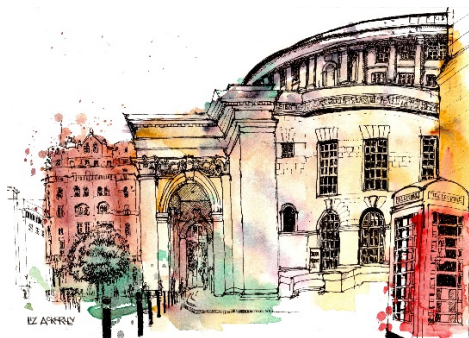


# M&LFHS Newsletter

The monthly newsletter of the  
Manchester & Lancashire Family  
History Society



## **September 2020 Issue 5**

### **SOCIETY CONTACTS**

Website: - <https://www.mlfhs.uk>

Newsletter editor: - [newseditor@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:newseditor@mlfhs.org.uk)

Bookshop: - [bookshop@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:bookshop@mlfhs.org.uk)

MLFHS Office: - [office@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:office@mlfhs.org.uk)

The Manchester Genealogist: - [office@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:office@mlfhs.org.uk)

MLFHS mailing address: Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor,  
Manchester Central Library, St. Peters Square, Manchester, M2 5PD.

### **SOCIETY BRANCHES**

Oldham Branch of MLFHS - <https://www.mlfhs.uk/oldham>

Bolton Branch of MLFHS - <http://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton>

Anglo-Scottish Branch of MLFHS – <http://www.mlfhs.uk/anglo-scots>

### **EDITOR'S COMMENTS**

Welcome to the September edition of the newsletter. Even though the Corona virus is still with us and with restrictions recommended by the Government in place I am pleased to say that Manchester Central Library (MCL) opened its doors on the 20th August. Larysa Bolton the Service Development Specialist at MCL provides more details.

The other good news is that our new website should be live by the time you read this. Please note that the Society's web address and those of our branches will change. Mail addresses remain unchanged. John Marsden has provided more details in his short article.

For those of you with an Irish connection I have listed a number of websites that may help you in your research.

Our bookshop still remains popular and I have highlighted a selection of books relating to travel which some of you may find interesting. I have also listed some new additions to the bookshop.

Leslie Turner has also given an update on the Virtual Help Desk and once again John Marsden has provided a project update.

I would be delighted to receive your views and comments through our e-mail address [newseditor@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:newseditor@mlfhs.org.uk).

Stay safe. [Barry Henshall]

## **A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN**

Hello again everyone,

After months of uncertainty, the reopening of Manchester Central Library this past week is the first positive signal of the gradual resumption of 'normal service'. A limitation on visitor numbers together with social distancing and appropriate sanitisation measures will ensure the safety and wellbeing of staff and the public.

Good news indeed! What is less certain is the resumption of the Society programme of public meetings and project work within the library. We are in discussion with our library counterparts to develop plans to recommence a limited Helpdesk service and to pick up the interrupted project work which uses the facilities in Central Library. The safety of staff, volunteers, public and their families continues to be paramount and until we can be satisfied that can be ensured our programme of public meetings will remain in suspense.

Meanwhile we continue to offer all our online services, including our book shop, virtual Helpdesk, the member forum and the massive collection of archival records assembled in the Great Database. All this and more is a privilege of membership, so if you haven't made use of some or all of these, why not try them now. Details are given elsewhere in this edition as well as in The Manchester Genealogist, on the Society website and our Facebook page.

There is good news too about the website, where we have reached the final stage of development. As I write this the existing databases, including the membership database, is being migrated from the old site to the new one and the new website will be launched to public view on Wednesday, 2nd September. Our new website will continue to be a work in progress for quite a few weeks as we add and refine more content, so please be patient and enjoy watching our new website develop and grow. I hope you will share my excitement when you see what the new site offers to help your research. I know you will spend endless hours exploring the easily followed links, which have been specially designed to lead you on the path to your ancestors.

Meanwhile, my wish is that you and your families remain healthy and safe as the pandemic is brought under control in your part of the world.

Best wishes as we approach the change of seasons with a new optimism,

David Muil  
Chairman

## **A MESSAGE FROM OUR GENERAL SECRETARY**

The post has finally been delivered to the library after waiting since mid March and so there is a lot to do to process all the membership requests and renewals.

Please direct all mail to our usual address at Manchester Central Library,

Manchester & Lancashire FHS  
3rd Floor, Manchester Central Library  
St. Peter's Square  
Manchester M2 5PD

## MANCHESTER CENTRAL LIBRARY - RE-OPENED

Manchester Central Library reopened on Thursday 20 August with revised opening hours of 10am-4pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays (closed Fridays and Sundays). Entry is via the main entrance through Shakespeare Hall, where you can sign in for track and trace and drop off books. Visitors must wear a face covering if they are able to, and can access the ground, first and second floors only. There is access to PCs but this is much reduced and operates on a first come, first served basis.

In terms of the Archives+ area, a small number of microfilm readers and PCs are available, all on a first come, first served basis. Microfilm is available for use, but used reels must be returned to the top of the cabinets where they can be collected for quarantine. There is currently no access to the hard copy map collection or the Manchester Evening News. Access to the card catalogues is staff-assisted. The book stock is available for reference and loan, but any books browsed must be returned to the top of the shelves so that staff can remove them for quarantine.

The search room continues to operate on pre-booked, appointment only service. Researchers are asked to wash or sanitise their hands on arrival, and gloves can be provided if required. A maximum of six people can be accommodated each day. Again, any items produced, and any equipment used, such as book sofas, will be subject to quarantine. It is still possible to retain items, so any researchers visiting over a number of days can re-request material.

Larysa Bolton

Service Development Specialist: Heritage and Archives  
Libraries, Galleries and Culture  
Neighbourhoods

## EVENTS/TALKS



Covid-19 and Government restrictions are still having an impact on public events. Looking to the future Mark Campbell, Michael Couper, Elsie Lowe, Susan Forshaw, Graham Holt and Barry Henshall are involved in organising a Family History Fair as shown here. A number of Family History Societies and other organisations have been approached to gauge interest. This event is the first of its kind to be organised by the Society and if you have any thoughts about what you would like to see then please contact the news editor at [newseditor@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:newseditor@mlfhs.org.uk)

## The FHF Really Useful Family History Show

The virtual show will take place on **SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2020** Visit our dedicated website for the event - [www.fhf-reallyuseful.com](http://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com)

Saturday 14th November 2020

### Details:

The event is supported by:

AGRA (Association of genealogists and Researchers in Archives)

FamilySearch

Family Tree Magazine

Who Do You Think You Are Magazine

The event will provide:

Expert presentations from renowned speakers

Discussion panels to help you resolve research challenges

Access to all the "shops" on Parish Chest

The opportunity to meet and talk to exhibitors in the virtual exhibition hall

And much more

The event website has been launched and will be updated regularly with details - IT WILL ALSO PROVIDE ACCESS TO AN ONLINE TICKET BOOKING SYSTEM

### Venue:

Online only

## MANCHESTER ANCESTORS - OUR NEW WEB SITE

We have had a web site for over two decades. From its early origins, as a page on the GenUKi site, it has grown to an impressive size and acquired a lot of new functionality along the way. Technology, however, has raced ahead of the site and future development was becoming more problematic. The site was also beginning to look very "tired" and did not work well in a world of smartphones and tablets. Last year we decided to commission a web designer to give the site a complete makeover and earlier this year awarded the contract to Web Foundry Ltd., a local company. The new site will be launched very soon under the name "Manchester Ancestors". It will have a new address (URL) of [mlfhs.uk](http://mlfhs.uk) but don't worry, the old address will be unobtrusively forwarded to the new site.

Once you have overcome the surprise of a web site which looks VERY different to the old one, you will find that pretty much everything which was on the old site has made it into the new one, even if it may take a little while to get used to the new (but clearer) menu structure.

The site brings together three previously separate components into one seamless site:

- The public web site
- The member area
- The membership records

This enables us to make the site considerably more user friendly. New members will be able to join online and have near instant access to the member area resources without the need to register separately. Existing members will be able to manage changes such as new postal or email addresses themselves and many membership management functions will be accessible from locations other than Central Library (which would have saved us a lot of angst during the recent library closure).

If you are already registered to use the member area then you should be able to log into the member area of the new site using your membership number or (new feature) your email address and your **existing** password. If you have not registered then simply go to the member area login and ask for your password to be reset. This will send an email to the address at which you received notification of this newsletter with a reset link to allow you to set up a password.

We really hope that you will enjoy the new web site.

John Marsden

## WEBSITES

Each month we will highlight sites that may be useful in your family research, particularly for our newer members.

### Irish ancestors

1. After making lists of known information on your Irish ancestors and constructing timelines, head to the Irish Genealogy website at <https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/>. This is the Irish government's official genealogy website and contains useful data (e.g. the historic records of Births, marriages and Deaths of the General register office and the Indexes to the historic records of Births, marriages and Deaths), as well as research tips and links.
2. To discover more about wills that your ancestors may have left, see 'Ireland probate records' on the familySearch Wiki at [https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Ireland\\_probate\\_records](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Ireland_probate_records).
3. For Census of Ireland 1901/1911 and Census fragments and substitutes, 1821-51, head to the national Archives' census website at <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie>.
4. To find out more about your surname, see John Grenham's website at <https://www.johngrenham.com>.
5. Land records are essential in Irish family research. find out about what is available at the website of the national library of Ireland: <https://www.nli.ie/en/griffiths-valuation.aspx/>

## WHAT WAS YOUR ANCESTOR'S OCCUPATION?

In the August edition of the newsletter there was a short piece on our ancestor's occupations. After publication a post on our Forum identified another information source - A Dictionary of Occupational Terms Based on the Classification of Occupations used in the Census of Population, 1921 and published in 1927. <http://doot.spub.co.uk/index.php>

It was based on the classification of occupations used in the 1921 Census. For each of the terms in this classification, the Dictionary provides a description of what that occupation involved — sometimes a brief single phrase, in other cases running to several hundred words. There is extensive cross referencing, with listing of synonyms and similar occupations in related spheres of employment, and it includes a considerable number of purely regional terms. In all, it provides 16,837 definitions for 29,106 terms.

## BOOKSHOP

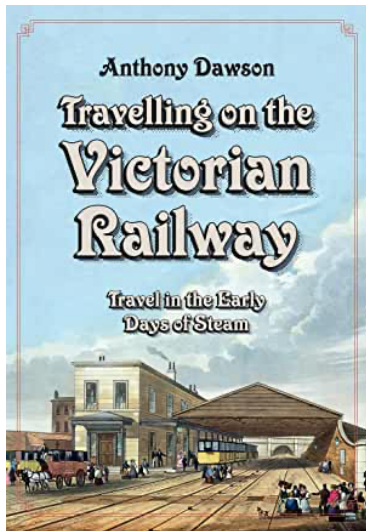
You can see all our stock via our website.

We are only manning the bookshop a couple of days during the week so there may be a slight delay in receiving your orders.

We are not as yet able to provide a 'Collect from Central Library' service as the Help Desk remains closed.

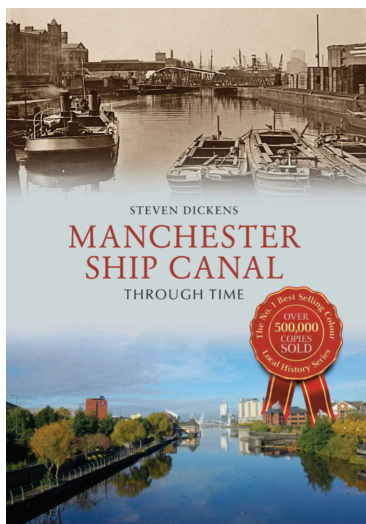
If you have not managed to take a holiday this year because of Government restrictions then you may find the following selection of interest.





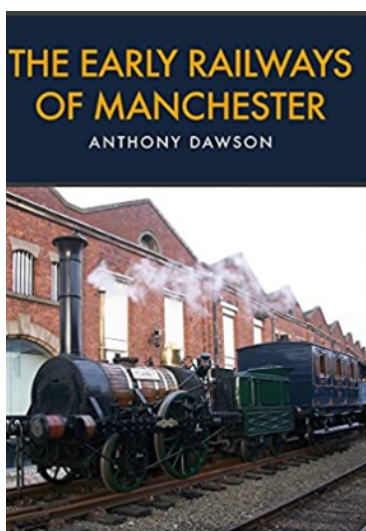
The most striking result produced by the completion of this Railway, is the sudden and marvellous change which has been effected in our ideas of time and space. What was quick is now slow; what was distant is now near.'

So wrote Henry Booth of the Liverpool & Manchester Railway. The early railways changed all aspects of life: what people ate (and how they cooked), what they wore and how they communicated. But what was it like to travel on the railways in the 1830s and 1840s? This book hopes to explore the experiences of these pioneer railway travellers, from the first railway stations and railway carriages to the hazards of the journey itself.

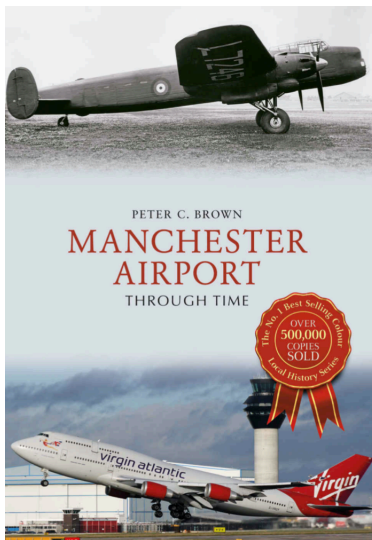


The Manchester Ship Canal was a huge engineering achievement. It included seven swing bridges and the aqueduct at Barton, and helped turn the cotton-producing capital of Great Britain into an inland seaport. This was a feat many at the time believed could not be achieved. One of the wonders of the modern industrial world, the Manchester Ship Canal, with its huge locks and ocean-going vessels, was a magnetic draw for enthusiastic Victorians who marvelled at its construction.

This book looks at the changes and development of the Manchester Ship Canal through time, from its origins as a thriving economic hub in the late nineteenth century, to an important retail, leisure and media centre in the early twenty-first century and beyond. Join Steven Dickens as he explores the history of this 36-mile-long inland waterway in the north-west of England, which links Manchester to the Mersey Estuary and the Irish Sea.

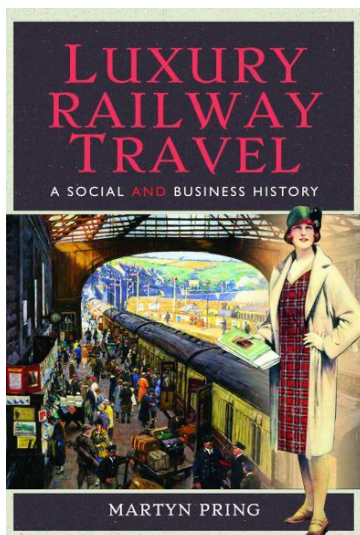


Manchester was Britain's first railway city. The success of the Liverpool & Manchester Railway in 1830 inspired many entrepreneurs and businessmen to build their own lines, not only to share in the success of the Liverpool & Manchester, but to tap into the wealth of Britain's first industrial city. The burgeoning realisation of Manchester as a railway hub quickly saw the city joined by iron road to Leeds, Sheffield, Birmingham, and London, and created the opportunity for the first Manchester-built railway locomotive – appropriately named Manchester – to be constructed in 1831. By 1845 the railways of Manchester had matured into a form that is recognisable today and that remained static for the next twenty-five-or-so years, until the opening of Central and Exchange. Anthony Dawson takes us through the history of the railways around Manchester, including their difficulties and innovations, as well as their growth over time and their legacy for the city's rail network today.



Manchester Airport (EGCC) is a Category 10 international passenger airport located in Lancashire, UK, comprising three passenger terminals and a world freight terminal. It operates long-haul and short-haul flights to around 225 destinations worldwide. It is one of the largest centres of employment in the north-west of England, with more than 19,000 people directly employed on site, and supporting a further 42,500 jobs in the area. It is the fourth busiest airport in England, and is the only British airport other than London's Heathrow Airport to operate two full-length parallel runways. In 2013, Manchester recorded a passenger rate of 20.8 million, with the capacity to manage millions more.

More than a million people a year visit the airport's Runway Visitor Park, which is home to the retired Concorde (G-BOAC), as well as a Monarch Airlines DC-10, a BEA Hawker Siddeley Trident 3B and an Avro 146-RJX – the last civil airliner to be fully built in the UK



British luxury rail travel was not just the domain of the Pullman Company. In fact, they were far from the only providers as railway companies in Britain were extremely active from late Victorian times competing for leisure business. Various railway operators were at the forefront of deluxe rail travel services across pre-grouping, Big Four and BR eras when first-class travel was increasingly adapted for the needs of the business community. Recently Britain's railway heritage has been responsible for kick-starting a modern tourist spectacle as specialist operators run luxury day excursion, sleeping-car and fine-dining trains.

Martyn Pring has carried out considerable research tracing the evolution of British luxury train travel weaving railway, social and travel history threads around a number of Britain's mainline routes traditionally associated with glamorous trains. Drawing on

contemporary coverage, he chronicles the luxury products and services shaped by railway companies and hospitality businesses for Britain's burgeoning upper and middle-classes and wealthy overseas visitors, particularly Americans, who demanded more civilised and comfortable rail travel.

By Edwardian times, a pleasure-palace industry emerged as entrepreneurs, hotel proprietors, local authorities and railway companies all collaborated developing upscale destinations, building civic amenities, creating sightseeing and leisure pursuits and in place-making initiatives to attract prosperous patrons. Luxury named trains delivered sophisticated and fashionable settings encouraging a golden age of civilised business and leisure travel. Harkening back to the inter-war years, modern luxury train operators now redefine and capture the allure and excitement of dining and train travel experiences.

We have also received the following new titles:-

Georgian Recipes and Remedies by Michael J Rochford,  
 Twelve Days on the Somme by Sidney Rogerson,  
 Code Breakers by Stephen Twigge,  
 Children at Sea by Vyvyen Brendon,  
 The Peasants Revolting Lives by Terry Deary,

Heros and Villains of the British Empire - Their Lives and Legends by Stephen Basdio,  
Tracing Your Poor Ancestors by Stewart A Raymond,  
Children in Care by Rosemary Asteer,

## THE VIRTUAL HELP DESK

On the Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society website you will find 'Hints from the Help Desk' videos hosted by Vimeo, following the launch of the Virtual Helpdesk (VHD). This has replaced the physical Help Desk service which was suspended in compliance with the Covid-19 regulations.

Looking at the calendar which hangs above my computer I can scarcely believe that we are now heading for the end of August! When our Help Desk shutters came firmly down on 16th March just who could have predicted that we would still be closed. Everyone on the Help Desk has been cheered to hear the news that Manchester Central Library opened its doors again on 20th August, albeit with restricted hours of operation and safety precautions in place.

Unfortunately we remain unable to reinstate our Family History Help Desk service in Manchester Central Library at the moment. However, we remain committed to providing quality assistance to family history researchers and continue to operate our Virtual Help Desk in the interim. We have had some really lovely feedback from people whom we have been able to assist from simple search questions, to brickwall queries, and even more poignant searches. One of our team was able to locate and provide burial information to an enquirer whose father had not known for the last 60 years where his mother was buried.

Beside our Virtual Help Desk (VHD) there are some 'Hints from the Help Desk' videos available on the Society's website and Facebook page. Don't forget to remain on the lookout for any updates regarding resumption of our normal Help Desk service.

As a reminder here is the list of videos currently available and can be found at <https://mlfhs.uk/virtual-help-desk-landing>

### The National Archives Research Guides

Masses of high quality information for free - what's not to like?

### The 1841 Census

Often written off as providing much less information than later censuses, you can still get a lot out of the 1841 returns. Find out how.

### Squeezing the Most out of the 1911 Census

There is a lot of information on the forms - get the most out of it!

### Keeping Track of Electronic Records

Name your documents meaningfully

### Using the GRO Web Site and Mother's Maiden Name Facility

Get the most out of this important web site

### DNA Testing: How to get the best value for your money

There are a lot of DNA tests on the market. Here are some ways to decide which one to choose.

Leslie Turner  
Help Desk Co-ordinator



## PROJECTS UPDATE

The lock-down projects continue to make good progress. With the completion of the burial registers for St Mark, Cheetham Hill, the team moved on to the much larger burial ground at All Saints, Chorlton-on-Medlock. Progress has been brisk with the first two of the eight registers completed and two more well under way. When completed, this will add another 16,500 records to the database.

Linda Bailey continues in her indexing of the Manchester Courier birth, marriage and death announcements. Another 1700 entries covering all of 1830 were added during the past month and a further 1,300 covering all of 1826 are sitting in my in-tray awaiting processing. These will bring the total to something over 8,600 references, a very useful resource as two thirds of the entries are from before the start of civil registration in 1837.

Geoff Edge's team have further extended the Manchester probate names index with names from probates 1821-1828 and continue to work on the remaining years to complete the index from 1812 to 1837. This is another valuable resource which pre-dates civil registration.

Speaking of early records, I have recently been asked by Mike Coupe whether the society would have an interest in taking over copies of the Protestation returns for the Salford Hundred. The Protestation Returns of 1641–1642 are lists of English males over the age of 18 who took, or did not take, an oath of allegiance "to live and die for the true Protestant religion, the liberties and rights of subjects and the privilege of Parliaments" and so can be regarded as a form of early census. Members with interests in Bolton may be aware that our Bolton branch have transcribed the returns for Bolton and the surrounding townships. I hope that we will be able to transcribe the remainder of the returns in the future.

As you will read elsewhere in the newsletter, we are about to launch a new web site. We are currently in a period of embargo on any changes to the present databases until changeover is completed, so while work goes on on projects, there will be a short delay in adding recent material to the databases. More to report next month!

John Marsden

## THE SOCIETY FORUM

The Forum continues to be very active with many members asking for help in tracing family members.

Why not post your query or problem to like-minded and very knowledgeable members and you may be surprised at the result.

To register go to our website and sign in as a member. On the Member Area home page you will find a link to the Member Forum halfway down on the right hand side. Click the "Enter Forum" button. This will take you to a page about the Forum and from here you can access the registration form.

I know that forums of this type and social media in general is not to everyone's taste but why not give it a try.

## MANCHESTER CENTRAL LIBRARY ARCHIVES+

<http://manchesterarchiveplus.wordpress.com/>

During these unprecedented times, it's more important than ever to stay connected with your loved ones whilst observing the government led social distancing guidelines. We hope Archives+ can help you to do this by publishing our popular memory boxes online which can

be used as a starting point in discovering your family history, find out what their childhood was like, look back at the area where they grew up, discover their fondest childhood memories and maybe uncover some hidden gems in your family's story.

On-Line Memory Box – Each week Archives+ will publish a memory box for an area in Manchester. The following Memory Boxes have been added: A Pandemic from the past Manchester and cholera 1832, Longsight, Fallowfield, Chorlton, PRIDE Manchester's LGBTQ+ History

### **NORTH WEST FILM ARCHIVE**

While staff are working from home they are sharing with you each day a highlight from the collection through 'A Film A Day'. Please visit <https://www.nwfa.mmu.ac.uk> for more information on how to view these short films.

This is a site well worth visiting The NWFA was set up in 1977 and preserves moving images made in or about Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Cheshire, Merseyside and Cumbria and offers a variety of access services to users in the public, academic and commercial sectors.

### **HELP DESK – Closed until further notice.**

Please refer to the short article on the Virtual Help Desk.



<https://www.facebook.com/MandLFamilyHistory>

[and Twitter](#)



[M&L Family History@MLFHS](mailto:M&L Family History@MLFHS)