



Chorley News

Nov 2019

**Chorley Branch of The Lancashire Family
History and Heraldry Society**

Regd. Charity

No 513437

Society Web Site www.lfhhs.org

October Meeting

Iain Bagshaw The Royal Mail and hidden language of Post Cards

The Nobility of Medieval times could read and they would put messages on a post written by a scribe. Edward IV had dispatchers who took messages around the country and as far as Scotland. Church officials were also literate and the monks would often carry letters to other places. It would take time for them to get there, but they could be sent as far as Jerusalem. Trades people also travelled and carried messages from place to place. Lancashire and Yorkshire produced wool and the Flemish Weavers would travel there to purchase it at a better price than in London and take mail with them.

The Official news was passed on by Town Criers and then pinned to the Church Doors as everyone went to Church. In case of Invasion beacons were placed where all could see them and they were lit in an emergency. Brian Tuck, master of the King's Post set up a system of stables called posts with three horses in them at all times. If anyone interfered with letters they would be hung, drawn and quartered. James I extended the mail to Scotland and by Charles I there were six routes out of London, and anyone with money could send letters.

In Cromwell's day, John Thurloe became Secretary of State and was in charge of the Mail. He had copies made of Seals for letters of Royalists and read their mail.

Roads in England were terrible and each area was supposed to look after their own roads. To help the situation the Turnpike law was brought in to pay for upkeep. The mail coaches had paying




passengers but travelled free on the Turnpike roads. By 1830 mail was being sent by train and in 1840 the First Royal Mail ship, RMS Britannia, was commissioned and also took passengers. By 1851 letters went to the post office, but after a trial in the Channel Islands, post boxes were introduced. Today there are 115,300 post boxes. By 1907 Motor Vehicles were used to transport mail and postal workers had a union for men and women and a small retirement pension. In 1912 two postal workers died on the Titanic trying to save the mail.



In 1840 Sir Rowland Hill invented the first stamp in the world, the Penny Black. Britain is the only country with no country name on their stamps. In 1843 The Royal Mail invented their post card. The world's oldest postcard was sent in 1840 to the writer Theodore Hook from Fulham in London, England. Children collected stamps and postcards. The Post Office sold postcards with stamps on them already and included them in the price.



As postcards could be read, elaborate systems were devised to stop this. Some were written sideways or upside down. Some were written every other line. Mirror writing was also used as was a number code, Semaphore, Shorthand and Morse code. Symbols represented messages, a  is a kiss like the XXX we use. The

study and collecting of postcards is termed *deltiology*.

November meeting

Thursday 21st November Steve Williams 'Four Tins - A look at social and military history using four tins'.

December meeting

December meeting Thursday 5th December, the ever popular quiz & hotpot supper. Cost £5 per head. to assist with catering please advise Anne Lowe if you wish to attend by email aclowe@btinternet.com or mobile 07484 103889 and whether you want the hotpot or butter pie.

What's new

FamilySearch

[England, Herefordshire Bishop's Transcripts, 1583-1898](#) 2008 new records

[England, Hampshire Parish Registers, 1538-1980](#) 126,104 new records

[England, Warwickshire, Parish Registers, 1535-1963](#) 48,547 new records

[Wales, Anglesey, Parish Registers, 1538-1912](#) 281418 new records and images

[Wales, Marriage Bonds, 1650-1900](#) 1771 new records

[Wales, Monmouthshire \(Gwent\) Workhouse Registers 1843-1929](#) 141,211 new records

Ancestry

[UK and Ireland, Find A Grave Index, 1300s-Current](#) updated 1/11/2019

[UK, WWII Royal Artillery Tracer Cards, 1939-1948](#) New 21/10/2019

The Genealogist

North Buckinghamshire added to Lloyd George Domesday Records . 11 Oct 2019

FindMyPast

[1801 Lancashire, Liverpool Census 31/10/2019](#) Discover your Scouse ancestor's address, occupation and who they were living with in 1801 with over 13,000 new and exclusive early census records. Images will provide additional information about your ancestor's abode.

[Cornwall Burials](#) Over 75,000 new records covering 52 parishes across the Cornish peninsula are now available to search .

[Kent Burials](#) 12,000 new records have been added to the collection this week.

From Roots Tech—useful sites

Tracing Convicts in Britain & Australia, 1780-1925

<https://www.digitalpanopticon.org/>

YOUR LIFE IN A BOOK <https://www.picturesandstories.com/news/2017/2/13/metadata-writing-on-the-back-of-a-digital-photo>

Records for English and Wales counties <https://ogindex.org/>

A list of the best sources for England county records

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/img_auth.php/f/f7/

[A Hand List of Online England County-wide Indexes P Dunn Jul 2017 JMR % 28002%29.pdf](#)

To watch recorded session of RootsTech London go to

<https://www.rootstech.org/video-archive>

What's needed

Programme Secretary - The branch needs a new Programme secretary to develop a programme for 2020. Any skills members can offer or ideas for meetings are welcome.

Sales Person

To purchase and control the sale of the acid free materials at the Centre.

Projects - Chorley Guardian Military Project

The information includes all kinds of events, even marriages and the birth of children. These need to be indexed so they can be used more widely. You can work on batches at the centre or at home.

Anyone able to index or edit images for this project, please contact Ron Chapman

What's on

Lancashire Archives

Monday 2nd December Fleetwood Library

Friday 6th December A history of Christmas John Meredith Booking essential

Friday 13th December Family History Friday. Talk 12.30pm Bad to the Bone?

Records of juvenile Delinquency and reform Victoria McCann

Leeds Family Historian Course

Time: [November 29, 2019](#) from 10:30am to 3:30pm

Location: [West Leeds Scout HQ, LS28 7AQ](#)

Street: **The Lanes, Off Lowtown**

City/Town: **Pudsey, Leeds**

Website or Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/umcMja2hj...>

Event Type: [family history](#), [family historian](#), [genealogy](#)

Organized By: [Jackie 2](#)

Branch Chairman: Pauline Chapman

Branch Secretary & Webmaster: Steve Williams chorleysecretary@aol.com

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General Enquiries chorleyinfo@lfhhs.org.uk

LFHHS Chorley Family History Research Centre

Website www.cfhrc.com

Appointments If open 01257 231600 If closed 01257 262028

Centre Manager : Sheila Gibbons : **Email:** chorleyresearch@aol.co.uk

Email for business regarding the Centre: sheilaresearchcentre@aol.co.uk

Opening Times:

Mon, Wed and Fri 10a.m– 4pm 2nd and 3rd Sat Noon-4pm

LFHHS Oswaldtwistle Resource & Research Centre

2 Straits, Oswaldtwistle BB5 3LU 01254 239919