

ODFHS Boat Families – Website Updates 2016

13 June 2016 – V68

New names: none

Main increases: Pimblott +48, Williamson +36, Harrison +32, Stockton +28, Winstanley +24, Rathbone +23, Butterworth, Jones, Taylor +22;

This update has taken us past 30,000 people in our main tree.

Thanks go to Ann McKew Hirsch of New York for additions to her Miller-Crook family of Lancashire boatbuilders, and to Judith Fell for her detailed work on the related Gill, Gregson, Rimmer and Robinson boatmen of Scarisbrick and Lathom which led to some corrections in Gregson branches.

Main increases are again among Mersey and Cheshire watermen.

10 May 2016 – V67

New names: none

Main increases: Waterworth +108, Bushell +61, Atherton, Guest +32, Dutton, Weedall +11;

Detailed work by Liz Fazakerley has enabled us to separate Fazackerley branches who spelt the name with a C from those who dropped it as time went on. Thanks go to her, and also to Judith Fell who has helped separate Gill families who descend from John Gill and Ellen Mair from those headed by Thomas Gill and Margaret Harrison.

Main increases are again among Cheshire and Mersey watermen based in Birkenhead, Runcorn and Warrington.

8 April 2016 – V66

New names: none

Main increases: Hough +112, Hallwood +66, Corker +59, Brown +42, Gorst +40, Clare +25, Anderson, Moss +24, Mills +23, Cornes, Gerrard +22, Burrows, Littler +15;

Our continuing expansion of Mersey watermen's families has provided the main increases in this update, also the discovery of a branch of Cheethams from the Burscough area in Cheshire.

William Cheetham married Lathom boatman's daughter Mary Ashcroft in Wigan in 1845, and they appear in the 1871 census on the canal bank in Runcorn with children born in Liverpool, Ormskirk, Leigh and Culcheth - we plan to expand this family in our next update.

10 March 2016 – V65

New names: Allman 51, Whitfield 40, Makin 38, Rutter 24;

Main increases: Hatton +88, Holden +41, Birkenhead +35, Sankey +22, Minshall +21, Broadhurst +18, Ratcliffe +18, Snelson+ 16, Hough +15;

New names and main increases this month are among Warrington and Cheshire watermen, and we have our first "triple cousins" in the 17 or more children of three brothers, John, Robert and William, sons of Sankey waterman John Hatton, who married three sisters, Ellen, Jane and Elizabeth, daughters of Joseph Welsby.

We also record John and Joseph, sons of Sankey waterman John Swift, marrying sisters Ada and Mary Forshaw of Ormskirk.

Thanks go to Glenys Lloyd for linking Halsall boatmen William Smith (b1826) and Richard Prescott (b1818) through their mothers-in-law Mary and Ellen Tarbuck, and to Walter Jakeman for clarifying the Hough and Minshall families of the Northwich area.

8 February 2016 – V64

New names: Peach 30, Braithwaite 25;

Main increases: Leigh +132, Siddall +26, Swift +24, Woods +20, French +17, Gill +12, Roughley +10;

Two Leigh families of Warrington boatmen, including one inter-marriage, provide the biggest increase in this update, others being mostly among Sankey and Penketh watermen.

Thanks go to Carol Gorman for helping develop the Iddon family of Tarleton/Hesketh and the connected Pardoos of Ellesmere Port, and to Ian Taylor for filling gaps in the Peet family of Lathom and Maghull.

We are also grateful to Alex Peach for pointing us to his family of Cheshire watermen who inter-married with the Tinsleys of Blackburn and Chorley. The Braithwaite family of shipwrights is also new, and linked to the Swift watermen of Warrington.

8 January 2016 – V63

New names: Pusill 21, Renshaw 13;

Main increases: Hough +86, Atherton +82, Gandy +57, Plumpton +43, Roughley +20, Speed +17, Vernon +14;

Our first update of 2016, which takes us past 27,000 in the main tree, traces Burscough boatman James Robinson to South Africa, where it seems that he changed his name to Smith. He was born in 1837 to James and Catherine Robinson of Lathom and the circumstances of his emigration are unclear, but in 1862 he married Catherine Mullins in Port Elizabeth, Cape Province, and subsequently told his family that he was born in Burscough Bridge as James Robinson. Thanks for this information go to his great-grandson Tony Smith of Tasmania, who has established a DNA match.

We are also grateful to Alan Disley for uncovering yet another Lancashire-Cheshire canal link through the marriage in 1904 of George, son of Lathom boatman Thomas Disley, to Mary Ellen, daughter of Luke Speed, a Runcorn waterman; and to Jim Meaney of Boston, Massachusetts, for reporting the emigration to New Bedford in the 1930s of Margaret Thomas, daughter of boatman Charles Lamb of Haskayne and Ellen Aspinall of Burscough, to join her husband Robert Thomas of West Bromwich, carpenter in a cotton mill.

The big increases in Hough, Atherton and Plumpton families are among Mersey 'flatmen' based in Sankey, Penketh and Warrington, and the linked Pusills are Liverpool boatmen. Other additions are mainly Cheshire boatmen.