

LIVERPOOL FAMILY HISTORIAN



Volume 44 No. 3



September 2022

THE LIVERPOOL & S. W. LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

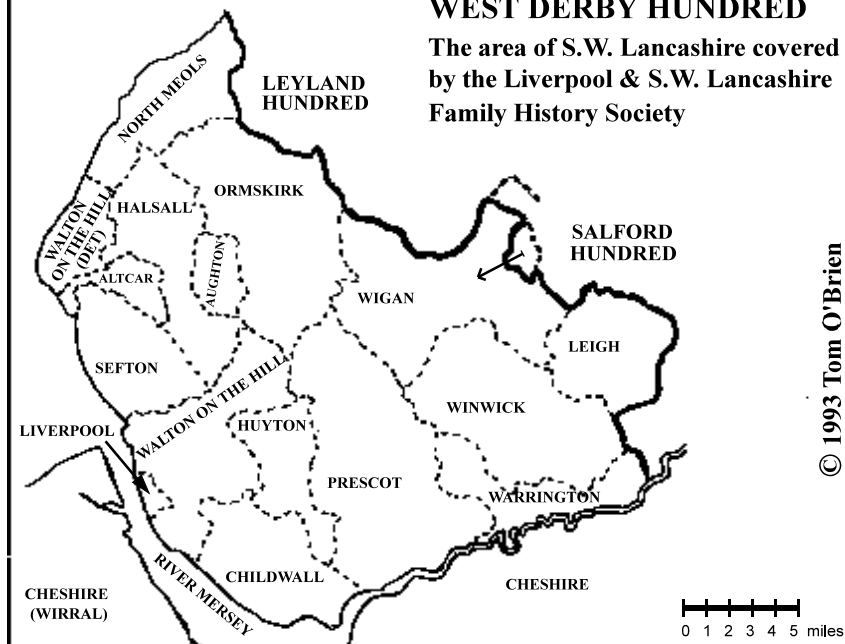
Founded 27 May 1976

Covering

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

WEST DERBY HUNDRED

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



Website: www.lswlfhs.org.uk



Front cover: Kath Morton, Bill Morton, Glenys McClellan, Sue Ring, Janice Hatton, Archives: Wigan & Leigh Family History Volunteers - image courtesy of Archives: Wigan & Leigh.

See news item: Award winning volunteers at Archives: Wigan & Leigh - page 131

Liverpool Family Historian

Journal of The Liverpool and S. W. Lancashire Family History Society

Published quarterly - September 2022, Vol. 44, No. 3

ISSN 0260-759X

Member of the Federation of Family History Societies - Registered Charity No. 512906
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Editorial

Many thanks to all those of you who sent contributions for the journal following my call for content back in June. I am pleased to say that the response was such that we have a full size journal again this quarter. I also have one article stored away in readiness for the December edition - further contributions to join it will be gratefully received.

Our General Secretary, Barry Peacock, has included notice of this year's AGM in the News Items section opposite. The AGM will be held remotely via Zoom as it was last year, although this year we are also planning to have a guest speaker at the event. To enable member participation, we have published in this journal: Minutes of the last AGM held on 16 October 2021 (page 167) and the Society's Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31 December 2021 (page 166).

Don't forget to keep abreast of the return of the regular group meetings. The Leigh and Skelmersdale groups already have their meeting schedules confirmed to the end of the year, whilst Southport and Warrington have their dates set and are busy working-up their programmes. I should also highlight that Warrington group meetings are being held at a new venue - see 'News from the Groups'. Do keep an eye on the website for updates on the group meetings and please do support them as soon as you feel ready too (I know many people still have concerns about Covid-19 and its possible resurgence in the autumn/winter).

You will also see that we are readvertising the Membership Secretary and Journal Editor posts (pages 149/150). These important positions within the society will both become vacant by the time of our AGM, so do please consider what you could bring to either of the roles and whether you could take on the responsibility. Sadly, the member I was working with to hand over the journal editorship to has had to withdraw from the role - I'm fairly sure that it wasn't anything I said. If you would like to apply or require further information, please contact our General Secretary at the email address provided in the adverts.

I think that is all I need cover in this editorial, other than to congratulate our colleagues in the Leigh Group for being part of the award winning volunteer team at Archives Wigan & Leigh (front cover and page 151).

Mike Paice, Editor

News Items

Liverpool & South West Lancashire Family History Society Notice of Annual General Meeting 2022

The date for this year's AGM has been set as Saturday 15 October and it will again be held using Zoom. The format will follow much the same format as usual with reports from key officers of the society, presentation of accounts and election of Officers. Additionally, this year we plan to include a presentation by a guest speaker as part of the day's proceedings.

Further details will be posted in the Member's section of the website as they become firmed up, including information about the election of Officers (current incumbents are listed in the Journal). All members will be contacted for registration on Zoom for the AGM prior to the meeting. Please keep an eye on the website for further information.

If there are any issues that any member wishes to have raised at the AGM please contact the Secretary at secretary@lswlfhs.org.uk
Barry Peacock, General Secretary

Award Winning Volunteers at Archives: Wigan & Leigh

The Volunteers Week 2022 award presented by The Archives & Records Association (ARA) has been awarded to the volunteers (including members of the Leigh Group) at Archives: Wigan & Leigh for their help with the 'Revealing Wigan Archives' project.

The award is presented each year to projects which show how volunteers have supported archive services during the previous 12 months. The ARA were impressed with how the volunteers at Wigan and Leigh had continued to help in order to enable the newly refurbished archives to open in June 2021 shortly after the easing of lockdown restrictions. Volunteers had worked from home during the pandemic but they continued to support the design and development of the project and exhibition displays. The Leigh Group were named as partners in the submission. The ARA were impressed by how

well the volunteers managed to work together, whilst apart.

The volunteers have answered approximately 60 genealogical enquires during the first twelve months even though members of the public were not able to attend face-to-face sessions. The volunteers attend each morning from Tuesday to Friday and receive the queries by forms submitted on the Archives website. These are available online at: www.wigan.gov.uk (museums and archives/Wigan Archives/Collection).

Free tours of the refurbished town hall including the archives search room, strong rooms, digitisation studio and exhibition take place on the last Wednesday of the month. Bookings can be made at www.eventbrite.co.uk/archives-wigan-and-leigh

Heritage Open Days 2022

This year's Heritage Open Days will run from **Friday 9 September to Sunday 18 September**. As before, the events are all free to attend and at the time of writing (2 August 2022) there were around 20 events listed for Liverpool. At this time, all the events shown for Liverpool are in person events but it is worth looking at events in other areas where you have an interest but cannot visit, as there are some online only events this year.

For Liverpool, the historic churches of St. Michael-in-the-Hamlet, St. Nicholas Blundellsands and All Hallows (Allerton) will be participating, as will Liverpool's oldest parish church – All Saints Childwall. The Friends of Williamson's Tunnels will also be giving guided tours of the tunnels on each Saturday and Sunday. There will be 40 minute guided tours of the Blue Coat School in Wavertree on the weekend of September 17/18 and there will also be guided tours of The Athenaeum (the home of Liverpool's oldest social organisation) between 10:30 and 16:30 on Sunday 18 September.

For more information and to find out about events in Liverpool, across Merseyside or across the country, visit the Heritage Open Days website at: www.heritageopendays.org.uk

The Family History Show 2022

The organisers of this year's Family History Show (*Discover Your Ancestors* magazine) will be running the event at Kempton Park Racecourse, in Sunbury-on-Thames, on **Saturday 24 September**, from 10:00 to 16:00.

At the time of writing, 30 exhibitors had confirmed their participation, including: The Genealogist (event sponsors), the Family History Federation, Family Search, the Guild of One Name Studies, various family history societies and family history supply and service providers. The speaker events were still being worked-up at the time of writing, with details promised on the website soon. The event will also include the popular Ask The Experts bookable personal sessions.

Ticket prices on the day will be £12 per person (with under 16s having free admission). Early Bird prices on the website at the time of writing were £8 per person or £12 for two tickets (I hope that this deal is still available when the journal arrives – Ed.). A Goody Bag worth £8 will be given to each ticket holder on arrival. There will be free parking at the venue for those who drive to the event.

The Genealogy Show – Winter Event 2022

The organisers of the Genealogy Show have announced the dates for the Summer Event - **Friday 2 December to Sunday 4 December 2022**. Following the success of their various online events, the Winter Event will also be hosted online with virtual stalls manned by family history societies, archives and other genealogical and related service providers.

This year's exhibitors will likely include: MyHeritage, Who Do You Think Your Are? Magazine, the Society for One-Place Studies, Family Tree magazine, My Danish Roots and various family history societies. There will also be more than 50 speaker events lined-up, effectively delivering non-stop talks across the show and including well known speakers like Else Churchill and Sharn White. The event will also include one-to-one consultations with genealogy experts, live chat with other guests, competitions and more.

At the time of writing, the Genealogy Show website had not been updated and so ticket prices for the Winter Event had not been announced but are likely to be the same as they were for the Summer Event (i.e. £20 per person). Details will become available soon from the event website www.thegenealogyshow.uk/

Ancestry update

There were 27 new datasets added to the UK collection on Ancestry between May and July, together with 13 UK datasets that had new content added to them. The new datasets include records from as far south as Sussex, all the way up to Edinburgh in Scotland. The new datasets are:

- **Carmarthenshire and Bangor, Wales, Wills Index Cards** (1885-1941);
- **East Sussex, England, Church of England, Baptisms, Marriages and Burials** (1538-1812);
- **East Sussex, England, Church of England, Births and Baptisms** (1813-1920);
- **East Sussex, England, Church of England, Confirmations** (1813-1927);
- **East Sussex, England, Church of England, Deaths and Burials** (1813-1995);
- **East Sussex, England, Church of England, Marriages and Banns** (1754-1936);
- **Edinburgh, Scotland, Alien Registers** (1794, 1798-1825);
- **Edinburgh, Scotland, Cemetery Registers** (1771-1935);
- **Edinburgh, Scotland, Extent Rolls** (1580-1847);
- **Edinburgh, Scotland, Lord Provost Passports** (1845-1916);
- **Lancashire, England, Index of Wills and Probates Proved at Richmond and Chester** (1600-1858);
- **UK, Women's Royal Naval Officers' Service Records** (1917-1919);
- **Web: Scotland, High Court Criminal Indexes** (1790-1919);
- **Web: Scotland, National War Memorial Index** (1914-1945);
- **Westminster, England, Militia Records** (1779-1815);

- **West Sussex, England, Church of England, Baptisms, Marriages and Burials (1538-1812);**
- **West Sussex, England, Church of England, Births and Baptisms (1813-1920);**
- **West Sussex, England, Church of England, Deaths and Burials (1813-1995);**
- **West Sussex, England, Church of England, Marriages and Banns (1754-1936);**
- **Worcestershire, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials (1600-1812);**
- **Worcestershire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms (1812-1918);**
- **Worcestershire, England, Church of England Deaths and Burials (1813-1918);**
- **Worcestershire, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns (1754-1935);**
- **York, Yorkshire, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials (1538-1812);**
- **York, Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms (1813-1920);**
- **York, Yorkshire, England, Church of England Deaths and Burials (1813-1995); and,**
- **York, Yorkshire, England, Church of England Marriages (1754-1936).**

The updated UK datasets are:

- **Bristol, England, Church of England, Baptisms (1813-1921);**
- **Bristol, England, Church of England, Marriages and Banns (1754-1937);**
- **England and Wales, Death Index (1989-2021);**
- **London, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials (1538-1812);**
- **London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms (1813-1921);**
- **London, England, Church of England Deaths and Burials (1813-2003);**
- **London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns (1754-1938);**

- **Scotland and Northern Ireland, Death Index** (1989-2021);
- **UK and Ireland, Newspapers.com Marriage Index** (1800s – current);
- **UK and Ireland, Newspapers.com Obituary Index** (1800s – current);
- **UK and Ireland, Obituary Index** (2004 – current);
- **UK, Imperial Yeomanry Records** (1899-1902); and,
- **Web: Scotland, National War Memorial Index** (1914-1945).

The following select overseas datasets are either new or had new content added to them since the last edition of the journal:

- **Alpes de Haute Provence, France, Census** (1836-1911);
- **Arizona, U.S., Naturalization Records** (1909-1991);
- **Arkansas, U.S., Wills and Probate Records** (1818-1998);
- **Australia, Newspapers.com Obituary Index** (1800s – current);
- **Australia and New Zealand, Obituary Index** (2004 – current);
- **Doubs, France, Births, Marriages and Deaths** (1686-1918);
- **California, U.S., State Court Naturalization Records** (1850-1986);
- **Calvados, France, Births, Marriages and Deaths** (1697-1912);
- **Canada, Newspapers.com Obituary Index** (1800s-current);
- **Canada, Obituary Collection** (1898 – current);
- **Caribbean, Obituary Index** (2003 – current);
- **Colorado, U.S., State and Federal Naturalization Records** (1868-1990);
- **Delaware, U.S., Wills and Probate Records** (1676-1971);
- **Florida, U.S., Wills and Probate Records** (1827-1950);
- **Georgia, U.S., Wills and Probate Records** (1742-1992);
- **Idaho, U.S., Naturalization Records** (1903-1982);
- **Indiana, U.S., Federal Naturalization Records** (1892-1992);
- **Indre, France, Births, Marriages, and Deaths** (1796-1911);

- **Kentucky, U.S., Wills and Probate Records** (1774-1989);
- **Maine, U.S., Federal Naturalization Records** (1787-1991);
- **Maryland, U.S., Federal Naturalization Records** (1795-1931);
- **Maryland, U.S., Wills and Probate Records** (1635-1777);
- **Massachusetts, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists** (1820-1963);
- **Minnesota, U.S., Federal Naturalization Records** (1896-1989);
- **Mississippi, U.S., Naturalization Records** (1907-2008);
- **Missouri, U.S., Federal Naturalization Records** (1856-1942);
- **Montana, U.S., County Naturalization Records** (1867-1970);
- **North Carolina, U.S., Naturalization Records** (1872-1996);
- **North Carolina, U.S., Wills and Probate Records** (1665-1998);
- **Norway, Emigration Records** (1874-1960);
- **Oklahoma, U.S., Naturalization Records** (1889-1991);
- **Rhône, France, Births, Marriages and Death Registers** (1796-1917);
- **South Carolina, U.S., Naturalization Records** (1868-1991);
- **South Dakota, U.S., Federal Naturalization Records** (1904-1928);
- **Tennessee, U.S., Wills and Probate Records** (1779-2008);
- **Texas, U.S., Wills and Probate Records** (1833-1974);
- **U.S., Newspapers.com Marriage Index** (1800s-current);
- **U.S., Newspapers.com Obituary Index** (1800s-current);
- **U.S., Obituary Collection** (1930 – current);
- **U.S., Virgin Islands, Arriving and Departing Passenger and Crew Lists** (1885-1962);
- **Utah, U.S., Cemetery Inventory** (1847-2021);
- **Utah, U.S., Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel Records** (1847-1868);
- **Utah, U.S., Naturalization and Citizenship Records** (1858-1959);

- **Virginia, U.S., Birth Registers** (1853-1911);
- **Virginia, U.S., Wills and Probate Records** (1652-1900);
- **Washington, U.S., Arriving and Departing Passenger and Crew Lists** (1882-1965);
- **Washington, U.S., Naturalizations** (1853-1980);
- **Web: Canadian Headstone Index** (1840-2017);
- **West Virginia, U.S., Federal Naturalization Records** (1844-1943);
- **West Virginia, U.S., Wills and Probate Records** (1724-1985);
- **Wisconsin, U.S., Federal Naturalization Records** (1848-1992);
- **Yvelines, France, Births, Marriages and Deaths** (1734-1996); and,
- **1950 United States Federal Census.**

British Newspaper Archive update

The British Newspaper Archive has digitised content from 51 new titles over the course of the last quarter, with another good spread of geographic locations and some interesting specialist newspapers. The new titles are as follow: **Anglo-American Times** (1865-96); **Antigua Standard** (1883-90); **Australian Spiritualist** (1881); **Battersea Polytechnic Review** (1894); **Beverley Advertiser** (1992); **Black & White** (1891-1905); **Brent Leader** (1992); **British Yachtsman** (1894); **Bromley Chronicle** (1891-96, 1898-1921); **Bromley Journal and West Kent Herald** (1869-85, 1887-1912); **Bromley and West Kent Telegraph** (1868-72, 1886-96, 1898-1913); **Burntwood Mercury** (1990-92); **Carlow Nationalist** (1883-1916); **Colonial Standard** (1858, 1864, 1866, 1868-69, 1871, 1873, 1875-78, 1880-95); **Cork Weekly Examiner** (1896-1912); **Dominica Chronicle** (1910-15); **Dominica Guardian** (1893-1921); **East Galway Democrat** (1913-21, 1936, 1938-49); **East Kilbride World** (1991, 1993); **Eastleigh Weekly News and Hants Gazette** (1895-1900); **Erdington News** (1911-17, 1950); **Evans and Ruffy's Farmer's Journal** (1809-32); **Evening Times 1825** (1825-26); **Gainsborough Target** (1991-92); **Gazette of the United States** (1789-98, 1803); **Hampstead News** (1882-1961); **Holloway Press** (1872-1962); **Horncastle Target** (1991-92); **Land & Labor** (1981); **Lewisham Borough News** (1892-

1962); **Lichfield Post** (1989-90, 1992); **Lincoln Target** (1991-93); **Mirror (Trinidad & Tobago)** (1898, 1901-02, 1904-11, 1914-15); **Munster Tribune** (1955-59, 1961-62); **National Observer** (1888-97); **Northampton Herald & Post** (1990-91); **Ottawa Free Press** (1903-16); **Redcar and Saltburn News** (1871-75, 1892-1903); **Rhondda Leader** (1987); **Solihull Times** (1992, 1994-96, 1998); **South Western Star** (1889-1949); **Spiritualist** (1869-82); **St Neots Town Crier** (1994); **Stanmore Observer** (1987-90, 1992); **Stockport Times** (1989); **Sutton Coldfield Observer** (1991); **Sutton Journal** (1863-96, 1898-1902); **Voice of St. Lucia** (1885-88, 1890-1915); **Wallington & Carshalton Herald** (1882-97); **West Kent Argus and Borough of Lewisham News** (1894-1931); and, **Woodford Times** (1869-81, 1896, 1899-1915).

The following select titles have had new pages added to them since the June edition of the journal: **Accrington Observer and Times** (1912, 1990-92); **Aldershot News** (1978-79, 1981, 1987); **Aris's Birmingham Gazette** (1741-1823); **Barbados Agricultural Reporter** (1887-88, 1895-1922); **Bedfordshire on Sunday** (1977-80, 1992); **Billingham & Norton Advertiser** (1989-92); **Birmingham Weekly Mercury** (1924-26, 1928-45, 1947-48, 1951-55, 1957-58, 1961-62, 1964-68, 1970, 1972, 1974, 1976-79, 1983-85, 1993-99); **Bucks Advertiser & Aylesbury News** (1836-37, 1839-40, 1843-52, 1856, 1863-68, 1870-71, 1873, 1875-89, 1891-95, 1898-1910, 1913-19, 1922, 1925-26, 1928, 1930, 1933, 1935, 1937, 1940, 1947-53); **Burton Daily Mail** (1899, 1975, 1977, 1991, 1993-94, 1997); **Bury Free Press** (1956-59, 1974-75); **Clarion** (1916-27); **Clevedon Mercury** (1876, 1879, 1989-91); **Colonial Standard and Jamaica Despatch** (1865, 1867, 1870, 1872, 1874, 1879); **Crewe Chronicle** (1978, 1980, 1991-92, 1994-95, 1997); **Daily Record** (1986-88, 1994-95); **Derbyshire Times** (1907-10, 1913, 1915-16, 1918-19, 1921, 1925-27, 1929, 1934); **East Grinstead Observer** (1925, 1978, 1990-91); **East Kent Gazette** (1905, 1987, 1989); **Edinburgh Evening News** (1951, 1954, 1956); **Evening Despatch** (1902-03, 1908-11, 1913, 1920-29, 1932-35, 1937-38, 1948-49, 1951-54); **Glamorgan Gazette** (1955-71, 1973-79, 1981); **Herne Bay Press** (1883-97, 1899-1912, 1919-75); **Hertford Mercury and Reformer** (1873, 1981, 1994, 1996); **Herts and Essex Observer** (1987, 1998-99); **Huddersfield and Holmfirth Examiner** (1909, 1912, 1950, 1952); **Huddersfield Daily**

Examiner (1898, 1993-95); **Huntingdon Town Crier** (1987, 1989, 1991, 1993, 1996); **Ilfracombe Chronicle** (1869, 1880, 1891-92, 1911); **Ilkeston Express** (1989, 1992-97); **Kensington News and West London Times** (1935, 1937, 1940, 1951, 1964, 1968, 1972); **Kent Messenger & Gravesend Telegraph** (1913, 1919-30, 1948, 1950, 1966-67, 1969); **Kentish Express** (1855-71, 1893-95, 1898-1973); **Loughborough Mail** (1990, 1995-96, 1998); **Merthyr Express** (1988-90); **Middlesex County Times** (1910, 1952, 1974, 1979, 1994-95); **Mirror (Trinidad & Tobago)** (1899-1900, 1912-13, 1916); **Nantwich Chronicle** (1993-96); **North & South Shields Gazette and Northumberland and Durham Advertiser** (1851, 1853-55, 1860); **Nottingham Evening Post** (1956, 1969, 1983, 1987, 1997); **Nottingham Recorder** (1981-83, 1988, 1990-91, 1993-96); **Ormskirk Advertiser** (1855, 1873-74, 1876, 1885, 1894, 1987, 1990); **Overland China Mail** (1848-52, 1895-96); **Pontypridd Observer** (1959-60, 1962, 1983, 1986); **Port Talbot Guardian** (1981-85, 1990, 1994-95); **Retford, Gainsborough & Worksop Times** (1890, 1967, 1978, 1981, 1987, 1993, 1995); **Rugeley Mercury** (1988, 1990-91); **Runcorn & Widnes Herald & Post** (1989-90, 1992-93); **Seren Cymru** (1856-60); **Sheerness Times Guardian** (1896, 1898, 1911); **Shields Daily Gazette** (1898, 1905, 1907-09, 1912-15, 1917-18, 1920-45, 1953-55); **Solihull News** (1988-89, 1994-98); **Spalding Guardian** (1885, 1889, 1912); **Sports Argus** (1980, 1983, 1985-86, 1989, 1992, 1995-96); **St. Kitts Daily Express** (1906, 1909-15); **Sun (Antigua)** (1911, 1913-20); **Tamworth Herald** (1989, 1992, 1996-97); **Teviotdale Record and Jedburgh Advertiser** (1880, 1882-84); **Winsford Chronicle** (1977, 1996, 1998); and, **Wokingham Times** (1932-40, 1942, 1944, 1946-47, 1949-50, 1953-58).

FamilySearch update

There no new UK datasets added to the FamilySearch collection over the last quarter although several existing UK datasets had new records added to them. There were many more additions to the FamilySearch overseas records collections and some of these are detailed below. The following UK datasets have had new content added to them since the last edition of the journal:

- **England, Gloucestershire Non-Conformist Church Records** (1942-1996);

- **England, Isle of Wight Parish Registers (1538-1983);**
- **England, Lancashire Non-Conformist Church Records (1647-1996);**
- **England, Middlesex Parish Registers (1539-1988);**
- **England, Northumberland, Non-Conformist Church Records (1613-1920);**
- **Scotland, Lanarkshire Church Records (1823-1967);**
- **United Kingdom, England, Deaths and Burials (1538-1991);**
- **United Kingdom, England, Lincolnshire, Marriage Bonds and Allegations (1574-1885);**
- **United Kingdom, Marriages (1538-1973);**
- **United Kingdom, Prisoners of War (1715-1947); and,**
- **Wales, Carmarthenshire, Parish Registers (1538-1912).**

The following select overseas datasets are either new or had new content added to them between May and July:

- **Austria, Vienna, Jewish Registers of Births, Marriages, and Deaths (1784-1911);**
- **Australia, Albany, Inward Passenger Lists (1873-1924);**
- **Australia, Western Australia, Fremantle, Inward Passenger Lists (1890-1911);**
- **Canada, Border Entry Lists (1908-1918);**
- **Canada, Immigration Records (1919-1924);**
- **France, Calvados, Census (1836, 1856, 1891);**
- **France, Creuse, Parish and Civil Registration (1568-1903);**
- **France, Drôme, Parish and Civil Registration (1542-1922);**
- **France, Hautes-Alpes, Census (1836, 1856);**
- **France, Pyrénées-Orientales, Parish and Civil Registration (1451-1897);**
- **France, Saône-et-Loire, Parish and Civil Registration (1530-1892);**
- **Germany, Anhalt, Catholic and Lutheran Church Records (1851-1941);**
- **Germany, Bavaria, Catholic and Lutheran Church Records (1746-1970);**
- **Germany, Lübeck, Catholic and Lutheran Church Records (1797-1961);**

- **Germany, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Catholic and Lutheran Church Records** (1639-1943);
- **Germany, Mecklenburg-Strelitz, Catholic and Lutheran Church Records** (1664-1937);
- **Germany, Oldenburg, Catholic and Lutheran Church Records** (1764-1959);
- **Germany, Prussia, East Prussia, Catholic and Lutheran Church Records** (1544-1966);
- **Germany, Prussia, Pomerania, Catholic and Lutheran Church Records** (1544-1966);
- **Germany, Prussia, Posen, Catholic and Lutheran Church Records** (1430-1998);
- **Germany, Prussia, West Prussia, Catholic and Lutheran Church Records** (1537-1981);
- **Germany, Rhineland-Palatinate, Diocese of Mainz, Catholic Church Records** (1764-1959);
- **Germany, Saxony, Church Book Indexes** (1500-1900);
- **India, Madras Diocese Protestant Church Records** (1743-1990);
- **Jamaica, Church of England Parish Register Transcripts** (1664-1880);
- **Slovakia, Church and Synagogue Books** (1592-1935);
- **South Africa, Church of the Province of South Africa, Parish Registers** (1801-2004);
- **South Africa, Dutch Reformed Church Registers (Cape Town Archives)** (1660-1970);
- **South Africa, Johannesburg, Cemetery Records** (1840-2019);
- **South Africa, KwaZulu Natal, Vital Records** (1868-1976);
- **South Africa, Reformed Church Records** (1856-1988);
- **South Africa, Western Cape, Deceased Estate Files** (1951-1958);
- **Switzerland, Catholic and Lutheran Church Records** (1418-1996);
- **United States Census** (1910);
- **United States Index to Alien Case Files** (1940-2003);
- **United States, Iowa, Evangelical Lutheran Church, Vital Records** (1866-1919);
- **United States, Kansas State Census** (1925);

- **United States, Maine Vital Records** (1670-1921);
- **United States, New Jersey, Reclaim the Records, Geographic Birth Index** (1901-29);
- **United States, New York, Birth Indexes outside of New York City** (1881-1942);
- **United States, New York State Census** (1905);
- **United States, Virginia, Vital Records** (1715-1901);
- **United States, Washington, County Death Registers** (1881-1979); and,
- **West Virginia Births** (1853-1930).

FindMyPast update

Plenty of interesting new records have been released by FindMyPast since the last edition of the journal, including many World War II era records. The Oldham Workhouse records, although some way out of our immediate area of interest, may be of particular interest for those members who also have ancestors out Manchester way. The following new UK record collections were added to FindMyPast's offering:

- **Airmen Died in the Second World War, 1939-1946** – nearly 129,000 records detailing name, unit, rank, aircraft type, date of death etc., of airmen and women from Britain, the Commonwealth and beyond;
- **Bomber Command Losses, 1939-1945** – around 58,000 records of the service personnel of Bomber Command who died during the conflict;
- **British Army, Recommendations For Military Honours and Awards, 1935-1990** – nearly 80,000 records detailing name, unit, rank, home address and reasons for recommendation;
- **City of York Trade Directories, 1781-1955** – more than 720,000 records from 16 trade directories for York;
- **Historic Photos of England and Wales** – a collection of pre- and post-World War I photographs, spanning England and Wales but predominantly from within the modern Greater London area;
- **Huntingdonshire Marriages Index, 1754-1837** – originally released as a browseable collection only, the records have been transcribed as a fully searchable index;

- **Lancashire, Oldham Workhouse, 1867-1917** – over 150,000 records, including admissions and discharges;
- **Wiltshire Asylum Registers, 1789-1921** – 27,761 records taken from eight asylums across the county;
- **Wiltshire Tithe Award Register, 1813-1882** – more than 250,000 records documenting land and property owners in Wiltshire;
- **Wiltshire WWI Hospital Records** – these records cover the Old Sarum Isolation Hospital, Harnham Red Cross Hospital and Salisbury Infirmary; and,
- **Yorkshire, Sheffield, Air Raid Casualties, 1940-1941** – an unspecified number of records detailing name, address, date of birth, hospital address or service details for military personnel.

The following UK datasets have had further records added to them:

- **Britain, Campaign, Gallantry & Long Service Medals & Awards** – around 51,000 new records have been added to this collection, covering recipients of the Long Service Good Conduct Medal, India General Service Medal Pegu (Army) 1852-53 and India General Service Medal (Navy) 1852-53;
- **Britain, Merchant Seamen, 1918-1941** – nearly 5,000 new records have been added to this collection, which includes physical descriptions and occasional photographs;
- **British Army Lists & Commission Registers, 1661-1826** – more than 118,000 records have been added to this collection from the formation of the then English Army, detailing name, regiment and rank plus the date that the officer was commissioned
- **British Royal Navy & Royal Marines Service and Pension Records, 1704-1919** – more than 19,000 records including a Royal Marines shore list from 1810;
- **Greater London Burial Index, 1813-1868** – almost 8,000 new records from Ealing were added to this collection;
- **Herefordshire Marriages, 1538-1838** – around 220,000 new records from 470 parishes across the county;
- **Middlesex Baptisms, 1802-1884** – over 18,000 new records covering the areas of Edmonton (1802-1842), New Brentford (1813-1876) and Tottenham (1813-1884);

- **National Burial Index for England & Wales, 1737-1954** – almost 100,000 new records were added to this collection, from parishes within the West Riding of Yorkshire;
- **National School Admissions Registers, 1884-1921** – The records from four schools in Halifax, Yorkshire have been added: Portland Road Infant School (1890-1904); Queens Road Boys Senior School (1904-1921); Queens Road Girls Senior School (1884-1921); and, Queens Road Junior School (1896-1903);
- **Norfolk, Churchyard Graves and Memorial Transcriptions** – this collection could previously be browsed only but has now been transcribed and is fully searchable;
- **Scotland Monumental Inscriptions** – around 13,000 new inscriptions (from Angus and Fife) have been added to this collection;
- **Surrey Baptisms, 1777-1876** – 23,000+ new baptism records have been added to the collection from the parishes of Lambeth, Stockwell, St. Mary Magdalene Bermondsey, and Walworth; and,
- **Wiltshire Baptisms, 1538-1855** – almost 70,000 new records from nine parishes across the county.

And finally... The following select overseas datasets are either new or have had further records added to them since the last edition of the journal:

- **British India, Births, Baptisms and Marriages** – an unspecified number of new records have been added to this collection of records from the British India Office;
- **Ireland Newspaper Birth Notices** – this collection of records has been streamlined into one fully searchable collection (the marriage and death notice collections have been organised similarly);
- **South Africa, Local Armed Forces Nominal Rolls, 1899-1902** – more than 53,000 records of British Army units raised in South Africa during the Second Boer War. Transcribed records detail name, rank, unit, together with (often) enrolment and discharge dates);
- **St. Vincent, St. George's Baptisms, 1765-1820** – an unspecified number of records that include the details of name, parents' names and date of baptism. Many records

- include details of parents' occupations, race and social status;
- **St. Vincent, St. George's Marriages, 1765-1820** – details of 1,534 marriages are recorded, including many from military units stationed in the Caribbean at the time;
- **United States of America, Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence** – a new dataset that documents the descendants of the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence on 4 July 1776;
- **United States of America, Pennsylvania, America Revolution Patriot Militia Index, 1775-1783** – a new dataset taken from the index cards of the Battalions and Line and the Associated Battalions and Militia from Pennsylvania;
- **United States of America, Pennsylvania, Episcopal Births and Baptisms** – a collection of more than 117,000 records covering the late 1600s through to the mid-1900s;
- **United States of America, Pennsylvania, Episcopal Congregational Records** – detailing the activities of church members, within the church, includes registers of communion, vestry minutes, membership lists etc;
- **United States of America, Pennsylvania, Episcopal Marriages** – 153,000 marriage records, detailing the bride, groom, witnesses and service officiator's names;
- **United States of America, Pennsylvania, List of British Prisoners in the War of Revolution, 1775-1783** - an unspecified number of records detailing British soldiers and German Hessians taken prisoner during the American Revolutionary War; and,
- **United States of America, Pennsylvania, Oaths of Allegiance Lists, 1777-1788** – a new dataset recording all male inhabitants of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who took the oath of allegiance.

The Genealogist update

The Genealogist announced on 27 May that it had released almost 60,000 records from the **1851 Dublin City Census Index**. The index details names and addresses for around 59,000 heads of household. With the main census records for 1851 lost to fire, this index is an invaluable tool for those researching family connections in Dublin. On 6 May, it had announced that some 31,394 new

English land tax records had been added to its offering. These records detail landowners and occupiers in the Merton, Mitcham, Morden and Wimbledon areas of modern Greater London. Each record is linked back to the relevant scanned images from the **IR58 Field Books**, with properties plotted onto large-scale contemporary IR121 maps.

On 10 June, the company announced that it had completed the plotting of millions of homes in the UK from the **1901 Census** into its **Map Explorer** system. This follows the previous release of records from the 1939 Register and 1911 Census into Map Explorer. When viewing a household from the 1901 Census, users will be shown a map locating the property. When clicked on, the map will open Map Explorer, allowing for deeper research of the property in relation to its neighbourhood.

July saw several announcements of new records, starting with one on 5 July, stating that the **1891 census** on their system had been linked to historical and modern georeferenced maps, within their **Map Explorer** system. This means that the 1891, 1901, 1911 censuses, together with the 1939 Register can now all be explored using this tool.

Then on 15 July, the company announced that its Map Explorer system could be used to view the complete **National Tithe Record Collection** for England. This followed the addition to the collection of **Tithe Maps and Records** for **Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Herefordshire, Nottinghamshire** and **Sussex**. The July release brings to a total, 11,804 georeferenced Tithe maps within the company's offering, with 5,202,983 parcels of land indicated by map pins across those maps.

And finally... on 28 July, the company announced that it had released more than 109,000 new **Land Tax** records, to its **Lloyd George Domesday Survey** records. The records cover the Lewisham and Bromley areas and detail the size, state of repair and value of houses in that area between 1910 and 1915. All the records are linked to the large-scale Ordnance Survey maps used at the time and so each property is plotted for access via The Genealogist's **Map Explorer** system.



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(1) MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

A vacancy has arisen for the role of Membership Secretary within the Society and expressions of interest are invited from members who may wish to apply for the role.

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

The principal responsibilities and elements in the role of Membership Secretary are as follows:

- To maintain the Society Membership Excel Spreadsheet: ensuring it is accurate and up to date; that it is secure and backed up; and that relevant information from it is circulated to specified Committee members in line with GDPR requirements.
- To process new and renewal membership applications: checking information provided; allocating membership numbers to new members; and acknowledging applications and resolving any issues.
- To process membership payments (cheque and Paypal): paying these into the Society account; liaising with the Treasurer.
- To answer questions and issues raised through the Membership Secretary Inbox.
- To attend Society Committee (Quarterly) Meetings and provide membership updates when required. These are currently held over Zoom.

The role will require familiarity with Microsoft Excel and Word and email. The successful candidate will also be required to liaise and work with other Committee members as part of their role.

The Membership Secretary's role is a year-round one but the main

activity is centred around the membership renewal period from November to January. Applications are invited from any member resident within the UK.

Full support and training will be given during the handover period and a Society laptop and all relevant material will be provided.

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

(2) JOURNAL EDITOR

A vacancy has arisen for the role of Journal Editor within the Society and expressions of interest are invited from members who may wish to apply for the role.

This post is an ideal opportunity to become involved in the running of the society in what is an important responsibility within it.

The principal elements in the role of Journal Editor are:

- To source material for publication in Liverpool Family Historian, including: news items, articles, letters, photographs etc.;
- To liaise with other General Committee Officers and commission regular content, including: Members' Interests, New Members, News from the Groups etc.;
- To edit (including checking for spelling, grammatical and factual errors), format, compile and proof check content prior to sending copy to the printer; and,
- To liaise with the printer and the Treasurer regarding the printing and mailing of each edition of the journal to members.

The role requires a working knowledge of Microsoft Office software, particularly Word, Excel and Publisher.

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

Help Requests

What Happened To William After October 1912?

Searching for information about my great-grandfather, William **Berry**, who was born in Norway.

By 1862 he was sailing out of Newcastle and from then on was part of the Merchant Navy, getting his certificate as Master Mariner in Dublin on 27 June 1881.

The 1891 census shows him living with his Irish wife, Margaret, at 47 Chepstow Street, Walton. He was on the electoral roll there until 1897. I assume that by 1911 Margaret had died because he is then living at 30 Battenberg Avenue, Wavertree, as a boarder. I have his full service record. In 1912 he sailed as mate on the *Alumwell* from Newcastle. He disembarked at Grangemouth on 25 October 1912. He gave his address as 43 Duke Street, Liverpool. Presumably he returned there. That is the last fact I know about him. I have never found his death nor that of his wife.

I subscribe to Find My Past and to Ancestry and have been through all the records they have. I visited the Caird Library at the National Maritime Museum and they had no suggestions. CLIP suggested that I looked at the Registers of Competency and Service at the TNA, as they sometimes record deaths. No luck. He is not on the list of those sailing in 1915 but that is not complete. I have examined probate records and deaths in Scotland and Ireland. I got an expert at Family Search to examine Norwegian deaths, without success.

I feel I have tried everything. My appeal to members of the L&SWLFHS is in the faint hope that someone might know of records of local organisations which might offer a clue to what happened to him after October 1912?

Jo Trafford-Owen (9469)

Over-Registration of Births and Deaths in the 1840s

Charles Chubb, you stand convicted for the crime of making a false and counterfeit register of a birth in a register which it was your duty to have kept true. Yours is an offence which, in its consequence, is likely to produce the greatest possible inconvenience to society ... I think justice will be done in your case by sentencing you to be imprisoned in the House of Correction, and kept to hard labour, for the space of six months.

Thus did Mr Justice Erle pass sentence on Charles Chubb, registrar for the Great Howard Street sub-district, at the Liverpool Winter Assizes on Wednesday 14 December 1848. ¹

Almost from the beginning of Civil Registration, it was appreciated that there was a significant level of under-registration, particularly of births. George Graham, the Registrar General, noted in his report for 1843-4:

Many births here escaped notice, particularly in the first years of registration, as parents are not bound to give information of a birth unless "requested to so do" by the Registrar: latterly, by increased vigilance and better arrangements, the defects have been diminished, and the zeal and exertions of the officers employed under the Act will, I confidently expect, render this branch of registration as complete as is possible in the present state of the law.²

Graham was not imagining the problem, but his optimism was a little premature, 'zeal and exertions' were not enough. As Dorothy Hughes' research has shown, there were shortfalls in registration of up to almost 33% as late as 1865-74 in areas of Liverpool – she was comparing Catholic christening registers with the GRO indexes.³ This was, of course, before the Births and Deaths Registration Act of 1874 came into force and provided for penalties on parents, next of kin or householders, for failing to notify the registrar of a birth or death. What is probably less well appreciated is that there were

instances of significant *over*-registration, of both births and deaths in some sub-districts in the 1840s. The relevance of this phenomenon to family and local historians and to historical demographers is self-evident.⁴

The case of Charles Chubb in Liverpool, together with instances in South Shields and All Souls, St Marylebone, highlight the issue of over-registration. In addition, the evidence given at a preliminary hearing before a magistrate, in the assize courts and in an application for the post of registrar also throw light upon the methods employed by registrars in densely populated areas to collect birth and death registrations – in the period before the 1874 Act placed the onus of registration on the parents, rather than on the registrar.

Following examination of the birth registration books for the Great Howard Street sub-district by registration inspectors and the Liverpool superintendent registrar, Charles Chubb was arrested on Friday 8 September 1848.

The following morning, Chubb appeared before Mr Rushton, charged with '*obtaining money under false pretences from the parish officers of Liverpool, by inserting in the registers entries of births, which had never occurred, thus obtaining from the parish fees for the entries*'.⁵ The Registrar General's inspector,⁶ claimed that there were many instances where Chubb had inserted false entries in the birth registers. Seven cases, which had all been registered on 22 August 1848, were brought before the court. In five cases the mother (as informant) had made her mark; on inspecting the marks, from a '*peculiar bend*' they had, it was evident that they had all been made by the same individual.

A number of witnesses were called. They gave evidence that in some cases there was no such address, or that if there was, no person of the name entered in the registration book lived there. One witness, Eliza M'Kenna of Moss Court, Eaton Street, had given birth on 21 July. She had attended the registrar's office, but incorrect details had been entered – the child called James had been registered as Patrick, and the father's name as Thomas, when it too should have been James.⁷ She had never signed the register book, therefore the entry of her mark was a forgery.

Three months later Charles Chubb appeared before Sir William Erle, Justice of the Queen's Bench, '*charged under the General Registration Act,⁸ that he being registrar of births and deaths for Great Howard-street district, did feloniously make a false entry of the birth of Mary, the daughter of Ellen Bibby, of 4 Eaton-street, he well knowing such entry to be false and counterfeit*'.⁹ There were three other indictments against him for similar offences.¹⁰

The Attorney General stated the prosecution case to the jury. He went to great length to stress the importance of correct registration and outlined how it was implemented. He then described the events leading to Chubb's arrest:

The prisoner was the registrar of the Great Howard-street district. He filled the office for some time and had [apparently] discharged his duty properly ... but it was afterwards discovered that the population in that district increased in a very extraordinary manner, for the entries were much greater than could possibly occur in any fair register. This led to inquiry, and it was found that the book contained a number of entries of births which had not taken place.

He continued:

The prisoner had registered on the 22d of August the birth of Mary, the daughter of Ellen Bibby, of 4 Eaton-street, which would lead to the conclusion that there was such a birth, whereas nothing of the kind took place. No such person as Ellen Bibby had resided at the house described; no such child was born, and therefore the whole of the transaction was false. The whole of the entry was in the handwriting of the prisoner, and there was the mark of Ellen Bibby, as furnishing the information. It was his intention to offer as evidence the fact that seven entries were made on that day, all of which were false.

The first witness called was John Eckersley, assistant to the superintendent registrar for Liverpool. On 8 September he had gone to the prisoner and obtained the birth register. He produced a book which contained seven entries made on 22 August, one of which purported to be for the birth of Mary Bibby. All seven entries

were in Chubb's handwriting and the informants had all placed a mark instead of a signature.

Under cross examination, Eckersley admitted to having gone round with a register and getting informants to sign the blank register book, taking down the details on pieces of paper, which were later copied into the book by the registrar.

James Jones deposed that he had lived at 4 Eaton Street for about three years and that no person of the name of Bibby lived there or in the street. Mary McCrudden, who lived in the cellar under Jones confirmed that no child had been born there in the last twelve months and that she did not know of anyone called Bibby living in the street.

John Hughes entered the witness box. He was a clerk, employed by Chubb as an assistant to obtain details of births in the sub-district, for which he was paid one penny each. He had also been employed by Chubb's predecessor, Mr Walthew. Usually he took the register book with him to get it signed, but the details were put in a '*waste book*' and copied into the register later. In the waste book he indicated with a cross those that could not write their name. The entries in the book were, he said, in his own handwriting (he must have been referring to the waste book – other witnesses had identified the writing in the register as being Chubb's). On 22 August he had not taken the register with him for signatures, he knew this because there were no crosses in the waste book. He added that he frequently found that false information of births had been given and in some cases had told Mr Chubb of it.

On cross examination, Hughes said that he had previously been employed by Dr Walton to keep his books and to carry out vaccinations for him – he was paid four pence for each child vaccinated. Dr Walton had taken him before Mr Rushton, the magistrate, for charging for more than had been vaccinated, but the case had been discharged.

The defence then paraded a number of worthies who gave Chubb '*an excellent character for honour and integrity*', they included Mr J Eckersley (possibly James, the superintendent registrar) and Mr Lovat (perhaps Edward, the registrar of the Dale Street sub-district).

Chubb's attorney, Mr Wilkins, addressed the jury:

No doubt several false entries had been made, and presuming the jury should acquit the prisoner of the felony, he must leave the court subject to the charge of negligence and irregularity. In the first instance, Mr. Chubb was in the habit of sending round a person, whom he employed as an assistant, to collect as much information as he could. Mr. John Hughes was so employed by Mr. Chubb, and after a time he (the prisoner) unwisely thought that he could entirely repose confident in Hughes, and therefore, Mr. Chubb, partly to save himself the trouble of going round next day, having other business to attend to¹¹ he allowed Hughes to take the register book. Hughes still got the information and entered it in a waste book, but he got the informant to sign in a blank, and Mr. Chubb filled up the entry from the information received, taking it for granted that the information was correct. He copied the entries from the waste book, and then put his name to them, attesting that they were correct, implicitly believing that every one of them was correct. The Waste and register book would agree this. It was a fortunate thing for Mr. Eckersley that his confidence had not been abused, for he had done exactly the same as Mr. Chubb. Mr. Chubb was in receipt of between £300 and £400 a-year by his wife, and the same amount was settled on himself by his father. Was it, therefore likely that a man in his position, for a paltry consideration of a few shillings, would run the risk of confiscating the whole of his property, and rendering his wife and children the wife and children of a convict father?¹²

After the Judge's summing up, the jury quickly returned a verdict of guilty to the charge of falsely making an entry in a register of births.

Thomas Wilson's appearance at the Durham Assizes, before Sir Frederick Pollock on Friday 26 July 1844, did not attract the same press coverage as that of Charles Chubb.¹³ Wilson pleaded guilty to the charge of 'having feloniously forged the registers of births and deaths of several persons in the district of South Shields', so that the trial was a short, low key affair.

In order to minimise the sentence, the defence was solely concerned with showing mitigating circumstances. Wilson's lawyer, Mr Ingham, pointed out that, not only had Wilson been the assistant overseer since 1837 and the relieving officer for the last seven years, but for many years he had been postmaster of South Shields. These activities had made it difficult for him to pay the amount of attention needed for the post of registrar. The forging of names was the result of negligence, there was no sinister motive. Seventeen witnesses, many of them men of position, were willing to give evidence of Wilson's good character and integrity. Even the prosecution said '*any leniency which the court might show in the case would meet with approbation*'. The case was adjourned until the following day, when Wilson was sentenced to six months in Durham Gaol with hard labour.

As far as the press was concerned, that was all there was to Thomas Wilson's case. The information in the assize records at the PRO give a little more detail, although again there are no depositions. The indictments were for two births and two deaths. They date from 1 June 1842 to 18 January 1843. The main indictment was for '*Forgery of the Register of the Birth of Jane Dawson*', with eleven counts on each indictment.¹⁴

This would have been all that there was to know of the case had the Guardians not decided to appoint a temporary relieving officer while Wilson served his sentence. To do this they needed the approval of the Poor Law Commissioners in London. A letter was sent by the clerks to the Guardians to the Commission, requesting permission to appoint William Thompson as assistant relieving officer, '*circumstances having suspended Mr Wilson from the performance of his Duties for six months*'.¹⁵

The Commission replied, requesting the reason for Wilson's suspension. Informal enquiries must have been made, possibly to the Registrar General's Office, because an internal memorandum of the following day, gives details of the case that were not revealed in the press reports:

Mr Wilson ... was in the habit of paying assistants a fee for bringing him the names of parties where births or deaths had occurred – Its consequence was one which might easily

have been foreseen – his agents brought him the names of persons who had never been in existence and the returns were at last so swelled by the fictitious names in them to attract the attention of the Registrar General – Inquiries were set on foot the fraud was detected and Mr Wilson being put on his trial at the last assize was convicted and sentenced to 6 months imprisonment, a punishment he is now undergoing.

On receiving the Guardians reply explaining the reason for Wilson's suspension, the Commission wrote to the Registrar General asking for details. Their reply included a printed report of Justice Pollock's judgement, the most relevant part reads:

... blanks having been left in your Register, with a view to record facts which came within your knowledge, which blanks required to be filled up at a certain period, that the Register or a Copy of it might appear to be correct, they were filled up with imaginary cases, in order that you might appear to have fulfilled and not neglected your duty ...

The Commissioners instructed the Guardians to remove Thomas Wilson from the office of relieving officer and '*with as little delay as practicable, take the necessary steps for filling up the vacancy*'.

A footnote in the *Registrar General's Annual Report* for 1850 indicates that the registrar for All Souls, St Marylebone, had been imprisoned for falsifying the registers and that the number of registrations of births and deaths before 1845 were not to be trusted.¹⁶ No further details are given.

The registrar in 1845 was Charles Benson Breary, a surgeon, who had come to the post only in September the previous year.¹⁷ Breary's predecessor, Thomas Daniels, who was appointed in 1842, died in August 1844.¹⁸ Daniels' deputy had been his son James, an engraver, and Breary retained him until the appointment of Thomas Tindall as deputy in August 1846; there is no indication of what happened to James Daniels in the correspondence. Breary resigned on grounds of ill health in April 1849.

I have not been able to identify who was gaoled for the All Souls fraud. Thomas Daniels, the most likely person to have been held

responsible, was dead. Breary had entered the post at the very end of the period during which it was going on; it is even possible that it was he who brought the matter to the attention of the authorities. James Daniels may have been implicated, but he does not appear in the printed sessions papers for the Old Bailey and Central Criminal Courts between 1846 and 1853, nor in the indexes to London prisons for the same period.¹⁹

Without the evidence from the trial, one can but surmise as to what had happened. However, to support his application for his father's post, James Daniels wrote: *'Occupying a house, and office in the most central part of the district, we have established a direct agency, between midwives, surgeons, and undertakers, by which means I have reason to believe not an individual birth or death, has occurred in this District without our knowledge – the party waited on, and full particulars duly registered.'*²⁰ The All Souls information gathering was thus somewhat different from the two northern sub-districts – although Hughes (Chubb's assistant) had access to Dr Walton's book of births.

The size of the problem is not, at this distance, an easy one to ascertain with absolute accuracy – if it ever was. However, the Registrar General's Annual Report for 1850 gives birth and death registration figures for individual sub-districts for the years 1841-50.²¹ By comparing the average numbers of registrations in the years preceding a trial with the average for the years following, it should be possible to get some feeling for the numbers involved.

In South Shields, there was an average decrease of about 200 birth registrations (31%) in the years following the trial when compared to the years preceding it. A similar exercise on the on the death figures reveals a decrease of about 170 (37%). Comparison with the number of birth and death registrations in the neighbouring sub-district of Westoe over the same period, show a 'step' between 1843 and 1844 to be abnormal. The high levels of deaths registered in South Shields in 1846, 1848 and 1849 are reflected in Westoe, suggesting that there were local epidemics in those years.

The South Shields case came to light because, in the year ending 30 June 1843, the crude death rate for the district was seen to be twenty five percent above the national average. There had been no

local epidemic reported, so the discrepancy was brought to the attention of the Commissioners of Health for Towns. Gibson gives very detailed figures for the South Shields deaths.²² There were 829 deaths in the civil registers; of which 614 could be accounted for in the parish registers, with another fourteen interments outside the area. This left 201 registrations not accounted for. For 115 of these, neither the deceased nor the informant could be traced. In addition, another 59 entries occurred more than once – a total of 174 suspect entries.

Comparison of Gibson's figures for deaths in South Shields sub-district with those derived from the Registrar General's Report, shows good agreement – indicating that comparison of the 'before and after' averages is reasonably reliable.

The figures for All Souls, St Marylebone suggest that there was over-registration on about the same scale as in South Shields – almost 300 deaths (30%) and nearly 570 births (38%) registered in the years 1841-43 could have been fictitious. Again, comparison with a neighbouring sub-district (St Marylebone, Rectory) emphasises the decrease between 1844 and 1845.

The Liverpool discrepancy was also exposed as a result of the diligence of the GRO statisticians, when they identified an unusually high birth rate for the Great Howard Street sub-district. Seven instances were detailed at the magistrates court, all of which were dated 22 August 1848, all with addresses in Eaton Street and all with the mark of the mother. When Chubb's attorney requested bail there was an immediate response from the prosecution:

Mr. Snowball [Registrar General's inspector]: *I'm afraid I shall have to oppose it. It is a felony, a very serious felony. There are many more cases.'*

Mr. Rushton [the magistrate]: *'More cases, have you?'*

Mr. Snowball: *'Oh dear, yes, a great many more.'*²³

The question is, how many more?

The pattern of births in the Great Howard Street sub-district, shown in Figure 3a, was more complex than in South Shields and All Souls. The increase in the years to 1847 *could* be explained by an influx of Irish as a result of the famine following the failure of

the potato harvests (Charles Chubb's sub-district was a predominantly Irish area). However, the population of Great Howard Street had increased by less than 7% between 1841 and 1851. Comparison with birth registrations in the neighbouring St Martin's sub-district, suggest the Great Howard Street figures to be inflated by about 685 per year (37%).

The Great Howard Street deaths show little change from year to year, except for an almost three-fold increase in 1847 which was the peak year for immigration of famine victims who were easy prey for cholera and other diseases which struck that year. Deaths for Liverpool as whole, more than doubled that year, so the death figures for Great Howard Street are not in question – this is supported by Chubb not being prosecuted for any fraudulent deaths.

There are a number of similarities in the two northern cases. The registrars had other commitments and personally employed assistants to visit houses enquiring for births. It looks very much as if the assistants were the source of the discrepancies – it was noted in court that John Hughes, Charles Chubb's assistant, had previously appeared before a magistrate accused of defrauding Dr Walton in a similar manner, although he had been cleared of the offence. It is obvious that the two registrars were negligent and did not check registration details as thoroughly as they should have.

It is difficult to see how fraud on the scale that it occurred in All Souls could have been perpetrated without the involvement of Thomas and James Daniels, given the manner in which it was said they gathered information – from, among others, businessmen and professional persons.

Without the names of the suspect registrations, it is, of course, not possible to say how many are in the GRO indexes. All nine cases identified in the trials of Thomas Wilson and Charles Chubb appear there, so it is likely that all the others are also present.²⁴ I have obtained the birth certificates of Hannah Sinnott and Thomas Seymour via the GRO without comment, so obviously the central registrations have not been annotated to indicate that they are fictitious. I have also obtained certificates from the local register offices concerned. I find it surprising that no annotation was made

here at the time of the inquiries, particularly given the amount of investigative work – particularly at South Shields where over 800 deaths were followed up. Incidentally it would be interesting to know the legal position of the registration service in issuing certificates knowing the event to have been fictitious.

At least two of the three cases came to the notice of the Registrar General, and subsequently to the courts, because of their scale of operations. As was commented on by the Poor Law Commission memorandum, the employment of assistants paid by the birth or death was asking for trouble. How common the practice was, it is not now possible to say. Its occurrence in South Shields until 1844 and in Liverpool four years later (where at least two registrars used assistants), suggests that it was widespread. Indeed Chubb's attorney '*had no doubt that other registrars were in the habit of doing the same, both in Liverpool and in other large towns*'.

These are the only cases mentioned in the *Registrar General's Annual Reports* between 1837 and 1900, so it seems that fraud to the extent described here was not commonplace, particularly after 1848. However, it may be assumed, that as long as the system of employing assistants was used by registrars in urban areas, it is likely that a low level of undetected, fraudulent registration was endemic.

Peter Park (101)

1. *Liverpool Courier*, 27 December, 1848, p.3f.
2. Seventh report of the Registrar General of births, deaths and marriages in England [for 1843/4], HMSO, p.4.
3. Hughes, D (1991) 'Liverpool infant mortality rates c.1865-1874: A city maligned?' *Lancashire Local Historian*, No.6, pp.32-43.
4. Wrigley and Schofield seem to make no reference to the phenomenon of over-registration after 1837, in their seminal book *The Population History of England 1541-1871*, Cambridge University Press, 1989.
5. *Liverpool Mail*, 9 September, 1848, p.8e. Registrars were paid two shillings and sixpence for the first twenty registrations in the year and one shilling each thereafter.
6. *Imperial Calendar for 1848*, p.177. This was a new post, not previously listed in the Calendar.

7. Patrick McKenna appears in the GRO birth indexes, registered in Liverpool (September quarter 1848, Book 20, p.321).
8. An Act for Registering Births, Deaths and Marriages in England, 6 and 7 Wm. IV c.86.
9. *Liverpool Mail*, 23 December, 1848, p.6a-b; *Liverpool Courier*, 20 December, 1848, p.2c-d. The trial reports in the *Mail* and the *Courier* are almost identical. Unless otherwise stated, quotations in Charles Chubb's prosecution are from this source. The *Times* does not appear to have reported on any of the three cases discussed here.
10. The assize indictment records are at the National Archives (PL 26/177). There were twelve counts for each indictment. The counts included: counterfeiting part of a register book of births; inserting a false entry of a birth in a register book; and counterfeiting the mark of Ellen Bibby, mother, 4 Eaton Street Liverpool. There are no witnesses depositions for this case (PL 27/12). The minute books (PL 28/7), order books (PL 28/18) and criminal registers (HO 27/85 f.232-3) give little that does not appear in the newspaper accounts. The other three indictments were for the births of Patrick McKenna, Hannah Sinnot and Thomas Seymour.
11. It was not originally envisaged that registrars would be employed on a full time basis. In a circular letter to Poor Law Guardians dated 9 September 1836, Thomas Lister the Registrar General wrote 'the Registrar will not be a person occupied exclusively with the business of registration'. First report of the Registrar General of births deaths and marriages for England [for 1837-8], Appendix A, HMSO, pp.60-2.
12. *Liverpool Journal*, 23 December, 1848, p.3d.
13. *Newcastle Courant*, 12 August, 1844, p.3a and *Newcastle Advertiser*, 1 August, 1844, p.1g.
14. The assize indictment records are at The National Archives (DUR 17/110). The counts are similar in nature to those in Charles Chubb's case. There are no witnesses depositions for the case (DUR 18/1) and the minute books (DUR 15/5) and Crown books (DUR 16/5) give little that does not appear elsewhere. The criminal registers for Durham Gaol (HO 27/72 f.245-6) give Wilson's age as 58. His age and the condition of his health were factors taken into account when passing sentence.

15. The correspondence between the South Shields Guardians, the Poor Law Commissioners and the General Registrar's Office is to be found in MH 12/3202 at The National Archives. All further quotations in this case are from this source, unless otherwise stated.
16. Thirteenth report of the Registrar General of births, deaths and marriages in England, HMSO, p.220.
17. Correspondence regarding the appointment of registrars and their deputies in the St Marylebone district at this time is to be found at The National Archives in MH 12/7486-7489.
18. There is a discrepancy in the date of Thomas Daniels' appointment between the correspondence in MH 12/7486 and London trade directories, which show him to be registrar in 1841 – allowing for a one year delay in publication, this would have put him in post at least as early as 1840. Thomas Daniels' death was registered in the St Pancras district (September quarter 1844, Book 1, p.282).
19. The Old Bailey Sessions Papers are available at the Guildhall Library. Prison records searched at The National Archives were: Millbank, HO 24/3-7; Pentonville, HO 24/16; Newgate HO 26/54-56.
20. Letter from James Daniels to Poor Law Commissioners, 19 August 1844, The National Archives, MH 12/7486.
21. Thirteenth report of the Registrar General of births, deaths and marriages in England [for 1850], HMSO, All Souls pp.220-1; Great Howard Street pp.294-5; South Shields pp.312-3.
22. Gibson, P H. 'Some curiosities from the vaults', *The Magazine of the Registration Service*, No.12, July 1972, pp.8-16. Gibson does not give the source of his figures, although it seems to have been held in the Office of Population, Census and Surveys library, but cannot now be identified (personal communication).
23. *Liverpool Journal*, September 9, 1848, p.3e-f.
24. The four births registered in Liverpool all have the same reference: September quarter of 1848, Book 20, p.321. The South Shields references are: births – Thomas Young (December quarter 1842, Book 24, p.198) and Jane Dawson (March quarter 1843, Book 24, p.187); deaths – John Collier (September quarter 1844, Book 24, p.124.) and Mark Jobling (June quarter 1842 Book 24, p.127).

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:.....

E-Mail:

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.

E-mail addresses will be published (where included), when Interests are uploaded to the website and printed in the Journal. If you do not want this to happen please inform the Treasurer when submitting your interests. This is necessary 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	IOM	Isle of Man

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	Dumfrieshire	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				

Publications List

Publications for sale by post, prices **INCLUDE** postage:-

Column 1 U.K.; Column 2 Air mail

<u>"MY ANCESTOR WAS".....series</u>	£	£
MY ANCESTOR WAS IN THE SALVATION ARMY.....	5.50	7.00
MY ANCESTORS WERE GYPSIES.....	4.50	5.65
MY ANCESTOR WAS A FREEMASON.....	3.50	4.30
MY ANCESTOR WAS A COALMINER.....	8.45	10.20
MY ANCESTOR WAS AN ANGLICAN CLERGYMAN.....	7.30	8.50
MY ANCESTOR WORKED IN THE THEATRE.....	6.65	7.20
MY ANCESTOR WAS A BASTA.....	7.30	8.50

McLAUGHLIN GUIDES

ANNALS OF THE POOR.....	2.60	3.50
CENSUSES 1841-1881: USE & INTERPRETATION.....	2.60	3.50
FAMILY HISTORY FROM NEWSPAPERS.....	2.60	3.50
INTERVIEWING ELDERLY RELATIVES.....	1.20	1.85
LAYING OUT A PEDIGREE.....	2.60	3.50
NON-CONFORMIST ANCESTORS.....	2.60	3.50
NO TIME FOR FAMILY HISTORY?.....	1.65	2.40
PARISH REGISTERS.....	2.60	3.50
THE POOR ARE ALWAYS WITH US.....	2.60	3.50
READING OLD HANDWRITING.....	3.20	4.85
SIMPLE LATIN FOR FAMILY HISTORIANS.....	3.60	4.75
SURNAMES (And their Origins).....	3.10	3.65
WILLS BEFORE 1858.....	2.60	3.50
QUARTER SESSIONS.....	2.60	3.50
MANORIAL RECORDS	2.60	3.50
CIVIL REGISTRATION.....	2.60	3.50
TWENTIETH CENTURY RESEARCH	2.60	3.50
PROFESSIONALS AND GENTLEMEN	2.60	3.50
CRAFTSMEN AND TRADESMEN	3.60	4.75
MODERN WILLS FROM 1858	2.60	3.60
1901 CENSUS: HOW TO TACKLE IT	2.60	3.60
OLD OCCUPATIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS	3.75	4.60
STARTING YOUR FAMILY TREE.....	2.60	3.60
EDUCATION FOR THE PEOPLE.....	4.70	5.85

REGIONAL RESEARCH

SURNAMES OF WALES.....	10.95	13.60
TRACING YOUR WEST INDIAN ANCESTRY.....	4.95	8.95
JEWISH ANCESTORS?...BEGINNERS GGUIDE.....	5.15	6.50
JEWISH ANCESTRY...IN GERMANY & AUSTRIA.....	5.15	6.50
JEWISH GEN. SOURCES IN HOME & FAMILY.....	6.40	7.90

New Members & Members' Interests

New and old Members' Interests detailed below consist of the membership number and interest in terms of **SURNAME and INITIAL, LOCATION and DATE**. **A maximum of only ten interests can be published for the sake of space. Anyone needing more than ten interests can see the extra numbers published on our website.** Members reading this section who identify an interest they are looking for, should note the membership number of the contributing member and contact them through the **'Members Only'** area of our website: www.lswlfhs.org.uk

We welcome new members, **numbers 9528-9546**, who have joined most recently and wish them every success with their research.

New Members: 9532: G. CLEMENTS; 9533: M. RUSSELL; 9537: C. SALKELD; 9540: B. CROSS; 9541: M. THORNBUR; 9543: A. McDONOUGH; 9544: H. BRADY; 9545: P. O'HANLON; 9546: S. NIXON.

Members' Interests:

9540	CROSS, Thomas, LAN/ Liverpool	1823-1851	9518	LEIGH, John, LAN/ Liverpool	1872-1931
9455	DOWIE, James, LAN/ Liverpool	1826-1888	9545	McCARTHY, Various, LAN/Liverpool/Lancaster	1820-
9393	EDDLESTON, John, LAN/St Helens	1880-1910	9545	McCARTY, Daniel, LAN/ Lancaster	1820-1860
9393	EDDLESTON, Edward, LAN/St Helens	1861-1910	9546	NIXON, Herbert, LAN	1898-1900
9393	EDDLESTON, Catherine, LAN/St Helens	1881-1885	9546	NIXON, Ellen, LAN	1866-1870
9393	FORREST, Catherine, LAN/St Helens	1861-1881	9545	O'HANLON, Various, LAN/ Liverpool	1870-1952
9393	FORREST, Henry, ARM	1830-1859	9545	RICHARDS, Various, IOM/LAN/Liverpool	1873-
9472	GAMES, George, LAN/ Liverpool	1840-1850	9540	STOWBRIDGE, William LAN/Liverpool	1844-1928
9455	HAHN, Henry, LAN/ Liverpool	1840-	9545	TELFORD, Various, LAN/ Liverpool	1890-
9455	HANKEY, Vincent, LAN/ Liverpool	1869-1937	9545	VERNON, Various, LAN/ Liverpool	1900-
9518	HUGHES, William, LAN/ Ormskirk	1920-1960	9537	WEBSTER, James, LAN/ Liverpool	1850-1881

Liverpool and SW Lancashire F. H. S.

INCOME and EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

for the year ended 31 December 2021

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<u>INCOME</u>		
Subscriptions, Donations etc.	10,684	12,743
Sales of Publications & FFHS Royalties	368	719
Gift Aid Repayments	905	0
Conference Fees	0	0
Interest Received	<u>21</u>	<u>83</u>
Total Income	11,978	13,545

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Journal Printing and Distribution Costs	6,292	6,250
Publication Purchases	66	196
Room Hire and Speakers Expenses	463	1,170
Overhead Expenses	3,765	2,063
Depreciation	<u>407</u>	<u>489</u>
Total Expenditure	10,993	10,168

Surplus/Deficit for the Year	<u>£985</u>	<u>£3,377</u>
Total Membership	1,039	1,162

BALANCE SHEET **as at 31 December 2021**

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Fixed assets	1,490	1,898
Current assets	78,864	77,225
Less Current Liabilities	2,428	2,182
	<u>76,436</u>	<u>75,043</u>
	<u>£77,926</u>	<u>£76,941</u>
Represented by;		
General Fund (Reserves)	73,893	70,516
Transfer from Development Fund		
Surplus (Deficit) for the year	<u>985</u>	<u>3,377</u>
	74,878	73,893
Development Fund	3,048	3,048
Transfer to General Fund		
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>£77,926</u>	<u>£76,941</u>

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

Accounts prepared by Agnes Ingram, Treasurer, 9th July 2022

Liverpool & S.W. Lancashire FHS

Minutes of the AGM

Held on 16 October 2021

LIVERPOOL & SW LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY **ANNUAL GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

Held at 2:00pm via Zoom on
SATURDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2021

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of Last Meeting (2019)
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Secretary's Report
7. Election of Officers
8. Amendments to Constitution
9. Any Other Business

Opening

The AGM of the Liverpool & SW Lancashire Family History Society was called to order at 2 pm 16th October 2021 via Zoom.

Present

Joyce Culling – President
David Guiver – Vice President
Madelaine Kirk – Chairman
Barry Peacock – General Secretary
Shelagh Boardman – Internet Co-Ordinator
Agnes Ingram – Treasurer
Susan Atkins – Chairman, Liverpool Group
Joe Devereux – Membership Secretary
Glenys McLellan – Chairman, Leigh Group
Bill Fairclough – Chairman, Skelmersdale & Upholland and Vice
Chairman of Society

Caroline Fairclough – Secretary, Skelmersdale & Upholland
Mary Allan – Forum Administrator
Kathy Donaldson – Strays Co-ordinator
Michael Paice F.R.S.A. – Editor
Val Benson – Donated Certificates Secretary
John de la Cruz – Minutes Secretary

1. Apologies

Joe Griffiths – Publications Officer & Vice President
Hilary Ambrose – Chairman, Southport Group
Pat Bellas – Projects Co-Ordinator
Sally Moss – Secretary, Southport Group

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last AGM, October 2019 were approved by the meeting. Approval was proposed by Shelagh Boardman and seconded by Mary Allan.

3. Matters Arising from Last Meeting

None.

4. Chairman's Report

Madelaine said that she had not much to say about the Warrington Group as there have been no face to face/physical meetings. It has been proposed that physical meetings could possibly resume in January 2022.

Madelaine mentioned that she had attended Leigh Town Hall with Glenys McLellan to see the new archives section. They had presented the archives with a £1,000 cheque on behalf of the Society.

As Chairman of the Society Madelaine had received a message from Pat Bellas stating that she would be resigning as co-ordinator for the convicts project. She said that applications would be invited from anyone interested in taking up the vacant post. Any interested party should contact Pat Bellas, Projects Co-ordinator.

In relation to her resignation from position of Chairman of the Liverpool & SW Lancs Family History Society, Madelaine said that

she has enjoyed being Chairman but made the decision that it was time to finish. She thanked everyone within the Society for their support.

Mary Allan proposed a thank you to Madelaine on behalf of everyone in the Society. This was seconded by Shelagh Boardman.

5. Treasurer's Report

Agnes declared that the accounts were supplied in the September journal and that she had very little to add except to say that the Society made a bit of a profit last year and despite the effects of Coronavirus the accounts are doing well.

Approval of the Treasurer's accounts and report were proposed by Susan Atkins and seconded by Shelagh Boardman.

6. General Secretary's Report

Liverpool & South West Lancashire Family History Society **Annual General Meeting 16th October 2021** **General Secretary's Report**

Twelve months ago, society as a whole and our society in particular were fully in the grip of the Covid pandemic. All our normal face to face activities – group and Committee meetings and Help Desks especially – had been halted. Today, we are beginning to move slowly back to what may be called normality, although it would be unwise not to be prepared for yet another twist in the tale of Covid.

Over the last year the Society has continued to function, as we had been doing last October, as a predominantly online organization through the website, the Forum and our Facebook presence. However, the intervening months presented an opportunity to develop another means of communication with, and the involvement of, our membership. That was the introduction of talks using the Zoom platform.

Having dipped our toe in the water by using Zoom for our Committee meetings (not always without problems, it has to be said) a programme of talks was set up beginning in May. You will have all probably attended at least one of these, whether it was 'The Liverpool Workhouse', 'Irish Records', 'The Liverpool Archives'

or any of the remaining talks. To say these have been an outstanding success would, I believe, be an understatement. Feedback has been more than positive and generated an enthusiasm and support that we could not have predicted. All of these sessions have been very well attended and well-received, particularly from members who cannot normally attend physical meetings or are geographically distant.

At this point I think we should pay tribute to those who set this up technically, arranged the programme and speakers and ran the sessions, including Mary Allan, Shelagh Boardman and Susan Atkins and all those others who were involved.

The success of the existing Zoom talks programme inevitably raises the question whether we should make this a regular part of our activities after we have got back to our usual pattern of working. The advantages of doing so would be especially relevant for our members who are based away from Merseyside or overseas but would also, I believe, prove beneficial to our 'home' audience. This will be discussed at Committee level and we will welcome any feedback.

During this time, our website has also been radically overhauled and updated by our webmaster, Shelagh Boardman. This has been a pressing requirement as the software we have been using has been superseded, with support to be withdrawn completely in November of this year.

A small sub-group of the Committee was formed which reviewed our current offering and decided that the overall look and feel of our website was looking tired and that the opportunity had arisen to generate a new look and feel to be implemented on top of new, fully supported software. This was tested by the group and changes to the main public area, member's area and forum have now been implemented, with the on-line shop now being worked on and shortly due for testing. In particular it was decided that details of all events, including group specific meetings, would be posted on the main site and on the individual group sites, a change which should benefit members and visitors alike. It is hoped that by the end of the year the whole of the site will be up and running, although there may be some cosmetic changes going forward.

With the relaxation of restrictions, the individual groups within the Society have begun to look forward to what hopefully may become 'business as usual'.

In Liverpool the group committee who were elected in 2019 agreed to stay in post until an AGM can be arranged. The usual calendared meetings have as yet been unable to resume but the Zoom talks have obviously proven to be a significant and popular alternative.

Although the Liverpool Help Desk has stopped in terms of being a physical meeting with customers, in recent months an arrangement has been made with Liverpool Record Office that they forward any Family History queries to a special email address where a member of the Help Desk Team will pick the query up, work on it at home and reply by email direct to the customer. This system has enabled a number of queries per week to be answered though the frequency has dropped recently. Though the numbers may seem low any individual enquiry may generate a fair amount of work as evidenced by one question that ended up with help from the Manchester & Lancashire FHS.

As far as physical meetings restarting for the Liverpool Group these are still for the moment in abeyance as the meeting rooms are still needed as an overflow for staff as Liverpool City Council are still enforcing social distancing. We can only wait.

The Leigh Group, by contrast, were able to meet for the first time in September when they visited the refurbished Archives of Wigan & Leigh at Leigh Town Hall. They enjoyed a conducted tour of the Exhibition area, Search Rooms and Conservation Room. As the Group had been contributing towards this Lottery Funded project, it presented a deserved opportunity to see all these refurbished facilities at first hand.

The Help Desk at Leigh Archives also re-commenced when the building re-opened in the summer using a system similar to Liverpool with enquirers completing a form to be passed to the Group's volunteers. After the required research the findings are returned to the enquirer via the staff by email. It is yet to be decided when face-to-face sessions can re-commence.

The first members' meeting proper of the Leigh Group will be on 19th October and the Committee hope to develop a full programme

of meetings for 2022 which will be the 40th anniversary of the Group.

The Skelmersdale Group have also recommenced meetings as of this month, beginning with their AGM. The group have put together an on-going programme of meetings including talks and social gatherings.

The Southport Group were also able to resume their monthly meetings in September, based as before at Lord Street West Church hall with refreshments and a scheduled talk. Interestingly, it has been noted that the majority of members returning to the meetings do so because it is an actual meeting rather than Zoom.

Southport have also restarted the Crosby Library Family History Help Desk, although places have to be booked in advance with the library, and are looking to start a help desk at Birkdale Station.

One unknown a year ago was how would the longer-term effects of the pandemic impact on our membership figures.

The need to adhere to social distancing rules obviously meant that the Society's public meeting profile was acutely diminished with the result that membership renewals fell. Thankfully the introduction of the Zoom meetings programme has stimulated interest in the Society both at home and abroad.

On the back of the Zoom initiative an email was sent out in late May by our Membership Secretary, Joe Devereux, to all those who had not renewed in 2021 with the result that around 45 members renewed. A similar exercise is planned to resend the renewal reminder to all 2021 members, who have not renewed, in mid-January 2022.

Currently our membership stands at 1027, an increase since May when it stood at about 933. Obviously, though regrettably, some of our members have sadly passed away but it is pleasing to note that their places are being filled with a new generation of Society members.

You will see from the list of Officers for Election this year that there have been some changes in the constitution of the General Committee. Specifically, Madelaine Kirk has decided to stand down

as Chairman, the position being taken on by Susan Atkins. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Madelaine for her time as Chairman and the contribution she has made to the running of the Committee, and for the support she has given me in my role. However, I am sure that those of you who know her will agree that we have a very capable successor in Susan.

Not long after last year's AGM you will remember that our then Members' Interests Secretary, Niall McChesney, sadly passed away. His position has now been filled by Annette Urwin.

A further change occurred this year when Frances Fraser relinquished her post as Membership Secretary. Again, I would like to thank Frances for all the hard work she has put into the running of the Society, which she has undertaken in a number of roles, and for the help she has afforded me especially. The responsibility for the role of Membership Secretary now rests with Joe Devereux who, as I have indicated above, has fully settled into his job.

I have, in what I have said so far, outlined some of the work that goes on behind the scenes to keep this Society working, especially in the current circumstances, but one role I have not so far mentioned is that of Treasurer. Having observed some of the workload and pressures she has - and I will mention only Brexit and VAT in Europe as an example - I do believe that Agnes Ingram also deserves our heartfelt thanks for her sterling work.

In closing, may I remind everyone that as normal service resumes opportunities will arise to take on responsibilities that may over the last year or so have lapsed or need reviving. To put it another way, there will be the inevitable call for volunteers to take on vacant roles at both Group and Society level. When it happens, please don't look at someone else to take on the burden - instead, think 'I could do that!' and get stuck in yourself.

Barry Peacock
General Secretary LSWLFHS

7. Election of Officers

As is usual for the AGM, all current officers had resigned and in most cases had put themselves up for re-election. The exception to this was that Madelaine Kirk had resigned as Society Chairman

but not applied for re-election. Also, the vacant position of Members' Interests Secretary was up for election and Annette Urwin was nominated for the post.

The list of officers seeking election or re-election to the General Committee is as follows:

Chairman – Susan Atkins – new appointment

Treasurer – Agnes Ingram

General Secretary – Barry Peacock

Publications Officer – Joe Griffiths

Editor – Michael Paice

Internet Co-ordinator – Shelagh Boardman

Forum Administrator – Mary Allan

Membership Secretary – Joe Devereux

Projects Co-Ordinator – Pat Bellas

Strays Co-Ordinator – Kathy Donaldson

Members' Interests Secretary – Annette Urwin – new appointment

Donated Certificates Secretary – Val Benson

Acceptance of the election of the officers was by a show of hands which was unanimous.

8. Amendments to Constitution

The proposed amendments to the constitution had been published in the September 2021 journal. The amendments being proposed are:

To update the current composition of the General Committee; clarify the membership of requirements of Group's officers; and include the use of 'virtual' or 'remote' meetings (i.e. in our case Zoom) when conducting our business.

We are required to make these updates to meet our obligations with the Charity Commission. To do so the revised constitution has to be

published ahead of the AGM, as in the journal, and then voted on and accepted by the AGM.

Joe Devereux asked who should enforce with membership who have not renewed their subscription. Barry Peacock said that this is to be discussed later.

David Guiver proposed that all amendments should be accepted by the AGM and this was seconded by Shelagh Boardman.

9. Any Other Business

Susan Atkins said that members have commented that attending meetings and talks on Zoom have helped them feel connected to the Society in a way that they haven't felt so before, some living overseas. Bernadette said that from her viewpoint in Dorset, being connected to the Society via Zoom has made her feel closer to her family origins in the Northwest.

Madelaine, as Chairman of the Warrington Group, had volunteered to take over the finances of the Warrington Group from Peter and intended to visit him and change the bank account within the next week.

Shelagh Boardman said that she is hoping to have the shop online by January. She will be asking members to test the shop page on the website when it is activated. It will not be necessary to purchase an item for the test. She asked for volunteers and quite a number of members stated their interest in participating in the test. Shelagh said she will draw up a list of requirements for testing the online shop.

The new chairman, Susan Atkins, closed the meeting at 2.52 pm.

Mary Allan, Forum Administrator
Barry Peacock, General Secretary

Wartime Recollections in Liverpool

The lock down we recently had reminded me a little of the privations we endured during WW2. What we are experiencing now is absolutely nothing compared with the war years. We didn't have TV, internet, fridges, washing machines, dryers. Like most, our family didn't even have a radio, if you had one it was probably run off an accumulator that had to be electrically charged, normally by the local bike shop. Our house was only three years old at the outbreak of war, but we only had one electric socket of five amps with round pins. Our floors were covered with linoleum, if you could afford it. My mother was born in Padiham, Burnley and due to contracting rickets as a child had difficulty walking. She was one of fourteen children and due to her condition the younger half of her family moved to Liverpool so Mother could be treated by a Mr. Heron in Broadgreen Hospital, this was well before the NHS was formed and everything had to be paid for privately. She met and married my Liverpool born dad, he was one of twelve children, so you can imagine the problems we kids had trying to remember relatives and their names.

In 1951, low and behold we were the first in the road to have a telephone on a shared line, this was all because of my mother's disability. At about the same time Dad bought our first radio, other family's who had one saw the streets cleared of children at 6.45 pm to listen to Dick Barton Special Agent, for all of fifteen minutes. Before I was born my parents took a bold step in 1936 and moved from central Liverpool to a new council house in the suburbs at Huyton. Not a lot of folk wanted to live there as it was at least a 45 minute tram journey to their work places in the city as well as the cost that was involved. However, it was a blessing in disguise when Herr Hitler sent his planes to bomb Liverpool, the second most bombed city after London. Bomb aiming wasn't an exact science, the weather was a big factor in its lack of accuracy and the Luftwaffe were no different to other air forces. The docks, their main target and the nearby houses had massive damage and casualties. We in Huyton got away with it comparatively lightly. As far as I know none of the nearby children were evacuated as we had rear gardens with Anderson shelters dug into the ground. They were brilliant for playing games like Hide and Seek. We also had

large brick built street shelters with reinforced concrete roofs, when not needed to escape an air raid they were ideal for courting couples or if you were caught short and needed to spend a penny. It added to our play area with a game called, Catch a girl, kiss a girl or Hide and Seek, But I'm certain there was much more entertainment to be had with the older folk in the dark interior. In 1940 as the bombing increased in intensity, Mother was pregnant with her third child. For the duration of the war Dad, who was in a reserved occupation, lodged and worked in Old Trafford, Manchester. He came home for a long weekend every three months or so. Mother made a decision to have her baby in Padiham and so she took my sister and me to stay at Aunt Nellie's. Being so young I have no memory of this nor of the following. One day I went missing as a two year old and after desperate searches they concluded that I had probably fallen into the nearby River Calder that had no fencing. My mother's brother Jim had a barber's shop nearby and I was discovered sat in his chair having a haircut. Both my sister Barbara and my mother often reminded me of my escapade.

My school, Park View Primary, had concrete air raid shelters covered with soil, attached to the playgrounds and we had a lot of practice using them. Food was our main problem, or rather the lack of it. We had ration books for everything, butter was reduced to two ounces per week per person, this equates to a quarter of your normal half pound pack of butter, for all of our cooking, baking and eating needs. During the air raids we had the wardens banging on the door if you showed a mere glimmer of a light. Coal was rationed, that is if you could afford to buy it. Clothes were a problem for a young growing family and a lot had 'Hand me downs' with the aid of a mother's needle and cotton, doing any alterations required. The wailing of the sirens soon had us dragged out of our nice warm beds into the cold earthy smelling shelter in the garden. Finding sufficient food to feed a family was a daily problem for most. Being close to farms and Lord Derby's estate had its advantages with the odd hare or rabbit, that was poached as well as vegetables from the farms. My mother's family had a chipper in the Old Swan, almost opposite the Stanley abattoir, with connections working in there. I remember George Hurst who lived close by and was a slaughterman, on a number of occasions, especially during the dark nights he would appear and take off his

bulky jacket and shirt and unwrap the layers of beef fat from around his waist that he had nicked. Before he had got to the pub to spend his illicit gains the fat was being rendered down into beef dripping. Mother ensured some of the neighbours got a share and the talk for the next few days was about dripping butties, it was the equivalent of an early Christmas in those days.

One day my dad turned up with a pair of clogs for me. The uppers had come from a worn out pair of boots and were nailed to wooden clog soles with irons on them. Everyone could hear me coming for miles, but I had the warmest feet in Liverpool and when we played football with a tennis ball in the school playground only the bravest came near my clogs. They gave off sparks from the iron runners whenever I slid. One winter's day we awoke to about three inches of snow. I set off for school and I hadn't walked more than fifty yards when I found I was two inches taller with the snow sticking to the soles of my now treasured clogs. No wet feet for me.

A retired neighbour was a pigeon fancier and had a loft full of them. Very few knew that they were also carrier pigeons for the armed forces. The family had a petrol allowance for their Velocette motor bike, it was started by pedalling, instead of a pillion seat a pigeon cage was fitted and for training purposes they took it out into the country before releasing the birds. The fancier discouraged the birds from landing on the roof of his house with a catapult and pieces of potato he fired at them. He wanted them trained to enter the loft immediately on their return to recover any messages they brought and to forward them. They had a corn allowance to feed the pigeons.

All of the land close to our road belonged to Liverpool Corporation and was rented by local farmers and it abutted Lord Derby's estate, part of which is now the Safari Park. The part closest to our road was where Cantril (Cannibal) Farm, later changed to Stockbridge Village after Stockbridge Lane that leads to it. It had about a ten acre wooded area that illicitly helped our fires to keep burning throughout the war and when we celebrated the end of the war helped keep our magnificent bonfires ablaze during Victory in Europe and Victory in Japan days, when we had street party's. It was then that all of the hoarded goodies made an appearance, jelly's, blancmange, cakes and biscuits the likes we hadn't seen for years and the younger kids were experiencing for the first time in their lives.

A large estate, just off Stockbridge Lane, was nearing completion when the war kicked off. Hillside Avenue and others like it became German Prisoner of War Camps for the duration. It was here that Bert Trautman, later the goalkeeper for Manchester City was housed. Some of the POWs worked on the adjoining farms. At the end of the war the prisoners were sent back to Germany and the council was able to house those from the bombed areas.

In the very cold winter of 1947, coal was scarce and some people were reduced to removing the bedroom doors and using them for firewood. In the early 1950s, whilst still at school, I delivered milk to some of these homes on a carrier bike, the milk was from Jimmy Jackson's dairy farm where I learned to milk cows, sieve, cool and bottle the stuff and fix the cardboard caps until they were later replaced with aluminium ones. I often saddled the horse Dolly for the main milk delivery. At the grand old age of thirteen I was driving a grey Massey Ferguson tractor to help with the harvesting. This was how I earned my pocket money.

When the Americans joined the European war they established a big airfield at Burtonwood, Warrington. Most of their supplies came through the Liverpool docks and they used the A57 that came through Huyton and with all of the men away on military duties the American servicemen were an attraction for the local ladies. So much so that two of them, one from next door and another from the opposite side, along with a third from round the corner, ended up pregnant only for all three servicemen to be shipped back to the States immediately. Another older lady married one of them and went off to America with him, only to return some few years later with two young children and divorced. They were right when they said of the Americans that they were '*over here, over paid, and over sexed.*'

After the war many had their own cars shipped here courtesy of the American government. This was one of the main attractions to some of our women, the cars and the back seats. It was many years before we British could afford cars. Ironically I was twenty five when I bought my first car, I was in the Army serving in Libya alongside Americans and it was a left hand drive automatic Chevrolet that I purchased from one of their servicemen.

Colin Weir (8101)

Retracing my Steps

In the June 'Liverpool Family Historian', Dr Diana M Leitch ended her article with the words 'NEVER GIVE UP SEARCHING'. I agree with these words and thought I would share three of my recent examples.

In 1987 I wrote an article for this Journal about a visit my husband and I had paid to the former St. Anne's Industrial School at Freshfield (*Liverpool Family Historian*, Vol. 9, No. 4, December 1987, pages 70-71). This was where my husband's grandmother, Amy Catherine **Browne**, had been admitted in 1895.

The staff at the school in 1987, which was by then a Boys' Reform School, explained that the nuns of the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul had run the Industrial School in the 1890s. I contacted their headquarters in London but they replied that they had no documents for the time when Amy was at the school.

In 2012 we re-visited the building, which was now being used by a different organisation, and asked them if they had discovered any history of the building. They did not know but suggested I contact the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul again. I sent an email and was told that they now had an archivist who had discovered registers for the relevant time. A letter arrived with details of Amy's dates of admittance and discharge together with the addresses where she had been employed as a nurse (children's governess). A note also gave dates when she had returned, when she was unwell, and a statement '*often pays us a visit*'. Those five words meant so much to us, as no one would return to a place unless they felt safe and happy there. The last entry was "*Doing well, Sept. 7th 1902. In a place at Freshfield*".

My next re-visit was to St. Helens Archives this year. I had been there on previous occasions looking for details of my great-grandfather, William **Dean**. He had been employed as Foreman Joiner at the brewery in Hall Street, St. Helens, where he also lived. I had not found any documents belonging to the brewery on my past visit.

Before re-visiting this year, I searched the online catalogue and keyed in William Dean. This showed the following: Mortgage of a shop and houses in Liverpool Street, St. Helens, in August 1877. The indenture is between William Dean, builder and James **Penketh**, Timber Merchant and John **Crossley** of Ravenhead, Glass Manufacturer. I requested sight of the document and now have a photocopy, although it is difficult to read. I am in the process of transcribing the handwritten legal wording. It stated that William is *'entitled to the piece of land for a certain term of nine hundred and ninety nine years created by an indenture of lease between Gilbert Greenall Esquire John Whitley and Peter Whitley Brewers of the one part and the said William Dean of the other part'*. The amount requested by William Dean was £450.00. I still have to visit the area mentioned as *'land fronting along the Turnpike Road'* and bounded by Liverpool Street and Liverpool Road. I presume that as this document is now in the St. Helens Archives, the land has since been acquired by the Council, possibly for redevelopment. According to an inflation calculator £540.00 in 1877 would now be £55,896.24. I just hope that great-grandad paid the mortgage on time and that they don't come knocking for repayment from me.

My final re-visit is to the National Archives at Kew. When I first started researching the McClellan family we discovered that the 5 x great grandfather Samuel **McClellan** had been born in N. Carolina but served in the British Navy. Before online catalogues, in the 1980s, you had to actually visit the Archives at Kew. We travelled to Kew and confirmed his birth when we found his naval records. He was a gunner and we found his original gunner's certificate in a large Miscellaneous file.

During the pandemic lockdown, the National Archives offered look ups and copy documents free. I was never able to request my documents before the time when they stated that they had a full inbox for each day.

I had keyed in the name McClellan and discovered a document for 'James McClellan, when admitted to Greenwich Hospital School. Parents Samuel & Sarah.' I paid for a copy now that the pandemic rush is over and received photocopies of the documents showing that Samuel had served on the *Lion* ship as a gunner and that his

son would be *'bound as an Apprentice to the Sea Service'*. James went on to serve in the Merchant Navy and became a Master, serving for 30 years. According to a gravestone in Nunhead Cemetery he died *"Captain who died off Mahe"*.

So recently I have been able to see an original document signed by my great-grandfather and received a copy of original documents signed by my husband's 5x great grandfather.

As Diana says family history research never ends, as more and more documents are catalogued at various Archives. It is interesting to retrace our steps and then find more details of our ancestors' lives.

Glenys McClellan (850)

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Interesting Items

Liverpool Athletes and Cyclists

Recently the Isle of Man Family History Society Library & Archives has been given a collection of old Amateur Athletic Sports Programmes for 1893 and 1898 from a member who was downsizing.

Athletic sports and bicycle races were held for many years during the summer months in the splendid grounds of the Falcon Cliff in Douglas. This, it was said, had one of the best tracks in the kingdom and was just a few minutes' walk from the promenade. On the site was a hotel, large restaurant and a band played throughout the sporting events. Audiences at some of the events could be nearly 2,000 people, at an admission fee of 1 shilling each.

Surprisingly, many athletes and cyclists travelled over from Liverpool and further afield to take part in the events. Maybe not such a surprise when you see the list of prizes that were awarded to the winners of the various events; they included many items of silver, including watches, an Albert (a chain for a pocket watch, with a bar at one end for securing through a buttonhole), a match box, and salt cellars. A diamond ring was presented to the winner of the One Mile Handicap flat race, second prize a diamond pin, and third an opera glass. Another first prize, for the Three Mile Bicycle Race was a massive marble clock, second prize a handsome salad bowl and third a solid silver Albert. A ladies' gold watch, valued at £4 10s, was first prize in the 440 flat race.

May 24th, 1893, saw the sun shining and C. **Bryan** from Liverpool won third prize in the Quarter Mile and was awarded the prize of silver mounted brushes, the winner being T. **Messenger** from Salford in the time of 51 seconds. Perhaps the winner of the massive marble clock for the Three Mile Bicycle Race, E. H. **Ainsworth** of Liverpool, was pleased that any prize could be exchanged for something of equal value at the jewellers, Cannell's, in Victoria Street; to carry that home on the boat with his cycle would be a bit much. Ainsworth's time for the three- mile race was eight minutes and fourteen seconds.

Some of the competitors who took part from Liverpool in 1893 were: A. B. **George** (late of New York), C. Bryan & E. J. **Bagot** of Liverpool Harriers, O. **Kempsey** of Dingle C. C., and W. W. **Burton**. In 1898, those that took part in the several cycle races were: W. W. **Jarvis**, G. H. **Wivell**, A. M. **Phillips**, J. B. **Holmes**, and athletes I. A. **Behn**, S. **Welbsy**, J. W. **Davies**, T. B. **Southart**, T. **Williams**, and G. **Griffiths**, amongst others.

I just wish that when my husband was taking part in the County sports during the 1950s the prizes had been as good.

If you would like to check if your ancestor took part or won any prizes, that can be found out quite quickly by going to: www.imuseum.im/newspapers - this website covers all the local Manx papers from 1790 to 1960 and is free of charge. Just put in the name you want to search in inverted commas and if too many references come up, then refine it by putting the years that you know they may have taken part.

Sources: Athletic programmes of 1893 and 1898 and imuseum.im

Priscilla M. Lewthwaite (Genealogist of IOMFHS)

Did your ancestors change their names?

I was trawling the newspaper archive on Find My Past (as you do) just looking for information about the wider family, and came across this article in the *Liverpool Echo* of 28 June 1915:

We, Fanny Beaumont BLACKBURN, Fanny Cecilia BLACKBURN, Max Herbert BLACKBURN and Ernest Hubert BLACKBURN, hitherto having the surname of BLOCHWITZ, of 55 Avondale Road, Sefton Park, Liverpool, British Subjects, born in England, do hereby give notice, that by a Deed Poll dated the seventh day of June 1915, duly enrolled, we have renounced and abandoned the said name of BLOCHWITZ and adopted the said name of BLACKBURN - dated this Twenty-sixth day of June 1915.

I knew that Fanny Beaumont **Edgerley** was born in 1851, the youngest daughter of Thomas Edgerley, (1812 - 1876), and Mary **Gresty**, and that she married Johann Max **Blochwitz** on 2

February 1876 in Trinity Church, Southport. Johann Max Blochwitz died on 20 June 1900, aged 68.

I didn't know why they would have felt it necessary to change the family name until I came across this article in The Graphic of 6 May 1916



The article goes on to explain that after the sinking of the liner *Lusitania*, carrying 1,266 passengers and 696 crew, by the Imperial German Navy on 7 May 1915 at least 260 British born nationals no longer wished to use their German names and were Anglicising them for the future. There is a list of the families concerned and the dates they publicised their change of name.

A total of 1,197 people died when the liner was sunk by an Imperial German Navy U-boat, described as a crime, which beyond all others, thrilled the world with horror.

Midge Broadhurst (2358)

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

A 19th Century Sailing Ship Called Vancouver

In August 1869, a newly built ship left shipbuilders Bowdler & Chaffers Co., in Seacombe, Wirral, and sailed the short journey over the river Mersey to a Liverpool dock. W. J. Myers & Son, of James Street, Liverpool, were trading merchants who had commissioned the ship.

The ship was to be named ‘*Vancouver*’, with a tonnage of 1,053 and cost £15,720 to build (more than £700,000 in today’s money). She was 209 feet long, 33 feet wide and from depth in Hold from Tonnage Deck to Ceiling at Amidships, nearly 22 feet. She had three masts and bearing in mind her expense, must have looked exceptional. Lloyds registered the ship as number 63187. Unfortunately, her life at sea lasted only 16 years.

W. J. Myers were substantial merchants with many ships trading all around the world. It is also recorded that they had lost some ships at sea prior to *Vancouver*’s demise. But for all that, they were a very successful and wealthy family.

During her life at sea, her recorded captains read as follow: *Vancouver*’s first captain was John **Dodd** (1869), followed by Thomas **Brown** (1870), John Henry **Johnston** (1875), James **Collister** (1878), William James **Shaddick** (1879), L. **Tupman** (1882) and, Philip Daniel **Hamon** (1883) her last master.

Captain Hamon, aged 33, was in command of the ship from 1883 until 1885. Listed are the names of the crew, as per my investigations:

William **Baker** (16), Tom **Hunt** (16), Henry **Morris** (18), Norman **Waite** (18) and Arthur Pemberton **Hall** (18);

George **Berry** (22), Florentino **Dulay** (25) and J. C. **Fluder** (21);

S. **Jones** (23), Henry **Smith** (30) and A. E. **Squires** (21);

George Charles **Thurnam** (22) and William **McDonald** (25);

My great-grandfather John **Bird** (aged 38) was the sail maker

and along with P. **Deguelle** (38) and W. J. **Bussell** (42) were the oldest crew members.

Crew total: 17, including four apprentices?

In late 1884, *Vancouver* left Cardiff loaded up with coal and was headed for the port of Colombo in Ceylon and after some months at sea arrived at her destination safely. In Colombo, *Vancouver* was part loaded before preceding to Cochin to complete her loading, using the same stevedores from Colombo. On 20 March 1885, *Vancouver* left Cochin for Harve: she was never seen again.

‘Board of Trade Inquiry’ on Tuesday the 19th of January 1886 at St George’s Hall, Liverpool, before Mr Raffles.

Loss of a Liverpool vessel ‘Vancouver’ and all hands.

A Mr. **Paxton**, solicitor, appeared for the BoT.

A Mr. **Weightman**, solicitor, for the owners.

Captains **French** and **Kiddle**, nautical assessors into the supposed loss of the vessel.

Mr. George William **Wood**, sole partner of the firm W. J. Myers & Sons.

Mr. James Collister, former captain of the *Vancouver*.

Mr. Paxton read a statement which gave a brief history of the ‘*Vancouver*’, stating where she was built, quoting that she was an iron vessel rigged as a barque and was built in somewhat stronger fashion than the modern requirements of Lloyds. He then went on to say how she left Cochin on the Friday the 20th of March 1885, under the command of Mr Hamon and a crew of 22 hands? From that date nothing was ever heard from her again.

Mr. Wood and Mr. Collister were examined, and depositions made at Cochin and put in evidence, said that some of the casks of oil taken in Colombo “*were not stowed in a proper manner, some of the bungs being partly drawn.*” But in other respects, the cargo seemed to have been well stowed. She also carried a cargo of coir (coconut fibre) that was used in the manufacture of ropes, mats, etc. She also carried a quantity of (yarn). The court found, when she left England she was, according to evidence, in a good and seaworthy

condition, and when she left Cochin there was nothing to the contrary, to alter that opinion.

Mr. Wood and Mr. Collister were of the opinion that the *Vancouver* had gone down during the very stormy weather, known to have prevailed in May 1885 off the Cape of Good Hope. James Collister told the court that he had commanded the ship in 1878/79 on a trip to California and back and they experienced very bad weather on the outward journey around Cape Horn and said the *Vancouver* “*behaved splendidly*” and in his opinion was a “*safe and substantial ship*”.

The above information was reported in the *Liverpool Mercury* and *The Daily Albion*.

It isn't known if any family members were present at the hearing or if compensation was paid to the families.

In 1846 Edward Augustus Bird and his wife Mary Bird (née **Duffy**) celebrated the birth of their second son, John, my great-grandfather. Their first son, Edward, and then William, both died in infancy. They had one more child, Sarah, born in 1860, who survived and went on to get married and raise a family. The family's early years were spent living in the Everton area of Liverpool. Edward Bird was a journeyman cooper and was gainfully employed all his working life. Mother Mary had a stall in Paddy's market, where she sold fruit. John most probably became a sail maker on the advice of his father and living in the port of Liverpool would present John with ample opportunities to spend his life at sea. In January 1867 John married Mary Irving at St Nicholas' church Liverpool and from 1868 until 1883 Mary gave birth to eight children and all survived.

In 1885 John left his wife Mary (aged 37) a widow, with eight children: Mary Ellen (17), Edward (15), Selina (13), John (10), George (8), Arthur (5), Jane (3) and Sarah (2).

After this tragedy, the Bird family went through a period of events that saw the family break up. George and Arthur were admitted to the Seaman's Orphan Institution, located in Newsham Park, Liverpool, in 1886 and 1888 respectively, where they remained for a

few years. John's mother, Mary, died in 1886 and his father Edward, who was separated from his mother, died in 1893.

The Bird family and its link to my families Jones/Rogers

In the 1891 census for Field Street, Liverpool, John's wife Mary is recorded as living with just two of the children, Sarah and Jane. George had been released from the orphanage but Arthur wasn't released until 1893. Mary Ellen had married and had her brothers Edward and John staying with her. Sarah married a James **Renshall** and Jane married a P. **Madden** – sadly, Jane died in 1919 from the flu epidemic sweeping the world at that time. George got married, as did Edward, but Arthur remained single and lived with his mother Mary until her death in 1929 at the age of 85.

This just leaves Selina Bird, my grandmother, who married John **Jones**, a builder's labourer from Liverpool, in 1891. Selina gave birth to ten girls and one boy as follows:

William John (born July 1891), who married Maria **Smith** in 1910 and Helen **Oswald** in 1958;

Mary Alice (born October 1894), who married Francis **Lavender** in 1914;

Sarah 'Sally' (born September 1896), who married William **Powell** in 1915;

Jean 'Ginny' (born March 1899), who married Edward **Hall** in 1922;

Lena (born July 1900), who married Matthew **McIver** in 1920;

Elizabeth (born August 1902), who married Edward **Rogers** in 1920 (my mother and father);

Josie (born February 1905), who married Henry **Burke** in 1932;

Louise (born December 1907), who married Laurie **Ventre** in 1925;

Helen (born October 1908), who married Walter **Malone** and later Edward **Dalton**;

Rosie (born October 1910), who married Thomas **Dinsdale** in 1937; and,

Emily (born October 1913), who married Lawrence **Scott** in 1938.

In their early years, the family lived in and around the Islington, Everton, area of Liverpool, mainly Great Richmond Street. Father, John Jones died in 1929 aged 58 and mother Selina in 1951, aged 78.

My mother, Elizabeth, lost her father John, her own son John (aged 1), her brother John and her grandfather John. She always considered it to be a very unlucky name. No boys in the Rogers family were ever called John.

Colin A. Rogers (3098)

[Information obtained from various sources, with some family remembrances covering many years, dated April/May 2020]

Liverpool Mercury, Friday, September 28, 1832

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

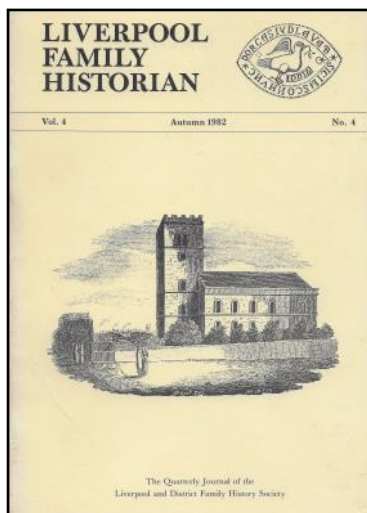
Deaths

On Saturday last, aged 17, William, the eighth and youngest son of Mr. James **Queen**, Byrom-street. He was a youth of quick genius, easy and unaffected manners, and his amiable disposition endeared him to all who knew him.

On Monday last, aged 45, Ann, the beloved wife of Mr. Peter **Foster**, Hunter-street, leaving a disconsolate husband and eleven children to bewail their irreparable loss.

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40 Years Ago in Liverpool Family Historian



The church featured on the cover of the Autumn 1982 edition of *Liverpool Family Historian* was instantly recognisable to me, as I had featured it on the back cover of the March 2020 edition of the *Journal*. In 1982, Saint James in the City, as the church is now known, had for some years been deemed surplus to requirements. It was not even a listed building at that time, having to wait another three-years to be granted that protection. Now, not only is it Grade II* listed, it is once again a place of worship with an active congregation.

Within the covers of the journal I had a ‘small world’ moment, when I read the General Secretary’s Report by the late Harold Culling. In the report Harold mentions that he and Joyce had managed to get to three Record Offices over the summer of 1982, including Bedford which he states was ‘*ideally situated on the banks of the Great Ouse, beautiful setting*’. I can vouch for the beauty of the setting for the Bedford Record Office, as it was the first record office I ever visited - I was aged just 19 and very much a novice family historian when I went there... in the summer of 1982. Maybe, unknowingly, our paths crossed that year.

An interesting article in the journal details daily rates of pay for certain tradesmen in the late 1870s in North Meols. General Labourers, it states, were paid 5 shillings a day, whilst bricklayers and joiners were paid 6 shillings and skilled painters, plumbers, glaziers and stonemasons were being paid 7 shillings. Despite labourers being listed as receiving 5 shillings per day in wages, analysis by the author of a document detailing certain projects in the North Meols area in 1877 and the workers’ pay, showed that they were actually being paid only 3 shillings and 4 pence per day.

- Ed.

The Tale of Two Sisters

There once were two sisters, Helen who was born in 1812 and Elizabeth, born 1816. They were very close, living in the same village (Sanquhar, in Dumfries and Galloway) and marrying at about the same time.

Helen, being older and probably wiser, married John **Duff** who was a letter carrier (as postmen were called in 1838). They had two children by the time of the 1841 census, Elizabeth and Robert.

Elizabeth, married Archibald **Wilson** in 1837, who was a labourer at that time. They had two children also by the night of the 1841 census, Agnes and Robert. She had two further children William and Mary and, sadly, Archibald died after catching Cholera in 1848. Elizabeth and her family struggled on until Robert was old enough to work and they heard of new pits being opened in Cambusnethan almost 100 miles north in Lanarkshire, Scotland. It was work and so they went, leaving behind Agnes as she was in employment and was courting. Robert secured work in the pit and they found accommodation in the village (often this accommodation was tied to the pit to make it difficult for them to leave).

Agnes and her husband, Francis **Trainer**, married in Newmains (close to Cambusnethan in June 1857 and she gave birth to a daughter in Dumfries in December. Agnes received word that her mother was not well in 1859 when she was once again pregnant. She and her husband went to Cambusnethan to tend to her mother. She gave birth to her second child Robert Francis whilst there in July and sadly, her mother died in November.

Agnes and Francis did not have much luck with their children – in 1861 she gave birth to a daughter who died at just over a year, then premature twin boys in 1863 who lived for two hours and two days respectively. In 1868 she had another son. Her husband died in 1870 leaving her with just the two boys and the following year she lost her younger son to whooping cough. Agnes herself died in 1874 leaving her one son of 15 to fend for himself. His paternal grandfather had died before he was born and the grandmother died in 1877.

Robert Francis Trainer found work in Edinburgh as a Hatter's Warehouseman lodging with the owner's family. Also living in the large house, therefore, was Anne **Harrison**, widow of the hatter William Harrison and their daughter Alice Ann **Craig** with her children. Alice's husband was not resident with them at this time and what we could foresee happening – happened. Alice became pregnant and gave birth to a daughter at the end of December 1877. Early in 1878 Alice learned of her husband's return and they rushed to register the little girl.

This is what is written on her birth certificate: The mother was married on 29th June 1865 to Thomas Dickson Craig, late letter sorter in General Post Office who she declares is not the father of the child and further that she has had no sexual intercourse with him since they ceased to live together in September 1875. This is written in the place reserved for the mother's name. Robert is registered as her father.

What to do about her husband coming back? Robert took the child who had been given the name Ann to the only person he could trust to bring her up – his grandmother's sister Helen. She changed the child's name to Agnes in honour of her niece and the child's grandmother and looked after her until she died. In the meantime, her daughter, Elizabeth Duff, had married and they moved from Dumfries-shire to Lanarkshire for her son Robert to find work in the new pits that were being sunk there. When Helen died in 1892 she was buried with her sister in Cambusnethan. Together again.

Alice and her husband had another daughter in February of the following year and later they emigrated to Australia. Robert later married and he and his wife Jemima had a daughter, Elizabeth and a son, Robert, who died aged four months.

Agnes spent her whole life trying to hide her origins and many an argument and rift was caused through this. The registrar's moral stance caused more problems to the innocent.

Agnes Ingram (8996)

News from the Groups

Leigh & District

Chairman: Margery Harrop

Secretary: Glenys McClellan

Meetings are held in the Derby Room, Leigh Library at 7:30pm on the third Tuesday of each month.

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|--------|--|
| 20 Sep | “Let her die, maker her die if you can.” The Scandalous Case of Mrs Oldfield - Thomas McGrath. |
| 18 Oct | Grave Disclosures - Peter Watson. |
| 15 Nov | The Conical Five: Victims of Jack the Ripper - Kath Graham. |
| 00 Dec | No meeting. |

Skelmersdale & Upholland

Chairman: Bill Fairclough

Secretary: Caroline Fairclough

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

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| 06 Sep | Industrial Lancashire - Dot Broady Hawkes. |
| 04 Oct | A.G.M. |
| 01 Nov | Should I Stay or Should I Go? (Ormskirk Evacuees) - Roger Blaxall. |
| 06 Dec | Christmas meal. |

Southport

Chairman: Hilary Ambrose

Secretary: Diane Banahan

Meetings are held in the small hall at Lord Street West United Church, Lord Street West, Southport PR8 2BH on the second Friday of each month (unless stated otherwise). Meetings start at 7:30pm.

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|--------|--|
| 09 Sep | T.B.A. |
| 14 Oct | [Afternoon] Possible trip to Lancashire Archives. |
| 11 Nov | T.B.A. |
| 09 Dec | Christmas Quizzes and Refreshments. |

Warrington

Chairman: Peter Jolliffe

Secretary: Keith Thompson

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

26 Sep	T.B.A.
24 Oct	T.B.A.
28 Nov	T.B.A.
00 Dec	No meeting.

Liverpool Mercury - Friday, February 10, 1871 *Deaths*

BOOTH - Feb. 1, at her residence, Fir Grove Cottage, Stoneycroft, aged 23, Eliza, wife of Mr. William Booth.

DOWLER - Jan. 29, at the residence of her father, Scotland-road, in her 6th year, Harriett Elizabeth, second daughter of Mr. J. A. Dowler. Also, Feb. 6, at the same place, aged 9 years, Emily Anna, eldest daughter of the above.

JOHNSON - Feb. 6, at the residence of her son-in-law, 6, Almond-street, aged 60, Mrs. Ann Johnson.

LISTER - Feb. 9, aged 67, Emma, wife of James Lister, Esq., Basil Grange, Sandfield Park, West Derby.

McCARTNEY - Feb. 4, at the Alms-houses, Cambridge-street, where she resided for 62 years, aged 98, Mrs. S. McCartney.

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Plus one representative elected by each Group of the Society.



Eldon Grove, Vauxhall, Liverpool

A rather sad sight today, this group of labourers' dwellings was built in 1911 and is important for being the first development of council flats built outside of London. The flats were opened officially in 1912 by Alice Stanley (née Montagu), wife of Lord Stanley of Bickerstaffe and Countess of Derby. This is one of three blocks built in the same style on the site.

The flats were occupied through the remainder of the twentieth century and seem to have been popular with the families who lived in them. All three blocks and the associated railings were Grade II listed on 24 September 1993, however, this did not stop Eldon Grove falling out of use by the year 2000 and gradually becoming derelict.

Plans have been on the table for some years to restore these buildings to their former glory and make them fit for twenty-first century living; although, as is often the case in Liverpool, these plans have yet to be put into action, and Eldon Grove continues to deteriorate.

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Church of Our Lady of Reconciliation, Vauxhall, Liverpool

The Church of Our Lady of Reconciliation de la Salette, to give this impressive Roman Catholic church its full name, stands at 39 Eldon Street and is one of three churches that form the parish of St. Sylvester. It was designed by Edward Welby Pugin and construction was completed in 1860.

The church was Grade II listed by National Heritage on 14 March 1975 and recently underwent significant repairs. Built to seat up to 1,800 people, this large church currently has an active congregation of around only 70.

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