

## ODFHS Boatfamilies - 2022 Updates

*(Canal Family 1 except where indicated)*

### **Update V150 – 19.12.2022**

**New Total:** 58,997 people

**New Name:** Jarvis 32

**Main Increases:** Gill +83; Hartley +28; Watson +20; Bunn +16; Bailey +14; Lightowler +10; Finney, Maddock +8

The new family is headed by William Jarvis of Penkridge who in 1855 married Elizabeth Jackson, a boatman's daughter from Middlewich and whose sons worked the canals around Wolverhampton and in Cheshire. Their daughter Hannah married William Sandbach of Odd Rode, on the Trent and Mersey Canal, who was already on our site.

Some increases are among Cheshire and Midlands watermen, but most are in the Knottingley area of Yorkshire, including the descendants of George Gill and Patience Whitworth, whose son Thomas, b 1813, married Amy Maltus of Southwold. Another local Thomas Gill, b1815, whose daughter Sarah married into the Cawthorn boatbuilding family, was from another branch, son of John and Christina.

### **Update V149 - 20.11.2022**

**New Total:** 58,574

No New Names

**Main Increases:** Jinks +62; Turgoose +29; Maddock +20; Weedall +8; Glover +7; Clowes, Meese +5

All the main increases are linked to two families of Cheshire-based boatmen headed by Richard Jinks b1806 Hassall Green, on the Trent and Mersey Canal near Sandbach, and George Jinks, b1814 Elton, a few miles north. Richard was son of William and Sarah, and George's parents were James and Hannah but a family connection has not yet been found.

Trading along the canal system in Lancashire and the Midlands meant that Jinks children were born in several counties, and marriages to other families already on our site include Brooks, Clowes, Condliffe, Finney, Hickson, and Sheckleston.

Thanks go to Gwendoline Finch for adding details of her family of Burscough boatmen including her father Tom Lamb who operated the last horse-drawn barge at Ainscough's Mill (pictured above).

### **Update V148 - Oct 21 2022**

**New total:** 58,333 people

**New Name:** Rusling 12

**Main increases:** Lyall +35; Fratson +27; Moxon +25; Dyson +21; Eastwood +19; Hastings +8; Mawson +5

All main increases and our new name come from the continued expansion of Yorkshire watermen in the Doncaster and Rotherham area. They are all connected by marriage to the families we have been developing in other recent updates and thanks for much detailed work again go to Steve Leggett who descends from the Alsop boat family from Thorne.

There is one Lancashire connection through the 1836 Doncaster marriage of Richard Hastings, a waterman from Stainforth, to Sarah Dawson of Wigan, daughter of a cotton spinner.

**Update V147** - 30.9.2022

**New total:** 58,063 people

**No new names**

**Main increase:** Alsop +79

This update has concentrated on linking and developing several branches of the Alsop family of Yorkshire watermen descended from George Alsop, born 1764, and Elizabeth nee Middleton of Thorne and Fishlake, some of whom had connections to other Doncaster area families already on our site.

Thanks go again to Steve Leggett who has provided further links to other boatfamilies around Stainforth, work on which has already started for incorporating in future updates.

**Update V146** - 9.9.2022

**New total:** 57,896 people

**New Name:** Fairbank 10

**Main increases:** Moxon +10; Martland +6; Starkey +5

This small update includes increases and amendments in the Moxon, Hinchliffe and other related families in the Doncaster area, for which thanks go to Steve Leggett for much detailed work.

The Starkeys of Northwich have also been revised, and we are grateful to Alan Kenyon for updating his grandparents' family, the Martlands of Burscough.

The 'new' name of Fairbank is actually an alternative spelling adopted by the family of Isaac Firbank, grandson of a Leeds boatman Benjamin Firbank. Isaac, born Shipley in 1879, married Sarah Jane Aspinall of Liverpool and lived in Chorley and Wigan where their children were registered as Fairbank. His elder brother William Holroyd Firbank married Martha Turner of Wigan and also moved to Chorley, but they kept the earlier spelling.

**Update V145** – 23.8.2022

**New total:** 57,824 people

**New Name:** Litler 7

**Main Increases:** Clare +43; Griffiths +38; Vernon +30; Garton +18; Capper, Senior +13, Sykes, Webster +6

We have expanded the inter-related Northwich boatfamilies descended from John Clare b1766, Thomas Griffiths, and brothers Thomas and John Senior, b1788-90, whose descendants married into the Vernon, Garton, Capper and Litler families (with one T, seemingly unconnected to Littler families also on the site).

And we have probably identified a transportee to Tasmania, Hugh Yarwood b1799, whose wife married again in 1828 as a widow (their daughter Harriet married waterman James Vernon in 1841). We found no death record but a Hugh Yarwood is in the 1823 Australian Convict Transportation Register (on Ancestry) aboard Competitor bound for 'Van Diemen's Land' on 18.3.1823, having been sentenced in Chester. This ship arrived in Hobart 3.8.1823 and landed 157 of the 160 male convicts who embarked.

Yorkshire increases are in the mid-1800s families of boatbuilder William Sykes and waterman William Webster of Knottingley.

**Update V144 - 2.8.2022****New total:** 57,559 people**New Name:** Benbow**Main Increases:** Poole +34; Starkey +22; Barton +20; Baldwin +14; Thompson +12

Our main increase is among Cheshire watermen descended from Richard Poole (b1755) and Lydia Malbone, and their sons Randle and Thomas. Randle's grandson Robert married the widow of Edward Benbow, a ropemaker who died after emigrating to Canada and whose family returned to Liverpool, where son Samuel Benbow worked as a dock labourer after serving with the Royal Navy in the Antipodes. Thomas Poole's daughter Mary married Thomas Starkey of Northwich, whose family has been expanded.

We have developed the family of William Thompson (b1811) and Catherine Bramwell of Lathom, and the apparently unconnected Thomas Thompson b1872, a Burscough canal boatbuilder. Also brothers John, Henry and Thomas Baldwin, canal labourer sons of Thomas Baldwin (b1820) and Ellen Sutton of Rufford. And thanks go to Sue Barton for help with her family of Northwich watermen.

**Update V143 - 15.7.2022****New Total:** 57,367 people**No New Names****Main Increases:** Forshaw +33; Hodge +14; Fish +10; Lightowler +8; Clapham +6

Thanks to the 1921 census we have at last been able to identify the Burscough boatman Henry Forshaw who married Mary Tasker in 1888 as the illegitimate son of Mary Forshaw (b1849 to Thomas Forshaw and Ellen nee Rothwell) who was already on our site. Henry was born a few years before his mother married Edward Halsall in 1870 and we had him as Henry Halsall, as in the 1871/81 censuses. He married as Forshaw with no father named, but the clue came in 1921 when his widowed mother Mary Halsall is living with him at Canal Bank, New Lane, Burscough.

We have also connected stray branches and expanded the family of George Forshaw and Margaret Baybutt who married in Croston, 1818. Other increases are among the Hodges of Scarisbrick and in Yorkshire boatfamilies.

**Update V142 - 13.6.2022****New total:** 57,207**New Names:** Outhwaite 28; Feetham 11**Main Increases:** Greaves +35; Mann +32; Hargrave +23; Gledhill +22; Middleton +21; Peet +17; Fish +11; Drury +10

We have added our first Norwegian mariner, Nikolai Fagersand from Tonberg, who was drowned at sea after marrying Emily Mann, daughter of a Knottingley waterman. Her family, descended from a John Mann, has been developed alongside that of another probably related local group, also known as Whitaker, descended from Richard and Mary Mann.

Our new names and most increases are among watermen on the Dearne and Dove and other South Yorkshire canals, the Aire and Calder Navigation and the Humber. The Peet family of Lathom has also been expanded.

**Update V141** - 14.5.22

**New Total:** 56,819

**New Name:** Maltby 30

**Main Increases:** Rhodes +63; Wray +50; Cooper +28; Rockett +19; Arnold +12; Midgley +10

Our new name and most increases came from expanding existing interconnected Yorkshire families, including that of William Rockett whose sons were all born in Knottingley except for Joseph, whose birth was unusually registered in Runcorn in 1872.

We have also developed the Midlands families of brothers Benjamin, Samuel and Richard Cooper of Kingswinford and Smethwick.

And thanks go to Keith Howard for help with the Dawsons of Rufford and Burscough, which has enabled us (belatedly) to connect the families of brothers John b1806 and Philip b1814.

**Update V140** - 20.4.2022

**New Total:** 56,463 individuals

**No New Names**

**Main Increases:** Hirst +38; Bateman +29; Depledge, Rhodes +26

Our main increases again involve Yorkshire families and include the Hirst canal and river watermen of Goole, descended from Joseph Hirst and Drusilla Taylor of Wakefield. The Depledge and Rhodes families were based around Knottingley.

An unexpected link to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal was found among the Batemans of Selby, with the 1911 census for Barnoldswick recording John Henry Bateman as a canal boatbuilder living with wife Ada in Cragg Row, near Salterforth Bridge.

**Update V139** - 3.2.2022

**New Total:** 56,242 individuals

**New Names:** Broughton 33; Lancelot 16; Copeman 13; Branford, Tummons 12

**Main Increases:** Sugden +38; Hargrave, Rowley, Wood +31; Brown +29; Thompson +12; Adams +8

Our new names and most increases are among interconnected canal, river and coastal watermen's families and boatbuilders from the Knottingley area. They include mariner William Brown and Catherine Tummons who set sail for London in December 1842 and returned as man and wife having married on Christmas Eve at St George's, Hanover Square.

Thanks go to Jean Parr-Ellis for correcting us on the identity of the Esther Mawdsley who married John Parr of Burscough in 1814, and whose parents were Hector and Alice (Burscough and Lydiate) not Henry and Mary (Ormskirk) as previously.

**Update V138** - 11.3.2022

**New Total:** 55,836 individuals

**No New Names**

**Main Increases:** Stelfox +26; Gerrard +20; Cooper +16; May +15; Taylor +9

We are grateful to several regular contacts from home and abroad for keeping in touch despite problems (now resolved) during a recent software update.

Our main increase involves two Stelfox lines, one of which includes James b1825 Marston, near Northwich, whose daughter Elizabeth was the second wife of waterman John Verdin, who was already on our site. And Kath Gerrard has helped us develop her family's ties with the Stelfoxes descended from boatman William Stelfox b1805 Northwich.

We have also expanded the family of Moses Cooper, whose sons and grandsons were shipwrights and sailmakers of Runcorn. His great-grandson John Cooper, a waterman, married in 1899 Mary Ellen May, also of Runcorn, who had two boatmen brothers and whose sister Agnes married Samuel Stubbs, son of a bargemaster from Burton upon Trent.

**Update V137** - 27.1.2022

**New total:** 55,633 individuals

**No New Names**

**Main Increases:** Lea +15; Ashcroft +8; Robinson +7; Hopley +6; Forshaw +4

Thanks go to John Phillips of the Ormskirk and District Family History Society for help with his Lea ancestors, who provide the main increase in this update. Another rise is in the family of Liverpool boatman William Hopley who married Catherine Robinson, daughter of Wigan boatman Edward Robinson, in 1886.

We are also grateful to Sue Brummel in New Zealand, whose Iddon family of Tarleton boatmen has led us to a connection to the Mayor boatbuilding family through local ropemaker William Cookson. In 1862 his granddaughter Mary Jane Cookson married James Mayor, grandfather of the company chairman Harry Counce Mayor.