

Bolton's Genies

The Monthly Newsletter of the Bolton Family History Society

Edition 111 – August 2023



Barrow Bridge Boating Lake on a Bank Holiday weekend

Editorial Musings

Hurrah! Roomers and Zoomers have been reunited for the second month in a row. A big “THANK YOU” must go to Michael Isherwood et al who have contributed to our successful reunion.

I intend to pass the “elderly relatives” questions to our grandchildren. There are questions I wish I had asked my parents, grandparents and parents-in-law but alas it is too late now.

Kathleen Mayo learned to swim in Farnworth Baths, as my brother and I did. She is an unsung heroine. I do not remember hearing anything about her or seeing a memorial or photograph in the Baths building when I was growing up in the Farnworth area. Dare I question if this was because she was a working-class girl?

If you wish to comment on any article, you have any question or you have a suggestion for a future article, please email at boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk

Please note that Jane Milne, BFHS Speaker Organiser and Zoom Host, can be contacted at Boltonprog@mlfhs.org.uk

Best wishes to all
Cath Cole

Information and Updates for Members

Old Boltonian receives Honorary Doctorate



Clive Myrie, best known as an award-winning journalist and Mastermind presenter, said he was “truly honoured” to be inaugurated at a ceremony at Bolton Town Hall as the University of Bolton staged its graduation ceremonies.

His life as a broadcast journalist has taken him to many parts of the world but as we all know there is no place like home. He grew up in the shadow of Burnden Park, the old Bolton Wanderers stadium. His family arrived here from Jamaica in the early 1960s. He was raised in a loving family and his parents sacrificed many things for their children. His father was a factory worker and his mother a seamstress. He is the product of a generation whose hard work and resilience remains an inspiration.

Having grown up in Bolton and attended Hayward Grammar School, Mr Myrie went on to study law at the University of Sussex and has served as the BBC's Asia, Africa, Washington and Europe Correspondent.

In 2021 he took over as host of Mastermind, but he continues to travel the world as a reporter and has reported live on the Russia-Ukraine conflict and last year was made an honorary doctor of Social Science for his outstanding contribution to broadcasting, television and society. This was again awarded by the University of Bolton

The University of Bolton, in his hometown, is one of the most socially inclusive universities in the UK.

**Photo and Article from Bolton News
Edited by Cath Cole**

What Questions should we ask our Elderly Relatives

Here are a few suggestions to get you started:

Who were the oldest members of your family that you knew personally?
Do you know their whole names? Birthdates?
Did your parents talk about any of their ancestors when you were growing up?
Did anyone who wasn't related to you live with you when you were a child?
Where did you grow up?
How many siblings did you have? What were their names and ages?
What were your siblings like?
Did other family members live in the area? If so, who?
Did you live on a farm? If so, what kind of crops did you grow?
Did you keep livestock or other animals?
Did you have any pets?

What was your house like? How many rooms were in it?
 What kinds of amenities did your home have? (indoor plumbing, electricity or gas, phone, television)
 Where did you go to school?
 What was your favourite subject in school?
 Did you have any special interests when you were growing up?
 What kind of games did you play?
 What was your favourite toy?
 What did you do for fun?
 Who were your friends when you were growing up?
 Are there any physical characteristics that run in your family?
 Did your family have any traditions?
 Can you remember any stories that were told to you as a child (fictional, folklore, or real life)?
 What events stand out to you from your childhood?
 What inventions or developments changed your life, and how?
 What were your parents' occupations?
 Where did your parents work?
 Did you work? Where?
 What was your favourite song?
 When did you move away from home?
 Have you ever been married? If so, to whom? When?
 Where did you meet your spouse or partner?
 What qualities drew you to them?
 How long did you date before getting married?
 Where did you get married?
 Who participated in your wedding?
 Did you have a reception? Was there music? Which songs were played?
 Do you have a copy of your wedding invitation?
 How many children do you have?"

Please feel free to add your suggestions in the comments!

Article sourced by Jane Milne

Can you help the MOD develop their family history services?



**Ministry
of Defence**

The Ministry of Defence are working on a digital service that will issue previously unclaimed medals and they are looking for people to take part in their research. Read on to see how you may be able to help.

The MOD asks: Can you help us shape our services?

If you have previously served in the armed forces (or have a relative that has) with an unclaimed medal, we would like to speak to you.

The Ministry of Defence are working on a digital service that will issue previously unclaimed medals and we are looking for people to take part in our research.

A research session will last 30-45 minutes, will be held remotely and we will arrange a suitable date and time with you.

We want to speak to a wide range of people – as long as you can:

- join the session from a computer or tablet/phone, with an active internet connection
- come prepared to offer completely honest and open feedback

We are unable to offer any monetary incentive for this research, but your feedback will help us shape the service for all users.

If you would like to find out more, please contact
DBSDIT-AGPFDSUserResearch@mod.gov.uk
and we can share more details about what to expect.

Kathleen Mayo (Mayoh) 1951 – 1952



THE FIRST WOMAN TO SWIM THE CHANNEL THIS YEAR: MISS KATHLEEN MAYO, OF BOLTON, SEEN ON THE LAST STAGE OF HER SWIM.
Miss Kathleen Mayo, aged twenty, a factory girl from Farnworth, near Bolton, Lancashire, began her swim at 3.10 a.m. from Sangatte and landed at Folkestone at 8.5 p.m. Miss Mayo attempted to swim the Channel last year and said of her successful crossing: "I was sick practically the whole way across, but I didn't mean to let the Channel beat me this time. It was a rough sea but I did not find it too tiring."
The record time for the swim by a woman is 12 hours 43 minutes.

Kathleen Mayo was a twenty-year-old Bolton factory girl when she swam from Sangatte to East Wear Bay in 1952. Mayo was one of three successful swimmers who attempted to tackle the Channel on 15 August 1952. Mayo went on to win the first Butlin International Channel Race in 1953, despite the fact she did not finish. She was declared the winner as she was less than a mile short and no one else finished.

Mayo's attempts England to France:

26 August 1953 (failed)

Mayo's attempts France to England:

27 July 1951 (failed)

15 August 1952 (success)

15 August 2023 will be the 71st Anniversary of Kathleen's successful swim across the Channel

General Register Office

Fantastic news from GRO today - the private beta testing of online digital views for some birth and death certificates has been rolled out to public beta.

This means you can order certificates to be viewed instantly for £2.50 if they fall within the following dates:

Births: 1837 up to 100 years ago

Deaths: 1837 to 1887

A reminder this is for events registered in England and Wales only and important to note the dates available."

https://www.rolotest.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/images/CGOVPublicBeta.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3p9zW4xpm8207Cm2H0SbsnsOi7S13s5uI5PMXd5lo1fSFArCaOePN587I_aem_Ac7XeYnZaV2LyrYpCVU4zbTmn6ME9b_nLKIHMUuPgIbBy5gHNkRVkJw8-QwBLfSkJ3Q

Our regular venue is Bolton Golf Club, Chorley New Road BL6 4AJ, although this may vary occasionally due to circumstances beyond our control. Any changes will be announced on our Facebook page (link <https://www.facebook.com/BoltonFHS> accessible without subscription) and in this newsletter. It is always advisable to check before leaving home.

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

Talks are usually provided by a visiting speaker, but occasionally speakers may deliver their talks by zoom. This happens when the speaker, who is known to be a first-rate expert in their field, is based some distance from Bolton. Those present at the golf club and zoomers will see our speaker streamed on screen. It is not necessary to book a place to attend the golf club in person, but it is essential to book for a zoom place at <https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton/events>. The link will be emailed to you several times.

Meetings are on the first Wednesday of most months. The golf club opens for roomers at 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start and zoomers can sign in from 7.15 pm. The club has a bar and tea or coffee is available. We have a table with recycled genealogy books and magazines, Godfrey maps of local areas and discounted equipment.

Meetings from other branches of the MLFHS are available and free to all members. These meetings, like ours, may be live, zoomed or hybrid. <https://www.mlfhs.uk/> is the link for events.

Recent Events

August Meeting

2 Aug - Tony Greenwood - "Life and Times of Smithills Estate"

Tony is a member of Smithills Estate Research Group which is a group of volunteers of the Woodland Trust, supporting the Smithills Estate, Bolton, which is the Trust's largest English site.

Tony Greenwood and fellow members of the Smithills Estate Research Group gave a talk on The Life and Times of Smithills Estate. Tony related how, at the beginning of Covid restrictions, the volunteer coordinator for the Woodland Trust, Vicky Entwistle started a genealogy project to keep local volunteers engaged. An article in the Bolton Evening News mentioned the project and a number of people volunteered to help. The resulting research grew into a book, entirely written by volunteers, and edited by a professional historian, Helen Sanderson. It recently won the Alan Ball Award for best local history publication community publication for 2022.

The book is divided into 19 chapters and chronicles the facilities, lives and history of the farmers, miners and gamekeepers who lived and worked on the Smithills Estate, which is now part of the Woodland Trust. Several of the authors attended and presented a selection of the chapters they were responsible for. Tony Greenwood began the evening with a brief history of the Smithills estate property. It is a property rich in coal, stone, clay and running water with a history from Mesolithic times (flints have been found), through the Saxon period (a stone cairn was located and the remains of a Saxon palace) and ownership by the Knights Hospitaller to a 14th century estate acquired by William Radcliffe. From there it passed to wealthy sheep farms and was eventually passed to the Belasyse family in 1659. By 1620, there were six farms and by the time it was purchased by the Ainsworth family, owners of a bleachworks in 1802, it contained about 22 farms. The estate was purchased by Bolton Council in 1938 but coal mining continued until 1950. In addition to coal mining and farming, the estate has been used for stone quarrying, reservoirs and a tile works. In 2015, two thirds of the Estate was bought by the Woodland Trust, with the remainder being acquired in 2017. The Woodland Trust remain working to restore the site. Barbara Winder then spoke about her research into the murder of George Henderson, killed at Winter Hill in 1838. George, a 24-year-old employed by a draper in Blackburn as a commercial traveller, had been in the Bolton area for 5 months. Records show he had stayed at the Old Cock's Inn in Blackrod on the 8th of November and was to meet a friend at the Garbutt's Beer house but missed him as he arrived later. He then set off over Winter Hill towards Belmont. He was found, dying from a gunshot wound, by a young boy who summoned help. A young collier, James Whittle was soon arrested and was tried for the

crime, although there was little evidence against him, and no witness could place him in that location on the 9th. He was found not guilty. Using Ancestry and newspaper archives, Barbara researched the incident and suspicions of a coverup and put forward a very credible alternate explanation of who was responsible. The usual story refers to a “shooting party” which drums up a vision of a party from Smithills Hall. However, the “party” were locals, several of who were members of the local Watch who had been out in the area on that day showing some suspicious behaviour. They were charged with discouraging poachers, may have mistaken George for one and in the ensuing confrontation, may have killed him accidentally, even though it was reported that Henderson’s pockets were turned out. Local landowners discouraged the erection of a marker, a memorial to George Henderson in the form of a wooden “stump” was erected in 1912, the wooden stump being replaced by a metal pole.

Dottie Snelson described the chapter “a Tragic Love Story”, the story of George Peachey and his wife Emily. Soon after the 1881 census, George, who was a gamekeeper on the estate, emigrated to Iowa in search of opportunity. On 23rd October 1882 he married Emily Newhouse of Bolton in Fayette, Iowa but two years later, the couple were back in Bolton. It is difficult to say why they came back but pictures of Fayette seem to show a “one horse town”. Perhaps homesickness, disillusionment, lack of money or the fact that Emily was pregnant all played a part. George obtained work as a commercial traveller. Emily gave birth to twins, Violet and Walter but she died in childbirth. George was so grief-stricken by her death that he hanged himself 11 weeks later, leaving the children orphaned. Violet did not survive but Walter grew up and apprenticed to a cabinet maker, later becoming a master craftsman.

Tony then described some of the stories covered in the book, summarizing the table of contents. In addition to the chapters described in the talk, there are stories about poaching, a family of handloom weavers, a pair of sisters who were launderesses, as well as interesting stories about the lives of individuals and some of the buildings on the estate.

Laura Kovaleva related the story of the Horwich Casanova. In 1871 Eleanor Pendlebury, 27, the daughter of a tailor, met Robert Eatock, 21, a local landowner originally of Little Deakins Farm. He joined the merchant navy for 5 years and returned to live at Rivington Hall with his sister. He was evidently a very eligible bachelor, living on an inheritance. He escorted Eleanor to various events in the neighbourhood and eventually proposed. After initial reservations, she accepted him. When Eleanor became pregnant, he stopped visiting her, publicly criticized her virtue and began started a relationship with, and married Ann Tinsley on 1st February 1872. In April 1872, Eleanor gave birth to a baby boy, Frederick. Eleanor sued Robert for breach of promise and won £450 as a settlement, enough to give her and Frederick a cushion for life. Eleanor’s father also received £59 as recompense for losing the services of his daughter in his business during her pregnancy. Eleanor married Anthony Carr a beer seller at the Wagon & Horses on Manchester Road. Unfortunately, Anthony died a year

later and her baby son Anthony died the next year. Eleanor took over her late husband's business with the licence being transferred into her name. Laura also treated the meeting to a song about Robert and Eleanor, accompanying herself on the guitar.

Tony then related the story of Newspaper Hall, one of the five lost cottages of Smithills Estate. Others were Twitchells, Five Cottages, Hole Bottom and Black Jacks. These cottages have all disappeared. There was a mass trespass in 1896, with a subsequent court case on 9th March 1897. Residents talked about their life on the estate, and this is how we come to have a record of Newspaper Hall. Owd Reynolds, a handloom weaver built Toor or Tar Hall. He would open his house to passers-by for ale and gingerbread. Miners would gather there and he would read the news to them, other customers and his neighbours (hence Newspaper Hall). He was turned out of his house as part of the trial so he pulled the house down. Owd Reynolds next built Ouzel Hall on the site. It was a large house with seven looms This was evidently not a very sound business idea when the cottage industry was dying so he set up a pub. As he had no licence, he sold gingerbread and gave away the beer. And, since many inhabitants of the estate at that time could not read or write, he had newspapers delivered and read out to customers. Nancy Gaskell, his sister knew it as Newspaper Hall. He had nine children, one of whom John Reynolds was involved in the Mass Trespass Trial. Ouzel Hall was named after a bird, which happily, can once again be found on the estate.

As well as a guided Estate Walk, the Woodlands Trust offers an audio walk of the Trespass Trail, archeological finds, many self-directed outdoor activities and many volunteering opportunities.

King Charles was presented with a copy when he visited Bolton on the 150th anniversary of Bolton Town Hall.

Following the publication of the book, speaking engagements have been booked, the group is organising guided walks to the areas covered in the book and are helping with a short film on the History and Natural History of the estate. The book can be bought at the Horwich Heritage Centre, Smithills Hall and Bolton Museum and is now also available on Amazon, priced at £25. All proceeds go the Woodland Trust which funded the project.

Report by Helen Pitt and Rita Greenwood

Upcoming Events

6 Sept - Dougie Tobutt of Tobutt Sports - <http://www.tobuttsports.co.uk/about-us/>

“How 100 years ago my grandfather Len Tobutt , a professional cricketer from Middlesex came to Bolton via Scotland and Darwen , to establish the Tobutt Sports business, a family run enterprise which has spanned four generations.”
HYBRID

For your Diary - Future 2023 Events

(More details should be available shortly on our website)

4 Oct - Ray Jefferson - Author “The Bolton-Bridgeman Connection. HYBRID

1 Nov - Dr Jim Beach. “How 12 ‘obscure’ WW1 diaries of a British Army Soldier from South Africa, serving on the Messin Ridge , (inherited by a Bolton MLFHS member and presented on a Research Day at Bolton History Centre in 2018), assisted in the research of Percy Wyndham Lewis, an official, and “questionable” war artist”. HYBRID

6 Dec - Speaker & quiz & supper TBA (No Zoom)

Bolton History Centre and Bolton Records

Due to the Library renovation work the History Centre has moved temporarily to Crompton Place Shopping Centre, in the former C&A building opposite the rear entrance to the former M&S.

The telephone number for any local history and archive queries and requests for material is 01204 332185 or send an email request to archives@bolton.gov.uk
Requests take seven days to turn around and will either be looked at in the lab at or the museum at Crompton Place. References to some of the websites:

<https://boltonremembers.org/> has some of the WW1 & WW2 records we have found for Bolton military personnel either born, resided, or enlisted in Bolton.

<https://bolton.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/HOME>
Spydus catalogue for local studies search.

<https://www.boltonlams.co.uk/history-centre-1> This is the History Centre page for the services we offer to researchers. Gives some information about archives and the records we hold.

An interesting website sourced by Bolton News – “Unclaimed estates in Bolton revealed by Treasury for June”

<https://www.theboltonnews.co.uk/news/23622610.unclaimed-estates-bolton-revealed-treasury-june/>

Lancashire Records

UKBMD summary <http://goo.gl/I29JpL>

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

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

Lancashire Archives Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/lancsarchives>

Other Records

News re Irish research

Genealogy enthusiasts have been gifted a new index containing more than three million searchable names, to mark the centenary of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI).

Around 3.2 million name indexes, relating to valuation records for the period 1864 to 1933, are now free to access as a result of a partnership between PRONI and well-known genealogy platform Ancestry.

https://www.irishnews.com/news/northernirelandnews/2023/07/09/news/genealogy-enthusiasts-gifted-new-index-of-more-than-three-million-searchable-names-3421206/?fbclid=IwAR24pXkX6LUYoevMgLwRHsr3dJzQxgNw4ENWIuDjwR9jF5QUCjXrX38FrKU_aem_Ada2BYe3_nWV6LTYnqegEQNVO6NCAjRXVDlUKryoCHRtgsoAeYxDmBg1GxmlagYse7k

A guide to Obituaries on the British Newspaper Archive might be useful to members and visitors

Use this link

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02CAXJi5k2psD6JroFSyXH3XfakJ3Q7X6TfDwZ35SnM1UNo9VBhr2snNpj6h6GrzdPl&id=246830155368290

National Archives

This is the archives website for National Archives of which we have records listed on this site. It is possible to choose a search through all the archives of England or drill down just to search in Bolton Archives.

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/advanced-search>

<https://vad.redcross.org.uk/search?fname=&sname=Bates> you can search for a name or location for VADs in the war. The Red Cross website was down for maintenance when I copied this address so hopefully it will be up and running again when you access it.

Canadian Army WW1 personnel records

Use this link

<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/search.aspx>

NOTE these records are soon to be transferred to their new LAC website

Ordnance Survey Retriangulation

<https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/blog/a-history-of-the-trig-pillar>

The trig pillar was first used in the retriangulation of Great Britain on 18 April 1936. On that day, a group of surveyors gathered around a white concrete pillar in a field in Cold Ashby and began the retriangulation of GB. Members might be interested when looking up places of family history interest.

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/national-farm-survey-england-wales-1941-1943/>

This guide will help you find and use the records of the National Farm Survey of England and Wales, carried out between 1941 and 1943. These records can provide information on farm land, farmers, farm owners lives and the wider community within the parish where a farm existed.

Activities and Events from MLFHS Branches



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



Manchester branch – Next meeting –

At the time of publication there is no event planned for August or September



Oldham and District Branch – Next meeting

Saturday 9 September at 2 pm

Chimney Stacks and Climbing Boys – An illustrated presentation by Claire Moores

A library only presentation in the Performance Space at Oldham Library

No booking is necessary – Members are Free and non-members are £3.

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



Anglo Scottish Branch - Next meeting

2 September 2023 - Manchester Central Library – 2.00 pm

“Anglo Scots Mining in Canada”

A social event, beginning with a short presentation on Coal Mining in British Vancouver and why you might find your Scottish (Welsh and English) Ancestors there, followed by our usual mix of 'brick walls', 'heirlooms' and discussions that help us to extend our Anglo Scots research.

Booking: Will be on Eventbrite

Cost: members - free of charge

Cost: non-members - £3

Other Local History Societies' Meetings

WE ADVISE CHECKING THEIR RESPECTIVE WEBSITES PERIODICALLY FOR UPDATES AND DATES OF MEETINGS.



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

Email: enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk

Next meeting – 29 August at **7.30 pm** – St Luke's Church, Chorley Old Road, BL1 3BE opposite Shepherd Cross St, Bolton – OPEN EVENING:

Look at our archives and buy local history books.



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

At the time of publishing there are no future events on the Turton website.

landypublishing@yahoo.co.uk

Westhoughton Local History Group – <http://goo.gl/XNugI5>

At the time of publishing there are no future events on the Westhoughton website.

Meetings take place on the 3rd Thursday of the month at **10.30 am** in Westhoughton Library, Market St, Westhoughton, BL5 3AU.



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

Next events – 8 August 2023 at 7.30 pm – “Keep taking the Tablets” by Stephen Freeborn at Horwich Community Centre and 12 September at 7.30 pm – “Manchester’s Lost District” by Keith Warrender at Horwich Community Centre.

Future event: Trip to York – Sat 16 Sept – Leave 9.30 am and return at 5.30 pm.

Forms available at Horwich Heritage Centre - £18 (coach only) – Book now – only 50 places.

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

Key Information about Bolton Family History Society

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

•Speaker Bookings: Boltonprog@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

•Manchester Research email a brief enquiry to, <https://www.mlfhs.uk/virtual-help-desk>

or visit us at

•Bolton Facebook page <https://goo.gl/n99qtW> 976 Likes and 1K people following on Facebook

•Bolton Research Collection on the MLFHS website: (For members only)

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

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

How to change your email address on the Members Forum of the MLFHS website

1. Log in to the MLFHS website
2. Click on Member Area
3. Under Your Personal Details – click on Update Your Membership details
4. Delete your present email address
5. Enter your new email address
6. Enter new password
7. Confirm new password
8. Scroll down and click on SUBMIT

If you are not already registered as a member on this website, it is simple to join. Go to the MLFHS website page and highlight the Member Area and then click on Member Forum. Follow the instructions under “How To Join The Forum”.