

LIVERPOOL FAMILY HISTORIAN



Volume 48 No. 2



June 2026

THE LIVERPOOL & S. W. LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

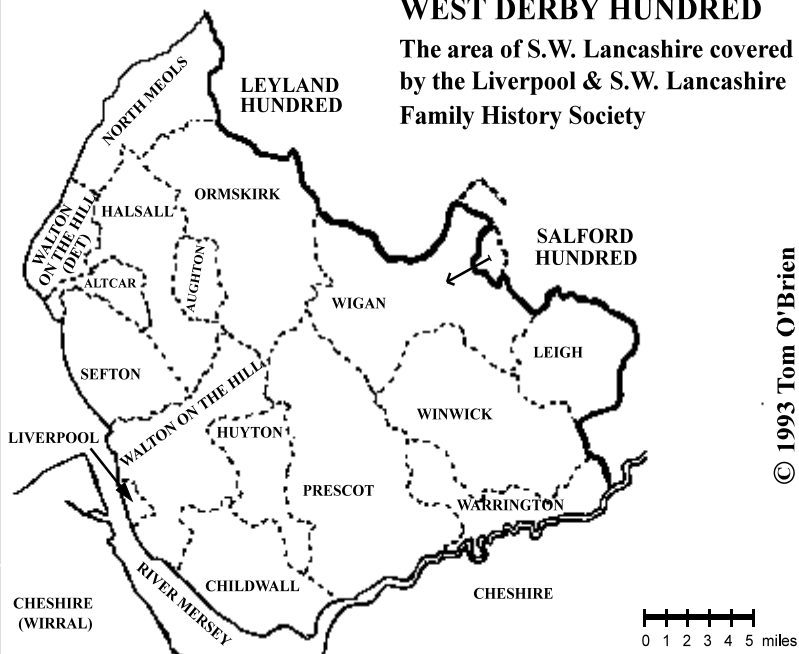
Founded 27 May 1976

Covering

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

WEST DERBY HUNDRED

The area of S.W. Lancashire covered
by the Liverpool & S.W. Lancashire
Family History Society



Website: www.lswlfhs.org.uk



Front cover: War Memorial at Abercromby Square, Liverpool.

The war memorial at Abercromby Square in Liverpool is a bronze statue dedicated to Captain Noel **Chavasse** VC & Bar, MC, and other Liverpool-born Victoria Cross recipients. Sculpted by Tom **Murphy**, it depicts **Chavasse** rescuing a wounded soldier and is located near his former family home. Taken on 8 July 2010 Author Rept0n1x This file is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0 Generic and 1.0 Generic license.

Liverpool Family Historian

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Editorial

Hello everyone and a special welcome to all our new and returning members.

After my appeal for stories of family members who served during WW1 at the First Battle of the Somme, I received a few articles from some of our members but not all of them relate to that particular battle. Having said that, all the articles in this quarter's Journal are worthy of being told and they are all very interesting.

If you have a story to tell, I am, as always, eager to read them and include them in future publications. If you don't feel confident yourself in writing an article I am always happy to help and can be contacted on editor@lswlfhs.org.uk.

Our Annual Conference is being held in Warrington this year. Please see page 59 and the yellow insert for more details.

Our Members' Interests Secretary, Sandra Roberts, has been busy compiling an up to date database of your interests, so please check these out starting on page 109.

Verification or confirmation of information is vitally important to genealogical researchers. We cannot just accept at face value what we find on the internet, be it Ancestry or FindMyPast, or indeed any other website. Sources must be verified and recorded so that a) you can find where the information came from and check it is the correct person you are looking for and b) that your own family, descendants or other researchers know that the information you have found out is correct and they don't need to verify it themselves.

Finally, the weather seems to have turned a corner and as I am writing this editorial, the sun is shining, the breeze is mild and I really should get out in the garden—only there is so much of my family tree that I still want to look into and verify, so I will be leaving the garden for a few days longer.

Alison Anyon
(Editor)

Society News Items

We have new bank details for those members who pay by standing order.

To continue receiving copies of the Journal , please check your bank account now and (if necessary) update the details to:

Unity Trust Bank

Sort Code: 60-83-01; Account: 20466637

**Please quote
Membership Number and SURNAME
as the Reference**

Ann Croft , Treasurer

Annual Conference

Warrington Group

A date for your diaries

This year's Annual Conference is being hosted by the Warrington Group. Details so far are that it will be held on **10 October 2026** at St Joseph's Community Centre, Penketh, Warrington.

This year we are pleased to announce that there is no entrance fee for members, as agreed by the Trustee Committee. For information about booking a place at the conference and for travel details, please see the yellow insert in the middle of the Journal.

This is a great opportunity to meet fellow genealogists and to catch up with friends. The talks sound very interesting and I'm particularly looking forward to the talks on the Overhead Railway and Finding Irish Ancestry.

Blood is the Price of Coal
Coal communities, health and welfare
in Britain from the
19th century to the present

This free one day conference aims to bring together researchers from higher education, libraries, archives, museums and community and campaign groups to explore the history of health and welfare in Britain's coal mining industry.

Held jointly by the University of Warwick's Centre for the History of Medicine, Science and Technology, and Modern Records Centre, the event will run alongside an exhibition which will explore some of the themes covered by the speakers through the National Union of Mineworkers' archives.

When and where: Thursday 18 June 2026, 9:15am – 5:30pm
Faculty of Arts Building, University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 7AL. It is free to attend and open to anyone, the link is: <https://warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc/exhibitions/upcoming/coal/> and it is open to all members.

There are many genealogical courses or conferences either on-line or in person. Below is a list of some of the websites for more information:

Eventbrite: eventbrite.co.uk/d/united-kingdom/genealogy

Strathclyde University: - strath.ac.uk/studywithus/centreforlifelonglearning/genealogy

The Family History Show: - thefamilyhistoryshow.com

Society of Genealogists: portal.sog.org.uk/event/list

Book no longer required

The **Dictionary of Heraldry** is a well illustrated and useful book, in good condition, but no longer needed. It's free to whoever would like it for cost of postage so a bargain. Please contact me and I will arrange delivery to you. Thank you

Jean Alker (1030)

Book Review

Escape from Holland by Chris Hunt

I found this book engaging for several reasons. One of the main aspects that drew me in was my limited knowledge about the sequence of events during the invasion of Holland. The narrative provided valuable insight into the initial stages, serving as a reminder that Germany reneged on its assurances not to invade. Until that pivotal weekend, Holland remained a neutral country, a detail that was new to me.

The book centres on the first weekend of the invasion, which took place on 10 May 1940, when German paratroopers descended upon Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and The Hague. It particularly explores the experiences of British residents, expatriates, and visitors in Holland during this tumultuous period. The story unfolds to reveal how these individuals came to be in Holland and their subsequent escape aboard the last British merchant ship departing the country.

Chris **Hunt** shares the journeys of a diverse group of people—ranging from football managers and ballet dancers to journalists and Consulate staff—who found themselves as evacuees. Each managed to flee Holland with only a single bag of belongings. The book also highlights the peril faced by Captain Joseph **Green** and the crew of the **SS Dotterel** and tells of a young Consulate staff member who orchestrated the escape and coordinated the transfer from Amsterdam to the ship. Despite being relatively inexperienced, this young man rose to the occasion, showing remarkable courage when it mattered most.

Chris **Hunt**'s diligent research, drawing from archival records and personal accounts, makes the book an absorbing read. He brings the characters to life, illustrating their reactions and the tough decisions they faced—whether to stay or leave, and the necessity to abandon most of their possessions, knowing they would need to start anew in England.

The book not only offers insight into the backgrounds of the individuals involved but also provides a glimpse into what became of them following the war.

All in all, **Escape from Holland** is a thoroughly enjoyable book, and I would highly recommend our members. **Alison Anyon (Editor)**

Book Review

The Hop Pickers Murder

By

Nathan Dylan Goodwin

This is a book review from a non-genealogist.

I enjoyed this book on two accounts, firstly it was an engaging story and secondly, it showed a side of genealogy that I was unaware of.

The book has two stories running side by side; what actually happened at the time and a genealogists investigation undertaken about a century later. The story itself was quite absorbing, with the usual “who done it” twist at the end. However, the genealogy investigation I found much more interesting and informative.

The amount of historical information that can be accessed was illuminating and showed how past family matters can be investigated by means other than census records, birth, marriage and death certificates and cemeteries.

Today we use social media and the internet to find out about the past; genealogists have a much wider access to information, but also the knowledge of where to look for it.

The use of these resources brings the book to life and I would highly recommend it to the membership.

Steve Anyon (6094)

A Liverpool Pal:

Alexander Francis Palmer (1890–1947)

On the morning of 3 September 2014, I laid a bouquet of flowers (*hastily gathered from the garden of the gîte where we were staying*) at the monument dedicated to the Liverpool and Manchester Pals battalions who had liberated the village of Montauban from German occupation on 1 July 1914 at the start of the **Battle of the Somme**. My maternal grandfather was one of them.



I always knew he'd fought in WW1 in France. That he'd been wounded and gassed and invalided out before the end of the war, but when I started researching my family history, I knew little about the war and its effects. School history lessons, for me, ended in 1972 (*when we made our O-level choices*) with the shooting of Archduke Franz Ferdinand on 28 June 1914.

Any information about my grandfather came from my mum. All four of his daughters were born between 1920 and 1928, while his two sons were

born in 1914 and 1916. As the youngest child, still at home when first my grandfather, then my grandmother (*5 years later*) died, Mum was left with all the family photograph albums and my grandparents' papers. These included his pocket diary from 1946, his short birth certificate, his baptism certificate, their marriage certificate, several newspaper cuttings, his death and Probate certificates, various documents to do with his funeral and later interment of his ashes, his silver war medal awarded to those wounded in service, and his Soldiers' Small Book in which particulars of his war service were written.

My grandfather, Alec, enlisted at St George's Hall, Liverpool on 2 September 1914. He was 23 years and 10 months old, 5 feet 7 inches tall with a fair complexion, brown hair and brown eyes. He had been married for 17 months, to Alice, and had a son, Alexander James. His address in given as 29 Linton Street, Walton, Liverpool. Signing on for the duration of the war, he would henceforth be known as **Private Palmer, A F, 260918**, of the 18th Service Battalion, The Liverpool's. (*There is one glaring error in this information since baby Alec's age is shown as 14 months, but he was born on 3 January 1914, making him 7 months old.*)

Two battalions' of 1,000 volunteers each were formed in Liverpool in the first week of September 1914. The 17th Battalion was billeted in an old watch factory in Prescott, but the 18th was sent to a temporary camp set up on Hooton Racecourse. Here they were encouraged by their commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Edward Henry **Trotter**, to run around the course every morning to build their strength and stamina. By December 1914, both battalions, along with the 19th and 20th - over 3,000 men - were housed in newly constructed wooden huts on **Lord Derby's** estate at Knowsley where their training began in earnest – mainly by digging trenches.



**Alec Palmer –
front right.**

On 30 April 1915 the Liverpool Pals brigade, which consisted of all four battalions, transferred to Belton Park, Grantham, moving to Larkhill Camp on Salisbury Plain four months later. On 27 October 1915 the War Office officially took over the brigade and the Pals were ready for active duty and would be sent abroad as soon as arrangements could be made. On 31 October preparations to leave for France began. Alec's young son was 22 months old, and Alice was pregnant again.

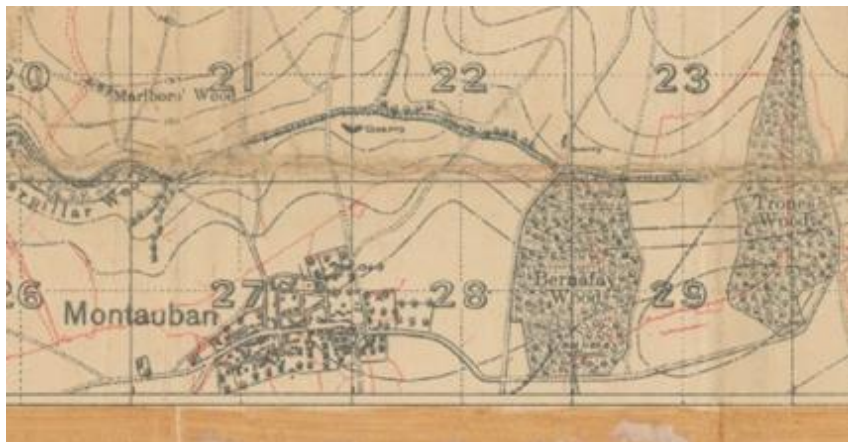
On 7 November, the 17th and 18th Battalions travelled on special troop trains to Folkestone where the 17th boarded the **SS Princess Victoria**, and the 18th the **SS Invicta**, bound for Boulogne in France. On arrival, they spent the night at Ostrehove Rest Camp, before returning to the town to board trains to their new billets. The 18th Battalion went to Monfliers, near Abbeville, where they remained for approximately ten days, sorting out kit and beginning battle training before moving nearer the front line at Amiens, within the sound of gunfire. Alec was granted 10 days' home leave that Christmas. It would be the last time he saw his family until his discharge from service in 1917.

The Liverpool Pals took their turn in the trenches, alternating this with other work and rest periods behind the lines. The town of Albert was close by with bars, cafes and private homes would have welcomed soldiers looking for a hot meal, a glass of beer and a warm, dry place to sleep, safe from guns and shells. When **Lord Kitchener** died on 5 June 1916, preparations were well underway for the coming offensive, and all leave had been cancelled. It was a time of waiting and Alec, along with his mates, would have spent the time contemplating what was to come.

The Battle of the Somme started on 1 July 1916. The Liverpool and Manchester Pals Battalions were involved in heavy fighting in the village of Montauban, which was liberated by the end of that day. Two hundred Liverpool Pals lost their lives that day; with a further three hundred or so recorded as wounded, missing or captured. For the next seven days, amid constant bombardment of shells and gas from the German lines, men fought to gain, only to subsequently lose, ground. By 7 July, the Pals had moved only a kilometre or two from Montauban, to the hamlet of Bernafay, where the small railway station took the role of Supply Depot and casualty clearing post.

On the morning of 8 July 1916, the order was given for the allies to move forward.

The objective was to capture **Bernafay Wood**, then **Trones Wood** and **Caterpillar Wood**. The 18th Battalion, including Alec, were there as a support and supply battalion for the 17th Liverpool and the 19th Manchester Pals. A rolling barrage of artillery fire crept forward towards the village of **Montauban** as the 19th Manchesters and the 17th Liverpool Regiment prepared the way.



Extract from military map courtesy of the National Library of Scotland

Lieutenant Colonel **Trotter** went on ahead to oversee the 18th battalion, but the Germans had noticed increased military activity in **Bernafay Wood** and bombarded the area. **Trotter** was killed along with three others, while Lieutenant Colonel William **Smith** of the 18th Manchester's was mortally wounded.

On 9 July, with the Manchesters in position south of **Bernafay Wood** and at **Bronfay Farm**, the advance began again. This time, when German guns fired, Alec's luck ran out. Struck by a bullet in the back, and stray shrapnel in his left side he must have thought his war was over.

Admitted to 26th General Hospital at **Etaples** on 11 July with a gunshot wound to the back, then sent to a convalescent camp, also at **Etaples**. In September 1916, Alec was transferred to the **15th (Service) Battalion (1st Salford)**, part of the 32nd Division (with a change of service number to **39685**), and is back on the **Somme**.



On 15th April, near the village of **Fayet** on the north-eastern outskirts of **St Quentin**, Alec was wounded again – this time a gunshot to the right arm (*his elbow remained fused at an angle for the rest of his life*) – and sent to No 6 General Hospital at **Rouen**. He returned to England on 3 May 1917 and was admitted to the Military Clearing Hospital at **Eastleigh** (near Southampton) on 4 May.

Later records show that Alec was discharged from **Western General Hospital, Whitworth Street, Manchester** as “*permanently unfit*” and sent home “*on warrant with orders to await instructions as to his final discharge*”. He was given £1 advance on pay and “*a suit of plain clothes*”.

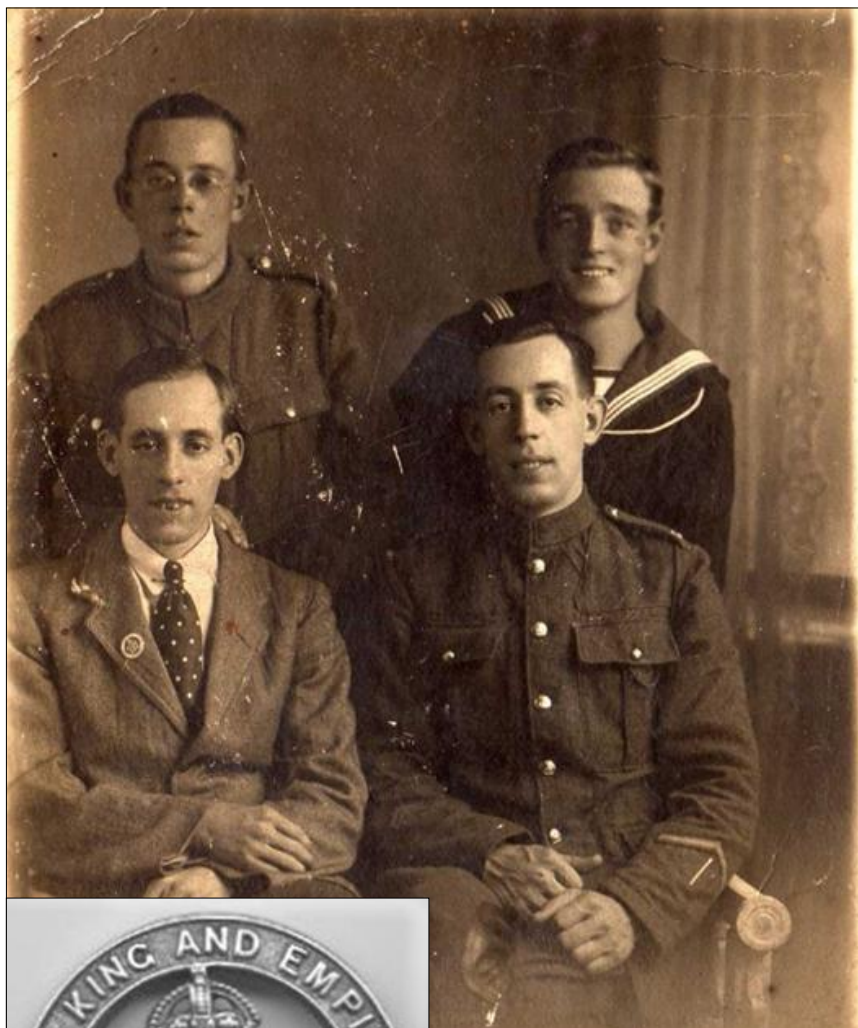
His official discharge took effect on 1 October 1917, and he was awarded the King's silver medal, introduced after a spate of white feathers were given to wounded men out of uniform. Eventually, after a period of rehabilitation, he was able to return to his employment as an advertisements clerk with the Liverpool Daily Post until his final illness meant he had to give up work.

I wasn't born when Alec died on 14 March 1947, 10 days short of his 34th wedding anniversary, but through the various documents he, then my mum, kept safe, I have come to know more about him than my other grandparents. I have seen his handwriting. I know what he looked like as a young man and as an older one. I have held items that he held; read clippings from newspapers that he wrote. I know where his ashes were interred – in the Buttress Wall at Anfield Crematorium – and how much it cost.

He was one of the lucky ones. He survived and came home. Wounded, but not disfigured as so many were. He went on to have a secure job, a home, wife, and children, but suffered poor health, with frequent stays in hospital or at convalescent homes. His cause of death, aged 56, is given as pulmonary carcinoma – lung cancer – but was this from being gassed in the war, smoking or perhaps a combination of both? His address at the time was 31 Haselbeech Crescent, Liverpool (*a pre-fab*).

The two weeks I spent in September 2014 following in my grandfather's footsteps brought home to me the enormous effects of that war on the people and places in Northern France. Every few miles along the road, or up a farm track, is a war cemetery or memorial. The silhouette of the **Thiepval** memorial looms on the skyline above the Ancre Valley.

Ancre's own small war cemetery enfolds the fallen in an embrace of warm brick walls where trees stand sentinel. **Bernafay Wood** war cemetery lies in open countryside opposite the wood where my grandfather was first wounded in July 1916. Tangled now with brambles and barbed wire, the wood is dark, dense and gloomy, ringed with signs warning of unexploded shells, yet the area is peaceful. Only the sound of birdsong, distant traffic, and a farmer on a tractor harvesting his crops on the day I visited, and I had to remind myself that all trees along the Somme battlefield were destroyed completely during the war.



***Alec (front left with the
silver medal on his lapel)
with his brother's
John (front right),
Harry (back left)
and James (back left) in 1917.***



***Thiepval Memorial
for the Lost
(2014)***

***Ancre war
cemetery
(2014)***



Your Journal Needs You!

Please send us your articles, pictures, help requests, website reviews etc. Our journal depends on your contributions if we are to maintain the high standards we have all enjoyed for so many years.

DEADLINES

The cut-off dates for material to reach the editor, for potential inclusion in the next issue are:



MARCH	Jan 25th
JUNE	Apr 25th
SEPTEMBER	July 25th
DECEMBER	Oct 25th



Bernafay war cemetery looking towards Bernafay Woods (2014)



Bernafay war cemetery with Caterpillar Wood on the horizon (2014)

Thanks

In compiling the original, shorter draft of my grandfather's story back in 2014, I am indebted to the late **Graham Maddocks** whose book ***Liverpool Pals 17th 18th 19th 20th The (Service) Battalions The King's Liverpool Regiment*** was invaluable in adding background detail and colour to my grandfather's story.

In addition, thanks are due to military historian **Paul Reed** (*Old Front Line Research Service*) who, in 2021, carried out in-depth research of my grandfather's Service Record, providing me with maps of battlefields, details of military hospitals, and clearing up the various and confusing service numbers I'd found. It was not until I read Paul's report that I discovered my grandfather had been wounded on two separate occasions.

Eileen O'Reilly (9630)

My Uncle Jock 1897-1916



My uncle, John Graham **Goffey**, known in the family as Jock, was the eldest of the six sons of Harry and Elinor **Goffey** and although born and bred in Hertfordshire, he was the first member of our branch of the **Goffey** family who had not been born in Liverpool. His father Harry, an artist, was a grandson of Captain James **Goffey**, a ship's master of 25 Newhall Street, Liverpool, and his mother, a granddaughter of Robert **Simple**, proprietor of Simple and Co, of 44, St. Anne's Street, a well-known name in the Liverpool sugar trade.

Miniature of Jock (50x65 mm) in his KRRC uniform, by his father.

Jock was brought up in Berkhamsted, attended Berkhamsted School and took a job as a shipping clerk in the City of London. In 1915, 18-year-old Jock was just starting out in the shipping trade, following in the footsteps of his great-uncles James and William who in 1889 had established the ship-owning business of J & W **Goffey** of 28 Chapel Street, Liverpool. Jock volunteered for the army and was assigned for officer training in Berkhamsted, in a tented camp next to the castle in a field known to this day as **Kitchener's** field. Jock, along with two fellow cadets, was billeted in his parents' house while training with the Inns of Court OTC.

Commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Kings Royal Rifle Corps, Jock commenced active service in France arriving at the Somme frontline at Bertrancourt on 28 August 1916 during the first battle of the Somme. His group were mustered to front-line trenches in the Hamel sector on 2 September, attacking on 3 September. Jock was killed that day, shortly before his 19th birthday, near Beaumont-Hamel. All the junior officers in Jock's battalion, 17th Bn. KRRC, were killed or injured that day. Jock's grave (ref. VI-B.21) can be seen in the Ancre British Military Cemetery, Beaumont-Hamel, which is located on the west side of the main road (D50) from Albert to Miraumont, just south of Beaucourt-sur-Ancre. Ironically, the cemetery lies in the shadow of Thiepval ridge, one of the main strategic objectives of the battles of the Somme. A lane leads from the D50 close by the cemetery to the top of Thiepval ridge and the huge Thiepval memorial to the British and British Empire soldiers missing in the battles of the Somme.

In 2013-14 the old training trenches on Berkhamsted common were cleared of the trees that had grown up in the preceding 100 years, and a display board erected for the information of visitors. A memorial ceremony marking the start of the first world war was held at the nearby



Inns of Court war memorial, with due pomp and ceremony provided by the band of the City of London Yeomanry. In memory of Uncle Jock, three grandchildren of Harry and Elinor **Goffey**, still living in the area, erected a memorial bench on behalf of the wider **Goffey** family.

Jock's memorial bench on Berkhamsted common

The O.S. coordinates of the bench location are (TL) 001098, and the trenches' location can be found on Google Maps.



In 2016 to mark the centenary of the Battle of the Somme, red earthenware poppies were produced, one for each casualty of World War I, and displayed in the moat of the Tower of London – which they largely filled. After purchasing a poppy, I painted the steel stalk green, added the grave reference number on the underside of the petals and took it to Beaumont-Hamel in 2017 and “planted” it in front of Jock’s gravestone. Many people have told me to say goodbye to the poppy which will have been stolen; I’m not so sure.

Jock’s grave with its “Tower of London” poppy

John Goffey (5396)

A RELUCTANT MARINER

Many of my ancestors were seafarers. I am sure that this is quite common among those whose relatives came from Merseyside and among the readers of the Journal. This is a story about a very reluctant mariner in my family.



My grandfather, James Arthur **Railton**, was born on 11 July 1886 at 57, Creswick Street, Liverpool. His childhood was not a happy one. He did not get on with his father and maybe his mother, also. We don’t know the details as he would never talk about it.

His father was Edward **Railton**, born in 1849 at Newbiggin in Westmorland and his childhood was spent on the Storrs Hall estate at Arkholme where his father was a gamekeeper. It is not known when he arrived in Liverpool, but he married Sarah Ann

Brunt in April 1872 at St Nicholas Church. At that time the records show him as a shapman, presumably a chapman, and as a commercial traveller. Sometime in the 1880s or 1890s he started working for J **Bibby & Sons**, cattle food manufacturers. This was the start of a family tradition and all members of my **Railton** family, apart from my father and myself, worked for this company through to 1985.

James **Arthur**'s mother was Sarah Ann **Brunt**. She had been born at Lydbury North, in Shropshire in 1841, the daughter of James **Brunt**, an agricultural labourer born in the same village and Mary **Griffiths** from Montgomeryshire. When Sarah was 18 years-old she had an illegitimate daughter by an unknown father. The daughter was brought up by Sarah's parents and possibly never knew that her grandparents were not her parents. After the birth of her daughter, Sarah moved from Shropshire and she is next found in 1871 as a domestic servant to The Reverend James **Milner**, at St James Parsonage in Tollemache Road, Birkenhead.

James Arthur **Railton**, as a child, lived with his parents and brothers and sisters at Creswick Street, Liverpool and later at Great Howard Street. The one main known fact from that time is that he attended Old Church Boys School in Liverpool. I still have his final report from the school, and it is exemplary and puts all the rest of us in the family to shame and it was used to do so whenever he thought that his children were not paying enough attention to their studies.

The strained relationship between Jim **Railton** and his parents was so bad that in 1904 at the age of 18 he decided that he had to take drastic action and put as much distance as possible between him and them. This was not just a matter of leaving the family home. On 8 September of that year, he signed on as a steward on the **SS Cretic** for a journey across the Atlantic. I could never imagine my grandfather as a natural mariner so there must have been considerable desperation to get away. His decision turned out to not be a good one. Again, from knowing my grandfather's character, it was a voyage that would have caused him considerable embarrassment and anxiety. He was a man who took considerable pride in his adherence to proper standards of behaviour. On the voyage, such matters were to be taken out of his hands.

The Boston Globe reported that the '**Cretic**' arrived in Boston Harbour on the 17 September. Initially nothing seemed to be untoward. However,

three days later the same newspaper reported that a young lady passenger by the name of Fanny **Kagan**, who was returning to the USA after a visit to her home country of Russia, made accusations against the ship's stewards in steerage class. She claimed that she had been abused by a number of the stewards in that they had attempted to kiss her. The stewards were all lined up for an identity parade. Miss **Kagan** picked out three of the stewards against whom she was making the accusations. These men were initially locked in their cabins. She had found, she said, were three witnesses to the incidents and she had already appointed Boston attorneys to take legal action against the shipping line in this matter. It was telling that none of her 'witnesses' were able to support her in her selection of those she accused. It is also interesting that in the same week similar charges were laid against members of the crew of the ship **SS Ivernia** when it arrived in USA by young ladies of the same nationality as Miss **Kagan**. What actually happened is unknown, but no action was taken against any stewards by the White Star Line, the owners of the **SS Cretic** and it appears that the supposed legal action taken by the young lady appeared to come to nothing.

After such an embarrassing incident, on his return to Liverpool Jim decided that a seagoing life was not for him. It must have been a case of 'out of the frying pan and into the fire'. So, it was back to whatever he had previously decided he could not cope with, and nothing is known of his activities either through family stories or in the records for another two years when a short piece appeared in the Liverpool Daily Post of 5 September 1906. It stated: "*A meeting was held on Monday evening in the school room of St Matthias Church, Great Howard Street to say farewell to Mr James **Railton**, for a number of years a member of the choir and bible class, who sailed for Port Madryn, South America, yesterday.*"

The piece went on to mention a presentation that was made to Jim. Jim had obviously again decided that he had had enough and needed a further escape. This time he was not signing on as a crew member. He had had enough of that. He sailed from Liverpool to Port Madryn, Argentina as a cabin passenger on the **SS Victoria**. Port Madryn was a Welsh trading settlement where Jim was going to work as a clerk, employment he had presumably found through a work contact in Liverpool. How did he find the money to pay the fare? The story in the

family is that his elder sister, Frances, provided the funds from money she permanently kept hidden inside her corset. In return Jim promised that if ever the need arose in the future he would look after his sister, something which he honoured later in life.

Jim was only in South America for a very short time. Nothing much is known of his life there other than that he worked in the port, lived some distance away and walked to and from work every day along the railway track. He also told of how the area was a lawless place and how he slept with a gun under his pillow every night.

Jim's mother had died some months before he left Liverpool and not long after his arrival in Port Madryn he received a letter from his sister to tell him that his father had also died. There was now nothing to keep him from returning to Liverpool, which he did soon after. Five years later the 1911 census shows him working for J **Bibby & Sons**, the company his father and where all other members of his family at that time worked. Jim would eventually become manager of **Bibby's** warehouse at Waterloo Dock, Liverpool, an imposing piece of architecture that has since been converted to apartments.

David Railton (3352)

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Help Requests

Unsolved Family History Mysteries

Family historians often find themselves coming up against brick walls during their research and often they are caused by ancestors having common names, without a middle name. This is what happened to me whilst searching for two of my grandmother's siblings, and their father.

My mother Constance **Cregeen**, born in Liverpool in 1916, was the second child of Christina/e (née **Bruce**) and Samuel **Cregeen**. Sadly, for my mother and her brother Gordon (born 1914), Christina was committed to Rainhill Hospital in 1919¹ when my mother was 3 years old and her brother five years old. After finding my mother and her brother on the 1921 Census as Wards of Frederick and Mary **Davies** in Everton I concluded that somehow the family had broken up. At this time my grandfather was 56 and worked as a sewing machine salesman and was presumably unable to care for his children full-time. After this my mother and her brother spent some time in hospital and eventually were sent to Fazakerley Cottage Homes, and later, for Gordon, to Shaw Street Boys home. When I obtained the records concerning their placement in the homes, I found that when Gordon was admitted to Fazakerley in November 1921 he weighed only 40lbs; an indication perhaps of parental neglect having an elderly father and a mentally troubled mother? But despite all the hardship and neglect that my mother must have experienced at this time her strong spirit and constitution ensured that she died at the grand age of 93 in 2009.

My mother didn't know very much about her parents but as a small child had a vague memory of her father raising his hand towards her mother; nevertheless, she was proud of her Manx ancestry through her father, and her Scottish roots via her maternal grandfather James **Bruce** (b. 13 April 1857, in Anderston, Glasgow). She was fond of saying that she was a mixture of a '*Manx kipper and a Scotch [sic] Herring*' or was it the other way round? And it is the **Bruce** siblings to whom I wish to concentrate my attention. I was aware that Christina, my grandmother had a younger sister named Blanche who had been very kind to my mother when she left Fazakerley at the age of 16. But later, during my research I was surprised to find two more siblings on the 1891 census. They were

Margaret born on the 4 January 1885, and James born on the 8 March 1887. I did ask my mother what had happened to these two and she said that she thought that they may have gone abroad.

Then I found the record of a marriage between a Margaret **Bruce** and a Walter **Mealor** in Douglas, Isle of Man. When I decided to obtain a copy of the marriage entry it stated that her father was James **Bruce**, Bookkeeper, deceased. As my Great-grandfather has only one Christian name, that of James, I couldn't be exactly sure that I had found my mother's aunt Margaret, although James was described as a Bookkeeper on both Christina's and Blanche's marriage certificates. I then found the death of a Margaret **Mealor** in Liverpool in 1937 and decided to obtain the death certificate which proved beyond doubt that I had found my grandmother's other sister. It told me that Margaret had died at the age of 52 in 1937 at her sister Blanche **Mason's** house in 22 Cadogan Street in Liverpool, the causes of death carcinoma of the Uterus, exhaustion, and cardiac failure; perhaps not surprising for someone who had given birth to 8 children.

Sadly, I am finding it very difficult to find out what happened to James **Bruce** junior, with his all too common name. All I have been able to find out so far is that there was a James **Bruce**, aged 14 at an Industrial School, at 77 Grafton Street, Toxteth Park who was training to be a shoemaker. As, like his sisters², he was in an institution for troubled, or orphaned children and training for a profession, and as he is the correct age I'm fairly certain that I have the right person. The harder part is to identify him in marriage and death records or on census returns, without obtaining numerous certificates. Firstly, there is no guarantee that James ever became a shoemaker, as I have seen names on the census that could be him, but are not shoemakers. Another factor to consider is the possibility that given his birth year of 1887, he could very likely have fought and died in WW1. As for emigration, the information on ships' boarding records is too scanty to determine whether I have found the right James **Bruce**.

Another mystery to solve is the whereabouts of my great-grandfather during the time between the conception and birth of James junior, and the marriages of his daughters Christina and Margaret in 1911. He is listed as deceased on their marriage certificates. Also, James senior is not on the 1891 census at 2, Oakey Grove, Everton, with Caroline my

great-grandmother as head of the house and a seamstress, and **not** a widow. And on the Workhouse Infirmary record of 1897 with Caroline suffering from some sort of 'debility', James is reported as missing. Clearly something has gone seriously wrong within the family. This is especially emphasised when his father (alas another James **Bruce**) emphatically cuts him out of his will (proved in 1900 at Dunoon). I would therefore be grateful to hear from anyone who might be able to shed some light on these two elusive James **Bruce**'s.

¹ According to the Liverpool workhouse records, Mill Road Hospital, Christina/e is suffering from Delusions (i.e. Psychotic).

² In the 1897 Liverpool Workhouse records my Great-grandmother (Caroline Ann Mary Douglas **Bruce** née **McDonogh**) is in the workhouse infirmary suffering from 'debility', with Christina/e under 'Friend', at Vale House Orphanage, where girls in her situation, or orphaned, were trained for Domestic Service; as she is the oldest daughter I assume that her two sisters were also there.



**Left: Colleen
Cregeen at 21**



Blanche Mason

Marie Paterson (9256)

Disclaimer

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Vincenza (Vincent) Nicolas Cama



Vincent was born early in 1892 and christened Vincenzo Nicolas **Cama**, the second son of Santo **Cama** and Marea Theresa **Cama** (nee **Alesse**) who were part of a substantial Italian community in central Liverpool, and he was one of nine children. His father was originally from Reggio, Calabria, Italy. They lived at various addresses including 52 Nelson Street, Liverpool.

Vincenzo Nicolas Cama
1892-1915

(Photo provided by Phil Jones, Vincent's nephew)

Santo and Marea Theresa married at the Church of St John, Liverpool on 3 October 1887. Santo was 31, a bachelor and a mariner. His father was Antonio who was also a mariner. Marea Theresa **Alesse** was 20, a spinster with no occupation noted on the marriage certificate. Her father was Pietro **Alesse**, and he too was a mariner.

Looking at the census returns we first find Santo **Cama** in **1891** living at 83 Pitt Street, Liverpool with his wife Mary (Marea) Theresa. They were boarding house keepers and had 12 boarders who were either seamen or firemen and who came from Italy, Malta and Australia, some of whom were family.

In **1901** they were living at 22 Upper Pitt Street, Liverpool with their children Peter A, Vincent N, Hugh C, Andrea, and Maria I. They had a domestic servant who was born in Ireland. Santo was described as a Rigger and ship's interpreter.

By **1911** they had moved not far away to 52 Upper Nelson Street and by now Santo was a Master Rigger. Marea was not working. The names of their children are recorded in full as:

Pietro Antonio	aged 21 and an Iron Monger
Vincent Nicolas	aged 19 and a machinist at J McCombish & Son, Cabinet Makers
Hugh Colville	aged 17 and a shipwright
Andrew Baldetti	aged 15 and a carver at J McCombish & Son

Maria Isabel	aged 12 and at school
Carlotta	aged 10 and at school
Phillipa	aged 8 and at school and
Madeline	aged 2

Marea Theresa's mother, Isabella **Alesse**, was also living with them, she was aged 64 and was born in Glasgow, Scotland.

When war was declared in 1914, Vincent enlisted on the 23 October 1914 and became Rifleman 2692 in **1/6 KLR (King's Liverpool Regiment)**. He was 22 years of age, he was 5'10" and was in good physical condition. At the time of his enlistment, he had a good job on wood cutting machines for **J McCombish & Son**, Cabinet Makers (*as written on the census return*). His brother, Andrew was also working for the same company.

Vincent started his training with **1/6th (Rifle) Battalion** (the first-line Territorial Force battalion, often referred to as just **6th KLR**) who were based at Princes Park Barracks, Liverpool. In the autumn of 1914, the battalion moved to Canterbury, Kent, for further training and to guard the London, Brighton & South Coast Railway, before deploying to France in February 1915.

After his training was completed, Vincent was posted to France and arrived on 25 February 1915 after embarking on the **SS City of Edinburgh** from Southampton to Le Havre. His battalion then joined the 15th Brigade in the Regular 5th Division.^{[14][15][21][22]} Soon after the battalion's arrival, the 15th Brigade was temporarily transferred to the Regular 28th Division, but returned to the 5th in time for the fighting around Ypres in April 1915.^[23]

Key Events & Details of the battle for Hill 60:

Hill 60 is a significant World War I battlefield memorial site near Ypres, Belgium, known for intense fighting, mining, and tunnelling, where the strategically important spoil heap changed hands between British and German forces, leaving behind many craters, bunkers, and a poignant landscape that remains largely undisturbed, serving as a powerful reminder of trench warfare.

It is located south of Ypres, Belgium, near the Ypres to Comines railway line. The hill is man-made created from spoil (earth) from the railway

construction in the 1850's, making it crucial high ground in otherwise flat terrain. Its elevation provided commanding views of the Ypres Salient and the surrounding area making it a critical observation point for artillery. Being a crucial tactical point, it was highly sought after by both the Allies and Germans and was of strategic importance. It is famous for its extensive underground mining, including massive British mine explosions in April 1915 that helped recapture it, and German countermining. The site saw fierce combat in April and May 1915, with the hill changing hands multiple times.

It is also culturally important. The site is famous for intense tunnelling and mining operations. British and Australian "tunnellers" (such as the 1st Australian Tunnelling Company) dug deep beneath German positions to plant massive explosive charges. It was immortalized in the Australian film *'Beneath Hill 60'*, focusing on the tunnelling companies' efforts.

Hill 60 had been captured by the German 30th Division on 11 November 1914, during the First Battle of Ypres (19 October – 22 November 1914). Initial French preparations to raid the hill were continued by the British 28th Division, which took over the line in February 1915 and then by the 5th Division. The plan was expanded into an ambitious attempt to capture the hill, despite advice that Hill 60 could not be held unless the nearby Caterpillar ridge was also occupied.

It was found that Hill 60 was the only place in the area that was not waterlogged and a French 3 ft × 2 ft (0.91 m × 0.61 m) mine gallery was extended. Experienced miners from Northumberland and Wales were recruited for the digging and the British attack began on 17 April 1915. The hill was captured quickly with only seven casualties but then it was found that the salient¹ which had been created, made occupation of the hill costly. Both sides mistakenly accused the other of using poison gas in the April fighting; however, German attacks on the hill in early May included the use of gas shells and the Germans recovered the ground at the second attempt on 5 May.

The British used sophisticated mining tactics, digging tunnels under German positions and detonating massive mines to destroy defences. After the mines exploded, British infantry stormed the hill, engaging in savage, hand-to-hand combat with German defenders.

After Hill 60 was lost, companies from the Liverpool Rifles were used successively in support of the 1st Battalion, Cheshire Regiment; "C" Company was heavily engaged and suffered 60 casualties.^[26] The Liverpool Rifles collectively sustained nearly 100 casualties between the period of 5 May-6 May, 22 of whom were killed.^[27]

The Germans launched relentless counterattacks over the following days to dislodge the British, resulting in heavy losses on both sides. The entire battle for Hill 60 continued from 17 April to 7 May 1915 with fierce fighting persisting beyond the initial capture. German control of Hill 60 was consolidated by 7 May. It remained in German hands until the Battle of Messines in 1917, when two of the mine tunnels were detonated beneath Hill 60 and the Caterpillar.

It was during this time (17 April to 7 May 1915) that Vincent **Cama**, who was on a ration party detail bringing up supplies at night at Hill 60, when they were shelled and he was severely wounded. Vincent was taken to CCS (Casualty Clearing Station) No 3 on 27 April 1915 but he died from his wounds.

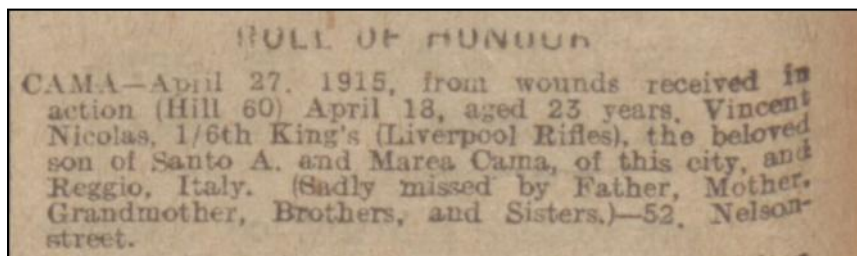
Lives of the First World War Collection (Imperial War Museum)

First name(s)	Vincent Nicholas
Last name	Cama
Birth year	1892
Birth date	-
Service number	2692
Rank	Rifleman
Year	1914-18
Death year	1915
Death date	27 Apr 1915
Regiment	Kings Liverpool
Service	British Army
Stories	-

User facts

Addresses:	52 Nelson Street, Liverpool UK
Parents Addresses:	Upper Pitt Street, Liverpool UK
Parents Place of Birth:	United Kingdom Liverpool
Nature of Death:	Died of wounds
Military Events Service Medals:	1914/15 Star
Measurements:	5' 10"

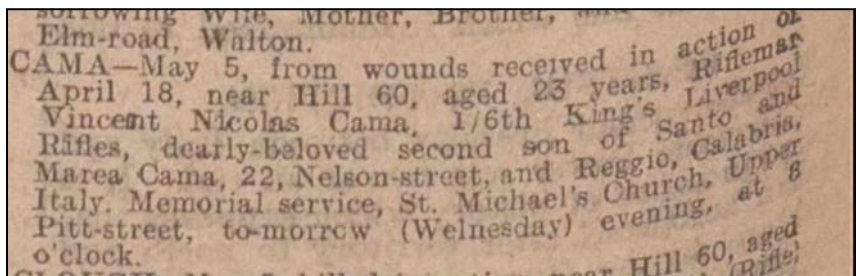
Mother:	Maria Theresa Cama
Jobs:	Machinist
Military Events Service Medals:	British War Medal
Cemetery/Memorial:	West Vlaanderen Belgium Poperinghe Old Military Cemetery II. M. 33
Father:	Santo Cama
First names:	Vincent Nicholas
Theatres of War:	France & Belgium: 1a
Military Events Sickness and wounds:	Wounded at Hill 60. Died of his wounds.
Military Events Service Medals:	Victory Medal
Country	Great Britain
Record set	Lives of the First World War 1914-1918
Category	Military, armed forces & conflict
Subcategory	First World War
Collections from	Great Britain, UK None



Notice of Death in local press



Cama – At the military hospital, Poperinghe, Belgium, April 27, 1915, from wounds received April 18, 1915, at Hill 60, Vincent Nicolas, aged 23, 1/6th King's Liverpool Rifles, third son of Santo and Marea **Cama**, of this city and Reggio, Italy. (Ever in the memory of all at home, 52 Nelson Street, Everton. He wore the rose of Lancashire).



Another notice in the local press stated:

“Cama – May 5, from wounds received in action, April 18, near Hill 60, aged 23 years, Rifleman Vincent Nicolas **Cama**, 1/16 Kings (Liverpool Rifles), the dearly beloved second son of Santo and Marea **Cama**. 52 Nelson Street and Reggio, Calabria, Italy. A Memorial Service will be held on Wednesday 26 May at St Michael’s Church, Upper Pitt Street, Liverpool at 8pm.”

Vincent now lies in **Poperinghe Old Military Cemetery at Plot 11, Row M, Grave 33** and his nephew, Phil Jones, has had the honour of visiting the site and laying down flowers in his memory. It was an emotional time for Phil as he was the first family member to visit Vincent’s grave.



Liverpool and South West
Lancashire
Family History Society

Annual One Day Conference

Hosted By

Warrington Group

at

St Joseph's Community Centre

Meeting Lane

Penketh

WA5 2QX

on

Saturday 10 October 2026

Programme

Saturday 10 October 2026

9am	Registration, Tea, Coffee and Biscuits
9.45am	Opening Address
10am	Mary O'Shaughnessy (A WW11 Heroine) Barbara Hennessey
11am	Tea, Coffee and Biscuits
11.30am	Finding Irish Ancestry Carol Lee
12.30pm	Buffet Lunch
1.30pm	The Liverpool Overhead Railway Sharon Brown
2.30pm	Comfort Break (Please note: No refreshments will be served during this break)
2.45pm	Life in a Georgian Village Phillip Jeffs
3.45pm	Closing Address

BOOKING FORM

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

Postcode:.....

Phone No:.....

Email Address:.....

Number of places required:.....

Any dietary requirements:.....

Fee: £10.00 for non-members

Includes refreshments and buffet lunch

Payment: Cash on the day

Membership No:.....

Non-member (please indicate): YES/NO

Please return the booking form to:

Peter Jolliffe,

21 Stanstead Avenue, Penketh,

Warrington, WA5 2HU

Or by email to:

conference2026@lswlfhs.org.uk

Booking forms to be submitted by

30 September 2026 please

Directions (by road)

Postcode for the venue is: WA5 2QX

What three words: plank.quest.mercy.

When travelling from Liverpool and Manchester

Leave **M6** at Junction **8** and follow the Warrington signs
A5281 (Burtonwood Road)

At the roundabout take the **3rd** exit—Whittle Avenue

At the roundabout take the **2nd** exit—straight ahead

At the roundabout take the **2nd** exit—straight ahead

At the roundabout take the **2nd** exit—straight ahead

At the roundabout take the **2nd** exit—straight ahead

(Apart from the first roundabout just keep going straight)

At the traffic lights turn **right** onto **Liverpool Road**

At the traffic lights turn **left** onto **St Mary's Road**

At the end of **St Mary's Road** turn **right** onto **Meeting Lane**

The venue is 300 yards on the left

Public Transport

At Warrington Bus Station take either the **no:14 or no: 15**.

Both stop outside the venue.

Stop at **Jubilee Avenue**.

www.lswlfhs.org.uk

St Michael's Church

Inside St Michael in the City Church is a plaque to commemorate those parishioners who died in WW1 and WW2. It is a varnished wooden memorial in two sections with a shelf running along the bottom. The names are arranged on the upper section, each side of a thin brass Calvary Cross surmounted by a crown affixed to the panel - WW1 to the left, WW2 to the right. The dedication occupies the centre panels of the lower section. The inscription is in gold paint.

The original church was hit by an incendiary bomb on 6 May 1941 and subsequently demolished in 1946. Any WW1 memorials would have been lost then. The present church was opened in 1960.



The inscription reads:

*Remembering with Thanksgiving the men
who in these years of war
stood between the homeland and the enemy.
The names of those who returned not again are
here inscribed for evermore.*

**Vincent's
Dog tags
No: 2692**

Campaign: 1914-15.		(A) Where decoration was earned.	
		(B) Present situation.	
Name	Corps	Rank	Reg. No.
(A) CAMA.	Lt Col. R. B.	2692	H/2/29/17
(B) Vincent			
Action taken	Deceased.		
Theatre of War: (1) France. Qualifying Date: 26-2-15.			
(G 24 46) W2126-RP483 50,000 1217 HWV(F39) K689 1254-RP7220 60,000 513			

Vincent is listed in the
**UK British Army WW1
Medal Rolls Index
Cards** for his service:

Theatre of War: France
Campaign: 1914-1915
Medal Roll: H/2/2b/17
Qualifying Date:
24 February 1915

According to the Imperial War Museum records (above) Vincent was awarded the following medals:

1914-15 Star

This was for service in France or Flanders (Belgium) between 23 November 1914 and 31 December 1915 or for service in any theatre between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915.

The British War Medal

This was awarded to both servicemen and civilians that either served in a theatre of war or rendered service overseas between 5 August 1914 and 11 November 1918.

The Victory Medal

The WW1 Victory Medal (officially the Inter-Allied Victory Medal) was a bronze medal awarded by Britain and its Allies to personnel who served in a theatre of war during World War I, featuring a winged figure of Victory (Nike) on the front and "The Great War for Civilisation 1914-1919" on the back, surrounded by a laurel wreath with a distinctive double rainbow ribbon symbolising peace after the storm.

It was awarded alongside the British War Medal (the "Squeak") and 1914 Star (the "Pip"). About 5.7 million were issued to those who entered an operational theatre between 1914-1918, or in post-war operations like Russian missions or North Sea mine clearance. Each Allied nation issued its own version with the same ribbon design and wording.

The recipient's service number, rank, name, and unit were impressed on the rim.

The "Pip, Squeak & Wilfred" Set:

Pip:	1914 Star or 1914-15 Star
Squeak:	British War Medal
Wilfred:	The Victory Medal

The purpose of the Victory Medal was to commemorate service in the Allied victory in the First World War and was never awarded alone but with other campaign medals.

Unfortunately, Vincent was not eligible for the **Territorial Force War Medal** as he did not join up until 23 October 1914 which was after the

qualifying date of 30 September 1914.

Next of Kin Memorial Plaque

His family would have also received a "**WW1 War Penny**"—officially known as the **Next of Kin Memorial Plaque** or more colloquially as the "**Dead Man's Penny**". They were first produced and issued in 1919, following the end of the war.

Production of the bronze plaques began in December 1918 at a dedicated factory in Acton, London, before expanding to the Woolwich Arsenal. They were sent out to the next-of-kin of British and Empire service personnel who died between August 4, 1914, and April 30, 1920 (and up to 1930 for some cases). A competition to design the plaque was held in 1917, won by sculptor Edward **Carter**. Approximately 1,355,000 plaques were produced.

While some sources mention they were planned as early as 1916, physical production and mailing did not start until 1919.

After the War

After the war in **1921** Santo was a Dock Pilot living on his own account. His wife Mary was working for Henry **Wilson** & Son and of their remaining children still living in the family home:

Peter was an out of work Iron Monger

Andrew was a shipwright working for **Smaridge** & Son but was out of work

Maria was a dressmaker with Messrs **Watts** Drapers & Outfitters

Carlotta (listed as Private)

Phillipa was an invoice clerk at **McLymons** Stores in Cannen Place

Joseph was a Stores Boy for Messrs **Clover Clayton** Shipbuilders & Repairers

Madeline was at school

Isabella **Alesse** was now 76 but still living with the family at 52 Nelson Street, Liverpool.

The family was living in Tranmere, Cheshire when Santo died on 30 June 1935 aged 83.

Marea Theresa was recorded in the **1939 Register** as living with her son Peter A. She was widowed and aged 72 with her date of birth given as 22

May 1867. Peter was a Head Warehouseman at a Ships Stores and he was single. Also living with them was Phillipa, born 10 March 1904; she was single and a shorthand typist and Madeline who was born on 25 June 1909 and is listed as single, and her occupation was Unpaid Domestic Duties. They were now living at 12 Ambleside Road, Liverpool.

Marea Theresa died aged 81 in 1948.

Poperinghe Military Cemetery



The **Poperinghe Old Military Cemetery Memorial Site** is maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC)

Hill 60 is a free-to-enter battlefield park where visitors can walk the trenches, see craters, and experience the preserved landscape, offering a tangible connection to the Great War.



Brief Background and History of 1/6th KLR

Territorial Force

The Liverpool Rifles became the 6th (Rifle) Battalion, The King's (Liverpool Regiment) in 1908. When the Volunteer Force was subsumed into the new Territorial Force (TF) under the Haldane Reforms in 1908, the 2nd Volunteer Battalion became the **6th Battalion (Rifles) King's Regiment (Liverpool)**, with its HQ and A to H Companies situated at Princes Park Barracks, Upper Warwick Street, Liverpool. It formed part of the Liverpool Brigade in the West Lancashire Division of the TF.^{[3][4][6][7]}

[13]

Footnotes

¹A **salient**, also known as a **bulge**, is a battlefield feature that projects into enemy territory. The salient is surrounded by the enemy on multiple sides, making the troops occupying the salient vulnerable. The opponent's front line that borders a salient is referred to as a **re-entrant** – that is, an angle pointing inwards. A deep salient is vulnerable to being "pinched off" through the base, and this will result in a pocket in which the forces in the salient become isolated and without a supply line. On the other hand, a breakout of the forces within the salient through its tip can threaten the rear areas of the opposing forces outside it, leaving them open to an attack from behind.

Notes

3 Westlek, pp. 141–53; **4**; **6** Frederick, p. 127. 7 Liverpool Rifles at Regiments.org. **13** Mark Conrad, *The British Army, 1914*. **14** James, p/ 51. **15** Becke, Pt 2a, pp. 133–9; **21** Becke, Pt 1, pp. 65–71; **22** "55th (West Lancashire) Division at Regimental Warpath". Archived from the original on 17 June 2011. Retrieved 12 December 2014; **23** Becke, Pt 1, pp. 105–111; **24** 'The Capture of Hill 60 in 1915' at Firstworldwar.com; **25** Hill 60 at 1914-18.co.uk; **26** Wyrall (2002), p123-130; **27** Wyrall (2002), p131.

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My thanks go to:

Phil **Jones** for sending me details of his uncle, Vincent **Cama**

St Michael's Church for the information on the War Memorial in the church

FindMyPast for the military information on Vincent, the census returns of 1891, 1901, and 1911 and the newspaper reports

GRO for marriage certificate

The **Imperial War Museum** for further military information

Wikipedia for general information on WW1

Alison Anyon (Editor) on behalf of Phil Jones (6022)

WW2 Family History

My mother, Gladys Louise **WEST** (nee **LEECH**), was born in the Tuebrook area of Liverpool in 1923. She was the fourth child of six children born to John (Jack) and Elsie Gladys **LEECH** (nee **BROWN**).

Jack and Elsie ran a fish and chip business in Tuebrook, but when Jack became ill with cancer (he was gassed in the First World War), the business declined and he subsequently died in 1937 aged forty-four. Elsie was left with six children, the eldest eighteen and the youngest eighteen months – my mother was fourteen. When the second world war broke out in 1939, my mother was working in munitions, firstly in the Edge Lane area of Liverpool, then in neighbouring Bootle.

Although very much a city girl, she hankered after the countryside, having cycled to the Lake District and North Wales with her favourite, elder brother. Jack. So, in 1941 when she was eighteen years old and partially to escape the prolonged bombing of Liverpool, she joined the Land Army and moved to Bedfordshire. Her first lodgings were in Barton-le-Cley, and her tasks were to fell trees in the neighbouring parish of Hexton, albeit in Hertfordshire.

It was here she met my father who was living in the hamlet of Pegsdon – parish of Shillington – and adjacent to Hexton. They were married in Liverpool in 1943, and it was soon after that she heard her brother Jack, had married in Liverpool in 1944, just before he was involved in the battle of Arnhem – Operation Market Garden.

My mother supposedly joined the Land Army, but she was actually in the Timber Corps, and they were known colloquially as Lumber Jills. It was only in recent years that their work in the war was recognised, and my mother was given a certificate signed by the then Prime Minister, and a lapel badge.

Jack had joined the Airborne Division as a stretcher bearer and had said he didn't want to fight; he wanted to save and help people. He had previously been involved in campaigns in Narvik in Norway, in Sicily and in North Africa. He displayed a red cross arm band, which I currently have in my possession.

After he married, he told my mother that he would bring his new wife to meet her in Bedfordshire, but this was not to be. In September 1944, he flew into Ede near Arnhem, in a glider, and together with allied forces numbering about two thousand, landed by parachute on Ginkel Heath. It was the intention to capture the bridges over the Rhine in Arnhem. Jack was shot down as he and a colleague landed – he sustained an injury in his neck and died instantly. His fellow stretcher bearer was shot in the leg and the captain of the group, was shot in the arm. In recent years, I have spoken to both the captain (and he sent me a copy of his war diary) and his fellow stretcher bearer. It was thought the German SS were responsible for the attack and Jack's death, but it was later established that it was the Dutch SS!

Jack was buried in Oosterbeek Military Cemetery, in the Netherlands, his body was never repatriated. My grandmother visited his grave in 1947, but my mother never felt she had closure. So, it was to celebrate her eightieth birthday in 2003, that my sister and I and our spouses took her to Arnhem and to Oosterbeek to visit Jack's grave - she finally felt at peace. It was quite a moving occasion as we were caught up in the commemorations – almost the sixtieth anniversary.

We visited Ginkel Heath, where there was a re-enactment of the landings and where veterans of the conflict 'buddied' parachutists. It must be remembered that these veterans were about eighty years of age! At the service in the cemetery on the Sunday, children from the schools in Ede laid flowers on every one of the graves. The Dutch people never forgot.

It was truly a memorable occasion, which I too, shall never forget.

Colin West (507)

THE SOMME, LIVERPOOL & THE VICTORIA CROSS

The Battle of the Somme has left an indelible imprint on Liverpool and, in turn, Liverpool has left its own stamp on the Somme. From the very start of the battle on 1 July 1916, the Liverpool Pals were to the fore when, during the first calamitous hours of the battle, objectives were gained with relatively few casualties. However, many tragedies followed. The achievement of the Liverpool Pals on the first day, for example, stands in stark contrast with the fate of the Walton Pals, who lost thirty of its members, who had been drawn from the Young Men's Bible Class.

It is very difficult to quantify unquestionable and undoubted bravery, courage and heroism at the Somme. Yet 51 Victoria Crosses were awarded for valour during the battle of the Somme and, of these, two were won by Liverpool born soldiers: **Gabriel Coury** and **David Jones**. Men, who with so many others, were to experience one of the deadliest, bloodiest and attritional battles of the war, that was to epitomise the devastation of artillery bombardment, the menacing threat of machine guns and the dangerous brutality of '*going over the top*'.

At first glance the two men had little in common.



Gabriel George Coury was the son of Raphael, an Armenian, and Marie, who was French. His father had been a successful and wealthy cotton merchant, later running the family business and relocating the family to a large house in Waterloo. Born in 1896, Gabriel enjoyed the trappings of a comfortable middle-class upbringing. The **Coury** household included nannies and tutors, charged with looking after and getting the best of the **Coury** children. Gabriel was able to attend, firstly, St Francis Xavier's School in Salisbury Street, before spending six years at Stoneyhurst, a prestigious Jesuit public

school in Lancashire that dates back to 1593. After his father's sudden death in 1903, funds were found to allow Gabriel to continue his education at Stoneyhurst, where he was able to enjoy sports and membership of the Officers' Training Corps.



In contrast, **David Jones**, born in 1892, was brought up in more humble surroundings and circumstances. He was the son of David, a cotton porter, and Jessie **Ginochio**, the daughter of Italian immigrants with connections in Little Italy, that lay within close proximity to the City Centre, where back-to-back and small terraced houses were typical. David grew up in nearby Everton, where he attended Heyworth School, established in 1890 following several government acts to provide elementary education for all.

Before the outbreak of war, their lives were destined to take different paths. **Gabriel Coury's** father had secured him a position in the cotton trade as an apprentice to **Reynolds and Gibson**. The cotton trade was booming, the Liverpool Cotton Exchange had opened in 1906, and Gabriel **Coury** appeared to be set for a secure and untroubled, if a little safe, future in the commercial life of the city. **David Jones**, on leaving school, was employed as a trainee motor mechanic at **Blake's** Motor company.

Despite such differences, in terms of character and temperament, the two men had much in common. Those who knew them before the war spoke of their qualities. Workmates at **Blake's**, **Jones's** employer of 148 Mount Pleasant, described **David Jones** as *'popular, conscientious, enthusiastic, dependable and a man with a fine sense of humour'*.

Similarly, contemporaries at Stoneyhurst found **Gabriel Coury**, an excellent sportsman, popular and *'full of high spirits and fun'*. One noted that on at least a couple of occasions, **Coury** was more than capable of *'handling himself'*, while John **Mulholland**, writing in the Stoneyhurst magazine much later, recalled the words of one of Coury's old friends, which commented on his *'invariable good humour and cheerfulness'*.

It was typical of both men that they joined up almost immediately. At the age of 18, **Coury** enlisted in the 6th Battalion, King's Regiment. Frustrated by a lack of action, Coury applied for and was granted a commission in 1915 with the Southwest Lancashire Regiment, later to become a Pioneer unit with the 55th West Lancashire Division. Inspired by **Kitchener's** recruitment campaign, **David Jones** enlisted in 1914 in 12th

Battalion King's Liverpool, a battalion formed at Seaforth. **Jones** was a private, but after training focused on trench warfare and use of the **Lewis** gun, **Jones** was promoted to corporal in September 1915.

These two men, who shared such admirable qualities and virtues, were in many ways, but not exclusively, to be defined by their experiences at the Somme. Their VCs were awarded just days apart. Selflessness, bravery and fearlessness were at the fore. The action leading to both VCs took place in and around the village of Guillemont, where both men endured the chaos, horror and carnage of trench warfare, and, in

Coury's case digging communication trenches under the German artillery bombardment. Pictorial evidence of the ravaged and utterly destroyed and devastated fields around Guillemont following the end of fighting is testament of the sustained brutality of this phase of the battle.

At the time the British forces were under pressure. In **Coury's** case, his first encounter with the Germans, the British offensive had failed. German shelling and machine gun fire dominated, and the British troops were forced to withdraw. His citation, very worthy of producing, reads:

For most conspicuous bravery. During an advance he was in command of two platoons ordered to dig a communication trench from the old firing line to the position won. By his fine example and utter contempt of danger he kept up his task under intense fire. Later, after his battalion had suffered severe casualties and the Commanding Officer had been wounded, he went out in front of the advanced position in broad daylight and in full view of the enemy found his Commanding Officer and brought him back to the new advanced trench over ground swept by machine gun fire. He not only carried out his original tasks and saved his Commanding Officer but also assisted in rallying the attacking troops when they were shaken and in leading them forward'.

For **Jones** his company, 12th King's, were struggling to cope with German counter attacks. His citation, again worthy of producing, reads:

*'For most conspicuous bravery, devotion to duty, and ability displayed in the handling of his platoon. The platoon to which he belonged was ordered to a forward position, and during the advance came under heavy machine gun fire, the officer being killed and the platoon suffering heavy losses. Sergeant **Jones** led forward the remainder, occupied the*

position, and held it for two days and two nights without food or water, until relieved. On the second day he drove back three counter attacks, inflicting heavy losses. His coolness was most praiseworthy. It was due entirely to his resource and example that his men retained confidence and held their post’.

News of their VCs was reported on the same day in the London Gazette, 26 October 1916. Incidentally, the first of Noel **Chavasse**’s VCs was included on the same day. **Chavasse** was born in Oxford on 9 November 1886 and moved to Liverpool in 1900 when his father, Francis, was offered the post of Bishop of Liverpool.

It was during 1916 that, despite differences in rank, the similarities between the two men became further apparent. Above all, both men were natural leaders, capable of inspiring and motivating those around them by their example of fortitude, perseverance and resilience, setting standards and handling their men with ease. Those who knew **Coury** have been effusive in their praise. A corporal in the Pioneers said of **Coury** in the Liverpool Post, 30 October 1916, *‘He was the bravest officer I ever served under. He showed absolute contempt for death and made us all feel that a dozen deaths were as nothing compared with the necessity of completing the task given to us.’*

Francis **Coxhead** recalled of **David Jones** after he had won his VC, *‘We had been given up for lost. Nobody ever expected to see us again. That we had come through the ordeal safe and with honour was entirely due to Jones’s handling of the men and no one will begrudge him the honour he has won’*. Later, **Coxhead** commented that **Jones** *‘ought to be an officer. He led us with great skill and completely baffled the foe at every turn. Nothing could dismay him. At times there was enough to make one’s heart sink to the boots, but Sergeant Jones was as chirpy as could be and his cheeriness was infectious. We all felt nothing could go wrong with his leadership and we were right’*. Such a view was endorsed by his company commander, Captain **Millican**, who spoke of his *‘fearlessness and bravery’* and its positive, inspiring effect on those around him.

Both men were driven hugely by a sense of devotion to duty and patriotism. **Coury**, who survived, was able to offer, typically, a self-effacing and modest rationale of his actions. As he said of the rescue of Lieutenant Colonel **Swainson**, who had collapsed in the open with several failed attempts to bring him in, *‘I had to do it because not only was he a CO, but*

he was married and had children’ and went on to say, ‘What I did was nothing. It was my direct duty, and I should have to do it again under similar circumstances’.

Jones’s story tells of an equally admirable sense of duty. Jones had won his VC in September, and, with typical modesty, he declined the opportunity to return home to receive his medal, choosing to remain at the front with his comrades. He was, before he could return to receive his medal, killed in action on 7 October, the seventh day of the battle of Transloy Ridges. At Bancroft, where Jones is buried, his headstone includes most poignantly, fittingly and deservedly, the traditional verse: *‘He fought for God and right and liberty and as such death is immortality’*. Two stories have emerged that say much about Sergeant **Jones**. The first demonstrates a mix of fearless and humour. He died, it was reported, attacking the Germans with a **Lewis** gun, but had, according to his comrades, taken time out to smoke a cigar given to him earlier by a German captive. Then, secondly, that his distraught, tearful comrades, including his friends, Francis **Coxhead** and Fred **Austin**, whom he had met at enlistment at Seaforth, buried him on the spot in the heat of battle speaks volumes for the esteem in which he was held.

Post-war, it was **Jones’s** widow and his employers, **Blake’s**, who championed his memory, presenting a wreath at the Cenotaph each year.

World War One Victoria Cross Centenary Commemoration

This commemoration stone is in honour of David Jones (1891–1916) who was awarded the Victoria Cross on 3rd September 1916



David Jones was born at 3 Hutchinson Street on 10th January 1891. He was educated at Heyworth Street School and then trained as a motor mechanic and coachbuilder at Blake's Motor Company on Lord Street in Liverpool. When the First World War broke out in 1914 he enlisted as a private in the Kings (Liverpool) Regiment and when he was only 25 years old he became a sergeant with the 12th Battalion of the Kings (Liverpool) Regiment.

During the difficult and costly battle of the Somme, the 12th Battalion captured the village of Guillemont on 3rd September 1916 losing 187 men in two days, and it was during this action that David Jones earned the Victoria Cross for his bravery, the highest and most prestigious award for gallantry in the face of the enemy. However he was later killed in action on 7 October 1916 and died not knowing of his award which was announced two weeks after his death. His widow, Elizabeth, collected his medal from King George V in 1917 and it's now on display at the Museum of Liverpool.

His citation in the London Gazette reads:

"For most conspicuous bravery, devotion to duty, and ability displayed in the handling of his platoon. The platoon to which he belonged was ordered to a forward position, and during the advance came under heavy machine gun fire, the officer being killed and the platoon suffering heavy losses. Serg. Jones led forward the remainder, occupied the position, and held it for two days and two nights without food or water, until relieved. On the second day he drove back three counter-attacks, inflicting heavy losses. His conduct was most gallant, it was due entirely to his resource and example that his own command confidence and held their post."

Transcription of Commemorative Stone for Sergeant David Jones.

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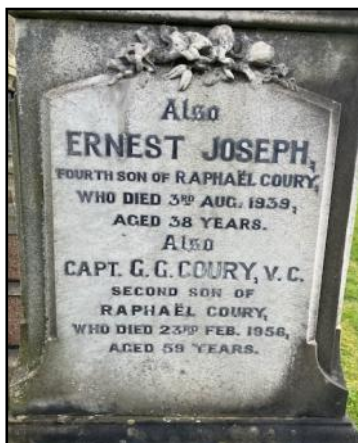
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Most recently, a flagstone was laid in his honour in Whiteley Gardens, Everton.

Coury went on to join the RFC during the final months of the war. After the war he resumed work as a cotton agent and trader and survived Spanish Flu. In 1940 he enlisted with the RASC, returning to the battlefields of France and after the war he opened The Frying Pan, the first of his food ventures. A lifelong smoker **Coury** died in 1956 and is buried at St Peter and St Paul's, Crosby.





The Flagstone of Gabriel Coury in Sefton Park

Transcription reads:

**Second Lieutenant
Gabriel Coury
South Lancashire Regiment
Prince of Wales's Volunteers
8 August 1916**

A Ravaged Guillemont after the fighting



Transcription reads:

**To The Memory
Sergt David Jones, V.C.
Of The 12th Kings (Liverpool) Regiment
An Old Pupil Of This School
Who Was Awarded The Victoria Cross
During The Great War
For His Inspiring Courage And Cheering
Example
When, His Officers Having Fallen
HE TOOK COMMAND
Captured An Advanced Position On The
Somme Front
And In Spite Of The Fiercest Counter-
Attacks
Held It For Three Days Until Relieved
He Was Killed In Action Three Weeks Later
On 7 Oct 1916**



By way of a postscript, it is noteworthy that Liverpool-born VC winners also fought at the Somme. Arthur **Procter**, Bootle-born and one-time Barnardo boy, experienced three years of trench warfare and won his VC near Ficheaux in June 1916, returning from injuries becoming the first man to be decorated on the battlefield. Alexander **Wright** was awarded the VC in 1914. On his return to the front, after having been presented with his medal by the King in London, along with General **Horne**, he was responsible for developing the rolling barrage, a tactic used at Loos and the Somme.

Others were awarded their Victoria Crosses having previously seen action at the Somme. Cyril **Gourlay**, *'the bashful hero'* was involved in the Somme in and around Guillemont in the summer and late summer of 1916. He was to win the Military Medal and later the VC at Ypres. Kirkdale - born Albert **White** rose to the rank of sergeant in the South Welsh Borderers, having fought at Gallipoli, Arras and at the Somme, surviving the savagery at Beaumont Hamel on the first day of battle. In 1917 **White** returned to the front, where he won the VC, awarded posthumously, at Monchy-le-Preux. William **Ratcliffe**, *'the Dockers' VC'*, like **Gourlay** won the MM and the VC. After fighting with great courage at Thiepval, Ovillers and Pozieres, **Ratcliffe** was awarded a very popular and celebrated VC for his actions at the battle of Messines in 1917. Hugh **McKenzie**, Liverpool born, served in the Canadian Expeditionary Force, having arrived in Canada via Inverness. His distinguished service at the Somme at Fleurs-Courcelette, Thiepval and Le Transloy was recognised by several promotions and honours before the posthumous award of his VC during the offensive of February 1918. Frank **Lester** fought at Le Transloy, Fleurs-Courcelette, Fricourt and Guillemont on the Somme before being wounded, then returning to duty following respite at Cromer. **Lester** won his VC towards the end of the war. Being nursed in his final moments he asked, *'Remember me to all at home and tell them I did my best.'*

A fitting sentiment. Such heroism and courage from ordinary men, who in the face of danger, did extraordinary deeds, driven by an overwhelming commitment to duty and their country.

Further reading:

A Singular Day on the Somme: Joe **Devereaux**; VCs of the Somme: Gerald **Gliddon**;

The Kenley Review: A True Patriot, the story of Gabriel **Coury**; Liverpool VCs: James **Murphy**

Tom White (9656)

Real Places, Real Lives, Real Lancashire

Nestled in the northwest of England, Lancashire is a county of rich history, vibrant culture, and striking landscapes. From the industrial cities of the east to the rolling hills of the west, Lancashire has long been a region of contrasts, where tradition meets modernity. Its name, derived from the city of Lancaster, evokes centuries of historical significance, from Roman occupation to medieval power struggles, and the pivotal role the county played during the Industrial Revolution.

Lancashire is perhaps best known for its contributions to industry and innovation. The county was a powerhouse of textile production, with cotton mills shaping the social and economic fabric of towns such as Blackburn, Burnley, and Preston. These industrial roots fostered a strong sense of community and resilience, traits that remain evident in the county's identity today. Alongside industry, Lancashire boasts a rich cultural heritage. Its folklore, music, and culinary traditions, such as the famous Lancashire hotpot, reflect a deep connection to place and history.

The county's natural beauty is equally remarkable. The western part of Lancashire opens onto the Forest of Bowland, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, while the coastline offers charming seaside towns like Morecambe and Blackpool, home to iconic piers, pleasure beaches, and the famous Blackpool Tower. The region balances urban energy with pastoral tranquillity, offering something for every visitor.

Moreover, Lancashire has produced an impressive array of talent across the arts, sports, and entertainment, from football legends to actors and musicians, leaving an enduring mark on both national and global culture. Today, Lancashire stands as a vibrant tapestry of history, innovation, and natural beauty, a county that celebrates its past while embracing the future, inviting all who visit to explore its many layers and stories.

The spirit of Lancashire is embraced through some of its famous sons and daughters, such as **Tom Finney**, **Gracie Fields**, **George Formby**, and **Thora Hird**; their talent, resilience, and loyalty brought national and international acclaim while remaining rooted in Lancashire's

communities. They showcase the region's rich cultural, sporting, and artistic heritage, inspiring pride across generations.

Tom **Finney** was born in Preston on April 5, 1922, and is celebrated not just as one of England's finest footballers, but as a true Lancastrian hero. Raised in a traditional working-class Lancashire family, **Finney** grew up in the heart of Preston, a city with a proud footballing tradition and a strong sense of community. Before football became his full-time pursuit, he trained as a plumber, a trade that earned him the affectionate nickname "*The Preston Plumber*," symbolizing his deep connection to his local roots and his humility despite extraordinary talent.



From his early days kicking a ball on the streets and local fields of Preston, it was clear that **Finney** possessed rare skill. His pace, balance, and dribbling ability made him a formidable winger, while his versatility allowed him to play on either flank with equal brilliance. Over a career spanning more than a decade with Preston North End, he scored 187 goals in 433 appearances, demonstrating loyalty that endeared him to generations of fans. On the international stage, he represented England 76 times, scoring 30 goals, and brought pride to Lancashire every time he stepped onto the pitch. But **Finney's** legend goes beyond statistics. He embodied the values of his county, hard work, modesty, and a strong sense of community. Even after retirement, he remained rooted in Preston, contributing to local projects and inspiring young footballers across the whole county. His legacy is immortalized in statues, tributes, and stories passed down in pubs and football grounds across the county.

Tom **Finney** is more than a footballing icon; he is a symbol of Lancashire itself. His career and character reflect the spirit of the county, resilient, loyal, and proud, ensuring that, to this day, the streets of Preston still whisper the story of a local boy who became a national legend.

Thora **Hird**, born on May 28, 1911, in Morecambe, rose to become one of Britain's most cherished actresses. Her early years in the seaside town of Morecambe instilled a grounded, down-to-earth character that would

define her career. Thora's talent emerged in local theatre, where she learned to captivate audiences with both comedy and drama, reflecting the resilience and warmth of her Lancashire upbringing.

Hird became a household name through stage, film, and television, notably in sitcoms such as *Last of the Summer Wine*, where her performances showcased wit, timing, and a uniquely Northern charm. Her success was always intertwined with her identity as a Lancastrian; she carried the accent, humour, and values of her home county into every role, earning the affection of audiences nationwide.



Beyond acting, Thora **Hird** was admired for her humility, philanthropy, and connection to community, qualities deeply rooted in her Lancashire upbringing. Even as fame spread, she remained loyal to her roots, supporting local causes and maintaining a strong sense of identity. Today, **Hird** stands as a symbol of Lancashire talent and perseverance, embodying the pride and spirit of the county she loved.

George **Formby**, born George Hoy **Booth** on May 26, 1904, in Wigan, is remembered as one of Lancashire's, and England's, most beloved entertainers. Growing up in a typical working-class Lancashire family, **Formby's** early life was shaped by the tough yet close-knit communities of the northwest. He learned the ukulele and banjo as a boy, performing in local music halls and honing a style that combined cheeky humour with remarkable musical skill.



Formby's rise to fame was rooted in his Lancashire identity. His songs, often filled with playful double innuendo, resonated with audiences across the county and beyond, reflecting the wit, resilience, and optimism of the people who shaped him. During the 1930s and 1940s, he became a national icon through stage performances, films, and

recordings, bringing laughter and light to audiences during difficult times, including the Second World War.

Even at the height of fame, **Formby** remained deeply connected to his roots. He frequently returned to Lancashire, supporting local charities and maintaining friendships from his youth. His legacy endures not just in entertainment history but in the pride of Lancashire communities, where his name still evokes the music halls and streets of his childhood. George **Formby** is remembered as a symbol of Lancashire charm, talent, and laughter, a true local legend whose influence continues to delight generations.



Gracie **Fields**, born Grace **Stansfield** on 9 January 1898, in Rochdale, became one of the greatest stars of British entertainment. Growing up in a working-class family, **Fields** discovered her talent for singing and performing at a young age, winning over local audiences with her warmth, charm, and remarkable voice. Her Lancashire upbringing, resilient, humorous, and deeply connected to community, shaped the persona that would endear her to millions.

Despite international success, **Fields** remained proud of her roots. She maintained strong ties to Lancashire, frequently supporting local causes and celebrating the county's culture. Her legacy endures in her recordings, films, and the affectionate memory of her as a true Lancastrian heroine. Gracie **Fields** exemplifies the talent, resilience, and warmth that define Lancashire, making her a legend not just of entertainment, but of her county itself.

The story of Lancashire is not only written in its landscapes, mills, and seaside promenades, but in the lives of the people who emerged from its streets, towns, and tight-knit communities. From the industrial heartlands to the windswept coast, the county has shaped generations through hard work, community spirit, and an enduring sense of belonging. This spirit is reflected powerfully in the lives of **Tom Finney**, **Thora Hird**, **George Formby**, and **Gracie Fields** and others; individuals whose achievements reached far beyond Lancashire while remaining

firmly rooted in it.

What unites these figures is not simply fame, but character. Each carried the values of their upbringing into national and international arenas; humility, resilience, loyalty, and an unshakable connection to ordinary people. Whether through sport, song, comedy, or drama, they represented Lancashire honestly, never losing touch with the communities that shaped them. Their success did not distance them from home; instead, it amplified pride in place and possibility for future generations.

Today, Lancashire continues to evolve, balancing modern life with deep respect for its heritage. The stories of its famous sons and daughters remind us that greatness often begins locally, on cobbled streets, in music halls, on football pitches, and in small theatres, before inspiring the wider world. Lancashire's strength lies in this connection between place and people, past and present.

Ultimately, “***Real Lives, Real Places, Real Lancashire***” is a celebration of identity. It affirms that the county's true legacy is found not only in history books or landmarks, but in the enduring spirit of its people, proud, grounded, and quietly extraordinary.

Mike Halligan (9801)

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Upcoming Zoom Talks

Welcome to the listings for our Zoom talks coming up in the next few months.

Members will receive an invitation each month with a link to go to Eventbrite and book their ticket, which will arrive a day or two before the talk from the Zoom Admin email address. If you don't receive these invitations, please check that you have renewed your membership as that list is provided for the invitations to be sent to.

Generally speaking, we will hold these talks on Wednesday evenings, starting at 7pm, but this may vary depending on the time zone the speaker lives in. However, if it is at an unusual time we will usually ask the speaker if we can record their talk and place a link in our Members Area for everybody to catch up with.

2026 Itinerary

June	No Meeting
15 Jul	These Isles: The Story of England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland Brian Groom
19 Aug	The Last Drop- Abolition of Public Execution April Lewis
Sept	To Be Arranged - Do you have a tale to tell our members? Then get in touch via zoom-admin@lswlfhs.org.uk

Some feedback from one of our members:

What a wonderful talk tonight on the tunnels, one of the best you have ever arranged. Maybe one of these days we will get to visit them when we come up to Liverpool.

*Looking at the photos, the workmanship of the men who built them is incredible taking into account the era, conditions and tools they had. Those men were a credit to the City and **Williamson** when you see the end results. I hope they can be preserved for posterity so future generations can see and appreciate how it was at that period in time. I wish there was a list of employees in case our ancestors worked there.*

Again thank you so much for your hard work in arranging this talk.

Jean Alker (1030)

New Members

New and old Members' Interest's detailed below consist of the membership number and interest in terms of **SURNAME and INITIAL, LOCATION and DATE.**

**A maximum of only ten interests
can be published for the sake of space.**

**Anyone needing more than ten interests
can see the extra numbers published on our website.**

Members reading this section who identify an interest they are looking for, should note the membership number of the contributing member and contact them through the '**Members Only**' area of our website:

www.lswlfhs.org.uk

We welcome our new members, numbers 9820—9836 who have joined most recently and wish them every success with their research.

9820 K Geraghty	9821 J Hitchmough	9822 D Logan
9823 F Bradley	9824 A Soutter	9825 T Batty
9826 E Digman	9827 A Webster	9828 S Shallow
9829 N Dewhirst	9830 M F McCarthy	9831 J Dickson
9832 J Davidson	9833 C Murphy	9834 D Smart
9835 T Williams	9836 M Parle	

We also welcome back the following members:

1125 H Martell	1476 P Corr
6035 B Phythian	6878 D Washington
9148 D Hawkes	9531 P Sloan
9652 M Paterson	

Members' Interests

3031	Lathom	Any	Lathom/LAN or immediate area	1700-1900
3342	Adams	Any	IRE/Belfast	
			LAN/Lpl/Kirkdale/Walton	1860>
	Coward	Any	LAN/Liverpool	1720>
	Hargreaves	Any	CHS Astbury/LAN Everton/ Walton/Birkdale	1750-1900
	Holliday	Any	CUM Maryport LAN Lpl Kirkdale/West Derby	
	Griffiths	Any	LAN Lpl Walton/Kirkdale/ Everton/Seaforth/Litherland	1790>
	Krebs	Any	DEV Truro/SAL Ellesmere/MON Welshpool/ FLN Hanmer/LAN Liverpool/YKS Hull/ CHS Chester(1700)/Australia	1834-present
3651	McKenna	Any	DGY	Any
	McKinnon	Any	DUB/ANT	Any
	Peacock	Any	Gunnarside/NRY	Any
5148	True	Any	Liverpool/Kings Lynn	Any
	Mason	Any	Liverpool/Edinburgh	Any
5183	Haddock	Joseph	D.Industrial Accident Cannington Shaws St Helens	Oct 1870-Dec 1913
	Miller	Robert Louis	LAN Lpl/USA New York	1884—1919
5920	Stark(es)	Anthony/William	LAN/Liverpool	1780-1830
	Weaver	Mary	LAN/Liverpool	1796-1836
	Webster	Jonathon	LAN/Liverpool	1720-1780
6456	Ames	Any	CAM/Soham	Any
7311	Hogg		LAN/Liverpool	1900-present
	Delahunty		LAN/Liverpool	1900-present
7659	Cleary	Any	LAN/Liverpool	
			IRE/Nenagh Tipperary	1820>
7845	McClelland	Any	LAN/Liverpool	1830s
7861	Corfe	Any	CHS/Bebington	>1758
	Scarisbrick	Any	CHS/Bebington	>1704
	Pearson	Any	LAN/Liverpool	>1800

7861	Roberts	Any	LAN/Liverpool	>1810
	Whitehead	Any	LAN/Liverpool	>1800
8227	Davies	Any	Any	Any
	Hughes	Any	Any	Any
	Prendergast	Any	Any	Any
	Usher	Any	Any	Any
8429	Dodge	William	Dorset/Liverpool	1848-1902
	Marks	Mary	Liverpool	1825-1920
9472	Connor	Margaret Ann	Liverpool	1878-1923
	Murray	William	Liverpool	1904-1986
	Murray	Francis	Liverpool	1910
	Murray	John Thomas	Liverpool	1904-1923
	Games	Margaret	LAN/Liverpool	1866-1926
	Murray	Marie	LAN/Liverpool	1914-1942
9531	Sloan	William	Liverpool	1800-1810
	Greer	Mary	Liverpool	1810-1860
9556	Mattley	Any	Any	Any
9798	Green	Mary	Any	<1859
	Green	Patrick	Any	1875>
	Green	Thomas James	Any	1810>
9820	Campbell	Hugh	IRE/Liverpool	1785-1841
	McCallin	Catharine	IRE/Liverpool	1785-1841
	Campbell	John	IRE/Liverpool	1809-1870
	McGivern	Susan	IRE/Liverpool	1814-1859
	Crawford	William	IRE/Liverpool	1822-1863
	Cannon	Elizabeth	IRE/Liverpool	1822-1863
9829	Barry	Francis	LAN	1862-1950
	Hagan	Mary	LAN	1880-1980
9836	Parle	John/Stephen	Widnes	1870-1950
	Parle	John/Stephen	Runcorn	1850-1900
	Parle	Stephen	Wexford	1830-1900

The Members' Interest's Secretary, Sandra Roberts, is currently reviewing the current Members Interests list with the Membership to ensure they remain correct and that emails have not changed since they were first registered.

If you wish to update your Members Interests or to register a new email address please contact Sandra on:

interests@lswlfhs.org.uk

Sandra Roberts
Members Interests Secretary

Lancashire Parish Register Society

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Help Desks

Can we help you with your brick wall?

Have you come across a stumbling block in your
Liverpool research?

You are welcome to ask questions relating to your research on
our website at:

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

Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/LandSWLFHS>

Alternatively, send your questions to the Editor at
editor@lswlfhs.org.uk and we will do our best to include your
query in the Journal

Liverpool Group:

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

Southport Group:

Crosby Library - First and Third Friday in month - 10am to 1pm. Please
contact Crosby Library for an appointment.

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

Warrington Group:

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

23 May; 20 June; 25 July; 22 August; 26 September; 24 October; and 21
November.

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

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

News from the Groups

Liverpool

Chairman: Susan Atkins

Secretary: Geoff Bibby

Meetings are held in **Room 2, 4th Floor, Liverpool Central Library, William Brown Street, Liverpool, L3 8EW** on the second Tuesday of each month. Doors open 5:30pm for 5:45pm start and meetings finish no later than 7:45pm. £1 for refreshments.

9 Jun Liverpool's Links with Ireland

David Hearn

8 Sep Members Evening

10 Oct To be arranged

No meetings are held in July and August and November and December although the help desks are still available at the library during this time.

Skelmersdale & Upholland

Chairman: Bill Fairclough

Secretary: Caroline Fairclough

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

2 Jun A Trip to the Zoo

Louise Wade

No meetings are held in July and August

1 Sep Murder & Mayhem in Victorian Skelmersdale

Mark Boardman

6 Oct **AGM** and Help Night

Recently held talks at Skelmersdale & Upholland Group

At our meeting on 3 March Ian **Mooney** gave a very interesting PowerPoint presentation on Van Diemen's Land, and on some of the Liverpool women who were sent to Australia between 1818 and 1852.

Some of the women were transported for stealing, robbery, receiving stolen goods, arson, murder, manslaughter, assault, uttering and other offences. Ian had done a lot of research on the internet about some of the women.

Then on 5 May we had Jean **Finney** present an interesting talk on the history of nursery rhymes. Most of the rhymes she talked about were from the period of Henry VIII and Mary Tudor.

Both talks were very well received and much enjoyed by our members.

Caroline Fairclough

Secretary – Skelmersdale and Upholland Group

Southport

Chairman: Ian Cooper

Secretary: Paula Reese

Meetings are held at **Birkdale Community Hub and Library** on the second Friday of each month (unless stated otherwise). Meetings start at 7:30pm. Coffee/Tea and biscuits from 7.15pm.

12 Jun Group Discussion: Family Stories - True or False?

No Meetings are held in July and August

11 Sep Southport Streets

David Walshe

Warrington

Chairman: Peter Joliffe

Secretary: Agnes Ingram

Penketh (Meeting Lane) Community Centre, Meeting Lane, Penketh, Warrington WA5 2BG, UK. Meetings start at 7:00pm (doors open at 6:30pm) on the fourth Monday of each month, except for December. Tea and biscuits provided for £1.

22 Jun Warrington through old maps

Philip Jeffs

27 July Settling in a new land (A German POW's Story) **Bill Cooper**

18 Aug Ancestry/Family Tree Maker/Help Desk

Warrington Group Project

The Warrington group are currently helping local archivist, Philip Jeffs from Culture Warrington at Warrington Library, with a talk he will be giving to local schools.

The talk will be about the impact of birching of young boys in the early 1900s in Warrington. The Warrington group have been helping to flesh out the story of the boys lives before and after punishment and the project is ongoing.

Widnes

Welcome to our group page from your committee members Claire, Gill and Sue.

Widnes Family History Group was formed in 1994 and is one of the five groups that form part of the Liverpool & Southwest Lancashire Family History Society.

We meet at 7pm on the last Wednesday of each month, except December, at **Upton Community Centre, Hough Green Road, Widnes, WA8 4PF.**

Meetings currently consist of members research evenings, with our library available to browse. Help is offered from our committee members and members of the group.

Officers of the Society

General Committee Officers

President: Joyce Culling **Vice President:** Peter Jolliffe

Trustees

Chairman:	Susan Atkins Email: chair@lswlfhs.org.uk
Vice Chairman:	Mary Allan Email: liverpool@lswlfhs.org.uk
Hon. Treasurer:	Ann Croft Email: treasurer@lswlfhs.org.uk
General Secretary:	Barry Peacock Email: secretary@lswlfhs.org.uk
Publications Officer:	Shelagh Boardman Email: publications@lswlfhs.org.uk
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Minutes Secretary:	Belinda Shaw Email: minutessec@lswlfhs.org.uk

Other Officers

Media Administrator:	Mary Allan Email: zoom-admin@lswlfhs.org.uk
Membership Secretary:	Geoff Bibby 2 Chelford Close, Bidston, Birkenhead, CH43 7NJ Email: membership@lswlfhs.org.uk
Strays Co-ordinator:	Vacant Email: strays@lswlfhs.org.uk
Members' Interests Sec:	Sandra Roberts Email: interests@lswlfhs.org.uk
Donated Certificates Sec:	Val Benson Ailsa Craig, Russet Road, Weaverham, Northwich, CW8 3HY Email: certificates@lswlfhs.org.uk

Plus one representative elected by each Group of the Society



Memorial to the Liverpool Pals

On 8 September 2019, a plaque was dedicated to the memory of the four Liverpool Pals Battalions: 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th Battalions of the King's Liverpool Regiment. The ceremony was performed by the Right Honourable The Earl of Derby DL, whose grandfather was responsible for raising those Pals units in 1914.

The plaque is in the garden of the Parish Church of Liverpool, St Nicholas, near the Pier Head, on the surrounding wall. It was designed by local sculptor **Tom Murphy** who also carried out the panels in memory of the Pals which are in Lime Street Station.

The date of the ceremony was chosen to mark the centenary of the return from service in Russia of the 17th Battalion, the first to be recruited and the last to be stood down. The unveiling was preceded by a service in the church, attended by many local dignitaries.

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Memorial window in the porch of St Michael's church, Aigburth. The central panel is of St Michael in medieval armour with the words "*Put on the whole armour of God*".

He is flanked by the emblems of
The King's Regiment (TA),
Duke of Lancaster Regiment,
Liverpool King's Regiment
(Pals Bn),
The West Lancs Light
Infantry,
Royal Coat of Arms and the
badge of the Royal Flying
Corps.

The design was by [H. Gustave Hiller](#) of Liverpool.

Porch Window in St Michael's Church, Aigburth

Built in 1815, this unique church was one of the first buildings in the world to be built using cast iron. Today, St Michael-in-the-Hamlet with St Andrew stands as a rare survivor of early industrial innovation and over two centuries of community life.

Henry Gustave Hiller (1864–1946) was an artist based in Liverpool. He studied at the Manchester School of Art and is mainly known as a designer of painted gesso reliefs and stained glass.

Author: Murfas

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