

ODFHS Boat Families – Website Updates pre 2013

14 December 2012

This update expands two unrelated Abram families - Robert Abram of Lathom who married Alice Thompson of Parbold in 1851, and Richard Abram of Halsall who married Ellen Taylor of Parbold: her daughter Annie Taylor married in 1855 boatman Samuel Carter of Leigh, a new family to us

Another new family is that of John Greener of Parbold, who married Ann Peet of Lathom in 1858 and Emily Meadow of Newburgh in 1872.

The family of canal boatbuilder John Abraham Wells has been widened, as has that of Blackburn lock-keeper Robert Smithson, whose son Samuel married Lathom boatman's daughter Margery Hunter, and whose sister Esther married Blackburn boatman John Berry.

We have also been able to unravel the family of William, son of John Langton and Mary Webster, who used both surnames. He married boatman's daughter Ellen Baybutt in 1857 as William Webster but used the family name Langton.

Many of the additions in this update have arisen from the baptism records of Christ Church, Newburgh, 1860-1911, now on Ancestry and which have been incorporated.

15 November 2012

This month we introduce the family of Alice (nee Halsall) and John Forshaw b1825 Burscough, boatman son of sawyer James Forshaw and Jane (nee Lyon). Also Thomas Gill who married Mary, daughter of Ralph Forshaw and Elizabeth (nee Smith) in 1836.

We have expanded the families of Burscough boatmen Joshua Hewitt, b1802, and John Watkinson who married Sarah Mawdsley in 1822.

The parish records for Lathom, now available on Ancestry, show that many baptisms listed on Lancs OPC as at St Peter and St Paul, Ormskirk, were in fact at Lathom Chapel, so we are slowly working through these and amending our records accordingly.

18 October 2012

We have added the families of boatman Hugh Culshaw, b1836 Rufford, and of his father-in-law Edward Ellison Williams of Preston, a farmer who moved to Burscough and became an innkeeper and boatman in later life. Also Henry Smith of Halsall who married boatman's daughter Elizabeth Gill of Lathom in 1858.

The increasing number of parish records on Ancestry have enabled us to correct the marriages of two Margaret Smiths. The Margaret b1843 to William Smith and Alice nee Waring (who we previously had married to boatman Thomas Forshaw) was in fact the first wife of boatman Robert Howard, and died in childbirth age 22. Thomas Forshaw's wife was Margaret b1841 to William Smith and Alice Culshaw, and who lived until 1915.

27 September 2012

Our second update this month expands the family of boatbuilder John Wignall, whose son Robert married Burscough boatman's daughter Alice Irlam in 1853. Her family has also been revised after it was realised that the Irlam name appears in the records variously as Earlam, Ellam, Ellison, Herleum, Harlem, Harlson and Irlams. Her father married Ellen Naylor of Rufford as Richard Arlam in Melling, 1820.

Help with the family of Philip Dawson and Mary Wright (m Rufford 1841) has come from Audrey Baldwin, and with the Cheetham and Fazackerley families from Brian Forshaw, for which many thanks.

We have also added the family of Edward Wilson who married Alice Carrington of Newburgh in 1845. And several branches of Sharrocks have now been connected, descended from James Sharrock and Mary Fairclough of Rufford.

3 September 2012

After a summer break, Boatfamilies are back with an update that introduces the family of Lathom shipwright William Spencer, two of whose children married into the family of boatman Frederick Carrington, and whose son James and two of his sons were also a boatmen.

We have corrected the parentage of boatman Thomas Forshaw (who married Phoebe Howard nee Fairclough in 1824) to be Ralph Forshaw and Elizabeth (Betty) Smith, a new family to us, NOT wheelwright Thomas Forshaw and Esther Foster as we have had it hitherto. Many thanks go to the industrious Mike Kay of Australia for pointing this out and for providing numerous other additions and amendments, including the family of Henry Nathan, a boatman from Northamptonshire who married Elizabeth Baldwin of Newburgh.

We have also corrected the 1907 marriage of Sarah Ann Ellen Twigg, which was to William Ashcroft, b 1882 son of John Ashcroft of Appley Bridge, not to William Adam Ashcroft, b 1884 son of John Henry Ashcroft of Burscough, as we had it previously.

17 July 2012

We now have more than 3,000 marriages in our main tree (Canal Family1). This update expands the family of Thomas Bridge and Ellen Yates of Halsall and their children's Armstrong, Gobbin, Sutcliffe and Worthington in-laws.

It also adds the family of boatman William Mawdsley's son James, born 1852 Burscough, who married another boatman's daughter, Martha Prescott, b 1865 Burscough, and moved to Boothstown, nr Salford.

29 June 2012

This update introduces two new families:- James and Nanny Close of Swaledale, whose sons Joseph and Jervis, and grandsons James and Isaac were boatmen in the Burscough area; and James Kershaw who married boatman's daughter Margaret Johnson.

Another new tree - Canal Family 3 - is based on Chester boatman Robert Denson whose son William, b Shevington, married boatman's daughter Jane Rimmer of Lydiate.

We have also extended to 1912 the births and baptisms of boatmen's children at St John the Baptist, Burscough Bridge.

2 June 2012

Our new Canal Family 2 tree has 95 individuals not currently connected to anyone in Canal Family 1. It contains the families of Richard Fazackerley and Jane (nee Bridge) of Halsall and of James Spencer and Ann (nee Prescott) of Lathom, whose daughter Alice married Thomas Forshaw of Wigan.

19 May 2012

Our second update this month introduces the family of boatman John Edwin Harwood of Ripon and his nephew John Harwood of Bootle, who both married into the Eaves family of Lathom. The main increases are 23 Spencers and 17 Snapes, plus a handful more Baybutts, Culshaws, Fosters, Holcrofts, Shaws, Thompsons and Turners.

1 May 2012

This small update is mainly to separate two Baybutt families, moving the descendants of Joseph b1802 and Jane Naylor of Burscough/Rufford into the branch headed by Joseph Baybutt and Martha Fairhurst, and to identify Joseph b1802 Mawdsley (who married Mary Rigby) as the son of Joseph Baybutt and Alice Higginson of Croston. Both branches have canal workers in later generations, but we have included many more non-boatmen than usual in the earlier families to try to help researchers separate the various lines.

Additions include Robert Disley, b1773, and Ellen Seddon of Burscough and their daughter Catherine who married boatman Charles Arnold and moved away from Lathom to work on the Cheshire canals.

New families are those of Thomas Gough of Chester, who married boatman's daughter Jane Shaw of Haskayne in 1859, and their son-in-law James Hickson of Salford.

And many thanks go to Prof Timothy Peters of Birmingham University for supplying us with a paper he has co-written with Mike Clarke for the Waterways Journal, which gives many details of the Draper and Aspinall boatfamilies of Burscough.

20 April 2012

In this update we introduce the related families of Thomas Boardman, Jesse Porter and William Malley of Wigan and we include scores more baptism, marriage and burial details from St John the Baptist, Burscough.

The combined increase in Lea, Lee and Leigh families, whose spellings all vary in the records, is 25 - and there are 21 more Barrows.

Many thanks go to Brian Forshaw for detailed development of the Draper and Forshaw families descended from Thomas Draper (1841) and Tabitha Ellen Cheetham.

19 March 2012

Among the new names in this update are the families of boatmen Thomas Tinsley (Blackburn and Wigan) and of William Waddilove (Blackburn and Ince).

As well as increases of 20 or more in our Prescott and Meadows families there are double-figure increases in Jacksons, Rothwells, Taylors and Toppings.

Thanks go to Derek Bowen for his family details and to Pat Blake for help with her Harrisons.

23 February 2012

This update brings together several branches of the Hunter family descended from Thomas Hunter and Margery Wignall of Hoole, largely through detailed work by Kate Leatherbarrow who has also clarified the families of John Parr (1785) and Margaret Lea, and John Gill (1796) and Esther Mawdsley.

As well as 40 new Hunters there are 30+ increases in the Ashcroft, Fazackerley and Moss families, and a dozen or more new Gaskells, Leylands, Robinsons and Spencers, bringing our total to 10,581 individuals.

Details of the Ashcroft, Fazackerley, Pimley and Woodburn families who worked the Lancaster canal have been added with help from Derek Howarth, David Lavender and Janet Rigby. And thanks go to Ron Swift for developing the Moss and Leyland families of Wigan and Westhoughton.

31 January 2012

Our first update of the year adds 51 more Ashcrofts, 23 more Deakins (including Dakin and Deacon), 22 more Ollertons and double-figure increases in the Gregson, Marsden, Mawdsley, Seddon, Spencer, Taylor and Thompson families.

Thanks go to Madeline Escalante for introducing the Chadwick family of Liverpool boatmen, connected to our Rigbys. She stumbled across our site and said it was "the best mistake I ever made".

Other new names - Hamer, Jolly, and Stringman - bring our total to 10,139 individuals.

19 December, 2011

Following the addition of the Cartmel family in our last update, we have been able to connect to our tree all the other boatbuilders mentioned in the Communications chapter of Ernest Rosbottom's book "Burscough, the Story of an Agricultural Village".

Several branches of the Hunter family have been brought together and expanded - the descendants of Thomas and James Hunter of Top Locks, Lathom, originally from Freckleton. We have added the Fletcher, Tyrer and Sheldon boatbuilders, also canal inspectors William Moss and sons of Pemberton and Lathom.

Other new families are Bolton, Nelson, Parkinson and Rotheram. The total number of individuals is now 9,683.

3 December, 2011

New names added are Adams (Blackburn/Liverpool), Harrocks and Hooper (both Lydiate), and thanks go to Jessie Whittle for details of the Cartmel boatbuilding family of Parbold who connect to our tree through Elizabeth Ann Baybutt, descended from our main Baybutt line. (Total 9,438.)

November 2011

New families Firbank and Varley of Yorkshire, connected to Lancashire boatmen by marriage, Williamson (Burnley and Burscough), and Pickup (Blackburn/Chorley). There are 28 more Robinsons, 27 more Langtons and double-figure increases in the Barrow, Blundell, Bridge, Davies, Gore, Moss and Wareing families.

Thanks go to Margaret Walton (Blundells), Robin Salmon (Wareings), David Ollerton (Langtons), Tom Davies (Davies family of Adlington) and Paul Cesnavicius (Martin family of Barton upon Irwell). Total now 9,131.

October 2011

Several visitors to Ormskirk Family History Day on Sept 17 provided additions. Total 8,670.

September 2011

Many more Burscough baptism and marriage records added. Total 8,500.

July 2011

New families Irlam, Kendall (Shipley area) and Reynolds. Total now 7,965 individuals.

June 2011

Scores of marriage records for St John the Baptist, Burscough Bridge, added. Total 7,375.

May 2011

Additional Vickers branches make them third in frequency behind Forshaw and Lamb, ahead of Carrington and Baldwin. Total now 7,375.

March 2011

Site redesigned with new software. New names Blinkhorn, Davies, Holcroft, Hopley, Lund and Youds. 62 more Iddons, Lamb now second most frequent. Total 6,951.

December 2010

New name Sharrock, 54 more Robinsons, Lamb now second most frequent, Baldwin fourth, total 5,899.

October 2010

New families Rainford, Roughley and Walmsley, total now 4,829.

August 2010

New name Bamber, 50 more Hunters, total now 4,258.

June 2010

New name Disley added, total now 3,721 with Lamb and Gibbons becoming third and fourth most frequent. Big increase (58) in Prescotts.

March 2010

Site launched with one tree of 3,053 boatmen and immediate family members, the most frequently occurring surnames being Forshaw, Carrington, Gregson, Lamb, Alty and Cheetham.