

ODFHS Boat Families – Website Updates 2015

27 November 2015 – V62

New names: Theobald 53, Barnett 23, Butters, Estcourt 21, Granger (Grange/Grainger) 20

Main increases: Houghton +24, Hickson +17, Preston +13, Lowe +12

After the recently recorded spread of boatfamily marriages from Lancashire into Cheshire, the move continues - south into Staffordshire and Shropshire, and east into Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

We have also added our first London and Birmingham watermen: John Thomas Hodson of Kensal Green, who in 1887 married a Derbyshire boatman's daughter, Mary Ann Theobald of Sandbach, Cheshire, in Kidsgrove, Staffordshire; and John Beech of Birmingham who married Mary Ann Shecklestone of Middlewich, Cheshire, in 1869.

24 October 2015 – V61

New names: Littlemore 67; Scragg 66; Fradley 42; Shecklestone 19; Musgrove 16; Chapman 14; Beddows, Brock, Ollier, Wall 13; Dukes, Preston 12

Main increases: Starkey +33; Wakefield +24; Bell +21, Ireland +20; Rawlinson +18; Wilkinson +17; Cheshire +16; Beech, Sant +12

New names and increases are mainly among Cheshire and Staffordshire waterman, and another link has emerged between Lancashire boatmen and those south of the Mersey with the 1899 marriage in Runcorn of widow Ellen Heyes, daughter of James Bentham and Elizabeth Carrington of Lathom, to Joshua Fradley of Stoke on Trent.

We have a second emigrant to the US: William Preston, son of a Runcorn boatman, sailed from Liverpool in the early 1900s and in the 1920 Texas census is a rigger for a steamship company in Galveston.

And the 1911-33 parish records of Christ Church, Newburgh (on Ancestry) have enabled us to unite in marriage many individuals already on the site.

8 September 2015 – V60

New names: Gates 88

Main increases: Goodier +50, Allen, Curzon +41, Brooke, Minshall +31, Oakes +28, Barker +20

This update takes us past 25,000 individuals in our main tree, and we have our first boatman outside the UK.

John Wareing of Scarisbrick, b 1825 son of boatman John and Ann nee Blundell, emigrated to the United States in 1884 and in the 1900 US Census is a barge captain in New York. Thanks for this information go to Don Kalish of Chicago, whose wife descends from these Wareings.

We have concluded that the marriage of James Cheetham (b 1838 Halsall, son of James and Elizabeth nee Alty), previously unfound, was at St Peter, Liverpool, on Dec 10 1860. The record gives his bride's name as Alice Taylor (father John, coachman), but this is believed to have been a mishearing for Annie/Hannah Stainer, who can be identified as James's wife through the baptism records of their children, and whose father was a coachman called John. (Annie Stainer and Alice Taylor are near homophones).

The inquest report following the fatal fight at Shevington, reported in our July update, is now in the Documents section of our site. This can be found under Media, top right of our Home page.

The new name and main increases are again among Cheshire watermen, but another link between Leeds & Liverpool and Cheshire boatfamilies has emerged with the 1919 marriage of Isabella, daughter of Thomas Deakin

of Lathom, at St Nicholas, Liverpool, to John William Allen, son of waterman John Allen of Barnton, nr Northwich. These Allens and the related Minshall, Goodier and Beech families have been expanded.

29 July 2015 – V59

Main increases: Fairclough +42, Johnson +35, Boden/Bowden +27, Gandy +22, Pickstock +20

We report a fatal fight in 1857 between Henry Webster, b1835 Downholland, and his cousin Henry (Hartley) Ashton, b1838 Halsall (see notes in their files). Thanks go to Glenn MacLeod for bringing this to our attention. We have developed the Johnson, Miller and Fairclough families of Tarleton, boatmen and coastal mariners, thanks to inadvertent help from a contact who was researching a different Johnson family before realising her error.

The other names in our main increases are from Cheshire watermen's families and include the Bodens of Northwich, many of whom changed spelling to Bowden.

30 June 2015 – V58

New names: Pickstock 39, Hallwood 30, Gornall 10

Main increases: Rowlinson +77, Sandbach +63, Perry +55, Pye +46, Hill +24, Blower +13

We have added the sad tale of Mary Ellen Jackson, b 1909 daughter of Burscough boatman Thomas Jackson and Ellen Baldwin of Martin Lane, who drowned in the canal after being sent to buy bread. The story was found by our Secretary, Pam Richardson, in the Yorkshire Post which reported that loaves were seen floating in the canal, after a gale presumably caught Mary Ellen's coat and blew her into the water.

Liverpool boatman Robert Gornall's family is among the new names, the rest of which are of Cheshire watermen, as are the main increases.

21 May 2015- V57

New name: Fitton 31.

Main increases: Atherton 147, Plumb 58, Walker 36, Perry, Mason 26, Hough 24, Fairclough 23, Hulse 18, Griffiths 14.

The main increases and new name in our main tree are again among Cheshire watermen, though two Plumb family marriages solve previously unidentified entries in our detailed version of Robert Cheetham-Houghton's list in his "Burscough Boatmen" book. A revised version of this is being compiled and will be lodged with the National Waterways Museum at Ellesmere Port later this year, as well as in the ODFHS Library.

Thanks go to Frank Doherty for continued help with the Lawson, Morris and Howard families of Burscough and Hesketh, and to Barbara Mercer for adding the parents of Thomas Ainscough (b1804 Leyland) to our Canal5 tree.

2 April 2015 – V56

New names: Oldfield 29, Rowbottom/Rubottom 25, Lowndes 16.

Main increases: Whitehead +76, Blower +68, Boden +63, Molyneux +55, Alcock/Allcock +48, Palin +29, Scott +28, Harrison +24, Leather +22.

Thanks go to Helen Francis for helping develop the Varleys of Leeds and Skipton, and the Craven and Scott families of Bingley, who led to a new family descended from Robert Oldfield and Mary nee Sugden of Bingley. Also to Neil Hayward for discovering marriage details of the Gregsons of Newburgh.

Another new name, the Rowbottoms of Northwich, changed their spelling from Rubottom in the 1850/60s, and like them and the Lowndes family, most of the main increases are in Cheshire watermen.

24 February 2015 – V55

Another Lancashire link occurs among the Cheshire watermen who again dominate this update in the new family of Charles Cowley of Barnton, whose grandson John married Margaret Jane Arnold, daughter of Burscough boatman Robert Arnold (b 1843, son of Charles Arnold and Catherine Disley).

Our biggest increase is in the extended family of Samuel Mills of Northwich, whose sons were watermen in the early 19th century: this name has suddenly risen to 15th in our list. The increase in Moore(s) is an amalgamation of Moore and Moores as the Northwich family of James Moores and Ann nee Poole gradually dropped the S between 1860 and 1890.

Thanks go to Liz Fazakerley in Australia for additions to her Halsall/Liverpool family, and to Frank Doherty for pointing us to the marriage record on Lancashire OPC for John Lawson of Hesketh Bank and Mary Howard of Newburgh, in Wigan 1804.

29 January 2015 – V54

As last month, the new family and biggest increases in our main tree are Cheshire watermen, many of whom married and worked in Liverpool, mainly on Mersey barges. They are all inter-connected and link back to the children of Newburgh boatman James Ashcroft and Mary nee Bamber who moved on to the Cheshire canals in the 1860s.

Thanks go to Deborah Brambill for an important correction in one of our biggest Lathom-based families. The Richard Carrington who married Ellen Lamb in 1841 was son (b1817) of George and Mary, not his cousin Richard (b1820) son of Richard and Ellen, as we previously had it.