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Irish Ancestry Group at Straits, Oswaldtwistle

THE LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY & HERALDRY SOCIETY

Formerly Rossendale Society for Genealogy & Heraldry
(Lancashire)

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MEETING VENUES

**BLACKBURN &
DARWEN**

**Virtual Branch Meetings by Zoom
Possibly First Thursday of the month**

BURY

**Virtual Branch Meetings by Zoom
Second Tuesday of the month at 7.00pm**

CHORLEY

**Primrose Gardens, Fleet St., Chorley PR7 2EE
Second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm**

FYLDE

**St. Martin's Church, Fleetwood Road South,
Carleton, Poulton-le-Fylde FY6 7NL
First Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm.**

HERALDRY GROUP Virtual Branch Meetings by Zoom

HYNDBURN Accrington Sea Cadets, Harvey Street,
Oswaldtwistle, Accrington BB5 3LT
First Wednesday of the month.
Doors open 6.45pm ready for 7pm start.

IRISH ANCESTRY GROUP

2 Straits, Oswaldtwistle BB5 3LU
Saturday Workshops 1 pm – 4.30 pm
Every 2 months as per Branch Programme,
Website and Members Forum
(or Virtual Branch Meeting by Zoom as advised)

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE Morecambe Heritage, Unit 29 Arndale Centre,
Morecambe LA4 5DH
First and third Friday 11 am–4 pm and
Virtual Branch Meetings by Zoom
Third Thursday of the month at 6.45pm for
7pm start.

LONDON & SOUTH Virtual Branch Meetings by Zoom
Five meetings a year on Saturdays at 2.00pm as
advised.

PENDLE & BURNLEY Virtual Branch Meetings by Zoom
First Thursday of the month at 7pm

PRESTON Kingsfold Methodist Church, Padway,
Penwortham, Preston PR1 9EJ
Last Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm.

RIBBLE VALLEY Virtual Branch Meetings by Zoom
4th Thursday of the month at 6.45pm for
7.00pm start as advised.

ROCHDALE St. Andrew's U.R. Church, Entwisle Road,
Rochdale OL16 2HZ
Last Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm.

ROSSENDALE Longholme Methodist Church (opp. Bus Station)
Bacup Road, Rawtenstall BB4 7NU
First Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm.

SOCIETY VIRTUAL GROUP MEETINGS by Zoom
Second Tuesday of the month 6.30pm for 7pm start
as advised.

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Front Cover Picture Irish Ancestry Group at Oswaldtwistle

Rear Cover Picture Tony Foster Surprise 80th Birthday Party

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BRANCH AND VIRTUAL MEETING PROGRAMMES

2025

- 15 Aug – Family History Friday Help Desk from 9.30am – 12 noon at Lancashire Archives, Bow Lane, Preston PR1 2RE
- 27 Aug – Preston No Meeting
- 27 Aug – Rochdale – History of Motorbikes and Clocks – Keith Mellor
- 3 Sep – Fylde – The Man Who Shod War Horses – Martin Jones
- 3 Sep – Hyndburn –
- 3 Sep – Rossendale – Helmshore Archaeology Group – Neil Coldrick
- 4 Sep – Pendle & Burnley Virtual Branch Meeting by Zoom 7pm
- 9 Sep – Society Virtual Meeting by Zoom 6.30 for 7pm – Newspapers in Family History Research – Pauline Chapman
- 11 Sep – Chorley – Last Orders – Elaine Allen
- 18 Sep – Lancaster & Morecambe Virtual Branch Meeting by Zoom 7pm
- 19 Sep – Family History Friday Help Desk from 9.30 – 12 noon at Lancashire Archives, Bow Lane, Preston PR1 2RE
- 20 Sep – London & South Virtual Branch Meeting by Zoom 2pm (Sat)
- 24 Sep – Preston – Digging Graves with the Grave Detective – Laurie Manton
- 24 Sep – Rochdale – 250 years of Hare Hill House – Iain Bowden
- 25 Sep – Ribble Valley Virtual Branch Meeting by Zoom 7pm
- 1 Oct – Fylde – Research Evening – Bring your problems
- 1 Oct – Hyndburn –
- 1 Oct – Rossendale – Calder Valley History – Roger Frost

- 2 Oct – Pendle & Burnley Virtual Branch Meeting by Zoom
7pm
- 9 Oct – Chorley – The Parkers of Bagganley Pt.2 – From
Chorley to the Isle of Man in the 1490s –
Alan Crosby
- 11 Oct – Irish – Virtual Meeting by Zoom 1pm – An Irishman
Missing in Manchester – Carol Lee
- 14 Oct – Society Virtual Zoom 6.30 for 7pm – Validating
Family History Research – Carol Lee
- 16 Oct – Lancaster & Morecambe Branch Virtual Meeting by
Zoom 7pm
- 17 Oct – Family History Friday Help Desk from 9.30 – 12 noon
at Lancashire Archives, Bow Lane, Preston
PR1 2RE
- 23 Oct – Ribble Valley Virtual Branch Meeting by Zoom 7pm
- 29 Oct – Preston – Sex, Wigs and a Drink – A Manchester
diary from the reign of Queen Anne –
Dr. Alan Crosby
- 29 Oct – Rochdale – Andy Scott Sculptures – Brennan Nield
- 5 Nov – Fylde – Blackpool at War – Mike Coyle
- 5 Nov – Hyndburn –
- 5 Nov – Rossendale – To Be Advised
- 6 Nov – Pendle & Burnley Virtual Branch Meeting by Zoom
7pm
- 11 Nov – Society Virtual Zoom 6.30 for 7pm – Impact of the
American Civil War on Lancashire –
Stephen Irwin
- 13 Nov – Chorley – Chorley Co-op – John Harrison
- 20 Nov – Lancaster & Morecambe Virtual Branch Meeting by
Zoom 7pm
- 21 Nov – Family History Friday Help Desk from 9.30 – 12
noon at Lancashire Archives, Bow Lane,
Preston PR1 2RE
- 22 Nov – London & South Virtual Branch Meeting by Zoom
2pm
- 26 Nov – Preston Jacobs Join and Quiz
- 26 Nov – Rochdale – Christmas Party
- 27 Nov – Ribble Valley Virtual Branch Meeting by Zoom 7pm
- 3 Dec – Fylde – Jacobs Join and Quiz

MEMBERS' ARTICLES

THE RELUCTANT HUSBAND

By Judy Bourke

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Before the welfare state, each parish was responsible for the needy within its boundaries. Single mothers could be a big expense and great lengths were taken to send them off to their home parish or to marry them to the father.

I have been reading *The Diary of a Village Shopkeeper*¹, written by Thomas Turner in the mid-1700s and was astonished by the trouble he and his fellow officers of the parish of East Hoathly, Sussex, had in the case of Ann Durrant and George Hyland. Ann Durrant was of the parish of East Hoathly but living in Laughton; George Hyland, the sworn father, was of Laughton parish. If Ann was unmarried when she gave birth to the child, she and the child would be the responsibility of East Hoathly, but if she married Hyland, all responsibility would shift to Laughton. It took over a week of frustrating negotiations with the man, much time, trouble, and expense, to resolve the situation. This particularly difficult case did not take place in Lancashire, but I am sure Lancastrians could be just as devious.

In 1757 Thomas Turner, shopkeeper, was a churchwarden. He did not own a horse, so most of his journeying was by foot, probably no hardship for a fit twenty-seven-year-old. Although Turner never mentions the weather, keep in mind that at the end of February it was probably very cold and wet, and there would only be about ten hours of daylight.

According to Google Maps, the village of East Hoathly is 6.5 miles north-east of Lewes, the county town of East Sussex. The way goes through Laughton, 3.2 miles south which could be walked in just over an hour. Uckfield is 4.8 miles north-west

of East Hoathly (about 1 hour 45 minutes on foot), but for Thomas to stop at his mother's in Framfield (which he usually did) would add to this, as it is 4.4 miles north from East Hoathly to Framfield, then 1.8 miles west to Uckfield. Likely the distance could be shortened on field paths which could have been better for walking than the muddy main roads, churned up by the passage of horses and carts.

The story begins on Friday, 18 February, when Ann Durrant, 'being big with child', is brought to Turner by an officer of Laughton parish, on an order from Luke Spence and George Courthope, JPs of the district. Ann is ready to swear to the name of the father, so the next day Turner pays Susan Swift 6d to accompany Ann to Uckfield to see Mr Courthope there. Turner follows along about 9 o'clock, calling in at his mother's at Framfield on the way. After telling Courthope that Ann would be coming to see him, Thomas takes himself off to wait at The Maiden Head, the Uckfield hostelry owned by Mr Hulland. After Ann is examined to prove that she is pregnant and has taken an oath that the father is George Hyland, a labourer living in the parish of Laughton, Turner returns to Courthope's to get a warrant to apprehend Hyland and returns home. He calls at Mr French's to tell him what had happened. Mr French, yeoman, is tenant of the largest farm in the area and looked up to by Thomas Turner. Arriving home about 2.05 pm, Turner gets together with Mr Vine, Mr French and Joseph Fuller at Jones's alehouse to decide how to take Hyland. They agree that French and Turner should go to Hyland's house in the evening. If there is a light in the house and Hyland is at home, they will take him. Turner then leaves Jones's but the others stay, spending 11d, charged to the parish account. In the evening Turner, John Watford, the headborough (petty constable) of East Hoathly, French and Turner go to Hyland's house in Laughton, but there is no light nor any hint that Hyland is at home. They stay, patrolling around the house, but eventually give up. Turner arrives home about 9.05 'and, I think, never more tired in my life.' His total expenses for the day were 5s. 2d, on the parish account. Journeying to and from Uckfield and Laughton would be over fifteen miles.

Sunday is a day of rest, but on Monday evening they go to Laughton to take George Hyland again. After seeing a light and hearing some talk, they go to find the headborough of Laughton. Unfortunately, the man they thought was he, was not, so as it was late they give up and go home.

Finally on Tuesday the plan meets with success. This time Turner's companion is Mr Hook. When they hear Hyland talking they go to Rabson, the headborough of Laughton, but he is reluctant to serve the warrant on George Hyland without more assistance. Turner protests that he and Hook can handle the situation as Hyland only has the use of one arm. Rabson refuses all suggestions, even when Turner offers 12d to one candidate, and then goes half a mile in the wrong direction to meet up with an overseer of the village to ask him to send word of the warrant for George Hyland to the other overseer. He dawdles here for twenty minutes before asking the overseer, Goad, to accompany them on their task. Thomas Turner has some harsh words about Rabson's attitude and handling of the business. They call back at his house to pick up Hook and go on to George Hyland's house. He and Ann Durrant are both in bed but get up to go to East Hoathly. They leave Rabson, 'the poor old man', behind and arrive about midnight, sending for Watford, the headborough. They go to Jones's pub and stay until after two, spending 3s. 2d. Then five of them, George Hyland and Ann Durrant, Watford, Hook and Turner go to Turner's house where they 'breakfasted on the remains of yesterday's dinner' and sit up all night.

On Wednesday morning Turner informs French of what has happened. Thomas Cornwell and Thomas Durrant (no relation to Ann) had watched the man all the morning. At about 8.30 am, the Laughton overseers, Goad and William Shoesmith, came to offer security for the child of 18d a week and 40s for Ann's lying-in expenses. Before accepting this, however, the East Hoathly parish council group of Mr Porter, the rector, with French, Vine and Joseph Fuller, think it better if Mr Courthope can persuade Hyland to marry Ann, 'Mr Porter endeavouring to

persuade the man the justness of his so doing.’ So Turner, French and Hyland set out for Uckfield about 10.20 am. They get nicely on their way when Hyland gets awkward, not wanting to go without a peace officer. They send for John Watford and the journey resumes when he arrives. Courthope disappoints Turner by not encouraging Hyland to marry, or reproving him for causing so much trouble to two parishes. He says that they should ask Shoesmith, the Laughton overseer, to be at Uckfield the next morning at 10 o’clock. Watford was to take care of Hyland until then. Turner spent 3d at The Maiden Head in Uckfield, then on returning to East Hoathly, spent 9d at The King’s Head. Watford, not wanting to stay in Uckfield, asks Courthope’s permission to go home. This is granted on condition that Hyland is taken back to Uckfield the next day. When Turner gets back to his home, he finds ‘all the people’ at his house. He asks French to come who orders them all to go to Jones’s. French and Turner both go there with the others but Turner does not stay long. His family dines on the remains of yesterday’s dinner (again!) but Turner does not join them, being in bed by 8.30 pm. He wrote a note to Shoesmith to be at Uckfield tomorrow by 10 o’clock, giving John Hesman 6d to take it.

It’s a good thing Turner went to bed early on Wednesday because about 11.10 he ‘was sent for down to Jones’s but did not go.’ Then about 12.30 am when they send for him again, he goes to find that Hyland has decided to marry Ann, on condition that he ‘should have £5, a ring value 10s, a wedding dinner and married with a licence.’ After about 30 minutes, ‘finding most of ‘em drunk’, Turner leaves to resume his bed. At 6 o’clock he rises again and on checking to see if Hyland is still agreeable to the marriage, finds he is not – so, back to bed until about 7.30 when he is sent for yet again. Now Hyland says that if Turner will get the licence, he will be married. French and Joseph Fuller agree that Turner should go to Lewes, the county town, for the licence, French lending him £1 16s, and Joseph Fuller his horse. He was then to meet everybody at Laughton church where the couple were to be wed. French would let Shoesmith know not to go to Uckfield.

Turner arrives at Lewes about 9.20 am but could not get the licence because 'the man was not there.' After breakfasting at The White Horse, Turner returns home, stopping at Laughton where everybody is waiting for the licence to go ahead with the marriage: Mr Porter, French, Joseph Fuller, John Durrant (Ann's brother or father), Thomas Cornwell, John Watford, George Hyland and Ann Durrant, who then all returned to East Hoathly. This journey cost Turner 1s 6d.

They dine, midday, again on 'the remains of Tuesday's dinner with the addition of some sausages.' George Hyland is sober and still determined to marry Ann, so they set off for Lewes again, Hyland on one of French's horses, John Watford on one of Mr Porter's and Turner again on one of Joseph Fuller's. Well on their way, Hyland gets nervous and changes his mind again. They start back to East Hoathly, he dithers again, saying that if he was given 40s more he would marry. So, they turn around to return to Lewes where Joseph Fuller Jr gives Hyland a note for 30s and 5 stone of beef 'to be paid on the day he was married to Ann Durrant.'² After buying the licence and the ring, they return to East Hoathly about 11.30. With the expense of the licence and ring, this journey cost £1.18s.3d.

On Friday, fickle Hyland changes his mind yet again and will not marry. Six East Hoathly parishioners, French, Vine, John Watford, Stephen Clinch, Hyland and Turner, therefore all decided to go to Uckfield to see Courthope, who discharges the man and assures them that they would have proper security and some expenses. They then go to The Maiden Head, spending 18d, and come home 'thoroughly wet and fatigued about 6.20 and not a little overjoyed this troublesome affair is over...'

But no! – on Monday irresolute George Hyland 'sent word ... that he would be married today if the parish stood to their agreement as before.' French, Joseph Fuller and Mr Porter agree, and Turner, Stephen Clinch and Thomas Fuller go to Laughton 'to get the parson ready, but he was not at home'.

Thomas Fuller goes back to East Hoathly to get Mr Porter, their curate, to officiate at Laughton. Joseph Fuller accompanies George Hyland and Ann Durrant to Laughton; Mr French gets the clerk. When Mr Porter comes, the couple are finally married 'in the presence of Mr French, Jos. Fuller, Robt. Durrant, (Turner) and several people as ringers in the belfry'. 'Stephen Clinch was father to give her away' and he and Joseph Fuller sign the register. George and Ann both sign with their mark. Turner paid 15s. 11d total for Mr Shenton's fees (curate of Laughton parish), 2s. 6d for the clerk, and 2s. 11d for the bell ringers. Now they could really be 'overjoyed this troublesome affair is over.'

All that remained to be done was to deliver Hyland and his wife to Goad, one of the overseers of Laughton, on Tuesday.

The total expenses incurred to arrange this marriage from 18 February to 1 March 1757 were £10. 7s. In 1757 this could buy a horse or pay a skilled tradesman for 103 days work. This would now in 2023 be worth £2,290.92 according to CPI inflation indicator. Twenty-six people were involved, some more, some less. Thomas Turner made three journeys to Uckfield, five to Laughton and two to Lewes. Except for the trips to Lewes on a borrowed horse, they were all on foot in chilly wet February weather, several after dark.

George Hyland did well for himself and, one would hope, Ann. CPI inflation indicator, equates £6. 10s in 1757 now in 2023 to be worth £1,438.74, plus 70 pounds of beef which could be sold to neighbours. Although technically under arrest, he was seemingly treated very well, no doubt to keep him good-tempered. He and Ann spent hours on two occasions at Jones's, no doubt as drunk as any of 'em, and were fed at least once at Turner's. The ride to Lewes, the big county town, may have been a big thrill.

Nobody seems to have asked Ann Durrant what she thought about the affair, but as they were cohabiting anyway, and the baby was on the way, no doubt she was glad to make things

legal. Was she perhaps the brains behind his balky behaviour to increase the bribes? Strangely, although the marriage can be found in the Laughton parish records in Ancestry and Findmypast, at Laughton, the earliest of four baptisms of children of this couple was that of John on 17 January 1759. Had they delayed John's baptism, hoping for more bribes?

The local hostelrys also benefited from the proceedings: Mr Halland's The Maiden Head at Uckfield; Jones's and The King's Head at Uckfield; and The White Horse at Lewes.

¹ *The Diary of a Village Shopkeeper 1754-1765* by Thomas Turner, edited by David Vaisey: London, The Folio Society, 1998.

² 14 pounds to a stone, $5 \times 14 = 70$ pounds of beef.

THE ROUTE OF THE CENSUS ENUMERATOR

By Rex Watson

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Introduction

When using census returns, for a named street without numbers, we have probably all wondered at times whether the order of the entries indicates truly the order along the street where occupants lived. With numbers of course there isn't much doubt usually. But in earlier censuses it is less common for houses on a street to have numbers, particularly in villages perhaps. There is too the problem of streets with houses on both sides, and even for a one-sided street, which is the direction of travel of an enumerator who is keeping things in order.

In such a situation the researcher cannot have confidence in pinpointing just where on a street that his or her family lived. Contemporary maps may help in some way.

One way to get a better idea about a street might be to compare two successive censuses, but of course ten years is a long time: people move (including within the street), and they die!

Various clues can help, for example the presence of shop-s and other non-domestic buildings, information occasionally in the return about side streets, etc. One thing we must remember is that sometimes houses were knocked down to allow a side street to be constructed: also sometimes two houses would be made into one.

My 'street'

From my earliest days of research, the row of cottages known as 'Cop Row' (colloquially 'the Cop Row'), beyond Lane Head in Burnley, just before Harle Syke, has been central for my WATSON family and a number of associated lines. I have written about them a couple of times in this Journal [1,2]. The cottages date from about 1819 (evidence from Haggate Baptist registers), and were originally known, not surprisingly, as 'New Row' (sometimes 'near Saxifield'), also as 'Long Row'. This latter is quite appropriate, as there were about forty. They survive largely today, and are on the northern side of the road (Briercliffe Road). They would have been built principally for handloom weavers, having relatively large upper windows to allow in a good amount of light. (Handloom weavers received yarn on cops) They have received a fair amount of attention from building historians (for example [3]), and from local and other historians (for example [4]). The 1848 first edition OS six-inch map [5] shows the row as nearly continuous, with one or two narrow breaks, presumably to allow access to fields behind. Notably, the first cottages at the western (Saxifield) end can be seen to be set back from the road, and indeed today the first three there have small gardens at their fronts; next today is the greatly extended Craven Heifer pub. Holden [3 again] suggests that the building of the row was piecemeal, but this would largely be pre-1841.

The census of this year shows forty houses, none unoccupied, in a straight run in the Enumerator's return. Some contain more than one household, the subsidiary ones for a house often it would seem involving lodgers, usually young adults, though occasionally small families. I have made the natural assumption that the first named occupant can be regarded as 'Head of (main) family', though unlike in later censuses this is not made explicit. It is not my intention to perform a detailed analysis of the various occupants. However, of the 'Heads', six were women. Occupations were given for 39 : 30 weavers, 2 beersellers, 2 grocers, and 1 each of plasterer, farmer, labourer, Chelsea Pensioner (!) and basket maker.

The surnames have some repetitions of course, and virtually all are ones which are recognisable as locally common, including some which are common in much of Lancashire and Yorkshire, or even nationally, for instance WATSON, SIMPSON, SPENCER. Amongst the distinctive local names are HEAP, EMMOTT, NUTTER, NUTTALL, DEARDEN/DUERDEN, STANWORTH. Twenty or thirty years later the story would be different, with 'incomers' destined for the mills in Harle Syke particularly.

The Row lay in Enumeration District 9 of the Burnley Registration District, and was just in Burnley township rather than Briercliffe township. Immediately preceding is Walshaw, on the other side of the road. And immediately following are Saxifield then Bullions Close, these being farmsteads on the same side as the Row, a little to the west, in the direction roughly of Lane Head (though there were actually two Saxifield farms, Higher and Lower, one on each side of the road, and only one, just 'Saxifield', is named). So if the Enumerator kept to an order along the Row, even with perhaps the odd exception, it seems likely that he moved from east to west.

Now evidence such as this can perhaps be used for many other places, and it is unfortunate that we normally have to wait ten years to seek some corroboration. Fortunately, in this case, we

have to wait less than two years, as with be seen in the next section.

I have simply numbered the forty Heads from 1 to 40 through the return.

1843

There is a marvellous genealogical resource for the area, covering Briercliffe, Extwistle, Gt. Marsden, and Cop Row, relatively little known perhaps. This is a survey [6] undertaken in February 1843 by local Quakers, looking into the needs of the poor, a large group at this time of extreme hardship for handloom weavers and some others. Following the survey, disbursements of clothing, blankets, etc were made. In fact this Quaker charity in the area, led by the ECROYD family, operated at times of need from about 1820 to 1850. For detail, a number of printed sources can be seen [7,8,9].

The survey can be regarded as a 'census', in that at least for Cop Row all houses were visited, with very detailed information for most, especially financial. For the limited purpose here we have the name and age of the Head of the house, allowing most 'Heads' in 1841 to be identified. There are again forty houses listed in the Row, actually numbered 1 to 40 in the document. Thus we are in a position to compare closely with 1841.

Thirty-three of the 1841 Heads are found in 1843, allowing one widow to be included instead of her husband. It is possible that the other seven in 1841 may be related in some way to members of the other seven in 1843, but I have not gone into this.

Working again on the assumption that the 'visitor' listed houses largely in order, it is immediately apparent that he worked in the opposite direction to the 1841 Enumerator, that is he moved from west to east. This is seen clearly by looking at the ends in 1841, with positions in 1843, as follows. Half the Row is covered.

Ends

1841	1843	1841	1843
1 Samuel SIMPSON	40	31 Leonard EMMOTT	13
2 James BRADSHAW	39	32 John SPENCER	11
3 William SPENCER	33	33 John HEYS	10
4 Dan FOULDS	38	34 James THORNTON	9
5 Grace STANWORTH	-	35 Susan DUCKETT	8
6 Hartley STUTTARD	36	36 William WALTON	6
7 Nancy CLOUGH	35	37 Sarah SPENCER	-
8 Ellen NUTTER	-	38 Ely WATSON	5
9 John NUTTALL	32	39 Henry WATSON	4
10 John NUTTER	34	40 James WATSON	2
			(widow)

In fact, Samuel SIMPSON was a beerseller, and it looks as if he occupied the house right at the eastern end, which later, with building developments, would become the Commercial Inn. By contrast the other 1841 beerseller Joshua HEAP was in the middle in both 1841 and 1843. There is no sign of the later Craven Heifer at the western end : see my recent article [2 again].

A personal perspective

In the above, Henry WATSON is my 3-gt grandfather, and Ely and James his brothers. It looks very much from 1841 that they occupied the three cottages already noted as set back from the road. Possibly by 1843 there had been minor movement, or more likely perhaps the 1843 visitor was not adhering very closely to strict order in his list.

Others in the Row belong in my family too : Richard WATSON 2-gt grandfather ; Joshua HEAP, Richard's father-in-law ; Leonard EMMOTT and Susan DUCKETT a little more distant.

In conclusion

To summarise the methodology here. Neither the 1841 nor the 1843 listing, in isolation, can confidently tell us how methodical the compiler was. Taken together however, each strongly supports the other. Each then was listing properties pretty much in order, albeit opposite ones, with only limited exceptions, after making allowance for changes due to death or removal of the dwellers. Mathematically inclined readers might feel a correlation coefficient lurking, in relation to the listings : its value would be fairly close to minus 1. (I used to teach Statistics!)

More of this sort of thing could be done by looking at 1851 and later censuses perhaps. One other way to try to pinpoint ancestral homes, putting it grandly, would be to seek out house deeds, possibly in solicitors' accumulations, older ones often being deposited in record offices, or being held by occupants of houses still standing, or their solicitors. Of course this can be intrusive. In fact all these Cop Row cottages would almost certainly be rented in the 1840s, and I have not come across any information on landlords.

Finally

I would welcome general comments and queries.

Full details about the 1843 document are to be found in my 1975 Local Population Studies article [8 again] : this can be found online. Be aware that if you look at this, there were a couple of editorial errors, including one glaring one in the labelling of an axis in a diagram!

References

- [1] Rex Watson, Henry Watson : A Favourite Ancestor, Lancashire, August 1989.
- [2] Rex Watson, A 2Gt-Grandfather and Craven (Heifers), Lancashire, May 2023

- [3] Roger N. Holden, Manufacturing the Cloth of the World, p42, 2017
- [4] Roger Frost, A Lancashire Township, various refs, 1982
- [5] OS maps available online on the National Library of Scotland site
- [6] Farrer Papers, Manchester Central Library, L1/2/24/60 (as in 1995 ; there may be a more recent re-cataloguing).
- [7] D. Rayson, Poverty in NW Lancs, 1819-53, The Manchester Review, 12(2), 1972
- [8] Rex Watson, Poverty in North-East Lancashire in 1843, Local Population Studies, 55, 1995
- [9] See [4], pp 168-73

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1816 – THE YEAR WITHOUT A SUMMER

By Olive Thexton

There was no one day that made 1816 one of the worst years in English history. It was every day when our ancestors woke up to a dark sky with no sun. For several years crops had been poor, but harvests in 1816 were a disaster. Weeks passed into months and the sun did not appear to ripen the produce, just torrential rain and thunderstorms.

On the highlands of Lancashire there was deep snow in July and in Yorkshire there were floods. It was the worst weather for over 1000 years.

Crops that were making it through were destroyed by storms. Wheat was affected by mildew, peas and beans never ripened and hops in parts of Kent totally failed. In the South turnips and potatoes managed to grow and they became the staple food.

Families from Wales walked to England to beg for food. There was famine in Ireland when crops failed and then there was a

typhus epidemic.

The distress was widespread across Europe and America. The Corn Law added to the troubles and the weather was connected to the biggest volcanic eruption ever recorded on the Island of Sumbawa on 5 April 1815, which produced tidal waves and whirlwinds locally. In the long term it threw large amounts of dust in the air, which affected climatic conditions throughout the world by blocking out the sun's rays.

My thoughts now are to ask if anyone has noticed Parish Registers for around that time?

A sense of national calamity was worsened by the end of the Napoleonic War and hunger now led to all kinds of unrest and riots.

I wonder what it was like if recorded in other countries?

BRICK WALLS AND RESEARCH PLANS

By Ron Chapman

We all come across brick walls. They might seem unsolvable. The records could be missing or too many people fit the bill.

Well, occasionally I produce a Research Plan. I first heard of these when I attended a free course on Family History in an online session at Strathclyde University. I have found them very useful. It helps concentrate your thoughts. I combine them with research logs which I will show you another time.

These documents were in my case produced by my Family History Programme – Family Historian. The programme just produces a blank form and I had to type in the information. You could easily replicate the form in your word processor. It might seem a lot of work but in my case I just cut and pasted much of the data from Family Historian.

This is an actual case I was working on for a client. In the end the problem was solved, with help from Carl Burton and Fiona Hall. The Research Plan is as follows –

Mary Ann Hulme

Title: Mary Ann Hulme

Type: Plan No. 5

Date: 27/9/2023

Description: To discover the birth and parents of Mary Ann Hulme (2)

Status: open

Research Plan

Focus person: **Mary Ann Hulme**

1. Establish objective

Define your goal, keep it concise

- To discover the birth and parents of Mary Ann Hulme (2)

2. List known facts

List everything you know to help with your objective

- Mary Ann Hulme married John Thomas Crankshaw 17/12/1881 at Christ Church, Ainsworth, Bolton.
- The marriage certificate states that she is aged 20, a spinster and he is 25, a bachelor.
- John Thomas's occupation is a "Bleacher".
- Mary Ann is not shown to have an occupation.
- John Thomas Crankshaw signed the marriage certificate but Mary Ann only used a Mark.
- John Thomas's father was William Crankshaw and he was a "Sexton" (grave digger).
- Mary Ann's father was Thomas Hulme and he was a "Bleacher".
- It does not indicate, as it often is, that either father was dead at the time of the marriage.
- The witnesses are James Crankshaw (John

Thomas's younger brother) and Ellen Hulme.

- Mary Ann is living at Brightmet on 1 July 1882 when Alice her daughter was Christened.
- Mary Ann is living at Brightmet on 3 May 1884 when William her son was Christened.
- Mary Ann is living at Brightmet on 30 October 1886 when Amy her daughter was Christened.
- Mary Ann is living at 626 Spring View, Brightmet on 5 April 1891 and her occupation was Cotton Weaver when the 1891 Census was taken. The census states that she was 29 years old and was born in Ainsworth.
- Mary Ann is living at 646 Bury New Road, Brightmet on 4 August 1894 when Elsie her daughter was Christened.
- Mary Ann is living at 1056 Bury Road, Bolton on 31 March 1901 and her occupation was Cotton Weaver when the 1901 Census was taken. The census states that she was 39 years old and was born in Ainsworth.
- Mary Ann is living at 1056 Bury Road, Bolton on 2 April 1911 and her occupation was not specified when the 1911 Census was taken. The census states that she was 49 years old, had been married 29 years and had 4 children and all of them were still alive. It states that she was born in Ainsworth.
- A possible death for Mary Ann was found on Lancashire BMD in 1961 in South West Bolton. She was said to be 56 years old.

3. Form a working hypothesis

What do you think the facts are?

- All three censuses suggest the place of birth as being Ainsworth.
- The marriage certificate suggests she was born in 1861.
- All three censuses suggest she was born in 1862.
- The age given on the possible death certificate

was given as 56 suggesting a year of birth of 1860.

- The father was Thomas, possibly alive in 1881.
- The 1881 census was taken on 3 April 1881, a few months before the marriage on 17 December 1881.

4. Identify sources

List the sources to check to test your hypothesis.

- Birth/Baptism of Mary Ann Hulme (See Research Log – Birth/Baptism of Mary Ann Hulme 1861 +/- 5 years in Lancashire)
- Lancashire BMD
- FreeBMD
- Lancashire OPC
- GRO births
- Ancestry.co.uk
- Find My Past
- Family Search
- FreeReg
- Where were all the principal people at the marriage in the 1881 census? (See Research Log – 1881 Census for principles at Marriage)
- Ancestry.co.uk
- Find My Past
- Family Search
- FreeCen
- Look for missing records on TNA

5. Implement research strategies

Detail the work you need to do and implement them. Remember to log the answers even when they are "not found"

- Search for Birth of Mary Ann Hulme. (See Research Log RecId 6 – Birth / Baptism of Mary Ann Hulme 1861 +/- 5 in Lancashire)

See the Research Log RecId 7 Looking at a Renniker being Mary Ann's mother
Also Research Log RecId 8 Looking at the possibility of Hulme / Nuttall family,
Also Research Log RecId 9 Looking at the possibility of Hulme / Grundy family,
Also Research Log RecId 10 Looking at the possibility of Hulme / Cooper family.

CAPTAIN GEORGE GUY HERMON-HODGE

From Western Front Association in Lancaster

Submitted by Mike Coyle e-mail: mike.coyle@btinternet.com

A former colleague has in her possession a WW1 'Death Penny' for George Guy Hermon-Hodge, she having acquired it after her aunt died. How, why and when her aunt acquired it is a family mystery; they are not related to George Guy.

Laureen would like to dispose of the death penny: she knows they are not, as a general rule, worth a lot of money, but would like to donate this one to a good home, and has asked me for advice ... and in turn I'm asking you and our branch members for comment and advice!

The CWGC shows Captain George Guy Hermon-Hodge, Royal Horse Artillery, died 7 July 1916, aged 32 years, and he is buried at Gezaincourt Communal Cemetery in France. He was the son of the 1st Baron Wyfold of Accrington and Baroness Wyfold (nee Hermon) of Wyfold Court, Reading, Oxfordshire. Guy's brother John Percival Hermon-Hodge also fell.

The inscription on Guy's headstone reads "*Son of Lord and Lady Wyfold – Quo Fas et Gloria Ducunt*" (the Latin translates as "*Where Right and Glory Lead*" or "*Whither Duty and Glory Lead*", this being the motto of the Royal Regiment of Artillery).

A Google search shows George Guy was the third son of Colonel Sir Robert Trotter Hermon-Hodge. His maternal grandfather,

Edward Hermon, had acquired much wealth from the Lancashire cotton mills, and it was he who had built Wyfold Court.

George Guy attended Winchester College (and is commemorated there), then commissioned in the RFA in 1903. He died at Doullens of wounds received on 28 June 1916 while commanding his battery during the preliminary bombardment for the Battle of the Somme. He is commemorated on the war memorial in the village of Rotherfield Peppard, which is near Reading in South Oxfordshire, and the Imperial War Museum memorial site shows he has a brass plaque, but I can't see where that plaque is (Winchester College?)

Anyway, I would think the best home for this death penny is either the family (how was it allowed to leave the family?!); Winchester College; or the relevant Regimental Museum. Any comments/advice would be gratefully received by Laureen and myself.

DEATHS NOTIFIED

Mary Jackson – Pendle & Burnley
Jack Walter Slater (7558) - Darwen
David Dignall (5189) – Bury & 'Straits' Ossy

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of the above.

Mary Jackson

It is with great sadness that I have to report the death of Mary Jackson, an ex-Committee member of the former Pendle and

Burnley Branch. Many people will remember Mary as a very kind and generous lady always willing to lend a hand with any branch activity. She had been a branch member for almost 30 years and served on the committee for most of that time, a never-failing source of good ideas and sound advice.

Mary was a skilled researcher who was always willing to offer help to anyone who needed it. She was also part of the original BMD Team, working on the Burnley registers for over a decade. She was the principal organiser of our annual day trips to many places in Lancashire and beyond.

Outside of family history, she was a keen gardener and amateur painter. But her pride and joy was a beautiful red 1950s MG sports car, which she and her late husband regularly took to owners club meetings.

Mary was a lovely person, with a great sense of humour, and I am pleased to have called her my friend. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

From Jean Ingham

Jack Walter Slater

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Jack Slater. Jack had been a member of the Society from 2003 until 2018, and was a regular member of the Blackburn branch. When the branch commenced work on the LancashireBMD Jack and his wife, Marion, were a great help with work in the Blackburn Register Office. He will be missed, and we send our condolences to his family.

From Tony Foster

David Dignall

David joined the Society in October 1997. I first visited the Research Centre at Oswaldtwistle in 2008, I think shortly after I became the Treasurer that year. There I met David and Christine Dignall and David and Brenda Hustler. They were all

very active in the work of the Research Centre and had been heavily involved in it from its inception.

David and Christine were members of the Bury Branch, where David helped with transcription work at Bury Archives. They later moved to the Rochdale Branch.

They were regular attendees every Thursday at the 'Straits' with Christine handling reception and ensuring everybody signed in while working on transcriptions. Their continued involvement at Oswaldtwistle has lasted for over twenty years. Christine passed away in 2022.

David continued to attend the Research Centre every Thursday and besides being a great help with computers and IT was always eager to help visitors work on discovering their family history and ancestors. He and Christine started and developed the exchange certificate database. He had also recently checked and updated the Straits Library Catalogue.

David also helped with some family history fairs – the last one earlier this year at Greenmount. A few days later he was suddenly admitted to hospital. After a spell there he was moved to Sheffield near his son's family where he was slowly recovering. Sadly on Friday 8 August he took a sudden turn for the worse and passed away.

It is the end of an era at Oswaldtwistle Research Centre. They are both greatly missed.

Farewell David. Rest in peace!

We send our sincere heartfelt condolences to all their family.
From Stephen Benson

MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Abbreviations:

c.Bury = Bury area
 e.20C = early 20th century
 m.18C = mid 18th century
 c.1650 = about 1650
 e.1763 = earliest ancestral link
 l.19C = late 19th century

N.B. The 19th Century ran from 1801 to 1900. Unless otherwise specified, all locality names are in the pre- 1974 County of Lancashire. All other references are to pre- 1974 Counties.

Mr. C. J. Ward (353)

87 Palmer Road, Blackburn. Lancashire BB1 8BS

e-mail: chrisward1@btinternet.com

BOARDMAN	LAN	Marton, Fylde	19C
DEWHURST	LAN	Fylde	19C
HANSON	LAN	Bowland	18C-19C
JACKSON	LAN	Hutton, Hoghton	19C
JACKSON	WES		18C-19C
LAWSON	LAN	Bowland	19C
LIPTROT	LAN	Bolton	19C
SHEPHERD	WES		19C
WARD	LAN	Ribchester, Gt Harwood, Rishton, Blackburn	17C-20C
WHALLEY	LAN	Lower Darwen	19C
YATES	LAN	Blackburn	19C

Mr. R. Peaker (8413)

MILLINGTON	SAL	Melverley	pre 1910
POSTLES	CHS	Middlewich	pre 1850
ROWLEY	ERY	Pocklington	pre 1870
SIMPKIN	LAN	Golbourne	pre 1900

Mr. M. Aspden (11361)

AINSWORTH

WADDINGTON LAN

12C+

Ms. A. Kerfoot (11518)

LAVERY

Mr. D. Yates (11545)

TOWNS

Ms. A. Golden (11549)

GOLDEN LAN Blackburn

1900+

Ms. J. Hall (11552)

e-mail lotsofwill11@outlook.com

RANDLE SAL Market Drayton

1777

Ms. P. Archer (11555)

ARCHER IRL Antrim

1900-1940

NOTES AND NEWS AND BOOK REVIEWS

Steve and Jennifer Benson run regular help sessions at
Tarleton Library. Everyone welcome.

FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH, 10.00 am to 12.00

**PRESTON BRANCH HELP DESK AT
LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES**

Jennifer Benson, Joan Clayton, Peter Bamford and Stewart McLaughlin run regular help sessions at Lancashire Archives, Bow Lane, Preston. Everyone welcome.

THIRD FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH,
09.30 am to 12.00pm

**HYNDBURN BRANCH HELP DESK AT
OSWALDTWISTLE LIBRARY**

Muriel Smith and sometimes Eileen Bullock run regular help sessions at Oswaldtwistle Library. Everyone welcome.

FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH,
10.00 am TO 12.00 pm

BARROWFORD LIBRARY

Barry Dickinson holds regular bookable Family History one to one surgery sessions at Barrowford Library.

MOST MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS from 2pm

Please book on the LCC website or phone/call in to see the local librarian.

HELPING HANDS

E-mail: help@lfhhs.org.uk

Do you have a family history question or need a library/archive lookup then Helping Hands might be able to help.

OUT OF COUNTY STRAYS AND NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS

Did you know that the Society still collect any Out of County Strays or Newspaper Cuttings or Stories?

If you have or find any, please forward to

LFHHS, 2 Straits, Oswaldtwistle BB5 3LU

Many members have ancestors who have strayed away from Lancashire and been lost to their families forever.

SCANNED PDF COPIES OF ALL OUR OLD FICHE NOW AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE BY EMAIL

Our microfiche have now been scanned and are available through our website shop.

Orders are currently being sent out as an attachment to one or more emails, depending on the size of the order.

The prices are the same as the original microfiche, but obviously excluding postal charges.

In the near future it will also be available to purchase as an immediate download.

Look on the website for the shop section showing "Scanned images of microfiche" – this leads to 5 sections divided by alphabetic first letter of location - A-D, E-H, I-L, M-Q, R-Z. Click on <https://www.lfhhs.org/index.php?cPath=63>

EXHIBITIONS AND FAIRS

Society Coordinators – Steve and Jennifer Benson

If you would like to help and take part in any of the fairs please contact **Stephen Benson** (telephone 01772-422808 or e-mail Stephen.t.benson@btinternet.com)

Garstang Heritage Day
At
St Thomas Church Parish Hall,
Church Street, Garstang PR3 1PA
On
Saturday 6 September 2025
11.00am – 4.00pm

Warton History Weekend
At
St Oswald's Church 92 Main St. Warton, Carnforth LA5 9PG
and Archbishop Hutton School Back Lane, Warton,
Carnforth LA5 9QU
on
11 and 12 October 2025
10.30am – 4pm

Another fair we will be attending and flying the flag.

We shall be attending the **Huddersfield & District FHS Fair on Saturday 25 October 2025.**

Their website is <https://hdfhs.org.uk/the-family-history-fair/> for more details.

If you attend, stop by and say hello.

BOOK REVIEW

From Alec Hillier

KISS MYSELF GOODBYE : THE MANY LIVES OF AUNT MUNCA

By Ferdinand Mount

I have just read this book, and thought it would probably be of interest to people in the Society who think that they have problems with their research.

There are illegitimate births, name changes, bigamous marriages, and a whole lot more problems sorted out by detective work and chance finds. It was published in 2020 so it is a good read.

I got the book from the Suffolk Library, but it should be widely available from local libraries in the UK and possibly world wide.

This is the library summary of the book.

Aunt Munca never told the truth about anything. Calling herself after the mouse in a Beatrix Potter story, she was already a figure of mystery during the childhood of her nephew Ferdinand Mount.

Half a century later, a series of startling revelations sets him off on a tortuous quest to find out who this extraordinary millionairess really was. What he discovers is shocking and irretrievably sad, involving multiple deceptions, false identities and abandonments. The story leads us from the back streets of Sheffield at the end of the Victorian age to the highest echelons of English society between the wars.

BOOK REVIEW

From and by Society Vice President Terry Walsh

BEGINNING MY FAMILY HISTORY

The '*Beginning My Family History – A six generation family research record book with paternal and maternal pedigree charts*' is an efficient and attractive method of recording and displaying the progress and results of family history research and a handy *aide memoire* to carry around when researching.

Throughout the exercise, the paternal and maternal sides are kept completely separate. The paternal family history is entered from the blue cover, and the maternal history from the pink cover. Each side includes a six-generation pedigree chart, pages for recording data of members of each main line marriage per generation, associated blank pages for entering notes describing sources of data, methodology for finding the information, and family recollections of the ancestors in each generation. There is also a system for recording re-marriages or new partnerships.

All main line individuals in marriages are allocated unique references to match entries in the record books pages with those on the pedigree charts. The referencing system provides an automatic system for filing away related documents and information on ancestors filed away elsewhere. The record pages also include a facility recording references of the 1841 to 1921 Censuses and the 1939 Register interrogated in respect of appropriate ancestors.

The publication can be used as an exercise book for new researchers attending beginner's courses organised by local Family History Society's, branches of the University of the Third Age (U3A) or other similar organisations.

The book is an ideal present to give to older children and young adults to encourage them to develop an interest in the hobby of family history while older relatives are still around to assist and recall stories about their ancestors.

Publisher: Robert Boyd Publications, 260 Colwell Drive,
WITNEY, OX28 5LW, UK
ISBN: 978-1-908738-38-7;
Size: 205x107mm (9.75 x 6.75 inches) paperback, 80 pages;
weight 238 gms.
Price from Publisher: £7.50 plus £2.10 postage in UK by Royal
Mail Click and Drop 48 hour service and a Mail Lite padded
envelope.

ALSO AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE FROM LFHHS ONLINE
BOOKSHOP VIA OUR WEBSITE WHERE POSTAGE VARIES
SLIGHTLY.

BOOK REVIEW

New Title from Pen & Sword Books

RAISING THE TUDORS MOTHERHOOD IN SIXTEENTH CENTURY ENGLAND

By Stephanie Kline

What was daily life like for a Tudor woman who was pregnant,
on average, every other year?

How did she raise children from infancy to adulthood?

What resources and support did she have?

How was she viewed by her community and peers?

For the vast majority of women in sixteenth-century England, motherhood was more than a choice. To become a mother was a duty to one's husband, an expectation by society, and a defining facet of her femininity and value to the world in which she lived. In a time when nearly all women were expected and encouraged to have children, and raise them according to strict religious and societal standards, the role of motherhood was arguably one of the most important and discussed topics by females of the Tudor period. Many of them spent half their lives conceiving, bearing and raising children – whether to join the humble ranks of workers, to inherit grand lands and titles, or even to sit upon the throne of England. Sixteenth-century

mothers across social ranks were connected by the societal pressures, judgments, and expectations placed upon them – but what did the job of mothering actually entail?

'Raising the Tudors' explores the life of the sixteenth-century woman – from the onset of fertility in adolescence through to the end of her childbearing years. From the prevailing medical theory of the four humours to the way Tudor physicians understood female reproductive anatomy and the process of conception, from the societal and romantic ideals of marriage to the experience of pregnancy and the travails of childbirth. It uncovers the role of the Tudor mother and the bonds she shared with her children through all stages of life – through infancy and toddlerhood, into adolescence and adulthood. It questions how she engaged with her children – how she cared for, taught, disciplined, and played with them. And finally, it examines her role in her adult children's – and their children's – lives and how her responsibilities and identities shifted as she aged. This book offers a comprehensive, thought-provoking, and at times sentimentally relatable view of the Tudor woman as she has never quite been viewed before. This is the story of motherhood in sixteenth-century England.

About the author:

Stephanie Kline holds a Master of Studies degree in Modern British & European History from Mansfield College, University of Oxford. Since 2011, she has run the popular website, The Tudor Enthusiast, where she blogs about all things related to the Tudor dynasty.

Edward VI: Henry VIII's Overshadowed Son is Stephanie's first historical biography. This is her second publication. She lives in Virginia with her husband and two children. For more information, visit www.thetudorenthusiast.weebly.com

ISBN: 9781399039376

232 pages – hardback – published June 2025 by Pen & Sword History.

BOOK REVIEW

A LANCASHIRE CHILDHOOD GROWING UP IN NELSON AND BURY IN THE 1960s

By Society Member Sharron Murray

Available from Amazon

Kindle price £2.50 – Paperback £7.99

154 pages size 6" x 9"

My family were incomers like most families in Nelson, brought there around the turn of the nineteenth century by the promise of work in the weaving sheds. A rainy Pennine town, Nelson was the ideal place for cotton which needs a damp atmosphere. My family came there from Blackburn and from Yorkshire seeking work, setting down roots and growing with the town. I arrived there in 1957, the most beautiful child ever born according to my father. Something went badly wrong there! A lively look at Nelson in the early sixties and Bury in the later sixties when we moved there, like our ancestors, for work.

The book also covers the Hartley's of Colne, how Nelson came to be, notable fires in both towns, school days and playing games.

David Lancaster kindly read the book for me and amongst many helpful comments for improvement of the manuscript wrote 'To the reader who grew up in Nelson (like me) there are many things which will bring back memories' and 'When the request came through Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society to read and comment on a book by someone who grew up in Nelson I volunteered thinking that's something I should do, but fearing the book might be rather dry and boring. It's anything but. I very much enjoyed reading it.'

Thank you David for your help.

POST 1857 WILLS GOOD NEWS



In 2023 a public consultation opened in England regarding the "Storage and Retention of Official Will Documents."

A possible move to a digital storage system had been proposed which could have resulted in the possible destruction of some paper wills. The Government has recently published its response stating it will "not pursue any reform that involves the destruction of original will documents."

On the other hand it seems the current cost (£1.50) to obtain copy of a will might increase in the future. Copies of post 1857 wills for England and Wales can be obtained from <https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/>

BRANCH NEWS

BLACKBURN & DARWEN Virtual Branch Meetings by ZOOM

**Check Members Forum and Website for more
information**

All members are welcome.

BURY Virtual Branch Meetings by ZOOM

Usually Second Tuesday of the month at 7pm

Copy and paste the link into your Browser. Don't forget to use the 'Passcode' following the link at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/sDpPG324PbnfYyGz81mChg4yraOjq0D5eh_NGghom8mvnOmZcvHdulghhkhdMpsu.vDAhidGSXWgBDCxU

Passcode: s!\$b1D8i

Check Members Forum and Website for more information.

All members are welcome.

CHORLEY

Secretary: Jayne Dixon

Branch e-mail: chorley@lfhhs.org.uk

We have had some excellent speakers in the last few months covering a diverse range of topics relating to local history, and we are looking forward to more of the same in the coming months.

July was our summer meeting, when the talk was followed with complementary strawberries and cream; something which was enjoyed by all, as it was a beautiful summer evening and we were able to take advantage of the wonderful outside patio at Primrose Gardens.

Our attendances continue to average 25, and as a result we have a very healthy financial position.

Megan Roberts,
Chorley Branch Chair

CHORLEY RESEARCH CENTRE

Our Chorley Research Centre opening days / times for August

Pop in and take a look at our incredible resources, make use of our computers with access to Ancestry and FindMyPast or just have a chat with our friendly and knowledgeable volunteers.

There is no need to book (*unless you are looking for specific resources to be made available*). Please see our website for full details.

Free parking is available on Hall Gate car park PR7 1XA

Monday 4 August
Wednesday 6 August
Friday 8 August
Saturday 9 August
Wednesday 13 August
Friday 15 August
Monday 18 August
Wednesday 20 August
Friday 22 August
Wednesday 27 August

Weekdays: 10am – 4pm Saturdays: Noon – 4pm

FYLDE

Secretary: Mrs. Olive Thexton, 7 Bispham Lodge, 251
Norbreck Road, Thornton Cleveleys FY5 1PE
Branch e-mail: fylde@lfhhs.org.uk

Each month we continue to meet. We discuss all aspects of our family history and our finds etc and the fact that we can ask questions and exchange information proves very useful.

This last meeting Mike brought a large selection of maps, although we did not get to view all of them. We also had a tithe map of Poulton brought by Christine. She reminded us of the importance of tithe maps and the schedules also. I used to travel to Lancashire Archives in order to view these. We had other maps and I took along my old A to Z books covering Manchester and London. Many years ago I was advised to look into Charity shops for old copies and they have proved useful. They show where relatives lived and looking on google earth maps showed me some streets that are still there. This shows the type of housing they occupied. It all adds a bit of interest to the family tree and lives that they lived.

I was looking through a lot of old documents saved over the years. One was a list of prisoners held in Lancaster Castle jail and the mention of a local place name drew my attention. Charged was T DANSON (30) for robbing H Robinson of a watch &c on the highway at Pilling. Further down it is noted that he was acquitted.

Future meetings – 6 August Mike will talk about War Memorials in regard to your family history.

3 September – exciting talk presented by Martin Jones with the title of 'THE MAN WHO SHOD WAR HORSES.' The family history of John Westhead, a blacksmith/farrier from a small Lancashire village, he died for his King and Country. At the heart of the story are original letters and documents, found in 2004 during a house clearance, relating to his World War 1 experience. He was killed in 1916 aged 44 and is buried in France. The story

and documents have been described by an Antique Road Show expert as 'LIKE GOLD DUST.'

On 1 October we will hold another research evening and see what other information we can find to pad out our family trees.

On 5 November Mike Coyle will give us a talk with the title 'Blackpool at War.'

Following this, on 3 December we will have our Quiz and Jacobs Join. No more meetings then until the branch AGM in March 2026.

If you have any queries in respect of the Fylde area please just email the address as given above.

HERALDRY GROUP

Contact Stephen Benson

We are looking into the possibility of conducting our meetings by Zoom for the benefit of interested members who live too far away to be able to travel for face-to-face meetings. No programme has been arranged, but notices will appear on the Members Forum and the Society website.

If you are interested in joining us, please let me know

HYNDBURN

(covering Accrington, Altham, Church, Clayton le Moors, Gt Harwood, Oswaldtwistle & Rishton)

Secretary: Eileen Bullock, 51 Hawthorn Avenue,
Oswaldtwistle,

Accrington. Lancs BB5 3AE

Branch e-mail: Hyndburn@lfhhs.org.uk

**New Venue : Accrington Sea Cadets, Harvey Street,
Oswaldtwistle, Accrington BB5 3LT**

**Now first Wednesday of each month.
Doors open 6.45pm for a 7.00 start.**

IRISH ANCESTRY GROUP

Branch e-mail: irish@lfhhs.org.uk

The group continues to meet most of the year face to face at Oswaldtwistle. We have access to Find My Past and Ancestry and other less well-known websites that hopefully are helpful to our membership.

In order to plan the meetings and for the branch to be useful to those who are at a distance – if you want to send your queries to us we will 'try' to prepare answers for the meeting. At our August meeting the Irish Ancestry Group had a number of fresh visitors researching their Irish Family History. Happily we were able to direct these individuals into hopefully new research areas.

On Saturday 11 October we will have a Zoom meeting at 1pm, with a speaker, Carol Lee, and the topic is 'An Irishman Missing in Manchester – The Paper Trail'. A family member who disappeared in 1870s Manchester and how he was tracked down following a paper trail he left behind.

If you want to join us please take a note of the Zoom joinings. If you would like more information about the Irish Ancestry Group please contact us via e-mail: irish@lfhhs.org.uk

Irish Ancestry Group

Zoom meeting on 11 October 2025 at 13.00 hours, London
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89150478453?pwd=hl23eyua07hsowVr1z4ZkC8UIyYMd0.1>

Meeting ID: 891 5047 8453

Passcode: 474902

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE

Morecambe Heritage Centre, Unit 29 Arndale Centre,
Morecambe LA4 5DH

First and third Friday 11 am–4 pm

and

Virtual Branch Meetings by ZOOM

Third Thursday of the month at 7pm

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Monthly:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZIuceusqD8iHtL6QQFTygjPOXNMh5WotZym/ics?](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZIuceusqD8iHtL6QQFTygjPOXNMh5WotZym/ics?IcsToken=98tyKuGurT0oHtKRuB2BrpwAA4_oa-jwpilHgrdxyi7UJRRKZQnGGdpsH7oqJ9Fe)

[IcsToken=98tyKuGurT0oHtKRuB2BrpwAA4_oa-jwpilHgrdxyi7UJRRKZQnGGdpsH7oqJ9Fe](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZIuceusqD8iHtL6QQFTygjPOXNMh5WotZym/ics?IcsToken=98tyKuGurT0oHtKRuB2BrpwAA4_oa-jwpilHgrdxyi7UJRRKZQnGGdpsH7oqJ9Fe)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86362464846?pwd=U3Z1ck9NNUpnQy85Q1ZlZmZyK2VvUT09>

Meeting ID: 863 6246 4846

Passcode: 647091

LONDON & SOUTH

Virtual Branch Meeting by ZOOM

Five Saturdays in the year at 2pm

Joint Cumbria/Lancashire/Cheshire/London & South

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8266...>

Meeting ID: 826 6367 7214

Passcode: 779416

These talks are open to **all members of the society**. They will continue Saturday afternoons on Zoom at 2pm, with the room opening at 1.30pm. If there is a topic or speaker which you think would be of interest to the group, please email me at the address below.

Submitted by Helen Conchar – Member 7279
E-mail: london2@lfhhs.org.uk or helsbels1997@gmail.com

PENDLE & BURNLEY
Virtual Branch Meetings by ZOOM

First Thursday of the month at 06:45 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Monthly: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86340652791>

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86340652791>

Meeting ID: 863 4065 2791

Passcode: Pendle77

Meeting ID: 863 4065 2791

Passcode: 53260774

Find your local number: <https://usj02web.zoom.us/j/86340652791>

It is encouraging that although no face-to-face meetings are presently being held, there has been so much interest from members to request zoom meetings/chats. The advantage of this is that members far and wide can now join in.

Check the Members Forum and Website for further information

PRESTON

Secretary: Stephen Benson, 32 Slater Lane, Leyland. Lancs
PR25 1TN Tel: 01772 422808
Branch e-mail: preston@lfhhs.org.uk

RIBBLE VALLEY
Virtual Branch Meetings by ZOOM

4th Thursday of the month at 6.45pm for 7pm start

Open for any members with Ribble Valley interests.

Ron Chapman

ROCHDALE

Secretary: Mrs. Rosemary Fitton, 13 Bowlers Walk, Rochdale.
Lancs OL12 6EN
Tel: 01706 – 356135
Branch e-mail: rochdale@lfhhs.org.uk

Thank you to all our members for your continued support.

We are pleased to welcome back retired Rochdale police officer Andy O’Sullivan to our April meeting to give a talk on the capture of The Black Panther. Donald Neilson or the Black Panther as he was known was a notorious criminal during the 1960s and 1970s. Starting off as a burglar, his crimes soon escalated to armed robbery, kidnap and murder. He managed to elude the police for many years until eventually he was caught by chance during a routine stop and search. He was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1976 and remained incarcerated until his death in 2011.

Leon Macleod was our speaker in May with an excellent talk on ‘The quirkiness of the English Language.’ Leon explained how the English language as we know it today has evolved over many centuries with Britain’s original Old English dialect gradually having been mixed over time with many other languages which have been introduced by people settling in Britain from other countries. Leon gave numerous examples of how complicated English can be with many words having different meanings and spellings, this can be very confusing

and not easy for those trying to learn English. It was a fascinating talk giving us much to think about.

We look forward to welcoming Keith Mellor at our August meeting with his talk on the History of Motorbikes and Clocks. Please come along if you can.

ROSSENDALE

Branch e-mail: rossendale@lfhhs.org.uk

We had our AGM as usual at our March meeting, and were able to report another successful year. Our numbers have been steady and although we made a small loss over the year, our balances are still comfortably in the black. However, our branch bank, Lloyds, have started charging £1 a week to run our account, so that won't improve our finances! The branch was short of a Treasurer, but Jean Williams volunteered to fill that post. We also still need a Programme Organiser. Jean Harrison was re-elected as Minutes Secretary, Michael Hiluta as Projects Co-ordinator, Leo Turner as Deputy Chairman and John Dalton as Chairman.

Wilf Day said he is happy to continue to run the branch's website, as well as doing the public help sessions with Michael Hiluta on Tuesday afternoons in Rawtenstall Library.

Following the AGM, Jean Williams gave a short talk on how she was able to use DNA analysis to get over a brick wall she had been struggling with for some years.

Local speaker Lavinia Tod spoke about L. S. Lowry, the famous Lancashire painter, at our April meeting, with many less-familiar details of his life.

In May we had a research evening, using the wi-fi connection and large wall screen the chapel have had installed. Leo and Wilf were able to show trees they had built up, in particular,

using the Family Search website. We also got all the project books from our store cupboard to remind us what is available from the large amount of work done by members in past years. Peter Watson, a popular speaker we have had before, came for our June meeting to give us his talk 'Grave Disclosures' about interesting grave-related matters he has found in his researches.

Whitworth Museum was our destination for our visit in June, and we found a fascinating collection of local memorabilia very well displayed there. However, for family historians the more interesting part was the explanation of the database the Whitworth Historical Society volunteers there have built. They have a lot of original records relating to Whitworth, and these have been recorded on their MODES professional cataloguing system. They have local records which rarely survive elsewhere, such as those about the evacuee programme of WW2, detailing children arriving and the families they went to live with. They also have Whitworth birth and death returns 1895 to 1959, burial records for all three of Whitworth's sites, and baptism register entries for many churches. Some school admission registers have also been listed. If anyone has ancestors from there, a visit is essential. Their website gives more details:

<https://www.whitworthhistoricalsociety.org.uk/>

They are regularly open on Saturdays, 11am – 4pm, but private visits can be arranged.

John Dalton

THE NOVEMBER JOURNAL WILL CONTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT RENEWING YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP.

Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society

Branch Locations



Face to face **BRANCH** meetings currently held at Chorley, Fylde, Hyndburn, Irish Ancestry, Lancaster and Morecambe, Preston, Rochdale, and Rossendale.

Virtual Branch Meetings by Zoom are conducted by Blackburn & Darwen, Bury, Heraldry, Irish Ancestry (sometimes), Lancaster & Morecambe (sometimes) London & South, Pendle & Burnley, Ribble Valley, and Society Virtual Group.

YOUR SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP ENTITLES YOU TO JOIN IN ANY OF THE ABOVE BRANCH OR GROUP MEETINGS.

THE LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY AND HERALDRY SOCIETY
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Society Secretary – Vacant secretary@lfhhs.org.uk

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Research Centres: 2 Straits, Oswaldtwistle, ACCRINGTON BB5 3LU
Tel: 01254 239919 (Answerphone)
For opening times see www.lfhhs.org.uk

Chorley Family History Centre, Astley Hall Farmhouse, Hallgate,
Astley Village, CHORLEY PR7 1XA Tel: 01257 231600
For opening times see www.cfhrc.com/bookings.html

PLEASE NOTE:

Changes of address and non-receipt of journals should be reported to **Membership Secretary**, 18 Glencross Place, Blackpool FY4 5AD. If you are aware of the death of any member kindly advise **Sue Foster** who will ensure that future magazines are not sent out. Thank you.



If undelivered please return to:
Membership Secretary, Sue Foster, 18 Glencross Place, Blackpool FY4 5AD

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