BENEFITS OF JOINING THE LIVERPOOL AND SOUTH WEST LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Membership of our Society brings many benefits for the nominal yearly subscription fee of:

£10 for UK membership

£15 for overseas membership

You will receive a copy of our quarterly Journal – "Liverpool Family Historian", full of interesting articles, news, book reviews, help requests, unwanted certificates, access the Members' Only area of the website and much more. The amount of information contained in the publication is worth the membership fee on its own!

You will also be able to publish your surname interests in the journal and on the web site.

Along with the journal, you also get the right to attend our Members' Only workshops, that give useful hints and handy tips for your continuing success with this fascinating hobby.

You will also be able to obtain access to our extensive catalogue of unwanted BMD certificates and be able to order copies from the Society.

Above all the Society is a friendly place to meet likeminded individuals, all striving to find out as much as possible about their ancestors.

See the Society's website www.lswlfhs.org.uk for details of **Help Desks** run by the Leigh, Liverpool, Southport and Warrington Groups

The **Group** details are as follow:

Liverpool - The group meets on the 4th Floor, Central Library, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EW on the second Tuesday of each month, except July and August. Doors open at 5.45pm for 6.00pm with meetings finishing no later than 7.45. £1 for refreshments.

Leigh & District – Meetings are held at the Town Hall, Leigh at 7.30 p.m. on the Third Tuesday of each month except July, August & December

Skelmersdale & Upholland - The group meets at Upholland Methodist Church, Alma Hill, Upholland, WN8 0NR at 7.00pm for 7.30pm on the 1st Tuesday of each month - unless otherwise stated

Southport - Meetings are held at Birkdale Station Master's House. Meetings start at 7.30pm on the second Friday of each month, coffee, tea, and biscuits from 7.15pm.

Warrington - The Group meets in the Oaks Centre, Stocks Lane, Penketh, WA5 2UB. Meetings start at 7.00pm (doors open at 6.30pm) on the fourth Monday of each month, except July, August and December.

Widnes - Meetings are held at the St John Fisher Church Hall, Moorfield Rd., Widnes WA8 3JA on the last Wednesday of the month. Meetings start at 7.00pm

LIVERPOOL & SOUTH WEST LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

(L&SWLFHS)

(REGISTERED CHARITY 512906)

A member of the Fedration of Family History Societies, founded 27th May 1976. "the area of interest shall be that of the ancient County of Lancashire known as the Hundred of West Derby"

lswlfhs.org.uk

STARTING YOUR FAMILY TREE

Starting with yourself, draw a simple family tree. Include all the names, dates and any other significant information that you know. Go back as far as you can.

Look for any photographs, letters, family documents you may already have and ask relatives if they have any information, they would be willing to share with you. Elderly relatives can offer family stories. But remember that while sometimes the story may differ from the original it will almost always contain a clue to the actual event.

Document the information you have gathered and check it, verifying dates, places etc. This is important in ensuring your research is accurate.

Organise your research. Record all searches you have undertaken. Even if a piece of information does not appear relevant at the time, it may become so as your research progresses.

You may want to consider purchasing a genealogical computer program or you may decide to construct a paper record for each family member detailing the sources and documents you have used in researching that person.

DOCUMENTATION TO LOOK OUT FOR

Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates
Baptismal Certificates and Funeral Cards
Birthday Books and Family Bibles
Military Service and Discharge Papers
Newspaper Cuttings, Society Pages, Obituaries
Journals and Diaries
Letters
Scrapbooks and Photograph Albums
School Records
Employment Records
Grave Deeds

USING BIRTH, MARRIAGE AND DEATH CERTIFICATES

Certificates can be used to confirm relationships within families. Civil Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths began in 1837 in England and Wales.

England and Wales
Birth Certificates - provide the date of birth, names of the parents and the mother's maiden name. From 1911 the Indexes include the mother's maiden name.

Marriage Certificates - provide the given ages of the bride and groom and the names and occupations of the fathers.

Death Certificates - provide the given age of the deceased at death and from 1969 the deceased's date of birth is given. Also, the named informant on a death certificate is usually a relative which can help confirm connections within your family tree.

All certificates provide addresses for your relatives.

Scotland and Ireland
Civil Registration in Scotland did not begin until 1855 but the records contain more information than the English and Welsh certificates.

Civil Registration in Ireland began in 1864 but non-Catholic marriages were registered from 1845.

USING THE CENSUS

Census forms were completed every 10 years from 1801. Returns from 1841-1921 are available to view. Additionally, there is the 1939 Register which also holds useful information. Census returns include:-
1841 - Names of each member of the household; Occupations of those members; Ages rounded down to the nearest 5 years over the age of 15. 1851-1901 - Marital status was now included and the relationship between the household members to the head of the household. Ages were more accurate.
1911 - This census included the length of the marriage between the head and spouse; how many children were born to the couple and how many survived.

OTHER USEFUL RESOURCES

Parish Registers - these recorded Baptisms, Marriages and Burials and go back before 1837
Wills
Newspapers
Military Records

FREE ONLINE RESOURCES

lwlfhs.org.uk - the Liverpool & SW Lancashire's own website. As a member of the Society you would be able to access the Forum, check group meetings programmes and other events. You would also have access to the Members' Only area.
familysearch.org - access to IGI, parish registers, indexes to workhouse records, land tax assessments, school registers etc.
nationalarchives.gov.uk - access to thousands of records from all over the country.
ukbmd.org.uk - links with thousands of websites offering on-line transcriptions of births, marriages and deaths and censuses for the UK. Also included are parish records, wills and monumental inscriptions
lancashirebmd.org.uk - hosted by ukbmd, this site will give you access to birth, marriage and death indexes of the Local Register Office in the Lancashire area. Check the coverage page for details
gro.gov.uk - links to the General Register Office for England and Wales
genealogy.nationalarchives.ie - find surviving Irish censuses, probate calendars to 1922, WW1 soldiers' wills and tithe allotment books from1823-1837
proni.gov.uk - access to Northern Irish Will Calendars, Valuation Revision books, street directories etc.
cwgc.org - access database locating graves and memorials dedicated to service personnel and civilians who died in both World Wars
ffhs.org.uk - the free website of the Federation of Family History Societies. There are Family History Societies all over the world and the UK is divided into counties on this site.
lan-opc.org.uk – Online Parish Clerks for Lancashire extract and preserve records from various parish and provide online access to that data.