

ODFHS Boat Families – Website Updates 2017

5 December 2017

New total: 36,074 individuals

New Name: Catterall, 30

Main Increases: Webb +40; Hurst +15; Hewitt +12

The new name of Catterall adds the family of waterman William to that of his brother James, who we previously had as Cattrall. They were born in Helsby, Cheshire, either side of 1800, and the spelling of their surname varied in the censuses and BMD records, sometimes Catherall. James's son Joseph's five children were all baptised Cattrall, and remain so on our site.

This family and our main increases have come through additions and amendments to the extended family of Robert Bowyer and Mary Lowndes of Northwich, to whom they are all related. Robert and Mary's son Samuel was born before they married and used both surnames; his sons chose the one they preferred and thanks go to Eric Borrows for helping us resolve the confusion.

10 November 2017 (updated 29 11 2017) – Canal Family 7

Total: 1,063 individuals

Main names: Hinchliffe 89; Hastings 68; Sutton 65; Moxon 64; Bisby, Mellor 42; Pilkington 41

We are pleased to have added this new tree of mainly Yorkshire boatmen, some with Lancashire connections including John Hunt of Much Hoole, between Tarleton and Preston, who worked as a canal agent in Leeds and Shipley. Thanks go to Carole Sheridan for introducing us to these families.

26 October 2017 - V77

New total: 35,954 individuals

New names: Dugdale 24, Janion 15

Main increases: Atherton +48, Dickinson +44, Hulse +41, Tyrer +33, Taylor +30, Wood +16, Oakes +13, Johnson +12

The marriage of Runcorn waterman Walter Abram's daughter Mary to tug master George Dugdale provides one new name in this update, and the other comes from that of George's sister Ann to Kerfoot Janion, grandson of another waterman called Kerfoot.

Further assistance from Judith Preston in linking the Cheshire families of Oakes and Hulse has enabled us to merge the 124 people in our Canal6 tree into our main file, so Canal Family 6, launched in July this year, has now been deleted. Two of the main increases - Dickinson and Tyrer - come from this merge, and the others are all among our ever-increasing Cheshire watermen's families.

02 October 2017 - V76

New total: 35,366 individuals

New name: Furkie 16

Main increases: Abram +107; Hulse +49; Brooks, Worrall +15

The family of Cheshire waterman Thomas Furkie provides a new name in our main tree: his son George married Jane Hulse of Winsford, whose family we continue to develop, and his son Joseph married Martha Hannah Musker, daughter of Burscough boatman Robert Musker and Martha Ormson of Widnes (who we previously had as Hampson).

We have greatly expanded another Cheshire family, descended from Samuel Abram of Frodsham, also the Worralls of Wharton and - with thanks to Stephen Groves - the Brooks watermen of the River Weaver. All these families are "work in progress".

12 September 2017 - V75

New total: 34,982 individuals

New names: Abernethy 17, Sewell 13

Main increases: Boden, Newall +28; Hough, Preston +20; Royle +19, Gorst +16; Hatton +15; Percival +14; Atherton, Hulse +11

The Liverpool shipwrights descended from James Abernethy of Orkney and James Sewell of Workington bring new names to our main family tree, both linked by marriage to Walter William Hulse, a Cheshire waterman.

All the main increases are also connected to this Hulse family, and thanks go again to Judith Preston for her ongoing help.

20 August 2017 - V74

New total: 34,480 people

New names: Boag/Boag Munroe 45, Bayliss 37, Norwood 23, Salt 14

Main increases: Hulse +220, Dandy, Gleave +15

We have made a huge increase in the Hulse family of Cheshire watermen, thanks to detailed help from Judith Preston. This family has several links to Lancashire boatmen, including Robert Musker of Burscough, and will extend further in our next update.

We have added the family of James Dandy of Tarleton, who married Nanny Iddon in 1831 and whose sons were boatmen and mariners, two of whom drowned at sea when their boat foundered off the Isle of Man in 1864. Another increase is provided by Samuel Gleave of Northwich, whose daughter Ann Ellen married James Salt, from a new family of Staffordshire watermen.

Our main new name is Boag Munroe, a Northwich-based family of watermen descended from Scotsman James Boag, and who appear in the records sometimes hyphenated or as plain Munroe or Boag. And our main tree extends further into the Midlands through the families of Benjamin Bayliss of Wolverhampton and James Norwood of Staffordshire.

23 June 2017 - V73

New total: 33,783 people

New names: Heeds 18, Breakell 11, Guy 9

Main increases: Bradshaw +30; Robinson +28; Cattrall +16; Forster, Lea +10

Two Derbyshire boatmen who moved to Runcorn - William Heeds and Hiram Bradshaw - feature as a new name and main increase in this update. And the marriage of Hiram's grandson William Bradshaw to Mary, daughter of Runcorn waterman George Robinson, has boosted the numbers of our third most frequent surname, though the Robinsons are still some way behind Forshaws and Harrisons.

The families of Matthew Breakell of Tarleton and Matthew Guy of Runcorn also add new surnames to our main tree, and we have further developed the Rowbottoms of Northwich.

17 May 2017 - V72

New total: 33,529 people

New name: Knox 2

Main increases: Harrison +69; Cowley, Hesford +58; Forshaw, Freeman +26; Davies +23; Eaton +21; Davison, Molyneux +20

Our second update of the year sees another 861 people added to our main tree. The biggest increases are again among Cheshire watermen, and include two girls called Sarah Ellen Rathbone Hickson, first cousins from the Northwich area.

In Lancashire, two Forshaw branches have been merged and expanded, and we have taken the family of Henry Freeman of Aughton back another generation to add his boatmen brothers Peter, b 1799, and James, 1803.

And we have added our first American waterman - Henry James Carr, b1865 Massachusetts, who married Emily Harrison of Birkenhead, daughter of a Northwich boatman.

19 February 2017 - V71

New total: 32,668 individuals

New names: Fallows 22; Hoxworth 21

Main increases: Illidge 56; Roberts 38; Clowes 37; Turner 36; Hough 29; Done 24; Muskett 20; Goodier 19; Whittle 13; Hurst 12

A new family is that of Samuel Fallows and sons, watermen from the Northwich area, who are linked to the Verdins of Witton by the marriage of his daughter Elizabeth to Robert Verdin in 1850.

Further links between West Lancashire and Cheshire boatmen appear with the marriage of Mary, daughter of the Burscough couple John Worthington and Benigna nee Lamb, to John James Hoxworth of Runcorn, and of Mary's brother James Worthington to Maria Kirkham of Runcorn. The Hoxworths are descended from waterman John Oxworth of Warrington, whose family name changed spelling the mid-1800s.

The wife of William Carrington (b1861 son of Ellen Carrington and John Gill) has now been identified as Mary b1858 Wigan, daughter of James Prescott and Ann Sherman, not Mary b1861 Lydiate, daughter of James Prescott and Frances Rimmer as we previously had it. Her age and birthplace now match the census entries.

We have developed two inter-married Turner families in which Thomas and Ann, children of Henry and Martha Turner (Halsall and Wigan), married Martha and William, children of James and Catherine Turner (Shevington and Halsall) in the late 1870s. After Ann's husband William died in 1900, she married his widowed brother Richard in 1904.

The Wignall family descended from Richard b1782 and Ann (nee Ashcroft) of Rufford has been separated from that of Richard b1823 Eccleston, whose parents were also called Richard and Ann. Other increases are expansions of Mersey and Cheshire watermen's families.