



Bolton's Genies

The Monthly Newsletter of the Bolton Family History Society: <http://www.bolton.mlfhs.org.uk/>



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



November 2017



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

This month's picture is of Darcy Lever Old Hall courtesy of Bolton Museums. <https://goo.gl/4sCEBk> . Owned by James Crompton in 1598, he partially rebuilt it in 1604. In 1641 Robert and Elizabeth Lever moved into the hall. After many owners and uses over the years it was finally demolished in 1951



Welcome all to the penultimate newsletter of 2017, and this month has been busier than ever, but I think we would all agree, very enjoyable. We almost "trod water" for a week after our October talk by Julie Lamara, on the Bolton War Memorials (see the October 2017 newsletter), and then it was the Leigh conference on the 14th, (see page 2), which all agreed was an excellent event with 3 good talks, closely followed by 2 interesting talks at the quarterly Manchester meeting on Wednesday 18th, then the next Saturday 21st our own, second Open Day of the year. Although we had been planning this since the Bolton Museums and Library service had requested it last Spring, and the date was agreed, finding and booking quality speakers who were still available to visit us at such short notice was not easy. We are very grateful that **Jackie Depelle** and **Anthony Firmin** managed to fit it in to their busy schedules, (see page 5). This newsletter finishes with a report of our November 1st talk by **Tony Foster** (also page 5), making a total of 9 talks this month, 7 reported on by our team. Our heads are a bit "stretched", trying hard to take it all in, but we are also trying to keep you all in the loop, and apologies for the extra length of this newsletter. As I complete this it is nearly Bonfire Night having survived another Halloween. We now only have our Christmas party left for 2017 and then onwards and upwards into 2018. More on that next month.

Where do we meet?

Bolton Old Links Golf Club, Montserrat Brow, Chorley Old Road BL1 5SU.

Buses 519&125 <https://goo.gl/TH5zYC> . **All MLFHS members free entrance.**

Please note, as per MLFHS policy, we sadly must announce an increase to £3.00 entrance charge in the New Year to non-members, due to increasing costs, unless joining on the night.



When do we meet?

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

RECENT AND COMING EVENTS

14th October Leigh FHS Conference

This group is apparently one of the six making up the Liverpool & SW Lancashire Family History Society, and the event included their AGM which we withdrew from to respect their privacy. What a superb day this was though, offering three top class talks, and we think about 10 from Bolton FHS managed to enjoy same. We arrived at 9.15am in good time to sign in and enjoy a tea/coffee before one of our favourite speakers, **Dr Alan Crosby** launched into his talk entitled **“Bastards: single mothers and their children in 17th and 18th C Lancashire”**. This was a similar theme to what he had spoken to us about last February, but never the less an opportunity for a better understanding of how unmarried mothers were “processed” years ago. Often the naïve victims of opportunist men, they became the collateral damage of financial wheeling and dealing between parishes trying to opt out of their responsibilities as defined by the Settlement Acts <https://goo.gl/Gyc3Va>. Examples were given of various efforts to avoid responsibilities, and how the onus of the pregnancy was usually laid as the woman’s door. England however was quite progressive compared to Europe in how it handled the problem. Moral retribution was also given though via public humiliation, sometimes years in retrospect, and the ultimate threat of excommunication of the woman if they did not conform. Illegitimacies were noted to increase despite this, as the younger generation started to leave home looking for work with the industrial revolution and post Napoleonic wars etc.



After a coffee break we next heard the excellent **Michael Gandy** <https://goo.gl/6jQnoa>, launching into his first talk re **“Seeing it through their eyes”**. Michael first advised us to try to forget all the media interpretations of how our ancestors used to live. He explained that they are nearly all biased according to the reason for the publication and therefore give us the wrong impression of the truth. We are much better trying to talk to our own individual ancestors, trying to ascertain what they remember or feel about incidents in their past lives and how they have interpreted it, and we will still be lucky if we manage to ask the right questions and allow them to give their own answers without “leading” them. He gave an example of a story of a relative allegedly “working on boats” and having had five “shipwrecks”. Rather than the imagined desert island/palm tree situation it turned out it was a man on an inland barge!!



Naming patterns were much stronger in Scottish than English traditions, and he had found by chance that in England it was quite common to name a child after the god parent, and even more surprisingly it was often the god parents who took the child to be baptised (particularly with the Catholics who often did it within a week of the birth when the mother was still lying in). In another example a lay member of a church even volunteered to stand as god mother for the lucrative 5/- a time, and her name appeared on several baptisms. He also reminded us that life does not stand still. Most older people considered to be “dotards” now, have often been there, done it, got the “T shirt” and know the answers already. News spread in surprising ways despite no internet etc, Ministers read newspapers and often used the topical stories in the next sermon, thus passing them on to the parishioners. Tailors were known to have a boy reading the newspaper out, whilst customers were getting measured up. Wealthy householders often

took most of their staff to London or even abroad for the “season”. This way new fashions were noted, and examples brought back home, Copies were made, and last year’s clothes now out of date were handed down a social layer and the process repeated over several years until cut down for the children. More children were surviving now so families were expanding. From 1785 to 1815 with the industrial revolution and men returning from the wars, there was a steady migration from country to town with living standards surprisingly improving compared to previous. Some Irish who had traditionally come over to England for work in the summer harvest then returned in the autumn, now stayed for various reasons, but feeling they had “moved on” from their childhood families, so Catholic traditions emerged again in England. Apparently the Irish “peasant” was in fact a ranking farmer on a par with the English yeoman before the Enclosure Acts. The term “Ag lab” covered a multitude of varying seasonal skills. The girls usually were sent away to “domestic service”, and the men were left at home working on the farms/ mines etc, hence often living a lonely existence and meeting opportunities might only have been on Market Day. Michael reminded us in conclusion that in general, looking at a map of England, the population had moved very little from how we lived 1500 years ago, and certain core life styles still remained embedded. Our Bolton team now withdrew for an early lunch whilst our hosts held their AGM, and then we returned in the afternoon for Michael’s second talk entitled **“Tracing your Medieval Ancestry”**. He firstly defined the Medieval period as 1066 to 1558, and then discussed the two perspectives of researchers.

- *The first being a “family historian” who enjoys collecting as many people on their own tree as possible, and accepting unproven data because it suits their goals, and

- *the more scientific “genealogist” who enjoys the process of detecting, verifying, and “fleshing out” individuals, via records of proven quality, regardless of whether it is their own tree or someone else’s.

He assured us that most families, including most American presidents, could in theory trace at least two lines back to Edward 3rd, or some other Royalty, and this was often done using the tantalising “gateway ancestors” <https://goo.gl/cquZP1> (“History House” accessed 15.10.17). This was not surprising really in the Royal line, as it was accepted by the establishment that there would be the “political” marriages often arranged pre- puberty, but maybe never even consummated, and the unofficial but lasting liaisons of love which often produced large families. Many even went through formal marriage ceremonies but as these were acknowledged but never officially approved their descendants did not enter the Royal line.

Similarly, little definite reliance can be put on an individual having the right surname and coming from the right area, although a “cluster” of similar names in one area is often intriguing.

Some useful facts are (and I hope I have got this right but please check yourselves) that

- *before 1500 In the north west the Diocese of Cheshire also covered south Lancashire up to the Ribble

- *Lancashire is a Duchy <https://goo.gl/CpRfxs> (Wikipedia 20.10.17) and not an ordinary shire, and therefore their records are not with the Shire records in the National Archives.

- *Cheshire is a Palatinate County <https://goo.gl/F1P8zN> (Wikipedia 20.10.17) therefore also not with the main English records. Complicated isn’t it!

- *neither areas were included in the standard tax system of the time either, so no records exist there

The good news is that most relevant records are held in the National Archives but in different places, and the BIG QUESTION is as always, can all evidence be replicated by at least three different methods to be reasonably acceptable.

We left at 4pm with our heads buzzing after a very enjoyable day.



Wednesday October 18th Quarterly Manchester Meeting at the Central Library

Two excellent talks here by **Mike Powell** from Chetham’s Library about the History of Belle Vue, (a lake and lions and tigers and bears Ahhhh!) and after lunch **Robert Poole** told us more about the Peterloo Project currently being researched by the Oldham branch <https://goo.gl/dpc79Z>. I will leave the Manchester team to cover this better in the quarterly journal



The Bill Naughton Season is upon us: A project to celebrate Bolton's most successful writer's life and work.

In the autumn of 2017 and into 2018 local arts organisation "Live from Worktown" is promoting events commemorating the life and work of Bill Naughton, 25 years after his death, and David Morgan from the scheme came

to tell us about it at our Nov 1st meeting. The scheme has involved working with different agencies such as Bolton Little Theatre, Bolton at Home, The Octagon Theatre, Bolton Library and Museum Service, Bolton University, Halliwell Local History Society, Bolton Family History Society and others, to deliver this innovative project, which is co-funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund

There are too many events to list in detail, but here is a flavour of them, and please consult this website <https://goo.gl/HmV73R> for more information.

- a dramatized reading of four of his most affecting short stories on 10th November
- a showing of the film Spring and Port Wine on 24th November
- a lecture about the significance of his work and opportunity to see and study original scripts and manuscripts on 2nd December....

Saturday October 21st The Second Bolton Family History Society Open Day in partnership with Bolton Museums and Library Service.

You cannot imagine how much planning and discussion went into the preparation for this day, and I think it is generally agreed that, thanks to good "management", the programme rolled like a well-oiled machine, (well almost).

Our Acting Chairman Graham Holt, in consultation with Julie Lamara, the Museum's Senior Collections Officer and our liaison contact, had got their heads together in good time. Publicity and leaflets were promptly sent out to all the local schools, newspapers and social media groups with a few subsequent reminders. Julie already has a group of regular "helpers", and our 14 BFHS volunteers were divided into 3 more teams and deployed to different areas. Christine Ellis has already coordinated a team at our monthly Help Desk, so they were based as usual in the History Centre, a second team lead by Treasurer Sue Boddy covered our sales and membership section in the library body, and yours truly and more were based in the basement as Chairman Graham Holts team, manning an information desk of leaflets, coordinating the speaker's activities, and Rita Greenwood and Barbara Owen were signing on for their next series of workshops starting 18th November at the Central Library. Brian Whittle (who seems to have now become our Radio Liaison Officer by default), was side-lined by Radio Manchester at 7.20am in the morning and Bolton FM later the same day, so got out of much of the "hard work" Haha! —well someone had to do it, and he had the experience!!

From all reports the upstairs activities have been very busy and well supported. Downstairs was unfortunately more "underwhelming", and will need a serious review before considering another similar event. We did have two excellent speakers with



Jackie Depelle Chairman of the Yorkshire Group of Family History Societies

www.fairladies.co.uk . Her talk **"From the Cradle to Grave"** gave us a detailed procedure for tackling family history research, using her great uncle as her example.

She gave very many useful tips during the talk:

- *School records are a good source – Find my Past lists an A-Z of schools

- *Certificates obtained from a local registrar are the original copies. Lancashire bmd also gives information on where registration districts are or were located

- *Online historical directories are going onto Ancestry soon

- *Always note names of witnesses on a wedding certificate – they can be neighbours or members of the extended family

- *Photographs of churches can be found on GENUKI

- *There may be description of a wedding in the newspaper archive online

- *Google maps can be used to find a photograph of a house. Images of the street scene can be found using the clock on the map

- *The 1910 Valuation Office survey held at the National Archives, gives a description of a house. Due to go online soon

- *Yorkshire Archives has a Registry of Deeds from 1704-1970 giving owners of houses.

and **Anthony Firmin explained "How to get the Most Information out of Old Photographs"**,

I am told that Anthony, a WEA lecturer, discussed the origins of photography and what features help you to age photographs. Starting about 1838 he progressed through to the modern Polaroid-type of photographs coming from the cheap cameras meant for children's use. After talking about how to date the images in the actual picture he made the point that the earlier the photograph the thicker the paper and it was probably coarser texture. At the end of his talk he "fielded" questions from the audience before moving out into the hall to inspect some of the many old family photographs that visitors had brought with them, and giving his opinions about the age etc. of the pictures. This exercise was met with enthusiasm by all concerned. I know Anthony enjoyed it and we hope those who attended received some helpful information. Anthony did take copies of some and has promised that if he can find any more information he will let us know, and we will announce same via this newsletter. (Please contact us as above if you are hoping for more information) . We are hoping to arrange for him to visit us again before too long. Numbers of attending here were disappointing. We have a few ideas why this was the situation, but suspect it was a combination of difficulties anyway, not least the fact that the contractors are still in and the building is not entirely "user friendly" for families at present. It was also a very stormy day.



Wednesday November 1st Tony Foster "A Trip to Switzerland 1917, POW Research in 1916/1917"



Wow, what a fascinating talk this one was. It seems that Tony had noted, whilst performing some research in his local Darwen library, the story of two local ladies who had made the trip to Switzerland in 1917, to visit their relatives who had been POWs in Germany but were now deemed too disabled, to ever resume active service, and were therefore "encumbrances". On further investigation Tony discovered that apparently the Red Cross, based in neutral Switzerland of course, had somehow "brokered" a deal between the British and German military authorities, for each to transfer certain, twice medically assessed, incapacitated POWs to the Swiss, as a cost-effective solution to caring for the high maintenance prisoners. It had also been noted, after initial private

family visits, how much the morale of the men had improved and also the propaganda value of those returning home with reassuring reports. The first contingent of mixed nationalities allied forces set off from Germany in May 1916 with full ceremony and newspaper coverage. One reporter noted a railway carriage had 27 men on board but only 3 legs! Many also had TB.

On arrival in Switzerland, initially officers had made their own arrangements inviting their families over to the holiday chalets where they were billeted, but the morale boost was so obvious that arrangements were made for 600 men out of 6000 candidates to have subsidised visits. This also took the pressure of caring for enemy disabled troops off each faction, and the Swiss were pleased to recover some tourist income previously lost due to the hostilities. 18 local wives or “sweethearts” were selected (? how but presumably judged “worthy”), from East Lancashire. The ladies were first accommodated in Brunswick Square London and given a sightseeing tour there, then vaccinated and given passports, blankets, heavy coats and snow shoes, and token names indicating places of origins. On 30th September they were taken to Waterloo station with full ceremony, and on to Southampton. Their sailing booked at 9pm was delayed due to “enemy activity” in the Channel but they arrived safely in Le Havre next morning, and on to Paris. It must have been quite surreal, slotting in with the military traffic, but then another sightseeing tour provided. More ceremony and they then progressed on to Montreux, and then the mountain train to the picturesque Chateau d’Oeux. Here the mood changed from near euphoria to the reality check of meeting their loved ones for the first time for 2 years, and understanding a little of how circumstances had changed. Most returned home a week later, laden with photographs, (including some for those who had not been visited), except for a Miss Spencer who married fiancé Edward Boyle, and stayed to do voluntary work. A second trip went out later that year including a Mrs William Connolly from 127, Folds Road, Bolton whose husband it seems must have been 50 when he joined the 1st Loyal Lancs Regt. The whole scheme was judged a great success costing £10-£12 for each lady raised by public subscription, and for the British government rehabilitation costs comparing favourably with the cost of supporting injured enemy POWs. Tony went on to provide many research resources which will be available on our website. <https://goo.gl/ce6WBo>



Wednesday November 29th will be our Christmas Party and our Last Meeting of 2017. Linda Sawley is coming to give us a shortened version of her talk about the **History of Christmas**, “interspersed with some funny festive readings”. **The last day for buying tickets for the Pie and Peas supper (vegetarian option available to order), will be November 20th, and tickets will need to be presented for the meal. Please ring Treasurer Sue Boddy on 07787960391.**

If you would like to come but not eat that is fine. We will also have our traditional festive quiz and raffle



GENIE'S TIPS for OCTOBER

Not many this month due to so many other items. Hope to catch up next month.

Regional directories including entries for Bury and surrounding towns <https://goo.gl/ULj3S3> accessed 10.10.17
Bury Council consisting of six towns: Bury, Prestwich, Radcliffe, Ramsbottom, Tottington and Whitefield.

“Trade directories. A number of our local trade directories have been digitised thanks to funding from Bury & District Local History Society”.

Lancashire Will Search <https://goo.gl/kRhZZ1>

Further to the reminder last month about FMPs database of Lancashire Wills, I have been reminded of this free site. It has been mentioned in the past (remember all our websites mentioned are there in the Indexes

with the newsletters) , but always a good resource with a Current Record count: 248660 on 10.10.17
Thanks to Sharon Bunter

WORKSHOPS, COURSES and CLASSES

Saturdays 18th and 25th November, and 2nd and 9th December 10am-12.30pm

Bolton FHS Workshops at Bolton Central Library and Museum

For those who want to know about your ancestors but have no idea how to get started, or maybe internet sources are not helping, and you have hit a brick wall? All stages (including advanced) will be covered

The cost for the workshops is £25 including refreshments and materials. For further details and to book please contact Barbara Owen on 01204 309515 or email bolton@mlfhs.org.uk

I believe there are still a few vacancies for the beginners Autumn classes November 18th, 25th and Dec 2nd and 9th, and they are now taking bookings for 2018 in Feb 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th.



THIS MONTHS LOCAL NEWS and SOME ORGANISATION UPDATES

Lancashire Records



<http://goo.gl/I29JpL>



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

Local Girls Made Good!



They are also very shy about this but Barbara Bromiley and Christine Ellis, both members of the Bolton FHS have done us proud this time. They have recently received recognition at a ceremony for the National Lottery funded "Made in Greater Manchester" project, which aims to celebrate the regions business archives. This is the story of how they got involved Caroline Furey Collections Access Officer – Bolton Archives tells me *"I nominated Barbara, Christine & David (our 'Monday Morning Trio') for the 'Outstanding contribution from a team of Volunteers' award which was presented at the annual Greater*

Manchester Archives and Local Studies Partnership award ceremony on the 5th Oct".

It seems the actual award went to the team at Oldham", but they are still featured here in the publication 'Made in Greater Manchester: A celebration of the region's business archives' which was the culmination of a Greater Manchester wide HLF funded cataloguing project.



Christine has told me *"During a visit (on a local family history course), to the archive strong room at Bolton History Centre, Caroline the archivist asked if anyone was interested in volunteering to help catalogue some items. Two of us offered and we commenced in January 2017. We were later joined by a third volunteer (David) and we were given various bundles of architectural drawings which had been donated by a firm of architects in Wigan. All were in their original wrappings in varying conditions. Some were fragile, some very dirty and others in very good condition. We had to undo each one, list the title,*

architect, dates and number of items. We then re-wrapped them and numbered each one. The plans covered buildings of interest mostly in Bolton and included shops, schools, churches, pubs and houses. Of particular interest were

*two sets of plans relating to 'The Bungalow' at Rivington built for Lord Leverhulme. One of these included Roynton Cottage which was later destroyed by arson. The other set of plans were for renovations to The Bungalow.

*Another set of plans related to renovations at Hall i'th'Wood in Bolton, the former home of Samuel Crompton. They included drawings of the exterior of the building.

*An intriguing set of plans from 1941 titled only HMGCC, with no other information had all three of us 'Googling' it at home. We were astonished to find this related to His Majesty's Government Communications Centre and all top secret!

We didn't know what to expect from volunteering, but once we had begun we have been thoroughly enjoying the experience. We have been very impressed with the quality of the drawings, some of which were quite beautiful and were like works of art.

We hope we have in some small way contributed to the project and hope to continue as volunteers for the archive service."

If anyone else fancies getting involved with the please email caroline.furey@bolton.gov.uk.



SOME INTERESTING, USEFUL, AND MAINLY FREE WEBSITES



Peter Calver's Lost Cousins newsletter from October 17th

<https://goo.gl/TSFS6m> . The big news this month must of course have

been the announcement at the beginning of the month about the new **3 month trial**

with the GRO Index, <https://goo.gl/DATCeH> but as well as that, **new developments with English and Welsh**

maps on the National Library of Scotland, and **help about Welsh records not online**, it just seems simpler to once again, refer you to Peter. He explains it much better than I can. Thank you, Peter.



"The Dissenting Academies Project" <https://goo.gl/xDkns7> by the **The Queen Mary Centre for Religion and Literature in English**. How many of you have been vaguely puzzled by the term "dissenters", "none conformist" and the like <https://goo.gl/2kR1iL> (Wikipedias definition) , but have just gone with the flow of it having been a strong influence in the history of the Protestant churches of the UK and beyond, and not taken it much further. This website explains a new project which might enlighten you about its effect and repercussions even now.

"The Database and Encyclopedia is a major digital resource for the study of the dissenting academies in the British Isles from 1660 to 1860. When complete it will contain historical accounts of individual academies, biographical articles about leading tutors, and biographical data for thousands of students educated at the academies over two centuries".

Military

Deserters Websites

I hope these are useful for some, and apologise that these are not free, but the first two are Findmypast which is available from a lot of libraries

Army Deserters 1828-1840 <https://goo.gl/y1qqwo> **Findmypast**

British Army, Deserters and Absentees In Police Gazette 1914-1919 <https://goo.gl/bKC31U> **Findmypast**

"Was your ancestor absent without leave during the First World War? The Police Gazette published regular lists of deserters and absentees during the war years. These lists can tell you a lot about your ancestor including birth year, occupation, last known address and any distinguishing physical characteristics. While

desertion was a capital offence during World War 1, some deserters were never caught and went on to live their lives under an assumed name"

Military Records <https://goo.gl/ssmpdc> **The Genealogist** And quite a few more available via the Diamond subscription

British Army Ancestors A photographic archive <https://goo.gl/PaXWaC> , "Welcome to British Army Ancestors. This is a FREE site *"There are over 11 million searchable names on the British Army Ancestors website. Searching is easy and fast. Use the wildcard asterisk * to narrow your results. REGISTER in order to upload photographs and download existing images. That's all there is to it. This website will be regularly updated and new features announced via the blog."*

Using Maps to Understand how your Ancestors lived

Having attended a talk by Dr Paul Hindle at Halliwell LHS last month when he discussed how the reason for various maps being made through the ages, is how we can glean such a wide selection of information from the different ones, I have now become far more aware of sources. Here are a few, concentrating on our local geography, but expandable to other areas, and at least these are mostly free: -

Canal & River Trust <https://goo.gl/skcQ4f> specialising in leisure use and maintenance.

Canal Routes – our local Manchester Bolton and Bury Canal <https://goo.gl/DcuHPe> and beyond to North West England Navigations <https://goo.gl/6pn7WW> , some excellent historical accounts of the construction and people involved

The towns of Lancashire could have been so different! <https://goo.gl/kjPRbg> **Lancashire History Miscellany**
200 years of the Leeds to Liverpool Canal.

Place names in SD7010 maptile, Astley Bridge, Lancashire <https://goo.gl/m7TTaK> **Ordnance Survey**

This map in itself is fascinating showing the position of Bolton's industrial heritage such as canals, railways, mills, etc from years gone past, but then I started to look at the history of the Ordnance survey programme <https://goo.gl/Ce6bam> , which as Paul Hindle had said was originally military needs

"Britain's mapping agency has its roots in military strategy: Mapping the Scottish Highlands following rebellion in 1745.

Later, as the French Revolution rumbled on the other side of the English Channel, there were real fears the bloodshed may sweep across to our shores.

So the government ordered its defence ministry of the time – the Board of Ordnance – to begin a survey of England's vulnerable southern coasts. Until then, maps had lacked the detail required for moving troops and planning campaigns."

Maps of Britain and Ireland's ancient tribes, kingdoms and DNA <https://goo.gl/EKjuVp> by Sandra Rimmer for **Ancestry - Genealogy & DNA obviously** maps made from modern information surmising past ways of living.

"For map fans, some new maps showing Celt, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and Viking territories in the British Isles. Also, the remarkable DNA map which shows how modern Britons still live in the same tribal kingdom areas as their ancestors in 600 AD"

Unclaimed Leeds inheritance 'could be worth millions' <https://goo.gl/UkTNxj> **Yorkshire Post** Grace Newton Email
Published: 11:38 Friday 06 October 2017

Oh, come on!! I know a few of you have Yorkshire connections even though you are loathe to admit it, and this is good "brass". It is actually an update on the **Bona Vacantia** website <https://goo.gl/dSzgWs> that is regularly inspected by the Heir Hunters, but could be a nice Christmas present--- remember who told you

Some More Local Facebook Sites



We are often asked where we get our local material and photographs from. I hasten to add that I remain very nervous re using Facebook, and pressing the wrong button, but I am also discovering that there are some very interesting **Closed** groups out there, which as I understand it, means I am not instantly visible to the outside world (and messages are monitored by moderators), but I am gaining a lot of very interesting information from some very knowledgeable people, enjoying a few reminiscences, and making a lot of very helpful contacts. Here are a few of the **Closed** Bolton groups, and there are other similar ones for most other areas so have a look around.

Ancient Bolton - Pre-1800's Bolton <https://www.facebook.com/groups/502317166638370/>

Little Bolton <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1633034933604183/>

Bolton Lancashire Bygone Days <https://www.facebook.com/groups/517526678298639/>

Bygone Bolton England UK <https://www.facebook.com/groups/BygoneBolton/>

Bury Lancashire Genealogy and Family History and DNA <https://www.facebook.com/groups/254654168295296/>

Lancashire Genealogy <https://www.facebook.com/groups/113369512152128/>

Another **Open** and therefore **Public Group** which means your name is visible to the outside world is



I belong to Bolton <https://www.facebook.com/groups/376755592477045/>

If anyone knows of any other helpful local groups, please could they email to boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk and then we can share



NB **The Bolton Family History Society** <https://goo.gl/1bAsoa> has in fact apparently a **Page not a group** which is a **public** system available for communities and available to all whether a registered FB user or not, following this link.

Similarly, **The Society Of Genealogists** <https://goo.gl/xJhQqN> is another Community page offering some very helpful videos and advice.

DNA Updates

Help us map the world's DNA <https://goo.gl/MFQoWR>

Living DNA (currently £99 on a Christmas offer) is setting out to build a worldwide genetic family tree as well as producing a fine scale map of the world's ancestry to help explore and understand both recent and ancient migrations.



That's where you can help so if you've done a DNA test you can upload your existing results for FREE or you can take a Living DNA test. Click here for other current offers <https://goo.gl/9FkdfK> from Genealogical Discount

MISCELLANEOUS

Lancashire at War.Co. Uk <https://goo.gl/iHSu2n>

I found out about this site after a comment from Martin Briscoe on our MLFHS forum, <https://goo.gl/dZqWMT>. He was responding to a question as to whether there had once been a WW2 Royal Ordnance Factory at Bradley Fold, on the boundary of Little Lever and Bury, making munitions during WW1 & WW2. Apparently, two brothers from Bury teamed up after retiring, to create this website, making it their mission to identify as many "local" sites as they could that were involved with war preparation. Of course, we all know there are many remains lying all over the north of England. Many of us probably remember playing on them as children even, but memories of their existence seem likely to disappear soon without at least documenting anecdotal evidence. <https://goo.gl/oCW46y>. Apparently, there was "ROF Radcliffe", - a Royal Ordnance Factory making munitions, adjacent to what is now the Bradley Fold Garden



Centre. In their investigations Richard Bowden and his brother, even consulted Bury historian Ken Howarth, <https://goo.gl/pzytgG> who had previously worked in the Bury archives, and yet even he knew nothing about it.

The Bowden brothers, however, have discovered this information <https://goo.gl/WEMCUx> and are continuing their research, which seems to have been forgotten about, until their enquiries unearthed it. In preparing this article I noticed that some reference is made to what is in Bolton Archives, and asked Collections Officer Julie Lamara for comments, and she has confirmed these documents are available:-

*Reference: UEW/A/10/3

Title: Royal Ordnance Factory, Bradley Fold

Description:

- Lists of persons employed/transferred or discharged, with some details of their trade, bonuses, addresses, shop stewards and corr. with factory superintendent re appointments

Date: 1945

Held by: Bury Museum and Archives, <https://goo.gl/CDei46>

*Reference: E4/add/53/2

Title: F C Boyes, solicitor; Land at Bradley Fold for Royal Ordnance Munitions Factory

Date: 6 Dec 1939-29 Oct 1945

Held by: Greater Manchester County Record Office (with Manchester Archives), also, a

*55 - Lancashire Archives War Office Contracts

DDPSL - Platt Saco Lowell

DDPSL 2 - Dobson & Barlow Ltd. of Bolton

DDPSL 2/3 - Contract summary books

Other Wartime Related Sites Another Bolton based memory comes from Alan Simpson, (who many of us know from Halliwell LHS), who recalls tanks hidden on Old Kiln Lane near Bobs Smithy, in his book 'One Mile of History'. More on this can be found by enquiring at the All Souls Heritage Centre <https://goo.gl/kTwk6R>. I wonder if anyone else has memories of similar wartime preparations on the home front? If so, please could you share with us. Names need not be published if you rather not, but these accounts will help us understand how our grand and great grandparents at home were affected. Anecdotally I have heard a story of a small military convalescent hospital in the Moses Gate area, and does anyone know anything about the top-secret government communications centre as mentioned above.

MEMBERS COMMENTS, QUERIES, and MEMORIES

Follow up from September 2017 Re Robert Whitehead

Soon after last month's newsletter was posted I received this comment from Julie Lamara, Collections Access Officer-Local Studies Bolton History Centre. It seems I have done Bolton a disservice in not knowing this last month. We live and learn and thanks Julie

Robert Whitehead was born 3 Jan 1823 at Mount Pleasant, Bury St, Bolton. Educated at Bolton Grammar School 1829-1837. We have much research on this gentleman and recently Malcolm Howe has produced a small illustrated booklet "From Torpedoes to the Sound of Music "Bolton: Bolton School, 2015 17p Includes Pedigree from Rev Thomas Whitehead Curate of Bolton to the individual members of the Von Trapp family. Ref B920 WHI Which is available for loan from Central Library and reference copies are held in Bolton History Centre. See here <https://goo.gl/LDSizh> from his great grandfather's biography on the University of Glasgow website. What an illustrious family. More on this soon I hope, as we have now contacted Malcolm, who is in himself a fascinating gentleman.

Help Needed

*Is anyone researching a **William Taylor born 1815 Bolton**

Descendant Peter Taylor is working on a process of elimination on the many William Taylors born in Bolton at around this time. A mule spinner, so it seems likely that his father was a spinner, or at least in the cotton manufacturing industry, he ended up working and getting married in Levenshulme. Peter is wondering as to when and why he moved from Bolton. On his own or with his parents.

Have any of your members got Bolton Taylors moving to Manchester?

* or can you help Martin Briscoe trace beyond his 4G GF **Humphrey Briscoe born around 1746**. The first record of him is his marriage in Bolton in 1773. There are Briscoes around Bolton earlier in 18th Century but he cannot find a connection, some come from Little Lever. Martin recently came across the newspaper file on the MLFHS members' area, and found several references to timber from Boscows, otherwise Briscoes, in Little Lever. There is of course still an area with that Boscow name, a road and nursery. Does anyone know anything about the history of this area please?

Any bright ideas please contact the Genie as above and we will forward on.

I have also received an updated list of Bolton War Memorials still missing. Please can you help

Lost Memorials-Can you help?



- Bare St Christian Mission
- Belmont Congregational Church
- Belmont Social Club, Handicraft Section
- Brownlow Fold Mills Bowling Green
- Brunswick United Methodist Church, Horwich
- Central Conservative Club, Mawdsley Street
- Chalfont Street Independent Methodist Chalfont Street-Died
- Eden Orphanage
- Halliwell Caledonian Friendly Society Roll of Order (Ainsworth Arms)
- Haynes Street Free Mission Roll of Honour WW1
- High Street Independent Methodist (now Good Shepherd Polish RC Church)
- Mawdsley Street Congregational Church (Demolished)
- Raphael Street Mission Memorial
- Ridgeways Endowed School Memorial
- Springfield Bleachworks, Dunscar
- Strict Baptist Chapel, Dorset St Roll of Honour.
- St. Barnabas' Church Roll of Honour
- St Johns Ambulance Brigade
- St. Paul's Barn Mission, Halliwell. Roll of Honour
- The Saviours Church, The Lieut. H.C.A. Jauncey Memorial

Any information please contact Julie Lamara, Collections Access Officer-Local Studies
Bolton History Centre, Tel: 01204 332194, E-mail: Julie.lamara@bolton.gov.uk

OTHER LOCAL SOCIETIES NEWS

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



Email margaretk@talktalk.net

Tuesday of each month at

Old Road, BL1 3BE opposite Shepherd Cross St, Bolton, next one

28th November 'The Eddie Stobart Story' – Sheila Dale

.Meetings are usually held on the last
7.30pm, at St Luke's Church, Chorley



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

The old Urban District of 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. Next meeting will be

22 November - Early Health Care in Bolton (Caroline Furey)

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.

16 November Lost on the Lusitania: Bill Taylor



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.

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

14th November ~ Eric Bond From Scrap Yard to Main Line

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