



Chorley News

Chorley Branch of the Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society

Society Web Site www.lfhs.org

October 2018

Regd. Charity No.

President Steve Williams

513437

Story from a member *Chris Costigan*

Searching for Costigans As some of you know, Derek and I have been searching for his family in Southern Ireland. We know that they came from southern Ireland in the wake of the potato famine around 1850-ish and settled eventually in Higher Walton.

In brilliant sunshine, we set sail for Dublin, smooth crossing, good journey to our digs in Mountmellick County Laois.

Next day, in the pouring rain and high winds, we set off to Castletown where we knew Costigans were from, as that is a fact they put on one of the census. 11 AM found us traipsing round an overgrown, abandoned graveyard up to our kneecaps in long grass, trousers rolled up, soaked and with an inside out umbrella. The final straw that day was that there wasn't a blooming Costigan grave there! The local undertaker said, "no Costigans in my graveyard, sorry." Mind you, he did do a nice line in renting out silk wreaths and crosses, but I hadn't got to that stage yet with a certain Costigan. Just drenched.

Local workmen who directed us to the cemetery said, "the Costigans died out last year and as they had once been wealthy farmers from Camcross (another tiny village) we took them back there, even though they had been thrown out in "the Troubles". They were not sure if they have been for the IRA or the Black and Tans. None in the graveyard.

Several days, numerous graveyards, priests, undertakers, later we were still no wiser. As far as the locals are concerned the Costigans did exist, but goodness knows where they buried them, it is a mystery. Obviously they are keeping a low profile! One undertaker in Freshford, where we asked to see the Burial Book invited us in, and, to our surprise, his wife brought afternoon tea for us. Her chocolate cake was to die for.

We did however find another side of his family, the Phelans. Wherever we went we were inundated with Phelan graves, shops and people. Every graveyard was brimming with them.

We gave up on family and went sightseeing. Met an old lady who lived in a derelict farm and she was throwing a bucket of wee into the hedge. Good job she had a good aim. She was very potent and her clothes looked like she had slept in them

for the last 50 years and I wasn't too sure if her hair was moving, it certainly hadn't been combed for years!

The Wicklow coast was beautiful. Kilkenny, one of the main cities, was beautiful. The mediaeval main street in the rush hour was very busy, two cars one going each way! Wish our roads were like that. One thing that was noticeable (and feelable) was that there were no potholes anywhere.

We left feeling what lovely people the Irish were and wondering *where were the Costigans?*

What's on

Bolton Family History Society

The Bolton family history Society is holding an open day at the history centre, at Central library, le Mans Crescent, Bolton on Saturday 3rd November 10:30 AM to 3.00 PM

There will be special help desks covering Irish and Scottish research, Internet sites, your brick walls and beginners.

To book your free exclusive 30 minute time slot at one of these helpdesk's telephone Barbara on 01204 309515

There will be two free lectures in the basement library Theatre

1. 11.00 AM Peter Higginbotham will talk about "Life in in that Workhouse". Peter created the famous workhouse websites.
2. 1.00 PM Steve Gill, the popular local speaker on photography history, will be talking about photographs that have been sent in earlier by the audience. The images will be projected on the wall of the theatre for all to see. For details go to

<http://www.bolton.mfhs.org.uk>

There will be as specialist genealogy book stall and the opportunity to join the Bolton family history Society.

Lancashire Archives

Friday 2nd November Family History Surgery, 10am-12 noon

Friday 2nd November Records from WWI for family Historians 12.30-1.30pm

Friday 2nd November Getting to know session 2.30pm-4.00pm

Tuesday 13th November Family History at Skelmersdale Library 2-3pm

Chorley Branch Masonic Hall, Cunliffe Street Chorley PR7 2EB

Thu 18 Oct 2018 Secret History of the Victorian Lodging House. Find out how important Lodging Houses were in Victorian England Joseph O'Neill

What's New

ANCESTRY

England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1916-2005

Surrey, England, Church of England Marriages, 1754-1937

Web: UK, Coal Mining Accidents and Deaths Index, 1878-1935

Scotland and Northern Ireland, Death Index, 1989-2017

England and Wales, Death Index, 2007-2017

UK and Ireland, Obituary Index, 2004-2018

Liverpool, England, Catholic Baptisms, 1741-1916

Liverpool, England, Catholic Marriages, 1754-1932

Extracted Church of England Parish Records for Yorkshire 1538-1837

FAMILYSEARCH

Wales court and miscellaneous records 1542-1911

THE GENEALOGIST

4th October 2018 The Genealogist has added tens of thousands of additional individuals from school registers to its Educational Records

The Worldwide Army Index for 1851, 1861 and 1871. This is being released in several parts, so this is part one.

The Illustrated War News covering 6 September 1916 to 10 April 1918 and adding to those previously made available for this First World War paper from 1914 to 1916.

19th September 2018 The Genealogist is releasing the third part of its unique online record set, The Lloyd George Domesday Survey. This major resource, based on records created for the Valuation Office survey, can now be used to find where an ancestor lived in 1910 in the area around Brent, Kingsbury, Willesden and Wembley.

4th September 2018 The Genealogist has added over 1.5 million individuals to their Warwickshire Parish Record Collection, which increases the coverage of this Midland county for family researchers to find their ancestors' baptisms, marriages and burials.

MY HERITAGE

England – My Heritage has put online the complete 1939 Register for England and Wales. There are some 33 million records in this collection.

FIND MY PAST

. [FindMyPast](#) have parish registers indexed and with scans of the original documents for the Plymouth & West Devon area.

What's needed

Programme Secretary - The branch needs a new Programme secretary to develop a programme for 2019. Any skills members can offer or ideas for meetings are welcome.

Projects

Photographic Record of Chorley Cemetery Project

Photographing and indexing Chorley Graveyard.

The photographing is complete but volunteers are needed to input data from the gravestones photographed. Contact details if you wish to assist are for Steve Williams on the end of the newsletter.

Chorley Guardian Military Project

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

Ada's Birthday Book Fun Project

Ron has a spreadsheet with all the names on if anyone is interested in trying to identify the other people mentioned.

January 2019 meeting

Yes it's a long time off but it will creep up and suddenly we'll be there. The topic is Breaking Down Brick Walls, cul-de-sacs that have led you nowhere, red herrings and wild goose chases and we need your contributions. It doesn't matter if you are a beginner or experienced researcher, we want this to be a group discussion to see if putting our heads together we can solve any mysteries.

Hand items to a committee member or email aclowe@btinternet.com

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.cfsrc.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

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2 Straits, Oswaldtwistle BB5 3LU 01254 239919