

Ⓜ What's it worth now?

Within this work numerous data are given for monetary values - for example, George Anyon (killed, aged 19, at the Battle of Pilckem Ridge on 1 August 1917) had accrued an army credit of £1 17s together with a War Gratuity of £3 which was paid to his father in September 1919. But what monetary value would that total of £4 17s have in 2018? Converting costs, prices and wages from the past to a modern-day equivalent is extraordinarily challenging and fraught with difficulty and the 'answer' is highly dependent on a complexity of contributory factors. Within this work the monetary converter which has been used is MeasuringWorth.com at <https://www.measuringworth.com>, probably one of the most comprehensive and reliable converters available. On this website a set of tutorials (<https://www.measuringworth.com/tutorials.php>) details how conversion produces a range (often wide) of responses - these will not be reproduced here but it is worthwhile to consider one topic (this is US-based) which outlines the issues involved:

Choosing the Best Indicator to Measure Relative Worth

If you are asking what a monetary value in the past is "worth" today, there is no one correct answer. A price or an income in the past would have been valued in different ways in that time by different people and under different contexts. That must be taken into account when asking the same question today.

We suggest ten different measures of worth in our essay "Measures of Worth". We define these different measures to help you decide the context of your query. Here are some examples of different types of expenditures and suggestions concerning which measure to use. All examples are based on using 2009 values for "today."

A Commodity. *If you're asking about the "present worth" of buying a loaf of bread or filling the gas tank 40 years ago, are you thinking in terms of the amount of money you are spending today on such things? If so, use the price index of the average household called the CPI (RPI for the UK). On the other hand, if you are wondering how "affordable" this would be to the average person, use the GDP per capita, or a wage or average earnings index. For the US, we have an index of unskilled wage or the compensation of a production worker, and for the UK we have an index of average earnings.*

In 1968, the average price of a gallon of gasoline in the US was 34 cents. Compared to other things that the average consumer bought that year, this would be comparable to \$2.10 using the CPI index for 2009. As to how "affordable" it is to the average person, 34 cents in 1968 would correspond to spending \$3.48 out of an average income by using the GDP per capita index.

A wage or income. *If you are asking about the current equivalence of what someone earned in the past, and you are thinking in terms of the household items that person might buy, then use the CPI. If you are thinking about how this income would compare in terms of affording to run that average household today, then use the Consumer Bundle. A third possibility is that you want to know how that person ranked in status compared to what others earned so it would be best to use GDP per capita. Finally, your question may be how economically "powerful" that person would be, and then you should use share of GDP.*

In 1931, an accountant in the US would be earning about \$2,250, an amount that would represent a comparative purchasing power of \$31,700 in current dollars. However, this salary is almost 45% more than what the average household spent in those days. This would correspond to \$168,000 today, a "status" of nearly twice the national average.

A "project". *If the amount you are asking about is the construction of a church, the cost of a war, or a new highway, again the context is important. If the question is how much it cost compared to the present cost of materials or labor, you would use the GDP deflator and/or the wage or earning index. However, you may be*

more interested in how important this project was to the community or the country. In the past there were less amounts of materials and labour available for all projects. So to measure the importance of this project (compares to other projects) use the share of GDP indicator.

In 1931, the Empire State building, a giant of a structure in its day, was built at a cost of \$41 million. This may seem inexpensive in today's terms when we compare its cost using the GDP deflator and determine a contemporary cost of \$491 million. As a share of the economy, however, an amount of \$7.6 billion in 2009 dollars would be the number to use, showing how important this building was in its day.

Taking, then, the example of the £4 17s owed to George Anyon in late 1919, to be paid to his father, the simple converter on the MeasuringWorth.com website (Purchasing Power of British Pounds from 1270 to Present) is completed:

A **Purchasing Power Calculator** compares the relative value of a past amount of pounds to a present amount. A simple calculator uses only the prices of consumer purchases to do this whereas a complete purchasing power calculator, such as found in this website, uses various prices, wages, output, etc., depending on the context. For more information on this issue, consult [Five Ways to Compute the Relative Value of a UK Pound Amount, 1830 to Present](#) where you will also find a further discussion of this issue.

The answers you get from this calculator will be the same as those from the **Relative Value** calculator. That is, you will get the "simple" purchasing power calculator result and other choices that may be better depending on the context.

To determine the value of an amount of money in a particular ("original") year compared to another ("desired") year, enter the values in the appropriate places below. For example, you may want to know: How much money would you need in the year **2000**, to have the same "purchasing power" as **£1 5s 3d** in the year **1900**. If you entered these values in the correct places, you will find that the "simple purchasing power" answer is **£81.19**.

Enter initial year before entering the initial amount.		
1270 to 1970	1971 to Present	
Initial Year *: 1919	Initial Year *: 	using: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Retail Price Index <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Average Earnings
Initial Amount: 4 pounds 17 shillings 0 pence	Initial Amount: 	
Desired Year **: 2017		Calculate Clear
* Select initial year within 1245-1970 range or within 1971-Present range to activate the initial amount field.		
** Select desired year between 1245 and Present.		
Enter data as a number without a £ sign or commas.		
Why not the current year?		

and gives the responses

A simple [Purchasing Power Calculator](#) would say the relative value is **£204.50**. This answer is obtained by multiplying £4.85 by the percentage increase in the [RPI](#) from 1919 to 2016.

This may not be the best answer.

The best measure of the relative value over time depends on if you are interested in comparing the cost or value of a [Commodity](#), [Income or Wealth](#), or a [Project](#). For more discussion on how to pick the best measure, read the essay ["Explaining the Measures of Worth."](#)

If you want to compare the value of a £4 17s 0d [Commodity](#) in 1919 there are three choices. In 2016 the relative:

- [real price](#) of that commodity is £204.50
- [labour value](#) of that commodity is £772.00
- [income value](#) of that commodity is £1,168.00

If you want to compare the value of a £4 17s 0d [Income or Wealth](#), in 1919 there are four choices. In 2016 the relative:

- [historic standard of living](#) value of that income or wealth is £204.50
- [labour earnings](#) of that income or wealth is £772.00
- [economic status](#) value of that income or wealth is £1,168.00
- [economic power](#) value of that income or wealth is £1,763.00

If you want to compare the value of a £4 17s 0d [Project](#) in 1919 there are three choices. In 2016 the relative:

- [historic opportunity cost](#) of that project is £213.70
- [labour cost](#) of that project is £772.00
- [economic cost](#) of that project is £1,763.00

The 'answers', with the 1919 £4 17s 0d converted to rates for 2016 (the latest date that the converter could handle), range from £204.50 to £1,763.00. In this work the 'answer' used would be £772 [labour value/labour earnings/labour cost] as this equates most closely to the original nature of the money being converted.

In the **Ⓜ How much were soldiers paid?** section of this work a number of examples of UK army pay in 1914 were quoted and it is worth converting some of these payments to 2017 values using the MeasuringWorth.com facility and comparing these to present-day rates of pay:

Rank (Infantry)	Basic daily pay in 1914 in shillings and pence	Daily pay converted to 2018 rates of pay	Actual 2018 daily pay for this rank
Lieutenant-Colonel	21s 0d	£345	£194
Major	16s 0d	£263	£138
Lieutenant	8s 6d	£140	£88
Sergeant	2s 4d	£38	£91
Corporal	1s 8d	£27	£81
Private	1s 0d	£16	£50

The difficulty in relating historical to present-day values is apparent.

Pre-decimal currency

Before the introduction of decimal currency in the UK on 15 February 1971 money was divided into pounds (£), shillings (s.) and pennies (d.).

The £ sign is derived from the Latin word *Libra*, 'shilling' is from *Solidus* (Latin for *solid* and the name of a gold Roman coin) and the d. (representing pennies, derives from *Denarius*, also an ancient Roman silver coin).

One pound (£1) was divided into 20 shillings, each shilling being divided into 12 pennies. So, in £1 there were 240 pennies (or *pence*). Additionally, a single penny was divided into two halfpennies (pronounced *haypence* or *haypnee*) or four farthings.

As an example, 26 pounds, 17 shillings and 9 and a quarter pence would be written as either £26 17s 9¼d or as £26/17/9¼.



Left: 10/- 3rd Series banknote ('ten-bob note'), first issued on 22 October 1918.

Right: £1 1st Series banknote, first issued on 7 August 1914. <http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/>



Coinage, from left: Reverse and obverse of 1d (one penny) of 1914; reverse and obverse of 1s (one shilling) of 1915; reverse of 6d (sixpence) of 1916; reverse of ¼d (farthing) of 1917. [Not to scale]

⊗ Women and the War

Although females could not enlist as combatants in the British military during WW1 women played vital roles in many sectors of the 'war effort'¹¹⁵. In fact, it is known that at least one British woman, Flora Sandes (1876–1955), did become a soldier although not for the British army. Flora enlisted as a St John Ambulance volunteer and was stationed in Serbia to assist the humanitarian crisis where she joined the Serbian Red Cross in Kragujevac. *Separated from her unit during the retreat into Albania, she joined a Serbian regiment for safety. Here she took up the rifle and became the first woman to be commissioned as an officer in the Serbian army and the only British woman to officially enlist as a soldier in World War I. In 1916 she was promoted to corporal then sergeant, and was wounded by an enemy grenade during hand-to-hand combat during the Serbian advance on Bitola (Monastir). Awarded the King George Star (Serbia's highest decoration), she was then promoted sergeant-major, and eventually reached the station of captain.*

[<http://ww1centenary.oucs.ox.ac.uk/unconventionalsoldiers/the-she-soldiers-of-world-war-one/>]

NESTON'S PATRIOTIC EFFORTS.

The past week has seen many changes, and one witnesses the evidences of love of country and of work in her service in this her utmost need, springing up on every side. On Tuesday afternoon the Town Hall was crammed with an assembly of ladies, rich and poor, who met together with the common desire of finding some means whereby their services might be utilised. The meeting was conducted under the auspices of the British Red Cross Society, and Mrs. Joseph Pemberton, the district president, was the principal speaker, setting forth the different ways in which they might, one and all, employ themselves. The majority will give their time in the making of the many articles whereof the forces may be in need both in the hospital and in the field. Others will receive preliminary instruction in nursing, so that should extremity come they may be prepared for the work to be done. The Town Hall was again well filled on Wednesday evening, when a large number of old volunteers and ex-Service men met together to consider proposals for the formation of a local defence company. The proposition was ably put forward by Mr. Pemberton, and spoken to by Messrs. J. P. Glynn and A. G. Grenfell, Major Grundy, and Sergeant Coventry. Names for enrolment came in in abundance, both from men willing to join the proposed company, and those anxious to become special constables should occasion arise. The Army is looking up all its helpmeets of the past, and one of them, Mr. T. H. Baird—a Boer War man—has received a tempting offer to join the Liverpool Recruiting Office which, unfortunately, business obligations compel him to decline. The men's ambulance class is conferring as to the action it should take in the best interests of the country, and each day sees the departure of someone to join the different corps in town.

Birkenhead Advertiser – 14 August 1914

The important roles that could be undertaken by women, and men who were ineligible to enlist, was recognised very early in the war.

Many British women volunteered and served in a non-combatant role and, by the end of the war, it is estimated that 80,000 had enlisted. Many women served as nurses in various nursing sectors both in Britain and behind the lines in the numerous war zones. In the areas of conflict a complex evacuation chain for wounded and sick soldiers was quickly established which covered the assessment and treatment of men from front line positions through to men being taken to centres well behind the front line and, in some cases, being returned to Britain for treatment. This network was known as the Medical Chain of Evacuation or evacuation chain; a brief description of the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) and a schematic diagram of this chain is shown in section **Ⓚ What was a Corps?** on pages **61 - 71** of this Volume 1.

¹¹⁵ To many, the idea of women in combat was abhorrent during the First World War, far removed from the picture of the 'ideal woman' as gentle, nurturing and pacifist. Summed up in a popular 1916 pamphlet allegedly written by A Little Mother which sold 75,000 copies in less than a week, the pamphlet stated women were 'created for the purpose of giving life, and men to take it'. Feminists also argued that 'women were not warriors' their job was not to 'bear arms' but 'bear armies'. Engaging in combat would undermine the argument that it was not only those who fought for their nation (men) who had a right to the ultimate gift of citizenship and right to vote. [Adapted from *The She-Soldiers of World War One* at

[<http://ww1centenary.oucs.ox.ac.uk/unconventionalsoldiers/the-she-soldiers-of-world-war-one/>]

PARKGATE HOSPITAL. — Arrivals and departures here are constantly taking place, and consequently both the ambulance men, who act as orderlies, and the members of the local branch of the Red Cross Society, who are attached to the hospital as nurses, are kept fully occupied. A further detachment of 16 invalid soldiers arrived on Sunday last, this bringing the number of patients in the hospital up to 27, two of whom are Belgians. None of the cases are really serious, most of the men suffering from frost-bite, rheumatism, etc., and not from wounds. A constant flow of entertainments is kept up, and everything possible is done to make the tedium of sickness lighter.

Birkenhead Advertiser – 6 February 1915

Neston Red Cross Work Rooms.

The Neston branch of the Red Cross Society have opened new workrooms at "Rathmines," Hinderton-road, Neston. Sewing machines, chests of drawers, and cupboards are asked for as loans, and old linen will be thankfully received. The work already done in Neston by the Red Cross Branch has been most satisfactory; over 2,800 garments having been made and sent to the hospitals and to the headquarters at London, besides 139 splints and 300 bandages, and it is hoped that the Neston inhabitants will support this new central workroom. It will be open three days a week—Wednesday, Thursday and Friday—from 10.30 to 1 and 2 to 4. Supporters will be invited to contribute towards the upkeep of the establishment.

Birkenhead News – April 1915

PARKGATE PROVISION FOR THE WOUNDED.

The Convalescent Home at Parkgate, after having been entirely re-decorated, is now ready for the reception of wounded soldiers. Nearly all local people of prominence were present on Saturday when the premises were thrown open for inspection, and in spite of the showery weather the function was most successful. Mingling with the guests were members of the Neston branch of the Red Cross Society, about 20 of whom attended in uniform. After tea a most interesting and instructive exhibition of drill was given by the local ambulance corps under the command of Mr. A. H. Hitchmough. The corps, which has made good progress, is about 30 strong, and possesses six stretchers. During the afternoon Mr. Thompson, on behalf of the Board of the Royal Infirmary, Chester, thanked the Hon. Mrs. H. N. Gladstone for the way in which she had undertaken to meet any balance due in respect of the refitting of the building. Everything throughout the home was spotlessly clean, and suggested on every hand a most complete organisation. Accommodation is available for ten bad surgical cases and thirty convalescent patients. No cases are as yet expected, though the hospital will, no doubt, be utilised in the near future.

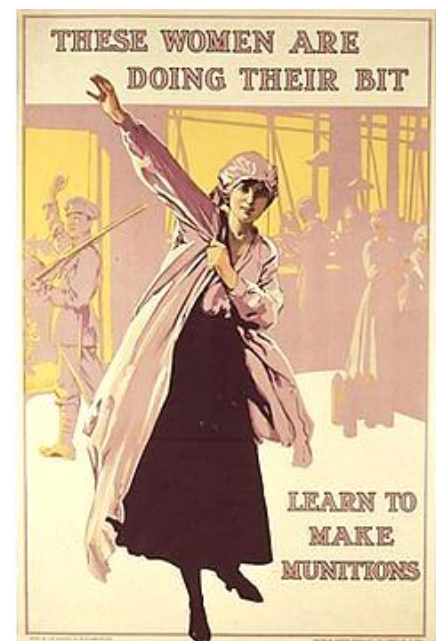
Birkenhead Advertiser - 26 September 1914

As more eligible men enlisted and left their normal employment, women volunteered on the home front as nurses, teachers, farm labourers and workers in jobs which had been traditionally male-dominated.¹¹⁶

A large number of women were hired in the munitions industries

where wages were high although conditions were harsh and dangerous. In fact, the high demand for weapons resulted in the munitions factories becoming the largest single employer of women during 1918.

Wealthy women set up an organisation called the American Women's War Relief Fund in England in 1914 order to buy ambulances, support hospitals and provide economic opportunities to women during the war; this organisation formed shortly after hostilities broke out in August 1914 when a group of American women married to British men met to discuss how they might assist the war effort in Britain. This organisation sent seven ambulances to the front lines and opened hospitals in London and Paignton, Devon.



¹¹⁶ For example as railway guards and ticket collectors, buses and tram conductors, postal workers, police, firefighters and as bank 'tellers' and clerks. Some women also worked heavy or precision machinery in engineering, led cart horses on farms, and worked in the civil service and factories.

NESTON MILITARY AUXILIARY HOSPITAL.

A "SPOTLESS" INSTITUTION.

The work of transforming the Neston Institute into a Red Cross Military Auxiliary Hospital has now reached completion, and on Thursday last, owing to the kindness of Mrs. Joseph Pemberton, the vice-president of the Wirral Division of the Red Cross Society, and Lady Norman Hill, the commandant of the Neston section, the Institute was thrown open in the afternoon to subscribers and friends, and in the evening to the general public.

The guests were received by Mrs. Pemberton and Lady Hill, and were then taken charge of by the ladies of the Society, assisted in the evening by the Men's Voluntary Aid Detachment, who were indefatigable in their efforts to show the visitors all the hospital arrangements, together with the excellent equipment, as well as provide them with light refreshments. The large numbers who availed themselves of the opportunity for inspection expressed their appreciation very freely. Much labour had been given by the Red Cross detachments in arranging the various rooms. The trimness and neatness of the whole place is most marked—from the snowy-white decoration of the walls and the polished floors to the rows of comfortable beds ready to receive their occupants, and the brilliant display of flowers and shrubs with which the hospital was decorated. The large hall is fitted up as the main ward containing 30 beds, and the stage has been transformed into a comfortable lounge. The ante-room will be a special ward holding five beds, and there are also apartments for the permanent sister-in-charge and day nurses' apartments. The library has been converted into a dining hall, and the bowling committee room into the doctor's surgery. The billiard room will, of course, be used as the recreation room. Full lavatory accommodation has been provided, and the bathrooms have been refitted, three new baths and new heating apparatus being fixed. The whole of the hospital will be hot-water heated.

The hospital will be staffed by the local Red Cross Society, together with a sister in charge and an additional nurse, and the local men's Voluntary Aid Detachment will do night duty, in addition to receiving and bringing in the wounded.

Birkenhead Advertiser – 12 February 1916

Working class women also took in paid 'piece work' at home, as they had for generations. Carrying out piece work meant that women were paid depending on how much they produced. They undertook tasks such as washing, ironing, sewing, lace-making and assembling toys or boxes. Women also worked hard as housewives, taking care of their families and homes. Women carried out many jobs in the countryside, supporting men on farms by milking cows and helping with the harvest. They also often kept chickens and sometimes geese.

Many employers refused to let married women work for them, so single and widowed women were more likely to have a job outside the home. Women worked in a variety of roles but their jobs were less manual than those carried out by men. Some women worked as school teachers or as governesses, teaching children at home. Well-off families would employ a nursemaid to care for their babies, a nanny to look after children and a governess to teach them until the boys went away to boarding school. Girls usually continued to be educated at home in these types of families.

In the early 1900s, there was a rise in the number of women taking jobs in offices. Their duties were mainly limited to small administrative tasks. Other women worked in cotton factories where some of the

roles involved labour-intensive work. Women prepared the cotton fibre for spinning and worked on weaving machines. The larger machines were thought to be too heavy for women to operate and were mostly worked by men.

Life for women changed dramatically during the war because so many men were away fighting. Many women took paid jobs outside the home for the first time. By 1918 there were five million women working in Britain. The money they earned contributed to the family's budget and earning money made working women more independent. Many enjoyed the companionship of working in a factory, office or shop rather than doing 'piece work' at home.

With men away at war, many women ran their homes alone. They cared for children and older relatives, managed money and often had a job as well. Shopping during wartime was hard with food and coal shortages and higher prices. The average food bill for a family of four rose from less than £1 a week in 1914 to over £2 in 1918.

[<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/0/ww1/26439020>]

Y The resources and sources used for this work

Significant effort has been made in this work to research and include details of those local men known to have died in, or as an immediate consequence of, WW1. However, because of a paucity of available evidence it has not proved possible to identify with any certainty some of the 171 men recorded in this work (see page 5 of this Volume).

Additionally, it is recognised that this work will not be definitive; some fatalities, unrecorded 'officially' or not well-documented, may be missing from the database. Further, the work does not include details of those who may have died at some later time (particularly after 31 August 1921) as a result of war-sustained injury and the database does not include those who suffered injury but are known to have survived.

The published literature on WW1 is vast. In compiling this work a multiplicity of sources has been used and many sources have been acknowledged within the body of the text. However, the sources which have been used most often and which have provided the basis of this work, or have been interesting to read, are listed below.¹¹⁷

Primary sources

A primary source provides direct or firsthand evidence about an event or person. Primary sources include, for example, original historical and legal documents, eyewitness accounts, photographs, artifacts, diaries and original manuscripts, and any other source (considered as reliable) of information that was created at the time.

- ◆ the names recorded on the memorial tablets and plaques in the local churches and the wooden plaque in Neston Royal British Legion (although this is a copy, with errors, of the plaques in Neston parish church).
- ◆ records maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) and which are freely accessible at <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/>.
- ◆ contemporary newspapers, particularly the:
 - *Birkenhead News* and *Birkenhead Advertiser* [microfilm]: available in the Birkenhead Reference Library Local History Collection, Borough Rd., Birkenhead.
 - *Cheshire Observer*, *Chester Chronicle*, *Liverpool Daily Post* and *Liverpool Echo*: available on subscription at: <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>.A large collection of old local and national newspapers is available, on subscription, through the British Newspaper Archive (see above) and through the findmypast website.
- ◆ military Service Records, and other military records (such as the *Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929* and *British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920*) available on subscription through a number of sources, the most-used being
 - *Lives of the First World War*, created by the Imperial War Museum and available at <https://livesofthefirstworldwar.org>.

¹¹⁷ No attempt has been made here to list the sources in any order of perceived importance or priority. Included here are some internet-based sources which provide transcripts of, but not necessarily access to, original documentation. The sources are extremely diverse in style and depth of content; some provide a broad overview of events whilst others provide much in-depth detail and analysis.

- the WW1 Records on *Ancestry* at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk/cs/world-war-1>.¹¹⁸
 - *Findmypast* at www.findmypast.co.uk/.
 - Forces War Records at <https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/>. Whilst this is a subscription site much useful information can be obtained with free searches. The site includes WW1 Orders of Battle interactive maps which can be searched by regiment or unit.
- ◆ census data (particularly for 1891, 1901 and 1911), available on subscription through a number of sources, the sources used here being *The Genealogist* and *Ancestry* at <https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/> and <http://www.ancestry.co.uk>.
- Census dates (all taken on Sunday) for relevant census returns:
- | | |
|------|----------|
| 1871 | 2 April |
| 1881 | 3 April |
| 1891 | 5 April |
| 1901 | 31 March |
| 1911 | 2 April |
- The data for the census return of Sunday 19 June 1921 has a scheduled publication date of 1 January 2022.
- ◆ general and additional details of individuals and their families, and other local history information, is accessible through numerous websites such as
- The National Archives (TNA) at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>. Based at Kew in south-west London this is the official archive of the UK government for England and Wales. Whilst not all archival material is digitised the collections held can be searched using the online catalogue (see below). The website contains brief 'guides' to WW1-relevant records at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/?research-category=first-world-war>.
 - Lancashire OnLine Parish Clerk Project at <http://www.lan-opc.org.uk/>
 - Free BMD at <https://www.freebmd.org.uk/cgi/search.pl>
 - Kelly's Directory of Cheshire (1914) available at the University of Leicester Special Collections Online service at <http://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/cdm/ref/collection/p16445coll4/id/218263>
 - FamilySearch (Free Family History and Genealogy Records) at <https://familysearch.org/>
- ◆ the church registers (baptisms, marriages, burials) of local Cheshire Anglican and RC churches. Those for Neston Parish Church, Little Neston St Winefride's RC Church (in Latin) and Burton Parish Church are, on microfilm, available for free inspection in Neston Library, Parkgate Road. Local church records are available also through the Cheshire Parish Register Project website (although the data shown are transcripts, not originals) at <http://cprdb.csc.liv.ac.uk/>.
- ◆ British Regimental War Diaries. Many are available on subscription through the Family

¹¹⁸ Whilst most Family History websites provide a subscription-based service, some (including the Ancestry Library Edition) and Findmypast are available through the computers in Cheshire Libraries. Free access is, normally, restricted to one hour per library ticket-holder per day.

History Websites noted previously and on a searchable database through The National Archives at <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>. There is a fee (£3-50 per set of pdf pages [July 2017]) to view and download the War Diaries ¹¹⁹.

The First World War Battalion War Diaries of the King's (Liverpool) Regiment are held at the Maritime Archives and Library (Museum of Liverpool) ¹²⁰.

Canadian Regimental War Diaries are available at Library and Archives Canada through http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/020152_e.html. This database contains, for free viewing and download, the digitised War Diaries of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) units.

The Australian Imperial Force Unit War Diaries, and other sets of contemporary information are available for free inspection and download through the Australian War Memorial site at <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/AWM4/>.

- ◆ The 1939 Register, available on subscription through Findmypast.co.uk and Ancestry.co.uk. *Initially taken due to the onset of war with the purpose of producing National Identity Cards, the register later came to be multi-functional, first as an aid in the use of ration books and later helping officials record the movement of the civilian population over the following decades and from 1948, as the basis for the National Health Service Register.*

The register, as held by The National Archives, contains data only for England and Wales and does not include records from households in Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man. [Ancestry.co.uk]

The Register - effectively a mini-census of households, excluding military personnel ¹²¹ - was conducted by enumerators on 29 September 1939 and records the address, name, date of birth, marital status and occupation for each member of the household. Later additions were made after 1939, particularly for unmarried females, often to record changes of name with, in many cases, the date of marriage. However, lines containing details of persons younger than 100 years of age, or if known to still be alive, are redacted (blacked out):

E.D. Letter Code		Borough, U.D. or R.D.		Registration District and Sub-district					
LFOG		Neston		451. 2					
ADDRESS.	SCHEDULE.		SURNAME AND OTHER NAMES.	O. V. S. P. or I.	M. or F.	BIRTH.		S. M. W. or D.	PERSONAL OCCUPATION.
	No.	Sub. No.				Day.	Year.		
13 Sedon Terrace	41	2	Evans Albert.		M	18th	94	5	Gen. Labourer Newall voc.
		3	do Ellen		M	12th	07	W	Widow's board books
This record is officially closed.									
CR2K3 CH	14-6-00	5	LITTLE do Margorie		F	14th	31	5	do
14 do		42	Thurlington Edward		M	18th	14	M	Filler in Paper Mill
		?	do Ellen		F	22nd	17	M	Household Duties
This record is officially closed.									

¹¹⁹ Although the National Archives hold many WW1 War Diaries, not all have been digitised. Those diaries that haven't been digitised are available to view in their original form (in record series WO95) at The National Archives in Kew. The scale and size of the digitised downloadable diaries from site varies hugely - there are 19 pages for the 13th Battalion King's (Liverpool) Regiment covering 1 September 1915 - 31 March 1916 whereas there are 680 pages for the 2/5th Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers covering 1 January 1916 - 30 April 1919. The download-price for each set remains at £3-50.

¹²⁰ These are typed copies of the originals. A full list of the originals of all war diaries, held at the National Archives at Kew, can be accessed at <http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/mol/visit/galleries/soldiers/research/war-diaries.aspx>.

¹²¹ Although the Register notes whether an individual was a member of the armed forces or reserves, those on active military duty were not included in the headcount, even if they were in the household and were there on the night of the survey.

- ◆ trench maps and other military maps ¹²² (variable coverage both of location and date) are available for free inspection and download through the Digital Archive @ McMaster University Library at <http://digitalarchive.mcmaster.ca/islandora/object/macrepo:34> and the National Library of Scotland Georeferenced Maps at <http://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=5&lat=56.0000&lon=-4.0000&layers=1&b=1>
- ◆ contemporary WW1 photographs, accessed through a wide range of sources. Useful aerial photographs can be found at the Digital Archive @ McMaster University Library at <http://digitalarchive.mcmaster.ca/islandora/object/macrepo:34>. General battlefield and other contemporary photographs are available through searching Google Images.
- ◆ recent, or present-day, photographs of buildings, graves, memorials and other relevant sites. Many of these (uncredited in the text) are in the author's collection; others, such as those obtained from Google Street View, the CWGC, the International Wargraves Photography Project, findagrave.com etc. are attributed in the text.

Secondary sources

Secondary sources are those which draw upon primary, and other acknowledged secondary, sources to describe, interpret, evaluate, analyse, summarise or process information. Secondary source materials include discursive, descriptive or explanatory articles in newspapers ¹²³, journals or on the internet, memoirs, 'reputable' or 'scholarly' books ¹²⁴, histories; criticisms and critiques, databases, commentaries and similar materials. It has been said that secondary sources are one or more steps removed from the event being described and, commonly, provide a background, overview or retrospective of the event.

Whist not an exhaustive list, the author has found the following to be a useful source of material. These are presented in no particular order.

Internet resources

A considerable amount of useful information is available, usually without cost, through the internet (and this commonly contains some primary source material). Caution has to be exercised in using this material as much that is published has undergone little, if any, verification or process of third-party scrutiny, authentication or corroboration. It is not uncommon to find accounts and details which are contradictory or inaccurate.

Nevertheless, very useful information and links to other sources have been found at:

- ◆ The Long, Long Trail : The British Army in the Great War of 1914 - 1918 at <http://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/>. This is a large resource with sections devoted to all aspects of the army and WW1 and with links to other sources. One section (<http://www.1914-1918.net/maps.htm>) provides sketch campaign and battle maps. Another section, <http://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/soldiers/a-soldiers-life-1914-1918/common-british-army-acronyms-and-abbreviations-of-the-first-world-war/>, provides a useful reference for the numerous abbreviations and contractions.

¹²² A good reference to British WW1 trench maps, their development and interpretation, is available at The Great War 1914 – 1918 website at <http://www.greatwar.co.uk/research/maps/british-army-ww1-trench-maps.htm>.

¹²³ It is generally accepted that, depending on the material, newspapers can be considered as both a primary and secondary source.

¹²⁴ This, of course, is open to interpretation and it may be necessary to ascertain accuracy and eliminate bias or imprecision by cross-reference to other sources.

The Long, Long Trail website is written and maintained by historian Chris Baker to whom full recognition for the material used in this work is acknowledged.

- ◆ The Great War Forum at <http://1914-1918.invisionzone.com>. This provides a discussion and information site for all aspects of WW1 ¹²⁵.
- ◆ Wikipedia. A huge resource of material, on every possible subject, but one which needs to be treated with some restraint as published material may not have been verified. However, much of interest has been found amongst the WW1-related articles and links to other sources are useful.
- ◆ National Museums Liverpool, with particular reference to The King's (Liverpool Regiment). A useful resource is the King's (Liverpool Regiment) First World War service information search at <http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/mol/visit/galleries/soldiers/research/kingsreg/>
- ◆ The website Merseyside Roll of Honour - WW1 Memorial Database at <https://www.merseysiderollofhonour.co.uk/memorials/memorials> can be used to locate WW1 casualties from Wirral and Merseyside named on local war memorials. Names can, from within the database, be cross-referenced to the CWGC records.
- ◆ UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919 from Ancestry UK at <http://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/db.aspx?dbid=1543> ¹²⁶
- ◆ The Imperial War Museums at www.iwm.org.uk/. There are links to the WW1 sections (<http://www.iwm.org.uk/history/first-world-war>).
- ◆ Lives of the First World War, a project maintained by the Imperial war Museum at <https://livesofthefirstworldwar.org/ww1-life-stories>
- ◆ The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) at www.cwgc.org/ gives details and photographs of cemeteries and memorials.
- ◆ The site at <http://www.ww1cemeteries.com/> complements the CWGC website, describing itself as *a site of remembrance and a comprehensive guide to over 4000 Military Cemeteries and Memorials throughout the world*.
- ◆ World War One Historical Sources (the British Library) which includes *Over 50 articles about World War One, written by leading experts* at <https://www.bl.uk/world-war-one>
- ◆ [firstworldwar.com](http://www.firstworldwar.com/) : a multimedia history of World War One at <http://www.firstworldwar.com/index.htm> has many linked-sections of use and interest, including a timeline of the war, an encyclopedia, a discussion of the causes of the war and details of many of the principal battles.
- ◆ The 1914 – 1918 Online International Encyclopedia of the First World War at http://www.1914-1918-online.net/06_WWI_websites/index.html has *a list of links contains a multitude of online resources for pictures, audio files, maps, and other multimedia elements related to WWI*.

¹²⁵ The Great War Forum was developed originally by Chris Baker, author of The Long, Long Trail, but is now operated independently.

¹²⁶ Ancestry notes that *in 1921 His Majesty's Stationery Office published, on behalf of and by authority of the War Office, two lists of those who died during the Great War. One volume, packed with minute typescript, gave the basic details of nearly 42,000 officer casualties. It required an additional eighty volumes to list all the 'other ranks' who gave their lives. Each of the original volumes represented one or more regiments, corps or other units of the British Army. Most were subdivided into battalions or similar groupings. There were often thirty or more of these per volume, each in alphabetical order.*

- ◆ The WWI Resource Centre at <http://www.vlib.us/wwi/resources/index.html> has a number of interesting links including *Histories of two hundred and fifty-one divisions of the German army which participated in the war (1914-1918)*.
- ◆ The Great War Archive, part of the WW1 Oxford Resources (Oxford University) at <http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/ww1lit/gwa>
- ◆ War Letters 1914–1918 at <http://warletters.net/generalresources/> contains links to material about WW1 not tied to one country or area of conflict.
- ◆ Museum of the Great War (the English version of the French Historial de la Grande Guerre) at <http://www.historial.org/> (click on the English symbol at the top of the page).
- ◆ Wars & Conflict - World War I (part of the BBC History website) at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01nb93y>
- ◆ World War I Information and Resources – (assembled by the Made from History Network) at <http://madefrom.com/history/category/world-war-one/>

Non-internet resources

As with the internet resources, a considerable volume of material is available and it is possible here to indicate only a few of the sources which the author has found to be most useful. Within the body of this work many other sources have been used and acknowledged. The sources noted below are in no particular order.

Specific texts and local sources

- ◆ *Lest We Forget : Willaston Remembers its First World War Fallen* 2015 ¹²⁷
- ◆ *The History of the Cheshire Regiment in the Great War, 1914-1918* Arthur Crookenden, Colonel of the Regiment WH Evans, Sons & Co. Ltd. 1938 ¹²⁸ This book has been digitised and can be freely accessed at <http://lib.militaryarchive.co.uk/library/infantry-histories/Cheshire-Regiment-in-Great-War-1914-1918.asp>.
A copy of the book is in the reference section of Neston Library.
- ◆ The City Soldiers gallery in the Museum of Liverpool. Some details of this can be seen at <http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/mol/visit/galleries/soldiers/>.
The museum has the computer-based Devereux database, the Museum of Liverpool's key source of information about local men who served with the King's (Liverpool) Regiment in WW1. This huge resource - it holds around 92,000 records - has been built by military historian Joe Devereux ¹²⁹.
- ◆ *Soldiers died in the Great War, 1914-19. Pt. 13, The King's (Liverpool Regiment)* HMSO 1921 [Savannah Publications; New edition (Dec. 1988)] ¹³⁰
- ◆ *Liverpool Pals: a history of the 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th (Service) Battalions The King's (Liverpool Regiment) 1914-1919* Graham Maddocks Pen & Sword Military 2008

¹²⁷ This booklet, produced by local researchers in Willaston, gives brief details of the men recorded on the village War Memorial. Copies of the booklet are available for reference in Neston Library.

¹²⁸ Whilst referenced extensively in this work, Crookenden's account is frequently opinionated, biased and commonly critical of decisions made by senior staff. Arthur Crookenden CBE DSO was Colonel of the Regiment from 1930 - 1947.

¹²⁹ Whilst there is no reason to doubt the veracity of the general content of the database, it is not known what checks were made on the accuracy of the information presented. Certainly, I have found significant error and inaccuracy in some of the information on this database.

¹³⁰ This is just one of a series and the information can be accessed also through Ancestry (see above). These volumes list men by battalion, including name, place of birth, enlistment & residence, number and rank with nature, date and theatre of death.

- ◆ *The history of the King's Regiment (Liverpool), 1914 - 1919* [Vol.1, 1914-1915 / Vol.2, 1916-1917 / Vol.3, 1917-1919] Everard Wyrall Naval and Military Press, 2002 (published originally in 1928 by Edward Arnold).
- ◆ *The 9th - The Kings (Liverpool Regiment) in the Great War 1914-1918* Enos H.G. Roberts Leonaur Ltd, 2007
- ◆ *Cheshire Bantams : 15th, 16th & 17th Battalions of the Cheshire Regiment* Stephen McGreal Pen & Sword Military 2006
- ◆ The Cheshire Military Museum (The Castle, Chester) houses the archive of the Cheshire Regiment and *tells the story of the Cheshire Soldiers from the 17th Century right through to the present day*. The museum has a WW1 and Remembrance Room ¹³¹ and the website at <https://www.cheshiremilitarymuseum.co.uk/> gives an outline of the history of the Cheshire Regiment and the Cheshire Yeomanry. The website notes that *As we have the most extensive collection of books, pictures and records relating to the Cheshire Regiment our extensive archive will allow any interested person to find out much more about their relatives*. However, the museum and archives do not hold any Army Records of Service for individual soldiers.
- ◆ *Armageddon Road : A VC's Diary 1914 - 1916* Billy Congreve First published 1982, reprinted 2014 Pen & Sword Military [His personal war diary].

General texts and sources

- ◆ *The Great War Handbook : A Guide for Family Historians & Students of the Conflict* Geoff Bridger Pen & Sword Family History 2014 ¹³²
- ◆ *First World War Army Service Records : A Guide for Family Historians* William Spencer National Archives, Kew 2008
- ◆ *The Medals, Decorations and Orders of the Great War* Alec A. Purves Savannah Publications (2nd Revised edition) 1989
- ◆ *The First World War* Sir John Desmond Patrick Keegan, OBE, FRSL First published 1998 2014 edition published by Vintage Publishing
- ◆ *Word War 1* H.P. Willmott Dorling Kindersley Ltd (Penguin Random House) 2015
- ◆ *An Illustrated Companion to the First World War* Anthony Bruce Penguin 1989
- ◆ *The World War I Databook* John Ellis and Michael Cox London: Aurum Press 2001
- ◆ *Mapping the First World War : The Great War through Maps from 1914 -to 1918* Peter Chasseaud Collins (Harper Collins Publishers) 2013
- ◆ *1914-1918: The History of the First World War* David Stevenson First published 2004 2012 edition published by Penguin
- ◆ *Elegy : The First Day on The Somme* Andrew Roberts Head of Zeus Ltd, London 2015
- ◆ *The Quick and the Dead : Fallen Soldiers and Their Families in the Great War* Bloomsbury Publishing Plc., London 2011
- ◆ *Hundred Days : The End of the Great War* Nick Lloyd Penguin Non-Fiction 2013

¹³¹ This room has a reconstruction of a WW1 trench from the Western Front together with a small collection of personal items and captured weapons.

¹³² This book provides an excellent insight and background to most aspects of the war. [Pen & Sword Military Books Ltd. publishes a wide range of military material with a large section of the catalogue devoted to WW1, specific conflicts, events, themes and individuals. The full collection of publications can be seen at www.pen-and-sword.co.uk].

- ◆ *Pals on the Somme 1916 : Kitchener's New Army Battalions raised by local authorities during the Great War* Roni Wilkinson Pen & Sword Military 2006
- ◆ *First World War for Dummies* Sean Lang John Wiley & Sons Ltd 2014
- ◆ *To End All Wars : How the First World War Divided Britain* Adam Hochschild Macmillan Publishers Ltd., London 2011
- ◆ *The Routledge Atlas of the First World War* Martin Gilbert Routledge 2002 (2nd Ed.)
- ◆ *Reporting the Great War : News from the Home Front* Stuart Hylton Pen & Sword Military 2014
- ◆ *The Battle for Flanders : German Defeat on the Lys 1918* Chris Baker Pen & Sword Military 2011
- ◆ *They Did Not Grow Old : Teenage Conscripts on the Western Front, 1918* Tim Lynch Spellmount (The History Press) 2013
- ◆ *24Hrs at The Somme : 1 July 1916* Robert Kershaw W. H. Allen (Penguin Random House UK) 2016
- ◆ *The Wipers Times : The Famous First World War Trench Newspaper* Conway Publishing (Anova Books Ltd.), London 2013
- ◆ *The Children's Story of the War* James Edward Parrott Thomas Nelson & Sons 1915 ¹³³
- ◆ *Somme : 1 July 1916 -Tragedy and Triumph* Andrew Robertshaw Osprey Publishing 2006
- ◆ *A War in Words : The First World War in Diaries and Letters* Svetlana Palmer & Sarah Wallis Pocket Books 2004
- ◆ *Subalterns of the Foot : Three World War 1 Diaries of Officers of the Cheshire Regiment* Anne Wolff Square One Publications 1992
- ◆ *A Short History of the First World War : Land, Sea and Air, 1914 – 1918* Gordon Kerr Pocket Essentials 2014
- ◆ *History of the Great War : Principal Events 1914-1918* HMSO 1922
- ◆ *For King & Country : Voices from the First World War* Ed. Brian MacArthur Little, Brown 2008
- ◆ *The First World War : The War to End all Wars* Peter Simkins, Geoffrey Jukes, Michael Hickey Osprey Publishing Ltd, Oxford 2013
- ◆ *Evidence, History and the Great War : Historians and the Impact of 1914 – 18* Ed. Gail Braybon Berghahn Books 2008
- ◆ *The World War One Source Book* Philip J. Haythornthwaite Arms & Armour Press 1992
- ◆ *Vimy Ridge: Arras (Battleground Europe)* Nigel Cave Pen & Sword Books 1995
- ◆ *British Regiments at Gallipoli* Ray Westlake Pen & Sword 2004
- ◆ *Gallipoli and the Dardanelles 1915-1916* John Grehan & Martin Mace Pen & Sword Military 2014

¹³³ Some of the 10 volumes of the set (each written very shortly after the actions described) are available through Project Gutenberg on the internet, eg: <http://gutenberg.polytechnic.edu.na/3/5/3/8/35386/35386-h/35386-h.htm>
 Despite this set of volumes being supposedly written for children they give a good insight into, and graphic details of, the progress of the war and individual campaigns and events.

- ◆ *The Great War : A Nation's Story* Isobel Charman Arrow Books (Penguin Random House) 2014
- ◆ *The Lost History of 1914 : How the Great War was not Inevitable* Jack Beatty Bloomsbury Publishing Plc 2014
- ◆ *The First World War Galleries* Paul Cornish Imperial War Museum 2014
- ◆ *World War One : A Chronological Narrative* Philip Warner Pen & Sword Military 2008
- ◆ *The German Army on The Somme, 1914 – 1916* Jack Sheldon Pen & Sword Military 2005
- ◆ *Passchendaele : A New History* Nick Lloyd Viking (Penguin Books) 2017
- ◆ *1918 : The Year of Victories* Martin Marix Evans Arcturus Publishing Ltd 2017
- ◆ *Wounded : From Battlefield to Blighty, 1914 – 1918* Emily Mayhew The Bodley Head, London 2013
- ◆ *The Trench: Life and Death on the Western Front 1914-1918* Trevor Yorke Countryside Books (GB) 2014
- ◆ *Forgotten Voices of the Great War* Max Arthur (in association with the Imperial War Museum Ebury Press 2003
- ◆ *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Artillery* Ian V. Hogg Guild Publishing (London) 1987
- ◆ *Allied Artillery of World War One* Ian V. Hogg Crowood Press (Ramsbury) 2004
- ◆ *The Macmillan Dictionary of The First World War* Stephen Pope and Elizabeth-Anne Wheal Macmillan 1995
- ◆ *World War 1 : A Short History* Norman Stone Penguin 2007
- ◆ *The Great War* Correlli Barnett Penguin Classic Military History 2000
- ◆ *The First World War* Gerard J De Groot Palgrave [20th Century War Series] 2001
- ◆ *Who's Who in World War One* J. M. Bourne Routledge, London 2001
- ◆ *The First World War on the Home Front* Terry Charman Imperial War Museum 2014
- ◆ *Our Land at War : Britain's Key First World War Sites* Nick Basanquet Spellmount (The History Press) 2014
- ◆ *The Missing of the Somme* Geoff Dyer Hamish Hamilton (Penguin Group) 1994
- ◆ *War against War : British and German Radical Movements in the First World War* F. L. Carsten Batsford Educational Ltd., London 1982
- ◆ *Your Country Needs You : From Six to Sixty-Five Divisions. The Expansion of the British Army Infantry Divisions, 1914 – 1918* Martin Middlebrook Pen & Sword Military, Barnsley (Leo Cooper) 2000
- ◆ *Machine Guns and the Great War* Paul Cornish Pen & Sword Military, Barnsley 2009
- ◆ *World War 1 : The Definitive Visual Guide – From Sarajevo to Versailles* R. G. Grant Dorling Kindersley Ltd. 2014
- ◆ *They called it Passchendaele : The story of The Third Battle of Ypres and the men who fought it* Lyn Macdonald Penguin Books 1993
- ◆ *Trench Fever : A Great War Obsession* Christopher Moore Abacus Books 1998
- ◆ *Somme Mud : The Experiences of an Infantryman in France, 1916 – 1919* E P F Lynch Ed. Will Davies Bantam Books 2008
- ◆ *Trench : A History of Trench Warfare on the Western Front* Stephen Bull Osprey Publishing / Imperial War Museum 2014

- ◆ *Defeat at Gallipoli* Nigel Steel and Peter Hart Pan Books 2002
- ◆ *Grasping Gallipoli : Terrain, Maps and Failure at the Dardanelles, 1915* Peter Chasseaud and Peter Doyle Spellmount, Staplehurst 2005
- ◆ *Gallipoli : The End of the Myth* Robin Prior Yale University Press 2010
- ◆ *The Western Front* Richard Holmes BBC Worldwide Ltd. 2000
- ◆ *Somme, 1914 -18 : Lessons in War* Martin Marix Evans The History Press, Stroud 2010
- ◆ *The Battle for Palestine, 1917* John D. Grainger The Boydell Press, Woodbridge 2017
- ◆ *The Somme : The Day-By-Day Account* Chris McCarthy Arms & Armour Press (Cassell) 1993
- ◆ *World War 1* Simon Adams Dorling Kindersley 2011 (Revised Edition)
- ◆ *The First World War* Dennis Hamley Franklin Watts 2005
- ◆ *The First World War, 1914 – 18* Christine Hatt Evans (London) 2000
- ◆ *The First World War* Stuart Robson Longman 2007
- ◆ *The First World War* Michael Howard Oxford University Press 2003
- ◆ *World War 1 Day by Day* Ian Westwell Spellmount 2005
- ◆ *Attrition : Fighting the First World War* William James Philpott Little, Brown 2014
- ◆ *World War 1 : An Illustrated History* Lloyd Clark Helicon (Oxford) 2001
- ◆ *The Horror of World War 1* Nancy Dickmann Raintree Publishers (Oxford) 2017
- ◆ *A Military Atlas Of The First World War* Arthur Banks Pen & Sword Military 2000

Mostyn House School and Charterhouse - rededication of the bells

The main sources used are:

- <http://www.charterhouse.org.uk/Service-of-Rededication-of-the-Carillon-Bells>
- *The Carthusian Magazine* at https://issuu.com/schoolwebsite/docs/carthusian_magazine_2014_/16
- The transcription of the panel at Mostyn House chapel from <http://www.carlscam.com/warmem/mostyn.htm>
- The transcription of the plaques in Mostyn House chapel from <http://www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/item/memorial/2582>



② A little about the author



It is commonly said that you should never start a letter, speech, message or introduction with an apology as this conveys negativity and insecurity. Nevertheless, the truth cannot be hidden and so I need to express my humble and unreserved apology, having written this work on the war-dead of Neston and Burton, that I am neither a Nestonian nor Burtonian by birthright or ancestry and have no known relationship to any of the men or families about whom I have written ¹³⁴.

Indeed, having lived in Neston for only around 45 years I accept that I may still be considered as an interfering outsider and interloper who cannot be trusted to have any real understanding of, or empathy with, the area. So be it; I can't do anything to change my own history or background and, anyway, as an outsider who settled here I am now amongst the majority.

Having now unburdened myself of this damning admission, and in an attempt to salvage some credibility, I am proud to declare to being of Cheshire birth and descent with my origins lying somewhat east of Neston and closer to the low foothills of the southern Pennines where these uplands fringe the Cheshire Plain. My secondary school education was in Macclesfield ¹³⁵ (still Cheshire) before I headed eastwards to Sheffield University (not in Cheshire) and a first degree in geology ¹³⁶. Continuing education then took me south to the School of Education at the University of Leicester (still not Cheshire) and, somewhat later, a further degree with the University of London (certainly not in Cheshire and unlikely ever to be so). ¹³⁷

Once gainful employment became a necessity I (now married) moved into education and, although we first lived and worked in Derbyshire (but with a Cheshire postcode and only around a mile from the border with civilisation) we soon saw the errors of our ways and moved westwards to the undeniable comforts and delights of the environs of Neston.

Once here, I began a new life as a lecturer in geology and Environmental & Earth Sciences before making the questionable move into educational development and management.

Like many other underpaid educationalists who needed additional funds to purchase such luxuries as food, shoes and heating I began part-time work with the national examination boards and, for

¹³⁴ In fact, it gets worse – to my knowledge none of my ancestors died in WW1 and I have no evidence that any of them actually served in the armed forces at that time. In mitigation, and I appreciate that this is tenuous, a great uncle of my wife [Private William Rawlinson, G/9138, Royal Fusiliers] was killed in June 1915 in Gallipoli aged 20. William is commemorated on the Helles Memorial as his body was never recovered and, on two of his medals, the engraver managed to misspell his name.

¹³⁵ Whilst studying for my 'A' Levels I toyed, briefly, with the idea of joining the National Coal Board as a trainee mine manager. After attending a recruitment programme with the NCB and underground visits to three working collieries in North Staffordshire, the idea of pursuing this career was quietly dropped. Following a slightly earlier decision not to attempt to play professional football with Stockport County, then in the old 4th Division, I think that I must have recognised that a rather less threatening and more certain career might have some advantage.

¹³⁶ Sheffield used to be in the West Riding of Yorkshire but, since 1 April 1974, has been in South Yorkshire. However, in the 1930s parts of Derbyshire were incorporated into Sheffield. With the ability to change county boundaries through political whim – remember when Birkenhead and Heswall were in Cheshire? – it may be possible that, at some time in the distant future, Sheffield will become an eastern extension of Cheshire.

Whilst at Sheffield I did not lose the connection with my home county; as part of this degree I geologically mapped the uplands which are followed by the Cheshire/Staffordshire border and, separately, researched a thesis on the geological history of the rocks which now form the Cheshire Plain and Wirral [*A critical review of the evidence relating to the palaeogeographic position and climate of Great Britain during the Permo-Trias*].

¹³⁷ However, again, there was a Cheshire connection – my research thesis here was based on the character of the River Dane and its valley in the vicinity of Congleton.

over 20 years, was a GCSE, 'AS' and 'A' Level Chief Examiner and Chief Coursework Moderator for, primarily, the Southern Examining Group (SEG), the Associated Examining Board (AEB), the University of London Schools Examination Board and the Welsh Joint Education Committee ¹³⁸.

Following early retirement from my day-job, and stepping-down from my examining work, I began to take a more serious interest in our local history. Although a member of the Burton & South Wirral Local History Society I had taken no part in the Research Group or the writing of the three books ¹³⁹ which had been published until I joined the Research Group in about 1998. An initial project of the Society in which I had some involvement was making a photographic record of Neston, Burton, Puddington and surrounding areas to commemorate the Millennium. Since then the Society has published a fourth book, *Neston : Stone Age to Steam Age* (2014), for which I wrote two chapters on the early history of the Neston Coalfield and contributed elsewhere.

In 2003, and unrelated to the History Society, I produced a small booklet *Burton : A Wirral Village An Outline History & Guide* which may be of interest to some. Copies were donated to Neston Library and, although currently out of print, it may be revised and reprinted in the near future. In recent years two excellent and commendable websites on our local history have been established, (<https://sites.google.com/site/burtonnestonhistory/home> and <http://www.nestonpast.com/>); examples of my research on other topics can be found there ¹⁴⁰.

An ongoing interest is the history of coal mining around Neston, the colliers and their families and - after around 15 years of work on this - I have completed about 80% of a database detailing known and recorded workers at the collieries. Should you have any knowledge on this subject, or be related to anyone who worked in local mining, or have any other snippets of information that can be shared, I would be most interested in hearing from you.

So, on a need-to-know basis I've probably revealed far too much about myself. However, it's worth mentioning that I do have other interests that impinge upon my time (gardening is a great therapeutic outlet and currently I play crown green bowls for both Neston and Capenhurst) and that I live in Ness with a very understanding wife and a man's second-best friend - a shed.

Ian L. Norris

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September 2018

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¹³⁸ Government-initiated reforms between 1996 and 2000 resulted in changes in the examining regime; SEG and AEB became part of AQA (the Assessment and Qualifications Alliance) and ULSEB joined Edexcel (now Pearson Edexcel). Only the WJEC, based in Cardiff, remains as a separate organisation.

The role of Chief Examiners and Chief Coursework Moderators is to oversee, manage and report on components of the examination system. A Chief Examiner, for example, is the person who devises and sets the examination papers (in conjunction with the examination board and a panel of teachers), leads and monitors the work of the team of examiners (those who, adhering to an agreed marking plan, actually mark the candidates' papers), resolves and problems or issues that might arise during the marking process, agrees the positioning of grade boundaries (in concurrence with the examining panel and statisticians from the examining board), writes a report on the examination and contributes to any post-examination requests, disputes and concerns from candidates or educational centres.

For a wholly-biased, negative jaundiced and contrarian view of the work of the examination boards (I cannot relate to anything in this article) see

<https://www.theguardian.com/teacher-network/2015/aug/13/a-levels-gcses-examiner-exam-results-wrong>

¹³⁹ *Burton in Wirral : A History* (1984) *Neston 1840 – 1940* (1996) *Neston at War : 1939 – 1945* (1999) These books are available in Neston Library. The Society is now the Burton & Neston History Society.

¹⁴⁰ See, for example: *Coal Preparation at the Wirral Colliery, Little Neston, in 1896* : Christopher Bushell VC, DSO : William ['Billy'] La Touche Congreve VC, DSO, MC – a Burton Hero : *The Lost Buildings of Neston – Hinderton Lodge*