

ODFHS Boatfamilies - 2024 Updates

(Canal Family 1 except where indicated)

Update V173 - 20.4.24

New Total: 63,569

New Names: Raywood 33; Chessman 27; Allan 20

Main Increases: Hammond +33; Moverley +28; Richmond +25; Dawson +23; Mortimer +16; Bradley +14; Thompson +12

All new names and main increases continue our expansion of the inter-married families of watermen who plied the South Yorkshire Navigations around Rotherham, Doncaster and Thorne.

Thanks go to Mike Hough for adding his ancestor Joseph Hough, a Runcorn boatman b1839 Liverpool, whose family spread north to the Lake District and south to London, where he died in 1892.

Update V172 - 25.3.2024

New Total: 63,141

New Name: Dowkes (aka Dukes) 7

Main Increases: Barley +71; Clark +41; Stones +37; Carr +23; Allen +21; Squires +15; Shillito +7

Another link between the Doncaster area boatmen we have been developing and the Leeds and Liverpool Canal comes with the 1903 birth at Greengates, Apperley Bridge, of Wilfred, son of George and Ann Carr of Stainforth, who moved there in the early 1800s.

The Barley, Clark and Stones increases are among those inter-related Yorkshire families and include waterman William Dowkes, whose daughter Thomasine married in 1872 George Squires, son of a Mexborough lock-keeper. Their children in turn connect with the Shillito and Barrass families of Thorne.

Update V171 - 7.3.2024

New Total: 62,791

New Names: Cawkwell 31; Waddingham 10

Main Increases: Schofield +46; Walker +45; Tune +40; Norfolk +36; Silvester +35; Barley, Clark +26; Patrick +15; Wright +12; Ackroyd +8

This large update is mainly a continuing expansion of the inter-married South Yorkshire/North Lincolnshire families developed recently with help from Steve Leggett. They include Robert Schofield of Stainforth, Doncaster, who was probably working on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal in 1902 when his son Ralph was born at Steeton, nr Silsden Bridge, Keighley.

Thanks also go to Norman Charnley for details of Lancashire boatman Thomas Wright of Melling and son George, born at Top Locks, Runcorn, who worked on the Bridgewater Canal in Salford.

Update V170 - 7.2.2024

New Total: 62,288

No New Names

Main Increases: Holt +64; White +41; Hunter +16; Fletcher +10

Yorkshire watermen provide most of our increases, particularly the five sons of James Holt (aka Hoult) and Caroline Whittles in the mid-1880s around Doncaster. Also the descendants of William and Hannah White

whose daughter Elizabeth in 1845 became the first of four wives of Joshua Lee of Thorne, all apparently childless. (Thanks again go to Steve Leggett for detailed research on this family.)

We have revised the Burscough/Rufford families of brothers Thomas and Richard Hunter of Hoole, some of whom moved to Blackburn in the 1850s. And we have added the family of boatman Thomas Fletcher of Habergham Eaves, who married Mary Astin from the Burnley family introduced in Update 169.

Update V169 - 14.1.2024

New Total: 62,034 people

New Name: Astin 20

Main Increases: Schofield +34; Dean +17; Wignall +13; Barrass +11; Draper +10; Slater +9; Robinson +8

A new family of Burnley boatmen includes William Astin, who in 1838 married Mary Dean who had already borne him a son, Thomas Dean, three years earlier. Thomas married Mary Wellock of Colne, whose niece Agnes Jane married John Draper, brother of the Gannow Tunnel tugmaster Richard Draper (b 1873 Wigan) whose family, already on this site, has been expanded. Thanks go to Julie Brook for introducing us to these canal men.

Our main increase involves Matthew and Richard Moxon Schofield, sons of the Doncaster area waterman Richard Schofield and Amelia nee Moxon, who connect to the Raper family of Thorne. We are grateful to Steve Leggett for his continued help with the 'keelmen' of Yorkshire. Other increases come from developing the families of Preston-based boatmen on the Lancaster Canal.