

DISTANT CONNECTIONS

The Society now has its first member in the United States! Five years ago Rosanne Rappazini from Washington State started tracing her family history and found the Society's website as she knew of family connections to the area.

When she asked to join the Society and receive our Newsletters and History Periodicals, we were able to find out about her Oxton roots. She wrote:

"I found so much information on your Society website, it was amazing. My family line in Oxton dated back to 1699, and by following the links and references I found the direct line to my 8 times great grandparents, Alice and Thomas Spark. I found the Will and Codicil of Thomas Spark, Yeoman of Oxton, dated 1731. His direct descendant Philip Thomas, my great-great grandfather, was the master builder of St Saviour's Church"

"My grandfather, Gordon Thomas, born and raised in Oxton, emigrated to the US after WWI after serving in the Cheshire Regiment, Welsh Division. So my Oxton roots are deep, even though it took me a while to discover them"

Rosanne contacted Bob Knowles of the Society's History Group about the History Walks, as she was planning to visit the UK, and he was able to put her in touch with a cousin who still lives in Oxton. Rosanne has now visited her cousin twice and even made it to the Secret Gardens event in 2017! She was able to see the Oxton Conservative Club and several homes in the area which were also built by the Thomas's.



Gordon Thomas in WWI



Rosanne Rappazini outside St Saviours

Rosanne noted that when her grandfather Gordon went to the US in 1920 he followed the family tradition and started a building company with his brothers, which is still being managed today by Gordon's grandson and great-grandson!

She says "Thanks to your Society, I found not only my distant ancestors, but also my marvellous cousin, and for that I am exceedingly grateful"