

LANCASHIRE

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No. 2



Fylde Coat of Arms

THE LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY & HERALDRY SOCIETY

Formerly Rossendale Society for Genealogy & Heraldry
(Lancashire)

Inaugurated 1973. Registered Charity Number 513437

President: John Dalton

Vice-Presidents: Rodney Hampson, Terry Walsh, Tony Foster,
Margaret Purcell

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(one year), £60 (3 years)**

**Renewals are due on the 1st January. Cheques should be
crossed and made payable to Lancashire Family History &
Heraldry Society and sent to the Membership Secretary.**

MEETING VENUES

**BLACKBURN &
DARWEN**

**Special Interest Group (Zoom)
Possibly First Thursday of the month from July**

BURY

**Special Interest Group (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 Special Interest Group(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 Special Interest Group (Zoom)) as advised

**LANCASTER &
MORECAMBE** Morecambe Heritage, Unit 29 Arndale Centre,
Morecambe LA4 5DH
First and third Friday 11 am–4 pm or
Special Interest Group (Zoom)
Third Thursday of the month at 6.45pm for
7pm start.

LONDON & SOUTH Special Interest Group (Zoom)
Five meetings a year on Saturdays at 2.00pm as
advised.

**PENDLE &
BURNLEY** **Special Interest Group (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 Special Interest Group (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 (Zoom)
Second Tuesday of the month 6.30pm for 7pm start
as advised.

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When sending items or articles for inclusion in the journal it is now necessary for you to give permission to print your e-mail or contact details. Thank you

BRANCH AND GROUP PROGRAMMES

2025

17 May SOCIETY CONFERENCE AND AGM
Rhyddings Methodist Church Hall
Watson Street off Rhyddings Street
Oswaldtwistle BB5 3EP

22 May – Ribble Valley Zoom 7pm

28 May – Preston Jack Grime – DNA reveals his secret –
 Bill Grime

28 May – Rochdale – The quirkiness of the English Language
 – Leon Macleod

4 Jun – Fylde –

4 Jun – Hyndburn –

4 Jun – Rossendale –

5 Jun – Pendle & Burnley Zoom 7pm

10 Jun – Virtual Zoom 6.30 for 7pm – A History of the Scold's
 Bridle in Early Modern Britain – Colin Penny

12 Jun – Chorley – The Impact of the American Civil War on
 Lancashire – Steve Irwin

14 Jun – Irish – 2pm Advice & Research Workshop at Straits

19 Jun – Lancaster & Morecambe Zoom 7pm

25 Jun – Preston The Historic Importance of Bank Hall –
 Janet Edwards

25 Jun – Rochdale – Research evening

26 Jun – Ribble Valley Zoom 7pm

2 Jul – Fylde –

2 Jul – Hyndburn –

2 Jul – Rossendale –

3 Jul – Pendle & Burnley Zoom 7pm

8 Jul – Virtual Zoom 6.30 for 7pm – To Be Arranged

10 Jul – Chorley – Seven Robert Peels and Strawberries and Cream – Lavinia Tod
 17 Jul – Lancaster & Morecambe Zoom 7pm
 20 Jul – London & South Zoom 2pm (Sat)
 24 Jul – Ribble Valley Zoom 7pm
 30 Jul – Preston - When Emigration Goes Wrong – Megan Roberts
 30 Jul – Rochdale – Out Visit (to be announced)
 6 Aug – Fylde –
 6 Aug – Hyndburn –
 6 Aug – Rossendale –
 7 Aug – Pendle & Burnley Zoom 7pm
 9 Aug – Irish -2pm Advice & Research Workshop at Straits
 12 Aug – Virtual Zoom 6.30 for 7pm -The Industrial Heritage of Leyland and Farington – Peter Houghton
 14 Aug - Chorley – Cuthbert the Bad & Lancashire Witches – Colin Penny
 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 –
 4 Sep – Pendle & Burnley Zoom 7pm
 9 Sep – Virtual Zoom 6.30 for 7pm – To Be Advised
 11 Sep – Chorley – Last Orders – Elaine Allen
 18 Sep – Lancaster & Morecambe Zoom 7pm
 20 Sep – London & South Zoom 2pm (Sat)
 24 Sep – Preston To be advised
 24 Sep – Rochdale – 250 years of Hare Hill House – Iain Bowden
 25 Sep – Ribble Valley Zoom 7pm
 1 Oct – Fylde –
 1 Oct – Hyndburn –
 1 Oct – Rossendale –
 2 Oct – Pendle & Burnley 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 – Zoom 1pm – An Irishman Missing in
Manchester – Carol Lee
- 14 Oct – Virtual Zoom 6.30 for 7pm – To Be Advised
- 16 Oct – Lancaster & Morecambe Zoom 7pm
- 23 Oct – Ribble Valley Zoom 7pm
- 29 Oct – Preston To Be Advised
- 29 Oct – Rochdale – Andy Scott Sculptures – Brennan Nield
- 5 Nov – Fylde – Blackpool at War – Mike Coyle
- 5 Nov – Hyndburn –
- 5 Nov – Rossendale –
- 6 Nov – Pendle & Burnley Zoom 7pm
- 11 Nov – Virtual Zoom 6.30 for 7pm –
Prov Andrea Hetherington
- 13 Nov - Chorley – Chorley Co-op – John Harrison
- 20 Nov – Lancaster & Morecambe Zoom 7pm
- 22 Nov – London & South Zoom 2pm
- 26 Nov – Preston Jacobs Join and Quiz
- 26 Nov – Rochdale – Christmas Party
- 27 Nov – Ribble Valley Zoom 7pm
- 3 Dec – Fylde –
- 3 Dec – Hyndburn –
- 3 Dec – Rossendale –
- 4 Dec – Chorley – Quiz & Nibbles – Quiz Master Bernard Cliffe
- 4 Dec – Pendle & Burnley Zoom 7pm
- 9 Dec – Virtual Zoom 6.30 for 7pm – To Be Advised
- 31 Dec – Preston - No Meeting
- Dec – Rochdale – No Meeting
- 2026**
- 8 Jan – Chorley – Lancashire Lasses – Steve Williams
- 13 Jan – Virtual Zoom 6.30 for 7pm – To Be Advised
- 28 Jan – Rochdale – To Be Announced
- 12 Feb – Chorley – Sir Edward Watkins, Victoria’s Railway
King & Manchester Benefactor – Geoff
Scargill
- 25 Feb – Rochdale – Research Evening
- 12 Mar – Chorley – AGM and talk by member Anne Lowe

SOCIETY VIRTUAL BRANCH TALKS BY ZOOM

**Contact: Marian Crossley
e-mail: mariancrossley74@gmail.com
or societytalks@lfhhs.org
for more information or check our website.**

**Hopefully you will be able to join us on the 2nd Tuesday
of the month at 6.30pm for 7pm start sometime.**

Again, my appeal for speakers has resulted in a couple of members volunteering, which is brilliant. If you have a talk, even if it is very short, we can perhaps put a few together and do one evening. Be brave, come forward and Mike and I will hold your hand virtually!

MEMBERS' ARTICLES

GETTING THE STORY RIGHT

By Mike Coyle

Much has been written recently about telling your, or someone else's life story, recording the story for Grandkids or future generations. There's advice all over the internet. However, there are some complications in getting yours or others story right.

Interpreting someone else's story, has its complications. You are not seeing the story with the same eyes. Our perception or interpretation is dependent on our own unique, personal 'frame of reference', based on our culture, upbringing,

knowledge, experience and our ability to correctly interpret what's being said. 'Active Listening' can help. Its defined as 'listening attentively, understanding what's being said, responding and reflecting on what's being said, and retaining what's been said for recording.'

Writing our own story is just as fraught. Can you be sure you are remembering correctly, remembering people and interpreting incidents and happenings. Of course, facts are facts, but are they correct? When I talk to my sister about our past, I'm not sure we lived in the same house! Her remembrances bear little relationship to mine. She may have a better memory than me, of course.

The Idea of 'Active Listening' can apply to our own story, to ensure that the real story is being told.

As family historians, we know that we must 'Triangulate' our facts, looking for second and third elements of evidence that proves or confirms our research and never to rely on computer software data, on its own.

It seems that even professionals have difficulties getting the story right. The Police will always seek several witness versions of events in order to determine a probable set of circumstances presenting an incident. Author, Julian Barnes in 'The Sense of an Ending', has his main character suggest:

'History is that certainty produced at the point at which the imperfections of memory meet the inadequacies of documentation.'

We see history as a factual account, despite the abilities of the historian to interpret the story and his or her ability to record the story accurately, let alone their writing ability.

The Philosopher Brian McGee suggests that we can never properly describe something as simple as the sight of a towel dropped on a bathroom floor. No words can describe the

shape, its shading and its colours; the different shadows in its folds; its position in relation to all the other objects in the bathroom.

Perhaps the way forward is to be mindful of the limitations, shrug shoulders and just get on with it. After all, its better than nothing and a bit of poetic license makes for interesting and entertaining reading.

WHERE IS TOSSIDE?

By Ron Chapman

This is a rhetorical question. I know where it is. I've been there and it is very nice but a remote and small hamlet. But Tosside has one peculiarity; the County boundary runs right through the centre. The Parish Church is in Lancashire but the Community Hall is in North Yorkshire. The former Dog and Partridge Pub (now a private house) is in Lancashire and the Crow Trees Inn is in North Yorkshire. But it was not always so. Before 1974 Tosside was entirely in Yorkshire. So as a Family Historian I pose the following questions?

1. The Eastern side of Tosside is now in North Yorkshire but where was it pre 1974?
2. Where would I find the Birth and Death Registers?
3. Where would I find the Marriage Registers?
4. Where would I find the Memorial Transcriptions?
5. Being a small hamlet, most of the community are farmers. Where do these farms sit within the parish boundary? Where are the boundaries? Consider changes over the years.
6. Does the Civil Parish Boundary coincide with the

Ecclesiastical Parish?

7. Where are the Churches in Tosside, what are they called and what denomination are they?
8. In the Censuses and in Civil Registration of BMD's, to which Civil Registration District did Tosside belong and where were the boundaries?
9. Where would I find the probate records?
10. Which archives and societies have useful information for Family Historians?
11. Is Tosside in a Manor and if so which and where would I find the records?
12. Which Hundred or Wapentake was Tosside in?
13. To which Diocese does Tosside belong?
14. Which Parliamentarians (MP's) represented Tosside?
15. Where would I find the Quarter Sessions records for Tosside?
16. To which Poor Law Union did Tosside belong?
17. Where was the Workhouse?
18. Where can you find Employment and Population statistics to Tosside?
19. In Tosside at what age did people die and what did they die of?

Although I know the answers for many of these questions, I do not know them all! Can I suggest a few places to look?

- ❖ Genuki
- ❖ Family Search Wiki
- ❖ Family Search English Jurisdiction in 1851
- ❖ Manorial documents Register
- ❖ A Vision of Britain Through Time
- ❖ Wikipedia
- ❖ The Workhouse by Peter Higginbotham

Most of these questions could apply to anywhere. Indeed to the place you are researching. The best way to seek help with your researches is with your fellow Family Historians. Ask at your Branch, or at our Research Centres or indeed online on our Forum. We love to help.

Why not join the discussions on this topic on our Members Forum?

CARLISLE PATRIOT NEWSPAPER ARTICLE 21 SEP 1816 (p.4, col.2) – EXECUTION

John Donald, aged 32, convicted at our late Assizes of committing a burglary at Loweswater under aggravated circumstances, suffered the sentence of the law, at the top of English-street, on Saturday last, about three o'clock in the afternoon, in the presence of an immense concourse of spectators. Donald displayed great audacity and want of feeling on the trial, and he continued in a state of mind very inapplicable to a man in his awful situation, till within five or six days before his execution, notwithstanding every exertion was used by the chaplain of the gaol, other clergymen, and several dissenting ministers, to bring before his eyes the dreadful

precipice on which he was so blindly standing. About the time mentioned, however, he was prevailed upon to peruse an admonitory address, and to listen to the warning voice of those kind friends who were anxious for his eternal welfare; and having listened, and reflected, a complete change took place, which happily continued to the moment of being launched into eternity. The wickedness of his past life, the justice of his sentence, the state of his soul, all burst on his mind like a clap of thunder, and he set about his work of salvation with an earnestness, which we are taught to believe, cannot be otherwise than acceptable to God. – The night before his execution some persons sat up with him, and lost no opportunity of exhorting him to sincere repentance, nor of inspiring him with fortitude to meet the trials of the coming day. He took a small quantity of refreshment and slept a little, fervently expressing his confidence in the mercy of his Maker, and the belief that Jesus Christ, who died for all, would not fail to save him, however late he sought salvation at his hands. As the hour of execution approached he became more calm and resigned, and he joined in prayer and signing of hymns with a fervour that marked him sincere. He left the cell accompanied by his spiritual instructors, and as he passed on to the place of execution he nodded a last farewell to Pollett, who was very much affected. Arrived at the gallows, a hymn was sung, and Donald mounted the ladder with a firm step; he looked around on the immense concourse of spectators and exhorted them to take a salutary warning by his untimely fate. Just as he begun to speak an occurrence took place calculated to unman the stoutest heart in the situation that Donald was placed in. The female prisoners in the gaol, and among them Armstrong, (the woman with whom Donald cohabited, and who was also a party in the robbery) by an inadvertence, got to a window almost immediately above the place of execution, and the moment Donald appeared on the scaffold, they all set up the most dreadful cries imaginable. Donald recognising Armstrong's voice, was sensibly affected, and he desired that some person would go and take the woman out of his hearing. After the executioner had placed the cap on his head, and the rope around his neck, Donald, in a very audible manner, said to

those nearest him, - "God bless you all; may the Lord bless you. I die convinced that God my Saviour will deliver my soul." Mr. Cockburn then offered up a short prayer, in which he was followed by Donald, at the conclusion of which the drop board fell, and he died without a struggle. The magistrates had taken the laudable precaution of having a party of the 13th Light Dragoons, in attendance, formed round the place of execution; but the populace behaved with the greatest decorum. After hanging one hour, the usual time, the body was cut down, placed in a decent coffin, and borne to St. Cuthbert's Church, where Mr. Briggs, by permission of the Bishop, performed the regular rites of Christian burial, according to a promise which he made to the unfortunate man while in the condemned cell, and the corpse was interred in the Churchyard, in the presence of a great number of spectators. - Donald was rather under the middle size, a native of the county of Down, in Ireland, and had been bred up in the Presbyterian religion. He confessed, we understand, while in the condemned cell, that he had been engaged in more robberies than the one for which he suffered; and the confession of Kinghorn, developed the plans which they had laid for further depredations, had the gang not been detected. An incident occurred a few days before the execution, which strongly marked the sincerity of Donald's repentance. Mr. Heslop, of Carlisle, paid him a visit of consolation in the cell, gave him two shillings, and at parting put a bible into his hands. Immediately after Mr. Heslop retired, Donald opened the bible, and between the leaves found a guinea note; he desired that Mr. Heslop might be called back; he came, and Donald returned the note to the owner. It did not appear whether the note was put in the bible by accident or design; but we imagine the circumstance was unknown to the owner. After the execution the Under-sheriff called on Pollett and explained to him the very narrow escape he had had, as the Judge was in great uncertainty for several hours whether to reprieve, or leave him for execution. Pollett replied that he was truly sensible of his narrow escape, that it would be a warning to him; but at the same time he thought that no situation could be worse than his was; being under sentence of transportation for life, and his wife hand broken her heart with

the shock, combined with other circumstances, the whole of which rendered him as miserable as a man could be. The woman, Armstrong, is also in a state of mind but a little removed from that of Pollett. It is to be hoped that both will avail themselves of the longer life allotted for them, to see the impolicy as well as the criminality of the course they have too long pursued.

THE BURY UNION INDENTURE BOOK 1812-1844

By Judy Bourke

Blast From The Past:

Lancashire, vol. 1, no. 5, January 1976, pp 97-100

Lancashire, vol. 1, no. 6, April 1976, p 105

For anyone with ancestors living in Bury in the 19th century, this article is a mine of information. The dated entries show the name and age of each child (some were as young as seven years of age), where they lived, a parent's name or that both parents were both dead, and the name of the person to whom they were assigned along with his occupation and address.

The FamilySearch site has an interesting article about apprenticeship in England: [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Apprenticeship in England](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Apprenticeship_in_England). While the parents usually arranged for apprenticeships, in cases where the parents were dead, or could not afford the fee, the parish stepped in to arrange it. As seen in the Blackburn records, the parish also made sure the new apprentice was decently clad. Not all of the children would be learning a trade; some could be taken on as servants.

It seems that some of the children at least were apprenticed to family members, such as James Smethurst below. James, only seven years old was apprenticed to another James Smethurst, his uncle?

The Bury Union Indenture Book 1812-1844

The indenture numbers shown are those in the original Mss. Book now in Bury Central Library, Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0DF

20	20 Sept. 1812	THOMAS BARLOW 14 yrs. Father & Mother dead. Bury. Bound or assigned to William Barlow, cotton weaver, Heap.
21	18 Sept. 1812	PEGGY KAY 11 yrs. Father & Mother dead. Bury. To George Melladew, cotton weaver, Elton.
22	8 March 1813	MARY ANN SPENCER 8 yrs. Dau of WILLIAM SPENCER a soldier to James Ogden, cotton weaver, Tottington Lower End.
23	4 April 1813	JAMES SMETHURST 7 yrs. Son of THOMAS SMETHURST, Little Bolton to James Smethurst, cotton weaver, Little Bolton.
24	30 July 1813	JAMES ROSTRON 8 yrs. Son of BETTY ROSTRON, Castleton to Joseph Schofield, woollen weaver, Castleton.
25	9 Aug. 1813	PEGGY SMETHURST 7 yrs. Dau of CATHERINE SMETHURST, Bury to Thomas Smith, cotton weaver, Tottington Lower End.
26	19 Nov. 1813	ROBERT FARROW WOOD 9 yrs Son of BETTY FARROW of Middleton to Adam Farrow, woollen weaver of Little Heaton.
21	3 Oct. 1814	PEGGY KAY 13 yrs. Father and Mother dead, to Henry Lonsdale, Tailor of Blackburn.
22	9 Jan. 1815	SAML. CHADWICK 14 yrs. Parents Dead to John Briggs, butcher of

		Blackburn.
24	16 Jan. 1815	THOMAS ORRELL 7 yrs. Parents Dead to Thomas Horrox, weaver Of Harwood.
25	30 Jan. 1815	BENJAMIN BARLOW 7 yrs. Parents Dead to Thomas Horrox, weaver of Harewood.
26	8 May 1815	JOHN SAMUEL APPLETON 8 yrs. Son of Mary Appleton of Haslingden to William Slater, stonemason of Haslingden.
27	8 May 1815	PETER APPLETON 7 yrs son of Mary Appleton, Haslingden, to William Slater, stonemason of Haslingden.
28	19 June 1815	ADAM HOLT 7½ yrs. Parents dead To Charles Taylor, weaver of Tottington.
29	3 July 1815	JAMES CUSWICK 8 yrs. Parents Dead, to Elias Turner, weaver of Tottington Lower End.
30	10 Feb. 1816	JAMES SCHOLEFIELD 8 yrs. Parents dead to Isaac Heaton, weaver of Tottington Lower End.
31	12 Feb. 1816	JOHN ROWSON 8 yrs. Parents Dead, to James Rowson, weaver Of Tottington Lower End.
32	15 April 1816	THOMAS HAMER 7 yrs. Son of Thomas Hamer of Bury, to James Lomax, weaver of Tottington Lower End.
33	13 May 1816	JOHN KAY 11 yrs. Son of Alice Kay Of Hopwood to William Barlow Weaver of Heap.
34	23 Sept. 1816	MARY BARLOW, parents dead of Tottington Lower End to James Heaton, weaver of Tottington Lower End.
36 (35)	13 Jan 1817	ANN HAMER, 13 yrs. Dau of Betty

37	12 May 1817	Hamer of Bury to John Pennington Weaver of Tottington Lower End. MARIA FELL 9 yrs. Dau of Sarah Fell of Bury to John Gorton, cotton Spinner of Elton.
38	12 May 1817	CHARLES NUTTALL 15 yrs son of Ann Nuttall of Bury to John Gorton Cotton spinner of Elton.
39	12 May 1817	HANNAH FELL 9 yrs dau of Sarah Fell of Bury to John Gorton, cotton Spinner of Elton.
40	24 Nov 1817	MARY O'HARA 10 yrs dau of Thomas O'Hara of Bury to Joseph Gorton, cotton spinner of Tottington Lower End.
41	24 Nov 1817	MARIA O'HARA 12 yrs dau of Thomas O'Hara of Bury to Joseph Gorton, cotton spinner of Tottington Lower End.
42	24 Nov 1817	BETTY O'HARA 14 yrs dau of Thomas O'Hara to Joseph Gorton, Cotton spinner of Tottington Lower End.
43	4 Sept (1818)	JOHN LOMAX 10 yrs son of Edmund Lomax of Bury to John Saxton, weaver of Heap.
44	25 Sept (1818)	BETTY TURNER 11 yrs dau of James Turner of Bury to James Chadwick, weaver of Heap.
45	23 Oct (1818)	ANN BARLOW 10 yrs dau of Mary Barlow of Bury to Abraham Scholfield, weaver of Bury.
47	14 June 1819	JOHN KAY 11 yrs son of Ellen Kay of Bury to John Saxton, weaver of Heap.
48	31 May 1819	ANN BUCKLEY 13 yrs parents dead To Abraham Ashton, weaver of Heap.
49	31 May 1819	MARY BUCKLEY 11 yrs parents

		Dead to John Dearden, cotton Manufacturer of Heap.
50	19 July 1819	JAMES TAYLOR 9 yrs son of George Taylor of Manchester to John Saxton, weaver of Heap.
51	9 Aug 1819	JAMES KAY 9 yrs son of Arthur Kay of Middleton to Thomas Tongue, weaver of Heap.
52	11 Oct 1819	THOMAS CHADWICK 9 yrs parents Dead of Middleton to Jesse Holt, weaver of Tottington Lower End.
53	24 Sept 1819	JAMES HAWORTH 12 yrs son of Richard Haworth of Preston to Thomas Haworth, weaver of Heap.
54	15 Nov 1819	JOHN NUTTALL 9 yrs son of Adam Nuttall of Bury to James Bridge farmer of Walmesley.
55	2 Oct 1820	JAMES WARDLE 13 yrs son of Mary Wardle of Bury to John Booth, Fustian weaver of Heap.
56	6 Nov 1820	JOHN TERRY 13 yrs son of Mary Terry of Bury to William Greenhalgh, weaver of Tottington Lower End.
57	18 Dec 1820	MATHEW MAUD 9 yrs son of John Maud of Bury to James Greenhalgh, weaver of Tottington Lower End.
58	23 Dec 1820	ANN WARDLE 14 yrs dau of Ann Wardle of Bury to John Booth, Weaver of Tottington Lower End.
59	15 Oct 1821	JOSEPH KAY 9 yrs son of Ellen Kay of Bury to John Saxon, weaver of Heap.
60	5 Nov 1821	EDMUND CHADWICK 9 yrs to Samuel Chadwick, weaver of Tottington Lower End.
61	19 Nov 1821	ADAM TURNER 12 yrs son of James Turner late of Bury to John

62	1 March 1822	Tootell, weaver of Bury. RICHARDWARBURTON 11 yrs Parents dead, late of Bury to Robert Chadwick, weaver of Bamford cum Bircle.
63	15 March 1822	THOMAS KERSHAW 9 yrs late of Bury to William Holland, joiner of Padiham.
64	29 April 1822	JAMES PEARSON 13 yrs son of William Pearson of Bury to William Booth, tailor of Bury.
65	5 May 1822	GEORGE TONGUE parents dead of Bury, to George Unsworth, weaver of Bury.
66	9 Sept 1822	JOHN SMITH 9 yrs son of Mary Smith of Bury to James Smith, weaver of Haslingden.
67	11 Oct 1822	THOMAS BENTLEY 11 yrs son of James Bentley of Stockport to Michael Dooley, tailor of Ashton Under Line.
68	25 April 1823	WILLIAM WOOD 13 yrs son of John Wood of Bury to Samuel Openshaw, Hatter of Bury.
69	1 Aug 1823	ELIZA KNOWLES 12 yrs, parents dead, of Bury to Charles Clegg, weaver of Heap.
70	7 Oct 1823	WILLIAM CROPPER 14 yrs son of Nathan Cropper of Bury to Abraham Henthorne, stonemason of Butterworth.
71	17 Oct 1823	WILLIAM ISHERWOOD 9 yrs. Parents dead, of Bury to Robert Isherwood, weaver of Elton.
72	17 Oct 1823	JOHN WALLWORK UNSWORTH 9 yrs son of Betty Unsworth of Manchester to George Unsworth, tin plate worker of Radcliffe.
73	16 Jan 1824	BETTY PLATT 11 yrs. Parents dead

		to James Hall, cotton weaver of Tottington Lower End.
74	26 Aug 1824	SARAH HEYWOOD 9 yrs dau of Thomas Heywood of Bury, to William Heap, cotton weaver of Prestwich.
75	1 Jan 1825	RUTH TURNER 10 yrs dau of James Turner of Manchester to James Chadwick, weaver of Heap.
76	8 Jan 1825	DAVID WILDING 12 yrs son of John Bradburn and Nancy Wilding to Joseph Turner, weaver of Radcliffe.
77	5 Mar 1825	RICHARD HARDMAN 11 yrs. Parents dead to James Hardman Fuller of Walmesley.
78	5 Mar 1825	SALLY HARDMAN 9 yrs. Parents Dead, to James Hardman, fuller of Walmesley.
21	25 Jun 1825	JOHN NUTTALL son of Adam Nuttall to James Jackson, farmer of Walmersley, transferred by Janes Bridge his X mark. (see no. 54 of 15 Nov 1819)
68	13 May 1825	WILLIAM WOOD son of John Wood of Bury to John Openshaw, Hatter of Bury, transferred by Samuel Openshaw.
69	2 Feb 1833	JOHN CROMPTON 13 yrs son of John Crompton of Warrington to Richard Wilcock, Boot and Shoemaker of Warrington.
70	7 Jun 1833	JAMES HAWORTH 18 yrs son of Robert Haworth of Ashton under Lyne to Robert Haworth, hatter Of Ashton under Lyne.
71	4 Dec 1835	WILLIAM HUGHES CROMPTON 10 yrs son of Thomas Crompton of Bury to Peter Hamer,

72	5 Mar 1841	Confectioner of Heap. THOMAS WARBURTON 15 yrs son of Betty Warburton of Bury to William Taylor, coal milner (?) of Pilkington.
73	23 Feb 1844	THOMAS ASHWORTH 17 yrs son of Thomas Ashworth of Bury to William Booth, hatter of Bury. S. N. Raistrith

DON'T BE AFRAID OF AI – Part 3

By Mike Coyle

AI4FH

Don't be perplexed by the title, it's me playing about! It just means 'AI for Family Historians'

Previously in Parts 1 and 2 we looked at the background use and limitations of AI. We learned of AI various forms, serving different purposes.

- Creative AI : Enhances artistic endeavours, generating music, art and literature.
- Generative AI : Used in research, medical diagnostics, and data analysis to create new content and solutions from existing information. Its this form that is most help to Family Historians.

In essence, after conversations with family, AI is going to be the leading assistant to our research, our understanding and our presentation of our Family Trees. That's not to say its going to take the pleasure of those activities away but certainly make it easier and more reliable.

Like me, many will have spent many years searching, recording, and checking information from old documents, records, other peoples research, photos and family stories.

We've also experienced those who will tell you *'Oh, I've been on the internet and I've got my family tree back to the 1700s in a weekend!'*

Making a start with AI4FH

Searching via Google (or any other Browser) will reveal, at the top of the list of results, an AI interpretation of your query, something like this:

AI Overview

Generative AI is a type of AI that creates new content, like text, images, and music, based on learned patterns from existing data. It's a subset of narrow AI and uses machine learning models to understand and replicate these patterns. Popular examples include Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs).

Every spell check or Grammar check of your work has been generated by AI. Every photo you edit can be subject to improvement by AI. ClipArt and illustrations are likely to have been drawn by AI. In fact, there are AI tools that do amazing things to help us. I've extracted a list of programmes and their function from a recent 'Computer Active' magazine. The article lists favourite 'Tools' and the ones to avoid. My summary of that will be in Part 4.

Beware!

In Part 2, in the February journal, I raised the issues of Bias, reliability and validity of information searches. A question (a 'Prompt') to Copilot, for instance about a relative, requires Copilot to search every nook and cranny for the information you require. If the only information on that relative has been put on to the internet by a murderous terrorist group, then the information you get will be influenced by that group. Advice to Family History Researchers, always was to 'Triangulate' your

findings to confirm it is correct, that is find 3 different sources of the same information to confirm it. The same is true of AI generated information and data.

Some helpful AI4FH programmes

For family historians, several AI tools can be incredibly helpful in uncovering and preserving family history. Here are some examples:

- 1. Genealogy Websites:** Platforms like FamilySearch, Ancestry, MyHeritage, and FindMyPast often incorporate AI to help analyse records and suggest family connections.
- 2. AI Writing Tools:** Tools like MyHeritage Biographer and Storied StoryAssist can assist in crafting family narratives and biographies.
- 3. Transcription Tools:** Programmes like Transkribus and Kindex use AI to transcribe handwritten documents, making old records more accessible.
- 4. Translation Tools:** DeepL Write and Google Translate can help translate historical documents written in different languages.
- 5. Image Tools:** AI tools like Adobe Firefly and Canva Magic Media can enhance or restore old family photos.
- 6. Optical Character Recognition (OCR):** AI-powered OCR tools can digitize and make searchable old printed or handwritten documents.

The fuller list from Computer Active will be in Part 4.

Examples of my use of AI4FH

- 1 I produced a timeline of my father's service in the RAF in WW2. I asked Copilot to produce a Narrative based on the dates, with a title 'Dad's War'. What was presented was a full account of Dad's service. A few edits here and there and the story was as good as I could have written myself.
- 2 I have written a few articles of late on a range of topics relating to 'Blackpool in Wartime'. I gave what I considered finished articles to Copilot with clear instructions to 'Tidy up the following text', I uploaded the text to Copilot and waited a few seconds for the result. What came back was a perfectly good, well written reinterpretation of my work with no spelling or grammar errors. Again, a double check that nothing was missing. I have no doubt that anyone searching for a similar topic in future will use my material to help someone else. Copilot will add that information to its vast library of materials.
- 3 I have been asked to deliver a talk on 'AI4FH', I pulled together the points I wished to make, as usual. I asked copilot, again with clear instructions 'produce a 30 minute presentation on 'AI for Family Historians', covering the following details: Definitions and practical applications, advantages and disadvantages; popular AI Tools'. Back came a 10 slide PowerPoint presentation with illustrations and Speakers notes.

Use AI to your own advantage. There's plenty of help available online, especially on Youtube, the 'University of the 3rd Age (U3A) has a number of online presentations throughout May on various aspects of AI, sadly, none on AI in Family History.

The secret is to be clear and precise when 'Prompting' or questioning the AI Programme. Imagine talking to a 10 year old, with a vast knowledge. Vague prompting will get vague

answers.

Just for information, I wrote this piece.
MPC May 2025.

DON'T BE AFRAID OF AI - Part 4
'Free' or partly free AI tools
(Computer Active Magazine,
Issue 706, 26 Mar – 8 Apr 2025)

ChatGPT Adv Mode – Talk to as another person

Google Gemini – save information from a Google search

Copilot 'Think Deeper' – Complex topics, Sophisticated responses, detailed queries.

ImageFX – Generate images from text descriptions

Adobe Firefly – Generate videos from text

Hotshot – generating human faces from description

Sonauto – Generate music from a description

Audo – remove background noise from recordings

ElevenLabs – convert text to speech

Perplexity – Slightly more 'Academic' responses that are accurate, trusted and current, with 'Follow Up' questions

Duck.AI – Wont use your 'prompts' to 'train' so is Anonymous

Norton Genie and **Google Scam Detection** – Scans for evidence of Dodginess and Scams and suspicious patterns

Microsoft Photos – 'generate erase' to remove unwanted

objects and backgrounds

Upscayl – upscaling, upsizing photos

Video2x – upscaling videos

Grammarly – checking and improving writing content and style

NotebookLM – gathering notes, messages, documents, web pages, clipboard content you upload and organises, summarises and seeks connections

DONKEY STONES

By Ron Chapman

Donkey Stones: These nostalgic scouring blocks, about the size of a bar of soap, evoke memories of a bygone era when they adorned the doorsteps of terraced houses in mill towns. Named after their trademark donkey imprint, these stones were crafted from a cement-like mixture, resulting in a soft texture.

Photos were dug out by Andrew Alston. One is of Weld Bank, Chorley and the other of Blackburn Road, Wheelton.





Origin and Trademark:

The 'Donkey Brand' was initially the trademark of a Manchester-based company called Edward Read & Son. Edward Read & Son was one of several manufacturers of these stones. Other companies used different animal designs or simple lettering, but the name 'donkey stone' stuck.

Household Status and Colour:

When housewives received a Donkey Stone, they could choose from various colours: light brown, yellow, pale cream, or white. Interestingly, the colour they selected often denoted their household's social status. For instance:

Factory workers might opt for deep yellow stones.

Households with white-collar workers tended to use pale cream or white stones.

Scouring Ritual:

Scouring with a Donkey Stone extended beyond the front doorstep to the rear step, the first row of flags, the window

sills, and even back alleyways. The weekly ritual of 'doing the step' served as an opportunity for friendly gossip with neighbours. However, beneath the banter, women took pride in maintaining their steps and sometimes tried to outdo each other.

Decline:

Unfortunately, the use of Donkey Stones gradually waned during the 1950s and 60s.

Today, this tradition has largely disappeared, much like the cotton mills from which it emerged.

Many thanks to Andrew.

TWO INTERTWINED FAMILIES

By Rex Watson
rexwatson@ntlworld.com

Introduction

It is not uncommon to find that two families that come together by marriage do so more than once. For example, two siblings might marry two other siblings, quite possibly on the same day in the same place. There are other variations too of course, perhaps involving two different generations. In my family, there are seven EMMOTT-HEY marriages at Burnley and Colne between 1802 and 1837. (Name variations are few : HEY might be HEYS; I use the common forms throughout.) In all cases at least one participant can be linked to others in the family, sometimes both can.

The work involved to establish relationships was tricky at times, involving the parish registers of Burnley and Colne, the registers of Haggate Baptist Chapel, and the 1841 and 1851 censuses. In fact the families for the most part lived in Briercliffe in Burnley chapelry, adjacent Little Marsden in Colne

chapelry, and also adjacent NE corner of Burnley township. It is not I think helpful to try to tell the whole story in detail here, it has felt tedious at times to me, and might be more so to a casual reader! Rather I would like to highlight one or two of the issues encountered, as well as noting briefly my principal motive.

My ancestors John Emmott and Hannah Cottam married in Clitheroe in 1804. Hannah was of the chapelry of Clitheroe; she was born in Chatburn, but the Cottam's were in Mitton some way back. John was of the 'Castle parish' of Clitheroe, and thus probably of the Reedley area at this time : residents of Reedley and one or two other places in the Forest of Pendle married at Clitheroe. Of course the bride was from the Clitheroe area anyway. The first child Sarah, my ancestor, was baptised at Clitheroe, the second at Burnley, and eight further ones had their births recorded at Haggate Baptist. The family lived at Haggate till about 1821, then at Cop Row, down the road on the way to Burnley. It seems likely that John was from Briercliffe or maybe Little Marsden. His birth/baptism has not been found, nor in fact his death/burial, of which more later.

There would be considerable movement between Reedley, and Briercliffe and Little Marsden. Quite a few entries in the Haggate register are for residents of Reedley Hallows, Filly Close and New Laund Booth (to give that 'township' its full name), and in a converse way, some from Briercliffe and Little Marsden may have worked at Jewel Mill by Pendle Water in New Laund Booth.

Another marriage, and a remarriage

Two years later, in 1806, James Hey of Little Marsden married Grace Emmott of Briercliffe, at Burnley. The births of all seven of their children were recorded at Haggate, and they lived at Haggate.

John Emmott died between 1826 and 1832, and Grace Hey in 1829. The widow Hannah Emmott and widower James Hey

married at Burnley in 1832.

Thus far it might seem quite likely that John and Grace Emmott were siblings. Now without giving full detail, Grace was born in 1788 to James and Mary Emmott of Haggate, but as noted earlier no record has been found of John's birth or baptism. James and Mary (Hurst) married in 1769. Ten children in all have been found, the earlier baptised at Burnley, the last three including Grace having births recorded at Haggate. First and second children were born in 1769 and 1773, giving the largest gap for a possible further child, who could be John. However his wife Hannah was not born till 1785, so this seems unlikely.

Anyway, enough on John's possible parentage. Lastly though it may be noticed that his first son was James.

Two rather conflicting marriages

Two of John and Hannah's daughters, Betty (born 1811) and Alice (born 1813) were both married in 1830 at Burnley to a John Hey! Alice was buried at Haggate in 1832, but Betty and children can be found with her husband John in the 1841 census. Without giving full details, by looking carefully at exact dates, including that of the 1841 census (ages in this in the area being helpfully given exactly, rather than the usual rounding down to a multiple of five), Alice can be seen to have married John son of James and Grace, and Betty to have married John son of a Henry Hey.

Of course in general ages of people in a census or at burial cannot be relied on too closely, but the careful consideration of stated ages here, and dates within the years, seems to clinch which John Hey was which.

The remaining three marriages

Four of the seven marriages have been covered. Brief details of the other three now follow, for the less faint-hearted reader!

Leonard son of John and Hannah Emmott married Mary daughter of James and Grace Hey at Burnley in 1831.

Robert brother of James Hey married Ann sister of Grace Emmott at Colne in 1802.

Ellen daughter of James and Grace Hey married Thomas son of Hartley and Ellen Emmott at Burnley in 1837; Hartley was brother to Grace.

To conclude

The tangled web revealed here probably has many counterparts, in this area and elsewhere. One or two of the characters in this story, or maybe their offspring, would become leading citizens in Burnley. However in the pre-1840 period, say, these families seem to make relatively few appearances in documents other than registers. For example they were not to any extent will makers.

I would be happy to have conversations with other members of these families. Please do make contact.

Rex Watson, rexwatson@ntlworld.com

FYLDE COAT OF ARMS

Origin/meaning
By Olive Thexton

The armorial bearings reflect the union of the three local authorities in the area on 1 April 1974, i.e. Lytham St. Annes Borough Council, Kirkham Urban District Council and Fylde Rural District Council.

The shield portrays a typical Fylde windmill in gold on a green background suggested by the gold windmill sails on green in the arms of Fylde R.D.C. This suggests the rural fylde or 'field', particularly the area bounded by the Wyre and Ribble, which are symbolised by the six white and blue waves on either side.

These appeared in both the Fylde R.D.C. and Lytham St. Annes arms.

The crest is indicative of the union of three Lancashire areas having historical associations with the Clifton family. The arm in armour from their crest was seen in the Fylde R.D.C. crest, and the three red stars from their shield were part of the heraldry of Lytham St. Annes and Kirkham. The arm and stars are here combined, and the gauntleted hand grasps a sprig of three red roses on one stalk with three leaves to suggest the union of the three Lancastrian authorities.

The supporters are taken from the arms of Lytham St. Annes and Kirkham. On the left is one of the white lions from the Lytham St. Annes shield, wearing for necessary distinction a crest-wreath of the Borough's liveries, white and blue, from which hangs a hexagonal medallion bearing the white cross on blue which accompanies the lions in the Borough arms. The lions and cross are part of the ecclesiastical heraldry of Durham, the See of which owned the 12th century Priory of Lytham.

The other supporter has also an ecclesiastical origin, being the gold lion of Roger de Montgomery, Earl of Shrewsbury, borne by his Abbey at Shrewsbury, to which the lordship of St. Michael, including Kirkham, was given in the 11th century by Roger de Piocou, the Lord of Amounderness. The lion also wears a wreath, of the Kirkham colours gold and blue, from which hangs a medallion like the other, bearing the main emblem from Kirkham's arms – the dove and olive branch from the ancient Kirkham borough seal, gold on blue.

For a motto there can be no better choice than the motto of the former Fylde R.D.C. *Gaudeat Ager* from Psalm 96 "Let the field (Fylde) be joyful or Let Fylde prosper".

Image on front cover, and information provided by the Fylde Council.

QUAKER WILLS PROJECT 1000 WILLS AND GROWING

By Christopher Farrand

We are very pleased to announce that the Quaker Wills Project, which we began in the autumn of 2021, has collected and transcribed over 1000 wills, which are now on our website https://qfhs.co.uk/public_html/wills/windex.html

Special thanks should be given to the committee comprised of Sue Knight, John Steevens, Margaret Page and Stephen Bumstead for their hard work.

To date the database contains 1018 wills representing over 326 distinct family names and over 17000 associated names. These come from 31 English counties and two Welsh counties (see map). Approximately three-quarters of the wills are those of men and the remainder of women. Approximately 10% of the male wills are those of unmarried men and 32% of the female wills are those of unmarried women. These are often very interesting as they tend to leave their estates to a larger and more diverse range of family members and friends. Below is a description of the occupations of the testators..

Occupations (individuals may have had more than one occupation during their lifetime)

Rural Occupations

Yeoman	68
Farmer	63
Mealman	29
Miller	28

Cloth/Clothing/Wool

Draper	46
Clothier	30
Clothworker	15
Tailor	15
Mercer	10
Hosier	7

Food & Beverage

Grocer	36
Baker	22
Brewer	20
Cheesemonger	4

Leather Trades

Fellmonger	10
Tanner	7
Shoemaker/Bootmaker	3
Skinner	2

Metalworkers

Ironmonger	13
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TELLING YOUR STORY : BEWARE!

By Mike Coyle

We've had some discussion here and on social media about writing your own story, either to pass your story on to future generations or as a therapy to unclutter your mind. I've certainly thought about it, while I can.

However, we need to be careful, as we should be when researching our family tree. The recommendation for family history research is to try and 'Triangulate' your research, that is, try and find three sources for your information, each confirming the other. For example, we might use 'Data' from BMD Records, Parish and Census, to confirm 'information'. This is especially true if some of that information is possibly suspect, as a family story, hearsay or opinion.

In business terms, much has been written about reliability and integrity of Data, Info, Knowledge and Wisdom (*DIKW*, Ross, RG, 2023), there's little for the direct benefit of Family Historians. Nevertheless, reliance on the DIKW model for our research needs to be challenged.

'History is that certainty produced at the point at which the imperfections of memory meet the inadequacies of documentation.' (LaGrange, 2011)

Written or orally recorded history, is totally dependent on the ability of the recorder to recall, explain and interpret events correctly, without embellishment, bias or 'spin' and their ability to pass on exactly those events correctly via language/written word.

The reason the police seek several witnesses to events is to get the best picture of an event based on collective impressions. In family history we tend to listen to family stories and take them as fact, simply because we believe the story comes from a reliable source. I guess the secret to accuracy is check, check and double check.

References:

Ross, RG, 2023, A Better World View for Data & Knowledge (The DIKW Pyramid)

Patrick LaGrance, a fictitious philosopher, quoted in Barnes, J., 2011 'The Sense of an Ending', Jonathon Cape, London.

DEATHS NOTIFIED

Edward Metcalfe – Barrow in Furness

George Edward Ross – Ribble Valley, Burnley, Pendle

Mrs Kathleen Dennis, (4646) – Taunton

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

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.

Ms. D. Strang (11239)

36 Winkfield Road, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 4AF
BANNISTER

Mr. M. Aspden (11361)

49 Grosvenor Blvd., St. Albert, Alberta T8N 1P4 Canada
 AINSWORTH

Ms. S. Banister (11488)

11 Bunker Street, Freckleton, Preston, Lancs. PR4 1HA
 BANISTER LAN Preston

Mr. C. Gunter (11491)

1 High Point, Little Wenlock, Telford. Salop TF6 5BT
 LONSDALE

Mr. J. Greenhalgh (11512)

2 Highfield Close, Oswaldtwistle BB5 3TD

COOLAHAN	LAN	Bolton (retired Soldier)	1890
PICKAVANT		(Scots Guardsman)	1918
	LAN	Preston (Not known)	1925

Ms. L. Cunane (11522)

35 Coldwell Lane, Sheffield S10 5TJ

CUNANE	LAN	Heywood	
		(Lab/cotton/paper mills)	19C
KAY	LAN	Heywood	
		(Lab/cotton/paper mills)	19C
PORTER	LAN	Shuttleworth (Labourer)	19C
PURCELL	LAN	Blackpool	19C-20C

NOTES AND NEWS

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

We attended the Aintree Family History Fair on Saturday 3 May and had a very good day.

We also signed up 8 new members and persuaded two former members to renew membership.

In addition we sold a quantity of books and CDs and came back with a pile of enquiries to be followed up.

It was good to see Hazel and Jeanette from our Facebook page visiting as well as a number of other members from near and far. Jeanette's photograph at the show caught us at a busy moment.

One negative was revealed when Nigel Bailey from S & N Genealogy (who runs the fair through his 'Discover Your Ancestors' publication) advised that contrary to previous advice they would not be running the York Family History Fair next year but Liverpool (Aintree) had been successful and would be running again next year.

Come and see us at any of the Family History Fairs and shows.

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)

BRANCH/SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP NEWS

BLACKBURN & DARWEN Special Interest Group ZOOM Chats

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

All members are welcome.

BURY
Special Interest Group ZOOM Chats

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

I am pleased to be able to report a positive year with a very varied programme of activities and speakers covering a wide range of subjects, reports of which are available in our on-line monthly newsletter. Our year ended as usual with a social evening and quiz at our December meeting.

Attendance at Branch meetings increased slightly to an average of 24 during 2024. At the end of the year the branch was in a stronger financial position than at the end of 2023. Now that we have finalised our programme for the year we are hopeful of continuing this positive trend.

Bernard Cliffe, who has been Chairman of the branch, and more recently its Treasurer, indicated at the end of last year that he would be stepping down due to on-going health issues. Disappointingly no one has stepped forward to take on the Treasurer role, and so Bernard has very kindly volunteered to continue in the role on an ad hoc basis until a replacement can

be found. This is of course precisely the same situation facing the Society, and other branches. Bernard and I have submitted a paper to the Executive Committee proposing a radical reform of the Treasurer roles both at branch and Society level, which we believe would solve the problems caused by a lack of volunteers combined with the reduction in bank branches etc. Finally, I wish to thank all those who have helped to ensure that Chorley branch remains one of the most active in the Society.

Megan Roberts,
Chorley Branch Chair

CHORLEY RESEARCH CENTRE ROTA CHANGE

Chorley Research Centre opening times are now as follows:

1st and 3rd Mondays in the month – 10am to 4pm
1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Wednesdays in the month – 10am to 4pm
1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Fridays in the month – 10am to 4pm
2nd Saturday in the month – Noon to 4pm

FYLDE

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

Apologies for the lack of information earlier this year. I wrote out a report and must not have clicked on 'send'.

We began the year by holding our AGM. There was a better attendance than previous years and all officials agreed to continue for a further 12 months.

Thanks were given to the handful of people who keep the branch going. We continue to meet each month on the first

Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm. No meetings January or February.

As we do not have a programme secretary, we continue to meet and we will be holding some meetings with speakers. As with most other organisations numbers attending are nothing like they used to be, but we enjoy the fact that we can meet with each other and exchange family information.

As we have a huge amount of resources in the branch there will be a few meetings when we will share some of this information with those present.

There are many lists of names, one of these could belong to an ancestor of yours. 1642 list of Royalists. 1808 Chester list of prisoners and 1818 Lancaster Assizes. 1917 Ashton munitions explosion. Liverpool and the Last of England – The Emigrant Trade – Passage to America.

Anyone with an interest in this, I could easily send you the details.

All our meetings are open to everyone and we charge £2 at the door including tea or coffee and biscuits.

Future events:-

An exciting talk presented by Martin Jones on 3 September 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 5 November Mike Coyle will give us a talk with the title "Blackpool at War".

If you have any queries in respect of the Fylde area please just email the address as 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. Our June and August meetings will be face to face Advice as usual.

In October we will have a Zoom meeting 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.

Hope to see you in person or online soon.
Thanks for your support and hope to see you soon.

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE

Morecambe Heritage Centre, Unit 29 Arndale Centre,
Morecambe LA4 5DH
First and third Friday 11 am–4 pm
and

Special Interest Group ZOOM Chats
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/tZIuceusqD8iHtL6QQFTyggPOXNMh5WotZym/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
Special Interest Group ZOOM Chats
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
Special Interest Group ZOOM Chats

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/meetin...>

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8634..>

Meeting ID: 863 4065 2791

Passcode: Pendle77

Meeting ID: 863 4065 2791

Passcode: 53260774

Find your local number: <https://usj02web.zoom.us/u/kdB8..>

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

Special Interest Group ZOOM Chats

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

Open for any members with Ribble Valley interests.

The January meeting was about Chipping's Industrial Heritage. You may know of Berry's Chipping Chair Works, but Chipping's Industrial Heritage goes back much further and has greater variety than you might think.

Don't forget to check on the Members Forum or Website for invitation to the next meeting.

Ron Chapman

ROCHDALE

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

Our inspirational speaker in January was Andy O'Sullivan, ex-policeman and well-known local sportsman, athletics organiser

and charity fundraiser. His talk 'Street Urchin to Establishment Man' was a snapshot of his life growing up in Rochdale and his journey to becoming a decorated police officer and local sports personality and charity fundraiser. Andy brought along a collection of photographs and memorabilia to accompany his talk, highlighting many of the famous people he has had the privilege to meet over his career. We heard some fascinating stories from his time as a police officer and through his involvement in sport.

In February we held our usual research evening for members.

It is with sadness that we announce the death of our good friend Paula Matthews. Everyone knew Paula as our 'tea person' at Rochdale branch. She had been a valued member of both Rochdale and Bury branches, holding the committee posts of executive rep and projects secretary at Rochdale for many years. Paula knew so much about the locality and family history and was always happy to help anyone with their research. She will be greatly missed by us all. Our thoughts and prayers are with Paula's family at this very sad time.

Thank you to all our members for your continued support.

ROSSENDALE

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

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.

Special Interest **GROUP** Zoom Chats 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
CONTACTS

Chairman: Vacant

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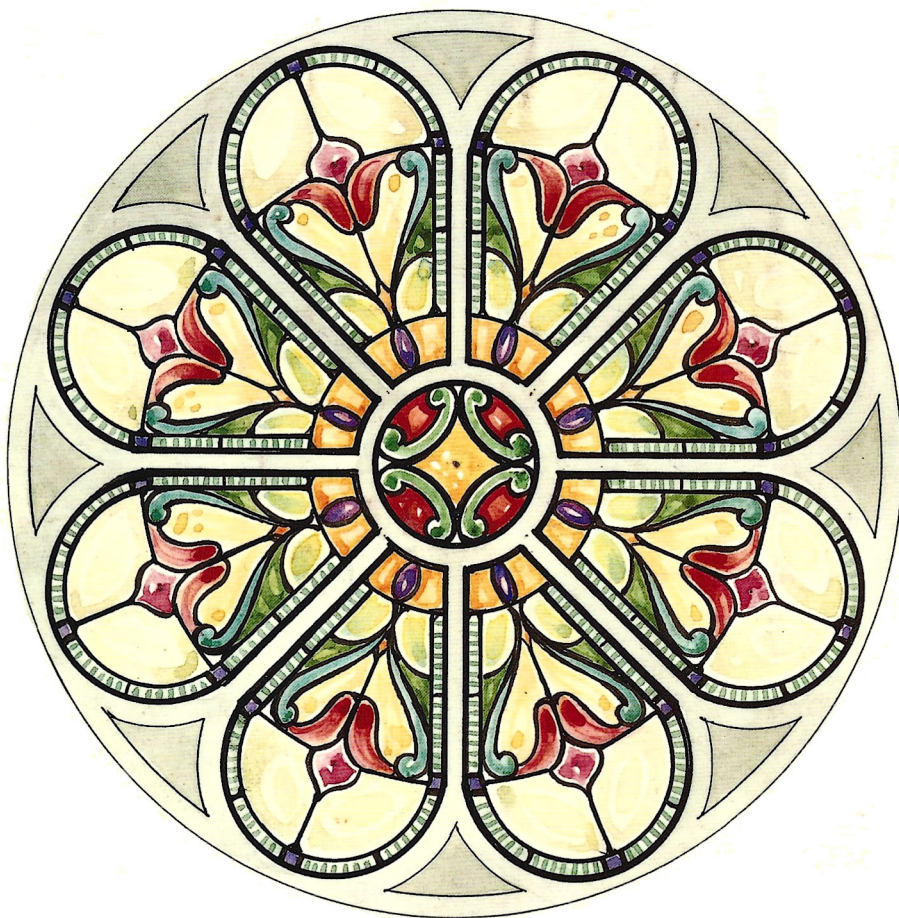
Webmaster: Stephen BENSON, 32 Slater Lane, LEYLAND PR25 1TN
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Research Centres: 2 Straits, Oswaldtwistle, ACCRINGTON BB5 3LU
Tel: 01254 239919 (Answerphone)
For opening times see www.lfhhs.org.uk

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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