

ODFHS Boat Families – Website Updates 2013

9 December 2013

The new double-barrelled surname of Miller Crook belonged to a family of boatbuilders based at Riley Green, Hoghton, apparently descended from Thomas Miller (b1799 Withnell) and Rachel Wadsworth. It is unclear how the name Crook came to be added, but their descendants appear as Miller Crook in most census entries and other records. A grandson, William Miller Crook, became a boatbuilder in Bootle-cum-Lineacre and details of his 1886 divorce case, including evidence of his wife's adultery, are summarised in the "Documents" section.

We have developed the family of Thomas Waterworth and Elizabeth nee Gaskell of Wigan, at least three of whose sons were boatmen, and whose granddaughters Elizabeth and Ann married the boatmen brothers James and John Sharrock of Burscough in 1853 and 1862.

The Greaves family introduced last month has been expanded with several branches of boatmen and canal workers being brought together, children of John Greaves (b1825), a Bradford tailor.

We have also developed the family of Henry Prescott (b1855), a Burscough boatman and timber yard labourer, son of Robert Prescott and Ann Fairhurst.

And thanks go to Norman Weston who has helped us unite two cabinet makers, William Ormandy (b1793 Preston) and brother John (b1797 Lathom) as sons of John and Ann (nee Barrow or Barron), many of whose descendants were involved in canal work around Burscough.

19 November 2013

Three new and related families are those of John Greaves, b 1873 Manchester, who married boatman's daughter Mary Melling of Lathom, and Harriet Greaves (probably John's sister) who had four illegitimate children before she married Manchester boatman Michael Reddican in 1906. Harriet's daughter Elizabeth Greaves married Thomas Cox of Manchester, whose father Joseph and grandfather Charles, from Burton on Trent, were also boatmen.

A fourth new family is that of John Alexander of Liverpool who married boatman's daughter Grace Parr in 1905, living alongside the canal in Cinder Street/Lord Street, Lathom, with at least seven children.

The addition of 1911-20 baptisms in Burscough, Halsall and Liverpool means that most of the local families show increases in this update. The main growth is among the descendants of Thomas Sutton, a canal bank ranger born Halsall 1850, whose wife Isabella's surname was given as Santon when they married but appears variously as Sancton or Sankey in earlier records.

Thanks go to Carol Jennings for additional details about the Yorkshire canal family of Joshua Patchett and Ann (nee Nutter) whose great-granddaughter May Patchett married John Thomas Gibbons of Ring O'Bells, Lathom, in 1935.

18 October 2013

Earlier this month we started a fourth canal tree, based in the Tarleton area where the brothers Thomas, John, Robert and Henry Latham mainly plied the coastal trade, and the Bannister and Mayor families of carpenters/shipbuilders made the boats they used.

Links were soon found to our main tree so the two have now been merged. Thanks go to Harry Counce Mayor, Chairman of James Mayor Boatbuilders of Tarleton, for help with his family history.

3 October 2013

We have started a fourth canal tree, mainly based in the Tarleton area, where the brothers Thomas, John, Robert and Henry Latham mainly plied the coastal trade, and the Bannister and Mayor families of carpenters/shipbuilders made the boats they used.

Despite the appearance of several familiar boatfamily names - Ashcroft, Banks, Baybut, Forshaw, Harrison & Iddon - we have been unable, so far, to connect this tree to our main file.

1 October 2013

Our main increase is in the family of canal labourer Thomas Leyland of Wigan and Ellen (nee Langton of Parbold) whose sons Thomas, Richard, John and Arthur also worked on the canal in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

A new family is that of Joseph Johnson, a waterman's son from Derby, who married Mary Risley of Worsley and whose son Jonathan, a Cheshire boatman, married boatman's daughter Elizabeth Aspinall of Lathom in 1887.

Another increase is in the Gaskell family of ship's carpenters from Burscough, descended from wheelwright James Gaskell of Shevington. And we have added the family of boatman James Marshall of Kendal, whose son John, a boatman born in Skipton, married Elizabeth Ann Gibbons of Shevington in 1907. John's sisters Jane and Elizabeth Marshall both married boatmen, John Moore of Liverpool and Francis Cullen from Sligo.

We have reworked and expanded the huge family headed by Edward Langton and Esther nee Gobbin (m 1767 Ormskirk), also the family of Elias Draper (b1834 Lathom). Our small handful of Howcrofts have been amended to Holcroft and merged into the extended family of boatman Henry Holcroft and Ann Hampson (m 1836 Liverpool).

4 September 2013

A new family in our main tree is that of William Heaps, boatman and coal dealer of Maghull, who married Alice Abram, b 1828 Ormskirk, sister of boatmen Philip and Henry Abram of Rufford.

William and Alice's son William Heaps married Ann, daughter of James Wright, a boatman and innkeeper of Shevington, whose brother Richard married Margaret, daughter of Lathom boatman Thomas Peet. This family has expanded and been linked to that of his brother John Peet, whose son Thomas was a Canal Company clerk and bank ranger.

The biggest increase in this update is in Iddons, mostly coastal boatmen based in Tarleton, sons of John Iddon and Fanny Taylor of Rufford whose daughter Fanny also married a boatman, William Carr of Tarleton.

We have introduced two families headed by a Robert Marsden Rigby, probably the same person but as there are two wives involved and the records are unclear they are currently separate. Notes in their entries explain the confusion.

We have expanded the family of "flatman" Thomas Taylor of Parbold, adding his mother Ann Venison, b 1789 Mawdesley, and have revised the extended family of Richard Melling of Newburgh, who married Catherine Pemberton in 1846.

Finally, thanks go to Audrey Mason for help with the family of Elizabeth Mason of Parbold and son George, born before she married boatman Thomas Barrow of Newburgh in 1842.

15 July 2013

A new family this month is that of William Backhouse, a ship's carpenter and lock-keeper of Lathom, son of canal agent William Golding Backhouse and Elizabeth Fletcher of Burscough, whose brother William was a boatbuilder.

We have expanded the family of Joseph Nelson and Alice Ashcroft, parents of boatman Evan Nelson and his sister Alice who married Burscough boatman Job Gore. And we have added Lathom boatman William Radcliffe whose wife Jane Kenyon was a boatman's sister from Bolton-le Moors.

We have also added the family of Abraham Fairclough, ship's carpenter, lock-keeper and canal agent of Burscough. And a new branch of Duttons is provided by boatman John Dutton of Abram who married Mary, daughter of Rufford boatman Hugh Sharrock.

Further amendments have been made to our two main Baybutt families, moving the family of John, a sawyer who married Jane Green in 1841, to be son of James b 1783 and Ann.

John Baybutt, boatman b 1818 to Thomas and Jane, appears not to have married.

17 June 2013

We have expanded the Pickles family of Skipton and Bingley to include a boatman christened Admiral Pickles who gave his son the same name.

Among additions are the family of Liverpool boatman Christopher Jones who married Matilda Nutter, a boatman's daughter of Astley, near Leigh; also the Lathom boatmen Henry and Marsden Rigby, sons of (William) Nicholas Rigby who married Ellen Plumbe, a Rufford boatman's daughter, in 1814.

3 June 2013

Thanks go to Joyce Gilchrist for linking the Wakefield and Broomfield families who worked the Cheshire canals around Nantwich to our main tree via Ann Worthington, daughter of Burscough boatman Richard Worthington and Margery Gobbin. Also to Philip Orrell for more details of the Highfield and Bamber families of Burscough.

We have continued April's expansion in Yorkshire of the Varley and Slater families, adding in-laws Illingworth, Noble, Foster, Hirst and Craven of Skipton and Bradford. In our next update the connected Pickles family is due to increase significantly and will include a Leeds boatman christened Admiral Pickles.

29 April 2013

This update sees a big increase in Yorkshire boatmen, many connected to the brothers Abraham, Thomas and Daniel Varley of Skipton and their Bulmer and Slater in-laws. These families are connected to Lancashire canal workers through Thomas Varley's son Robert (b1829) who married Elizabeth Hesketh of Rufford, and their children who married into the Harrison, Abram and Lea families of Lathom/Burscough.

Another Skipton family is that of Walter Thornton and his sister Rachel Ann, whose son John Walmsley (b1862) married Newburgh boatman's daughter Sarah Bentham, great grand-daughter of Frederick Carrington and Ellen Orrell of Lathom. We have also developed the family of Caleb Patchett of Bradford/Shipleigh whose grand-daughter May married boatman's son John Thomas (Webster) Gibbons, b 1900 Ring O'Bells, Lathom.

A new family is boatbuilder John Cowen, b 1852 Lathom, whose wife Mary was daughter of Burscough sawyer William Baybutt. And we have expanded the family of Joseph Smith Lyon of Bickerstaffe who married in turn Sarah, then Ann Seddon, sisters of Burscough boatman-farmer Robert Seddon (b1823).

Many thanks to Cynthia Cairns (Varleys) and John Webster (Webster/Gibbons) for contacting us through the ODFHS mailbox.

13 March 2013

The most intriguing additions this month are the families of boatbuilder John Nutter, three of whose offspring married two children and a probable niece of the apparently unrelated boatman Henry Nutter, all in Leigh register office. Related to them is the new family of Runcorn boatman John Joseph Ackerley.

Our main tree continues to spread across county borders and thanks go to John Wilkinson whose tip-offs led to the introduction of Cheshire boatman John Royle Taylor who married Burscough boatman's daughter Ann Livesey Wignall. Related to them are Irishman's son Peter Brennan of Wigan, and George Wood of Rochdale whose son Arthur married Shropshire boatman's daughter Clara Bevan. More new names also related to these families are Mary Tabernacle of Abram who married boatman James Leighton of Kendal, her brother William Tabernacle and wife Alice Manchester, and Thomas Chantler of Salford.

A new branch of Drapers is provided by Richard, a canal bank ranger of Burscough who married Elizabeth Brade of Newburgh. The family of Robert Smith (1786) and Margaret, nee Jackson, of Halsall has been much expanded to include their great-granddaughter Ann (1862) who married Burscough boatman Joseph Martland.

11 February 2013

We have added the family of Henry Hesketh of Newburgh (son of Henry Hesketh and Margaret Abram) who married Martha Halsall in 1888. And we introduce three Charles Thompsons, grandfather, father and son of Shevington.

We have also developed the family of Thomas and Elizabeth Rockcliffe of Burscough, whose son Henry married Margaret Forshaw in 1856. This extended family also appear as Rawcliffe or Rockley in various records.

And thanks go to Debbie Pye who provided certificates that helped unravel the family of William Pye (b 1860, son of Thomas Pye and Ellen Hunter) who married Ellen Meadows/Edmondson in 1881. (The widowed Ellen Pye remarried boatman James Gregson in 1903.)

16 January 2013

The biggest increase this month has been in the Cartmel shipbuilding family of Parbold/Newburgh, which has been traced back to Anthony b1760 and his father Anthony of Lancaster, for which thanks are due to their descendant Giles Cartmel.

The additional Suttons are related to boatman George of Wigan, probably son of shoemaker George b 1814, whose sons John and Thomas were also boatmen, though records are sparse. And we have introduced the family of Burscough boatman Robert Dutton 1793 whose grand-daughter Ann married canal labourer James Lyon of Lathom.

A new family is that of Edward Lang, a farmer's son and dock labourer who married boatman's daughter Hannah Carrington of Newburgh, and their son James who married boatman's daughter Rosetta Hesketh of Halsall: thanks go to their descendant Ann Robinson.