

## Meeting Report – September 2024

### ‘Census Surprises & Records Revelations Part 2’

Group members were very pleased that the Showcase on 12<sup>th</sup> September had brought us six more members. The meeting was kindly conducted by the august Mr Allan Jones, who came out of retirement as group leader in my absence. Thanks to Mark B and Terry G who also offered their services. Karen O opened the proceedings with a fascinating ancestral story.

Karen always thought that her mother's family were from Salford, but looking at the 1871 census shows that her great great grandfather was born in Ireland. He was called Lovick Loftus Reade (always good to have an unusual name when searching family history). Karen's searches led to a very detailed article on 'The Reades of Cos Tipperary and Kilkenny' published by the Irish Genealogical Research Society. This traced the family back to a Richard Reade around 1610. The Reades owned large estates in Ireland and were connected to the aristocracy. Lovick himself had been presented at Court.

This raises the question on how Lovick ended up in a terraced house in Salford and when he died left an estate valued at less than £20. The answer lies in various newspaper ads placed by the Incumbered Estates Court for the sale of his estate. The Court had the power to force the sale of assets to pay off creditors. He had squandered his fortune and had just enough money left to purchase a commission in the 6<sup>th</sup> Lancashire Militia.

This was not the end of the story. Looking at the 1861 census, Lovick was living in Salford with a wife and 2 children. Records show however that they didn't actually get married until 1862. The marriage certificate lists Lovick as a widower. This piqued Karen's curiosity.

Widening the search from Great Britain and Ireland to worldwide, she found a record of his marriage in Australia in 1853. He appears on the passenger list arriving in Australia in April 1853 but no record of him returning. He can't have stayed very long as he got his commission in the militia in 1855. As a final twist, inquisitive Karen found a marriage notice in the Melbourne Argus dated March 1866 for Henrietta (widow of Lovick Loftus Reade) to a Thomas Boem. So when Lovick married in 1862 claiming to be a widower, his 1<sup>st</sup> wife was very much alive, as was he when she married in 1866. Both bigamists! What a tale!