

Bolton's Genies



The Monthly Newsletter of the
Bolton & District Family History Society.

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Secretary: Barbara Owen on 01204 309515

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A branch of The Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society.

Hello all

Well here we go with our fourth edition and so far nobody has said they do not want any more so we must be doing something right. On reviewing our last edition I think maybe I should make one point clear, in that when you see the "Royal I", we are in fact several people contributing to what you are reading, so we are not really grammatically correct, but it just seems the easiest way of writing. We are also always on the lookout for material from anyone else so don't be shy. This is your newsletter, and as you see contributions can remain anonymous unless you are happy to be named or just "initialled".

Perhaps the most important of our roles is "web master". We could not function without him, and now can we proudly announce that the

Bolton pages of the MLFHS website were launched on September 12th,

<http://www.bolton.mlfhs.org.uk/>, and what do you think of them? There might still be some initial hiccups with a Google search but they can be easily accessed via the MLFHS link. So far the creator still prefers to remain anonymous, (although he has been named in The Genealogist), but has he done well, and I suppose some teething problems were inevitable? I know there is much more material in the pipeline, but just what is there now has, I understand, taken at least 4 months of hard graft.

So autumn is here with darker nights, less urge to be out and about, and more to put the heating on, crank up the pcs, dig out the files, and start documenting all that new information and photos that you have acquired over the summer. Yes?

I have just enjoyed a 50 year reunion of the remainder of the 60 individuals I started training with all those years ago in September 1964. All the reminiscing brought home to me what it must have been like when the MLFHS was launched at a similar time. (Ladies) skirts were below the knee, (men's) hair was brylcreamed down then Beatle style, telephones were in a red box at the end of the road and needed 4d to work. Also, one computer occupied a whole room at Manchester University <http://elearn.cs.man.ac.uk/~atlas/>, and I very much

doubt if there was the vaguest thought about using such a piece of machinery for genealogy research at that time. Have n't things changed, and yes we are fortunate to have all the modern facilities to do so much armchair work, but there is still arguably nothing to compare with finding, looking at, smelling , and even touching, that old document with an ancestors name on it.

So let's get stuck in again and lets also try to get the younger generations involved, or else our efforts will all be wasted. So much information is out there now and waiting to be found and saved before it is lost forever, and the kids need to understand where they come from, especially as populations are moving around the world so much. We are the custodians of our heritage, let's get cracking with it.

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OUR LAST and NEXT MONTHLY MEETINGS

All at the same venue Bolton Cricket Club (Back door),
Bishops Road, Farnworth, BL3 2JB 7.30pm,
First Wednesday of each month apart from January.

Octobers 1sts Talk

Was a presentation about the North Atlantic convoys by David Chadwick and Shirley Morgan, , co-authors of "High Seas to Home, Daily Dispatches from a Frigate at War". David was a Bolton News journalist, with an interest in maritime history, and was approached by colleague Shirley Morgan for help re wartime letters written by Cliff Greenwood as a wartime journalist. Cliff's daughter Sue and son in law Allan Seabridge, found the letters whilst tidying up the loft after his death. He wrote to his wife regularly, from enlistment in the Royal Navy and initial training camps, to when he served on the high seas, on HMS Byron. This was a frigate on escort duties on the North Atlantic convoys and he gave a first-hand account of life in the navy at that time. We are sorry that Sue and Allan were unable to attend our meeting but hopefully any queries in their direction can be resolved by email.

November 5ths Talk

Will be by Lizzie Jones, a freelance historian and writer entitled "Blunders and Bloomers of the 17thC". She describes her talk as a "an amusing and informative glimpse into the 16th and 17th Centuries when things did not always work out as expected", and all who have already heard her, recommend her enthusiastically, so I know no more!

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VISITS and ACTIVITIES

We have been very busy this month as many will already know..

- **Clayton Hall Visit.** Val and Brian were invited to visit this Grade 2* listed building as members of the MLFHS. It is a free living history museum and a rare example of a

moated, medieval site situated in Clayton Park, Ashton new Road, Clayton, Manchester M11 4RU. <http://www.claytonhall.org/> . Further to that we are now arranging a visit on **Friday November 21st**. It will meet at 10.45 am Bolton Trinity Railway Station for the train to Manchester Piccadilly Station and a tram to Clayton. (Use your bus pass if you have one). The trip will cost £5 including a light lunch. There is a limit of 20 people for this visit. Those interested please contact Brian via Bolton@mlfhs.org.uk

- **September 17th was the very successful visit to Horwich Heritage Centre** organised by Val Leese with both her Horwich and B&DFHS hats on. Twelve of our members attended and there will be a more detailed report in the next edition of the *Genealogist* our quarterly MLFHS magazine. Suffice it to say The Centre has many fascinating exhibits re local historical events and lifestyle and anyone who has not yet been is encouraged to do so. (see details below). They are open Monday to Friday 2-4pm and Saturday 10.00am-12.30pm. Admission free.
- **September 26th was the visit to Manchester Central Library** which is also now where our MLFHS headquarters are. Visit to M/C Central Library. Seventeen members of Bolton F.H.Society gathering on the concourse of Bolton railway station in good time to catch the 9.56 train to M/C Deansgate. From there one stop on the tram delivered us to the door of the newly renovated and refurbished Central Library. Four more members who had made their own travel arrangements joined us as we were welcomed by John Marsden Chairperson of M/C &L.F.H Society and Lesley Turner M/C&L.F.H.S Help Desk member who were to be our tour guides for the morning session. What followed was a comprehensive and fascinating tour of six levels, accessed by lift, of the impressive 1934 building from the top floor Reference Book Collection through two floors of meeting rooms, open office spaces, workshops for and book film restoration and a business reference section. All these floors were equipped with computers and printers and had separate bays where food and drink could be consumed. I must mention the Wolfson Reading Room on Floor 1 beautifully restored to its former 1934 glory but with modern technological improvements - go see! A haven of peace and quiet compared with the busier atmosphere of the ground floor Archive Centre with its interactive screens, the central display welcoming the Bolton group to the Library, yet more of the 170 computers available for use, film pods, search room, the M/C&L.F.H.S Help Desk and a cafe. We ended the tour on the lower ground floor which links directly into the City Library before taking a break for lunch which we ate in the meeting room provided, in nearby bays or in the cafe. Some members took the opportunity to join the library which you need to do to use the computers. Lunch was followed by a very interesting if gruesome illustrated talk on Forgotten Fields by John Marsden based on his book of the same name about the old burial grounds of Manchester dealing along the way with common graves containing sometimes upwards of 50-60 of the poor, vaults for the better off, cholera outbreaks, private burial grounds where the selling of plots was used as a source of income for the church or chapel, cemeteries, lost churches and crematoriums. As we made our way home our brains fizzing with all the facts, figures and information we had tried to absorb, we knew we would be welcomed back and assisted with whatever research or activities we needed to undertake with pre-booking the Help Desk unnecessary. What a great day out Carole w

We are always appreciative of anyone else willing to arrange a visit anywhere interesting, so any offers??

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GENIES TIPS for October are for "Genealogy on the Cheap."

To start in the obvious place for MLFHS members - the MLFHS website www.mlfhs.org.uk - which has a collection of Bolton data in "Online Data / Members Area / Main Menu / Bolton document collection" and of course there are lots of entries in the Memorial Inscriptions database accessed via the Members Only database collection.

Bolton History Centre has lots of information and it is all free to view. You can get prints of filmed Marriage Registers for under £1. Photocopies of paper records are also less than a £1 providing it will not damage the original. If you want a number of photocopies it might be cheaper to pay the daily fee for using a digital camera. The History Centre also has filmed copies of local newspapers which have BMD columns that might provide the details you are seeking without you having to trouble the Registrar's. Remember it is open 7 days a week but there are certain limits on archive availability on Sunday's due to limited staff numbers.

<http://www.boltonmuseums.org.uk/archives/availability-of-archives-and-reserve-stock>

They also have free to use computers, as do local libraries, on which you can access:

FreeBMD <http://www.freebmd.org.uk> which is associated with other subjects e.g.

<http://freeukgen.rootsweb.com> but

For Boltonians Lancs BMD <http://www.lancashirebmd.org.uk> is probably more use.

For Other counties BMD's <http://www.ukbmd.org.uk>

Lancs OPC <http://www.lan-opc.org.uk> The Bolton pages continue to expand and not only contain church register details but also church histories and connections to associated websites. See example of a connection on the top line of

<http://www.lan-opc.org.uk/Bolton-le-Moors/Great-Bolton/stmark/index.html>

[Am I odd in that when I discovered my baptism record I looked to see who else from my Primary School was baptised in the same church?] Not all county sites are the same so check the local county you are interested in before dismissing them as not helpful.

For example <http://cornwall-opc.org> http://www.ukbmd.org.uk/online_parish_clerk

Family History Societies often have free access to their data files so look for the Society that covers the area you are interested in, such as

<http://www.clevelandfhs.org.uk/Free%20On%20Line%20Lists.htm>

Family Search has a lot more than just parish record database search facilities as you will now know since Kathryn Carter's talk. For example it has photographs of some Bolton Parish Registers which you can download and print off. The listing is slightly odd so go through all Lancashire to find the Bolton churches.

<https://familysearch.org/search/image/index#uri=https://familysearch.org/recapi/sord/col/lection/1788853/waypoints>

For a National Map of Parishes <http://maps.familysearch.org>

For Bolton-le-Moors information

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Bolton_le_Moors_St_Peter,_Lancashire

For Deane information https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Deane,_Lancashire

These last two sites are long so keep on going down the page to find an extraordinary collection of local information.

Ancestry is available for free in all Bolton libraries,

Find My Past is available in Bolton History Centre.

Most Archive's websites, including the National Archives, have free, downloadable advice Sheets on most aspects of research. The National Archives website is a lot more user friendly than it used to be. <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records>

If you have a Lancashire County Library ticket, and you can have one even if you live outside the County Council area, [i.e. I live in Bolton and I got one] you can access a free, easy to use, Newspaper Archive by inserting your ticket number into

<http://infotrac.galegroup.com/galenet/lancs?cause=http%3A%2F%2Ffind.galegroup.com%2Fbncn%2Fstart.do%3FprodId%3DBNCN%26userGroupName%3Dlancs%26finalAuth%3Dtrue&cont=&sev=temp&type=session&ss>

I suggest you bookmark this site for future reference because you will never remember that website title.

When I searched for details of a Bolton murder this way I found over 100 references to it.

Also Free for all Members of MLFHS:

B&DFHS have our monthly meetings details as above , with speakers on a variety of genealogy subjects, and we also offer a genealogy help desk facility at the end of every meeting, and a recycle programme for any old Family History magazines/CDs etc at most meetings.

The MLFHS website home page has a series of advice sheets listed under the Information tab and a downloadable, 42 page, Research Guide. Our "hub" also offers a daily [Mon-Fri] help desk in Manchester Central Library and have a list of experts in various specialist subjects who may be able to help with a particular problem. Courses are also offered from time to time as publicised on the website. www.mlfhs.org.uk, and also via this link the MLFHS Web Forum may be able to provide the assistance you are seeking.

Do you know of a free to use but not often mentioned genealogy website, preferably covering a specialist area of the subject rather than a general site like GENUKI, - if so let us know at boltonnews@mlfhs.org.uk and we will share the details with everybody.—another one hot off the press is <http://www.durhamrecordsonline.com/index.php?q=1&cookiecheck=1> for north east researchers.

At the time of writing the

September additions to Lancs OPC were:

St Matthews, marriages, 1888 to 1897

St Mary the Virgin, Deane, Marriages, 1754 to 1760, Burials, 1792 to 1828

Lee Chapel, Horwich, Baptisms 1765 to 1837, Burials 1784 to 1828

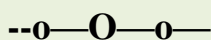
September additions to Lancs BMD were:

Farnworth Births, 1909 to 1913

Halliwell Births, 1904 to 1909

WORKSHOPS and COURSES

Most starting in the next few weeks. Please refer to the last newsletter for details



SOME INTERESTING, USEFUL, AND MAINLY FREE NEWS and WEBSITES

Cyndis List <http://www.cyndislist.com/>

The website describes itself as

"Cyndi's List has been a trusted genealogy research site for more than 18 years and is free for everyone to use and is meant to be a starting point when researching online.

• *What exactly is Cyndi's List?*

- *A categorized & cross-referenced index to genealogical resources on the Internet.*
- *A list of links that point you to genealogical research sites online.*
- *A free jumping-off point for you to use in your online research.*
- *A "card catalogue" to the genealogical collection in the immense library that is the Internet.*
- *Your genealogical research portal onto the Internet"*

See what you think of it. I suspect the genealogy angle is actually the tip of the iceberg because I know we used to use it for research when I was studying other subjects, -- and please let us know how you go on.

Deceased on Line

<https://www.deceasedonline.com/servlet/GSDOSearch?MenuSubmit=home>

Yes this is Pay per view unfortunately but they probably would not be able to function otherwise and I am sure these records will be very interesting for a lot of you.

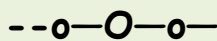
All burial records for Blackburn with Darwen now available.

<https://www.deceasedonline.com/servlet/GSDOSearch?AcctView=Login&SrchView=Basic&DeathsView=Content&ListSource=Contributors§ion=CONTRIBUTORS&context=BLACKBURN&lang=E&sessionid=63D7D41D569E30CA1C81FEC50FC7D47E076BAF8E>

Familysearch article on deciphering old hand writing

<https://familysearch.org/indexing/help/handwriting>

Dusty Docs some links to free Parish Registers online <http://www.dustydocs.com/>



MISCELLANEOUS

A "Stray" Story

We recently received this email from a "Bolton stray" to our Chairman Brian Whittle, who he met whilst on holiday. Like most of us it seems he is never "off duty", but I think you will agree, the background is rather interesting. Do you think you might have had ancestors who "emigrated" to Tiverton to make lace?

It was extremely kind of you to email me your newsletter - and very interesting to read, especially as I know so many of the places in your area. I used to go into Toppings Green library with my mother, when I visited her at Bromley Cross. I have a brother in Edgworth and a sister in Egerton!

You may wish to enter a couple of things for me in your next newsletter -

1) I am willing to answer queries that concern connections with the Devon area. Many people from 'up north' came down here in the industrial revolution to work for the Heathcoat family in their lace mill in Tiverton.

2) I am looking to build up a 'team' of paid researchers for a new business venture - working from home - and perhaps visiting Record Offices in the N/W for us.....

Let me know if either of the above are of interest.

Mary Hyland plantagenesta@fsmail.net

The Hulton Records

Most of you should by now have picked up on this story from the local Bolton News which was posted Sept 22nd.

http://www.theboltonnews.co.uk/news/11487663.Race_to_stop_vital_piece/

We have shared the news as best we can, but obviously everybody's resources are limited.

The update from our MLFHS Chairman is that after being discussed at a meeting of the Executive Committee Sept 24th 2014 it was agreed that

- the MLFHS will donate £200 directly to the appeal

- All members with email will be mailed to make them aware of the appeal and MLFHS support, and to encourage them to donate by visiting the Friends of Lancashire Archives

<http://www.flarchives.co.uk/>

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Members Comments, Contributions and Queries

Well I asked for help from members and here are articles from two volunteers, for which we are extremely grateful. "Management " at MLFHS are trying to bring us all into the 21st C and the world of "social media" to assist our research, especially with the younger generations. They are hoping more members will join their Facebook page. Apparently there are already about 800 "likes". The information dispensed on the site is certainly extensive and interesting so maybe we need to think about spreading the word somehow, but **safely** .

These articles discuss some of the pros and cons of it. On the other hand if you still have reservations, (and many of us dinosaurs have), much can be accessed without actually signing up, so don't despair, just be aware, -- and be careful!

Facebook. How to do it and Why

"I have been asked to write about Facebook, and how to join it. I have been a member of Facebook for many years, and enjoy the regular bulletins relating to my interests - family history research, old coins, local history, choirs, music, theatre, travel, local churches, etc. The bulletins can be tailored specifically to a member's interests, and consist of up-to-date news relevant to the topic, useful articles, events, offers, and so on. Recent genealogical ones include the transcription of difficult handwriting on old documents, and military war graves.

The genealogical bulletins I receive come from the Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society, Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society, Irish Family History Society, Ancestry, Find My Past, and others, all providing interesting articles, hints and tips to help with family research. I also belong to two groups - Bolton Lancashire Bygone Days, and Bygone Bolton, each of which show photos of times gone by- of Bolton lost landmarks, 'then and now' photos, transport, photos taken inside the home, and implements/fashion/medicines, etc. used by our parents and grandparents, and before that, often stirring up many memories of childhood. Similar groups can be found for most towns and cities, as well as for Bolton.

To join Facebook go to www.facebook.com and click 'enter'. On the form which appears, type name, date of birth, gender and email address. The date of birth is required so that age-appropriate adverts can be displayed on your 'home page' (the page which will receive all the bulletins). Examples of adverts I have received are travel ones, Amazon, etc. Facebook keeps the email address private, and the date of birth can also be kept private (see later). A password is required next, and then click to 'sign up'. Facebook will send an email to your email inbox, and this will have a confirmation link for you to click on, and you are then a member.

(Editors note. You are next likely to have all sorts of names from the past and present appear as suggested friends.

They have not done this personally, it is the system which somehow can put "feelers out" from simple information given by you, such as where you were born / live (cities), what school you went to etc.

YOU DO NOT NEED TO COMPLETE THESE DETAILS UNLESS YOU WANT THE CONTACTS. THEY WILL NOT EVEN KNOW

To find the Facebook pages I have mentioned, such as MLFHS, go to the search box at the top of your new Facebook home page and type it in, and click enter. The Facebook page for MLFHS will appear, and you will need to click the word 'Like' (next to a thumbs up picture), usually near the top of the page. You will then receive bulletins on your home page from MLFHS. At any time, you can go back to their page and click again, which will stop the bulletins being sent to you. The groups I mentioned (Bygone Bolton, etc.) are accessed by searching for their page in the same way, then clicking on 'Join Group'. In due course, you will be notified that you have been accepted.

Privacy choices can be made by clicking on the padlock picture, near the top right of the home page, and if further help is needed, then the 'Help' menu can be found by clicking on the icon at the top right of the page. There are lots more things to learn about Facebook - how to 'share' or comment on bulletins, send messages to others, etc. but these are gradually learned over time. " JL

But another Perspective

"I feel that great care needs to be taken, not just with media such as Facebook but generally with displaying a several generation family tree where many different people, maybe unknown to you personally, can view your tree and gain personal information such as your maiden name, your mother's maiden name, and other details that can be used for illegal purposes such as identity theft.

I try not to display details of living people but this isn't always possible and I still sometimes do it unintentionally! As part of my calligraphy course we spent a term doing family trees. Fine, but our work was displayed as part of an open day. That in itself didn't bother me. But I didn't know the work would be photographed and published in a newspaper. My work didn't make it to the paper, but it may have been.

Facebook is notorious for people unintentionally giving away personal information such as "this is our new house", including address, and then saying "we are going on holiday on Monday for 2 whole weeks", an open invitation for someone to enter and steal valuables. So I feel identity too can be lost if family tree information is displayed via social media sites.

Many of us still do not use any social media other than emails, which are liable for hacking, though unlikely for "ordinary" people. So if M&LFHS just used a media like Facebook to get information to its members, I would not have received anything.

I like the monthly email from the Bolton branch. I used to be able to attend the meetings but due to declining health evening outings are very hard for me and now I do not attend the most of the meetings. So the monthly email is almost as good as going to the meetings, and I do not feel so cut off. I appreciate the hard work that goes into the production of it.

PS

I agree that FB needs to be used cautiously. Another concern is that those of us without FB, may miss out on information!

OTHER LOCAL SOCIETIES NEWS

Halliwell Local History Society - <http://www.halliwell-lhs.co.uk/monthly-meetings/>

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

Their next month's talk on Tuesday 28th October is entitled 'Romans' - based on the popular book 'The Disappearing Ninth Legion' Mark Olly will talk about the turbulent History of the Romans in Britain.

Turton Local History Society

Normally all events are on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm except for December, (which is too close to Christmas) and the summer months (May, June and July)

when they have the evening walks. All start at Longsight Church Centre at Harwood, BL2 3HX.

This month's event is on October 22nd and a talk entitled * A childhood at Turton Tower by Doreen Hough

Please email Secretary PeterMHarris@care4free.net for more information.

Westhoughton Local History Group -

Meetings take place on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, between 10am and 12md in the room above Westhoughton Library, Market St, Westhoughton, BL5 3AU . Their October talks are

2nd , Houses of Parliament - Julie Hilling MP, and

16th Education in Westhoughton 1900-1950 : Kath Harrington

http://www.westhoughtonhistorygroup.org.uk/Westhoughton_History_Group/Home.html

Horwich Heritage Centre- Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30pm at the Horwich Resource Centre, Beaumont Road (off Longworth Road), Horwich BL6 7BG.

This month's talk is on October 14th ~ Glen Atkinson "Underground Canals of Worsley"

With lots more on offer please consult their web site at <http://www.horwichheritage.co.uk>

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That's it folks. Until next month. Any comments, queries etc

boltonnews@mlfhs.org.uk