

# Abbey Genealogy Enthusiasts

Issue 21

Date - Wednesday 16th July 2008

Next Meeting - Wednesday 20th August 2008

Our Website : [www.walthamabbeygenealogy.co.uk](http://www.walthamabbeygenealogy.co.uk)



## Notice Board

### ➤ Good-bye to an old friend

The funeral of Ernest Holwill was held at the Parndon crematorium on Thursday the 3rd of June. Susan Heather, Lezley Viller and Mick Letts attended as friends and AGE group representatives. Ernest led a very varied life and worked for the Lions club charity, but unfortunately Ernest suffered from ill health in recent years. We donated £20 to the Lions club in lieu of flowers in line with Helen's wishes. We offer our condolences to Helen, Chris and family wish them well for the future.

### ➤ My Irish Ancestry

Site aimed at those interested in Irish family and Irish immigration history. Add queries related to your family tree to our discussion forums. Sign up and choose up to 4 counties which you are researching. We have setup Discussion Forums and Links for each county.

[www.myirishancestry.com](http://www.myirishancestry.com)

### ➤ Cumbria Ancestry

For as little as 50p, family history hunters who visit any Cumbrian library will be able to search name-indexed census information from 1841 to 1901 which would normally cost £70 to access through a private subscription.

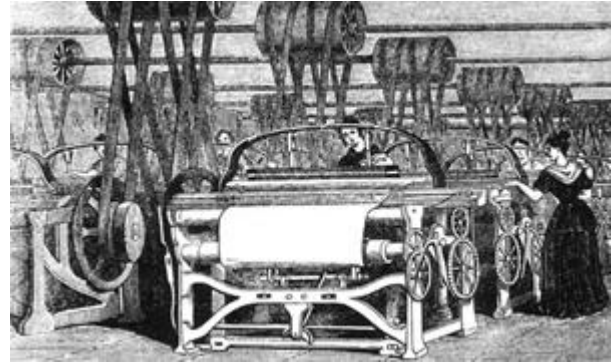
[www.cumbria.gov.uk](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk)

### ➤ Charles Dickens

Looking forward to the trip on Saturday to Dickens world. Found a really good website on Charles Dickens that might be worth a browse.

[www.charlesdickenspage.com](http://www.charlesdickenspage.com)

## The Victorians and How They Changed Britain



Great Britain was a different place to live when Queen Victoria reigned as monarch. Her time as queen is the longest to date of any other monarch. This period of time is known as the Victorian era. A period in time that saw many changes take place in Britain, from industrial changes, agricultural changes and new technologies that started to develop. All these changes affected the British people's way of life.

The industrial revolution hadn't just started at the beginning of Victoria's reign; it had begun slowly some sixty years previously. But by the time she became monarch in 1837 things were starting to move at a pace. Steam power was becoming the dominant force in everything, from raising London Bridge to the manufacturing of textiles and all other goods. Traditional methods of manufacturing goods was now being replaced by machines which could not only produce goods more accurately, but also allowed larger items to be produced easier. But by far the biggest advantage was production, textiles for example could now be produced not stop, steam allowed mills to run 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 52 weeks a year. For the people with money and an eye for business this time was utopia, many mills were built in the midlands and the north of England near to rivers, to allow steam powered looms to be installed. These mills created some of the towns and cities we now have today from either nothing or a small village due to its location.

These newly formed industrial sites began sucking in people in ever larger amounts, not only locally but from all over the country. People left the countryside and agricultural work in their droves in search of better paid jobs, only to find that conditions in mills were dangerous and dirty. Housing created for the mill workforce were often small and cramped, with more than one family sharing a two up two down house. This period in history for genealogists can be quite difficult due to this migration of people away from their birthplaces, not by just a few miles but in a lot of cases hundreds of miles away.

For the entrepreneur it meant wealth abound, in many cases forming dynastic families that in turn spawned more wealth and these in turn creating family estates to rival the eighteenth century aristocrat's stately homes. Goods began being exported across the globe to an eager clientele that had never seen goods at prices and in such quantities. Britain boomed throughout the Victorian age on this industrial wave, innovation on all fronts was sweeping this wave. From men like Isambard Kingdom Brunel using steel to produce his ever larger creations, such as bridges and ships to James Watt and his steam engines.

Travel that we take for granted today suddenly opened up to everybody in Victorian times because of steam trains, railway lines were being laid across the country making places like the coast accessible to the common man. People began to demand better working conditions and holidays, which they could go to see the sea.

Where we stand today in many ways is due to the Victorians, we owe them a great deal. We still use a lot of their wonders even today, just look around you and see.



## Ginger Sponge Cake

### INGREDIENTS

1/2 lb (225g) Flour  
4 oz (100g) Butter  
4 oz (100g) Demerara Sugar  
1 Egg  
1 tablespoon Golden Syrup  
1/2 teaspoon Ground Ginger  
1/2 teaspoon Bicarbonate of Soda

### METHOD

Beat the butter and sugar to a cream. Beat the egg and mix the golden syrup with it. Add to the butter and sugar, and when well mixed, add the flour and ginger gradually, beating all the time. Dissolve the soda in the milk, mix it with the other ingredients, and turn into a well greased mould or basin. Cover with greaseproof paper and steam for three hours. Serve with golden syrup poured over.

Serves 4.



### Contribute to the Newsletter

Tell us how your getting on with your research so far and have you discovered any hidden skeletons you want share with us. Have you come across some unexpected Ancestors, lost relatives, a famous Ancestor? Or do you have any old photos and stories you would like to share in the newsletter, it's all history and we'd be happy to hear it.

Email : [cheryl@familypast.co.uk](mailto:cheryl@familypast.co.uk)