

The Button Files

Newsletter of the Warburton Society

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The Newsletter

Welcome to the fifteenth issue of **The Button Files**.

This newsletter includes all the significant **Warburton Website** posts since the last newsletter.

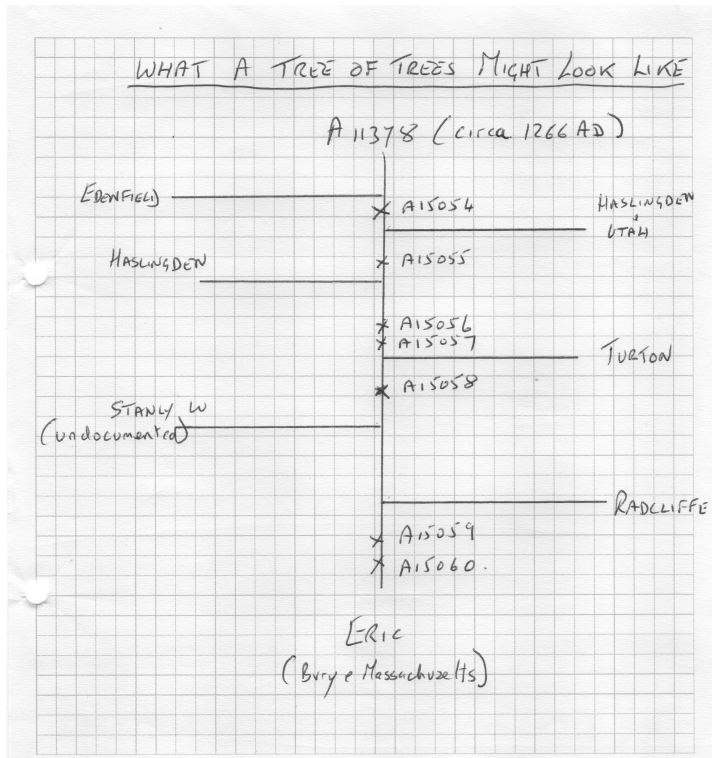
The articles in this Newsletter are as follows:

- **A New SNP Panel for the Lancashire Clan** This is designed to uncover more detail on how the clans in the Lancashire Group fit together, but the first tests had limited success.
- **SNP Age Estimates** I have updated the SNP Age estimates for the Lancashire and Cheshire groups for the first time in a year.

- **Where next for DNA? A Roadmap in Light of Developments** This article includes some musings on recent DNA developments and how the Warburton DNA Project might proceed in future.
- **Warburton Village Clan Update** A new DNA result shows that two cousins had non-matching Y-chromosomes. A non paternal event must have occurred between their grandfather, and one of them.
- **Warrington Horse Show** Thomas Warburton was a supporter of the Warrington Horse Show for many years. He is shown with Lord Daresbury, President of the show, in the 1920s.
- **Obituaries and Frustrations** This article includes 3 posts concerning obituaries from the Crewe Chronicle sent me by Alan Jenks which resulted in mysteries, updates to the Sandbach and Coppenhall clans, and a call for a DNA volunteer.
- **Haslingden Update and Two New Families** The Haslingden clan has been updated, and the Rotherham and Pheonix families added. This article discusses the changes.
- **Doreen Warburton** This is the obituary of actress Doreen Warburton from the Sydney Morning Herald.
- **Updated Combined Index** I have updated the Combined Index to make it a bit easier to search.
- **Warburton Days** A report on the Warburton Days in London and Altrincham.
- **The Warburton Forum** Announcing the launch of the new Warburton Forum, a virtual meeting place where anyone can raise and discuss Warburton related topics.
- **The Cross in the Heather** This is the story of Sergeant Leonard Arthur Warburton of the RAF who was shot down over Belgium and evaded capture, being hidden and returned to England via France and Spain by the real life **Secret Army**. The cross in the heather marked the grave of his fellow crewe members who did not survive the crash.
- **Warburton Artefacts** I used a photograph of two Warburton tokens to establish a **Forum** topic and a **Gallery** page for the collection and dissemination of pictures and stories of **Warburton Artefacts**.

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A New SNP Panel for the Lancashire Clan



I set up a new SNP Panel at YSEQ for the Lancashire Clan. It is called the R1b-A11378 Panel.

To interpret, this is a DNA test which tests for the best 6 mutations that were unique to Eric Warburton in his BigY DNA test, plus the last one he shared with anyone else.

The objective is to build a Tree of Trees, or a tree that links all the clan trees of the Lancashire Group together. This is done by testing one person from each clan to see how many of Eric's unique mutations they share. I hoped the result might be something like the sketch above.

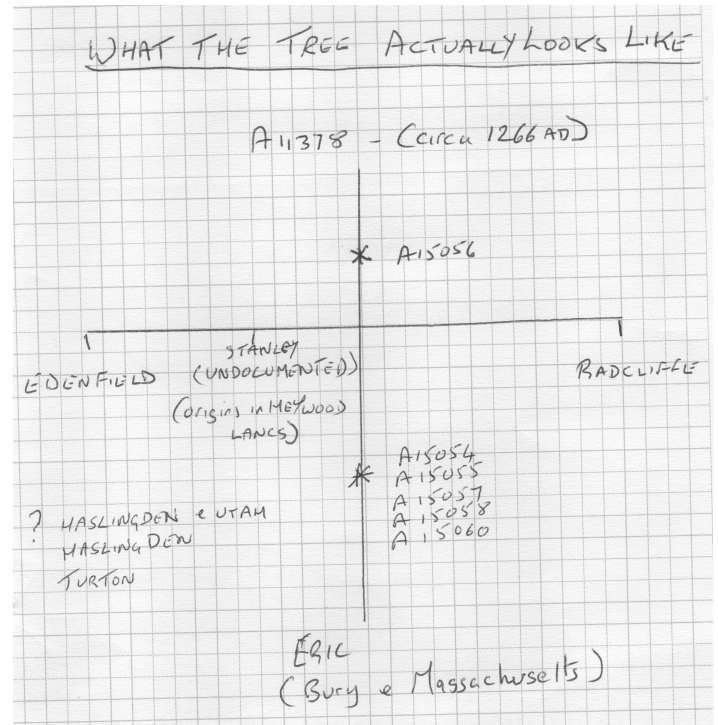
The sketch assumes each clan shares those mutations that are above it, for example the Turton clan shares A15054 to A15057 with Eric.

You will see that in this imaginary world Stanley's undocumented clan, and the Radcliffe clan share the same mutations.

So I sought members of the Lancashire Group clans willing to take the test, or help finance them. A test costs \$103.00. The person tested doesn't have to be the one who took the original test, though that would be preferred.

I was able to find three volunteers who tested the R1b-A11378 panel at YSEQ. The 3 results all show 1 match (A15056) with Eric's unique SNPs, and no match with the other 5. This says those 5 occurred after the Bury and Massachusetts clan separated from the other clans.

The second sketch below shows what the Lancashire group tree actually looks like as far as we know it. Stanley's undocumented clan, and the Radcliffe clan still



share the same mutations, but only one of them from Eric's unique mutations.

It is an unexpected result because two of the tests were from the clans that seemed closest from the previous STR tests. The third had only done a 12 marker STR test, which seemed to suggest his clan (Edenfield) would be quite distant.

I had hoped there would be more differentiation in the test results. So what next?

A first step would be to test the panel on another member of the Bury and Massachusetts clan to see if some or all of the 5 unmatched SNPs occurred in the known past. They could then be removed from the panel.

As there are a number of clans that are not distinguished because they share the same mutations it is necessary to improve the panel by identifying new SNPs that might do a better job of ordering the various clans into a Lancashire Group tree. That requires another BigY test or similar on someone who hopefully will have a number of their own unique SNPs that can be added to the panel to find more differentiation.

There are also 3 clans yet to be tested against the panel. Whilst it may be worth waiting for an improved panel there is the added problem that in a couple of cases I have either lost touch with the original tester or he has passed away. We would need to find new test candidates from this clans.

SNP Age Estimates

I have updated the SNP age estimates for the Lancashire and Cheshire groups for the first time in over a year. When I went to look at Iain MacDonald's latest numbers I was surprised to find a lot of the dates have moved back, up to 1,000 years in some cases. More

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recent dates are less affected however. The updated table can be accessed from the DNA Page.

Where next for DNA? A Roadmap in Light of Developments

This article discusses 3 recent developments in the DNA world. Firstly FamilyTreeDNA held a summer sale lasting the whole of August. A significant reduction was that the Big Y test was offered at \$395. I took advantage of this to fund another test within the Cheshire group, though I have yet to see the results.

The significance of Big Y tests, and similar Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) tests is two-fold. It is the mapmaker that extends the Y-chromosome genetic tree closer to modern times, and it positions you and your clan precisely on that map so you can understand the historic path your Y-chromosome travelled from the time it left Africa 75,000 year ago.

The second development was an article in a digital newsletter I get from the Lost Cousins website, which as the title implies, aims to help you find cousins. Although a member I have done very little with it so far. The article stated that 90% of DNA tests ordered these days are autosomal tests. In fact Ancestry only offer autosomal tests. The FamilyTreeDNA offering, the Family Finder test, is \$69 in the current sale.

Autosomal tests look at the whole of your genome, not just the male or female lines, and tell you in percentage terms the origins of your DNA. For example I am 89% British Isles, and 4% Western European, with traces from the Near East and Africa. When I first tested with the National Geographic Project I was also 2% Neanderthal. Perhaps more importantly the test help you find cousins, and so have a natural fit with the Lost Cousins website. Through matching websites such as GEDMATCH you can compare your result with large numbers of others to find potential cousins, back to about your 5th cousins.

The attraction of autosomal tests is they are relatively cheap, and they cover all your ancestors. However they are only useful for the last 5 or so generations. Y-chromosome testing is confined to the male line, which is a good fit for a One-Name Study. The Y-chromosome is unique (along with mitochondria) in that is passed virtually unchanged from generation to generation so you can uncover its history from very early times.

It also occurs to me that we can follow many such lines into our ancient history. Whenever you find a male cousin who shares a surname with one of your male ancestors he almost certainly carries his Y-chromosome. The history of that Y-chromosome is the history of one of your ancestors, so if your new cousin has discovered it so can you. The same is true of any cousin descended in the female line from one of your female ancestors. They will share her mitochondria and its associated history. The interest in finding cousins therefore has a nice synergy with Y-chromosome and mitochondrial testing.

The third development is an article in the July-Sept 2017 issue of the Journal of One-Name Studies by Charles Acree on Advanced Y-DNA Testing for the Acree One-Name Study. It discussed how Single Nucleotide

Polymorphism (SNP) testing can produce better results more cheaply than the Series Tandem Repeat (STR) tests that One-Name Studies have used so far. It mirrored ideas I have posted on here in the past and made me think I should do a similar article on the Warburtons. However I think the Warburtons are a larger and more diverse group, and the requirements will be slightly different.

The idea is that SNP testing can be more accurate, and cheaper than STR testing. A single SNP can be tested for \$18 at YSEQ, whilst I have set up a panel of 7 SNPs relevant to the Lancashire group for \$103. The standard 37 marker STR test at FamilyTreeDNA used by the Warburton project is \$149. The problem is knowing which of the many thousands (maybe millions) of known SNPs to test for.

There are just a couple of SNPs that would tell if you are a member of the Lancashire clan, and a couple of others that would indicate membership of the Cheshire clan. But I don't yet know suitable SNPs for the many other Warburton results I have. This is where the Big Y test comes in, to map out the area to look at.

The value of the STR test is that it gets some way to putting you in the correct area. It would identify whether you were a probable member of the Lancashire or Cheshire groups, or a match to another Warburton result. The question is whether a 37 marker test is necessary or fewer markers would suffice. I have experimented a couple of times with a 12 marker test at FamilyTreeDNA with some success. However I have now discovered that YSEQ have an Alpha Panel of 18 markers for \$58 which would be a better bet. In fact YSEQ have a number of STR panels which look a lot cheaper than FamilyTreeDNA. However their NGS test is more expensive, but more comprehensive, than Big Y.

So based on the above my suggested roadmap for someone contemplating Y-chromosome testing is:

1. Check whether there are already DNA results for someone with whom you share a Warburton male ancestor. In the absence of a non-paternal event (NPE) you will share his results, but might want to encourage him to move along the roadmap.
2. If there are no existing results, or there is the possibility of an NPE, take the YSEQ STR Alpha Panel and send me the results so I can see if there are some likely matches.
3. If you match with someone where recent SNPs have been established, test one or more SNPs to find where you fit. In the future more SNPs may be discovered which you could test for if the result would add further meaning.
4. If you don't have a match, or your matches haven't explored their SNPs, it may be necessary to test a SNP panel of 7 or more SNPs to home in on the area where you fit.
5. In some cases it might be appropriate for you or one of your matches to take a Next Generation Sequencing Test (such as Big Y) to extend the SNP map in the area where you fit.

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Warburton Village Clan Update

Before my sojourn in the Antipodes last March I wrote about the Warburton Village clan and ended with a plea for a DNA volunteer to try and resolve the conundrum of two different DNA results from the clan, neither of which supports the historical evidence that the clan is probably descended from a cadet branch of the Warburtons of Arley who remained in the manor house at Warburton after the main branch had moved out to Arley Hall in the 15th century.

Such a volunteer came forward. Thank you Kenneth, a descendant of Henry Hulme Warburton of California. I said there were 4 possible outcomes from a test. Possibility 3 was: If the result matches the previous R1b-M269 result we would have a situation where 2 grandsons of William (1670-1728), had different DNA profiles. We would have no clue as to William's own profile or that of his ancestors. We would need to uncover a new line that bypassed the two grandsons, and preferably William himself to make further testing possible.

Alas that was the result we got. It means that something intervened to introduce a new DNA profile between William and one of his grandsons. As the parish records give no inkling of a problem the only possibility is that a father knowingly or unknowingly brought up a son as his own when in fact he wasn't. That sort of thing tends not to be recorded in the parish registers,

Furthermore there are only four possible situations where it could have occurred. Kenneth and John, who had the earlier R1b-M269 result are both descended from William's grandson Thomas (1731-1801), Kenneth via his first wife Ellen Small, and John via his second, Sarah Cadman. Therefore we can be certain Thomas also had the R1b-M269 profile.

Thomas was the eldest child of Arnold Warburton and Ann Shelmerdine. His baptism record has not been found, but his burial record in November 1801 gives his age as 70, so he was probably born in 1731, two years after Arnold and Ann married. Another son was born the following year, and a daughter 12 years later.

Arnold in turn was the only child of William and his second wife Joan Cartwright. Again he was baptised a couple of years after his parents married.

The two matching I-M253 results are from descendants of William (1733-1822) and his wife Elizabeth Atherton so we can be can be sure William shared that DNA. William was the only child of William (1693-1778) and his second wife Elizabeth Arden. They married in 1731, two years before their son was born. William previously had three children with his first wife, also an Elizabeth who died in 1728.

In turn William was the eldest son and second child of William (1670-1732) and his first wife Priscilla Ashton. In all they had a daughter followed by four sons. Two other sons had issue, but their lines have not been traced to the present day and may well have died out.

So in summary we have four boys, one of whom, contrary to appearances, was not the natural son of his supposed father. There is no reason in the records to suspect any particular one. All were conceived during the marriage of their parents.

Warrington Horse Show

The picture below was sent to me by John Warburton. It shows his great grandfather Thomas Warburton (on the right) with Sir Gilbert Greenhall, First Lord Daresbury, at the Warrington Horse Show.

The origins of the Warrington Horse Show go back to the late 1880's, and Thomas attended from the start until his death in 1930. He was a great friend of Lord Daresbury who was President of the show in the 1920s.



Thomas was from the Weaverham clan and a group of his descendants are presenting a trophy in his name. It was presented for the first time at this year's event for the Best in Class Heavy Horse. The event took place on May 29th 2017 at Tabley Park, near Knutsford, Cheshire.

Obituaries and Frustrations

Every now and again Alan Jenks sends me Warburton obituaries from the Crewe Chronicle. They provide an interesting exercise in linking together the deceased with their various family mourners. Indeed although I have listed Crewe deaths under Parishes, I also have marriages and families spreadsheets to help me link people together. I haven't published these because they include many living people.

Most obituaries relate to the Sandbach and Coppenhall clans and I have updated both of these to reflect them. However Alan sent me a couple of obituaries which belong elsewhere.

The first was for Rhona Warburton Owen. She was in fact born Rhona Warburton Smith, and sometimes referred to as Rhoda. Her parents were Robert Warburton Smith and Rhoda Leicester, and her father

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appears in a photo I published a while ago of his parents Charles Smith and Louisa Warburton of the Audley clan, together with 12 of their 18 children (see Miscellaneous Photos in Gallery, or issue 13 of the Newsletter).

The second proved all together more problematical. Ruby Irene Warburton nee Hudson died in 1996 aged 72. She was the wife of George William who died in 2001 aged 81, and I already knew he was the son of William and Elizabeth Alice nee Newton.

I decided to explore William's origins and used a couple of new resources. The first is the 1939 Register which is digitised on FindMyPast. This is a kind of census conducted at the outbreak of WWII and it showed George William at home in Nantwich with his parents, and his maternal grandparents. A key piece of information is it gives everyone's exact date of birth.

William was born on May 10th 1895 so his birth should have been registered in the second quarter of 1895. I then used the new General Records Office search facility to search for William's registration. This has an advantage over FreeBMD in that it gives mother's maiden name on entries prior to 1911.

Only one William was registered in that quarter. It was in Salford, mother's maiden name Woodcock. So I found a matching marriage and managed to trace back a couple more generations before getting stuck with a William born in 1822, because I couldn't find his baptism despite knowing his father's name from his marriage.

But I was concerned because William didn't appear in the 1901 or 1911 censuses. Then I noticed his supposed parents declared that they had five children, but only two living in 1911, and they were both present, and both girls. Then I noticed the birth registration in 1895 was quickly followed by a death registration. I obviously had the wrong William.

So where is the correct one? There are three possibilities, his birth was never registered, it was registered late (registrations were supposed to be within 6 weeks so this should still fall in the second quarter for a May 10th birth), or he wasn't born in England or Wales. There were three registrations in the third quarter, but I have eliminated the only one in Cheshire and the other two are from Lancashire.

It is all rather frustrating. Does anyone have knowledge of this William and his life before he appears in Nantwich? If not I will have to leave him on the back burner for a while and hope something emerges.

Sandbach and Coppenhall Clan Updates

I have updated the Sandbach and Coppenhall Clans to reflect the obituaries a few resulting explorations. I also have information on a number of further individuals who are living, or who I can't be sure are dead. This could be added if I receive information that a person has died, or if a living person explicitly requests to be included.

Additional Sandbach Clan Notes

I added a bit about "Preacher Joe", or Joseph Oswald born 1873 .

I had a few individuals simply named Son or Daughter who I have now removed into a note on their parents.

I discovered that I had the settings for the on-line version of the tree wrong so a lot of information was missing. This is now corrected. The textual Descendant Report has always contained the missing information.

John Hedley Warburton

John Hedley Warburton lived from 1897 to 1945 and had 6 sons. Alan Jenks sent me an obituary from the Crewe Chronicle for Ronald Warburton who died in January 1st this year. He was the 6th son.

I have put together a little tree of John Hedley's descendants, helped by this obituary, plus 2 earlier ones for Ronald's brother's Kenneth and George. Most of the people on it are still living so I cannot publish it online, but I would be happy to share it with any member of the family who cares to contact me. They might be able to help me with a couple of remaining puzzles, and correct any mistakes.

The family is part of the Sandbach clan, which originates with Ralph Warburton who was born around 1817. The clan has an unmatched DNA result, which might be the result of a non-paternal event. John Hedley and his descendants are on a different line of descent from Ralph so a DNA result from the family could be very interesting. There are three possible outcomes:

1. The worst case is we have another unmatched result. This would mean we had one, and possibly two non-paternal events in the Sandbach clan and would need to find another line back to Ralph to get past them.
2. If the result matches the existing Sandbach result we would know it was inherited from Ralph and would apply to the whole clan. It could still be the result of an earlier non-paternal event, or it could come from an original adopter of the Warburton surname in the Middle Ages. Over 90% of lines originating that far back have died out and there may be others which have a small number of descendants today. Very few become large extended clans.
3. The best case would be a match with a result from another clan, particularly if that clan belonged to one of the larger groups already identified. The Sandbach clan would then belong to a new group, or one of the existing groups.

If a male Warburton from the clan is willing to take such a test I'm sure the necessary finance can be organised.

Haslingden Update and Two New Families

I've just done an update to the Haslingden Clan and added two new families in Families 3, called Rotherham and Pheonix. I've been doing bits on Haslingden on and off for a while. This year has been full of distractions (holidays, 5 computer-less days one week, and life in general) so I have lost track of all the additions to the Haslingden clan. Most recently I have been fleshing out a few people who were merely names up until now.

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Nevertheless the numbers in the clan seem to have jumped up significantly.

Of particular interest was the marriage of James Henry Warburton to Matilda Ramsbottom, nee Warburton in 1874. I wondered if they were related, and if so how. It's not the first Warburton-Warburton marriage in the Haslingden clan, and both parties were born in Haslingden.

I had Matilda's line so the task was to follow up James Henry's line. His parents are Richard and Ann nee Rawstron (sometimes spelt Rostron). One problem is that Richard's ages across the censuses and on his death record vary giving a date of birth anywhere between 1811 and 1821. With the exception of a Richard who is said to be born in 1821 in Haslingden and living in Tottington in the 1861 census, but is missing from other censuses, there is only one Richard born in that whole period who appears regularly in census. He also has a matching death record.

The only baptism of a Richard I have found is one born on March 27th 1816 and baptised at the King Street Wesleyan Chapel in Haslingden on May 5th, the child of James and Betty of Grane. There is another baptism of a Mary in 1806 who is also the child of James and Betty of Grane. Unfortunately the father's occupation is not stated.

The parish church of St James in Haslingden also has a number of baptisms, and burials of children of James and Betty between 1794 and 1822. There is also a grave where James, Betty and three of their children are buried. The parish records show a family who moved around. Where occupation is mentioned James is a stone cutter or stone mason. The early baptisms refer to Preistintax (Priest's Intake), and Troy, both of which are in or near Grane and lie to the west of Haslingden town centre. Troy was the site of a large quarry. Later records refer to Sheep's Green which is east of Haslingden. However the presence of children from both eras in the family grave ties the two halves of the family together.

The only contemporary wedding is that of James and Betty Grimshaw on April 1st 1793. Their ages at death imply they married very young. The big question is can the two Wesleyan baptisms be included in this family? The first reference to Sheep Green is in 1817, the year after Richard's baptism, so the move may have occurred between the two events.

More worrying is that a Mary Ann was baptised at the parish church in 1814 and I have not found evidence of the burial of the first Mary. However Mary Ann's baptism is the only one at the parish church between the two Wesleyan baptisms. There is an apparently childless gap of 8 years between Mary and Mary Ann. The gap is even greater if only parish church baptisms are counted. So the question arises as to whether other unrecorded baptisms occurred during this period.

This is a problem I find typical of research before the advent of civil registration. Parish records of the period are pretty basic, though improving. At least mother's name is included on baptisms, and age at death on burial records is being introduced. However marriage records are particularly cryptic. Further problems arise as the

Industrial Revolution increases mobility, and the rise in non-conformism means many baptisms occur away from the parish church, in chapels where records are either missing, or yet to be digitised. Life is not aided by the use of a fairly limited set of christian names.

So I can't be sure Richard is the son of James and Betty nee Grimshaw. On balance he probably is. There is certainly no alternative set of parents for him, and he was certainly from Haslingden. In these cases I tend to accept the link, but document the caveats. In this case it would mean that Matilda and James Henry are 5th cousins.

The Rotherham family comes from information provided to me by Robin Hunt, and it too was originally a branch of the Haslingden clan. In this case however, I found the link too tenuous and decided to make them a separate family. In fact, on balance they are more likely to link to the Tottington clan.

The family consists largely of the descendants of John Warburton and Mary nee Crowder. This family moved to Yorkshire where their descendants subsequently lived, particularly around Rotherham, hence my name for the family.

There is an IGI submission that names John's parents as James, and Ann nee Smith who were married at Bury St Mary on April 23rd 1792. James was described as a widower.

John declared his father to be James, a machine maker, on his second marriage. He also declared his age on that marriage, and on 3 censuses and on his death certificate. If his age was accurate in all cases he was born between 3rd September 1793 and late March 1794. His declared place of birth was Tottington.

I can find no record of a John son of James and Ann born in this timeframe at Tottington or elsewhere. The nearest was born on July 27th 1795, and baptised on October 4th at Stand Unitarian Chapel, which is actually in Whitefield, part of the Radcliffe parish. As this is a nonconformist baptism it is perhaps understandable that they may need to travel 6 miles to go to the church they want.

Another child, James was baptised in 1794, son of James and Ann, so although John's mother is not named she is probably Ann. The chapel's baptism records do not give the parent's abode so James and Ann can't be shown to have lived in Tottington. On the other hand there is no other James and Ann marriage in the period 1784-94 in the area.

James is a weaver on his marriage, a carter on John's baptism, and a machine maker, like son John on John's second wedding declaration. Ages were not always well known, but birthdays should be. If he was born in July then his age is 2 years out on the censuses and date of death, but only one year out on his second marriage.

Despite the discrepancies I have described John as the son of James and Ann based on the IGI submission and the lack of alternatives. However it cannot be certain given that there may be unrecorded baptisms given the proliferation of non-conformist churches in the area.

James was then linked with the son of Thomas and Susan[nah] Barlow of Haslingden but I can find no

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evidence to support this. The main problem is there are several Jameses baptised at Bury or Haslingden (about 10 between 1755 and 1773; two of them from Tottington). Any of these could be the husband of Ann Smith, though the fact James was already a widow when he married Ann suggests the later ones can be discounted.

The second family I have added is from Houghton, though I cannot connect it to the Houghton clan. It is called the Pheonix family because it is based on information from Barbara Pheonix. I discussed this and a second family in the same area in an article in the last Newsletter. Documenting the other one is on my to do list.

Doreen Warburton

I was sent a link to the obituary of Doreen Warburton in the Sydney Morning Herald by her niece Lisa Warburton, on behalf of her father Brian, Doreen's brother.

Born in London she emigrated to Australia, following her parents and siblings. where she continued a fulfilling theatrical life. The obituary in the Sydney Morning Herald of August 3rd 2017 is as follows:



The Oldest Profession, 2001. Doreen in the blonde wig second from left, so it goes Noelene Brown, Doreen, Betty Lucas (seated), Lorraine Bayly, Carole Skinner (far right). Photo: Supplied

Actor, director and teacher, stalwart of Australian theatre from the 1960s to the '90s, Evelyn Warburton has died aged 87 in West Gosford.

Evelyn Doreen Warburton was born in London, England, and despite her father "hitting the roof" on hearing the news, joined Joan Littlewood's Theatre Workshop at the age of 18. It was this company that was instrumental in her early training as an actress and instilled a love and dedication for ensemble and political theatre.

Doreen's parents and siblings moved to Australia in 1949 and insisted, under duress, that she follow. To

placate her parents, Joan Littlewood "wrote a letter saying I could become a Sarah Bernhardt; they hadn't a clue who Sarah Bernhardt was. And if they'd known what Joan Littlewood was like they would never have left me". Doreen reluctantly agreed to come to Australia for a year in 1953, and stayed for the rest of her life.

She began working in radio and performed at the Independent Theatre but it wasn't until the Young Elizabethans company was formed in 1959 that she was able to work full time as an actress, playing Shakespeare to school children across Australia. She had been offered another production at the time but had decided on the school tour because she wanted "to get to know Australia". And so for three years and more than 110,000 kilometres, she discovered her new home.

Doreen worked for all the major theatre companies in Sydney, appeared in many classic TV shows and iconic Australian films including *They're A Weird Mob*, *Nickel Queen*, *Wendy Cracked a Walnut* and *Ned Kelly*. She taught at NIDA, was a member of the Theatre Board of the Australia Council, a founding member of the Actors Forum, and a lifelong member of Actors Equity.

In 1963, she joined Ben Gabriel (whom she later married), Edward Hepple, Robert McDarra, Terry McDermott and Walter Sullivan to present one act plays at the AMP Theatre at Circular Quay. This company became known as The Q Theatre Group's Lunch Hour Theatre and Doreen became its artistic director. It developed into a highly successful lunch hour theatre company and was a shop window for actors, directors and writers, providing affordable opportunities for audiences to experience theatre. Many of Australia's budding theatre practitioners who would go on to change the face of Sydney theatre worked at the company during this time.

"I believe that theatre opens doors and windows to people. I always wanted to reach people who didn't normally go to the theatre. If you make theatre accessible and reasonably priced, people will go. I don't like elitist theatre."

The Q took productions to building sites, bus and railway depots, factories, shopping centres, showrooms and even as far afield as Townsville, Alice Springs and Tennant Creek. They stayed in pubs or were billeted. "The great advantage of a billet was that it gave us, not only a breath of home life but also contact with the locality. Our hosts would say, 'Before you leave in the morning you must let us show you the new dam' or a bower's bird nest or twin calves or whatever."

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The Q was the first company to perform at the unfinished Sydney Opera House to 500 workers in hard hats, eating their lunch and whistling for more.

In 1977, Warburton, along with Arthur Dicks, Richard Brooks, Kevin Jackson, Tony Ingersent, and Max Iffland took the very brave move of taking The Q to Penrith and with the encouragement of Penrith Council, set up shop in Penrith's Railway Institute building, converting it into a 120 seat theatre. On March 30, 1977, Lock Up Your Daughters opened The Q Theatre at Penrith and was the first of 81 successful productions during Warburton's stewardship. The Q serviced not only the immediate Penrith area but also took its shows to Parramatta, Bankstown, Orange and beyond.

In 1979, the Q was awarded the Sydney Critics Award for the Best Theatre Company of the year. The same year Warburton made history when she became the first woman director at the Sydney Opera House when the Q presented George Bernard Shaw's The Devil's Disciple in the Drama Theatre. During her 12 years as artistic director, the Q Theatre became recognised as the largest, most successful regional theatre in Australia and contributed significantly to the growth of theatre in Sydney.

Warburton believed strongly in community theatre and it was the links she established within the western suburbs



of Sydney and in particular the young people of Penrith through the establishment of youth workshops of which she was most proud. She would constantly refer to the creative skills of the young workshop group who were involved in the development of the successful Aussie Rock Musicals, St Mary's Kid and Zilch.

Doreen Warburton as Lady Bracknell in The Q's production of "The Importance of Being Earnest" in September 1979. Photo: Trevor Connel

In 1972 she received an OBE for her services to theatre.

Doreen Warburton is survived by her sister Jean, brother Brian, nieces Katrina, Lisa and Saskia, nephews Darren and Matthew, step-daughter Laura and granddaughters Hannah and Jessica.

I had an earlier contact from Doreen's second cousin Colin and looked briefly at their ancestry. The family were in Haslingden in the 19th century but whether they descend from the Haslingden Clan, or from people who moved from elsewhere to work in the mills, has yet to be determined.

Updated Combined Index

I have changed the format of the Combined Index to aid searching. The Combined Index is accessed from the Clans page, or the Clans section of the sidebar.

The purpose of the index is to provide a mechanism for finding out if one of your ancestors appears in any of my clans or families, and hence if you are also in that clan or family. You can then find your ancestor in the index for the relevant clan or family tree.

The index is a rather long list. I recommend you use your browser's Find facility to search it (if it has one; my experience is with Safari). I have added a column with full name which should help your search.

A search for Warburton is not much help but a search for John Warburton will get you to the first occurrence of that as part of a name. Where possible I find it easier to search for a known spouse's name. Birth and death dates and place of birth should then help to identify the person you are looking for. The flags then identify the clan where that person can be found.

In some cases there is a flag for a family name, and one for the collection of families that contains the relevant descendant report. Also the Greater Hale Barns Clan is a single tree which includes the Hale Barns, Mobberley and Ringley clans which have separate reports and charts, so these people also have two flags.

Warburton Days

The Warburton Days in London and Altrincham provided some interesting discussions and inputs, but the numbers were low. In fact only one attendee from last year returned this time.

In one way the lower numbers were an advantage as I was able to spend time with nearly all the attendees, as well as giving a short talk on the project and its origins. Amongst the things provided, or uncovered on the day were the story of Leonard Arthur Warburton's escape via the Comete Line evader network after being shot down in 1941, new branches of the Mobberley and Warburton Village clans, and a new family from Culcheth in the parish of Winwick who used the chapel at Newchurch Kenyon for their baptisms.

As well as Leonard Arthur's story I have two others sent to me shortly before the events, one concerning midget car racing in the 1930s, and one from a living artist in Wales. I shall write up all three in the coming days

The weather was atrocious in Altrincham, which may have affected attendance, and I know the date wasn't as convenient for some as the October date last year. However though I thought people might be keen to meet distant cousins and fellow Warburtons on a regular basis, maybe this is not the case. Some one-name studies have

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societies which meet regularly but I have tried to avoid the admin involved in such a formal approach.

As an alternative it was suggested that a facility be provided on the website for people to communicate with each other, either in the search for fellow clan members, or to raise queries and issues of interest to the Warburton community.

To that end I intend to explore the creation of a Forum within the website.

The Warburton Forum

The Warburton Forum has now been established to facilitate communication between people with an interest in any topic related to the Warburton name, and Warburton Family History.

It lives on a new Page called Forum, accessible from the Menu. At this stage it is probably best considered to be in Beta mode. There is currently one topic called Using the Forum, with one entry by me. It covers my understanding of how the Forum works. I encourage you to try it out and add your feedback on its operation and improvements in Replies to that Topic.

Anyone can view the contents of the Forum, but you need to Register and Login to reply to a Topic, or start a new Topic of your own. This is the default method of operation and I prefer to operate this way as it will inhibit SPAM.

The Registration process should be simple. You simply need to set up a user name and password associated with your email address.

Once logged in you can add a reply to any topic, or start a new one of your own. You can also elect to receive an email whenever a reply is added to a topic of interest. You can effectively subscribe or unsubscribe to particular topics.

The Comment facility still exists on the site. I do have the option to disable it but have decided not to for now as it provides a facility for people who haven't registered for the Forum, and allows comments to be put alongside the Post or Page they relate to.

In practise Comments are often used as a way of communicating with me. In fact both Comments and the Forum are intended for a wider audience. To contact me directly the best mechanism is email. You can probably email me simply by clicking my picture in the Sidebar and completing the email that is opened. However this may not work if you use Webmail (i.e. an internet mail service rather than a mail front-end on your computer).

What is the difference between Registering for the Forum and Subscribing to the site? Subscribing to the site is simply asking to receive an email notification when I add a new Post. As I Post about any changes to the site this ensures you are notified about anything that happens.

Registering relates just to the Forum, but I believe anyone who Registers is automatically Subscribed to the site as well.

The Cross in the Heather

Some of you may remember the 1970s BBC drama **The Secret Army** about a Belgian escape line set up to help downed British and Allied airmen to evade capture and return to the UK. This is the story of Sergeant Leonard Arthur Warburton who was one of the first airmen returned by the real life Secret Army, known as The Comete line.

This story was brought to my attention by Len's niece Pat Jones at the recent Warburton Day in Altrincham. Pat's brother Martin Warburton has also provided valuable assistance. My main source of information is the story at: <https://www.backtonormandy.org/stories/136-stories/649-the-cross-in-the-heather-of-boxbergheide-genk.html?showall=1&limitstart=>. Additional information is from the 207 Squadron RAF History site at http://www.207squadron.rafinfo.org.uk/belgium0505/Boxbergheide_070505.htm.

The history of the Comete line can be found at: <http://www.belgiumww2.info>.

Leonard Arthur Warburton (Len) was born in 1915 in Chorlton cum Hardy, Manchester, and is a descendant of a family from Morley, near Wilmslow, Cheshire that features in the Ashley and Morley clan. His line was not previously documented fully, but it has now been added.



Fig. 1. Sergeant (later Flight Lieutenant) Leonard Arthur Warburton

On August 31st 1941 Sergeant Warburton was 2nd wireless operator/gunner on Wellington R 1703-J which

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participated in a 108 plane attack on Cologne. The plane was from the 101st Squadron based at Oakington, Cambridgeshire and commanded by Pilot Officer John Frederick Ashton, aged 22. The four other crew members were Sergeant Ernest Lane, Observer, Sergeant John Redden, wireless operator, Sergeant Robert Wood, second pilot, and Sergeant John Hutton, rear gunner.



Fig. 2. A Wellington of the type that crashed



Fig. 3. A Later Cross on the Site

Two hours after take-off, whilst returning from the raid, the plane was shot down by a German night fighter and crashed in flames onto a heath at Boxbergheide, near Genk in Belgium. The German Wehrmacht were quickly on the scene and found three bodies which were

buried close by in the heather. These were the bodies of Ashton, Lane and Redden.

The site of the burial soon grew in significance. Flowers were often put on the graves by Miss Jeanne Dries, who regularly plundered the bushes at home, but also by Mrs. Leonie Decosemaker-Thoelen who ran a shop in the Winterslagstraat in Genk.

The graves were frequently destroyed, by the local Hitler Youth, but was always restored by the local people.

A short time after the aeroplane had crashed, a wooden cross was put on the spot by the Glowacki-Plocinnik family, originating from Ikern in Poland. The wooden cross which was put there was made of burnt wood and its horizontal beam had the shape of an aeroplane's propeller. Again the cross was regularly thrown into the heather, but always found and replaced.

Then in the autumn of 1943 a concrete cross appeared. This concrete cross had been made secretly in the Winterslag mine by the employees. It was on a dark late night between 10pm and 11pm that the cross was put in its place by its producer Mr and Mrs François Beelen, assisted by Mr and Mrs Pierre Reiss from the mine's drawing office. At that time Mr Beelen was head of the production department of the Winterslag mine, and he also made the crosses that were put on the graves of Russian prisoners of war that had died during their work in the underground workings. This was during the time of occupation by the Germans and one can imagine the danger to which these people exposed themselves - a concrete cross is not easily hidden under a coat.



Fig. 4. The Modern Memorial

During the occupation Miss Daisy Gielen, who was also involved in the escape routes, successfully wrote to the Red Cross in order to find out the names of the fallen airmen. After the war she received a number of relatives

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at the graves. One mother took back to England "sprigs of heather fed by the blood of my boy"

After the war the site was developed into a memorial for all RAF personnel who lost their lives in the province of Limburg during the war. The three fallen airmen were relocated by the British services to Schaffen where there is a military cemetery and where a ceremony is held each year to commemorate the fallen soldiers.



Fig. 5. Sergeant John William Hutton



Fig.6. Len's photo from his fake Belgian id

Pilot Officer Ashton had kept his plane flying long enough for 3 of the crew to parachute to safety. Sergeant Wood was wounded and soon captured by the Germans. He spent the rest of the war as a POW and later lived in Dallas, Texas.

Len Warburton and John Hutton landed safely. As Len was burying his parachute he was approached by some local people who wanted it for the cloth. They took him to where John Hutton had landed and the two set off to the west.

They passed through a village where they even exchanged a "Gute Nacht" with some German soldiers. They then slept in a potato field behind a hedge until morning. They were woken by the voices of two German soldiers on the other side of the hedge who were going to a local farm for milk.

When it was safe they looked around and saw a farmhouse at the end of the field. According to Len this farmhouse had "Vive le RAF" painted on the wall, but locals believe this is hardly possible in the circumstances in that region, and maybe Len was thinking of a farm he saw later in France.



Fig.7 Flight Lieutenant Lenard Arthur Warburton

In any case they decided knock on the back door of the farmhouse. They were warmly received and given milk. A little girl gave Len a scapular which is small piece of cloth containing the relic of a saint. He kept it in his wallet as a lucky charm.

They were shown to a barn where they slept until awoken by two young women couriers who had brought

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them civilian clothes and two bicycles. They were taken about 3 kilometres to Hasselt where they were first questioned and then taken to shelter. Len was taken to a Monsieur Colaris who kept a pharmacy. He stayed there for 14 days before Mssr Colaris took him by train to Brussels. Len returned to visit the Colaris family after the war and subsequently kept in touch with Mssr Colaris's daughter.

Len stayed in Brussels until about December, moving from place to place. He was reunited with John Hutton during this time. They were now firmly in the care of the Comete Line who arranged their transit through France to Spain, and back to England.

Len said of the Belgians who helped him "They were true patriots of the Belgian Resistance, and in Brussels or in the environment, I stayed one or two days, once or twice a fortnight [at each place]. The Belgian Resistance was amazing and I will remain grateful to them forever. It is sad however that so many had to die on this 'job', but they will never be forgotten".

Sergeant Hutton returned to active duty on his return to England. He was killed over Calais six days after D-Day.

As Len was amongst the first few airmen to escape down the Comete Line the authorities in the UK were keen to learn all they could from him about it. After some detailed questioning Len started preliminary training as a pilot. In 1943 he went to Canada to conclude his training, but there is no record of any further operational duties before his discharge, with the rank of Flight Lieutenant, in 1945.

Len married Alice (Tess) Guest in 1944. After the war he rejoined the family business. In 1925 Len's father Arthur had established a business in Manchester as a Ladies Fashion Agent. Len first joined the business in 1936, and his brother Ron joined in 1940. The business became Arthur Warburton & Sons, Fashion Agents (for ladies coats, suits, dresses & ensembles). Len lived with Tess in Sale, Cheshire and worked in the business with his brother Ron until they both retired in 1982 when the business closed. He died in 1989 at Wythenshawe hospital. He had no children.

Warburton Artefacts

Martin Warburton is a collector of tokens and he sent me the following photographs of two in his possession that have Warburton references.

The larger token is on a smoothed George II/III halfpenny and is an engraved love token. If contemporary, it is 18th century. I have no idea who Ann and William of Manchester are but if anyone has a clue please let me know. In fact my own 3x great grandparents were William and Ann, and they married at Manchester Cathedral in 1796, though I have no evidence they lived in Manchester for any time and they spent most of their lives in Bowdon and Hale in Cheshire, where they originally came from.

The smaller token is an 'unofficial farthing' – one of many advertising pieces produced in the mid-19th century. A search of the censuses reveals only one possible J Warburton living in Macclesfield. In 1851 a



John Warburton is described as a grocer aged 25 and born in Altrincham. This may be the son of John and Susan(nah) born on March 13th 1825 and baptised at Hale Chapel. John, a grocer, son of John, married Alice Clegg in Oldham on July 11th 1850. The John in Macclesfield in 1851 is married to Alice from Oldham. Unfortunately I can find neither John nor Alice in subsequent censuses so it is possible they emigrated.

The photos have prompted me to start a new Warburton Artefacts page under Gallery where such photos and stories of Warburton artefacts can be collected. I added 2 others that I have published in the past, a Warburton bible, and Elizabeth Jane's tapestry

I have also started a forum topic called Warburton Artefacts where anyone who has such artefacts can share them, by replying to the topic with pictures, and the story of the artefact. I have added a feature to allow you to upload photos of your artefacts. It is at the bottom of the main Forum page (if you can't see it just click on Forum in the menu). It includes instructions on how to link to your uploaded photo in your reply to the topic.

I will then pick up your photos and descriptions and add them to this Warburton Artefacts Page.

Next Issue

The material for the next issue will first appear as **Warburton Website** posts, and will be collected into a Newsletter when there is a sufficient amount of it.