



Lobley Link 2014



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Julia and I wish you all another very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Now well into retirement, I still have to remind myself sometimes that I don't have to do that daily grind to work any more. However, I still travel to London once a week – for a mix of work and pleasure. I have become a volunteer at the Society of Genealogists on Mondays.

This year we cruised with Hurtigruten in Norway to see and photograph the Aurora Borealis – with great success (see above left). We also spent some time in Northumberland, including a fascinating two-day guided archaeological tour of Bronze Age rock carvings in the county and a couple of nights on peaceful Lindisfarne. As in previous years we also enjoyed extended breaks at our caravan on the Isle of Wight, where we have also started sea kayaking.

A Merry Christmas to everyone.

Phil and Julia

Online Maps

Maps are a great resource for family historians, from the earliest manorial maps, tithe maps, Valuation Office maps, enclosure maps to the more modern Ordnance survey.

Maps help you to familiarise yourself with the places that your ancestors knew and help you to identify associated place names and physical features mentioned in family records. Modern software can also be used to link place names in your family tree to modern maps.

I have used many online map sites in my research. One of the newest (and free) set of online maps is held by the National Library of Scotland. Their resources are not limited to Scotland, but cover all of the UK. Using their georeferenced map facility at <http://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore> you can zoom in on a place name and then use a slider to overlay that map with another in their collection, or with a satellite view of the same location. Great for

establishing how places have changed over the years.

The LDS library have also upgraded the information available to their online users. Again free to use, accessing their map facility at <http://maps.familysearch.org/> allows you to search for a parish. You are then presented with a choice of map – parish, Registration district, Poor Law Union, etc - showing their respective boundaries. These may then be overlaid on satellite or other map views. Double clicking on the parish name will bring up an options box. From there, you can access a wiki page providing information on the parish, where the records are held and what, if any, records are available online.

A final useful resource is GenUKI. This link takes you to a page listing many other map resources: <http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/Maps.html>

Happy hunting!

Robbed while asleep

This year's snippet from the online British Newspaper Archive comes from the Yorkshire paper 'The Leeds Times' of the 31 December 1842.

ROBBERIES.— Several daring robberies have taken place in this town and neighbourhood during the past week—in the perpetration of which the gentlemen of the abstracting profession showed no common dexterity. The butchers have been the principal sufferers. On Saturday morning last, Mr. George Whiteley, butcher, of Dawgreen, discovered that one of his largest and fattest sheep was missing, and on the evening of the same day Mr. Wm. Ellis, Daisy Hill, having occasion to leave his shop for about two minutes, found on his return that a breast of beef had disappeared. But that which excited the greatest commiseration was the case of Mr. Joseph Lobley, a young man, who has but newly commenced business. Hearing of certain mis-doings in the town, he felt no inclination to leave his meat, but determined to watch it all night. At one o'clock in the morning, however, finding that no suspicious person had appeared, he retired to rest. Awaking at two, he got up, and went to the shop—but all was gone. We are happy to say that the authorities are on the look out, and, ere long, we hope the hieves will be apprehended.

The Joseph Lobley in question was a son of Arthur Lobley (a wood turner/shuttle maker from Batley) and Hannah Brooke. In 1837, he married Eliza Lobley (stated to be 21, but I believe she was only 16/17). Eliza was probably distantly related to Joseph, but I cannot yet be certain. Sadly, Eliza died young, I believe in 1839. By 1851, Joseph had set up a butcher's shop in Westgate, Dewsbury and in September of that year he married a widow, Mary Webster (nee Bedford) at the Centenary Wesleyan Methodist Chapel in Dewsbury. His business prospered following that early setback. By 1881 he is shown as a 'retired butcher' and he died 'a gentleman' in 1895, leaving £523 in his will. His wife predeceased him in 1887, leaving the grand sum of £1167!

Interestingly, one of Joseph's executors was David Kendal Lobley, son of a John Lobley. I can't yet link the three families of Joseph Lobley, of his first wife Eliza Lobley and of David Kendal Lobley. A research subject for the New Year.

Volunteering at the Society of Genealogists



I became a member of the Society of Genealogists (SoG) about 35 years ago and, over that time, I have paid many visits to London to use their comprehensive library.

When I retired last year, I decided to become a volunteer for one day a week at the library. Volunteers undertake many jobs at the SoG, ranging from shelf stacking, helping researchers and transcribing both paper and digitised records.

I'm one of a small team that, over the past year, have created indexes from a number of old, paper-based records. We have completed an index of Coastguards and another of Solicitors and Lawyers – both of these from thin, postcard sized slips of

paper produced by former members. We are currently ploughing our way through over 30 volumes of 19th and early 20th century staff records of HM Customs & Excise (my old employer). They are a veritable goldmine of information, both good and bad. All these indexes will ultimately be made available online, linked to digital images of the original records. I enjoy the work and the banter with the other volunteers - but not with the stress of paid employment!

James Lobley – another painting

Here is another gleaned from the internet. This painting is held by Bradford Museums and Galleries.



Roast Beef of Old England

Found at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/arts/yourpaintings/>

"The Roast Beef of Old England" is a well known patriotic ballad, written by Henry Fielding and first performed in 1731. The tune is still played by both the Royal Navy and the US Marine Corps at formal dinners. The song has been the subject for several artists, including Hogarth.

This old codger, possibly a waiter in an inn, seems to have his hands full. Let's hope he got to eat some of the roast!

Until next Year...

Phil Lobley