

LANCASHIRE

VOL. 45

NOVEMBER 2023

No. 4



THE LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY & HERALDRY SOCIETY

Formerly Rossendale Society for Genealogy & Heraldry (Lancashire)

Inaugurated 1973. Registered Charity Number 513437

President: John Dalton

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

Visit our Website on www.lfhhs.org.uk

Subscriptions:

Ordinary Membership £14 Family Membership £15 UK Pensioners & Students £12

Overseas Membership from 2022 = Members choosing electronic journals

Pensioner £12 (one year) £36 (3 years), Non-pensioner £14 (one year) £42 (3 years)

Family £15 (one year) £45 (three years)

Overseas Membership choosing the paper journal = £20 (one year), £60 (3 years)

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

MEETING VENUES

BLACKBURN & DARWEN

Ewood Park Working Mens' Club, 318 Bolton Road, Blackburn BB2 4HY
First Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm.

BURY

No meetings at present, but check Members Forum for information about Zoom/chats which have been set up as requested

CHORLEY

**Primrose Gardens, Fleet Street, Chorley PR7 2EE
Second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm (see Branch News for car parking)**

FYLDE

St. Martin's Church, Fleetwood Road South, Carleton, Poulton-le-Fylde FY6 7NL
First Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm.

HERALDRY GROUP

LFHHS Resource Centre, 2 Straits, Oswaldtwistle, Accrington BB5 3LU

HYNDBURN

**Accrington Sea Cadets, Harvey Street, Oswaldtwistle, Accrington BB5 3LT
First Wednesday of the month.
Doors open 6.45pm ready for 7pm start.**

IRISH ANCESTRY GROUP

2 Straits, Oswaldtwistle BB5 3LU
Saturday Workshops 1 pm – 4.30 pm **Every 2 months** as per Branch Programme.

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE

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

LONDON & SOUTH

No meetings at present, but check Branch Programmes for information of Zoom Meetings Five meetings a year on Saturdays at 2.00pm

PENDLE & BURNLEY

No meetings at present, but check Members Forum for information about Zoom/chats which have been set up as requested

PRESTON

Kingsfold Methodist Church, Padway, Penwortham, Preston PR1 9EJ
Last Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm.

ROCHDALE

St. Andrew's U.R. Church, Entwisle Road, Rochdale OL16 2HZ
Last Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm.

ROSSENDALE

Longholme Methodist Church (opp.Bus Stn) Bacup Road, Rawtenstall BB4 7NU
First Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm.

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Front Cover Picture:

Painting of Bispham by member Barbara Lochon

Rear Cover Picture:

Really Useful Family History Show

Pull out centre pages for Membership Renewal for 2024

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

YOUR SOCIETY NEEDS HELP!

We have a vacancy for a Society Treasurer

Ian White, our Treasurer,
has advised that he will be standing down at the
next AGM in May 2024.

It is possible for the vacancy to be filled
As soon as possible
to enable the handover to take place before Ian
steps down at the AGM

If you are interested and require more details
please contact

Secretary, Jayne Dixon

E-mail: secretary@lfhhs.org.uk

STANDING ORDER FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

To: The Manager.....

Address

.....

.....

.....Post Code

(Please enter above the Name & Address of your Bank or Building Society)

**Please pay to ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND PLC, 97 Fishergate,
PRESTON, PR1 2DP
Sort Code 16.28.33.
for the credit of the LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY & HERALDRY
SOCIETY
Account No. 12578737**

**the sum of £..... Commencing on 1st January 2024 and
thereafter**

ANNUALLY on the 1st January,

quoting the reference.....

(Please enter your name and Membership No. as reference above)

**until you receive further notice from me / us in writing and debit
my / our account**

(Please enter your bank account details below)

Account in name(s) of

.....

No of account

.....

Sort Code.....

**This instruction supersedes any/all previous Standing Order (s)
in favour of the beneficiary named above**

Signature/s.....

Date.....

**To ensure the standing order request is in place, please
deposit this form with your own bank. Thank you.**

BRANCH PROGRAMMES

2023

- 25 Nov London & South – Zoom Meeting 2pm – DNA – Debbie Kennet
29 Nov Preston - Jacobs Join
29 Nov Rochdale - Christmas Party
6 Dec Fylde To be arranged
6 Dec Hyndburn – Christmas Social
7 Dec Chorley - Christmas Quiz
9 Dec Irish - Advice and Research – 1pm – 4.30pm
12 Dec Virtual A Trip to Switzerland in 1916 – A little known aspect of WW1 – Tony Foster
27 Dec Preston - No meeting
27 Dec Rochdale - No meeting

2024

- Jan Hyndburn - No meeting
9 Jan Virtual - To be arranged
11 Jan Chorley - Members Evening
31 Jan Rochdale - TBA
7 Feb Fylde - Workshop, Help and Advice
8 Feb Chorley - Strange Things in Medieval England – Canon Robert Brunswick
13 Feb Virtual – To be arranged
28 Feb Rochdale - Research Evening
6 Mar Fylde - AGM
14 Mar Chorley - AGM then History of Midwifery – Linda Sawley
-

SOCIETY VIRTUAL BRANCH TALKS BY ZOOM

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

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

The programme of Zoom talks continues and we have had a number of interesting talks, ranging from burial traditions, north west cartography and "where did that saying come from" from Linda Sawley. Where possible we do try to record the sessions and make them available for a short period for those members who may not have been able to attend the meeting. However, this is not always possible due to copyright issues, and sometimes 'operator error' (when we forget).

The next two sessions, November and December, we have a couple of our own members giving us a talk. In November Mike Coyle is talking to us about War Memorials – A fight for Survival, followed in December by Tony Foster who is talking about 'A Trip to Switzerland' – A little known aspect of WW1. In January Jackie Depelle will be highlighting House and Family History Sources from before 1837, February will be a talk on Quaker Family History.

As you can see from the information above we have a full and varied programme of talks coming up. In the near future I will be looking at the programme for 2024/2025. Do you have any suggestions for speakers/topics you would like to form part of the programme? Do you want to give a talk like Mike and Tony – don't think you can do a full session, we can always have a couple or three speakers for a session. You might have a really interesting 'person' in your family. Why not share? Contact **societytalks@lfhhs.org**

The number of people attending remains constant and if you would like to join us, just look on the forum for the link.

We have been using the same Zoom link all this year and it will remain current until February 2024.

Looking forward to see you the second Tuesday of the month at 7.00pm

Mike and Marian on behalf of LFHHS Trustees

LINK TO SOCIETY TALKS – UNTIL FEBRUARY 2024

This document will allow you to download the information for the Society talks until February 2024. It can be done via inputting to your 'calendar' so you will always have the links available. Hope this makes it easier for everyone.

Meeting Holder is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: LFHHS SOCIETY ZOOM MEETING

Time: Every month on the Second Tuesday, 12 occurrence(s)

Nov 14, 2023 07.00 PM

Dec 12, 2023 07.00 PM

Jan 9, 2024 07.00 PM

Feb 13, 2024 07.00 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Monthly:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZctduyurzIpGdTgVrHAPHdLMbGXKYHDZHxs/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGrrjovHNWcsxqHRpwqAoj4Z-7zmFhejadpmy3KwFjSgfaG-BICplGOPzq](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZctduyurzIpGdTgVrHAPHdLMbGXKYHDZHxs/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGrrjovHNWcsxqHRpwqAoj4Z-7zmFhejadpmy3KwFjSgfaG-BICplGOPzq)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83015619330?pwd=azFicFdVUWwISIVoaU9KK1NER0JSQT09>

Meeting ID: 830 1561 9330

Passcode: 732198

One tap mobile

+442034815240,,83015619330#,,,,*732198# United Kingdom

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Dial by your location

+44 203 481 5240 United Kingdom

+44 203 901 7895 United Kingdom

+44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 830 1561 9330

Passcode: 732198

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/jvj6V0p3Mu>

MEMBERS' ARTICLES

FREE RESOURCES ON ANCESTRY AND FIND MY PAST

By Ron Chapman

It is well known that Ancestry is a subscription site, but those of you who are old enough to have been involved with the 1881 census project, will know that this database on Ancestry and Find my Past is free to access to this date. However, lots of other databases are also Free on Ancestry. So, if you have not joined Ancestry, how do you find this data?

Well, here is a tip.

Open Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>) and on the top line click on "Search" and a drop-down menu will appear. The next to bottom item is "Card Catalogue", click on that. The catalogue page will open. On the left are two boxes in which you can type. In the "keyword(s)" box type Free. Select search. At the time of typing, they have 552 databases.

As well as the 1881 Census you will find "Web: Scotland, Sheriff Court Paternity Processes or Case Papers, 1752-1921", or "UK, D-Day War Diaries and Photographs, 1944, or "Cheshire, England, Extracted Church of England Parish Records 1564 – 1837" and many more. Many millions of records in total. The vast majority of these are British and Irish records.

In a similar way Find my Past has free records. To get to these, open up Find my Past (<https://www.findmypast.com/>) and scroll to the very bottom of the opening page in the left column of text, fifth from the top is "Free genealogy records". Further down is the "1881 Census".

Happy searching.

LANCASHIREBMD

(www.lancashirebmd.org.uk)

An Update from Tony Foster

The LancashireBMD website was established in 2002 with the aim of transcribing the original indexes of births, marriages and deaths held in the Register Offices and making them freely available on the website. Although, the work is not complete.

Currently (15 October 2023) the website contains over 11 million births, 4.6 million marriages and 6.6 million deaths. In the current year 78786 births, 6631 marriages, and 10226 deaths have been uploaded to the website.

REFLECTIONS ON 60 YEARS OF FAMILY HISTORY

By Rex Watson

E-mail rexwatson@ntlworld.com

The earliest days

Well actually our hobby (pastime, obsession?) was usually just called 'Genealogy' in the 1960s. There were relatively few adherents, though many people would admit to some curiosity about their family's history, without actively researching. Typically, grandparents would be known, or known about, but not by and large much of great-grandparents.

I was successful enough at grammar school, and went on to university for a maths degree. If I had to rank my favourite subjects at school, Maths was certainly top, and I'm afraid History, along with Religious Education, was near the bottom. History as I recall was all about national and international matters, perhaps to be summed up as 'Wars, Politics and Royalty'. There was nothing specifically local (Burnley in my case), and little on purely British or just English matters such as developments in our industry, agriculture and transport. Perhaps I am being a bit unkind, but I was certainly never inspired.

I think though that I always had some rather insistent curiosity about my family, partly because my father had some interest, and particularly his father, who lived in Burnley all his life, working in the cotton industry, as a trade union secretary in later years. He lived to 94, very sharp in mind, dying when I was 18. He had known his own great-grandfather in the main line, Henry WATSON, born in 1796. My father was a keen photographer, and around 1950 produced a composite photo of six generations (all male!), down from Henry to me and a cousin. Sight of this now and then acted as a spur to finding out more. Then around 1964, just after our grandfather had died, my sister, ten years my senior, and also having some unsatisfied curiosity, went to an evening course at Nelson and

Colne College, as it was then, on Family History, run by Wilf Spencer, the well-known historian of Colne. She shared some of the information from this, on sources and their availability, with me, and we, perhaps eventually me more so, were hooked. I had the advantage of being at university in London, easily able to visit Somerset House, for BMD certificates, and the Public Record Office in Chancery Lane (not Kew!) for Census returns (but only for 1841-1861). Back in Lancashire, the Lancashire Record Office in the centre of Preston (before the Bow Lane building) was an easy (if slow) train journey from Burnley, and various parish and non-parochial registers in NE Lancs could be seen by making appointments with the current incumbent. (Bishops' Transcripts were, and are, at Preston.)

None of the following have of course been mentioned : internet, computer, microfiche, microfilm, though a few of the last would be around. At Somerset House you paid a fee (about 1/6d) for each search, then if you wanted the certificate another 3/9d (?) was needed. The searches involved humping around large index volumes, keeping you fit. (Local searches, for instance in Burnley, at the Register Office , did provide an alternative, and the two ways of obtaining a certificate remain to this day.) At Chancery Lane you viewed the original Enumerators' Returns. In Preston you could handle the BTs, wills,, etc. All so different to today!

In what follows I have taken the liberty in places of making suggestions on how to proceed in family history study, what to look for, and the like. Which of course the reader can take on board or ignore!

Fast forward 50-60 years

As the years have gone by, technology has increased leaps and bounds, and here we are today with so much available at the click of a button. However, one aspect of this almost paradoxically means that 'visits' to some record repositories are more necessary than ever: online indexes abound, and often material which has not been digitised can be found. Copying,

usually digital these days, by the repository can save a journey : cost is involved, but transport and maybe accommodation don't come free.

Here a word about searching, not on a site such as Ancestry or that of a Record Office, but just 'on the internet'. Use an exact Google (or similar) search for your ancestor, if he or she has a fairly unusual name. If the name is common (we all dread 'John Smith'), put in also another search term, such as a place. You will likely reap rewards.

DNA is the other major feature around these days. I have had mine done, of course, and made many contacts. I think deductions made from 'connections' made this way need handling with care, the science of DNA is quite an involved matter in many respects. Certainly, do your best to back things up with old-fashioned documentary evidence.

A few cautionary words

Of course, writing for a family history journal, I am probably preaching to the converted. However, if as occasionally happens, I am asked about this hobby, I do give a couple of words of warning! Firstly, it can be costly, financially and timewise. Financial costs include membership of an internet site, probably (though much can be achieved from free sites), buying BMD certificates, buying other document copies (eg wills), and travel. With regard to time, it can consume you (but then so can other hobbies)! Secondly, you might discover unpalatable information about an ancestor, of a variety of forms. Some of these are mild perhaps (eg up in court for imbibing too much), some much less so. With the advent of DNA testing, surprises in relation to paternity could always occur.

Some personal highlights

There have been highlights big and small. The following are in no particular order, but all have produced that frisson of

excitement when something new is discovered. In most of these cases I have written things up for family history journals, this one and others. References are given at the end of this article. My ancestry put simply is 75% Lancashire (with bits of Yorkshire of course, and the tiniest bit of Devenon), 25% Lincolnshire (with a bit of Nottinghamshire). However as will be seen movements away from these areas have sometimes produced the particular interest.

One. The Mormons

Readers will be aware of the tremendous input to their researches from the Mormon (Latter Day Saints) Church, for instance Family Search and their Family History Centres (FHCs).

Tracing ancestors is strongly encouraged for members, with posthumous religious ceremonies. I was vaguely aware that my mother's family had some connection, and when I got round to her family, in the 1970s, I was able to discover a great deal. Some of her ancestors and other relatives had joined the sect in the late 1830s, 1840s and 1850s, following the activities of Mormon missionaries in Britain, especially Lancashire, from 1837. I was able to look at original branch membership records (Middleton particularly) on microfilm, at the Rossendale FHC. This led a little later to tracing the emigration records of many family members, including two ancestors (my mother's 2 times great grandfather George Hulme and his daughter Betty Yates), and to a whole host of records in USA, mainly of course in Utah. I think I must be related to half of that state! I wrote up much of the story a few years ago (1). The interest in UK Mormonism also widened into a publication on the Middleton Mormons (2).

Two. A Chartist

Many years ago I wrote what I think was my first article, on my 3 times great grandfather Henry WATSON, mentioned earlier (3). It had been possible to discover a lot about his long life, in or near Burnley. He lived to be 81. Some time after

producing the article I found a brief obituary in a Burnley newspaper, noting he had been a Chartist, and was by then (1877) one of the diminishing number of surviving ex handloom weavers (4).

Three. Patents

Although a quarter of my ancestry is in Lincolnshire, my father's mother's parents, both from that county, married in Lancashire, at Barton-on-Irwell. These were Charles Tindall and Letitia HARRISON. They settled in Burnley, Charles being a coach maker, working for some years for the firm of John KNAPE. In addition to being a skilled worker with wood and metal (he came from a family of wheelwrights and carpenters), he was something of an inventor. Along with another, he patented two designs, which I was able to obtain via the Patent Office. One was for improvements to the water closet (enough said), the other for velocipede tyres (about 1890). These used cork flaps, but sadly did not take off like Dunlop's air pressure invention about the same time ('We could be millionaires'). See (5).

Four. A goblet

To come to a discovery in the line of my fourth grandparent, surname HAYES, from Bury, earlier Radcliffe. Richard and Betty Hayes were my 4 x great grandparents. A few years ago I made a DNA contact, in USA, who turned out to be descended from them too. In his family, as an heirloom, was a glass goblet inscribed 'R and B HAYES 1816'. I was able to supply the owners with fuller information on the line, and have a photo of the goblet. See (6)

Five. Court of Chancery

The records of the Court of Chancery are held in the National Archives, which has a good general index ('Discovery') and a useful guide to these records. The Court dealt with a variety of cases, usually disputes concerning property, and often arising

from dissatisfaction of some sort in relation to the execution of an estate, following probate from a will or administration bond. I have found about half a dozen of these in my family, ranging from mid 17th to early 18th centuries, though there are much earlier and some later ones. The records are in English, often in rather archaic and verbose language, and of course usually in some sort of secretary hand. Not too difficult in the end, with practice. There is often considerable genealogical information : one from Lincolnshire covered five generations of my FOUNTANCE family or others linked by marriage (7).

Six. Inquisitions Post Mortem

Also from the National Archives, usually (some are found in other places), are Inquisitions Post Mortem (IPMs). Some have substantial extracts printed, for instance by the Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire – see their website for a list of their publications. The ones I have used are Duchy of Lancaster ones, but there are other bodies that generated them. They were required, up to 1660, when a man of some substance (generally holding land by some sort of tenure) died, regardless of whether there was a will. They took the form of a detailed inquiry into his holdings, in order for relevant taxes or services (originally often of a military nature, but by the 16th century or earlier converted to money payments) to be received by the ultimate landowner, for instance the Duchy of Lancaster. The bad news is that they are in Latin, often much abbreviated. However, it is possible with practice to get much meaning, without employing an expert translator. Topographic details of land are present. The exact age of the heir is generally given. See the three volumes of the Record Society that give full extracts for the Duchy ones for the whole reign of James 1 (8). It should be noted that Discovery does not index the Duchy IPMs individually : brief details of many however can be found in the volumes of the Victoria County History (VCH, found online, by township, under the umbrella British History Online (BHO)).

Seven. George Fox and Quakers of Upper Wharfedale

In 1652 George Fox the Quaker leader ascended Pendle, and had his famous vision therefrom. In the days following he moved into the Yorkshire dales, preaching and converting as he went. An early stop was in Upper Wharfedale, or rather Langstrothdale, at Scar House above Hubberholme, where he stayed with my ancestors James and Elizabeth TENNANT. They, it seems, had been religious 'Seekers' for a time. Quakers from an early time kept good records, registers, Meeting minutes, etc, enabling for me a detailed picture of the lives of this couple and a couple of generations down to be discovered. Quakers of course were persecuted until 1689. After that year, of the Glorious Revolution, in which the various Protestant groups largely obtained their religious freedom, Quakers still suffered financial penalties on refusing to pay tithes. James died in 1674, paying the ultimate penalty, dying in York gaol.

Eight. More Quakers, Grindleton

James TENNANT's son James married in 1679 Ann BAYLEY, from another Quaker family, who lived in Grindleton, near Clitheroe but in Yorkshire. In fact as always with Quakers the marriage did not take place in church, but in this case at Ann's family home. Her father Henry was very prominent in the Quaker fraternity, also suffering imprisonment at one or more periods. He though lived to somewhat gentler times, dying in 1695 at his home. He was involved in much land dealing in the area, also speculative buying of land, like many Quakers, in Pennsylvania. See (9) and (10).

Nine. Recent investigations, Mitton and Ribchester

One of my lines, surname COTTAM, derived from Mitton in the lower Ribble Valley area, not far from Clitheroe. Just a few months ago now I made contact with another researcher, Pam, whom I had briefly corresponded with some years back; she had the same COTTAM family. We are both experienced at this game, in her case with some very interesting detailed write-

ups on her website. For the last few months we have been happily bouncing ideas around, sharing the effort and cost of new documents from Record Offices, and between us taking various lines back, a long way, in the general area of Mitton and Ribchester : close really to industrial Preston, Blackburn and Burnley, but still very rural, lovely countryside of course. The ancestors were largely yeomen of varying degrees of wealth. The wills and inventories, and some IPMs, have kept us very busy. See (11) for Pam's website, which has will transcripts and detailed stories of our ancestors. I have had other similar extensive collaborations in the past, and it is part of the joy of the hobby. Valuable too of course are the more passing contacts which can provide information one way or the other.

Ten. Colne my male line ancestral home ; graveyard and inn.

My main WATSON line, working backwards, involves Burnley town, then north-east Burnley, Reedley, Southfield in Gt. Marsden (roughly outskirts of modern Nelson), Colne, with bits of Briercliffe and Trawden thrown in. At an early stage, with help from Wilf Spencer (see earlier) I tracked down a gravestone in Colne churchyard bearing inscriptions for my 6 x great grandparent (James, 1763) and 8 x great grandparent (John 1682) together with a son of the 6 x great one (Richard 1837). The missing generation (also John) is likely also to be buried in the grave. Supporting documentation includes the Colne register, the elder John's will and inventory, those of his wife Isobel, and Manor of Colne court rolls. John the elder was an innkeeper. I long wondered of which inn, if indeed one with a name. Wilf Spencer helped, but had to admit that source material in the late 17th century was largely lacking. This would be around 1965. About 50 years later I was able to solve this mystery, to my satisfaction (12). Such can be the time scales in family history study!

A few final comments

I haven't mentioned the man with five wives, the one whose finger or thumb was bitten off by a horse, the man baptised at 50, the woman baptised the day before her marriage, the man who drowned following too much beer, the twisters (don't ask just now), the couple with over 100 grandchildren, the Methodist who suffered a fatal collapse in church, the great grandfather who died from complications after an ankle injury, the 2 x great grandfather Richard WATSON who managed to be in two places at once in the census, and a host of others, some savoury, some less so.

In writing or speaking about your own history, it is I think important to recognise that other people's history can be a bit boring, however well presented! Those baptisms at an obscure Methodist chapel that so excited you might not produce the same effect in others. However, the act of writing up parts of your history is likely to interest those who are known to be related, or likely so, often these days via DNA contacts. And of course detailed accounts can illuminate research methods and sources. Writing things up also focusses your own thoughts : keeping track of familial relationships can be tricky for example.

In presenting findings for others to read, or hear/see, I would suggest it is important to set the scene, comparatively. For example, for a 17th century yeoman farmer whose inventory value is £100 or so, is that typical, or low, or high, for the area and time concerned? For a man leaving in his will disproportionate amounts to various sons and daughters, what might be the reasons for this? For a family in the 1851 Burnley census where the parents were born in the Yorkshire Dales, is that common? Etc.

I have already mentioned the value of contacts with others likely to be related, or just interested, this including local historians. Joining one or more relevant family history societies is of (good) value too : you probably are a member of this one!

One of the principal benefits of family history is to enhance understanding of local history, particularly of course in the areas or regions concerned. Similar comments apply to such as social, economic, religious, industrial, agricultural history. Indeed if you are a writer, you may find you know enough about something to produce material for local history societies.

Please do get in touch with comments, queries, etc. I am happy to send copies of articles mentioned that I have written.

References

Lincs = Lincs Family History Society

Lancs = Lancs Family History and Heraldry Society

Mcr = Manchester Family History Society (Manchester Genealogist)

A+W = Airedale and Wharfedale Family History Society

- (1) Mcr Vol 51 No 2 2015
- (2) Mormons in mid Nineteenth Century Middleton (Lancs) and Vicinity 2013
- (3) Lancs Vol 10 No 3 August 1989
- (4) Burnley Gazette 13 October 1877
- (5) Lincs Vol 26 No 3 August 2015
- (6) Mcr Vol 57 No 2 2021
- (7) Lincs Vol 28 No 3 August 2017
- (8) Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire Vols 3, 16, 17 (1880 – 1888)
- (9) A+W Issue 4 December 2019 (Part 1)
- (10) A+W Issue 5 March 2020 (Part 2)
- (11) www.genealogucrank.co.uk/coulthurst.php and follow links as necessary
- (12) Lancs Vol 38 No 1 February 2016

Email: rexwatson@ntlworld.com

DEATHS NOTIFIED

Ada Hannam – Pendle & Burnley
Donald Stainthorpe – Pendle & Burnley
David Marshall – Pendle & Burnley
Frank Harwood (7713) – Leominster
Ian Neary – Chorley
Heather Penswick – Fylde
Mrs Ann Stocker – London & South

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

Ian Neary

From Ron Chapman

Sad news. Ian Neary, a Chorley Branch member has died. Ian was an active and helpful member of our group. For a number of years he acted as our Auditor, working with Katherine and Brooke. He was always there helping and that was never so true at the Research Centre. As one of the volunteers there he was always keen to help people with their researches. He was good at it too. Always friendly and good humoured. The sad thing is that he had problems researching his own Neary branch having lost them in Ireland.

Whenever we had an out visit or a branch meal, Ian and his wife Anita were always there. The last time I think was when we visited the South Ribble Museum at Leyland in 2019. The visit was combined with a meal at the Eagle and Child I seem to remember.

Because of his health problems he has not been around much since then. We have missed him. We wish Anita and her family all the best at a time like this. Our thoughts will be with them.

His funeral was held at Charnock Richard Crematorium at 11.30 on 7 November 2023.

Heather Penswick

From Olive Thexton

In early November we lost a member of our branch, Mrs Heather Penswick, membership number 8609, which gives a clue as to how long she has been a member. Because of illness Heather has not been able to attend meetings for quite a while, but for some years she would assist Edna with the library books, which at one time were much in demand.

She is missed by us at Fylde branch and will be in our thoughts, along with her husband Ron, children, grandchildren and not sure if there are great grandchildren.

BOOK REVIEWS ETC

LYTHAM PRIORY

By Member Peter Shakeshaft

ISBN: 978-1-3999-6390-9

Price £25

Peter Shakeshaft, esteemed local historian, has written a new book about the 340 year history of Lytham Priory (latterly Lytham Hall).

The Priory was a 'Daughter House' of the Benedictine Cathedral Priory of Durham. Of particular interest to family history researchers are the local family names since the 16th Century.

There are nineteen chapters and eight appendices covering all aspects of priory life.

There was a book launch at Lytham Hall on Wednesday 25 October 2023 from 2pm to 4pm.

Reviewed by Mike Coyle

Books for review in the journal should be sent to:
Ian White, 23 School Fold, Hesketh Bank, West Lancs PR4 6RE or ian.white4@live.co.uk

Have you had a book published and would like a review in the Society journal? Simply forward a copy to Ian White, address as above, or give the Editor a write up about your book.

If you have reviewed a book, you have read and think it would interest some of our members, you may simply forward the review to Hazel Johnson, editor@lfhhs.org.uk or hazel.johnson2@btopenworld.com as usual. Thank you.

NOTES AND NEWS

CHORLEY RESEARCH CENTRE

ROTA CHANGE

From October 2024 the Chorley Research Centre opening times have changed as follows:

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

THE PRINTED MAPS OF LANCASHIRE

By Ian Saunders

Published by Lancaster University

From Mike Coyle

Following on from an excellent talk by Bill Shannon on Historical Maps and Cartography, some of the early maps can be seen at:
<https://lancaster.libguides.com/maps/Lancashirehistoricmaps>

Ian White and Jennifer Benson run regular help sessions at **Tarleton Library**. Everyone welcome.

FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH, 10.00 am to 12.00 pm

PRESTON BRANCH HELP DESK AT LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES

Usually Jennifer Benson, Joan Clayton, Peter Bamford and sometimes Stewart McLaughlin run regular help sessions at Lancashire Archives, Bow Lane, Preston. Everyone welcome.

THIRD FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH, 09.30 am 12.00 pm

HYNDBURN BRANCH HELP DESK AT OSWALDTWISTLE LIBRARY

Muriel Smith and sometimes Eileen Bullock run regular help sessions at Oswaldtwistle Library. Everyone welcome.

FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH, 10.00 am TO 12.00 pm
**(IF THE FIRST MONDAY IS A BANK HOLIDAY CHANGES
TO SECOND MONDAY)**

AND AT

RISHTON LIBRARY
SECOND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH,
10.00 am TO 12.00 pm

HELPING HANDS

Do you have a family history question or need a library/archive lookup then Helping Hands might be able to help.

Contact: help@lfhhs.org.uk

OUT OF COUNTY STRAYS AND NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS

Did you know that the Society still collect any Out of County Strays or Newspaper Cuttings or Stories?

If you have or find any, please forward to
LFHHS,
2 Straits
Oswaldtwistle
BB5 3LU

Many members have ancestors who have strayed away from

Lancashire and been lost to their families forever.

**SCANNED PDF COPIES OF ALL OUR OLD FICHE NOW
AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE BY EMAIL**

Our microfiche have now been scanned and are available through our website shop.

Orders are currently being sent out as an attachment to one or more emails, depending on the size of the order.

The prices are the same as the original microfiche, but obviously excluding postal charges.

In the near future it will also be available to purchase as an immediate download.

Look on the website for the shop section showing "Scanned images of microfiche" – this leads to 5 sections divided by alphabetic first letter of location - A-D, E-H, I-L, M-Q, R-Z.

Click on <https://www.lfhhs.org/index.php?cPath=63>

**NEW ARCHIVE RESEARCH CENTRE
TO OPEN
AT LANCASTER UNIVERSITY**

<https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/library/collections/special-collections-and-archives/>.

LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY & HERALDRY SOCIETY

www.lfhhs.org.uk

(Registered Charity number 513437)

RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership renewal is due on 1 January 2024 and it would be appreciated if you would complete the renewal form and send it with your payment as soon as possible to the Membership Secretary at the address below.

If you pay by standing order, you do not need to fill in the renewal form, but please let the Membership Secretary know if you have recently **changed your address, telephone number or email address or wish to donate to Gift Aid**.

Please consider completing the Gift Aid form if you have not previously done so. Your donation is very important to the Society and enables us to maintain subscriptions at these reasonable levels.

If you have any queries about your membership, or about Gift Aid, please contact: -

**Sue Foster, Membership Secretary, 18 Glencross Place,
Blackpool, FY4 5AD**

email: membership@lfhhs.org.uk Tel: 01253 694783

Subscription Rates:

Ordinary UK	Individual below State retirement age	£14.00
Family UK	All members of the household living at the same address. All may attend meetings. Only one journal is sent to the household address.	£15.00
Pensioner UK	State retirement age or over	£12.00
Student UK	In full-time education	£12.00
Overseas	Membership Choosing Paper Journal	£20.00
	Membership Choosing Electronic Journal	£14.00
	Members In Receipt of a Pension	£12.00

Overseas members may pay 3 years' subscriptions at once.

**You can pay by UK£ cheque or online by our secure card system via
the Society website www.lfhhs.org.uk**

or by GENfair at www.genfair.co.uk/supplier.php?sid=127.

LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY & HERALDRY SOCIETY

Membership Application / Renewal Form

Membership No. (if known)

Title for address label (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Mr & Mrs/Other)

Surname

Forename(s)

Address

.....

Postcode.....Tel No.....

e-mail address

Type of membership: *Tick here* *Tick here*

Ordinary UK		Pensioner UK	
Family UK		Student UK	
Overseas			

I enclose a **cheque** (payable to LFHHS – Sterling Pounds) for £.....

To: Membership Secretary, 18 Glencross Place, Blackpool FY4 5AD together with your Gift Aid Declaration form.

Please note: If you are internet connected, instead of paying by cheque please consider making your payment direct to our bank:

RBS, sort Code 16 28 33, Account No. 12578737 or via our secure system via the Society website

www.lfhhs.org.uk, where the membership payment page is shown on the opening page.

We mention this in order to defray increasing bank charges and this enables us to have maintained subscriptions at these reasonable levels since 2015. Your continued support and donation are very important to the Society. *THANK YOU*

Please Note New Renewal Details

Owing to new banking security regulations we regret that we cannot now accept direct credit card details for membership subscription payments.

For **pdf version** of the journal to my e-mail address ☐ *tick here*

For the **paper version** ☐ *tick here*

PLEASE CHOOSE ONE VERSION ONLY

Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society

Registered Charity No. 513437

GIFT AID DECLARATION

If you pay UK Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax, you can make your subscription worth more to the Society at no cost to yourself. Using Gift Aid means that for every pound you give, we get an extra 25 pence.

In order to Gift Aid your donation please tick this box:

☐

Please treat all donations/subscriptions I/we have made today, and in the future, or have made in the past four years until I/we notify you otherwise as Gift Aid donations to Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give.

Membership No. (if known)

Title Surname

Forename/s

Full Home Address.....

..... Postcode

Signed Date

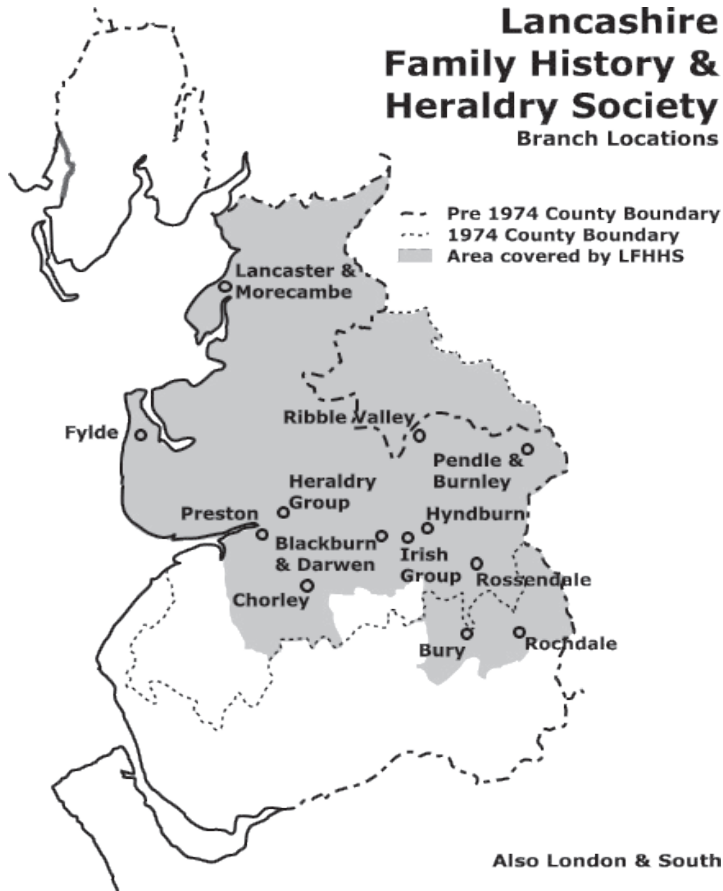
Please notify the Society if you:

- Want to cancel this declaration
- Change your name or home address
- No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

Please Note: The membership data are held on computer. The data will only be used for the circulation of Society literature and for membership checking purposes. No data from the computerised records will be disclosed to any other parties by the Society unless required to do so by law.

Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society

Branch Locations



An appeal to members

Please consider helping the society by completing the Gift Aid section if you are a current UK taxpayer – (See Page 3 of this insert). Your donation is very important to the Society and enables us to maintain our subscription rates at these reasonable levels at a time of increasing costs.

The Society are looking for volunteers to help with transcribing data for future publication. If you would be interested in helping, please contact the webmaster - webmaster@lfhhs.org.uk

Thank you,

The Management and Executive committees

AN EXTRA LAYER OF SECURITY TO AncestryDNA®

A message from Ancestry:-

At Ancestry®, your privacy is a top priority, and we are committed to being good stewards of your personal information. As part of our efforts to protect your information, we offer two-step verification as an option to sign in to your Ancestry account.

Soon, to enhance the security of your account, we will begin requiring two-step verification as part of the sign-in process. You can enable this feature now in your account settings. If you need assistance, Ancestry are there to help.

EXHIBITIONS AND FAIRS Society Coordinators – Steve and Jennifer Benson

THE FAMILY HISTORY SHOWS 2024

The Family History Show will be adding a new event in the Midlands alongside the current York, London and Online shows.

- **Online – Saturday 10 February 2024**
 - **Midlands – Saturday 16 March 2024**
At Three Counties Showground
 - **York – Saturday 22 June 2024**
At York Racecourse
 - **London – Saturday 5 October 2024**
At Kempton Park Racecourse
-

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

If you would like to help and take part in any of the fairs please contact **Stephen Benson** (telephone 01772-422808 or e-mail Stephen.t.benson@btinternet.com)

BRANCH NEWS

BLACKBURN & DARWEN

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

BURY

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

CHORLEY

Secretary: Jayne Dixon

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

Meeting location:

Please note meetings are now held in Primrose Gardens, Fleet Street, Chorley PR7 2EE (except in December when it is the 1st Thursday) The room we are using is down a few steps, with a lift available if necessary.

Refreshments will be available, drinks and wrapped biscuit for 50p. Raffle tickets are 50p each, and items offered as raffle prizes are always welcome.

Parking:

Free parking after 5pm immediately opposite Primrose Gardens on Fleet Street car park, Chorley PR7 2EY. Also, street parking on Fleet Street and Library Street.

Please note you cannot park on the Primrose Gardens car park as understandably; this is a security-controlled car park for residents and their visitors only.

The Branch remains very active, with an increasing number of members and visitors attending the monthly meetings where we have had a variety of speakers covering a wide range of topics. Our thanks to Marian for arranging such an interesting programme.

From the monthly Branch Newsletters prepared by Wendy Pratt, to whom our thanks, the following extracts give a flavour of our meetings in May, June, July and August.

The Newsletters, giving the full articles and illustrations, are published on the branch website www.lffhschorleybranch.com

May, 2023 – The Hangman’s Record – Steve Fielding

The word Gala comes from the Gallows Days when a public hanging attracted large crowds. Salford New Bailey was one of the sites of Public Executions. In 1863 Thomas Grime was hanged at Kirkdale Goal for the brutal murder of James Barton. The hanging was advertised and over 50,000 watched as William Calcraft, the executioner hanged Thomas.

At London’s Tyburn the prisoners were brought to execution by cart and offered a last drink. If they did not take it, they had to “stay on the wagon”.

Calcraft used a short drop method causing death by strangulation, whereas his successor William Marwood worked out the drop according to weight to allow the drop to break the neck. The Capital Punishment Amendment Act in 1868 ended

hanging in public.

The hangman got a month's wages for each execution. They travelled round the country and would execute an average of 20 persons a year. John Babbacombe Lee was to be executed in Exeter in 1885. After 3 failed attempts, where the trap door did not open, the Home Secretary commuted his sentence to life imprisonment. It was thought that wet wood caused the trap door to jam when weight was put on it. There was no standard for gallows but after this incident all executions took place indoors. It was decided to develop more standard gallows with a cell nearby so the walk to the gallows was short. James Billington from Preston became a hangman in 1884 and all three of his sons followed him into the profession. He had his own pub and this seemed to be a popular occupation for executioners.

Henry Pierrepont started as an assistant to James Billington. He persuaded his brother Thomas to join him and later his son Albert was also an executioner. After WW11 Albert hanged over 200 people convicted of war crimes. Albert also owned a pub in Lancashire.

By 1908 the Children's Act banned executions of people under 16 years old. In 1933 it was raised to 18 years old. The Homicide Act in 1957 had 6 categories of murder punishable by death including killing police officers or prison officers. In 1965 the death penalty was suspended for 5 years and before the end of the 5 years in 1969 it became permanently abolished except for certain offences such as piracy with violence and treason which remained till 1998. The last executions were in 1964 in Strangeways Prison and Liverpool's Walton Prison.

June 2023 - Railways around Chorley – Steve Williams

Illustrated by many not previously seen photographs. Chorley Station was opened in 1841. Some of the original lines are no longer there such as to Hoghton Station which, in the end, sold only 3 tickets a week as it had been built to service the local papermills. Previously Hoghton was a tourist destination, but

as other places became more popular it was closed in 1960.

Blackburn to Chorley took time to build with major engineering problems. This route was mostly for coal and closed in 1960 also. Withnell Station is now a private house, while Brinscall was the highest point of the railway. At Heapy there was a siding to a Royal Ordnance Factory where munitions were stored in the hillside. The impressive viaduct at Botany Bay was blown up in 1967. Trips to Blackpool from Chorley were very popular with crowds lining up at the station for a day out there. The golden age of railways has passed but a trip by steam is still possible with groups such as the Ribble Steam Railway.

July 2023 – Visit to St George's Church, Chorley

The Church was completed in 1825. It was one of 600 churches known as Waterloo Churches, though they had little to do with Waterloo. St. Lawrence was the main Church in Chorley but was quite small at the time and was under the parish of Croston, which was not in favour of a larger Church in Chorley. In 1818 the government contributed 1 million pounds for the building of Churches with a view to bringing together all the protestant Churches into one Church of England location. King George 111 wanted a country which practiced religious toleration and freedom of conscience.

Chorley applied for some of the money allotted to Lancashire and was successful. The Architect Thomas Rickman, a Quaker, built the Church at the cost of £12,387 seating 2012 people. The Church got no fittings except pews, no organ till 1837 or hymn books or lecterns or anything fancy in the interior. To encourage attendance a national school was built with close ties to the Church. Despite being the larger Church, it was under St. Lawrences for many years. In 1891 major renovations were enacted with the building of a chancel with the organ brought to the front instead of up on the balcony. A carriage builder, John Whittle who was to become Mayor of Chorley wanted his mayoral inauguration in the Church where he was brought up. People went out street collecting to raise money for the

restoration work and St. George's was closed for 7-8 months. Choir stalls, the organ, a bigger altar and pulpit, lectern and a beautiful marble floor were all installed.

In 1950 there was water damage. As money was scarce after the war and so went to the schools rather than the Church, a curtain was put in place to hide the damage. The artwork at the front of the Church was damaged but for the 200th anniversary new panels have been painted of the same images to replace the damaged ones.

A plaque near the entrance records the names of the 120 members who died in the First World War.

August 2023 – At Astley Hall – A History of Conservation

During the last eight years Astley Hall has undergone an extensive repair and conservation programme. Geoff Maybank of Maybank Buildings Conservation LLP, the lead conservator, generously gave his time to explain some of what has happened and what was found. His involvement with Astley Hall began over 20 years ago with his first report on the condition of the building, and a second report in 2011.

Several problem areas had been identified, some of which were in a serious condition. The great enemies of such a building are wet and dry rot, largely because of water ingress, but the principle of conservation and restoration is to save as much of the original fabric as is possible; repair as necessary and keep the water out.

The render to the building, probably no earlier than 1895, was letting water in and in some areas was falling off or very likely to do so. The decision was taken to remove it and return the building to its original look. Fortune smiled as the brickwork under the render was in remarkably good condition with only about 2000 bricks requiring replacement by, suitable in age and condition, bricks sourced through reclamation.

Movement was found in a side wall of the Great Hall. The wall

and in part the fine plasterwork in the Great Hall ceiling, some 100 tons, were being supported by the panelling framing with danger of total collapse. Urgent replacement of the sole plates was made, a task made all the more difficult by the need to preserve the Italian plasterwork ceiling, dating from 1625.

Prior to the restoration the fine glazing bars to the windows were white but had rotted and the 82 leaded windows were rebuilt using the original glass and returning the colour to black.

In the Long Gallery the support timbers were poorly located, and restoration was required.

Major work was required on the cottage at the rear of the Hall, the oldest part of the building. It was possible to save some parts of the roof timbers and plywood templates were made so that the oak replacements and trusses fitted exactly. The remainder of the cottage was also restored.

There were also some discoveries. For example, fine stonework, formerly hidden by the render, surrounding the East round window was revealed. It is thought that this window probably would have shown a "welcome home" light to the family; and on the reverse of the Great Hall wall is a second wall dating from the mid-1500s.

Astley Hall is special. As it was generally not a principal place of residence for the owners much of the original features and fabric have survived. Buildings need repairs over the centuries and what took place during the conservation and restoration programme is now hidden but continual monitoring of the Hall will ensure its future.

Note: a data base of those who lived and worked at the Hall has been created by Ron Chapman and is held at the Chorley Research Centre.

The Speakers for the October and November meetings are David Casserley ("The History of the Knights Templar") and Brian Halliwell ("It's a Wonderful Life", innovations and

inventions that have made our life “wonderful” and which are predecessors did not have).

In December our meeting will be our usual Fun Quiz Night. There will be a raffle and light refreshments will be available.

A warm welcome awaits you at any of our branch meetings. Do come and join us.

Best wishes to all for a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Bernard Cliffe, Branch Chairman.

CHORLEY RESEARCH CENTRE

ROTA CHANGE

From October 2024 the Chorley Research Centre opening times have changed as follows:

1st and 3rd Mondays in the month – 10am to 4pm

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

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

2nd Saturday in the month – Noon to 4pm

FYLDE

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

It is hard to believe that very soon we will be looking at the last month on the calendar. I gave up on one of those, too much hard work lifting it up and down as I cannot write at that angle, on the wall. So here’s wishing a Happy Christmas to everyone. Also, a good New Year and the hope 2024 brings the answer to find something or someone that has been missing.

Next year it will be 40 years since the founding of Fylde branch. We opened in Low Moor Road on 15th February 1984, before moving to Carleton. One problem was parking and we now have a decent sized car park. We have been lucky to have only had two homes. Our present one was originally a kind of moveable large place which was demolished and replaced by the present brick-built building. One loss for us was the ability to store any of our resources.

There was a big celebration for our 30th, but membership has decreased and life in general as regards family history research is not the same, plus Covid altered so much in all our lives. We have so much help available now on hand at home, Ancestry etc. Now researching is so very different. Lots of facebook groups dealing with the subject, people ask questions and not always do they receive the correct information. This is where the exchange of information and answer to questions is where our branches come in, along with other people of local knowledge of other cities and towns and villages etc.

Along with everyone else, I spent hours in the local library with the films and fiche and very many trips to Lancashire Archives in Preston. Also having to purchase certificates, if you wanted the exact information. I must have spent a good deal of money. It was lovely to find something and say "found it". Not quite the same when you find something online and there are no like-minded people to share in the joy.

Our October meeting was not well attended, it just happened that a few regular members had holidays or other arrangements. It was good to meet up and the new members were able to ask for help etc. We have gained a few new members this year, it is good to know that we can help others. Unfortunately, we had to close one meeting at the very last minute, someone becoming ill on the morning and a number of others were either unwell or away from home. I did try to contact everyone, but seems I missed one or two and some people turned up at the Church. I thought afterwards that I could have asked someone to put a note on the door! Note to

self for future, but it has never happened before. I had to miss a few meetings so thanks to those people who kept things going.

I caught an ad for a Channel 4 TV programme named Lost Tapes of the British Army. This referred to a number of reels of tape that were found when there was work going on at Manchester Town Hall. They were found in the basement and someone decided that they were worth keeping. What a find! They were part of a larger number of tapes of recorded messages from Burma when a team went in and asked each of the men to say as few words in front of the camera. Also included in the collection was a list of the men involved, their home address and next of kin. Someone had researched the next of kin and children of the men, which is a brilliant piece of work to add to their family trees. The original films were shown at cinemas, and families were invited to attend and see their menfolk who were saying hello and a few other words, each in turn. One 90+ year old man saw himself as a 21 year old sending a message home. One lady was born after her father was killed and her mother had disposed of photos etc, so she not only saw him, she also heard him speak.

We all know stories of the men who were sent to Burma and the awful treatment of them. I only watched it because of the mention of Manchester, my birth town, and am so pleased that I did so. It was so very touching and if anyone can catch up with this it is well worth a watch. The films were called "Calling Blighty".

In December we will be holding the usual quiz night and Jacobs join and we have decided not to meet in January as it is so close to New Years Day.

We will meet again in February when we will hold another workshop in the hope that we may attract some new people to the group. Someone may have been given a Christmas gift of a subscription to Ancestry or another site and we should be able to offer them some help, what not to do, being a main

thing and not to copy details from another tree without checking if this person is you "one". Because there are so many Johns' in my tree, I constantly get hints and I know that seldom is it any of my many Johns'. I often wonder if each of them had a nickname.

March will be our AGM as per usual.

HERALDRY GROUP

Contact Stephen Benson

We are looking into the possibility of conducting our meetings by Zoom for the benefit of interested members who live too far away to be able to travel for face-to-face meetings.

No programme has been arranged, but notices will appear on the members forum and the Society website.

If you are interested in joining us, please let me know.

HYNDBURN

(covering Accrington, Altham, Church, Clayton le Moors, Gt Harwood, Oswaldtwistle & Rishton)

Secretary: Eileen Bullock, 51 Hawthorn Avenue,
Oswaldtwistle,

Accrington. Lancs BB5 3AE

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

**New Venue : Accrington Sea Cadets, Harvey Street,
Oswaldtwistle, Accrington BB5 3LT**

**Now first Wednesday of each month.
Doors open 6.45pm for a 7.00 start.**

In November we will have a film about the Boer War introduced by Ian McGuinness and December will be a Christmas social.

IRISH ANCESTRY GROUP

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

In October the Irish Ancestry Group held its first Zoom Advice/Chat meeting instead of a face-to-face meeting. It was pleasing to see that we certainly had more attendees than we have been having at our recent face-to-face meetings. Whilst we may not have 'cleared' anyone's barriers between all the members who were on Zoom we may have been able to give some new directions to research.

Following the success of the Zoom meeting we are considering doing a mixture of face-to-face and Zoom meetings to best provide the support for Irish Research within the Society. We would love to hear from you with what you would like to do. We do have a lot of research material at Oswaldtwistle so it is always useful to be there in person, but then there are a lot of members who cannot attend in person to meetings, so a Zoom meeting for them is preferable.

We are only a very small committee and like everyone else we are getting older and have lots of commitments. We have never had to cancel a meeting, but PLEASE before you travel to Oswaldtwistle for a meeting, let us know via irish@lfhhs.org.uk. Over the last year we have had a number of individuals who have travelled long distances and we would feel extremely guilty if we weren't there.

Thanks for your support over this last year, and hope to see you in 2024.

Jennifer, Stephen and Marian

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE

Morecambe Heritage Centre, Unit 29 Arndale Centre,
Morecambe LA4 5DH
Branch e-mail: lancaster@lfhhs.org.uk
Tel: 07462 148067

For the time being we will be carrying on with meeting two Fridays a month, 1st and 3rd, at the current venue.

Doors open at 11.00 am. No speaker booked.

LONDON & SOUTH

Branch e-mail: london2@lfhhs.org.uk

Joint Cumbria/Lancashire/Cheshire/London & South

All talks will be on Zoom starting at 2pm.

The speaker on 1 July was Helen Baggott, who gave her talk, 'Travels with my (great, great) aunt', exploring the holidays of our ancestors. Helen included a postcard of women from more than 100 years ago, climbing the Great Pyramid in Egypt, some having to be hauled up the huge blocks of stone. It is interesting to compare their clothing and footwear to that of the 21st century tourist.

Before the 1st World War, it cost half a penny to send a postcard, compared to one penny to send a letter. Post boxes were emptied regularly, up to six times a day, and postcards posted in the morning could be received in the afternoon. When our ancestors reached their destination, they would send a postcard home letting family know they had arrived safely. They often included the address of where they were staying as they expected to receive a card in return from home. Even while on a day trip within the UK, postcards would be sent home. Those with money could travel abroad, not just to Europe but further afield, such as to North and South America or Russia. Cruises were also taken; the Caribbean was a

popular destination.

Postcards tell a story of our ancestors' lives and can give an insight into social history. Helen talked about a postcard sent to the writer's sister from a holiday in the Isle of Man and describing the very bad weather and rough seas as she made the crossing on the boat. Helen has carried out a lot of research into the people receiving the postcards and this can give information about the sender. She also researches the subject depicted on the postcard. A family returning to Canada sent a postcard of the ship they were travelling on from Liverpool to their family in the Isle of Man. This ship was the *Montrose* which a few months after they had travelled on it made headlines around the world, when Dr. Crippen and Ethel Le Neve sailed on the ship from Belgium. They were recognised by the Captain and the first telegraphic message to help apprehend a criminal was sent from the ship.

Businesses might have used postcards for marketing. Helen showed a postcard from the Hotel Metropol, Las Palmas. J Some of the rooms had been damaged in a fire and the hotel prepared postcards advising that refurbishment had started but many rooms were still available. These cards were probably sent to recent guests. When we compare the messages that our ancestors sent on postcards with how we communicate today on social media, there is little difference, apart from the medium used.

John Titterton gave a talk on Saturday 23 September, about what can be learnt from the various parts of a will. He highlighted other documents and records which may also be found with the will or instead of it and explained how wills may lead to the search for other documents and records which may also be found with the will or instead of it.

John's full name is John Edenzor Titterton and at the age of 14 he saw what looked like his own obituary in the *Staffordshire Advertiser*. When he was 17, John spent a couple of afternoons at Staffordshire Record Office and over the following years

found that wills played an important part in solving family problems.

The last talk this year will be on Saturday 25 November by zoom, when Debbie Kennet will give a talk about DNA. Debbie is a DNA specialist, who is a well-known speaker and author regularly writing for family history and academic journals.

Our afternoon talks are on zoom, at 2pm, with the room opening at 1.30pm.

Is there a talk or speaker which you would like to hear which would be of interest to the North West Groups? Would you like to give a presentation? I would also like help with organising the talks. If you could help or have any suggestions, please contact me.

Submitted by Helen Conchar – Member 7279

E-mail: london2@cumbriafrhs.com or london2@lfhhs.org.uk

PENDLE & BURNLEY

Branch website: www.lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk

Topic: LFHHS Pendle & Branch Zoom Meetings

Time:

Every month on the First Monday, until Feb 5, 2024, 7 occurrence(s)

Nov 6, 2023 06:45 PM

Dec 4, 2023 06:45 PM

Jan 1, 2024 06:45 PM

Feb 5, 2024 06:45 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Monthly: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZIuc-muqzktE9UVmvJNp7ieyfN01y1WAgAs/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGu>

rT8qHNGXtxCGRpwAA4-gc-7wmHpaj_poqhLzKQ5DNQrzL-RsYuNmQe_x

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86340652791?pwd=VFJMTENwT3BVV2haNjY4ZVk3R3lPQT09>

Meeting ID: 863 4065 2791

Passcode: Pendle77

It is encouraging that although no face to face meetings are presently being held, there has been so much interest from members to request zoom meetings/chats. The advantage of this is that members far and wide can now join in.

Check the members forum for further information.

It is with great sadness that I have to report the deaths in the past year of Ada Hannam, Donald Stainthorpe and David Marshall, all loyal and valued members of Pendle & Burnley Branch.

Ada had been a member since early 1980 and loved tracing not only her own family history but helping other people trace theirs. Over the years she took part in many projects such as recording MI's, transcribing parish registers and helping at special events in local libraries. She was a very kind and generous lady and will be really missed by all those who knew her.

Donald was another staunch member who enjoyed attending meetings along with his wife, Barbara, and could always be depended on to support our many events. In addition to his interest in family history he was also a keen gardener, and whenever our day trip was to somewhere which also had a plant sale he frequently came back to the coach laden with new plants for his garden! He will be sadly missed.

David had been our Programme Secretary for many years and

over that time never failed to provide a varied and interesting programme. He was a very capable and efficient secretary, booking speakers a great many months in advance, and always resourceful in finding replacements for any last-minute cancellations. He was a really nice man and always had a cheery word for everyone. When he became just too ill to continue, his wife, Sylvia, took on the job maintaining the same high standard he had set.

We have happy memories of them all and our condolences go to their families on their sad loss.

Jean Ingham

PRESTON

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'Little Pieces of Paper' was the title for our June talk given to us by Chris Makepeace. Chris explained how valuable 'Ephemera' can be to our family history research and how we should not overlook these important sources of information. Using slides, Chris showed us some examples of ephemera, these included photographs, leaflets, booklets, wrappers and tickets; ephemera basically is anything giving information of a product, event, person or place – the 'bits of paper' that usually get thrown away or these days put in the recycling bin. The information found on these items can often be a valuable source for our research as the details they contain may not be

found anywhere else. We can use these to help build a better picture of the daily lives of our ancestors.

It was nice to see so many members and visitors attending our talk in July. We welcomed Jennie Bailey, Doctor of Philosophy and Librarian at the University Campus at Oldham, with her wonderful talk on maps of Rochdale. It was fascinating to hear all about the history of early maps, how they developed and the many things we can learn from both old and modern maps about our local area. With modern technology maps are being updated all the time; it was interesting to see how Rochdale has changed over the years by comparing maps from different decades. Jennie's enthusiasm for the subject I am sure will encourage us all to take a closer look at the places where our ancestors have lived.

We welcomed Iain Bowden at our August meeting with another of his excellent talks; Old Littleborough Churches. Littleborough has quite a history with its many Churches and Chapels. Holy Trinity Parish Church was the first to be built to serve the growing population of Littleborough. Iain had some fascinating old photographs of many of the Church and Chapel buildings, he gave a brief history of each and explained how many of them have now been demolished or re-purposed for other uses.

Our meeting on Wednesday 29 November will be our annual Christmas get together as there will be no meeting during December. On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank all our members for your continued support and wish you all a peaceful, healthy and happy Christmas and New Year.

ROSSENDALE

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

We have had steady attendance at our meetings, possibly encouraged by a variety of topics.

In July we had Lavinia Tod, whom we know from previous visits, speaking on King Edward 1. As mediaeval historians will know, he was a very strong character, and spent quite a lot of time (and taxpayers' money!) expanding his kingdom into Wales and Scotland. However, he had a sentimental side, which we learned about when his wife, Eleanor of Castile, died at Lincoln after 36 years of marriage. Her body was taken back to London and Edward ordered that a stone cross be erected at each stopping place, the last one being Charing Cross.

The following month Wilf Day gave us part 2 of a slide show of the Valley in the 1950s and 60s. We were all fascinated and rather surprised at the changes since then. It is only when looking at such photographs that we remember how things were.

As we are a Family History Society, in September we had a session looking at some sections of members' trees, and they gave a short talk on why that section was of particular interest.

Longholme Chapel member David Broadhurst told us in October about his ancestors coming up from Cambridgeshire to Rossendale. Down there they had been "Ag Labs", so it was quite a change working in the shoe and slipper factories in Waterfoot, as well as on the railways.

For November we are following a military line, asking members to bring along a medal of an ancestor and telling us about it.

Our usual Christmas Party will be held in December, with Deputy Chairman Leo Turner supplying his excellent potato pie, followed by a quiz.

John Dalton

**PLEASE NOTE: THE DEADLINE FOR NEWS FOR THE
FEBRUARY 2024 MAGAZINE IS : 30 DECEMBER
2023 THANK YOU**

FROM THE EDITOR

Several members have recently forwarded new e-mail addresses. Again, due to data protection we do not publish a list in the journal. Kindly advise our Membership Secretary and Surname Interests Co-ordinator who are the only people who need your up-to-date details. If you submit any articles etc. for publication in the journal, please advise which contact details you agree to be published.

Some branches are not holding meetings at present. Pendle and Burnley members still wanted to keep in touch, and requested Zoom/Chats once a month which have now been set up. This has also interested members from further afield, some of whom miss our lovely Lanky Twang and are happy to just listen. Bury members have also requested Zoom/Chats.

A standing order form to renew membership has been printed again, in time for anyone wishing to change their method of renewing membership to set up with their bank or building society. Of course, the usual methods can still be used, cheque or via the website. Don't forget to put your membership number as reference after your name. If you choose to renew your membership by standing order it saves you having to fill in the membership renewal form each year. You do not need to wait until the end of the year to take your standing order form to your bank or building society, just take a copy for your own records.

SOCIETY 50TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCH

1 OCTOBER 2023

AT FARINGTON LODGE, LEYLAND

An enjoyable afternoon was had by all who attended. Plenty of time to have a catch up with members we do not meet often.

Following the ample meal our President – John Dalton – gave a short talk about the Society's achievements over the last 50 years.



John Dalton welcoming everyone to the lunch.



Tony Foster bringing us up to date with the ongoing
Society Projects





Sid Calderbank and Mark Dowding took to the stage to entertain us with a mixture of songs and poems with an Industrial Lancashire theme.





*Happy
Christmas
Everyone*

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For opening times see www.cfhrc.com/bookings.html

PLEASE NOTE:

Changes of address and non-receipt of journals should be reported to **Membership Secretary**, 18 Glencross Place, Blackpool FY4 5AD. If you are aware of the death of any member kindly advise **Sue Foster** who will ensure that future magazines are not sent out. Thank you.



We're going **LIVE** on ...
Saturday 20th April 2024



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