The Button Files

Newsletter of the Warburton Society

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The Newsletter

Welcome to the eighth issue of The Button Files. There are five articles in this issue. They are:

• Haslingden Notes This article follows my work on the Haslingden parish records and includes my promised notes on sources, and an update on A Confusing Family (Issue 3).

• DNA Developments This article covers developments in two areas, a new Warburton-Dutton DNA link, and a new, cheaper entry level DNA test from Family Tree DNA. It also explores their impact on the Warburton DNA Project.

• New Warburton Website I have recently decided to relocate my website. This article describes why the change is being made, what is similar, what is new, and how it affects Society members, and Friends of the project.

• Button Sahib This is a transcription of the obituary of John Paul Warburton that appeared in The Times in 1919, and which was the inspiration for the title of this Newsletter.

• The Warburton Name is a copy of an article I was asked to write for the June 2013 issue of Cheshire Ancestor for their series on Ancient Cheshire Names.

Warburton One-Name Study

I completed the Haslingden parish records, and embarked on a catch-up of the various clan family trees to ensure all recent updates, major and minor, are included on-line. This included a major extension to the Tottington Clan based on a tree sent me by Christine Ritchie. This also allowed me to link in one of my DNA results, one that belonged to A Lancashire Clan (see issue 6).

The hits counter on the The Warburton Website is now 8041. This website will not be updated further, but will remain as a link to the new one.

My immediate task is to get the new website up and running. When that is complete I intend to focus on the parish records for Lymm and Warburton, and to use them to extend various clans, including the material Cathy sent me a while ago.

The DNA Project

Only one new result was obtained in the last few months and that was unmatched.

Major developments have occurred in relation to my own DNA, and in the Family Tree DNA pricing structure. These and the opportunities they offer are discussed in detail in the article DNA Developments in this newsletter.

Haslingden Notes

General Comments

The Haslingden resource I placed on the website in March 2013 is very much a work in progress. I have recorded baptisms, marriages, and burials from the Lancashire On-line Parish Clerks (LOPC) Project up to the early 1840s. but records, and even register images are available on Ancestry beyond this. There are 376 baptisms between 1813 and 1911, 380 marriages between 1754 and 1936, and 353 burials between 1813 and 1986. These need to be checked, even for the periods already covered because not all records appear on both sites, and some extra information may appear on images that is not in the transcripts on LOPC or FamilySearch.

Also from 1785 onward a number of other churches were established, including a number of Methodist
Chapels, and these might answer a number of questions where Warburtons ‘appear’ in censuses or other records without having an obvious baptism.

Apart from a couple of early 17th century records the Warburton presence in Haslingden starts in the 1690s with 2 marriages and a number of baptisms, some of which do not fit easily and suggest other families. Subsequently there are a number of families using a fairly small set of names such as Abraham, Henry, James, John, Robert and Thomas. This makes linking the families difficult but suggests the various families were related. Understanding the families relies on an understanding of the various place names given in the parish record.

There are a variety of occupations quoted but the most common are (agricultural) labourer and weaver.

Mother’s names are recorded from 1722 onwards, and age at death appears in 1812. However father’s names don’t appear on marriages until after 1840. There are also a number of Monumental Inscriptions from the 1830s onwards, and burials at Holden Cemetery, Haslingden Grane from 1903 onwards.

When combined with census records it should be possible to fit most Haslingden Warburtons into extended families from the early 1800s onwards, and if additional non-conformist baptisms come to light it might be possible to extend many of them back into the 18th century.

There is one DNA profile linked to Haslingden, obtained from a descendant of James, the son of Henry and Alice Thredfield. This profile matches three others in the Lancashire Clan so is probably quite old, making it a useful marker for linking future results back to Haslingden.

Sources

The information listed comes from a number of sources. The Haslingden, St James Monumental Inscriptions and the Holden Cemetery burials come from purchased microfiches. All the rest is from ever growing on-line sources.

Searching in Lancashire is a little different to searching in Cheshire. A major starting point is the Lancashire On-Line Clerk project. This has transcriptions of many parish records grouped by parish and church, and with surname indices. It is also possible to do individual searches. For Haslingden, St James baptisms and burials are transcribed from 1683 to 1844, and marriages from 1603 to 1837.

Much of this information is also available on FamilySearch, but the LOPC transcriptions are more complete including abode and occupation where available.

As already noted much of the information is also now available on Ancestry. They have a number of different collections, some including images of the parish registers. This is useful as transcriptions are not always complete or correct, but it is time consuming to check each one.

Ancestry’s coverage is limited at the moment. I was fortunate that Haslingden has been included, but most Lancashire parishes have yet to be covered, although Lancashire is one of their target counties.

By comparison Cheshire does not have an equivalent On-Line Parish Clerk. However it has been the focus of much recent work by FamilySearch, and images of a number of parish records are now available of FindMyPast.

After 1837 other sources come into play, although these weren’t relevant to my Haslingden work so far. In July 1837 the registration of births, marriages and deaths began. Indexes to these registrations are available from several sources. Most commonly I use FreeBMD which allows searching of the whole country, though you can restrict searches by county or district. It also gives the volume and page information necessary to order an actual certificate from the Government Records Office. However FreeBMD has a few restrictions that may be overcome elsewhere.

Firstly age at death is only given on death registrations from 1865, and mother’s maiden name is only given on births from 1911. Both Lancashire and Cheshire have their own BMD sites (LancashireBMD and CheshireBMD). In certain instances these give age at death, or mother’s maiden name on earlier records. They also give the church for Anglican marriages, but non-conformist marriages are recorded as Register Office or Registrar attended. Both these sites are under continued development so coverage so far is patchy. Also one part of Cheshire (East Cheshire) has restricted what can be included. Hopefully this restriction will be removed in time.

FreeBMD records cease around 1950, though they have been extended from the 1930s over the past couple of years and may extend further. Ancestry has a copy of FreeBMD records up to 1915, but from 1916 onwards it has its own transcripts and images virtually up to the present day. It also has a different searching mechanism which is very useful for finding death records based on name and date of birth.

Update on A Confusing Family

My objective in choosing to do Haslingden at this time was to see if a resolution could be found to the actual relationship between two men who joined the Mormon Church and emigrated to Utah in the mid-19th century. These men, John and Joseph were said to be half-brothers having a father named James. However research showed that there were two James with contemporary marriages, though both James were from Haslingden.

Joseph

Records in Utah show that Joseph gave his date of birth as September 21st 1831 in Radcliffe, Lancashire, parents James and Sarah nee Warburton. He also gives his father’s date of birth as April 18th 1784 in Haslingden.

Joseph’s birth is confirmed by parish records. Also the date of birth of Joseph’s father James fits with the date of birth of Joseph’s father James fits with the
recorded baptism of James, son of Henry and Alice of Haslingden. In turn a Henry Warburton married Alice Thredfield on November 27th 1773. There are member submissions on the IGI which name James’s mother as Alice Thredfield but I don’t know if this is based on family information or is an assumption based on the parish records.

Closer inspection of the parish record raised a number of issues. Although the marriage of Henry and Alice Thredfield is the only marriage of a Henry and Alice on FamilySearch in the 20 years before James was born, the records seem to imply more than one family. The record of James’s baptism immediately follows an entry for the previous day for the baptism of John, son of Henry and Alice of High Moor. Henry’s name was originally entered as James but corrected.

Five other children were baptised with parents Henry and Alice between 1774 and 1786. They show various places of abode, three in Priestentax, one at Boonkirk, and the last at Hutchbank. These places are all on the west or north-west side of Haslingden. Also the child from Boonkirk was also a John.

The places of abode to the west of Haslingden are sufficiently close to suggest one, slightly itinerant family. Henry’s occupation is unknown but he was probably either an agricultural labourer or a mill worker. In either case he could have moved from job to job. High Moor, from where John was baptised the day before James, seems to be fairly close to Boonkirk and so fits this pattern. However this would imply the first John died and the only recorded burial of a John that would fit is the son of Henry of Church Hill. This is the centre of Haslingden and is a better fit for the 19 year old son of Henry and Anne (possibly Crook) who was baptised from Lower Lane, also in the centre of the town.

If the first John still lived then the second John must be a different family, and the correction of the father’s name does imply some uncertainty as to the correct name. Unfortunately the place of abode on James’s baptism is not sufficiently specific to be sure he is the son of Alice Thredfield. On balance he probably is, but it would help if it were known whether the record on IGI that names Alice Thredfield as his mother is based on family lore, and not just an interpretation of the parish record.

Henry’s own ancestry is also unclear. Three Henrys married in the early 1770’s, but there are only 2 baptisms that could fit them, and few clues as to which baptism matches which marriage. Also Henry’s death is uncertain. He may be the Henry of Packbarn who died in 1796, and is a better fit for the 19 year old son of Henry and Anne (possibly Crook) who was baptised from Lower Lane, also in the centre of the town.

John

Records in Utah show that John gave his date of birth as June 16th 1823 at Haslingden Grane, parents James Warburton and Elizabeth Alstead. A James and Elizabeth Halstead were married on August 29th 1814. Haslingden Grane lies on the west side of the town of Haslingden.

There is a son of James (a weaver of Heap Clough) and Elizabeth baptised on January 8th 1822, but no baptisms that fit the claimed birth date. John might be unsure of his age, and Heap Clough is in Haslingden Grane.

As James, son of Henry and Alice, subsequently moved to Radcliffe, a different James married Elizabeth Halstead. James was one of a small pool of names used by the Haslingden Warburtons but the only ones other than the son of Henry and Alice who were old enough to marry in 1814 were baptised in 1773, 1770, 1769, and 1759. To match these there are burials in 1812, aged 53, in 1825, aged 32, in 1834, aged 60, and in 1846, aged 69. There are also marriages in 1783 (two), 1793, 1795, 1802, and 1813, and census entries in 1851 for James born in 1775, and 1786.

Fitting these records together is not easy. The James born in 1759 was the son Henry W and Anne Crook and he fits the James who married Ann Hargreaves in 1783, had children baptised from Sheep Green, and died at Sheep Green in 1812, aged 53. Anne, a widow of Sheep Green died in 1827, aged 66.

The James born in 1769 to Thomas and Susanna is possibly the son of Thomas of Manchester who died in 1774.

James born in 1773, the son of Henry W and Mary Piccup matches the James from the bottom of Sheep Green who died in 1834, aged 60. He is probably the James who married Ellen Duckworth in 1795 and raised a family in Sheep Green.

The grave of the James who was buried in 1846 aged 69 is grave F277. He is James Anderton Warburton a stonemason and he is variously known as from Haslingden or Sheep Green on his children’s baptisms. He would have been born circa 1777. His wife Betty was buried in 1839, aged 62.

The James who died in 1825 aged 32, does not have a matching baptism. He was a miller who married Anne (Hannah) Woods in 1813, and whose grave is known. There are also no baptisms in 1775 and 1786 to match the 1851 census entries though it is possible the ages given were not entirely accurate.

There are more marriages than baptisms or burials, though some may be second marriages. The marriage to Mary Anderton in 1783 is interesting as it introduces the Anderton name, though the marriage is after the birth of James Anderton Warburton. The marriage to Betty Grimshaw in 1793 also has an Anderton link as their son Charles is a good match for the Charles Anderton Warburton buried in 1861. This marriage is too early to fit the James, husband of Betty, who died in 1846 aged 69 as he would only be 16 in 1793. These are no known children from the marriage to Anne Openshaw in 1802.

So can James and Elizabeth Halstead be identified amongst these records. The first child of the James and Betty from grave F277 was baptised in December 1814 so this looks a good fit for James and Elizabeth Halstead, except that Sheep Green where they lived for many of their children’s baptisms, is on the opposite side of

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Haslingden to Haslingden Grane. There is no John amongst their children, but a son Edmund was buried aged 2 in 1827 and their is no recorded baptism for him either.

The recorded baptism of a John from Heap Clough could fit John if his date of birth as given in Utah is wrong, but as most baptisms were about a month after birth even the time of year of this baptism (January) is wrong. Also it seems unusual for a single baptism to fall 9 years after a marriage. Possibly all James and Elizabeth’s children were baptised in a non-conformist (possibly Methodist) church and are not recorded online.

It would be interesting to do a DNA test on one of John’s descendants in Utah to see if there is a close enough match with Joseph’s descendant to suggest a common ancestor who lived in the 18th century.

DNA Developments

DNA and your Family History

I am probably a bit unusual in that it was my interest in DNA that started me into family history. I suppose that for most people it is the other way round. In about 2006 I read a book by Stephen Oppenheimer called Out of Eden which told how mitochondrial DNA had been used to map man’s migration out of Africa and around the world. A couple of books, and a couple of DNA tests later I read Chris Pomery’s DNA and Family History and embarked on my Warburton One-Name Study and DNA Project.

Increasingly DNA tests are promoted to family historians as a vital part of their family history studies. There are different types of test available, each with its specific objectives, and they do not come cheap. How do you decide which tests, if any, might be useful to you? The purpose of this article is to encourage you to consider the role of DNA in your studies by describing the latest developments in my own studies, the nature and costs of the tests available, and a strategy for involvement in the Warburton DNA Project.

I have provided a more detailed explanation in DNA and its uses in Genealogy which is available on my website. Here I will recap the three types of test available.

The Warburton DNA Project uses a Series Tandem Repeat (STR) test on the Y-chromosome. There are a series of tests covering from 12 to 111 markers, as well as tests for individual markers. They can only be performed on males. STR markers mutate relatively quickly so this type of test is most relevant for studying the more recent past, finding matches and estimating the time when a Most Recent Common Ancestor lived.

Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNIP) tests are conducted on both the Y-chromosome (males only), and mitochondria. Mitochondrial tests can be taken by anybody, but mitochondria is only inherited from your mother. SNIPs mutate very slowly so are mainly relevant to the study of human migrations in the distant past. A person’s most recent SNIP could have occurred some thousands of years ago, though new SNIPs are being discovered all the time. Researchers are increasingly using a combination of Y-chromosome SNIPs and detailed STR results to study more recent origins.

Finally there are autosomal tests which look at various strings of DNA across the whole genome. This could be used to identify cousins up to five generations back, and it can indicate where your DNA is typically from. For example my autosomal test says my DNA is 46% North European, 36% Mediterranean, and 17% SW Asian. I am also 2.2% Neanderthal.

Both Y-chromosome and mitochondrial SNIP tests, and an autosomal test are covered by the National Geographic’s Genographic Project. Its Geno 2.0 test can be ordered for $199 plus postage. If you are already a member of FamilyTree DNA you can transfer your Geno 2.0 results and sample to Family Tree DNA (I believe they actually conduct the test for National Geographic) and join projects relevant to your results. This will enable you to follow the latest research and ideas. This approach is recommended if you are keen to know your full DNA story.

Y-chromosome STR tests can be ordered from Family Tree DNA for between $49 for 12 markers, to $359 for 111 markers. These prices (though not the 12 maker price) are reduced if ordered as part of a project like the Warburton DNA Project, that is hosted at Family Tree DNA. Also there are usually two promotions a year, in the summer, and at Christmas.

Dutton-Warburton DNA

One of the objectives of the Warburton DNA Project was to see if I could determine whether today’s Warburtons are descended from the family of landed gentry who adopted the name in the 13th century and later established their seat at Arley Hall. There just aren’t the physical records available for any but the upper classes to trace ancestry back that far. Parish records were only introduced in Elizabethan times, and then not all records survive. DNA seemed to offer a way around this and I reckoned that if half of modern Warburtons had DNA that indicated a common ancestor who lived within the last 750 years then we are all linked to Sir Peter de Werberton, the first of the Warburtons, albeit illegitimacies, adoptions and other ‘non-paternal events’ have introduced many other DNA profiles.

The results from the DNA Project built up slowly, and a discouraging number of early results failed to match any other results. I now have 32 Y-Chromosome STR results covering either 37 or 43 markers, and from those I have found groups of nine (including me), four, three and two, plus 14 that are so far unmatched. This would seem to indicate that between a quarter and a third of modern Warburton share a common ancestor, and we might presume that as many again are linked to this group by ‘non-paternal events’.

Is this large group of Warburtons descended from Sir Peter de Werberton? Peter began life as a de Dutton so matches between Warburton and Dutton DNA might be expected. Recently I was delighted to discover one such link. There is a small group of four Duttons in the USA, probably descended from a man who emigrated to
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Maryland in the 17th century. Furthermore 2 of these had tested 67 markers, and one had also done a SNIP test.

I decided to take the plunge so, helped by a contribution from my genetic cousin Clive, I ordered the $199 Geno 2.0 test from National Geographic. The group of 9 matched Warburtons can all expect to have the same Y-chromosome result from this test.

My result showed my most recent known Y-chromosome SNIP is called Z306. 1 bit of research shows this is believed to have occurred about 4,000 years ago, probably in Germany. More interestingly this result exactly matched the Dutton test.

Those with the Z306 mutation, referred to as Z306 positive, form a sub-clade of those with the earlier U106 mutation, and there is a project at Family Tree DNA devoted to U106 where there is a group of people working on separating out the various sub groups using both 67 or 111 marker STR tests, and new SNIPs as they are identified. The two 67 marker Dutton results have been classified in a group known as the King’s Cluster based on their results for a couple of specific markers. Furthermore some members of the King’s Cluster believe they have Norman ancestry. One of the Dutton results is now being extended to 111 markers, which should position it more accurately within the cluster.

There are 2 possible explanations for this Warburton-Dutton match, and maybe others I haven’t thought of.

1. It arises because Sir Peter de Dutton became Sir Peter de Warburton about 1260 when he built a manor house at Warburton.

2. As both names are locative (i.e. derived from the name of a village) there may be other original adopters of the name from the Middle Ages when the lower classes within the feudal system first adopted surnames. As both are Cheshire names a ‘non-paternal event’ could have transferred the profile from Warburton to Dutton or vice versa. This would suggest the profile was established in the population of NW England before the Conquest. It may have existed in the village of Warburton from when it was founded in the early 10th century by Queen Ethelfleda of Mercia as a fortified settlement to guard a ford on the River Mersey against Danish incursions. As the US Dutton’s ancestor moved to Maryland circa 1680 this ‘non-paternal event’ must have occurred before then.

My interest is to determine which of these possibilities is most likely. The forthcoming 111 marker Dutton STR test should position us better in the King’s Cluster. I then need to decide my own next steps.

The first objective is to verify that the Warburtons match the defining STR values for the Dutton’s position in the King’s Cluster. I believe I could do this by testing 4-5 specific markers. This would obviously be cheaper than upgrading my results to the full 111 markers. However having a full 111 marker result might have future benefits, and it will help with dating when the common ancestor of the Dutton and Warburton groups lived. If I’m going to do that in the future I might as well go that route now, and save the cost of testing individual markers, especially as I can do it incrementally. My test was a 43 marker test with a different company which lacks 5 of the markers in the FTDNA 37 marker test. The first step was to get the 5 missing markers tested and I have now done that. I may then go to 67 markers as that will determine if I do belong to the King’s Cluster.

New SNIPs are discovered regularly, and where they occurred more recently than Z306 they may add further information. One such SNIP, called DF96, has just become available for testing. The first batch of results are in process, and the results should determine if it is useful for me to test it.

A Strategy for the Warburton DNA Project

The Y-STR-37 test recommended for the Warburton DNA Project costs $149 as part of the project. There are biannual special offers so it can usually be obtained for $129. Experience suggests there is only a 50% chance of matching one of the earlier results.

Family Tree DNA recently introduced a new low price of $49 for the 12 marker test. This test is not detailed enough to determine a match, but it can indicate if a match is possible. Therefore it provides a low entry price to determine if it is worth testing further.

For example my 12 marker result matches the Western Atlantic Modal Haplotype, which means it is very common in Western Europe. Anyone who matched on 11 or 12 of these markers might belong to my Warburton group, but they might not. However, there are 3 markers beyond the first 12 where everyone in my group has a result which is not so common within haplotype R. At marker DYS437 we have a value of 12 which is shared by only 12% of members of the haplotype. At DYS449 we have a result of 30, shared by 32%, and at DYS464d we have 16 which is shared by 8%. To have all three of these values would strongly indicate a match, and maybe just 2 of them would suffice. Most individual markers cost $20 to test, making a total cost of $89-$109 to determine if you match my group. Or alternatively having verified the possibility of a match you could upgrade to a full 37 marker test.

Of course before even considering a DNA test you should ask yourself if you need one. Look at your Warburton ancestors to see if you can link them to one of my clans. If so look to see if there is a matched DNA result for that clan. You should be able to identify the Most Recent Common Ancestor (MRCA) of yourself and the person who was tested (and if not I can help you). All a test will then do is determine whether there has been a ‘non-paternal event’ between the MRCA and yourself.

If you link to a clan for which I have just a single result then your result could be very valuable to the project. A result only becomes really valuable when it is matched. Then we know that result is inherited from the MRCA, and shared by all his descendants. However if you have identified an MRCA with an existing project member and you do not match you have identified a ‘non-paternal event’, though unless there are clues in the historical record you won’t know where it occurred. We all have 32 great great great grandparents. Add in parents, grandparents etc. and there are 62 individuals. The law of averages says at least one of these will be the result of a

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‘non-paternal event’. I know I have one illegitimate great grandmother, and a great great grandmother I’m not sure about.

Finally if you can find no link to anyone previously tested you may decide to take a test. As stated there is a 50% chance you will match a previous result. Therefore it is worth considering a $49 12 marker test to see if a match is possible, either with one of the existing matched groups, or with one of the single results. If there is a genetic distance (or number of mismatches) of 0 or 1 then a match is probable, 2 would be borderline and 3 or more means a match is unlikely. You can then decide whether to confirm the match by testing the 2-3 markers with the least common results in the potential match, or decide on a full 37 marker upgrade.

Knowing what DNA says about your ancestry can enrich your family tree, and your knowledge of yourself. Remember that your ancestry is shared by your close family, and in varying degrees by more distant relatives. If they share your results they may also be willing to share the cost.

New Warburton Website

My new website is situated at http://warburntonfamilytrees.net. It is hosted by GoToNames, previously LimeDomains. In the past they provided a small amount of free webspace and I took advantage of this to host my on-line family trees. The link to Warburton Family Trees took you to this webspace.

The trees were here because the space provided by Rootsweb, where my old site is located, is not supposed to contain trees, presumably because this is a service provided by Ancestry who own Rootsweb.

The problem was that the amount of downloads allowed from the free webspace was limited, and when the monthly allowance ran out, the space was suspended for the rest of the month. So recently I decided to pay a small fee for a larger space, which supported much greater downloads. And there is a growth path should I need it.

Having got this space I then wondered how to exploit it. My first thought was that instead of lumping all the clans into one mega-tree (i.e. Warburton Family Trees) it would be nice to hold each tree separately. I will retain a single index to all the trees to help people trying to find a specific person, and I will combine trees that genuinely link together, but my current plan is to hold all trees separately. This should also make updates easier.

I next discovered that I could install web authoring software on my new site for free. The one I chose to use is Wordpress. As it happens, when I last redesigned my site and introduced the sidebar on the right-hand side of each page containing a variety of links, I got the idea from a site that is maintained with Wordpress, so there seems to be an obvious synergy. The sidebar will continue as a key feature giving direct access to all project materials from each page.

It has been my habit to hold most project materials, including papers, charts, descendant reports, and newsletters in PDF format. This is to enable people to download these for printing, or for better access. Only one page on my current site contains information that is not also available in PDF form, and that is the Warburton Origins and Statistics information on the Home page. I have updated this and will add it as a PDF document in due course. I also plan to date all PDF’s so you can check if a later version has been produced.

The most significant changes on the new website will be the new Home page, and a Subscribe facility.

The new Home page is essentially a blog comprising Posts and Comments. I will use this to Post on updates, progress, or anything else of interest. A Welcome post will sit at the top of the Page, followed by subsequent Posts, with the most recent on top. Anyone may Comment on a Post.

The Subscribe facility will sit in the sidebar and will allow users to subscribe to receive notification of new Posts by email. It includes the ability to Unsubscribe. I have pre-subscribed everyone in my address book who (as far as I can remember) is there because of contact about the Warburtons, confident that if they don’t want to be subscribed they can easily unsubscribe.

The other pages of the new site will be similar to those in the current one, but with some changes. Their sole function is to provide a guide and link to the various project materials. This should make it possible to simplify them. A new feature is that each page will also have a Comment facility to facilitate feedback, and an exchange of thoughts and opinions.

A Menu will give access to the various pages. These pages are:

- **Home** The new blog.
- **About** This Menu item gives access to four sub-menu items:
  - **Purpose and Objectives** This describes what I am trying to achieve with the site.
  - **Website structure** Explains the various pages and their purpose.
  - **One-Name Study** A description of my One-Name Study, its components, and my responsibilities.
  - **Invitation to Participate** A plea for help.
  - **Privacy Policy** My policy on information about living people, including anonymity within the DNA Project.
- **The DNA Project** I am combining the two DNA pages on the current website into one and placing it more prominently. The page is simplified but will point to a similar set of project materials as currently. However as there is a project webpage at Family Tree DNA that contains the project results I will not repeat that information on my own site, but just link to it. I intend to rework the current materials as I move them over so there may be some amalgamating or splitting. Also there is some information in my DNA Results page which isn’t on Family Tree DNA and so needs a home, and I plan a new paper on how to decide whether to take a DNA test.

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and which test to take, based on some of the material in this article.

Warburton Clans My plan is to make each clan a separate tree on the new site. The Descendant Reports and Charts will be largely unchanged, except the latter will have a 'last revised' date. The page itself will be more structured and formulaic.

Parish The old Resources page will be split into two. This page will describe and give access to the results of exercises to list some or all of baptisms, marriages, burials, Monumental Inscriptions, and families for a particular parish. The results are collected in spread sheets and then presented as a series of documents in PDF format. Again I will try for a more consistent format on the page.

Papers The current website has a number of papers and essays that I have produced from time to time. Much material now appears as newsletter articles but papers have the advantage of allowing occasional update, and they can be given a 'last revised' date. Papers relating to DNA will still be accessed from The DNA Project page, but those currently on the Resources and My Genealogy pages of the current site will move here. Over time there may be a transfer of material between newsletter articles and papers.

Newsletters There will now be a page listing the main articles, and providing access to all issues of The Button Files.

Gallery This is a repository for pictures relevant to the project. I am not yet sure of the best structure, but it would be nice to collect all the photographs I have acquired over the years, including those in newsletters and in the Facebook group.

I think it may take a while to move all the data over to the new site if I review it as it is moved. The new blog will allow me to keep everyone posted on progress. You are invited to suggest improvements, and if you spot typos, please let me know.

I believe the new site, with its subscription facility, and the inclusion of newsletters, will effectively constitute the Warburton Society so I will discontinue my Society distribution lists, and use the facility to post to the subscribers instead.

I also expect that the functions of a Facebook private group will be replicated effectively whilst subscribers will be able to join and leave as they desire without me needing to intervene. I will leave the group in place to see how things develop, but I don't personally use Facebook much apart from the group. If anyone has opinions on this I would like to hear them.

Meanwhile I encourage you all to explore the new site.

Button Sahib

The Super-Detective of the Punjab

Controller of Many Devils

The name of this Newsletter is taken from the above headline from The Times. It introduces the obituary of John Paul Warburton, the adopted son of Colonel Robert Warburton (see Issue 1), and half brother of Colonel Sir Robert Warburton (see Issue 3).

John Paul is also the subject of a book The Controller of Devils written by his grandson Gerald Durani Martineau and published in 1965. The only copies of this available on the internet are offered at £75 so I have not read it. A reference in The Khyber Rifles by Jules Stewart suggests it claims that by the time of his death Colonel Robert had discerned his likeness in John Paul and had begun to accept him as his natural son. There is no corroborative evidence for this.

Below is the text of The Times obituary:

There died at Kasaui on October 21st (1919), not the original of Kipling's Strickland, as is commonly repeated in the Punjab, but the magician that Strickland was “foolish enough to take for a model.” “Now, in the whole of Upper India, there is only one man who can pass for Hindu or Mahomedan (sic), hide-dresser or priest, as he pleases. He is feared and respected by the natives from Ghor Kathri to the Jamma Musjid; and he is supposed to have the gift of invisibility and executive control over many devils. But this has done him no good in the eyes of the Indian Government.” In “Plain Tales from the Hills” one reads how Strickland Sahib, the disciple of this controller of evil spirits, became Miss Yougal’s sais.

Warburton Sahib, whom Strickland emulated, and who died at Kasaui in October, was born with certain advantages with which his legendary disciple in the role of super-detective could not hope to compete. To begin with, he was an Afghan, and his youth was cradled in romance. His mother, a lady famous for her wealth and beauty, was a relative of Shah Shujah, King of Kabul, and married to one Sirdar Faiz Talab Khan, a high official in the Amir’s service. It was during the occupation of Kabul by the British in the first Afghan War that this lady and her son, Sirdar Jahan Dad Khan, then quite a small infant, were abducted by a young ensign of Artillery.

The Lochinvar in the case was Robert Warburton. How he and his stolen bride escaped the vengeance of the Sirdar passes comprehension. All who know the Afghan will surmise a combination of daring and astuteness backed by a degree of good fortune such as the professional novelist would hardly dare to invoke for his chosen lovers in the wildest romance. The lady remained in hiding with her child until Sirdar Faiz Talab Khan, realizing that she was irretrievably lost to him, procured a formal divorce. Then she married Robert Warburton. The ceremony took place in the presence of Vincent Eyre and other offices of the garrison, who affixed their signatures to the marriage certificate. After the space of little more than a year she was able to escape Kabul disguised in the uniform of a British officer. This was in 1843, or perhaps in the following year - the date is uncertain - and she smuggled through with her to Peshawar, in her escort, or among her camp followers, two small children. For to Jahan Dad Khan, who by his stepfather’s wish now bore the name John Paul Warburton, there was born a stepbrother, Robert Warburton, afterwards known as Sir Robert Warburton, the Warburton of frontier fame and the author of “Eighteen Years in the Khyber.”
The Button Files

A Name to Conjure With

The adventures and achievements of Robert Warburton have been published to the world: those of John Paul Warburton live, like rumour, from mouth to mouth, but they carry a greater tradition. The creator of Strickland has told us that the gift of invisibility and the control exercised over evil spirits by Strickland's model, the subject of this memoir, were not appreciated by the Indian Government. John Paul Warburton was both appreciated and honoured, but quite inadequately, and the recognition came after Kipling had ceased to write tales about the East. On his retirement in 1902, after 40 years' service, Warburton was given a grant of land, and a few years later, for his work in Patiala, a C.I.E. (Commander of the Indian Empire). But the extraordinary services of the man will not be recognized until his biography is written. And even then the narrative of a great deal of his best work, if it is to be prepared for the present generation, will have to be very discreetly censored.

The Borgias, as is politic in the East, often live unhung and unsung, the victims only of the Divine Avenger. But the tracking down of the low-born dacoit, the hired assassin, the professional poisoner, and all the riff-raff of the criminal tribes is a fascinating theme for the village bard. It was perhaps impolitic to publish the death of the great detective in the vernacular papers, for "Wa-ar-Button Sahib," or "Button Sahib," or more commonly plain "Button," is a name to conjure with in the Punjab, a stick quite as potent as Malbrouck two centuries ago to beat the nonsense out of the heads of the refractory. It is nearly 20 years since Warburton left Government service, but the legends that grew about him in the eighties and nineties are still familiar to the youth of today, and will no doubt endure as long as the name of "Jan Nikalsain. The village Pirrhai still sings them to the accompaniment of his guitar, half-chanting, half intoning, with little tremulous grace-notes, while the crowd huddled under the kikar tree or in the shade of the village well still applaud and demand the repetition of a ballad that cannot stale.

But Warburton's labours were not confined to the Punjab alone. On more than one occasion he was selected by Government for special duty in other provinces, in the unravelling of some particularly important or delicate case. His reputation as the scourge of evil-doers is known throughout the length and breadth of India. Time after time he has broken up and brought to justice large bands of dacoits and murderers. The cases of the poisoner Sharuf-ud-Din and bis gang, of the Ambala Treasury theft, and of the dacoities committed by the Sansiyas, members of a criminal tribe in the United Provinces, are among his best known triumphs; but to anyone interested in the psychology of crime I can recommend the files of the Rupalon murder case. In detecting a "budmash" Warburton showed an insight and acumen which to the European appeared quite uncanny and to the Indian offered further proof of his supernatural powers. In the towns one often saw a villager take up a devout attitude before him and make him an offering of flowers just as he would to one of his own gods.

The Terror of Evil-doers

He had a terrifying habit of calling people before him. It might be in a crowd at a fair, or in some packed city bazaar. Once it was among a group of beggars who gathered to receive their weekly dole at his gate. The man would be quite unknown to him, to the casual observer perhaps a very ordinary looking individual, but there would be something in his gait or in his expression or in his eyes - an almost imperceptible movement of the pupil, Warburton explained in one case - which betrayed him. I have heard more than one such arrest vividly described.

"I was riding with him one day," a friend told me, "at a big Hindu fair, when I heard him call a policeman near by, and pointing to an ordinary-looking individual, some little distance away, order him to 'bring the man before him. I asked him what he wanted with the fellow, and he told me that he was sure the man was a criminal. He was brought up, and on being searched, much to the mystification of the crowd and my own amazement, a set of burglar's tools were found on him slung by fine cords over his bare shoulders under his clothes. The little incident created a profound sensation, especially as Warburton had never seen the man before, and there was nothing in his appearance or countenance that was in any way peculiar."

One can understand how the "Button" tradition and influence grew. He was impersonated more than once by clever rogues. There is a story in the Ludhiana district that on his first visit to a village he was told confidentially that "Button" was there, disguised as a fakir, a guest honored and garlanded in the chief zemindar's house. Half an hour afterwards the real Button saved the false Button from "the biggest hammering he ever had in his life."

The influence of "Button's" personality in a crowd was remarkable. There was something of the "Darest thou slay Caius Marius" vaunt in his eye and his voice. At Amritsar once, when the Hindu and Mahomedan festival processions clashed, and red riot was imminent and passions ran high, he leapt from his carriage with the coachman's long whip in his hand, roaring like a lion, "Scoundrels! What would ye do?" and the entire mob fled as one man, falling and tumbling over one another in their frantic struggle to escape. In a few minutes, with the exception of one or two policemen, there was not a soul to be seen anywhere. There were no more riotous gatherings that year. At Patiala during the plague riots in 1902, Button Sahib walked unarmed and alone into a fanatical and frenzied mob, and turned the tide of feeling by his mere presence and name. At the risk of his life he rescued the medical officer and the hospital staff from a burning house in which they had taken refuge from the attacks of the rioters who were crying out for their blood and who had set the house on fire and were waiting for them to burn or to spring.

An Unspoken Tribute

The best tribute to Warburton's genius that I have heard came from outside the bounds of Hindustan. Three Indian
civilians - two of them afterwards became Lieutenant-Governors - were travelling in Central Asia and had come by rail from Moscow to Samarkand by the Trans-Caspian line. The Cossack who was showing them round pointed out among other sights the Hindu serai. This, of course, with its inference of a considerable established trade from India through Afghanistan, interested the party more than anything else. Inside the serai they noticed that they were being followed closely by a very dejected-looking Hindu, a trader in carpets. The merchant was fat and well clad in clean and costly raiment, but there was something in the sad expression and the uneasy, melancholy gait of the man suggestive of long-deferred hope, even of despair. One of the Englishmen turned and spoke to him, asking him how he liked Samarkand.

“Sahib,” the merchant said, “it is a country inhabited by devils.”

“Then who do you live among them?” To this the merchant made no answer, and the Englishman now believes that he saw in his eyes as he turned away a new apprehension. As they were leaving the gate of the serai the fat trader again approached them.

“Do me this favour, Sahib,” he asked. “Tell me if Wa-ar-button Sahib is dead or alive.”

“Wa-ar-button Sahib is alive, in a way even more alive than formerly; he is more than ever a terror to malefactors.”

The pitiable resignation with which the exile heard his sentence of continued banishment is likely to dwell in the Englishman’s memory.

“Button Sahib” was very pleased when he heard the story. Of all the testimony he received to his unique power I think the unspoken tribute of the Hindu merchant of Samarkand pleased him most.

Warburton died of shock after a riding accident at Kasauli on October 21, in his 80th year. He was a great gentleman in the old sense of the word. The thing that most struck those who came into contact with him was that, though his whole life had been spent in the detection of crime, he preserved a remarkable simplicity of character and a very great faith in human nature to the end. He was loved by all save malefactors and generally admired by them. He went through life with a brave heart and clean hands.

The Warburton Society

A feature of my new website is the ability to subscribe. I will automatically subscribe Society members, but after that people will be free to subscribe and unsubscribe as they wish.

Friends of the Warburton One-Name Study

Friends of the Warburton One-Name Study is a private group I have set up on Facebook. Many of the features of this group will be available on my new website, so it may be that ‘friends’ will find it a more convenient vehicle. Please let me have your comments and opinions on this.

The Warburton Name

The following is a copy of an article I was asked to produce for the June 2013 issue of Cheshire Ancestor, the journal of the Family History Society of Cheshire, for a series they have on Ancient Cheshire Names.


Warburton is a name deriving from a village located on the southern bank of the River Mersey mid-way between Altrincham and Warrington. It was founded around 915AD by Queen Ethelfleda, daughter of King Alfred and widow of Ethelfred of Mercia, as one of a series of fortified settlements to guard against encroachment by the Danes. It was situated by a ford on the river Mersey, and named after St. Werbergh hence Werbergtune as it is recorded in the Doomsday Book. In 991AD it paid Dane geld of ten shillings, suggesting a prosperous settlement.

Werbergh was the daughter of Wolfere, the first Christian king of Mercia. She devoted her life to the community, and became Lady President of Weedon and Abbess of Ely. She died in 700AD and was buried at Hanbury near Repton. In 875AD she was canonised and her body was moved to Chester where Queen Ethelfleda built a monastery in her name. It was situated just west of the Lady Chapel of Chester Cathedral, where St. Werberg’s tomb can still be found.

Over the centuries Werbergtune became Werberton, and finally, in the 16th century, Warburton. Today Warburton is little more than a hamlet, and it is no longer on the banks of the river Mersey which was diverted during the building of the Manchester Ship Canal.

In the 12th century the manor of Werberton came into the possession of Adam de Hutton, a descendant of Odard, one of five brothers who served Hugh Lupus, Earl of Avranches, later Earl of Chester, during the Norman Conquest. Odard was granted lands including the village of Duntune, later Dutton, near Runcorn, and hence he became Odard de Dutton.

In the 13th century when Adam’s descendant, Sir Piers (or Peter) de Dutton, established a manor house on his lands at Werberton he adopted the style of Sir Piers de Werberton. Two hundred years later, the family built a new manor house near Northwich called Arley Hall. The last Baronet Warburton at Arley Hall, also a Peter, died in 1813. The Hall is still occupied by a Warburton descendant, Viscount Ashbrook, but having twice passed through the female line the Warburton name has been lost.

There are about 10,000 Warburtons in Britain today, concentrated mainly in Cheshire and Lancashire, with many more scattered across the USA, Canada, Australia.
and New Zealand. It cannot be claimed that these all descend from the various cadet branches of the Lords of Warburton. Other, more modest residents of the village may have adopted its name as their own as surnames became established. However my Warburton One-Name study has a DNA element aimed at exploring this question. About 30% of my test results share a common ancestor, and I recently found a group of Duttons in the USA with the same DNA profile. This may be coincidence but I am awaiting results from a new test which may show if and how these Warburtons and Duttons are related.

A number of Warburtons have achieved prominence, including an early monetarist - Clark Warburton, a premier of Prince Edward Island - Alexander Bannerman Warburton, a champion runner and trainer of cyclists 'credited' with being the first to introduce drugs to the sport - James Edward "Choppy" Warburton, the founder of the Khyber Rifles - Colonel Sir Robert Warburton, KCIE, CSI, and a famous detective in the Punjab who was the model for a Kipling character, and the subject of a Times Obituary headlined 'Button Sahib' - John Paul Warburton.

However the Warburton of most interest to Cheshire readers must be Wing Commander Adrian Warburton. Although Adrian was born in Middlesborough his ancestors were from the Weaverham and Daresbury area of Cheshire.

He was educated at St Edward's School, Oxford, which was also attended by the famous airmen, Guy Gibson and Douglas Bader. Arguably his career in photo reconnaissance, based in Malta eclipsed both of these. He flew over 400 missions, shot down 9 enemy aircraft, was decorated 6 times, and personally thanked by General Alexander for his contribution to the Sicily landings. However the unconventional style of 'mad-Warby of Malta' meant he never received all the recognition he deserved. Even his death was unusual. Recorded as missing over Germany in April 1944 it wasn't until 2002 that his remains were found in the wreckage of his plane, its excavation being the subject of a programme in the BBC Timewatch series.

Adrian Warburton's life and career is the subject of Warburton's War: The Life of Maverick Air Ace Adrian Warburton, DSO, DFC, DFC (USA) by Tony Spooner 3rd edition published in 2003 by Goodall Publications Limited.

Next Issue

I plan to publish issue number 9 in early 2014. Things are progressing on the DNA front so a further update will be in order.

Further historical Warburtons worthy of an article might include the monetarist Clark Warburton and the Premier of Prince Edward Island Alexander Bannerman Warburton, depending on what research throws up.

As usual my plans are fluid, especially If I receive better submissions or suggestions from members.

One Name Study webpage: http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~warburton/