

Lindale Enquiry July 2017

In July we were contacted by Raymond Hopkins of Gettysburgh, USA.



James Sutton Holmes - My Great-grandfather was born (in 1859 Ulverson?) and lived in Cartmel beginning about 1860. He was listed as being one-year-old on the 1861 Census. He lived with his mother and older brother John on Water Street (Great Harwood). He left for America sometime after 1881.

James Holmes, his father was a 44 years old and was a Police Constable according to the Census. Margaret Holmes, his mother was 42 and born in Dolphinholme.

Raymond asked where he could find genealogical or church records pertaining to his ancestors.

James Sutton Holmes and
Raymond's grandfather
Alfred Roscoe Holmes
born in St Louis Nov.1889

Using the records on the online geneology site findmypast and the Lancashire OnLine Parish Clerks project that includes Cartmel Parish Registers I was able to report that James Sutton Holmes was born in Lindale in the second quarter of 1859 and his older brother John William Holmes was baptised at Cartmel on 2 August 1857, the son of James Holme, policeman and his wife Margaret. James Holmes had married Margaret Sutton in 1852 in Preston. They are shown in the 1861 census living in Lindale. They left Lindale when father James was posted to Blackburn and a report in the Blackburn Times dated 04 October 1862 names PC James Holme as the officer who apprehended poachers in a case of night poaching. Another report in 1863 describes how PC Holmes was badly beaten by thieves that he tried to arrest. I was also able to tell Raymond that Lancashire police records are available at Lancashire Archives (Preston).

I discovered that James Holmes died in Blackburn aged 54 in 1870 and traced the remaining family members in the 1871 and 1881 census living in Bolton. He married Alice Roscoe in 1882. James had a draper's shop and also dealt in cotton waste and then he was a furniture auctineer but that business failed in September 1883.

This was probably the reason he emigrated to America in 1884 where he became a success life insurance agent. I exchanged a series of emails with Raymond who gave me more details and pictures of James Sutton Holmes' life in America. James died in California on June 26th, 1926.

Although James Sutton Holmes only spent a short period in Lindale I found it very interesting to research details of his family. It made me think about the policing of the Peninsula which is another area that needs researching. PC Holmes is not named in any newspaper reports for our area but he probably was hunting for poachers and dealing with drunkenness in Lindale.

An article containing more detailed information is on the website in the research section for Lindale.

Pat Rowland

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