



Bolton's Genies



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

- Newsletter Comments, and Speaker Bookings: boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk
- General Society enquiries to the BFHS Secretary, Christine M Ellis bolton@mlfhs.org.uk
- Bolton Research help, please email boltonhelpdesk@mlfhs.org.uk , (or for Manchester enquiries visit Manchester Research email a brief enquiry to https://www.mlfhs.org.uk/contact/mail_hd.php , or visit our
- Bolton Facebook page <https://goo.gl/n99qtW> 630 Likes and 683 Following July 6th
- Bolton Document Collection on MLFHS website: <https://goo.gl/hji8Ns> (members only)
- Join the MLFHS/BFHS at: <http://mlfhs.org.uk/join/index> .

July 2020

Edition 73

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



This month's banner picture taken by Henry Lisowski is of the *tympanum* – which is the group of sculptures inside the pediment above the portico (over the front door and under the clock!!), that forms part of the main entrance to the Town Hall. This was apparently commissioned from the Scottish sculptor William Calder Marshall (1813-1894), best known for his contribution to the Albert Memorial in London, from the Bolton website *Links of the Chain*. <https://tinyurl.com/yb2uq95d>

Welcome all to July's edition, and our seventh year of the Bolton Genies newsletter. Welcome also to the long-awaited July 4th and beginning of recovery of social life as we knew it, unlocking after 103 days or 14 weeks + 5 days of lock down. My main target is currently getting my hair cut for the first time since early February, I accept others might have different priorities. 😊!! Perhaps it is just the “end of the beginning though”. I suspect us old ones are far more cautious than the younger generations, and we will need some convincing re safe practice in the future.

Content of this newsletter as well as our quarterly members' journal is inevitably affected by the current lack of group activity, however some of our readers and friends have turned up with some amazing stories thankfully, and often from quite unexpected places. We must thank these contributors for being willing to share their research and stories and will always be grateful for any more offerings please. .

There have also of course been some recent political upheavals which have been caused by many of our ancestor's different way of living in times past over which we have no control, and the community are now trying to make amends. If anyone is willing to share a story illustrating if their family has been affected, it would be much appreciated.

We hope you find the contents of this offering interesting , and comments are always welcomed good or bad. Thank you.

OUR LAST and NEXT MONTHLY MEETINGS

All our MLFHS events including those at our Bolton FHS branch, still remain suspended until further notice following the government guidelines re the pandemic. Please keep monitoring via this route though, as it is now one of our main ways of connecting with you and sharing at least monthly information. Our Facebook page, details above, gives even better daily information, and some arrangements do seem to be changing that quickly at the moment.

A reminder of how things used to be last year.

What a long time ago it seems now



THE SLOW UNLOCK and EVENTS

There are a few online events in the offing. This list is merely a suggestion of what is becoming available so I would urge you to check each event for updates if considering them.



News from Bolton History Centre and Archives



•June 27th Annual Armed Forces Day

This year of course was a special opportunity, when we could show our appreciation of the military response to support the national management of the pandemic. I suspect many of us would not be here now after the last few months lock down, if our amazing army, navy, and air force had not stepped in to organise the logistics of demand and supply of urgently needed food and equipment. They adapted so quickly and efficiently to serving us in our hours of need at home.

Julie Lamara, the Bolton Remembers Coordinator reports "Usually you would have seen members of staff and volunteers from the Bolton Museum and Library Service, in a gazebo, on Victoria Square displaying military artefacts from the collections, and giving and receiving information to those searching for their military ancestors.

Unfortunately, it has not been possible this year to hold Armed Forces Day but that hasn't stopped us from remembering those men and women from Bolton who fought in the past, as well as those currently serving."

Some might remember the amazing response seen at the Bolton Remembers event held at the History Centre in 2018.

<https://tinyurl.com/y9ockry3> → and there was also a lot of interest shown after Julie came to tell us about the project, although information has apparently dwindled since then. It is still possible for you to give us details about your military ancestors though, whether born, resided, or enlisted in Bolton. Julie has told me

"I do hope the members of the family history society send in their information on their military ancestors. When I gave my talk to the society about war memorials and the work, we were doing, so many people wanted to tell me about their ancestors. However, I didn't receive one completed form back."

Come on Bolton. We know the stories are out there. Let's get them recorded before they are forgotten.



Please send the details you have to Bolton Archives and Local Studies archives@bolton.gov.uk and they will contact you. They will also add the information to the Bolton Remembers database of military personnel. <https://boltonremembers.org>.

- **A Request for help** from Carrie de Silva via Julie Lamara Collections Access Officer-Local Studies Bolton History Centre, .

"Women in Street Names" <https://tinyurl.com/y8wroxu7> is a project to highlight women in street names in the UK, for the British Federation of Women Graduates, and Harper Adams University.

Carrie explains " *Please could anyone assist with a new project looking for streets named after women. The aim is to highlight streets named after women, (and to highlight how few there are!), and to remember such women as are commemorated. Out-puts will be a booklet of mini biographies of women named, and a paper to consider the promulgation of political and social culturalization, conscious and unconscious, through the names we see in our streets.*

There have been similar projects isolated on specific cities but let's aim to spread the net far and wide, to villages and towns, not just the metropolises, across England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Please forward the street name with district, town, city, village, etc. with the woman's main achievement or area of operation (if you know it) to: Carrie de Silva: cdesilva@harper-adams.ac.uk

If you don't know anything about the subject, don't worry - please just send me the name anyway.

This project was launched at The Women's Library, July 2019. Although some more obscure royalty will be of interest the collation won't be including Elizabeth II and Queen Victoria.

And please feel free to pass this around, we want a BIG list ☺

If you have any queries, please contact: Carrie de Silva on cdesilva@harper-adams.ac.uk

Tel No 07583 144622

Bolton's Contributions So Far

After some Facebook publicity Angela Nichols one of our members messaged in to tell us about, Kershaw Avenue, Little Lever, which seems to be a good example of what we understand the study is trying to identify

i.e. commemorate a woman who has made a significant contribution to her hometown.

Angela wrote to tell us about her great x 2 Grandmother Sarah Ann Kershaw, who was born 1855 Little Lever, married James Roscoe from Tottington in Bolton in 1875, settled on Lever Street, and apparently had Kershaw Avenue named after her. It seems after some astute business deals, not often seen as an opportunity for a woman of the late 19th early 20th C, she was able to leave her family a nest egg which they used to invest in various new ventures which improved and brought considerable business into the Little Lever area. What a shame they did not include her Christian names in the street sign.



Sarah Ann was baptised April 1st 1855 at St Matthews, Little Lever, by Rev James Slade the incumbent and Canon Slade's nephew. He seems to have had a "blitz" in Little Lever when he moved into the area in the mid-1840s. He caught up with Sarah's father Jonathon, and several of her adult uncles as well according to Lancashire OPC, as not having been baptised, and who were found when searching "Kershaw and children of Edmund and Mary Kershaw" over a 40-year period centred on 1835. It seems he managed to get them all received into the Anglican church, conveniently giving us their dates of birth.

Jonathon was the son of Edmund aka Edward Kershaw b abt 1794 from Middleton according to the 1851 census, and Mary who probably died in 1843 Bolton Union, as yet not confirmed. His name annoyingly changes several times according to which document is being looked at, but other details remain the same. Jonathon is described as a boat man on the 1855 Parish Register of Baptisms. He was presumably working

on the narrow boats of the nearby Bolton arm of the Manchester Bolton and Bury canal. Searching via Ancestry, it was found that they were married in St Peters Parish church, Bolton in 1847 by the curate. His bride Ann Haslam was a widow 15 years older than Jonathon, and already had a near grown family by first husband Thomas Lomax a miner living on Fearnyside according to the 1841 census. She was widowed in March 1846 , and married Jonathon in August 1847 bringing three children with her, (two teenagers and a 5-year-old.!!). The new household seems to have settled in well. Jonathon, a collier in 1841 was now a labourer in the 1847 Marriage Parish Register. He had been living with his parents Edmund/Edward , a labourer and Mary, and siblings on Lever Lane in 1841 . Now in 1851 we eventually found the new family in Findmypast, living over the parish boundary at Dove Bank , Darcy Lever, and Jonathon was a beer house keeper. His eldest Lomax stepson Benjamin was still a boat man, and apparently his father Edmund/Edward Kershaw a 57-year-old widowed servant from Middleton living with them.

Sarah's husband to be James Roscoe was from Tottington b 1843 and after also starting off as a coal miner he progressed to being a plasterer, then a grocer in Little Lever, before he and Sarah had a civil marriage in April 1875 Bolton. They now lived in Lever Lane , Little Lever and over the years the grocery business and household seems to have expanded from No 64, to add on 60 and 62, literally living over the shop. They went on to have eight children, but our story is mainly following Sarah and two of them, Elizabeth and Henry.

*In 1861 Sarah is a 6-year-old living with her parents and siblings at Dove Bank, father a beer seller. Perhaps this was the old Seven Stars pub, now flats. In 1871 Sarah 16 years old and her brother Joseph aged 23 are helping with the family beer selling business at Dove Bank while her father Jonathon is combining that with farming 8 acres. In 1881 Sarah , is now married to husband James and they are all living at 64 Lever Street which seems to be seems upgraded from Lever Lane ??, with her Kershaw parents. Her father Jonathon is still a farmer and Ann his wife presumably involved. The young Roscoe family seems to have been running the grocers shop started by James Roscoe and with three small children Betsy, Jonathon Junior and Rachel to mind. In 1891 they had three more children, but the elderly parents had both passed on in 1883. In 1901 the Roscoes' have now also acquired adjacent houses at 60 and 62. The grocery business appears to have been flourishing , and their sons are now working. Jonathon junior b1878, is an underground miner, Joseph b1881 and Henry aka Harry b 1886 seem to have been apprentices. Perhaps the girls were working in the shop, although this isn't stated. In 1911 , still at 62 Lever Street, 48-year-old James Roscoe is "at home" whilst 56-year-old Sarah Ann is a furniture dealer with her "own account" . Daughters Rachel 31 . and Elizabeth 19 are "at home" and Joseph is a shuttle maker whilst Harry has his "own account" as a boot repairer. It looks as though it is Rachel who has completed the census form signing as R Roscoe. Their daughter Betsy was in Prestwich hospital and died single in 1926. Son Jonathon junior had now married and was a furniture dealer on 25 Hall Lane. They are expanding more.

Photo of Elizabeth Roscoe contributed by Angela Nichols.-->

Sarah is the lady in the black dress at the back of the photo. Her husband James is standing next to her and the girl at the front is Elizabeth Roscoe.



*Sarah and James' daughter Elizabeth Roscoe born 14th March 1892, married Albert Millington, a miner from Walkden, 13th November 1915 St Matthews Little Lever. Perhaps as a miner he was not called up to military service but "kept the home fires burning " instead. Their great grandson John Millington, Angela Nicol's cousin, has researched some more about this story of "The Longest Running Family Business In Little Lever - a Memory of Little Lever", <https://tinyurl.com/yd7plhzz> Francis Frith Website accessed 04.07/2020.

He reports the Millingtons lived at 34, Tong Road, and had one child during their marriage, Cyril born 1922, John's grandfather. John has done considerable research and found some interesting records, presumably from Bolton Archives. I have as yet not been able to contact him, but his post is publicly available via his link as above, and as shown here, paraphrased in italics. .

- *"on 21st November 1912 - land was purchased from Thomas Fletcher, Mayor of Bolton, (1884 1887 Sarah Ann Roscoe nee Kershaw aged 57, daughter of Jonathan (a farmer and later a beer house keeper) and Ann Kershaw of Dove Bank, Little Lever. Derelict undeveloped land between Tong Road / Victory Road / Hill Top and Lever Street up to Bradley Mill. Area 5 acres 1 rood and 8.5 perches".*

The "Links of the Chain" website <http://www.boltonsmayors.org.uk/fletcher-t-inr.html> accessed 05.07.20 , reports re Thomas Fletcher,

" In August 1906 he appeared in court for a bankruptcy hearing and for trading insolvently. He had lost a personal fortune (which had stood at £103,000 in 1885 through speculative trading on the stock market and by taking on crippling loans to cover his losses" . He died in 1914.

This information therefore explains how this opportunity arose, and it seems Sarah was astute enough to buy this land at an opportune moment. As yet we have not been able to identify who Ann Kershaw was. After Sarah's death, the enterprising family went on to develop a little "mini empire" in the area, composed of various businesses including furniture dealing, a timber yard, and big haulage contractors, all contributing of course to the economy of the area, as the mines , farming, and textile work disappeared and modern industry moved in. Some of these continue today in the form of a busy timber yard still on Kershaw Ave, → and a door shop across the road on Church Street. →

John's article on the Francis Frith website gives a diary of events re how the various businesses expanded

- *7th April 1921 - Sarah Ann Roscoe nee Kershaw died and is buried at St. Matthew's Church. And*
- *19th September 1923 – Land owned by Sarah Ann Roscoe nee Kershaw, was inherited by her 5 children, Jonathan Roscoe (now a married furniture dealer in 1911), Joseph Roscoe (a married shuttle maker in 1911), , Harry Roscoe (a boot repairer in 1911 who had married Mary Ellen Millington, a miner's daughter from Walkden in 1913), Rachel Roscoe, and Elizabeth Roscoe, (who had married Mary Ellen's brother Albert Millington, a miner , in 1915)*
- *1924 a wooden warehouse was built around near Lever Street end of Kershaw Avenue (which is not yet a proper road) for Albert Millington t/a A. Millington Haulage. Soon after*
- *the Roscoe family build houses on property owned by their mother and inherited from her. Semidetached properties were built on land they owned on Tong Road, Kershaw Ave naming the road after their mother Sarah Ann Kershaw, and towards Lever Street.*
- The family branches went on to run many more successful businesses in the area. as described here https://www.francisfrith.com/little-lever/longest-running-family-business-in-little-lever_743230210



Angela has explained how Sarah Roscoe nee Kershaw, is her great x 2 grandmother via her maternal grandmother Phyllis Roscoe. She was the daughter of

*Sarah's son Henry Roscoe and Mary Ellen Millington, and went on to marry Eric Hubbard , (the son of William Hubbard, chairman of Little Lever council 1932-1934.) They were Angela's grandparents. Their son Harry Kershaw Roscoe b1925 d 1990 one of the main entrepreneurs of the family, was her maternal great uncle, and his wife Edith is still well and independent in the village . Angela has added, "*my Grandmother, (Phyllis Hubbard nee Roscoe) retained ownership of the land lease in the area until the late 1990's when the burden of collecting ground rent got a bit too much for little financial benefit.*"

*In the meantime, Sarah's daughter Elizabeth married Albert Millington brother of Mary Ellen and their son Cyril Roscoe Millington married and had three sons who went on to build the timber and haulage businesses. The different enterprises have provided many Roscoes, Millingtons, Kershaws and other locals with employment for many decades into the mid-20th C and even today to some extent, and I am sure have made a big contribution to the local economy.

For more re the activities of the Kershaw Roscoe Haulage business see here.



<http://www.trucknetuk.com/phpBB/viewtopic.php?t=58666&start=60> from

Old Day Bolton Hauliers for the story of Harry Kershaw Roscoe's business.

Many thanks to Angela for bringing this story to our attention. The next step will be to share it with the study of course and can anybody else please offer the name of any other local woman who has contributed to our community in a similar way please. We would love to hear from you.

GENIE'S TIPS for July 2020

COVID 19 TIPS

Free Access to Ancestry and Findmypast via



a free Manchester Library Online Account <https://tinyurl.com/ycjtfe34>

and also, Family history searches https://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/324/family_history_searches



or a free online account with Lancashire Libraries <https://tinyurl.com/y9ytm7sx>

also



Free access to digital records We are making digital records available on our website free of charge for as long as our Kew site is closed to visitors.

<https://tinyurl.com/ycbabjz> Registered users will be able to order and download up to ten items at a time, to a maximum of 50 items over 30 days. The limits are there to try and help manage the demand for content and ensure the availability of our digital services for everyone.

To access the service and download for free, users will be required to:

- Register/sign in to their Discovery account before adding items to their basket (maximum ten items per basket)
- Abide by the terms of our [fair use policy](#)
- Complete the order process to receive a download link, which will remain active for 30 days. (The link will also be saved in 'Your orders' in your account for 30 days)

Our usual [terms of use](#) still apply – digital copies can be downloaded for non-commercial private use and educational purposes only, and bulk downloads and web crawlers are not permitted.

Update 06.07.2020 The National Archives to re-open on 21 July --We're pleased to announce that we will be able to welcome visitors back into our reading rooms from Tuesday 21 July. We will be offering a limited service to visitors who need access to our collection of original documents for their research. Visitors will be required to book their visit and order their documents in advance.

We will continue to provide free downloads of digital records on our website for the time being,



Old Ordnance Survey Maps of Bolton MBC

These detailed maps normally cover an area of about one and a half miles by one mile. Each map includes an introduction. Here are the details of maps for central Bolton:

Lancashire Sheet 87.13a Bolton 1890 - published 2020; intro by Alan Godfrey. ISBN.978-1-78721-324-1

Lancashire Sheet 87.13b Bolton 1908 - published 1986, 2nd Edition 2007; intro by Alan Godfrey. ISBN.978-0-85054-046-8

We have published two versions of this map, showing how the area changed across the years. The 1890 version is in full colour, taken from the beautiful 1st Edition OS hand coloured map.

The maps cover most of Bolton Town Centre, with coverage stretching from Dobson Road eastward to Dorset Street, and from Clarence Street southward to Burnaby Street and Lumsden Street. The many features include tramways, Town Hall, Market Hall, Trinity Street station, Great Moor Street station, Deansgate Goods station, Crook Street goods station (all with detail and track layouts), Moor Mills, Bridgeman Street Goods Warehouse, Soho Iron Works, Albion Mills, Lecturers Closes, Mather Street Mill, Flash Street Mills, Bolton Steel Works, Victoria Foundry, St Helena Mill, St Peter's church, Holy Trinity church, Rose Hill Colliery, Springfield, Haulgh Hall, canal, Craddock Lane Sidings, River Croal, Atlas Forge, Derby Street Mills, Stanley Mills, The Saviour's church, Croal Mill, Gilnow Mill, Queen's Park, Bolton Infirmary, St George's church (Little Bolton), and much more.

The map links up with Lancashire Sheets 87.09 Bolton North to the north, 86.16 Bolton West to the west, 95.01 Bolton South to the south, 87.14 Bolton East to the east.

Follow this link for a complete list of our Bolton maps. <https://www.alangodfreymaps.co.uk/lancs08713.htm>

THIS MONTHS LOCAL NEWS and SOME ORGANISATION UPDATES

The MLFHS Virtual Help Desk is now open! Owing to the Coronavirus our Help Desk at Manchester Central Library is currently closed however we have now opened a 'Virtual' Help Desk in order to continue our usual service. Members and non-members are invited to email in a brief enquiry to our Help Desk team.

https://www.mlfhs.org.uk/contact/mail_hd.php.



(Don't forget we still have our own specialist Bolton team

at boltonhelpdesk@mlfhs.org.uk. Here are some more of them in action.)-->



MLFHS Projects Update-New Data Online

The following new records have been added to The Great Database in the member area. To get there Log in <https://www.mlfhs.org.uk/index.php>, → Members Area→, click on blue Main Page Menu→ Access Bolton Main Document Area.-->

Bolton Workhouse Creed Register: transcripts around 2,800 further entries covering the period 1902-1908.



This week, we celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the National Health Service on 5 July 1948.

<https://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/author/jonathanscott1/>

"Many of us have medical professionals in our family tree, who helped care for patients in the different medical services that have been available in Britain throughout the centuries. Before the NHS healthcare was fragmentary, provided through private treatment, charitable hospitals and dispensaries, and local Poor Law authorities."---

I suspect some of you might even be in these lists, if you have had any sort of medical career, it was a shock to see mine there. Most of us are just proud if we have been involved either via our ancestors, personally, or both. Lots of particularly useful websites here, and long may the NHS last. Did you clap on July 5th?



Mr Dennis McCann's Illustrated Tour of Bolton Old Town <https://www.facebook.com/groups/502317166638370/>
(and how to be a 21st Century building detective). Walks 3 and 4.

Another version can be seen here <http://bolton.webeden.co.uk/22-deansgate/4593839146>

I know many of you had ancestors living in this area maybe a couple of hundred years ago, many of you also no longer live in the Bolton area though, and perhaps you are even now overseas in the "colonies" or beyond and wonder what the addresses you are finding on the old census records etc look like today. Where did your great x 2 or 3 grandparents live? Would you even be able to recognise these places today if you were to visit and try to explore?

Those of you who use Facebook might have already seen this fascinating visual tour that Dennis McCann has prepared on his free group Ancient Bolton -Pre 1800, and he has been good enough to allow me to reproduce them here. There are 12 posts in the series following the enclosed map of Bolton old town centre and it might be helpful to compare a current map of the area to establish street names. The main road on the left running from top to bottom is of course Oxford Road, and that in the middle running left to right is Deansgate up to the crossroad on the right, then Church Gate and then Church Bank (St Peters Parish Church to the right, going towards the River Croal.

This is the first yellow walk No 3 lower middle half followed by a green No 4 , .



(3) Walking along parallel to Deansgate across the end of (the lost) Millstone Yard I move on to Crown Entry. This first picture shows Crown Entry looking on to Deansgate, and from here I can see Deansgate and can emerge once more, walking past the Fustian Warehouse, the older large building on the right. (Editors Notes- See here for more about "fustian" <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fustian>, now I know why Bolton also had the Velvet Walks 😊), and second picture giving a rear view.

It has been commented here that

"the bricks here look machine-made. That would put the

structure we're looking at in the 19th century - the block and tackle and taking-in doors are fairly standard for the 19th century.--- perhaps the cast iron lintel beams have a founders stamp on them. Now, It would not be unusual for a building to be renewed in situ - so it could be that this is following the lines of an earlier structure ---", and there are conclusions that there have been several alterations to the building structure since it was originally built, and that it would be very desirable to inspect the inside of the building!



4) So ambling on now through the “better areas “ Crown Entry runs along behind Bradshawgate until it reaches today's Shipgate which originally ran down the side of the then very important Ship Inn on Bradshawgate and across to Mealhouse/Chancery Lane, now the entrance to Shipgates Shopping Centre. The original entry into Shipgate from Bradshawgate was just like Crown entry and Shambles through a small archway in the building and was only widened to a street when Bradshawgate was widened in 1906 and the Ship inn was demolished.

The continuation of Crown Entry up towards Shipgate. ← Looking back along Crown Entry with a sliver of



Deansgate just showing in the distance. Below centre more intricate iron kerbs protect from the iron tyres of carts, and right the other end of Shipgate, as it emerged onto Mealhouse Lane/ Hotel St/Chancery Lane junction



11th June The “Black Lives Matter” movement and

“Why Bolton decided to honour a slave rather than the slave traders” By Jamie Bowman @JamieBowman77 News

Reporter Bolton News <https://tinyurl.com/yc6ndco6>

It was only days after our last newsletter was published that our world was once again challenged by another massive cultural upheaval, overlapping the ongoing pandemic crisis. There had been an “incident” on May 25th in the USA where a “man of colour” had died during a police arrest, and the contentious event was filmed and shared worldwide on smart phones within minutes of it happening. In an environment that was already volatile due to the stress of the COVID 19 related restrictions, there were highly charged local protests against racism which spread worldwide within days. A resentment and anger that has probably been simmering for centuries suddenly erupted in what now had become a form of mass protest, and demands for change. Much of the world has been seeing marches, with folk relating it rightly or wrongly to their own geographic situations. There have been gatherings in most main cities, with many also now adopting the American version of the “knee” salute, (although in the UK this had been traditionally reserved for a sign of respect to royalty when being knighted, or a marriage proposal 😊).

I suspect most locally just felt they could not take on any more stress at the moment, although they accepted that some things might need to change. The final straw might have been the realization that so many national institutions such as businesses, properties, museums, art galleries, and benefactors and their statues, that we all know today, have been built with the money from the slave trade, either through investment, or compensation of investment loss when the trade was banned. It is a hard thing to fully comprehend.

In the meantime, Jamie Bowman from our local Bolton News did a bit of researching, trying to find any Bolton stories about the slave trade, and found this amazing story, about a certain James Watkins who has instigated the only memorial known in the area so far. He was someone who as an escaped slave in Connecticut USA, married a freed slave, but had to come to England via Liverpool to escape further danger. I have also tried to discover a bit more about his story.



It seems James was actually born Sam Berry, a slave on Abraham Ensor's plantation, about 1822 in Cokesville, Baltimore County, Maryland USA. His parents were Amos Salisbury, the overseer of the plantation and mother Milcah Berry a slave. According to James' account Amos remained a cold, disciplinarian, never acknowledging his son, and he died about 1836. Abraham Ensor died soon after and the family were split up and sold in various directions with Sam and his mother ending up with Abraham's son Luke. Here he was treated cruelly and soon tried to escape, but was caught by "slave catchers", and dogs, beaten several times and returned and made to wear, "an iron collar with bells attached to it for 3 months after". He now however, managed to sneak away to a Methodist camp meeting, and became converted. He even used his newfound belief to convince Luke that Jesus would hold him responsible for any violent punishment. He eventually escaped again with the help of some Quakers and made it to Connecticut in May 1844 where he changed his name to James Watkins, found work, and met and married free black woman Mary Wells. They had three children, before he returned to visit his mother, now free, but now under the USA Fugitive Slave Act in 1850, which was a law that declared all runaways, even in free states, should be returned to their owners, he opted to travel to England where he was supported by friends, several of whom were apparently Quakers and Unitarians. It seems he found some hostility in Liverpool but moved on to Manchester where he was made welcome, and he resolved to try to pay his way by becoming a travelling lecturer, recounting his experiences, and writing a book about it published in 1852, published by Kenyon and Abbatt, printers of Market Street, Bolton.



We were reminded of this report <https://tinyurl.com/y7pqlczi> by our friendly local historian Denis McCann who had posted · 22nd July 2018 in his Ancient Bolton – Pre 1800s Face book group.

In 1852 'The Narrative of the Life of James Watkins, formerly a 'chattel' in Maryland US', was published by Kenyon and Abbatt of Market Street, Bolton. <https://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/watkin52/watkin52.html> With thanks to Denis McCann, posted in Ancient Bolton

"James Watkins (born 1821 USA) escaped from slavery in Maryland, USA, and became well known throughout the north west of England, through his public lectures on the horrors of slavery. At the end of this publication, Watkins provided a list of the anti-slavery meetings he had attended in Greater Manchester, along with the 'names of gentlemen who presided over them'. Watkins lived for some time with the Abbatts in Bolton, before settling in Manchester.

On Nov. 1, 1864, Maryland's slaves were declared free, only a few months before Congress would approve the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery.

The British people had effectively bought the freedom of the slaves off UK Slave owners, as public funds were used to compensate the slave owners, so that the legislation would be supported in parliament. The British government paid out £20m of public funds to compensate some 3,000 families that owned slaves for the loss of their "property" when slave-ownership was abolished in Britain's colonies in 1833, thus buying the freedom of the slaves. This figure represented a staggering 40 per cent of the Treasury's annual spending budget and, in today's terms, the treasury budget being circa £800bn, we paid the equivalent of £320bn, that's more than twice the cost of today's health services £125bn budget! 😞

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**A LIST OF THE MEETINGS
HELD BY MR. J. WATKINS.
Together with the Names of Gentlemen who presided over them.**

| | | |
|----------------|-------|-------------------------------------|
| • Manchester | ..... | Rev. F. Turner |
| • Chesham Hill | ..... | Rev. Mr. Simpson |
| • Warrington | ..... | Rev. S. Goodland |
| • Stockport | ..... | Dr. Tames Mayne |
| • Tintwistle | ..... | Rev. Mr. Page |
| • Bury | ..... | Rev. W. R. Thorburn |
| • Bury | ..... | Rev. H. Housarth |
| • Heywood | ..... | Rev. John Mannion |
| • Farnworth | ..... | Rev. J. C. McDermott |
| • Bolton | ..... | Robert Heywood, Esq. |
| • Bolton | ..... | Rev. B. C. Edwards |
| • Leigh | | Mr. John Fiddler |
| • Ashey | | Rev. B. Hawks |
| • Chorley | | Rev. T. Milner |
| • Tyldesley | | Mr. Wright |
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| • Preston | | Rev. W. Dale |
| • Skipton | | George Ashworth, Esq. |
| • St. Helens | | Rev. J. Hudson |
| • St. Helens | | Rev. J. Edmunds |
| • Blackburn | ..... | Mr. W. Jackson |
| • Cantrill | ..... | Rev. E. C. Mottis |
| • Blackwell | ..... | Thomas Ashen, Esq. |
| • Camp Lister | ..... | Mr. George Smith |
| • Aschington | ..... | Rev. C. Millars |
| • Ayrton | ..... | Rev. J. F. England |
| • Harncliffe | ..... | Rev. J. Mearns |
| • Sowerth | ..... | Peter Whitbread Esq. \| Rev. J. Berr |
| • Harncliffe | ..... | Rev. A. Henson |
| • Birtley | ..... | Rev. James Smith |

Subsequent Comments

*I came across an interesting comment from James Pemberton, who some may remember from a previous newsletter, and the story on our website https://bolton.mlfhs.org.uk/longer_articles.php was a descendant of Bolton's Phineas Pemberton, a Quaker who took his family and emigrated to USA for religious freedom in 1684. Here a hundred years later in 1784 James writes to a James Phillips to explain the dilemmas and delays in their support of the emancipation of slavery. http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtID=3&psid=194 Slavery in Post-Revolutionary America, Digital History ID 194 Author: James Pemberton Date:1784

"The Revolution had interrupted the cooperative antislavery efforts of British and American Quakers. This letter from James Pemberton (1723-1808) to James Phillips represents the first post-war effort to re-establish collective or coordinated action".

*Editor's note in reference to our banner picture of the tympanum above the Town Hall

"It has been suggested that the inclusion of a black child bearing cotton is in some way a tacit contemporary endorsement of slavery. Not true. Slavery had been effectively abolished in the British Empire 40 years earlier. The extreme hardships suffered by the mill workers of Bolton as a result of the Lancashire Cotton Famine during the American Civil War of 1861-65 had actually increased popular support in the region for the United States and for the anti-slavery movement."

<https://tinyurl.com/yb2ug95d>

SOME INTERESTING, USEFUL, AND MAINLY FREE WEBSITES



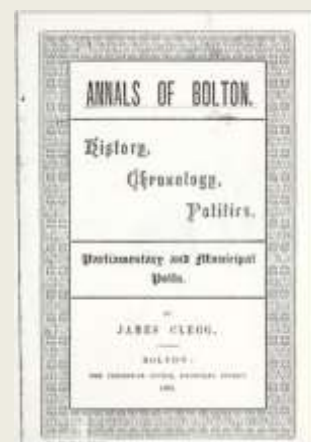
Lancs OPC <http://goo.gl/AN699Z> and left click on the "What's New" tab on the left



Lancashire Records <http://goo.gl/I29JpL>

Annals of Bolton : history, chronology, politics, parliamentary and municipal polls" from Reynolds Historical Genealogy Collection Allen County Public Library 3 1833 00724 1828 Digitized by the Internet archive in 2010 with funding from Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center.

This seems to be American, and I have no idea why they would want it, but here is a link, and its free. <https://tinyurl.com/ydzdwuca> Apart from going back to William the Conqueror it also gives details of an analysis of Bolton voters in the 19th C, a list of the MPs, and much of the wheeling and dealing of Bolton Corporation, and its members since its conception: also of many of the main shops and businesses in town. Have you got family in it I wonder?



OTHER LOCAL SOCIETIES NEWS

Like us all local society's meetings are suspended until further notice. Please check with their individual websites for further information



Halliwell Local History Society <http://goo.gl/8erYyr> Email margaretk@talktalk.net



Turton Local History Society <https://goo.gl/adx4GM>

Westhoughton Local History Group – <http://goo.gl/XNugl5>



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