

## ODFHS Boatfamilies - 2019 Updates

(Canal Family 1 except where indicated)

**Update V100** – 8 July 1019

**New Total:** 44,763

**New names:** Briers 12, Wiswall 4

**Main Increases:** Lightfoot +77; Tarbuck +66; Summerfield +37; Webster +26; Jones, Sandbach +22; Hughes +20; Williams +18; Parr, Robinson, Williamson +17; Rowland +14; Hatton, Spencer +13; Bennett +11

The 100th update to our site is one of the largest, adding more than 650 people to our main family tree, and the main increases are all among canal and river watermen in the Northwich, Runcorn, Warrington and Sankey areas.

Another link between West Lancashire and Cheshire boatmen comes with the marriage in 1880 of William, son of Thomas Webster of Lydiate and Elizabeth Lamb of Ormskirk, to Jane Catrall, a Runcorn waterman's daughter. Their daughters Florence and Elizabeth Webster married brothers John and Samuel Bennett, Cheshire bargemen.

Our new names involve children of John Briers and Ann Smith of St Helens, whose daughter Ann married John Williamson and whose sons were Liverpool boatmen. Also father and son Francis and Walter Wiswall, canal company engineers of Wigan and Manchester, who connect through Walter's marriage to Blanche Rowland, daughter of a Runcorn waterman and shipowner.

**Update V99** - 7 June 2019

**New Total:** 44,105

**No New Names**

**Main Increases:** Cooper +50; Parr +27; Taylor +20; Foster +19; Beckett +15; Weedall +12; Hough +11

Our main increases involve the Runcorn-based families of ship's carpenters and sailmakers descended from Moses Cooper, b1770, whose grandson William married Elizabeth Parr, daughter of waterman George Parr and Ann Hayes.

The Foster increases involve the family of Lathom boatmen descended from Benjamin Foster b1826 Liverpool and Ann Robinson, and the separate Cheshire watermen descended from Thomas Foster of Rainford. We have also expanded the families of Simeon Weedall, a boatbuilder from Northwich, and the Widnes boatman Robert Taylor

Once again thanks go to Judith Preston for helping to unpick the unusually complicated family history of James Riley Hough of Middlewich, who appears in the 1861 census as Beckett.

**Update V98** – 14 May 2019

**New total:** 43,837

**New Name:** Cavanagh (Cavender)

**Main increases:** Robinson +73; Perry +36; Atherton +23; Dutton +13; Dean +12; Hulse +11; Newall, Wells +10

Our new name, given as Cavender in some early records, is shared by watermen and dock labourers descended from John Cavanagh of Paignton, who moved to Runcorn in the 1820s and married Ellen Holland of Frodsham.

Their daughter Mary married first Runcorn boatman Thomas Dean, then Joseph Enoch Harrop, a canal

company labourer from Great Budworth, near Northwich. And their son William Cavanagh brings our first link with Suffolk through his marriage to Eliza Reynolds of Beccles, daughter of marine storeman Samuel of Southwold.

The Cheshire watermen descended from Hugh Robinson of Hale, near Widnes, provide our largest increase, and most of the others are among Runcorn and Northwich boatfamilies. Thanks go to our regular contributor Judith Preston for her detailed work on these families.

**Update V97 – 19 April 2019**

**New Total:** 43,435

**New Name:** Clucas 57

**Main increases:** Pendlebury +39; Edwards +37; Hughes, Hurst +30; Gandy +29; Booth, Shaw +22; Albiston +21; Clark +20; Anderson +18; Street +14; Crank, Hulse +13; Robinson +12; Wilkinson +11

Our new name, Clucas, can be traced back to the Isle of Man, and several branches settled in Runcorn as boatbuilders and ship's carpenters. Their families have provided more links between the watermen of Cheshire and those of West Lancashire.

Ann Jane Clucas married in 1879 Runcorn waterman William Hughes, and their son Hugh, a tug captain on the Manchester Ship Canal, married Elizabeth Pendlebury, daughter of waterman Robert Pendlebury and Ann Snape, b1875. She was daughter of Lancashire boatman Robert Snape of Halsall, and her cousin Mary Frances Snape married in 1890 Robert's brother James Pendlebury.

In another Pendlebury line, Jane, daughter of waterman John Pendlebury b1797 Grappenhall, Cheshire, married in 1860 Richard Hurst, a ship's carpenter from Foulridge, near the summit of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal.

Another Lancashire-Cheshire link is through Sarah Cheetham, grand-daughter of William Cheetham and Mary (Ashcroft) of Lathom, who married in 1904 Joseph Furnival of Runcorn, brother-in-law of Widnes waterman Joseph Albiston.

A connection between the shipwrights of Cheshire and Lancashire is shown in the 1871 census when Mary Ann Roberts, 19-year-old daughter of Thomas Roberts and Elizabeth nee Edwards (from two Cheshire boatbuilding families) is living as a servant in the home of Rachel Crook, widow of Thomas Miller Crook, head of the boatbuilders at Riley Green, near Blackburn.

**Update V96 – 19 March 2019**

**New Total:** 42,775

**New Name:** Brockbank 45

**Main Increases:** Lydiate +59; Lamb +34; Hampson +33; Heath +26; Shaw +25 Gandy +22; Hayes, Inglesfield +19; Knight +14; Houghton, Rimmer +13; Atherton +10

We have found another link between the boatmen of West Lancashire and Cheshire with the marriage in 1877 of Alice Bentham of Parbold and James Lydiate of Runcorn, son of Fanny Gandy and Thomas Lydiate who apparently never married. Alice was daughter of boatman James Bentham and Elizabeth Carrington of Lathom.

Our new name is from two probably-related branches of watermen around Runcorn descended from Isaac Brockbank, b1783 Whitehaven (father Isaac) and from Samuel Brockbank, b1780 Whitehaven (father Samuel) who link with Cheshire families already in our main tree. Other increases are mainly among Cheshire watermen's families.

## **New Tree: Canal Family 9 – 2 March 2019**

This tree has been developed in conjunction with the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Society, whose Magazine Clogs & Gansey is currently publishing features on the family of Benjamin Curry Walls of Gargrave, lock-keeper, canal inspector and director. A summary of the census records for this family can be found elsewhere among these Media documents: see **Benjamin Curry Walls**.

**Update V95 – 26 Feb 2019**

**New Total:** 42,272

**No New Names**

**Main Increases:** Deakin +85; Albiston +32; Abram +19; Horton +18; Boden +11; Atherton +10

This month's increases are mainly among the watermen of Northwich, Runcorn, Warrington and Widnes, and thanks are again due to Judith Hankey for helping unravel the Deakin families, who have risen to fifth in our table of surnames.

**Update V94 - 25 Jan 2019**

**New Total:** 41,938

**New Names:** Hincliffe 89; Hastings 68; Moxon 64; Spence 52; Bisby 42; Gleadhill 37; Acaster, Rea 34; Lilford 31; Bratt 30; Daw 28; Gawthorpe 25; Sykes 24; Bean, Swash 23; Colbridge 22; Askew 20

**Main increases:** Coward +91; Sutton +65; Crabtree +57; Adams +43; Pilkington +41; Watson +39; Horrocks +36; Field +35; Finney, Green +32; Hall +30; Hunt, Rogerson +25; Thompson +24; Lee, Riley +16; Ellis, Smith +15; Johnson +14; Scott +13; Beckett, Naylor +12; Taylor +11

Our first update of 2019 adds more than 2,000 people to our main tree, mainly Yorkshire boatmen and mariners from our Canal Family 7 tree, launched in 2017, and from a new tree we were preparing as Canal Family 8.

Canal 7 was based on the south Yorkshire canals around Doncaster, and we were working on another tree, Canal 8, featuring watermen from Knottingley with links to Goole and Hull, some of whom were seagoing mariners or Humber pilots. We always hoped eventually to connect these families to our main tree, Canal 1, as had happened with Canal 2, Canal 4 and Canal 6.

Two promising links from Canal 8 to Canal 1 failed to provide the necessary connection. (In the 1901 census Joseph and Louisa Crabtree of Goole are moored on the River Aire at Leeds Lock on Lighter 70, two berths from Burscough boatmen Robert Aspinall and John Clarkson aboard Pigeon, who are in our main tree; and in Wigan in 1910 John Edwin Horrocks married Pollie Smith of Mawdesley, whose family had no canal links.)

Then, just as we were about to post Canal 8 as another stand-alone tree, a connection was found to Canal 7. Joseph Farnill Crabtree, a barge master from Knottingley, was found to have had a first marriage to Ann Lilford of Thorne, near Doncaster, a mariner's daughter already in Canal 7, so these two trees could be merged. An unexpected link to Canal 1 also appeared when it was realised that Thomas Wetherill of Brotherton was a brother of Sarah Wetherill, wife of John Hawksworth, a Brotherton waterman already in Canal 1, so these three trees have now been merged into one.

John's brother Thomas Hawksworth married in 1846 Mary Townsley, whose niece Sarah Elizabeth married Jonathan Taylor Cowman in Leeds, 1874. Their daughter Martha Elizabeth Cowman married in Shipley, 1899, Edward Carrington, a Leeds and Liverpool Canal boatman, son of Frederick Carrington of Lathom.