

ODFHS Boatfamilies - 2020 Updates

(Canal Family 1 except where indicated)

Update V124 - 21.12.2020

New total: 51,554

New Name: Parish (84)

Main Increases: Harlington +62, Barrass +53, Alsop +11, Draper +9, Johnson, Rowbottom, Wilson +6

Our main increase is among Yorkshire watermen descended from William Harlington and Mary Proctor, based around Goole and Thorne, and includes only our second 19th century divorce, legal details of which will appear shortly alongside the Miller-Crook case in our Media/Documents section.

In brief, William's grandson William Harlington, b1851, married the 16-year-old Charlotte Billham of Cromer in 1872, but by 1880 had four children by Esther Rowbottom, a boatman's daughter from Knottingley. Charlotte filed for divorce quoting his physical cruelty and adultery, and received the final decree in 1886. She remarried Robert Johnson, a Retford riverman, but died childless in 1897.

We have continued to expand the two separate Barrass families of Doncaster, who led us to a new family headed by John Servant Parish, a waterman from nearby Stainforth. His son David, b1812, married Martha from one Barrass line, and grandson John Thomas, b1855, married Mary Ann Barrass from the other line. The family of Abraham Alsop is also connected.

We are grateful to Geoffrey Draper, descended from generations of Burscough boatmen, for providing family details beyond those revealed in his informative interview in the current Clogs & Gansey, newsletter of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Society.

Update V123 - 28.11.2020

New total: 51,178

New Name: Lusnath

Main Increases: Barrass +54; Chadwick +37; Draper +24; Hall, Rigby, Sutton +6; Allcock, Howcroft +5

We are relieved finally to connect the 'Gannow Tugmaster' Richard Draper's family to our main tree, b1873 son of William Draper of Lathom and Sarah Calland of Wigan. We have held a file on him for some years, but were misled by censuses giving his father's birthplace as Lytham instead of Lathom, when all the time he was on our site. The prompt we needed came in an interview in the latest Clogs & Gansey, newsletter of the L&L Canal Society, with the grandson of Burscough boatman John Draper, who believes these Draper clans were connected. The precise link is under investigation.

We have developed two Barrass families from Stainforth, nr Doncaster, one headed by Richard and Susannah, the other by William and Mary, connected by the union of Richard's son George Barrass, b1826 (whose brother Samuel was already on our site) and Mary Barrass, b1824, daughter of William. The censuses show several other Barrass watermen as neighbours of these families, and we hope to add them in further updates.

Our new family is that of Albert Lusnath, a ship's carpenter b1846 in Germany, whose daughter Henrietta married Alfred Chadwick from a Liverpool family of boatmen. Thanks go to Madeline Chadwick for extensive help in expanding both this family and the connected Rigbys, descended from Richard and Mary (nee Freeman) of Downholland and Aughton.

Update V122 – 31.10.2020**New total:** 50,914**No New Names****Main Increases:** Alcock/Allcock +83; Fogg +14; Miller +12; Brown +10

We have been able to add Allan Williams, the Beatles' first manager, through his mother, Annie Cheetham whose grandfather Richard Cheetham, b 1852 Halsall, was already on our site, son of boatman John Cheetham and Mary Shaw. Thanks go to Peter Lacey for alerting us to this connection. Whether Allan's father, Richard E Williams, was connected to the Richard Williams known as Dicky Billy, whose company ran canal boats from Liverpool, is under investigation.

Our main increase is the result of months of detailed work by Bob Owen, who has merged and developed most of the Alcock/Allcock branches of boatmen (spelling varied over the generations) into one family headed by Thomas Allcock, b 1749 Northwich, and Ruth Davies. The Fogg and Brown increases are also related to this family.

We are also grateful to Deborah Jarvis for additional information about her Miller Crook family of Leeds and Liverpool Canal boatbuilders, based at Hoghton. Irritatingly, though, despite tracing details of the separate Miller and Crook families, the origin of the combined family name still eludes us.

Update V121 – 7.10.2020**New Total:** 50,694**New Names:** Mortimer 50; Forrington 9; Barley 8; Parsonson 7**Main increases:** Bisby +66; Lee +47; Widdowson +29; Cooper, Raper +26; Fowler +25; Booth, Ridgway +16; Todd +15; Hinchliff +13; Sutton +10

Most of our new names and increases involve Yorkshire 'keelmen' based on the canals and rivers between Doncaster and Hull. The Forringtons, Rapers and Parsonsons are connected to four Mortimer brothers, William, Samuel, Richard and Thomas, born in the early 1800s at Thorne - as are the Ridgways of Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire. Two Bisby families from Mexborough are also linked by marriage.

We have expanded other Thorne families, with cousins Ann Elizabeth Sutton (b1861, father George) and Annie Sutton (b1861 father Hugh) marrying watermen brothers William Palmer Todd and Edward Todd. Edward's daughter Sarah Lizzie married Charles Luke Widdowson, from a boatfamily headed by Luke Widdowson b1803 Killamarsh, nr Sheffield. The Hinchliff and Fowler increases are also in this area.

Three inter-connected Lee families also feature, headed by George Lee b1802 of Mexborough, Henry Lee b1849 of Doncaster and George Lee b 1852 of Bollington, Cheshire, who married Susannah Whiteley of Knottingley, on the Aire and Calder Navigation. Henry's daughter Frances Lee married in 1864 George's son, Phineas Foulstone Lee.

Thanks go to Joanne Thorley for uncovering yet another Warrington link to Burscough boatmen through the marriage of ship's carpenter Nathaniel Cooper and Sarah Jane Leigh of Sankey. Their daughter Sarah Jane was already on our site as wife of John Barrow, son of Newburgh boatman Henry Barrow b1851.

Update V120 – 1.9.2020**New total:** 50,185**New name:** Lawrence 25**Main Increases:** Waterhouse +30; Whiteley +28; Hinchliffe/Hinchliff (various spellings) +25; Foster +20; Patchett, Petty +15

Our new name includes the Yorkshire boatmen sons of William Lawrence, a river waterman from

Lincolnshire who married a boatman's daughter, Emily Hinchsliff, in Hull in 1839. The spelling of her family name changed over the years from Hinchliffe, and the additions also include other versions.

The increase in Waterhouses continue from our last update and include brothers John, Thomas and Benjamin of Skipton. John married a Bradford boatman's daughter, Jane Foster, in 1850, and an unexpected coincidental connection with Burscough appeared when Thomas's son Sam Waterhouse of Windhill, Shipley, was found in the 1881 census aboard a fly boat in Skipton Basin as first mate to Edward Fishwick of Downholland. Also on board were Edward's wife, Mary (nee Mawdesley) of Lydiate and five-year-old sister Margaret Ann Fishwick, great-grandmother of Keith Jenkins, founder of this Boatfamilies website.

The Patchett, Petty and Whiteley increases are among Yorkshire boatfamilies connected by marriage to the Hinchsliffs, Fosters and Waterhouses mentioned above.

Update V119 - 20.8.2020

New total: 49,924

New Names: Meese 25; Coley 24; Waterhouse 18

Main Increases: Fradley +37; Emmott +8; Hall +7; Seymour +6

Our main increase is among descendants of Staffordshire boatman Benjamin Fradley and Elizabeth Hassall, whose grandson Joshua married in 1889 the widowed Ellen Hayes of Lathom, daughter of James Bentham and Elizabeth Carrington (from one of our prolific Burscough boatfamilies).

Thanks go to Donna Ashton for help in developing these Midlands links, including our new family descended from John Meese and Hannah Maria White of Stourbridge, whose 2xgreat grandson Samuel married in 1951 Iris Fradley (2xgreat granddaughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth). We have added another Stourbridge boatman, William Coley whose daughter Martha married in 1866 Thomas Lane of Worcester, whose family appeared in Update 118.

Another new family is descended from John Waterhouse, who married Ann Knowles in Skipton in 1818 - their son James married Mary Ann Emmott of Bingley in 1855. Thanks go to Graeme Waterhouse for help with their records - also to Mike Wallace for providing amendments to the families of Joseph Salt and Ann Maria Seymour, whose son Joseph, b1902, is planned to feature in the next issue of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Society's newsletter, *Clogs & Gansey*.

Update V118 – 24.7.2020

New total: 49,699

No New Names

Main increases: Eyes +32; Hampton +28; Nixon, Tuckey +25; Lane +19; Booth +17; Morris +13; Goodier, Stubbs, Wood +9

Our main increases are among two so-far-unconnected Cheshire families descended from Matthew Eyes, b1787 Lower Whitley, and John Eyes b1817 Barnton, and three Booth families based in Runcorn. These are among several boatmen's families linked to three Goodier brothers, Samuel, Thomas and John, based around Northwich and born in the late 1700s, sons of John Goodier and Hannah Carter. Thanks go to a descendant, Tom Potter, for much help in connecting and developing these branches.

We have been able to merge Cowley families descended from John Cowley b1781 and Nancy Gresty of Northwich, and Tom has provided an 1860 newspaper report involving Charles Cowley and eight other boatmen who were charged at Northwich with illegally forcing their way through a lock on the River Weaver while the water supply was turned off.

We have also added the family of Joseph Nield of Cheshire whose daughter Sarah married in 1882 Matthias

Pye, a Runcorn sailmaker. Their son John married Edith Forshaw, daughter of Burscough boatman Henry Forshaw and Margaret Ollerton of Lathom.

Update V117 – 4.7.2020

New total: 49,350

New Name: Dyehouse 9

Main increases: Brockbank, Morris +26; Simister +24; Pugh +21; Nicholls +19; Evans +18; Boyer, Seddon +16; Wellington +13

The will of Cheshire boatman John Hickson of Barnton has enabled us to connect what were separate branches of the same family. John's father Richard, b1802, is now known to be a brother of William, b 1812, sons of Richard Hickson and Elizabeth Sandbach of Weaverham. Thanks go to a descendant, Geoffrey Davies, for providing a copy of the will, details of which are now on our site.

We have also revised the Brockbank families and now have just two branches headed by Isaac, b1748 Whitehaven, and Samuel, father of Samuel b1790 Whitehaven - probably brothers.

Other Cheshire and Manchester watermen's families figure in our main increases, and the expansion among Midlands boatmen continues, including a new family descended from Enos Dyehouse of Wolverhampton.

Update V116 – 18.1.2020

New Total: 49,051

New Names: Canvin 41; Mander 20; Underhill 15; Diggory, Poxon 12; Bowater 8

Main increases: Easthope/Eastup +24; Wall +21; Bradshaw +15

All the new names and main increases in this update are among boatmen's families based in the West Midlands, connected to the families we introduced recently with help from the Canal and River Boatmen website. There is a Lancashire link through Ann Clegg, b1844 Leigh, who married Allen Harrison of Dudley, and whose daughters married into the Mander, Bradshaw and Diggory families of watermen from the Wolverhampton area.

And an unexpected Cheshire link was found through Eliza, daughter of William Easthope and Ann Underhill of Wombourne, Staffordshire, who married William Henry Grimes, who was born on a canal boat in London. Their daughter Mary Ann, b1884 Ellesmere Port, was already on our site as wife of Charles Scragg of Wheelock, near Sandbach.

Update 115 – 1.6. 2020

New total: 48,763

New Name: Super/Soper 21

Main Increases: Hampson +30; Cottier +28; Holbrook +18; Cawley +17; Partington +9; Hinman +8; Banks, Cavanagh +6

Our new family name of Super evolved from that of Edward Soper, a Runcorn waterman who married Jane Brown in 1820. After he died in 1836 Jane remarried Henry Foulkes, a carpenter, and their daughter Elizabeth married William Hampson, a waterman from Stockton Heath, near Warrington, whose family provides the main increase in this update.

The most intriguing character is William's cousin Robert Owen Hampson, who married at least three times, and in 1891 was living in Runcorn with a partner, Eliza Cottier, as his wife with two sons from his first marriage while his second wife Susan, nee Hinman, was caring for three sons from her first marriage and two from her time with Robert.

Eliza Cottier was a boatman's daughter from Douglas, Isle of Man, and we have also expanded the family of John Cottier - no apparent relation but also from Douglas - who married Mary Ann Wilkinson, a boatman's daughter from Liverpool. Other increases are among related groups, and we have continued to develop the Midlands families we introduced recently.

Update 114 – 19.5.2020

New Total: 48,505

New Names: Allcott 9; Willington 15

Main increases: Swift +50; Wood +18; Lunt, Webley/Webberley +17; Neale +16; Green +15; Cowley, Howell +14; Turton +13

A key family in this update is that of Abraham Webley (various spellings), a Wolverhampton boatman born in 1822, whose daughter Caroline was already on our site. She married Richard Robinson of Westleigh, son of James Robinson of Scarisbrick and Mary Martin of Lydiate - another example of the links between the Midlands and Lancashire canals.

Abraham's son William Thomas Webley was a waterman, as were his other daughters' spouses who provide many of our additions: Harriet married William Turton of Stourport; Sarah Ann married Thomas Swift of Penkridge (our main increase); and Eliza married Edward Lunt of Peover in Cheshire.

Thomas Swift's nephew William, b1876 Bilston, married Alice Norwood, nee Salt, whose nephew Joe Salt appears in the L&L Canal Society's Walls Papers mentioned at the top of our Updates column. And another link to Burscough boatmen comes with the marriage of Rhoda Willington, nee Howell, who married Robert, son of William Cowley of Lathom who was already in this tree.

Our new names and other increases are among these Midlands watermen, and thanks again go to the Canal and River Boatmen website for much help. Special mention must be made of William Bradshaw, b1867 Tipton, a bargeman who named a son Barjona.

Update V113 – 5.5.2020

New Total - 48,228

New Name - Edgecombe

Main Increases - Lowe +30; Howard +26; Harrison, Seymour +18; Hughes +16; Ashton +13; Sadler +12; Topping, Wood +11

Our new name comes through William Lewis Edgecombe, a shipwright from Devonport who moved to Liverpool and whose daughter Catherine married in 1870 Edward Lowe, a dock labourer and grandson of Mark Lowe of Burscough and Elizabeth Wright of Rufford. Mark's brother Thomas was a boatman, and his son Mark, b1833, married Isabella Ashton from another Burscough family of boatmen. Thanks go to Tammy Jones of Canada for alerting us to this connection.

More Lancashire-Cheshire links come with the marriage in 1910 of Joseph Albert Howard, whose father and uncles were Mersey Watermen at Ellesmere Port, and Edith May Iddon, granddaughter of boatman Thomas Iddon and Alice Gore of Tarleton. Their son Thomas Iddon married Maria Kate Hughes, daughter of a shipwright from Flint whose sons worked for the Canal and Railway Co at Ellesmere Port.

We have also connected more Midlands canal families to our main tree with generous help from the 'Canal and River Boatmen' website, also from local researcher Lorna York. Work on the Harrison, Sadler, Seymour Wagstaff and Wilday families based around Wolverhampton is ongoing.

Update V112 - 12.4.2020

New total: 47,910

New names: Conliffe 12; Beddell 5

Main increases: Yates +31; Millington +17 Barnes +12; Dumbill +10; Ashley +5

Details from the 1939 census have contributed to increases in the Ashcroft, Baines, Cross, Fazackerley, Hampton, Robinson and Slater families who feature in Janet Rigby's books on the Lancaster Canal. Our main increase is among the watermen sons of William Yates and Ann Howard of Runcorn, whose great-grandson Albert was working as a Thames pilot, lodging at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, in the 1911 census.

The families of Cheshire watermen descended from dock labourer Joseph Millington have been expanded, along with the children of his second wife Betsey Hilditch's first marriage to Samuel Barnes. Their daughter Sarah's son Samuel Cross married Sarah Jane Conliffe of Wolverhampton, whose family is one of our new names, as is that of her mother, Eliza nee Beddell.

We have amalgamated the Cheshire boatfamilies of brothers John and James Pendlebury. Also the Smetham/Smitham families whose surname evolved from that of Henry Snailham of Rufford and Martha nee Cheetham of Burscough - yet another example of Lancashire-Cheshire family links.

Update V111 – 25.3.2020

New total: 47,739

New name: Wagstaff 16

Main Increases: Thornhill +29; Nicholls +11; Gaskell, Lawton +12; Nicholas +11

Our new family is descended from a Midlands boatman, Thomas Wagstaff, whose four sons plied the Cheshire canals and whose daughter Elizabeth married in 1897 Frederick Salt, who was already on our site, and moved to Salford. In the 1901 census, Elizabeth's eldest brother William Wagstaff was moored at Ring O'Bells, Lathom, alongside Burscough boatman James Dutton, son of James Dutton and Winifred nee Watkinson.

Our main increase is provided by two apparently unconnected watermen's families headed by George and John Thornhill. George's son William married in 1839 Elizabeth Hignett of Runcorn, and John's son George was a Canal Company bargeman, b1861 Manchester. Elizabeth's mother, Ann nee Hughes, was widowed in 1842 and then had several apparently illegitimate children by a Mr Gaskell (Gaskill or Gaskin), providing another of our main increases.

The Nicholls and Nicholas increases are in the same family, descended from Northwich waterman Isaac Nicholas, b1776, and Mary nee Garnet, also from Isaac's brother Thomas. The surname gradually changed to Nicholls or Nichols, and it has been possible to amalgamate previously separate branches. We have also developed the Lawton family of Runcorn boatmen.

Update V110 - 10.3.2020

New total: 47,559

New Name: Whinyates 18

Main Increases: Pearson +41; Butterworth, Helsby +30; Hulse +24; Ellis +19; Birchall +17; Cheshire +13; Woodcock +11

Another Burscough-Runcorn link has emerged with the marriage in 1898 of John Thomas Forshaw and Mary Ann Hulse. John was born in Leigh, son of Wigan boatman Thomas Forshaw and Alice, daughter of James Spencer and Ann Prescott of Burscough. Mary Ann's father was Daniel Hulse, a Runcorn shipwright whose brother William married Sarah Jane Cheshire from another canal family we have expanded.

The main increases are among inter-connected Cheshire watermen's families headed by Randle Pearson,

John Butterworth, William Helsby and Henry Birchall. Other increases are also among Cheshire watermen and shipwrights.

The new Whinyates family of Runcorn watermen and shipbrokers is connected to Randles, Musgrove and Waterworth families already on our site.

Update V109 - 21 Feb 2020

New Total: 47,167

New Name: Bellard 15

Main Increases: Houghton +59; Vernon +36; Ashton +29; Mercer, Poole +26; Peck +16; Brock +13; Davies, Horton +11; Dutton +10

Our new name comes from the families of George Bellard of Barnton, Cheshire, and of brothers John and Samuel Bellard of Garston, nr Liverpool. No direct connection has yet been found between these two groups, though George's son John married Samuel's daughter Ann in Liverpool, 1846.

We have connected several Houghton branches of Mersey watermen and extended their lines back to George Houghton and Mary Bramfield, who married in Hale, Childwall, in 1776. (Houghtons have now moved up to fifth in our list of names.)

Other increases include two intermarried Vernon and Poole families of Northwich watermen. Fanny Vernon, daughter of William and Betsey (nee Molyneux), married in 1871 Richard Poole, son of Richard and Jane (nee Wood); and in 1879 Fanny Poole, daughter of Thomas and Hannah (nee Forster) married Joseph Vernon, son of John and Sarah (nee Morton).

The Peck, Brock and Horton increases are among connected Runcorn families, and the Ashton and Dutton increases are among Widnes/Sankey boatmen. We also have another London waterman, Richard Mercer, born 1803 in Lambeth, who moved to Cheshire and whose grandson Richard Mercer married in 1889 Mary Ann, daughter of Runcorn boatman Samuel Massey.

Update V108 – 1 Feb 2020

New Total: 46, 810

New Names: Doggett, 12; Male 10; Emmott 6

Main Increases: Peacock +57; Tyrer +23; Culshaw +18; Jones, Prescott +17; Moores +14; Buckley +10, Alcock +9

Further links between the boat families of West Lancashire and Cheshire have emerged with the marriages of two daughters of William Cheetham and Mary Ashcroft of Lathom to two related Runcorn watermen.

These Cheethams have not been found in censuses before 1871, and must have moved to Runcorn between the births of their second son Edward (in Leigh, 1860) and sixth daughter Ellen in 1864. Their eldest child Susanna (previously unknown to us) married in 1866 William Peacock of Runcorn. Four years later Susanna's sister Alice married Robert Prescott of Liverpool, again in Runcorn, and their daughter Martha Ann married in 1889 George Henry Peacock, son of William's brother Ralph.

This Peacock family is our main increase in this update and connects to a Midlands family of watermen descended from Joseph Jones of Dudley, whose granddaughter Elizabeth Ellen married William and Susanna's son Ralph Peacock in 1902. And our new name Doggett comes through the 1922 marriage in Runcorn of Robert Prescott's grandson Arthur to Mary, daughter of Vincent Doggett, a Ship Canal bargeman born in Hammersmith.

Another Tyrer family of Lathom has been added, probably related to the boatbuilders already in our main

tree (though a direct connection has yet to emerge). Three sons of Richard Tyrer (b1772 Wrightington) and Ann Gill were boatmen, as was Robert Culshaw who married their daughter Ruth in Ormskirk in 1825. After Robert and Ruth's son Richard died in 1865, his widow Mary Ann, nee Kidd, married James Emmott, a boatman and boatbuilder from Clitheroe.

Bob Owen has continued to provide help with Alcock/Allcocks, and another new name comes with the marriage of Edith Elizabeth Alcock to William Male, a tugboat driver from Birkenhead. Other increases are also among Cheshire watermen.

Update V107 – 14 January, 2020

New Total: 46,552

No New names

Main increases: Haddock +42; Riley +41; Done +18; Alcock +13

A double wedding of two brother-sister combinations is the highlight of our first Update of the new decade. Also the unusual marriages of three brothers to three sisters.

Thanks go to Steve Ormand for helping to unscramble the Hatton and Hough families which include the Cheshire marriages in 1830 of two sets of siblings, Robert and Elizabeth Hough to Thomas and Ellen Hatton. We are also grateful to Bob Owen for continued help with Alcock/Allcock records.

We have corrected the identity of the Joseph Baybutt who married first Catherine Malley, then Ann Pendlebury, to be son (b1849 Burscough) of singlewoman Margaret Baybutt rather than son (b1849 Lathom) of John Baybutt and Jane Green. After Joseph's birth, Margaret Baybutt married John Martland whose grandson John William Martland, a Wigan boatman, had three sons, John, Charles and Joseph, who married three sisters, Maud, Betty and Eleanor Bates, daughters of Cheshire butcher Edward Bates.

Two Haddock families and two Riley families of Cheshire watermen provide our main increases. And the 1851 marriage of Martha from one Riley group to Northwich waterman George Done led to our other increase, with their daughter Sarah marrying Albert Riley from the other Riley group of Runcorn.