



The Monthly Newsletter of the Bolton Family History Society:

http://www.bolton.mlfhs.org.uk/

- Newsletter Comments, and Speaker Bookings: <u>boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk</u>
- General Society enquiries to the BFHS Secretary, Mrs B. Owen, 01204 309515
- Research help, General Queries: bolton@mlfhs.org.uk
- Help Desk Drop In 10am -12md Bolton Central Library. First Saturday of each month.
- Facebook page https://goo.gl/pxzgs8
- BFHS website http://www.bolton.mlfhs.org.uk/
- Bolton Document Collection on MLFHS website: https://goo.gl/hJi8Ns (members only)
- Join the MLFHS/BFHS at: http://mlfhs.org.uk/join/index.php

October 2017

Bolton Family History Society is a branch of The Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society

This month's iconic picture is the Little Bolton Town Hall currently being restored and soon to be used as a brasserie or similar, eating place Citation: 'Townships: Little Bolton', in A History of the County of Lancaster: Volume 5, ed. William Farrer and J Brownbill (London, 1911), pp. 251-255. British History Online https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/lancs/vol5/pp251-255 [accessed 11 September 2017].

Well welcome all to our October edition. As I write this in the closing days of September I am enjoying the beautiful autumn colours in the warm sunshine, and trying to ignore the fact that winter is only around the corner. Here are some items to keep you busy and hopefully warm you up.

Firstly, those who managed to attend this Octobers meeting should also now have a copy of next year's programme. For those who didn't I hope the details will also be on our website shortly if not already. You might also note that we are still lacking a trip coordinator which is why there are no more advertised at present. If anyone could manage to even offer to coordinate one, it would be a start, but current committee members and helpers are just unable to take on the extra load I'm afraid. We have the ideas but not the time.

One of the preoccupations for this month of course is the **Open Day we are preparing on Saturday 21**st in tandem with the staff of Bolton History Centre. More details below.

We are also preparing for our **Christmas Party which will be on Wednesday November 29**th. This is a pie and peas supper with vegetarian option and entrance by ticket only, prices are members £3-50, visitors £7. As usual the cost will be supplemented by the sale of raffle tickets selling at £1 a strip, at the last and next meetings. The main prize is a Christmas hamper but there will be more. We also plan to have our popular festive quiz and a talk about Christmas traditions from Linda Sawley. We hope you will all leave feeling full of Christmas cheer ready for your family events. No further meeting in December of course. The next one will be in January 2018, please consult the new programme, and more details in next month's edition and on our website.



Lastly a (very) early Christmas present to you all --- Hot from the Manchester Evening News, One of Bolton's best loved sons

Peter Kay channels his inner Mr Darcy in the epic new Warburtons advert - and it's hilarious



The Bolton comic appears in "Bride and Breadjudice" as a romantic hero

BySimon Binns 5 OCT 2017 https://goo.gl/UyTcPt. I think we need to see if we can get a speaker from here. Has anyone got any contacts??? Would you like a visit around "Warbies" even, if we can pull that one off?

OUR LAST and NEXT MONTHLY MEETINGS

Wednesday 4th October Most will know by now that our booked speaker Gail Newsham, who was coming to tell us about the "Dick, Kerr Ladies Football Team" informed us on the 12th September that she would be unable to come after all, as she had been invited to attend the House of Lords on the same day! Such an invitation is out of our class I'm afraid, but she has offered to try again as soon as we can sort a date out, (although as you should also have noticed this month, we have now filled all our slots for next year, ---- but check our website regularly for any last-minute changes as we have no other way of letting you know). The "upside" of this change was that

Julie Lamara, the Collections Access Officer-from Local Studies Bolton History Centre, Bolton Archives,

was good enough to help us out at short notice to give her talk on "Bolton Remembers", http://boltonremembers.org/ her War Memorial project. She introduced her presentation by explaining that on the centenary of WW1 funding had become available nationally from the War Memorials Trust https://goo.gl/knPLzB to find as many of the remaining memorials as possible for military or civilians, many of which may be lying around in quite a dilapidated condition, and at least preserve and record the information on them if it wasn't possible to save the original. She went on to show pictures of some of those that had been found locally, unnoticed, on walls for



years, behind cupboards, (one under a school theatre stage), in schools, churches, work places, sports halls, the list went on. Once names have been found Julies team at the History Centre have next tried to collate details, to identify where some individuals have been duplicated on more than one memorial (maximum so far is 5 entries), and then the next stage has been to find out as much as possible about the person to prepare a short biography for entry onto the Bolton History Centre database. They have identified 30 aspects of their lives https://goo.gl/ZdrcGw to question, to "put some flesh on" to the simple name that they started with. They have enquired about the subject's military details if appropriate, and their home circumstances such as family, school, work, and church attended. Sources consulted include local newspapers, Ancestry, Findmypast, local archives for school, church, and work records (nearby



recruitment records if they joined up in an adjacent area such as Bury, Wigan, Salford https://goo.gl/3JKVpq). They also liaise with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission https://goo.gl/s1qrpZ, Imperial War Museum https://goo.gl/s1qrpZ, and War Memorials Online https://goo.gl/8rfDnF which is the freely available national index of all names. Since starting the list of known memorials has grown from 309 to 500, but there are still many missing (see later), and sadly one in from Bear Street Christian Mission Church has been stolen before they could collect it.

The list of names originally started on the Bolton cenotaph in 1928 but soon ran out of space and has overflowed into the Books of Remembrance held in the Bolton Town Hall. Julie concluded by mentioning other useful local websites such as "GM 1914 The First World War in Greater Manchester" https://goo.gl/ZJ6Wm5 and more

details of her talk will be available shortly in our Miscellaneous — Handouts section of our website http://www.bolton.mlfhs.org.uk/Handouts.php. Julie is always on the lookout for more information about anyone military or civilian with a Bolton connection, who died as a result or war connected activities, or also survived WW1. As we come to the end of the centenary next year, her team also hope to expand to investigate the memorials from other wars such as Trafalgar, the Crimea and Boer Wars and WW2, so they are already accepting material ready to be processed. Please contact Julie Lamara on Tel: 01204 332194 E-mail: Julie.lamara@bolton.gov.uk or come and talk to her at our Open Day.

Wednesday 1st November 7.30pm, Tony Foster, experienced family historian, will talk about "A Trip to Switzerland in 1916: A little known aspect of WW1". He has told us that

"This talk details a scheme organised by the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St John of Jerusalem in England to allow wives and mothers to visit British Prisoners of War who were interned in Switzerland. Between September 1916 and November 1917 nearly 600 women visited Switzerland. Tony will mention four



women from North East Lancashire who were included in the scheme. The talk will also mention the sources available for researching POW records".



Please note we also have available some donated files from local families with the following surnames: Booth, Brindle, Cowell, Groom, Oldham, Pamphilon, Pegg, Pomfret, Schofield, Skipper, Walsh, Welsby, Yates, Young. The local northern villages named include, Egerton Edgworth, Quarlton etc, which are regularly mentioned, but there are also connections with Essex and Shropshire where it appears off shoots of the family went to settle. There is no tree supplied with this and all we know is that the creator has died and that the remaining family do not want all this supporting data. Some files are 3 inches thick. All the

paperwork is in plastic sleeves. In addition to BMD's there are census transcripts, actual BMD certificates, IGI data and other details in various combinations. I have seen these and there are approximately 30 of them, obviously too heavy to manhandle regularly although they were brought to the last meeting in about 6 boxes. For more information please could you email us as above, and Graham will be happy to pass on more details.

The files will be sold to the first comers at the extremely cheap price of £5 per file.

Terry Walsh from "The Family History Partnership" https://goo.gl/dCnzTn will also be selling his range of books on all aspects of Family History. For you to get stocked up for Christmas.



• Where?

Bolton Old Links Golf Club, Montserrat Brow, Chorley Old Road BL1 5SU. Buses 519&125 https://goo.gl/TH5zYC. All MLFHS members free. £2.00 to non-members unless joining on the night.

• When?

7pm beverages available for 7.30pm start, on the first Wednesday of each month. Extras include a Help Desk for personal research, Stationery Table for discounted equipment, and recycle service for your used Family History Magazines



RECENT TRIPS AND COMING EVENTS

Saturday 21st Oct 2017 Bolton Family History Open Day

Come along to the Bolton History Centre and ask the experts for the answer, whether you are stuck finding an ancestor or want advice on how to start tracing your family tree.

Talks in the Lecture Theatre



*11am From the cradle to the grave: a lifetime of sources. How many have you discovered. Jackie Depelle looks at our personal documents and shows how to extract information.

*12noon How to date old photographs with Anthony Firmin. There will be an opportunity after the talk to have your old photos dated

by Anthony. Please bring along your old photos (max 2 per person).

*1.30pm-3pm Children become a family history investigator!

Bring along your parents/grandparents to help in your search. Members of the Bolton Family History Society will be available to help you fill in a family history chart.

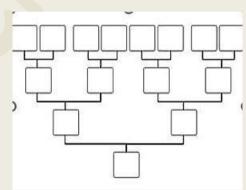
If you are in the bottom central square, whose names can you put in for the first 2 branches (parents), then next 4 branches (grandparents), then next 8 branches (great grandparents)?

Can you go further back? Do you know when they were born, married



or died? Have you got any old family photographs? Do you know where they lived, went to school, worked? How can you find out?

Strong room tours with the Archivist are available 1pm, 2pm, 3pm. Please phone Bolton History Centre 01204 332185 to book a place.



GENIE'S TIPS for

Free records on Findmypast https://goo.gl/LS84Ty

"At Findmypast our records are always free to search but did you know we also have almost 1 billion records that are free to view! Explore Census records, Parish records and Military records from England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland" -

Subscribe Discount - ancestry.co.uk https://goo.gl/LVYw5G

"Key features to uncover your UK lineage UK Premium. £119.99 £59.99 * 12-month membership. Get started. Search 1+ billion UK records, photos, and more."

This offer has been going for a few months now, and cynics might suggest they are trying hard to recruit more candidates for their DNA tests, to cross check for the ever-growing demand from our cousins to discover their roots, but does it matter? It seems that if your existing sub is allowed to expire, you can renew again via this route, (and maybe in the hopes that you will bring some blood with you).

family tree 3 Helpful Charts About Genealogy Software and Online Trees https://goo.gl/8NeeJm Family Tree Magazine Diane Haddad September 13, 2017

As the festive season approaches and the search for suitable presents starts again, I know many are wondering about the various options of genealogy software and family tree websites, to keep track of our family trees—the names, dates, places, how people are related, sources of all that information, etc. etc. I know many prefer the traditional way of hard copies of all documents and paper files but personally I soon felt totally overwhelmed by so many reams of paper everywhere. The compromise is probably somewhere in the middle, but here are a few comparison charts to compare what each does and doesn't do. It does have an American slant of course still worth a look. (I see at the time of writing 1\$ =75p. Ouch!!!)

PRESS RELEASE: "Launching our new FreeCEN website".

Free Cen I received this news from Denise Colbert Free CENs Engagement Co-ordinator, a few days ago, after previously enquiring about their transcribing situation and current changes. She has been good enough to give us this update on their progress, and I am hopeful that we will be able to arrange a speaker to tell us more about the new system, before too long.

"Did you know- FreeCEN gives free access to census records for England, Scotland & Wales? And we're launching our new website...

"FreeCEN offers a free-to-search online database of the 19th century UK censuses. Transcribed entirely by volunteers, we have more than 32 million individuals available on our website that anyone can search without having to create an account. The new 'FreeCEN2' website (https://freecen2.freecen.org.uk) launched on Monday 31st July 2017 with all of the records that the current website holds, but with a fresh new look and feel in-line with Free UK Genealogy and FreeREG. We believe that family history records should be free to access for everyone; our new website will offer more features for researchers, and make it easier for them to find what they're looking for. FreeCEN2 also brings with it a host of improvements for existing and future volunteers, such as a member's sign-in area and brand-new messaging system. FreeCEN, FreeREG and FreeBMD are projects by Free UK Genealogy, a registered charity that promotes free access to historical records. FreeREG underwent this process in 2015, and FreeBMD is due to begin its renewal later this year. *Pat Reynolds, Free UK Genealogy's Executive Director said, "We are very proud of the progress that our volunteers have made in the 18 years the project has been running, and we look forward to a time when we have a complete database of all UK censuses. The launch of our new FreeCEN2 website marks the beginning of an exciting period of renewal for FreeCEN."

*Brenda Bowers, FreeCEN project leader went on, "The new website is a work-in-progress and we want genealogists and family history researchers to try it out and let us know what they think. If we know what works for them, what doesn't, and what features they'd like to see, we can make FreeCEN2 the best resource for free census records. It could even encourage new volunteers to join us!"

*To try out FreeCEN2, please visit https://freecen2.freecen.org.uk and share your feedback with us to help make it the best it can be.

*We couldn't do what we do without our volunteers, and we're always looking for more. If you'd like to join the FreeCEN team, go to https://goo.gl/qTYnqx

More Background Information

Free UK Genealogy is a non-profit organisation that provides free, online access to family history records. We work with a team of dedicated volunteers to create high quality transcriptions of public records from governmental sources, parish churches, and other trusted institutions. We believe that Open Data and Open Source are key to making and keeping public records accessible to all.

Our volunteers have made available:

- 33,000,000 births, marriages and deaths in FreeBMD
- 38,000,000 records from parish registers in FreeREG
- 32,000,000 individuals from census data, from 1841 to 1891 in FreeCEN

We make the databases we create freely available for people to search in order to support their family history research. Unlike many sites, which are 'pay-to-view' after an initial search is carried out, our databases are completely free to search and view.

WORKSHOPS, COURSES and CLASSES

By the time you read this newsletter I suspect most of our autumn slots will be fully booked, but you may still be lucky here if you are looking at beginner/ intermediate levels and our experienced tutors do try to adapt with four (post Open Day) workshops to be held on the following

Saturdays from 10am to 12.30pm: Family History Workshops Bolton Central Library and Museum • Saturday 18 November • Saturday 25 November • Saturday 2 December • Saturday 9 December

Do you want to know about your ancestors but don't know how to get started?

Have you looked at internet sources and hit a brick wall?

Researchers of all abilities are welcome. The cost for the four workshops is £25 and includes refreshments and materials. For further details and to book a place, please call Barbara Owen on 01204 309515.

THIS MONTHS LOCAL NEWS and SOME ORGANISATION UPDATES

Wigan Cemeteries https://goo.gl/xz6rRP What I should imagine is quite a useful website giving location of 9 cemeteries and plans of their structure

Lancashire Records





Lancs OPC http://goo.gl/AN699z and left click on the "What's New" tab on the left



Lancashire Archives News and Events https://goo.gl/H8UexE for their latest newsletter and more

"Lancashire Wills & Probate 1457-1858" https://goo.gl/g6AQdZ Findmypast

Explore an index of more than 229,000 Lancashire wills and probate records. Reveal if your ancestor's probate papers have survived through the centuries. The index will give you details about the type of material available, the probate year, and your ancestor's occupation and residence.

Apologies if you don't subscribe here but maybe worth visiting your local library. In fact, have you looked at FMPs dataset lately? They are expanding by the week. Here are just the English ones https://goo.gl/w65SCD

"A catalogue of Lancashire Books" by Bob Dobson Email: landypublishing@yahoo.co.uk

Bob is reluctant to put his working list on a website because it changes so frequently with sales and acquisitions, but believe me he has a treasure trove here. I recommend that if you enjoy reading quality books about the north west you contact him for his current list

"All books in this catalogue are in good second-hand condition with major faults stated and minor ones ignored. Any book found to be poorer than described may be returned at my expense. My integrity is your guarantee" ---"I operate a search service for Lancashire & Cheshire books. Tell me what you seek" ---



"All second-hand items are sent 'on approval' to ensure the customer's satisfaction before payment is made".

"Living DNA" Offer

Hot off the press the first of the Christmas offers seems to be emerging with Living DNA now offering a test at £99 plus postage compared to their usual £120, although it has been running at £109 for a few months recently. Although generally recommended as the best ones for tracing British ancestry https://goo.gl/fUk6u3 so far, they have not been able to offer the big attraction of trying to match samples from other companies and find cousins. It seems that is going to change shortly from what they say here on their website. Don't ask me, I'm just passing it on , but also keeping my fingers and toes crossed. https://goo.gl/vnAzMz "Coming Soon! Family Matches

We'll soon be giving you the choice to securely compare your DNA with other people's DNA in our database and that of our trusted partners. This means you can find family matches from all over the world. Our database is growing by the day and you will be updated with matches when new people join".

SOME INTERESTING, USEFUL, AND MAINLY FREE WEBSITES

Townships: Little Bolton https://goo.gl/Gi5wJg Pages 251-255 A History of the County of Lancaster: Volume 5. Originally published by Victoria County History, London, 1911. "The principal part of this township, containing the northern half of Bolton-le-Moors, is bounded on the south by the Croal, on the east by Tonge Brook, and on the north by Astley Brook ---"

The Lancashire Aircraft Investigation Team https://goo.gl/Hu2Ns8

The Lancashire Aircraft Investigation Team aims to research and record the aviation heritage of our region and where appropriate to recover and preserve associated artefacts. Whilst our research extends back to the earliest days of aviation, during which the region played a prominent role, our primary interest is in the air war over the North West of England during WW2. And



Miscellaneous Curiosities https://goo.gl/fRQg5r: Lancashire at War

- *Anglezarke Crash site memorial
- *Made in Leyland the Centurion Tank (which I think Alan Haynes remembers SEEING stored on Old Kiln Lane as a boy)
- *Hidden room in Manchester Town Hall Extension has a diary of bombing raids on its wall from World War Two
- *Robert Whitehead, a member of the Whitehead family of Bury, invented the torpedo. Behind Bury Town Hall is Whitehead Gardens (and his daughter Agatha von Trapp was the Grandmother of the children whose escapades were featured in the film 'The Sound Of Music')

More to come on this subject. Can anybody add any more please?

Registration Districts in England and Wales – UKBMD https://goo.gl/MpMMCK an alphabetical list of all the registration districts in England from 1837 to the present, and in Wales between ...

The Digital Panopticon https://goo.gl/i6YdbC

"This website allows you to search millions of records from around fifty datasets, relating to the lives of 90,000 convicts from the Old Bailey, to search individual convict life archives, explore and visualise data, and to learn more about crime and criminal justice in the past"



At first, I thought this amazing site would not be any use to me as I have no connection with the Metropolis that I know of, but low and behold it does include anyone from anywhere <u>committing</u> an offence in London. By pure chance the first story I came across was of a Victorian lady born in Hull, Yorkshire, who committed offences in London, but came back to die in a Hull hospital. The project has many serious academics from several universities involved in it and good to see how even many of the big subscription sites have contributed. Well worth a look.

A Passport from 1855 https://goo.gl/EANxTV Society of Genealogists by Lori 05.09.2017

"Not many families have original passports used by their ancestors in the 1800s. The main reason is that before the First World War a British citizen didn't need a passport to travel to other countries or to be allowed to return to Britain. However, merchants travelling and diplomats usually held them. It was a way of introducing themselves to important people in other countries".

Browse catalogue Maps: North https://goo.gl/dKrVr5 British History Online

British History Online describes itself as "a digital library of key printed primary and secondary sources for the history of Britain and Ireland, with a primary focus on the period between 1300 and 1800. We aim to support the learning, teaching and research of our users from around the world@.

I first saw this advertising their London maps but it seems they cover the country.

"Sources relating to the historic counties of Cheshire, Cumberland, Durham, Lancashire, Northumberland, Westmorland and Yorkshire. Materials are tagged by place based on how much that region is covered in the text, and how much of that text covers the region. The place category is applied to the entire publication, rather than small book sections".

MISCELLANEOUS

The Historical Treatment and Perception of Bankrupts https://goo.gl/zx9NBL The Gazette

"The treatment of individuals and businesses in debt has (happily) evolved over time. Andy Wood of Wilson Field provides an overview of how things were, and how things have changed".



The phase books and a calculate



(Welsh) Crime and Punishment https://goo.gl/jhgg6w National Library of Wales

In a similar, but Welsh vein, there is news of the new "The Crime and Punishment database comprises data about crimes, criminals and punishments included in the gaol files of the Court of Great Sessions in Wales from 1730 until its abolition in 1830. The

Court could try all types of crimes, from petty thefts to high treason. In practice, most of the petty crimes were heard at the Courts of Quarter Sessions, whose records are held by the Welsh county record offices. Details about these records can be searched at Archives Network Wales. The records of the Court of Great Sessions do not include cases tried in Monmouthshire since that county formed part of the Oxford Assize circuit, whose records are held by the National Archives. There are, however, a number of cases of Monmouthshire interest on this database.

MEMBERS COMMENTS, QUERIES, and MEMORIES)

*Follow Ups from David Lambert's talk last month on "Where there's a Will there's a Way" Did you manage to see Lisa Hammond's episode of "Who Do You Think You Are?", broadcast on Thursday 7 September 2017 BBC 1, key documents: By Rosemary Collins, 5 September 2017 https://goo.gl/yTl.fe? By another quirk of good fortune, within hours of hearing David Lamberts talk about Wills and Probate as reported in last month's "BoltonGenies", Lisa Hammond's story appeared on BBC1 with a similar report as David had included, about the 1-shilling legacy seen in so many wills. Some other thoughts on the subject include from Rootschat https://goo.gl/ZV9dTA a string about 18th Century Wills, and "Leaving a smile along with your legacy" "Writing a will gives you the opportunity to have the last word on your worldly possessions. But it can also be a chance to have the last laugh too. Here Peter de Vena Franks, campaign director, looks at the funniest will requests in history." https://goo.gl/AtVsae wed, 09/21/2016

Maybe by another coincidence, (or I would like to think by our having asked their secretary to speak to us on the subject), the recent Federation of Family History Society's free newsletter also focuses on this subject https://goo.gl/u6tFin. Once again, we are "bang on the ball", even if it is more by good luck than judgement.

*Follow up from Barry Mills talk last August 2017 https://goo.gl/Bmsbva re Conscientious Objectors

*Follow up from Caroline Furey's talk "The Pre-NHS Health Service in Bolton" last April 2017

https://goo.gl/J9vBEU you might be interested in the recent article from WDYTYR "1948 - The birth of the NHS" By Guest, 5 July 2017 - https://goo.gl/1KSRJz

And a reader's comment from Oz that was nice to receive on the MLFHS Facebook page.

13.09.17 Simon Haynes "Thank you MLFHS for the post. Many off shore, e.g. Australia, can't "make it upstairs" but are very interested in receiving information. The addition of links to support information across the various articles is particularly helpful. We wish others were as diligent".

You are very welcome Simon, we do our best, and try to help the world shrink a bit

OTHER LOCAL SOCIETIES NEWS



Halliwell Local History Society http://goo.gl/8erYyr

Email margaretk@talktalk.net .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, 31st October 'The Highlight of the Year: Edwardian Hiring Fairs in North-western England' – (Stephen Caunce)



Turton Local History Society https://goo.gl/PHNXjA

The old Urban District of Turton, includes the ancient Townships of Bradshaw, Edgworth, Entwistle, Harwood, Longworth, Quarlton and Turton. Illustrated talks and meetings are held from August to April inclusive on the fourth Wednesday of the month, at Longsight Church

Centre, Harwood BL2 3HX beginning at 7.30pm. This next month's event

25 October - Maps for Local History (Dr Paul Hindle)

Westhoughton Local History Group - http://goo.gl/XNugI5

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.

19 October 1920's Weaving and Dyeing in Lancashire: Judith Atkinson

2 November Visit to Rivington Chapel Meet at the Chapel 10:30



Horwich Heritage Centre- http://goo.gl/fSPsij

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.

10th October ~ Birds of Rivington by Russell Hadley

Open Days, are held most months on Saturdays between 10am --- 1pm

