



Bolton's Genies

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 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 our

•Bolton Facebook page <https://goo.gl/n99qtW>

•Bolton Research Collection on MLFHS website: <https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton/research>
(for members only and ongoing)

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



August 2022 Edition 99

One of the last Bolton Clog Makers John Walker at work in his workshop in Victory St Bolton in 1977.

Courtesy of Bill Fielding in Denis McCanns Face Book page Ancient Bolton-pre1800s

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



Welcome to the 99th edition of the Bolton Genie. Our editor Jane Milne is currently indisposed with illness, and I have taken over the editorship of this copy. We wish Jane a speedy recovery. The next version of the Bolton Genie will be the 100th edition and it is a tribute to Jane that month by month since the first edition, she has been able to produce a very readable and informative newsletter. My thanks go to Helen Pitt, in Canada, who has written the report on **Was my grandfather a professional footballer.**

The absence of Jane from our committee at the moment, emphasises the problems that a small committee has, and we would welcome some members to come forward and join the committee. We are a friendly bunch and hold 3 or 4 meetings a year. If you are interested in family history and wish to help the Society, please contact myself or the secretary Christine Ellis.

David Baker
Chairman

BFHS's MONTHLY MEETINGS ARE AVAILABLE BOTH LIVE AND ONLINE

Our live talks in the room are held at our new venue,
Bolton Golf Club, Chorley New Road, BL6 4AJ.

This is the link to get there from any local address by
private or public transport.

<https://www.boltongolfclub.co.uk/contact/how-to-find-us/>



The talks are also zoomed from there, and usually
given by a visiting speaker. ,

Just occasionally though we will be taking
advantage of modern technology and welcoming a
speaker who is not actually on our premises but
speaking from elsewhere.

This will happen when speakers, who are known to
be top quality in their area of expertise. are based
some distance away and enough to make
commuting complicated and expensive. We will
instead be seeing them on the screen in our
meeting room, as well as streaming the same
screen to our Zoomers.

The usual facilities will still be available in the
room, and we will, therefore, hopefully have the best of all worlds.

Meetings from other branches of the MLFHS remain available, some live, some Zoomed, some hybrid, and
free to all members. Just scroll down the page of this link <https://www.mlfhs.uk/> , and select an event.
Visitors are also welcome for a small charge.

BOOKING

LIVE IN THE ROOM -We have now moved on re the post pandemic precautions. Whilst being fully aware
that we are not yet Covid free and must continue with sensible lifestyles, life does have to go on doesn't it.
With this in mind your committee decided that from August we will no longer be asking for folk to pre book
online for our live meetings. Just come, and we will

- simply ask you to give your names and membership numbers in at the desk, and for
- guests to give names and pay £3 entrance fees as normal.

BUT remember we have limited seating, and we may have to close the doors if it does get too full. .

ZOOM- We hope to be providing reliable streaming now, and Eventbrite bookings need to be continued.

ALL ZOOM TALKS ARE STILL TO BE BOOKED VIA EVENTBRITE TO FACILITATE SAFE CONTROL OF NUMBERS IN THE ROOM. YOU WILL SEE a LINK TO BOOK on this page, <https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton/events>

select the talk you wish to attend, left click and follow the booking instructions.

- Bolton's meeting room opens at 7pm for a 7.30pm start on the first Wednesday of most months. Zoomers from home can sign in from 7.15pm

Wednesday August 3rd Was my grandfather a professional footballer - a live and ZOOM meeting

This talk was by Peter Holme, Curator, Research Centre of the National Football Museum, Urbis Building, Cathedral Gardens, Manchester. One of our members from overseas, Hellen Pitt from Canada, has been good enough to prepare a report for us.

Peter started out by reviewing the history of the National Football Museum. The museum was originally funded by lottery and built in Preston, but after an operating grant from the Football Association ran out after 6 years, there were no funds for maintenance. The museum in Preston was closed in 2010 and is used for storage of records and artifacts and open to researchers (academics, students, football historians by appointment). URBIS opened in Manchester in 2002 as a museum of popular culture attendance dropped, and it was closed in 2010. It reopened in 2012 as the National Football Museum. The Museum's collection includes objects, club records, postcards, and books as well as fanzines etc. As with most museums, only 10% of the collection is on display at any one time. The rest is held at the Preston facility.

Peter then gave a brief overview of the history of football. Although a version of a ball game has been played informally for hundreds of years, in 1820, a game called mass football began to be played on Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. In Ashbourne this game is still played today. It was quite rough as there were no rules and the goals were 2-3 miles apart! The game began to be played in public schools, such as Harrow. It was better funded (players had uniforms) and played on a grass field. In 1863, a football "association" was formed to agree on standard rules. With minor changes, these are the rules used today and the association became the Football Association (FA). From 1863-72, there were only a few teams playing by Association rules. Two factors combined to increase the popularity of the game. In 1871, Charles Alcock, the Association Secretary proposed a "Challenge Cup" to be awarded by the Football Association. The FA cup was a big success and many clubs wanted to compete. Since a condition of entry was to play by Association rules, they were adopted by many clubs. Also in 1872, the first annual international game, was proposed by Charles Alcock, , was played between Scotland and England, ending in a tie.

This time also marked a shift from amateurism to professionalism. In the 1870s and early 1880s, professional players were banned both in England and Scotland. In the south, amateur players were mainly from public school backgrounds and didn't need to earn a salary, but in the north, many working-class players needed to earn money from the sport in order to play. The rules banning professional players changed in 1885. The last amateur team to win the FA cup was the Old Etonians in 1882. Then, in 1888, William McGregor, chair of Aston Villa club initiated a football league, for which he chose twelve teams (from professional players in the midlands and north). The south was excluded because clubs there were still amateur. Peter showed several interesting photos of teams from this era including the Preston North End and Blackburn Olympics as well the original Football League Division 1 Trophy, "The Lady" and the original Division 2 shield.

Enquiries to the Museum average about 5 per week. In-person visitors can use the archive and library in Preston, by appointment, on Tuesdays. The Research Centre also conducts identification of objects such as

crests and medals on request and can help answer family history requests. In addition, they assess offers of objects for loan or donation (there is an acquisition process) and answer media enquiries. They do not do valuations of football memorabilia.

There are several other useful resources for family historians investigating a family football connection. These include books (the Research Centre has about 2,000) such as complete histories of various football clubs and Who's Who's of football clubs. There are also several useful websites. One recommended site is Tony Brown's ENFA (<https://www.enfa.co.uk/>) which includes all players who have appeared in the English football League since 1888. This is a subscription site. Another site mentioned is BarryHugmansfootballers.com which is free and includes player information from 1946 on. FindMyPast and Ancestry may have information in their census data if an ancestor was a professional player at the time of a census.

For help, contact the National Football Museum. You will need the player's full name and date of birth as well as names of teams he played for. The Museum has original FL player registration books from 1891 to 1992 which include players, positions played and results and may note. It also has magazines such as Topical Times from the 1930s (useful for photographs of well-known players), and postcards from the 1910-40s period. You can contact the museum at collections@nationalfootballmuseum.com or himself, peterholme@nationalfootballmuseum.com

There were a number of questions from the audience.

1. How could I obtain photos of a great uncle who played about thirty games for Man Utd in the 1930s? Peter noted that Man Utd has good information but that photos of players who only played for a short period can be frustrating. He suggests looking at squad photos to see if an ancestor is there. Another source is local newspapers, although the quality can be poor. Graham noted that he has sometimes been able to obtain a copy of the original photo from the newspaper for a small fee.
2. Does the Museum have links to the Scottish Football Museum? Although the museums are separate, the National Museum has good contacts in the Scottish one so they may be able to help.
3. Do they have information on Dick Kerr's Ladies Football club? (Gail Newsham gave a talk to the Bolton Society a few years ago.) They do, and a decision was recently taken to represent the men's and women's games equally at the museum.
4. Does the Museum have any records of players who emigrated? No although Club historians may monitor ex-player associations. The Museum does have records of all English League players regardless of where they were from.

Graham thanked Peter for a very interesting and informative talk.

COMING EVENTS

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday September 7th Jenny Mallin "Five generations of a British Raj family". –

<https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/family-history-speaker-berkshire-jenny-mallin>

This meeting will hopefully be fulfilling another exciting new idea. Many of you joined us for some excellent Zoomed talks during lock down, and after we had realised that this method actually gives us access to far more high quality speakers, although not local enough to visit in person, we have decided to occasionally try to continue this method by seeing the speaker on our screens live in the meeting room, as well as at home if preferred. would like to occasionally continue this. Our meeting room will still be functioning as normal, but our speaker will be giving her talk from Berkshire.

Jenny Mallin is an award-winning author and public speaker of international repute. She tells us she," offers a fascinating insight into five generations of her family who lived during the days of the British Raj in India. Jenny will capture a period of British history through her presentations with an extensive collection of family sepia photographs. Her grandmothers' lives as memsahibs and the "legacy" that Jenny have been given, a 170-year-old cookbook penned by Jenny's great 4 x grandmother in 1844 when she was aged just 15 and a newlywed bride, married to an English schoolmaster. She will describe her grandfathers, uncles and other relatives who served in the British Army as early as 1798, The Royal Indian Navy, the Railways in Madras, a co-founder of an English Medium School in India in the early 18th century and a great uncle who rose through the ranks of the ICS to become Postmaster General in the telegraph industry.

Please do your best to come to the meeting and join the other members and have a chat!

Extras include a bar plus tea and coffee availability, a Stationery Table for recycled genealogy books and magazines, Godfrey maps of local areas, discounted equipment.

GENIE'S TIPS for August 2022

Sephardic Jews: Who they are and how to prove Sephardic ancestry by Who Do You Think You Are

<https://tinyurl.com/ye24jvce> Published: December 17, 2021



"Everyone has heard of the Spanish Inquisition. Less well known is that tens of thousands of Britons descend from their victims, because Oliver Cromwell invited Sephardic (Iberian) Jews to settle in England in 1656. This includes TV presenter Mark Wright, as he discovered on Who Do You Think You Are? ---"

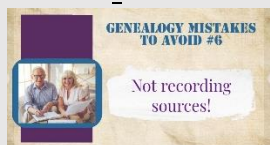
I suspect that many of us might have Jewish connections maybe without even realising it, if only by marriage. Some very interesting history and resources here, and of course we have the newly renovated Manchester Jewish Museum which has its own local resources <https://www.manchesterjewishmuseum.com/>



"How to find birth, marriage and death records "by Who Do You Think You Are Published: March 9, 2022
<https://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/getting-started/finding-birth-marriage-and-death-records/>

More "Genealogy Mistakes to Avoid " courtesy of Scottish Indexers (but good advice for all of us)
<https://www.facebook.com/scottish.indexes/>

At the risk of repeating myself if you didn't read last month's newsletter, those of you who use Facebook might have come across this series of simple but effective guidelines that we should all be following for any basic genealogy research. Scottish Indexers, <https://www.scottishindexes.com/> run by genealogists Graham and Emma Maxwell (who recently gave a Zoom talk to the Anglo Scots branch), seem to have created the series but many other groups are now passing them on, and we have permission to share.



6 Not recording sources

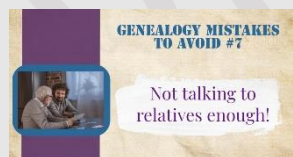
Emma tells us "I think sometimes we don't record sources either because we don't have time to do it properly or because we're not sure how to do it.

Learning how to do this in a standardised way can be very useful, even if you are not a professional genealogist. Strathclyde University has produced a step-by-step guide to source citation which you can access for free here: <https://www.strath.ac.uk/.../genealogy/genealogyresources/>.

Let's be honest with ourselves though. If you are building out a side branch of your great aunt's family, you may not be inclined to spend too much time citing your sources. If only we all had that much time in the day!

Be pragmatic, it doesn't have to be all or nothing. Let's say your tree is on Ancestry or another website and you find a record elsewhere such as ScotlandsPeople. You could simply enter 'ScotlandsPeople' then copy and paste the title of the record given to you by ScotlandsPeople such as '1917 WILSON, GEORGE (Statutory registers Marriages 848/ 6)'. This means that when you go back to your research you will have a basic note of the source of the record and if you share your tree with someone else, they will also know where you got the information from.

Of course, it would be wonderful if we all did it 'properly' all the time but let's just try to do something."
<https://www.facebook.com/scottish.indexes/photos/a.591347074300439/4745397788895326/?type=3>



7 Not talking to relatives enough

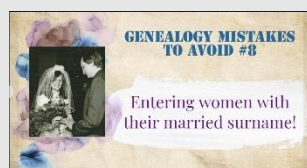
This is one that tripped me up. I spoke to my family who were very helpful and headed off to do my research. I quite quickly got back to John Smith, born c 1845, but I couldn't find his death certificate. With a name like John Smith, it was quite a challenge! I spent ages looking for him to no avail.

One day I was having a conversation with the family, and someone happened to mention Pennsylvania, I can't remember why now. My mum said, "some of our family went there." This was something my mum and my gran hadn't mentioned when I had asked about the family. It turns out that John Smith and many of his children emigrated to Pennsylvania. My great-grandmother was John's daughter and she stayed here in Scotland.

My great-great-grandfather, John Smith, died in 1911 and is buried in Hewitt's Cemetery, Rices Landing, Greene County, Pennsylvania.

This taught me a valuable lesson. Talk to the family, do some research then go back and talk to them again. You may learn more each time.

<https://www.facebook.com/scottish.indexes/photos/a.591347074300439/4757794774322294/?type=3>



8. Entering women with their married surname

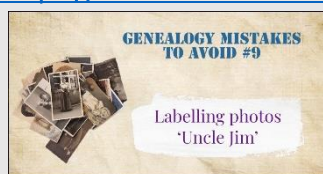
I cannot stress this one enough. Even if you don't know a woman's maiden surname do not use their married surname in your tree; leave it blank and don't put 'unknown'. Even if you are asking for help, always use a woman's maiden surname and don't move it to a 'middle name' position.

There are a few reasons for this. First, you are just going to confuse everyone. It's quite possible that two people with the same surname married each other so if you have John Smith with a wife named Jane Smith, we're all going to think that was her maiden surname.

Also, the clever computer software at Ancestry and Findmypast that give us handy hints will look for marriages of a Smith to a Smith. You could miss a vital record.

This is true the world over, but there is an extra reason to do so in Scotland. It was very common for women to use their maiden surname throughout their life, even after marriage. A widow will often be recorded in the census under her maiden surname. If a woman left a will, it will almost always be recorded under her maiden surname. In early records, her married surname may not be included at all.

<https://www.facebook.com/scottish.indexes/photos/a.591347074300439/4766001033501668>



9. Labelling photos 'Uncle Jim'

When you are recording who is in a photo be as precise as possible. If you describe someone as 'Uncle Jim', the person looking at this will need to know who made the note and which side of that person's family the photo is from.

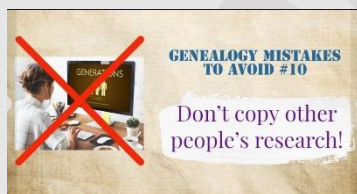
If, however, you put "James (Jim) Wilson (1845-1921), son of John Wilson and Agnes Smith" that will clearly identify the person.

When it comes to how to label photos there are various ways. It's good to make a digital copy so that if the originals are damaged in any way you have a copy. It's easy to rename a digital file and you can add as much information as you want to.

For the originals, you could invest in some high-quality acid-free albums to protect the photos. Try not to touch them as this can degrade them. You could buy an album where you can write on the album and not the photo. Whatever you do, don't write on the back so hard that it dents the photo! Also, be careful you don't use ink that will damage the photo.

Do some research, think it through and come up with a plan that works for you.

<https://www.facebook.com/scottish.indexes/photos/a.591347074300439/4776579242443847>



10 Don't copy other people's research, and I am not just talking about Ancestry trees.

If you have an online tree, you will get hints that someone else is researching your family. This can be useful. Another branch of the family may have photos they can share, or you could compare your DNA results. It's great to connect

with distant cousins.

When it comes to adding their research to your tree though, don't! I was going to say be cautious but just don't do it. It's a slippery slope. If they have a well-constructed and sourced tree you will be able to look at the original sources and add these to your tree. We all make mistakes in our research, if we copy another tree we could be multiplying a mistake.

It's not just online trees. There are many printed genealogies, some of which were very well researched. Of course, they could have been compiled before the era of computers when records had to be searched by hand and not all records were public. Although these can provide helpful hints, they are not original sources. Trace your own family history source by source, ancestor by ancestor.

<https://www.facebook.com/scottish.indexes/photos/a.591347074300439/4784668191634952/?type=3>

MISCELLANEOUS

QR Codes on Headstones – What are Your Thoughts??? Does anyone local do it???

<https://tinyurl.com/4edx925a> The Daily Mail 5 September 2012

As an enduring tribute to a life lived, gravestones have changed little over the centuries. Until now.

Funeral directors are giving headstones a rather modern makeover – by making them interactive.

Barcodes are being placed on the gravestones to allow visitors to find out more about the person laid to rest there. When scanned on a smartphone, the square codes – known as Quick Response or QR codes – launch a website which contains a biography of the deceased.

The page can include a profile of the person, photographs and videos of them and tributes from family and friends.

Loved ones can use a password to create and update the website and add more comments or memories as time goes by.

The idea enables visitors to graveyards to learn more about those buried there than just their name, age, and date of birth.

If they know the password, they can even add their own tributes.

As well as graves, the QR codes can be added to memorials and tribute plaques on benches.

The first funeral director to provide the service in the UK is Chester Pearce, in Poole, Dorset.

Managing director Stephen Nimmo said the QR codes are etched onto a small granite or metal square before being embedded or glued on to a gravestone.

He added: 'I thought we could use technology to provide more information about people who have died to bring back the memories.'

People can make their websites as simple or as complicated as they like and add as much or as little information as they want.

'They will be able to use a photo gallery, upload video, and constantly update a page.'

'For example, if someone has died but their daughter becomes a mum, you could add that.'

'I am a very traditional funeral director but using this technology is a positive way to help remember people. People often wander around cemeteries and look at gravestones and wonder who that person was. By using the QR codes they can find out.'

But the technology doesn't come cheap, with the QR codes costing up to £300 and an additional charge of £95 for the hosting and set-up of the website.

One of the first to use the technology is Gill Tuttiett, who has had a QR code installed on the grave of late husband Timothy at a church, near Poole.

Mrs Tuttiett, 53, decided to install the code because her husband, who died last year of heart failure at the age of 55, was always interested in new technology.

Visitors who scan the code on his gravestone see information about the former airport operation manager's family, schooling, and career. Mrs Tuttiett said: 'I think this is the way forward and Tim would have wanted that.'



THIS MONTH'S LOCAL NEWS and SOME ORGANISATION UPDATES

Lancashire Records



<http://goo.gl/l29JpL>



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

MLFHS Website

From John Marsden webmaster

Hello All

I have added street and building index entries for the Bolton (NE) 1908 Alan Godfrey Map to the online index.

This area generates only 106 index entries. Although today, densely built-up, in 1908 this area largely consisted of farmland.

Thanks to Graham Holt for this latest addition.

John



COMING ACTIVITIES FROM OTHER MLFHS BRANCHES

Please note these events are all included free to subscribed MLFHS members, £3 to guests.



Manchester branch



Saturday, 2pm – 3,30pm Oldham and District Branch

Option to book for the talk through the MLFHS website, Oldham Branch, 'Meetings' Page.

<https://www.mlfhs.uk/oldham/events>



Thursday 2p.m -3.30pm Anglo Scottish Branch

So do join us. We look forward to seeing you. Eventbrite Link <https://www.mlfhs.uk/anglo-scots/events>

OTHER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES' MEETINGS

WE ADVISE CHECKING THEIR RESPECTIVE WEBSITES PERIODICALLY FOR UPDATES ON SAME.



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

Email margaretk@talktalk.net .Meetings are usually held on the last Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm, at St Luke's Church, Chorley Old Road, BL1 3BE opposite Shepherd Cross St, Bolton,



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

. Illustrated talks and meetings are held from August to April inclusive on the fourth Thursday of beginning at 7.30pm. This next month's event

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

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.



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

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