

M&LFHS Newsletter

The monthly newsletter of the
Manchester & Lancashire Family
History Society



August 2020 Issue 4

SOCIETY CONTACTS

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

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SOCIETY BRANCHES

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

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

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

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Although Manchester Central Library remains closed there is the prospect of opening later in August as our Chairman mentions in his report. He also gives more details about our new website.

One of our members asked about medical epidemics which produced a positive response through our Forum and I have listed a number of useful web sites.

This month we also look at our ancestors occupations, many of which are long gone. I have also listed a selection of books from our bookshop that provide an inside into these jobs and professions.

Leslie Turner tells us about the Virtual Help Desk and John Marsden provides a project update. There are also updates about our Forum, MCL Archives+ and the North West Film Archive.

I would be delighted to receive your views and comments through our e-mail address newseditor@mlfhs.org.uk.

Stay safe. [Barry Henshall]

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Hello again everyone,

The gradual easing of the lockdown is good news. We now have limited access to our office in Central Library each week for essential tasks. One of these is the resumption of our online bookshop service and I commend it to you. Manchester Libraries expect to reopen to the public in late August. Alas, it will be some time after that before we will be able to resume our Family History Helpdesk in Central Library, so, for help with your research, I recommend you make use of the Virtual Helpdesk service using the links on our website and Facebook page.

News of the many activities which continue to be operated by our volunteers are described elsewhere in this newsletter. I urge you to make use of the links to advance your research.

I am delighted to announce that the launch of our new website will take place in August. Watch out for further details on our current website and Facebook page as the launch date approaches. The build is now 90% complete and testing and training is well advanced. Training sessions have been under way with the design team for several weeks now and these will be extended to include other key operators in the coming weeks. As the launch approaches, we will need to shut down the current website for a short period to allow the transfer of the remaining data-sets from the old to the new. Details will be given nearer the time on the website and Facebook page.

In spite of the Covid-19 restrictions this is an exciting time for our Society and, from what I have seen during the development stage, I have great hopes that the new website will take members and public alike into a new era of family history research based on the vast collection of archival material assembled over 55 years by thousands of volunteers.

Best wishes for a summer of success in your research,

David Muil, Chairman

A MESSAGE FROM OUR GENERAL SECRETARY

We still do not have post being delivered to the library so the best and safest way to renew membership is online either through PayPal or debit card.

Only if there is no alternative then please send cheques to MLFHS 46 Kew Road Failsworth M35 9LD

EVENTS/TALKS

Family & Local History Fair with Craft Stalls 2020

Saturday 3rd October 2020 10:00am – 4:00pm

Doncaster Deaf Trust, Leger way, Doncaster

Organised by Doncaster & District FHS

<https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/event-doncaster-district-fhs-family-local-history-fair-with-craft-stalls-2020-2020-10-03>

Please check regularly in case this event is postponed or cancelled.

WEBSITES

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

Epidemics

The following question was posted to the Forum:-

Does anyone know where I can get a list of medical epidemics?

This is a good question that perhaps many of our members have asked over the years when examining death records. Here are some suggestions provided by our members.

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/42686>

A HISTORY OF EPIDEMICS IN BRITAIN from A.D. 664 to the Extinction of Plague

by

Charles Creighton, M.A., M.D.,

Formerly Demonstrator of Anatomy in The University of Cambridge.

Cambridge: The University Press. 1891

CONTENTS

Pestilences Previous to the Black Death, Chiefly from Famines.

Leprosy in Medieval Britain.

The Black Death of 1348-9.

England after the Black Death, with the Epidemics to 1485.

The Sweating Sickness, 1485-1551.

Plague in the Tutor Period.

Gaol Fevers, Influenzas, and other Fevers in the Tudor Period.

The French Pox.

Smallpox and Measles.

Plague, Fever and Influenza from the Accession of James I to the Restoration.

Sicknesses of Early Voyages and Colonies.

The Great Plague of London, and the last of Plague in England.

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/43671>

A HISTORY OF EPIDEMICS IN BRITAIN From the Extinction of Plague to the present time.

by

Charles Creighton, M.A., M.D.,

Formerly Demonstrator of Anatomy in The University of Cambridge.

Cambridge: The University Press. 1894

CONTENTS

Typhus and Other Continued Fevers.

Fever and Dysentery in Ireland.

Influenzas and Epidemic Agues.

Smallpox.

Measles.

Whooping-Cough.

Scarlatina and Diphtheria.

Infantile Diarrhoea, Cholera Nostras and Dysentery.

Asiatic Cholera.

There is a full index in both volumes.
Both books are free to download in a variety of formats.

The article in Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_epidemics, is very extensive and covers the period from 1200BC to the present day and includes 273 references.

There is a list of the biggest known epidemics (including pandemics) caused by an infectious disease.

An epidemic is the rapid spread of disease to a large number of people in a given population within a short period of time. For example, in meningococcal infections, an attack rate in excess of 15 cases per 100,000 people for two consecutive weeks is considered an epidemic,

[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/England_Epidemics_and_Major_Causes_of_Death_A_to_R_\(National_Institute\)](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/England_Epidemics_and_Major_Causes_of_Death_A_to_R_(National_Institute))

A good article from Family Search that includes a brief discussion on epidemics and major killers such as cancer, cholera, diarrhoea, diphtheria, influenza, measles and the plague (Bubonic plague and the Black death). There are also charts showing plague in Parish Registers for 1604 and 1636, a description of the great plague of 1665 and preventative measures taken. There is also a chart giving the mortality rate for a London Parish. All very sobering.

http://www.mongenes.org.uk/epidemics_in_bri.html

MonGenes – Dedicated to Monmouthshire Genealogy.

This site has a very good section on epidemics in Britain and describes some of the diseases in detail. There is also an extensive glossary of 18th and 19th Century medical terms.

WHAT WAS YOUR ANCESTOR'S OCCUPATION?

It is inevitable that during your family history research you have made notes on the occupations of your ancestors. This can provide valuable information about family life but also help you to determine which of two or more individuals with the same name is part of your family tree. The following websites may help in understanding the meaning of job titles, terms or occupations which are no longer in common use,

<http://www.worldthroughthelens.com/family-history/old-occupations.php>

<https://www.familyresearcher.co.uk/glossary/Dictionary-of-Old-Occupations-Index.html>

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/England_Occupations

<https://www.le.ac.uk/eh/teach/ug/modules/eh3107/occupations.pdf>

<https://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/tutorials/jobs/>

BOOKSHOP

You can see all our stock via our website. <https://www.mlfhs-shop.co.uk/>

We will process your orders as normal but please be patient as the postal service is very busy and there may be delays of a few days especially if you are requesting delivery outside of the UK. We are not as yet able to provide a 'Collect from Central Library' service as the Help Desk is closed.

The following titles, all paperback, are available from our bookshop and provide an insight into a variety of jobs and professions.

Coal Mining
Lead and Lead Mining
The Potteries
Flax and Linen
The Victorian Hospital
The Victorian Schoolroom
The Victorian and Edwardian Prisons
The Victorian Undertaker
Canal Arts and Crafts
The Victorian Cemetery
Bricks and Brick-making
The Slate Industry
Almshouses
Beers and Breweries in Britain
Domestic Bygones
Glass and Glassmaking

This is not a complete list so please search the bookshop catalogue.

A selection of books recently received



In the aftermath of the First World War, a political revolution took place in what was then the United Kingdom. Such upheavals were common in postwar Europe, as new states came into being and new borders were forged. What made the revolution in the UK distinctive is that it took place within one of the victor powers, rather than any of their defeated enemies. In the years after the Easter Rising of 1916 in Ireland, a new independence movement had emerged, and in 1918-19 the political party Sinn F in and its paramilitary partner, the Irish Republican Army, began a political struggle and an armed uprising against British rule. By 1922 the United Kingdom has lost a very substantial portion of its territory, as the Irish Free State came into being amidst a brutal Civil War. At the same time Ireland was partitioned and a new, unionist government was established in what was now Northern Ireland. These were outcomes that nobody could have predicted before 1914. In *The Irish War of Independence and Civil War*, experts on the subject explore the experience and consequences of the latter phases of the Irish revolution from a wide range of perspectives.



What would you wear to war? How would you dress for a winter mission in the open cockpit of a Russian bomber plane? At a fashion show in Occupied Paris? Singing in Harlem, or on fire watch in Tokyo.? *Ready for Action* is a unique, illustrated insight into the experiences of women worldwide during World War Two and its aftermath. The history of ten tumultuous years is reflected in clothes, fashion, accessories and uniforms. As housewives, fighters, fashion designers or spies, women dressed the part when they took up their wartime roles. Attractive to a general reader as well as interesting to a specialist, *Ready for Action* focuses on the experiences of British women, then expands to encompass every continent affected by war. Woven through all cultures and countries are common threads of service, survival, resistance and emotion. Historian Lucy Adlington draws on interviews with wartime women, as well as her own archives and costume

collection. Well-known names and famous exploits are featured and many never-before-told stories of quiet heroism. You'll indulge in luxury fashion, bridal ensembles and enticing lingerie, as well as thrifty make-do-and-mend. You'll learn which essential garments to wear when enduring a bomb raid and how a few scraps of clothing will keep you feeling human in a concentration camp. Ready for Action is richly illustrated throughout, with many previously unpublished photographs, 1940s costumes and fabulous fashion images. History has never been better dressed.

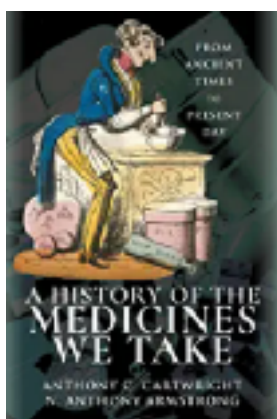


It is a sobering thought that until the closing years of the twentieth century, Britain's courts were technically able to impose the death penalty for a number of offences; both civil and military. Although the last judicial hangings took place in 1964, the death penalty, in theory at least, remained for a number of offences. During the twentieth century, 865 people were executed in Britain, and of those only 3 were ever posthumously pardoned. This book details each and every one of those executions, and in many cases highlights the crimes that brought these men and women to the gallows.

The book also details the various forms of capital punishment used throughout British history. During past centuries people were burned at the stake, had the skin flayed from their bodies, been beheaded, garrotted, hung, drawn and quartered, stoned, disemboweled, buried alive and all under the guidance of a vengeful law, or at least what passed for law at any given period. This book spares no detail in chronicling these events and the author has painstakingly collected together every available piece of evidence to provide as clear a picture as possible of a time when the law operated on the principle

of an eye for an eye.

The author, Gary M. Dobbs, is a true-crime historian and has spent many hours researching the cases featured within these pages to bring the reader a definitive history of judicial punishment during the twentieth century, and this carefully researched, well-illustrated and enthralling text will appeal to anyone interested in the darker side of history.



A History of the Medicines We Take gives a lively account of the development of medicines from traces of herbs found with the remains of Neanderthal man, to prescriptions written on clay tablets from Mesopotamia in the third millennium BC, to pure drugs extracted from plants in the nineteenth century to the latest biotechnology antibody products.

The first ten chapters of the book in part one give an account of the development of the active drugs from herbs used in early medicine, many of which are still in use, to the synthetic chemical drugs and modern biotechnology products. The remaining eight chapters in part two tell the story of the developments in the preparations that patients take and their inventors, such as Christopher Wren, who gave the first intravenous injection in 1656, and William Brockedon who invented the tablet in 1843. The book traces the changes in patterns of prescribing from simple dosage forms, such as liquid mixtures, pills, ointments, lotions, poultices, powders for treating wounds, inhalations, eye drops, enemas, pessaries and suppositories mentioned in the Egyptian Ebers papyrus of 1550 BCE to the complex tablets, injections and inhalers in current use. Today nearly three-quarters of medicines dispensed to patients are tablets and capsules. A typical

pharmacy now dispenses about as many prescriptions in a working day as a mid-nineteenth-century chemist did in a whole year.

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. <https://www.mlfhs.org.uk/helpdesk.php>.

The video currently available are

[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.

VHD enquiries continue to trickle in so if you need help with your research in Manchester why not send your query to our [Virtual Helpdesk](#) team?. Our volunteers will only be too pleased to help you.

We continue to get very basic enquires of 'brick wall' type requests.

Perhaps over the lockdown you have had the chance to start your own family history research but are not sure how to continue? We are happy to help you with some advice and guidance in order for you to further your research. Or maybe you are already an avid family historian but have now become a bit stuck and have hit the proverbially 'brick wall'. Perhaps you are one of our Help Desk regulars? Whatever your situation we are happy to help out so please get in touch!

You can contact us via this link:

https://www.mlfhs.org.uk/contact/mail_hd.php

Leslie has had a request from Wall to Wall productions who are making a series looking at the story of GI babies and the children born to British women and American servicemen. They are particularly keen to talk to children fathered by African American GI's. If any of our members are interested then please let me know at newseditor@mlfhs.org.uk and I will forward to Leslie.

[Leslie Turner, MLFHS Help Desk Co-ordinator]

PROJECTS UPDATE

Substantial progress has been made on projects over the lockdown period. Burial indexes have now been completed for: Angel Meadow, St. Michael 1789-1854 (3,820 burials); Newton Heath, All Saints 1854-1950 (24,405); Ardwick, St. Thomas 1813-1854 (2,100) and St. Mark, Cheetham 1813-1855 (6,650) Work has already started on burials at All Saints, Chorlton-on-Medlock 1820-1877. This is a much larger project with around 14,000 burials in this large churchyard, which has since been turned into a park.

Linda Bailey has submitted two further batches totalling about 1,500 extracts of births, marriages, deaths and obituaries published in the Manchester Courier making the total 5,623 in all relating to 1825, 1837 and 1895.

Geoff Edge and his team have submitted the first batch of names appearing in wills and administrations of Manchester residents - 8,258 in all for 1812-1818

We have also completed an index to 548 births and 255 marriages recorded at the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue in Cheetham (now Manchester Jewish Museum) since it opened in 1874.

This brings the total of new records added as a result of 'lockdown' projects to over 50,000

A further 2,445 entries for 1902-1907 have been added from the Bolton Workhouse Creed Books.

Work is ongoing on the Bolton Creed Books as well as on Geoff's probate names index. Linda's Manchester Courier index and on burials at All Saints, Chorlton-on-Medlock, so there is still a lot more to come.

A big thank you to all who have contributed to this impressive performance and especially to those who are still beavering away to add to this treasure trove of information.

John Marsden

SPANISH & PORTUGUESE SYNAGOGUE - Births and Marriages

Introduction

The Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue in Moor Lane, Cheetham Hill, Salford was opened in 1874 and since 1984 has been the home of the Manchester Jewish Museum.

Births 1874-1924

Registers of the birth of children of members of the congregation were kept from the time of opening. They record limited information, generally the date of birth, names of the parents (though not the mother's maiden name) and the parents' address, though for the first few years, if entered at all, may consist of as little as "Manchester".

An unusual feature of the children's names is that on occasion they will be recorded under both a traditional forename and a "westernised" forename, for example Rahassim HADARI, who is also recorded with the name Clement HADARI. In these cases two index entries have been created so that the birth may be found under either alternative.

Marriages 1874-2013

Marriages were also performed between members of the congregation. The unusual feature of the civil registration of marriages within Jewish congregations is that the premises are not specifically licenced for marriages, which may take place at any location.

Record Closure

Because of the personal nature of the records, a closure period of 100 years following births and 75 years following marriages has been applied to these records. As records pass the end of the closure period, they will automatically be made available for searching and display.

Acknowledgements

The assistance and support of Manchester Jewish Museum is gratefully acknowledged together with the volunteers John Cameron, Margaret Sloane and Chris Norcross tasked to transcribe some difficult script.

THE SOCIETY FORUM

The Forum has proved to be very active over the last month 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. At the Member Area Main Menu click on the E-mail list at the right of the tool bar. This will take you to the MLFHS E-Mail Forum page. 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.

"ORGANISING FAMILY ARCHIVES" COURSE

Some of you may have seen on the The International Council on Archives (ICA) listserv that ICA has launched a new online learning course called "Organising Family Archives". It is not intended for the archives and records management profession but for the wider public, including genealogists and family historians. You can find more information here:

<https://www.ica.org/en/register-for-the-ica-online-course-organising-family-archives>

Online course fee: In view of the current exceptional global situation, the ICA is making this course available at a reduced rate **€50**

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: Moss Side, Blackley, Rusholme and Victoria Park In addition to these blogs, the online memory box will be published on the Archives+ Facebook page. Dig out your old photos too, these can also be a brilliant resource to trigger fond memories of family times. We encourage you to share your findings on social media, either as comments on our Facebook page or on Instagram or Twitter using the hashtag #A+memorybox.

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.



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and Twitter



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