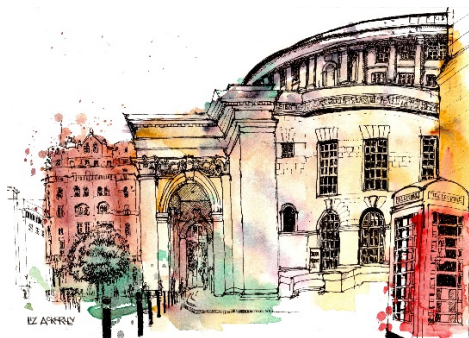


M&LFHS Newsletter

The monthly newsletter of the
Manchester & Lancashire Family
History Society



November 2020 Issue 7

SOCIETY CONTACTS

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

Newsletter editor: - newseditor@mlfhs.org.uk

Bookshop: - bookshop@mlfhs.org.uk

MLFHS Office: - office@mlfhs.org.uk

The Manchester Genealogist: - office@mlfhs.org.uk

MLFHS mailing address: Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society, 3rd 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

With the increase to Tier 3 and the restrictions we now have to face it is even more important to keep in touch with our members. I hope that this issue of the newsletter helps to keep you abreast of the Society's activities.

The Bookshop is now being run by Elsie Lowe from home, the Help Desk is now opening on a Monday for a trial period and John Marsden has provided a project update. I have also included a UKBMD update for October.

There is a short article following on from last month's 'Surnames And What They May Tell Us' and information about the Commonwealth War Grave Commission Wall of Remembrance.

Finally Archives+ give details of the 'Manchester Time Machine' which merges archive film with GPS to create a street level tour of Manchester's streets and people over the last 100 years.

I hope that you are continuing to find the Manchester newsletter interesting and I would be delighted to receive your views and comments through our e-mail address
newseditor@mlfhs.org.uk.

Please be aware that if you are in any public areas in Central Library then you must wear a mask or face covering at all times.

Stay safe. [Barry Henshall]

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Your Society is not alone in having to adapt to new ways of delivering its service to members and the public during Covid-19 restrictions. But, not for the first time, I am heartened by the resourcefulness and commitment of our volunteers who have developed new programmes using unfamiliar platforms in the face of the demands of the ever-tightening restrictions which are necessarily in place.

The first example that comes to mind is the resumption of the physical Helpdesk in Manchester's Central Library. Safety protocols at the library are, of course, strict, as you would expect, and this has compelled the Helpdesk team to adopt changes to its usual location and working practices in order to comply. Even so, the Helpdesk is open on Mondays for a trial period and for those whose circumstances allow, you might consider booking a session for a visit to advance your research. For those who live beyond reasonable travel distance of the library or simply prefer not to make the journey, the Virtual Helpdesk [VHD] continues to offer guidance and advice. Full details are available on the Society website and elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Our traditional meetings programme is also a casualty of the current restrictions on public gatherings and so we have had to find alternative ways of reaching our membership. The branches are leading the way here, with Bolton branch hosting a Zoom meeting in late October to be followed before the end of the year by similar events run by the Anglo-Scottish and Oldham branches. I hope that these will be the forerunners of a series of virtual meetings for the Society as well as the branches in 2021 for as long as the restrictions remain in force. They will, in due course, be opportunities to reach members from further afield than any physical meeting would permit, and I therefore commend them to you. Booking for these events will be essential, so look out for full details as they are advertised on Eventbrite and all the usual Society platforms.

You can see, therefore, that we are plugging the gaps in our services to members and the public in new ways whilst continuing to add more datasets to the Great Database via our Projects programme, to deliver research material via the Online Bookshop, to publish periodical journals and newsletters and to exchange hints and tips to members via the Members Forum. These services are being maintained by volunteer efforts and, I believe, are excellent value for your annual subscription. It makes sense to make use of them during this period of disruption to normal routine.

David Muil
Chairman

A MESSAGE FROM OUR GENERAL SECRETARY

The office is being run from home, as is the bookshop, by our usual team.

Feel free to contact the office office@mlfhs.org.uk for enquiries about your membership. If contacting us please give your membership number and the surname of the member (it is not always the same as the person paying). We are finding that members have never changed their email address from when they first joined so it is important on the new website that we have an up-to-date address so please check.

With the increase in restrictions to Tier 3 recently imposed by the British Government and with the fact that volunteers are not accessing our office could members still paying by cheque please note the address for sending them has changed. Please do NOT send anything to the

library. There will be delays if correspondence is sent to our office at Manchester Central Library.

If possible please use the on-line option on our new website to join or renew your subscription to the Society.

MLFHS
30 Elmsmere Road
Didsbury
Manchester M20 6FL

Stay safe and well Elsie

EVENTS/TALKS

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 and see the full list of speakers.

WORLDWIDE VIRTUAL EVENT Saturday 14th NOVEMBER

- * 20+ Free Quality Talks
- * Exclusive Goody Bag
- * Specialist Vendors
- * Records & Books
- * Special Show Offers
- * Expert Help & Advice
- * Family History Societies
- * PLUS Much More ...



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

WEBSITES

Share Your Tribute on the Commonwealth War Grave Commission Wall Of Remembrance

1.7 million men and women of the Commonwealth gave their lives in both world wars. Take the opportunity to remember the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for peace across the world and join us in an act of virtual remembrance.

We're asking you to submit a couple of lines of text, and a photo if you have one, to remember a loved one who fought during the world wars - or just to give thanks for everyone who fought for their country.

<https://www.cwgc.org/our-work/projects/the-cwgc-wall-of-remembrance/>

Members may also wish to follow the 'Maintenance of War Grave Sites' thread on the Society's Forum.

Another site well worth looking at is 'Forces War Records' at

<https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/search-military-records-for-free>

Here you can search over 25 million service men's records together with over 2 million exclusive records, including military records from hundreds of different sources. The site hosts an exclusive online library with thousands of historic documents and military experts are available to expand your knowledge.

The "Who Do You Think You Are" website has a number of excellent tutorials relating to the military at <https://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/tutorials/military/>.

BOOKSHOP

We have a large number of books and CDs relating to the two World Wars and other conflicts around the world. Please go to our Bookshop website <https://www.mlfhs-shop.co.uk> and click on the tabs Local, Textbooks or CDROM to view.

The Bookshop Competition

This competition will continue running throughout November and the winner will be able to choose a book of their choice from the entire stock of the bookshop.

Each time a member places an order during October and November their order number will be put into a draw. At the beginning of December all order numbers will be listed in an Excel spreadsheet and, on command, Excel will choose a number at random.

Please ensure that your email address is up-to-date so that we can contact you swiftly so that your selection can arrive before Christmas (post delivery allowing).

Good luck

Barry Henshall

SURNAMES AND WHAT THEY MAY TELL US - Part 2

I am sure that everyone who wishes to start a search for their ancestors will have been drawn to commercial sites such as Ancestry, FindmyPast, My Heritage etc. or free sites such as Family Search. These sites boast billions of records covering such areas as Census, Parish records, Wills and probates, trade registers, newspapers, rate books etc. but one resource that you may not have tried is searching the internet using browsers such as Safari, Firefox, Edge Chrome or Google. There is the possibility of finding someone who has posted their family research with details not readily available on commercial sites. It is worth a try.

Many of you may have entered your surname into a browser only to be put off by the huge number of hits, in my case over 2 million. Using your surname followed by the words family tree or maybe family history will reduce the hits dramatically but probably not sufficiently to make searching easy. In my case the number drops to about 400.000.

However, there are many sites providing useful information, for example here are just two

https://www.ancestry.co.uk/name-origin?surname=*****

You will find a map of 1891 showing the main areas from where your ancestors are from, what your ancestors may have done for a living, average lifespan etc.

https://www.houseofnames.com/*****-family-crest

Suggests early origins and history of your family together with family crest and Coats of Arms and family migration.

Note: ***** is your surname

There are a number of other sites that are also a useful source of similar information.

Google has an Advanced Search option that can be accessed by clicking on 'settings' towards the top of the home page. You can then navigate to the advanced search page where you can enter various word and phrase options. A language and a region/country can then be chosen. In my case I entered Henshall "family tree" with language 'English' and country 'New Zealand'. This revealed 133 hits, a much more manageable number.

However, be aware. The internet is not regulated and not everything may be as accurate as it could be. Check your facts from with other sources if at all possible.

THE HELP DESK

You will find information about the Help Desk on our website by going to the blog 'A New Pace' where Leslie Turner, Help Desk Co-ordinator, provides us with up-to-date information.

Bookings to the Help Desk can still be made via the following email: helpdesk@mlfhs.org.uk
Our VHD (Virtual Help Desk) remains operational for those who cannot make it into Central Library. We are currently in a temporary location and might be moving again shortly!

Please remember that visitors will need to comply with library/Covid restrictions and wear a face mask or face covering. Assistance at the Help Desk will be either face-to-face distanced or via Zoom.

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).

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

Anthony Steven has submitted a further 1,149 deaths at Scutari Hospital, bringing coverage of deaths published in UK newspapers up to February 1855. These deaths are not specific to men from the Manchester area but those identified as serving in the 20th Regiment (Lancashire Fusiliers) and 47th Regiment (Royal Lancashire Regiment) are particularly likely to be local to the county. However, it is quite possible that local men may have served with any regiment.

Further entries have been added to the index of BMD announcements in the Great Database. These are mostly from the Manchester Courier but a number from the Manchester Mercury have also been added. The index now contains a total of 10,411 references.

Indexing of all back issues of the Manchester Genealogist now up to date. Indexing continues as each new issue is published.

Indexing of further burials for King Street, Salford, Bible Christian Church has been agreed with Geoff Edge. This will extend coverage of the present index up to 1837 and will add another 5,676 burials to the Great Database.

A total of 16,559 burials for Chorlton-on-Medlock, All Saints Churchyard added to The Great Database.

The final batch of the Manchester Probate Names Index 1812-1837 which now contains 42,788 names extracted from 5,533 wills and administrations proved at the Manchester Consistory Court where the testator was recorded as living in Manchester or one of the townships has been completed.

The index is invaluable as a means of finding who was connected with the testator, either as executor, witness or beneficiary, so if one of your ancestors appears as a beneficiary, you can locate the will in which they are named and possibly locate more information and open up a new line of research. Mostly probate is indexed by testator only, so if you have no knowledge of a connection to a testator, this index will bring it to light.

Considerable thanks are due to Geoff Edge and his team of transcribers for the splendid work they have done to create this index, which helps with that awkward period just before civil registration and the census.

If you make a breakthrough as a result of using the index, please post it to the forum to help members become more aware of the possibilities it opens up.

John Marsden

UKBMD UPDATES FOR OCTOBER

The Staffordshire BMD has been updated with the following records:

Births:

12,043 for Stoke, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (1953-1974)

1,798 for Stafford, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (1986-1991)

Deaths:

1,207 for Lichfield (held at Lichfield RO), registers at Lichfield (1975-1977)

300 for Tamworth, registers at Lichfield (1977-1978)

Yorkshire BMD has been updated with the following records:

Marriages:

20 for Harrogate Baptist Church, Claro, registers at Harrogate (1999-2019)

242 for Coxwold Parish Church, Northallerton, registers at Harrogate (1932-2009)

20 for Wistow, All Saints Parish Church, Selby, registers at Harrogate (2005-2014)

20 for Norton, St Peter, Ryedale, registers at Harrogate (2016-2019)

21 for Salton, St John of Beverley, Ryedale, registers at Harrogate (1994-2015)

20 for South Kilvington, St Wilfred, Northallerton, registers at Harrogate (1987-2013)

20 for South Otterington, St Andrew, Northallerton, registers at Harrogate (2008-2015)

384 for Newton on Ouse Parish Church, Northallerton, registers at Harrogate (1939-2012)

904 for Sutton on the Forest Parish Church, Northallerton, registers at Harrogate (1838-1996)

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. If you have an interesting story to tell then why not let us know. I am sure that members outside the forum would be interested.

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+ has been publishing a memory box for an area in Manchester. The following Memory Box has been added: Hulme.

NORTH WEST FILM ARCHIVE

While staff are working from home they have been 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.

MANCHESTER TIME MACHINE

Announcing 'Manchester Time Machine': the first ever app for the iPhone which merges archive film with GPS to create a street level tour of Manchester's streets and people over the last 100 years.

Manchester has changed a lot, and hardly at all. Manchester Time Machine uses rare historical film from the North West Film Archive to take you back to exactly the same location to experience the scene from the same viewpoint. See for yourself how much the city has changed through these fascinating glimpses into the 20th century. There are 80 highlights from films shot in the city centre, from the early days of film in 1911 (a Whit walk in Market Street) through every decade of the last century until the 1970s (as a student demonstration scatters in Oxford Street).

In between, these enchanting films include historically significant events – VE Day in Piccadilly and Albert Square, and moving documents – such as the victorious Manchester City team bringing home the FA cup in Piccadilly in 1934, alongside powerful everyday views of a life long gone – Piccadilly Gardens in the sunshine in 1961, and in 1914 a mounted policeman barging a cart off the tram tracks on London Road.

Each is presented with a GPS locator and virtual compass so you can find exactly the same scene in the present day, even when many of the buildings may have disappeared.

Manchester Time Machine offers smartphone users a true multimedia experience, a moving window through time.

For more information please go to:

<https://www.nwfa.mmu.ac.uk/mcrtimemachinev4.html>

Available on iPhone and iPad with Android version to follow.



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

[and](#) Twitter



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