

LIVERPOOL FAMILY HISTORIAN



Volume 48 No. 1



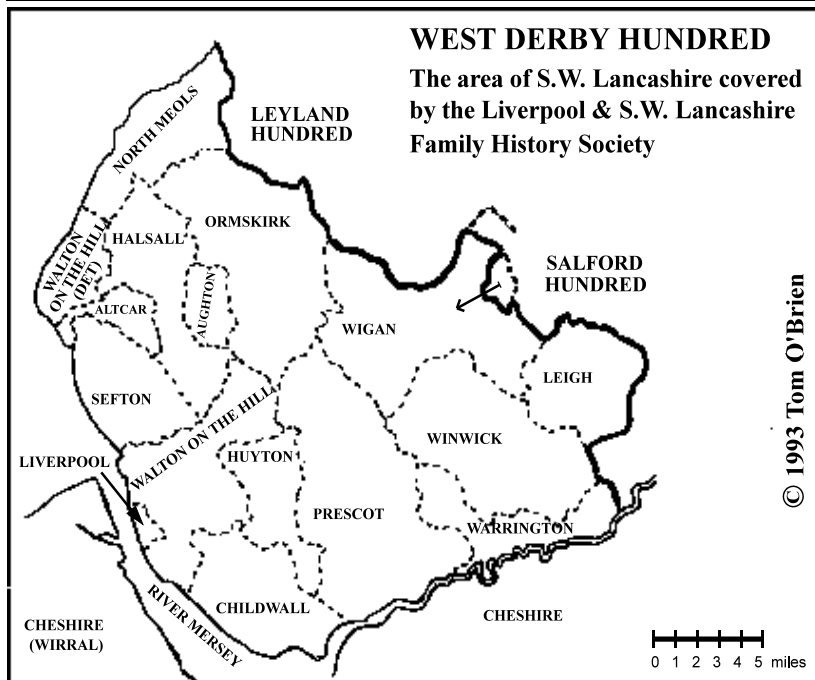
March 2026

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.”



Website: www.lswlfhs.org.uk



Front cover: Grade II listed stone bridge over **Stanley Park Lake**.
View from the southwest near the Tetlow Street entrance to the park.

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Liverpool Family Historian

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Editorial

Hello everyone and a special hello to all our new members.

We have a bumper issue for you this quarter, with an epic tale from across the world in Australia to North Wales. It's a wonderful story and shows how research really comes in to its own. I was amazed at how well Sue Halliwell managed to find out as much as she did and to reunite the belongings to their family. Please see the article about William Sowerby on page 6 for more information.

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Kathy Donaldson in December. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her and our condolences go to her many friends and family. Please see the obituary on page 5.

The winners of our Best Article Competition 2025 are:

March 2025	The Leaving of Liverpool	G Jones (9680)
June 2025	Ancestral Warnings from Beyond the Grave	K Thompson (9730)
September 2025	Quirks of Fate	S Richards-Dobson (6795)
December 2025	A Liverpool Love Tragedy	P Forshaw (9542)

Many congratulations to the winners and indeed to everyone who submitted an article. The standard of the articles submitted was very high as usual. The winners will be contacted by the Member's Secretary in due course.

I am still looking for articles for the June 2026 Journal focussing on WW1. If anyone has a story to tell, please forward it to me for inclusion.

For the photos of Liverpool this quarter I have focussed on some of our wonderful parks. It seemed relevant because as I was searching for photos suitable for the Journal the sun was shining and it felt like spring was in the air and just around the corner (28 January). (It didn't last long as we were soon pelted with heavy rain and strong winds.....)

Alison Anyon
(Editor)

Society News Items

New 2026 Membership Fees

Over the past few years there has been a steady increase in the cost of production and distribution of the quarterly journal and so following the vote at the AGM to accept the proposal to increase membership fees it was agreed that the Society should operate a 2-tier membership fee structure from the 1 January 2026.

Therefore, the fee will be £10.00 for all members irrespective of their location, but for this they will receive the journal digitally for downloading via their preferred method of reading e.g. PC, laptop, phone or Kindle. For those members who wish to continue to receive a printed journal via the post, the price will be £20.00 for UK residents and £28.00 for all non-UK residents.

The website is being updated to reflect the new fees, but if you pay by standing order then this will need to be updated in line with your preferred method of receipt.

Geoff Bibby
Membership Secretary

Copyright

It is not the intention of the Society to enforce copyright, although individual contributors may wish to exercise their rights. Contributors retain their copyright but must expect editing to suit the requirements of the journal. The Society will be satisfied if due acknowledgement is given when extracts from the journal are published or used elsewhere.

However, if extracts from other publications appear in this journal the permission of the original copyright holder must be obtained prior to reproduction of their material.

ATTENTION!

A reminder that Santander have closed our bank account with them.

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

To continue receiving copies of the Journal uninterrupted from January 2026, please check your bank account now and (if necessary) update the details to:

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

Please quote your membership number as the Reference

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause but this has been totally out of our control.

Ann Croft , Treasurer

Liverpool and Southwest Lancs FHS 50 years Anniversary Celebration

On 27 May 2026, the society is celebrating its 50th anniversary. We would like to mark the occasion by holding an event or two (!) during the summer months. We already have scheduled the **Conference** in Warrington on **10 October 2026** and the **Zoom AGM** on Wednesday **14 October 2026**. Members and Branches are cordially invited to suggest some informal event in their locality and would like to invite other society members to join. Please contact chair@lswlfhs.org.uk with your ideas.

Some suggestions so far, are:

- A 'picnic in the park' at one of the historic houses in the region i.e. Speke Hall
- A visit to the Atkinson Arts Centre Museum, Southport
- Pub lunch at Ring o' Bells, Daresbury followed by a visit to the Lewis Carroll Centre and All Saints Church, Daresbury, nr Warrington
- An extra Zoom meeting to commemorate the anniversary perhaps on the two different faiths in Liverpool or on the local Smedley Hydro, the GRO Records Office for BMDs

Obituary



Kathy Donaldson 14 Sep 1960-10 Dec 2025

It was a very sad day when I received a phone call to say that my friend and Help Desk Colleague had passed away in December 2025. Kathy was a very longstanding member of the Society.

Up to a year or so ago when she became ill, Kathy had been a regular member of the Liverpool Help Desk for many years. She was very knowledgeable about the records of Liverpool Archives where she had been a volunteer for a short time and automatically knew the reference for most of the records held there. She was also for many years the organiser for speakers at Liverpool Group Meetings -some brilliant talks were organised by her.

Kathy was also on the Society Committee as Strays Co-ordinator and only gave that job up last year. Kathy was also one of the Admins on the Society Facebook group.

She would willingly give help to anyone who needed it. Her knowledge, expertise and enthusiasm will be very sadly missed.

RIP Kathy

Susan Atkins Chair Liverpool & SW Lancashire FHS

William Sowerby

ORIGINAL REQUEST TO L&SWLFHS FACEBOOK PAGE

*Over the years a gentleman in Australia has been holding photos and war medals for a friend of his father who originally came from the UK and joined the Defence Forces in Australia during the 2nd World War. His name is (was) William **SOWERBY** and after he was invalided out of the forces in the 1950's he went to live with their family and passed away on the 5 September 1962. He was their 'Uncle Bill' but no relation. The family now wanted to return William's medals and photographs to any living family member if one could be found.*

I decided to have a go!

After getting permission to contact the gentleman concerned I emailed him. Ross **Pengilly** thanked me for getting in touch. He said he would send me copies of some photographs (some had names, most had nothing) and a letter from a lady in Liverpool (that's how the enquiry ended up with L&SWLFHS). So, while I waited, I got stuck in.

When the email arrived the thing that was the most interesting was a letter from Ina **Kelly**. Although I did find the address and the family, I couldn't find a link to William **Sowerby**. **(See letter later in article).**

So, my interest turned to William **Sowerby**. I knew he had been in the Australian military and in fact there were two attestations. His first for the Australian Navy where he was a Petty Officer and then a transfer to the Australian Army. His Attestation Form contained some helpful information. He seems to be fully aware of his father's death in 1940 as he had named his stepmother as next of kin. His father Richard had died in January 1940 at the age of 62 at a hospital in Hartlepool, although on joining the Australian Navy he named his brother as next of Kin, I wonder why? A question that will remain unanswered I am afraid.

I can only trace William by the census while he was over here. Although the letter from Ina and Ross' input has given some insight in to William's life. I know Alan is completely amazed. He has quite a lot on his family history, but there was no mention of William, so he's thrilled thanks to Ross, to be able to him added to the family tree.

Source citation for Australia, World War II Military Service Records, 1939-1945

Ancestry record
Australia, World War II Military Service Records, 1939-1945
Citation details
View record
Associated facts
Media

Name: William Sowerby
Birth Date: 19 Jul 1906
Birth Place: West Hartlepool England
Enlistment Date: 1939-1948
Military Service Branch: Royal Australian Navy
Service Number: 943
Next of Kin: Vernon
Relationship to Soldier: Brother
Series Description: A5770: RAN, Petty Officers and Men

Close
Remove

Source citation for Australia, World War II Military Service Records, 1939-1945

Ancestry record
Australia, World War II Military Service Records, 1939-1945
Citation details
View record
Associated facts
Media

Name: William Sowerby
Birth Date: 19 Jul 1906
Birth Place: West Hartlepool, England
Enlistment Date: 1939-1948
Enlistment Place: Claremont, Western Australia
Military Service Branch: Army, Second Australian Imperial Force
Service Number: WX15013
Next of Kin: Annie Sowerby
Series Description: B883: Army, 2nd AIF

Close
Remove

Navy and Army (Australian) Military Records for William Sowerby

ATTESTATION FORM
FOR SPECIAL FORCES RAISED FOR SERVICE IN AUSTRALIA OR ABROAD.

Army No. WX 15013
Surname OWERBY Other Name William
Unit GENERAL REINFORCEMENTS
Enlisted for service at W. COMM. GENERAL DETA LS CAMP, CLAREMONT, (Place)
WESTERN AUSTRALIA. (State) 14 JUL 1941 (Date)

A. Questions to be put to persons called out or presenting themselves for voluntary enlistment.

- What is your name? OWERBY
- Where were you born? West Hartlepool England
- Are you a natural born or a naturalized British subject? II
- What is your age and date of birth? 19 July 1906
- What is your trade or occupation? LABORER
- Are you married, single or widowed? Single
- Give details of previous military service
- If now serving, give particulars
- What is your actual next of kin? (Order of relationship—wife, sister, son, eldest daughter, father, mother, eldest brother, eldest sister, eldest half brother, eldest half sister)
- What is your permanent address? 56 Adelaide St. Fremantle, N.A.
- What is your religious denomination? (Answer optional)
- Have you ever been courted by a civil court?
- Have you any of the following Educational Qualifications? If so, state

3. William SOWERBY do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true and that I am willing to serve in the Australian Military Forces within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

Witnessed by W. Sowerby (Signature of Soldier) W. Sowerby (Signature of Officer)

B. MEDICAL EXAMINATION

I certify the above-named person to be fit for Class T Temporary unfit.

C. OATH OF ENLISTMENT

3. William SOWERBY swear that I will well and truly serve our Sovereign Lord, the King, in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia until the cessation of the present state of war and twelve months thereafter or until sooner lawfully discharged, dismissed or excused, and that I will render His Majesty's service and obey His Majesty's laws to the best of my power and ability.

On Help the God

Signature of Person Enlisted W. Sowerby

Signature of Attesting Officer W. Sowerby

1. Persons who elect to take an oath may make an affirmation in accordance with the provisions of the Oath Act, 1926.

By Authority: R. E. Davis, Government Printer, Melbourne.

William **Sowerby** was originally from Hartlepool. Dates, addresses and relationships all there! A great help! Also, in Ina's letter she also mentions Hartlepool, did she come from there originally as well? Was she the one who wrote regarding his birth family?

I applied for a digital Birth certificate for William and a death certificate for Ada. They were both in the same quarter.....which strengthened the idea that his mother had died. When they arrived, it confirmed Ada **Sowerby** had died days after giving birth. Richard **Sowerby** had registered both his son's birth and his wife's death on the same day.

Registration District <u>Hartlepool</u>										
Sub-District <u>Hartlepool</u>										
1906 BIRTHS in the Sub-District of <u>Hartlepool</u> in the Counties of <u>Durham & West Hartlepool</u>										
Columns—	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
No.	When and Where Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Race or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Explanatory Stamp (to be filled after Registration of Birth).
144	<u>Twentieth</u> July 1906 3 Bramley St West Hartlepool	William	Boy	Richard Sowerby	Ada Sowerby (deceased) formerly Jennison	Miller Owner at Plant Farmers	R. Sowerby Father 3 Bramley St West Hartlepool	Twentieth July 1906	Arthur Barnett Registrar	

William Sowerby's Birth Certificate

Superintendent Registrar's District <u>Hartlepool</u>									
Registrar's Sub-District <u>Hartlepool</u>									
1906 DEATHS in the Sub-District of <u>Hartlepool</u> in the Counties of <u>Durham & West Hartlepool</u>									
No.	When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Race or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When registered.	Signature of Registrar.
93	Twentieth July 1906 3 Bramley St West Hartlepool	Ada Sowerby	Female	28 Years	Wife of Richard Sowerby formerly Jennison Miller Cleaner at Plant Farmers	Puerperal Lactation 5 days 5 days Certified by N. S. M. Sowerby	R Sowerby husband of deceased present at the death 3 Bramley St West Hartlepool	Twentieth July 1906	Arthur Barnett Registrar

Ada's Death Certificate

Ada **Jennison** and Richard **Sowerby** married in Hartlepool in July 1898. At that time, they started married life living with the "in laws" at 2 Casebourne Road, Hartlepool. Ada's mother was a shopkeeper/ confectioner. Father was absent on the census. They were both 20 years old. Their first son Richard Henry **Sowerby** was born 14th April 1901. Their second son Thomas Vernon **Sowerby** was born 27 November 1904.

William was born 19th July 1906. It seems he disappeared from the family possibly around birth but definitely wasn't with the family by 1911. It must have been very hard for Richard to manage with a newborn and 2 toddlers. Ada's mother had died in 1904, her father in 1918. Likewise, Richard's parents had died in 1891 (his father) and his mother in 1894. He probably had no option but to find a home for William.

So next was the 1911 census. There was Richard **Sowerby**, his children Richard Henry, Thomas Vernon and new wife Jane Ann **Sowerby**. But no William. Richard had remarried in the first quarter 1909 to Jane Ann **Pearce**. The address was 3 Bramley Street, West Hartlepool, the address they were still at in 1939.

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in ink.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Direct care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of ages, in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND BIRTHDAY	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE	SEX	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	EDUCATION	REMARKS	EDUCATION	EDUCATION	EDUCATION	EDUCATION
Richard Sowerby	Head	38	M	Married	General Labourer						
Jane Ann Sowerby	Wife	30	F	Married	General Labourer						
Richard Henry Sowerby	Son	5	M	Single							
Thomas Vernon Sowerby	Son	3	M	Single							

1911 Census for Richard and Jane Ann (Pearce) Sowerby

So, I searched for William **Sowerby** by his date of birth and lo and behold! I found a family nearby called **Fletcher**.....with a child called Willy **Fletcher** “adopted son” but the age of the “parents” puzzled me. Was this the William I was looking for? I went into Mills and Boon mode.... of course it was.... I just had to prove it!!

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in ink.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Direct care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of ages, in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND BIRTHDAY	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE	SEX	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	EDUCATION	REMARKS	EDUCATION	EDUCATION	EDUCATION	EDUCATION
George Fletcher	Head	40	M	Married	General Labourer						
Annie Fletcher	Wife	35	F	Married	General Labourer						
William Sowerby	Son	5	M	Single							
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

1911 census for Fletchers and William Sowerby

So next I decided to look on the 1921 census.....and there he was again with the same **Fletcher** family using the name William **Sowerby**! What was amazing is the address was in the area Ina had mentioned in her letter, it had been his address all those years. So, who was Ina?

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Fill in the Information and Examples shown on the back, and then fill up the Schedule carefully and in full.

NAME AND SEX	DATE OF BIRTH	AGE	SEX	RELATIONSHIP	EDUCATION AND OCCUPATION	REMARKS	EDUCATION AND OCCUPATION	Place of Birth	Place of Birth
Thomas Fletcher head	70	M	Married	Head of Family	Unemployed			110	at home
Elizabeth Fletcher wife	78	F	Married	Wife of Head	Unemployed			110	at home
William Sowerby adopted son	14	M	Unmarried	Adopted Son	Unemployed			110	at home

1921 census Fletchers and William Sowerby

William's father was at another address in 1921 with his wife Jane Ann, William's brother Richard Henry, Thomas Vernon and 3 more children.....and once again an address that's been repeatedly appearing throughout this search.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Fill in the Information and Examples shown on the back, and then fill up the Schedule carefully and in full.

NAME AND SEX	DATE OF BIRTH	AGE	SEX	RELATIONSHIP	EDUCATION AND OCCUPATION	REMARKS	EDUCATION AND OCCUPATION	Place of Birth	Place of Birth
John Pearce head	25	M	Married	Head of Family	Unemployed			Ship yard	110
Elizabeth Pearce wife	22	F	Married	Wife of Head	Unemployed			Ship yard	110
Harold Pearce son	17	M	Unmarried	Son of Head	Unemployed			Ship yard	110
Ada Sowerby daughter	20	F	Unmarried	Daughter of Head	Unemployed			Ship yard	110
Richard Henry Sowerby son	20	M	Unmarried	Son of Head	Unemployed			Ship yard	110
Ada May Sowerby daughter	3	F	Unmarried	Daughter of Head	Unemployed			Ship yard	110

1921 Census Pearce and Richard Sowerby

Lastly the 1939 census. I've only included this as Richard was in a local Institution where he eventually died. Meanwhile Jane **Sowerby** remained at the family home with 2 of her 3 children, Colin and Jean, who were her and Richard's children.

3	male	20	1	Sowerby, Jane A	F	5 July 1919	11	Unpaid Domestic Duties
			2	Sowerby, Colin	M	20 Feb 1919	2	Unpaid Domestic Duties
			3	Sowerby, Jean	F	16 Sep 1921	2	Unpaid Domestic Duties

1939 Register Jane Ann Sowerby

William's "adopted" parents had both died before 1939. Thomas **Fletcher** 11 March 1925 and Sarah Harriet 1 March 1927. So where did William go from there?

How did he end up in Australia? Logically he must have gone by ship..... and so I searched again.

Passenger	Age	Sex	Rank	Home	Address	Remarks
1201	28	M	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1202	25	F	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1203	22	M	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1204	20	F	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1205	18	M	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1206	16	F	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1207	14	M	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1208	12	F	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1209	10	M	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1210	8	F	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1211	6	M	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1212	4	F	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1213	2	M	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1214	1	F	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1215	0	M	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1216	0	F	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1217	0	M	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1218	0	F	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1219	0	M	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1220	0	F	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1221	0	M	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1222	0	F	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1223	0	M	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1224	0	F	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1225	0	M	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1226	0	F	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1227	0	M	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1228	0	F	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1229	0	M	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1230	0	F	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1231	0	M	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1232	0	F	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1233	0	M	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1234	0	F	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1235	0	M	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1236	0	F	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1237	0	M	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1238	0	F	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1239	0	M	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1240	0	F	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1241	0	M	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1242	0	F	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1243	0	M	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1244	0	F	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1245	0	M	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1246	0	F	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1247	0	M	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1248	0	F	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1249	0	M	1st Class	London	100, Strand	
1250	0	F	1st Class	London	100, Strand	



SS Borda

SS Borda Manifest

I found a departure for William **Sowerby** leaving England on 12 January 1928 heading to Fremantle, his last known address being B.I.C. CLAYDON. There was a large group of various people all in their 20's heading out. What was the address they were leaving? After a bit of googling, I found an enquiry from someone on Roots Chat and the person she was looking for was on the same Ships Manifesto. I haven't included her post, but I have included the answer to what the address was that was posted there.

How and why did he end up there? Well, a possible answer is his

I found these photographs and descriptions:



It was a Workhouse in Suffolk. The Barnham and Claydon Union Workhouse was a substantial building, originally constructed in the 1760s and upgraded in the nineteenth century. In 1920, the government took it over for use as an Instructional Factory, training ex-servicemen in handicrafts until 1923. Two years later it re-opened as a training farm, preparing the unemployed in batches of 300 for emigration to the white Dominions of Canada and Australia.

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

Organized emigration came to an end with the global crisis in 1929. As part of the Labour Government's plans for compulsory training of the unemployed, the Ministry of Labour took the farm over in 1930 as a Transfer Instructional Centre. It trained young unemployed men until it closed in February 1933. It seems to have remained empty until 1939.

News from local papers
Royal Visit to Training Established Barnham

His Royal Highness evinced keen interest in all he saw and chatted with several of the trainees. In a brief speech to the men, he said he was glad, knowing what a rotten time they had had, that they had been given that chance of training, and were taking advantage of it. He could see that they had a jolly good spirit, and were keen, and he hoped they would take that spirit with them wherever they went.

Western Daily Press. (Feb. 10, 1926)

Another article about "Cheerful Hull boys who are going to Australia" mentions "boys who are now undergoing preparation at Barham House, near Ipswich, where the ministry of Labour has made arrangements for a six months' course of training to be given to a limited number of young men."

Hull Daily Mail. (June 24, 1926)

His destination was Fremantle! In 1928, Fremantle was a significant port town and municipality in Western Australia with a population of 22,340, on the verge of becoming a city. The town had been growing steadily since its formation in 1871, with its city status, which it had claimed, by 1928.

William arrived in Fremantle as a labourer. However, on another part of the Ships Manifesto he's down as a Furnace Man, as was his father. He does though appear to have lived on his own, and his occupation as a labourer did not appear to change.

William started in the Navy when war was declared and then transferred to the Army....and then the Police and this is how he met the **Pengilly** family. Ross isn't sure of dates or how he transferred to each service.

Ross **Pengilly** is George **Pengilly's** son and had written to the Society to



Views of Fremantle at the time of William's arrival

see if we could find a relative to pass on his medals, a few photographs and a letter. His only connection of where to start was a letter from a lady called Ina **Kelly**, whose address was in the Speke area of Liverpool.

Going on the fact that Ina was born in 1913 and she'd stated she was 40 at the time of writing to him I've estimated that the post mark was 1953/54. She also said she was 14 when William left, which would be around 1927. This ties in with his adopted parents' deaths and possibly him moving to B.I.C. Industrial School. Not a lot of worldly goods to leave but enough clues to put him back in his birth family's tree!

So, I asked how they met; he kindly sent me the details and gave me permission to include it in the journal.

Ross's Connection

*In 1945, after the war ,my father George (Len) Leonard **Pengilly** (they called him Len because there were so many Georges' around) went back to his life in Kalgoorlie, Western Australia. He was born in Kalgoorlie in 1915 and was a Boiler Maker, hence his working in the engine rooms of the ships during the war. Kalgoorlie being the original gold find town in Western Australia was a tough area to live, work and even survive in. Mum and Dad lost their first child in 1946, I was born in Kalgoorlie in 1948, They moved back to Fremantle in 1951 when Mum was pregnant, but they lost their third child in early 1952. Dad of course was a reservist in the Navy after the war and decided in 1951 that he would leave Kalgoorlie, and he commenced working in the Naval Dockyard Police. His first posting was at the Byford (Western Australia) Depot which was a secure compound of bunkers where the left-over bombs and other ordnance from the war was stored. It was at this*

posting that he met and befriended William **Sowerby** (Uncle Bill as we called him) who was also working there.



William Sowerby taken outside the Byford (Western Australia) Bomb & Ordnance Storage Facility

I am not sure if William was still with the Australian Army or if he transferred over to the Police side, not sure how that worked but I am sure it will be in his military records somewhere. William was not very well and suffered with a heart condition so at some stage he was boarded out and retired. He had no friends or family in Western Australia, so Mum and Dad offered him a home. Not sure of his retirement date of course but he lived with us until his death on 5 September 1962.

Detail	Source
Name	William Sowerby
Death Age	56
Birth Date	abt 1906
Death Date	Abt 1962
Death Place	Freemantle, Western Australia
Registration Date	1962
Registration Place	Freemantle, Australia
Father	Richard
Mother	Ada
Registration Number	384

Details of William Sowerby’s death and Grave Details

For information, he still played the accordion right up until the night before he passed away. We used to sit around at night, and he used to play while mum and us kids sang along. Dad wasn't a singer, but he loved the music. William never married. He passed away quietly one morning with a heart attack in our house.

Summary Of Record Information				
First Name	WILLIAM		Application Number	
Last Name	SOWERBY <i>Names are only recorded in capitals</i>		MCB-162566-F1P5S1 FB00022047 <i>FREMANTLE CEMETERY Burial</i>	
Aged Years	56	Date of Death	05/09/1962	
Suburb	PALMYRA			
Grave Location	FREMANTLE CEMETERY <i>Cemetery</i>	ANGLICAN <i>Area or Denomination</i>	MON A4 <i>Section</i>	0343 <i>Gravesite</i>

So, who was Ina?

So, if Ina wasn't belonging to the **Sowerby** family I decided to look into his adopted family. Thomas and Sarah **Fletcher**William's adopted family had 4 children of their own. Ada 1878-1955, Elizabeth 1881-1955, Daisy Ellen 1888-1954 and Thomas Fletcher 1890-1909.



Sarah and Thomas Fletcher

FOUND DROWNED AT HEYBRIDGE.

On Saturday Dr. Harrison held an inquest at Heybridge on Thomas Fletcher, 22, an able seaman, belonging to Hartlepool, who was found drowned in Heybridge Basin on the evening of June 4. The evidence showed that on the previous evening the deceased and two other seamen, named Joseph Langley and Herbert Hetherington, left the Basin to go to Maldon, where they visited the Hippodrome. The party repaired to the Swan Hotel, where each had a glass of beer. The deceased declined to accompany his mates back to the Basin, and said he should return to the Hippodrome, which he apparently did. He was not seen again by anyone who knew him, and it is surmised that in trying to get aboard later on he fell into the water, and was drowned. The jury returned a verdict of Found drowned.

Thomas
unfortunately was
found drowned
after not returning to
his ship after shore
leave.

09:27 4001 1 Oct

ancestry.co.uk

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✓ Saved to My Family, Click on the link to view the Fletcher Family Tree

Details

Name	Charles Stanley Barnes
Gender	Male
World Births	Morocco
Age	34 Years 8 Months
Place of Birth	1922
Estimated Birth Year	1922
Birth Name	Charles Stanley Barnes
Residence Date	1922
Residence Place Address	44 Clarendon Road, Hartlepool
Residence Place	Hartlepool, England
Occupation	Soldier
Occupation Date	1922
Employer	His Majesty's Government
Employer Code	201
Place of Work	Armoury Street, Hartlepool
Number of Children (Under 18)	1
What's Hot	Y
Word	South East
Partnership Details	Thomas Stanley Barnes
Registration District	Hartlepool
Registration District	140
Sub-registration District	Hartlepool
Sub-registration District	2
Residence	C. S. Barnes
Registration District Name	Hartlepool CB
Registration District	38
Registration District	38
Registration District	38

Daisy Ellen **Fletcher**
married Charles Stanley
Barnes in October 1912,
and Ina Isabella **Barnes**
was born on 26 December
1913 in Hartlepool. Their
address in 1921 was 44
Clarendon Road. Her
father was in the Army and
in 1921 was stationed in
Hartlepool at the Armoury.



Ina **Barnes** married Thomas Michael **Kelly** in 1932 in Madeley, Shropshire. They had 2 boys, Thomas Michael Charles **Kelly** and Peter Anthony **Kelly**, both born in Liverpool.

Obviously, this is a new tree..... which I have done to establish who Ina was and

her connection with William **Sowerby**. Maybe this family is connected to your Liverpool Family? Wouldn't that be wonderful, another puzzle would be solved because there are photographs that could be Ina and her family but as there is nothing written on the back no one is sure!!



Well Bill that's enough of that for now. You
seem to like Australia all right. My husband
was very keen to emigrate a couple of years
ago. I'd love to see it but I'd like to
know that I could come back to England.
I'm putting you some snaps in so that you
can see what we look like. Just in case you do
come home some time. But would you send
snaps of the boys and home. They would like
to see them. Charles liked Singapore very much.
Had been to Rangoon this time. Had I been
a boy I would have been a wonder. We
had dinner abroad with Charles last
time he was home. It was lovely. We
are nice and pretty. Live in the lake in York.
We are nine miles from the city and almost
next door to the airport. I can't think of
any more to tell you just now so I'd better
close. You didn't say if you still play
the violin. When will be writing to you
so tell me soon. It was lovely to hear
from you again. Love from
Ina

P.S. I am very surprised that you are not married.
As I remember you, you were attractive. I
think you were beautiful with the pinky written
Ina

Letter from Ina Kelly to William Sowerby

So, to the final piece of the jigsaw! Could I find a living relative?

I started with his brothers Richard Henry **Sowerby** and Thomas Veron **Sowerby**. Both had married so I was just working my way down the tree, as you do.

Richard Henry **Sowerby** had married Ada **Pearce** in 1920. By 1921 they were living with Ada's widowed father, and they had a child Ada May **Sowerby**. Sadly, Ada died in 1924 at the age of 4. They went on to have another daughter Phyllis **Sowerby** in February 1930. In 1950 at the age of 21 she married Leo **Nealon** in West Hartlepool. They had two children Brenda **Nealon** and Alan **Nealon**. So, I continued down the line. Brenda had sadly died in 1992. But she did have two children, so I put that on hold and turned my attention to Alan.

67	2	Castroville	1	Harry (son) James Thomas Richard George Ida Carlos Ross	male born 18 22 21 28	57 58 59	1. William ^{William} Con ^{Con} John ^{John} 2. John ^{John} Charles ^{Charles} 3. Charles ^{Charles}	son married working	1. John ^{John} John ^{John} 2. John ^{John} John ^{John} 3. John ^{John} John ^{John}	(checked) (checked) (checked)
68	1	do	1	Carlos Ross (son)	male born 28	59	1. Charles ^{Charles}	working	1. John ^{John} John ^{John}	(checked)

Mary Ann Jennison with Son-in-Law Richard Sowerby and family
Richard and Jane Ann Sowerby with Richard and Vernon 1911 Census

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.									
Before writing on this blank space read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the heading of the Columns. The notes should be written in ink.									
The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The return was not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.									
NAME AND SEX	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE and SEX	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Person aged 15 years and upwards	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Person aged 15 years and upwards	EDUCATION of Person aged 5 years and upwards	NATURALIZATION and BIRTH of Person aged 15 years and upwards	RELIGION	REMARKS
1. <i>Richard Smith</i>	Head	38	Married	General Labourer	Blacksmith	12 years	English	Anglican	
2. <i>Ann Smith</i>	Wife	28	Married			10 years	English	Anglican	
3. <i>Richard Smith</i>	Son	9	Unmarried			5 years	English	Anglican	
4. <i>Thomas Smith</i>	Son	6	Unmarried			3 years	English	Anglican	

***Richard Sowerby listed as inmate at the Public Assistance Institution
"Oaklands", Cockton Hill, Bishop Auckland***

-do- 119 SOWERBY Richard P 17 Hilda 44 17 ^{Red Foxglove} ^{Black Foxglove} -ditto-

Alan was also born in Hartlepool and went on to marry but what popped out from the page was he was alive and well living in North Wales! The search suddenly got serious! I turned to other ways of tracking him down. I found him and sent him a message and waited.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Please read the Instructions and Examples shown on the back, and then fill up the Schedule carefully and in full.

NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE OF BIRTH	AGE	SEX	RELIGION	EDUCATION AND OCCUPATION	EDUCATION AND OCCUPATION	EDUCATION AND OCCUPATION	EDUCATION AND OCCUPATION	EDUCATION AND OCCUPATION
J. R. Pearce	1871	49	M	Anglican	Shipyard	Plater	William	Shipyard	1871
Albert Pearce	1871	49	M	Anglican	Shipyard	Plater	William	Shipyard	1871
Harold Pearce	1871	49	M	Anglican	Shipyard	Plater	William	Shipyard	1871
Ada Sowerby	1871	49	F	Anglican	Shipyard	Plater	William	Shipyard	1871
Richard Sowerby	1871	49	M	Anglican	Shipyard	Plater	William	Shipyard	1871
Ada May Sowerby	1871	49	F	Anglican	Shipyard	Plater	William	Shipyard	1871

J Pearce and sons with Ada, Richard & Ada May Sowerby – 1921 Census

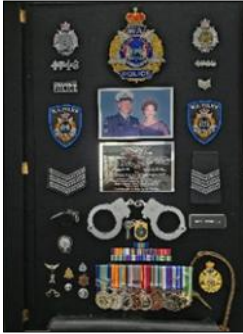
While I waited, I continued to look for Thomas Vernon **Sowerby**. In 1921 he was still living with his family. In 1931 he married Constance Winifred **Bovey** in St James, West Streatham. They had one daughter as far as I can tell. In 1939 Constance and her daughter were evacuated from London to Chichester. While Thomas Vernon stayed on as an Aircraft metal worker. Thomas died in 1970, and his wife Constance died in 1977. So, I was trying to find the daughter, her name being Constance as well.....when I got a message from Alan!

So, Alan confirmed all the details I had on the tree.... but knew nothing of William. So, we met up, yes, that's how near he was. Alan produced a briefcase full of certificates he had on the **Sowerby** family and the rest my friends is history, as they say!



Ross Pengilly
holding
William
Sowerby's
medals





George (Len) Pengilly's Medals

So, I contacted Ross in Australia and said I had found Alan, and he had given me enough information to convince me he was indeed the right family. I asked if I could give him Alan's email. Within a couple of days Alan and Ross had contacted each other. Then Ross emailed me to say he was getting the medals, photos and letter

sent over to Alan.

Alan received them a couple of days later and was absolutely thrilled. William **Sowerby** has now got two trees to his name!



I would like to thank Ross and Alan for allowing me to be part of this emotional journey. Ross and his family befriended William and because of their kindness William has not been forgotten. I will continue to look more into the **Fletcher** family and Ina's life, and hopefully one of our members will recognize Ina **Kelly**! And Constanceshe's still on my list and hopefully I'll now find her too.

Alan gets his medals!

Thank you to Ancestry for making this possible.

Sue Halliwell (Non-member)

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Genealogy Gold! 2

I love my distant cousins. I didn't know most of them until I started researching my family tree. Over the years, I have corresponded with and met many cousins, having connected via DNA matches, shared ancestors on family trees or simply being introduced by another relative who said, *"You must speak with so-and-so. They know lots about our family history."*

Take, for example, my second cousin once removed – Michael. He is a cousin on my Foster line (my paternal grandmother's paternal line). Like me, Michael was born in Liverpool. Michael's grandfather, William John Foster (1899-1965) was a brother of my great grandfather Robert Foster (1892-1958).

Michael shared with me copies of two Foster family wedding photos from 1920 and 1921, including the names of the people in the photos and that is a big win! These photos show my grandmother Frances as a 7-year-old girl, and her sister Cecilia as a 3-year-old, as well as their parents – my great grandparents, Robert and Frances Foster (nee Hornby), 2 x great grandparents, Albert Edward and Cecilia Foster (nee Thomas) and other aunts, uncles and cousins.

Michael also shared a handwritten family tree created by Minnie Foster in the 1960s – she was Robert and William's youngest sister. Minnie and my grandmother Frances were extremely close. Whilst Minnie was Frances's aunty, they were born only months apart in 1914, so they grew up more like cousins. As a child, I remember my Nana and my dad speaking about Aunty Minnie.

I knew the Foster family was originally from Portsmouth and my 3-x great grandfather Robert John Foster (1845 – 1888) was a ship's joiner. As well as the usual names, dates and places, Aunt Minnie included many interesting snippets in her family tree:

- Albert (my 2-x great grandfather) was brought up in Glasgow from the age of 6 months old, as their father had contract work there before they moved to Liverpool. Albert met Cecilia, my 2-x great grandmother, when he was wearing a kilt! (I had wondered why I could never find the family in the 1871 census).
- Cecilia was in service at the home of the organist of St George's

Hall (she got £5 a year as kitchen maid and had half a day off once a month).

- Albert Henry, another of Albert's and Cecilia's sons, died suddenly in the street in June 1934, aged 37, due to being wounded and gassed at the Battle of Loos in 1915.
- Our family line is noted as moving to Australia and Dad's brother Rodney moving to South Africa in the 1960s.

Some people like to only concentrate on their direct ancestors, however, including our ancestors' siblings and children can link us up with members of our family who can fill in the blanks about our ancestors. You too could find some genealogy gold: photos, family stories, family trees, heirlooms, not to mention new cousins who may become friends.

As a postscript, I have visited the UK twice this year and have met up with a number of second and third cousins, including a cousin who lives in New Zealand who happened to be visiting Cornwall at the same time as my husband and me. I also discovered that I have a third cousin living here in Perth, Western Australia whom I have caught up with a few times, and I even got invited to her 50th birthday party.

I love digging for gold!

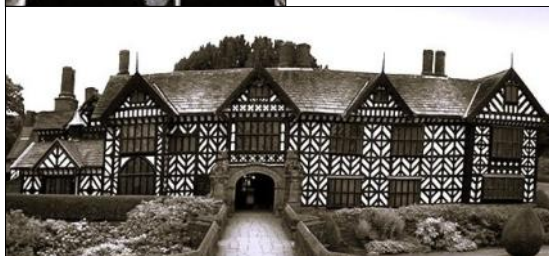
Karen Thompson (9730)

WHO DID I THINK I WAS!



My name is Mike **Halligan**, a retired Soldier, Merseyside Police Officer, and former Head of Security at Manchester United Football Club. I am about to complete my first season as a volunteer room guide at Speke Hall in Liverpool.

I first went to Speke Hall with my school back in



the early 1960's, and I think that it was this visit that ignited my passion for history. This has since developed into an obsession for all things 'genealogy', and my policing experience has

certainly helped with the research and evidence gathering in constructing my own family tree (I treat the research almost like a missing person enquiry).

But it was my wife Sian who encouraged me to combine all of my interests, and she suggested that I apply to become a volunteer with the National Trust. The experience has been thoroughly worthwhile and extremely rewarding, and I would certainly recommend to anyone to get involved.

The journey to discover my ancestry, which has led me to some of the county's finest historic buildings and locations, began when I started researching my own family history, back in 2010. I was not looking for anything specific, and I did not expect to find anything out of the ordinary. My paternal grandfather had died in 1937, some 20 years before I was born, so the only extended '**Halligan**' family that I had was my grandmother, Eleanor **Halligan** nee **Sidwell** (1910 – 2004).



I was motivated by the television documentary 'Who Do You Think You Are', the family history programme that airs on the BBC, and which invites celebrity participants to trace their family roots. If you are a regular viewer of the programme, you will no doubt be familiar with the contribution made by East Enders actor Danny **Dyer** in series 13, back in 2016, when he traced his ancestry back to his twenty-two times great grandfather, King Edward III (1312 – 1377).

Danny Dyer (Cousin of Mike Halligan)

But can these findings really be so unusual and are we really all members of one big 'Royal Family' I thought to myself, as I began delving into the archives. Statistically, we must all be related; it is just a case of finding the links that tie us all together, or what genealogists refer to as a 'gateway ancestor'.

The National Trust owns almost 620,000 acres of land, 780 miles of coast, and more than 500 historic castles, houses and monuments throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Two fine examples of this are Speke Hall, built on the banks of the River Mersey in Liverpool for

the **Norris** family, and Rufford Old Hall, built near the village of Rufford, 7 miles north of Ormskirk in Lancashire, for the **Hesketh** family. But what is it that links these two properties, and the families who lived there, with a volunteer room guide at Speke Hall?

My family hasn't moved more than 20 miles from its first recorded settlement, so a thousand years of family history, all based in Southwest Lancashire meant that I didn't have to search very far to verify my findings.

I had no knowledge of my connection to the **Norris** or **Hesketh** families when I embarked upon my research back in 2010. But with hundreds of years of births, marriages and deaths recorded in Lancashire's churches freely available online, and the extensive Lancashire Archives Records Office documents available at my fingertips, I was able to trace back ten generations on my paternal Grandmother's side, to my great grandmother, Margaret Ann **Hesketh** (1597 – 1662).

Margaret Ann **Hesketh** is my 'gateway ancestor'. Her father and mother were Sir Gabrael Bartholomew Hawarth **Hesketh** (1578-1615) and Lady Jaine Scarisbrick **Stanley** (1572-1622), who were members of two of the most powerful families in Lancashire, and it is the **Stanley** family who join the circle between the **Norris**, **Hesketh** and **Halligan** families.

The **Stanley**'s were often referred to as the 'Kings of Lancashire' in the Tudor period, which would probably have been regarded as high treason.

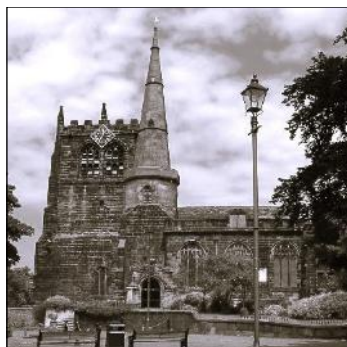
Clemence **Norris** nee **Harrington** (c1486 – 1551), was the wife of Henry **Norris**, the Lord of the Manor of Speke (c1480 -1524). Clemence was the sister of Ann **Harrington**, the wife of Sir William **Stanley** of the powerful '**Stanley**' dynasty. William and Ann **Stanley** are my great grandparents, making Clemence **Norris** my great grand aunt in the fifteenth generation. Clemence and Henry's son, William **Norris** (c1501 – 1568), and the man credited with building much of the current Speke Hall (c1530), is my first cousin fifteen times removed.

William **Norris** had nineteen children by his two wives, Ellen **Bulkeley**, and his second wife, Anne **Middleton**. But it was William and Anne's youngest daughter Elizabeth who married (c1573) my great grandfather, Batholomew **Hesketh**, thereby uniting the Houses of **Hesketh**, of Rufford Old Hall, and the **Norris**'s of Speke.

Bartholomew and Elizabeth **Hesketh** only had one child, Gabrael



Rufford Old Hall



SS Peter & Paul, Ormskirk

Hesketh, born on 19 May 1574. Mother and baby died, and were buried within eleven days of each other, in April 1575, presumably from the same causes.

My great grandfather Bartholomew remarried, and his second wife, Margaret **Southworth** of Samlesbury Hall, is my great grandmother in the eleventh generation. Bartholomew and Margaret had ‘issue’ with a second Gabrael **Hesketh**, who married Jaine Scarisbrick **Stanley** on 30 October 1593, at the church of St Peter and St Paul in Ormskirk, Lancashire. Gabrael and Jaine **Hesketh** had six surviving children, one of whom was my great grandmother Margaret Ann, born 27 January 1597, and my ‘gateway’ ancestor.

Margaret Ann could trace her paternal ancestors back to William the Conqueror, through the **Southworth**, **Halsall**, **Molyneux** and **Boteler** families (all old Lancashire families).



Her mother, Jaine **Stanley**, was the great granddaughter of Thomas **Stanley** (1st Earl of Derby) and Lady Eleanor **Neville**, making Jaine the great granddaughter of Edward III.

Margaret Ann **Hesketh** married Daniel **Alty** of Rufford c1620, and their only daughter Ellen married the Rufford blacksmith, Edward **Baldwin** c1640.

Thomas Stanley, 1st Earl of Derby

Margaret Ann **Hesketh** married Daniel **Alty** of Rufford c1620, and their only daughter Ellen married the Rufford blacksmith, Edward **Baldwin** c1640.

It is amazing what information opens up to you when you identify a 'gateway ancestor'. Since the reign of Alfred, the Great, there have been sixty monarchs. Sixteen of them were my great grandfather, and a further ten my great granduncle. Notable first cousins include Edward IV, Henry V and Richard III; the remaining 31 are all blood cousins in varying degrees. This means of course that the **Norris** and **Hesketh** family, despite never being ennobled, were of the 'royal bloodline'.

If you are keen to research your family tree, I would suggest that you use one of the 'universal' tree sites (such as Geni.com.). This means that you will have to undertake your own research (it won't provide you with hints), and gather your own supporting documentation, but the site is very user friendly and shows you relationships at the push of a button.

So how does the great granddaughter of nearly every King of England since Alfred the Great, and a descendant of almost every royal house in Europe marry a humble blacksmith from Rufford in Lancashire?

Quite simply, when my great grandfather Gabrael died on 22 November 1615, he had several writs outstanding against him, and he had been declared an outlaw. In short, he was a recusant and a convicted practicing Catholic, as were all his family before him. My great grandmother (Jaine **Hesketh**) relinquished executorship of my great grandfathers will on 8th December 1615 (probably on the advice of the **Stanley** family).



The **Stanley**'s had been implicated in the gunpowder plot in 1605, and my great granduncle, Richard **Hesketh**, was hung drawn and quartered following the Hesketh plot to depose Elizabeth I (1533 - 1603), and replace her with Ferdinando, fifth Earl of Derby, in 1593.

Ferdinando, 5th Earl of Derby

Members' Interests

Members may publish up to ten family names that they are researching on our website **www.lswlfhs.org.uk** and in our Journal, the '*Liverpool Family Historian*'. Please print in block letters those names you wish to be included, using Chapman County Codes (shown overleaf) for the location.

Name:

Address:

.....

Post Code:.....Mem.No:.....

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

☐

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

Members Interests

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

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

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

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

Email addresses will be published on the website to enable other members to contact you, however the '@' in your email address will be amended on the website to read (at) for your protection. This is to meet the Society's responsibility under Data Protection legislation.

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

Good hunting.

CHAPMAN County Codes

England (ENG):

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

Wales (WLS):

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

Scotland (SCT):

ABD	Aberdeenshire	ELN	East Lothian	PEE	Peebleshire
ANS	Angus (Forfarshire)	FIF	Fifeshire	PER	Perthshire
ARL	Argyllshire	INV	Inverness-shire	RFW	Renfrewshire
AYR	Ayrshire	KCD	Kincardineshire	ROC	Ross & Cromarty
BAN	Banffshire	KRS	Kinross-shire	ROX	Roxburghshire
BEW	Berwickshire	KKD	Kircudbrightshire	SEL	Selkirkshire
BUT	Bute	LKS	Lanarkshire	SHI	Shetland Isles
CAI	Caithness-shire	MLN	Midlothian	STI	Stirlingshire
CLK	Clackmannanshire	MOR	Moray	SUT	Sutherland
DFS	Dumfriesshire	NAI	Nairnshire	WLN	West Lothian
DNB	Dunbartonshire	OKI	Orkney Isles	WIG	Wigtownshire

Ireland (IRL):

CAR	Carlow	KIK	Kilkenny	OFF	Offaly (Kings)
CAV	Cavan	LET	Leitrim	ROS	Roscommon
CLA	Clare	LEX	Leix (Queens)	SLI	Sligo
COR	Cork	LIM	Limerick	TIP	Tipperary
DON	Donegal	LOG	Longford	WAT	Waterford
DUB	Dublin	LOU	Louth	WEM	Westmeath
GAL	Galway	MAY	Mayo	WEX	Wexford
KER	Kerry	MEA	Meath	WIC	Wicklow
KID	Kildare	MOG	Monagan		

N. Ireland (NIR)

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

Channel Isles (CHI)

ALD	Alderney	JSY	Jersey	SRK	Sark
GSY	Guernsey				

Isle of Man

IOM	Isle of Man
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Publications List

Digital Books—Downloads

Price

Book of Trades or Library of the Useful Trades	£4.00
Domestic Economy PDF Edition	£3.00
History of Liverpool Lifeboats PDF Edition	£5.00

Directories—Downloads

Gore's Directory of Liverpool 1766	£2.00
Lewis's Liverpool Directory for 1790	£3.00
Slaters Directory of Widnes 1895	£2.00
Warrington Directory 1876	£2.00
Worrals Directory of St Helens 1876	£2.00

Please see the website for further items such as:

CD's at £6.80 each

Maps at £4.50 each

Books—various prices from £3.20 upwards

At an enquiry held in Ormskirk in March 1616, Gabrael **Hesketh's** assets were seized for the use of the crown, a judgement which was again confirmed before a tribunal in Ormskirk in 1619. These documents are preserved in the Lancashire archives and proved to be a valuable source of material.

The responsibility for challenging the Ormskirk Court's judgement fell to Gabrael and Jaïne's daughter, Margaret Ann, who was only 18. However, the challenge failed, and Margaret's daughter, Ellen, married Edward **Baldwin**, the Rufford blacksmith, and my great grandfather. This was in an age when favourable marriages were dependent upon title, estate and wealth.

Ellen and Edward's daughter, Alice, married local Rufford man Richard **Banks**. Thereafter, six generations of the **Banks** family, and four generations of **Sidwell's** ensued before finally arriving at me, a room guide in a house on the estate of my ancestors. By this time, my blood-line had been well and truly diluted, and my branch of the family no longer bore any of the prominent names. But at least we had stayed true to our Lancashire heritage.

The National Trust is a charity whose principal function is to ensure the conservation of the nation's heritage and natural beauty. But people join the 'Trust' for many reasons, and the time I spent in the Police Force taught me that sometimes people just want to talk and be in the company of others. Acting as a room guide allows me to not only impart some of our history to those who are interested, but also, to be a friendly face and an attentive ear to those who just want to talk.

This is the experience that I have found to be the most rewarding, and which has given me the greatest pleasure. For this reason, it has been a privilege to have been able to support this thoroughly worthwhile charity, and a source of pride to be able to add a personal connection to some of the stories and personalities connected with Speke Hall.

Mike Halligan (9081)

Mary Ann Dodd

My 3x great grandmother Mary Ann **Dodd** on my dad's mum's side was a somewhat tragic lady. She was born illegitimate in Warrington in 1833 to a mother who herself was illegitimate. Her father, William **Heyes**, a saddler from Warrington, is known because there's a record in the Lancashire Quarter Sessions of the town's guardians taking him to court with an "*Order of filiation and maintenance of Mary Ann, bastard child of William **Heyes**, saddler, and Jane **Dodd**, singewoman*".

By age 8, in the 1841 census, Mary Ann was living in the Workhouse & Fever Hospital in Liverpool. By age 18, in the 1851 census, just before she married my 3x great grandfather John **Lawless**, she was a servant in a house in Falkner Street in Liverpool (the same street featured in the first series of the BBC's "A House Through Time"). John and Mary Ann then had 8 children before she died aged just 29.

Interesting postscript #1 - John **Lawless** remarried and his second wife also died young at 32. His great grandson from this second marriage is the much-missed Warrington-born national treasure **Pete Postlethwaite**.

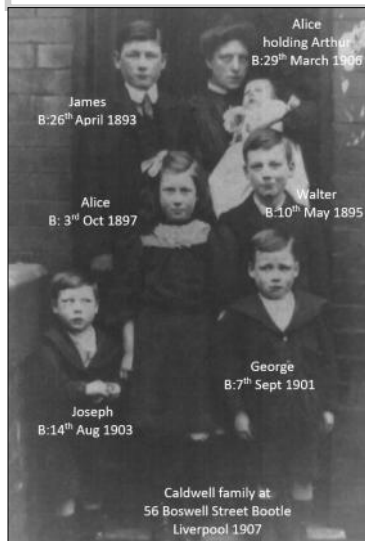
Interesting postscript #2 - After taking a DNA test I discovered that my dad's first cousin, who is still living, is also genetically related to my mother. After some digging I think I know the answer. The old joke "*your grandad must have had a bike*" rings true here. William **Heyes**, father of Mary Ann, had horses. My 3x great grandmother on my mum's side, Asneath **Wright**, was a servant on a farm in Tarvin (not a million miles from Warrington if you have a horse). In 1850, she had an illegitimate son (my 2x great grandfather) who she named William **Heyes Wright**. It turns out it was common back then for illegitimate children to be given their father's name - perhaps as a dig at them for not marrying the mother?

I cannot currently prove this, so I look forward to the Cheshire records office re-opening in 2026 so that I can look and see if there are any similar Quarter Sessions records relating to William **Heyes**.

All the above records have been added to [familysearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org) Here's Mary Ann's familysearch record - <https://www.familysearch.org/en/tree/person/details/M4M3-ZHF> I hope that this is something that might be of interest to my fellow society members

Mike Belch (9746)

A Liverpool Family, What Happened Next



When this photo was taken, Alice's husband was at sea. Lillian her fourth child died in 1899. Young Arthur in Alice's arms, born in 1906, died in 1908. In 1915 Alice separated from her husband after he was found guilty of persistent cruelty to her and was awarded eighteen shillings a week in settlement.

James the eldest born in 1893 worked in the docks, a strong young lad whose nick name was "Oxo". When WW1 broke out James enlisted in the Royal Naval Division. During his training he met "*my young lady*" who promised to write.

He left with the Howe Battalion for Gallipoli on 25 February 1915. Badly wounded on 4 June 1915 he returned to the UK. On his recovery he rejoined his battalion in July 1917, and when he was wounded again on the night of 24/25 May 1918 his war was over. James married his "*young lady*" in Toller Porcorum Dorset 6 April 1920, he was employed by the G.W.R. and moved to Stratford on Avon. James died 11 January 1973.

Walter Scott who was born on 10 May 1895. He emigrated to Australia in 1910, and married a girl from Newcastle N.S.W., a Mabel **Smith** on 11 February 1915, a son was born on 3 January 1917, Walter was never to see his son as he had joined the Australian Army on 9 April 1916 and was killed in action on 17 August 1918 in France. Walter is buried in Cerys Gailly Military Cemetery France.

Alice was born on 3 October 1897. On 25 December 1919, Alice had a baby girl which she named Mary Tarbuck **Caldwell** (no father entered in birth certificate). She then married James **Green**, a marine engineer who was 16 years her senior, on 19 February 1920. Alice now had an adoption agreement with the **Tarbuck** family who could keep the child if Alice did not return from America. Alice handed over Mary to the **Tarbuck**

family on 4 March 1920.

Alice, now Alice **Green**, emigrated with her mother (Alice) and brother Albert Samuel to New York on the SS Vasari on 20 April 1920.

By this time Alice **Caldwell** had two more sons, Arthur Leslie born 1908 and Robert Henry born 1910. On emigration these two boys stayed in

Liverpool with their Aunt Margaret **Conner**. With their mother settled in New York both boys left for New York on the “Baltic” 31 December 1921.

Alice **Green** returned to Liverpool on 31 May 1921 to claim back her daughter Mary and returned with her to New York on 31 August 1921.

After not seeing her husband for over five years Alice **Green** had her marriage dissolved on 17 February 1932. Alice was to marry again to Archibald **Carter** on 13 November 1933. Alice died 19 January 1977.

George Hill born 7 September 1901, joined the Royal Airforce on 8 October 1918, and was discharged on 10 June 1923. After spending a few weeks with his brother James, he left for New York on the ‘Carmania’ on 23 October 1923. Died 7 June 1963.

Joseph Mallison was born on 14 August 1903,. He joined the Royal Navy in 1921 and served for 12 years. Joseph married Edna **Clack** in South Africa on 4 June 1928. Edna died in 1938. On returning to England in the 1940’s Joseph married Joan Emily **House** on 2 September 1944. Joe died 19 August 1981.

Alice **Farrell** who was born 7 August 1872, married James Tyrer **Caldwell** on 29 March 1891. After emigrating to New York, she first lived at 40 Morton Street, New York City and then 1230 Boston Road, Bronx, NY.

Alice was to return twice to Stratford on Avon to visit her sons, James and Joe, once in 1924 and again in 1937. Alice died 18 January 1948 in Hackensack N.J.

James T. **Caldwell** Snr., joined the Inland Water Transport R.E. at the age of 51 on 20 Aug 1917. James Snr., died in Liverpool 16 Aug 1934.

Mary Tarbuck **Caldwell** married Loyal **Tolles** December 1947 and died 11 July 1992 in San Mateo, California, U.S.A.

Michael Caldwell (9589)

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

18 Mar	Funeral Trains	Nicholas Wheatley
15 Apr	AI for Family History: What it Can (and Can't) Do For You	Linda Hammond
30 May	Family Search	Darris Williams of Familysearch
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 ? Then get in touch via zoom-admin@lswlfhs.org.uk	
21 Oct	The Mourning Brooch - Book 3	Jean Renwick
18 Nov	Ragged, Poor and Mischievous or Young Thieves an Street Arabs	Linda Hammond
16 Dec	Poachers and Gangsters. The Jaques Brothers and the Notorious Long Company	Gareth Winrow

ALMOST VERY RICH

THE FOUNDERING OF THE S.S. 'L'EUROPE'

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 two of the mariners in my family.

On the 25 March 1874 the steamship '**Greece**' of the National Line left Liverpool for New York via Queenstown in Ireland. The master of the '**Greece**' was Captain **Thomas** and among the crew were my 3 x great uncles, seamen Ebenezer and Nathaniel **Clarke**, the brothers of my 2-x great grandfather, Joseph **Clarke**. Joseph, born in Liverpool in 1841, started his seagoing career late in life at the age of about 37. Within a year, in 1882, he died of pneumonia on board the SS '**Tower Hill**' on a voyage between East London, South Africa and London, England.

Joseph, Ebenezer and Nathaniel were the sons of Peter **Clarke**, a customs officer at the Port of Liverpool and his second wife, Sarah **Eccles**. Ebenezer was born at Runcorn in 1849 and Nathaniel in 1852 in the Isle of Man while their father had been posted to those locations for tours of duty. Nathaniel joined the merchant navy at the age of 14 and his brother, Ebenezer, probably the same.

Two days after the '**Greece**' left Liverpool the steam ship, '**Europe**', of the French Transatlantic Line left Le Havre under the control of Captain **Le Lemaire**, also for New York.

Some days out in mid-Atlantic the '**Europe**' got into difficulties. The '**Greece**' found her on the 2 April in a sinking condition and took her 221 passengers and 154 crew on board. Captain **Thomas** decided to attempt the salvage of the vessel. Mr **Buck**, the First Officer, the Fourth Officer, the ship's doctor and 20 men volunteered including Ebenezer and Nathaniel. The '**Greece**' proceeded to New York.

The '**Greece**' arrived at New York on the 13 April after encountering heavy weather. Once in New York Cpt **Lemaire** accused Cpt **Thomas** of the '**Greece**' of piracy, in that the Chief Engineer of the '**Greece**' had kept the report of the condition of the '**Europe**' from him and that Cpt

Thomas had refused to allow him to return to his ship. Cpt **Thomas** completely refuted this saying that as soon as **Lemaire** came on board he went to his cabin and stayed there until in sight of New York. Cpt **Thomas** commented somewhat bitterly that *'it is only here in port, when the danger is all over, that we hear for the first time of Lemaire's "manly purpose never to give up his ship"'*.

It was later found that the '**Europe**' was leaking on its previous journey from New York to Le Havre and that inadequate repairs had been carried out before putting to sea again. During the emergency the lifeboats of the '**Europe**' were carelessly allowed to go adrift necessitating the use of lifeboats from the '**Greece**'. The sailors of the '**Europe**' refused to permit passengers to save valuables, yet when the officers of the '**Greece**' went to recover these valuables, they found they had already been taken by the French sailors. The few valuables that passengers did manage to bring onto the boats were thrown overboard by the French crew but then saved from the water by the crew of the '**Greece**'. The French then went on to claim that it was the English crew who had thrown the valuables overboard and it was the French who had saved them from the water. The crew of the '**Europe**' appropriated all the life-preservers to the detriment of the passengers.

All this was reported in the New York press with much cynicism as to the veracity of what the French had to say despite the fact that Captain **Lemaire** commenced a legal case against Captain **Thomas**. Captain **Thomas** and his crew were completely exonerated and some months later the French Transatlantic Line dispensed with the services of Captain **Lemaire**. The rescued passengers from the '**Europe**' also recognised who was at fault and the excellent work done on their behalf by making a presentation to Captain **Thomas**.

Meanwhile the salvage crew from the '**Greece**' unsuccessfully attempted to bring the '**Europe**' safely into New York. They could not stop the ingress of water to the '**Europe**' and the vessel was in severe danger of sinking. Fortunately, another vessel, the SS '**Egypt**' of the National Steamship Corporation, came into view. A signal was sent to the '**Egypt**', asking for the '**Europe**' to be taken into tow which they did. The situation got worse with the hawsers parting and the weather deteriorating further.

By this time there was now 16ft of water in the engine room. It was

decided to abandon the '**Europe**' and the '**Egypt**' took its salvage party on board, taking them on to New York.

If successful, the salvage money accruing to the volunteers could have been considerable. The amount awarded and to whom it would be assessed and awarded by a salvage court. It had been roughly estimated that the cost of the '**Europe**' including that of the alterations and subsequent repairs had been of the order of \$1,000,000. In addition, it was said that the cargo was worth \$2,000,000. This could have resulted in a considerable payment to each volunteer if the salvage had been successful.

Ebenezer and Nathaniel were both rewarded with medals and certificates by The Liverpool Shipwreck and Humane Society for their bravery in the rescue of passengers and crew from the SS '**Europe**'. Ebenezer was to continue with a long career at sea. He eventually married Elizabeth, the widow of his deceased elder brother, Joseph, but that is another long and complicated story. Elizabeth was a theatrical landlady in Seacombe accommodating performers at the Irving Theatre there. Nathaniel emigrated to New South Wales in 1882, where he married Elizabeth **Collins** and had 6 children and at least 19 grandchildren.

The connection between Nathaniel **Clarke** described in this piece and Nathaniel **Clarke** later found living in New South Wales was via a family tree on Ancestry and Ancestry DNA matches.



LS&HS
Medal
(Obverse)

Nathaniel
LS&HS
Certificate

David
Railton
(3372)



Help Request

My mystery 4 x Great Grandmother

I would love some help to discover the name of my 4-x great grandmother, the wife of Patrick **Dowling** and mother of my 3-x great grandmother, Sarah **Dowling**.

Patrick was born in Ireland circa 1800 (1851 census says he was 52, 1861 census states he was 63 and on his 1869 death certificate he was recorded as being 68). He died in Liverpool in March 1869 at his home at 26 Williamston Street and he was a coal dealer. The 1851 census is the first record I have of him in Liverpool, and he was with his second wife, another Sarah, nee **Edwards**, whom he married on 1 May 1850. He was listed as a dock worker on that census.

The first Liverpool record I found for my 3-x great grandmother Sarah **Dowling** is the 1861 census where she is living with her father and stepmother Sarah. It shows her as having been born in Liverpool around 1839. Her age also varies with each census with birth years varying from 1839 – 1844. Sarah married my 3-x great grandfather George **Cuthbert** in Liverpool in 1865 and they had 12 children, two of which died in infancy. Sarah died in 1911, aged 72.

I have never been able to find a birth record for Sarah. I have also never found a death record in Liverpool for a woman with the surname of **Dowling** who could have been Patrick's wife. I am wondering if Sarah was actually born in Ireland and not Liverpool after all. And, if so, did her mother ever make it to Liverpool or did she die in Ireland, perhaps in or from the potato famine.

Being Irish Catholics, I wondered if there was a clue in the naming pattern of their children. The eldest daughter's name is Sarah Bridget **Dowling** (born 1866). Was my Sarah's mother also called Sarah, -and she named the baby after the maternal grandmother? Was the baby named after my Sarah's stepmother? Or did my Sarah name the baby Sarah after herself? The middle name of Bridget was George **Cuthbert**'s mother's name so the baby's paternal grandmother. The **Cuthberts** were from Dublin.

I'm not sure where in Ireland Patrick **Dowling** was born, however on the 1851 census, there was a John **Dowling**, aged 28, with his wife and family also listed at 26 Williamson Street, Liverpool and he was born in Kilkenny. According to the

record of Patrick's marriage to Sarah **Edwards**, Patrick's father's name



was John. I'm thinking the John in this census record may be a nephew of Patrick and so I've been looking around that region in Ireland for further clues and have started building a tree for this John **Dowling** to see if I can connect the families. My Ancestry DNA shows Leinster, Ireland as an ancestral region so this could fit.

Living in Australia, I can only rely on online records for my research so would be happy for any assistance with suggestions of where else I may be able to look for my missing 4x great grandmother.

Putting a face to the family. This is my 2-x great grandmother Mary **Cuthbert** (married name **Hornby**), 1867 – 1936, daughter of Sarah **Dowling** and George **Cuthbert**.

Karen Thompson (9730)

Faith and Hope but no Charity

The story of how a Catholic priest, and the Chaplain at Samlesbury Hall, tried to condemn a relative to the gallows for witchcraft during the infamous Pendle witch trials at Lancaster Assizes.

Samlesbury Hall is a historic house in Samlesbury, six miles east of Preston. It was the home of the **Southworth** family until the 17th century but has been many things in its past including a public house, and a girls' boarding school. In 1925, the hall was saved from

demolition for its timber, and since that time, it has been administered by the Samlesbury Hall Trust.

Gilbert **de Southworth** is credited with building the Great Hall around 1325, with his great-grandson Thomas building the south-west wing. The **Southworth** family held the manor until 1677–78, when it was sold by Edward **Southworth** to Thomas **Bradyll**, who rented the hall out to handloom weavers before it was converted into the **Bradyll Arms Inn** in 1830.

In 1850, John **Cooper** bought the building and leased it to Mrs Mary Ann **Harrison**, as a co-educational boarding school.

Joseph **Harrison** substantially renovated the hall after he bought it in November 1862, and although still owned by the **Harrisons**, the hall was tenanted for a number of years by Frederick **Baynes** and his family. Samlesbury Hall was left empty after 1909, until it was bought in 1924 by a building firm who intended to demolish it and build a housing estate. After money was raised by public subscription, the hall was purchased in 1925 and put in the hands of the Samlesbury Hall Trust, who have managed it since that time.

Jane Southworth is one of three women known as 'The Samlesbury Witches'. All three women, Jane **Southworth**, Jennet **Bierley**, and Ellen **Bierley** were from the Lancashire village of Samlesbury, and were accused by a 14-year-old girl, Grace **Sowerbutts**, of practising witchcraft. Their trial, at Lancaster Assizes on 19 August 1612 was one in a series of witch trials held there over a two-day period and are among the most infamous in English history.

The trials were unusual for England at that time in two respects. First, Thomas **Potts**, the clerk to the court, published the proceedings in his pamphlet *'The Wonderfull Discoverie of Witches in the Countie of Lancaster'*. Second, the number of the accused found guilty and hanged was unusually high. There were ten at Lancaster and another one at York.

All three of the Samlesbury women were acquitted.

The charges against the women included child murder and cannibalism. In contrast, the others tried at the same assizes, who included the

Pendle witches, were accused of maleficium, or causing harm by witchcraft.

The case against the three women collapsed "*spectacularly*" when the chief prosecution witness, Grace **Sowerbutts**, was exposed by the trial judge to be "*the perjuring tool of a Catholic priest*". Notably, that Catholic priest was none other than Father Christopher **Southworth**, and a relative of the accused Jane **Southworth**.

The 16th-century English Reformation, during which the Church of England broke away from the authority of the pope and the Catholic Church, split the **Southworth** family of Samlesbury Hall. Sir John **Southworth** (1526 – 1595), head of the family, was a leading recusant who had been arrested several times for refusing to abandon his Catholic faith. His eldest grandson, also called John (son of his grandfather's eldest son Thomas), did convert to the Church of England, for which he was disinherited, whilst the rest of the family remained staunchly Catholic.

At the trial of the three women, Father **Southworth** called himself by the name of **Thompson**. However, he was asserted to be Christopher **Southworth**, fourth son of Sir John **Southworth**, and therefore uncle to John **Southworth**, the deceased husband of the accused, Jane **Southworth**.

The three accused women were questioned by two local JP's, William **Leigh** and Edward **Chisnall**, in an attempt to discover why **Southworth** might have fabricated evidence against them. None could offer any reason other than that each of them "*goeth to the [Anglican] Church*". The case against the three women was dismissed after Grace broke down under the judge's cross examination and confessed that the Priest Christopher **Southworth** had persuaded her to give her evidence.

One of the accused witches, Jane **Southworth**, the widow of the disinherited grandson, John, stated relations between John and his grandfather did not seem to have been amicable. According to a statement made by John **Singleton**, in which he referred to Sir John as his "*old Master*", he stated '*Sir John refused even to pass his grandson's house if he could avoid it*".

Jane (née **Sherburne**) and John **Southworth** were married in about 1598, and the couple lived in Samlesbury Lower Hall, until John's death in 1612. John **Southworth** predeceased the death of his father Thomas, who died in 1616. Jane had been widowed for only a few months before her trial for witchcraft in 1612 and had several children.

The trial was held at Lancaster Assizes on 19 August 1612 before Sir Edward **Bromley**. Jane **Southworth**, Jennet **Bierley**, and Ellen **Bierley**, were accused of using "*diverse devilish and wicked arts, called witchcrafts, Inchauntments, Charmes, and Sorceries, in and upon one Grace Sowerbutts*". All three women pleaded not guilty to the charges. Fourteen-year-old Grace **Sowerbutts** was the chief prosecution witness. In her evidence Grace claimed that both her grandmother and aunt, Jennet and Ellen **Bierley**, were able to transform themselves into dogs and that they had "*haunted and vexed her for years*". She further alleged that on another occasion they had tried to persuade her to drown herself.

She stated in court that her relatives had taken her to the house of Thomas **Walshman** and his wife, from whom they had stolen a baby to suck its blood. Grace claimed that the child died the following night, and that after its burial in Samlesbury Churchyard, Ellen and Jennet dug up the body and took it home, where they cooked and ate some of it and used the rest to make an ointment that enabled them to change themselves into other shapes.

Grace said that her grandmother and aunt, along with Jane **Southworth**, attended Sabbats (Pagan ceremonies) held every Thursday and Sunday night at Red Bank, on the north shore of the River Ribble. At those secret meetings they met with "*foure black things, going upright, and yet not like men in the face*", with whom they ate, danced, and had sex.

Thomas **Walshman**, the father of the baby allegedly killed and eaten by the accused, was the next to give evidence. He confirmed that his child had died of unknown causes at about one year old. He added that Grace **Sowerbutts** was discovered laying as if dead in his father's barn on about 15 April and did not recover until the following day. Two other witnesses, John **Singleton** and William **Alker**, confirmed that Thomas **Southworth**, Jane **Southworth**'s father-in-law, had been reluctant to pass the house where his son lived, as he believed Jane to be an "*evil*

"woman, and a Witch".

On being asked by the judge what answer they could make to the charges laid against them, **Potts** reports that they *"humbly fell upon their knees with weeping teares"*, and *"desired him [**Bromley**] for Gods cause to examine Grace **Sowerbutts**".* Immediately *"the countenance of this Grace **Sowerbutts** changed; the witnesses began to quarrel and accuse one another"* and eventually admitted that Grace had been coached in her story by a Catholic priest they called **Thompson**. Under questioning by the two JP's Grace readily admitted that her story was untrue and said she had been told what to say by Jane **Southworth**'s relative, Christopher **Southworth** aka **Thompson**, the Jesuit priest who was in hiding in the Samlesbury area.

After the statements had been read out in court, Bromley ordered the jury to find the defendants not guilty, stating that:

"God hath delivered you beyond expectation. I pray God you may use this mercie and favour well; and take heed you fall not hereafter. And so the court doth order that you shall be delivered".

Potts concludes his account of the trial with the words:

"Thus were these poore innocent creatures, by the great care and paines of this honourable Judge, delivered from the danger of this Conspiracie; this bloudie practise of the Priest laid open".

Many historians have suggested that the witch trials of the 16th and 17th centuries were a consequence of the religious struggles of the period, with both the Catholic and Protestant Churches determined to stamp out what they regarded as heresy.

The trial of the Samlesbury witches is perhaps one example of that trend. It has been described as *"largely a piece of anti-Catholic propaganda"* and even as a show-trial, to demonstrate that Lancashire, considered at that time to be a wild and lawless region, was being purged not only of witches but also of *"popish plotters"*.

Mike Halligan (9801)

Gunpowder, Treason and Recusancy

Did a Lancashire families links to the attempted regicide of King James I, in the failed Gunpowder Plot of 1605, (sometimes referred to as the Jesuit Treason), and attempts to replace Elizabeth I on the throne of England with Ferdinando **Stanley**, 5th Earl of Derby, in 1593, contribute to the decline of that branch of the family, and its drift into relative obscurity, following the ‘outlawing’ of their Great Grandfather, Gabriel **Hesketh**, at the time of his death on 22 November 1615?

Remember, remember! The fifth of November, the gunpowder treason and plot; I know of no reason why the gunpowder treason should ever be forgot! Guy Fawkes and his companions did the scheme contrive, to blow the King and Parliament all up alive. Three score barrels, laid below, to prove old England's overthrow. But, by God's providence, him they catch, with a dark lantern, lighting a match! A stick and a stake for King James's sake! If you won't give me one, I'll take two, the better for me, and the worse for you. A rope, a rope, to hang the Pope, a penn'orth of cheese to choke him, a pint of beer to wash it down, and a jolly good fire to burn him. Holloa, boys! Holloa, boys! Make the bells ring! Holloa, boys! Holloa boys! God save the King!

Every November 5th firework displays are held up and down the country and bonfires are lit to commemorate the failed attempt by 14 conspirators to assassinate the protestant King James I, in the wake of the religious persecution of England's Catholics, and state sponsored terrorism. But did this, and other conspiracies against the crown, contribute to the decision to outlaw Gabriel **Hesketh**, a close relative of the main conspirators, thus robbing his wife, daughter and grand-daughter of their rightful inheritance?

Undoubtedly, the **Hesketh**'s were practicing Catholics, and recusants, and the seeds of Catholic discontent had been sown in England following the declaration of the First Act of Supremacy, introduced by Henry VIII in 1534. The Act declared that Henry VIII was ‘the only supreme head on earth of the Church of England’. But this declaration had more to do with Henry's failure to secure the annulment of his marriage to his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, thereby enabling him to marry Ann **Boleyn**, than any religious motives.

Henry's Act of Supremacy was repealed in 1554 during the reign of his staunchly Catholic daughter, Mary I. But she was succeeded by her Protestant half-sister, Elizabeth, and in 1558, Parliament passed the Second Act of Supremacy, which declared that Elizabeth was the Supreme Governor of The Church of England. The use of the word 'Governor' was seen as an attempt to pacify England's Catholics. The Second Act of Supremacy required that anyone taking high public or church office, was required to swear allegiance to the Monarch, as Head of the Church and state, and anyone refusing to take the oath could be charged with treason.

The word 'recusant', derives from the Latin meaning 'to object', and essentially referred to England's aristocratic classes. The mass was said in Latin, and only the aristocratic or educated classes could understand it. Only the nobility could afford the fines associated with nonconformity, and it was only the nobility who tended to take high state or church office, so little wonder then that nonconformity was largely confined to England's 'elite'.

After the English Reformation, from the 16th to the 19th century, those found guilty of such nonconformity were subject to civil, or even criminal penalties.

Among the recusants were some high-profile Catholic aristocratic families, such as the **Howard FitzAlan** family, the Dukes of Norfolk.

Catholicism however was rampant throughout Lancashire, and in a survey conducted between 1715-1720, more than 20 percent of the population of the county was Roman Catholic. Little wonder then that two of the most powerful families in Lancashire, the Stanley's and the Hesketh's boasted some prominent recusants amongst their number.

The authors Great Grandfather, Bartholomew **Hesketh** (c1543-c1600) and Great Grandmother Margaret **Hesketh** (nee **Southworth**) (c1555-c1627) were noteworthy victims of the persecution, through their adherence to the Roman Catholic faith. The Cistercian monk, Dominic **Halsall**, believed to have been a relative of Jane **Halsall**, wife of Gabriel **Hesketh** (1516-1573) frequently celebrated mass at Meols Hall, in defiance of the ban.

Margaret **Hesketh** was described by the Bishop of Chester (William

Chadderton, Bishop 1579-1595) as a '*busy recusant*', and '*acted so undisguisedly*' that in 1584, Sir Francis **Walsingham** (Principal Secretary to Elizabeth I 1573-1590) wrote to **Chadderton**, touching her '*bad disposition*' and stating that '*she did much hurt in being at liberty to go (as she used to do) where she would be amongst recusants and like persons*'.

Catholic priests were regarded as enemies of the state and it was high treason to harbour or aid a priest, and the mass was banned as seditious.

Priests had been implicated in a number of Catholic plots to remove Elizabeth I, and severe measures were taken against them, including torture and execution. From the mid-1570's hides were built into houses to conceal priests from priest hunters, and it is in one such 'hide' at Meols Hall, that Saint Edmund **Campion** is said to have hidden, as well as Dominic **Halsall**, and Bartholomew and Margaret **Hesketh**.

In 1584, Bartholomew and Margaret **Hesketh** were discovered hiding at Meols Hall and were accordingly arrested and confined to New Fleet Prison, in Salford. Bartholomew however returned to Meols in 1590 in some '*degree of conformity*' but was further accused of '*having kept for sundry years now together one Gabriel **Shaw** to be his schoolmaster, which Shaw is most malicious against true hearted subjects*'.

Happier times have since returned to Meols Hall, which is one of the finest examples of a medieval manor house in Lancashire, if not the country, and the estate, which now hosts weddings, conferences and corporate functions, has been in the ownership of the Hesketh family for 27 generations.

Bartholomew **Hesketh** died in February 1600 and was succeeded by his son and heir, Gabriel Bartholomew Hawarth **Hesketh**.

Gabriel **Hesketh** married Jaine Scarisbrick **Stanley** on 30 October 1593 at the Church of St Peter and St Paul in Ormskirk, thus forming an alliance between these two powerful Lancashire families, although in reality, that relationship already existed. Jaine was the great-great granddaughter of the first Earl of Derby, Sir Thomas **Stanley** (1435-1504), and a great granddaughter of King Edward III through her great-great grandmother Eleanor **Neville**, Countess of Derby (1438-1472). The **Hesketh**'s traced their ancestors back to the days of the Conqueror.

Sir William **Stanley** was the son of Sir Rowland **Stanley** of Hooton, and Sir William had been an Army officer as well as a recusant, having given service in the army of Elizabeth I.

Stanley had been brought up in the Catholic faith, and after school, entered the service of his kinsman, Edward **Stanley**, 3rd Earl of Derby (c1508-1572).

In the year of the Spanish Armada, 1588, **Stanley** was the head of a recusant army some 700 hundred strong, in the Netherlands, and was ready to embark with his invasion force in support of the Spanish. However, in the wake of the failure of the Armada, plans for the invasion were abandoned, although it was speculated that **Stanley** might choose to lead a Spanish army in further attempts to invade England. It was around this time that William **Stanley** came into the company of Richard **Hesketh**.

Richard **Hesketh** (24 July 1553-29 November 1593) was the 4th son of Gabriel **Hesketh** (1516-1573) and Jane **Halsall** (1535-1596) from Aughton New Hall in Lancashire. **Hesketh** had been forced into exile in 1589 for his involvement in a riot near Preston, which caused the death of two men, and a year later, he was working in intelligence for Sir William **Stanley**, in Flanders, who was there fighting for Spain, and who was supporting the claim to the English throne of his kinsman Sir Henry **Stanley**, 4th Earl of Derby.

Hesketh returned to England in the summer of 1593, and in September 1593 he travelled to Lathom House, the home of the **Stanley**'s, on the very day that Henry **Stanley** died, to be succeeded by his son, Ferdinando, the 5th Earl of Derby.

Ferdinando had a claim to the English throne as his mother was Lady Margaret **Clifford**, the granddaughter of Mary Tudor, Queen of France, and the sister of Henry VIII, and **Hesketh** put forward the idea that Ferdinando should lead a revolt against Elizabeth and claim the throne for himself. This became known as the **Hesketh** plot.

Ferdinando had two meetings with **Hesketh** regarding the plot, but when **Hesketh** joined him on his journey to the royal court at Windsor, Ferdinando betrayed him and took him as prisoner and turned him over to the Queens Privy Council.

Hesketh was interrogated at Ditton House, near Windsor Castle, and on 15 October 1593 he confessed to the plot. On 24 November 1593, **Hesketh** was tried for treason at St Albans, the trial being presided over by Sir Thomas **Egerton**, the Attorney General. **Hesketh** was found guilty, and executed on 29 November 1593, denying his Catholic faith.

Elizabeth I died on 24 March 1603 and was succeeded to the throne by James Charles **Stewart**, the son of Mary, Queen of Scots, and her second husband, Henry **Stewart**, Lord Darnley. James was the great-great-grandson of Henry VII and so had claims to the thrones of England, Scotland and Ireland. But it was through his mother, the devoutly Catholic Mary Queen of Scots, that English Catholics believed that there would be a relaxing of the persecution. Indeed, some Catholics believed that the martyrdom of his mother would encourage James to convert to the Catholic faith.

James's attitude towards Catholics was more moderate than that of his predecessor, perhaps even tolerant, and he swore that he would not *'persecute any that will be quiet and give outward obedience to the law'*. But for many Catholics, James' tolerance did not go far enough. In the absence of any signs that James would move to end the persecution of Catholics, a plot was conceived with the principal aim to kill James at the state opening of Parliament, and to kidnap the King's daughter, Elizabeth, and install her on the English throne.

Robert **Catesby** was the inspiration behind the plot, but the public face has since become Guido (Guy) **Fawkes**, who was captured the night before 36 barrels of gunpowder were due to be detonated in the cellar under the House of Lords, prior to the state opening of Parliament, by the King.

Fawkes had served in the army during the time of Elizabeth I and had knowledge and experience of explosives and was consequently charged with detonating the gunpowder. However, prompted by the receipt of an anonymous letter, the authorities searched Westminster Palace during the early hours of 5th November, and **Fawkes** was found guarding the explosives.

Over the next few days, **Fawkes** was questioned and tortured, and eventually, he broke.

Fawkes was sentenced to be hung, drawn and quartered, but immediately before his execution, he jumped from the scaffold from where he was to be hanged, and broke his neck, thereby avoiding the agony that was to follow. Other conspirators who were hung, drawn and quartered alongside **Fawkes** were the **Wintour** brothers, Thomas and Robert **Wintour**, Ambrose **Rookwood**, Sir Everard **Digby**, and John **Grant**.

Robert **Catesby** and the remaining conspirators (John and Jack **Wright**, and Thomas **Percy**) died of gunshot wounds during a gun battle at Holbeche House on 7 November 1605. Robert **Catesby**'s body was later exhumed and his corpse decapitated.

Bartholomew **Hesketh** died in February 1600 and was succeeded by his son Gabriel, who died an 'outlaw' on 22 November 1615. His widow Jaïne renounced executorship of his will on 8th December 1615, and at an enquiry made on 6th March 1616, Gabriel's daughter Margaret **Hesketh**, who we believe was Ex Parte (not present) at the hearing, is named as the Administratrix of his will. At this enquiry, held in Ormskirk, a jury of 12 men confirmed that Gabriel **Hesketh** had died an 'outlaw', and with several judgements against him, and that his assets were to be seized to the use of the crown.

It would appear that this judgement was confirmed at a further enquiry dated 4th November 1619, before one Ricardus **Walton** of Winwicke.

The attached document (which is held by The Lancashire Archives) is written in quill, and in a combination of Latin and English, and it is punctuated with 16th century abbreviations. However, the document has been transcribed by Kate **Hurst**, a local Lancashire historian and superb genealogist, and 80 percent of it is understandable, and our thanks extend to her for her contribution.

*'Ira (the anger) Cestrii (of Chester) Sui allegiance (concerning these allegations) ex parte (not present) Margaret **Hesketh** Admnx (the administrator). Gabriel **Hesketh** dect (Gabriel **Hesketh** the deceased). Con reignii James ext (in the reign of James I) ye Capt. iiii Novem. 1619 (4th November 1619) Ricardus **Walton** par. de Winwicke genoss conent allegiance (Richard **Walton** of Winwick presides in these allegations). (Sui Corporal ad fra dei). Charged upon ye sixth daie of March in ye xiii year of ye Kings Majesties raigne (charged on 6th March 1616) now is as unto ye*

*Parish of ye County of Lancaster and by value of a spicall cause alleged to ye said Sherife directed dyd impannell a jurie att Orke (Ormskirk) by ye offes (officers) of xii men dyd find ye Gabriel **Hesketh** dyed outlawed and possessed of all and evrie ye goods menconed in ye Juren remayninge as would in ye House and were seised by ye debt by value of a deputacon from ye said Sherife to yr. Majesties use according to ye said Wrytt. And further that there were sevrall judgmnts agte ye said deceadent at ye time of his death to ye same use anywise and secured agte. ye said Margaret to ye knowledge of (???) in reference ye goods were (???) afforesaid as his (???) 15 die Novenbri Anno dmi 1619. Edmundi **Parke** por de 6 (???) state Sui xxxiii Anno and crirter bene ptes litigant A contenta in allegacon sui quo. Believeing ye decesd Gabriel **Hesketh** dyed outlawed. For soon after his death came a wrytt of inquirie by vertie of this wrytt a further was impainild for ye finding out of what goods ye said decede dyed possessed and also saving ye next was one of the (further) Edmund **Parke**'.*

This document, which is held in the Lancashire archives catalogue, appears to confirm that when Gabriel **Hesketh** died in November 1615, he died 'outlawed' and with several judgements outstanding against him. His uncle Richard **Hesketh** had been executed on 29 November 1593 for high treason, in the plot to assassinate Elizabeth I, and his wife's relative, William **Stanley**, had been implicated in a number of plots to depose both Elizabeth and James, and although James's Secretary of State, Robert **Cecil**, had exonerated **Stanley** from any involvement in the gunpowder plot, **Hesketh** and **Stanley** had collaborated in exile, and both were related to 12 of the 14 conspirators.

It appears that the judgement was never overturned, and Gabriel **Hesketh**'s assets did revert to the use of the crown, thus robbing Margaret **Hesketh** and her daughter Ellin of their inheritance.

Sometime after 1615, Margaret **Hesketh** married Daniel **Alty** of Rufford. We know nothing of the **Alty** family, but the daughter of Daniel and Margaret **Alty** (Ellin **Alty**), the granddaughter of Sir Gabriel **Hesketh** and Lady Jaine **Stanley**, and great-granddaughter of King Edward III married Edward **Baldwin**, a humble blacksmith from Rufford, and the Lancashire archives hold a copy of Edward **Baldwin**'s will.

Did Margaret Hesketh challenge the enquiries decisions to create the

circumstances for a more favourable aristocratic marriage for herself, and thereafter, for her children? We will never know. What we do know is that the challenge failed, and Margaret **Hesketh** married Daniel **Alty**, and their daughter (Ellin **Alty**) in turn married the Rufford blacksmith, Edward **Baldwin** (1614-1672). Thereafter, 6 generations of the **Bank**'s family, and 3 generations of the **Sidwell** family, finally arrived at the author, and his children, Christopher **Halligan** and Laura **Johnson**, and 4 beloved grandchildren, Harry and Lily **Johnson** and Alex and Ben **Halligan**.

What saddens the author is that when his great grandfather, Gabriel **Hesketh**, died on 22 November 1615, he was buried in St Michael's Churchyard in Aughton. His wife Jaine died on 17 November 1622 and was buried in the **Stanley** chancel in St Peter and St Pauls Church in Ormskirk, alongside Ferdinando **Stanley**, the man who had betrayed her husband's uncle. So even in death they were separated by intrigue and prejudice.

This research is for the benefit of our grandchildren and future generations, so they can hopefully be proud of all their ancestry. Our grandchildren may well be the great-grandchildren of Kings and Dukes, but they are also the great-grandchildren of Edward Baldwin, a blacksmith from Rufford, and what we are, and what they are is due in part to Edward Baldwin. So, God bless you Grandad, and may you always rest in peace. Our pride in you, and love for you is no less than for any King, Prince, or Lord.

Mike Halligan (9801)

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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 new members, **numbers 9805—9819** who have joined most recently and wish them every success with their research.

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9486 Rideing	-	LAN/West Derby	1640-1688
Ryding	-	LAN/West derby	1640-1688
Clark	John	LAN/Liverpool	1700-1730
Clarke	John	LAN/Liverpool	1700-1730
Higson	-	LAN/Leigh/Wigan	1700-1746
Alker	John	LAN/Wigan	1700-1740
Dobson	John	LAN/Liverpool	1800-1870
O'Neill	Michael	LAN/Liverpool	1800-1850
Garrity	Mary Ann	LAN/Liverpool	1800-1850

PTO

Members' Interest's Cont...

In the coming months, the Members' Interest's Secretary, Sandra **Roberts**, will be 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

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

Liverpool Group:

The Liverpool group have volunteers who hold a weekly help desk each Tuesday, 1:00pm 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:
21 March 2026 (provisional date)

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

The Liverpool and South West Lancashire FHS Website:
www.lswlfhs.org.uk

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/no-crawl>

Or on 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

News from the Groups

Leigh & District

Unfortunately, the Leigh Group has disbanded

with effect from 18 November 2025

Liverpool

Chairman: Susan Atkins

Secretary: Joyce Culling

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

10 Mar TBA

14 Apr TBA

12 May TBA

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.

3 Mar Liverpool Women Transported to Van Diemens Land

Ian Mooney

7 Apr Help Night

No Speaker

5 May Nursery Rhymes Part 1

Jean Finney

2 Jun A Trip to the Zoo

Louise Wade

Please note: There are no meetings in July & August

Southport

Chairman: Ian Cooper

Secretary: Paula Reese

Meetings are held at **Birkdale Station Master's House** on the second Friday of each month (unless stated otherwise). Meetings start at 7:30pm. Coffee/Tea and biscuits from 7.15pm.

13 Mar Southport, The Growth of a Seaside Town

Michael Winstanley

10 Apr My Ancestor was....

Group Discussion

8 May Using Wills to Trace our Ancestors

Susan Atkins

Warrington

Chairman: Vacant

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.

23 Mar Members Evening

No Speaker

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.

25 Mar Members Research Night

No Speaker

29 Apr Members Research Night

No Speaker

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Plus one representative elected by each Group of the Society



Flower Bed at Calderstones Park

Photo taken at **Calderstones Park**, Liverpool, England. 17 May 2013

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Calderstones Park is a public park in the Allerton area of Liverpool, England, about 4 miles (6 km) south-east of the city centre.

The 126 acres (0.51 km²) park is mainly a family park. Within it there are a variety of attractions including a playground, a botanical garden and places of historical interest. There is a lake in the park with geese and ducks, and the Calderstones Mansion House, which features a café and a children's play area.

The **Calderstones** are six neolithic sandstone monoliths that formed part of a burial monument 4,000 years ago. They are a scheduled monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act . The nearby **Robin Hood's Stone** was originally also one of the Calderstones, and has been relocated. The **Allerton Oak** is one of the park's two most ancient features.



Sefton Park, Liverpool - Bandstand

Attribution: Colin Park

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Sefton Park is a public park in south Liverpool, England. The park is in a conservation district of the same name, It is the largest public park in Liverpool and the Liverpool City Region.

Suburbs neighbouring the park include Toxteth, Aigburth, Mossley Hill, Wavertree and St Michael's Hamlet. The park is located roughly within the historic bounds of the large area of the former Royal Park, Toxteth Park.

The park is 235 acres (0.95 km²) in area and is designated by English Heritage at Grade I in the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens.

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