

LIVERPOOL FAMILY HISTORIAN



Volume 46 No. 3



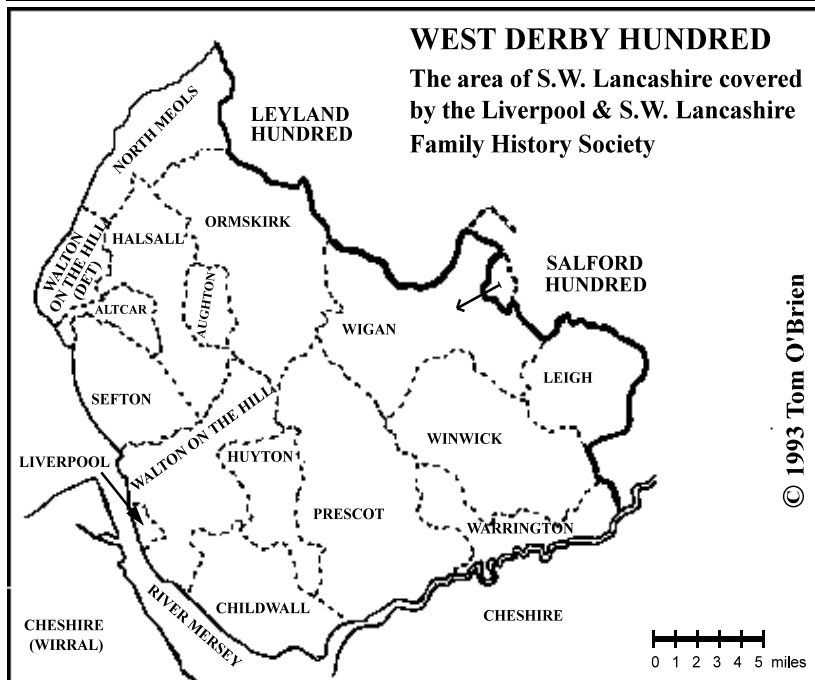
September 2024

THE LIVERPOOL & S. W. LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Founded 27 May 1976

Covering

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



Website: www.lswlfhs.org.uk



Front cover: The Palm House, Sefton Park, Liverpool is a Grade 11 listed 3-tier dome conservatory palm house designed and built by MacKenzie & Moncur of Edinburgh which opened in 1896 and funded by Liverpool millionaire Henry Yates Thompson who gifted £10,000 to the city to fund the construction.

[Sefton Park Palm House, Liverpool, England-26Dec2009.jpg](#) © Ben James from Wikimedia Commons for reuse under licence [CCA-SA 2.0](#)

Liverpool Family Historian

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Editorial

Hello and welcome to the September edition of the Journal.

Our annual one day conference and A.G.M. will be held on **Saturday 12 October**. This year it will be hosted by our Skelmersdale & Upholland Family History Group. Full details of the event are included in the centre pages, where you will see that some interesting speakers have been lined-up and refreshments and buffet lunch will all be provided (included in the ticket price). I hope that many of you will be able to attend. I know that I thoroughly enjoyed my very first one last year in Southport. Everyone was so friendly and welcoming and the speakers were so interesting.

I have made a few changes to the Journal in this edition. I hope you all approve but if not, please let me know. I did ask for your suggestions in the last edition and I received one reply which I have implemented. However, as no-one else replied, I am going to assume that you are happy for me to make some changes. If not, you know where I am.

After my appeal in my last editorial, I am very pleased to say that we have some wonderfully interesting and lengthy articles for you to enjoy in this edition of the Journal. I have found it a real joy to read these articles and I hope you all do too. It's amazing where research can take us in our journey to find out about our ancestors. However, please don't rest on your laurels as I need more and more articles as I have none at all for the next edition.

As usual, we have pleas for help from home and abroad and I hope someone is able to help Jean Alker and Peter Thompson. Barry Moscrop's article is very interesting and also has a small plea for help at the end and maybe someone can help him.

We also have a vacancy for a new Treasurer, so if you are willing or know someone who is willing to help, please see the advert and respond to the call for help.

Alison Anyon
Editor

News Items

Heritage Open Days 2024

This year's Heritage Open Days will run from **Friday 6 September to Sunday 15 September**. As before, the events are all free to attend and at the time of writing (18 July 2024) there were around 32 events listed for the area covered by our society. Liverpool is currently hosting the largest numbers of events but there are Heritage Open Days activities taking place across the Hundred of West Derby.

For Liverpool, the historic churches of St. Patrick (Toxteth), the Church of Our Lady of Reconciliation de la Salette in L3 and the Church of St. Vincent de Paul in L1 will all be participating, as will Liverpool's oldest parish church – All Saints, Childwall. Britain's first Mosque at Brougham Terrace is also taking part this year.

The Friends of Williamson's Tunnels will be giving guided tours of the tunnels again on multiple dates. There will also be Commonwealth War Graves Commission tours of Anfield Cemetery on multiple dates. 'Connecting Liverpool Institutions and Enslavement' will be held at the Bluecoat on 10 September. Classic Liverpool Buses are also running on 8 September. Croxteth Hall and Park will be open on 8 September and St George's Hall is open on multiple dates and is bookable on the day.

Some of these events require that they are prebooked so for more information and to find out about events in Liverpool, across Merseyside or across the country, visit the Heritage Open Days website at: www.heritageopendays.org.uk

The Family History Show 2024

The organisers of this year's Family History Show (*Discover Your Ancestors* magazine) will be running the event at Kempton Park Racecourse, in Sunbury-on-Thames, on **Saturday 5 October**, from 10:00 to 16:00.

At the time of writing, 32 exhibitors had confirmed their participation, including: The Genealogist (event sponsors), and S&N Genealogy Supplies (partner). Other exhibitors include the Family History Federation, Family Search, the Guild of One Name

Studies, various family history societies and family history supply and service providers.

At the time of writing, five free talks were being advertised: two being given by online genealogy expert, Mark Bayley; one by professional researcher and social historian, Keith Gregson; one by DNA expert, Donna Rutherford; and Nick Barratt takes us on The Story of Greater London. The event will also include the popular Ask The Experts bookable personal sessions.

Ticket prices are two for £12 if you book early but on the day will be £12 per person (with under 16s having free admission). A Goody Bag worth £8 will be given to each ticket holder on arrival. There will be free parking at the venue for those who drive to the event. Refreshments are available all day. Further details are available at:

<https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/london/>

Updates

As you can see the Updates section of the Journal looks very different in this edition. I hope you like it, but if not, I would value your comments.

The reason behind the change is because most of us use the internet these days and can access sites either in the comfort of our own homes or at libraries. Indeed, you have probably registered with some of the sites to be notified when additions to their respective collections are updated.

I will continue to publish the blogs and news page addresses each quarter in each copy of the Journal so that you will always know where to access the information should you need to.

Another consideration is that this also leaves space for more articles and other information and this quarter we have had a few lengthy articles. I hope you agree with me that articles are more interesting to read than updates.

Alison Anyon
Editor

Ancestry

You can find all the updates since the last journal at:
www.ancestry.co.uk/cs/recent-collections

British Newspaper Archive

You can more details of the latest releases at:
www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/titles/recently-added/30days

Deceased Online

Details regarding the database coverage can be found at:
www.deceasedonline.com

FamilySearch

More details of the ever increasing records at Family Search can be found at: www.familysearch.org/en/blog/tag/about-familysearch/whats-new-at-familysearch

FindMyPast

Find My Past releases details of updates every Friday and they can be found at: www.findmypast.co.uk/blog/new

ScotlandsPeople

Details of updates can be found at:
www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/news-and-features

The Genealogist

News and updates can be found at: www.thegenealogist.co.uk/news

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:



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

LIVERPOOL & SW LANCASHIRE FHS

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ended 31 December 2023

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Subscriptions, Donations etc.	10,556	11,215
Sales of Publications & FFHS Royalties	403	157
Gift Aid Repayments	1652	2605
Interest received	<u>759</u>	<u>5</u>
Total Income	13,370	13,982
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Journal Printing and Distribution Costs	6,187	6,676
Publication Purchases	0	0
Room Hire and Speakers Expenses	3290	1630
Overhead Expenses	2843	2289
Depreciation	<u>284</u>	<u>398</u>
Total Expenditure	-12,604	-10,993
Surplus / Deficit for the Year	<u>£766</u>	<u>£2,989</u>

Total membership	1039	1020
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<u>BALANCE SHEET as at 31 December 2023</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Fixed Assets	1707	1452
Current Assets	82068	81400
Less Current Liabilities	2903 <u>79,165</u>	1936 <u>79,464</u>
	<u>£80,872</u>	<u>£80,916</u>

Represented by:-

General Fund (Reserves)	80,916	74,878
Transfer from Development Fund		
	<u>765</u> <u>81,681</u>	<u>2,990</u> <u>77,868</u>
Development Fund	0	3048
Transfer to General Fund		
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>£81,681</u>	<u>£80,916</u>

The accounts have been examined by Hoffman Consultants, Chartered Accountants, Warrington. A copy of the examined accounts may be obtained on application to the Treasurer.

Accounts prepared by Agnes Ingram, Treasurer 8th July 2024

YOUR SOCIETY NEEDS YOU!

GENERAL COMMITTEE VACANCY

A vacancy has arisen for the role of **Treasurer** of the Society, and expressions of interest are invited from members who may wish to apply for the role.

This is a key role within the operation of the Society and offers the opportunity for the successful applicant to become fully involved in the running of the Society and to make an important contribution to its successful operation.

The **principal responsibilities** of the Treasurer are:

- To maintain an overview of the Society's financial affairs to ensure the financial stability of the Society
- To ensure that proper financial records and procedures are maintained
- To ensure that the financial operation of the Society complies with its constitution, charity law and any other relevant legislation or regulations

The **main activities** of the Treasurer include:

- To ensure that all items of income and expenditure are recorded appropriately
- To claim tax refunds for subscriptions paid under Gift Aid
- To authorise and pay the Society's expenses
- To produce accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Society, the Charity Commission and HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC)
- Support the group treasurers as appropriate

As a member of the General Committee the Treasurer is expected to attend and actively participate in its quarterly meetings, as well as present the annual accounts at the Society AGM. The Treasurer also fulfils a role as a Trustee of the Society.

It would be advantageous for the successful candidate to have some relevant experience, but key requirements include:

- Knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel
- Experience of Sage Accounts
- Experience of VAT Returns would also be advantageous

A full handover and support will be arranged for the successful candidate, and a Society laptop and all relevant material will be provided.

If you wish to apply for this post or require further information please contact Barry Peacock, General Secretary, via **secretary@lswlfhs.org.uk**

ZOOM Talks

The ever popular Zoom Talks continue with the following:

25 September 2024

Women in Aviation

Jess Boyden-Juckes

16 October 2024

Wrecks off the Southport Coast

Martyn Griffiths

11 December 2024

Forgotten Disasters

Richard M Jones

Talks planned so far will all take place at 7pm on a Wednesday evening. For instructions on how to join a Zoom talk/meeting, please see page?/

As always if anybody has a desire to share their research, please get in touch with Mary at zoom-admin@lswlfhs.org.uk and help will be given if required. As you can see from the list above, November is still available.

Mary A

zoom-admin@lswlfhs.org.uk

Help Requests

I was very interested in the back page of December's journal with the photo of the Royal Infirmary Nurses of the 1930's.

I attach a photo of my mother, Marian **Lewis** together with Ivy **Whitney**, taken in Theatre 2 of the Women's Hospital, Catherine Street, Liverpool in 1933-34.

Unfortunately, the photo being so old is not clear but is recognisable. I would be interested to hear if anyone remembers my mother or Ivy **Whitney**, though I guess it's too long ago and no family members survive. But maybe the Journal readers will find it of interest.

Jean Alker (1030)



Street Names

Do any members have any idea location of the following streets:

Bean Street

Baptist Street

Lionel Street

Date period:

1830-1880

I have checked our very old Liverpool A-Z but cannot find them. I have also checked online with no success. I am assuming that these are central Liverpool as it is concerning family members - **Evans** and **Mundell**. According to my records they appear to have been baptised in St John's Church and that is no longer there, in Church Street.

Help Requests Continued

Also, where is the location of the cemetery for St John's Church? And is there a directory of shops for Lark Lane for 1850-1860? One of the **Mundell's** is listed as having a grocer's premises in Lark Lane on the census.

Any help/ suggestions will be much appreciated.

Jean Alker (1030)

What Happened to the Orphaned Mort Children?

I am interested as to what happened to the **Mort** children when their father and mother died within a week of each other.

The basic facts of the **Mort** family are as follows:-

William **Mort** was baptised in Wigan on the 25 May 1700 whilst his wife Susan **Rudd** was baptised in Rochdale on the 4 July 1708.

They met in Wigan but married in Manchester at St Mary, St Denys and St George on the 18 June 1727. The record stated that their parish was Wigan.

They had five children; Thomas (1729), Mary (1732), Ellen (1735), Alice (1737) and Elizabeth (1740).

Sadly, in Feb 1742 tragedy struck when, on the 7 February 1742, Susan died and a week later, on the 14 February 1742, William died. Little Elizabeth was only 1½ years old, Alice aged 2, Ellen aged 7, Mary aged 10 and Thomas aged 13.

Did the Parish take on the responsibility of the orphaned children and if so, are there Parish Records for Wigan that might give the answer?

so, are there Parish Records for Wigan that might give the answer?

As a post script, Ellen my direct ancestor, later married James **Fletcher** on the 30 April 1754 in Wigan, but again sadly he died seven months later, on the 10 November 1754. Ellen moved to Prescot where she met Jonathan **Glover** my direct ancestor and they married in Liverpool on the 27 July 1758 at St Nicholas church.

The couple went on to have nine children.

Peter Thompson (8705)

The National Archives

The National Archives have released new research guides for family historians which provide a brief overview of the resources held at the National Archives in Kew that can help you trace your family history back from the UK to:

- Its former colonies in Australia and New Zealand
- People who emigrated from Britain to its former colonies in the USA and Canada
- Your family history in Ireland
- Individuals who either migrated to the UK from Africa or who lived in British colonies in Africa before independence and the end of British colonial rule

These guides are introductions to the sorts of records they hold, with links to further guides which provide more detailed advice on how to find the records in their collections.

For more information on the records held at TNS please go to:
www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

Knocking down a Brick Wall – Finding the parents of John James Radcliffe

John James Radcliffe was my great grandfather, the father of Elise Radcliffe, whose early life is documented in The Liverpool Family Historian Vo 44 no 2 June 2022.

Over the years I had found out a lot about John James' life in Liverpool but had no knowledge of his birth or parentage. He was documented in the 1861 Liverpool census as a two-year-old living with his Grandfather Richard Radcliffe and family. The Radcliffe family had come from the Isle of Man to Liverpool in the early 19th century.

By a process of elimination, I thought that his mother was either Ann Christian Radcliffe or Jane Eliza Radcliffe, both daughters of Richard, a joiner.

© The National Archives – All Rights Reserved. Used by kind permission of Findmypast

Richard Radcliffe	Head	57	House Carpenter	Isle of Man
Anne Radcliffe	Wife	40	do do	do do
Anne Le Radcliffe	Daughter	24	Servant	Liverpool
Richard Radcliffe	Son	19	App. Black Smith	do do
Catherine Radcliffe	Daughter	15	do do	do do
John Radcliffe	Son	2	do do	do do

However, there the trail went cold for many years. I could find no evidence of a John James Radcliffe born in the years 1855-1860 with the relevant mother's name.

Then in March 2023, I read a Masterclass from Peter Calver of Lost Cousins, which reminded me that on Findmypast it's possible to search by mother's maiden name, even for births before 1911 (when the maiden name was first added to the quarterly indexes).

More importantly, it is possible to search by the mother's maiden name

without specifying the father’s surname – something that the search at the GRO site does not allow – and this is how I managed to make a breakthrough: Using the information about mother’s maiden names being given I searched Findmypast and found this entry.

First name(s)	Last name	Birth quarter	Birth year	District	County
John James	Ashton	4	1858	West Derby	Lancashire

The PDF copy of the birth register entry from GRO showed that John James was born in Boundary St, Liverpool to Anne Ashton formerly Radcliffe and John McDonald Ashton, a soldier.

No.	When Born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and Surname of Father	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother	Rank or Profession of Father	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant	When Registered	Signature of Registrar	Baptismal Name (if added after Registration of Birth)
306	20th November 1859	John James	Boy	John McDonald Ashton	Anne Ashton formerly Radcliffe	Sergeant 12th Regiment Foot	Anne Ashton Mother 16 Mount Boundary Street Wirraldale	Fourth quarter 1859	George Asbridge	

A John James Ashton was baptised on 20th March 1859 at St Peters Church, Liverpool. His parents were John and Ann Ashton of Boundary St, and his father was a soldier.

20th March 1859	No. 3016	John James	John & Ann	Ashton	Boundary St	Soldier	H. Williams
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This all fitted, since on his marriage certificate in 1883 John James’s father is described as a soldier. In the 1861 census Ann Christian Radcliffe was living in Boundary St. Also, the Radcliffe family baptisms all were at St Peter’s Church.

The next record of John McDonald is found in the newspapers in 1842: the most comprehensive account was in the Liverpool Mail of 15th January of that year.

A coroner's inquest was reported referring to the death on 13th January of boy called Hugh McNeil, son of the pastor of St Jude's aged 13. Hugh was accidentally shot in the hip by John MacDonald Ashton, who lived with his widowed mother in Church Street, Egremont, whilst they were shooting at birds. Hugh died three days later from erysipelas of the hip wound. John McDonald was described as being deeply affected by the event and a verdict of death by misadventure was recorded.

The Liverpool Standard and General Advertiser 14th January 1842

Master John Ashton, a respectable and good-looking youth of about 14 years of age, in whose hand the fatal weapon was at the time of the melancholy occurrence, and who stood in the position of defendant in the case, was deeply affected—even to tears—throughout the whole of the investigation, and gave his evidence in a manner so clear and feeling as, with the corroborating testimony, left no doubt in the minds of those present but that the infliction of the wound was solely the result of accident, arising from juvenile imprudence in the use of a species of fire-arms dangerous even in the hands of the experienced. The sorrow expressed by him, from the first, for the fatality that resulted, and his anxious desire to obtain the forgiveness of his new associate, form traits in his character second only, in developing a generous and feeling disposition, to the instant—the noble—the magnanimous award of that earnest request by the bleeding youth, who (from his first impression at the moment) appeared to entertain a presentiment of the rapid close of his mortal career—bright as were, doubtless, his previous hopes, in the flush of health and boyhood. We should pain our readers as well as ourselves by dwelling on a subject sufficiently calculated in itself to excite the most poignant commiseration in the bosoms of all who have felt the tender sympathies of parents or relatives; and proceed, therefore, to supply the evidence, which was as follows:—

John M'Donald Ashton being sworn, said,—I am the son of Mrs. Ashton, widow, who resides in Church-street, Egremont. I was not acquainted with the deceased before Thursday last. On Thursday morning last, I said to my brother, while at breakfast, that I thought I would go and see Edward Sothorn, who was an old school-fellow of mine. I took with me the pistol now produced to me, and which had been lent to me the evening before by a friend. He gave me the case with the pistol in, and he informed me there were eight bullets in the case. I took the bullets and the flask of powder with me. My object in taking the pistol with me was, that as Edward Sothorn was near the shore, I thought we would amuse ourselves by firing bullets at the water. When I got to Edward Sothorn's, he said to me—"You have come on an unfortunate morning, as I am going into town." He told me he had a new companion, and I asked him who it was, and he said it was the Rev. Hugh M'Neile's son. I asked what sort of a boy he was. He said he was a very nice kind of a boy, and if I liked we would call on him. He said he was stopping at Mr. Edwards's. He went to Mr. Edwards's, and I then saw the deceased for the first time. At first he said he would not go to town, as he had been the day before, but we afterwards persuaded him to do so. We all three set out together. As soon as I was introduced to the deceased I told him I had a pistol, and shewed it to him. On the road into the town, I asked him if he would like to fire it, and he said "Yes, but you fire it first." I fired the pistol at a robin in a tree. The deceased wanted to load the pistol for himself, but I told him he had better let me do it, as he would be putting too much in it. I then put in as much powder as I did for myself, and asked the deceased if he would have shot or a ball. He said he would have shot. I loaded it accordingly, and he thought I had put too much in, and asked me to fire it off, and he would do so afterwards. I did so, and afterwards loaded it for him. The deceased afterwards loaded the pistol for himself, and fired it two or three times. I had previously given him nearly all the shot I had. After we had fired some time, the governess at Mr. Edwards's, who, with the Miss Edwardses, had joined us, in the Park-road, said we had better not fire any more now, and asked me if I had better not. I said "Yes," and put the pistol in my pocket. When we got near to the town I put my hand in my pocket for my glove, and could not resist the temptation of looking at the pistol, and I loaded it again with ball only, and did not put the powder in until we arrived at Mr. Nolan's, when the ladies went in, and we all three remained outside. My reason for loading the pistol with ball was, that I intended to fire it on my return home in the packet. Whilst we were waiting on the piece of vacant ground near Mr. Nolan's, I pulled the hammer of the pistol up, for the purpose of putting a cap on the nipple. The cap was too little, and I was going to knock it down, when the deceased said something, and I went close to him to hear what he said. I had the pistol in my right hand, with my thumb resting on the mouth of it, the hammer of the pistol being still up, when the deceased made me laugh, and I bent down sideways and backwards, and on standing up again the pistol went off. I am quite sure I had not my finger on the trigger, but with the motion of my body the trigger caught hold of my pantaloons, and caused it to go off. The trigger is a spring one, and stands up on cocking the pistol, and has no guard to it. The minute the pistol went off the deceased cried out something. I flung the pistol down and ran away a little, thinking I could see a druggist's shop. I was so bewildered I did not know what to do, and ran back again, and found Mr. Nolan and Edward Sothorn lifting the deceased up. I went immediately to the deceased, and said, "I did not intend it. Hugh dear; forgive me!" I shall be fourteen years old in March next.

The coroner told John McDonald at the end of the inquest that there was no imputation on his character. It was also stated that *"The jury cannot separate without expressing their earnest hope that this melancholy event will operate as an impression to parents and guardians against entrusting fire arms to persons too young to use them with safety"*.

John McDonald Ashton, merchant, second son of John Ashton, deceased, coffee dealer, married Margaret Galley, daughter of Thomas Galley of Salford in Algoa Bay, South Africa on 17th October 1848 by Rev Mr. Robson.

This was reported in the Liverpool Standard on 6th February 1849. The marriage certificate says they were married at the Union Chapel, Port Elizabeth. Maybe John McDonald was also a dealer in coffee at that time. I have not been able to trace Margaret after this marriage.

DUPLICATE ORIGINAL REGISTER.

1848, Marriages solemnized at *Port Elizabeth*, in the Parish of *Port Elizabeth*, in the District of *Port Elizabeth* 1848

No.	When married.	Names and Surnames.	Ages.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	After Banns or Licence.	Consent by whom given, or Judge's Order.
166	<i>Oct 17 1848</i>	<i>John McDonald Ashton</i> <i>Margaret Galley</i>	<i>Full age</i> <i>Under age</i>	<i>Bachelor</i> <i>Spinster</i>	<i>Merchant</i>	<i>Port Elizabeth</i>	<i>After Banns</i>	<i>County Banns</i>

Married in the *Union* Chapel at *Port Elizabeth* aforesaid, after Banns, by me, *A. Robson, Minister of the Gospel*

This Marriage was solemnized between us *John McDonald Ashton* } in the presence of us *Henry A. Robson, Missionary.*
Margaret Galley } *Thomas Galley*

Examined with the Original Register, by me, and found to be correct, *A. Robson, Minister*

John MacDonald Ashton joined the 54th Foot Regiment on 23rd March 1858 and was a clerk on his army registration papers. In 1861 he was found in Cawnpore, India according to the census.

According to the official records of the 54th Foot the soldiers were deployed as follows between 1859 and 1862.

“In October 1859 a force was assembled on the Gorrukpore and Oude Frontier of Nepal, to act against the last remnants of the rebels and mutineers, who had taken refuge in the forests of the Terai. The 20th and 54th Foot, with Hodson’s Horse and two Regiments Native Infantry, were employed on this duty during the winter of 1859 and 1860, under Brigadier Holdich, C.B. Most of the surviving leaders of the mutiny fell into their hands.

Mummoo Khan, Khan Bahadur Khan of Bareilly; Tjimmer Sing, brother of Koer Sing the notable Jugdeespore rebel; and Jowallah Persbad, the blood-thirsty Lieutenant of Nana Sahib, and chief actor in the Cawnpore massacres, were all escorted towards Lucknow by the 54th.

27th November 1860. The Regiment was reviewed and inspected at Cawnpore by General Sir Hugh Rose, Commander-in-Chief in India.

On the 27th of December 1860, Lieutenant-General Mildmay Fane was appointed Colonel, vice General Sir W. Coddriogton transferred to the 43rd Foot.

*On the 5th of August 1861, the establishment was fixed at:
1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 2 Majors, 12 Captains, 14 Lieutenants,
10 Ensigns, 1 Pay-Master, 1 Quarter-Master, 1 Adjutant, 1 Surgeon,
3 Assistant Surgeons, 6 Staff Sergeants, 50 Sergeants, 24 Drummers,
950 Rank and File. “*

John McDonald Ashton would have numbered amongst the 950 Rank and File.

“On the 26th of October of the same year. Head-Quarters and five Companies proceeded to Allahabad to form the escort of the Viceroy of India, at the great Durbar held to inaugurate the Order of the Star of India, and to invest as Grand Commanders, Maharajah Scindia of Gwalior, the Maharajah of Puttiala, the Begum Bhopal, the Nawab of Kampur, and General Sir Hugh Bose.

The Regiment afterwards took part in a review of the troops by the Commander-in-Chief in India and returned to Cawnpore on the 5th of November.

The 54th being detailed, in course of relief, for Boorkee and Moradabad, Headquarters marched on the 21st November, and reached Boorkee on the 26th December; while the Left Wing, setting out from Cawnpore on the 7th January, 1862, arrived at its new quarters on the 11th February. On the 1st of February medals were received for service during the Mutiny and presented on parade.”

John McDonald's discharge papers show that he served 3 years 10 months abroad and was discharged on 20th October 1862 but on Tuesday 15th Sept 1863 he was medically examined as a Chelsea pensioner with abscesses of left leg and necrosis of the fibula due to the climate.

Presumably, therefore, he left for India around November 1858. On one of the discharge papers his conduct was described as “Bad” having appeared in the regimental defaulters' book eighteen times and not being in possession of a good conduct medal. However, the record states that he had never been tried by Court Martial. Whether this was due to his tropical sores is not known.

His total army service was 5 years 6 months meaning he enlisted in the March before his son was born. He was described as a clerk and was 5'10” tall with black hair, grey eyes and pale complexion.

In 1867 on 15th February a John McDonald Ashton a widower, gentleman, son of John Ashton deceased, coffee dealer, living in Lyons St, Bootle married Elizabeth Maria Shaw nee Boden a widow. I have not traced Elizabeth after John's death.

John McDonald Ashton was admitted to Walton Workhouse on 19th October 1867 and left of his own notice. He then entered West Derby Workhouse on 14th November 1867 with a “bad leg and destitute”. At this time, he was described as a clothier.

He died the following day on 15th November 1867. The cause of death on the death certificate was – unknown- medical certificate says “doubtful”.

The informant was William Jones at the Walton Workhouse.

Superintendent Registrar's District <i>West Derby and Whitechapel</i>									
Registrar's District <i>Norton</i>									
1867 DEATHS in the District of <i>Norton</i> in the County of <i>Lancaster</i>									
No.	When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
138	<i>Infants November 1867 Norton Norton</i>	<i>John McDonald Cotton</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>40 years</i>	<i>Clothier</i>	<i>Unknown Medical Certificate day of "doubtful"</i>	<i>William Jones present at death Norton Norton</i>	<i>December 1867</i>	<i>Edmund Brindley Registrar</i>

As to Ann Radcliffe:

In 1865 a charwoman called Christiana Radcliffe died of bronchitis in Dinorben Street, aged 28. Her death was registered by Elizabeth Parr who was present at the time. The witness was illiterate, so it is possible the name was misspelled. Further research has failed to find any other evidence of a Christiana Radcliffe born around 1837 and there is no further information on Ann Christian Radcliffe after 1865. I have therefore concluded that Christiana Radcliffe is probably the same person as Ann Christian Radcliffe.

This would explain why John James Radcliffe is found in subsequent censuses (1871, 1881) living with other members of the Radcliffe family but not his mother.

<i>West Derby</i>									
<i>The mark of Elizabeth Parr</i>									
138	<i>Twelfth January 1865 Dinorben Street Eleventh</i>	<i>Christiana Radcliffe</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>28 years</i>	<i>Charwoman</i>	<i>Bronchitis Certified</i>	<i>Present at the death Dinorben Street West Derby The mark of</i>	<i>Richard Bradshaw Registrar</i>	

Therefore, John James Radcliffe was probably orphaned by the age of nine and it is not clear whether his father ever knew about him.

Despite this, my great grandfather went on to have a happy marriage, producing eight children including the youngest, my grandmother Elsie. He was a dock labourer in Liverpool and died in 1936, aged 77 of bronchopneumonia and senility.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number COL 172032

REGISTRATION DISTRICT **Liverpool North**
1936 DEATH in the Sub-district of **Walton Park** in the County Borough of **Liverpool**

No.	When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar
500	18th Dec 1936 Lane Rd	John James Candoliffe	Male	77	of 269 Soutains Road Liverpool L8 6JF	1st Broncho pneumonia Complicated by Emphysema	L. Benson Daughter 269 Soutains Road Liverpool	1936	Inty. E. Morris Registrar

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Deaths in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 1st day of April 2004

DYA 314246

CAUTION: THERE ARE OFFENCES RELATING TO FALSIFYING OR ALTERING A CERTIFICATE AND USING OR POSSESSING A FALSE CERTIFICATE "CROWN COPYRIGHT"

WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.

1936 2004 1936 2004

Seal of the General Register Office of England

Jane Barrett (7273)

RHODA DAW, WINSTANLEY HALL AND THE EDWARDS FROM LUDLOW

Background

Rhoda is descended from a branch of our **Edwards** family. If her tree can be traced back and tied in to ours, it will validate both lines.

As a boy in Newton-le-Willows I often went with my father and mother, George and Winifred **Edwards**, to visit Rhoda in her cottage, 'Job's Lodge' in the estate of Winstanley Hall, near Wigan and she came to stay with us. She was Auntie Rhoda to me, although in fact a remote cousin on my father's side of the family.

She was born Rhoda **Coates** at Sandpits, Stanton Lacy, Ludlow RSD on 3rd September 1882. When I knew Rhoda, she was then the widow of Harry **Daw**, who had been head gardener to the **Banks** family of the Hall.

The memory of the cottage remained close to me, with a forest of rhododendrons in which I played. We could go up to the courtyard of the hall, which in its centre had a round fountain. In this Father Neptune sat on his throne as a fountain. The **Banks** family were not aloof and my parents were on conversational terms with them. The grounds were later taken over by the Coal Board for open cast coal mining and were eventually levelled and restored.



Clive, Rhoda and Winifred by the cottage.

The cottage had no electricity and was lit by oil lamps. The w.c. smelt nicely of creosote and squares of newspaper were neatly hung on a loop of cord. I remember the cold stone floors and the nice slightly musty damp smell of the cottage. As a young boy I was sometimes a little fed up when she came to visit, but really got on well with her. I

It was from Rhoda that I first got interested in family history and quizzed her and wrote little 'trees', but without dates or places. She told me her father was John **Coates**, a railway signalman and this is confirmed by her birth certificate, which also confirms her mother's maiden name as **Smith**, Susan **Smith**.

Rhoda was a kindly lady who (per my father) before marriage had always been in service to titled people and that she had been around 20 years with the **Dugdale's** in Yorkshire.

I found that at the 1911 census of Bolton Hall, Leyburn, North Riding of Yorkshire, we find Rhoda **Coates**, Servant, Single, 28 (1883) Housemaid Domestic, born Ludlow in Shropshire. She was living with the family of Lord William Thomas **Bolton** 66 and Lady Algitha Prudence Mary **Bolton** 63, 1 visitor and 16 other servants. I am not sure how the **Dugdale's** and **Bolton's** tie up.



My father then told me that she then moved to the **Bank's** and then to Miskin Castle in South Wales. She was in correspondence with Jenny, the daughter of her husband to be, Harry **Daw** and this led to the wedding. He wrote and asked Rhoda, without meeting her to marry him and she accepted and moved back to the **Bank's**.

I have her marriage certificate, and she married Harry on 6 August 1930, she was then 48. It was Harry's second marriage. Jenny was eventually housekeeper for the **Bank's**, when they were living in a flat in the Hall, during its occupation by the RAF in World War II.

The 1939 Special Register shows:

24 The Courtyard, Winstanley Hall, Billinge and Winstanley UD, Lancs:

Rhoda Daw	Born 3 Sep 1882	Mar Unpaid domestic duties
Harry W, Daw	8 Oct 1867	Mar Retired gardener
Winstanley Hall, as above:		
Jennie Daw	1898	Sing House maid
George H. Bankes	28 Sep 1867	Mar H and proprietor
Two undisclosed		
Amy O. S. Bankes	15 Nov 1870	Mar Retired Divisional Officer WVS



Jean & Emily **Edwards**, Rhoda & Harry **Daw**, Winifred & Clive, Jenny **Daw**.
Probably taken by E. George **Edwards**.

My father wrote out the following details for me:-

‘Harry **Daw** was the Head Gardener at Winstanley Hall. He lived in the Gardeners’ House, in the back of which was an extensive kitchen garden, with greenhouses built against the surrounding walls. At the time we knew them, Winstanley Hall was occupied by Squire **Banks**. Rhoda may have been Head Housekeeper for the **Banks**. When Harry died Rhoda went to live in a cottage on the estate’.

Harry died on 11 December 1939 and Rhoda died in Billinge Hospital on 15 May 1957, when I was 21. My father was her executor and she left me around £700.



Rhoda and baby Clive about 1936 by the hall's greenhouses.

Since this original information I have enquired further and obtained Rhoda's birth certificate, registered in Ludlow: Ref 6a page 555. Also on the 31/03/1901 census she was 19 and a housemaid –domestic, living in Ludlow with her birth in Salop East Hamlet.

Susan Jane **Coates** nee **Smith**, Rhoda's mother was Aunt **Coates** to the Rock Ferry, Wirral **Edwards** children. Emily remembers her first memory of staying with Aunt **Coates** in Ludlow, in a little house by the river. She remembers being dressed up and taken to Cleve Hill. The pram with a baby brother (Albert?) ran away and her father, George **Edwards** ran and grabbed it before it went over a cliff.

Aunt **Coates** lived in the almshouse near Ludlow Church at the end of

her life. My father, Edward George **Edwards** took his mother to see her, when he first got a car (late 1920's?). Susan Jane **Coates** died in Ludlow in 1926, age 77.

According to Rhoda, her mother was a daughter of Mary **Edwards** and a J. **Smith** and it was his second marriage. Mr **Smith** had already had 11 children by his first marriage and he and Mary had another six. I have their marriage

certificate dated 22 October 1844 in Ludford. I found out that Mary's parents were Thomas **Edwards**, born in Diddlebury c1793 and Sarah **Yapp** born in Shropshire c 1792/6.

How Thomas relates to Richard **Edwards** (my great, great, grandfather) is as yet unclear. Rhoda had thought that Mary had been married before to Richard the father of George **Edwards** Snr, but this is not correct, as she was a spinster when she married James **Smith** and only 20 years old.



Win and George with baby Clive at the Hall around 1936.

***Liverpool & South West Lancashire
Family History Society***



**Annual One Day Conference
&
AGM 2024**

Hosted By

**The Skelmersdale & Upholland
Family History Group**

At

Four Lane Ends Mission

Skelmersdale Road

Bickerstaffe L39 0EZ

On

Saturday 12 October 2024

Programme:

09.15	Registration & Coffee
09.30	Opening Address
09.45	Lathom Remount Depot (and the role of horses in WW1) by Dot Broady-Hawkes
11.00	Break
11.15	Skelmersdale Old Town New Town by Mark Boardman
12.30	A.G.M.
1.15	Lunch
2.15	A Lancashire Garland; the songs, stories and poems of Victorian Lancashire by Sid Calderbank.
3.30	Closing Address

Please note: Times are approximate

Venue details:

Four Lane Ends Mission

Skelmersdale Road

Bickerstaffe

L39 0EZ

Fee: £16.00 - includes refreshments and Buffet lunch.

Please return completed booking form with either an email address or a stamped self-addressed envelope to:

Mrs M Bonnell, 43 Hillside Close, Billinge, Wigan, WN57PJ

Cheques should be payable to: Liverpool & S W Lancs FHS Skelmersdale

Please do not send cash in the post.

Payment can also be made directly into the Society Bank Account:

Account name: LIVERPOOL & S W LANCS F H S SKELMERSDALE

Bank: Santander **Sort Code:** 090151 ; **Account Number:** 26779406

Please ensure that your surname (matching the name below) is used as a reference on the payment. Forms are required regardless of the method of payment.

Please return this form before 1 October 2024

Name

Address

..... Postcode

Tel No. Email

Payment method

Special dietary requirements:

Total number of tickets required

If additional tickets are being purchased, please advise the name (s) of the additional attendees:

Attendee No 2

Attendee No 3

Alternatively, you can email the above details to:
mawbonnell@blueyonder.co.uk

Four Lane Ends Mission

Skelmersdale Road

Bickerstaffe

L39 0EZ

Directions

Public transport:

319 train link bus from Kirby stops outside the mission

M6:

At Junction 26 take M58 to Liverpool and Southport

Then at Junction 3 take the A570 to Ormskirk

At the first island take the B5312 Skelmersdale Road

The mission is on the left hand side about 200yards

There is a free car park at the back of the mission

From Liverpool, Wirral and Southport:

From Switch Island take the M58 and get off at Junction 3

Take the A570 to Ormskirk

At the first island take the B5312 Skelmersdale Road

The mission is on the left hand side about 200yards

There is a free car park at the back of the mission



Win and Clive in the woods by the cottage, around 1945.

Clive Edwards (9699)

George Boole

Simplifying your Google Searches

Can anyone claim to have George **Boole** (1815-64) in their family tree?

He and his wife Mary had five daughters – Mary, Margaret, Alicia, Lucy and Ethel. All, except Lucy, took husbands and their married names are **Hinton, Taylor, Stott and Voynich**.

George was a prodigy. The son of a shoemaker in Lincolnshire, he was brilliant at maths, notably equations and logic. He rose to be professor of mathematics in Cork, Ireland. Whether he is your ancestor or not, George can help you research your family history today.

Have you heard of **Boolean** searches? They're named after him. And they are used every day by those in the know to save time by sharpening their googling. For instance, my ancestors include the **Prossor** family, a peculiarly Irish spelling of the Welsh name **Prosser**, the son of Roger.

When I started searching for the **Prossors**, every page of results was filled with unwanted **Prossers**, and because Google is so accommodating it also threw in processors and professors. That's when I discovered **Boole's** minus sign. Instead of typing **Prossor**, I made my search ***Prossor -Prosser -processor -professor***.

Hey presto! All the results are limited to **Prossor** with two O's and no clutter.

Before we go on, note there is no space after the little minus sign: it butts right up to the word in front. This is essential for **Boolean** signs to work.

So, is the plus sign of any use? My **Prossors** came from Cashel, Co Tipperary. If I try a straight *Prossor Cashel* search I may have some luck, but the pesky processors and professors will follow me around.

So, I'll go back to *Prossor -Prosser -processor -professor* only this time I'll add the place name with a plus sign before it: *Prossor +Cashel -Prosser -processor -professor*. That gives me all mentions of **Prossor** and Cashel. Again, note the position of the plus, hard up to the word in front.

Searching this way means you can quickly adjust search terms, for example to *Prossor +Clonmel -Prosser -processor -professor*, or *Prossor +Tipperary -Prosser -processor -professor* (I've bolded the words to make them clear, you don't need to).

Want to have a go at another example? Try **Boole +Voynich -Hinton**. This will give you everything about George that also mentions his youngest daughter but does not mention his oldest daughter.

So, what else can Boole offer us?

Boolean quotemarks are brilliant. My dad was on the British Railways' ferry Duke of York that was in a collision in the North Sea in 1953. If I

put *Duke of York* in the search, I get results about Prince Andrew (and invariably Jeffrey Epstein) and everything that includes Duke and York. I must click through pages of stuff I don't want to find anything about the Duke of York shipping incident.

If I modify my search to "*Duke of York*" (using quotemarks) this will limit the search to pages that feature Duke of York as a phrase. Other dukes and Yorks drop out, but I still get too much about the former HRH.

Now for the clever bit. If I make my search "*Duke of York Harwich*" or better still "*Duke of York*" +*Harwich* I get sharper results that are much more relevant to what I want. If I add +*Bramhill* to that string, Google limits itself to pages that are most likely to mention my father.

There are various other symbols that you can use for specific cases, and they are listed here: bit.ly/BooleMersey.

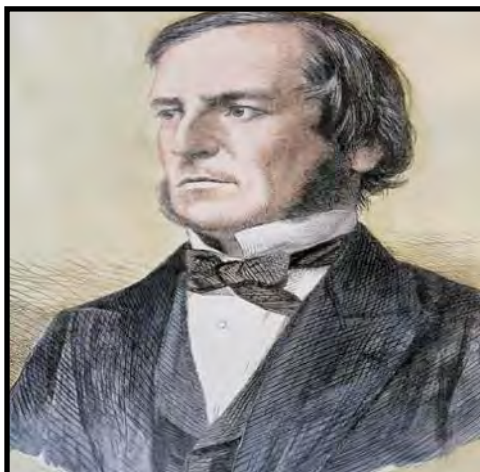
Two other quick tips:

Searching within sites: if you want to search, for say, "buried treasure" within a particular site, type into the Google search bar "*buried treasure*" site:[wikipedia.org](https://www.wikipedia.org) (or the name of the site you want to search). Again, note no space between the "site" or site name. This technique becomes really handy if you are searching for a particular surname on a big site. To see what I mean try *prossor* site:[nationalarchives.ie](https://www.nationalarchives.ie).

Defining words: Never look in a dictionary again! Type in *define* before your query word, for example, *define: prevarication*, to quickly define the meaning of a word. In a family history context this is great for finding terms you may find in wills and other legal documents.

So, there you have it. You may not have George **Boole** in your tree, but the old chap will help you get the best out of your online searches even 150 years and more after he died.

Will Bramhill (5920)



George Boole
Mathematician
1815-1864

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L&SWLFHS Website Forum

A decision has been taken to close the Forum to new posts due to lack of use but you can still see all the pages on the website for information.

If you wish to contribute to a discussion, please visit the Society's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/lswlfhs>.

The Facebook group is very much up and running and active and you are more than welcome to join. The genealogy community is very friendly and willing to help each other if anyone needs help or has hit a brick wall (and we've all done that more than once!) so you are more than welcome to ask for help or join in on any of the discussions.

Mary A

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 9707-9724** who have joined most recently and wish them every success with their research.

New Members:

9707 M Kristiansen; **9708** L Peake; **9709** D Waldo; **9710** L Cruse;
9711 S Hopley; **9712** J Wood; **9713** R Noonan; **9714** D Burke;
9715 M Symes; **9716** K Humphries; **9717** P Pritchard; **9718** D Birch;
9719 H Roberts; **9720** C McFarland; **9721** Q Harkess; **9722** A Wright;
9723 J McKiernan; **9724** A & M Fry

Members' Interests:

9703

AMER Joseph CHS/Birkenhead 1838; **AMER** Jessie CHS/Birkenhead 1874; **AMER** Mary Ann CHS/Birkenhead 1838; **AMER** William CHS/Birkenhead 1856; **AMER** Stephen W CHS/Birkenhead 1809;
CONRY Thomas LAN/Liverpool 1842; **CONRY** Sarah CHS/Birkenhead 1800;
HOWARTH John LAN 1800; **HOWARTH** William LAN 1815;
DARBYSHIRE Jane LAN 1822

9719

DONE William Henry LAN 1855-; **CULLINAN** William YKS 1854-;
CULLINAN Frederick John CHS 1891-; **DONE** John LAN 1892

A Reminder of Liverpool in a Midland Town

Little did we know when we moved from the London suburbs to Nuneaton, Warwickshire that we would discover a tangible reminder of the home of a philanthropic Unitarian, Liverpool family. The family originally from Geneva were the Mellys. Their Liverpool connections began when André George Melly (1802-1851) arrived in Liverpool in 1822, became naturalized in 1827, and founded the company of Melly, Romilly & Co. Cotton merchants. But it is Charles Pierre (1829 -1888) and his second son Edward Ferdinand (1857-1941) that I will be focusing on in this article.

Like his father, Charles Pierre was a Cotton merchant, becoming a partner in the firm of Melly, Forget & Co. He also became a prominent and respected local councillor, using his wealth and position to improve the health and welfare of ordinary working people. After his marriage to Louise Forget in Geneva on May 25 1829, the couple moved into his parent's house, Riversley, Mossley Hill, Liverpool.

Inspired by the provision of water fountains he had seen in Geneva and a desire to discourage the excessive alcohol consumption of the working-classes he begun to set about providing fountains for the people of Liverpool. This was an especially important facility as not all homes had fresh, clean, running water since a rate was required for its provision. It was also needed by those coming off the boats or working at the docks as there was no access to water there and the men would patronise the pubs instead.

The first fountain, constructed of pink granite, was erected at Prince's Dock in 1854. Over the next few years as many as 43 of these had been installed in Liverpool, and further afield in Norwich, Plymouth, and Douglas, Isle of Man, earning him the nickname of 'Fountain Melly'.

He then turned his attention to providing outdoor gymnasia and pleasure grounds in order to improve the health and mental well being of the working classes. A report in *The Liverpool Mail* in January 1862

reinforced this ideal when Lord Stanley stood up to address the crowd at the opening ceremony of the first of these: ‘for without bodily exercise there can be no bodily health, and without bodily health there can be no happiness and no enjoyment’, going on to say ‘that there is a gentleman present here who has gone to great trouble and to great expense in fitting up this ground, - I mean Mr Melly.’

¹ According to an article in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (DNB) about George and Charles Melly, the first of these fountains was fitted out in Smithfield Road in 1858. This seems to be confirmed by a report in *The Nonconformist* dated June 9 1858 that states that ‘Mr Charles Melly has just established at his own cost a free gymnasium for the working classes in Liverpool.’ This was followed by others at Wavertree, Toxteth, and Kirkdale. There is a certain irony in a man reportedly adverse to sporting activity (DNB) actively promoting it for others especially given his later decline into insanity. But his concern for the condition of the lower classes must have gone some way to Improve the general health of the population of Liverpool.

In Edward’s memoir of his father he alleges that Charles also had a hand in persuading Lord Derby in giving up some of his land to create Sefton Park: I have not found any evidence to support this but we do know that as a Councillor elected to Abercrombie Ward in 1866, Charles became Chairman of the Parks Committee at the time of its proposal and laying out, and that Lord Derby did give some of his land for this purpose. It is also possible that Charles Melly had recommended that a M. André should be commissioned to ‘design features within the park such as the Grottoes’ (DNB). If Charles wasn’t the main player in giving a park to his home town his son was to do just that in his adopted home town of Nuneaton.

Edward Ferdinand Melly, Charles Pierre’s second son was educated at Rugby School and then went on to train as a mining engineer with Emerson Bainbridge. It was Bainbridge who subsequently played a part in his eventual move to Nuneaton. After his training in Sheffield with Bainbridge he secured a job at Glyn Neath Collieries, in Swansea where Melly met his first wife Janet Wood. They were married at the Swansea Unitarian Chapel, Swansea on 14 May, 1886. In 1882 he

became the first manager of Griff Colliery in Nuneaton, an enterprise created by Andrew Knowles and Emerson Bainbridge. He was to stay in Nuneaton for the rest of his life.

Whilst in Nuneaton Edward was to emulate the philanthropy of his father becoming a prominent figure and serving his community with benevolence and generosity: his main interests being: education, health care, and problems with the water supply, and to this end erecting a water fountain in Nuneaton Market Place in memory of his father's efforts in this area with the inscription '1889 In Memorium C.P.M.' a year after his father's death by suicide.

He became a Justice of the Peace in 1899 serving as a magistrate for 45 years, for a few years also a member of Chilvers Coton Board of Health. He was a Governor of Nuneaton Grammar School for some years, and in 1908 and 1926 he was elected Mayor. However Melly was not without his human failings and it is salutary to point out his misjudgement in not enquiring about the exact age of one of his young workers who, on asking for an increase in his wages at Griff, was allowed to handle the railway wagons at the mine and was killed as a result. Charged with 'contravening the Miners Regulation Act', in allowing a boy under the age of 15 to do this work, he gave as his defence that he was unaware of the boy's age and had put his implicit faith in his bank foreman in this matter. Melly was fined £20 with £2.2s cost. ²

Like his father he became involved in the wider community in many ways: He was a member of a working committee concerned with the planning of a local hospital; had a hand in the building of Bermuda Village in 1893* to house the workers at Clara Pitt, and created recreation grounds at Coton Acres and Stockingford. He was also instrumental in placing seats in Avenue Road, Leicester Road, Tuttle Hill and Heath End Road for the benefit of the residents.

But perhaps his most lasting visual memorial is the Park he gave to the people of Nuneaton in 1907, naming it Riversley after his childhood home on the outskirts of Liverpool. In order to create his park he had unconditionally donated land from the Pingle Fields plus the sum of £500. He also provided a bandstand and a children's playground. The Park was

officially opened on 6 July 1907 by Mr. John Stratford Dugdale K.C. representing the Warwickshire County Council. After the introductions and vote of thanks Melly reminded the people of the debt he owed to his father's example in giving a public playground to the people of Liverpool.

He had to thank his memory [his father's] and they had to thank it too in that his example had inspired him to try and see that there should be as many public spaces as possible. ³

In 1913 it was reported that a Museum and Art Gallery, with a room dedicated to the memory of George Eliot, the locally born novelist, would be built in the grounds of the park owing to the generosity of Edward Melly.⁴ The Museum was opened on the 1 April, 1917 with Melly as its honorary curator until his death.

Edward Melly in his speech also mentions:

The kindness he had received at the hands of the people of all classes' [. . .] and had sympathised with him in his troubles and rejoiced with him when he had been happy.

And Melly certainly had had his share of troubles, beginning with the tragic death of his father by suicide in 1888, followed by the deaths of his first two wives. There is a full and touching report in the Observer of September 23, 1892 about the demise of his first wife Janet (née Wood) who died suddenly three weeks after giving birth to their third child. In 1894 he married Francis Elizabeth Wyrley Birch at St. Mary's church, Whitchurch, she died on 20 September, 1899, aged 48. He then married Harriet Lees at Shustoke in 1908.

In a ceremony at Riversley Park on 1 June 1930 Melly was made an Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Nuneaton in '*recognition of the long and eminent services rendered by him to the Borough*'.⁵

Melly retired as manager of Griff Colliery in August 1937 but continued as a supplementary Magistrate and had only recently resigned as a Borough councillor before his death on the 17 May 1941 when a German bombing

raid destroyed his house “The Close” Church Street at night, killing both him and his wife Harriet. Melly was 83 and Harriet 64. It is perhaps fitting for a life of continuous and generous service to end with Melly’s own motto for himself:

A good reputation is better than a belt of gold ⁶

References

¹ Liverpool Mail, 11 January, 1862

² Kenilworth Advertiser 28 June 1890

³ A full report from the Nuneaton Observer Saturday July 12, 1907

⁴ Tamworth Herald December 1913

⁵ Nuneaton Chronicle 6 June 1930

⁶ Ibid

* So named because one of the local gentry and colliery owners, Sir Edward Newdegate, had been Governor General of Bermuda from 1888-1893

Sources:

Find my Past (FMP)

Newspaper collection, FMP

Business, Politics, Philanthropy, Religion, Citizenship and Growth in Nuneaton: 1880-1914 a dissertation by Robert N. Rose

Oxford Dictionary of Biography: George Melly (1830-1894)

Marie Paterson (9256)

The Opening of Riversley Park by donor Alderman F Melly 1907 Nun Misc Vol 4 P81



Breaking Down (or maybe just cracking) that Brick Wall

I think it would be fairly safe to say that all of us, at sometime, would have come up against a brick wall during our family history research. I have one line on the maternal side of my family, the **Strugnell's**, that I can trace back to around 1548 with good supporting documentation, but another branch, the **Reid's**, comes to a complete halt at around 1836.

I know from Thomas **Reid's** 1857 marriage certificate that his father was William Reid and that he was a Gardener, and I know that Thomas was aged 24 in 1861, 34 in 1871 and 44 in 1881 which means that he was born C1836/37.

His name is not in the civil registration listing which implies that the birth was before September 1837 when BDM registration became compulsory.

I also know from the Census Return (CR) entries that he was born in West Derby, Lancashire.

In the 1841 CR I can only find two entries in Liverpool for a 4/5 year old Thomas **Reid** :

1. Living with Robert and Margaret **Kidd** in Walton on the Hill
2. Living with George and Mary **Reid** in Childwall

If I can assume that George and Mary are the parents of the second Thomas, then that entry can be discounted.

Other people in the first 1841 entry along with Thomas (5) are Elizabeth **Horobin** (55), Jane **Horobin** (20), Ellen **Horobin** (15), Robert **Kidd** (20), Margaret **Kidd** (20), Elizabeth **Kidd** (2), Ann **Read** (7) and Ann **Wakefield** (9).

Robert **Kidd** is listed as a Gardner and as having been born in Scotland but I have been unable to find any record of his birth.

Looking for Thomas **Reid** in 1851, I found a Thomas **Reed** (15) living with Elizabeth **Horobin** (67), Ann **Wakefield** (18), Hannah **Reed** (17) and Margaret **Kidd** (5).

Elizabeth is a Laundress, as she was in 1841, and Ann is a servant. Hannah is recorded as Elizabeth's granddaughter as is Margaret, and Thomas as her nephew.

Further research revealed that a Robert **Kidd**, son of Hunter **Kidd** (Gardener) married a Margaret **Horobin** in St. John's church, Liverpool on 28 October 1838. Margaret's parents were found to be Peter **Horobin** (Coachman), and Elizabeth **Seddon**.

Things now get a bit more complicated. It is possible that Ann **Read** and Hannah **Reed** are the same person. A search of births/baptisms around 1834 revealed the baptism of a Hannah **Reed** in Childwall on 15 June 1834. Her parents were listed as William **Reed** and Elizabeth **Horabin**. Their marriage was found to have taken place at St. Mary's, Walton-on-the-Hill on 31 December 1827.

A search for the birth/baptism of Thomas revealed a baptism in the Brunswick Wesleyan Chapel, Walton-on-the-Hill on 13 June 1836 of a Thomas **REED**, son of William and Elizabeth **Reed** (late **Seddon**). No record of this marriage has been found. The only marriage of a William **Reid** in Lancashire between 1825 and 1835 was the one to Elizabeth **Horabin**. A search through other counties as well as Scotland gave a similar result.

It is possible that Hannah and Thomas had a brother, Henry, born on 8 November 1838 and baptised in Childwall on 16 December 1838. Henry died the following year and was buried in Walton-on-the-Hill on 25 June 1839.

Returning now to Elizabeth **Kidd** in the 1841CR. She is found to be the daughter of Robert **Kidd** (Gardener) and Margaret **Kidd** of Oak Vale, West Derby. She was born on 15 August 1839 and baptised on 8 September 1839 in Childwall.

Margaret **Kidd** from the 1851CR is found to be the daughter of Peter and Mary **Kidd** of Hornby Street, Liverpool. She was baptised on 18 May 1845.

If Thomas and Ann (Hannah) are brother and sister, their relationship to Elizabeth **Horobin** as stated in the 1851CR is not entirely correct. I can't find any evidence to support Hannah being Elizabeth's granddaughter and Thomas is definitely not her grandson, so niece and nephew would appear to be the most likely connection. Confirmation of this hasn't been possible however.

A search for Peter and Mary **Kidd** in the 1851CR found them living in Hornby Street, Liverpool. Peter was listed as having been born in Scotland. Visiting them on the night of the census was a Robert **Reid**, aged 31 - a Porter, also born in Scotland.

There could be other Scottish connections. In 1851 there is a Hunter **Kidd**, a Gardener, living with his family including a son, Robert 8 months old in Wavertree. He was born in Dundee, Scotland. A marriage in Dundee on 15 August 1805 between Hunter **Kidd** & Euphamie **Gilchrist** was found, but not Hunter's birth.

So, not only do we have the occupation of gardener as a connection, we also have Scotland as a likely connection.

On 13 February 1789 a William **Reid** married an Isobell **Kidd** in Falkland, Fife, Scotland but I think the 47 year interval between this marriage and the birth of our William rules them out as William's parents.

I do believe however, that there is going to be a connection somewhere between the **Reid's**, the **Kidd's**, the **Horobin's** and possibly the **Seddon's**.

Finally - Ann **Wakefield** (remember her?) was a witness when Hannah **Reid** married George **Short** on 7 May 1854 at St. Mary's church, Edge Hill. On 1 January 1856 Ann married John **Rushworth**, a Coachman, at St Anne's church, Stanley, West Derby, Liverpool. Her father was James

James **Wakefield** and he was a gardener.

One of the witnesses at that marriage was Harriet **Lovett**, who, in September 1857 would marry Thomas **Reid**.

This latest information would appear to confirm most, if not all of the above but it is still only a crack in the Brick Wall. Will it ever come crashing down? Who knows?

Maybe one of your readers can give it a bit more of a nudge.

Barry Moscrop (2729)
Sydney, Australia.

Instructions for Joining Zoom Talks

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

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

I look forward to seeing you at our talks.

MaryA
Zoom-admin

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The Royal Humane Society – another tale

I read with interest the article by Gwen **Davis** in the June edition about her ancestor Charles **Burrows** who was awarded the Bronze Medal by the Royal Humane Society. My grandfather William Henry **Armstrong** was also awarded this medal and the details given about his bravery led me to another interesting story.

Britain declared war on Germany on 4 August 1914. At that time William was on a three-month voyage as 2nd Mate on the **SS Fabian** of the Ellerman & Papayanni Line and would not return until 28 October. However, only seven days after his return to Liverpool he was recalled to the Royal Naval Reserve. He served initially as a seaman until the following May and thereafter as a skipper. He was awarded a temporary commission as a Sub-Lieutenant on 26 February 1918. Later he was promoted to 1st Lieutenant and had his picture taken in his new uniform.



*Photo of William in his
new uniform*

William was appointed to the Mine Clearance Service. He served on mine-sweeping duties on **HMS Olive IV, HMS Devonian, HMS Gaddesden** and **HMS Clonmel**. During the First World War, seventy-four ships of the Twin Screw "Hunt" Class Minesweepers were commissioned by the Royal Navy. None of these ships was lost in the War. Many of them were converted to surveying ships after the demobilisation of the Mine Clearance Force in 1919.

At the end of the First World War, my grandfather applied for his Master Mariner Certificate and his application gives us some insight into his activities during the War. In his Letter of Application for Master Mariner Certificate in 1918, William makes reference to being awarded the Bronze Medal of the Royal Humane Society. He says, "If it is anything to my advantage I may mention that I received a letter of thanks and the Royal Humane Society's Bronze Medal for services rendered, while in charge of a mine-sweeping craft, to my towing partner who struck a mine on July 17th 1917." The original letter, in his own handwriting, is in the Maritime Museum in Greenwich.

Please see the end of the article for the extract from William's letter.

The Royal Humane Society was founded by two London doctors in 1774. They were concerned about the number of people who were wrongly taken for dead and sometimes buried alive. They wanted to practice the new technique of resuscitation and offered 4 guineas to anyone rescuing someone on the brink of death. Needless to say a scam became widespread amongst the down and outs of London. But that's another story.

To this day the society makes awards of certificates or medals for bravery. Those nominated must have put their own lives at risk to save someone else or carried out a successful resuscitation. On the website for the Royal Humane Society the annual report for the year 1917 includes the following citation:

"Armstrong, W.H., Skipper, R.N.R. Case 43493, At 1.30 p.m. on the 7th July, 1917, a man was thrown into Auskerry Sound owing to his vessel

being blown up by a mine. W.H. **Armstrong**, Skipper, R.N.R., jumped from his ship and succeeded in supporting him till they were picked up.”

The Auskerry Sound is a stretch of sea in the **Orkney Islands** that separates the island of Auskerry from the island of Stronsay to the north.

Photo of my grandad's Bronze Medal



The Bronze Medal has a blue ribbon attached, with the image of a cherub on the front and a laurel wreath on the reverse. The cherub is blowing a torch in an attempt to re-kindle it and the inscription in Latin translates as:

'Perhaps a tiny spark lies therein'

Around the rim it is inscribed

“WILLIAM H ARMSTRONG RNR

7TH JULY 1917”

When I was a child, Grandma told me that my Grandad had been sent in search of Kitchener “when he was lost”. I knew that Kitchener was Lord Kitchener, whose face appeared on the WW1 posters encouraging young men to sign up for military service.

However, it always struck me as very strange that such a man would be lost and somehow I imagined that this took place in the Mediterranean for some reason. A few years ago I was in the Orkney Islands and the tales told by local people shed some light on this story from my Grandma.

Photo of Kitchener's poster



tales told by local people shed some light on this story from my Grandma.

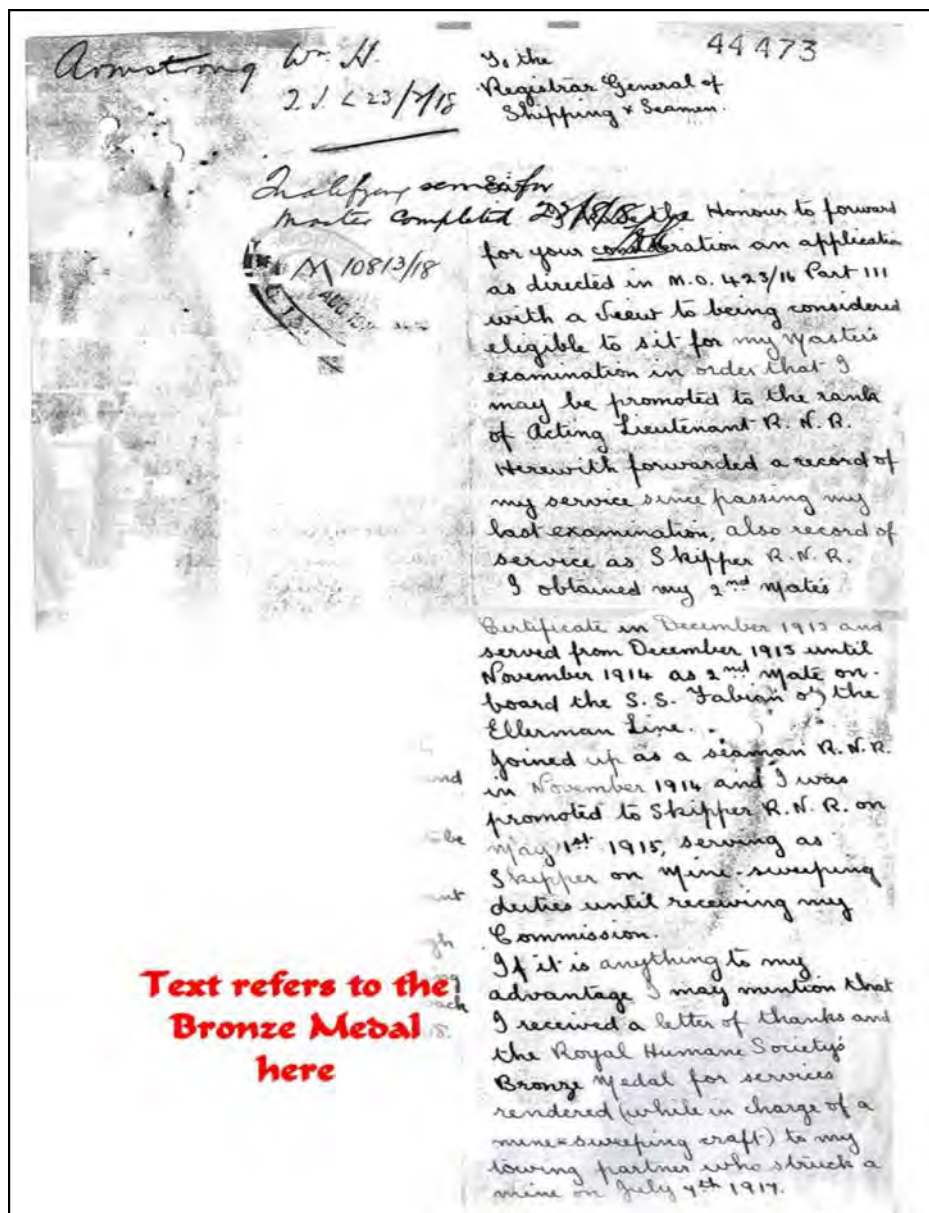
They told me that on 5th June 1916 Lord **Kitchener** was sent on a secret mission to Russia, sailing on the **HMS Hampshire** from the Orkneys. Only a few miles out and the ship entered a small German minefield and was blown up, with Kitchener and 600 men aboard. For weeks after, bodies were washed ashore around the islands but the locals were sworn to secrecy.

Now when you know this, and the fact that my Grandad was in the Orkneys, at least in the following year — who better to send into the minefield to see if anyone had survived than a Captain with his minesweeper?

So, I am convinced of the truth of my Grandma's tale that Grandad was sent to find Kitchener!

Pauline Horner (6020)

Photo of an extract from William's letter



Talks from the Groups

Liverpool Group

Report from Chair

Susan Atkins (scotchmer1878@outlook.com)

We often have very interesting talks from external speakers. The meetings are held on 4th Floor Liverpool Central Library at 5:45pm for 6pm on 2nd Tuesday of the month (apart from July/August/November/December). £1 for refreshments. All welcome.

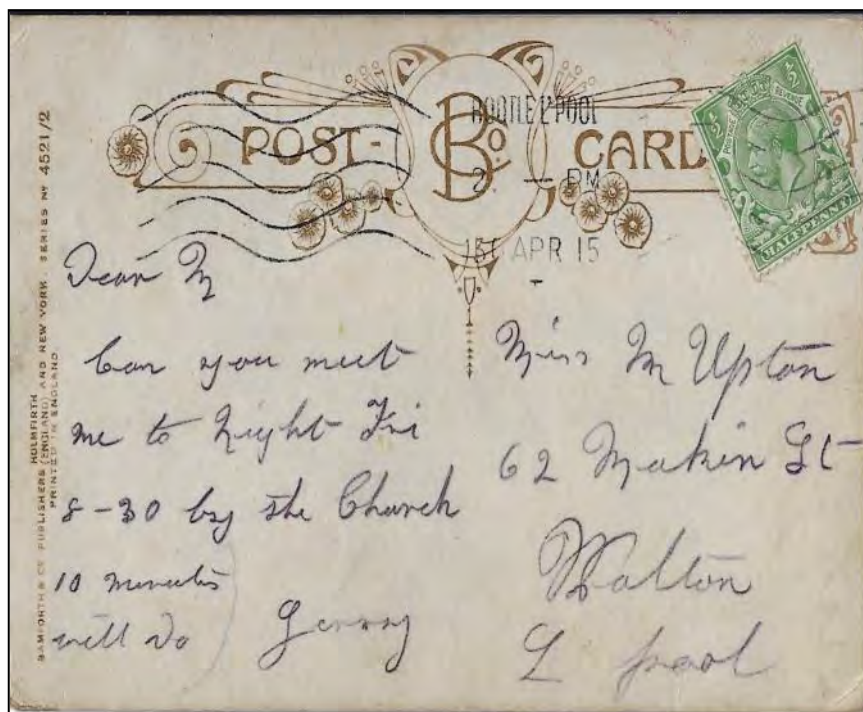
The last meeting before the summer break was held on Tuesday 11 June 2024. The topic was Postcards and the speaker was Linda Clarke, a former archivist with Cheshire Archives.

She explained the history of postcards from the mid-19th Century and how initially one side was for the name and address and the other side was for the message. This gradually changed with the introduction of pictures/photographs on one side so the other side was divided in two for the message/name and address.

She also explained that the post office guaranteed that post would reach a person in the same area on the same day. There were usually ten people based around the local post office including clerks, sorters and post carriers.

When I got home I checked the postcards I had inherited from my grandparents and found the post card below, which is addressed to my grandmother and asks her to meet the sender at the local church, (probably St Mary, Walton-on-the-Hill which was nearest to her home address) that evening. This proved the point that Linda was making.

The talk was well worth attending and gave everyone who attended food for thought.



It is hoped that this is the start of a new series of articles highlighting the talks that are presented at the Group's meetings around the Liverpool & SW Lancashire area.

I would like to thank Susan for volunteering the first article.

If anyone has any suggestions or comments please send them to the Editor, Alison Anyon.

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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 Town Hall, Leigh at 7:30pm on the third Tuesday of each month.

17 Sep	Ladies of Leigh	Julie McKiernan
15 Oct	The Snowden Dunhill Gang	Kath Graham
21 Nov	The Suffragette Sleepover: The Life and Time of Rose Hyland	Dr Tom McGrath
00 Dec	No meeting	

Liverpool

Chairman: Susan Atkins **Secretary:** Joyce Culling

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

10 Sep	Members' Evening - Research Evening.	
08 Oct	The Musker Family	Roger Hull
00 Nov	No meeting	
00 Dec	No meeting	

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.

03 Sep	Welcome back, research and help night	
01 Oct	Group A.G.M.	
05 Nov	Ghost Stories	Andy Johnson
03 Dec	Christmas Jacob's Join	

Southport

Chairman: Shelagh Boardman

Secretary: Ian Cooper

Meetings are held at The Station Master's House between Birkdale Station and the station car park, PR8 4AR on the second Friday of each month (unless stated otherwise). Meetings start at 7:30pm.

13 Sep	Non-Conformists	Hilary Hartigan
11 Oct	Family Myths: truth or fiction	Sally Moss
08 Nov	One Name Society	Susan Atkins
13 Dec	Christmassy Things	Group Event

Warrington

Chairman: Peter Jolliffe

Secretary: Vacant

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

23 Sep	T.B.A.
28 Oct	T.B.A.
25 Nov	T.B.A.
00 Dec	No meeting

Widnes

Chairman: Claire Houlton

Secretary: Gill Scutt

Meetings are held at St. John Fisher Church Hall, Moorfield Road, Widnes, WA8 3JA on the last Wednesday of the month - except December. Meetings start at 7:00pm and finish by 9:00pm.

25 Sep	T.B.A.
30 Oct	T.B.A.
30 Nov	T.B.A.
00 Dec	No meeting

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Plus one representative elected by each Group of the Society



Old English Garden, Greenbank Park, Mossley Hill, Liverpool

The area was the former home of the [Rathbone family](#), philanthropists through two centuries. The family acquired nearby [Greenbank House](#) in 1788 as a holiday house and remained there until 1940.

In 1897 Liverpool Corporation entered into an agreement with the Rathbone family to purchase the piece of land, part of which is now Greenbank Park for the sum of £13,000. The agreement required the corporation to maintain this land as open space or recreation ground for the general public.

The park boasts the dual distinction of having the first of the old English gardens in Liverpool's parks, and the first boating lake. The walled garden is all that remains of the Rathbone estate on the park.

It has a children's playground, football pitches, and a fishing pond, as well as mature trees and a conservation area. The pond provides the focal point within the park. Visitors are able to fish and can watch nesting waterfowl and herons. There is a bridge at the northern end of the pond. The wet area towards this end is used as a conservation area and it has been proposed that following improvement works with local schools, this will become an outdoor classroom.

[Old English Garden, Greenbank Park, Liverpool.jpg](#)

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The East Terrace, Stanley Park

Stanley Park, Liverpool is a Grade 11 registered landscape and was created by Kemp and Robson in 1870. It is now set between the football stadia of Anfield, Liverpool FC and Goodison Park, Everton FC. It consists of approx. 45 hectares and is set in a pre-dominantly late 19thC and 20thC residential area.

It was conceived as one of three municipal parks in the mid 19thC to provide Liverpool residents of all classes but specifically the working classes, with attractive green open spaces. The other parks are Sefton park and Newsham Park.

For more information go to: <https://www.buildingconservation.com/articles/stanley-park/stanley-park.htm>

The East Terrace, Stanley Park - geograph.org.uk - 3408910.jpg

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