

ODFHS Boatfamilies - 2019 Updates

(Canal 1 except where indicated)

Update V106 – 21 December 2019

New Total: 46,353 individuals

New names: Lattimore 31; Ounsley 8; Fuller 5

Main increases: Mellor +64; Aaron +55; Haddock +17

Our new Lattimore family is from the March area of Cambridgeshire, descended from Robert Lattimore and Elizabeth Watson, widow of Henry Fuller. Elizabeth's daughter, also called Elizabeth, married James Aaron, a waterman from Knottingley, on the Aire and Calder Navigation. After the younger Elizabeth died, James then married Mary Elizabeth Lattimore, granddaughter of Robert and Elizabeth, 30 years his junior and his first wife's half-niece.

Also connected to these Yorkshire watermen is our other new family descended from William Ounsley, whose son Tom was a canal traffic foreman from Goole. His daughter Annie married Harold Richardson Aaron, grand-nephew of the James Aaron mentioned above.

Our main increase is among the descendants of Jonas and Nancy Mellor of Yorkshire and Charles and Ann Mellor of Widnes. We have also added the family of Thomas Haddock, a labourer for the Anderton Carrying Co of Northwich, whose son William married in 1865 Mary Ann Stockton of Barnton, Cheshire, a waterman's daughter who was already in this tree.

Update V105 - 29 November 2019

New Total: 26,082 individuals

New Name: Rotherham 31

Main Increases: Appleton +95; Houghton +35; Randles +29; Snape, Snelson +14; Haddock, Postles +8

Thanks go to Bob Owen for detailed help with our Alcock families, which provided a link to Runcorn watermen, brothers Frederick and Joseph Randles. This in turn led to our new family headed by William Rotherham, a Mersey waterman whose son John married in 1888 Selina Houghton, from another family of boatmen based in Widnes and Garston which we have expanded.

Two apparently unrelated Appleton families of Cheshire watermen provide our main increase: brothers Peter, Moses and Aaron, born in the early 1800s to Thomas and Sarah Appleton; and separately the descendants of William Appleton whose daughter Emily, of Runcorn, married Burscough boatman William Musker in 1870. Other increases are largely among Cheshire watermen.

Update V104 - 7 November 2019

New Total: 45,692 people

New Names: Seymour 45, Sidley 29, Anson 22

Main increases: Acton +46; Pye +31; Ravenscroft +24; Salt +17; Heath +12; Webb +10

We have developed the family of Joe Salt, one of the boatmen interviewed by Norman Walls (son of Benjamin Curry Walls in Canal Family 5), whose stories will be appearing in forthcoming issues of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Society's newsletter '*Clogs and Gansey*'. Joe's grandfather was a Staffordshire boatman, and his father moved to the L&L via Runcorn where he married Ann Maria Seymour, a Wolverhampton boatman's daughter.

Her family is one of our new names, headed by her grandfather Richard Seymour, b1802 Wolverhampton, who Joe says 'was one of the first to bring a narrow boat from Liverpool to Leeds'.

We have also traced back the family of Margaret Pye, daughter of Warrington waterman John Pye and Edith Forshaw b1890 Lathom. John's grandfather and great-grandfather were both called Matthew Pye, waterman and sailmaker of Sankey and Runcorn, and young Matthias's second wife was the widow of George Sidley, from a Cheshire canal family and also a new name to our site. George's son John, b1865 Runcorn, married Mary Emma Acton, whose family we have also developed.

Our third new family is descended from Runcorn boatman Thomas Anson, whose daughter Elizabeth married Joseph Manwaring, whose relatives were already on our site. Other main increases are also among Cheshire watermen.

Update V103 – 6 October 2019

New Total: 45,257 people

New Name: Midgley 10

Main Increases: Clare +29, Malam +19, Sherman +8, Gore +6

Our main increases are among the descendants of Cheshire watermen Josiah Clare of Northwich and Alexander Malam of Wincham, and the new name of Midgley comes through Josiah's great-great-grandson Thomas Tarbuck Clare, a Mersey bargeman and lighterman, who married in 1888 Helena Midgley, daughter of mariner John Charles Midgley of Birkenhead.

We are grateful to Kay Johnson for helping to develop the Gore family of Burscough boatmen, and to Pamela Simmonds for clarifying discrepancies in the Sherman/Sharman families based around Wigan.

We are continuing to add information on the families of boatmen interviewed in the 1970s by Norman Walls, son of Benjamin Curry Walls, who was Canal Superintendent at Gargrave. These interviews are being prepared for publication by the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Society and involve familiar Burscough names - Bridge, Draper, Lawson, Pemberton, Robinson, Turner and Webster. Details will appear shortly in the Canal Society's newsletter 'Clogs and Gansey'.

Update V102 - 13 September 2019

New Total: 45,144

New Name: Bright

Main Increase: Grimshaw +4

Our new name involves two Northamptonshire watermen, brothers James and George Bright who married into Yorkshire boatmen's families. James married in Skipton, 1871, Elizabeth Illingworth, daughter of a Leeds boatman, and thanks go to a new contact, Cheryl Batchelor, for information on this family; George married first Sarah Horner, nee Harrison, then Mary Ann Perkins, both boatmen's daughters from Skipton.

There are many small increases, mainly in the families of boatmen interviewed in the 1970s by Norman Walls, son of Benjamin Curry Walls, Canal Superintendent. These interviews are currently being prepared for publication by the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Society and many involve Burscough names - Bridge, Draper, Lawson, Pemberton, Robinson, Turner and Webster - with additional details from the 1939 census. We have also added to the Ainscough family in Canal Family 5 with details from the 1939 Census.

Update V101 - 24 July 2019

New total: 45,004 people

New Names: Denson 12, Cartmell 9

Main increases: Harrison +41; Penny +34; Earlam +12; Bibby, Withington +11; Rimmer +7; Pugh +6

We found a link between our Canal 3 and Canal 1 trees so have merged them, adding 12 Densons, 7

Rimmers and a few others to our main tree, the link being through Sarah Waterworth, b1809, daughter of Thomas Waterworth and Elizabeth nee Gaskell of Wigan.

Our main increase is among the children of waterman Joseph Harrison, b1802 Burtonwood, and his brother Peter, a canal horseman and clerk of Warrington. Joseph's grandson Walter, who was born in Anglesea, settled in Fleetwod, Lancashire with his wife Ellen Peet Pratt, a local music teacher. Peter's son Joseph b1866 married Emily Withington, from a Runcorn family of boatbuilders.

Two Northwich watermen, brothers James and William Kelsall Penny, head the second main increase. Their sister Martha, b1770, married Peter Tomkinson, who was already in our main tree. Another sister, Prudence, married first William Bell, whose son James's wife Ann (nee Dickens) later married waterman Henry Earlam; their son James Earlam, a ship's carpenter, married Frances Cartmell, a mariner's daughter from Whitehaven. Prudence's second husband was another local waterman, Thomas Bibby.

Another William Penny, b1850 St Helens, married in 1871 Lucy Pugh, sister of Jane who was already in our main tree (their father William was a boatman from Montgomeryshire). This William might well be son of William Kelsall Penny and Mary nee Arrowsmith (qv), though their birthplaces differ.

Update V100 – 8 July 2019

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, with most increases being 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 Cattrall, 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,, daughter of waterman Robert Pendlebury and Ann Snape, b1875, daughter of Lancashire boatman Robert Snape of Halsall. 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

Another link between the boatmen of West Lancashire and Cheshire comes with the 1877 marriage 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 1017, which was based on the south Yorkshire canals around Doncaster. 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 uncovered a link to Canal 7, so have merged both into our main tree, Canal 1, as had happened with Canal 2, 4 and 6.

A promising link from Canal 8 to Canal 1 had 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. But just as we were about to post Canal 8 as a stand-alone tree, the connection was found to Canal 7. Joseph Farnill Crabtree, a barge man 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. 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.