

The Button Files

Newsletter of the Warburton One-Name Study

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The Warburton Website: <http://warburton.one-name.net>

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The Newsletter

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

This newsletter includes significant **Warburton Website** posts since the last newsletter. However since it is a year since the last newsletter I have too much material so some items, including a DNA review, will be held over until issue 17 in the New Year.

The articles in this Newsletter are as follows:

- **Bruce Warburton Midget Car Racer** Daphne Warburton alerted me to this is the story of her late

husband Bruce Warburton's career in midget car racing which had a brief heyday in the 1930's.

- **Leslie Warburton, Cricketer Profile** Colin Warburton sent me this profile of his father Leslie's cricket career. I have since attached them to the Edenfield clan.
- **Thomas and Sarah Families** A number of lines emanate from children of a Thomas and Sarah, so I produced a paper on the various Thomas and Sarah families in Bury/Bolton at the beginning of the 19th century. It was then updated several times as a results of new information.
- **New Year Plans 2018** In the last newsletter I included plans for 2018. I revisit these to see what I actually achieved.
- **Clan Updates** At the beginning of 2018 I started using a new program that produces Descendant Reports in a new format. All new or updated clans will adopt the new format so this article summarises which have been done.
- **The Sublime and the Ridiculous** Two Warburton related links were pointed out to me, and are described here.
- **Updates to the Bolton (Bakers) Clan** Emails from Harold Schofield and Liz Hensor led to two updates to the clan, and a sad story.
- **Warburton Potters** I have had inputs on the Warburton Potters of Burslem from Audrey Fussell, and Peter Keats, and obtained a book on the New Gate pottery by David Hall. This article summarises what I've learned.
- **RSM Alfred Ernest Warburton and his Medals** This is the story behind a photo sent to me by Violet Symes.
- **Haslingden Parish Records** These updates result from my work on the Edenfield clan, and inputs from Stephen Carr
- **Early Bury Parish Records** My research into the Peters of Edenfield led me to document the Bury St Mary parish records up to 1700.
- **Tottington Clan Musings** Emails from Richard Tipping and Pam Lofthouse resulted in small clan updates, and musings on the possible connection of a William who features in **Always Turn the Page** to the clan.

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- **Edenfield and Related Updates** My main focus this year has been on the Edenfield clan. This has included a paper **The Edenfield Clan and Related Peters**, new listings of parish registers, and a doubling in size of the Edenfield clan.
- **John Warburton, Vicar of Oakham** I saw John's name on a list of vicars at Oakham Church. I decided to investigate him further, and this is the result.
- **Christina Ratcliffe** A narrative from Martin Ratcliffe about his aunt Christina Ratcliffe, who had a relationship with Wing Commander Adrian Warburton, aka Mad Warby of Malta, during his time on the island.

Warburton Midget Car Racer

In the 1930s the new sport of speedway racing was gaining in popularity. Arguably the finest of the speedway tracks was at Belle Vue in Manchester which opened in 1928. Speedway racing was for motor bikes, but interest began to develop in racing cars on the speedway tracks. In the early 1930's there were a number of demonstration events. In America midget car racing began in 1933. It spread rapidly and is still flourishing today.

In Britain however car racing flourished only briefly. Through 1935 the sport developed with the converted road racers and sports cars of the early demonstrations being replaced by custom built midget cars designed for the speedway track. The earliest developments were in southern England, but at Belle Vue in Manchester Eric Oliver (EO) Spence was determined to establish midget car racing. Early demonstrations were unexciting and unpopular so EO sought to encourage the development of specialist cars, and these began to appear throughout 1935.



Fig 1. Six foot two car salesman Bruce Warburton was involved in the Manchester Midgets from the very start.

One developer of the new midget cars was Len Hulme who ran a motor engineering business in Ardwick. Len didn't drive his own cars but delegated that task to his mechanics, one of whom was Bruce Warburton, then just 20 years of age. Unfortunately Bruce crashed one of the

experimental cars, badly scalding his legs when the radiator burst.

Bruce Percival Warburton was born in Congleton, Cheshire on July 14th 1915, the son of Arthur and Jessie nee Buxton. Arthur Warburton had a number of businesses in the Congleton area. By the time Bruce was born Arthur had gone to war. He subsequently left the family home and became a haulier in Liverpool. He died in North Wales in 1923 so Bruce can have known little of his father.

Bruce died in 2004, but for some years I have corresponded with his widow Daphne. It was she who alerted me to the book **Midget Car Racing** by Derek Bridgett, which was published in 2013. The story of Midget Car racing, and Bruce's part in it, is based on Derek's book.

At the end of 1935 EO Spence travelled to America to see the developing sport in action there. He was particularly impressed with a car called an Elto, to the extent that he bought it and shipped it back to Manchester. Here he asked Len Hulme to construct 6 replicas which could be used as the basis of closely matched racing through 1936.

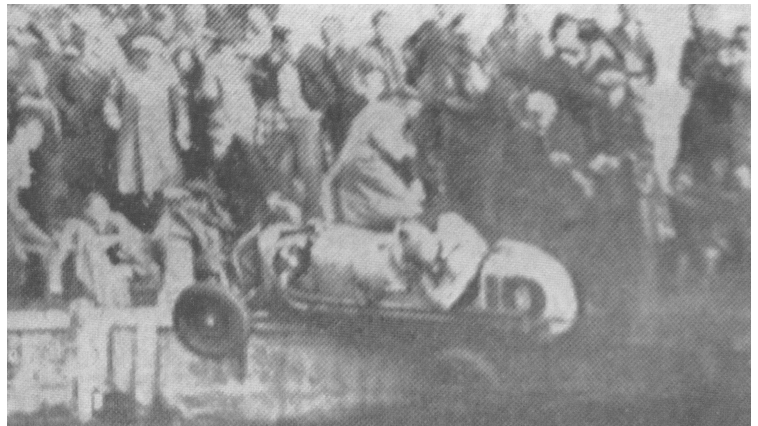


Fig 2. Crowd safety was not a priority and it was up to the spectators to get out of the way of runaway cars.

The cars made their debut in April 1936. Bruce was one of two of Len Hulme's mechanics amongst the 6 drivers. The first outing was such a success that midget car racing became part of every speedway meeting so the 6 drivers began competing on a weekly basis. By July Len Hulme had begun constructing a second batch of cars, to be sold to approved applicants for £195. Thus the pool of cars and drivers began to increase. New designs were also beginning to emerge to challenge the Eltos.

Here they dash in all directions when they see Bruce Warburton's car heading towards them.

1937 began much as 1936 finished. Midget cars were popular at a number of tracks in the South and Midlands and opportunities arose to race at these different tracks. Then in July a new innovation was introduced, a national mini-league. Only four teams took part, Lea Bridge, London, Coventry, and a Provinces team. Belle Vue declined to enter, but the Manchester riders were able to compete for other teams. Bruce was enrolled in the Provinces team.

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Although Bruce suffered two crashes in as many weeks he was particularly successful in the final match of the season, earning 10 points, as the Provinces team emerged as champions.



Fig 3. The winning Provinces team pose for their victory photograph. l to r; Jimmy Rains, Frank Bullock, Bruce Warburton, Squib Burton, Stan Mills, Syd Plevin and Joe Wildblood (Courtesy of Doug Wildblood).

1938 started with great optimism. A national league was formed, with a governing body and a set of rules. Six tracks signed up to enter teams, including Belle Vue. With many other meetings hosting individual racing, including at tracks not in the national league, plus a series of 5 North versus South test matches, it was to prove an extremely busy time for the drivers and their cars. In one 11 day period the Manchester drivers had 8 meetings. Yet by the end of the season the sport was in tatters, and Belle View had held its last midget car meeting.

Even before the national league started one team had dropped out and another had relocated. A second relocation occurred when Lea Bridge closed and its team moved to Crystal Palace. Wembley were never able to host a home match. Belle Vue competed gamely but was largely uncompetitive. Matches were between teams of 6 riders competing in 12 four car heats. Belle Vue had four experienced drivers, including Bruce, with two years experience, but they never managed to fill the last two team places with quality drivers. They completed 10 fixtures but only managed to win 2 of them.

The problem was not the popularity of the sport, but increasing opposition from the speedway bike riders who shared many of the tracks with the cars. They felt the cars were detrimental to the quality of the tracks and thus affecting their safety and performance. It was the speedway riders who forced Southampton out of the league before it started, prevented Wembley from completing a home fixture, and finally forced Belle View to hold its last midget car meeting on August 31st, with the very last car race at the end of the last speedway meeting of the season on October 13th. By the beginning of the 1939 season only one track was open to midget car racing.

Bruce Warburton himself decided to take a break from racing in August 1938. After a couple of years rushing all over the country he wanted to rethink the direction his racing career was taking. He is first referred to in

Bridgett's book as one of Len Hulme's mechanics. However he is subsequently referred to as a car salesman. In fact his career was about to take a more dramatic turn. In 1939 he joined the Palestine Police, where he served until 1943.

His widow Daphne has shared a number of anecdotes about his time in Palestine. He used to go wild boar hunting in the desert. This was a dangerous pastime as a charging bull could reach and injure or kill the hunter, even if fatally wounded itself. Bruce therefore used a special gun with two shot-gun barrels side-by-side and a very heavy bore barrel above them. The latter took a very heavy calibre bullet that was used to fire at the boar's forehead to halt its momentum. Only then could the two shot-gun barrels be used.

Bruce continued an interest in hunting through his life, but Palestine was the only time in his life in which he did hawking as shown in the picture below.



Fig 4 Bruce Percival Warburton taken outside his tent in the desert and with his dog at his feet and his hawk on his arm, circa 1942.

One time in the early years of the war he arrested a very famous spy called Maria. Another time he escorted a Jordanian Princess to Persia (now Iran) to marry into the family of the Shah (possibly the Shah himself). He was also given the task of collecting a bottle of water from the River Jordan to be used in the baptism in England of Princess Alexandria, daughter of the Duke of Kent. He filled the bottle from a tap!!

Much later Daphne filled a bottle herself from the Jordan for the baptism her and Bruce's own daughter, Anne-Christine.

Daphne was Bruce's second wife. Shortly after the war he had married Beryl Ashton in Cyprus and they had a son and two daughters. They subsequently divorced and Bruce married Daphne Kenward in 1966. Their only daughter was born in 1970.

Bruce had a very successful, patented invention, the Bruwar drilling bit (for drilling for oil, water and so on) and, with his brother Guy's help, he built the Wardrill, a drilling rig with novel features, but it was too expensive to patent.

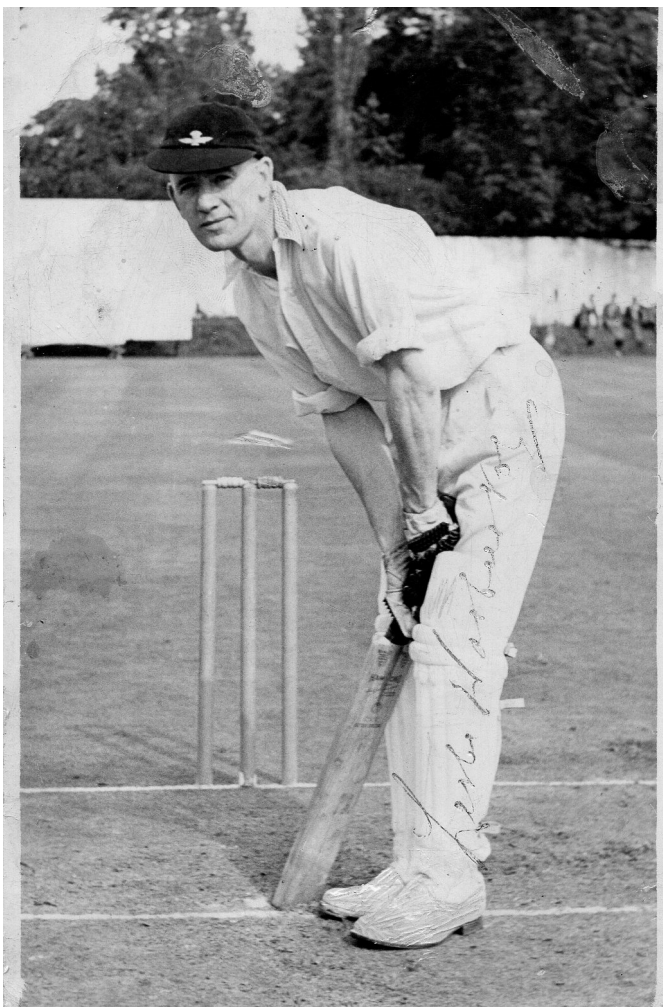
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He then worked, very successfully, as a drilling engineer and consultant in his private company called Warco.

Leslie Warburton, Cricketer Profile

The following was sent to me by Leslie's son Colin:

Leslie Warburton, son of Arnold and Betsy Warburton was born in Haslingden in 1910. As a boy he attended Salem Methodist chapel and was organist for four years. He was a pupil at Haslingden Grammar School. At Salem he was introduced to competitive cricket, quickly graduating to the Haslingden club which played in the Lancashire League. He made his debut for the second team aged 14, taking 5 wickets. I still have the ball. He soon joined the first team, and under the guidance of professional Frank Edwards developed into a fine all-rounder, a reliable free-scoring batsman and a fast bowler. At the age of 19 he played several times for Lancashire, who wanted to sign him to replace their Australian fast bowler Ted McDonald. It was the height of the recession, and he was advised not to give up his secure job in banking. He became a League professional at Uppermill, Haslingden, Littleborough and East Lancs. He set many club records and indeed held his own against greats such as Learie Constantine. At Littleborough he became the first person in League Cricket to do the double, that is 1000 runs and 100 wickets in a season. I have an illuminated book commemorating this achievement. John Kay, cricket correspondent of the Manchester Evening News described him as "a professional equal to the best in any age and any sphere". He was also selected for a test trial, directly from League Cricket.



During the war he played for the RAF against many leading cricketers. After the war he had lost his pace, but his batting was as good as ever. He played professionally for Ramsbottom, and then Leyland, where one year he scored over 1300 runs at an average of 192. He "retired" to become amateur with Haslingden and then Littleborough. At the end of his career he still managed to defy West Indian test bowler Roy Gilchrist who had to resort to bowling "beamers"!

He was a technically very correct batsman with in particular a stylish off drive. He was seldom caught out, he played on the ground, and never hit sixes.

Colin Warburton 29 Oct 2017

Thomas and Sarah Families

Whilst looking at a couple of Public Trees on Ancestry I noticed that they identified parents for Henry, the earliest ancestor of the Bolton (Bakers) clan, and then made his grandfather a Henry from the Haslingden clan. The Haslingden clan is identified as part of the Lancashire Group by a DNA result from a descendant of Henry's grandson Joseph, who became a Mormon and emigrated to Utah.

I agree that the Henry who was baptised at Edenfield in 1805 is the earliest ancestor of the Bolton (Bakers) clan, mainly because there is no evidence of another Henry that I can find. This identifies his parents as Thomas and Sarah so I have added them to the tree with a lengthy note.

However I have yet to find any evidence that Thomas was the same Thomas who was son of Henry of Haslingden, so the Bolton (Bakers) clan cannot (yet) be considered as part of the Lancashire Group.

I also have a Thomas and Sarah as the likely parents of a Peter who is head of a family in Massachusetts, and whose descendant provided one of the Lancashire Group DNA results. I therefore decided to do a more in depth study of Thomas and Sarah families in that area of Lancashire, and my findings are in a new paper called **Thomas and Sarah Families** on the **Papers** page.

In fact I am no wiser on the identity of Henry's parents, but I am quite sure I have identified Peter's. A DNA result from the Bakers clan might resolve the Henry issue.

Later I reworked the paper following a couple of realisations. Firstly Thomas of the Edenfield clan, who first married Millicent Turner, and then Sally Isherwood, is exactly the right age to be the Thomas of Edenfield who was buried in March 1805. Then I noticed that the occupation of the father of Henry who was baptised at Edenfield later in 1805, is different to that of the three other children of Thomas and Sarah baptised subsequently.

This seemed to increase the probability that Thomas moved back to the Walmersley and Edenfield areas. It means he is also a candidate to be the father of four children born in Walmersley and baptised at Holcombe, and of Henry founder of the clan of the bakers of Bolton.

But no sooner than I had republished my paper I found a further, complicating piece of evidence. I reported there

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was no evidence of the occupation of the father of the four children from Walmersley. However James, the eldest of the four conveniently remarried in 1846 reporting his father as Thomas, a carder. This weakens my argument that the recorded occupation of Henry's father as a spinner is significant, unless it introduces a new family. Indeed it increases the likelihood it was recorded in error.

Then looking more closely at the census entries for James, the eldest of the Walmersley children, I see he has a Sarah Jackson living with him in 1841. As a widowed Sally Warburton married James Jackson in 1818 this is probably his mother. The 1841 census doesn't state relationships.

This doesn't prove she is Sally Isherwood, though her probable death in 1846 aged 69 does fit with the baptism of a Sally Isherwood from Bashall. This is some 18 miles north of where Sally first lived with Thomas at Hall Carr, and while she could have moved for work, the match could be a coincidence, or her age might be slightly wrong. I have yet to determine if any of three adult Thomas's who were buried in the Bury area between 1805 and 1818 could be an alternative husband for her.

On balance this new information strengthens the case that Sally Isherwood was the mother of the four Walmersley children, but I can't say she was the mother of Henry of the Bolton (Bakers) clan.

New Year Plans 2018

I produced a 2018 New Year Plans post. Reviewing it in November 2018, for inclusion in this Newsletter, gives me a chance to see how far I have got. Here is my original post with current comments in italics.

I seem to have a number of interrupted projects and things, both large and small I would like to progress. Also new things are brought to my attention all the time. *Well nothing has changed here.*

I have just been prompted to buy a new version of my Family Tree Program. This is Reunion Version 12 for Mac. I immediately spotted that it has improved the way it formats Descendant Reports. Up until now I have used my old Windows-based Legacy program to produce the Reports on the website, but from now on I will use the new Reunion features. They will still be PDFs that you can read on-line, or download and print, but they will look a bit different. Initially I will only use the new facility for new trees, or when I update old ones, but eventually I will probably do a bulk update of the old ones. *Several trees have been updated in the new format though I have yet to embark on a mass update. This is not due to concerns about the format, but simply a question of time.*

I am currently making a small addition to the Warburton Village Clan, based on information from Deborah Thomas who descended from one of its branches. This will be the first clan to appear in the new format, which is appropriate as it is largest clan.

*This was done. All updates done during the year are discussed in the following article, **Clan Updates**.*

Before Christmas I was working on the Edenfield clan. I have already published a paper on Thomas and Sarah

marriages because the only Lancashire Group DNA result that comes from an undocumented clan descends from such a marriage. I have now gone on to do a study of Peters, and started documenting the parish registers at Edenfield, Holcombe, and Newchurch in Rossendale. I believe as a result I will be able to show that the DNA result is from a branch of the Edenfield clan. This is particularly important as the result is being upgraded to BigY. In addition Leslie Warburton, the pre-war cricketer, also belongs to the clan, but I am unlikely to be able to link the family of Warburtons the Bakers to Edenfield or any other clan without a good DNA result. Finishing and publishing this work will be my first priority for 2018.

*I finally completed these updates in December. See the article **Edenfield and Related Updates** at the end of this newsletter for details.*

Then I plan to return to building the Pennsylvania clan into a Partington clan. This is based on a tree of Lymm Warburtons sent to me ages ago by Cathy Warburton, plus I have documented the Lymm and Warburton parish registers. Progress on this task was halted last summer when I had to devote time to preparing for the Warburton Day in Altrincham. As a result of things that arose from that day I haven't got back to it since. Again there is a DNA element as I now have a second Cheshire Group BigY and I need to plan the next steps based on this result fairly soon.

I still haven't got back to this. I must have had too many holidays this year.

Then I must document a tree given me by Loris Cooper at the 2016 Warburton Day. I was hoping for a GEDCOM version of the tree, but as this doesn't appear to be available, and we have an impending DNA result for the tree I think I need to start transcribing.

This is now transcribed and awaiting proof reading and publishing. I also have the DNA result which places the clan in the Lancashire Group.

Another DNA result I am awaiting is from a Warburton with Jamaican ancestry. Hopefully this will lead to work on a Jamaican tree.

Not much progress here. The DNA result was tantalising as the Y-chromosome was definitely of European origin, but didn't match any other tested Warburton.

I'm sure there are other things I have been sent over the years that need attention. They will be in my files somewhere. I just need to trawl through and find them. Feel free to remind me if you think I have forgotten something. It is all rather frustrating.

Clan Updates

The first update of the year was to the **Warburton Village Clan**. The update itself was minor, an additional family that represents the Warburton connection of Deborah Thomas, a descendant of Nicholas Holt Warburton, who kindly sent me the information.

However this was the first clan to be updated to Reunion 12, and the first to use Reunion facilities to produce the Descendant Report. The layout is a little

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different (and to my mind improved) though the content should be very similar.

During the year seven other clans have been updated. I have experimented a little with the Report format, though it is now pretty settled. Comments are always welcome.

The seven clans are:

New South Wales

I was contacted by Alison Brison with information about a branch of the New South Wales Clan who emigrated to Reno, Nevada. Alison herself lives in California. It is only a small update as most of the US branch are still living. I hoped this new line might produce a DNA profile for the clan, but none has yet been forthcoming.

Tilston

I updated the Tilston clan to incorporate an updated clan profile.

Bolton (Bakers) Clan

See the Article **Update to the Bolton (Bakers) Clan**

Houghton

See the Article **Update to the Houghton Clan**

Tottington

See the Article **Musings on Bury, St Mary Records**

Greater Hale Barns

I have now amalgamated the old Hale Barns, Mobberley and Ringley trees into a single tree.

Edenfield

See the Article **Edenfield and Related Updates**

The Combined Index is also a little different. My control over column width seems to have disappeared with Reunion 12, so I've made some changes to the actual columns to maximise both look and usefulness.

The Sublime and the Ridiculous

I received two interesting emails. They weren't strictly about family history but they do have a connection with the Warburton name.

The first was about the Warburton Souling Play. It is apparently a Cheshire tradition, but when I Googled it only Warburton and Hatton seem to perform it today. It is performed around pubs (and the occasional church) in the Warburton area.

The itinerary for 2018 can be accessed at the Play's website: <http://www.larchfieldhouse.co.uk/Souling/WarburtonSoulingPlay.htm>.

You can even find recordings of it on Youtube.

The second email was a link to another proposed 'play'. It will probably be familiar to UK residents. It was an advert for Warburtons Bread that was running on our televisions last year. For those of you who are not in the UK it may be amusing. It can be found at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4uCeeVI_He4.

And like all 'good' films these days there is a sequel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6JdW3mPISZ0>.

Update to the Bolton (Bakers) Clan

If you followed the above links you will have found that the adverts feature Warburton's Bread MD Jonathan Warburton. His ancestors feature in the Bolton (Bakers) Clan so it was a neat coincidence when Harold Schofield alerted me to a new branch on his version of the Bolton (Bakers) Clan tree which isn't in mine. It fleshed out descendants of a Peter born in 1847, who is a brother of the founder of the Bakery business. I have now added it.

Later I had an email from Liz Hensor, who is researching her Hensor ancestors. She had spotted that the above Peter married an Elizabeth Hensor. She wanted to know more about her.

My research resulted in another small update to the Bolton (Bakers) Clan which reflects a rather sad story.

I had found 7 children of Peter and Elizabeth, though in the 1911 census she claims to have had ten, five of whom had died. The curious thing was that she had declared her maiden name as Hensor on only three of them, and as Rostron on the other four. I had also discovered that there was no registration of an Elizabeth Hensor being born around 1846 in Bolton, where her census entries indicated she was born (though Liz did find a baptism, and burial of one who was never registered). There is however a registration of an Elizabeth Rostron, with mother's maiden name also Rostron, suggesting she was illegitimate.

It is quite clear from the census entries that there is only one Elizabeth. I did wonder if she knew who her father was, and he was a Hensor, and commented on the clan tree accordingly. Now was the time to have another look.

The solution arrived when I found the marriage in 1854 of a Mary Rostron, and William Henson. Henson turns out to be an incorrect transcription. I matched the marriage to the 1861 census entry for William and Mary Hensor, plus their children, including a 15 year old Elizabeth born in Bolton, and a younger daughter also born before Mary married. William is actually Liz Hensor's 4x great uncle.

I was also able to find the birth registrations of her other three children, and found that in total she used Hensor five times, and Rostron five times as her maiden name. I can only guess why she kept changing her maiden name but I suspect it was related to the trauma of losing half her children in infancy.

It seems she quite happily adopted her step father's name and used it on her marriage record, and on the registration of her first three children. However, by the time the fourth was born she had already lost two sons, and her daughter died shortly after, and was possibly already sickly. Maybe she was trying to change her luck. As it happened her fourth child, a son called Peter, also died aged 2, but then her luck changed and only one other daughter died in childhood. She continued to use Rostron for all her subsequent children, except for the first child born after Peter's death, and the only one of the ten who was not registered at Stockport, but at Bolton. Maybe the rules were more strict at Bolton.

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Warburton Potters

I've had a number communications about the Warburton potters of Burslem this year.

Potters' Signatures and Seals

Below is a photo of three Warburton signatures and seals on a 1751 vellum agreement betwixt a consortium of iconic Staffordshire potters who were sourcing Devon ball clay. It was sent to me by Audrey Fussell. The Clay was shipped from Devon to Liverpool, and then, via the River Weaver and packhorse, to Burslem. Other signatories include famous potters such as Thomas Wheildon.



Warburton Potters in New Hall and its Imitators

A 1971 book **New Hall and its Imitators** by David Holgate covers several generations of the family of Warburton potters. I noticed copies of the book are available on Amazon so acquired one.

The book on the New Hall pottery mentions four generations of Warburton Potters beginning with Joseph Warburton (1694-1752). I have failed to find Joseph's baptism on line so the origin of the family is unclear.

Joseph was a potter in Hot Lane, Burslem, and considered to be one of the more important manufacturers. His two sons were also potters, John continuing in Hot Lane whilst his brother Joseph was established in Cobridge. John married Ann Daniel, herself a potter, who survived him by 37 years. She continued an enamelling business with their son Thomas.

John and Ann's second son Jacob had his own pottery in Cobridge, and also became one of the proprietors of the New Hall China Manufacturer which exploited the recent patent for hard -paste porcelain. Jacob had four sons and three daughters, including Ann who married a Dorset clay merchant, Catherine who married a Dorset landowner, Peter who took his father's place in the New Hall pottery, Francis who set up a factory at La Charite-

sur-Loire, and John who continued the family pot works. The fourth son Benjamin settled in Dorset near his sisters Ann and Catherine.

Last year I wrote about Warburton Pike the explorer and described his descent from William Pike a Dorset clay merchant, and his wife Ann. Although I knew Ann was a Warburton I wrongly surmised on her origins. John Rowley has commented on my Warburton Pike post confirming that Ann is in fact Jacob's daughter. He also describes Jacob in more detail.

I don't know if there are descendants of the Warburton potters living today but if there are I would like to make contact with them.

John Rowley's post deserves a wider audience so I have copied it below:

You say you have not found Ann Warbuton's Parents. Here is an excerpt from my book to be published in 2020.

"In September 1803 William Pike married Ann Warburton daughter of Jacob Warburton (potter) of Cobridge, Staffordshire. The marriage took place at Norton in the Moors, Staffordshire. William Pike's friend, William Voss, a landowner in Church Knowle, was to marry Ann's younger sister Catherine Warburton in 1810.

Jacob Warburton (1740-1826) was the son of John and Ann Warburton. When Enoch Booth invented the fluid glaze, Jacob's parents – John and Ann Warburton – were among the first to take it up, and their cream-coloured ware, enameled with all their exceptional artistic skill, is often confounded with Wedgwood's best productions as they did most of the enameling for Wedgwood in his early days. Jacob Warburton became a potter of great repute, above all on the Continent where his business was very extensive. He spent many years travelling abroad and was a strange man among the rough potters of that day – a Roman Catholic, a great linguist, he spoke Dutch, German, and French fluently, a famous skater; and for some reason he was always known as Captain Warburton. He was an intimate friend of Wedgwood, and in 1771 acted as his arbitrator in his case against Palmer. But to Jacob Warburton the Potteries are chiefly indebted for the revival of Littler's attempt to introduce the manufacture of hard paste porcelain into Staffordshire. Jacob Warburton (1740 – 1826) was one of the founders of the New Hall Works, Staffordshire. Jacob leased Bucknowle Farm so that he could visit his daughters.

Some years prior to his death, he had relinquished the cares and fatigue of business; and having at a late period of life, married for his second wife, Mrs Bucknall of Ford Green – a person much younger than himself, for whom he had long cherished the most affectionate regard, he retired to her house at Ford Green, near Norton, where, he indulged his fondness for literary felicity, with the true leisure with dignity.

His memory was peculiarly tenacious, and was strengthened by most extensive reading, and a correct oral and legible knowledge of French, Dutch, German, and Italian; the latter being his favourite amusement up to the day of his death; to which time his mind resembled a pure and brilliant blaze of intellect. Jacob Warburton,

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Esq. was equally respectable for social virtues, great mental ability, and extensive literary acquirements.

On the day prior to his death, (September 19th, 1826) he was full of confidence, and commenced a walk to Cobridge, but returned home without achieving it. The next day, while seated on a sofa, he said to a gentleman who was reading to him, —'Do not be alarmed; I feel I am dying,'— and expired without a struggle or a groan, at the age of 86 years. He had chalked a poem on the table —

*While summer's warmth invites the old to quit,
Their chimney corners and their easy chairs,
Be it my daily task beneath this shade
To meditate on nature's wondrous works;
To raise my soul in fervent adoration
Of nature's God, and blessings such to crave
As He may deem meetest to bestow.
Here too the errors of my former life
I oft with tears repentance shall deplore,
Convinced too late alas that vice alone
Can render human misery complete.
Though age extreme and sickness now preclude
These soothing hopes by long continued deeds
Of active virtue and strict self-denial,
For faults and frailties passed, to compensate,
Yet t'is my firm resolve to exercise
What powers remain to doing good
With zealous ardour, and with fortitude
To bear the ills that crowd on life's decline.
And never shall I cease a grateful love
To cherish in my breast towards one most dear
Who during twelve long years has day and night
Devoted to the toilsome care of me.*

His religious tenets were those of the Church of Rome, but wholly free from bigotry and intolerance, in consequence of his extensive travels and connection with mankind.

He was the last of the Potters of the Old School. Although he was 10 years younger than Josiah Wedgwood, yet from the time of that celebrated Potter's commencing business at Burslem, there existed between the two, the most intimate friendship and confidential intercourse."

A Descendant of Warburton Pike

In October 2016 I posted a link to the story of Warburton Pike, a naturalist, author, adventurer, miner and philanthropist who lived on the island of Saturna in British Columbia in the late 19th century. I also explored his Warburton links. He was the grandson of William Pike and Ann Warburton who married on August 13th 1803 at Norton in the Moors, Staffordshire. He was not the first Warburton Pike from this family. Others included an uncle, and his cousin, Lawrence Warburton Pike.

Above I wrote about Ann's father Jacob Warburton a famous potter from a family of potters in Staffordshire.

Today I received an email from a direct descendant of Lawrence Warburton Pike as follows.

My great, great, grandfather was Lawrence Warburton Pike.

He had a fling with Eliza Miller which produced my great grandfather William Lewis Miller. One of his sons was my grandfather, Frederick Lionel Miller who had a son and daughter. My mother is Maureen nee Miller. So there are still direct, yet illegitimate descendants of the Warburton Pike family!

We still live in Dorset, in Poole.

Very best wishes

Peter Keats (another Purbeck stone quarrying family)

Houghton Clan Update

At the beginning of July I received an email from Jason Warburton with a link to his father's entry on the British South Africa Police (BSAP) website concerning his time in the BSA Police Regiment.

Taking a look I realised he was linked to the Houghton clan. Shortly after I had another email from a lady who believed she was descended from a Henry of Winwick. This Henry was also from the Houghton clan, and a brother of Jason's ancestor.

As it happens, due to a confusion of Sarahs in Birkenhead, Henry was not the lady's ancestor. She is descended from a William of unknown origins. I will describe the mystery of William at the end of the article, in the hopes someone might be able to help.

The two brothers from Winwick were the sons of William of Winwick, and Mary Gray. Although this family was in the clan it hadn't been developed. It includes 9 children with 6 sons who reached maturity. These sons had 39 children between them.

I have been fleshing the family out, adding over 90 new people to the Houghton clan. The task is not complete, as I have rarely gone past 1911. One of the sons, another William seems to have married his cousin and had 6 sons followed by 4 daughters. These sons have not yet been looked into.

What does seem likely is there are a lot of cousins out there who are all descended from William and Mary Gray I hope to hear from some of you in the future, and maybe you can give me the information to extend some of the lines further.

Now for the mystery of William of Birkenhead. William and Sara Woods married in 1902 in Birkenhead. The parish record shows William is 24, an electrician whose father is also William, and an electrician. William died before 1911 when Sarah appears as a widow with her daughter Elsie Lavinia, the great grandmother of the lady who contacted me.

I looked at Williams whose deaths were registered in Birkenhead. The only one was in early 1906. aged 26. This doesn't quite match his age on the marriage, but maybe he boosted it a bit as his wife was slightly older. Between the records we get a birth between August 1877 and early 1880. Quite a number of Williams were registered around that time, but none in Birkenhead, and none I could see where the father was an electrician. Also I couldn't find anything in the 1881 or 1891 censuses where there was a father and son called William, and either is an electrician.

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If anyone has any clues I would love to hear from you.

RSM AE Warburton and his Medals

The following photo shows RSM Alfred Ernest Warburton and his medals.



I was sent the photo by Violet Symes who married Alfred's son John.

Alfred was the son of Ernest Warburton, born 7th March 1882, who was a well known golf professional. I was aware that Ernest, and his older brother William were golf professionals in Lincolnshire as they are a branch of my own Hale Barns clan, but I didn't know the story of Ernest and his family.

Ernest was the youngest of 10 children (8 boys and 2 girls) born to John Warburton and Martha Fletcher in Dunham, Cheshire. In turn John's grandfather is also my 3x great grandfather William (1775-1862).

Ernest moved to Germany before WW1 and married a German lady named Adele Luise Rossins. They had 3 children, Alfred Ernest, Gerda, and Nora. Ernest built golf courses, and was a member of Kiel Golf Club.

In 1914 on the outbreak of WW1 Ernest was interned in Rhuleben internment camp, barrack No 2, where he spent the war interned with other British nationals.

After the war Ernest and his family returned to England. Ernest died on 31st July 1935 and was buried in St Mark, Dunham Massey. His widow Adele, and their daughter Gerda, an invalid, were still living in Sinderland Green, which is part of Dunham, Cheshire, in the 1939 register.

Alfred was 12 yrs old when the family returned to Cheshire. He joined the Grenadier Guards in 1926, serving for 30 years and becoming a Regimental Sergeant Major. He was one of the guards of the coffin of King George 5th at his Lying-in-state. He married Olive Steele in 1930 in London, and their son John was born in March 1934. Olive and John are living with Olive's parents in Hampshire in the 1939 register but I haven't found an entry for Alfred.

Olive died in 1967, and in 1968 Ernest and John went to live in Adelaide, Australia, Ernest met and married his second wife, Phyllis Grant, a niece of Lionel Logue, famous as the man who cured George 6th of his stutter.

Violet Symes, who sent me the photo and told this story, married John on 26th September 1968 in Adelaide. They returned to England in 1969, and had a son in 1972 before John left Violet in 1973 and subsequently remarried. John died in 2004 having had no more children. Violet's son now lives in Queensland.

Violet also sent me a family tree which I have used to extend the Greater Hale Barns tree under John Warburton and Martha Fletcher.

Haslingden Parish Update

My recent work on the Edenfield clan resulted in a number of updates to my spreadsheets of the Haslingden parish records. Then recently Stephen Carr has brought a couple of things to my attention.

The first was the availability of some 17th century records I didn't have before. These confirm my assumption that John, who married Christian Ffish in 1694, and Thomas, who married Jennet Hayurst in 1696, are indeed brothers, and sons of Robert.

The second was he discovered that Mary Anderton, who married James Warburton in 1783, had an illegitimate son called James six years earlier. This James used both Anderton and Warburton as his name, eventually combining them on his gravestone. Indeed on his marriage record to Betty Butterworth in 1798 his name was initially recorded as Warburton, but then crossed out and changed to Anderton. This gives an additional James and Betty family which helps rationalise the large number of children allocated to James and Betty nee Grimshaw. One of these, Charles also used Anderton as a middle name, including on the same grave his parents are buried in.

I have also reviewed the parentage of the James who married Betty Grimshaw, as he would have been just 17 when he married, and there is a note that it was with the consent of parents. He was possibly the James born in 1769 to Thomas and Susan Barnes, but I have not been able to link this Thomas to the Haslingden clan, so James and Betty cannot be included in that clan.

I have therefore just loaded updated Baptisms, Burials and Families for Haslingden on the Parishes page. The related updates to the Haslingden clan, including a new James Anderton Warburton family will have to wait until the New Year.

Early Bury Parish Records

I have recently published the Warburton entries in the Bury, St Mary parish registers up to 1700. This came out of my continuing study of the Peters in the Edenfield area and their relationship to the Edenfield clan. This has also included listing the entries at Edenfield, Holcombe, and Newchurch in Rossendale See **Edenfield and Related Updates**. Please note my comments below on the amount of guesswork in the Families list.

The entries can be accessed from the Parishes page, and the sidebar. The text below also appears on the Parishes page.

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Bury has one of the largest concentrations of Warburtons, with the earliest records of a Warburton within the parish found in a rental from Tottington dated 1442 (see Warburtons in the Tottington Manor Halmote Records). The parish records begin in the 1590s and the records are transcribed up to 1700.

Records from this period lack the detail of later records, with baptisms only naming the father, and no ages on burial records. The records from Bury lack even more detail with abode omitted more often than not, and some burials of "child of", or even "wife of" a father or husband. Occupation is also never mentioned.

The records are reasonably continuous so far as I checked, but some areas have poor legibility. I only accessed the images for records already transcribed in online sources (FamilySearch and Ancestry), so there may be some omissions in the lists. I have included marriages in the Families list.

Because of limited content of the entries, the Families list contains a lot of guesswork. There is a limited range of names, with John being the most common. Where abode is mentioned the most common are Holcombe, Tottington, Stubbins, and Elton. These all lie in the Irwell valley to the north and west of Bury. Early families from the Edenfield and Tottington clans can be recognised.

I have used abode and date clashes to identify separate families with the same father's name, but beyond that there is a lot of guesswork in the allocation of children to families, and wives to husbands where there is no matching marriage. The result is an impression rather than accurate detail.

The picture that emerges is of several families in a relatively small area. Combined with the information in the Halmote records this suggests they probably descended from one or two early settlers, and include lines from additional sons not mentioned in the earlier records. This corresponds with a Tottington Rental of 1662 that mentions four Johns and two Thomases (one deceased). In fact there are more families than marriages, raising the question of whether these extra marriages occurred elsewhere, or are merely lost from the Bury records.

Tottington Clan Musings

A recent email from Richard Tipping added his parents to the Tottington Clan, so I have added them, and made some other minor corrections in the process.

Also as part of my discussions with Pam Lofthouse in relation to my previous post about her Samuel, I was reintroduced to David Robinson's **Always Turn the Page** which I featured way back in Issue 5 of the Newsletter, and to an Appendix he subsequently sent me. The subject of these is the family of William Warburton and his wife Catherine Fleming.

Catherine was born in the Nightingale Lane Workhouse, which was situated near the Tower of London, the illegitimate daughter of Ann Fleming. She was one of 2,000 children who were despatched north to serve the textile mills as part of a Pauper Apprentice Program, between 1802 and 1811.

William's own background is uncertain. William's age is 77 in the 1871 census, and 79 when his death was registered in the third quarter of 1872. This gives a date of birth between April and September 1793. His age is a little younger in earlier censuses, and I couldn't find him in 1851.

His place of birth is given as Tottington so I am keen to see if he fits into the Tottington clan. The only William whose baptism is recorded on the Lancashire On-Line Parish Clerk site whose abode is Tott[ington] is the son of John, born on April 25th 1793, and baptised at Bury, St Mary on June 16th.

My next step was to find John's marriage. Unfortunately Bury, St Mary was very late in beginning to record mother's names on baptisms. Nevertheless, if there is a distinct sequence of baptisms with an abode of Tottington I might expect the marriage to be shortly before. Alas things aren't that simple. I found the following list of baptisms, with a sizeable gap before and after:

- Robert born 29/6/1777
- Betty born 21/9/1777
- Richard born 31/6/1781
- Mary born 16/5/1781
- James born 23/2/1783
- Samuel born 15/9/1783
- Jessy born 25/9/1784
- Adam born 28/5/1785
- Mary born 12/3/1786
- Samuel born 18/3/1787
- John born 8/12/1787
- Thomas born 7/9/1788
- James born 11/10/1789
- Betty born 13/12/1789
- Betty born 23/7/1790
- Jacob born 3/11/1791
- John born 13/1/1792
- William born 25/4/1793
- Peggy born 18/9/1795
- Jinny born 21/7/1797

That makes 20 children and at least two families. The four year gap between 1777 and 1781 is puzzling as it seems to have occurred simultaneously in two families.

Some of the names are interesting. William's own sons included Samuel and Adam. The Tottington clan includes Richards, Roberts, and Jacobs. It also includes Betty, John, Peggy, and Jinny from the above list as the children of John and Betty Lord who married in 1790. John's brothers included Richard, Jacob, and James. They had a further 4 children born at Harwood, where John died on Hey Heads farm in 1812. The Tottington clan includes a couple of submitted trees so I can't claim this as my own research.

It is also interesting that John was nearly 38 when he married Betty who was about 16 years younger. Although no earlier marriage is known, it must be a possibility he was married before.

The next step was to search for possible marriages. Bury was a large parish and many couples whose

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children were baptised at local chapels such as Edenfield and Holcombe were married there. The ones I found at Bury, St Mary were:

- John and Ann Taylor 5/4/1768. John is described as a hatter, and witnesses are James and Jacob. However the future husband of Betty Lord was not yet 16 years old. Five children of a John of Bury were baptised between 1769 and 1776, with one of Bury Lane baptised in 1779 who could also belong to John and Ann. On the 1776 baptism John is a hatter. However there is also a baptism for John of Bury in 1766 so some of these could belong to an earlier family.
- John and Esther Magnall 26/9/1769. Thomas was a witness.
- John and Martha Tootell 12/5/1772.
- John and Mary Jackson 6/10/1776. James was a witness. Although this fits well with the 1777 baptisms there are also three children of John of Elton baptised between 1777 and 1780.
- John and Ann Lomax 11/12/1781. This is too late for the 1781 baptisms so probably isn't relevant.

If anyone can sort this lot out I would love to hear from them.

Edenfield and Related Updates

I have completed a major update to the Edenfield clan. As a result it has more than doubled in size. However there are still a number of lines which haven't been fully explored. Maybe I will return to them in the future, but if anyone does explore one of these I would be happy to include your updates, especially if you can send them to me as a GEDCOM.

The update includes a greatly expanded chart, and a new format Descendant Report. Both are in PDF format so you should be able to download them if you wish.

I have also published a paper on **The Edenfield Clan and Related Peters** which covers a lot of the research which went into the clan. This paper can be found on the Papers page and is also a PDF.

I have also published a set of Rossendale Parish Records. These cover St. Emmanuel, Holcombe, Edenfield Chapel, and St. Nicholas, Newchurch-in-Rossendale. These can be found on the **Parishes** page and include baptisms, burials, and a few marriages (most marriages in the area continued to be held at St Mary, Bury). I have also compiled a list of the families on a best fit basis, linked them together wherever possible, and used colours to indicate which belong to the various clans.

John Warburton, Vicar of Oakham

As I travel around on various holidays, when I see a list of names, I can't help scanning down for any Warburtons.

In early August we spent a week near Oakham, in Rutland, England's smallest county. One day when visiting Oakham Church I saw a list of vicars of the parish, and it included John Warburton 1690. The next

name had the date 1736, suggesting John had a long tenure as vicar.

A search of the internet produced a number of facts:

John was an MA (Master of Arts) and his appointment as Vicar of Oakham took place on January 14th 1691 (this would be 1692 on the modern calendar). His death was on October 1st 1736.

In 1702 he was appointed Warden of the Hospital of St John Evangelist and St Ann, though it appears this role would default to the vicar in any case. Again the next warden in the list was appointed in 1736.

Warburton's Gift was the description of a bequest from John's will dated 1731. A rental of 10 shillings per year from a piece of land called Burley Bridge was to be distributed to the poor by the Alms Committee.

In 1728 the parishioners of Langham made a complaint against John to Bishop Kennett. I have seen no record of the outcome.

A list of the Plates in the church includes a Paten (a plate, typically made of gold or silver, used for holding the bread during the Eucharist and sometimes as a cover for the chalice) which is inscribed 'The gift of Mary daughter of John Warburton late Vicar of Oakham 1742'.

John Warburton MA was Vicar of St Martins, West Drayton in London from August 12th 1681 until July 15th 1691. This is possibly the same John. If this was John's first living it would suggest he was born around 1655. I have no likely candidate in my clan trees.

Warburton is not a common name in Rutland so it is likely any entries in the Oakham Church parish records from this period refer to John's family. The records indeed include the births of a number of children, parents John and Jane, the deaths of John and Jane, and of daughter Mary, and the marriage of a daughter Ann.

A likely marriage is recorded at Lavendon, Bucks, along with three children's baptisms, including an Ann. I'm not sure though how living in Lavendon can be squared with being a Vicar in West Drayton.

Does anyone have any other information on Vicar John?

Christina Ratcliffe

Part of the story of Wing Commander Adrian Warburton, aka Mad Warby of Malta, was his relationship with Christina Ratcliffe during his time in Malta. Christina remained in Malta after Adrian left, and was subsequently killed in action.

I have recently been in communication with Martin Ratcliffe, Christina's nephew. The following narrative is based on his emails.

Christina came from a Mill owning dynasty, mostly cotton, but other manufacturing such as Lace, Mineral Water etc. She had a good education at Manchester High School, and spoke fluent French.

My Grandfather, Christina's Dad, insisted that she returned to the UK in the summer of 1939 [from Spain], and paid for her passage (I have the receipt). However

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she got bored and accepted an assignment to go to Malta in the spring of 1940. She would have travelled by train and ferry. Of course in May 1940 the Italian's joined the Axis, and that was the start of her escapades on Malta. Having escaped the Spanish civil war it would seem that she thrived in such environments, as did Warby!

[It is] such a pity that Christina never knew the fate of her "Warby", as she continued to live on Malta until her death in 1988. She certainly wasn't impoverished as she received two pensions, one from the RAF (she continued her employment with the latter, until at least the mid 50's) and another from Britain.

I have many negatives that I removed from Christina's apartment in Malta, and hope eventually to get these printed, in the hope that I can find some relating to her time with Adrian. I particularly liked the episode when "Warby" tried to shoot down a Stuka with his Luger Pistol, and possibly he took photos at Luca with his Leica. We will see!

With the amazing help of Frederick Galea we were able to rebury my Aunt Christina in an appropriate grave (with porcelain photo), on Malta.

I am astonished by the exploits of "Warby", and have re read "Warburton's War" many times. [I am] also astonished that "Warby" didn't receive the same recognition that the likes of Guy Gibson, and Douglas Bader etc .

I am [also] amazed by the continued interest in Warby & Christina, and by the information that continues to be revealed. [I] noticed photographs for example of Christina in Morocco in the 30's, [and it] would be interesting to establish the origin.

Every Thursday we have advanced German, and only recently I related to my colleagues the demise of "Warby" after his disappearance in 1944, and that he had been forced down probably with Ack Ack, [and] that his remains and the P38 were not discovered until 2002 in a field near Egling-an-der-Paar, south of Munich. Adrian Warburton received full Military Honours, and is buried at the Commonwealth War Graves cemetery at Durnbach near Munich, Germany.

Next Issue

Because this issue is the first for over a year, not all **Warburton Website** posts since the last one are included. The next issue will include these and be issued in the New Year.