



Chorley News

OCT 2019

Chorley Branch of The Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society

Regd. Charity

No 513437

Society Web Site www.lfhhs.org

September Meeting

Sid Calderbank The Lancashire Cotton Famine. How we survived the American Civil War (1851-1865)

The American civil war caused major problems in Lancashire and North Cheshire, because the Northern states blocked the Southern ports and the cotton, used in the cotton mills of Lancashire, could not get through. Indian and Egyptian cotton was different and not suitable for the Lancashire cotton machinery. In 1860 there were 2000 mills in Lancashire, with 300,000 looms and half a million workers. Liverpool docks were 7 miles long and 3 1/2 million bales of cotton came in each year. Cotton was 50% of the export industry. Within 2 months 49 mills had closed and many were out of work. There was no poor relief for able bodied men and so savings were withdrawn and furniture and clothes pawned. Many families shared a cellar and many were too proud to go on parish relief. Soup kitchens delivered 3000 quarts of soup in 2 hours. People busked rather than begged and sang such songs as the Aston Famine song.



For humanity is calling
Don't let the call be in vain
But help us we're needy and falling
And God will return it again

A Lancashire Lad, probably John Whitaker, wrote to the Times about Lancashire's distress. John Thaddeus Delane, the editor, thundered, "cannot readers do something?" and a trickle of money started to come into the Times Office. The Lancashire Lad, seeing this success, sent a letter to the Lord Mayor of London who set up the Mansion House fund, which raised

£508,000, with money coming in from all over the Empire. Other groups also raised funds.

Some mills helped their own workers. Smethurst Mill in Chorley kept open at a loss all through the hard times. Farington Mill kept 1,000 workers in food, coal and blankets. The Reverend Jefferson of Stockport collected 24 frocks, 68 pinafores, 2,800 yards of cloth 3,800 items of donated clothing and 25 tons of coal to help those out of work.

A young clerk, William Burch of Manchester, started a sewing school, where older women taught younger women to sew and they were given 2s to attend. It cost £16,000 but the Times got the money to finance it.

What crowns all they
Give us a wage for going to sewing school.
Clouds that hang o'er us now
Is bound to blow away.

Some work was found in making cobbled roads and digging reservoirs. Where there was loom work it was often shared between two people. The Mansion House fund kept growing and aid came from as far away as India and also America. George Griswold sent 23,000 barrels of flour on two ships. Taxes on the flour were waived and stevedores worked to unload the flour free in their own time. Samuel Laycock recorded, "For as long as they help us to live, I thank them if no one else will".

When cotton started coming in again, 130 new textile companies were registered and 40 new mills in the first year.

October Meeting Change of Speaker

Thursday 17th October— Ian Bagshaw The history of the Royal Mail and the Secret Language of Postcards.

Cunliffe Hall (Chorley Masonic Hall) Cunliffe Street Chorley PR7 2BE

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

What's new

FamilySearch

[England and Wales, National Index of Wills and Administrations, 1858–1957](#)

[England, Hampshire Parish Registers, 1538–1980](#)

[England, Middlesex, Westminster Parish Registers, 1538–1912](#)

Ancestry

Updated [England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538-1975](#) 24/9/2019

Updated [England & Wales, Civil Divorce Records, 1858-1918](#) 15/8/2019

The Genealogist

New School and College Registers 12th September 2019

FindMyPast

1939 Register 79,000 closed records opened.

[Irish Parish Register Archive, ffolliott Collection](#)

Explore three new collections of Irish baptisms, marriages and burials compiled by the renowned genealogist Rosemary ffolliott. These records mainly cover the counties of Cork, Limerick, Dublin and Monaghan, however there are also records from more than half the counties of Ireland. Each record includes a transcript and index image of parish registers, mostly Church of Ireland (Episcopalian), dating between the 1850s and 1990s.

[irishgenealogy.ie](#) 2 more years added to civil BMD

Births: 1864 to 1918

Marriages: 1864* to 1943

Deaths: 1878* to 1968

Marriage by Licence : Marriage bonds and Allegations

- Lancashire Archives only holds Church of England marriage Bonds and Allegations
- Only exist for couples who marry in a hurry, were underage or one or both did not reside where they wished to marry eg a mariner.
- They alleged there was no impediment to the marriage and set a financial penalty if false
- After 1823 no bonds were created only allegations
- They only show that the bond allegation was applied for not that a marriage took place though place of marriage should be stated. (all in Latin before 1733)

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 11th Nov Your archive—Whalley Library 10:30am

Wed 27th November Lancashire Day : Café Archive 10:15am-12:15pm

Wed 27th November 12:30-1.30pm Rogues, Villains and Scoundrels of Lancaster Castle. Dr Colin Penny Free Booking essential.

Archives open Tuesday-Friday 9:30am-5.00pm

Roots Tech London

RootsTech London 24-26 October 2019 ExCeL Centre, London

<https://www.rootstech.org/london>

Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society Sat, 2 November 2019
10:30 – 12:30 GMT Irish and Scottish Research. Manchester Central Library

Branch Chairman: Pauline Chapman

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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