



Bolton's Genies

PLEASE NOTE SOME RECENT CHANGES OF ADDRESSES!!

The Monthly Newsletter of the Bolton Family History Society:

<https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton>

•Newsletter Comments, and Speaker Bookings: boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk

•Newsletter Archives since July 2014:

<https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton/newsletter/archives>

•General Society enquiries to the BFHS Secretary, Christine M Ellis

bolton@mlfhs.org.uk

•Bolton Research help, please email boltonhelpdesk@mlfhs.org.uk or Manchester Research email a brief enquiry to , <https://www.mlfhs.uk/virtual-help-desk>

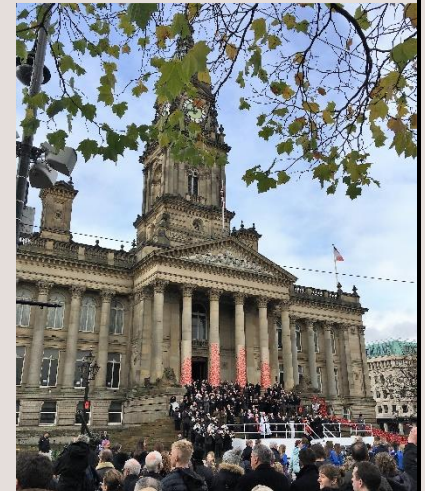
or visit us

•Bolton Facebook page <https://goo.gl/n99qtW> 695 Likes and 795 Following on November 6th

•Bolton Research Collection on MLFHS website:

<https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton/research> (for members only, ongoing, and includes our talk notes)

•Join the MLFHS/BFHS at: <https://www.mlfhs.uk/join> .



November 2020 76th Edition and 2nd Lockdown started Nov 5th

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

This month's picture shows Bolton Cenotaph in 2018, and 2020, as we celebrate Remembrance Day, and speaks volumes.



So, welcome all to our November edition. This has been a month of momentous activity for us and we are incredibly grateful to those of you who were brave enough to join in with our practice Zoom and then first talk on Nov 2nd.

I think we can only report that this experience has been a revelation. There is a report below of our practice run, but we can now tell you that in total we think we had 69 people sign on for the actual talk, of which 11 were guests. We also know 3 were from Australia, 1 from Canada, and many others live in the UK but not locally, so quite a few of these were people who had taken advantage of the new opportunity to join us, and who have been too far away before, or could not join us for other reasons. We have yet to complete the audit and would appreciate those who might not have responded yet to our survey, to please let us know their thoughts as requested in the link to join.

You will hopefully now be glad to know that we have prepared a full Zoomed programme for the coming year which should be on our website, and Facebook page shortly. The booking of places will be advertised by Eventbrite a few weeks before each event, as before on our website, links will be provided here and on our FB page, and of course as it is Zoomed this will be accessible anywhere. We are hopeful also that with the permission of each speaker, we will be permitted to record their talk / and or notes, and post this in the members section of the website, to make same available for those who couldn't make the talk, or wish to study the information more. We do hope this will help keep the momentum of our society going, until it is safe to review how we meet. We can now see there are going to be options to consider though. Stay safe all.

OUR LAST and NEXT MONTHLY MEETINGS

(We have had to adapt 😊 -> Plan B)

Where?

Well it should have been Bolton Old Links Golf Club, Montserrat Brow, Chorley Old Road BL1 5SU. BUT for the first time ever it was in your own front rooms or wherever you “perch”, to use your lifeline to modern technology and our online Zoom talks.

When?

Optional beverages available (if self-supplied), prior to 7.15pm signing in, and entering the waiting room, before being admitted for a 7.30pm start, on the first Wednesday of most months. January next year will be on the first Wednesday, Jan 6th. Extras which used to be included onsite like the Stationery Table for discounted equipment, and recycle service for your used family history magazines, books etc, are obviously not available at present BUT the

Help Desk has continued throughout the pandemic period. Our Colin and Margaret Calderbank → have continued to be available throughout for Bolton email enquiries, and recently the Manchester branch has also commenced a more general MLFHS version from the Central Library Office. See links above.



EVENTS

Wednesday October 28th Our First Zoom Practice Meeting

We do feel it is important to record, this was our first BFHS Zoom practice event, which was arranged to give us all experience in the protocol of these events. Graham Holt, our Chairman, drew the short straw for coordinating the procedure, and after picking the brains of a few other family history societies who were a bit more ahead of us, (particularly Calderdale FHS for allowing us to view and adapt their guidelines--- thank you), plus observing online talks from other sources, we bit the bullet, and decided to try it.



We asked Dr Penny Walters (who I had seen in action elsewhere), to support us and let us practice on her. After advertising here, and on our Facebook page, the applicants started to roll in after a slow start. It was noticeable that many who were not our regular Bolton attenders, but from further away, and even overseas and in different time zones, were enthusiastically asking for places. Twenty seven agreed to help with a practice run, arranged to learn the procedure and to give Graham experience in managing same. We hope all participants will agree that went well and thank you again. It was good to be able to put faces to some familiar names, and welcome new ones. Graham and I were later given the chance to discuss this with Penny, who has been extremely helpful throughout. We felt as ready as ever to go. The closing date for signing in was Nov 1st. Was it significant that it was All Saints Day??? Another major event was also announced on Halloween, the evening before, our second lockdown was to start with a bang on Nov 5th. We had a captive audience!!! 62 were signed in by the closing date, and only 8 were guests. We squeezed a few more late comers in later because we try to be nice with people. 😊.

- Wednesday November 4th arrived, and with it Dr Penny Walters asking us

“Have you ever found your ‘real’ family? An extremely sensitive subject, and these are my reflections”

As this talk has been recorded and now available on our website for members of MLFHS you will not find our usual overview of the talk available here, although it will be reported in the members quarterly journal as normal. Penny has also, very generously offered us her notes for the talk, to post afterwards on our website in our members area, via this link <https://mlfhs.uk/member-area/documents/bolton-records/meeting-notes-archive>

The following, therefore, is just a taster of what was discussed and will be available.



“Children born outside marriage

Children whose parents were not married when they were born have been labelled ‘baseborn,’ ‘illegitimate,’ or ‘bastard,’ or people said that the baby was ‘born on the wrong side of the blanket.’

If someone found out, the girl was seen as a ‘fallen woman’ and the baby was the girl’s ‘dirty little secret.’ A politer description in older documents is ‘natural child,’ although this still distinguishes from a child born within a marriage. Because of inheritance laws, historically, babies born outside of marriage would have been given these labels, but these old terms can feel even more offensive now. Why do people from so many cultures make young girls give up their babies? ... Why do people from so many cultures make young girls give up their babies? ...

***Before adoption was legalised**, many girls and women who felt that they couldn’t keep their baby would secretly give their baby to a relative, maybe an aunt or sister who couldn’t have children, or a relative with lots of children, maybe the grandmother; some would abandon the baby, usually leaving the baby where someone could hopefully find him/ her (termed ‘foundling’); or, in moments of desperation, even take the baby’s life. When the baby was kept in the family, the mother would have to ‘watch from the outside,’ and have no say in the matter.*

From 1839 in the UK, ‘bastardy cases’ could be initiated by the mother, who had to produce ‘corroborative evidence’ to convict the putative father. Bastardy Bonds/ Agreements determined which adult male was to support a child. Bastardy cases were openly reported in local newspapers and gave the names of both the mother and father. The 1851 Massachusetts Adoption of Children Act is widely considered the first ‘modern’ adoption law.

It was made legal to adopt in 1926 in the UK, and in Scotland in 1930, in Northern Ireland in 1931, and in the Republic of Ireland in 1953.

Many cultures have the presumption that an unmarried mother won’t be able to care for the child ‘properly’. Religious families consider it sinful to have had sex before marriage, and it becomes the girl’s ‘fault’ if she ‘got herself’ pregnant. Some girls/ women report that they were coerced into giving up their baby. They went into institutions designed to care for them, but were reportedly tricked into believing that their baby was stillborn or had died immediately afterwards, when, in fact, the baby was given to a married couple, often from abroad, who paid expenses to the institution, effectively ‘purchasing’ a baby, although nobody would have used that word. Because this became commonplace, it has been termed ‘baby scooping.’ The book/ film ‘Philomena’ reflects that situation and describes how an Irish mother went about searching for her son adopted by an American family.

In Tuam, Ireland, many unmarried girls were reportedly told that their baby had died shortly after birth, but if the sale fell through, what to do with the baby?

The Mother and Baby Homes Commission of Investigation recently began excavations, as a result of allegations about the deaths of about eight hundred babies, whose skeletons were found in the grounds.

In the USA, there was the now famous case of Dr Hicks in Georgia, also selling induced (premature) babies. Many other unmarried mothers have revealed that they were forcibly sterilised after giving birth, without proper and informed consent.

The 'altruistic' world of adoption ---

It is assumed that adoption has little/ no effect on children (people are replaceable and children 'bounce back') and that it is possible to substitute mothers (like a replaced teddy bear or pet). It is assumed that because there are professionals involved, everything must have been done correctly, and that it is a wonderful solution for everyone: parents receive a new baby, the baby gets a loving family, and the birth mother feels the baby has gone to a 'good' family. The bottom line is that 'love will conquer all.'

Adoption language

There are a variety of terms used for 'mother', and these can indicate feelings towards the lady:

**'birth' mother ('BM') birth 'mom', * 'natural' mother, * 'blood' mother, * 'biological' mother, * 'real' mother, ----"*

Penny went on to discuss many more points under these headings.

Bureaucracy, Mental Health Issues, DNA testing, Collaboration, Some Useful DNA Tools, Ethical dilemmas, Changing your name back to your original one, Never Lose hope, References,

We are extremely grateful to Penny for her gentle help and patience, as we all learned how to use Zoom and adapt to this new way of having our monthly meeting.

It seems the least we can do in appreciation of her support is to advertise her books:

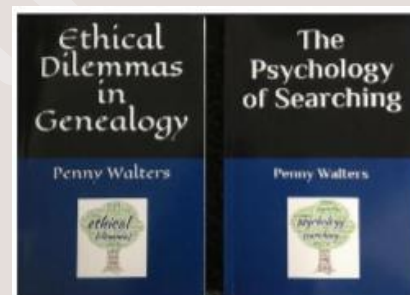
'Ethical Dilemmas in Genealogy' Chapter 4: Adoption. ISBN:

9781724038241 and

'The Psychology of Searching' ISBN 9781687167262

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Psychology-Searching-Dr-Penny-Walters/dp/1687167265>

Both available on Amazon in paperback or kindle



- **Wednesday 2nd December "The Story of the Pretoria Pit Disaster, on the 110th Anniversary. A Zoom presentation by Garth Ratcliffe of the Westhoughton Local history Society** <https://tinyurl.com/y53nbyq3>

Perhaps this is not consistent with the usual Christmas spirit, especially in these unusually difficult times, but nevertheless a very important event, which we feel needs commemorating, in the history of Boltonians and their surrounding area.

We have been so lucky to gain the services of Mr Garth Ratcliffe who is the Deputy Chairman of the WHLHS and lost 4 members of his own family at this tragedy.

On December 21, 1910, 344 men and boys lost their lives, after an explosion underground in the Hulton Bank Colliery No. 3 Pit, the 3rd worst mining disaster in British history. <https://www.lan-opc.org.uk/Westhoughton/Pretoria/index.html>

Garth will give a Zoom presentation about the event which we plan to record and have available for members on our MLFHS website. More details are also available via the WHLHS website where they have prepared a booklet available at £4.50 via <https://tinyurl.com/y53nbyq3>



- **Wednesday 6th January 2021, "Moorlands, Memories and Reflections" including the Celebration of – "The 125th Anniversary of the Winter Hill Trespass next September" Zoomed By Prof Paul Salveson** See details below

GENIE'S TIPS for NOVEMBER



The Marriage Locator <https://tinyurl.com/y524hkf9> Cracking the code of the GRO Marriage Index

This website enables you to interpret the Marriage Index <https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/Login.asp> created by the General Register Office for England and Wales. By using it you can determine where your ancestors were married - not just which Registration District, but which church.



Online Parish Clerks Websites. https://www.ukbmd.org.uk/online_parish_clerk

Many of you will know about the wonderful resource of Lancashire Parish Clerks but do you know about all these others that exist across the country? The term OPC refers to unpaid volunteers who are willing to help others with their genealogical research. They collect, collate and transcribe records for various parishes within their respective areas.

WORKSHOPS, COURSES and CLASSES

No local classes can be planned under the current regulations but there are of course several online options available, some free, some not, some specialising more than others

Free Courses include

- Futurelearn Genealogy, a rolling 6 week course <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/genealogy> favoured by many, experienced or not

Chargeable Courses can be found via

- Jackie Depelles, "My Fair Ladies" website, <http://yourfairladies.ning.com/page/courses-workshops> and the good news is that we have managed to rebook Jackie for her talk about "Females in the family – Ladies, Ships, Locomotives and more", cancelled this year, to be Zoomed next year in May
- Dr Penny Walters, our 2020 Speaker as below is providing courses as shown here now, and hopes to do more next year <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/english/study/part-time/short-courses/genealogy-courses/>

THIS MONTHS LOCAL NEWS and SOME ORGANISATION UPDATES

Archives Updates

Bolton History Centre <https://www.boltonlams.co.uk/history-centre-1>

November 5th is currently closed again due to the second lockdown. The main library is open for pre-booked essential computer use and books can be ordered and collected from the front of the library.

Julie Lamara the Collections Access Officer-Local Studies tells me she has asked re the online access to Ancestry during the current lockdown and have been told that the access is still available and didn't stop when we came out of the first lockdown. They haven't yet been given a date as to when online access to Ancestry will cease. Julie added that *"Since the start of the first lockdown we have all been working from home or working when we are able (due to social distancing) behind the scenes at Central. We have been posting material on the Bolton Museum Facebook pages, quizzes and images of Bolton and writing articles which have then been posted. We have also answered over 200 enquiries by email or phone in the History Centre.*

During the three weeks we were open with pre booked appointments, we tried to catch-up with the enquires we could not answer in the first lockdown. We will still continue to answer our enquiries during this lockdown, however some more complicated ones may have to wait until we open again."



Lancashire Archives <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives/archives-and-record-office/>

From Thursday 5 November new national restrictions will replace the current local restrictions. Lancashire Archives will be closed to the public until these national restrictions are lifted. Read the latest update about coronavirus restrictions in Lancashire. Our copying and enquiry service is still available, and our catalogues can be searched online. See also Lancashire Archives News and Events <https://goo.gl/H8UexE> for their latest newsletter and more

The National Archives <http://orlo.uk/FK9H6>

Following yesterday's announcement that we are suspending our reading room service, in line with new national restrictions, we are pleased to announce that we are doubling the monthly limit on downloading free digital records from our website, from 50 to 100.

This service, made free in response to the restrictions earlier in the year, has been very popular with online researchers around the world, with more than 84,000 people downloading around 1.1m documents to date

Lancashire Records

UK BMD Summary <http://goo.gl/l29JpL>



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

Next September sees the 125th Anniversary of the Winter Hill Trespass.

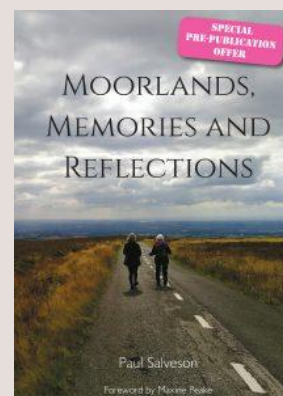


In 1896 Colonel Ainsworth stopped access across his land to walkers and local people by erecting a locked gate and employing men to stop anyone gaining entry. Two marches on consecutive Sundays took place across the moors with thousands of participants. Colonel Ainsworth fought the protesters in court. Even though the protesters were defended by Richard Pankhurst, husband of Emmeline, Ainsworth won.

However, the path later became a dedicated Right of Way. Commemorations took place in 1982 (Picture above

courtesy of Bolton News), and 1996. Were you there? Did you participate in the march? Do you have memories of the day, a story to tell? Did you take any photographs? If you would like to participate in next year's commemoration or can help provide photographs or stories from the previous events please post to this Facebook page Winter Hill 125, <https://tinyurl.com/y329hsgt> which is a private group, and you will need to request membership first but do not be deterred.

This is Professor Paul Salveson's account of it reported by the Bolton News 13.09.20, and he will be telling us more about it in his coming Zoom talk to us on January 6th 2021, "Moorlands, Memories and Reflections" including the Celebration of – "The 125th Anniversary of the Winter Hill Trespass next September" and the details of his new book commemorating the events <https://tinyurl.com/y5cexiz4>



See also another fascinating article by Paul, <https://tinyurl.com/vy5yw8qv> posted recently in the Bolton News “‘Idiot teacher’ who was education pioneer at Bolton school” By John Anson @LT_Features. Regional Features Editor Lancashire. Paul seems to have a happy knack for finding some hidden gems from Bolton’s history.

MISCELLANEOUS

“Mortality and Morbidity, a One Family Study” by Elizabeth Green courtesy of GOONS and Zoom!!

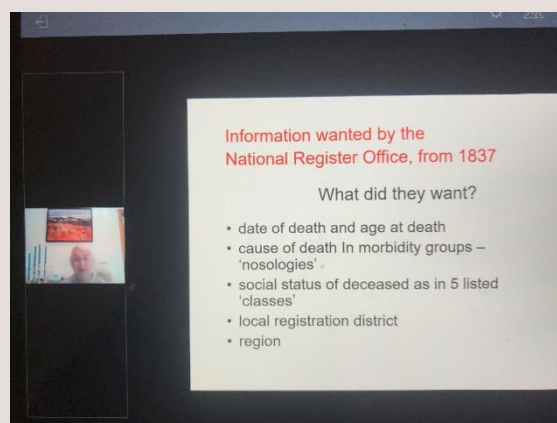
Well I did mention last month, that I have been getting a bit more adventurous in the absence of our own Bolton FHS meetings, and last night I “took the bull by the horns”, and opted to attempt to listen to this online talk, having joined GOONS <https://one-name.org/seminar-events/> a few weeks ago. Some might remember reference to this society after Rod Brackstones talk on DNA, last March. On joining I have received many welcoming and helpful emails from various members, offering to assist me in making the most of the membership. I must admit, not being as dedicated as some, and feeling a little overwhelmed, I have opted to initially watch their activities, occasionally test a few ideas out, and learn. This talk was my first with them, and WOW!

Firstly, I was invited to request access to their talks as they came out, so I am now on their list for notification. I was sent a link for this talk, and thankfully decided to try it out a few hours before the event. This was good because I discovered my aged desk top could not accept the Webinar link, but I moved on to my iPad which downloaded it comfortably, and I understand many use smart phones and probably other more modern laptops and tablets are OK. The talk was advertised to start at 8pm and I clicked the link at 7.50pm and was notified I was in the waiting room. At 8pm the coordinator Alan Moorhouse introduced himself, explained the procedure for the evening, and facility to take questions at the end, and then the speaker. This was their first talk in this way as well, so all new. Our mics were all turned off by the coordinator, and we could only see the speaker, Elizabeth Green, at the side of her Powerpoint presentation.

This remarkable lady is 93 years old and has made a near lifetime study of her family lines from Yorkshire and Gloucestershire, looking particularly at the 139 death certificates she has accumulated for her departed from between 1837 and 2009. Using a Powerpoint presentation, she first reviewed the reason why the National Registration System of deaths was first found necessary

<https://tinyurl.com/y6xdmhc2> Wikipedia accessed 10.10.20. In the early 19th

C, there was a growing awareness of the need to relieve increasing poverty, and actually count the population to identify how many there were in the country and where they were. This would enable controlling the spread of diseases as the people moved to find employment and facilitate “better conditions”; also cope with the management of burials and overflowing graveyards and provide education for all to enable better record keeping. There was some friction between the established church which had provided the only type of records up to now and for an entirely different reason, and the needs of the government trying to launch social reform. Hitherto there had never been information recorded of fatalities from the frequent epidemics, and also rising infant and younger



adult mortality with the industrial revolution. There were few medics as we would know them, to take any interest in this speciality or identify which diseases were prevalent. It was not even known how many people lived in each parish. For us researching now, the launch of civil registration of births, deaths and marriages is the first reliable source we can often find of these events, not related to the religious ceremonies of baptism, (the acceptance into the congregation not the actual birth), marriage (a congregation recognised union to create more children), and burial (return to the earth, and hopefully everlasting peace) , rather than the actual event of the death. Burials were also often costly and at the mercy of grave robbers so often unmarked, and/or unrecorded.

Few had the skills to record anyway, so there was a need for basic education to enable this. The church had no religious need to record any basic detail for these events including age and cause of death, and women in particular were rarely noted unless they were married and of higher status. Details re maiden and Christian names were incidental. Elizabeth suggests, and has found in her own research, that this was the first chance to study family traits in illnesses, although even now the diagnoses were at best debatable. In 1837 the National Register Office demanded the date and age at death and cause as it fitted into their “nosology” of eleven categories of disease. These details were to help answer the growing awareness that deaths and their causes are scientific facts, which have exciting causes, and can be analysed numerically. William Farr an experienced doctor and pioneer statistician was appointed as the first “Compiler of Statistics”

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/William-Farr> (born November 30, 1807, Kenley, Shropshire, England—died April 14, 1883, London). Individuals were also slotted into one of five different social classes. In England and Wales all details were to be collected in one of 619 (623 from 1851) local Registration districts each under the supervision of a superintendent registrar.

The districts were based on the recently introduced poor law unions by an appointed Registrar. The registration districts were further divided into sub-districts (there could be two or more), each under the charge of registrars who were appointed locally. It was now compulsory to have a death certificate in order to bury a body, which was issued by the Registrar a <https://tinyurl.com/jykwzwt> (Wikipedia accessed 10.10.202) who was required to be literate, able to handwrite, and familiar with his area to be able to travel to get the information, after notification of death. . At this stage a medical diagnosis was not required so the onus was on the Registrar, a layman, to slot common terminologies such as “act of God” into the correct category, with varying success. Many of course also had little accurate knowledge of their own or anybody else’s age, and the spelling of names was often phonetic and inconsistent to say the least. Even addresses were vague with no house numbers. In 1840 the General Record Office also took over responsibility for the decennial census of England and Wales.

Slowly over the next 100 + years, reality checks took place, and with it, recognition of the growing need for accuracy in diagnosing cause of death both to initiate preventative measures where possible, and also to ascertain deaths under suspicious circumstances. (This government website I found, provides a useful timeline demonstrating the major changes. <https://tinyurl.com/y3dwb922> An overview of the death certification reforms Published 26 May 2016. Accessed 10.10.21.) Perhaps the most surprising fact I noticed was that it was not until

“1874: that registered doctors required to provide a written statement of the medical cause of death unless they know that an inquest is to be held”, and

Table 1, William Farr's Nosology
from the Fifth Annual Report of the Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages, GRO 1841

• Class 1 Zymotic diseases, epidemic/ endemic/ contagious	• Class 8 of the Organs of generation
• Class 2 of Uncertain or Variable seat	• Class 9 of the Organs of Locomotion
• Class 3 of Nervous System	• Class 10 of the Integumentary System
• Class 4 of Respiratory Organs	• Class 11 Old Age
• Class 5 of Organs of Circulation	• Class 12 External causes, Poisoning, Asphyxia, Injuries
• Class 6 of the Digestive Organs	
• Class 7 of Urinary Organs	

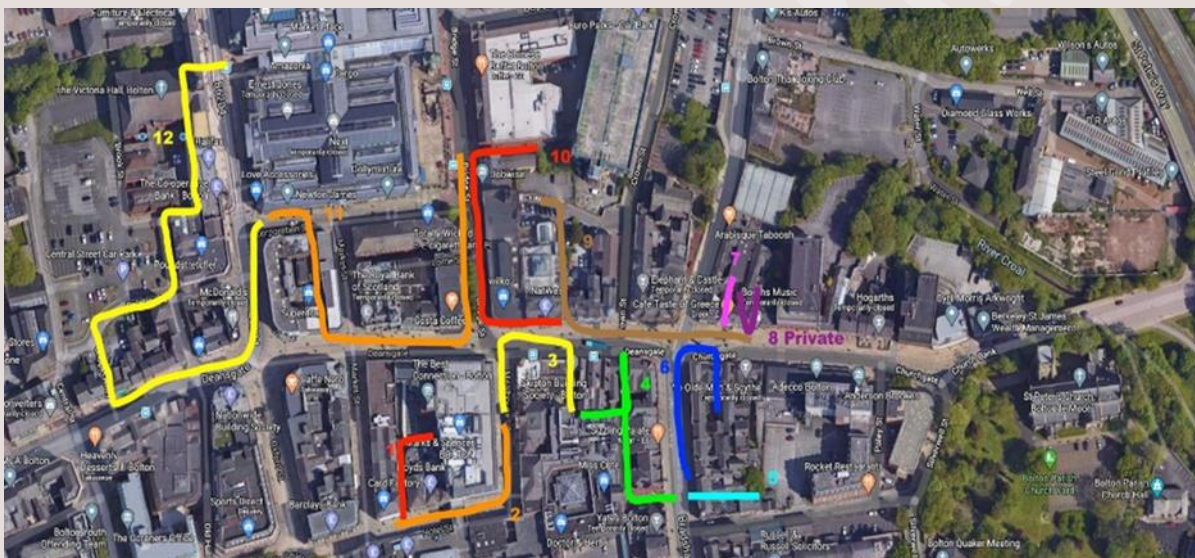
“1885: Registrars were required to report any sudden deaths or deaths where the cause was unknown to the coroner, as well as deaths that appeared to be due to violence or suspicious circumstances”.

Elizabeth went on to discuss how she found family traits, links to local working conditions causing industrial diseases, and longevity possibly also linked to local nutrition in comparing her two lines from Yorkshire and Gloucestershire.

I found this a fascinating talk, providing a whole new perspective on my family's death certificates at least.

Recent changes in legislation include <https://tinyurl.com/y3dwb922> An overview of the death certification reforms Published 26 May 2016, and <https://tinyurl.com/y3dwb922> Signing death certificates and cremation forms. A doctor's responsibility is to certify a deceased patient's cause of death by issuing a medical certificate of cause of death (MCCD). 14 August 2018

Final Episode of Mr Dennis McCann's Illustrated Tour of Bolton Old Town, (and clues of how to be a 21st Century building detective). <https://www.facebook.com/groups/502317166638370/>
Continued from previous newsletters



Now we come to the last stage of Denis' round Bolton tour. I hope these articles have been of assistance for those who might not live locally and will have been of some help in locating areas mentioned in records of yesteryear. Much has changed in the last couple of hundred years, and more is changing now as I write. We have six major sites of reconstruction in Bolton town centre <https://tinyurl.com/y2323jbw> as reported here in the Bolton News " £1bn Bolton town centre masterplan defies Covid as schemes remain on course for 2030 finish", By Tom Houghton Business Live North West Business Editor 13th AUG 2020

Finding where your great x 2 or 3 grandparents lived, could soon be a virtually impossible project if relating to present day landmarks.

Denis offered 12 routes in this series following the enclosed map of Bolton old town centre. To repeat the explanation for the last time, and it is hoped it is 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 month's edition shows the 11th orange walk, looking at one of the main sources of drinking water in the town centre, from

the 17th to 19th C, and the 12th yellow walk looking at Ridgeway Gates and the infamous Velvet Walks, before the area was cleared and Victoria Hall was built in the late 1800s and 1900. <https://tinyurl.com/yxgju46t> . The car park as shown in the left corner of the map below gives a glimpse of the site as it is now, and much of this map shown is changing as I write.

(11) I decided to walk along the relatively modern Lorne Street to the 'ancient' Taylor Brow (now continuation of the 'old' Market Street to the 'new' Market Hall) and round to Millwall Lane, once home to one of the Wells supplying the town's water. The well is actually under Corporation Street close to the Knowsley St corner of the Market Hall and has now been found surviving under the Market Hall. Here can be seen the 'Mill Well'→, that Mill Well Lane takes its name from and as shown on the 1989 maps above. It was part of Bolton's original town water supply located as predicted under the corner of the Market Hall at the junction of Corporation St and Knowsley Street - Picture by Jim Markland.



(12) The final two streets are somewhat disconnected to the others. ←Chapel Alley, runs off Deansgate, into the area identified by

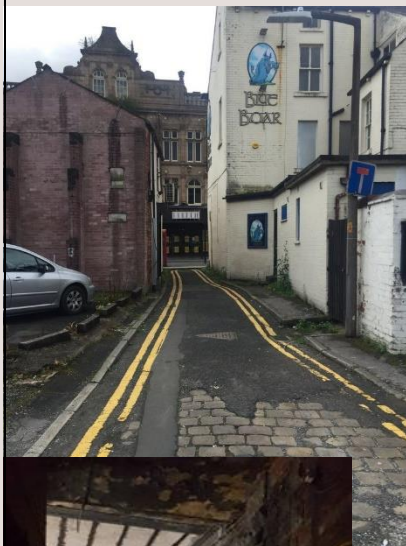
Velvet Walks → (which was behind Victoria hall, and is now a car park,) and

Ridgeway Gates and then down to ←Brook Street.

There are several arches that go along under the street that allowed access into the next arch for inspections etc as the ends were closed by buildings, but they were often converted into cellars. The access was bricked up for security, or safety where the river was concerned. Knowsley St was built over Chapel Alley apparently, but originally joined Ridgeway Gates/Ridgeway Fold →, Dog Row and Taylor Brow/Taylor Court.

Imagine them doing the 'Velvet Walk' along those attic rooms, as they sliced, each individual row of the Fustian cloth open with the knife, to make the pile of the velvet.

(Editor's note. This website explains the process of fustian aka corduroy manufacture , which was such a mainstay of Bolton's industry in the late 18th and 19th C. <https://tinyurl.com/y2u9yvvg>) , and there are several personal stories on Denis' Facebook group <https://tinyurl.com/y478qb6a> from people who knew this area either first hand or from family anecdotes. I wonder why so many of them left for Canada in the 1920s



SOME INTERESTING, USEFUL, AND MAINLY FREE WEBSITES



“Our War Graves, Your History” a new Commonwealth War Graves Commission Project

“Whilst many people associate our work with the vast cemeteries and memorials of France and Belgium, we also maintain stunning cemeteries and memorials across Great Britain. Across England, Scotland and Wales the CWGC commemorates over 300,000 Commonwealth service personnel at more than 12,000 locations. To highlight this commitment, we have created a new digital experience, Our War Graves, Your History, for you to explore. Using this new digital resource, we encourage you to learn about our work, discover the history of the world wars and explore the heritage of our organisation on your doorstep.

2020 has been a year like no other, and though the world may look very different the CWGC continues to care for the Commonwealth service personnel who fell during the two World Wars. While you might not be able to travel further afield to visit the battlefields of the two World Wars - from the Western Front to the Far East - we encourage you to explore our work across Great Britain through this interactive resource and reconnect with your local history and heritage”.

This picture from St Stephen and All Martyrs Darcy Lever, -->shows a typical small local plot of headstones from WW2 casualties surrounding a memorial to casualties from both World Wars from this Parish who never returned home. This is a link to accessing the records for individuals and also cemeteries at home and abroad. <https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/> .



MEMORIES

It would seem to be remiss of us here at BFHS, if we did not mention the sad passing of a great friend to all Bolton historians of any persuasion. Thanks to Margaret Koppens for writing this for us.

And lastly, Norman Hindley, an Obituary by Margaret Koppens from Halliwell Local History Society

In July we lost a dear friend, member, and long-serving committee member. Norman Hindley passed away on 21st July just short of his 90th birthday.

With his passing goes a lifetime of knowledge of Bolton and particularly Astley Bridge where he grew up. In later years Norman spent many hours researching Astley Bridge, gathering information and photographs and building up a significant archive which he was always happy to share. His stories of his experiences were legendary, particularly the ones from when he worked for the Bolton Co-op in their grocery stores, which were sure to raise a laugh. They gave a view of a time long past and a quite different world from today.

Many years ago, Norman formed the very popular Astley Bridge Reminiscence Group based in the Baptist Church in Eden Street. Later the group moved to All Souls Community Centre and more members joined. He was in his element passing on his knowledge of the place where he was born and listening to stories of others in the group; the Reminiscence group will continue in his memory. Norman will also be remembered for his entertaining talks to various groups around the Borough.



We will miss him for his knowledge and his willingness to help wherever he could. But most of all we will miss his friendship, his gentle nature, his warm personality and every-present smile.

Norman really was a True Gentleman.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Ruby and family.

Editor's Note

For me this is how I shall remember Norman. He did actually visit us a few years ago to recount his story about the Bolton Co-op, that some might remember. This picture shows him sharing a joke with Julie Lamara Collections Officer from the Bolton Archives, as she was publicising their Bolton Remembers project at the HLHS Open Day October 2016. Was it really that long ago?

OTHER LOCAL SOCIETIES NEWS

Sadly, all local history societies that we know of have had to suspend actual physical meetings due to COVID restrictions, but some are now venturing into Zoom and similar. Please check their websites if interested



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>

© Copyright 2020 Bolton Family History Society, part of Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society Charity No 515599

--o--o--o--