Bolton's Genies



The Monthly Newsletter of the Bolton & District Family History Society.

Newsletter comments and Speaker Queries: <u>boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk</u>

Research help, Bookings and General Queries: bolton@mlfhs.org.uk

Secretary: Barbara Owen on 01204 309515

September 2015

A branch of The Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society.

Hello all.

Welcome to our September edition. Some of you will already know we have had quite an eventful summer despite it being the holiday period. We have had a few hurdles but one of our main problems has been having to "rejig "our speaker programme quite a bit due to events beyond our control. I suppose this is inevitable with us having to book so far in advance to get the best people, as they are also usually the busiest, (and who can really know what they will be doing in 18 months' time). However, sorting it out isn't easy at short notice when all you have to work on over the holiday period is an iPad and iffy Wi-Fi. It might be incorrect to say things are calming down a bit now, but maybe "organised" could be a better description.

Stand by for some more imminent changes that we hope you will appreciate, with more announcements coming next month.

I have also come to notice more over this last few months how the world seems to have shrunk with the advent of modern technology. You will have seen some contributions to the Genie over the last year from expats, but I am also only just coming to realise how dependant the MLFHS is on these people for day to day running of our projects. Just as examples one of our members, Lynn K is over there in the USA helping me do monthly publicity flyers for our monthly meetings to many of the online Rootsweb groups etc with no credit for her activities whatsoever, and yet it is a very important function. By chance I have also just made contact with another lady in Canada Pat H, who was helping me out with a local based tree, but then mentioned she is a regular transcriber for Lancs OPC and "When I was working on the St. Peter's, Halliwell registers my coordinator lived in New Zealand. Another lived in Bolton and another in the south of England. Of course they or their parents



were all were born or lived in Lancashire at one time or another." And "Lancs OPC do not need volunteer transcribers at the moment. However, they do need photographers to go to the Lancashire Archives in Preston to photograph certain registers. I know a lady who did this for St. Matthew's, Bolton and it

is not an easy task. Joan lives in Ottawa, Ontario".

Similarly I also discovered that Paul D , Lancs \mbox{OPC} coordinator is actually based in California.

What an international "family" we are. I have asked Pat if she would mind contributing from time to time. It almost feels like she is attending the meetings and just shows how folk get involved wherever they live.

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OUR LAST and NEXT MONTHLY MEETINGS

Our September 2nd Meeting. This of course has been where our advertised speaker Anita Forth had to withdraw at short notice, but we were lucky enough to obtain the services of Tony Foster, well-known local historian, who came to tell us how he researched his Uncle Bilsborrow. This was a name he found on a 250 year old family letter, and his investigations lead him to see and explain the effects of the change of calendar of 1750, and the 1753 Hardwicks Marriage Act, in one individual's life. He also reminded us of the invaluable "3 legged milking stool rule" of double, treble and quadruple check if possible and gave us this site Lancashire Wills. http://user.xmission.com/~nelsonb/lws.htm as another local resource. We felt he had shown us how to put some flesh on some very old bones by the time he had finished and I hope it has inspired many of us to get "stuck in" again to the new season's activities.

Our October 7th Meeting is also different from the one advertised. Tony should have been visiting us this month, but also had to adjust his arrangements and will give his advertised talk on Civil Registration next year. Instead we have Sara Vernon, local author and Phd Research Student who is researching "Salford Hundred Place/ Field Names and their archaeological importance within the studied landscape", coming to tell us about the history and origins of some local surnames. If you have read any of her books about Bolton I think you will agree that this should be a treat. This recent web article Why Did My Ancestor Change His Name? By Kimberly Powell Genealogy Expert

http://genealogy.about.com/od/surnames/fl/Why-Did-Our-Ancestors-Change-Their-Names.htm?utm_content=20150901&utm_medium=email&utm_source=exp_nl&utm_campaign=list_genealogy&utm_term=list_genealogy conveniently discusses the theme of her talk which will be on a more local level.

(All at Bolton Cricket Club (Back door), Bishops Road, off Green Lane, Farnworth, BL3 2JB 7.30pm,

First Wednesday of each month apart from January).

We offer a Help Desk for personal research after each meeting, and have a recycle service for your used Family History Magazines.

Don't throw them out, bring your old ones in to be passed on..

--o-O-o--VISITS and ACTIVITIES



• Thursday 10th -Sunday 13 September National Heritage Open Days From, thousands of volunteers across the country invite you to experience local history, architecture and culture.

http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/directory . The listings here are live and

keep checking as more are being added daily in the run up to the festival weekend (as well as any amendments and cancellations). This is the link for Bolton events http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/directory/laa/bolton

• Friday September 18th Smithills Hall

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smithills_Hall Visit starting at 1.00pm
and will last between 60-90minutes. The price of the guided
tour is £2 payable on the day. There is now a cafe in the Hall
and if you would like to book a table for a light lunch for
12.00am please contact Brian as above. The cafe is now very
busy and if you just turn up there is no guarantee of a table



• Tuesday 10th November Hall i,th Wood https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hall_i%27_th%27_Wood in the morning time not yet agreed. The charge again is £2. Booking details as above

MORE HELP WITH ARRANGING TRIPS IS BADLY NEEDED. ANY OFFERS PLEASE.
THERE IS A LOT OF MULTI TASKING GOING ON HERE.

GENIE'S TIPS for SEPTEMBER

FOR BEGINNERS

Some Familysearch.com Tips-

Getting to Know Your Computer by Colleen Willis

Attack (Ideas associated William And College)

A College William And Col

https://docs.google.com/file/d/OB1_1g7j-PaGATGxvRFVkUOlrRjA/edit?pli=1_and

England Research Tips and Strategies this seems mainly aimed at Americans but
maybe useful for others as well
https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/index.php?title=England_Research_Tips_and_Strategies&utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter

PROBATE RESEARCH

• Probate Websites

Find a will or probate for England and Wales https://www.gov.uk/search-will-probate (this is free to search but now as well as Ancestry's

• England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1966

http://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/db.aspx?dbid=1904 with new records and images added that were previously missing from this collection, for years 1871, 1877, 1904, 1922, and 1930 and their advice on

The Records of Death: Using Probates in Family History
 https://www.ancestry.com/academy/course/using-probates-family-history
 we also have Findmypast's

• Probate Calendars Of England & Wales 1858-1959 http://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/probate-calendars-of-england-and-wales-1858-1959

https://www.facebook.com/help/325807937506242/

WORKSHOPS and COURSES and CLASSES

Autumn Starter Classes Unfortunately those announced last month which were to be held at some local Bolton libraries, have now had to be cancelled due to ill health. We are hopeful that they will be resumed after Christmas.



In the meantime the talks at Manchester Central Library (actually the nearby Friends Meeting House on Mount Street, to the rear of Central Library) continue with

- -Talk 5 (Wills and Probate) will now be held on Saturday 5th September in room
- -Talk 6 (19th and 20th Century Sources) will now be held on Saturday 10th October in room F12
- -Talk 7 (Irish and Scottish) will be held as planned on Saturday 7th November, and will take place in room G1 at the Friends Meeting House.

All talks are free for MLFHS members, with a nominal charge for none members off set if joining on the day. They will start at 10.30am and last for about two hours. For more information re coming MLFHS activities and booking details look here https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/united-kingdom--manchester/mlfhs/?sort=date You might also like to look at these pages of our website for suggestions about how to start family research http://www.mlfhs.org.uk/Infobase/beginning.php

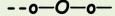




THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT ON SEPT 1st THE TRAMS ARE NOW RUNNING THROUGH ST PETERS SQUARE AGAIN BUT

THE BAD NEWS IS WE STILL NEED TO GET OFF AT MARKET STREET OR DEANSGATE FOR THE LIBRARY

Progressors morning and Advanced afternoon courses are offered by our Rita Greenwood in conjunction with "Enjoy Learning", at the Friends Meeting House, Silverwell Street, Bolton, see http://www.enjoy-learning.org.uk/courses-by-day.php for more information... These are 10 week courses starting Oct 1st with a fee of £75 in a "convivial" atmosphere and many of us just keep going back for more. Email Boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk for more information about which class to join etc.



THIS MONTHS LOCAL NEWS and SOME ORGANISATION UPDATES

Lancashire Records





http://www.lan-opc.org.uk/ and left click on the "What's New" tab on the left

Wigan Borough Online War Memorial from Wigan and Leigh Archives Online http://wiganarchives.past-view.com/archive/first-world-war-records is the result of a project between Archives & Local Studies Volunteers and Wigan Council's First World War Commemoration Fund. They have tried to research every name listed on Wigan Council's war memorials, linking biographical information on the men and women who died during the war to thousands of digitised newspaper stories. You can search for individual people using the search tool or browse the newspaper reports.

"Wyre Council Records for the four cemeteries managed by Wyre Council in North Lancashire", Deceased Online 60+ cemeteries and 5 million Lancashire records are now available on www.deceasedonline.com.

SOME INTERESTING, USEFUL, AND MAINLY FREE WEBSITES

The National Archives Monthly newsletter

https://dub115.mail.live.com/?tid=cmKGR5pM1B5RGmmyxZ5UTs4A2&fid=flLSfm0YzdnEadRhZtH0Bvfw2

Do you all know about this very useful and free facility which informs of new releases as well as offers of all sorts of interesting articles?

In this bumper issue, we bring you news of naval service records available online for the first time, along with advice on searching passenger lists and naturalisation papers.

Some of our family history research guides are offered to run with . With Who Do You Think You Are returning to our screens this week,

What do these documents reveal about attitudes to crime and punishment?

http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/19th-century-prison-ships/

England Jurisdictions Maps - 1851 https://dub115.mail.live.com/?tid=cmsdSuvyBF5RGCqWw75aeKng2&fid=flinbox "The London FamilySearch Centre can be found on the first floor of The National Archives at Kew. It is extensively used by family historians who consult its large stock of films of parish registers and other resources. The Centre's recently upgraded website now includes a series of interactive maps showing the boundaries of a range of key jurisdictions in England as at 1851. The separate layers available include: Counties Civil registration districts Dioceses Poor Law Unions and Hundreds". I am very impresse3d by this site. Have a look. For each layer, you can zoom in to parish level and confirm the relevant jurisdiction. Readers can choose from three different background options:

The Lost Cousins Newsletter http://lostcousins.com/newsletters2/aug15news.htm by Peter Calver. When discussing any newsletters I feel I should also mention the above for the benefit of any newcomers. This site is always full of interesting information, explanations and often updates of current offers etc

MORE MILITARY SITES



The Long, Long Trail -The British Army in the Great War, 1914-1918 http://www.1914-1918.net/index.html "All about the soldiers, units, regiments and battles of the British Army of the First World War, and how to research and understand them". This is of course one of the

definitive websites to be used when researching WW1, and the TNA Index .Cards, <a href="http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/r/2_q=service%20records&_sd=1914&_ed=1920&_hb=tna&_d=WO], also available on Ancestry are often the first and maybe the only surviving reference that can be found when initiating any research. But do you understand the military shorthand on these cards. We now have this very helpful

Researching a soldier How to interpret a medal index card http://www.1914-1918.net/soldiers/interpretmic.html

Some recent ANCESTRY Databases and articles (not free of course but available via most local libraries

- British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920
 http://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/db.aspx?dbid=1219&o_xid=64494&o_lid=64494&o_sch=Social+Media+Natural
- UK, City, Town and Village Photos, 1857-2005
 http://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/db.aspx?dbid=60587 The Francis Frith Collection contains photographs of almost every city, town and village in Great Britain, with some coverage of other countries including Ireland. The photos are primarily topographical of towns, landmarks and landscapes

SOME SOCIAL HISTORY COMMENTS

 "Tying the Knot in the Borders, A Look at Regular and Irregular Marriages in the Scottish Borders and Dispelling Some Myths", Borders Ancestry Website http://www.bordersancestry.co.uk/ 30.07.2015 by Susie Douglas



This a blog from a professional family history research service specialising in the Scottish borders and north Northumberland but of course the theory they are writing about goes far beyond these boundaries This is their July article. A fascinating and humorous discussion that might explain some of those "marriages" that you can't find a record of. I have yet to wade through some of their previous articles.

• The untold story of Ireland's 'Potato Orphans', the teenagers sent to Australia to be married off to convict settlers

 $\frac{http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3095781/Poor-shipped-against-world-untold-story-Ireland-s-Potato-Orphans-teenagers-sent-Australia-married-convict-settlers.html \\ \#ixzz3iLRrdhdS$

By Lucy Thackray for Daily Mail Australia Published: 10:48, 25 May 2015 | Updated: 08:35, 26 May 2015 "The 'Potato Orphans' of Australia is a tragic, little-known period in the nation's history, in which thousands of vulnerable teenage women, orphaned by the Great Famine, were shipped from Ireland to be wives for the Australian convicts".

"Gail Newman, passionate about discovering her ancestors forgotten stories, was shocked when she discovered the truth about her great-great-great-grandmother Jane McDonald.

- Opium in the Fens (and Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire and Manchester)

 http://druglibrary.eu/library/books/opiumpeople/opiuminthefens.html .` There was not a labourer's house ... without its penny stick or pill of opium, and not a child that did not have it in some form.' According to an analysis made in 1862, more opium was sold in Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire and Manchester than in other parts of the country ---.'
- 10 Tips for Finding Scottish Ancestry –Genealogy Insider 13.08.2015 by Diane Haddad of Family Tree Magazine
 http://blog.familytreemagazine.com/insider/2015/08/13/10TipsForFindingScottishAncestry.aspx
- Canals: The Making of a Nation http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0689qmh

This is a series of documentaries about the creation and use of the English canal system. I have found it fascinating on the previews from both the industrial, heritage and family history points of view, particularly the latter. Most of us must have ancestors who, with industrialisation either had to change from being "ag labs" based for

generations in one locality, to either move on to the cities with their mills and factories, or to use their physique for the new role of the more itinerant "navvy". The stories of how they travelled the country building the canals (and later railways), under the most horrendous conditions has not been heard much but must explain how so many Victorians moved around so much, giving us total confusion on the census tracings.

Similarly the Boat People or families who lived on the boats going up and

Similarly the Boat People or families who lived on the boats going up and down the route with their trade seem to be a forgotten population but with their own rich history.

NB We also have Bill Huyton Chairman of the Ormskirk FHS and Cofounder of "The Boat Peoples" website visiting us next July to tell us about the Boat People of the Leeds Liverpool Canal http://www.boatfamilies.org.uk/. I am really looking forward to this one, and he is still inviting anyone who thinks they may have had ancestors who were watermen to get in touch for him to research. Any offers???

Family History: Involve your children

http://blog.myheritage.com/2012/04/family-history-involve-your-children/ Do you wish that your children or grandchildren were more interested in their family history? Look here.



Do You Follow These "Rules" of Genealogy Research

http://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-resources/12-genealogy-research-rules/?cid=social_20150824_51063086&adbid=10152969151981039&adbpl=fb&adbpr=328754391038 Basic rules that we should never forget

"Genealogy Discount" also seems to be back after their holidays and have relaunched their Wednesday summaries of discount updates

http://www.genealogydiscount.co.uk/?utm_source=MadMimi&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Genealogy+Discount+Newsletter+%2337+Genealogist+FMP&utm_campaign=20150902_m127186362_Genealogy+Discount+Newsletter+%2337+Genealogist+FMP&utm_term=Genealogy+Discount

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PhD student makes groundbreaking Robin Hood text discovery

http://www.leedstrinity.ac.uk/blogs/phd-student-makes-groundbreaking-Robin-Hood-text-discovery Posted by Stephen Basdeo on 29 July 2015 Stephen is a PhD student at Leeds Trinity University exploring the uses and re-uses of Robin Hood in the 18th and 19th centuries. Last week, Stephen made a discovery that most scholars can only dream of - a previously undiscovered text that has vast implications for the narrative currently held by Robin Hood scholars http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3189718/Sex-spies-suburbia-seduced-girls-cinema-

peeked-canoodling-couples-official-research-new-book-tells-steamy-story.html

"King John's teeth" The Science Blog of the British Library from 27 July 2015 Julian Walker examines an unusual item included in the British Library's current Magna Carta exhibition and discusses what it might tell us about the infamous King John - See more at: http://britishlibrary.typepad.co.uk/science/2015/07/king-johns-teeth-.html?ns_campaign=One+Enewsletter+-+Auguståns mchannel=emailåns source=newsletteråns linkname=Untitled44åns fee=0å ccCt=2zXYp%7eLfcd

QDAYZsZqG9O9kwPS_2nJ4sQEObQNJqHuYmJMcmDInoSfqMbENZPiJm#sthash.kk4eODSq.dpuf He goes on to discuss how other health problems of historic figures might have affected the outcome of events such as "Henry VIII's leg ulcer in the factors leading to his increasingly autocratic reign, or evaluating among the factors leading to the outcome of the Battle of Waterloo Napoleon's haemorrhoids, which prevented him from supervising the denouement of the battle on horseback. "-

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MEMBERS COMMENTS, QUERIES, MEMORIES and ANECDOTES

TALES FROM T'MILL



Everyone knows that mill work was hard - long hours, low wages, dirty and dangerous conditions included. Sometimes workers' homes were without basic amenities and families were often overcrowded. Perhaps humour was an antidote to the daily grind. The person in the mill at whom most fun was poked was the tackler. He was in charge of a number of machines and was

responsible for ensuring his "team" was working properly. The tackler was, in stories, a "mawp" i.e. rather stupid and there follows some of these stories:

Music hath charms

A tackler bought a piano and a few days later was seen wheeling it on a handcart down the street. "Has ta sowd it, Bill" shouted one of his pals "Nowe" replied Bill, "I'm takkin it to t'music master to have me fost lesson".

Mind your own business

A young tackler had just been promoted and decided to get married. Going into a jeweller's shop he asked to see a wedding ring. "Eighteen carat" asked the jeweller. "No, I'm chewing bacca; besides, what's it get to do wi' thee"

A classical education

The Baptist Minister in a small Lancashire village was pleased when a rough and ready tackler asked him to christen his new-born baby. The day arrived and the Minister asked the father what the baby was to be called" "Homer" was the reply. When the service was over, the Minister said "I had no idea you were interested in the Classics". The tackler didn't know what he was talking about, so the Minister asked him why he had chosen that particular name. The proud father replied "Ah keep pigeons".

• The photographer's studio

A tackler went to a photographer's studio with a photo of his recently dead father. "Can thi enlarge this photo of me dad" asked the tackler. The photographer sized up the picture and said "Ah think soah". "Will you take his hat off" asked the tackler pointing to his father's cap. The photographer looked puzzled but he said "I'll do my best. What side did he part 'is hair". "Oh, I canna remember" replied the tackler "You'll see when yo tech his 'at off".

Household keys

A tackler was seen poking a stick under his front door and was asked what he was doing. He said "I'm a gormless so-and-so. Ah've gone and pushed mi key through t'letter box and forgotten to lock t'door".

If anyone needs translations, then they're not true Lancastrians.

Taken from "Tackler's Tales" collected by Brian Hall, Jack France & Roger Frost. More on http://archive.org/stream/TacklersTales/TacklersTales_djvu.txt

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OTHER LOCAL SOCIETIES NEWS

Halliwell Local History Society http://www.halliwell-lhs.co.uk/monthly-meetings



Email <u>margaretk@talktalk.net</u> .Meetings are usually held on the last Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm, at St Luke's Church, Chorley Old Road, BL1 3BE opposite Shepherd Cross St, Bolton, Their next talk is 29th September "Blackpool, fresh air and fun" by -John Doughty.

Turton Local History Society



Usually events are on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm All start at Longsight Church Centre at Harwood, BL2 3HX and this month's event is on 23rd September when Dr Paul Hindle is to talk about "Maps for Local History"

Please email Secretary <u>PeterMHarris@care4free.net</u> for more information.

Westhoughton Local History Group -

Meetings take place on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, between 10am and 12md in the room above Westhoughton Library, Market St, Westhoughton, BL5 3AU

http://www.westhoughtonhistorygroup.org.uk/Westhoughton_History_Group/Home.html

Next two talks are 17 September "Skeletons in the Cupboard": Bill Taylor, and 1 October "From Workhouse to Mayor's Chains": Martin Donaghy former Mayor of Bolton 2014 - 2015 (who showed us around the Town Hall last Spring.)

Horwich Heritage Centre- Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30pm at the Horwich Resource Centre, Beaumont Road (off Longworth Road), Horwich BL6 7BG.Open Days, are held most months on Saturdays between 10am --- 1pm

This month's talk is on 8th September with Peter Smith talking about "Memories of the Grand Theatre". With lots more on offer please consult their web site at http://www.horwichheritage.co.uk

Historical Association Bolton Branch

http://www.history.org.uk/resources/he_resource_1098_17.html

Meetings are routinely held the first Monday of each month at 7.30pm at the Girls' Division Great Hall at Bolton School. This month they have Monday 7 September 2015, their AGM and Ms Hannah Robb - Doctoral Researcher at the University of Manchester talking about "The Culture of Credit in Fifteenth Century Northern England" For more information contact .Secretary Jenni Hyde 01772 93033 or boltonhistory@aim.com

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That's all folks. As always all contributions / comments welcome.

This is your newsletter and only as good as you make it. All I am doing is collecting bits and pieces from all over and passing them on.