaunt. This is his story.

Henry Diaper was born 23 May 1842 in Reiss Place, Robert Street, Toxteth Park. His father was Isaac Diaper a master mariner who was the son of James Diaper, also a master mariner and a descendent of the Diapers of Itchen Ferry village in Hampshire. Henry's mother was Dorothy (née **Hinde**), born in Whitehaven, Cumberland. Isaac and Dorothy married 1 July 1841 at St. George in the East, Tower Hamlets, Middlesex but there is an odd correction in the Liverpool Mercury of 6 March 1840 which reads, 'We are requested to contradict the notice of marriage which appeared in last week's Mercury of "*Mr Isaac Diaper to Miss Dorothy Hind* [sic]," no such event having taken place.'

Isaac and Dorothy went on to have two daughters, Mary Elizabeth and Annie Hinde. Isaac seems to have had a short fuse as there were newspaper reports of a court case following an incident aboard a ship called the **Hectress** in June 1839 when he was still a single man. Isaac, then a ship mate, struck a Dutch seafarer, William Farrell, when Farrell had failed to tie a knot properly and smiled at Isaac when putting it right. Isaac '*thought this was very impudent, and, as the man was a foreigner, he struck him*'. The court fined him 5s and costs and reprimanded the complainant for smiling at the mate.

In the 1851 Census Henry was listed with his mother and two sisters living at 29 Catherine Street, Toxteth Park, a multiple

occupancy residence of 14 people in three families. Isaac may have been at sea. Henry did not follow his ancestors into a seafaring life, becoming instead in his early years a commercial clerk. By the 1861 Census Henry has struck out of the family and is boarding at 65 Chester Street, Toxteth Park, the home of John Williams (fireman) and his wife. Also boarding are Robert Lloyd (clerk in a merchant's office) and his wife and daughter.

On 26 February 1863, whilst still living at Chester Street, Henry married Sarah **Perry**, younger daughter of William Perry (abt. 1809-1893, a shipwright) and Mary (1810-1883, née **Holcroft**) and was at that time a book keeper. Neither of the witnesses were family members and this may be because just over two months later, Sarah gave birth to a daughter they named Mary Jane Ellen (later known as Pollie). At the time of their daughter's christening at St. John the Baptist, Toxteth Park, 5 July 1863, their address is given as 42 Toxteth Street, which is Sarah's parents' address so perhaps all was forgiven.

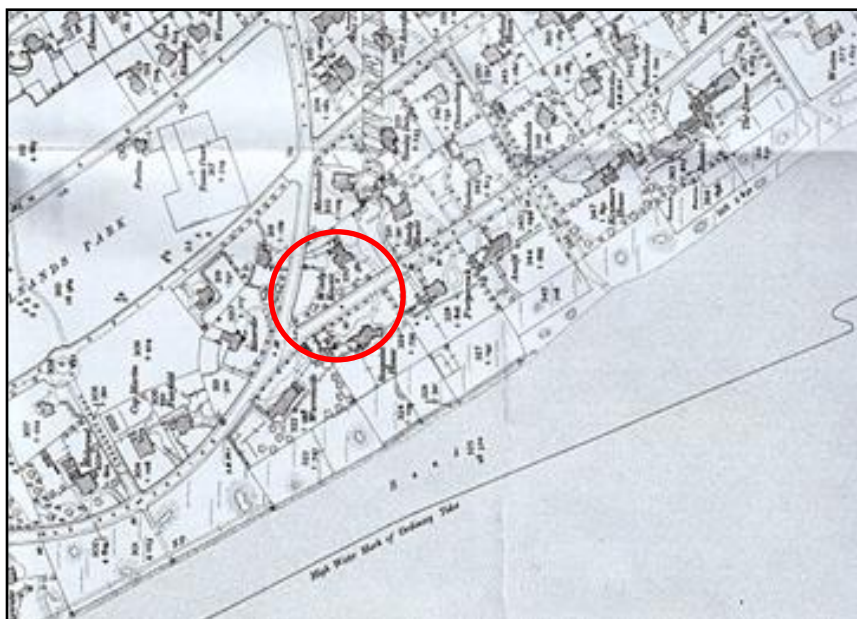
In 1867 Henry was a witness at Sarah's older sister Ann Jane Perry's marriage to twice widowed, timber merchant John **Smith** who was 22 years older than his bride. These are my 2 x great grandparents. Sarah was the other witness. This would indicate Henry was now accepted in that part of the family at the very least. By 1868 Henry has moved his family to Great Crosby.

In the 1871 Census Henry has gone further up in the world, living in a house called 'May Field' in Blundellsands Road, Great Crosby, working as a 'Commission Merchant and Forwarding Agent' and the household includes a domestic servant. His sister Annie was also living with them.

The *Liverpool Journal of Commerce* reported 17 May 1880 that Mr M. **D'Arcy**, a shipping, forwarding and general agent and ship and insurance broker is trading in Manchester under the auspices of Messrs. Henry Diaper and Co.

In the 1881 Census Henry was living in a very large, new (unnamed at the time of the Census, later named *Windy Knowe*) house, employing a housemaid and kitchen maid, at the junction of Serpentine Road and Burbo Bank Road, Blundellsands. It was set in 1½ acres, was designed by architect Mr. J. F. Doyle and built in

1878 'of substantial construction and of the highest finish in all the details' (Manchester Courier, 21 May 1888) with views of the Mersey and the Welsh hills. There were conservatories, a greenhouse and fernery, three entertaining rooms, a spacious ante and hall, eight bedrooms and two dressing rooms, a full-size billiard room, butler's pantry, wine cellar and modern sanitary arrangements. The house was large enough to be used as a V.A.D. hospital during World War I from 1915.



The location of Henry Diaper's house in Blundellsands.
(Courtesy of Alan Godfrey Maps)

In June 1881 Henry's brother-in-law, John Smith the timber merchant, of Renshaw Street, Liverpool died and Henry was an executor along with John Norman of Grove Street, 'warehouseman'. Henry's business as City Forwarding Agent was based at 30 Tower Buildings, Water Street, Liverpool.

Daughter Mary (who was instructed in art at the Royal Institute, Liverpool by W. S. Kerry) married the artist Albert **Stevens**, 16 years her senior, 30 July 1884 at St. Nicholas Church in the Parish

of Blundellsands. His father was John Crace Stevens 1809-1859, an auctioneer in the St. Pauls and King Street areas of Covent Garden, London. On 6 February 1886 Albert and Mary had a daughter, Dorothy Mary, born at Henry's home. By then the house had a name; **Windy Knowe**, Burbo Bank Road, Blundellsands. A birth announcement was placed in the Liverpool Mercury of 9 February.

In March and April 1887 advertisements appeared in the local press listing Windy Knowe for sale '*with early possession*'. By the spring of 1888 the house is still for sale and more advertisements appear in newspapers detailing auctions of the contents of Windy Knowe: '*handsome*' furniture partly supplied by Messrs Garnett and Sons of Warrington, Castilian chairs, cabinets of '*striking beauty*', rugs, lamps, Davenport tableware, Japanese, Indian and Continental China '*including many rare pieces*', ornaments, bronzes, ornamental vases, clocks and musical clocks, gas fittings, books, etchings and engravings, table and house linen, house plants and hothouse plants, garden furniture, full-size billiard table, etc., at the house across three days in April, and '*the valuable collection of oil paintings and water colour drawings*' from Henry's collection at Windy Knowe, including at least one painting by son-in-law Albert Stevens, at the Hanover Rooms in Liverpool.

It is not clear what caused the need for this sale. In 1886 *Henry Diaper and Co.*, placed at least 38 advertisements for a product, for which they were agents, called '*Thrift's Enamel Anti-Fouling Composition*' which was for '*ships' bottoms*' and was supposed to be the best, cheapest and most durable. Was this association a cause of problems for the company? In 1887 the adverts for this product ceased.

On 8 February 1890 Henry made a will. In it he left his '*onyx and pearl studs*' to William **Nickson**, a friend and trustee of his will, and his '*topaz solitaires*' to his son-in-law Albert Stevens who was the other trustee. He left his '*watch and chain and the rest of my jewellery, trinkets and personal ornaments to my wife absolutely*' along with a legacy of £50 to be paid as soon as conveniently may be. The will goes on to make arrangements for the business and was easier to transcribe than it is to describe.

I direct my trustees to carry on my business of Commission Merchant and Forwarding Agent during so long as they shall think

it desirable and profitable to do so and for such purpose to use in the business the capital of my estate or such part thereof as they may think fit with liberty to hire and dismiss managers clerks servants and assistants upon such terms as to remuneration whether by salary or commission or both as to my trustees shall seem right. I desire that my trustees shall as soon as conveniently may be after my decease offer to my partner in the London business Michael B D'Arcy my interest in such business upon such terms and as such price as my trustees shall think proper. But if the said Michael B D'Arcy shall decline to purchase or if my trustees cannot come to satisfactory terms with him then I desire that my trustees shall liquidate or otherwise dispose of my interest in such business upon such terms as my trustees shall think fit. If my trustees find that my business hereinbefore directed to be carried on by them shall not be profitably worked or if they shall find it necessary or desirable to cease to carry on the same then and in such case I empower them to sell or dispose of the said business upon such terms and conditions and at such price as they shall in their judgement think proper. I direct that the profits of my business and the income of my estate after deduction of all working expenses and necessary outgoings shall be paid and applied by my trustees as follows: One fourth of such net profit and income shall be paid to my daughter Mary Jane Ellen the wife of the said Albert Stevens for her own sole and separate use free from the control of said husband during her life without any power of anticipation and the remaining three-fourths shall be paid to my wife for her own sole and separate use during her life and upon the death of my wife I direct that the whole of the said profit and income shall be paid to my said daughter during her life for her own sole and separate use free from the control of her said husband and without any power of Anticipation. On the death of the survivor of them my said wife and daughter I direct that my trustees shall sell and convert into money the capital of my estate and after payment of all expenses of realization shall invest the net proceeds upon such securities as trustees are empowered by law to invest in with power to alter or vary any investment and shall pay and apply the income of such investments in the maintenance and education of such of the children of my said daughter as shall for the time being be infants under the age of twenty one years or being daughters be unmarried and upon the youngest child for the time being attaining the age of

twenty one years then I direct that my trustees shall pay and divide the said investments or the money representing the same in equal shares between and amongst the children of my said daughter who may be then dead leaving issue such issue to take only the share their deceased parent would have taken if then alive. I declare that my trustees shall not be responsible for any loss that shall occur in the carrying on of the aforesaid trusts and which shall not be occasioned by their own wilful act or default. I declare that the power of appointing new trustees or a new trustee of this my will shall be vested in my wife during her life and after her decease shall be vested in my said daughter. I revoke all former wills and testamentary dispositions by me at anytime heretofore made and declare this to be my last will. In witness whereof I have hereunto and to the preceding sheet of paper set my hand this Eighth day of February one thousand eight hundred and ninety.

By 22 May 1890 Windy Knowe has still not found a buyer. A tenant is then sought. In the *Liverpool Daily Post* under ‘*Dwelling Houses to be let: unfurnished*’, the house is listed at a rental per week, clear of taxes, of £200 (equivalent to £28,500 in 2022). This dropped to £180 by September when the property was still unlet, with a caretaker on site.

The *London Gazette* gave notice on 9 December 1890 of the dissolving of the partnership with Michael Burke D’Arcy at 141 Fenchurch Street, London. ‘*All debts due to or from the late Partnership will be paid and received by the said Henry Diaper.*’ A brief notice appeared in the *Leeds Mercury* of 10 December 1890 to the same effect. Henry did not make a new will after the end of the partnership with Michael Burke D’Arcy, which seems surprising.

In the 1891 Census Henry was listed as a boarder at 42 Prince’s Road, Princes Park, Liverpool. John P. Byrne was the boarding house keeper and apart from his wife and children plus two domestic servants, there were 13 other people boarding in the property. Henry’s wife Sarah was there (using her married surname) but listed as Single. Was this a mistake by the enumerator? Dorothy M. Stevens (5 years old in 1891) was listed between Henry and Sarah. It does not give her relationship to them (she is a boarder also) but this must be their granddaughter. Why is she staying with them in their reduced circumstances? Her parents

both travelled in Europe to paint and visited London a great deal when their art works were shown in galleries so that may have been the reason.

The *Liverpool Journal of Commerce* reported 8 August 1891 that the office at 141 Fenchurch Street, London, has been closed by Henry Diaper and Co., and '*transferred their agency to their friends Messrs Elkan and Co. of 55 Leadenhall Street, E.C.*'.

On Thursday 22 April 1892, Henry's sister Mary, aged 46 was discovered drowned in a pond at Sankey, Warrington, after disappearing from Henry's sister-in-law's (widow of timber merchant John Smith and my 2 x great grandmother) house at 10 Kenmare Road, Wavertree, on the morning of Monday 28 March 1892. Henry (by then living at 9 Devonshire Road, Princes Park) placed advertisements offering a £15 reward in the Liverpool press via the Lucan Detective Agency of South Castle Street, Liverpool, for information leading to her whereabouts. Mary had been housekeeper to the Rev. the Marquis of Normanby for 19 years in Windsor and had since the previous November shown signs of '*mental derangement*' after being ill. Lord Normanby wished to place her in an asylum where he thought she would receive the right care but her relatives disagreed as Mary had a fear of being shut in.

Mary had gone out for a walk, promising to be back for lunch on the day she disappeared and had no links with Sankey, Warrington. She appeared to have been in the water for about two weeks when she was found and her watch had stopped at 4.40. The pond was in an area secured by a gate and so could not have been stumbled into accidentally. Henry identified the body.

On 27 September 1893, newspapers reported '*Strange Affair in Princes Park*'. Henry was in police custody charged with attempting to commit suicide in the pond in Prince's Park in Liverpool. A police constable found him lying, dripping wet on a bench shortly after 11 p.m. the previous night. He appeared to be sober but could not explain why he was in that state. A silk hat was on the edge of the pond with Henry's name and address and a gold watch and chain. He was remanded for seven days for medical examination.

Messrs Henry Diaper and Co., opened an office at No. 7 Temple

Chambers, Manchester, in February 1894 to deal with business ensuing from the opening of the Manchester Ship Canal.

On 5 June 1895, Henry, aged 53, committed suicide in the sea at Birkdale Sands near Southport. He had been staying at Smedley's Hydropathic Establishment, Birkdale (ironically the building that is now the home of the General Register Office for England and Wales) since the 24 May and was observed to be short of cash. He was reported as having no fixed residence. Two letters found in his pocket were read out in private to the coroner's jury at the inquest on 7 June and the jury returned a verdict to the effect that '*deceased had committed suicide whilst in a state of temporary insanity*'. He had recently suffered a bout of influenza and had been depressed.

Probate was granted on 22 November 1895. William Nickson and Albert Stevens '*renounce the probate and execution of the said will*'. Gross value of personal estate was £319 . 16 . 0 (worth about £46,500 in 2022) and the net value of personal estate was £ nil - leaseholds. Sarah, his widow, was living at 109 Canning Street, Liverpool. [see page opposite]

In April 1896 the mansion, 'Windy Knowe' was finally sold at auction for £2,550 (about £377,000 in today's terms) after nine years on the market.

Notice was given in *The London Gazette* of 23 November 1900 that application is intended to be made to Parliament in the next session by Egbert Harvey carrying on business ... as **Henry Diaper and Company**.

Henry Diaper came from humble origins, made a commercial success and then for reason(s) yet to be discovered, lost nearly everything. He was not declared bankrupt and it would seem his determination to keep the business afloat was shown in his willingness to sell almost everything he owned to achieve this.

Henry and Sarah's daughter, the artist Mary (Pollie) and her husband Albert had moved to The Mount, Upton on Severn, Worcestershire, by 1919 (perhaps earlier). Coincidentally, this is just down the road from where I now live. Also living with them were

with one Lily Cotton, Merchant and Arthur and Alfred, Trade Agents of 3 Rumpford Street, Liverpool, as executors named in the said Will.

BE IT KNOWN, that Henry Diaper of Birkdale
in the County of Lancaster, Commission
Merchant and Forwarding Agent (formerly of
the City of Liverpool),
deceased, who died on the 5th day of June 18 95
at Birkdale aforesaid

and who at the time of his death had a fixed place of abode
at Birkdale aforesaid within the District
of the Hundred of West Derby in Lancashire

, made and duly executed his last Will
and Testament and did therein
name William Nickson and Albert Stevens
Executors and Universal Legatees in trust
who have duly renounced the probate and
execution of the said Will -



AND BE IT FURTHER KNOWN, that at the date hereunder written, Letters of
Administration with the Will _____ of the personal estate of the said
Henry Diaper deceased
were granted by Her Majesty's High Court of Justice at the District Registry
attached to the Probate Division thereof at Liverpool
to Sarah Diaper of 109 Ganning Street
in the said City Widow the Relict, one of
the Residuary Legatees for life named
in the said Will, she

having been first sworn well and faithfully to administer the same

Dated the 25th day of November 189 5

Gross value of personal estate, £ 318. 16. 0

Net value " " £ nil - Leaseholds -

Extracted by W. R. W. Wilson and Co. Solicitors
Liverpool.
208

W & L (2) - 41471 - 2000-S 96

their unmarried daughter, Dorothy and Henry's widow Sarah, who resided with them until she died in 1920. Albert, Mary and Dorothy later lived at the Manse Studio, Malvern Wells, Worcestershire, where they taught art. Albert died in 1934 and Mary in 1947 at the Manse Studio. The building later became the staff quarters for a prep school. Dorothy's talent was in arts and crafts. She died at 14 The Lees, Malvern, on 6 February 1973, having never married or had children, so Henry Diaper's line ended with her.

People with no descendants deserve to be remembered. Although he and I are only distantly related, I am pleased to have been able to search and record his life events. I would love to find out more about his life and would welcome any information and leads.

The Merseyside Maritime Museum kindly replied to an enquiry about the publication below:

Anon. The House of Diaper 1860-1960, Liverpool 1960 Merseyside Maritime Museum

They do hold a copy and I hope to consult it when I next visit Liverpool.

Noelle Chambers (9556)

Liverpool Mercury - *Marriages* Friday, September 28, 1832

On Monday last, at St. Michael's Church, Toxteth-park, John Henry **Marsh**, Esq. of Chichester, to Mary, eldest daughter of Wm. **Hurry**, Esq. of Toxteth-park.

Same day, at St. Peter's Church, Mr. James **Parr** to Miss Elizabeth **Brownbill**, both of St. Helen's.

Same day, at St. Philip's Church, Capt. Henry D. **Dott** to Miss Janet **Clark**, of Dumfriesshire.

Same day, at St. Nicholas's Church, Mr. Alexander **Jeffrey**, stonemason, to Miss Ann, second daughter of Mr. John **Maitland**, bookseller and stationer, Dale-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:.....

E-Mail:

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

☐

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

Members Interests

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

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

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

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

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

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

Good hunting.

CHAPMAN County Codes

England (ENG):

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

Wales (WLS):

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

Scotland (SCT):

ABD	Aberdeenshire	ELN	East Lothian	PEE	Peebleshire
ANS	Angus (Forfarshire)	FIF	Fifeshire	PER	Perthshire
ARL	Argyllshire	INV	Inverness-shire	RFW	Renfrewshire
AYR	Ayrshire	KCD	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	Monaghan		

N. Ireland (NIR)

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

Channel Isles (CHI)

ALD	Alderney	JSY	Jersey	SRK	Sark
GSY	Guernsey				

Publications List

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

Column 1 U.K.; Column 2 Air mail

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MY ANCESTOR WAS IN THE SALVATION ARMY.....	5.50	7.00
MY ANCESTORS WERE GYPSIES.....	4.50	5.65
MY ANCESTOR WAS A FREEMASON.....	3.50	4.30
MY ANCESTOR WAS A COALMINER.....	8.45	10.20
MY ANCESTOR WAS AN ANGLICAN CLERGYMAN.....	7.30	8.50
MY ANCESTOR WORKED IN THE THEATRE.....	6.65	7.20
MY ANCESTOR WAS A BASTA.....	7.30	8.50

McLAUGHLIN GUIDES

ANNALS OF THE POOR.....	2.60	3.50
CENSUSES 1841-1881: USE & INTERPRETATION.....	2.60	3.50
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PARISH REGISTERS.....	2.60	3.50
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SIMPLE LATIN FOR FAMILY HISTORIANS.....	3.60	4.75
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The Rise and Fall of the Open-Air School Movement: Leigh's Holiday Camp and School at Prestatyn

Introduction

By the early years of the 20th century, where people were living had changed. More of the population had left the countryside to live in towns and cities, and many were forced through poverty to make their homes in small poorly ventilated back-to-back houses, hastily built on crowded sunless streets. Just as open-air treatments had been successfully pioneered for sufferers from TB (tuberculosis), some educationalists thought that the same principles could be applied in the field of education, bringing benefits to those urban children made ill by their poor living conditions. From the time of its establishment in 1907, the School Medical Service found itself in pole position to do something to improve the lives of these children.

The School Medical Service was there to carry out medical inspections of school pupils, and to give some follow-up treatments for diseases and disabilities, many of which had previously gone unnoticed. The aim was to help children get maximum benefit from the education provided for them in state elementary schools. School Medical Officers could see how ill-health and poor nutrition affected educational performance, and so they set about arguing for changes to be made to the school learning environment. They wanted to provide fresh air and sunlight as therapy for sickly children who were under-achieving at school and generally failing to thrive. Thus was born the open-air education movement.

The rise of open-air schools

Open-air education meant holding as many lessons as possible outside; there would be an emphasis on practical subjects, plus regular nutritious meals, plenty of exercise, and often a rest or

sleep period during the day. Provision could be fully residential, or weekly boarding with children going home at weekends, or even open-air classrooms in an existing school. Children would be recommended by the School Medical Service for a placement; during the programme they would be weighed and measured regularly to see to what extent their physical condition was improving, and at the end, factors such as their alertness, concentration and ability to learn would be assessed and compared with how they had behaved previously in their normal school setting. For some the experience could be life-changing and represented a fresh start. To give one example: some children previously assumed to be mentally handicapped were in fact malnourished, and they benefited hugely from the open-air regime, making great progress in both behaviour and academic levels of achievement.

The first open-air school in England was set up in 1907 by the London County Council, swiftly followed by similar schools in other parts of the country. By the end of WWI, the idea had really taken off, and was influencing both the operation of existing schools as well as the design of new builds. Unfortunately, Leigh children had to wait until the mid-1920s before any sort of open-air schooling was organised for them. Meanwhile in society at large there was an increasing appreciation of the value to people of being outside. This was shown in the growth of the Youth Hostel movement, the popularity of outdoor activities such as camping, swimming and cycling, the development of Garden Cities and new suburban housing estates, and the recognition that schools needed playing fields and children needed safe outdoor play spaces, preferably in parks. All these things celebrated the enjoyment to be got from being out in the fresh air and having plenty of space for activities outside. By 1930 it is estimated that there were 94 open-air day schools and 47 residential schools in England, altogether catering for 14,000 children.

Leigh takes the plunge

Many towns in the early 20th century established funds to pay for holidays for children, and local charities were also active in this field. Sometimes money was used to set up holiday premises in a countryside location or by the sea. The accommodation would often be in the form of a holiday camp, with tents or semi-permanent

chalets, and this is what happened in Leigh. Money was raised from a number of sources, and in June 1924 the Leigh Children's Holiday Camp opened in Prestatyn. An article appearing in *Prestatyn Weekly* at the time of the opening ceremony gives details of how the camp would be run, saying it would operate in the school holidays with supervision of the children provided by Leigh teachers acting in a voluntary capacity. In addition, the schoolteachers promised to give £50 per year towards maintenance costs. The site was 6 acres and was close to the sand dunes and beach. Various wooden buildings had been erected - sleeping huts for the children, toilets and washing facilities, a pavilion for the staff, and a dining hall plus associated kitchen and storerooms. The camp would be open for five weeks each summer, taking 100 children for a week at a time. This meant that in a typical year over 500 children would have a holiday by the sea. Councillor William **Collier**, who as mayor of Leigh during the previous year had been very active in the establishment of the camp, said at the opening ceremony that it was a pity there was such a reliance on voluntary workers to run the scheme.

Just a couple of years after the establishment of the Leigh Children's Holiday Camp in 1924, the camp came into further use as an open-air school for sickly and convalescent children. The first contingent of children left Leigh on Friday 30 July 1926, and started their lessons outside on the following Monday. These children stayed at the school till early in September, and it was reported by the School Medical Officer that there had been no significant illness amongst the children during the whole of the summer. This was different from normal; children's health commonly deteriorated during the school holidays, because of their poor living conditions.

It is hard for us to imagine now how difficult times were for some families in the 1920s and 30s. Irene **Rowland** was a schoolgirl in Leigh from 1931 to 1939, and this is what she had to say about conditions then: *"Some children had to go for free dinners and free clogs. A lot of fathers were out of work and consequently a lot of children were poorly dressed and in fact sometimes couldn't come to school. One time that stands out very clearly is the diphtheria epidemic of 1938. The school was closed for a time as many children were ill. In the summer a lot went to Prestatyn Open Air School"*.

Prestatyn open-air school

More details about the open-air school can be found in the annual reports presented to Leigh Borough's Education Committee by the School Medical Officer. Children considered for admission had to have some kind of physical problem, as detailed under Section 55(3) of the 1921 Education Act. The most common medical conditions listed for applicants to the school were anaemia, bronchitis, asthma, debility, malnutrition, rickets - so many of these being diseases of poverty. The selected children were examined again just prior to travelling to Prestatyn, to make sure they weren't harbouring an infectious disease. There were usually more applicants than available places.

Two or three teachers and a nurse were resident at the school throughout the programme. Teachers organised and supervised the children's activities, ongoing medical care was given by the nurse, with regular visits from a dentist and doctor, and domestic services were provided by holiday camp staff. Every year the school was typically open for two sessions, each of about six weeks in length; the first session ran from sometime in May to the start of the Leigh school holidays in July, and the second from late July to September. Almost all the children gained weight while they were at the school, and an increase in weight was taken as an indication of improvement in their health. Meals were nutritious and provided in excess of 2,000 calories per child per day (which is more than the average needed by a child in the age range seven to 13).

The children were medically examined at the end of their time in Prestatyn, and most made a successful return to an ordinary state elementary school. Teachers reported that they were more alert and sociable after their experiences away, and in the 1933 report the School Medical Officer commented on letters of appreciation received from parents, which "*indicate the vast amount of good which the school does*". It was clearly very popular both with professionals and families. However, in the same report he expressed regret that many of the children had to return to homes "*overcrowded and somewhat squalid*". What a difference from the healthy conditions in Prestatyn.

The camp and Prestatyn

Although many people wanted to provide a local open-air school, the decision to use what Leigh had already established on the North Wales coast was seen as a good solution, bypassing as it did the obvious problems around finding a suitable site in Leigh itself, with its industry and traffic-filled crowded streets. Prestatyn had been developing as a resort since the coming in 1848 of the Chester and Holyhead Railway, and was a great holiday location, being close to the sea and yet also having good walking country inland. However, with popularity came the danger of over-development and a spoiling of the landscape. In the 19th century the area had primarily been farmland, but gradually fields were taken out of agricultural use and were let out for holiday camping. This marked change in land use rang alarm bells in some quarters.

In 1944 the chairman of Prestatyn Council Planning Committee was quoted in the *Liverpool Echo* as stating that within two miles of Prestatyn Station there were as many as 1,525 “*disused buses, hen huts and ramshackle structures which are being used as chalets*”, which were blighting the neighbourhood. These comments clearly show the tensions between residents living in Prestatyn and developers wishing to exploit the natural amenities of the area. I do not know if the Leigh Children's Holiday Camp fell foul of local feelings, or if the premises became unsuitable in some way, but I have found a couple of items in the *Liverpool Daily Post* which tell rather a sad story. The first dates from April 1939 and says that the Leigh Camp Committee was trying to find a site to purchase either in the Prestatyn/Rhyl area or on the Wirral. The second item dates from June 1941 and says that the Leigh holiday camp buildings had been dismantled and were now up for sale. Although it therefore looks as if the premises were lost during the war, the organisation itself survived into the post-war years as the Leigh Children's Holiday Fund and continued to support Leigh children in need of a holiday.

The second world war and its aftermath: open-air schools in decline

It has been shown that in the early 20th century there was a clear need for places like the Prestatyn holiday camp and open-air school. Many education authorities around the country were developing similar schemes, but much of this work came to an abrupt end with

the outbreak of WWII. Evacuation brought huge disruption to children's education, and on top of that some open-air school buildings were requisitioned by the government, or quite simply fell into disuse, often never to re-open. Then there were new ideas in the Education Act of 1944, which affected provision for children felt to be in need of special educational treatment. The legislation specified 11 categories of handicap, including a new category for "*the delicate*". These children were similar in many respects to those selected in the pre-war years for open-air placements, and in fact some open-air schools became schools for the delicate. The children were not considered to have a permanent handicap, but it was thought that because of their ill-health, they would be unable to cope with normal conditions in an ordinary school.

At this time, changes were occurring in the pattern of childhood diseases. Ailments such as asthma and bronchitis were still found, but many common infectious diseases including TB were largely gone, brought under control through the application of new medical treatments and vaccination programmes. As a consequence, it was felt that fewer children needed the special environment offered in open-air schools. There was also a change in people's attitudes as they started to appreciate that what at first glance looked like an individual problem - for example a disease or disability - could not be solved in isolation. It had to be viewed within the wider context of a family's standard of living. This meant that far-reaching reforms to welfare, health and educational services would have to be put in place to tackle the many social problems which had certainly been present in the pre-war years, and which had been brought into sharper focus by the war. This desire for change found its expression in the whole raft of new legislation passed in the 1940s, which together with plans for post-war reconstruction brought improvements to health, living conditions and levels of poverty within the population.

As regards the open-air schools themselves, it has already been said that some remained closed during the war. Where that happened the buildings inevitably deteriorated, often becoming unfit for purpose. There was also a move away from thinking that a cold open-air environment was always of therapeutic value. Some of the open-air schools had been rather spartan at the best of times and were unsuitable for the treatment of certain conditions, such as

asthma. In addition, the normal school curriculum was itself changing, and increasingly came to include what had been the special features of an open-air education. As regards food and the importance of good nutrition, the 1944 Education Act tightened up the requirements placed on local education authorities to provide a school meal in the middle of the day, and to give out free school milk. All in all, it seemed as if open-air schools as separate institutions had become redundant. They had been important as a way of helping children overcome the effects of a poor living environment, but as the health and welfare of the population as a whole improved, so these schools seemed to have outlived their usefulness.

Postscript

I am still researching what happened to the Leigh Children's Holiday Camp and the associated Open-Air School in Prestatyn. It is of interest to me because my grandfather Richard **Ratcliffe** was one of the founder members of the school and worked tirelessly to promote it on behalf of the children of Leigh.

If anyone reading this has any information about the camp or the school, then I would love to hear from you.

Jane Mason (8231)

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Annual Reports from the 1920s and 30s by the School Medical

Officer, presented to the Education Committee of the Borough of Leigh, accessed online at archive.org and wellcomecollection.org

Liverpool Echo, 15 November 1944, page 3 (for views of Prestatyn Council Planning Committee on indiscriminate development)

Liverpool Daily Post, 27 April 1939, page 16 (for Leigh Children's Holiday Camp Committee wishing to purchase land for a holiday camp)

Liverpool Daily Post, 28 June 1941, page 4 (for sale of Leigh Children's Holiday Camp buildings)

An open-air art class at a school in Penygroes, Carmarthenshire, Wales, in 1940. The children pictured here were evacuees from the Blackheath & Kidbrooke School. (Source: Imperial War Museums)



Pass It On

I have an old, small (11cm x 7cm) Ready Reckoner. It is complete but a little tatty, with a leather cover which I think is home-made. I can't remember how I acquired it, as it has no connection to my family, as far as I know. Inside the front cover it is transcribed - David **Lawrence**, June 1849, Liverpool, 3, Great Howard Street - handwritten in ink. On the reverse side it is written again but the street name precedes 'Liverpool.'

I do have a Bible, from about the same period, recording my family related surnames Goodyear, Lambert and Nunn but no connection to Lawrence. I should add that most of my research from that period sees the family firmly entrenched in London. Some moved to Manchester, just before WWII, with the re-location of Massey Harris (Tractors), but that is as close as we get to Liverpool.

The point of this is to see if there is anyone amongst your members that may have a link to the family name/person and would like to add the artefact to their history. If so, I will, happily, pass it on.

Ken Garner

Email: ken.garner9348@gmail.com



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

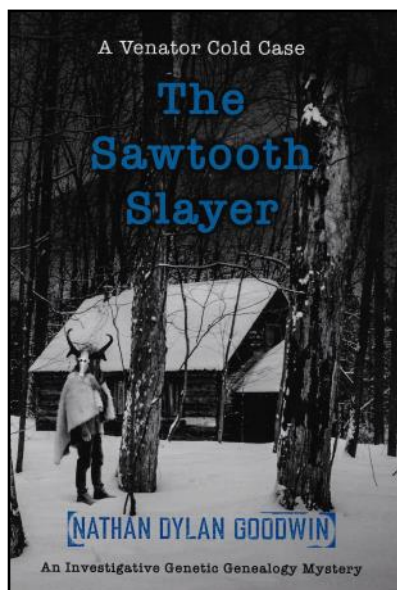
We welcome new members, **numbers 9560-9591**, who have joined most recently and wish them every success with their research.

New Members: 9560: A. REES; 9561: G. SHAW; 9562: K. DONEGAN; 9563: M. CALDER; 9564: J. THOMSON; 9565: T. MEEHAN; 9566: J. ROBERTS; 9567: P. DEARDEN; 9568: M. FARRINGTON; 9569: D. McCORMACK; 9570: P. EVANS; 9571: J. DOOLEY; 9572: C. YATES; 9573: J. SWIFT; 9574: A. SWINDLEY; 9575: D. EWING; 9576: G. JOHNSTON; 9577: S. WILLIAMS; 9578: R. KILWORTH; 9579: I. GRIFFITHS; 9580: B. McLINDEN; 9581: S. LANGRAN; 9582: A. SMITH; 9583: L. BAILEY; 9584: A. OLIVER; 9585: S. ABBOTT; 9586: S. ROOTS; 9587: K. GRIMES; 9588: A. HOUGH; 9589: M. CALDWELL; 9590: K. TREES; 9591: G. TSIMBILAKIS.

Members' Interests:

2899 GOULD, Any,
Birmingham, WAR 1700-
9561 HITCHMOUGH, Any,
Hale, LAN 1500-1900
2899 LEAVESLEY, Any,
Liverpool, LAN 1700-
9569 MAGEE, James, Toxteth
Park, LAN 1816-1830
2899 O'DONOGHUE, Any
Liverpool, LAN 1918-
9561 STONEHOUSE, Any,
Hale & Wirral, LAN
1800-1900

Book Reviews



The Sawtooth Slayer

By Nathan Dylan Goodwin

Pub: Nathan Dylan Goodwin

ISBN: 979-8-8443-2753-7

Paperback: £9.49

This is the second novel in Nathan's new Venator Cold Case series. In this book Nathan takes us through a murder mystery, topically set during the global pandemic of 2020 and challenges Venator, a company that uses genetic genealogy to profile suspects in criminal cold cases, with its first live case.

The story is set in Idaho in the USA, where the town of Twin

Falls has a serial killer on the loose. The killer is kidnapping young women from their homes and dumping their lifeless bodies in unrelated areas of the town. The local police department puts Detective Maria González in charge of the case but with a shortage of leads, she calls on the services of Venator. Although reluctant at first to take on a live case, Madison Scott-Barnhart and her team at Venator soon become engrossed in the challenge of identifying the killer before they strike again.

As we have come to expect from Nathan, the book is well researched both in terms of the use of DNA in such problem solving and in how the police and other authorities in the USA operate. This adds authenticity to the story and as we genealogists love trying to solve a mystery, I am sure that you will be as gripped by the unfolding case as I was.

If you enjoy a strong murder mystery story and are fascinated by how DNA is used to discover an unknown individual and solve cases criminal or genealogical, give *The Sawtooth Slayer* a read.

Mike Paice, Editor

Researching Lancastrian Ancestors Across the Miles

Way back in March 2006 a visit to a local library awakened a dormant interest in family history as I was confronted with a display of genealogy books. Limiting myself to a mere three I couldn't wait to get home and start reading them- and I've been hooked ever since.

Some years previously both my mother and my mother-in-law had drawn up basic family trees but we had not acted on these. So back in 2006 these were tracked down and my search began. Of course it would have been so much easier had I started whilst they were still alive to answer my many queries.

I had grown up in Ainsdale near Southport before going to Manchester University, followed by a brief two years in Northamptonshire but for the last fifty plus years I have lived in a village six miles south of Leicester, many miles from my home county of Lancashire where my maternal ancestors had lived.

My paternal line lay in Aberdeenshire, Glasgow and Paisley but my only visits to that area were as a small child and my knowledge of Scottish geography has only been slightly improved by constant reference to a road atlas, whilst trying to track down a place and county mentioned in a record.

However, my maternal ancestors came from Lancashire, I had visited some of the places mentioned and was familiar with some of the names of other places mentioned.

However I, like many others researching many miles, if not oceans, away from our roots, would be very reliant on websites to further my quest and Lancashire is blessed with many excellent ones. What follows are the ones that I consistently use when continuing my quest.

www.lancashirebmd.org.uk and www.cheshirebmd.org.uk were my first helpmates. County boundaries change and people sometimes

visit churches bordering on a neighbouring county. These cover births marriages and deaths from the start of Civil Registration in July 1836 up to: Births - 2006; Marriages 2021; Deaths 2009.

Unlike FreeBMD where the mother's maiden name does not appear until late 1911 (unless you search www.gro.gov.uk by typing in the birth registration details) this site often has a maiden name. The lack of one may suggest a child is illegitimate- but not always.

If you tick the box to include mother's maiden name this helps you recognise which ones do belong to a particular couple - useful if the father has a common surname. Ticking the box but omitting a Christian name can find previously unknown children.

Marriage entries usually include the name of the church if it is an Anglican or Roman Catholic church as opposed to a Nonconformist church where it is only shown in **Leigh Register Office** or **Registrar Attended** or similar.

Death entries show name, age, year of death, Sub-District and Register Office.

The next port of call is www.lan-opc.org.uk, a wonderful website manned by volunteers. Open, click and explore – and it's not just for baptisms, marriages and burials and photographs of churches. The **Links** button on the home page pull up lists of Record Offices and Archives, Family History Societies, Church Diocesan Websites, Other County OPC groups and other useful websites.

Baptismal entries usually show date of baptism, often date of birth, abode and occupation. If it's an entry at Ashton-in-Makerfield St. Thomas when Edmund Sibson was the Minister (1809-1844) it usually includes the child's position in the family according to birth order – e.g. fourth daughter and sometimes more information than the mother might find comfortable. For example:

Baptism: 8th Jan 1837 Ashton Chapel, Ashton in Makerfield,
Lancs., William Lowe 2nd Illegitimate child and 1st Son of
Jane Lowe.
Born: 2 Jan 1837
Abode: Ashton
Occupation: Cotton Reeler.

Marriages usually include an address for husband and wife, occupations of fathers and names of witnesses. If the same names keep appearing as witnesses then they will be church officials rather than family members.

Burials usually include date of burial, date of death, and often, cause of death. A large number of deaths over a short period might be the result of very cold weather in winter, a bad harvest, or, if from the same cause of death, an epidemic.

Many place entries include a photo of the church or churches. Some may include a map, information about industry, local research resources, Lists of Electors, local historical information or large houses and Memorial Inscriptions. It's pot luck as to what the entry relevant to you contains.

Sometimes you hit gold. Atherton also known as Chowbent has a list explaining the occupations of people working in the mines and an explanation of various dangerous conditions and causes of Accidents - just as relevant even if your mining ancestor has no connection with Atherton. Mining was one of the principal occupations in Lancashire – and where you had mines you had accidents – and deaths.

Also at Atherton is an index of people killed in mining accidents, date, location of Pit, occupation, cause of death and sometimes burial details. For example:

Fatal Accident: 21 Jan 1925, Gibfield Colliery, Four Foot Mine, Richard Humphries - Aged 57, Contractor of 265 Wigan Road, Atherton.

Cause of Death: Stone fall while plucking roof of No.1 chain tunnel

Notes: Killed instantly. LJ 23 Jan 1925.

GRO Death Registration: Leigh 1925 March quarter 8c p335.

Burial: Atherton Cemetery, 24 Jan 1925, No.3 Ground.

Register Entry 8999

In the Pretoria Pit Disaster at No.3 Bank Pit, Hulton Colliery, Westhoughton on 21 December 1910, 344 men and boys died, the third worst pit disaster in British history. Even if it did not involve any ancestor do look at Westhoughton on this website and all the detailed info on those who died, who identified them, their

relations, compensation etc - and their interests. A real insight into how many families and their members worked in the mines - and the effect on them of such a disaster.

ASPDEN, John THOMAS

Age 37. 121 Bolton Road, Westhoughton, Collier.

Born in Westhoughton birth registered Bolton 1st Q 1874.

Recovery No.116. Body position 173. Tally 1014.

Recovered 24 Dec 1910 from Yard Bownbrow District: full way at jig bottom. Identified by Henry (Harry) Aspden (brother).

Cause of death: CO (gas).

Coroner's Inquest: Harry Apsden was witness No.30 & No.62 (Pope 1911).

Buried: 27 Dec 1910 Westhoughton Cemetery, Section C New Cemetery, Unconsecrated Ground, Grave 195 (with Walter Apsden) Register No. 5984. MI.

Death registration: BRO 1911 HOR/32/39. GRO 1911 1st Quarter Bolton 8c 252.

Family at home: Parents Thomas 58 & Alice 60: Siblings Harry 28, Fred 22, Arthur 21 (killed), Alice 19, Maggie 14.

Relation to other victims: Brother of Arthur & Walter Apsden. Brother-in-law of John Hodson.

HCF Dependents: Alice Apsden.

Compensation: LCM £15. Combined for brothers Arthur & John Thomas: HCF 7s 6d./w. WCA £150 (£20 lump sum, balance of £127 10s invested to give 10s./w.

Income: Combined for brothers; Before 41s 8d./w.

Notes: Member of L & CMPRS. Member of Westhoughton Conservative Club. Named on the Independent Order of Oddfellows, Manchester Unity Lodge 1160.

Memorial (Westhoughton Library). Father works in Cotton Mill

Photograph: Date unknown.

<https://leigh.life> has lots of current information as well as a section on Leigh History including the Workhouse, Buffalo Bill's visit to Leigh in 1904, 1905 maps, photos of Leigh in 1940 and memories of Wartime Leigh. Log in to Leigh Life Forum, ask a question, take a trip down Memory Lane or just enjoy a good chat about anything Leigh connected.

Another site with a wealth of information is www.wiganworld.co.uk. It combines information on current matters with looking back into Wigan's past, whether it be photos of Wigan Streets, Wigan dialect, Wigan Memories, I remember and Pubs of the Past. Wigan, Gidlow, Hindley, Ince, Westwood and Howe Bridge Cemeteries show date, age and place of death and home address.

Also included is a collection of Directories for the Wigan area, Hindley, Ince and Upholland and an extensive collection of photographs. The photographs include some very fetching (not) photos of pit brow lasses working on the coal screens on the pit bank (or brow) at the shaft top, picking stones from the coal after it was hauled to the surface. And it continued until the 1960s. What a cold hard dirty job that must have been. In addition, there is a Message Board where you can pose questions or chat.

The main industries in Lancashire included coal mining, cotton spinning and weaving, silk weaving, nail making, iron and bolt making. This led to more foundries and factories, with greater industrialisation. Each of these industries had their own terms for the various processes, for which the following websites are useful:
Coal mining - www.dmm.org.uk/educate/mineocc.htm
Cotton industry - www.andrewalston.co.uk/cottonindustry_jobs.html
Old occupations - <https://rmhh.co.uk/occup/n-o.html#N>

Don't forget to take advantage of the maps on Find My Past attached to the 1841-1911 Censuses: 1888-1913; 1937-1961; Modern map. Sometimes it is easier to find an address on the modern map and then click backwards to either of the two older maps; or vice versa.

Searches for 'hatches, matches and despatches', whilst very necessary, can be tedious, so also allow yourself time to kick up your heels.

A picture paints a thousand words - and the same is true of photographs. www.francisfrith.com is a collection of old photographs: e.g. Liverpool streets, old maps of Liverpool, Memories of Liverpool, books about Liverpool. And not just Liverpool. Just type in your place of choice and you will get a similar selection. Or try specific subjects like, trains, vintage railways, ships, agriculture.

Enjoy looking at photos of yesteryear, old modes of transport, all the men wearing caps or hats, sporting moustaches or beards. Or at the seaside, lounging in deckchairs on a crowded beach or paddling in the sea, their trousers rolled up to their knees and ladies with their dresses tucked into their knickers. We British knew how to have fun.

www.old-merseytimes.co.uk Liverpool and Merseyside's life and times transcribed from old newspapers. There is a New Guest Book where comments can be posted and queries answered. This may not add sources to your family tree but is a great dip-into site. Who can resist reading:

- First entry on Home Page: *80 Years ago the May Blitz on Liverpool?*
- Emigration: *Fat lady at sea, 1852. (Problems of getting into the top berth on a ship, lacing her stays and putting on a bustle).*
- Passenger Lists: *Misc passenger lists, some military* (mostly 19th century).
- History - People and Places: *First Railway Accident, Huskisson.*
- History - People and Places: *Roosevelt links to Merseyside April 18th 1941.*

These and many other topics could while away a couple of hours on a dull winter's afternoon.

There are a wealth of other websites and photographs available in addition to my favourites. If in doubt, just ask Google. Good hunting.

Elizabeth Kilbourne (7472)

James Magee: Convict

Hello from Down Under everyone, I'm a new member from Australia. We're looking for my 3x great-grandfather James Magee who was a convict transported to Tasmania in 1830. His convict record states he was a 14 year old bricklayer's labourer from Toxteth Park. We have found three convictions for James:

- 1) His convict record states he received on month hard labour in Yorkshire West Riding, but we've not found the conviction;
- 2) In 1827 he was convicted in West Derby for stealing sugar and a brass pan; and,
- 3) In 1829 he stole two gowns and a shawl from Mrs Threlfall. This record stated that he was 14 years old.

James was sentenced to transportation at the General Quarter Session of Peace Holden at Lancaster, Monday 12 January 1829, Order Book 1829, Lancaster Quarter Session and sent to the Euryalis Hulk.

"Whereas James Magee late of the township of Toxteth Park in the said County, labourer hath at this session been convicted of felony and of having before the time of convicting the said felony been convicted of another felony. This court doth therefore order and adjudge that the said James Magee shall be sent and transported to some part beyond the seas for a space of 14 years next, pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided".

James was then transported to Van Dieman's Land, now Tasmania, Australia on the *David Lyon* which departed London, England, on the 2 May 1830 and arrived in Van Dieman's Land on 19 August 1830¹.

Four months after his arrival in Van Dieman's Land, James was assigned to Mr. John Presnell, who ran the Halfway House pub in Antill Ponds, which provided much needed food and refreshments halfway between Launceston and Hobart². In 1837 James applied for permission to marry John's daughter Eleanor Elizabeth

Presnell³. Approval was granted, they were married on 24 September 1838 at Oatlands, Tasmania and they lived happily ever after.



Dane with his niece, Gaby Martin, in front of what little remains of the Halfway House.

James received a conditional pardon on 30 July 1840 and a free certificate 771 in 1845. He then worked as a shepherd and labourer. The photo on the front cover of the book I'm writing about James is the first house he purchased after he was pardoned, backed by the Aurora Australis. It was painted by the current owner of the house, Scott William Bennet

<https://scottwilmothbennett.com/>

My mother and I were visiting the house one day and we got talking with Scott, who showed us the painting and kindly allowed me to use it. James died on 8 February 1899 in the district of Ross⁴, Tasmania. He is buried at the Methodist Cemetery, Ross, Tasmania. The death certificate states his name as James Dedman

McGee and that he was 82 years old, if his age was correct, he would have been born in 1816. The International Genealogical Index – British Isles, has a James McGee christened on 14 August 1814 at St Nicholas, Liverpool, Lancashire, England. But we're not sure if that is him.

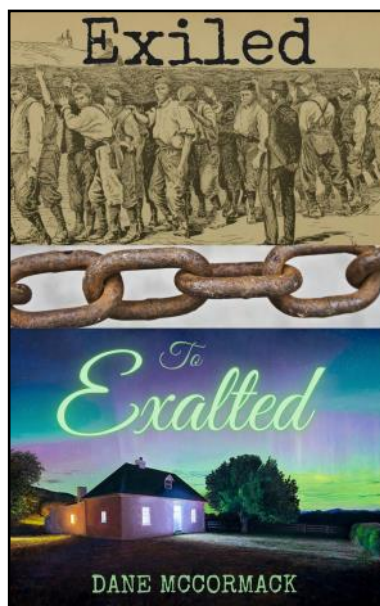


Dane standing in front of James Magee's first house

The Dedman name was added after James received his pardon and most of James' nine children were given the middle name of Dedman. The following generation dropped Dedman from the name and have been known as McGee ever since. It seems agreed that the name belonged to someone of significance in the life of young James. In early research, a district Constable James Dedman, and Mary Ann Dedman, and also a William Dedman were found in Tasmanian records, but I have not since been able to find which district they were in. If it was in the Midlands area, and the date was between 1830 and 1838, it could be the person.

It's because of James being transported that I had the most

amazing childhood growing up in Tasmania. So, I'm writing this story to explore James' past life, to celebrate our convict heritage and in the hope that I can help find out more about what shaped James to be the man he was. To find out where he learnt the skills that helped him to be master of his fate, to be captain of his soul. He didn't get caught up in anger and regret about being shipped halfway around the world as a convict. He accepted that it had happened and he focused on resuming a happy life. James then helped John Presnell establish the Halfway House hotel in Anthill Ponds, which introduced him to John's daughter Eleanor, who he married, which led him to establish a happily married life in Tasmania. Which left an amazing legacy for Tasmania. For example, his grand nephew Lewis McGee earned a Victorian Cross for Australia as he battled for freedom and honour⁵.



I want to explore where he found these skills because he passed them onto his son, who passed them onto my Pop's dad, who passed them onto Pop, who passed them onto my mother, who passed them onto me. It's those same skills I used to recently conquer a complicated case of cancer. They gave me hope that I'd continue a happy life after I conquered cancer and I have resumed a happy life, thanks to those skills that James passed onto me.

I want it to be a celebration of Australia's convict heritage because even though we as a nation were established as a prison for convicts, we've established such an amazing culture and Australia is such a great place to live. We can thank our convict ancestors for helping us establish this mighty country. I've called the book *Exiled to Exalted*, because even though the convicts were exiled halfway around the world, we need to exalt them for helping create this wonderful country I now live. So, I've also explored how you sail halfway around the world and create a new country.

Any insights, ideas, suggestions, corrections would be gratefully appreciated.

Dane McCormack (9569)

Notes:

1. Convict Records, accessed Dec 22
<https://convictrecords.com.au/convicts/macgee/james/73401>
2. The Oatlands Story, by Southern Midlands Council, p11.
3. Marriage Permissions, by Libraries Tasmania, CON52/1/1, p. 68
4. NAME_INDEXES:1175165, by Tasmanian Libraries
5. Centenary of Anzac, accessed Dec 20
<https://www.centenaryofanzac.tas.gov.au/history/tasmanias-victoria-cross-legacy/sergeant-lewis-mcgee-vc>

**Liverpool Mercury, Marriages and Deaths,
*Married.***

Friday, January 31, 1834

On Saturday, the 4th instant, at Marksbury Church, Somerset, George **Friend** to Betty **Friend**: their united ages amounted to upwards of 130 years. The old man danced merrily after the ceremony.

On Sunday, the 19th instant, at St. Thomas's Church, Mr. **Mulloy** to Miss Mary **Smith**, Circus-street.

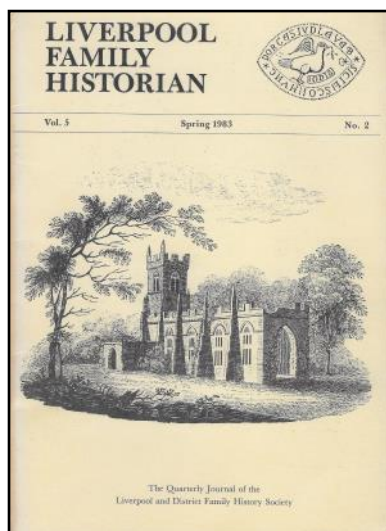
On Sunday last, at Much Woolton, Mr. Thomas **Hughes**, painter and glazier, to Miss Margaret **Molyneux**, both of Woolton.

On Monday last, at St. Philip's Church, Mr. William **Dean**, painter, to Miss Rebecca **Reddish**.

Same day, at St. Philip's Church, Captain Thomas **Tait**, of the ship *Isabella*, of Glasgow, to Miss Mary **McAnslan**, second daughter of Captain John **Carlyle**.

Same day, at Walton-on-the-Hill, Mr. George **Eyton**, Portland-place, Everton, to Anna Maria, second daughter of the late Richard **Owen**, Esq., of Nantwich, and niece to the late Thomas **Latham** Esq., of the Manor-house, Woore, Shropshire.

40 Years Ago in Liverpool Family Historian



St. Catherine's Chapel, Lydiat, featured on the cover of the Spring 1983 edition of our journal.

Already a ruin when this 18th century print was created, its current state of decay can be seen in the photo of it featured on the back cover of our September 2019 journal. Apparently, four priests are buried within the walls of the chapel, which is now Grade II* listed.

Within the journal, the first thing I noticed was an item about the formation of a new society, English Catholic Ancestor. The society was

formed 'to collate and promote knowledge of the continuing Catholicism of English families' and its Constitution was formally adopted at a meeting on 4 December 1982. I am pleased to say that this society continues to thrive today and is now known as the Catholic Family History Society.

Of the articles in the journal, there is an interesting one about the records available of Methodist churches. The article had a concise but helpful guide to the development of Methodism, with the splits and partnerships that led to (in 1932) the Methodist Church we recognise today. The article goes on to discuss the churches organisation and the records available to researchers. Would anyone be interested in doing a more up-to-date article on this subject for a future journal?

Another interesting article tells the story of the 19th century genealogist the Reverend Thomas Ellison Gibson. Gibson wrote several historical publications, including a history of Lydiat Hall, which included detailed family trees of the former Lords of the manor and other associated families.

- Ed.

Liverpool Mercury - Friday, January 15, 1819
Births, Marriages and Deaths,
Married.

At Gretna Green, on the 4th instant, Mr. William **Rutherford**, of Longdyke, near Brampton, widower, aged 67, to Mrs. Mary **Gill**, a buxom widow, aged 62. It appears that the bridegroom, in early life, had paid his addresses to the bride, then a blooming damsel of eighteen; but the destinies opposing at that time their union, he had the misfortune to throw away several years of his youth in a long and fruitless courtship. She gave her hand to a more favoured swain, and he sought consolation under his disappointment in the arms of a more yielding beauty. After the lapse of 44 years, they became single by the death of their partners: their correspondence was renewed; and she had the kindness to suffer herself to be led to the Scotch hymeneal temple, without subjecting him to the tediousness of a protracted courtship.

Deaths

Singular Death. - Elizabeth **Harding**, who was left in the care of a gentleman's house in Tottenham-court-road, was lately found dead in her bed. The little finger of her left hand was completely eaten away by a cat which she had in the room, and the arm of the same side bitten in many places by the same animal. She was in perfect health at ten the preceding night, and was found dead at eight the next morning. After the body was laid out, the cat, on the opening of the room door, came in, and, in the presence of a daughter of the deceased and another woman, flew on the corpse, began to gnaw it again, and was with difficulty torn from the body.

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Help Desks

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

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

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

Southport Group:

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

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News from the Groups

Leigh & District

Chairman: Margery Harrop

Secretary: Glenys McClellan

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

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 21 Mar | The Old Person's Guide to Nostalgia - Peter Watson. |
| 18 Apr | Jerome Caminada: The Real Sherlock Holmes - Joe O'Neill. |
| 16 May | Underground Resistance: The Manchester Conscientious Objectors Maintenance Committee in WWI - Alison Ronan. |
| 20 Jun | The History of the Leigh Girls Grammar School - Julie McKeirnon. |

Liverpool

Chairman: Susan Atkins

Secretary: Joyce Culling

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

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| 14 Mar | T.B.A. |
| 11 Apr | T.B.A. |
| 09 May | T.B.A. |
| 13 Jun | T.B.A. |

Skelmersdale & Upholland

Chairman: Bill Fairclough

Secretary: Caroline Fairclough

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

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 07 Mar | Tales from Merseyside - Andy Johnson. |
| 04 Apr | The Land of the Thunder Dragon - David Brown. |
| 02 May | The Halsall Murder - Dot Broady Hawks. |
| 06 Jun | More Anecdotes of a Liverpool Registrar - Carol Codd. |

Southport

Chairman: Hilary Ambrose

Secretary: Diane Banahan

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

- | | |
|--------|--|
| 10 Mar | Shipwrecks on the Sefton Coast - Martyn Griffiths |
| 14 Apr | History of the Dune Coast and its use by man - Phil Smith. |
| 12 May | [Time T.B.A.] Visit to Lancashire Record Office. |
| 09 Jun | Town and County Records - Frances Taylor. |

Warrington

Chairman: Peter Jolliffe

Secretary: Keith Thompson

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

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| 27 Mar | T.B.A. |
| 24 Apr | T.B.A. |
| 22 May | T.B.A. |
| 26 Jun | T.B.A. |

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

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Plus one representative elected by each Group of the Society.



Victoria Building, Brownlow Hill

With most of the building costs raised through public appeal, this was the first purpose built home for the University of Liverpool and opened in 1892. Originally housing all the university's needs, the building's role changed with time as the university expanded. Various departments moved into larger premises over the years and the university's library was moved out to the Harold Cohen Library building in 1938. The administration services moved out in 1970 and Victoria Building became home to the Victoria Gallery & Museum in 2008.

This Grade II listed building is designed to be fire-proof, built with an iron frame and concrete floors throughout.

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St. Dunstan's Church, Edge Hill, Liverpool

This rather imposing red brick church was built between 1886 and 1889, was Grade II* listed in 1975 and remains an active Anglican church. The interior of the church was reordered in 1967 and again in 2014 and contains various memorials to members of the Earle family.

An interesting feature of the church is its pipe organ. This was built around 1880 by Henry Willis and the National Pipe Organ Register records it as being an 'outstanding instrument' and 'in original condition', awarding it a Grade I Historic Organ Certificate. Sadly, the organ was unusable in 2004 and in 2021, approval was given for its removal and sale to the Bethany Presbyterian Church in New York.

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