The Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society

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MLFHS HELP DESK

The MLFHS Help Desk is located on the ground floor of Manchester Central Library.
Our location is shown on the plan below.

The Help Desk is open from 10.30 am to 3.30pm Mondays to Fridays.

There is full wheelchair access to the library and to all public areas of the building.

Please note that you will need to bring both your MLFHS membership card (to identify you as a member) and your Manchester Libraries library card (to access the computer resources). If you do not have a library card, this can be easily obtained from the library information desk provided you bring along identification which includes your address (such as a recent utility bill).

The Help Desk can be contacted on 0161 234 1060 during the hours above.
Calendar of Events 2016

Anglo-Scots and M&LFHS, meet at Manchester Central Library.
Bolton & District meet at The McKenzie Suite, (ground floor), Old Links Golf Club, Chorley Old Road, Bolton.
Oldham & District meet at The Education Suite, Gallery Oldham, Greaves St. Oldham

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<tr>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Bolton</th>
<th>Wed 20th</th>
<th>7:30pm</th>
<th>Open Evening – New Venue Holy and Unholy Matrimony</th>
<th>Rita Greenwood</th>
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<td>Oldham</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Anglo Scots</td>
<td>Sat 16th</td>
<td>2.00pm</td>
<td>Quiz and Social</td>
<td>Duncan Broady</td>
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<td>M&amp;LFHS</td>
<td>Wed 27th</td>
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<td>Victorian Phenomenon</td>
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<th>Feb</th>
<th>Bolton</th>
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<th>Saving The Hulton Archive</th>
<th>Jacqui Crosby</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Oldham</td>
<td>Sat 13th</td>
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<td>Victoria Baths Restoration</td>
<td>Kate Dibble</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Anglo Scots</td>
<td>Sat 20th</td>
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<td>Memories and Memory</td>
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<td>Speaking Lives – Oral Historian</td>
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<th>March</th>
<th>Bolton</th>
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<th>Early Mormon Immigration And Butch Cassidy</th>
<th>Kathryn Carter</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oldham</td>
<td>Sat 12th</td>
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<td>The Battle of The Somme</td>
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<td>Anglo Scots</td>
<td>Sat 19th</td>
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<td>Family Search</td>
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Meeting rooms used at Manchester Central Library may vary. Information concerning the locations of individual meetings can be obtained at the Family History Help Desk on the ground floor.
The Manchester Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, 27 January 2016
To be held in the Performance Space, Central Library

Programme

10.30 am The Police Museum & Archives
Speaker: Duncan Broady
Duncan will be showing examples of archives and objects which are held at Police Museum, Newton Street, Manchester,

12.00 Lunch

1.00 pm Baby Farming, a Victorian Phenomenon
Speaker: Martin Baggoley
Martin has written a number of true crime books. Eight Women were executed for baby farming, and their crimes will be discussed, together with others committed in Manchester & Tranmere

Registration is essential
To register, click the Eventbrite logo on our web page www.mlfhs.org.uk. The meeting is FREE to paid up MLFHS members, but there is a charge of £3 (payable at the time of booking) for non-members. If, however, you decide to join MLFHS on the day this fee will be refunded.
Editorial

The end of another year is upon us, how time flies. If you are wondering what to get friends and family for Christmas we have some ideas for you on page 354 of the journal. I wish you all a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. I hope your ancestor hunting goes on apace next year and not too many brick walls are encountered. Last but not least please continue to send in your articles for the journal, without them we could not continue. Perhaps between the festivities pen could be put to paper and who knows what articles might emerge.

More Articles Needed

The journal is in need of more articles. It does not have to be a large article, small items are also welcome. Maybe you have some interesting documents or papers from your own family research that may be of interest to others, or a story about how you overcame a particular brick wall.

News from Manchester Archives & Local Studies

Archive Service Accreditation

Manchester Central Library was awarded Archive Service Accreditation by the National Archives in March 2015. Archive Service Accreditation is the new UK wide standard for archives service and defines good practice and agreed standards. Accredited archive services provide a high level of service to their users, preserve their collections in line with national standards and are robust, sustainable services which plan and deliver ongoing improvement.

The Accreditation Panel which made the award:

“... noted and praised the transformational nature of change at Manchester Central Library in recent years, specifically in the areas of developing a mass audience able to benefit from the service’s offer, the cultivation of many very positive and effective partnerships and the considerable improvements to long term preservation.”

On Monday 12 October 2015 4.30pm, Clem Brohier, Chief Operating Officer at the National Archives, will present Manchester Central Library with their Archive Service Accreditation certificate. This will form part of the ‘Discovering Collections Discovering Communities (DCDC)’ national conference which is taking part in Salford that week.
Sound Archive
The North West Sound Archive, previously based at Clitheroe Castle, Lancashire, records, collects and preserves sound recordings of the life, character, history and traditions of the North West England. The Greater Manchester collections have now moved to Manchester Central Library.

The collection includes oral histories include stories of places, dialects, communities, immigration, war, pastimes and industries around Greater Manchester. Some projects target places, for example the LifeTimes Salford archive and the Tameside Oral History Project. Others tackle themes like the Oldham Cotton, Curry and Commerce project and the greenroom oral history project.

The musical recordings include John Barbirolli recordings, the works of the local classical musician Thomas Pitfield and a small number of live folk music recordings from the massive Paul Graney Memorial Folk Music Archive.

The entire archive takes up about 170 shelves in the archive strong rooms in the basement. It's made up of every sound format imaginable from wax cylinders, 78 shellac discs, LPs, reel to reels, cassettes, minidiscs, CDs and USB sticks.

Further Information
More about Archive Service Accreditation can be found at:
http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archives-sector/standards.htm

More about the DCDC conference can be found at:
http://dcdcconference.com

More about the Sound Archive can be found at:
http://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/448/archives_and_local_history/4670/archive_and_local_collections/21

A taster to the sound archive can be found at:
https://soundcloud.com/archivesplus
Subscriptions

New members: UK Single £15.00 & UK Family £15.00
Overseas (including Europe) £15.00
Renewals: see renewal form enclosed

Subscription begins with the month of joining, consequently annual renewal falls due a year later. For further details concerning membership please contact the Administration Department. UK taxpayers may mandate the Society to recover income tax paid on their subscription through the Gift Aid scheme. A form is printed on the reverse of the subscription renewal form in the centre of the journal.

Bank Standing Orders

Members will be aware that in the past a Bank Standing Order form has always been included with the renewal form at the back of the journal. In future the form will not be included with the journal but will continue to be available on the Society’s web site www.mlfhs.org.uk by clicking on “Forms” on the left hand side of the screen. A copy of the form can also be obtained by contacting the Society.

This does not mean that we are going ‘cool’ on the idea of BSOs – far from it! Any UK based member who would like to make a real contribution to easing our administrative burden is urged to renew by Standing Order. The processing and updating of the membership database takes literally a few minutes each month, whereas the processing of cheque and credit card payments takes many hours per week. So if you don’t already have a Standing Order in place please give it some thought. The process is simple enough – just fill in the form and send it to the Society – we do the rest.

If you are unsure whether you have a current BSO just contact the society by phone or e-mail and we can quickly tell you.

Graham Porter, Treasurer
Notes for Contributors

What should articles be about?
• We give the highest priority to articles which may help members in pursuing their own researches into family history. This might be because of the results achieved, difficulties experienced and how they were overcome, the use of new or unusual records and archives, research into events before 1800 or unusual findings. Where appropriate, reference should be made to the sources used and their location. The Society reserves the right to edit all material submitted for publication.

Copyright
• It is the contributor’s responsibility to ensure that material submitted for publication does not breach copyright. This particularly applies to illustrations and other matter obtained from libraries and record offices or from the internet. The Editors reserve the right not to publish if copyright is in doubt.
• Unless otherwise agreed, the Society holds the copyright of all articles published in the Manchester Genealogist. If you wish to retain the copyright of an article, this must be requested when submitting material for publication.
• Those wishing to reproduce an article published in the Manchester Genealogist should seek permission from the General Secretary of the Society.

How should articles be sent?
• We prefer to receive copy in electronic format either attached to an e-mail or on a CD. Microsoft Word, Rich Text format (RTF) or plain text (TXT) formats are acceptable.
• If you do not have access to a computer, we can arrange for typing, but as this adds work and delay, we would prefer, if at all possible, that you get a friend who has a computer to type the article for you.
• We welcome photographs to illustrate articles. These should be scanned at 300 dots per inch resolution and submitted in TIF or JPG image format. We can scan your photographs if required. Please avoid sending an original print, if the photograph is rare or of sentimental value.
• Articles must be accompanied by your full name, address and membership number (also an e-mail address if you have one). Please indicate whether you wish your address, as well as your name, should be included if the article is published.
• All contributions should be sent to The Editor, Manchester & Lancashire FHS, 3rd Floor, Manchester Central Library, St Peter’s Square, M2 5PD. Electronic copies should be e-mailed to office@mlfhs.org.uk or editor@mlfhs.org.uk
• Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope if you wish us to acknowledge that your material has been received or if you wish photographs to be returned.
• More detailed notes to contributors can be found on the society web site.
• Contributions for the next issue must be received by 1st Jan 2016
A Victorian Military Bible From India.

About 40 years ago when I was an undergraduate at Manchester I used to frequent a second-hand book shop near the University. The object of this was supposedly to find books for my studies, but I usually ended up with something far more interesting! One day late in 1975 I discovered the shattered remains of a small Bible whose detached tooled leather front cover showed that it had been issued by the Naval and Military Bible Society. A label inside revealed that the Society had been founded in 1789 and that its pocket-sized Bibles had cost 2s 7d (about 13p) to produce. However, the Society very generously sold them to soldiers and sailors for only 1s 6d (7 ½p) thereby making a considerable loss from their enterprise. The Bible originally had two brass clasps one of which was missing. The back cover had gone as well and the book had actually split in half down the spine at Job 19. In other words it was a complete wreck!

The title page told me that the Bible was printed by the royal printers Eyre and Spottiswoode in 1842, early in the reign of Queen Victoria. But, most interestingly, the yellowed end-paper carried this inscription which I illustrate:-
The asking price was just 6p so, needless to say, I bought it!

Clearly the little book had a story to tell and I recently decided to investigate. The main problem was deciphering the place name Cannanore and I have only just been able to do this. Research using the internet and my various atlases revealed that Cannanore was on the south-west coast of India! Of course, the British had maintained a strong military presence in India since the late 18th century. During the Victorian period the sub-continent was regarded as the jewel in the crown of the British Empire and Queen Victoria was proclaimed Empress of India at Delhi in 1877. India remained part of the Empire as until as recently as 1947 and the Latin title “Ind[iae] Imp[erator]” - Emperor of India - appeared on our coinage until the following year. However, the behaviour of the British towards the Indian people in the 19th century was often dreadful, the worst instance being the brutal and ruthless suppression of the Indian Mutiny of 1857.

Further investigation revealed that the British had captured Cannanore (originally called Kannur) after a three-day siege in December 1790. Significantly to this story it later became the British military headquarters on India’s west coast until 1887. During the 19th century it was the third largest city on the west coast of British India after Bombay and Karachi.

Oswell’s regiment, the 25th Foot, was the county regiment of Sussex from 1782 to 1805 before its recruiting area was moved to the Scottish Borders region. From then it was known as the King's Own Borderers, becoming the King's Own Scottish Borderers in 1887. The 25th Foot had been stationed at Cannanore since December 1839 and appears to have remained there until at least June 1855. It seems unlikely that Oswell
was involved in the terrible events of 1857 since the Mutiny had little effect on south-west India.

And so the little Bible must have been taken, along with hundreds of others in a sailing ship from southern England to the west coast of India - probably to Cannanore itself - around 1844. And on 12\textsuperscript{th} July 1845 it was given, presumably by an officer in Victoria’s Indian army to Private John Oswell of Her Majesty’s 25\textsuperscript{th} Foot, 8\textsuperscript{th} Company. No doubt many other Bibles were issued to the soldiers at Cannanore on the same day. 12\textsuperscript{th} July 1845 was a Saturday so Oswell probably used his new Bible for the first time at a service the following day. I wonder what he made of the Indian climate which would have been so different from what he was used to in northern Britain.

I am again grateful to my 6\textsuperscript{th} cousin, Mrs Valerie Poole for her attempts to learn more about Oswell from Findmypast. However, the only John Oswell she could find was born in Charlbury in Oxfordshire in 1821 and served in the East Indies, in the 14th Regiment of Foot, for 13 years. He left the army in 1862 and was evidently not the owner of the Bible. Do any readers know anything more about the life and career of Private John Oswell of H.M. 25\textsuperscript{th} Foot, 8\textsuperscript{th} Company? Could he have come from the Manchester area?

Presumably Oswell came home eventually and his Bible somehow turned up in a shop on Oxford Road in Manchester 40 years ago. And here it is, totally beyond economical restoration, with me in Bradford in 2015!

Amazing how these old Bibles survive, isn’t it?

Ian Mc Alpine (3300)

\textit{A Victorian Musical Bible.}

More than 40 years ago my grandfather Clifford Innerdale (1896 - 1980) told me about an extraordinary family Bible which had belonged to the family of his mother Renetta Innerdale (nee Thorley) (1868 - 1950). Of course, many Victorian families, even those of quite modest means had family Bibles which were produced in vast quantities during the 19\textsuperscript{th} century. Most of them were immense, heavy folios ornamented with hand coloured prints of Biblical scenes. Invariably they had deeply-tooled leather backs and brass clasps. Very often they included the well-known and copious commentaries of Rev John Brown or John Eadie. Usually a special section was printed between the Old and New Testaments in which a family could record births, marriages and deaths. Most helpful to modern genealogists! Family Bibles like this are still readily and cheaply available today, usually in poor condition. Most were produced between about 1850 and 1890. I bought an unusual Welsh one a few years ago!

However, our Victorian family Bible was rather special. Grandpa said it played music! When the front cover was opened it played a hymn tune, although unfortunately Grandpa couldn’t remember which one. Rather like a musical box. Evidently the workings of a musical box were somehow concealed within the spine. Sadly the Bible
was lost or destroyed many years ago, but I recently tried to find out more about Grandpa’s strange story.

I was a little surprised to learn from the internet that small musical boxes did indeed exist in the 19th century and found a reference to one from as far back as 1849. Could one somehow have been fitted into a large folio Bible? Various internet searches revealed nothing until I came across the website of a firm called Unique Auctions. The company offered for sale a “Victorian musical box photograph album - working but album needs attention!” This, surely was somewhere near to what I was looking for. If the workings of a musical box could be concealed within a photograph album, surely they could be fitted into a large Bible?

And so I concluded that my grandfather’s story was entirely plausible! Have any Victorian musical family Bibles actually survived? How I’d love to see ours, listing my Thorleys and Hollands of Eccles!

Ian Mc Alpine (3300) Email: Carrhey2@btinternet.com

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**LancashireBMD at your Disposal**

**Lancashire BMD**

*Births, Marriages and Deaths on the Internet*

If you are looking for a birth, marriage or death in Lancashire after 1837 then the first place to look is in the free online indexes at www.lancashirebmd.org.uk

Although the indexes are not yet complete, they contain entries from virtually all of the county’s Register Offices and new data is being added virtually every week.

Register Offices hold the original registers in which these events were recorded. The GRO holds only copies of the entries and there are many entries which either never made it to the GRO or which have been lost or mangled in their indexing.

LancashireBMD is managed by MLFHS working in partnership with most of Lancashire’s family history societies.
Sources For Family And Local History: The Chetham Society

Researching family history means that we become familiar with many sources, such as census returns, cemetery registers, and parish registers. If we decide to trace the origins of a surname then we might begin a one-name study and attempt to survey all available records within a specific area. If we are trying to trace a specific ancestor or family branch, it can be important to trace the histories of churches, farms, or villages, to follow trails back to other evidence. Even if we do not do either of these in great detail, it can be useful – if not essential – to try to place our family histories into the wider context of events in the local area and in the North West in general.

As well as the usual family history and parish register societies, other societies publish essential sources for family and local history. The Chetham Society provides particularly useful resources for this history for its publications cover an impressive and remarkable diversity of materials, subjects, and periods. Texts have ranged from diaries and journals, deeds and cartularies, and municipal records and manorial surveys, to biographies and autobiographies, histories of individual communities, and works on social, economic, industrial, and urban topics.

1. THE CHETHAM SOCIETY

1.1 AIMS, ACTIVITIES, AND HISTORY

‘The Chetham Society for the publication of Remains Historical and Literary connected with the Palatine Counties of Lancaster and Chester’ is the oldest historical society in North-West England: it was founded in 1843 by a group of gentlemen who wished to promote interest in, and access to, the counties’ rich historical source materials. The Foundation Meeting was held at Manchester’s historic Chetham’s Library, established by the will of Humphrey Chetham (1580–1653), where the Society’s General Meetings are still held annually.

The founders intended to publish editions of important documents relating to Lancashire and Cheshire, and adopted the Society’s name in Humphrey Chetham’s honour because he was a patron, philanthropist, and benefactor of learning in the region. Whilst some literary works were published during the Society’s early years, the focus of its publishing has been largely historical. Since the 1870s, the main emphasis has been on local and regional history, and the scope of its publishing activities has widened to include not only editions of primary sources but also the fruits of original research. The Society became an educational charity (Registered Charity No. 700047) in 1988.

1.2 PUBLICATIONS: OLD, NEW, AND THIRD SERIES

For over 170 years, the Society has maintained a regular output of valuable (and often essential) works of scholarship that make significant contributions to the study of the
history of Lancashire and Cheshire. The Society’s important role in making primary historical documents and original research more readily accessible is widely recognised: Chetham Society texts are used as key sources not only by students but by national, regional, and local historians. Many of these texts have international significance, and numerous of their editors and authors rank amongst the most distinguished scholars and historians of North-West England.

Since 1843, more than 275 volumes have been issued in three series: the Old Series (O.S.), consisting of 116 volumes (1843–93); the New Series (N.S.), totalling 110 volumes (1883–1947); and the Third Series (T.S.), comprising over 50 volumes (published since 1949).

2. FAMILY AND PERSONAL PAPERS

2.1 BIOGRAPHIES, AUTOBIOGRAPHIES, AND GENEALOGIES

The Society has published the autobiographies, diaries, journals, writings, and correspondence of a variety of individuals ranging from those of clergymen and divines, such as Adam Martindale (O.S. 4), John Worthington (O.S. 13, 36, 114; N.S. 13), Henry Newcome (O.S. 18, 26, 27), John Dee (O.S. 24), Thomas Jolly (N.S. 33), and Robert Heywood (O.S. 76), to doctors, poets, and others, such as John Byrom (O.S. 32, 34, 40, 44), William Stout of Lancaster (T.S. 14), Nicholas Assheton of Downham (O.S. 26), John Angier of Denton (N.S. 97), and James Crossley (T.S. 50), as well as several accounts of family histories, including the Stanley Earls of Derby (N.S. 49, 50), Ambrose Barlow (N.S. 63), John Angier of Denton (N.S. 97), and James Crossley (T.S. 50), as well as several accounts of family histories, including the Stanley Earls of Derby (T.S. 30), the Mosleys (N.S. 47), the Byroms (O.S. 44), the genealogies of the Chetham families of Cheetham, Nuthurst, Middleton, Crumpsall, Smedley, and Castleton, Lancashire (N.S. 50) – and the Davenports of Davenport (T.S. 9), and an account of the Knights of the Shire for Lancashire, 1377–1460 (N.S. 96), and Biographical Sketches of Members of Parliament for Lancashire, 1290–1550 (N.S. 93).

2.2 FAMILY DEEDS, PAPERS, AND LETTERS

The papers of a number of individuals and families, such as the correspondence of Edward Stanley, 3rd Earl of Derby (N.S. 19), the Stanley Papers (O.S. 29, 31, 66, 67, 70), the Norris Papers (O.S. 9), the Farington Papers (O.S. 39), and those of the Bankes Family of Winstanley (T.S. 21), and Shuttleworth Deeds (N.S. 91) have also been printed.

2.3 HERALDS, VISITATIONS, AND WILLS

The Society has published several of the Heralds’ Visitations for Lancashire, such as various pedigrees (O.S. 24), the Visitation of Lancashire and Cheshire of 1533 (O.S. 98, 110), the Lancashire Visitation of 1567 (O.S. 81), the Lancashire Visitations of 1613...
(O.S. 82) and 1664–5 (O.S. 84, 85, 88), and a fragment of Sir William Dugdale’s *Lancashire Visitation of 1666* (O.S. 24).

In addition, some volumes have been dedicated to Lancashire and Cheshire *Inquisitions Post Mortem* (O.S. 95, 99), *Wills and Inventories* (O.S. 33, 51, 54; N.S. 3, 28, 37), and *Funeral Certificates* (O.S. 75).

### 3. RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL HISTORY

#### 3.1 ENTRY, JACOBITES, AND CIVIL WAR

A number of the Society’s publications have made a major contribution to historical studies: for instance, *Pott’s Discovery of Witches* (O.S. 6) made available – for the first time – the only contemporary source for the Lancashire Witch Trials. Also, George Ormerod’s *Lancashire Civil War Tracts* (O.S. 2), has been a key source for the subject since its publication, and further tracts concerning *Popery* (O.S. 48, 64), and the *Civil War in Cheshire* (N.S. 65) have been published.

Political history has also been further represented with volumes ranging from the *Jacobite Trials of 1694* (O.S. 5, 28, 61) and the *Lancashire Gentry during the Civil War* (t.s. 25), to a study of *Middle-Class Liberalism in Manchester* during the early nineteenth century (t.s. 40).

#### 3.2 CHARTERS, ROLLS, AND CARTULARIES

The Society has published a wide array of rolls, cartularies, and other important records relating to religious houses, these include the cartularies of *St Werburgh’s Abbey, Chester* (N.S. 79, 82), *Burscough Priory* (t.s. 18), and *Middlewich* (N.S. 105, 108), the *Coucher Book of Furness Abbey* (N.S. 9, 11, 14, 76, 78, 94), a Cockersand Abbey Rental (O.S. 57) and Cartulary (N.S. 38, 39, 40, 43, 56, 57, 64), the *Foundation Charter of Runcorn (Norton) Priory* (N.S. 100), and materials relating to *Penwortham Priory* (O.S. 30), as well as the *Coucher Book of Whalley Abbey* (O.S. 10, 11, 16, 20), the Easter Rolls of Whalley (O.S. 96), and the *Act Book of the Ecclesiastical Court of Whalley* (N.S. 44; t.s. 46).

In addition, it has also printed some essential sources for seventeenth-century religious history in the region, such as the minutes of *Manchester Presbyterian Classis* (N.S. 20, 22, 24) and the *Bury Presbyterian Classis* (N.S. 36, 41).

#### 3.3 PARISHES, CHURCHES, AND CHAPELS

A number of volumes have been concerned with the histories of particular parishes, churches, and chapels in the two shires, such as *Birch* (O.S. 47), *Bispham* (N.S. 10), *Denton* (O.S. 37), *Didsbury and Chorlton* (O.S. 42), *Garstang* (O.S. 104, 105), *Kirkham* (O.S. 92), *Lancaster* (N.S. 26, 31, 58, 59), *Lytham* (N.S. 60), *Newton* (N.S. 52, 53, 54, 55), *Prestbury* (O.S. 97), *Poulton-le-Fylde* (N.S. 8), *St Michael-on-Wyre* (N.S. 25), *Stretford* (N.S. 42, 45, 51), *Tunstall* (N.S. 104), and *Wigan* (N.S. 15, 16, 17, 18).
Other publications have focussed on Chantries in Lancashire (O.S. 59, 60), Warrington Friary (O.S. 83), Vicars of Rochdale (N.S. 1, 2), Rectors and Deans of Manchester prior to 1421 (N.S. 94), Rectors and Wardens of the Collegiate Church, Manchester (N.S. 5, 6), and Fellows of the Collegiate Church, Manchester (N.S. 21, 23), and even Manchester’s Churchwardens’ Accounts, 1664–1710 (N.S. 80).

Whilst some volumes have concentrated on the Established Church, with accounts of the Church in Chester, 1300–1540 (T.S. 7) and Anglicanism in South-East Lancashire, 1847–1914 (T.S. 44), others have been focussed on Methodism in Lancashire (T.S. 26), Catholicism in Elizabethan Lancashire (N.S. 110) and Cheshire (T.S. 19), an accounts of the Elizabethan Catholic recusant William Blundell of Crosby (N.S. 12), and the Last Days of the Lancashire Monasteries (T.S. 17).

**4. LOCAL AND COUNTY HISTORY**

**4.1 ADMINISTRATION, JUSTICE, AND TAXATION**

Society publications also provide crucial sources for the history of both counties palatine: Cheshire has been the subject of a number of volumes, ranging from Financial Administration of the Lordship and County, 1272–1377 (T.S. 28) and Administration of the County Palatine, 1442–85 (O.S. 37; T.S. 35), to studies of War and Society, 1277–1403 (T.S. 34) and various other subjects (T.S. 36).

Lancashire has been subject to studies of Place-Names (N.S. 81), Royal and Seigniorial Bailiffs in the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries (N.S. 109), the Lancashire Lieutenancy under the Tudors and Stuarts (O.S. 49, 50), and some of its surviving Plea Rolls (N.S. 87) have also been published along with some Pleas of Quo Warranto (N.S. 98), Quarter Sessions Records, 1590–1606 (N.S. 77), and a study of Taxation in Salford Hundred, 1524–1802 (N.S. 83). The administration of The Lordship of Man under the Stanleys, 1580–1704, has also been the subject of one volume (T.S. 41).

**4.2 ROLLS, RENTALS, AND SURVEYS**

The local records of numerous districts have been published, ranging from estate records, such as the Hornby Castle Survey (N.S. 102), to the Township Book of Halliwell, 1640–1762 (N.S. 69), a Court Book of Bramhall, 1632–57 (N.S. 80), Wigan Pleas in the Reign of Edward II (T.S. 1), Chester County Court, City Court, and Eyre Rolls, 1259–97 (N.S. 84), and Chester City Court Rolls of the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries (T.S. 2).

Volumes have also included numerous local surveys and accounts, such as the Moore Rental of 1667–8 (O.S. 12), the House and Farm Accounts of the Shuttleworths of Gawthorpe Hall, 1582–1621 (O.S. 35, 41, 43, 46), a Rent Roll of Sir John Towneley of 1535–6 (O.S. 103), and the Manorial Surveys of Rochdale in 1626 (N.S. 71), and Penwortham in 1570 (N.S. 73).
4.3 TOWNS, DISTRICTS, AND TOWNSHIPS
The Society has printed the histories of various towns, townships, and localities, including Arkholme (N.S. 90), Broughton (N.S. 63), Clayton-le-Moors (N.S. 85), Ireby (N.S. 95), Lancaster (N.S. 61, 62), Leagram (N.S. 72), Leyland Hundred (N.S. 90), Macclesfield in the Later Fourteenth Century (T.S. 42), Warrington (O.S. 86, 87), and Whittington (N.S. 99), as well as a Topographical History of Haslingden (T.S. 4).

Manchester, in particular, has been the focus of a number of contributions, including an account of its early history in Mamcestre (O.S. 53, 56, 58), Elizabethan Manchester (T.S. 27), and documents relating to Plague in Manchester in 1605 (N.S. 73), an Assessment of 1648 (N.S. 63), its inhabitants taking the Oath of Allegiance in 1679 and a Poll Book of 1690 (O.S. 57), as well as the Court Leet Records of Manchester, 1586–1602 (O.S. 63, 65), and the Portmote or Court Leet Records of Salford, 1597–1669 and 1735–8 (N.S. 46, 48, 80, 94).

5. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HISTORY
5.1 ECONOMIES, INDUSTRIES, AND SOCIETIES
The economy and social history of Lancashire and Cheshire has not been excluded from the Society’s works, with a collection of essays on social and economic history (T.S. 36), economic histories of Rossendale (N.S. 86), Medieval Cheshire, 1272–1377 (N.S. 88), and studies of Industry in North-East Lancashire before the Industrial Revolution, c.1500–1640 (T.S. 32), the Lancashire Textile Industry during the Sixteenth Century (T.S. 20), and the Industrial Archaeology of the North West (T.S. 29).

Various aspects of social history have been included in the Society’s interests, ranging from Poor Relief in Manchester, 1754–1826 (T.S. 22) and Victoria Park, Manchester, during the nineteenth century (T.S. 23), to Fine Arts in Lancashire, 1760–1860 (T.S. 24) and Prison Reform in Lancashire, 1700–1850 (T.S. 33).

5.2 AGRICULTURE, TRADE, AND TRANSPORT
Agriculture and fisheries have also received some attention with an Agricultural History of Cheshire, 1750–1850 (T.S. 10), and studies of the Ribble Salmon Fisheries (N.S. 109) and the progressive agriculturalist Thomas Eccleston (T.S. 49).

Trade and transport have been explored through volumes on Liverpool’s Customs Letter Books, 1711–1813 (T.S. 6) and Registry of Merchant Ships, 1786–9 (T.S. 15), and volumes on Parkgate, Passenger Port for Ireland, 1686–1815 (T.S. 39), Humphrey Chetham and Mercantile Culture (T.S. 45), and the Navigation of the River Weaver during the Eighteenth Century (T.S. 3).

5.3 SCHOOLS, PUPILS, AND EDUCATION
Several publications have been dedicated to the subject of Education, such as Education in Cheshire in the Eighteenth Century (T.S. 13), and the registers and records of several schools have been printed, including those of the Manchester School, 1730–
1837 (O.S. 69, 73, 93, 94), Blackburn Grammar School, 1514–1807 (N.S. 66, 67, 68), Queen Mary’s Grammar School, Clitheroe, during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries (N.S. 92), and the Warrington Academy (N.S. 107), as well as a Manchester Schoolmaster’s Notebook (T.S. 8).

6. FINDING VOLUMES
6.1 INDEXES, SEARCHES, AND SALES
For further details about the contents of all publications, please visit the Society’s website where complete lists of Old, New, and Third Series volumes are freely available for searching.

Comprehensive indexes of all volumes in the Old Series were published in 1863 and 1893, but there are no indexes for the whole of the New and Third Series. Certain Third Series publications are still available for sale.

6.2 MEMBERSHIP
Membership is open to all on payment of an annual subscription, which entitles Members to receive Newsletters, Notices, a free copy of each publication produced during that year, and purchase – at a discount price – in-print past titles.

Anyone interested in history, in general, and in the North West, in particular, who wishes to help in the furthering of local historical studies, is urged to join. For more information about publications, activities, and membership, please visit the Society’s website (WWW.CHETHAMSOCIETY.ORG.UK).

R. E. Stansfield

A Tale of Two Cousins

This is an account of the lives of two men, both grandchildren of William and Betty Normansell (nee Bennet) of Marple, who showed courage, strength of character and determination, to succeed in their very different working lives.

James Valentine Normansell was born towards the end of 1827 in Salford. He was christened at Manchester Cathedral on 30th December, the record showing that he was the son of James and Alice Normansell (nee Jackson). His father had previously been a soldier in the Royal Horse Artillery, and had recently moved from Stockport for work. Both he and Alice were widowed, but all of James’s children from his first marriage had died along with their mother. James senior then took a job as a policeman on the Salford force and stayed in this job until his death in 1843. James junior grew up with an expanding family of siblings at 11, Harding’s Buildings (near Chapel Street), Salford. He had two younger brothers George and Sylvester, and sisters Hannah and Martha. Growing up on the streets of Salford would have been hard and would have provided him with a good background for the life he was to lead.
By the time he was in his early twenties, James had enlisted in the Royal Engineers. War in Britain came round with repetitive regularity, and before too long James found himself and younger brother George in the Crimean peninsula fighting the Russians. Little would have been known about this part of his life had it not been for a letter he sent home to his mother, which was subsequently published in the Manchester Guardian and a number of other regional papers. The following letter gives a good insight into what conditions were like for these men.

PRIVATE LETTER FROM TWO SOLDIERS
(We have been favoured with a private letter, written by two brothers, private soldiers, named George and James Normansell to their mother in Salford, dated "Camp before Sebastopol, November 30")

Dear mother, I received your kind letter of the 27th September, and was very happy to hear that you was in good health. (James then describes the affairs of the 25th and 26th of October namely the Battle of Balaclava) The enemy made a sortie from Sebastopol, with the intention of outflanking a 21 gun battery of ours. I was in the battery at the time they came up to the right of us, thinking that we could not get a gun to bear on them; but, unfortunately for them, a 68 pounder Lancaster could play upon them, as well as two rocket tubes, which did great havoc amongst them. We lost about fifty men killed wounded and missing, and the enemy about 2000.

Before I left Malta, the papers said the Russians were bad soldiers and would not fight: but I could tell them different. They fought on the 5th as well as ever men could fight. They actually charged our men, and stood the charge in return. Both me and George were there: we are stopping close together: our tents are not three minutes walk from each other: but it is very seldom we can get time to visit each other: but we often get on duty together. He has been several times guarding me while I have been at work. We are both in good health at present. You wished to know how the army was in health generally. When we first halted here, the ground cholera was very prevalent, and we lost a good few men by it: but I think it's all gone now, since the weather is getting colder. There is many bad of diarrhoea, but not so bad as not to be able to do their duty. You was afraid we did not get enough to eat: but I can tell you we are helping the French with what we have to spare. We are served out every day with 1 1/4 lb of very good biscuit, and a pound of it is equal to 1 1/2 lb of bread. Besides biscuit, we get 1 1/4 lb of capital fresh beef or mutton, 1 lb of salt pork or beef, and 2 oz of rice or Scotch barley, and as much tea coffee, and sugar as will make every man three pints: and in addition, we get three half gills of the best rum per day. The rum is served out at three different times - morning, noon and night. Everything from the commissary is of the best quality. We can get potatoes from the commissary, if we like to buy them: but they are very dear, being 2 1/2d a lb. Two or three vessels have brought provisions for sale from Malta, but everything is very dear. Dutch cheese sells at 2s the 1 lb: potatoes 5d; sugar 1s 6d; tea 8s or 9s; soap 1s 3d the lb; and everything else dear in proportion. I expect in a few days to get a new suit of clothes, consisting of one great
coat, one coatee, one pair of trousers, one pair of boots, one pair of stockings, and one
Guernsey frock; and goodness knows we want them. Everything I had was new when I
left Malta, and now I am wet foot and half rags. Some of the troops are already served
out with them, and the remainder is to be served out with them as soon as possible.
(The writer then describes the storm of the 14th). I was in the tent by chance when it
commenced, and owing to the way in which our tent was pitched, before the pegs had
time to give way, the pole went through the top and then the canvas went all to ribands.
Some of the tents went up in the air like balloons, with blankets, greatcoats, shakos,
etc, which were all blown over to the Russians. In spite of all these misfortunes, every
man made light of it, until the hospital marquee (which held on to the last) went down,
and that put a damper on all of us. It was dreadful to see sick and wounded men
actually blown away; but I expect we shall not be troubled with tents much longer as
we are building huts of mud and stones, and what we can get. (The writer then
communicates that his brother George had directed his pay sergeant to send their
mother a sovereign, and James regrets that he cannot follow the example as, having
left his winter clothing at Constantinople, he had to buy at four times the value). Since I
commenced this letter, which is about a fortnight ago, my hands have broken out all
over with sores, owing to living so long on salt meat. I am employed at present
superintending a working party of 500 Turks, at building batteries and redoubts etc,
and such a job as I never had before. The Turks are the idlest people that ever I saw in
my life. Their officers and non-commissioned officers all carry big sticks and they are
laying on the Turks from morning to night, to make them work. If the Russians had
none else to deal with, they would make short work of them. We have actually worn out
more than 200 large guns, and the enemy's batteries are stronger now than when we
commenced. We are going to try what thirty large mortars will do, and if these fail, I
think we shall try and starve them out. I have written this a bit at a time, at night, by the
light of a rag and pork fat, and my hands in that state I can scarce hold the pen; but
otherwise in the best of health. So no more at present from your ever affectionate
children,

GEO. AND JAS. NORMANSELL

It is not known what happened to brother George. There is no death record in the
GRO indexes that tie in with his birth so he was probably KIA or emigrated. The other
brother Sylvester had been in the Royal Engineers also, but returned home to
Manchester where he later married.

James stayed in the RE till 1858 when he decided to join the Columbia Detachment
who were formed up from his Regiment. They were formed at the behest of the
Governor of British Columbia to help open up and police what was a wild and lawless
land where gold had lately been found at Fraser Canyon. He sailed on the Thames City
with the main detachment and landed in Queenborough around November of that year.
It was renamed New Westminster by Queen Victoria in the following year. They
arrived just in time to face down a bunch of rebellious American miners led by Ned
McGowan. Twenty two engineers were involved and the incident became known as "McGowan's War". Fortunately, order was restored before anyone was seriously hurt, and a diplomatic incident with the American Government was avoided.

From 1858 up until 1863 Jim served as a foreman for mixed units of civilians and RE, holding the rank of senior corporal. They were employed in land clearance and road building. The detachment was disbanded in 1863 and Jim joined as a sergeant in the newly formed New Westminster Volunteer Rifle Corps. He clearly intended to make a new life in British Columbia, and in November of 1864 purchased 160 acres of land in the area of New Westminster.

In March of 1865 he was appointed Constable for Wild Horse Creek, and in June of that year was made chief constable of Kooteney where he served until 1871. He was still serving in the area in September of 1871 when a colleague of his from the Royal Engineers, who had served with him throughout the Crimean war, passed through. Robert Rylatt was in the same company of Sappers as Jim at Shorncliffe and went out to Canada with him. Jim gave him a Winchester rifle as a present! Robert Rylatt kept a journal which has survived. In it he mentions that later, Jim had taken work in the far North with the Hudson Bay Company. It is from the journal of Robert Rylatt that I have been able to piece together much of Jim's life in British Columbia. Jim undoubtedly faced many dangers in his life both during the Crimean War and also whilst performing his various duties for the Government of BC. Sadly the life that Jim had chosen, and no doubt loved, came at a price. The following obituary appeared in the "Daily Colonist" on 15th Oct 1884:

A Pioneer of 1858 Gone

"Mr Jas Normansell, aged 54, a native of Manchester Eng, who came out with the Royal Engineers in 1858, died at the Royal Hospital at an early hour yesterday morning, where he has been suffering for a month past from a stroke of paralysis. The deceased was at Yale during the Ned McGowan rebellion, which will be remembered by all old pioneers. He was many years in Kootenay as government agent, and also spent some time in Cassiar with the Hudson Bay Company. During the past year the deceased was assisting Judge O'Rielly in Kootenay, he being thoroughly conversant with that part of the province, and it was while there that he was stricken down. Every attention was given the sufferer in the hospital, but this morning death ended all further hardships. Thus are all the old pioneers passing away, those who by their indomitable energy and perseverance braved the vicissitudes of first settlement and made known to their more fortunate successors the hidden wealth of our beautiful province. The deceased was also an old soldier, having passed unscathed through the Crimean campaign, where so many a brave heart perished from war and neglect. The funeral will take place from the Royal Hospital at 10 o'clock from Christ Church Cathedral to Ross Bay cemetery. Mr T. Storey will have charge of the funeral arrangement's.
On a final note, as a mark of respect and to pay tribute to many of the old pioneers who helped to open up British Columbia, its authorities have named many of the islands off the west coast of BC after pioneers. There amongst them are "The Normansell Islands".

For the record Jim was not what one would consider to be a near relative. In fact, according to Ancestry, he was my 7th cousin 4 times removed.

John Normansell was about three years younger than his cousin Jim and was born in Torkington, Cheshire. His father, Joseph, was a coal miner and was the youngest of William and Betty's family. Joseph married Betty Daniel in 1829 and John was christened at Norbury on 31 January 1831. All appeared to be well at first and three more children followed - Richard (1833), Jane (1835) and Betty (1836). Then tragedy struck the family with the death of both mother and father and the youngest child all within a period of twenty six months. John and his remaining siblings went to live with their grandfather. At the age of seven, John was forced to work down the pit to support his younger siblings. His job was to push the corves or tubs full of coal from the coalface to the bottom of the shaft. The job was known as that of "hurrier" and for this he earned 6d a day which was around a fifth of the rate for a male adult face worker around that time. His working day commenced at three in the morning and typically he would get back home between six and seven at night. He received very little education other than that which he learned at the Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School, which he attended on his one day off. At the age of 14 he became a face worker and started to earn 8 shillings a week. By the time of his marriage to Susannah Greaves in 1852 he was earning 3 shillings a day. In 1850 his brother Richard had died, then in 1853 his remaining sibling Jane also passed away. Perhaps the loss of family made him decide to make a new life elsewhere with Susannah. At first he went into Derbyshire working in mines, but by the time of the birth of their second child Martha in 1857, they had arrived in Barnsley, which is where they chose to spend the rest of their lives. They lived at a house in Tinker Lane, Nether Hoyland and he had taken a job at the Wharncliffe Silkstone Colliery where he worked for three years.

There were many bad practices in the mines, some being unsafe and others inherently unfair. One such practice concerned the checking of the tubs of coal to ascertain the correct weight. The mine owners employed a checker to carry out the check and they would reject any they thought of as poor quality coal or were underweight according to their scales. Any number of hundredweight up to thirty might make a ton of coal at the discretion of the checker. The miners felt cheated by this process and decided to agitate to pay their own checker which was allowed by law. In 1857 John was appointed as check weighman at Wharncliffe. The miners had many other grievances and had formed small associations at numerous pits, the earliest being in Barnsley around 1840, but it had lacked membership strength and organisation and had petered out. In 1858 the mood amongst the colliers was right and an association was formed on the 19th April 1858, following an initial meeting at Meesboro' Dyke. John was certainly one of the original promoters and was duly elected Secretary. In 1863 John was discharged from Wharncliffe Silkstone pit by the employers. The result
was an action at law taken by the association after which the employers subsequently entered into an arrangement with the men, and John returned to his checking work after 7 months.

The association grew in terms of membership and financial strength. There were many pit disasters leaving many a wife a widow and children orphaned. The following account of a pit disaster is taken from "The Life and Labours of John Normansell" which was published in the Barnsley Chronicle shortly after his death.

At this period the funds of the association were put to a severe test, consequent on the calamitous explosions at the Oaks Colliery, on the 12th and 13th of December 1866. It swept away nearly the entire membership of the Oaks lodge, and threw upon the funds of the union 113 widows, 330 children, and 13 parents who had been depending for their support upon sons lost in the explosion. We well remember the anxiety manifested by Mr Normansell in connection with this disaster; and at the same time we can bear personal testimony to the noble manner in which he set himself to face the labour and responsibility which was thus entailed upon him. In addition to the weekly allowance of 5s to each widow, with 1s additional for every child under 12 years of age, the union had also to discharge the funeral claims, amounting to £8 per member killed in the explosions.

Dealing with the consequences of pit disasters, including entering pits with mine inspectors, to establish facts were just part of his work. He was apparently a very good speaker for a man who had had no primary education to speak of. He was invited to address miners in many other regions, and would lend his assistance in negotiations at pits all over the country. He provided evidence to select governmental committees and was the first working man to be elected to the town council, the requisite £1000 being placed in his bank account by the union in order that the rules of qualification be met. By the time of his death in 1875 his name had become a household word in mining communities throughout the country, and he was probably second only to the miners MP Alexander Macdonald in terms of notoriety.

Arthur Scargill paid tribute to John Normansell in his Presidential address to the NUM Biennial Conference in 1998. He commented on the office in Barnsley where the conference was being held as follows:

The man who built it was a man called John Normansell, the first working man in the history of the Labour and Trade Union Movement elected as a councillor. Until that time it was not possible for anyone to be elected unless they had a certain amount of money in their bank account. The miners decided not only would they build this tremendous headquarters, but they would also put a deposit in Normansell's own bank account so that they could have a voice in the echelons of the local authority, and eventually they hoped the echelons of parliament itself.

I say, Chair, today as I speak it would do well for any people to remember that they represent the working class of Britain, in parliament and in the local authorities,
because of people like Normansell who built these headquarters 120 years ago and who fought for representation on local councils and in the House of Commons.

John died suddenly at the age of 45 years on the 24th December 1875. He left a widow, two sons and four daughters. Earlier that month there had been yet another pit disaster at Swaithe Main Colliery which had taken up much of his time. It is believed that this may have contributed to his falling ill and his demise.

Jim and John were both pioneers in their own way. Both were determined men, who witnessed a great deal of death and tragedy, be it by war or disaster. Like many men of their era they bore personal hardship as stoically as the next man. Both men are remembered within their communities - a plaque on a stone memorial outside the miner’s headquarters for John and a group of islands within the Hectate Straight off British Columbia for Jim.

Graham Normansell (129)
Email gram1947@uwclub.net

Acknowledgements:

1. Letter from James Normansell to his mother appearing in the Manchester Guardian late December 1854. (Findmypast - newspaper collections)
2. The journal of Robert Rylatt Ex Royal Engineers. Internet source)
3. The Life and Labours of John Normansell published in the Barnsley Chronicle 1st January 1876 and based on his obituary.
4. Arthur Scargill. Presidential Address to the NUM Biennial Conference 1998. (Taken from the internet)
5. Norbury Parish Registers and M.I.s

The Mysterious Mannocks of Middleton.

I am grateful to my distant cousin Mr. Neil Percival for renewing my interest in our Percival and Thorpe ancestors from Prestwich. In 2012 I decided to investigate the ancestry of my 7 x greats-grandmother, Dorothy Percival (nee Thorpe) of Prestwich near Manchester. Dorothy was married to John Percival, variously described as a whitster, (linen bleacher) labourer and husbandman, of Heaton in Prestwich parish on 24th September, 1727. The couple had four children - Sarah (bap.1727, born about two months after her parents’ marriage), William (bap.1729), John (bap.1731) and Mary (bap.1733). Sadly, the Prestwich register revealed that Dorothy had died from unknown causes the year after Mary’s birth and that she was buried at Prestwich on 27th November, 1734. John lost no time in finding another wife and married Margaret Dawson at Prestwich on 27th July, 1735. Nine more children were born, making a total of thirteen. Unfortunately neither Neil nor I have yet been able to shed any light on John Percival’s origins and parentage.

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The printed registers of St Mary’s Church in Prestwich and Online Parish Clerk for
the parish revealed Dorothy Thorpe’s baptism:-

9th October, 1698. Dorothy fa Samuel Thorpe de Heaton.

And so I was back another generation to an 8 x greats-grandfather, Samuel Thorpe
of Heaton.

Clearly my 7 x greats-grandmother Dorothy was just 36 when she died from
unknown causes in 1734, leaving four young children. Further investigation in the
Prestwich registers revealed that she had three brothers and three sisters:-

2 Sep 1683 Hannah fa. Samuel Thorpe
1 Aug 1686 Mary fa. Samuel Thorpe
17 Mar 1688 Samuel f. Samuel Thorpe
11 Oct 1691 Richard f. Samuel Thorpe
14 Oct 1694 Sara fa. Samuel Thorpe de Heaton
7 Mar 1700 Samuel f. Samuel Thorpe de Heaton

Richard, born in 1691 had married Anne Holt in 1715 and I was delighted to
discover their beautifully-preserved gravestone in Prestwich churchyard in 2012:-

Here
Resteth the Body of
Richard Thorp of Great
Heaton who departed this
Life Decr 12th 1767 in the
77th year of his age
Also Ann his wife who de
parted this Life March
22nd 1787 in the 96th year of
her age. Also Thomas their
Son who died this life
Jany 17th 1798 in the 79th year of
his age.

Mary daughtr of Tho: Thorpe
departed this life Feb 5th 1805
Aged 55 years.

I always find it thrilling to discover an early family gravestone, especially one
relating to a relation born as far back as the 17th century. Richard’s widow Ann
survived him by nearly 30 years and must have been one of the oldest people in the
parish when she died at the great age of 95. Richard and Ann were married for 52 years
- impressive by the standards of the 18th century. Although the Thorpes go back to the beginning of the Prestwich registers in 1603 I have so far been unable to disentangle the earlier generations of the family who in any case may have come from the adjacent parish of Manchester. The lack of family wills did not help matters.

However the International Genealogical Index revealed that Samuel Thorpe had married Jane Mannock, an unknown 8 x greats-grandmother at Manchester Collegiate Church, now the Cathedral on 20th September, 1682. Of course the IGI gave only brief details of the entry and I am grateful to Mrs. Judith Moore, a professional agent for obtaining a scan from the register.

-----------------------------------------
We[d]dings in September 1682
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20 Samuell Thorpe hujj & Jane Mannock parish of Midletonn

“hujj” was an abbreviation for the Latin “hujus parochiae” - of this parish.

Mannock was an unusual name and I decided to investigate further. And so my trail took me to the registers of Middleton, an ancient parish adjoining Prestwich. Middleton’s registers are among the oldest in Lancashire and begin as far back as 1541; just three years after English parish registers were instituted in 1538.

Online Parish Clerk and the printed volumes of the early Middleton registers produced by the Lancashire Parish Register Society produced lots of 18th century Mannock entries but only 23 before 1700. And the very earliest was the marriage of Thomas Mannock to Alice Wrigley on 14th April, 1664. There was no sign of Jane’s baptism - she was born probably in the late 1650s or early 1660s. However, the register listed baptisms of the children of Thomas Mannock between 1671 and 1686 and of James Mannock (probably his brother, married to Ann Fearnley in 1681) between 1681 and 1689. Obviously James and Ann couldn’t possibly be my Jane’s parents and so were easily eliminated. The only other possibilities were Thomas Mannock and Alice Wrigley, married in 1664 who could conceivably - no pun intended! - have had a daughter aged 17 or 18 by September 1682, old enough to marry Samuel Thorpe. Thomas was one of the churchwardens who attested to the accuracy of the parish register in 1676 and he seems the obvious candidate for Jane’s paternity. 17th century parish registers are notoriously defective and it is very likely that Jane’s baptism was omitted from the register. There were no wills and the gravestones at St Leonard’s in Middleton are no longer visible. As yet no other records of the 17th century Mannocks of Middleton have appeared.

So the trail ran cold in 1664. And 8 x greats - probably 9 - going back to the middle of the 17th century wasn’t bad after all! Which leads me, finally, to my main object in writing this article. Where did the Mannocks come from before 1664? There was no sign of them elsewhere in Lancashire. However, the IGI revealed a surprisingly large number of 17th century ones in East Anglia! Could one of them have moved up to
Lancashire 350 years ago? It seems rather unlikely. Various websites suggested that the name was of either Irish or Dutch origin.

And so for the present the origins of the Mannocks of Middleton remain a mystery!

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**Robert Bent (1796 – 1859) Bookseller of Manchester and London**

**Introduction**

In his reminiscences of early 19th century Manchester, published in 1881, the Manchester historian, J.T. Slugg, mentioned Robinson and Bent, book-sellers in St Ann’s Place. (1) He wrote that Bent went to London and established the book trade journal, Bent’s Literary Advertiser, but then “failed” with the result that his three daughters, the “Misses Bent,” were brought up by their uncle, John Richardson, at the Mosley Arms Hotel, Piccadilly. They were later active in the St Ann’s Sunday school “during the incumbency of Mr Richardson,” a clergyman who was no relation. (2) But Slugg was mistaken in his details; Robinson’s partner was Robert Bent, not Thomas, and his brother-in law at the Mosley Arms was James, not John, Richardson. I have previously corrected these errors which were probably due to Slugg’s failing memory. (3) Furthermore, Robert Bent did not start the Literary Advertiser, but took it over from his late father, and together with other Bent publications, it has provided a vast amount of information for scholars of the 19th century book trade. (4) Hence, a short account of Robert’s family life might reasonably claim a place in this journal.

**Family Background**

The Bents were a Yorkshire family related to minor gentry, the Foljambes of Rotherham (5) Robert’s grandfather, John Bent, was a book-seller and stationer in Barnsley (6) where his father, William, was born in 1747. (7) William went to London and in 1773 he published the London Catalogue of Books, which listed the books published in the capital from the early 1700s until that year. (8) He also published music and had scientific interests, collecting and later publishing meteorological and mortality data from London. (10) But in 1796, the year Robert was born, (11) William went bankrupt. (12) (13) In 1799, perhaps pre-occupied with financial problems, he rejected a poem, The Farmer’s Boy, submitted by a poor Suffolk boy, Robert Bloomfield, (14) and in the hands of a rival publisher, it proved a huge success. Somehow William continued in business, possibly by finding backers for a limited company, Bent & Co., which in 1802 produced the Universal Magazine and began the Monthly Catalogue of New Publications. (15) In 1812, he published the London Catalogue of Books (1799-1812) and in 1818, his Annual meteorological journal. (17) When he died in 1823, aged 76, The Gentleman’s Magazine reported, “Mr Bent was a
quiet worthy man, useful to the public at large, and to his professional brethren in particular, by the compilation of some classed Catalogues, of all the new books, with their sizes, prices and publishers, published in London from the year 17... to 1818.”

According to the book trade historian, Adolf Growoll, William “...laid the foundation for the system of bibliographies that carried his name well into the nineteenth century, and that practically forms the basis on which modern English book-trade bibliography rests.”

Manchester

Robert was almost certainly born and educated in London and in his mid twenties in 1822 he came to partner Samuel Robinson in Manchester.(20) But he was hardly established when his father died, facing him with responsibilities in London and Manchester; a situation that might have been foreseen, given his father’s age. He therefore placed the London Catalogue of Books in the hands of Messrs Hurst and Simpkins (21) and focussed his attention on Manchester. Here the journeyman bookbinders had organised a trade union and were threatening a strike to force Robinson and Bent to sack one who had refused to pay a union fine. (22) Then in June 1824, Samuel Robinson backed out of the partnership and was replaced by his brother, Robert. (23) (24) (25) In January 1825, the two Roberts published several scholarly and devotional books (26) and in March gave the Manchester Mechanics Institution Volume I of Culpepper’s Compleat Herbal and a copy of Barclay’s English Dictionary. (27) Robert then took back the Literary Advertiser and the London Catalogue of Books from Hurst and Simpkins and thus assumed responsibility for two businesses separated by a 24-hour stage-coach journey. (28)

Despite these demands Robert found time to marry Alice Richardson, the 25-year old daughter of John Richardson, landlord of the Moseley Arms Inn, Market Street, where he may have stayed. (29) The Richardsons were hard-working, upwardly-mobile folk who had arrived in Manchester in 1813. (30) Their two eldest sons began training as lawyers, though the eldest soon died and the second threw up his practice for the exciting and raffish life of a stage-coach driver. (31) In 1825, Alice’s sister, Betsey, married a London wine merchant, William Barnfield, whose family had business interests in London and Calcutta. (32) (33) He and Robert may have been friends before their marriages; they certainly were afterwards. Robert and Alice were married at St John’s, Deansgate on May 18th 1826 (34) (35) and their first child, named Betesy Richardson Bent, was born the following year. (36)

But running businesses in Manchester and London must have proved impossible, so Robert decided to move to London. In June 1827, he sold up his home at 241, Oxford Road; the sale catalogue indicating he lived comfortably. The items included a Coalbrookdale dinner service, a set of excellent mahogany chairs, a pair of handsome card tables, a Pembroke table, Brussels parlour and stair carpets, wardrobe, chests of drawers, dressing tables, wash-stands and chairs, dressing glasses, some articles of cut glass, a Grecian lobby lamp, kitchen requisites and numerous other articles. (37) In July, the partnership with Robinson was formally dissolved. (38) (39)
**London**

In London, Robert first operated from an office in Lamb’s Conduit Street and then moved to 13, Aldine Chambers, Paternoster Row. His daughter, Margaret Jane, was born in 1829 and the next year the family visited Manchester for the children’s baptisms at St Ann’s, where the register referred to him as a “gentleman.” In 1831, a son, William Barnfield Bent, was born and in August 1832, a daughter, Mary Elizabeth, who died in March 1834. The last child, Marianne, was born in that year. Her name is that of the personification of republican France, popular after the 1830 Revolution, and may give a clue to Robert’s politics. Then, on August 30th, Alice died at their home in Upper Stamford Street, Lambeth, “after a few hours illness.”

This calamity left Robert with four young children and his subsequent history suggests that he never got over it. Until then he seems to have been doing well. In 1832, he had inserted the family name into the main publication which became *Bent’s Literary Advertiser*. Being subject to the stamp duty on newspapers, the sales were reported half-yearly to Parliament and between 1833 and 1835 they rose from 4,650 to 7,000 copies. But within a year of Alice’s death he sold a share to David Kidd, who, three years later, took it over completely. Robert continued with the *London Catalogue of Books* and his book-selling and stationery business, sometimes venturing out of London on sales campaigns. In 1837, for example, he held an auction of books, prints and stationery at Leicester. But five years later, in 1842, he sold the *Catalogue* to Thomas Hodgson, who had acquired the *Advertiser* from Kidd, and who in 1855 occupied the office at Aldine Chambers. Hodgson retained the *Bent* name in the title and then in 1860 merged it with the *Bookseller*, which became the major book trade journal for the rest of the nineteenth century. After 1842, Robert confined himself to stationery and bookselling, perhaps later aided by his son, but at some point he gave up because at his death at Lambeth on 6th December 1859, he was a “Book publisher’s Clerk.” He did not leave a will.

**Robert’s Descendants**

Writing in 1881, Slugg noted that Robert “was not successful” in London and his daughters were brought up by their uncle in Manchester. He was James Richardson and was doubtless assisted by his sisters, Mary and Margaret, and their widowed stepmother, Mary, who had attended the famous Madame Malibran in her last hours. They were well educated and Betsey became a governess. In 1851, at the age of 24, she was employed by the Rev. John Smart, rector of Kingsweir, Devon. Howsoever they passed their time, educating the children of clergymen in Devon or the poor in Manchester, the sisters remained resident at the Mosley Arms Hotel, Piccadilly, into the 1860s. Marianne was there in 1861 and again in May 1868 when she died of “phthisis” i.e., pulmonary tuberculosis. Her death was announced in the *Sheffield Telegraph* (13 May 1868) perhaps to inform the Yorkshire Bents. Margaret Jane was resident at the hotel in 1851 and at her death in 1873.

In 1870, pulmonary TB took William Barnfield Bent at the age of 39. He was a “book-keeper” of 13, Clifford Street, Chorlton on Medlock, Manchester, and had
married Jane Allen of Leamington at Birmingham in 1864 (64) (65) and their daughter, Alice Mary, was born in April 1865. (66) His widow set up as a seamstress in Manchester, but soon went bankrupt. (67)

Robert’s brother-in-law and friend, William Barnfield junior, “merchant of Mark Lane in the city of London,” was declared insolvent 1837. (68) (69) In the previous December he had accompanied his other brother in-law, Jean Baptiste de Fiennes, husband of Ann Richardson, at the macabre exhumation of Maria Malibran at Manchester Cathedral. (70) (71) His bankruptcy proceedings dragged on for years (72) but he re-tried his luck in India where he traded in various merchandise. (73) But he failed in 1854 (74) and died at Calcutta in December 1857. (75) Betsey returned penniless to the Mosley Hotel where she kept the accounts. (76) In the early 1870s, the two Besteys, aunt and niece, took over the hotel’s management; (77) but sold up in 1874 (78) and retired to Higher Broughton where Betsey, the aunt, died in 1892. (79) Betsey, the niece, went to live with Jane and her daughter at Great Brunswick Street, Chorlton on Medlock, (80) where she died in September 1916, aged 90. (81) She left Alice Mary £2,772-15s-4d., a small fortune in those days. (82) It was largely, if not entirely, derived from her grandfather, John Richardson’s will trust. Alice died in 1950, at Victoria Park, Rusholme. (83)

Robert Bent briefly touched Manchester, and his Mancunian descendents died out in the mid 20th century. His story underlines the terrible fickleness of fortune in the 19th century. Let us hope he enjoyed some happy times.

Alan Richardson (16968)

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A Tragic Marriage From 1793

In memory of Robert Guest of Prestwich (bap 1773), his wife Mary Holland (1773 - 1793) and their daughter Elizabeth Guest, (1793 - 1794).

Early in 2013 the “Manchester Genealogist” published my article “A ‘banned’ marriage from 1819” detailing the extraordinary love story of my 4 x greats-grandfather’s brother, William Guest of Prestwich (1797 - 1854) and Mary Horrox (?1799 - 1860). Despite the fierce opposition of Mary’s father the couple were eventually married at St Leonard’s in Middleton on 23rd July, 1820. That the wedding took place at Middleton rather than Prestwich suggested an element of secrecy, as if the couple wanted to conceal the arrangements from Mary’s hostile parents. Despite all this, William and Mary Guest were married for over thirty years and had fifteen children!

It appears that William’s uncle Robert Guest of Prestwich (bap. 1773) and his wife Mary Holland, (1773 - 1793) faced similar opposition when they married at Oldham in 1793. Mary was the daughter of John and Alice Holland of Whitefield in Prestwich parish. Significantly, both Robert and Mary were minors, perhaps marrying without parental consent, the bride had already conceived when she was just nineteen and the wedding did not take place in their own church at Prestwich. Their marriage however, was far less successful than William and Mary Guest’s and had extremely tragic consequences.

Robert’s family were first recorded in Prestwich parish as far back as 1532. Although the earlier generations have proved difficult to disentangle, Robert’s line of descent back to the beginning of the 17th century is very clear. Robert’s father James Guest (1737 - 1814) had married Mary Diggle (1738 - 1778) in 1763 which had led indirectly to Robert’s occupation of part of Diggle Fold in Prestwich by the mid-1790s. Robert and his twin(?) sister Dinah were baptised at Prestwich on 7th March, 1773. Their elder brother Thomas Guest (1768 - 1848) became my 5 x greats-grandfather.

Banns for Robert and Mary’s wedding were duly read at St Mary’s Church in Oldham on three successive Sundays, 14th, 21st and 28th April, 1793 and the service took place on Monday the 29th. The couple were both were living at Diggle Fold, probably under the same roof. Born in 1773, they were both just twenty years old, Mary being about six weeks younger than her husband - and five months pregnant!

Then tragedy struck just four months later. In August Mary, still only twenty, gave birth to a daughter, Elizabeth, perhaps living just long enough to see and hold her. Mary’s exact cause of death is unknown. Most likely it was caused by haemorrhaging or the dreaded childbed or puerperal fever which claimed so many mothers’ lives in those days. William Buchan (1729 - 1825), a Scottish physician wrote in his “Domestic Medicine” (1770) that “The most fatal disorder consequent upon delivery is the puerperal or child bed fever. It generally makes its attack upon the second or third day after delivery”. There follows a detailed description of the illness and its generally
ineffective treatment, both of which are perhaps too graphic and explicit to be included in our Journal! However, it is also very possible that Mary met her end from the midwife who attended the birth. Many Georgian midwives were dirty, brutal and incompetent - even Buchan complained that “not one in a hundred of them have any education, or proper knowledge of their business. … most women in child-bed require to be managed with skill and attention … and they are often hurt by the superstitious prejudices of ignorant and officious midwives”. And even the best 18th century midwife was constrained by the limited knowledge and resources available to her.

Mary was buried in an unmarked grave at Prestwich on Friday 23rd August 1793. Her baby daughter was baptised two days later, probably during Sunday morning service. In the 18th century it was very common in cases like this for the mother to be buried on the day the child was baptised but evidently this did not happen here.

Robert’s marriage to Mary had lasted from 29th April to about 20th August 1793 - only about 113 days, making it by far the shortest recorded marriage in our family’s entire history. The marriage of his relation Ralph Guest (1662 - 1755) to Esther Oldham (1667 - 1689) had lasted about twelve months from about August 1688 until late August 1689. Esther died from childbirth complications when she was only 22.

Soon after Mary’s death Robert Guest and his baby daughter left Diggle Fold, perhaps because of its associations with his wife’s death, and moved to Failsworth near Oldham, a few miles to the east. Here a second tragedy awaited them. When she was less than six months old, baby Elizabeth died from unknown causes in February, 1794 and was laid to rest, in Prestwich churchyard, most likely with her young mother. And Robert vanished from history.

Requiescant in pace!

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**The Basketmakers of Barton.**

In 2014 the Journal published my article “A 17th century nonconformist family, the Marklands of Eccles“. The Marklands originated in Wigan as far back as the 13th century and a branch of the family settled in Eccles in 1589. My 9 x greats-grandfather Richard Markland, born in Eccles in 1640 had a brother called Owen, born probably in 1641 or 1642 whose family made a living for many years from a once common rural craft which is rarely seen today.

Owen married in about 1661 - no details have survived - and had five children including a pair of twins, John and Richard baptised at Eccles on 22nd January, 1662/3. Hugh arrived in 1669, followed by Elizabeth in 1677 and an unnamed infant who was buried in 1687. Owen died at Barton in 1712, aged about 70. The registers show that his daughter Elizabeth was born in Patricroft and that Owen’s family had moved to Barton by 1687. No clue to the family’s occupation appears until 29th August 1728 when “Hugh Markland of Barton upon Irwell …. Basket Maker” made his will. He
bequeathed his house and entire estate to his wife Ellin (nee Bulling) whom he had married in 1695, directing her to give “at her decease (!)” to “his brother Richard’s children and his cousin John Mark[land]’s child “one half amongst them, and the rest at her disposal”. Clearly close to death when he made his will, Hugh signed the document with a scrawled vertical line and a thumb print. He was buried at Eccles on 2nd September aged 59. The estate was valued at under £30. Basket making was hardly a lucrative profession! Hugh and Ellin had at least two children, Ellis (1700/1 - 1704) and William, baptised in 1706. Ellis, named after his grandfather’s brother Ellis Markland (1643 - 1682) or his great-grandfather (1611 - 1668) had died aged three and nothing is known of William. The will strongly suggests that Hugh left no surviving children. Hugh’s uncle Ellis Markland (1643 - 1682) was also a basket maker and no doubt the inspiration behind Hugh’s choice of occupation.

The move to Barton, probably in the 1680s may have been motivated by Owen Markland’s work as a basket maker if he had followed his uncle Ellis’s trade. Barton would give him closer access to the wetlands which would then have existed around the banks of the River Irwell. The area would have provided osiers and other materials for his peaceful and time-honoured craft.

John Markland, one of the twins born in 1663 appears never to have married or had children. However, he left an extraordinary will measuring just 7 inches by 4 inches:-

“September the 18 1736. I John Markland of Barton in the Countie of Lancaster being infirm of body but sound of memory do Leave and bequeath to Martha Markland one half of the moor the moor [sic] feild being now in my posesion and ye other half to Alice Markland my brothers Daughter All the Remeander of my goods personal esteate Chattils now in possesion or hereafter may be I Leave wholly and intirele to the seade Alice [struck through] Alice Markla[nd] My Brothers daughter. I apoint my neibour John Gooden and Alice his Sister Executors.

John Markland his mark I [seal]
John Gooden
Alice Gooden mark A”

Gooden himself appears to have written the document which is very badly produced even by the standards of the early 18th century. Four days later “John Markland of Barton Basket maker” was laid to rest in Eccles churchyard. He was 73 - pretty good in those days.

And then something went badly wrong. In the ordinary course of affairs John’s will would have been proved at Chester without argument and everything would be settled in a few weeks. An inventory of John’s paltry estate was prepared, valuing his goods at just £12 12s 7d. However, amazingly the document was not written until 11th January, 1760, more than twenty-three years after John’s death! What caused this delay of quarter of a century? And how was it possible to compile an inventory of John’s estate so long after his death? Both mysteries remain unsolved. The inventory,
taken by John Williamson and Samuel Kershaw gave a detailed list of the contents of John’s house in Barton.

The list began with 23 lbs 8 oz of pewter worth 6d an ounce. This isn’t as much as one might think - an 18th century pewter dinner plate weighed about 1 lb 4oz, a pint mug was about 1 lb 12 oz while a charger was about 4 lbs. A spit, “Goberts Tongs” - whatever they were - and a chafing dish (“a cooking pot with an outer pan of hot water, used for keeping food warm“- O.E.D.) were worth just three shillings. By far the most valuable item was the lease on John’s property which was worth £8 - his personal effects came to just £4 12s 7d! It is noticeable that at least ten of the items in the list were described as “old”, again indicating that the Marklands lived in poverty. For example, John had “one old Coffer an old Cupboard and fall table” worth only six shillings. The coffer was probably a 17th century bedding chest and the “fall table” would have been what we now call a gate leg table, again probably from the 17th century. These were invented around 1620. The more sophisticated but more fragile drop leaf table wasn’t invented until the early 18th century. There were also “One Table and Seats and drawers and 3 old Chairs”. 17th and early 18th century furniture was usually made from oak - I have a collection of it in my house in Yorkshire built around 1655 on 13th century foundations. It still gives excellent daily service in suitable surroundings, although much of it is black with age and very worn and battered after centuries of use.

By 1760 both John’s executors were dead - hardly surprising! - and his unmarried niece Alice Markland (1701 - 1785) successfully applied for Letters of Administration to wind up the estate, almost a quarter of a century after John Markland’s death in 1736. A most unusual situation!

The following year, 1761 the Bridgewater Canal which passed through Barton was completed. No doubt the Marklands witnessed its construction and probably saw its opening in 1761. The aqueduct over the river was an astonishing feat of engineering and the family must surely have taken an interest in it.

John Markland (1662/3 - 1736) and his brother Hugh (1669 - 1728) had both died leaving no children and John’s estate, such as it was, passed, to the children of John Markland’s twin brother Richard. Richard had married and had six children - Owen (1694 - 1736), Richard (bap. 1696), Alice (1701 - 1785) Mary (bap. 1703), Sarah (bap. 1709) who married John Chapman in 1743/4, and Ellis.

At the age of 83 Alice, who had never married made a long and complicated will detailing her last wishes on 27th December, 1784. “Being in a poor State of Health but of sound and disposing Mind, Memory and Understanding” she gave her brother Ellis, another basket maker, an annuity of £5 payable from the Nearer Moor Field and the Further Moor Field - these had, of course, been in Alice’s family since at least as far back as 1736 - Gooden Meadow and other properties. Long and complex terms for the annuity and matters concerning both the Moor Fields followed. The will ran to three foolscap pages and around 1,800 words of text! Alice was buried on 7th January, 1785. Probate was granted at Chester just thirteen days later. Alice’s estate was valued at between £100 and £200! The family fortunes had evidently improved somewhat since
the 1730s. Neither of the two Moor Fields has yet been located. However, the burial entries of Owen Markland (1694 - 1736) and an unidentified Martha Markland in 1769 state that the family was living in Back Lane, Barton. The 1848 six inches to one mile Ordnance Survey map of the area revealed that this is now Trafford Road, which runs between Barton Lane (B.5230) and the meeting of Church Road and Liverpool Road (the A.57). This part of the A.57 used to be called Catch Inn Lane.

The parish registers record the burials of an unnamed son of Hugh Markland (1669 - 1728) in 1718 and an Ellen Markland, widow in 1741/2, almost certainly Hugh’s widow, stating that they lived at Davis Green in Barton. Further reference to the 1848 O.S. map showed that Davis Green was very close to the south-western edge of Back Lane, surely pinpointing the site of the Marklands’ house during the 18th century. The building has, of course, long since gone - it would have been only a few yards away from the Bridgewater Canal.

After about 1740 exact relationships between the Barton Marklands become uncertain, but the Eccles parish registers clearly show that the family remained in Barton and continued to ply their age-old craft of basket making. Richard Markland of Barton married Martha Dickinson by licence (!) in 1776. “Ellin dr of Richard Markland of Barton Basketmaker by Martha his wife” was baptised in April 1778. Five more children followed in 1780, 1783, 1785, 1788 and 1791. However, by 1793 Richard had made a radical career change and was described as a slater! Evidently this venture didn’t work out and he’d gone back to basket making when Sarah, his youngest child was born in 1797.

And that is the last we ever hear of the Markland family of basket makers in Barton. Richard’s story after 1797 remains unknown. However, his family had successfully worked at basket makers from before 1682 until the end of the 18th century, working in Barton-upon-Irwell for most of the time and probably taking their wares up Barton Lane to sell at Eccles Market. Although they clearly lived in dire poverty, at least in the early period, the Marklands somehow managed to make a meagre living from basket making for well over a century.

And whenever I drive through Barton I always think of the long-forgotten Marklands gathering osiers from the Irwell to make baskets nearly three centuries ago.

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Findmypast.ie includes datasets which are of particular interest to those with Irish Ancestry including Griffith’s Valuation, some surviving early census returns and a variety of parish registers.

Genes Reunited has some of the data sets which appear on Findmypast but is oriented more towards tree-building and information sharing. So, if you are particularly interested in the social dimension of family history, this may be the site for you.

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George Stemp – Waterloo Man

If you go into the churchyard of St Thomas's, Leesfield, Oldham, by the Thomas Street entrance, the first gravestone you'll see is that of George Stemp who died in Hugh Fold, Lees.

In Memory Of

GEORGE STEMP OF LEES,
who departed this LIFE on the
28th of AUGUST 1862 Aged 64 Years.
Here lies a FATHER once so dear
Whom all his children blest;
The blessed LORD has called him here.
We hope his soul's at rest.
ALSO IN MEMORY OF
George William son of CHARLES
and BETSEY STEMP who DIED Decr
24th 1865 Aged 7 Months.
ALSO of Annie Daughter of
GEORGE and HANNAH STEMP, who
DIED May 30th 1870 aged 10 MONTHS

What the gravestone doesn't tell you is that George was a 'Waterloo Man' – a soldier who fought at the Battle of Waterloo on 18th June 1815.

George Stemp was my great-great-great grandfather. Born in 1796 in Kirdford in the Parish of Petworth, Sussex, his parents were George and Sarah Stemp (nee Oliver). At the age of 18, George junior, by trade a labourer, enlisted with the Royal Regiment of Wagon Train (RWT) on 6th December 1813 at Bow in the County of Middlesex (WO97/1153). Driving covered wagons, the RWT provided the Army with supplies, ammunition and transport.

After Napoleon's exile to Elba in 1814, the RWT was reduced to five troops. After Napoleon resumed power, plans to build up the RWT were fast-tracked because the Duke of Wellington was well aware of its importance to military success overseas. The RWT was expanded to twelve troops which included 1,400 horses.

Two years after enlisting, at the age of 20, George fought at the Battle of Waterloo. Eight RWT troops (276 men) and four troops of the Foreign Wagon Train were actively involved in the battle – not just behind the lines. The RWT played a key role in the battle at Hougoumont Chateau. As well as supporting the front lines, the RWT drove much-needed ammunition under heavy fire through enemy lines. (a) For their service during the battle, the RWT received the Waterloo battle honour.

Described by the Waterloo 200 charity as 'a defining moment in European history', the Battle of Waterloo was one of the most bloody battles that Europe had ever seen.
22,000 Allied soldiers were killed or wounded in one day. Despite its horror, the battle brought peace to Europe for 200 years.

After the battle, the RWT had the unenviable task of clearing the battlefield of over 4,000 dead bodies of Allied soldiers and burning hundreds of dead horses on large pyres. Later, the Duke of Wellington firmly resisted attempts to reduce the size of his Army, including the RWT, declaring that 'No person can be more impressed than I am of the absolute necessity of a corps of the description of the Royal Wagon Train.' Praise indeed! Despite Wellington's protests, the RWT was reduced to five troops, mainly used for mundane transport tasks. The RWT was stationed in Croydon Barracks, from which George was often sent on detached duty with the 2nd Lifeguards to Chatham and the Isle of Wight. But by 1818 only two troops remained.

George married Sarah Waters on 29th June 1827 at St Leonard's Church, Streatham, London (RWT Registry of Marriages). Their first child, Charles, was born on 2nd November 1827 and baptised on 24th November in the same year in Croydon, Surrey (RWT Registry of Baptisms).

The inevitable demands came from Parliament to reduce the size of the Army (what's new?). In 1833, Wellington, as Prime Minister, had to make the decision to reduce the number of units, which included the RWT, in which he had so much interest and which for many years had enjoyed his unfailing support.

On 8th May 1833 Private George Stemp No. 33 was discharged on the disbandment of the RWT. His discharge papers state that 'his character as a soldier has always been very good' and that he was '37 years and 3 months old of age, 5 feet nine inches in height, brown hair, grey eyes and fair complexion.' He had served in Holland for five months and in France for three years and a half, having served 21 years and 149 days in the RWT, which included two extra years added to his pension because of his service at Waterloo (WO97/1153). This additional payment applied to all Waterloo soldiers.

Instituted by an order dated 10th March 1816, George was awarded the Waterloo Campaign medal, his name appearing on the Waterloo Medal Roll. This was the first time in Great Britain that the same medal in the same metal (silver) was awarded to soldiers of all ranks, impressed round the edge with each soldier's name, rank and regiment - a radical suggestion made by Wellington himself. (b)

These soldiers were proud to wear their hard-earned medals and to be called Waterloo Men. Many Waterloo veterans wore their medal in all weathers, even in their civilian clothes. George's medal has clearly been handled many times, no doubt worn with pride by him and handed down from generation to generation in my family. Now I am the proud owner of the medal which I inherited from my mother.

The Napoleonic Wars had a highly detrimental effect on the economy and lives of ordinary people. Many people, including soldiers and their families, became poverty-stricken. But not George and his family who were very fortunate.

The Commandant of the RWT was Sir George Scovell KCB, the man whom the Duke of Wellington had entrusted with the deciphering of the Great Paris Cipher – the French code of unrivalled complexity. (c) On 25th April 1829 Scovell was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, Berkshire, and then on
2nd February 1837 Governor of the College. In July 1829 Scovell appointed George as his servant (whilst still a Private in the RWT) and Sarah, his wife, as laundress.

One of my cousins inherited George Stemp's sword from my uncle – of the 1796 Light Cavalry pattern. Family tradition is that George had been given the sword by an aide-de-camp to the Duke of Wellington. It is likely to have been Sir George Scovell, as RWT officers wore this type of sword.

The 1841 Census Return shows George (aged 45) living in College Square, Sandhurst, Berkshire with his wife Sarah (35) and Charles aged 14, Frances (12), George (8), Frederick (4), Sarah (2) and a baby only one day old! In the 1851 Census George and his family still lived in the Royal Military College. George was aged 52, Sarah (47), Charles (25), Frederick (14), Susannah (11), Alexander (9) and Thomas (6).

On 31st March 1856 Scovell retired from the Army to Henley Park near Guildford, Surrey and died on 17th January 1861. The 1861 Census describes George (aged 63) as a gentleman's servant, living with his wife Sarah (57) in Blackwater in the Parish of Hanley, Surrey. It is possible that he still described himself in this way even though Scovell had died.

Some time later, George moved north to be with Charles, his coachman son, who lived in Lees. There George, also described as a coachman, died of 'liver disease and anascara' (caused by liver or renal disease) on 28th August 1862 and was buried on 1st September in the churchyard of St Thomas's, Leesfield, Oldham.

Letters of Administration were granted to George's eldest son Charles on 26th November 1862, George's will having been drafted in Blackwater in the County of Southampton. His personal effects were under £200; George's family were the beneficiaries.

18th June 2015
The 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo was commemorated in June this year with many events. I had the privilege of being one of only nine descendants of Waterloo soldiers to be invited to the unveiling of a memorial to Waterloo soldiers on Waterloo Station by the current Duke of Wellington. Proudly wearing George Stemp's Waterloo Campaign medal, I attended with my cousin the magnificent and moving Waterloo commemoration service in St Paul's Cathedral exactly 200 years after the battle, attended by 500 descendants as well as many dignitaries.

Footnotes:
(a) Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's short story Straggler of '18 and play Waterloo are based on the true account of Corporal Brewer who led the RWT through enemy lines.
(b) Wellington's radical suggestion showed his clear recognition of the equal contribution made by all those who fought bravely in the Battle of Waterloo. The Royal Mint's Chief Engraver, Thomas Wyon, created a design with the Prince Regent's head on the obverse with the inscription 'GEORGE P. REGENT'. The reverse has a seated figure of Victory with the inscription 'WATERLOO', the date 'JUNE 18. 1815' and 'WELLINGTON'. Production of the bronze medal was well under way when the Prince
Regent decided that the medal should instead be minted in silver. 37,500 medals were struck.
(c) For the full story of Sir George Scovell KCB, read The Man who broke Napoleon’s Codes by Mark Urban ISBN 0-571-20538-0.

Further information:
Waterloo medals – Recipients and location – www.britishmedals.us – Go to Resources, then extant medals, then Waterloo database. Look at all the tabs and also search the interactive website.
Waterloo 200 – An excellent website with much information about the Battle of Waterloo and stories of men who fought at Waterloo, including George Stemp. www.waterloo200.org

I look forward to hearing from anyone who can provide me with any additional information about the Stemp family.

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Buxton Smith

I always take as the hub of my research Burbage, Derbyshire born Peter Bennett. He had three sons William baptised 1844 in Fairfield; then Matthew (1854) and Samuel (1856) both baptised in Buxton. Matthew’s obituary also refers to two sisters who both died in infancy.

The three brothers had 28 children between them, so provide plenty of scope for research. Matthew Bennett married Sarah Ann Green the daughter of a Manchester builder and Chartist. The fourth of their eight children was Elizabeth Ann Bennett she married Jeremiah Smith, a butcher, in Burbage Church on 25th April 1900.

Jeremiah’s Father, William, like William Bennett was a bathchair man. Old photographs of Buxton show rows of bathchairs waiting to be hired by the less mobile of the visitors to Buxton. In the 1901 census William F Smith is 60 years old but still a bathchair man, it could not have been easy for him up Buxton’s hills. However, in error, one transcription of the census raises William Bennett to the dizzy heights of Baths Chairman.

It was Jeremiah’s brothers who caught my eye:

In the 1901 census 35 Dale Road, Buxton with his family William Smith aged 26 professional footballer and in the 1911 census Green Lane, Burbage, married but staying with family Fred A F Smith aged 23 footballer.

To give him his full name Frederick Augustus Ford Smith was actually playing for Macclesfield in 1911. He had started playing locally in Buxton, but also played for
teams in Wigan, Stockport, Derby and Southampton. During the war he was a motor bike dispatch rider. After finishing playing in Macclesfield he opened a garage there.

William Smith also began playing for Buxton, then between 1897 and 1902 he played regularly at number 5 for Manchester City. As there were two William Smiths in the team at that time they were known as Buxton Smith and Stockport Smith. Team photographs show him alongside famous players like Meredith and Gillespie.

The Manchester Evening News for Monday February 3rd 1902 reports on a second replay of the first round tie between City and Preston. Making a radical change City moved Buxton Smith to centre forward; and it was he who scored to make the score 2-2. During the match with a player lying injured some of the crowd were heard to shout “Roll him off” No comment necessary!

The paper goes on to say there was no more scoring and ends with “extra time is being played.” Luckily I was in Central Library using a reader so I could find the Stop Press square at the bottom of the back page and read that: “Smith scored twice more. City 4 Preston 2.” The next round of the Cup was played the following Saturday, 8th February 1902, against Nottingham Forest. Buxton Smith again played at centre forward, early snow had been cleared and the pitch had been sanded. The Manchester Courier reports that “Well on in the initial moiety” - (late in the first half) - “Smith, who played remarkably well against Preston North End, had the misfortune to sustain an ugly injury to his leg which obliged him to retire for good.” Forest went on to win.

I’m sure the reporter meant that Buxton Smith would take no further part in that game; but his words are almost prophetic for records show he made no more appearances for City, nor can I find traces of him elsewhere not even in the 1911 census.

Then recently on the Canadian Great War Project I found Private William Smith, 863096, place of birth Derbyshire, date of birth 10th December 1875. Buxton Smith was born 10th December 1874; it wouldn’t be the first time an age was changed on attestation papers but ten William Smiths are born in Derbyshire each quarter around 1874/5 according to freeBMD so it isn’t conclusive even though he joined the 180th battalion the sportsman’s battalion. As soldier 863096 he is mentioned by name in the war diary of the 123rd pioneer battalion. He was wounded by shell fire while on a working party close to Ypres in October 1917 but survived the war. On the attestation papers he is listed as a porter, married to Nellie.

There is also on the 1911 census for Toronto a William Smith born December 1874 in England but his wife is recorded as Nora Smith, she was born September 1879. This entry says that William entered Canada as recently as 1911. Nora’s entry is unclear.

One step forward or backward? Somewhere is that piece of information which might link the two and looking for it is what makes this hobby so interesting.

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Thirty years ago when working at the Lancashire Record Office I discovered among the Manchester Quarter Sessions Papers (QSP 2822/249) a long list of sums paid to John Milne, a local coroner for his travelling expenses in carrying out “inquisitions” on persons who had died in suspicious or unusual circumstances. The document was several pages long and gave brief details of well over a hundred examinations of corpses carried out by Milne during 1823. No 113 in the list read as follows:-

“An Inquisition taken at Barton-upon-Irwel [sic] the 6th day of September [1823] on view of the body of Mary Wroe. Verdict Manslaughter. Committed to Lancaster Castle £4 1s 3d”

It was clear to me that Mary must fit into my own family of Eccles Wroes in some way but I was unsure how. However, the Eccles burial registers revealed that Mary, the 27-year-old wife of Thomas Wroe of Eccles was interred at St Mary’s, Eccles on 7th September, 1823. Clearly Mary was a young wife who had been buried the day after Milne’s “inquisition”. And my list of Wroe monumental inscriptions at Eccles, copied from the transcriptions at Salford Library produced the following:-

No 3645.

Here resteth the body of Thomas Wroe who departed this life August 1862 aged years.

Also
Rachel wife of Thomas Wroe of Eccles who departed this life November 9 1776 aged 35 years.
Also Mary Bayley Wroe wife of Thomas Wroe who died November 5th 1823 aged 26 years.

I had already identified the elder Thomas Wroe and his wife Rachel as my 6 x greats-grandparents born in the early 1740s. Thomas Wroe’s year of death was incorrectly copied - he had in fact died in 1826. His wife Rachel had died from childbirth complications half a century earlier and I published her tragic story in our Journal some years ago. I was quite sure that the date of Mary Bayley Wroe’s death was also incorrect since there was no burial entry in the Eccles register for a Mary Wroe in November 1823. It seemed obvious that the Mary Wroe who was buried with my 6 x greats-grandparents in 1823 was indeed the young woman whose remains were
examined by the coroner in September that year. There was no sign of a marriage or any children for Thomas and Mary Bayley Wroe. The only possible candidate for Mary’s husband Thomas was one baptised at Eccles in 1795. Thomas was the grandson of Thomas Wroe (1742 - 1826) and Rachel Wroe (nee Markland) (1741 - 1776) and died just eight years after his wife in 1831. His sister was Renetta Wroe (1793 - 1855) who married John Thorley of Eccles (1789 - 1844) in 1812 and so became my great-great-great-great-grandmother.

And so I concluded that on 6th September, 1823 the coroner examined the remains of my 4 x greats-grandmother’s sister-in-law, Mary Wroe (c.1796 - 1823)! She had died in mysterious circumstances only the previous day. In an age before refrigerated mortuaries speed was of the essence. And it was late summer.

And that, for the time being, was the end of that. However, thirty years later in 2015 my distant cousin Carol of Tree-Tops who shares my descent from the Thorleys discovered using ‘Ancestry’ something quite extraordinary in the records of Lancaster Castle and “Lancaster Gazette“. Lot Thorley (1799 - 1855), a handloom weaver and a brother of my ancestress Renetta, was tried for manslaughter at the Assizes at the Castle held in Lent 1824. Fortunately, Lot was found not guilty and released. And I strongly suspect that Lot’s Counsel for the Defence was one Robert Bennett of Gorton Hall (1792 - 1873) who nearly forty years later was to marry Lot’s sister Sophia Thorley (1807 - 1873). I told their extraordinary love story in my recent article in our Journal.

Assizes at the ancient Castle were held in 1972. I still remember visiting the Castle when I was a child and watching what must have been one of the very last trials held there, a most impressive event, especially to a 14-year-old. I expect Lot Thorley was absolutely terrified when he stood in the dock, and I can well imagine his sense of profound relief when he was acquitted of the manslaughter charge after six months of confinement in a dark and dismal prison cell perhaps dating from the Middle Ages! Unfortunately, the Castle’s laconic records tell us very little about individual court cases, and we are none the wiser as to exactly what Lot Thorley was supposed to have done. “Manslaughter”. And nothing else!

However, using ‘Ancestry’ Carol found two very revealing entries in the pages of the Lancaster Gazette:-

13th September, 1823: “Committed to our Castle since our last: Lot Thorley charged with killing and slaying Mary Wroe at Barton-upon-Irwell.”

And:


This sounds more like cold-blooded murder than manslaughter!
And so Mary Wroe, (c.1796 - 1823) the hapless young victim in the case was believed to have been accidentally killed - not deliberately murdered - by a member of her own extended family! Her supposed killer, Lot Thorley (1799 - 1855) was the brother-in-law of Renetta Thorley nee Wroe (1793 - 1855) whose Brother Thomas Wroe (1795 - 1831) was Mary’s husband! During the 1820s most of the Wroes and Thorleys of Eccles lived in King Street. This seems the most likely scene of Mary’s untimely death. Sadly the exact details of the case are now irretrievably lost. However, about a week after the incident, Lot Thorley was committed to Lancaster Gaol where, although innocent of the serious charge laid against him, he languished for about six months. Conditions at the Castle had improved somewhat during the Georgian period, but were still pretty horrific by modern standards. I remember being shut in one of its cells when I visited the Castle over forty years ago - not a pleasant experience! Amazingly, the Castle was still used as a prison until as recently as 2011!

Although Carol and I can never hope to understand exactly what happened to Mary Wroe nearly 200 years ago, careful examination of the few surviving scraps of evidence have, at least, shown the tenuous family link between this unfortunate young woman and her supposed killer.

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LOCAL PARISH REGISTER INDEX

The parish register index which lists the parish registers held at the Local Studies Centre at Touchstones Rochdale and at Heywood and Middleton libraries is available online on the Local Studies pages of the Link4Life website: www.link4life.org/localstudies. Local Studies is part of Link4life, the trading name of the Rochdale Borough wide Cultural Trust. Local Studies can undertake limited searches for more information please write to Local Studies, Touchstone Rochdale, The Esplanade, Rochdale, OL16 1AQ. Email localstudies@link4life.org
A Manchester Family with Its Roots in Malta

Adelaide Gough, was born in about 1842 in Valletta, Malta. She was the daughter of Thomas and Helen Gough (formerly Taylor), who were “of the parish” and who were married in Valletta, according to the entry in the parish register on the occasion of Adelaide’s marriage to Henry Dillon, an Irish soldier. Adelaide and Henry were married on 10th May 1857 at the Church of St Paul’s Shipwreck, Valletta.

Henry Dillon was born on 23rd November 1830 in Kiltullagh, near Dunmore, Galway, Ireland. His parents were James and Helen Dillon (formerly Strich). Henry left Ireland during the mid 1840’s, possibly to escape the Irish potato famine, which claimed the lives of more than a million people and resulted in the emigration of a further million causing the population of Ireland to fall by some 25%.

Henry joined the British Army in 1848, aged 17 years and 10 months and it was noted on his army record that he was “underage”. Unfortunately no photographs of
Henry have survived. However, he was described as having a “fresh” complexion, blue eyes, brown hair and was 5’7” tall. He enlisted in the 47th Regiment of Foot and served for the next 15 years in the Mediterranean, the Crimea and Canada. During his service he remained at the rank of Private, was never injured, wounded or disciplined and received awards for long service and good conduct.

The 47th Regiment left Malta bound for Gibraltar in May 1857 so Henry and Adelaide had only been married for days before they left the island.

Their first born child, a son, James, whose place of birth is currently unknown, died on 26th January 1861 at Western Heights, Hougham, Kent. His cause of death was diarrhoea (certified 10 days) and he was just three years old. He was interred in the burial ground at the Church of St James’s, Dover two days later.

Their second child, also a boy who they named Henry George was born at Shorncliffe, Kent on 24th March 1860,

In April 1863, Henry transferred to the Royal Canadian Rifles, and their children; Michael John, Mary Anne and Angelina were born in Canada in 1862, 1864 and 1870, Michael John was baptised at the St Patrick’s Church, Montreal and Mary Anne at St John’s Co-Cathedral, Quebec. A record of Angelina’s baptism has so far proved elusive.

Angelina Dillon (1870 – 1932)
The Royal Canadian Rifles Regiment was formed to overcome the problem of soldiers deserting to the United States tempted by higher rates of pay. The RCRR only recruited soldiers with more than 15 years service as they felt more mature soldiers were more reliable. In addition the pay was two shillings per day instead of the usual one shilling per day, and there was also the prospect of a pension after the completion of 21 years military service.

Henry was discharged from the army on 11th January 1870, aged 39 years, after completing 21 years of service, and his discharge papers recorded his intended place of residence as Liverpool. However, Henry, Adelaide and their family returned to Malta. They had several more children, all born in Malta; George William born in 1872, Alexander James born in 1878, Richard William born in 1881 and finally Mary R born in 1882. There were also two more daughters; Priscilla born in Italy circa 1874 and Penelope, born in 1875, whose place of birth is unknown.

Henry’s occupation after his discharge from the army is something of a mystery. Family sources suggest he was employed by the Malta Police Force. However, enquiries with the Malta Police Headquarters in Floriana have proved fruitless. Unfortunately their records only date back to 1910. Much of their earlier archive was destroyed when the Malta Police Force Depot was bombed during WW2.

There is a family myth that he was employed as a bodyguard by an Italian prince and presented with an inscribed gold watch in appreciation of his service. This has also been difficult to substantiate, but the family appears to have spent some time in Italy as the 1891 Census of England and Wales does record Priscilla, their daughter, being born there. A letter written by one of Henry and Adelaide’s granddaughters also records that Angelina Dillon (1870-1932) was educated in Lucca, Italy - this would have been between 1874 (Priscilla’s birth in Italy) and 1878 (Alexander James’s birth in Malta).

The Dillon family connection with Malta continued with Henry’s second son, Henry George Dillon. In 1882 he married Carmella Darmanin who was born circa 1860 in Vittoriosa, Malta. They had seven children; Angelina (1883), Maria (1885), Enrico (1887), George Joseph (1895), Angiolino (1897), Henry Lawrence (1898) and Penelope Frances (1900). All their children were born in Malta with the exception of Penelope Frances who was born and who died in Manchester in 1900. Henry George and Carmella Dillon moved to Gorton, Manchester some time between 1898 and 1900 and in 1911 they were living at 54 Margaret Street. Only two of their children were with them; George Joseph and Henry Lawrence. Their other five children had all died prior to 1911. Henry George was working at Armstrong Whitworth, Openshaw (known locally as Whitworths) employed as a “ships painter gun factory” as recorded on the 1911 census. Armstrong Whitworth Co Ltd merged with Vickers Ltd in 1927 to become the major engineering conglomerate Vickers-Armstrong Ltd whose business included shipbuilding, locomotives, armaments and heavy engineering.

Little is known about Carmella Dillon (formerly Darmanin) apart from her being born in Vittoriosa, Malta in about 1860. Her son, George Joseph, was baptised at the Church of St Gejtanu, Hamrun and on the baptism certificate his godparents were
recorded as Spirodone and Catherine Darmanin – possibly her siblings or her brother and sister-in-law.

Reverting back to Henry and Adelaide Dillon – they left Malta, never to return, sometime between 1882 (the birth of their youngest child in Malta) and 1888 (Henry’s death in Manchester). Family sources suggest that they moved to Gorton to be re-united with Henry’s extended family who had moved there from Ireland. However, to date, it hasn’t been possible to identify any members of his family in Manchester. His occupation once settled in Manchester was “labourer” according to his death certificate. However, when his wife, Adelaide, died in 1915 she was described as “the widow of Henry Dillon, an army pensioner (retired publican)”.

The studio photograph of Adelaide Dillon was possibly taken by her son George William Dillon who according to the 1911 census was working as a photographer on his own account. The photograph has been dated, by the style of her clothes, to having been taken between 1910-1915, may be to mark her 70th Birthday. George William Dillon had premises at 84 Gorton Lane, West Gorton and in Slater’s Directory 1921 and Kelly’s Directory 1931; his business was described as “carvers, gilders and picture frame makers”.

Henry Dillon had one wish before he died and that was to return to Ireland to view a statue or monument, which one, nobody knows. He never fulfilled this dream and on 28th April 1888 he died in the Chorlton Union Workhouse, Withington. His cause of death was chronic phthisis which is now known as tuberculosis. He was buried in a public grave in the Roman Catholic section of Philips Park Cemetery.
Adelaide Dillon was buried in a family plot at St Joseph’s Roman Catholic Cemetery, Moston, Manchester along with three of her children: Penelope (1875-1896), Mary Ann (1864-1898) and Michael John (1862-1924) and some of her grandchildren.

Sources:-
Parish Register, Church of St Paul’s Shipwreck, Valletta, Malta
Parish Register, Church of St Gejtanu, Hamrun, Malta
Census of England and Wales 1891-1911
British Army Records 1760-1915
Burial Register, Church of St James’s, Dover, Kent via www.familysearch.org.uk
Birth, Marriage and Death indexes via www.freebmd.org.uk
GRO Birth, Marriage and Death certificates
Quebec Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection) 1621-1967
Malta Public Registry
Burial Register Philips Park Cemetery via www.burialrecords.manchester.gov.uk
Burial Register St Joseph’s Roman Catholic Cemetery, Moston, Manchester
Slater’s Suburban Directory of Manchester and Salford 1921
Kelly’s Directory of Manchester and Salford 1931

©Denise Psaila (18103)

The Strange “Disappearance” Of “Th’owd Tub-Thumper”.

My interest in family history began about 50 years ago and was inspired by the stories I heard from my maternal grandmother, Mabel Innerdale (nee Bullock) who was born in Eccles in 1892. Granny had clear recollections of her early childhood in the 1890s which I had the foresight to write down for posterity. Her earliest memory was from when she was just two years old when she was nearly run over by a horse-drawn milk-cart near her parents’ house in Monton Avenue, Eccles in 1894 or 1895.

However, Granny knew all her grandparents - my great-great-grandparents - who were born as far back as the 1830s and even knew something about her great-grandfather who was born in Pendleton, Salford early in the 19th century. Unfortunately she couldn’t remember his name but could tell me that he had witnessed the Peterloo Massacre of 1819 when he was a child. I published details of this story in our Journal in 2012 (1). She remembered that in later life her great-grandfather - my great-great-great-grandfather - worked as a cooper (barrel maker) in Pendleton. And he had a nickname - “Th’Owd Tub-Thumper”, “The Old Tub-Thumper”! He had six sons and one daughter and my grandmother told me the strange story of how in his old age he had left his house in Pendleton one evening and never returned. Parts of Pendleton
were supposedly flooded at the time and it was thought that the unfortunate Tub-Thumper had been somehow carried off in the torrent and drowned.

Mabel was the granddaughter of Hannah Crompton Jones (1838 - 1912), the cooper’s daughter. And Granny had an old exercise book in which she had recorded the dates of birth, marriage and death of most of her family since 1834! Hannah Crompton Jones had apparently been born on 26th June, 1838, just two days before the coronation of Queen Victoria. Determined to find the name of my ancestor who had witnessed the Peterloo Massacre I applied for Hannah Crompton’s birth certificate from Somerset House, sending a postal order for just 13s 4d - (67p) - in those far-off days! Of course I didn’t know Hannah’s parents’ names, but I did have her exact date and place of birth and she had an unusual middle name even though her surname was so common. She had been born only about a year after the introduction of civil registration.

The birth certificate arrived after a couple of weeks, and I was thrilled to discover that Th’Owd Tub-Thumper’s real name was Thomas Jones who in 1838 lived at Jones’s Place, Pendleton and worked as a machine-maker. And Hannah’s mother was Catherine Jones, formerly Selkirk! In December 1969 at the tender age of thirteen I had discovered my very first pair of great-great-great-grandparents! I still remember running to my grandparents’ house nearby to show the certificate to Granny. I must have been a rather eccentric child! Later research over many years revealed that Thomas and Catherine were married at Eccles in 1831. Catherine was born in Liverpool in 1806, the daughter of Robert Selkirk and Sarah Harrap, married at Huyton in 1803. Her surname showed that her family had originally come from Scotland. Could she have been related to Alexander Selkirk (1676 - 1723) the original Robinson Crusoe in Defoe’s famous novel? So far it has not been possible to trace the Selkirks beyond 1803. Robert had worked as a bookkeeper in Liverpool, and I have discovered the baptisms of most of his children, including Catherine, in various Liverpool churches.

In 1865 Hannah Crompton Jones married John Jones, (1836 - 1915) a relieving officer (official involved with Poor Law administration) originally from Holywell in North Wales. He later became a Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths in Pendleton. Hannah’s father Thomas was described as a cooper in 1865 which corroborated Granny’s story. We still have the original 1890 marriage certificate of her daughter Miriam Bullock (nee Jones) (1866 - 1950), my great-grandmother, written in her father’s beautiful copperplate handwriting! Other readers probably have certificates written by John Jones who also worked as an enumerator on late 19th century Pendleton censuses. We still have a gold locket with miniature photographs of Hannah and John in their old age. On the way back from their wedding over 150 years ago Hannah saw a gold-plated ribbon brooch set with amethysts for sale in a shop window in Pendleton. She persuaded John to buy it for her and she is shown wearing it in the locket photograph. We still have it!
I found Thomas Jones’s family in various Pendleton census returns which confirmed that he worked as a cooper for many years. However, I was intrigued by Granny’s strange story of his supposed disappearance in old age. What could possibly have happened to him? Presumably he had died at some time in the late 19th century.

And then one day in 1986 I discovered at Clayton House, the Society’s former library and headquarters, an index of memorial inscriptions at Weaste Cemetery in Salford. I had a look at it, not expecting to find anything in particular and was amazed to discover what appeared to be two MIs of the Tub-Thumper and his family! (2) .Needless to say I went to investigate. Surely, if Thomas Jones had disappeared or been drowned without trace he could not possibly have a monumental inscription in the conventional sense?

I found both gravestones quite easily. The first carried the inscription:-

In loving memory of
Catherine
the Beloved wife of Thomas Jones
(Cooper) of Pendleton
who died May 14th, 1881
Aged 73 years.
“In the year of their “Golden Wedding”
Also of Elizabeth Maria
the beloved daughter of
Thomas and Catherine Jones
who died July 15th 1886
Aged 52 years
Also of the above named
Thomas Jones
who died December 7th 1893
Aged 84 years.
Also Alfred Jones
Grandson of the above
who died June 9th 1901.
Aged 32 years.

The other gravestone commemorated more of Thomas’s family (3). Of course everything fitted beautifully. I knew that Catherine Selkirk was born in 1806 - her age on the gravestone was actually a year out but near enough. And she had indeed died in the year of her golden wedding since she had married Thomas at Eccles (St Mary’s) on 26th December, 1831. Thomas himself was described as a cooper - very helpful! The other gravestone contained the remains of Thomas Selkirk Jones who died aged 76 in January, 1913 and other family members. He would have been born around 1836 and was presumably Tub-Thumper’s son.
So it was perfectly clear that I had finally discovered the Tub-Thumper’s last resting place and that he had died in December, 1893 aged 83 or 84. Very probably the last surviving witness of the Peterloo Massacre of 1819! Thomas had been born around 1809/10 and so was about ten when this terrible event in Manchester’s history took place. This fitted very well. I photographed and copied both the headstones and immediately ordered a copy of Thomas’s death certificate, hardly knowing what to expect.

Thomas Jones, “formerly a cooper (master)” had died aged 83 at 29, Zachariah Street (long gone) in Salford on 7th December, 1893 - from Senile Decay! He hadn’t drowned or disappeared without trace at all! He had simply died, probably in his own bed, from old age!

So how had the legend of his disappearance originated? I have absolutely no idea! The object of this article is to show that we should always look at old family stories and legends with extreme scepticism. Often they may be accurate or at least distorted versions of historical facts. However, occasionally they may prove to have no obvious factual basis whatsoever - just red herrings as in this case. And the further back and the more exotic the stories are the more cautious we should be in our attitude to them.

REFERENCES.

2. Weaste Cemetery, Salford, Grave nos 558/A5 and 536/A5.
3. Strangely, the details of Thomas and Catherine’s grandson Alfred who died aged 32 in 1901 are recorded on both gravestones! There is no indication of where Alfred was actually buried.

Ian Mc Alpine (3300) Email: Carrhey2@btinternet.com.
SOCIETY TREASURER REQUIRED

The Society’s present Treasurer will step down from office at the AGM on 20 April 2016, having completed the statutory maximum term of seven consecutive years plus one additional year under the provisions of paragraph 5.f.1 of the Society’s constitution.

The Society therefore is in urgent need of a member to serve as Treasurer from 20 April 2016 onwards.

The work of the Treasurer does not require any qualification in or substantial understanding of accounting (though these would undoubtedly be useful). Most of the processes are partially or fully automated and the incoming Treasurer will enjoy the support of his or her predecessor, including a period of induction before taking up the post. The work of the Treasurer requires a commitment of about a half day each week.

While the demands upon the Treasurer are not onerous, the importance of the post cannot be too greatly stressed. Without a Treasurer, we will find it very difficult to administer the Society.

If you feel that you could take on this important post, please contact the General Secretary.
BMD Certificates Available from M&LFHS

The Society holds more than a thousand Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates from all over the British Isles (and even some from overseas) which have been ordered in error by members. These Certificates have been indexed and are published in instalments in the Journal when space is available. The Members’ Section of our Website has a complete list of all Certificates listed to date. (You’ll need Adobe Acrobat for this.)

If you think any of these certificates might help your research photocopies can be obtained by sending two First Class or three second Class stamps to Brenda Gregory c/o the Society.

Marriages

BENNETT William  Manchester  1852  GREGSON Elizabeth
BESWICK Henry  Manchester  1858  JONES Caroline
CLOWES Thomas  Manchester  1874  MOSS Elizabeth
CUNNINGHAM Michael Leonard  Stafford Bushbury  1959  WOOD Joan
CURRAN James  Manchester Newton Heath  1905  JONES Florrie
GEATER Henry  Berkshire Reading  1856  JONES Charlotte
GILL Fred Jackson  Yorks Skipton  1921  WEAR Sarah Elizabeth
GODDARD John  Lancaster Oldham  1912  JACKSON Clara
GRAHAM Hugh Gardiner  Lancaster Burnley  1857  HARGREAVES Ann
HARDMAN John  Lancaster Rochdale  1857  HOOD Lucy
HARTLEY Richard  Manchester  1849  KERSHAW Elizabeth
HENDERSON James  Lancaster Aldcliffe  1862  JANNAN Margaret
HUGHES Thomas  Manchester  1851  RAWSON Emily
HULBERT John  Manchester  1846  HUGHES Martha
KAY James  Lancaster Ashton-under-Lyne  1880  HEWITT Ann
LEE Francis  Lancaster Ashton-under-Lyne  1878  PEARSON Susannah
MANLEY James  Lancaster Chorlton  1862  CLAYTON Teresa
MANTON Matthew  Manchester  1860  BEARD Mary
MANTON Matthew Porter  Manchester  1885  HUGHES Martha
MATLEY Arthur  Chester Bucklow  1925  VALENTINE Jane
MATLEY Arthur  Lancaster Prescot  1916  TAYLOR Mary Elizabeth
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Other Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MINNETT Henry</td>
<td>Manchester</td>
<td>1855</td>
<td>BEESTON Margaret</td>
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<tr>
<td>MOSS John</td>
<td>Manchester</td>
<td>1866</td>
<td>TWIST Eliza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOSS Joseph</td>
<td>Manchester</td>
<td>1852</td>
<td>CHALLENGER Eliza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGDEN William</td>
<td>Manchester</td>
<td>1874</td>
<td>SMITH Jane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEARSON John Swift</td>
<td>Surrey Lambeth</td>
<td>1883</td>
<td>SHURMER Betty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PILLING George Haworth</td>
<td>Lancaster Haslingden</td>
<td>1887</td>
<td>HEYWOOD Margery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRICE Joseph</td>
<td>Lancaster Pendlebury</td>
<td>1936</td>
<td>DOWNING Mary Ann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REDDISH John</td>
<td>Manchester</td>
<td>1854</td>
<td>HEATHER Hilda Janett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHRODER Albert Edward</td>
<td>Portsmouth</td>
<td>1922</td>
<td>WIDDAS Mary Ann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEVERS John</td>
<td>York Harrogate</td>
<td>1879</td>
<td>TIERNEY Margaret</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLATTERY Thomas</td>
<td>Lancaster Rochdale</td>
<td>1894</td>
<td>LOCKITT Jane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STANWAY Robert Kissaut</td>
<td>Stafford Silverdale</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>GEATER Lydia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAYLOR Henry</td>
<td>Bristol Barton Regis</td>
<td>1886</td>
<td>BARNES Lizzie</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHITE Alfred</td>
<td>Chester Bunbury</td>
<td>1886</td>
<td>ABBOTT Elizabeth</td>
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<tr>
<td>WORTHINGTON Robert</td>
<td>Manchester Collyhurst</td>
<td>1881</td>
<td>FITZPATRICK Mary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YARWOOD Thomas</td>
<td>Manchester</td>
<td>1867</td>
<td>NORBURY Jane</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Manchester Quarterly Meeting 21 October 2015

A Lancashire Garland

Sid Calderbank, an authority on Lancashire dialect, treated us to both an education and an entertainment. His talk about the preservation of dialect through the works of five key writers was illustrated by readings from some of their stories and poems and, to everyone’s delight, by his tuneful renditions of several dialect songs.

Sid suggested that Lancashire dialect was an echo of the language of the Kingdom of Northumbria, which extended from the Mersey to the Scottish border, but which had been largely eclipsed by that of the southern Kingdom of Mercia. His opening example was the song of Gilbert Scott of Warrington, believed to date from 1548 but transmitted orally until first published in the 1850s. This tale of the slow-witted Gilbert being cheated out of his horse was one of the early examples of the “gormless” Lancashire character, another being Joseph Lees’ creation “Jone o Grinfilt”, who saw Oldham as a foreign country. Sid suggested that this was a character which echoes to the present day through performers such as George Formby, Les Dawson and, latterly, Mike Harding.

The first efforts to record dialect were made by John Collier (1708-1786), who wrote under the name “Tim Bobbin”. Collier recognised that dialect was in danger of disappearing and so began to write in dialect to ensure its preservation. His major problem was how to record the distinctive pronunciation, particularly of vowel sounds, and he would use such spellings as “heawse” (horse) to convey these. His dialogues between “Tummu and Meary” once more feature characters whose gullibility is both remarkable and endearing.

Dialect writing was, until the Victorian era, largely comic in nature, but then a more sentimental style appeared. This became prominent in the writings of shoemaker’s son Edwin Waugh (1817-1890), particularly his 1856 poem “Come Home to they Children and Me”, the plea by a wife to her husband who has tarried over long in the bar room. The poem, which was published in the Manchester Examiner, was taken up by the reformer Angela Burdett-Coutts as a temperance message and 20,000 copies printed. Waugh published his writings both in substantial hard-bound books and in inexpensive booklets, reaching an audience extending from the aristocracy down to the working classes.

Samuel Laycock (1826-1893) was an unusual recorder of Lancashire dialect in that he was a Yorkshireman, though one whose family had moved to Stalybridge when he was a child. Sid read Laycock’s poem “Bowton’s Yard” in which the narrator goes from house to house telling us about the inhabitants.

John Trafford Clegg (1857-1895) (“Th’owd Weighver”) wrote in the Rochdale Dialect and Sid recited part of his poem “Yeawl Fro’ T’ Roch” in which the river bemoans its polluted state, an early plea for nature to be better respected.

Finally, Sid recited part of “Owd Friezlander” by Ammon Wrigley (1861-1946), whose statue stands outside the museum at Uppermill.
Family history is more than just a collection of dates and facts. It also involves how our ancestors spoke and related to one another. Sid’s entertaining presentation showed us that these records of Lancashire dialect can shed some light on these aspects of their lives.

Sid has recorded a number of CDs of dialect poems and songs. Details can be found on his web page www.sidcalderbank.co.uk

First Edition to City Final

Peter Levy is a former journalist who during his career had worked for the Yorkshire Post, Daily Express and finally the Manchester Evening News. He had subsequently developed an interest in the history of Manchester’s newspaper industry. Peter briefly outlined the history of newspapers beginning with the Corante (Current) which first appeared in 1621 and which in 1702, as the Daily Courant, was the first daily newspaper.

These early titles were published in London and it was not until 1719 that Roger Adams published the Manchester Weekly Journal, which would be the first of many Manchester newspapers. Adams’s paper boasted that it published both foreign and domestic news, but also appears to have published the first ‘Lonely Heart’ advertisement. This appeal for a partner resulted in its author, Helen Morrison, being committed to an insane asylum for four weeks. The Journal was followed in 1730 by The Manchester Gazette, which in 1745 carried reports of the movements of Bonnie Prince Charlie and his army. The first of the more long-lived titles, Joseph Harrop’s Manchester Mercury, appeared in 1752. Published every Tuesday at the price of a halfpenny, the price soon rose to a penny-halfpenny but, despite this, it achieved a circulation of about 1,300 copies, representing about 10% of Manchester’s population at the time. Harrop obtained his news ahead of his competitors by having an agent meet the mail coach at Derby to collect the reports from London and rush them to Manchester.

The development of newspapers was not helped by the imposition of a one penny tax in 1797 (which was to rise to fourpence over the next five decades, finally being abolished in 1854). Nevertheless, many new titles appeared over the next decades, though most were short-lived. Over 20 appeared and disappeared again in the first quarter of the 19th century alone.

Manchester’s most famous newspaper, The Manchester Guardian, first appeared in 1821. Peter explained that its appearance was not the direct result of the Peterloo Massacre as is commonly believed, but followed the outcome of a libel case in 1819 in which its future editor, John Edward Taylor successfully defended himself in a court which was heavily biased towards the plaintiff, John Greenwood. On the way back from the court, his associate, printer John Childs, made the suggestion: "It is now plain you have the elements of public work in you. Why don't you start a newspaper?" The subsequent events of Peterloo simply confirmed him in this course. The paper was
established by subscription and so Taylor was unusual in being the editor but not the proprietor.

Manchester had six regular newspapers at this time, four of which were strongly in support of the (Tory) government. Manchester’s most radical newspaper was *The Manchester Observer*, but its political position was extreme and its journalists constantly harassed. *The Manchester Guardian* was founded as a reformist, rather than a radical, newspaper and shortly afterwards the *Observer* closed, but with an unqualified recommendation that its readers support the *Guardian*. Over time, however, the paper’s political position drifted to the right of centre. Perhaps its most famous editor, C. P. Scott, took over in 1871 and, as a result of the political upheavals of the late 19th century, Scott repositioned the paper as a Liberal title.

Manchester attracted a number of other national newspapers including the *Daily Mail*, *Daily Sketch* and *Daily Express*, the latter erecting its impressive art deco building on Great Ancoats Street in 1939. Manchester was sometimes, as a result, referred to as “The Fleet Street of the north”. Some, including *The Daily Telegraph*, moved their printing to Manchester during the blitz. All of these titles subsequently left Manchester at various times after the war. A new national daily, *The Daily Star*, was launched in Manchester by Express Newspapers in 1978, the first national daily to be established since the Great War, but moved to London in 2004.

Manchester’s newspaper history came to an end in 2011, when the Manchester Evening News, which had been founded in 1868, moved out of Manchester to Chadderton.

**Note:** An extensive collection of Manchester’s newspapers from Adams’s *Manchester Weekly Journal* onwards is available on (self-service) microfilm at Central Library while the *Manchester Courier* (1825-1916), *Manchester Evening News* (1870-1903 and 1914-1916), *Manchester Mercury* (1750-1820) and *Manchester Times* (1828-1900) can be accessed via the British Newspaper Archive web site. Access is free at the MLFHS Help Desk. *The Manchester Guardian* (1821 to date) is available online free of charge to members of the Manchester Online Library.
Proposed Amendment to the MLFHS Constitution

The following amendment to the Society’s constitution will be proposed at the Society’s Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 20 April, 2016.

8 FINANCE

d) The Executive Committee may exercise the power, subject to any consents required by the law, to borrow money and to charge all or any part of the property of the Charity with repayment of the money so borrowed.

The reason for this amendment is to satisfy our banker’s requirement that the constitution of a charity which wishes to obtain a credit card should explicitly grant its governing body with borrowing powers.

Historically, the Society has purchased services, equipment and consumables using either cheques, direct debits or bank standing orders in payment. On-line providers of such goods and services are increasingly refusing to accept cheques in payment and direct debits and bank standing orders are inappropriate for one-off or irregular payments. To circumvent this problem we have relied on the willingness of the officers to pay using their personal credit cards and to reclaim sums paid from the Society by cash or cheque. This is not satisfactory and therefore we will be seeking approval of the necessary constitutional amendment to enable us to obtain a credit card for such payments.

Should members have any questions concerning the above, these should be addressed to the General Secretary.

John Marsden
**E-mail Forum**

If you do not know the answer yourself, perhaps another member can help. One of the best ways to take advantage of the vast fund of our members’ knowledge is to join the Computer Forum. This members-only service currently has over 600 subscribed members but more will always be welcomed.

*How does it Work?*

When you post an e-mail to the Forum address, a copy is sent to all of the subscribed members. If someone has an answer, their reply is again posted to all members. In this way everyone gains from their expertise. The Executive Committee also find the Forum a useful way to communicate with members.

*What Subjects does it Cover?*

You can ask pretty much any question you like, provided it is relevant to family history. “Does anyone know where to find records about…”, “Where are the registers for…”, “What did a doffer do…” You can also let other members know about a useful web site or family history event which you have discovered. Some Forum members will even do look-ups in local archives. The Forum also provides the Society with a means of alerting members to details of imminent events or other news which might otherwise be history by the time the next *Manchester Genealogist* is published.

*How do I Join?*

Membership of the Forum is free to paid-up members of the Society. To join, simply go to our web page [www.mlfhs.org.uk](http://www.mlfhs.org.uk) and click on the ‘Quick Links’ button labeled ‘MLFHS E-mail Forum’. Here you will find more information about the Forum and a link to the sign-up form. Complete and submit the form and soon after, you will receive an e-mail which contains a link to click to confirm your request. Once the moderator has approved your application, you will be able to take part.

**Earwaker Prize**

1. The prize will only be awarded to members of the Manchester and Lancashire FHS.
2. The article to be within the scope of the interests of the society (this to include Anglo-Scottish, Irish Ancestry and Oldham and Bolton Branches).
3. The prize to be awarded for the best article in the previous year’s volumes (i.e. the four journals published in the previous year). The prize to be a £50 book token (or the equivalent in the case of an overseas winner).
4. A winner will not be eligible for consideration of a prize in the year following the receipt of such an award.
5. Articles for consideration must not have been previously published in any publication.
   The Society reserves the right to “highly commend” or “commend” suitable articles.
6. A judging panel to be convened which will report to the March council meeting for announcement and presentation at the Annual General Meeting in May. The criteria for the judging panel to follow when considering articles will be; use of sources; evidence of original research, and style.
**Bookshop & Mail Order News**

**New publications**

**Code 1645  St. Chad’s (RC) Church, Manchester. Baptisms 1772-1820 & 1828-1893 £7.50, 95gms (DVD).**

The Roman Catholic Church of St. Chad was originally established on Rook Street, off Market Street, but moved when a new church was built at Cheetham Hill in 1847. The registers of Baptisms cover periods with a gap between 1820 and 1828. During this period the church was closed and baptisms took place at St. Augustine’s, the baptism registers for which have been published on a companion CD.

Members of the Irish Ancestry Branch of the Manchester & Lancashire FHS have, by kind permission of the Diocese, transcribed details of the 35,810 baptisms recorded in the registers. The transcript provides full details as contained in the register and is accompanied by an index to the 168,631 names of children, parents and godparents which appear in the entries. Also included are scanned images of the registers concerned.

**Code 3155  Manchester (NW) & Central Salford 1931 £2.50, 25gms**

This map is a later version of the map of Manchester (NW) & Central Salford 1915 (Code 3131). It includes: Lower Broughton, Strangeways and its prison, Great Horrocks (part), Peel Park, Broughton Copper Works, Exchange Station, Victoria Station, Chetham Hospital & Library, Salford Docks (part) (Oldfield Road Wharf), The Cathedral, Corn and Produce Exchange, Royal Hospital Chapel St. The River Irwell winds its way down the left side and across to the right of the map. There are some minor changes to the earlier version, to name a few: Lead Seal Works & Copper Works added on North George St., Saw Mill & various other works added on Broughton Lane, Empire Works (Pneumatic Appliance) added on Bent St. On the reverse side of the map is a list of residents on Chapel Street and Shudehill, (Extracts from Kelly’s Directory of Manchester, Salford & Suburbs 1938).


This is the most authoritative guide to the city for visitors or residents. It looks at Manchester’s past, present and future, it describes the main monuments, museums and galleries whilst also giving the lowdown on where to stay, eat, drink, dance, watch sport or shop. There are four walking itineraries around the city and recommendations for where to take excursions. Biographies of key citizens and episodes in Manchester’s lively history are revealed. This is the first in the guide series of books to UK cities.

**Reviews**

**From Bugsworth to Manchester: A History of the Limestone Trail by Ian Littlechilds and Phil Page**
In 1796 the 6-mile Peak Forest Tramway opened linking the Derbyshire quarries to the canal system at Bugsworth, near Whaley Bridge, in Derbyshire. Over the next ten years, great engineers and entrepreneurs like Benjamin Outram and Samuel Oldknow developed a vision of bringing limestone and other goods over 20 miles from the heart of the Peak District into the centre of industrial Manchester and beyond. Great feats of engineering, such as the construction of Marple Locks and Aqueduct, allowed the Peak Forest Canal to meet with the Ashton Canal at Portland Basin and establish a trade route unique to the developing canal system.

Today, the route is still used by canal enthusiasts, walkers and cyclists who can embark on a nostalgic journey through the stunning beauty of the Peak District, industrial East Manchester and, eventually, via the Rochdale Canal, through the centre of Manchester itself. Many of the original buildings and structures of the route can still be found along its length and are a fitting reminder of the ingenuity, skill and vision of the industrialists of the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The paperback book is in full colour, with 100 illustrations, 96 pages, size 235 x 165mm (9 x 6in app), price £14.99 and may be purchased from Amberley Publishing, The Hill, Merrywalks, Stroud, Gloustershire, GL5 4EP or from their website www.amberley-books.com.

Mormons in Mid Nineteenth Century Middleton (Lancs.) and Vicinity  Rex Watson
The book covers the history of the Mormons, or Latter Day Saints, in the Middleton area of North Manchester from around 1840 and includes Early LDS Branches in Tottington, Rochdale, Bury, Heywood, Cromford Fold, Whitefield, Royton, Oldham, Little Heaton, Blackley, Ashton and Manchester. It includes a journal kept from 1841 to 1850 by a prominent church member, Membership Records of the Middleton Branch and their parentage and Minutes of a Branch Council Meeting from 1842 to 1857. There is a map of meeting places in Middleton and details of events. The book is A5 size, 40pp, price £5.00 plus postage, available from Rex Watson 29 Woodland Road, Sawston, Cambridge, CB22 3DT email address rexwalton@ntlworld.com

Harry Bebbington
Mail Order Manager

Christmas Gift Ideas

There is always one on your Christmas list who is difficult to buy for so here are some suggestions.

Ancestral File:
A must for anyone starting their Family History.
Neil Richardson Books
Neil Richardson has plenty of books on local pubs. Perhaps some would appreciate one of his publications, and might stop the arguments regarding names of pubs that have long gone.

Maps
We have a large collection of maps covering Manchester and beyond starting at £1.80 to a set for £35. It would be nice to have a map of where you ancestors lived. All of these can be purchased from our online bookshop http://www.bookshop.mlfhs.org.uk/

Manchester The Complete Guide £9.99
This is the most authoritative guide to the city for visitors or residents. It looks at Manchester's past, present and future, it describes the main monuments, museums and galleries whilst also giving the low-down on where to stay, eat, drink, dance, watch sport or shop. There are four walking itineraries around the city and recommendations for where to take excursions. Biographies of key citizens and episodes in Manchester's lively history are revealed. Includes tour maps and over 250 illustrations. This is the first in the guide series of UK cities.

Ancestral File: A Record Book of Family Research £4.00
One of our best sellers! This book offers a convenient system for writing in your family tree. You start in the middle with yourself and add father and mother and their parents until you get to your Gt, Gt, Gt, Grandparents. You turn to the next page on either side and add the details of each parent, birth, marriage and death details. Turning each page on either side you add details of grandparents, etc. till you get to the first and last page to add details of your Gt, Gt, Gt, Grandparents. There is also a place on each page to add details of each census year from 1841 to 1911. The cover is gloss blue.

A History of Royton's Pubs
R Magee. Pub by Pub record. Lists of licensees and well illustrated. A4

A History of the Pubs of Denton & Haughton
F Rhodes. Pubs of Denton and Haughton from earliest times to the 1980s Arranged alphabetically and well illustrated. A4 32p

A History of Crompton & Shaw Pubs
R Magee. History of their pubs from 18th century to the 1980s. Notes on licences & lists of licensees. Well illustrated with photographs

Manchester & Salford Central Set 1891-1915M
Maps number 3110, 3111, 3121 and 3131 plus Godfrey Index Book 1026. Buy the set £10 and get the index free!
Manchester & Salford Set, 1848/9 Issue 3
Map numbers 3022, 3023, 3024, 3025, 3027, 3028, 3029, 2030, 3032, 3033, 3034, 3035, 3037, 3038, 3039 and 3041. £35 Plus a free index

Manchester Northern Suburbs Set 1889-1932
Maps number 3123, 3132, 3134, 3136, 3137 and 3380 plus Godfrey Index Book 1031. Buy the set £14 and get the index free

Manchester Southern Suburbs Set 1889-1905
Maps number 3109, 3113, 3114, 3115, 3116 and 3118 plus Godfrey Index Book 1027. Buy the set £14 and get the index free!
Plus lots of individual Maps from as little as £1-80

We also sell Gift Vouchers £5 £10 £25 or you could get a Membership subscription for them to MLFHS to start them on their Family History.

The First World War
Life on the Home Front in North West England

In this unique DVD to mark the centenary of the First World War, the North West Film Archive opens its vaults to share compelling footage of life on the home front in North West England.

From industrial toil in the years leading up to the outbreak of war, to key events during the hostilities - join BAFTA nominated actor Maxine Peake on this fascinating journey into the past. Drawing on rare archive footage we feature amongst others, the Accrington Pals, the Lancashire Fusiliers and the Cheshire Regiment as they prepare for active service on the Western Front.

We discover the early days of aviation, and German Prisoners of War being marched through the streets of Lancashire. From troop inspections in Preston and Blackpool, to the subsequent victory parades in Whalley and Haslingden and the unveiling of war memorials from Egremont to Altrincham.

Presenting evocative footage filmed across the North West a century ago - don’t miss this special opportunity to experience how we lived our lives during one of the darkest periods of our history.

65 minutes, with subtitles for the hard of hearing.
Handbook. £12.00 Inc. vat code 1696
Update on the Manorial Documents Register

We would like to update you on the Manorial Documents Register (MDR) search within Discovery (http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/manor-search), which we launched earlier this summer. The new MDR search replaces the nationalarchives.gov.uk/mdr platform, which will be retired on 30 October 2015.

The MDR identifies the nature and location of manorial records. A standard Discovery search will show general information about manorial records held at The National Archives and elsewhere; the powerful new manor search tool provides information about manorial records as defined by the Manorial Documents Rules. More and more researchers from across the UK and beyond are using Discovery to find information about records held by other archives. We hope that integrating the MDR into Discovery will increase its visibility and make the service more accessible to all users whether they are familiar with using the MDR or not.

Originally a paper-based register, the MDR is gradually being updated and made available online. You can find up to date information about this work on our project page (http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archives-sector/manorial-documents-register.htm). We would like to say thank you to all of those who have contributed to the growth of the Register and to the generosity of the funding bodies who have supported this. The landing page for the manor search retains the title of 'Manorial Documents Register'. This is an acknowledgment of the legal status of the MDR but also demonstrates our commitment to its delivery and presentation as a defined entity in Discovery.

We have sought extensive user feedback throughout the development process, and we have already implemented a number of enhancements to ensure that this resource offers the same high level of service as its predecessor. We continue to welcome feedback on the development of Discovery, which helps inform our on-going programme of documenting, prioritising and developing enhancements. Please email discovery@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk or use the feedback form within Discovery.

For more information searching the Register using Discovery visit: http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help/accessing-records-of-mdr.htm or read our blog: http://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/blog/discovering-manorial-documents-register/

Jonathan Cates Collections Knowledge Manager (Finding Archives) | Archives Sector Development The National Archives +44 (0) 20 8876 3444

Beryl Evans
FFHS Archives Liaison Officer
Email: archives.liaison@ffhs.org.uk
Anglo-Scottish FHS

Chairman: Mr. Michael Couper
Journal Secretary: Mr. David Muil
Minutes Secretary: Mr. David Muil
Committee members: Mrs. Ina Penneyston, Mr. David Hartley, Mr. Mark Campbell, Mrs. Yvonne Gill-Martin, Mr. David Kirkpatrick

Anglo-Scottish Family History Society Meetings 2016

Manchester Central Library
Every 3rd Saturday of the month
For details see Calendar of Events

Contributions and Correspondence for the journal

These should be addressed for the attention of the Secretary or Journal Secretary, Anglo-Scottish FHS, M&LFHS, 3rd Floor, Manchester Central Library, St Peter’s Square, Manchester, M2 5PD. enclosing a SAE.

For research at New Register House (General Register Office)
Mrs. Margeorie Mekie,
15 Pittville Street, Edinburgh, EH15 2BZ
E-mail – margeoriemekie@blueyonder.co.uk

Anglo-Scottish Branch Meeting - 19th September 2015 Ancestral Breakthroughs

Our annual presentation of recent ancestral breakthroughs made by our members attracted only a small audience, yet drove home the wisdom of never throwing away any scrap of information. The PowerPoint presentations helped the audience to follow the intricacies of each of the respective family trees.

Yvonne Gill-Martin spoke about a business card she had squirreled away almost 40 years previously, doubtful of its value in her family history research. When she came across it again recently, she took a flier and Googled the name borne on the card. With
little expectation she was surprised to find a recent posting to the professional social
networking site, LinkedIn, for the precise name and profession she was looking for.
Making contact, Yvonne discovered that the posting had been made by a distant cousin
of hers previously unknown to her, who was able to fill in some gaps in her family tree.

Michael Couper described the progress he had made towards completing the clutch
of children raised in different parts of the world by his soldier ancestor, engineer James
Burnett Gill and his wife, Mary Ann Skinner. His search had taken him from Bermuda
to Mauritius then on to the suburbs of London. There continue to be gaps in the family,
which ensures that Michael has some work ahead of him before he can complete the
generation.

David Muil has been looking to confirm a family legend for some forty years. His
father always maintained that Catherine Muil, his own father's elder sister had married
a member of the Alloa brewing dynasty founded in 1764 by George Younger. All he
knew was that Catherine's husband had been John Younger, a jeweller running his
business from a shop in Alloa High Street. Earlier this year some speculative searches
on the Internet resulted in uncovering a complete genealogy for several generations of
the Younger family. The source, Northern Notes & Queries, 1889, republished by
Edinburgh University Press, traced John Younger through his father, Robert, to the
founder's fifth son and John's grandfather, George to confirm his relationship as one of
the great grand children of the founder of the brewery, also George.

Once again, the persistence of two or three of our members becomes the example
for others.

David Muil (13008)

**Exchange Journals Go Digital**

More of our fellow members of SAFHS – the Scottish Association of Family History
Societies – are publishing their journals in digital form. As a result of an agreement
between a number of them and us, we are now able to post these on the MLFHS
website. Why not take a look? Log into the members area and follow the link to the
main menu and thence to Download Exchange Journals.

**SAFHS Bulletin** – this April 2015 edition of the association’s newsletter contains
the regular mix of news and events covering the widest range of Scottish family history
research. Regular updates of the member societies in Scotland and further south are
featured with much of interest to the researcher. In addition to reports from the full
member societies there are contact details for Associate members in far off lands of
Canada, New Zealand and Australia. Book Reviews and Diary Dates complete the
comprehensive review of activity by the association’s members.

**Dumfries and Galloway FHS Newsletter** - the March 2015 edition contains
articles on topics ranging from military researches covering the Peninsular War and
Waterloo to migration to Jamaica and the Quintinshill Rail Disaster of 1915. Its 32
pages are brim-full of interest for those with ancestors in county.
**Highland FHS Journal** - joining us for the first time digitally with its May 2015 edition the Highland society reveals the origins of the distilling firm of Mcleay Duff & Co. The experiences of a front line private in the Napoleonic Wars are sketched out in a timeline. Ever thought about publishing a biography of one of your own ancestors? Then an article in this edition will give you some useful hints. Other articles feature a piper’s grave, the continuing tale of an Inverness tavern and a family tree for a Dingwall family.

**Orkney FHS – SIB Folk News** – This September 2015 newsletter published by our friends from Orkney is a well illustrated production. One article, in particular, catches the eye – *The Stromness Headhunter* – a tale which reflects the maritime history of these islands off the north coast of Scotland. Based largely on the experience of a Stromness sailor who survived desertion from his ship aboard a small boat and no provisions, capture by natives of the Solomon Islands to become a useful member of the tribe before making his way to Australia where he became an instant hero. The 24 page edition carries many more features which are worth reading including an emigrant’s successful transfer to New Zealand and a grandmother’s claim to be related to the composer Edvard Grieg.

David Muil (13008)

**Scottish War Memorials**

It is well known that the Scottish soldier has featured as a constant figure in the history of the British Army. Recruitment took place heavily in different regions of Scotland – the Black Watch in Perth and Kinross, the Royal Highland Fusiliers in Glasgow, the Cameronians, firmly located in Lanarkshire and the Glasgow area and the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders based in Stirling. It is natural therefore that each village, town and burgh in the country would erect memorials to its sons who fell during the many conflicts in which these forces were engaged. Many of you, I know will be avidly hunting for details of your fallen ancestor. Where then to find details of him?

You may know already about the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and its website http://www.cwgc.org but what of the many memorials, rolls of honour and church windows by which families and friends are able to remember the fallen in their own home district?

The War Memorials Trust [http://www.warmemorials.org] contains many links to help the researcher find the memorial appropriate to his/her own research.

The Scottish National War Memorial is sited in Crown Square, at the top of the rock on which Edinburgh Castle stands. It commemorates Scottish casualties in both World Wars and the many campaigns since 1945. Its website, http://www.snwm.org has a link to a Roll Search. A name search will result in brief details of the soldier including date, theatre and cause of death as well as his rank and the force to which he belonged.

Aberdeen City War Memorials [http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk] is a website containing the assembled history of war memorials in Aberdeen.

*Manchester Genealogist, Volume 51, No 4, 2015*
Smaller communities like New Cumnock in Ayrshire also maintain websites for their local war heroes. This one, http://www.newcumnock-warmemorials.org.uk , not only details a number of memorials in and around the village but also burials and memorials in overseas theatres of war for both world wars. A database holding more than 150 names gives much additional information, notably the New Cumnock connection. A second database carries the names of those soldiers with a New Cumnock connection who do not feature on the Village War Memorial.

http://www.eliewarmemorials.org.uk identifies war memorials and memorial tablets situated in the villages of Elie and Earlsferry, in the Kingdom of Fife.

Owner of a large number of war memorials in the county of Morayshire, The Moray Council lists each one on its website, http://www.moray.gov.uk alongside some other monuments in the district but not owned by it.

http://www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk allows anyone to submit details of a war memorial with the aim of building up a national database. Its principal object is to promote the conservation of these important sources of local and community histories for future generations.

These few are, of course, not the only sources of information of Scottish War Memorials but I hope they will serve for the time being. I will identify another series of monuments in a future journal. Meantime, good luck to those hunting the memory of their soldier ancestor.

David Muil (13008)

**Review of Books Received**

Among the books recently received by the Society from various sources are the following:

**Aberdeen Female Teachers pre-1872, a biographical list**, Alison T McCall [published by Aberdeen & North-East Scotland FHS]

Prior to the Education [Scotland] Act 1872 Aberdeen had a variety of schools. This slim volume identifies the many types run by the different agencies which existed, i.e. church, charity, town council and private. The considerable role of women in the teaching profession at that time is apparent from the index of names provided in which they feature heavily.

The biographies contained here can vary from a single line of information to more comprehensive career details running over more than half a page. A full appreciation of the educational establishments in Aberdeen may be had from an index of schools and their teachers as well as a street index.

For those wishing to study the subject in more depth, the bibliography of primary and secondary sources will be indispensable. In due course the book will be entered into the Society’s Library Catalogue when that is to be published in 2016.

Michael G Brown’s study of the Middleton surname in Aberdeenshire, Kincardineshire and specifically in the parish of Birse will be a great help to researchers of the surname. Attractively produced with many illustrations, trees and lists, the book combines details extracted from the Birse parish registers for baptisms and marriages beginning in the middle of the 18th century, with contemporary accounts contained in the Kirk Session Minutes and notebooks maintained by the Church of Scotland minister, Reverend Joseph Smith. These extend into the 19th century.

The useful index of place names both within and outwith the parish and the appendices which detail the minister’s lists of baptisms and marriages add to the appeal of this book. Combined with the reverend’s population lists grouping families into communities, it is little wonder that the author’s efforts were rewarded by the Aberdeen society which chose the work as the winner of The Bruce Henderson Award for 2013. This award was initiated in 1989 in memory of a former Chairman of the society following his death the previous year.

Burial Grounds in Glasgow – a brief guide for genealogists, by June A Willing and J Scott Fairie [published by Glasgow and West of Scotland FHD]

The chief features of this slim volume are transcriptions of gravestones together with sketch maps of the locations of a wide range of burial grounds in and around Glasgow, as well as an index. A selected bibliography supplements the assembly of a valuable guide which belies its claim to be brief.

Stirling Burgess List 1700-1799, edited by J Lockhart Whiteford and published by Central Scotland FHS.

Second in a series of occasional monographs, this volume covers the burgess lists for the burgh of Stirling throughout the 18th century. It is based on manuscript lists of entrants to the burgess and guildry rolls made by council clerks of the period. A wealth of surnames of prominent citizens of the burgh promises a treasury of information for researchers in this sphere.

The Kirkyard of Kinnernie and The Kirkyard of St Devenick-on-the-Hill [parish of Banchory-Devenick], compiled respectively by Graham Ewen and Gavin Bell, published by ANESFHS.

The work of the Aberdeen society over many years in transcribing gravestones and mapping graveyards in the county is well known and well-regarded by those interested in Scottish family history research.
These two volumes meet the excellent standards set over many years. Well indexed and with much updated material they rank alongside many other similar volumes held by the MLFHS among its Scottish library holdings.

David Muil (13008)

**Easyfundraising.org.uk**

**An easy way to help the Society.**

The Society is registered with Easyfundraising.org.uk, a website that has links to all major on-line retailers, such as Amazon, Argos, B & Q, BT Shop, Boden, Comet, Curry, Debenhams, J Lewis, La Redoute, M & S and Staples. There are hundreds of participating retailers – the list seems endless.

When you purchase on-line through the site, the retailer makes a donation to the person’s chosen charity. The price you pay is exactly the same as if you had gone direct to the retailer’s website. It is proposed to add a link on the Society’s website.

However, for this to happen you need to register, with the following steps:

1. Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk and register your details with the site.
2. Use the ‘support your cause’ box to find your chosen charity, just type in Manchester and you will find us.
3. Click on the Society name and continue with the registration. Do not forget to click the ‘gift aid it’ box to boost your donation.
4. Continue with your shopping.

Remember to use the site for all on-line shopping – Your favourite suppliers are almost certain to be there. Every donation we receive helps the Society without costing you a penny.
Bolton & District Branch

Chairperson: Brian Whittle
Secretary: Barbara Owen
Treasurer: Susan Boddy
Committee Margaret Calderbank, Val Leese, David Baker, Colin Calderbank, Graham Holt, Rita Greenwood

BDFHS website: www.bolton.mlfhs.org.uk
Bolton’s Genies Newsletter e-mail: boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk

Meetings of the Society are held at 7.30 pm on the first Wednesday of the month [except January] at our new venue (see below), The McKenzie Suite, (ground floor), Old Links Golf Club, Chorley Old Road, Bolton BL1 5SU. The meetings are free for members of the MLFHS but there is a small charge for non-members. If you join the Society on the night the charge is refunded. There is free car parking available at the club. Guests and potential members are sure of a warm welcome. Refreshments are available from the bar. Unwanted genealogy magazines and CDs can usually be exchanged/collected at the meeting. A Genealogy Help Desk manned by experienced researchers is available at the end of each meeting.

Future Programme of Talks, 2015/16

2nd December – Christmas themed evening with talk by Linda Sawley – retired nurse, hospice volunteer, author and observer of life

January – no meeting but please see Open Evening 20th January (below)

3rd February – Jacqui Crosby (Senior Archivist, Lancashire County Archives) “Saving the Hulton archive”

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT
It has been decided to alter the venue for the Bolton FHS meetings. Bolton Cricket Club has hosted us very well over some 20 years but it is felt we need a bigger room to accommodate our current attendance at meetings. The new venue is The McKenzie Suite, (ground floor), Old Links Golf Club, Chorley Old Road, Bolton BL1 5SU. Tel:
The Golf Club is very easy to find, there is very extensive car parking and drinks from the bar, tea and coffee in the meeting room will be available.

There will be a re-launch of the club on Wednesday 20th January 2016 at 7.30 p.m. (Please note this is a variation from our usual 1st Wednesday in the month). Everyone welcome.

Meeting Reports.

August 5th 2015 -- The Gardens at Roynton Cottage

Most people from Bolton and its environs know of “The Chinese Gardens” but Mrs. Elaine Taylor told us that this is a misnomer - there is nothing Chinese about them. Mrs. Taylor is involved with the Rivington Gardens Restoration Project which hopes to win funding to facilitate the restoration of this gem, virtually unknown to the wider world.

She went on to give us a slide show whilst talking about Lord Leverhulme (who was at the time Sir William Lever) and Thomas Mawson, a successful landscape architect, who was born in Scorton near Lancaster. By 1905, Mawson had a renowned reputation having worked for the aristocracy, but Lever had seen samples of Mawson’s work, wrote to him, describing himself as “a poor and humble soapmaker”!! and asking him to visit his then home, Thornton Manor with a view to working on his garden. Thus started a working partnership and friendship lasting until Lord Leverhulme’s death in 1925.

Sir William Lever had purchased the manor of Rivington in 1904 and wished to develop what was bare moorland with no characteristics. Much planning was put into what became superb and extensive grounds to a bungalow called Roynton Cottage. Stone had to be quarried and brought to the sloping ground, suitable soil and trees identified and acquired, and a design by Mawson to give a garden for Sir William to entertain his many guests, for walking and for swimming in the many lakes. The final phase of the development was in the early 1920s when “The Dell” with its beautiful waterfall was constructed.

Lady Lever predeceased her husband but he continued entertaining guests, including Thomas Mawson and his family. He encouraged local groups like the scouts and Women’s Institute to hold events in his grounds, and organised open days when anyone could enjoy the grounds, have picnics etc. After Lord Leverhulme’s death and the First World War, the area started to deteriorate and is now in a particularly dilapidated state, although many features such as “The Pigeon Tower” (not for pigeons but a favourite place of Lady Leverhulme), the loggia and summerhouses still remain.

It is difficult to know how the area became known as the Chinese Gardens, but there were a number of small pagoda-type structures which were for entertaining and some Japanese looking lanterns, but these were purchased from a Liberty catalogue.
Mrs. Taylor has undertaken extensive research and has seen Thomas Mawson’s original plans and details of his costs for many of the schemes he planned, but it is extremely difficult to estimate how much Lord Leverhulme spent on his many gardens.

Attendance: 43 members, 5 visitors

2nd September “Who was Uncle Bilsborrow”

Mr. Tony Foster, who very kindly stepped in after our planned speaker had to pull out for family illness reasons, gave us a particularly interesting talk on not his Uncle Bilsborrow but a person mentioned in a document.

Looking through a parish register (from the back rather than the front as most of us do) Mr. Foster found a small document starting “my uncle Bilsborrow came to my house on Saturday 11th April 1755 and ………..” Most of the rest of the piece was in shorthand so, confident the shorthand could be read by fellow colleagues, he took a copy of the piece to work but the secretaries could not help, they being used to Pitman Shorthand. After further enquiries, it became clear that there were very many versions of shorthand, the first dating from 1588, with the version in the document being quite obscure. However, it was eventually transcribed and the shorthand portion of the document referred to legacies in a will and the birth of a child nine days previously.

Philip Yorke (1690-1764) Lord Hardwicke promoted an Act of Parliament in 1753, which stipulated that all marriages had to take place in a parish church (Quakers and Jews being exempt). This effectively stopped the practice of irregular and clandestine marriages, where ecclesiastical laws had not been observed. However, some clergymen were prepared to marry couples (for a fee) in places like the Fleet Prison and pubs in its environs. The Gentleman’s Magazine reported that 100 couples had been married before 11.00 a.m. on 24th March 1753 in this way. The Hardwicke’s Marriage Act is a boon to family historians because even if a family were Roman Catholic or Non-conformist, their marriages should be found in Anglican parish church records.

Mr. Foster recommended use of Google to people wanting more information on irregular and clandestine marriages.

At the advent of civil registration on 1st July 1837, the Marriage Act was not required and churches other than parish churches started to apply for a licence to conduct marriages. Non-conformist chapels too could apply for a licence, but in their case, a Registrar had to be present at weddings to complete the register (this practice ceased in 1898).

Mr. Foster went on to explain how dates of baptism prior to 1754 can be difficult to comprehend. This is due to a momentous event in 1752 when New Year’s Day became 1st January, instead of 24th March (Lady Day) each year. Thus, Britain moved from the Julian calendar (named for Julius Caesar) to the Gregorian calendar. 12 days were lost in 1752, the 3rd being the same day as 14th September. The move had been afoot since 1582 when other parts of Europe had moved to the Gregorian calendar. Entries in parish registers with dates from 1st January to the end of March often give both years (Julian/Gregorian) with the result that say, two children born in successive years can seem to be christened in the same year. Mr. Foster firmly recommended the use of
original parish registers, rather than transcripts, because further information e.g. a child’s date of birth can be found.

Being interested enough in Uncle Bilsborrow, Mr. Foster started to piece together the families involved. It became evident that the Bilsborrow family were travelling from Haslingden to Lower Darwen to baptise their children, a good walk even now. James Bilsborrow started to use his house to conduct non-conformist sermons, and went as far as to be buried in a vault in his garden, together with his wife and several daughters, the burials taking place in the 1820s. In 1899, development of the garden unearthed the lead-lined coffins. This led to questions from the audience about how this situation would be dealt with. In every case, if the dead are being disturbed, whether graves are uncovered through development, the closure of churches etc. the Home Office must be informed and they will decide a procedure, either leaving the remains in situ or removing them to (usually) a local cemetery. Due records will be made in the receiving cemetery.

Much more research by Mr. Foster followed, using Lancashire wills, those south of the River Ribble being held at the County Record Office, Chester and a good index (put Lancashire wills in a search engine) free to use. To be sure he had the same family, Mr. Foster used the “milking stool” system, that is, if you have three corresponding sources, you are on firm ground; if you have two sources, the balance can be suspect, but with only one source i.e. one leg of the stool, you may well come to grief with your research.

Attendance: 37 members, 4 visitors

7th October – Tracing your Surname

Sara Vernon M.Phil. started her talk by listing the various main sources for family history research, pointing out that each one will contain surnames of people living over the ages. She went on to tell us there are many directories of surnames and their origins, including the Directory of Lancashire Surnames, a difficult to obtain book but a copy is held at the County Record Office, Preston. The other book recommended is the Oxford University Press publication “A Dictionary of English Surnames”, which gives the first date a particular surname is mentioned on an English document.

She then showed us the four CDs which make up the National Burial Index, the dates are:


Having asked the audience to list their surnames of interest, she proceeded to find the earliest known entry of a burial for each surname, together with a map showing the distribution of burials throughout the country, some surnames being extremely widespread and others quite definitely in a small area.

Time having run out she offered to look up those surnames she didn’t have time to show to the full attendance.

Attendance: 38 members 11 visitors

Manchester Genealogist, Volume 51, No 4, 2015
Family Trees
One of our most respected founder members is now in failing health and has entered residential care. His family approached the Bolton branch asking if we could help disband his very extensive family history-based library. Included in the treasure trove were four family trees, produced by painstaking, traditional research (bringing in land and court records, hearth tax, universities, Protestation Oaths) and it is felt that people researching local surnames could very well make use of copies of them. They date roughly from the late 1500s to the early 1700s, so obviously if researchers get over the pesky 1780 “brick wall”, then this thorough research can be latched onto. The four trees are:

BRADSHAW with ancillary surnames of Robinson, Lever, Fogge, Rigby, Whalley
LEVER with ancillary surnames of Barton, Crompton, Warburton
FOGGE with ancillary surnames of Bradshaw, Ainsworth, Greenhalgh, Haworth
CROMPTON with mostly Crompton connections

Each family tree (23 x 27”) costs £5, including postage and packing. Please contact the Bolton Branch Secretary on 01204 309515 to order.

Certificates Needing A Good Home
A correspondent of our Branch Secretary, has offered the following certificates free of charge to anyone who can use them. Please apply to Barbara Owen 01204 309515.

Birth
Alice daughter of Margaret Marsh born 29th June 1847 Westhoughton
Doris daughter of Albert Bradley & Eliza nee Howard born 29th November 1902 Bolton

Wedding
Thomas Howard & Alice Marsh of Westhoughton married 18th March 1867 at Deane
Albert Bradley & Eliza Howard of Westhoughton married 2nd January 1897 at Westhoughton

Death
Thomas Howard aged 49 years of Westhoughton died 10th August 1896
Alice Howard aged 49 years of Westhoughton died 19th March 1897
St Anne’s Church

High Street, Chapeltown, Turton
Founded probably 1111
Current use: Church. This building was dedicated 2nd October 1841
Notes: Was originally dedicated to St, Bartholomew
       Renamed St Anne, probably around 1717
       Was a Chapel of Ease to St Peter’s, Bolton le Moors
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Exercising Your Franchise

Electoral Registers
This source for research was introduced in 1832 after legislation allowed the vote to men with property valued at £10 per year (even if rented). Only 1 in 6 adult males were eligible. Lists of voters were published annually (none during World Wars 1916 and 1917, 1940 to 1944 as most men were fighting). The registers are lists of people entitled to vote and their address. If someone had recently moved, their old address should also be listed (house in succession). Eligibility then as now went off property or educational qualifications and many people didn’t bother. Anyone under 21 (18 after 1969) are not included, and few women, except those with property owned in their own right. After 1918, women over 30 could vote, women over 21 from 1928. Combined registers for local/national elections began in the 1880s, although there might be Burgess Rolls for local elections between 1867 and 1918. Women owning their own property will often appear in Part 2 of these registers. If a man had lived at an address for 12 months (six months after 1918) (even if the house was rented), he would have a vote. Libraries often have indexes of streets in their towns, giving the ward of each.

It’s necessary to remember that different places had different criteria on voting e.g. some villages could elect an M.P., Manchester couldn’t. Each borough had its own franchise, and laid down its own charter and this resulted in large variations.

In the later period, if you know the address of an ancestor, gained from a directory, certificate or census return, you can sometimes check all voters in that house e.g. a daughter’s fiancé/lodgers). Postmasters, tax collectors and those in receipt of poor relief couldn’t vote during the earlier period.

Don’t forget that electoral information given in one year will only be published in the next year (as now).

Voters’ lists can be located in County Record Offices, local libraries or in Town Halls. The British Library has a complete set of Electoral Registers from 1947, and a few earlier ones. Recent registers can be accessed at www.192.com. The British Library, the Society of Genealogists and the Institute of Historical Research also have good selections of Poll Books.

Don’t forget this rich source of information, especially as voters’ lists are a good way of finding out the addresses of people between censuses.

Poll Books
It could be argued that, these days, elections are greeted with lukewarm enthusiasm at best, apathy at worst. It wasn’t always like that, before the passing of the Representation of the People Act in 1832, elections were quite boisterous affairs.

Created in 1696 by Act of Parliament, Poll Books were intended to prevent electoral fraud. The books include the information as to which candidate each person voted for. They voted in public, which could cause problems e.g. if a farmer voted for someone other than who his landlord preferred, he could be thrown off his land. If any voter was prevented from paying his rates on time for any reason, he lost his right to vote. There were no female voters at this time. The books listed everyone entitled to
vote in given elections of members of parliament (sometimes referred to as knights of the shire).

Poll books were not needed for borough elections until 1843. Unfortunately, they do not survive as the records of borough polls 1843-1870 were destroyed in 1907.

Sheriffs were required to “set down the names of each freeholder and the place of his freehold and for whom he shall poll”. The lists were in manuscript form and later printed, some printed editions including maps and sometimes a history of voting in that constituency.

From 1696 to 1832 the general qualification was the ownership of freehold land worth at least 40 shillings a year (thus known as forty-shilling freeholders). An Act in 1711 meant that each voter’s residence and qualification to vote and sometimes his occupation was given. From 1763, the franchise was extended to the holders of annuities or rent charges on freehold land and names in poll books were usually taken from land tax returns. (There were local variations to the above, in some boroughs all householders could vote). In 1832 the franchise was extended again to include occupiers (owner or tenant) of a property with an annual rental value of £10.00.

Up to 1774, voters had to live in the county in which he voted, otherwise he might be recorded in a list of non-resident voters (there is an index to voters residing in a county other than that in which their freehold was situated in 41 poll books dated 1702-1807 held by the Society of Genealogists.

Poll Books finished when secret voting arrived in 1872, they are held in local libraries and County Record Offices but Ancestry has started a collection of Poll Books and Electoral Registers 1538-1892.

People Eligible to Vote
Top of the tree would be someone who owned land or leased quite a bit of land, certainly more than his own family would need. A leaseholder (much more common than someone who owned land) would probably employ people and his land would perhaps be worth more than 50 shillings a year if rented.

This leaseholder would probably be termed a yeoman. This would bring rights such as local voting and obligations to act as an overseer of the poor within the parish and might serve in the local yeomanry (horsed militia) (so therefore would own a horse).

Of lesser status but a similar occupation would be a farmer, who by ownership or lease would farm an area of land for his own benefit. If his holding was sufficiently valuable, he might be referred to say, in parish registers as a yeoman. If less valuable or he was merely a tenant, he would be called a farmer. The distinction between the two seems to be of property value.

Either of above might employ people to help them farm the land. An unskilled farm hand would be a labourer, but rearing of livestock needs skill and knowledge so a person like that might call themselves a husbandman, which signifies skill.

So as voting goes, a yeoman would qualify, a farmer might, a husbandman probably wouldn’t (unless he owned his own cottage – highly unlikely).
To summarise electoral records:

Burgess Rolls – Local Elections
1838 – 1841 Voters arranged in alphabetical order
1842 – 1879 Alphabetical list for each ward (Volume in library should have ward for each street)
1880 – 1914 Alphabetical by street, within each ward
        House in succession = last address

Electoral Rolls Parliamentary Elections
1916 – 1917 No rolls due to World War I
        Conscientious objectors deprived of vote until 1923
1918 Vote for all men aged 21
        Vote for all women aged 30
1918 – 1926 Compiled twice a year
1928 Vote for all adults over 21 years
1940 – 1944 No rolls due to World War II
1944 – 1945 Rolls produced twice a year
1970 Vote for all over 18 years

Constituencies Divided into electoral divisions
Electoral divisions Divided into wards
Wards Divided into polling stations.

Doffcocker Village Model
Mr. Alan Simpson, a very active member of the Halliwell Local History Society visited the Bolton Branch meeting on 7th October and told us about Doffcocker Village in Bolton. It was demolished for development in the 1990s but a model of the Village is now held at All Souls Community Centre. The model shows what life was like in Bolton in the 19th century and is used as a teaching aid for children’s school parties. It will be on display free of charge on 4th December 2015 from 7.30 p.m.

Trip to Smithills Hall
Smithills Hall is well known to some local people but how many have never visited, thus missing out on the jewel in Bolton’s crown, or haven’t visited for a long time, in which case, things have altered and a visit well worthwhile, as the Bolton members found when they visited on 18th September.

There is a new Tea Room in the Hall, which has clearly become a very popular venue, with no free tables – we were glad our table was reserved. After a good lunch in very convivial surroundings, the group was met by their guides, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Sheppard, both former Chairman of the Bolton Branch and both keen members of the Friends of Smithills Hall.

The Hall is medieval in parts with a splendid Great Hall, laid out with food which would have been consumed in medieval times, wooden eating ware and with the family trees of the main families who owned the Hall. We saw the adjacent buttery and
Brewhouse, the old kitchen with an excellent display of the Hall through the ages and then went on to the Tudor portion of the Hall, with its bower and solar. The withdrawing room with its linen-fold panelling and effigies of owners of the Hall or people associated with it (all identified) was much admired.

Also in the withdrawing room are eight Heraldic Panels, commissioned by Peter Ainsworth in 1843. They are on both sides of the bay window and commemorate successive owners of the Hall. Peter Ainsworth was Liberal MP for Bolton for 13 years, a JP and was appointed Deputy Lieutenant for Lancashire in 1821. He was out on Smithills Moor with a shooting party on 9th November 1838 when the Scottish travelling pack man, George Henderson was shot on Winter Hill. There was no conviction for the crime although a local man was tried. Afterwards the Scotsman’s Stump was erected on the site of the murder and is still standing.

It is not known who painted the shields but they are fine examples of Victorian heraldic artwork. Each shield is impaled e.g. divided vertically, showing the respective owner’s arms side by side with his wife’s with their surnames on a scroll beneath the shield. Dates of occupancies are given (although some of the earlier ones may not be exact due to lack of evidence of the dates of tenure).

We then saw the famous footprint of George Marsh, a local man who refused to renounce his Protestant faith and who was burned at the stake in Chester. Smithills Chapel with its memorials of the Ainsworth family and which is still used for weddings, at Christmas and so on was visited next, its stained glass windows depicting the arms of:

Top Row: Hoghton, Ferdinando Stanley, The Tudor Royal Arms, Archbishop Cranmer, Molyeux
Middle Row: Standish, Stanley of Hooton, Ralph Ashshaw, Lawrence Ashshaw, Holcroft

The party then went through to the Victorian part of the Hall, the exterior being Tudor but several of the interior rooms restored to show Colonel Richard Henry Ainsworth’s library, Mrs. Ainsworth’s very pretty sitting room and so on.

Whilst being shown round, the work of the Friends of Smithills Hall was explained but, as with most other similar groups, they are looking for new members and/or volunteers. Anyone interested in further details could write to the Secretary of the Friends of Smithills Hall, Smithills Dean Road, Bolton.
Irish Ancestry Branch

Enquiries: Mrs. M Best
Projects Co-ordinator: Mrs. B Bentham
Programme Secretary: Mrs. M Thornton
Committee Members: Dr. Fergus O’Connor, Hanora McDonald

Irish Ancestry Branch
1993-2015

It is with regret that I have to announce the suspension of the Society’s Irish Ancestry Branch. The Branch, which was founded in 1993 through the efforts of Margaret Thurston, has for over two decades supported those whose ancestors came from Ireland. During this time the Branch has done a considerable amount to help researchers understand how progress might be made in this often difficult area of research.

At the heart of this activity has been a regular programme of meetings with speakers on a wide variety of Irish topics, and a regular section in the Manchester Genealogist in which the latest developments in Irish research could be published alongside useful advice and members’ own articles about their successes (and sometimes frustrations) when researching the Irish branches of their families. Both of these key activities have, since 2004, been organised by Margaret Thornton, who has worked tirelessly to maintain these important Branch activities.

Earlier this year Margaret indicated that she wished to stand down from this role at the end of 2015. This is therefore an appropriate time to thank Margaret on behalf of all MLFHS members who have benefitted from her considerable efforts. Margaret’s has been an outstanding contribution, which is deserving of our appreciation. With the suspension of the Branch, it is also a time to acknowledge the contributions of the present Branch Committee and all who have contributed to the Branch’s work since its founding.

Since Margaret indicated her intention to step down, we have made efforts through direct appeals at meetings, through email appeals and through the pages of this publication, for either a single volunteer to take over both of her roles or two volunteers to take on the meeting programme and the Manchester Genealogist Branch section separately. At the time this issue goes to press, no volunteers have been forthcoming and so, unless volunteers come forward before the end of the year, we will be forced, with the greatest reluctance, to suspend the Irish Ancestry Branch with effect from 31 December 2015. Suspension allows for the possibility that the Branch may be reinstated should volunteers come forward to ensure its future continuation, but if there
is no progress in this direction during 2016 then it is likely that the branch will be formally wound up.

On a more positive note, the Branch’s indexing team will continue its valuable work on transcribing Manchester’s Roman Catholic registers. The *Manchester Genealogist* will also continue to publish members’ articles on Irish research topics.

This is a timely reminder that the Society and its Branches can thrive only if there are members prepared to take on the various tasks necessary. Many of our key activities and services, both at Central Library and in our Bolton and Oldham Branches, depend upon single individuals who are prepared to get involved. If you value your Society and feel that you would like to get more fully involved in securing its future, let us know. You will find you get a warm welcome.

John Marsden
Chairman

Irish Band in Albert Square – Photo courtesy of Manchester Archives
Oldham & District Branch Meetings 2016

For dates and details of events please see the web site
Meetings will be held at
The Education Suite, Gallery Oldham, Greaves Street, Oldham

Magazine Contributors & Contributions
Please submit contributions to Jennifer Lever, 4 Church Court, Dukinfield, Cheshire, SK16 4PN or Email: j-lever@outlook.com

Poppy

Remembered by a poppy, battles won and lost
Those brave young men oh so young fought on at any cost
But through the years, women and men, those poppy petals grow
More shedded blood more blackened hearts our loved ones leave to go
To fight more battles around the globe for peace and human rights
Now non conventional enemy, no longer head on fights
Injured troops return from war our system makes them fight
They’ve earned their right for family life lets help more with their plight
We never learn we just expect how long will this go on
Remembered by a poppy, lost broken hearts each one

By Paul Broadhurst ©
A thank you note

Several members of the Oldham Branch of the Society have helped me considerably over the past 10 years (or more) in finding elusive ancestors and helping me ‘put flesh on the bones’ of the ones I’d already found. I would very much like to express my thanks to these members for sharing their knowledge and spending so much time on ‘my family’.

To Thelma Gledhill who helped me with my Kirkpatricks who came over from Ireland, to Keith Britain for being my 2nd cousin, which I didn’t know I had until I made an appeal for help with my Outrams. To Sandra Radcliffe who researched my Lees family and continues to do so, also thanks to Carol Talbot, whose father played Trumpet in my Great Uncle Joe Kirkham’s Dance Band in the 1930s and last but not least, to Arthur Davenport who was the Editor of the Oldham Branch until recently. Arthur pointed me in the direction of the Oldham Chronicle, which proved to be a real asset in appealing for information about my ancestors, and his encouragement to contribute to the Journal has also proved to be beneficial and his sense of humour to its pages have been very refreshing.

The Annual subscription to the Society has proved to be money well spent!

Rita Bray (15135)

Taken from the ‘Oldham Evening Chronicle – Friday 3rd Sept, 1915

A letter from the Trenches
Oldham Lads’ in the 10th Lancashire Fusiliers

(To the Editor of the Chronicle)

Sir, Would you oblige us by allowing a small space in your valuable paper for a few Oldham comrades to remind their townspeople that they have not forgotten the Wakes holiday, and to tell a little of what they have seen during their travels to the firing line.

We started ‘our bit’ on the 1st August and came out on the 21st August, and we can assure the people of Oldham we are sorry to have lost some of our chums and a good many wounded. It’s hard work seeing your own town lads go under. However, we have had four days’ rest since 21st August, and are now working our way back to the firing line again. A few of us were talking about it being Wakes time and us being shelled by the Germans. We are pleased to say they did not do us much harm.

We will try and give you an idea what Belgium is like at present. Every village you come to is blown to pieces, churches and schools are all gone, and some of the farms you pass you can see cows that have been killed by shells and left there. Bullets and shells are flying in all directions, in fact you feel safe nowhere. A few of our lads were nearly buried alive. They were just making their dinner when the Germans sent a shell.

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over and knocked their dug out on the top of them. We felt like going kicking them a bit. However we have a gun behind us that has fairly given them “gyp”. They have spent pounds on shells trying to find her and they do ‘get vexed’ if they can’t quieten her. They start and shell us in the trenches, but still she keeps firing rapidly at them six at a time. We are trumps as far as shelling goes just now. Our artillery chaps are giving them plenty to go on with. We haven’t much fresh news for you only that looking for a German in the day-time is like looking for a pin in a haystack.

Hoping Oldham people enjoy themselves this Wakes we are, yours etc.

Cpl T McNeill, (4110)
Cpl J Marsh, (4106)
Pte F Worrall, (4117)
Pte F Cobishley, (4115)
Pte W Whiteside, (4122)
Pte W Upton (4107)
10TH Lancashire Fusiliers, A Company, Expeditionary Forces, France

**Family History at Oldham Local Studies and Archives**

Don’t forget you are always welcome to come in to Local Studies & Archives at any time to do your research.

Tel 0161 776 4654 or e-mail archives@gov.uk for more details or to make a booking
Directions

Members’ Interests are entered into an internet database. Members and non-members alike may search the database and provided the submitter has made their e-mail address available, he or she may be contacted by e-mail. E-mail addresses are held securely to prevent abuse. Submitting members' postal addresses are not available to online users.

Members are encouraged to enter their own interests using the facility in the online data section of our web site www.mlfhs.org.uk Members who cannot access the internet may submit their interests on the Members Interests form (available on request) and we will add these to the database.

If you wish to correspond with any of the following members please mail them direct, accompanying your query with a stamped self-addressed envelope. Check the online listing first, however, as you may be able to contact them by e-mail.

Please Note: These lists are compiled about two months before the journal goes to print as their number determines the size of the journal. By searching for your interests online you can see an indication of the issue in which it is expected they will appear.

Submitting Members’ Names and Addresses

5125 P. Coutts, 8 Sautridge Close, Middleton, MANCHESTER, M24 2UB
16095 Benjamin Law, 68 Glenville Way, Denton, MANCHESTER, M34 6BS
16911 John Hanson, 16 Audley Mead, Bradwell, MILTON KEYNES, MK13 9BD
18629 Elsie Gilbert, Pippins, 1b Orchard Rise, OLNEY, MK46 5HB
18676 Linda Gidman, 66 Hallwood Road, Handforth, WILMSLOW, SK9 3BJ
18787 Nigel Wardle, 47 Dadlington Lane, Stapleton, LEICESTER, LE9 8JL
19351 Paul Anderson, 29 Stockburn Drive, Failsworth, MANCHESTER, M35 9SD
19682 Bonny Cook, 5721 Wildbriar Drive, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, USA, 90275-1752
19786 Mary Donovan, 89 Heywood Court, Rhodes, Middleton, MANCHESTER, M24 4RQ
19808 Barbara Hartigan, 9 Alpha Road, Stretford, MANCHESTER, M32 9JF
19810 Arthur B Perks, 24 Duchess Park Close, Shaw, OLDHAM, OL2 7YN
19822 Rosemarie Leonard, 12 Fox Dne, Bargate Wood, GODALMING, GU7 1YQ
19939 Ruth Crossley, The Vicarage, Vicarage Road, Levens, KENDAL, LA8 8PY
20094 Kenneth Kitchen, 16 Astleybrook Close, BOLTON, BL1 8RT
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Manchester & Lancashire FHS Members' Interests Directory

20104 David Dyer, 81 Wolverton Road, NEWPORT PAGNELL, MK16 8BH
20122 Maria Lewis, 84a Boundary Lane, MANCHESTER, M15 6FD
20129 Gerald Leary, 5824 Barbour Preserve Circle, Cape Coral, FL, USA, 33914
20138 Michelle McKnight, 71 Shaw Head Drive, Failsworth, MANCHESTER, M35 0SD

Submitting Members' Interests
Online Bookshop

If before purchasing books or maps from our online shop www.bookshop.mlfhs.org.uk you need additional information please e-mail direct to this address we will do our best to help.

If using our Store Pickup please, after getting confirmation your order is ready, pick up from the MLFHS Help Desk which is open Monday to Friday 10.30 till 3.30 only NOT the general information desk which sells a small selection of our books.
Member’s Enquiry

Hamilton
James Hamilton was awarded a ‘silver’ cup for winning a 10 mile walking handicap at Moston Park on March 13th 1882.

I would appreciate any information about the race or any of James’ family. James moved across country and settled in County Durham where he met my grandmother Agnes Gallagher. They married on the 14th October 1885 in Sedgefield. James was an attendant as the Durham County Asylum, Sedgefield. His father John was a draper.

Mrs Sylvia L Short. 15 Hutton Lane, Guisborough, Cleveland, TS14 9BE
Researcher Advertisements

Please direct all enquiries to the General Secretary, M&LFHS, for permission to advertise and for the details of charges. The Society publishes these services as a convenience to members but does not make any recommendation as to the merits of individual advertisers.

Although the Society makes every effort to check the validity of those advertising research or other services, it cannot take any responsibility for the work carried out, services given or charges made by the advertiser. If any member feels that they have just cause for complaint, they should write to the General Secretary, MLFHS. 3rd Floor, Manchester Central Library, St Peter’s Square, Manchester, M2 5PD

Roots Family History Service

I specialise in Lancashire and Manchester, Ashton under Lyne, Bolton, Bury, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, etc. I search parish registers, census, prison records, index to wills, newspapers, Quarter sessions, trade directories and Civil registration, all aspects of research undertaken – from single items to full histories, at affordable rates. Over 30 years experience. Mrs Kathryn Stout, 13 Bramley Drive, Brandlesholme, Bury, BL8 1JL Tel: 0161 258 9535 or 07708177220 Email: Stoutroots@aol.com Web: www.rootsfamilyhistoryservice.com

Photo Restoration

If you have family photographs that are damaged by creases, spots and blemishes, I maybe able to repair them for you by using Photoshop. This is a free service, via email, for all MLFHS members although users are encouraged to make a small donation to MLFHS. Alternatively, if you would like me to print the photo for you there would be a small charge to cover the cost of paper, ink and postage.

The costs would be as follows:
4"x6"  £1.00 including postage & packing
5"x7"  £1.20 "              "         "     "
Other sizes available - please ask.
Carole Stoney
Email: mayorstone1@gmail.com
Map of the City Centre, Manchester

Manchester & Lancashire FHS is based at Manchester Central Library. Central Library is about a 20 minute walk from both Piccadilly and Victoria railway stations and about a 15 minute walk from Piccadilly Bus Station or Chorlton Street Coach Station.

Until autumn of 2016 there will be no Metrolink stop at St. Peter's Square
You should get off at either the Market Street, Piccadilly Gardens or Deansgate/Castlefield stop and walk to Central Library - about 10-15 minutes in each case.

1 Manchester Town Hall, Albert Square
2 Manchester Central Library
3 Manchester Register Office, Heron House, Lloyd Street
4 John Rylands Library, Deansgate